1997

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

DIT:Students’ Union

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DIT students — they’re hot in the bed department, they’re not afraid of drugs, and they’re well aware of what’s happening on the political front.

That’s according to the recent Student Attitudes Survey carried out by DITSU across all six DIT colleges. The results of the opinion poll/survey have presented the DIT Students’ Union with some invaluable statistics concerning students’ views, preferences and habits.

Sex and drugs issues provided some startling facts about public perception and the realities. 73% of those polled have had sex, with only 18% still virgins. 9% did not give an answer.

This, seemingly high, percentage of young people engaging in sexual relations might arouse fears about health and safe sex, but the figures relating to protected sex are encouraging. 83% answered that they use condoms when having sex. This would indicate that a high level of students are informed about the dangers and the risks to their health.

Drug-taking, traditionally a famous student occupation, still ranks high, but one of the most surprising facts lies in the result that more people appear to have indulged in acid consumption than in taking Ecstasy.

Cannabis-smoking ranks highest of all, with everyone who has indulged in illegal drugs having tested the resin at some stage. With two candidates running in the general election on a ‘legalise cannabis’ ticket, it will be interesting to see how much support they will gain.

3.2% of those polled had tried heroin. Obviously, there is some overlap involved with the statistics, where some people have tried more than one drug.

Sex 'N' Drugs 'N' SHOCKIN' POLL

SEX 'N' DRUGS 'N' SHOCKIN' POLL

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for more info see pages 4-5

Political Beasts

The DITSU Student Attitudes Survey reveals that almost 60% of those polled stated that they would be voting in the up-coming general election.

More astonishingly still is the huge support apparent for the major opposition party, Fianna Fail. With a total of 23.6% of those voting claiming they would favour the FFers at the polls, the implications are staggering for the present coalition parties, Fine Gael, Labour, and Democratic Left, whose combined percentage was lower.

Unsurprisingly in a student poll, The Green Party/Comhaontas Glas fared very well, better than Fine Gael. Press Officer, Eddie Hackett, told the DIT Examiner that ‘traditionally, the Green Party has done better with young people than in national polls. We appeal to the young vote because of our long-term plan, as reposed in any plans simply for the next election.’

Fianna Fail explained that they “Don’t normally comment on things,” while Fine Gael’s Youth Officer said she believed that the results did not tell the whole picture. Since a large amount of the voting public are aged between 18 and 25, she argued, these people are still making up their minds as to how they will vote. Students are undoubtedly “all caught up in exams”, but Fine Gael are confident that when they do look at the situation, ‘they will see that one of the single most important things about the present government is their creation of 1,000 jobs every week’, on average, obviously.

The Progressive Democrats’ Press Office bluntly stated that the party was satisfied that it (the DITSU survey) underestimates the recent MRRI poll result and didn’t seem too pushed one way or the other.

Sinn Fein remain sceptical about the validity due to possible fears survey candidates might have had in answering truthfully. The party seems content with the fact that it invariably does worse in opinion polls than in actual elections because of this supposed fear.

The Labour Party failed to comment.
The DIT Examiner
DITSU, DIT Kevin Street, Kevin St., Dublin 8.
Ph: 402 4636  Fax: 478 3154

Warbled ramblings in Editorial Seclusion
Big, big sorry to all those expecting to see their photographed images reproduced in the previous edition of D'examiner, the April-May issue. Personally, I blame the parents, but that's not really a sufficient excuse. Having forgotten to include 3D shades with each copy, and/or instructions concerning how to stare 'through' the pictures with your magic eye, thus revealing the secret image hidden therein, I proceeded to hand them out left, right and centre without regard for the consequences. People's feelings were hurt, and a post or two suffered serious injury.
Again, mea culpa, APOLOGIES, one and all.
As for the fact that the April-May edition was the final edition for the academic year 96-97, technically it was. This particular one is just an addendum to it. Its extra, but it isn't superfluous. This edition contains information gathered in the DITSU Student Attitude Survey regarding DIT students, i.e. y'all, as our American cousins might say. Specifically, statistics relating to your habits, opinions and practices. It's interesting stuff, you should have a good long gawk at it.
The DIT recently made it into the pages of the country's leading light in magazines, named after birds who rise out of flames, or actually ARE those same flames, or can sometimes rise out of ashes, or occasionally - enough. The Phoenix saw fit to publish details of a junket to the Kiliney Court Hotel for 50 members of the DIT School of Languages, where they had loads of grub and stayed overnight to boot. The DIT Examiner would like to announce this sort of behaviour and states quite categorically that it would, without hesitation, take up an offer to join them on their next outing.
This edition is also put together to try and get you all sorted for your exams. Hence the Appeals Procedure and Regulations, essay gathered on p. 7. The DIT Counsellors point out that it's not necessary to stress-erupte yourself around exam time - pretty sound advice.
Big FANX to anyone who contributed throughout the year with articles, photographs, ads, letters and suggestions - your assistance is invaluable. Can't pay you, though. Make it through the summer and I'll buy ice-pops for the lot over yez in September. Aii Viderci.

