1997

The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students’ Union March, 1997

DIT: Students’ Union

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BUSINESS BREAKFAST TOASTED BY INDUSTRY MAJORS

The sixth annual Student Business Breakfast, held in Jury’s Hotel, Ballsbridge last month, has been declared a runaway success. The Mountjoy Square event, organised by the Student Administration Society — made up of Second and Third year students — of the School of Business and Management in conjunction with the Links Placement Programme, took as it’s theme the ramifications of EU monetary union on small firms; EMU: The Business Implications for the SME (Small & Medium sized Enterprises).

The occasion was attended by 250 people, including 124 representatives of leading Irish business concerns. Guest speaker, Minister for Finance Ruairi Quinn, impressed upon those gathered the necessity for maintaining strong links between industry and undergraduates who are about to enter the workplace. His public stature and knowledge of European finance mechanisms helped to attract a very strong base of companies, particularly those in the financial sector. Among the recognised names in attendance were Young Advertising, Price Waterhouse, Deloitte & Touche, Craig Gardner, KPMG and Bell Advertising to name but a few of the bigger names.

Stacy MacCarthy, manager of the Links Programme for the past four years, was extremely pleased with the way the Breakfast turned out, particularly in the manner in which the students showed themselves to be capable of organising such a massive undertaking. “Ruairi Quinn was very good on the morning. It’s a big audience difference, students and employers, but he catered for everyone,” explains MacCarthy.

Maxine Smyth, secretary of the Society, was impressed with the way he drew up a simple image of the complex area. “He was comparing the whole EMU situation to a sporting event and red-cards and off-side and how the economies are relating to it. He was an excellent speaker. The employers were genuinely impressed in the end. I’d say the vast majority of them will be back next year, and you’ll have more applications for tickets.”

Indeed, Young advertising were impressed enough to write to the Society following the occasion congratulating them on its high standard.

Administration students are trained specifically as all-round managers capable of running smaller outfits who can’t afford a Marketing Director and a Financial Director, and to this end are conversant with all skills relevant to the overall management of SMEs.

The growth undergone by the event has been magniﬁcent, Stacy MacCarthy maintains, “I think at the first event we probably had to page 5.”

‘UN-CORK THE BUBBLY!’ CRY THE MANIC FANS OF CHAMPAGNE SUPERNova

Crazy fans of the two biggest cover bands in the world packed the Point Depot on the Thursday of Rag Week to show their admiration for such talent. Oasis' jugglers, Champagne Supernova and Beatles ape-artists the Paperback Beatles came to town for the DIT Rag Ball. Catch up with the photographic account of the week, pp.10-11.
The DIT Examiner
DITSU, DIT Kevin Street, Kevin St., Dublin 8. Ph: 492 4636
Fax: 478 3154

VOTE
MARCH 12

Cearbhall Ó Síocháin

Mountjoy Sq Art & Design Week

The Mountjoy Sq. Art & Design Week will take place this year from March 18 until March 21. This is the third year of the now annual Art & Design Week. In the previous two years the themes of Art & Design Week were Visual Confusion and Medieval respectively. This year’s theme is a Sci Fi one. With so many great Sci Fi movies, ranging from Star Wars to V, countless number of ideas about exactly what should be included in the week have been thrown about, but finally after much creative brainstorming a provisional timetable has been put together (see below). The centrepiece of the week will be the turning of the Mountjoy Sq canteen into something which, on paper, can only be described as a cross between a space ship and the freaky funky bar in Star Wars! Throughout the week many Sci Fi type activities will take place in our space canteen, but at the moment all plans are top secret! On the Thursday night a Big Sci Fi Fancy Dress Banquet will take place in the canteen followed by a dance orientated disco in the furnace. Students from all DIT Colleges are invited to come on board and help out in the organisation of the week. As Sci Fi is such a broad and popular theme we want every Sci Fier in DIT to come along and have a bit of fun at all the events, you’re all welcome! May the fun be with you!

Art & Design Week Timetable

Tuesday 18 March: The Opening of the Canteen Ceremony
Fun and Games in the canteen
Monster Sci Fi Table Quiz in Stoneys

Wednesday 19 March: Quasar outting to the Plex
Sci Fi Night in The Big Tree

Thursday 20 March: The Sci Fi Banquet in the canteen
The Sci Fi Ball in The Furnace (inc. DJ Francois and Drum n Bass Djs)
Sponsored by GUINNESS

So apart from being the largest students’ union in the country
What has Ditsu ever done for me?

Well we organise and provide:

- Freshers’/Arts/Welfare/Rag Weeks
- Comprehensive Subsidised Ents.
- Free Welfare Advice
- Free Financial Advice
- Help with Course Problems
- Help with Grant Problems
- Help and Resources for Clubs and Societies
- Free Student Newspapers and Magazines
- Representation within the College, within DIT, Governing Body and Nationally
- Campaigns on Issues like Student Hardship, Accommodation and Safety, Library Facilities, Catering
- Raises thousands for charity through Rag Week
- 2nd Hand Book Service
- Detailed Accommodation List at Start of Every Year
- Interest Free Welfare Loans
- USIT Cards
- Cheap Photocopying
- SU Shop with wide range of products at competitive prices
- Secretarial Service, Past Exam Papers and Fax Service
- Pool Tables and Video Games
- Condom Machines in Toilets
- Freshers, Halloween, Christmas, Rag, Easter, Last Chance Balls
- Fashion Show
- Beer Promotions
- Cheap Passport Photos
- Freshers Welcome Packs
- Postal Address Facility
- And anything else you want us to do!

Ditsu

RUN BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS
SO GET INVOLVED!
IT’S YOUR STUDENTS’ UNION.

MEET YOUR FUTURE EMPLOYER!!!

The Debating Society DIT Aungier St
Business Breakfast

Wednesday March 19 at 8.15am.

TOP BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYERS WILL BE THERE. WILL YOU?

Sort yourself out!
Get ahead in your career!

MEET YOUR FUTURE EMPLOYER

For further details, contact the Deb Soc at the SU, or by e-mail: khora@dit.ie

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.

Editor: Cearbhall Ó Síocháin
Layout: ChaOS
Tea-boy: Cearbhall Ó Síocháin

Printed by Datascope, Enniscorthy Co. Wexford

Winners of previous Irish Times Crossword competition, Feb ’97:
1. Sarah Walsh, WAS 1, Kevin St
2. Niamh Kelly, Environmental Health, Cathal Brugha St
3. Angela Kelly, FT491, Cathal Brugha St
Prizes can be collected from Kevin St. SU offices.
Lettuce to the Editor

Sending dead lettuce to the Editor is a strict no-no. Tig libh scròfolb donàting money by Tuesday. Fair in collecting money was quite poor. £3,500 was a total disgrace. Next year corporate sponsorship for the whole week and the Rag Ball must be a success, both financially and socially. As regards the Rag Ball, to fill the Point next year a few things have to be taken into consideration: -- a headline band have to play the Point to get the people there.

The Editor, DIT Examiner, DITSU, DIT Kevin St., Kevin St., Dublin 8.

Hurling

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you in relation to references to the DIT Hurling team 'eating turkey' in a letter from Mr. Ross O'Daly, Clubs and Societies Officer, Bolton St., which was in the February 1997 issue of the DIT Examiner.

While I am sure that Mr. O'Daly was not intending to cast aspersions on the DIT Hurling team, his implications of gormandising by the Hurling team are unwarranted.

The Hurling team commenced training on Monday 6 January 1997, a week before the recommencement of the academic year. A total of ten training sessions were held during that week, leaving little time for eating turkey.

The support should come from a well known local or Irish band and a top Irish DJ. -- the alcohol has to be cheaper beer sponsorship. If Heineken sponsored the Rag Ball then why was the Heineken not cheaper?

Don't get me wrong, I thought that the bands and the DJs who played were brilliant show, got the crowd going and were co-ordinated to the very second.

Lastly, posters in good taste for the Ball should be produced. Bad publicity is not needed. One last point. If every student in DIT donates £1 at their Rag Trip and £1 on the Thursday of next year's Rag Week, £50,000 will be raised for charity.

Yours sincerely,
A. Kinsella,
DIT Kevin St.

The only thing that the Inland Revenue has not taxed is your willy. This is due to the fact that 40% of the time it is hanging around unemployed, 30% of the time it is pissed off, 20% of the time it is hard up, and 10% of the time it is employed but operates in total darkness. Furthermore it has two dependencies and they are both nuts.

