2002-4

DIT Independent, 1st.-30th. of April, 2002

DIT:Students Union

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Recommended Citation
Students unhappy with DITSU - survey

A SURVEY conducted for the DIT Independent has revealed widespread dissatisfaction among DIT students with respect to the activities of their students union in the past academic year.

The survey of 250 students across the Institute's five principal sites makes for uncomfortable reading for all but one of the DITSU site Presidents, but there was particular disapproval for the overall President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick.

When asked whether they were happy with the performance of their President over the course of 2001/2002, Bolton Street's Neil Cromlen received a 72% approval rating with Kevin Street's Des Alvey faring second best with a 44% rating.

John McKeena of Cathal Brugha Street came next with 32%, Karl Bonnar of Aungier Street was believed to have performed his duties well by only 30% of respondents in Aungier Street, while Mountjoy Square president Joe Murphy fared worst of all with 26% approval.

Ms. Fitzpatrick's highest approval rating across the five sites was 32%, recorded during RAG Week.

But the good news received as we went to press regarding the long overdue green lighting of Grangegorman lends one to suggest that had a similar poll been carried out with this knowledge in mind, the results would not have been as frighteningly poor as they transpired to be.

By Dermot Keeyes
The management of DITSU Ltd. has called on DITSU Council to avail of the experience and knowledge of the Union's long term employees following this year's problematic RAG Week.

But outgoing DITSU President Marguerite Fitzpatrick said that decisions of a financial nature relating to the running of DITSU-organised events should exclusively remain the responsibility of students.

In a statement to DITSU Council, the Union board of directors and the DIT Independent, all five Union managers called on Council "to implement structures that will be inclusive of Management, where financial decisions are being taken as a preventative measure for future years".

Gabrielle Dalton (Cathal Brugha Street), Ann Pounch (Kevin Street), Vivienne Byne (Mountjoy Square), Ellen McGlyen (Aungier Street) and Orla Cassin (Bolton Street) described the decision to host this year's RAG Ball on February 14 as "disastrous".

The statement reads: "As long term employees of DITSU Ltd, it saddens us that yet again for another year we have almost nothing to give to our chosen charities, which also brings us to the shameful disaster of DITSU to date the 'DITSU RAG Ball' held in The Point Depot... When the whole idea of an Overall Ball in the Point Depot was suggested, the management team advised against the idea as a similar venture last year failed... we wish to stress that the management team have years of experience yet they have no input when it comes to overall financial decisions."

Management fears that the financial failures of both the Halloween Ball of last year and this year's RAG Ball, with both events running losses of over €120,000 when combined, could be repeated in the future.

Ms. Fitzpatrick admitted that the financial failure of RAG Week and its repercussions for future such ventures constituted a "difficult area" for both the Union and its long-term management to address.

"I understand that the staff represent the continuity in the company and that they are the long-term employees of the Union, but at the end of the day the Students' Union must be run by students. They [the management] are not the decision makers."

Ms Fitzpatrick continued: "We are the representatives of DIT students at DITSU Council and we are its decision-makers."

"That's the way it should be and that's the way it will always be."

The statement from the union managers urged DITSU Council "to implement structures which will be inclusive of management, where financial decisions are being taken as a preventative measure for future years."

Common ground and a stronger voice for the Union's long-term management can be found, according to Ms. Fitzpatrick: "Their [the management's] opinions have been taken on board in the past and will continue to be taken on board in the future."

"They could be granted a vote in the board of directors and that is something that we are currently looking into."

But Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that all major policies relating to DITSU should remain the exclusive domain of its Class Representatives, Councilors and Executive members, to implement.
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As this newspaper was being finalised before going to press, news broke that agreement has finally been reached by DIT and the Department of the Taoiseach in relation to the future establishment of a north side campus at Grangegorman.

The news was greeted with widespread approval, with DIT President Marguerite Fitzpatrick describing it as "a testament to the hard work and dedication of all concerned". The University has been seeking a new campus site for over a decade, and the announcement is seen as a major step forward for the institution.

Details relating to the commencement of construction work for the new campus and the date upon which the campus will be operable for students to have yet to be officially finalised and presumably a little more light will have shed on the matter by the time the DIT Independent reaches the many foyer developments.

But one is safe in assuming that staff and students alike will agree that the announcement of the Government on April 23 is one that will receive universal approval and cannot but be welcomed.

O'Reilly to lead DITSU in 2002/2003

By Aoife Stokes

FÉIN's general deputy leader, Anna Loane, has been elected President of the DITSU Students Union for the academic year 2002/2003.

Loane, who is a final-year Law student, is the first female to hold the position in the union's history. She succeeds outgoing President, Hugh O'Reilly, who was re-elected as Deputy President.

Loane thanked her fellow students for their support and commitment, and promised to work hard to improve the student experience at DIT.

"We need to be able to attract new students to DIT," she said. "We need to make sure that the student experience is one that they will be proud of, and that they will want to recommend to their friends and family."
Dear Editor,

I refer to your article ‘DIT students in political vacuum’ in the DIT Independent of February 2002. We share the author’s desire for greater political dialogue, albeit not just in an election year. Indeed, we welcome applications from political societies for activities, which will foster dialogue and debate among all students across DIT.

The DIT Cultural and Social Committee works actively with students, staff and DITSU to support a wide variety of student activities across DIT. We endeavour to ensure that the student experience embraces the full life, including the visual, creative and performing arts, sports and clubs and societies, community service and the whole range of activities that makes life worth living.