An chuid Nach Léartear
Gabh mo mhór leis an teachtaí féin bhí sibh ag stiú le híomhánna gráin-ghallaidh/meadhrachtaí a bhíodh in ann aon fhoirne a thabhairt. Ar dtús, ansin aon fhoirne a thabhairt, inniu, ansin aon fhoirne a thabhairt.

The Word Shop
DIT Students Union
Secretarial Service Bureau
Typing (laser printed) only 85p per page.
Fax Service, Thesis Binding
Exam Paper Service for Kevin St.

The Word Shop, DIT Kevin Street College of Technology
9.30am-5pm Monday to Friday

Clarifications

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 NATIONALY
- CAMPAIGNS ON ISSUES LIKE STUDENT HARDSHIP, ACCOMMODATION AND SAFETY, LIBRARY FACILITIES, CATERING
- RAISES THOUSANDS FOR CHARITY THROUGH RAG WEEK
- 2ND HAND BOOK SERVICE
- PUBLISHED FREE YEARLY HANDBOOK AND WELFARE MANUAL
- 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
- PAYPHONE IN SU OFFICE
- CONDOM MACHINES IN TOILETS
- FRESHERS, 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.

Editor: Cearbhall Ó Siocháin
Psychiatric Nurse: Christopher Walker
Printed by Datascipe, Enniscorthy Co. Wexford

Clari5cations

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.

Winners of previous Irish Times Crossword competition: April-May '97:
1. Dan Burke, Optics 2, Kevin St.
2. Ken Gargan, SEB1, Kevin St.
3. Gráinne McCormack, WBS4, Kevin St.
Prizes can be collected from Kevin St. SU offices.
The Exam Appeals Procedure

Each year, the DIT’s Exam Appeals Board receives, on average, 10 appeals from students regarding exam results. They can sometimes be concerned with an upgrading of a result but not always. Occasionally, there is a request to sit a supplemental exam if the usual supplementary options have been exhausted.

There is an appeal procedure that should be followed and it should be available the exams office in each DIT site. This is not always the case, however, and so we will here outline the procedure as clearly as is possible. This procedure is there to be used if you feel you have a genuine case.

Thomas Duff, the DIT’s Registrar, has pointed out that the Exam Appeals Board, which is independent of individual colleges, cannot change results but can pass onto the exams board information that may not have been available at the time of the exam. This may then result in the exam board reconvening to consider the student’s case.

An appeal may be made by a candidate on one or more of the following grounds where it is claimed that:

- the examinations regulations of the College have not been properly implemented;
- the regulations do not adequately cover a candidate’s case;
- compassionate circumstances which relate to the candidate’s examination situation.

1. The first step is to get an Examination Appeals Form (Form A1). This should be available from the Administrative Section of the relevant college.

2. This form must be completed in block letters on the floor typewritten and lodged with the relevant director within two weeks of the publication of the Provisional Examination Results and accompanied by the appropriate fee (£50). The relevant director must then sign and date the appeal and he will then forward it to the Registrar (Thomas Duff). It must be accompanied by:

   A. Information as to whether -

      (i) the appellant [student making the appeal] has made efforts to resolve, through the relevant Head of School/Department the difficulty which has given rise to the appeal;

      (ii) a recheck has been requested and, if so, state the outcome if processed;

      (iii) the Examination Board has been made aware of any special circumstances, including medical, affecting the appellant’s case prior to determination of results;

   B. A written evaluation of the case from the relevant director, including comment on the allegations, if any, contained therein.

   C. Medical certificates relevant to the case.

   D. The appellant’s academic record in Thomas Duff also points out that a complaint which is independent of individual colleges when it is known as an individual. This is not always the case, however, and so we will here outline the procedure as clearly as is possible. This procedure is there to be used if you feel you have a genuine case.

   There is space provided on the appeals form (section 8) in which you may present your case in your own words. If you feel there is insufficient space provided on the form, you can continue on separate sheets of paper but make sure you include them with your appeal and indicate clearly their inclusion.