Accordingly, after April 1996 your willy was to be taxed on its size using the willy checker scale below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Willy Checker Scale</th>
<th>10-12 inches</th>
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Business Breakfast cont'd

about thirty employers there, and we used to have all the students from all the four years there. Now we only allow four from each, class to go, except for third years, otherwise we have too many students."

One can understand the reasons for this. This time round, breakfast was laid on for 250 people; the logistics of organising a breakfast for a number any greater would begin to enter the realms of the impossible.

The DITSU Elections

Dear Sir,

In relation to the participation of all colleges in this year's DITSU elections, I notice with regret that there are no candidates running for the position of Equality Officer in any of the northside colleges.

I feel the office of Equality is of extreme importance to all students, and that it is essential that students in each site respect and understand this.

Could I then make a plea to your readers to be more conscious of this matter?

I strongly hope that the story will change in time for the by-elections.

Tony Choi,
Equality Officer,
Kevin St.

Rag Week

Dear Sir,

As most people know, RAG means Raise A Grand, something which may have happened but not as much as we would have liked. I thoroughly enjoyed every night of the week and attended various DIT college events, but I think most people slacked off in the week itself.

I strongly hope that the story will change in time for the by-elections.

Tony Choi,
Equality Officer,
Kevin St.

Token 'Funny' Letter

Dear Sir,

The only thing that the Inland Revenue has not taxed is your willy. This is due to the fact that 40% of the time it is hanging around unemployed, 30% of the time it is pissed off, 20% of the time it is hard up, and 10% of the time it is employed but operates in total darkness. Furthermore it has two dependencies and they are both nuts.

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DRUG SENSE 1997

THE AGONY AND THE ECTASY

A SPECIAL SEMINAR

Speakers: Paul and Janet Betts

The Betts daughter died tragically from ecstasy in 1995. They were sharing their moving story with staff and students. There will also be a special showing of a powerful video on ecstasy. This seminar will be held at the following locations:

Place: DIT Aungier Street DIT Bolton Street
Date: 10th March 11th March
Time: 12 -2 12 -2
Room: A408 Room: 259

This is an experience not to be missed. OPEN TO EVERYONE

For further information: contact Jacqui Duffy at 402 3352
Major Disaster

dan O'Neill

There is only one certainty about the forthcoming British General Election; the Conservatives, after eighteen years in power, are going to lose power.

The recent by-election in the Wirral saw a 17% swing to the Labour party. If the result in May sees Labour win by even half that swing, they'll have a majority of over 100 seats. Commentators are calling it the most significant election in years.

The post-electoral map of Britain will see the Conservatives becoming a party perhaps as little as two seats in Scotland, none in Wales and a handful in the major conurbations. In the words of Observer columnist Peter Kellner, the Tory party will become a party of "suburbs and shires". They could become a purely English party, and an increasingly isolated one at that.

Even if one takes into account the fact that at the 1992 election some voters would not have voted Conservative on one occasion but, with the Tories in power and the words of President Bush ringing in their ears, would intend to vote Tory, the Conservatives would need the electorate to be monumental fibbers to have a chance at even achieving, if that's the word, a hung parliament, and an increasingly isolated one at that. Even if one takes into account the fact that at the 1992 election some voters would not have voted Conservative on one occasion but, with the Tories in power and the words of President Bush ringing in their ears, would intend to vote Tory, the Conservatives would need the electorate to be monumental fibbers to have a chance at even achieving, if that's the word, a hung parliament, and an increasingly isolated one at that.

When the Conservatives lose expect there to be a divisive period of internal party debate which will unceremoniously mirror the divisions that struck the Labour party in the early 1980's. The Tory party is a party of government. Conservatives, like Fianna Fail, have a will to power. John Major, for all the abuse heaped upon Blair has in a short space of time cleared the air. Wasting the middle classes that Labour has secured its in. Michael Portillo on the right, Ken Clarke on the left or someone like Gillian Shephard is a central compromise in the Major mould. There is a possibility of the Tory party splitting into two and leading to the formation of a Christian Democrat party and an English Nationalist party. Although this is unlikely, it is conceivable and as such is indicative of the state of turmoil the Conservative party finds itself in.

The Labour party's lead is unassailable for several reasons. Voter weariness with the same party for 18 years, the cult of personality built up around Tony Blair and a perception of Labour as 'sound' on the economy have all contributed to Labour's rise in the polls. It is by worrying the middle classes that Labour has secured its imminent victory. Labour recently stated that their would be no increase on the basic rate of income tax for those earning over £100,000. This led many Labour party workers and supporters to ask that if the party no longer stood for redistribution of wealth, what did it stand for? Tony Blair has in a short space of time transformed a party that ten years ago was called the nationalisation of native industries, into a British version of the US Democrats.
No goals, no women, but what a weekend!

The fourth annual COMAD SOCCER trip this year took our intrepid lads (and seven lasses) back to Liverpool and back to goalless Anfield. With the lads’ girlfriends promptly punted after last year’s trip (due to all their nagging) off went the 41 lads and 7 gillies. Leaving Dan Laugher on the Speedpool our gang hit the bar by 11am. Two hours later and hurtling through (sleep fried) Wales, the booing continued and the poor unfortunate Brian Nevin got soiled when his bag fell off the ramp onto his beer and all over his lip. By the time we hit Chester some troops were already struggling, namely Conor ‘Bilic’ Hannon and our Brian. On the DART to Liverpool a nameless COMADIAN could no longer contain himself and promptly wet himself, but all sure he was on his holiers and didn’t give a sh*t! At 4am our gang checked into our Hotel (not a hostel, I might add) and settled in to drink our Duty Free Fosters and watch Sky Sports, which every room had (we’re yuppies).

Later that night it was time to go gonovin’ with the meeting place arranged as the Arena Bar on Matthews Street, however, three of our boys missed their trains and instead made their way to the bar at Anfield, only five miles from Matthews Street, and, we won’t tell yous that it was Brian (again), Ronan Quinn and Thos Murphy. For all those who made it to the right meeting place it was soon onto retail at £1.00 and bottled beer retails at £1.10, how­ever, at midnight the prices go up… a whole 10p — now that’s what you call a student bar, not like some of our famous student bars here in Ath Oiath, where...

behaved themselves admirably! Popular chat-up line of the night was — COMAD lad: “Hi, I’m Irish.” Scouser Girl: “Fook off ya tosser!” Hence no women. However, unbeknownst to the BUZZ group, an industrious bunch of 4th year non-soccer team heads off out of the city to a place called THE GRAFTON (described by Mark Lee the next night at “THE GRAB A GRANNY NIGHTCLUB”) to amazing success for two of their punters, one of whom was the only tee­totaler on the trip (You see can see it can pay off not to be locked out of your head when trying to click!) and the other was the most famous barman in the Dublin Hills. On the way to the home a stop in Toxteth’s Red Light district proved intriguing, cos’ when they got back to the hotel, one of our group was arguing with the night porter to let the very same ‘Lady’ into his room. Our punter was very embarrassed when our friends informed the porter about who she was! Other stories of the night included the three lads who went to a strip show thinking it was a disco, no wonder they were surprised when the bouncer warned them to keep their hands off the ladies. One of the roomies doubled for Button Moon, because that’s where its occupants thought they were after smoking a few funny cigarettes! Also, one of our group with red hair who’s named after a Croatian went sleep walking with his willy in his hand only for the night porter to meet him on the stairs. However, our friend totally dis­ missed the porter’s story that he’d peed on the stairs, until the porter was able to tell him all about the tattoo on his right breast.

The next day was match day and off we all headed for Anfield, mind you only 1 hour 10 minutes the previous day missed out. At this stage a serious caution: at 1:30 we laid our beautiful wreath at the Hillsborough Memorial at Anfield, which is in memory of the 95 fans who died at the FA Cup semi-final in 1989. The memorial is a very emo­tional sight, and even our Manchester United fans found themselves getting emotional. Many Liverpool people complimented us on our wreath and at this point I’d like to say thank you very much to each and every person who contributed to the wreath collection in the canteen just before Christmas. We raised £75 and it was well worth it, thank you.

