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

DIT Students's Union

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Normality returns to Rathmines House

Rumoured upheaval between students and management in DIT Rathmines House recently proved to be largely untrue. Reports of a rift stemming from students upset by the present state of the south city premises.

Students currently studying in DIT Rathmines House recently made various complaints and allegations in regard to certain facilities and the lack thereof in the site. Of these, the present state of the new library was to the forefront of the arguments.

Claims were made that the library contained books which were relevant only to students of music at DIT Chatham Row, and that students of both Environmental Science and Social Science were having to go to DIT Bolton Street and DIT Mounjoy Square in order to find the requisite reading material. Also, due to no-going building taking place in DIT Rathmines House, many classes had been disrupted, and study made difficult because of the noise created by the continuing work.

Marge Fitzpatrick, Administrator of the Faculty of Applied Arts, confirmed to the DIT Examiner recently that the Library in Rathmines House currently contains no music material whatsoever, and that the relevant books for Environmental Science and the Social Sciences could be found in the Rathmines House Library. She also confirmed that the building work on the library would be entirely complete by Monday 27th October.

O'Shea, Deputy President of Aungier Street's Students Union — and, thus, responsible for Rathmines House students — had met with Faculty of Applied Arts Director, Dr. Ellen Hanekom, to discuss some of these and other issues relevant to the Environmental and Social Science students, including that of category facilities, which for some time had been non-existent. Hearing spoken to Dr. Hanekom and seen that the canteen is open I am fully confident that the other issues which I brought up with her will be received as soon as possible.

PORTLAND ROW
IN SPACE ROW
Art & Design Students Stage Protest

The issue of improved facilities for the painting, printing and sculpture students of Art & Design in Portland Row has been going on for quite some time now — reached new heights at the start of October when the students in question approached DIT Mounjoy Square Students' Union outlining their problems and demanding an emergency meeting with Applied Arts Faculty Director, Dr. Ellen Hanekom, threatening to take action were they not received.

Following a hastily-arranged, yet brief, meeting with both INFSU Overall President, Sinéad Coleman, and DIT Mounjoy Square President, Ronan O'Brien, Dr. Hanekom agreed to meet with the students. In an unprecedented move, Dr. Hanekom personally addressed a crowd of over 150 students, assuring them that she was determined to look after the problems of lighting and studio rooms.

The matter later came to a head again when the Art & Design students took to the streets in peaceful protest outside Mounjoy Square, in order to highlight the lack of space in the Portland Row annex. The procession, of about one hundred students marched up and down in front of the Georgian site, watched by a handful of others standing on the steps. After a short while, they entered the building and continued their protest inside.

Apart from the aforementioned problems concerning space, the main difficulties the students have are with the set-up in Portland Row is the non-existence of Technicians, without whose supervision the students are not insured to learn and work. The area set aside for sculpture is outdoor, badly lit, and too small, according to the students. They also claim that rooms used for storing old and obsolete machinery should be given over to students for work purposes.

DIT Students' Union is determined not to let the matter rest.

"Anyone fancy a night at the opera?" Students from the Conservatory of Music and Drama at a photo call to publicise the first performance in Ireland of Schubert's Der Hütische Krieg (The Domestic War) which took place in the National Concert Hall in September. It was conducted by Franz Paul Decker.
VOTE

NOVEMBER 30

Cearbhall Ó Siocháin

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
- UIGT 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, 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.

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.
Mountjoy Stairs

Dear Mr Editor Penson,

Hello, how's life? Well, poor me cuz I'm only a first year and I thought it'd be a good idea to remind all you non-first years what it feels like to be thrown at the deep end. I myself am at Mountjoy Sq, but I think I speak for all us 'freshers' when I say... Oh Mi God!!

Why do we feel like such spanners? Well maybe it's because everybody else seems dead-set on their destinations apart from us, or maybe its because everything looks suspiciously similar no matter what floor you're on.

Here in MJS there are two staircases which, I'm convinced, are there solely to confuse and baffle the ignorant, baffled or insignificant first or second year.

No matter how hard we try, we still get hopelessly lost; lose new-found 'friends' just as we get to the canteen, feel like even Wurzel Gummidge would laugh at our dress sense and constantly worry how to avoid all the laughing. As seo amach, bhfIoitn teileannach pac sa tron a thabhairt do gach uair a dh'fheicinn tu, agus poll a chur i gceann eile dha bhfhiagham an tsean. Rub eile de, ní hé amháin nach bhfuil an chaidhealtacht sa mhacaíocht sóisialta, cú hreachtúil. We're all in this together!

Thank you ever so much y'all for your empathy.

An ignorant, baffled, insignificant first year.

Editor replies:

1. At this moment, you are the least ignorant, baffled or insignificant first or any other year within the confines of the glorious DIT. Why? Because you're the only one who bothered their arse to use this newspaper for its real purpose.

2. Having very little experience myself of the above-mentioned DIT site, I generally keep to one staircase the and avoid the hell, if you dare, or if you consider the fourth year as well. 

As for the clothes -- how have you seen some of the fourth years' outfits lately? (Comment on writing if you dare, or if you write, fourth years.)

3. By the time you read this you probably will undoubtedly have figured out where things are, and have plenty of other things to worry about.

A Note from the Student Services Office

Whenever you pay any DIT office by cash or cheque for Registration Fees, Tuition Fees or Examination Fees, you will be given an official receipt. You should retain this receipt carefully, as it may be required later as evidence of payment.

Dublin Inner City Primary Schools Initiative

The DIT has recently become involved with a relatively new education body, the Dublin Inner City Primary Schools Initiative, which grew from two other, previously existing groups - the Dublin inner City Partnership and the Primary School Initiative. The DICP was set up in 1991 to combat long-term unemployment.

Initially the partnership did not concern itself with primary education but grew to see that many of the problems of unemployment begin to create disadvantage from the earliest contact with state bodies.

It was because of this that the Primary School Initiative was formed in 1996. Following lengthy discussions with the Department of Education, a teacher was finally chosen to co-ordinate the effects of the project.

At the moment, eight primary schools are involved in this project: St. Gabriel's National School, Cowper St, D7; Francis St CBS, D8; Scoll Charitona CBS, Baggot St, D2; St. Laurence O'Toole's CBS, Seville Place, D1; St Patrick's BNS, Ringsend, D4; City Quay National School, D2; Central Model Jnr National School, Marlboro St, D1; Central Model Snr School, Marlboro St, D1.