   There is a facility for presenting your case to the board, either by yourself or with a willing lecturer/representative of the students’ union. One of these could present the case for you or you could forego this option entirely. It will not prejudice your case.

   Hopefully, you will not need recourse to this facility, but if you do, don’t be afraid to make your case.

   Thomas Duff also points out that a complete review of the Examinations Appeals process and the current Regulations is underway at the moment. It is likely that any discipline that the student, at a later date, will in future, devote to individual faculty mechanisms in order to improve the system.

EXAM REGULATIONS

1. Candidates are required to attend at least fifteen minutes before the starting time of each examination. Examination venue will be posted in the main entrance hall of the College.

2. You must produce your Student Identity Card before entry into the examination hall is permitted. External candidates will also be required to produce suitable identification (e.g. Place of work ID or Passport).

3. Candidates are requested to bring only essential items into the examination room. Any books, notebooks, papers, bags, briefcases etc. which are brought in must be placed either on the floor or top or bottom of the examination room away from the examination area. (Candidates may keep handbags on the floor, but they should be clearly visible when they can be seen by the supervisor.)

4. Coats or jackets may not be left on the backs of chairs during the course of the examination.

5. Smoking in the College, except in specially designated areas, is now strictly forbidden by law.

6. The Supervisor will attend to any problem which may arise. You may attract his/her attention by raising your hand.

7. Candidates shall, in all matters relevant to the examination, adhere to the directions of the Supervisor.

8. You must position your Student Identity Card on the desk where it can be seen by the Supervisor during the execution of the examination. No other documents should appear on your desk.

9. Candidates should enter their examination number on the answer book. Candidates’ names should not be given until specifically requested by the examining body concerned.

10. Only silent, non-programmable pocket-type calculators will be permitted. The sharing of calculators will not be permitted and the College will not be responsible for the provision of calculators or batteries in the event of failure.

11. Talking or discussing of any kind between candidates is not permitted during the course of an examination.

12. All work should be done on the answer book or other material provided. Use of scrap paper is forbidden.

13. Candidates may not leave during the first hour or within the last fifteen minutes of an examination. Candidates leaving an examination early should do so quietly to avoid disruption of other candidates.

14. A candidate is not normally permitted to leave the examination room for any purpose during the examination. Where this is permitted all examination material and the examination question paper must remain on the candidate’s desk in the examination room. Re-admission to the examination will only be permitted where the candidate is accompanied by a Supervisor during any absence from the examination.

15. A candidate may be expelled from the examination room if his/her behaviour jeopardises the conduct of the examination. Such behaviour will be reported to the College Authority and, where appropriate, the examining body.

16. A candidate who in any way uses or attempts to use any unfair means renders himself/herself liable to disqualification. Any such breach will be reported to the College Authority and, where appropriate, the examining body.

17. Offences in connection with degrees, diplomas or certificates or annual examinations or tests conducted by the College are regarded as major offences. The penalties in respect of major offences include reprimand, fine, suspension from academic or other privileges, rustication or expulsion from the College.

18. Where illness prevents a student from sitting an examination, a medical certificate must be submitted to the Examination Secretary no later than one week following the first occasion on which the student is absent. Medical certificates received later than this will not normally be accepted.
The DITSU Student Attitudes Survey was conducted by the Union during one week in late April this year. The statistics were worked out by a professional, independent firm on behalf of DITSU. The following is a summary of the survey, containing some of the more important aspects of the study.

**Sex and Sexuality**

Have you had full sexual intercourse?

- No 10%
- Yes 90%

How regularly do you have sex?

- Daily 11.2%
- Weekly 20.2%
- Monthly 15%
- Rarely 24.8%

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual 88%
- Homosexual 7%
- Bisexual 4%
- Others 1%

**Alcohol / Drugs**

Do you drink alcohol?

- Yes 95%
- No 5%

If the answer to the above is yes, do you drink the following types of alcoholic drinks on a regular basis?

- Lager 68.9%
- Guinness 33.7%
- Spirits 54.5%
- Alcoholic Lemonade 22.8%

How many times a week would you drink alcohol?

- Once 21.3%
- Two or three times 59.4%
- More than three times 16.1%

Are you a regular cigarette smoker?

- Yes 45%
- No 55%

**Political Attitudes**

Do you intend to vote in the forthcoming general election?

- Yes 57.1%
- No 42.9%

If the answer to the above is yes, which party will you vote for?