Lots not really dwelt on the match. A good first half could have had 3-1 to the Reds, but didn’t, however, the second half was complete shit! and once again the “Curse of COMAD” struck as we didn’t get to see a goal at either end. It wouldn’t go mad in our 4 rows at the KOP Full Time: 0-0.

Later, after all the lads chatting and cheering on contestant No. 1 in Blind Date (she was picked and to prove how much bonding went on, 8 of the lads slept on top of each other in Bilic’s flat for another session, but they’re censored! Back in the BUZZ our SU Pres was making a show of himself dancing in a cage, whilst the old “Do you know I’m Irish?” line was receiving colourful responses similar to the night before. At the Granny Club, Mark Lee and Colin Joyce (DIT Trench) legged it when Harry Enfield’s fat slags tried to chat them up! So with our group spread out all over Liverpool most returned to the Hotel to finish off the Fosters well, nearly all! Remember the most famous barman in the Dublin mountains? Well, he clicked a Spanish Richard called…wait for it…IRA (pronounced like Vera) who took him across the Mersey to Birkenhead (only 30 miles away) and, legend has it, now only legend, shagged his brains out! So at least someone got laid!

Back at the Hotel, everyone got locked and stayed up to watch Wayne McCullough get bashed! The next day everyone got up and started the journey home by getting in the valuable supplies — beer, 3 litres of cider, popcorn and newspapers, particularly the Sunday Sport (which, if you know your newspapers, isn’t remotely interested in sport). Finally we arrived back home to find the DART delayed for only one hour. When we eventually got into town everyone headed to Bilic’s flat for another session, and to prove how much bonding went on. 8 of the lads slept on top of each other in a pile on Bilic’s beds and the sponsorship dosh, to the Big Tree for a pint of lager retail at £2.40! After 10 bottles of beer each, we left. Slater’s sober (?) and went onto the BUZZ. Well, Holy Jaysus, what a place, for those of youre who thought our COMAD girls dressed skimpy at the Chrimbo Ball, well, this was what we’re yuppies.

Great time boogying to Michael Jackson’s greatest hits, others went back to the Buzz, whilst another bunch went to the OS! CLUB. This is where all the action was with our Darcy pulling a cracker and the rest of the lads baling in with shifts (allegedly, cos this reporter wasn’t there!) however, they do have some pictures to prove it, but they’re censored! Back in the BUZZ our SU Pres was making a show of himself dancing in a cage, whilst the old “Do you know I’m Irish?” line was receiving colourful responses similar to the night before. At the Granny Club, Mark Lee and Colin Joyce (DIT Trench) legged it when Harry Enfield’s fat slags tried to chat them up! So with our group spread out all over Liverpool most returned to the Hotel to finish off the Fosters well, nearly all! Remember the most famous barman in the Dublin mountains? Well, he clicked a Spanish Richard called…wait for it…IRA (pronounced like Vera) who took him across the Mersey to Birkenhead (only 30 miles away) and, legend has it, now only legend, shagged his brains out! So at least someone got laid!

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Kiss My Baby!

Festival time has rolled around again and the difference this time is...we'll let them tell us themselves...

Sabbaticals: Aungier St, Bolton St, Cathal Brugha St, Kevin St, Mountjoy Sq.

Name: Ronan Casey
Age: 21
College: Mountjoy Square
Position sought: Site President

1 What have you done for your college until now?
I have been actively involved with the CSU Union over the past 5 years. For three years I have been an active member of the Rag Week team designing t-shirts, producing posters & editing the Rag Mag for 2 years.

2 What has influenced you?
A Union that's approachable & always there for the students & their welfare. A well run Union with a great, dedicated team of sabbatical officers.

3 Cad é an chéad rud a dhéanfaidh tú mar Officigh Leasa Shóisialaigh / Uachtarán?

dochu a cheannach do ghach duine a thug thú do. Domhnach.

4 Do your weaknesses lie?
I'm afraid I'm the perfect candidate.

5 What should DITSU be doing to increase student participation and interest in DIT issues?
To try to get rid of the segregation that still lies within the different college & their annexes. The DITSU officers should be more aware of ground level student needs.

Name: Tony Choi
Age: 20 and 4 months
College: Kevin St
Position sought: Site President

1 What have you done for your college until now?
As an officer in the Union for the past two years and also a member of the Sports Committee, I've fulfilled my duty to the best of my abilities. I've represented the college in numerous meets and conferences.

2 What motivates you?
The students and my instincts.

3 Cad é an chéad rud a dhéanfaidh tú mar Officigh Leasa Shóisialaigh / Uachtarán?
Célebarte.

4 Where do your weaknesses lie?
In trying to do too many things at the same time.

5 What should DITSU be doing to increase student participation and interest in DIT issues?
To improve student welfare & facilities. The DITSU officers need to be seen more in the canteen, common room and other student areas.

Name: Rose Daly
Age: 19
College: Mountjoy Square
Position sought: Deputy President / Welfare Officer

1 What have you done for your college until now?
I am Equality Officer on the Union this year which has involved a number of awareness campaigns. I was also on the Freshers and Rag Crews 96/97 and I have helped in the day to day running of the union.

2 What motivates you?
The need to fulfil my objectives, I am motivated by issues and needs that have to be ratified.

3 Cad é an chéad rud a dhéanfaidh tú mar Officigh Leasa Shóisialaigh / Uachtarán?
A large amount of awareness & awareness which still lingers in some students' minds. DITSU needs to come out of the SU officers and 'back to the people', ie. SU officers need to be seen more in the canteen, common room and other student areas.

Name: Bob Coghlan
Age: 21
College: Strdí Chathail Brugha
Position sought: Site President

1 What have you done for your college until now?
I have helped many students in Cathal Brugha St. during his two years as a part-time officer and in his capacity as Welfare Officer this year. Bob has worked on many campaigns to improve facilities within the college including work on the DIT Sports Campaign, as well as lobbying for increased space in the computer room and also working to improve facilities in the common room.

2 What motivates you?
Bob is motivated by the ability to be in a position to help people who are experiencing difficulties in college life. Bob wants to be able to offer students that they deserve, whether it be good facilities or top class events. It is a constant struggle for students.

3 Cad é an chéad rud a dhéanfaidh tú mar Officigh Leasa Shóisialaigh / Uachtarán?
I am an equality officer and I will be working on the introduction of pay phones, increasing student participation and making DIT more accessible to different students.

4 Where do your weaknesses lie?
I can be stubborn and argumentative at times.

5 What should DITSU be doing to increase student participation and interest in DIT issues?
I can be stubborn and argumentative at times. But this can also be a good point to me as I can be dedicated to the position.

Name: Nicola Doyle
Age: 19
College: Cathal Brugha St
Position sought: Site Deputy President / Welfare Officer

1 What have you done for you college until now?
I have been a part of the Catholic Union and the Student Union and have worked on many campaigns in the past two years as well as helping with the introduction of pay phones, increasing student participation and making DIT more accessible to different students.

2 What motivates you?
I am Equality Officer on the Union this year which has involved a number of awareness campaigns. I was also on the Freshers and Rag Crews 96/97 and I have helped in the day to day running of the union.

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Name: Patricia 'Trish' Egan
Age: 21
College: Kevin St
Position sought: Deputy President / Welfare Officer

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2 What motivates you?
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Name: Charlie Mitchell
Age: 21
College: Bolton St
Position sought: Deputy President / Welfare Officer

1 What have you done for your college until now?
I have represented, entertained, lobbied and promoted on behalf of my college.

2 What motivates you?
A good kick up the arse and then?

3 Cad é an chéad rud a dhéanfaidh tú mar Officigh Leasa Shóisialaigh / Uachtarán?
A point about Cert students, and there is quite a lot of them, who would be interested in becoming more involved in DITSU issues because even a little time out of classes means money docked. Basically they are the lowest in the welfare of students, a fact I hope something will be done about in the near future.

Name: Ronan Emmet
Age: 21
College: Mountjoy Square
Position sought: Site President

1 What have you done for your college until now?
As Deputy President / Welfare Officer I have dealt with many of the welfare and promoted on behalf of the SU. The introduction of pay phones, internet access, photo copiers, facilities for art students, NITeline which was a bonus for us.

2 What motivates you?
I enjoy working in the SU and meeting people. It's a thankless job, and the notion of people not knowing what the union does, makes me motivated to go out and tell people what we actually do.