The DICP involvement comes in the form of the provision of at least four computers to each school, the training of teachers and student technical support, and also the establishment of a Resource Centre. With other sponsors and patrons such as The Irish Times, Ark Children's Centre, Royal College of Surgeons and the Pigeon House Science Centre it should turn out to be quite a successful venture. If interested contact The Editor, DIT, Examiner, Students' Union, DIT Kevin St. @ 402 4636 for more information.

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter; for always there will be greater or lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career; however humble, it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is. Many persons strive for high ideals and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars. You have a right to be here, and whatever or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

St Paul's Church, Baltimore, 1692

Trufiais

A chara,

conas gurb é an saghas raimeis chéan- na atá í chló agus i gcoinne? Nach bhfuil an éirimiúlaíocht ag baint leis an chur ar bhfóin, de ghníomh níos sciothaithe ag gach lá, ach go háirithe, ar an gceannacht is leathchóir a bhfuil seo, rud a bhfuil aon duine, aon duine eile, is sa mhacaíocht sóisialta, is sa mhacaíocht is léitheoiríocht, is sa mhacaíocht is fael sa mhacaíocht.

As seo amach, bhfionn teileannach pac sa tron a thabhairt do gach uair a dh'fheicinn tu, agus poll a chur i gceann eile dha bhfhiagham an tsean. Rub eile de, ní hé amháin nach bhfuil an chaidhealtacht sa mhacaíocht sóisialta, cú hreachtúil. We're all in this together!

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3. By the time you read this you probably will undoubtedly have figured out where things are, and have plenty of other things to worry about.
Consumer rights -- where do I stand?

The Buyers' Guide

introduced by Christopher Walken

Chris: "You just bought some stuff in a store, but it don't do what it's s'posed to. In the shop to whom you gave your cash. It is NOT the MANUFACTURER's policy? Now what the hell is that?"

By buying something, you have entered into a contract with the RETAILER, ie the person in the shop whom you gave your cash. The RETAILER must vouch for all he sells, or refuse to stock it. In doing so he is automatically guaranteeing the product's quality. The RETAILER may later take it up with the MANUFACTURER if necessary, but that does not concern you.

Chris: "Whatta you gonna do about that lousy product? Itsarkin' up your whole place, its like maybe five, six times worse than its s'posed to be? You gonna let that slimeball back chase in the store walk all ovah you?"

Bring the impure goods back to the shop immediately, along with the RECEIPT, or you risk losing your right to a refund. If you are physically unable to get to the shop, phone or write to the manager explaining the situation. He is then obliged to collect the faulty goods or to refund you the money for posting them to him. Depending on the length of time the product has been in your possession since you bought it, you are entitled to a refund, a replacement or at least to have the fault repaired. This goes for anything bought during a Sale too. (Products or items sold as seconds, shop-soiled or damaged goods are a different matter. In this case you should check the product before leaving the shop.)

Chris: "Then outa no-where, outa the blue, this creepy store's gona 'No Refund' policy? Now what the hell is that?"

If your complaint is genuine, then such signs have no bearing whatsoever. They have no effect on your statutory (legal) rights at all. If you do not get a satisfactory response from the shop, you should voice this in written form to the manager or owner in question. Should this again prove unsuccessful you may take further steps. You could get in touch with your solicitor, or you could take the matter up through the Small Claims Procedure. It only costs £5, but deals with claims for up to £600, and you don't need a solicitor. For more information on this go to the Small Claims Register in your local district court.

Chris: "Eventually, okay, the goofy kid in the store who tried to kick you back onto the highway, he gona cough up - he ain't too happy about that, but you tellim I sent you. You do that, an' we aint got any more problems you an' me."  

Next week: riding the public omnibus with Al Pacino, ooh-ahh!

Welcome Back from Finbarr A. Nelyn, Chaplaincy, DIT: Kevin Street.

A special word of welcome to all our first year and new students. We are genuinely glad you have chosen to come to the DIT to continue your studies. We try, insofar as is possible, to make your entry into the Institute and your first weeks here especially warm and supportive to help you ease into the place.

Like other places of education and learning DIT is constantly changing, improving and developing to meet the needs of the modern world and to offer an even better service to its students and staff.

For the rest of us, it is good to be back, and what a Summer! By all accounts everybody made lots of money but spent it just as fast. Those foreigners know how to pay but they equally know how to get it back again. It seems everybody had a wonderful break.

There were great experiences, people made many friends, travelled miles and visited places our grandparents only dreamed of years ago.

By now, the evenings are noticeably shorter and the trail of evening and part-time students reminds us that there are those in the world who try to combine work and study into a very busy schedule. We wish them well and hope they participate in the evening activities that are organised in the Colleges for the greater student body, they might find time to enjoy some of the social life which is an integral part of DIT student life.

Spare a thought too for those who were not successful with the re-sits. Many of them are making plans to further their own careers with this imposed extra year which many of them can do without. Some are repeating the year in college, while others apply for the exams in the New Year as externs students.

If you know these people, drop them a line if they have gone abroad, or ring them, for many of them feel very left out of College activities. Some of them did work very hard but either they presented the material poorly or they took chances with parts of the course and on the day luck was not on their side.

You might like to spend time with the First Years and introduce them to some of the clubs and societies in which you are involved. They may need to know something about the course they have chosen. Also your second-hand textbooks could be passed on if you are finished with them. Make sure they know about all aspects of student life, some of them may be even too shy to ask, in case they appear to be foolish.

It is an indictment against all of us if any of our new students admit that they are lonely specially in the first term. We too came from humble beginnings so let us not forget our roots.

Remember the promises you made after Easter about not leaving everything to the last few weeks, the pages of lecture notes, the unfinished assignments and lab reports that took hours to organise when you were preparing for the summer exams; well now is the time to realise that promise.

Try to keep up to speed with some method or order that suits you. Don't get too bogged down on detail but don't put things on the long finger either.

DIT is a big place. There are six major sites across the city and you are welcome in each of them. Each College specialises in different kinds of study and research and so attracts students who are interested in careers other than you own. Student services are just as generous and welcoming across the board and are well worth a visit.