- Labour 47%
- Conservative 36%
- Liberal 17%
- Others 12%
The Students' Union

Are you aware of the Students' Union in existence in your college?
Yes 99.7%
No 0.3%

How often do you avail of Student's Union services such as the shop, an entertainment event or personal advice from one of the officers?
once or more a week 81%
once a week 15%
ever 3.5%

Do you think your Students' Union provides you with good value for money in terms of the range and quality of services it provides?
Yes 67.4%
No 30%

Are you a member of a club or society?
Yes 52.7%
No 47.3%

Religion

Do you regard yourself as belonging to one particular religion?
Yes 81%
No 17.9%
Don't Know 6%

If the answer to the above is yes, which religion are you practising?
R Catholicism 72.9%
C of Ireland 2%
Lutheran 0.5%
Christian 2.3%
Born Again Chr. 0.5%
Other 21.6%

Academic Affairs

How do you find the standard of lecturing in your college?
Excellent 3.7%
Very Good 31.7%
Average 56.8%
Poor 7.2%

Do you feel that lecturers and tutors should undergo compulsory training in teaching skills?
Yes 94.2%
No 5.5%

Do you feel that there are too many lectures and tutorials in an average week?
Yes 48.4%
No 50.4%

From your experience, how do you rate your college library service?
Excellent 7.8%
Very good 36.9%
Average 40.1%
Poor 14.75%

Are you aware of the existence and range of computer facilities available in your college?
Yes 94.2%
No 4.9%

Do you have access to E-mail facilities in your college?
Yes 55.9%
No 42.7%

Are you satisfied with the range of computer facilities available in your college?
Yes 34.3%
No 64%

Finances

Are you in receipt of a Maintenance grant?

Are you in receipt of a Maintenance Grant?
Yes 15%
No 85%

Are you aware of the existence and range of computer facilities available in your college?
Yes 94.2%
No 4.9%

Religion

Do you regard yourself as belonging to one particular religion?
Yes 81%
No 17.9%
Don't Know 6%

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DIT Students Design Amnesty 'T-Shirts

DIT Students Stephen O’Neill and Liam Furlong, both Visual Communications students in Mountjoy Sq., came first and third in the competition to design t-shirts for the Irish section of Amnesty International recently. Hazel Moore of RTC Athlone took second place. O’Neill’s winning entry consists of a new take on the recognised Amnesty symbol of the barbed-wire wrapped candle. Rather than the large icon planted in the middle of the shirt, O’Neill opted for a much smaller, hip-placed symbol. For his own design, Liam Furlong chose a more traditional logo style consisting of two hands clasped, and the name ‘John Doe’ (American for Joe Soap) written beneath.

Margaret Byrnequist, Trading Manager for Amnesty International, told the DIT Examiner that the shirts should be available to buy within a month.

DITSU ONLINE

The new ditsu site is now taking orders for valuable Net space - and if you're not in, you can't play with us.

Of the five Colleges on-site (DIT Chatham Row not yet there) Kevin St has three societies - Cúannann Gaeltach and the Engineering Society - while Bolton St lag slightly behind with a link to the DIT Swim + Polo Team site.

For the latest up-to-the-minute full-scale true news contact:
darey@maths.kit.dits.ie
aodhchubais@maths.kit.dits.ie
http://www.kit.dits.ie/ditsu

Suirbhé Dearcadh Mic Léinn AMITBÁC
The DIT Sports Day was held this year on 17 April in the spectacularly accounted Aer Lingus Social Athletics Association sports complex. It was the culmination of many months hard preparation for those in charge of organising the grand day out. Herbert McClelland, Aungier St Sports Officer, was instrumental in stitching this managerial headache together and he received much assistance from students and staff across the DIT.

The day itself saw the corvette of the DIT fleet, Aungier St, sweep many of the events, while relative battalions like Bolton St and Kevin St listed severely to port and to starboard.

Among the competitive events organised for the day were Athletics, Aerobics and Archery, and some sports that didn’t begin with the letter A. Of these other ones, Basketball and Badminton were both played indoors out of the sunshine, while Pitch & Putt and Tennis were available to play all day, for anyone who wished.

Legions of people turned out to watch the various soccer matches, played in the central green of the running track. Both 7-a-side and 11-a-side teams got a look in, as did Ladies soccer.

The event was sponsored by GUINNESS and Marathon Coaches, and the gang made their merry way to the Big Tree to slake big thirsts with Big Pints and other drinks, once the competitive mayhem was over.
Felling stressed or anxious before examinations is a perfectly normal reaction. However, sometimes these feelings can get out of control and interfere with your examination preparation and performance. The following techniques will help to diminish or eliminate examination anxiety and help you perform more effectively.