3 Cad é an chéad rud a dhéanfaidh tú mar Officigh Leasa Shóisialaigh?
The first thing is to set up structures in the union so that everything we have started will be continued when I am gone. NITeline will be in its testing stage and I will be working on that going forward.

4 Where do your weaknesses lie?
I found it hard having to say no to students looking for welfare loans, which is a weakness.

5 What should DITSU be doing to increase student participation in DIT issues?
The sports facility campaign is one that the majority of students in DIT have in common DITSU needs to increase participation in a national basis. We need to get out and explain this to students who don't understand it.

Name: Sarah McGovern
Age: 19
College: Kevin St
Position sought: Deputy President / Welfare Officer

1 What have you done for your college until now?
I have represented, entertained, lobbied and promoted on behalf of my college.

2 What motivates you?
A good kick up the arse and then?

3 Cad é an chéad rud a dhéanfaidh tú mar Officigh Leasa Shóisialaigh / Uachtarán?
A point about Cert students, and there is quite a lot of them, who would be interested in becoming more involved in DITSU issues because even a little time out of classes means money docked. Basically they are the lowest in the welfare of students, a fact I hope something will be done about in the near future.

Name: Declan Clarke
Age: 21
College: Bolton St
Position sought: Deputy President / Welfare Officer

1 What have you done for your college until now?
I have represented, entertained, lobbied and promoted on behalf of my college.

2 What motivates you?
A good kick up the arse and then?

3 Cad é an chéad rud a dhéanfaidh tú mar Officigh Leasa Shóisialaigh / Uachtarán?
A point about Cert students, and there is quite a lot of them, who would be interested in becoming more involved in DITSU issues because even a little time out of classes means money docked. Basically they are the lowest in the welfare of students, a fact I hope something will be done about in the near future.
DITSU Overall President

Name: Siobhán Weeke
Age: 21
College: Aungier St
Position sought: Site President

1. What have you done for your college until now?
   I have been a member of Aungier St for 3 years and have been involved in the Union during this time.

2. What motivates you?
   My major motivation is helping people and solving their problems. Knowing that I can make a difference and that I do make a difference is all the motivation I need.

3. Cad é an chéad rud a d'fhainfaidh tú mar Oifigeach Leasa Shóisialaigh / Uachtarán?
   Knowing that I can make a difference and knowing that I might be the best they can and getting feedback from classes, so that DITSU issues are student issues.

4. Where do your weaknesses lie?
   I hate seeing things to wrong and thinking I could have done more even if I've done my best.

5. What should DITSU be doing to increase student participation and interest in DIT issues?
   Go to the students and not expect them to come to us. I've always spoken to people in my mind.

The DIT Examiner accepts no liability for any questionnaires not returned.
Battle of the Bands

Rag Week wouldn't be the same without a Band competition. Ours was in Eamonn Doran's and ploughed through the best parts of 40 bands in heats. The DIT Examiner was there for the final, held on Wednesday of the most notorious week in the history of mankind.

by the Examiner trying to make their impression felt. The thundering bass opening of 'Flycatcher' caught a few votes, sure enough, yet though the club was by then over half-full, no-one threatened to penetrate the sacred mosh-pit. Sloth continued with their set, a melodic mixture of 70s punk entwined with the stylistic nuances of their self-proclaimed idols, Fugazi. Zebedee sprung on-stage with the energy of cats and launched into a Skynard-cum-Black Crowes effort complete with 'eewow!!' and 'ahh!!' vocal effects. It kicked mildly only, but completely missed out on the 'Have a laugh' nature of the Battle. By this stage, judges Smiley Bolger, Aidan Walsh and Shane Brannigan were mingling, volts suitable the music well, and Inure might just be back in 98 to contend again.

JACUZZI JUNGLE show their with a bit of colour you always come across in the best light

Sloth display no sloth-like qualities as they fidget around the expansive stage in Doran's.

A few grown-ups lurked in the shadows — and

some even lurked out of the shadows — amid the surprisingly mixed crowd.

Having missed Pigs in Zen and Smoking Jacket — sorry fellas — Sloth were the first band seen by the Examiner trying to make their impression felt. The thundering bass opening of 'Flycatcher' caught a few votes, sure enough, yet though the club was by then over half-full, no-one threatened to penetrate the sacred mosh-pit. Sloth continued with their set, a melodic mixture of 70s punk entwined with the stylistic nuances of their self-proclaimed idols, Fugazi. Zebedee sprung on-stage with the energy of cats and launched into a Skynard-cum-Black Crowes effort complete with 'eewow!!' and 'ahh!!' vocal effects. It kicked mildly only, but completely missed out on the 'Have a laugh' nature of the Battle. By this stage, judges Smiley Bolger, Aidan Walsh and Shane Brannigan were mingling, vocals suited the music well, and Inure might just be back in 98 to contend again.

Relaxed Atmosphere brought anything but such a thing as they

Wahl rock-wanking, Zebedee showed what the whole event was about, and that's to enjoy the thing. They leaped about and had a laugh, and that's what cuts the cheese. If you can't laugh, get out. Goldberry must have been talking among themselves during their precursors' set, for they strode on and belted straight into a very polished 'Light my candle', but they

Gr~at googly-moogly — its Smiley in an out of focus snap by tricity!

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Eamonn Doran's

Eamonn Doran's with only one condition: maybe next year we could have

Eamonn Doran's, the biggest rock band to sport a flute player since Jethro Tull, and winners of the DIT BAND Society's Battle of the Bands, relaxing in The Point Depot after their Rag Hall gig.

they had won the competition before they even played, these guys pulled every face and posed as much as they could. However, they definitely know how to perform, as they proved with a carbon cover of Living Color's 'Love Rears Its Ugly Head'. They can play, they can sing, and if they don't piss too many people off they might go a long way. They got the crowd going, but maybe that was because they had just mates there on the night, including a certain bleach-haired Augier Street geezer. Good contenders, they had a laugh and played some decent funky numbers, which is what everyone wants, isn't it?

Bongos and a trumpet were dragged out for the five-piece Jacuzzi Jungle, whose stage presence was the biggest of the evening. partly due to their use of more than just guitars, partly due to their colourful threads. They gave the impression of accomplished musicians, they were older than most of the other bands, and they were the biggest crowd get-goers of the night. Combining Caribbean rhythms and, at times, ska-like guitar 'changs', this Kevin St. outfit were received very well, as they sang about rum and sea and sand. Or so I thought, at any rate.

Floorpie failed to show and it was Hollowpoint's turn to stomp a few songs out. After the Examiner's photographer was satisfied that they were not going to mug her, she was of the impression that they were actually OK. Looking like a cross between Sepultura, Fun Lovin' Criminals and maybe Napalm Death for a bit of colour, it was all hair as Hollowpoint cut the air with some of the liveliest music heard all evening. These young blokes gave it their all, and were rewarded with the only real live honest-to-God heaving mosh pit all night. I was slightly confused on the lyrics front, though. When we were informed in screaming tones that 'You can make it in Hell!', I figured they were alluding to jam of some sort. I'm sure Hell would be hot enough to make jam, but whether there'd be enough sugar or not, is another matter entirely. Fair heavy metal balls then, to them Hollowpointers.

Then it was the turn of eventual winners Vena Cava, who for some strange reason had a girl -- what? -- playing with them. (Yes, the only band in the entire band competition with a girl in the line-up -- how come? Are we to be left with a solid blokish legacy, giving the impression that DIT might actually be a seminary? Come on girls, get the Battle on in the New York Dorans?)

Congratulations to Des Grogan, founder and spiritual leader of the DIT B.A.N.D. Society, for his second year organising the Rag Week Battle of the Bands, thanks also to Heineken and Track Mix Studios for their solid support throughout, and of course míle bufochas l' we
From top: Mashing fellow students to pulp, Bouncy Boxing in violent Bolton St.; Big Pint Cli" causes people to dance round in circles instead of in a straight line; John Nolan, purportedly from Bolton St, does an impression of Donkey Kong at the RAG BALL; first casualty of the evening in the Point, bathed in drunken gibberish.

WE took all the schmoove schnaps from RAG WEEK and packed 'em all together in a great big floppy section which you now see before you.

Rag Week 97

Ball rolls along smoothly.

The Rag was no drag. With 4,000 confirmed kills this year's Rag Ball must go down as a hit. Ask anyone of the participants on the night and they would have answered — admitttedly in drunken gibberish, but understandable all the same — that, yes, they were having a blast, thank you.