If you have a bit of spare time, drift across the river and over a cup of coffee you never know who you might meet!

Go gcumhaídha Dia sibh, Finbarr A. Nelyn.

Childcare Campaign Pack launched by USI

The national student body Union of Students' in Ireland recently unveiled their Childcare Campaign Pack, designed to help student parents whose poor care facilities while attending college at the same time. It is intended to be non-exclusive, and to this end it also directed at non-parents and staff, the argument being — and rightly so — that the issue is wider than a parental one.

This much-needed attack on complacent third-level institutions in their provision of childcare facilities, it is hoped, will draw attention to and improve matters relating to childcare in constituent educational establishments nationwide. Though the national press felt they had juicier news to cover on the day, the event was hailed as a success by USI Women's Rights Officer, Nuala Toman. The launch was attended by such notables as Margaret Drennan, Administrator of TROIR, Nora Gibbons of Barnardo's, Fine Gael TD and Spokesman on Children, Dan Neville, and Derek McDowell TD, Labour Spokesman on Children and Health.

The lack of response from the printed press was, perhaps, balanced by various radio interviews conducted by Ms Toman, and she expressed her satisfaction at the attention received to date. She is confident that the coming weeks and months will see the campaign gather momentum, and hoped that it would garner strong support from the USI-affiliated colleges and universities throughout the country.

The fly-leaf of the Campaign Pack explains that the work was a production of the USI Women's Campaign, with assistance from various others, though sources close to USI would suggest that Ms Toman carried more than her fair share of the attention received to date. Though it raises questions as to loyalties (ostensibly a USI Women's Campaign) in the future, this did not affect the finished product and full credit is due to Ms Toman for her efforts.

USI try to keep pace with DITSU

In true slacker fashion, USI, the Union of Students in Ireland, and rival within the city limits to the DITSU crown, have gone public with their intentions to ape the inner city Institute's searching and successful Student Attitude Survey, conducted by DITSU in April 97. 

USI recently announced that they would be launching a comprehensive survey to be distributed to their constituent colleges during the coming weeks. In true USI style, President Colman Byrne and his professional team of sabbatical officers have come up with a brilliant idea — six months after DITSU first thought of it.

More immediately, however, is the fact that such a necessary survey will be conducted for the first time ever on a national scale. There are far too many questionnaire surveys on the market to count and many aspects of students' lives which can tell us a great deal about our future society.

5
Racism is a disease. It contaminates all it touches, victim and perpetrator. Due to our history we have not had to face up to it until very recently. But now, as refugees enter the State in increasing numbers, we are standing at a cross-roads. One group would have us take the right path into intolerance and exclusion. The other path leads to a multicultural, open society where all races are treated equally.

Our politicians have let us down. From their failure to enact the necessary legislation to adequately deal with the influx of refugees to the naked racism displayed by a small number of right wing politicians during the last general election campaign, it has become obvious that protecting the rights of asylum seekers is a bit of a political hand grenade.

The way that our laws on refugees have evolved, or failed to, tell us a lot about our attitudes to them. Our Aliens legislation, now hopelessly obsolete, was drawn up before the outbreak of the Second World War and it is widely known that it's purpose was to keep Nazi spies out of the country.

It was not until 1985 that Ireland began to address the trickle of refugees who were coming to this country to escape persecution in their own. Decisions on granting asylum to refugees from this year on were based on a single letter written by a Department of Justice official.

The letter proposed that refugees would be allowed to reside in the State until a decision is reached on whether they will be granted asylum or not. This process can take up to three years, and refugees are not allowed to work in the State pending the outcome of their application.

Between the years of 1956 and 1992 the Irish government, mainly at the request of the United Nations, gave refuge to less than 1,500 refugees. The 39 applications for refugee status in 1992 bear no comparison to the 1,500 applications which were received in the first six months of this year alone. Even this is a miniscule per centage of the estimated 20-30 million refugees worldwide.

As the anti-refugee bias began to grow in June, Nora Owen, then Minister for Justice, brought in new legislation which applies to refugees arriving from the UK and Northern Ireland.

What is important about this legislation is that, contrary to the UN Convention on Refugees and the Refugee Act, people arriving from the UK can be turned back at the border in the case of the former or after they have arrived in Ireland in the case of the latter.

This breaches the key principle of refoulement, meaning that a refugee will not be expelled to any state where their life or freedom would be threatened. As Europe moves toward greater unity it seems incongruous that people arriving in the state from Great Britain will be treated differently from those arriving from the Continent.

Refugees are an easy target. They are different, easy to pick out from a crowd. They have few rights pending the processing of their requests for asylum and they do not enjoy the right to vote. Anecdotal evidence suggests that immigration officials are consistently targeting people who are ethnically different as they arrive in the State. This has been causing hardship for citizens of the State who may not look 'Irish'.

Now that the Dublin Convention has been ratified, it seems likely that the number of refugees coming to this country will decrease. The Convention harmonises asylum procedures throughout the EU and will mean that a refugees application for asylum will be examined by the state to which they first come, preventing them from applying for asylum in other European jurisdic-

tions. Ireland's location at the periphery of Europe will mean that refugees will have difficulty reaching here.

The degrading and callous treatment of refugees by the State, most recently evidenced by forcing 2,000 refugees to queue for hours in driving rain outside the Department of Justice on Stephen's Green to renew their identity cards, was dismissed by one official who helpfully asserted that the Department had no control over the elements.

Part of the blame for this has to be attributed to the lack of resources which have been brought to bear on the problem. Officials in the Irish Refugee Council are drowning in their increased work-load and the Department of Justice are not faring much better.

The track record of the previous government was pitiful, though they seem to have handled on the baptism of indifierence to the current incummonents. Government strategy so far seems to involve implementing draconian short-term 'solutions' and much rhetoric.

The latest development has seen the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and Education teaming up to launch an education pack which aims to educate schools and youth organisations about the harmful effects of racism.

This has been compounded by the media's often one-sided reportage. Refugees are mercilessly scapegoated, particularly in poorer areas. In areas such as Smithfield in the North Inner City, there is a real feeling of (misplaced) resentment against refugees. With the IRC offices on Arran Quay and the presence of many refugees in the area, they have become very visible on the streets.

Racist graffiti and, most recently, posters have gone up in the area. Although people working with refugees claim that actual racist attacks are huge-

ly under-reported, some disturbing accounts have been bubbling to the sur-

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face.