All students are encouraged to form societies and join activities that interest them.

Students interested in forming a society should apply directly to their campus Cultural and Social Council for funding. Only fifteen members are needed to form a society. The overall DIT committee is especially supportive of societies and activities which reach beyond a single campus, and encourage participation and activities from students from across DIT. Information about setting up a society and/or funding an event is available from your Students’ Union or the DIT Societies Organizer, at tel. 402 7844.

Higher education depends upon learning from one another, students and staff. The greater the exposure to different ideas, perspectives and experiences, the richer the learning and educational experience. The more diverse the academic community, the more knowledge and benefit for all.

Sincerely,

Dr Ellen Hazelkorn
Director, Faculty of Applied Arts

Clarification

In a letter sent to the DIT Independent (which was too long for publication), Jarlath Molloy wished to point out that comments attributed to him in our lead story last month were written as an ordinary student of DIT rather than as a representative of DITSU.

He also states that DITSU had adopted a neutral stance as opposed to having a policy on the abortion referendum. While he wrote that the Editor was incorrect in his stating such a claim, Dermot Keyes stands over his editorial, as he believes that a neutral policy was a key condition on the Union’s behalf given the nature of the topic in question.

The Editor wishes to point out that he was present at the meeting where this motion was debated and was fully aware of the decision taken on the evening in question.

Mr Molloy writes: ‘People have for a long time now been complaining about the content- or lack thereof and the poor quality of journalism over the course of the current academic year from a potential readership of 25,000.

Comments from Mr Molloy’s letter were used in our lead story for the purposes of balance and fairness since no one from the DITSU Executive was willing to comment on the repercussions of the RAG Ball.

DIT Awards at National Apprentice Competition

On Friday April 12 the Annual Awards Ceremony for the Department of Education & Science National Apprentice Competitions was held at the Mountjoy Square. The Graphic Design Final was held at the NCAD over a three-day period last month (March).

DIT students from both the Mountjoy Square and Bolton Street sites took part together with students from CIT and NCAD. Finalists were selected on the basis of their performance in the Preliminary one-day test held earlier in the year at participating colleges.

Cliffon Rooney, a third year VisComm student on the Design Degree course at DIT Mountjoy Square claimed first prize. Another DIT student, Barry Sheehan, on the Graphic Reproduction Diploma course at DIT Bolton Street, took second place. The award winners also received substantial cash prizes from D.O’Sullivan Graphic Supplies Ltd. sponsors of the annual graphic design event. The National Apprentice Competitions take place on an annual basis from which potential competitors are selected for the International Competitions. The International Competition will be held in St Gallen, Switzerland in June 2003.

DIT teams performed superbly at the 36th World Skills event in Seoul, Korea in 2001, coming home with a gold and bronze medal as well as ten Diplomas of Excellence.

The full statement by the DIT Management Team

To: All members of DIT Council
From: DIT Management Team
Cc: Board of Directors
Cc: D.T.I. Independent

Within the five colleges we have all come to the end of what we sure will prove right across the board to have been a disastrous Rag Week.

As long term employees of DIT Limited it saddens us that yet again for another year we have almost nothing to give to our chosen charities which also brings us to the shameful disaster of DIT to date the ‘Rag Week’ held in The Point Depot on 14th February 2002.

The Management Team of DIT Limited wishes to make the following statement.

When the whole idea of an overall Ball in The Point Depot was suggested the Management Team advised against the idea as a similar venture last year failed. At this point we wish to stress that the Management Team have never had any input or control over financial decisions.

Unfortunately Ditsu could find itself in the same position in the future, if the experience and knowledge of the Management Team is not taken into consideration. We believe that such decisions can only be made by those few students and their fellow students to unnecessary high risk.

We urge you as Council to implement the procedures laid out in the DIT Management, where financial decisions are being taken as a preventative measure for future years.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Dalton, Cathal Brighua Street Union Manager; Ann Pounch, Kevin Street Union Manager; Vivienne Byrne, Mountjoy Square Union Manager; Ellen McGlynn, Anssier Street Union Manager.

His comments were used as the Editor believed the lead story required impartial and objective treatment as it was possible for such a contentious issue as the RAG Ball. Given Mr. Molloy’s association and long-standing work as both a Class Representative and as a member of committees during the past year, his views were used only as comments that the DIT Independent received from a pro-DITSU perspective.

DIT Awards

Mountjoy student fries up jumbo-sized story

By Sean Pay

A DIT student became a media sensation last week, after his love for sausages saw him lose his part-time job at Dunnes Stores but gain national fame.

Gary Hughes, 20, who studies marketing at DIT Mountjoy Square, was sacked from his job working at the deli counter at Dunnes Stores, Portmarnock last summer for taking too many cocktail sausages for his lunch.

Hughes usually bought four jumbo sausages for his lunch and had the receipt signed by a manager. On the day he was suspended there were no jumbo sausages for sale, a co-worker said he could take three cocktail sausages per jumbo sausage. Gary took 11 cocktail sausages but when he went to get the receipt signed, he was suspended and sent home by a manager who said he should have only taken eight cocktail sausages.

Three days later he was brought in for a pre-disciplinary hearing and sacked for taking the three extra cocktail sausages, which were valued at 38 cent each. Gary decided to fight the case and just minutes before taking Dunnes to the employment appeals tribunal, Dunnes agreed to pay him €654 in compensation.