Vena Cava, stylish winners of the DIT Battle of the Bands, took to the stage first, a tough job, but one they took admirably to.

The Paperback Beatles, being professionals, had it easier, but played a blinder all the same. They had it together right down to the slopey mustaches. Kicking off with Sgt. Pepper's, they stormed through Lucy In The Sky with Diamonds, Penny Lane and the rest of the greats. Hello Goodbye was particularly well cobbled, and despite the fact that they couldn't really sing, they had strong Liverpudlian accents, so they were covered.

As a warm-up band the Paperbacks did more than their fair share, paving the way for the real thing, the real fake thing, headliners, Oasis coverband, Champagne Supernova. The emphasis might easily be placed here on the Cham, but for the night but was in it, they fit like Twix.

No fatalities were recorded, despite the fact that one or two participants tried to drink themselves to death. A spectacularly great picnic it was, yes.

From top: Matching fellow students to pulp, Bouncy Boxing in violent Bolton St.; Big Pint Cli" causes people to dance round in circles instead of in a straight line; John Nolan, purportedly from Bolton St, does an impression of Donkey Kong at the RAG BALL; first casualty of the evening in the Point, bathed in drunken gibberish.

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Bhí an ceol lá seo iontach, ar feadhhas. Seachtain gan sarú do chuid is mo a bhí amach, agus e chnáir gualadh na t-uafás airgead d'ospidéal na bpósí í i gCrónghlán na do Carú le, ach sí chialaithe sér sin gur droch-thoradh ar fear. I meáis bualainn na seachtainne bhí comórtas Battle of the Bands in Eamon Doran's, Beanntra Clann na Sráid Chaoimhín, Booze Cruise ag Sráid Chathail Brugha agus Bouncy Boxing an Sráid Bhíbhín. Chuirín bás ar seachtar ar Rag Trip Sráid Chaoimhín, faraíochach tháinig gach turasoir slán as. Ba hheaghradh ar círeadh an Booze Cruise ag Sráid Chathail Brugha ar cheal de bharr na droch-thoradh, agus fuair Lithtarann Sráid Bottóin. Colm Costello leasadh mhaith san domhain, nuair a chuir sé na láithreoir air féin sa bhfáinne troide don Bouncy Boxing ar an Déan. Bualadh breis agus €2,400 do na litriachtachtnaí, agus tá cuid de na 3,000 seachtaine, agus bhí gach rith ar sin.

Catherine Mahon, Clare O'Doud and Bernice Murray (all Cathal Brugha St) with stars in their eyes, as they wait for Champagne Supernova to crown.

George Atkinson does dough, don't be dough.

Every picture tells a story and some of these are looking for publishers to complete their trilogies. Just look at the state of some of these people. You'd swear they hadn't been seen the inside of a camera shop before, let alone the flash of a bulb. Have a gaze, write down what springs to mind and then burn the paper you wrote it on.

Seachtain na nGíobal 97

'A shower of Big Pint taken things tries to engulf a real live woman somewhere in Drink City, Arizona.'

A close up of the real thing leaves one feeling the need to expel semi-digested food from tummy very fast.

One needs a spugny brain for the Iron Stomach in these here parts.

'No I don't need medical help! Can't you see I'm about to ring the doorbell on the house of nirvana!'
The WRTC half forward who had been written off before the start of the Fitzgibbon Cup series, have shown what determination and discipline can achieve in a very short space of time. DIT are now a force to be reckoned with in hurling land, in future, our opponents will treat us with considerable respect.

While the senior team are out for this season, don’t forget that the Intermediate and Freshers’ teams are still in the running for championship honours in their grades. Come out and support them!

FRESHERS HOLD OUT TO REACH SEMI-FINAL

Peter Casey

DIT LADIES TAKE DERRY BY STORM

DIT
Magee College, Derry 0-2

The DIT ladies made the long, but worthwhile trek to Derry on Wednesday last to take on the Ulster champions in the quarter final of the division 2 league. With little time to warm up the Southern girls took the game to their opponents from the start against a gale force wind with points from Sharon Wall, Sheila Quinn and a goal via Anita Conway. Tremendous work from Olivia Keogh and Ruth English against the North Atlantic wind, scored 2 more points, play flowed back to DIT who put over 3 points to 1 by WRTC to leave the half time scoreboard reading 5 points for WRTC to 7 points for DIT.

The WRTC half forward who had in for a certain goal was foiled by half back Gerry Ennis. DIT put WRTC under intense pressure which unfortunately yielded no reward. WRTC attacks continually foundered on the rocks with typically restart performances by the DIT defence and midfielders.

On 16 minutes the home team half back put up the white flag and his score was followed by two more points to give WRTC a 3 point advantage going into the closing 10 minutes of the game. DIT were undeterred by the prospect of clawing back the game.

Martin Corcoran began the fight back with an excellent point from a very tight angle. A DIT free was converted with superb aplomb by Gerry Ennis and a Mick Fitzpatrick pass found Ennis for another point. The WRTC half forward raised the white flag. A DIT point by Mark Murphy put the visitors back in the driving seat.

Fitzgibbon Cup Thriller
Senior hurlers beaten by one point in extra time

Tony Kinsella

8-2-97

WRTC 0-17 DIT 0-16

The DIT team which lined out under captain Darren Caulfield at Walsh Park, Waterford, was identical to the team which had defeated UCG in the first round of the Fitzgibbon Cup. The home team played with a bittery cold and strong down field wind in the first half on a heavy pitch which was to cut up badly later in the afternoon. The first score of the game went to WRTC when their halfback converted a point from a 65 metre free. A pass from DIT midfielder, Mark Fitzpatrick, found wing forward Martin Corcoran who was fouled. The subsequent 20 metre free was converted by half forward Gerry Ennis, the DIT marksman. The home team then registered 4 points without reply in the next 5 minutes.

The WRTC half forward who was in for a certain goal was foiled by goalkeepr Seamus Killeen. Mark Murphy started the DIT comeback by goal man Seamus Killeen. Mark Murphy, Ollie Devine, Gerry Murphy, Martin Corcoran, Darragh McCormack, David Horey, Gerry Ennis.

A WRTC point seemed to given the home side victory but a last gasp point by Ollie Canning resulted in extra time being played, the scores being level at 13 points. Declan Maher, wearing number 17, came on for Ollie Devine on the resumption of the first period of extra time. Maher soon put his name on the score sheet with a converted free. The DIT lead was taken back when the WRTC half forward put up the white flag and his score was followed by two more points to give WRTC a 3 point advantage going into the closing 10 minutes of the game. DIT were undeterred by the prospect of clawing back the game.

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The DIT Senior Hurling team which lost by a fraction to WRTC in Walsh Park in early February. It meant the end of their Cup hopes.

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Higher Education All-Ireland Cross Country Championships. These championships were hosted for the first time ever by the DIT X-Country Club and part-sponsored by Guinness at the picturesque Magazine Fort on Wed 19 Feb. Picture above is Kevin St. student Eugene O’Neill, winner of the men’s race. He was followed home by Martin Hurley, also Kevin St., and Caine Canney of Waterford RTC but formerly of Bolton St. Fourth in was Cathal Brophy of St. Hephzibah. Tomoney, Fiona McGann (Kevin St.) strode home in 20.09 minutes to take the women’s title, ahead of Paula Corbett and Garda Catherine Leavy.

DIT Handball serves up results

The DIT Handball Club established itself firmly on the handball map this year with a string of successful matches the length and breadth of the country. The cornerstone victory was in the winning of the National handball Championship on 9th February and a special report will follow next month.

Their winning ways have also been rewarded with a four-game unbeaten run in the Dublin League. From November to January, the DIT Handballers have made an impression on the Dublin Championships where Padraic Gaughan (Bolton St.) carried off a junior singles title beating George Ryan (St. Matachy) in the final, next year he must play senior. Shane Dermer and Frank Sempile (both Kevin St.) won out the novice doubles over St.Patrick’s pair, Ward and Helfterman. Other efforts were made by D. Nolan, S. Kierman (Anngier St.), M. Dorham (Cathal Braugh St.), D. Hallsey (Kevin St.), P. Brady (Mountjoy Sq.). Also, they were six wins in the Dublin junior league with 4 wins from 5 matches that put them top of the league. They now go on to the semi-final. The vice- throughout the league (Denver & Co.). Garrys, St. Pat’s A (7-0), and Leitrim (6-1). They lost out to St. Pat’s A in the semi-final at Croke Park on Tuesday March 6.