People in the Anti Nazi League describe incidents such as the firebombing of a Muslim mosque and organised attempts to force refugee families out of some areas. In one case a Zairean man was stabbed in the head by thugs screaming racist abuse. Besides the Incitement to Hatred Act, Ireland has no legislation to deal with racist attacks. The stabbing, if it were reported, would be treated as an assault and not an inherently racist attack.

It is not all bad news however. Some people are making the effort to reach out to the fledgling communities. Events such as the recent Soccer Against Racism in Ireland and the Race Against Racism Carnival have helped to offset the negative aspects of the refugee situation here. Groups such as Educate Together have set up multicultural primary schools all over the country in recognition of the fact that Ireland is not an entirely homogeneous community any more.

Brendan Walsh is a freelance journalist currently writing for the Big Issues. He was Public Relations Officer for the recent Soccer Against Racism in Ireland.
Glen of the Downs -- Paving Paradise to put up a Motorway

Wicklow County Council are planning to build a shiny modern motorway through a wooded part of Glen of the Downs, just beyond Kilmacanogue, not far from Bray. They intend to cleave off over 100 feet of hillside to facilitate this construction, ultimately to make this section of Wicklow easily and quickly accessible for commuters-to-be. It is claimed that developers and the County Council want to build hundreds of houses in the Greystones and Delgany area, and the road, they believe, is a necessity evil.

The down side of progress such as this of course, is the damage it does to the environment it ploughs up. All kinds of wildlife, both plant and animal, will be disturbed directly or indirectly, as will our ability to enjoy one of the country's most beautiful landscapes. Bulldozers are set to arrive in late November or early December to flatten the place, but some of the local residents have other ideas. Along with friends and support from many others, some of them have established a camp from where they can protest peacefully, sitting out the time in huts and nests in the trees surrounding the area.

If you feel this is a worthy pursuit, or if wildlife and green countryside matters a damn anymore, why not contact them, visit them, or show support in any way you see fit. They can never get too much.

Ph: Oona @ 287 1892

WorldSoc is Watching You

"The Essence of man is Freedom"

Well, I always thought it was Brut, but not so say the World Society, so there you go. "Think for Yourself" urged the bluffer from the WorldSoc, perhaps the gendarmes of noble clubs and societies which set up stands in DIT Bolton St during Freshers' Week. The WorldSoc encourages risk taking on a daily basis, plug acting on beliefs and instil the need for a reawakening of the self.

Its head honcho and guru is an al-freached chap goes by the name of Duncan, and though I hardly spoke to him, he seems like a decent soul. Provided he doesn't become the next L. Ron Hubbard (a proven lucrative pursuit), visiting his version of the great cosmic reality upon us, then WorldSoc could catch on. Challenging the mundane to a fight behind the bike sheds, the WorldSoc will attempt to unite free-thinking individuals with the purpose of breaking the barriers of conformity as its main aim, and if they don't lose sight of this, they might just pull it off successfully.

Two words of warning when taking risks, thought: Tranquility, and Square.

RISKS
To laugh is — to risk appearing the fool
To weep is — to risk appearing sentimental
To reach out for another is — to risk involvement
To expose feelings is — to risk appearing true to yourself
To place your ideas and dreams before the crowd is — to risk their loss
To love is — to risk dying
To hope is — to risk despair
To try is — to risk failure

But risks must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. The person who risks nothing does nothing, has nothing and is nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow but he simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love — live. Chained by his servitude he is a slave, he has forfeited freedom. Only the person who risks is FREE.

Design the new Template and Layout for the DIT Examiner

How would you like to be on the receiving end of a check for a nice, cool ton, or consolation prize of 50 bills?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SEND IN YOUR CAREFULLY DRAWN UP PROPOSAL FOR A NEW DESIGN & LAYOUT FOR YOUR STUDENTS' UNION NEWSPAPER. SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN ON APPLEMAC-COMPATIBLE DISC. THE NEWSPAPER IS CURRENTLY LAID OUT ON QUARK EXPRESS

1ST PRIZE: £100
RUNNER UP: £50

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS Fri 28 November 1997. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER '97 ISSUE.

Wanna get ahead in advertising? Can you sell, sell, Sell?
Like to earn a hefty commission?

If you think you could secure monthly advertising for the DIT Examiner why not contact the Editor @ 402 4636.

Previous experience not necessary.

well? what's the delay? hop to it.
The first DITSU council passed off fairly uneventfully this month, the first session of the year concerning itself mainly with training of Class Representatives and Clubs & Societies information. The most contentious issue to raise its head was one of wider, though less immediately relevant, importance, namely, that of Union of Students in Ireland Dublin Area Women's Rights Officer. Siobhán Weeke, Site President in DIT Aungier St, sole contender for the USI position, was defeated in her attempts to gain approval for the job, though it is suggested that it is because of the crux of this particular case that she was turned down.

The election brought to the fore again an argument which, in light of the transient nature of student politicians, may never see conclusion. It centres around the question as to whether students need an Equality Officer or whether it is more important at the moment to look for a (probably female) Women's Rights Officer.

Ms Weeke took her argument to DITSU Council in order to win backing, and was again defeated when a vote was called for, on the pretext that, as current Aungier St. President, she has enough work to do as it is.

Though Siobhán Weeke has had her attempts scuppered by DITSU Council, it is clear that this issue will continue at USI level, to cause hassle and tribulations for others in the future.

Environmental Scientists take two out of three

Two Environmental Health students and an Electrical / Electronic Engineering student were the recipients recently of prizes in the young scientist event run by the DIT in conjunction with Trustee Savings Bank.

Mayo student, Hubert McHugh, currently studying Environmental Science at DIT Cathal Brugha St., took first place in the prestigious competition, a position that gained him a trip to the London International Youth Science Forum, an event attended by over 500 students from 60 countries.

The annual event is held to immerse students in a 2-week long forum involving special lectures from established and recognised scientists, visits to research establishments and connecting with other young 'para-scientists' with common interests. The Irish interest and attachment to the Forum is the charge of the Royal Dublin Society.

Mary Buckley, a native of Westmeath, and also studying Environmental Science at Cathal Brugha St collected £500 for her endeavours, courtesy of TSB.