A reporter for The Irish Times was present when Dunnes paid over the compensation and printed details of the story on April 18. In the following days a media frenzy followed. "The Sun, The Star, the Herald, and Spin FM all got in touch, I thought all the coverage was funny and mad," said Gary Hughes. He admitted that he was the centre of attention when he arrived in Mountjoy Square the following day with photographs of Gary posing with sausages accompanied by details of the story in both The Sun and The Star.

"Most of the people in my class thought it was hilarious and gave me a good slagging, and it got worse because after a lecture Spin FM rang and everyone in the class was cheering and screaming at me while I was being interviewed." Gary’s case highlights the benefit of the recent link-up between SIPTU and the USL. As a student of USI, SIPTU agreed to take up his case and Gary thinks the compensation and media coverage has helped clear his name in his hometown of Portmarnock.

"Loads of people have been coming up to me and saying how deadly it was to see someone like me get the compensation," he said.
By Aoife Stokes

COLM Jordan, the outgoing education officer of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), who also served as DITUS's president of the Aungier Street Institute from 1999/2000 would lead USI as its next president. Jordan received 92 votes from his peers at USI's annual conference, which was held in Ennis, having exceeded the quota by 33 votes. His fellow nominees for the position, April Power and Derek Scanlon, received only one vote each.

Jordan assumes the office of president from July 1st and will take up the reins of the position during a period when it is dogged by criticism from colleges threatening to disaffiliate themselves from USI.

University College Dublin have been the most recent complainers and boycotted the union's annual conference because northern colleges had been granted full voting rights even though they do not pay fees to USI.

Speaking to the DIT Independent after the election results, Jordan said there were "mixed messages" from UCD but if any students have issues, still "it was a good marked even have no problem with meeting with them to discuss whatever concerns they might have".

One of the incoming president's first aims in office is to formulate a generic campaign for local SU around the country.

This pack, which would consist of a floppy disk, would contain a prototype policy paper, submission document and other templates.

Low SU officers, rather that getting tied up in trying to come up with these items for themselves, will be free to purely campaign," he said.

The elimination of the annual college capitation fee will feature highly on his agenda. Jordan believes that its elimination, which would "substantially cost the federation now in the system of pre-election good news declarations, the news will also help the need for an institutional education and training sector for the next generation. The two financial years the options of a job in the bank or other such careers are commonly cited as one such problem in the report, but one feels that this is not such a problem. The report is not meaning to say that there is no problem. The problem is that it is not as serious as it was in the past.

One of the main arguments for abolishing the fee is that the need to sustain a highly skilled workforce to continue the Ireland economy.

Lecturers receive academic awards

Three DIT lecturers have made successful applications to the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRC), Government of Ireland Senior Academic Scholarships. The successful applications were made in the past 11 editions and the Directors of the scholarship schemes will be notified by this week in February.

The International Board of Assessors informed the Council that they were "extremely pleased and impressed by the quality of the work done by the candidates". The Board of International Assessors also pointed out that "the assessment process is designed to ensure that the candidates are the most able and that their work is of the highest standard".

The winners of the scholarship schemes are as follows:

The Senior Academic Scholarship, which has been awarded since 1997, will consist of a €5000 grant to support research and development. The grant is available to researchers who have completed a Ph.D. or equivalent qualification.

The Young Academic Scholarship, which has been awarded since 1999, will consist of a €3000 grant to support research and development. The grant is available to researchers who have completed a Ph.D. or equivalent qualification.

The Social Sciences Scholarship, which has been awarded since 1999, will consist of a €3000 grant to support research and development. The grant is available to researchers who have completed a Ph.D. or equivalent qualification.

The winners of the scholarship schemes will be notified by the Directors of the scholarship schemes.

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Confusion reigned during contentious campaign

Bertie Ahern's controversial abortion referendum was defeated by a majority of just under one per cent. What was a divisive campaign from start to finish failed at any stage to seriously address the reality of the 7,000 women who travel to Britain each year to have abortions.

On March 6th the Irish people were asked by a majority of less than one per cent to reject the Government's proposed 25th Amendment to the Constitution (Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Bill), 2001. The latest9 pro-choice position had been rejected by a majority of just 10,556 votes.

In a clammy room in the Customs House, journalists and politicians had spent the afternoon speculating on the outcome. Once announced both anti-abortion and pro-choice groups welcomed the results with Independent MEP Dana Rosemary Scallon and Labour Party Leader Ruairi Quinn proclaiming wins for the 'pro-life' and Alliance for a No Vote (ANV) pro-choice group respectively.

At the Dublin count centre in the RDS, representatives of the no coalition's 'Right to Life' Workers Party whooped in joy as it became clear that all 11 constituencies in the capital's rural environs had rejected the referendum.

The other proposed subsection 5 would have provided a constitutional basis for a legislative approach to what the Government described as "the protection of human life in pregnancy." The referendum had been passed these provisions would have been inserted into the Constitution as Article 40.3.4 and 40.3.5. The proposed new subsection 4 would have provided that the life of the unborn in the womb would be protected in accordance with the Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Act.

The other proposed subsection 5 would have provided that any future proposal to amend or repeal the Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Act would have to be approved by the people in a referendum.

The legislation proposed by the Government in the Bill set out a number of issues.

It proposed to redefine abortion in medical terms and reduce the existing penalty of life imprisonment to 12 years. The current legal prohibition on abortion contained in sections 38 and 59 of the Offences Against the Person Act of 1861 would have been repealed.