**MENTAL PREPARATION**

Make a revision schedule. Make a special set of notes that contain summary information. Anticipate test questions. Use information from your notes, lectures, to predict questions. Practice answering these questions.

What questions do you need to ask about the test?

1. How many questions?
2. How much time is allocated?
3. What chapters or part of the course does the test cover?
4. How many marks are allocated to each question?
5. Can I use a dictionary, calculator?

**PHYSICAL PREPARATION**

Get a good night's sleep. Use breathing by three's exercise if you have trouble falling asleep.

Allow time for a healthy breakfast. Avoid too much sugary foods or tea/coffee. A glucose drink right before the examination may help to sustain you.

Allow extra time to get to college on the day of the test.

**USING TEST TIMES WISELY: THE FIVE STEPS**

As you work through the test, following these five steps for answering questions:

Step 1: Read the whole paper through and highlight underlined important words.

Step 2: Check how many questions must be answered in each section and read each question again, putting a mark beside all that you might attempt. Now select those that you will answer.

Step 3: Allocate time for each question and start with the question that you are most comfortable with.

Step 4: Plan out each answer clearly before you begin.

Step 5: At the end always check over your answers and proof read for mistakes.

**LINKS PROGRAMME**

Also included in the Links Programme brief is the Bull Alley project, in which pupils in the Liberties School at Bull Alley are made aware of the benefits of second and third level education. The project facilitates the demonstration of aspects of courses and research which the kids can relate to, like computer design, satellite tracking and other techniques liable to evoke their interest. A summer school has been organised for this year.

Tommy Cooke points out that, "These kids have no concept of third level. By bringing them across the threshold of the college they get to see people just like themselves.... It's a process of breaking down barriers, through which myths of 'brainy' gown-wearing swots yakking about improving the Universe and other such inaccuracies can also be scotched.

The Studentships total £1,500 annually, a considerable amount of financial assistance to those who would otherwise be forced to drop out of college. The DIT awarded eleven such scholarships this year.

"Third Level Colleges and the Local Community - A Challenge for the Future" was the title of the conference held in November to highlight the problems of social exclusion and disadvantage encountered by those in many inner city schools. The delegation numbered in the region of 180 individuals, 30% of which were DIT staff.

To promote an improvement in the facilities available to pupils in these schools, the DIT Links Programme has also made available 50 computers which will be distributed throughout the schools very shortly.

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Members of the Links Programme having received certificates of participation. The programme was initiated in September 1996.
Applications are invited from graduates and students expecting to graduate in 1997 for the following one-year, full-time taught postgraduate programmes, commencing in September 1997. Many of these programmes are approved for funding under the Advanced Technical Skills (ATS) programme of the European Social Fund. Full-time EU students offered places on ATS funded programmes will not be liable for fees.

**Masters Degrees**
- LLM in Comparative and European Law
- MA in Ethnomusicology
- MA in European Integration
- MA in International Studies
- MEng in Computer Systems
- MSc in Aerospace Structures and Materials (Joint with Trinity College, Dublin)
- MSc in Applied Mathematics and Computing
- MSc in Software Re-Engineering
- MSc/MA in Music Technology
- MTech in Advanced Manufacturing Technology (full-time and part-time)

**Graduate Diplomas/Masters Degrees**
- Grad Dip/MA in Dance (two-year, part-time)
- Grad Dip/MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- Grad Dip/MA in Technical Communication
- Grad Dip/MA in Women's Studies
- Grad Dip/MBS in Entrepreneurship
- Grad Dip/MSc in Advanced Materials
- Grad Dip/MSc in Software Localisation
- Grad Dip/MTech in Engineering Product Design
- Grad Dip/MTech in Safety and Ergonomics (full-time and part-time)

**Graduate Diplomas**
- Grad Dip in Advanced Manufacturing Technology
- Grad Dip in Business Administration
- Grad Dip in Business Studies - Recreation Management
- Grad Dip in Computing
- Grad Dip in Computer Engineering
- Grad Dip in Education (Music)
- Grad Dip in Electronics
- Grad Dip in Mathematics/Statistics/Computing (two-year, part-time)
- Grad Dip in Tourism Studies
- Grad Dip in Wood Technology

**HOW TO APPLY**
Details of each programme and application forms are available from:
Admissions Office
University of Limerick
LIMERICK, Ireland
Telephone 061-202015
Facsimile 061-334859
Email admissions@ul.ie

The closing date for the receipt of completed applications is Friday 13 June 1997.