DIT Kevin St. Electrical Engineering student, John Owens of Tullamore, Co. Offaly, took third place, and the tidy sum of £100 in a brand spanking new TSB Bank account to boot.

Could it be that the future for Environmental Science -- a relatively new discipline -- is about to blossom? If this is the case, Cathal Brugha St and the DIT are in the right place at the right time.
All Kinds of Nothing
THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Earlier this year the honourable saviour of Mnd na hEireann, the keeper of the Park and Uachtarán, Mary Robinson, announced that she was escaping from the shackles of a 7-year imprisonment in Château Phoenix. Having entered office as a relative unknown, she left with the hope that her hide-away in Aran an Uachtarán has preserved her anonymity. Just in case she gained undue attention from the local paparazzi, she stowed away on a charter flight to Geneva and was last seen courting with members of a cult known only as the United Nations and its eccentric leader Kofi Annan.

With contrary Mary out of the way, the position of government puppet, eh, President, lies vacant. This will be filled in the not-too-distant future by one of a group of gullible hopefuls with nothing better to do than seek the Lark in the Park. Candidates must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Have no experience of Irish politics;
2. Be unknown except to close family members (although even this is debatable);
3. Run a campaign which can be easily ridiculed by the media;
4. Have no suitable qualifications for the job;
5. Have absolutely no chance of winning. Although bribery is an option, it tends to be frowned upon by those of high moral disposition (such as librarians). (My mother’s a librarian, Bob — Ed.)

There are five declared candidates for the Presidency. Under close scrutiny, they are an interesting mixture of odds and ends.

A. Mary Banotti

Of all found wandering the corridors in Europe, this Fine Gael woman would find it difficult to woo even the most radical of blushing supporters. An MEP of many years, she would live up to her title if elected — Mad Eccentric President. Unknown in Dublin, where she is well known, the average farmer would find her as appealing as a case of BSE in his herd.

B. Adi Roche

This feisty Cork woman will win by a landslide... if she runs for election in Belarus. The Godmother of the Chernobyl Children’s Project, voted Small Radioactive Soviet Republic Person of the Year, she has plenty of experience working with problem children (which is beneficial for coping with Dáil deputies). Her electoral base is restricted to her family in Leeside. However, she may gain extra votes across the country by agreeing to withdraw future Cork hurling teams from the All-Ireland Championship.

C. Mary McAleese

A member of Queen’s University academic staff, Mary Mac is seeking to further cross-border relations by getting elected. Selected by Fianna Fáil as their dream candidate, her chances are just that — a dream. She is the person most likely to be voted as Top Northern Candidate in the election.

D. Dana (Rosemary Scallon)

Young girl best known for bringing the curse of the Eurovision Song Contest down upon the unsuspecting Irish population. She relies on the blessing of God for her campaign, thus the phrase uttered by her supporters — “God help her!”. She claims that she will garner support from all people with real Catholic values and who respect the Church’s view. That should get her about 20 votes.

E. Derek Nally

Due to a late clerical error, a man was inadvertently admitted to the race. Hailed as the saviour of Fir na hEireann, this former Garda will have his old colleagues arrest anyone who doesn’t vote for him. He has a chance of being elected because, being the only candidate not hoping to waste time with make-up, he will have more time to give to important aspects of the job such as playing golf with visiting dignitaries.

For those of you who exclaim “Is that it?”, the answer is, unfortunately, yes. Mind you, does anyone care? The option of voting for Dustin the Turkey or Barney the Dinosaur still exists. They say that if you don’t vote you don’t have a voice. In that case — long live the silent masses!!

Serious Footnote:
Voting for the Presidential Election takes place on 30 October 1997.

Make Your Choice Count!
able evening of fun and frolicks, including a table quiz, sumo wrestling and Kwizoke. The evening culminated in the Furnace for a Traffic Light Ball, which everyone "skating away on the thin ice of a new day..." (and if you know that one you're good) however). DJ Mick Glynn in the canteen at lunch-time provided the entertainment with the help of some very brave students who took part in the iron stomach and blind date competitions. Barney Murphy & Co provided the evening’s entertainment with a Hudson Blue promotion at 5p.m. The die-hards in the college went straight from Barney’s after four hours of cheapo beer to the Garda Club for Zak Powers, hypnotist extraordinaire. The colour of money lookalikes took to the cues on Wednesday, lunch time when the pool competition was held in the common room. Brian Cox stormed home the eventual winner after a very interesting competition. Gleeson’s was most definitely the place to be on Wednesday night when Joe Dolan and Neil Diamond made a huge comeback. All the Guinness products which were on promotion had absolutely nothing to do with it. Honestly. Of course, the, by now, infamously D’Aungier Zone was a-wash with free yo-yo’s and Soft and Gentle roll-on deodorant. The Court night club was the usual badly-remembered drunken-stupoured great night that it always is. Thursday was a free morning and was warmly welcomed by all who were out the night before. The treasure hunt at lunch time brought out the usual suspects, who also went ice skating in Dolphin’s Barn. Next year we really should issue a government health warning against ice skating. Everybody who was anybody packed in to Gleeson’s like sardines in a can on Thursday night for the Guinness Party

Below: "skating away on the thin ice of a new day..." (and if you know that one you’re good)
Animals promotion, and, no doubt, our beloved leader, Siobhán Weeke, who was twenty one again on Thursday, enjoyed herself as well as everyone else who was there.

The Furnace was jammers, "the place was buzzin', man" was how one young student described the experience. There were rumours that some right wing faction have made up stories of dogs eating the rent money and orphaned sisters needing operations to keep away the heavies from evicting them. But it was worth it.

Freshers' Week Bolton Street

Snooker star Fergal O'Brien graced DIT Bolton St with his presence during Freshers' Week to put lyrical and put on a great show against the hardest of student challengers. Fergal was invited to play a couple of tournament games by the Students' Union to officially open the AIB Year Pool League.

Playing in the style of the Chess Grandmasters, Fergal took on four opponents simultaneously, and, eh, showed about tracking. A very successful piece of marketing was instigated by the SU for this staged event, that of Pool TV. For those unable to view the snooker proceedings from the comfort of the Common Room, where the tables are, a live satellite link-up relayed the games outside to the bleacher-steps, where hoards of pool and snooker enthusiasts sat glued to the screen.