It would have defined abortion as "the internal destruction by any means of unborn human life after implantation in the womb of a woman."

Right-wing anti-abortion lobby groups opposed this definition, believing there should be protection for unborn human life from the moment of conception. The Bill would also have excluded from the definition of abortion any medical procedure in the course of which the unborn human life is ended where it is necessary to do so in order to prevent a real and substantial risk of loss of the woman's life other than suicide. There were no implications in the Bill for the current freedom to travel or the right to information. A decade after the controversial X case ruling, after four referenda on the issue the Irish electorate was once again asked to vote on the ground to procure an abortion in this country.

On March 5th the British Pregnancy Advisory Service informed Bertie Ahern's mother's family that abortion was not illegal in Britain and appealed the High Court decision to the Supreme Court.

A decade after the controversial X case ruling, after four referenda on the issue the Irish electorate was once again asked to vote on the grounds to procure an abortion in this country. Bertie Ahern's controversial abortion referendum was defeated by a majority of just under one per cent. What was a divisive campaign from start to finish failed at any stage to seriously address the reality of the 7,000 women who travel to Britain each year to have abortions.

The case was taken by the then Attorney General Mr Harry Whelehan against a 14-year-old girl and her parents on disclosing this to her parents the rape was then reported to the Garda Síochána. The girl and her parents decided that she should travel to England to have an abortion.

The family informed the Garda Síochána that they had come to this decision in order to ascertain the impact of such an action on any subsequent charge of paternity on the perpetrator of the rape.

The Gardaí Síochána reported the intentions of the family to the Director of Public Prosecutions and he in turn communicated the information to the Attorney General.

On the February 7th, 1992, the girl obtained an order from the High Court restraining the girl and her parents from leaving the country. At this stage the girl and her family were already in England arranging for an abortion operation. When they were made aware of the injunction against them they returned to Ireland and appealed the High Court decision to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court found that abortion in Ireland could be legal where there was a real and substantive risk to the life of the mother including the threat of suicide. This in turn led to the proposed twelfth amendment to the Irish constitution, with over 62% voting against rendering abortion on the grounds of suicide illegal.

The girl and her parents reported the intentions of the Family to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the girl was subsequently arrested on disclosing this to her parents the rape was then reported to the Gardaí Síochána. The girl and her parents decided that she should travel to England to have an abortion.

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The British solution to an Irish problem continues.
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www.mcd.ie for exclusive live entertainment, news and tickets
UCD was the big winner at this year's Student Media Awards, which was held in Vicar Street on April 16. A night of drunken debauchery, enough speech making to even embarrass Halle Berry's scriptwriter and the usual arid wit of hosts, Brendan O'Connor made it a memorable night for those successful and those who were not. (Shed a quiet tear for DIT! - Ed). The awards were sponsored by O2, the new name for Digifone.

The University Observer (UCD) claimed the best newspaper prize, with the College Tribune (UCD) Trinity News (TCD) and College View (DCU) also nominated. The Observer's Enda Currans took the news reporter award, ahead of Eoghan Rice of the College Tribune (UCD), Jean O'Mahony of the Trinity News (TCD), Fergal O'Shea of the College Tribune (UCD) Mark Weirly of the Tions (NUl Maynooth) and John Kenny for Trinity News (TCD).

Other winners and nominees on the night were:

- **Radio Production**
  - "Get That Monster Off The Stage" (Cork Campus Radio)
  - Also nominated:
    - Artbeat (Cork Campus Radio)
    - The Vibe (Belfield FM)
    - "Argh. With a Drop Of Stout" (DCU FM)
    - Comedy Talk, Show Montage (DCU FM)
    - "Flags" (Cork Campus Radio)

- **Television Production**
  - "Regeneration" (DCU)
  - Also nominated:
    - "The Jimmy Cake" (Griffith College)
    - "Beyond Closed Doors" (DCU)
    - "Philomena's Cosy Night Time Corner" (DCU)

- **The O2 Award**
  - Icarus (TCD)

- **Magazine or Society Publication**
  - LHM (UCD)
  - Also nominated:
    - Ufonia (University of Ulster)

- **UCD celebrate an awards-laden night at Vicar Street with Mark Lee from O2 (back row centre)**

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**STUDENTS SUMMER JOBS SCHEME 2002**

**THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL, COMMUNITY AND FAMILY AFFAIRS, MR. DERMOT AHERN T.D., invites**

Sponsors and 3rd level Students to apply now to participate in the Scheme, which this year will operate from 1 June to 30 September.

The purpose of the Scheme is to provide income support for less well-off students who are disqualified from claiming Unemployment Assistance.

Third level and post leaving certificate students (who have not completed a course of study and satisfy a means test) can work for 200 hours over a 6-17 week period and earn up to EUR770. Students from households dependent on a social welfare payment will receive an additional EUR1.30 per hour worked. This additional payment will be directly to the Students by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

Students who are in receipt of Disability Allowance or Blind Pension's may be entitled to participate in the Scheme.

**Sponsors include:**
- Community/Voluntary/Sporting Groups
- Charitable Organisations
- Public Bodies (Special Projects only)

All approved sponsors will be limited to a Maximum of 10 Students.