The DUC Handball Club are hosting a weekend tournament on April 4 and 5. For all levels of players, all students are welcome, phone Frank at 282 0910 or Josephine at 282 50 960.

Ladies and Freshers Split Spoils in Galway

Freshers’ Ladies

DIT - 2-8
UCG - 1-0
CGC - 3-7

This double header at Dangan, Galway on Thursday 27th marked an interesting trip down with the ladies not being distracted by the presence of the ladies, so focused were they on the task in hand! It was to prove a disappointing day for the ladies as they went up to against a much more organised and fitter UCG team. However, it was only the second time they have been beaten this season and they still have the championship to come.

The freshers semi-final was a different affair. Nail-biting, shuffling, heart-stopping are just some of the words that could be used to describe it. From start to finish, this game epitomised the physical yet skilful nature of college football and kept a partial crowd on their toes right till the final whistle - eight minutes into injury time! UCG settled into the game much quicker than the visitors with two points. Niall Connellan opened the scoring for the DIT in the tenth minute with a close in free after two previous wides. However, in the second half of the game, Dangan corner back in the blustery conditions and allowed McKieran to flick over the head of the keeper to give Dangan a goal lead and a burst of confidence. With the tough tackling and hard earned possession proved very difficult to come by for both teams though UCG were guilty of wasting some scoreable chances and going for goal when points were the taking. DIT also had chances in this period but only a second point from Crossan was to come in this half for them followed by two UCG points just before the interval. The score was 1-4 to 0-2 to the Galway lads at half-time. Although the wind was blowing across the field it appeared as though DIT would be shooting into the scoring goals in the second half and this indeed proved to be the case. UCG opened the scoring again in this half with a fine point to give them a six point advantage. Some heavy pressure followed from DIT with the ball hardly out of their opponents half for six or seven minutes. A well placed pass form Barry Monaghan found Crossan in the right corner with the UCG defence pushing out to use him but they failed to stop him jinking along the end line and blasting to the net past the keepers left. UCG responded immediately with a solo effort from Fallon. A point from Niall Connellan brought DIT back in three with fifteen minutes to go and there was never going to be a wider gap on the score sheet from here on in. Crowd encroachment on the sideline stopped play twice in this period with everyone waiting to get closer to the action. Rory Sweeney brought the teams closer with a fine point from 35 yards on the resumption. Some pressure play from DIT was met with tough defending by UCG and the difference was kept to two points. UCG broke up the field for their seventh point to give them a three point cushion. It was full time! The next eight minutes was to prove nerve-wrecking for both teams and supporters with no one sure of their fate. Rory Conyngham went to play for the stoppages for the many injuries and field encroachments. A Crossan free brought it back to two after Carr was fouled whilst bearing down on goal. A point three minutes later from McMahon and UCG surely felt they were on their way to the final but an immediate reply came with a break down the left and again Crossan was on hand to slot it over but more was needed. Two wides in succession followed and it looked as though it was all over for the visitors but the DIT never gave up and an inspirational moment was to follow. An inspired catch from the captain Mike Ryan in the middle of the park gave possession back. A link up between Rory Griffin and Michael Cantwell ten yards out with the keeper advancing and his defence struggling. Cantwell glanced on to Crossan with the Erin’s Isle man having no one to tap it to the net. DIT were in front for the first time in the game and 65 minutes had been played! UCG took the quick kick out and progressed to the DIT forty but after Ryan’s interception the final whistle, which was being droned just thirty seconds earlier by the visitors, sounded and DIT were in their first ever Freshers final amid dramatic scenes. It was a cruel twist of fate for Galway as they contributed to an enthralling contest. DIT will now play either UCD or UCC or just now to face off in the final on March 12 (this may be changed). All support will be greatly appreciated on what promises to be a great day. Buses will be arranged.

To rub salt into the wound the UCG wound the entire DIT contingent headed for the students bar and made themselves heard with fine conditions of “Yogi Bear” and “Up the Fairways”. These time honoured pieces of football folklore. While some stayed in Galway to really rub it in the nose to endure the bus-driver home with a sweet alcohol ban. Which was fully adhered to!
**DIT Hockey Team see off challengers in ICHA final**

The Irish Colleges Hockey Association Finals took place at Railway Union and Pembroke Wanderers Hockey Grounds on Thursday 23rd February.

To reach the finals, colleges had to qualify through regionalised leagues which have been running since last October. The eight finalists played in two groups of four throughout the day and the top teams in each group played in the final. This was won by DIT Kevin St. from Inchicore after a penalty competition, due to a nil-nil score-line by the end of ordinary time.

Immediately after the final all the teams retired to the bar for a Table Quiz which was sponsored by Guinness Group Sales, who also supplied two kegs for the occasion.

**DIT Camogie has strong future**

The DIT Camogie team took part in the Division Three League Blitz on Saturday which was held in the UCD grounds. Even though it was only held over one day this was an All Ireland Finals competition.

In the quarter final DIT were to face St. Drumcondra, which seemed as though it was going to be an uphill task as DIT had taken on St. Pat’s earlier in the week and the match was the Superb Avril Hoey, it must be their Clare experience that changed things. This was the story all thanks to the management and Catherine Grace.

In the second half, corner back Joan Morris was moved to midfield and this was when DIT pulled the game away from the Marino girls. Morris added 1-2 to the scoreline.

Marino were the fresh team and if they had started themselves they could have pulled off a semi-final shock victory. DIT opened the scoreline in the first minute with a goal from the team captain Catherine Grace.

The final was played and it was St. Pat’s who were their opponents again. At this stage all the players were showing signs of having played three games in a row, however, they battled on and are exactly what this final was. It was exciting to the finish when St. Pat’s recovered to be the first ever winners of the Division Three CCIA camogie Shield. Their were scenes of excitement and sorrow but nobody could have complained on the day as it was an excellent final.

**DIT Handball makes Junior League Semis**

The DIT Handball Club qualified for the finals of the Dublin junior league championships in a close semi final match with St. Pat’s winning 15-8. Having previously beaten their opponents 7-0 the students were pinned to their shirt collars as the vastly experienced Pat’s player Jimmy Heffernan (all Ireland winner 1984) took the first game 15-12 from Shane Dommett (Bolton St.). However, Shane dug deep and equalised winning 15-9 in the second game. In the doubles match again the DIT trailed in the first game to John Downey (all Ireland winner 1993) and Declan Ryan (Loughlin St).)

In the second game Paul Brady (Mountjoy So) and Frank Somple (Keelin St.) equalised the match on a 15-13 score line. In the last doubles match the DIT team went up 15-9 and lead for the first time on the night. Padraic Gaffney (Bolton St.) was the last representative into the court and needed to win one game for victory and he did it comfortably in his first game winning 15-8.

The victory puts DIT into the final against the Garda team whom they trounced 7-0 in the league match but lessons were learned and they will be up for the game in Croker Park Wednesday 6.30 p.m.

As preparation for the final, all the teams are in training at Croker during the week and each are involved in games over the weekend. P. Brady and P. Gaffney meet in the All Ireland semi finals of the minor doubles respectively representing Usher and Connoragh while S. Dommer plays the Laois senior singles semi final and F. Semple plays the Wicklow doubles intermediate semi final.
The peace initiative can be resurrected he says, if: "The IRA declares another ceasefire, Sinn Fein will be allowed to enter the talks, Decommissioning is not demanded before talks begin." He accepts that the IRA should be given one last chance. If they were to call another ceasefire this would open the doorway for talks with Sinn Fein, but until this is apparent the door will remain barred. He told me, "I think it's important that we recognise that we all need each other in the process of negotiation." Northern Ireland's problems can only "be resolved or transformed around a table". Achieving a political settlement would be a slow and confusing business. There was much that we could learn from other peace settlements throughout the world. All those in place in South Africa, the Middle East and even Bosnia.