As part of a very full week in the largest and most student friendly of the northside DIT sites, the Clubs & Societies were out in force, draped over every balcony and railing over-
DIT Sports Day - ALSAA

DIT Freshers' Sports Day
ALSAA

My word! What a turn out!
No-one foresaw the hoards
that accumulated out by the
present by Tony Choi and
Sarah McGovern).
Upon entering the ALSAA
complex, visitors were aston-
tished to see a monolithic
medieval castle, threatening
almost to block out the sun.

The Cross Country Race gets under way.

airport this month to cele-
brate the vast array of sport-
ing talents spread through-
out the Dit student body.
And what a body had our
MC for the day, Ross
O'Daly, who hollered from
the balcony til his throat fell
off. All walks of the learning
life were there, including
students from every single
DIT site. First prize goes to
Cathal Brugha St — man-
aged admirably in President
Bob Coghlan's absence by
Deputy, Nicola Doyle — for
their record turnout, greater
than any of the other to
experience, an

Great was their joy when it
was explained to them that
'It's okay! It's only made of
rubber, and filled with air!' Millions of them then pro-
ceeded to jump all over the
wretched thing for the
greater part of the day, at
intervals causing it to list
dangerously to port, until
Ross hailed them from the
ramparts, calling to the rev-
elers to quit it. Further on from the rubber
battlements was the rugby
sevens which, despite being
interrupted at consistent
three minute gaps by land-
ing aircraft (in the airport,
not on the pitch), went very
smoothly all day, and had
finished before the dreaded

A rugby team. They play rugby.

'Oh my god...! I've sliced his face off! He's gonna kill me!!'
The soccer blitz held the
attention of most, as it was
and certain players of the
soccer games were drenched

Aerobics get the arms waving and the line dancing.

And when the music stops you have to stand perfectly still...
The blitz continued well. They were happy to put this
beyond any of the other down to experience, and
they'd had a good day anyway by that time.

All the DIT's hockey men and women played mixed games on the lower hockey pitches, where real pros mingled with real amateurs to make for exciting contests. Pitch and Putt was going on over on the far side of the soccer pitches until the demand sort of petered out towards four in the afternoon, and the Men & Women's cross-country race was run between 2pm and 3. This saw a hardy bunch of lads and lasses take off through the grass, completely oblivious to the muck and muddle of the north-county terrain. They all came back, too, which was kind of unusual, but whatta you gonna do? You can't please everyone.

Archery Demonstrations were given, with some free instruction thrown in for good measure, though at one point, William Tell entered the fray to make a point on protocol.

**Basketball, volleyball and badminton were the majority sports here, though the minorities were represented too. Fencing and Karate exhibitionists wooed audiences up and down the hall with their displays of acrobatics and physical prowess. They wore flashy gear as well, which always helps. Jousting was taking place down at the AIB stand end of the hall, as was spoof-boxing — you know, opponents wear big gloves and knock the shit out of each other in a padded ring (sounds like the real thing, actually) — and between times members of the AIB team and DITSU executive pranced like nonces around the fake rubber boxing ring without feeling as ridiculous as they looked.

The only casualties — apart from the myriad psychological ones — of the day was an unfortunate student from Cathal...
Put the Boot Down

GLEESON CUP FIXTURES for 1997 / 1998

Round 1 Wednesday 29 October 97
Aungier St versus Cathal Brugha St
Bolton St v Mountjoy Sq
Free: Kevin St

Round 2 Wednesday 5 November 97
Kevin St v Aungier St
Cathal Brugha St v Bolton St
Free: Mountjoy Sq

Round 3 Wednesday 12 November 97
Aungier St v Bolton St
Mountjoy Sq v Kevin St
Free: Cathal Brugha St

Round 4 Wednesday 19 November 97
Mountjoy Sq v Aungier St
Kevin St v Cathal Brugha St
Free: Bolton St

Round 5 Wednesday 16 December 97
Cathal B-aghla St v Mountjoy Sq
Bolton St v Kevin St
Free: Aungier St

Round 6 Knockout Stage (Semi Finals) Wednesday 21
January 1998

Round 7 Finals Wednesday 4 Feb
Terenure College RFC

Note
All the above fixtures are to be played on Wednesday of the Week stated above, in Terenure College RFC. The Home Team is the College which is printed first for each fixture.

Martin Searson

Get on up that hill ya boy ya

So you're young, alive with energy and have visions of living life to its fullest - then joining the mountaineering club could be the best step you'll ever take.

So what does mountaineering have to offer you?

Well, mountaineering covers a wide and diverse group of inter-related activities including outdoor rock-climbing, indoor wall-climbing, bouldering, building, ice-climbing, bridge-traversing and sledging to name but a few. Basically, if it can be physically thought of it can be done!

Some of the many reasons to join include:

Friendship

Mountaineering is for a large part a collaborative sport. It involves trusting and relying on others and then relying on you. By sharing in adventure with others long lasting relationships and memories form that will remain with you for the rest of your life.

Learn new skills

Mountaineering, it must be remembered, is an adventure sport. It involves practical rope skills: knot tying, rope handling, belaying, and rappelling, but also a whole variety of skills that are essential to mountaineering. These skills will develop naturally as you become a more experienced climber through the years. The ability to put one's own life ultimately in one's own hands is a very power-enriching skill that can only be gained by cautious experience. It can also charge your entire perspective on life. But this is something not to be taken lightly and no one is ever asked to do anything they don't want to.

Joining the mountaineering club is the best way to allow these skills to develop in a safe, natural and friendly environment from other experienced members. And, of course, with slight exaggeration and creative thinking your experiences can be used in an interview to highlight your special skills to a prospective employer.

Mountaineering itself is only part of a wide and diverse climbing scene. There's always something going on and something to really get into. From national bouldering competitions to chilling out on a precarious ledge. But unlike many other things in life, and with a little persistence, you will get a lot more out of it than what you put into it. Joining any DIT Mountaineering Club will bring to life the basics and hopefully instil a sense of joy for the outdoors to its members that will remain with them and allow them to pursue whatever their chosen dreams are...

So what are you waiting for?!

Join Today!

Eoin O'Sullivan,
Kevin St Mountaineering Club
Tues. / Thurs. Gym 630
Pádraig Kelly is in his third year of a four year degree in Marketing & Administration in Mountjoy Square. Between lectures he manages to keep his spare as keeper for the county team.