**HOW TO APPLY**

Information Leaflets and application forms are available from:
- Social Welfare Local Offices
- Student Union Offices in Third Level Colleges or
- by writing to PO Box 3988, Dublin 1 Phone (01)-7043875/6)

**Closing Date for Student and Sponsor Applications is 28 June 2002.**

**SPONSORS:**
- Please note that to guarantee inclusion in the list of Sponsors, forms must be returned by 19 April 2002

**STUDENTS:**
- Are advised to apply by 30 April 2002, to ensure that they have a Job Certificate by 1 June
Beyond Brosnan

Women want him and men want to be him. He possesses more magnetism than any James Bond has commanded a fee minus the millions of Oscar-listed roles. Crowe would be a mite young as 007 and Bond 21. But do you know what? After all these years Connery's still the man.

As work continues on the latest 007 adventure, the hunt for Pierce Brosnan's successor has begun. Dermot Keyes ponders on whom next will brandish the Walther PPK in her Majesty's celluloid Secret Service required for the 007 blueprint and may need several more boots of eyebrow arching. If he played Bond in the manner that Dalton did so well (dull, hard drinking womaniser as he written by Ian Fleming), it would be hard to find a better Bond than Clive Owen.

Clive Owen

Owen, who recently lined out in Gosford Park and came to prominence in the super slick Croupier, fits the physical attributes of Bond in a way that Brosnan, Timothy Dalton and Roger Moore could not. Tall, dark and sufficiently rugged for the action scenes required for the Bond flics, Owen has yet to perform any comedic role which is also the likewarm bad guys that have featured in the series since it was resurrected in the mid-90's, he could be in with a shot, albeit a small one. Given that women used to beat him up with alarming regularity in his This Life days, stepping up to obliterate the life out of Jaws-like evil henchmen could make his Bond credentials weaker than some of the other pretenders to Brosnan's Aston Martin seat.

Russell Crowe

There's about as much chance of Russell Crowe being the next James Bond as there is of Michael Owen signing for Manchester United. So web minds should let go of their dream and see that EON would not fork out the millions that Crowe now commands following his spate of Oscar-listed roles. Crowe would more than cut his mustard as 007, given his infidelities with women, his well-honed tough guy skills in American Psycho). He also possesses the cold hard-nosed characteris- tics that are key ingredients of the Bond psyche. The thinking man's favourite, but will he want the part?

Colin Farrell

Would the producers be brave enough to give the role of the suavest Englishman alive to an Irishman for the second successive time? His scene stealing performance in the James Bond directed Tigerland won universal acclaim and heralded Farrell's rapid rise up the Hollywood talent list. His latest movie, co-starring with Bruce Willis in Hart's War, has been labelled the first turkey of his career, but one imagines the young Dub will not be too concerned with such lambasting given the spiraling fees he commands for each movie. Were he to take the role, he would be considerably younger than any one who has played Bond to date, and one wonders would he wish to be type-casted so early in his career. But he would make a fantastic secret agent, though he'd have to curb the bad language he so loves!

Christian Bale

The man whose name has been suggested in heated pub discussions involving this reporter, Bale would make a fine Bond and probably commands a fee minus the millions that would scare EON off. Has all the necessary physical attributes for the part, can make his eyebrows dance like a tsunami when required and has also done his 'hit with the ladies' bit commendably (even if he did see quite a few of them off in Sunday night period dramas on the Beb and one learns that such rumour mongering will create tree loads of copy between now and Bond 21.

Were any of the above to get the part, one would be pretty pleased with Brosnan's successor. But consider Jeremy Northam, Dougray Scott, Ralph Fiennes and some actors known only for their parts in American Psycho. He also possesses the cold hard-nosed characteris- tics that are key ingredients of the Bond psyche. The thinking man's favourite, but will he want the part?
You don’t have to be rich......

to see the world

Any country that gave birth to Homer Simpson, drive-in wedding chapels and UFO paranoia has got to have a lot going for it. Its not a myth, the USA really can be the land of opportunity. But to get there costs money - and thats where Bank of Ireland can help you. We’re offering a six month interest free, J1 visa loan which includes up to €1000 emergency cash*. In addition you can also avail of a student credit card*, an interest-free ESS Tax Rebate Loan* and even get help dealing with the red tape that is the US tax system.

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with our J1 Visa Package

Bank of Ireland
The art of using Dublin's public transport

There's nothing quite like public transport in Dublin. We're all familiar with the problems—it's always late, it's like rush-hour in Tokyo on City Maps, and it's frequently filthy (Nitelink, I'm looking at you). But like many things in Dublin, it's not the transport itself, but the people on it that make it what it is. Which is why, depending on where you get on and off the bus or DART, the experience can be so different.

Take the weekend. On Sunday, a friend got a bus from a Northside suburb into town. A few hours later, on the way home, a large group of people fell off the front of the bus, which the driver then drove over, and, for the hell of it, reversed back over again. Meanwhile, the occupants of the bus chat among themselves. "I knew well that thing was a dud," one of them tells by looking at it", and so on. Nobody actually told the driver, because they were too busy. Nonetheless, a man got off the bus and lifted said bit of bus on board, stashed it in the luggage holder, and off the bus went.

Later that day, the same friend and I caught the last DART into town from a Southside suburb. It had driven the whole way by a bunch of approximately ten girls, aged about nine to twelve. They played Dial-A-Ring's top ten hits on their mobiles incessantly, and in between that and swinging around the poles in the car, indulged in some quality name calling, which regretfully, I cannot repeat here. Enough to make you get out and walk, or as one elderly man did, hop out and run the next half mile.