The Progressive Unionist leader said, "there are lessons which can be learned in terms of the importance of the negotiated process and how that process of negotiation works." Wholly inclusive dialogue was the only positive way to move forward, he stressed. It was important "that all sides recognise the futility of the war." The "two nationalist communities, the British and Irish nationalists, have to recognise that we have to co-exist whilst maintaining our allegiances and aspirations." Local leaders seem less reluctant than mainstream unionists to talk with Sinn Fein and negotiate with Dublin politicians which may involve contemplating a compromise settlement that would involve cross-border links with Dublin. Mr Ervine said, "all sides to the conflict would have to re-examine their attitudes." He dreamed of a time when the political parties could enter into wholly inclusive dialogue against a backdrop of peace. He agreed that the recent ceasefire had been "a good start," however he would only speak to them when the IRA declares a formal ceasefire. "The barrier to the wholly inclusive dialogue is violence. It's IRA violence, it has to stop and when it stops I believe that the circumstances can be created where talks can take place."

When a process of trust is established the political process would flourish. Areas of contention would narrow and the road to peace would break. "Decommissioning will only happen in Northern Ireland as we begin a process of trust," he said, stressing that when you increased the primacy of politics over paramilitarism you were able to take away the-minded of those who formerly gave due thought to democracy. It would be a long labour process but until this occurred the road forward would remain blocked.

Mr Ervine said problems which are apparent in Northern Ireland stem from an inherent mistrust, felt by each side and their joint apprehensions towards the British and Irish governments. If this could be overcome "the political deadlock would end. It seems unlikely that a former member of the paramilitaries is willing to reach his hand across the political divide when others who have been in politics for years in Northern Ireland are still unwavering to do so." "I'm prepared to put my hand across the divide because that's what it requires. I've witnessed the lack of moderacy, I've witnessed the lack of toleration and they haven't worked, maybe my theory will." Mr Ervine has often been described as being the moderate voice of loyalism. He doesn't regard himself as a neutral politician but he believes he plays an important role by talking to loyalists. His goal is to achieve democracy in Northern Ireland; "we have to give our loyalist sett to the people who really own it, not the hard men on either side, but the ordinary people who have been marginalised and feel totally helpless and alienated by the violence that goes on around them."

The peace initiative has proceeded in stops and sudden starts, increasingly getting bogged down with the issue of decommissioning. Armed loyalist groups agree that decommissioning is the final process before any discussion between the IRA and DIT. This would only be resolved when trust through the process of negotiation from all sides is in place. Mr Ervine maintains: "The requirement is to create a twin process that will converge at the same point."

As we near the marching season it is important to avoid another summer of confrontation. The Progressive Unionist leader is in no doubt that "the violence as a result of paramilitary groups have been left to manipulate in relation to the marching season". Confrontation has resulted as a direct response to the subjugation of culture and "the subjugation of anybody's culture is not the answer, it's about co-existence as a result of an understanding between the two cultures and this is easily manipulated. This is what is happening now and "implacable opposites attract". Northern Ireland's problems exist within the flash point areas, like Harryville, will have to engage in dialogue with the members of the Orange Order." It would not have to be done directly, but by mediation groups that could work towards solving the problem of trust. As for the future of Northern Ireland: "The talks process can succeed, if not this week, some year. That's the way it'll be done and Northern Ireland's problems will be resolved or transformed around a table. Why not now?"

Lisa Armstrong interviews the leader of the Progressive Unionists.

The early morning briefing on the race plan was given by Johnny Horgan (Shoremaster) at the top of the slope. A logistical nightmare was to be managed efficiently and effectively for all teams on the water. The British teams hit the water and the momentum began, race after race, team after team. Thrills and spills were aplenty as embarrassing capsizes and stupid errors were made which in the end wiped out some colleges. Saturday, crunch time as regards racing and the weather obliged by holding off. All full committee once again gathered on the balcony in the Yacht Club and a special morning racing session with flights of boats on the water and knockout stages would decide who was left for the quarters, semis and final on Sunday.

A crowd gathered in the Yacht Club bar made up of spectators andeammates cheering their colleagues on from the balcony, and jeering at the unfortunate who looked at their stages like they preferred being in the water rather than in it. The racing finished in the evening with only the top eight teams remaining, who were all contention to win the right to represent Ireland in the University Team Racing. We arrived at Sligo, for the first time ever, on a Sunday.

Saturday night, disco night, all sailors and supporters gathered in the Sligo Marine Hotel. A buffet dinner was served and it was agreed that University of Limerick was to take on the task of staging the 1998 Sailing Intervarsities...
Dear Agatha,


Dear Agatha,

A friend of mine has a problem. She is obsessive in everything she does, whether it's cleaning, studying, drinking or eating. She does nothing by halves.

In our last year at university she studied in the library from dawn to late at night. She used to sniff the books and when the night porter tried to close up, she used to go into hysterics, screaming and crying.

Her most recent obsession is sorting out piles of newspapers in chronological order and putting them into boxes, she is driving herself and everyone around her crazy. I have to either help or kill her. What should I do?

I don't think it is your problem, it is you. I hate these people who write in hypothetical situations about themselves and attribute it to other people. By writing 'I have a problem,' you would have been on the first road to recovery. As it stands you have a lot of therapy to go through.

Your problem is known as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). It is a disorder but it still no excuse for your behaviour. Book yourself into a mental home for a year and if there is still no improvement then you have got to face up to a very lonely existence. A life where friends only appear in dreams and normality is a mere fantasy.

Dear Agatha,

I have a problem with the belt of my trousers, which seems to be on a sliding scale at the moment. I am a foreign student studying at DIT and when I first came here, I had to pull my belt in two notches. This made me very happy as I felt all skinny. As the new skinny me, I decided that I could then eat lots of sweets and it's crushing my will to live. My belt buckle is back to its original notch and I am scared that if I don't control my eating, soon, my belt won't fit me at all.

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My friends from home say that eating loads is what you do when you move away from home as you try and deal with the empty space inside of you. Does this mean I have a serious psychological problem, or am just a greedy guts?? Please, stop my cravings!!!

Yours, a tormented soul.
Live Gig

Audio Hip
@ Shakespeare Bar

Shit name, let’s hope they change it, but without a doubt, the most original cover band I have ever seen in my life. Don’t take my word for it, see them for yourself. Robert Miles to ‘Down Under’ by Men at Work to ‘Stop On’ by the Happy Mondays defies any immediate categorisation that springs to mind, except that they are indeed a cover band; thereafter all quantifiable clichés are rendered obsolete.

They also write their own stuff (including a keys-led Zappasque tune), but, for the moment, it is their choice and range of covers which hoists them above the crowd. Sure, they do Lynyard Skynard’s tribute to white supremacy, ‘Sweet (WASP) Home Alabama’, a must for any pub band. But they also carbon-graft Buffalo Springfield’s ‘Something Happening Here’, and give Faith No More’s ‘Midlife Crisis’ a good seeing to.

Their bass player has been torn down a few pegs by Jon Salem (from the Dead Man’s Band). He’s the drummer by the way! For evidence look closely at Paul’s T-shirt after they play live (he’s the drummer by the way!). “Goodbye” and “Rain Falls”, the other two little gems from the demo are simple but powerful at the same time. Lucid Dreams are looking for 1997 to be their year (and if there is any justice in this world, it should be!). They have two songs featuring on a compilation with other young bands which is out in the next month or so. I am now about to put my reputation on the line; are you ready? I believe that they will have a single in the charts by this time next year and if not will be on a huge world-wide tour (meaning they won’t have time to go into the studio). I had the chance to meet the band to ask Dave (lead gui­tar) one question: George Michael, love him or hate him? Reply: ‘Feckin’ love that guy’

Lucid Dreams play the Mean Fiddler at the end of March, rock gig of the month. They hope to have their own CD out this year so keep your eyes open.