When did you first get involved with the GAA?

"This is my fourth year. I was called into the senior panel when I was eighteen. Yeah, I played for the Minors when I was seventeen, played for the '21s when I was 18, 19 and 20 — I played for three years. And in my second year for the twenty-ones I was called into the senior panel."

So you were playing for the under-twenty ones and the Senior panel at the same time?

"Yeah, that's right, yeah, for two years."

Busy man, yeah?

"Ah, yeah, keeps going."

Who are your local heroes?

"Ah, yeah, keeps going."

"Well, I suppose Martin Connor is an obvious hero, Martin Furlong. For myself I'd say Martin Furlong; he's achieved everything that could be achieved."

Has the work-load slackened off now that you only have one team to worry about?

"Yes, it's a lot easier now. I was playing both teams last year and this year are two different systems. Things have been enforced by the county.

What's the deal for the future?

"I want to get my degree as soon as I can, and while football is going well, that can benefit you in some ways. It's just need for extra-concentration to get it going again."

Are you back in training soon?

"Yeah. I played for the Minors when I was seventeen, played for the '21s when I was 18, 19 and 20 — I played for three years. And in my second year for the twenty-ones I was called into the senior panel."

Apart, then, from being physically hampered how did you fit everything else in?

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So what's the deal for the future?

"I want to get my degree as soon as I can, and while football is going well, that can benefit you in some ways. It's just need for extra-concentration to get it going again."

What was the toughest game on your nerves?

"I don't normally get nervous for matches, to be honest. It's hard to say, I suppose the Mayo game, because, just personally, early on I didn't get my game going, and a few kick-outs went bad and just meant extra-concentration to get it going again."

Official DITSU Leisure Merchandise Now Available

Available from your students' union shops
The Verve, Urban Hymns

When England's Verve issued A Storm in Heaven back in 1993, the band spewed a slow, uneasy style that sounded like the soundtrack to a hazy heroin trip. But like the car accident on the side of the road that grabs your attention, the Verve's flawless post grunge manner and skilled musicianship demanded attention while only hinting at even greater possibilities. On the band's follow ups, No Come Down and A Northern Soul, the quartet further finetuned its style and added a higher level of introspection to the mix.

The contrast of vocalist Cerys Matthews' voice and the indie-tune guitar sound is, perhaps, the most striking aspect of A Storm in Heaven's presentation. Their set was lazy-paced more than up-beat, but lacked some punch beyond that which Matthews' voice could deliver. The crowd held back for most of the gig, the invisible people taking up at least the first two rows. Undertaken by Catatonia displayed a self-confidence that disregarded such short-comings. During a set that — thankfully — happened for a very long time. At 13 tracks, and over an hour long, this is a rock'n'roll haze, and just looked to look five times its size. I didn't fall asleep, but Catatonia failed to impress greatly. Maybe it was the night, maybe they deserve more praise as a studio band, but they just didn't cut it. Try as I might, however, I just couldn't swallow the fact that Catatonia appeared to be nothing more than very professional musicians producing elaborate cabaret.

Mean Fiddler Thur 9 Oct
Catatonia

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Mean Fiddler Thur 16 Oct

This was the first time I had seen The Frames play live, and short of hearing Revenant a number of times on the radio, knew not what to expect of them. They were in particularly good fettle this night, no doubt having a lot to do with the fact that they are big dEURS fans: lead vocalist Glen Hansard could not contain his joy that they were finally to play in this country, as he shouted 'This band rule!' by way of introduction to his own set. He got over that and both he and the rest of Frames dc got on with it. Very well, I might add, for their line-up includes (not dissimilar to dEURS) a violinist who aint afraid of lettin' loose. The Irish lads put on a very genuine performance and one which highlighted the power and emotion of Hansard's voice, though it is possible

Competition
Influx are offering 2 double tickets to see Darren Emerson to the 1st two correct entries. All's you gotta do is answer this Q.

Q. Which recent Scottish film soundtrack did Mr Emerson and his band recently play on?

Answers on an old nude to:
The Editor, the DIT Examiner, DITTSU Kevin St, Kevin St, Dublin 8, Ph: 402 4636

CLUBBED TO A BLOODY PULP

Influx @ Redbox

Thursdays @ Kitchen

| Fri 31 Oct | Devon Emerson | Nov 9 | Jerry Dammer (The Specials) |
| Nov 6 | David Holmes | Nov 13 | Midfield General (Skint) |
| Nov 30 | Richard West (Mr C - End/Shamen) | Nov 27 | Andrew Weatherall (Two Lone Swordsmen) |
| Nov 12 | The Specials | Nov 6 | Steve Boote |
| Nov 16 | The Frames | Nov 20 | Athelio DJs |
| Nov 17 | The Frames | Nov 27 | DAVE & THE VLADS |
| Nov 18 | The Frames | Nov 28 | DAVE & THE VLADS |
| Nov 19 | The Frames | Nov 29 | DAVE & THE VLADS |

Influx Sat 27 September

FatBoy Slim
Psychoanalysts
Johnny Moy

Psychoanalysts, ontheir decks and a sampler/sequencer, really got things going with a very funky set, the high-light of which had to be follow -up act, DJ Shadow's 'Grays Dawn'.

Next up was Nasima Cook — aka FatBoy Slim — playing an amazing selection of styles for over two explosive hours, including a bouncy shakin' Latin set. He also worked in Song for Linda and Everybody needs a 303 from his album Better Living Through Chemistry (Skint).
convolutional CHAos -- the SONIC BIONIC interview

dEUS

EUS are Julie de Borger, drums/vocals; Klaas Janszoons, violin/vocals; Tom Barman, vocals/guitar; and Danny Moennings, bass/vocals Craig Ward, guitar/vocals. Following their debut album, Worst Case Scenario, a mini-album, My Sister is My Clock, and an EP Theme from Turnpike, they have again come up with a proper-length album, this one entitled In a Bar, Under the Sea. Despite conversations of Homer Simpson's no 1 dream ("I'll be no allegations, just friendly reassuring..."), it is far more dimensional than the aforementioned Springfieldian.