A few weeks ago, on a bus to the suburbs, I spent the better part of an hour listening (not by choice) to a conversation between two girls aged about 19, about one's upcoming J1 and one's previous J1. It's funny, I didn't realise that the words "like," and "d'you know what I mean" could be used so many times in the same sentence.

And another day, on a bus at the prime morning time, because it's when the free-bus-pass kicks in) an elderly woman loudly blamed the pedestrians for the problem in the road. The public transport experience changes depending on time of day. As I've said already, after 10 AM when the OAP's bus pass is valid, so from that time until early evening, you can expect to have given up on your ability to gently point out the problem (especially near a church), and listen to conversations which you may or may not be included in, about Teresa's daughter—you know, the one who had all that trouble with her tonsils—and her upcoming wedding, the best time to get to the doctor's surgery and suchlike.

Early morning is a bit different in that, while you have to endure conditions on a par with that of a battery-farm chicken, it's generally devoid of jaw-dropping conversations. People are generally too sleepy to talk, although awake enough to play radio tapes or tapes at ear-shatteringly high volume on their phones (which you will then have to listen to by proxy). Significant time is around the 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM mark, in particular if there's a school in the vicinity. You never think that an eight year old can be threatening, but by God, if you get enough of them on the top floor of a bus, it's scarier than Barbara Streisand. When they were finicking poutinging that day's prey—small, gir- ler hair, yellow sponge, someone you can easily turn on, and these little demons will eat you alive.

Of course, the Nitelink is a different animal altogether.

A descent into madness - the trauma of the thesis

You write a proposal. You think it's great. Your advisor (who has just taken one at it and says that, in actual fact, The Postmodern Exsistentials of Homer Simpson versus that of Peter Griffin, is not a suitable topic and you'd better off doing a thesis at all than do this one. You're discouraged. But you persevere and come up with something more realistic. Then you put this proposal in a folder and forget about it, until you realise that the deadline for this thesis is really not that far away. That's what you have the first nagging sensation of panic in the back of your head. So you do the occasional bit of thesis related work. And you do all in your power not to stab the individuals who have done much more work, and insist on telling you about it. Occasionally you submit a few pages before, if you committed these nonsensical words to paper. Panic levels rise a bit, but remain at the 'Christ, I really need to start doing my thesis' level (Orrinmench report starts in ten minutes level).

And to it continues, with panic levels rising, and eventually you find yourself in the Hefalump because you have a coffee-and-Tobermory break every hour, on the hour. You start yourself eating things that would normally bring you out in a rash, like tomato n'prawn flavoured crisps, because they were sitting there, calling out to you, begging you to eat them.

Sleep is but a distant memory, along with television, a social life and any attempt to undertake an appearance. You begin to call in sick to work, and as the deadline approaches, the excuses get worse. When they don't believe that you've got aneurism, you tell them that there's been a death in the family, omitting to mention that it was seven years ago, because damnit, it still hurts.

You start to spend time in the National Library, pointlessly scan- ning newspapers and books for anything that might be useful. You sit in the microfilm room, beside crazy old people from Sligo who tell you that they're trying to find a map to prove that their little city belongs to them, and not their thieves neighbours. Wordless movies are your only way to trace their ancestry, to load the microfilm onto the viewing machines, barely resisting the urge to pound them for asking stupid questions about why you're here.

For the final week, you either stay at home to finish it, or spend the week in college, trying to finish it. If you stay at home, you emerge, blinking in an owl-like fashion yourself, and find that sunlight now burns your almost translucent skin. If you work in college, you find yourself hatching increasingly desperate plans to hide in a filing cabinet so that you can stay in overtime.

You finally get to the stage where you think, grand, I've only got to do a bibliography and put all the chapters in order in one document. And that's when the computer starts to mock you. You attempt to copy and paste items, and find that font sizes and italics and the like revert to the direct opposite of how they're supposed to be. You didn't think it possible to feel such epic levels of rage. Somebody asks if you can borrow your stapler, and you shout hysterically, "Take it! Take it all! Go on!" and start to rhyme the nearest brick wall.

Then comes the printing. You tell the computer to print four copies, and in the middle of the fourth copy, there's a glaring error, and you need to print four more copies. You and your partner, and the computer, and give it instructions. In the meantime, somebody else has dared to print off a two-page document. You scream, "Release the hounds" and chase the selfish, inconsiderate bastard from the room.

You assemble the copies and head for the binders. You ask for a five hour service and the person behind the counter says, "Can you please let go of the thesis?" "No, I'm sorry, I can't do that."

"We can't bind it if you don't give it to us."

"You don't seem to understand. It's mine. Mine, I tell you, mine! Eventually, you relinquish it, and the person behind the counter promptly drops it.

The Gardai are very understand- ing. They realise that you're under pressure, and you're unlikely to get a custodial sentence, they say. They advise you to have somebody else pick the thesis up for you. You ask for a five hour service and complete. Then you remember that you forgot to sign it, so you go back. You sign it. It's over. It's finally over.

Sometime later, you accompany your chums to a nearby hostelry for a refreshing beverage. You walk up to the bar. The barman says "What can I get you?" You look at him in a vacant fashion and say dubiously, "I'm a final year student and for my thes- is I'm looking at..."
We the Irish tend to have a flippant attitude when it comes to addressing the scourge of alcohol abuse. However, our ‘happy-go-lucky’ outlook on overdrinking and alcoholism in third level Ireland is far from exclusive to our shores. The DIT Independent examines the shocking results of an American report and ponders its significance in an Irish context.