ChaoS

Lucid Dreams
@ Barney Murphy’s

This up-and-coming band came to my attention about two years ago in Charlie’s Rock Bar. They were formed in 1993 in south county Dublin by these energetic fun-loving lads. I had the pleasure of seeing them live on many occasions and have enjoyed every moment. The demo contains 3 original songs: “Bring the House Down”, the most scrapping of openers. It has to be their favourite considering the amount of energy put into it, but then they put an enormous amount into everything they do. For evidence look closely at Paul’s T-shirt after they play live (he’s the drummer by the way!). “Goodbye” and “Rain Falls”, the other two little gems from the demo are simple but powerful at the same time. Lucid Dreams are looking for 1997 to be their year (and if there is any justice in this world, it should be!). They have two songs featuring on a compilation with other young bands which is out in the next month or so. I am now about to put my reputation on the line; are you ready? I believe that they will have a single in the charts by this time next year and if not will be on a huge world-wide tour (meaning they won’t have time to go into the studio). I had the chance to meet the band to ask Dave (lead gui­tar) one question: George Michael, love him or hate him? Reply: ‘Feckin’ love that guy’

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C.C 8/10

DAFT PUNK-Homework

The outrageously hot young techno/house outfit straight from the inSEINE town of Paris, have released their debut album “Homework”. In the previous edition I was warning you about the Sonic Boom in the French dance scene (and I was right!). This is by all means a concept album, there is a message behind each track and on the artwork that lay dormant on the sleeve. In my opinion the Punks could not care less if you like them as long as they have a laugh, convention is thrown out the top floor of the Eiffel Tower. They really have a bit of every­thing in their ensemble Funk, Disco, Techno, Hip Hop all rolled together in a frenzy of pure madness, “Round the World”, a track with a “put your flares on” hook, John Travolta would love this guy. Old skool is most excellent­ly evident. “Da Funk” is an MTV fav at this moment in time, this scratcha mix of electro past is excellent, the video like the rest of the tracks is that bit different to what you may be used to. Convention Sucks…. This album is the most fun I’ve had this year (well, except for the obvious!) This has more to offer than “Big City Night’s”, a most enjoyable affair at £12.99 you can’t go wrong! Luv these guys…..

CLUBBED TO A BLOODY PULP

Genesis
@ Parnell Mooney
Fri 28 Feb

This club is a definite for those looking for a fun night out. It is a comparatively new club which has been going since August ’96 and run in both the Parnell Mooney and The 13th Floor, Mc Grath’s. The setting is pretty inti­mate which allows for a very laid back and friendly atmosphere.

We arrived in the Kitchen amidst shrieks of “I can’t believe we got in!” from excited young club goers. Thursday nights at the Kitchen presented by Influx draws a younger, more studenty crowd than you might expect in a usual trendy Temple Bar nightclub. The decor is very inventive with a well designed lighting system. The sounds on the night were excellent as DJ’s Johnny Moy and Richard Fireless kept the dance floor hopping. A nice relaxed atmosphere, with a healthy mixture of casual chatters and dedicated dancers. The door policy is slightly rigid as many got stopped in their tracks by the thorough bouncers on entering. Drink prices were quite reasonable but unfortunately it appeared that the bar staff had taken a sip out of all the pints. If you’re looking for something to do on a Thursday night: the Kitchen is a good place to check out.
The English Patient encompasses all of the themes of a stereotypically weepy film - war, love, betrayal, death, nurture, friendship - yet it never resorts to maudlin sentimentality. The characters, sometimes effectively underplayed, are multidimensional. Nothing seems clichéd or superficial and the flashbacks don't disorientate the viewer or detract from engagement with the characters. For the first time in months, I didn't want the film to end.

The English Patient goes on general release on March 14.

**Marvin's Room**

Plays, as adaptations from Shakespeare to Tennessee Williams to David Mamet prove, can translate well onto the screen. With actors like Robert De Niro, Meryl Streep (if you like her) Leonardo DiCaprio, and Diane Keaton. Marvin's Room, adapted from a play by Scott McPherson, has an extremely talented cast. Ultimately however the film failed to transcend the limitations of its original medium, relying extensively on contrived metaphors and melodrama to carry a static and unengaging story.

Meryl Streep and Diane Keaton play Lee and Bessie, estranged sisters eventually forced to reconcile when Bessie is diagnosed as having leukemia. For twenty years Bessie has played martyr, stoically devoting her time to arranging doctor's visits, coordinating medication and providing emotional support for her bed-ridden father (Marvin) and eccentric aunt. Lee, bringing up two boys alone, one of whom is a convicted arsonist, has steadfastly refused to take responsibility for her ailing relatives.

Responding to a request from Bessie, Lee with her sons, travels to her old family home in Florida, hoping that one of the three of them will prove a suitable bone marrow donor.

Much of the action revolves around the emerging closeness of the two sisters and Bessie's bonding with her errant nephew (Leonardo DiCaprio). Robert De Niro hardly features as the inept doctor whose incompetence bordering on chartlessness is effectively underplayed, are multidimensional. Nothing seems clichéd or superficial and the flashbacks don't disorientate the viewer or detract from engagement with the characters. For the first time in months, I didn't want the film to end.

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**Portrait of a Lady**

Jane Campion's latest film Portrait of a Lady is more austere and defeated than the acclaimed Piano or An Angel at my Table. The film is eclectic. Footage of different eras, black and white and colour shots combine with mixed tempo editing techniques and obscure camera angles. Campion has remained aware of the possibilities afforded by the cinematic medium through which she works, the form of the film is therefore always imaginative, sometimes even challenging.

Portrayal of a Lady is a predomi­nantly dark film although the potential redemption of Isabel is at least hinted at. Her consistent support from a string of admirers lightens her burden somewhat and the music is as dramatically intense as in The Piano.

At: Savoy, Santry, Virgin, UCI.
In this, the first part of a three part saga, Damien Pedreschi, Team Captain of DIT Swim Team, gives us a pool-side view of life in the lanes. The opening section gives the background to one of the DIT's oldest clubs.

DIT SWIM TEAM

Team president: Claire Corbett.
Team captain: Damien Pedreschi.

Phone and web: 8363504.
email: dpedreschi@dit.ie

The DIT SWIM TEAM is the longest established DIT sports club in existence. It could be argued that the DIT SWIM TEAM preceded the DIT itself. Before the DIT ever came together as an integrated institution, the DIT SWIM TEAM had pooled its resources to compete at the highest levels. It was not long before the DIT gained "provisional" Intervarsity status, and once they let us get our foot in the door we proceeded to stroll on through. Over the years we as a team have gained the respect (and the fear) of

Political Footballs

Denis Byrne

As a sports lover there are two types of town in rural Ireland. There are 'Gaelic' towns and 'Soccer' towns. I come from a 'Gaelic' town. For this reason Gaelic games will always be my first love. This love has been embedded in my bones since the time I listened to old people talk of the exploits of men who wore Donegal shirts and spoke of life in the 'Jungle', the 'Hill 16' of Celtic Park. Weird and wonderful stories were recounted GAA people throughout the country. These were, and are, genuine fears for the future of the game that I love.

It was against this background that, at the age of eleven, I became interested in soccer. I was too young to realise the enormity of the choices I was making and the guilt it would cause in later life. My interest in 'The Foreign Game' developed not from watching the English League on television, but from hearing stories about another team further north. These teams wore green and white hooped shirts as they played their trade in a stadium known as 'Paradise' in the east end of Glasgow.

The spiritual and physical connection between Donegal and Glasgow has always been a strong one. Donegal people began leaving in their thousands at the beginning of this century to find work in the factories and shipyards along the Clyde. As his children grew up they started making the journey in the opposite direction. I knew from the tone of his voice and the look on his face that he was only half-joking. His expression encapsulated all the fears of dedication has that he was only half-joking. His expression encapsulated all the fears of dedication has to that is the fact that they offer swim scholarships and therefore attract Ireland's top International swimmers. It is factors such as these that we have worked around to motivate ourselves as a team to compete at Intervarsity level. This motivation and dedication has been spearheaded in previous years by a dedicated bunch of DIT Swim Team committee members, without whom we could not be where we are today, they include:


We hope that as the years continue to pass that the names added to this list will ensure that the DIT SWIM TEAM continues to grow from strength to strength, and consolidates its position at the highest levels of Intervarsity competition.

THE DIT SWIM & POLO TEAM - fighting its way to the top.

THE DIT SWIM & POLO TEAM - fighting its way to the top.

From top: DIT Men's Water Polo Team; Brendan Cote exploits off the block in the recent Intervarsity Men's 100m Breast Stroke; Dawn Mc Guineya wins the Ladies 100m Front Crawl - the competition was very successful for DIT.

DIT Swim Team. Added to that is the fact that they offer swim scholarships and therefore attract Ireland's top International swimmers. It is factors such as these that we have worked around to motivate ourselves as a team to compete at Intervarsity level. This motivation and dedication has been spearheaded in previous years by a dedicated bunch of DIT Swim Team committee members, without whom we could not be where we are today, they include:


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