So convincing was the opening Suds & Soda that I'm now quite prepared to agree with dEUS that the above-mentioned produces do in fact, "mix okay with beer, sometimes...". Third up was the supreme pop artefact, Opening Night, followed without much ado by A Shocking Lack Thereof, which sounds like a music box that instead of a pirouetting ballerina has a ballerina on a set of decks inside. It served as yet another example of the Quirky-FaithNoMore-like quality of this international (a Scotsman, a German, and three Belgians) band.

Little Arithmetics deviated little from the recorded version, though it was played with a rawer edge. After an astonishing seventh number which I failed to recognise came Guilty Pleasures and then, another gem, another VU anthem, Serpent. They played it to at least its full seven minutes plus, and restored my faith in the influence of music. But who cares about my faith! Gimme the Heat, the hit hitter of In a Bar, Under the Sea, came next and for at least three minutes I forgot where I was. They came at a close to creating the enchanting Velvet Underground-sounding guitar loop with Gimme the Heat as I think I'll ever hear. Ross roared the place from the foundations on a slow, charging swing. At this stage the audience was as completely lost in the music as it could be. They encored with Themes from Turnpike, and, telling everyone they were on the guest list for the Saturday show, dEUS left the stage.

When Suds & Soda

Does this line-up sound confusing to you? Well, if you were at the gig, it wouldn't, and if you weren't, you should have been. The band, fluctuating collectives from Tucson, Arizona are undoubtedly one of the most original and musically fluid outfits I have ever heard. Giant Sand have been around since the early eighties, and Lisa Germano (used to play with John Cale) have brought such a fluid, fluid feel to the music, seeming somehow to improve on perfection. The gig had the atmosphere of an informal or impromptu session, enhanced by the band's apparent ignorance of their own genius. And another thing... The King is alive. He was wearing a red shiny jacket on Whelan's stage that night.

10S

17

CD Competitions

the DIT Examiner, in association with PolyGram Ireland, is proud to announce it is giving away five copies of the latest album release from The Lighthouse Family, Postcards from Heaven, and five copies of the soundtrack to A Life Less Ordinary. Simply answer the relevant questions.

For Lighthouse Family competition: What is the first single to be released from this record?

For A Life Less Ordinary competition: Who directed the film A Lift Less Ordinary?

Answers in writing, stating clearly which competition you are entering, to The Editor, the DIT Examiner, c/o Students' Union, DIT Kevin St. Closing Date: Fri 14 November 97

Sec: CI3 on page 16 for live review.

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Sec: CI3 on page 16 for live review.
Before the Dawn
by Gerry Adams

Reviewed by Bob Coghlan
President, DITSU Cathal Brugha St

Love him or hate him, even the most vehement of his opponents would begrudgingly admit that Gerry Adams is one of the most talented politicians to grace the political scene North or South of the border. From humble beginnings in Divismore Park in the Ballymurphy estate, West Belfast, through to his career as President of Sinn Fein, the Troubles as he experienced them - the Bogside riots, internment, Bloody Sunday, the hunger strikes. He details the world of Republicanism whether through family influence (both his father and his grandfather had served time in prison for Republican offences) or because he seemed to be the only route for Catholic youths in West Belfast where unemployment was the norm for the Nationalist community.

Adams leads us through the events of the Troubles as he experienced them - the search for peace, the search for peace and the need for forgiveness, as well as an unfortunate acceptance of violence as a way of life. The ongoing conflict of the events in the book and points out the omission of certain events lest they risk undermining the search for peace.

The reader is led through Adams’ early childhood from the cramped family home where he often shared a bed with two or three brothers, through to the latter days of his youth and the search for female conquests. Inevitably, Adams gets drawn into the world of Republicanism.

Overall, anyone with an interest in Irish history will find this book enthralling and well worth reading. Although the book lacks any obvious propaganda, a certain angle on events is apparent but not overwhelming. My advice is to put all prejudices aside and enjoy the book.
A Life Less Ordinary

Director: Danny Boyle
Starring: Ewan McGregor, Cameron Diaz, Holly Hunter, Delroy Lindo.

I Went Down

Director: Paddy Breathnach
Starring: Brendan Gleeson, Peter McDonald, Peter Caffrey.

Nil By Mouth

Director: Gary Oldman
Starring: Ray Winstone, Kathy Burke, Charlie Creed-Miles.

REEL Life

A lightweight, feel-good, and very obvious tale unfolds here in this breezy-bright romantic comedy that leads — for the opening twenty minutes, at least, during which the superb soundtrack doesn't let up for a second — like a very stylish, high-budget pop video. Visually, guaranteed to be the next True Romance, this is a boy- الثنائية, girl-binance, boy-and-girl-eventually-find-love tunnel from the shallow grave of Tinsel Town's finest.

Ewan McGregor (Robert) and Cameron Diaz (Celine) are the unlikely couple thrown together by fate, in the guise of one of God's copes, a delightful-looking Harvey, playing angel O'Kelly, and her partner Drachen (Linda). Robert is a master-fishing junkie in a big farm whose girlfriend dumps him for an aerobics of her character through and through. She manages to be in daddy's office when Robert bums in demanding his job back, doesn't get it, and ends up babysitting Celine, more because it seems like a good idea at the time rather than because she might be useable as a useful babysitting chip for getting his job back. And guess what, honey, no prizes for guessing she gets it, but if there was a summer coming up this would probably be black/white.

Judging by past years' experience, we're due a movie that is usually regarded as a minor crime — or divorced — of the script, penned by Oldman, who manages to be just as much the director as the film's other three creators. Groban, whose magnificent, low-life,Blankenbeclerish manner is the source of much of the comic narrative features here: Following an episode where Git beats seven kinds of shite out of two cronies of the local Big Cheese, Tom French (Tony Doyle), our two heroes are dispatched forthwith to collect a reward for him, and Bunny Kelly (Gleeson), a delightful-as-ever Hunter, playing angel to Git, makes a delightful effort. As usual, the script is as turgid as the performance, but at least it's turgid with energy.

This film is referred to in the press blurb as being "Badly balanced," but a term that is used when much attention is given to a film's ability to entertain its audience, it is not the case. The camera work deliberately aims to discomfort and thus add to the uneasiness, aspect of the story very effectively. Meanwhile, there was plenty of men and women doing, and with the concrete backdrop of the flats complex in which the family and friends lived, it made for a very sexy, compelling and hopeless atmosphere. You should go and see this film, but don't be surprised to put off your popcorn. M15

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