The Government has taken steps towards instigating a national alcohol policy within third level institutes.
By Dermot Keyes

Just a few short weeks away from becoming an actual, tax-paying journalist after my four-year stint in college at the expense of: parents/crédit union loans/taxpayers, a rather disturbing e-mail arrived in my account recently.

Laced with quotes, which drive the trade of a journalist into derision, it made my little mind ponder. Would I have been better off thinning my mind when I began to read the sort of text that one does not wish to be all that aware of when on the brink of graduating. Could it be that the big bad world be really as big and bad as the darkest facets of my mind have envisaged it to be? Are journalists the veritable doo-doo of society? Are we really as bad as the soap operas have made us believe? -these clowns that possess utterly no morals whatsoever? Well, according to one Fred Allen, frankly yes! "To a newspaperman, a human being is an item with skin wrapped around it," he said. Ouch!

Upon discovering that one of the finest journalists of his generation committed the following to print, it made me shudder. "I have spent half my life trying to get away from journalism, but I am still mired in it. You have sold me, you have sold me, a strange seedy world full of misfits and drunkards and failures." Hunter S. Thompson, a little bit handy with a piece of paper and a typewriter in his day, describing journalism as a habit harder to shake off than chasing the dragon? Crickey, what have I let myself in for? Mother Teresa, the peaceful and graceful soul that she was, described facing the press as "more difficult than bathing a leper," Mother Teresa said that? By this stage of the e-mail, sitting in a tractor cab from 9 to 5 was slowly starting to sound attractive.

But one quote stood out above all others when reading the e-mail and really made me think just how many low-lites must have made and continue to make a living in the trade. "Writing in the Baltimore Sun, Gregory Kane wrote in 1997: "Somewhere along the line, many Americans relegated the media to a notch on the morality scale only slightly above that of child molesters." What happened to make Joe and Josephine Public reader journ-

alists as deplored and utter scum to provoke such a comment? The trade of abuse does not end here!

"A journalist is a reporter out of a job," wrote Mark Twain. The venerable T.S. Eliot said "some editors are failed writers, but so are most writers." But for bottom of the gutter comment of this article, look no further than a human being so utterly depraved of morals and professional values that he would seem to have made a perfect hack himself. "Journalists are a lower quality of human being, who'll do anything for a story. (...) At press awards they jeer, boo, fight, get pissed and that's just the cream." The man in question? The simply delightful Max Clifford, who the brilliant Louis Theroux (in his excellent Louis Theroux - series) recently confirmed was the smartest, healthiest and good, the bad, and the indifferences of all the bad things that one would ever have thought about a snake, albeit a very clever snake like Max Clifford.

Old stories about the way that journalists conducted themselves in the olden days have been told with great remissence by journalists during my college years. Tales of Brendan Behan's penchant for vomiting into the nearest available drawer in the Irish Press after a day and night on the batter made me wonder how papers ever made the stands way back when. The Borstal boy himself may be the extreme example of the drink-sozzled writer, but having heard so many tales which were batted in liquor about so many other reporters of an age long gone, the following quote could not have been more appropriate. In an interview with the San Francisco Examiner in 1996, veteran columnist Jimmy Breslin regretted the passing of a bygone era. "The way I had it it's all gone now," he said. "The bars are gone, the drinkers, gone. They remain the smartest, healthiest new-people in the history of the business."

The last word deservedly belongs to the editor who was at the centre of the recent Paul Campbell libel case. To Piers Morgan of the Daily Mirror, journalism is "full of lying, cheating, drinkers, cocaine-sniffing unethical people. It's a wonderful profession."

So by the time I had scowled down, clicked off e-mail and pondered the imponderable, I had changed my mind. I had reached a watershed in my professional life even though I'm not really a professional yet.

No, no, no. The world needs us all supposed degenerate pooh-pooh the shoe types to expose the scams, the shams, the dopers, the grooves, the good, the bad, and the indignities of the world we live in, I'm more than happy to enter their number. True if the likes of us weren't around, what would the world have to talk about?" The quotes used above can be located at epworldreporter.com, a new online magazine written for correspondents and freelance journalists worldwide.

By Janice Gaffey.

It's that time of year again when exams loom large on the horizon and the thoughts of the average student should be turning to study (in other words, attempting to cram a year's worth of work into three weeks).

But we all know that it doesn't work quite like that, and the excuses to avoid the books get worse as the exams draw closer.

The Daily Irisher currently presents the definitive list of reasons not to hit the books.

1. The fridge needs to be defrosted.
2. Touched by an angel is on the telly. (This works equally well with Cagney and Lacey, Murder, She Wrote, or A Prayer at Bedtime.)
3. The flowers in the park near your house need to be weeded.
4. You suddenly need to be achieving, bring a book with you, but it's important to build bridges.
5. You need to create an intricate study timetable detailing your movements down to the minute for the next six weeks, have it laminated and stick it on the wall over your desk. (At least you never use it.) It's impossible to study without a jampacked full of different coloured pens and highlighters.

Likewise, a cardboard accordion file for all the notes you frantically photocopied. Again, none of these things will be used.

6. It's a cruel trick of nature that the sun always shines while you study for your exams.

However, working on your tan (even if it's bright but freezing) is a good reason not to study, and to make yourself feel like you might be achieving, being a book with you, but it's important not to open it.

7. It's been sixteen years since that last confession, and you need to make peace with the lord.

8. You call all of the people that you spend the rest of the year avoiding and invite them for a pint. It's important to build bridges.

9. You need to put up shelves in the kitchen, Regardless of the fact that you've never held a hammer in your hand before now.

10. You need to count how many freebies you have on your right forearm.

11. It's time to make a list of all the things you're going to buy when you start earning money again.

12. It's dinner/dinner/laundry time/stop of the game. Alfie, Jonas and the other kids have arrived in my account recently.

13. It's lunchtime/dinner time/snacktime/cup-of-tea time. Plan for all eventualities and see if you can learn Japanese in time for the World Cup.

14. Give the Stairmaster 2000 you bought a year ago another chance. Maybe if you stay on it long enough, it might start to work.

15. Watch your favourite movies with French subtitles to see if you have a notion of what's going on.

16. Cook three course meals at dinner time, involving meat and three veg... whereas normally you exist on chicken flavoured noodle sacks.


18. Make lists of things you can do to avoid studying and check that each one of them is suitably distracting.
By Dermot Keys

WHEN one's head has been split down the middle by pain at 11 o'clock, it is wise to stop and smell the roses. One normally contributes such a condition to the cursed liquor. But thankfully this reviewer could contribute such gnomes to nothing other than cranium cracking laughter when hearing witness to the recent release of a new graduate from the Adaptive Match Race, which recently ended its short pre-World Cup run at Vicar Street.

The inspired comedic trio of Risteard Cooper, Gary Cooke and Barry Murphy have made us laugh with reckless abandon have been at it again at a venue which suitably caters their act.

The quality that has made April Match so watchable for so long has been its constant outshading of the characters we have to come and know and love. Bill O Herlihy's loss of work on 'The Premierships', Eamon Dunphy's hatred of live links, that go wrong on 'The Late Word' and David O'Leary's exclamation that Jonathan Woodgate was for sure that his community service was not served in the Asian community (so) were suitably laugh inducing.

The introduction of new characters such as Cooper's super take on Pat Kenny (complete with over-dialogued questioning and robotic movement) along with Cooper and Cooke's interpretation of Pan McGurk and George Hook demonstrated the originality and brilliance of a show whose two-hour duration positively danced along.

There were a number of commercial breaks engineered while wigs were changed and these worked a treat. Superb piss takes of a well known vodka commercial starting Ray Wilkins and Mark Lawrenson along with an outstanding parody of Michael Ryan (presenter of thick heavy RTE show 'Nationwide') made the scene transitions virtually seamless.

But star billing was reserved for Barry Murphy's stint as the silver-foniled Gunther, whose labeling the Irish as 'Ricky Focks' also with his jibing of the boys in green was pure class. Undoubtedly the best value for money that the licence holders of Ireland have ever received from Montrose.

April Match remains fresh, fabulously funny and a howl of immeasurable proportions. Hopefully it will not be too long before the trio tread the boards again. Japan and Korea cannot come soon enough!
Eoin Murphy previews what awaits cinemagoers during the summer ahead

Spiderman. You can call him "Web head," "Web singer," or good old "Spider," but that blue and scarlet hero is dangling on to our screens at a cinema near you. As Peter Parker, Toby McGuire plays the alter ego of Spiderman, last seen in the Cider House Rules and the always-stunning Kirsten Dunst will play the love of his life, Mary Jane. In this movie, director Sam Raimi traces the birth of Spiderman and his rise to heroic heights when he gets his powers after being bitten by a radioactive spider in a Science lab.

If M. Night Shyamalan's Unbreakable taught us nothing else, and it didn't, no super hero is complete without a super villain, then the appearance of a comic strip villain is huge. The Green Goblin is set to be seeking to destroy humanity, and is played by the inspired casting of William Dafoe. Among the big appeals of this movie is the use of CGI on Manhattan where the movie was filmed. We shall see the Goblin pumpkin bomb his way around the New York skyline chased by our eponymous hero only thanks to the computer wizardry of CGI. Having seen the trailer online, one can only describe what the artists have done on this movie as absolutely breathtaking. One must admit having reservations about the transfer of Spiderman from comic to cinema reel but it looks like it has been mastered. In fact this film should have been released earlier only for the devastating events of September 11th which forced the movie into a re-write as the World Trade Centre played a major role in the conclusion of the film.

Not being the greatest Star Wars fan in the world this is the film that I will be saving up to go and see five times. These are the two major releases this summer but what else can we expect to see this summer that's movie related? At long last we will get to see the trailer for The Matrix: 'Reload,' which is due for release in late June and promises to be absolutely mind-boggling.

The film that has had more problems than the Manson family has finally finished production and select cuts are being prepared for the cinematic trailer. If you loved the first film then you will be queuing beside me to see the second one so the release of the trailer will be our first glimpse at the magic that awaits us. Speaking of trailers, Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers trailer will be released this summer. I'm not talking of the rather tiny and obscure trailer that is circulating the internet at the moment. I'm talking about the five minute featurette that accompanies the DVD of the book itself that will also be released mid June.

The second installment of what promises to be the greatest movie trilogy of them all is due for release this Christmas. So why pine away in Ireland due to the prospect of another dull and damp season? For one we are looking forward to the traditional terrible weather as it will give me an excuse to stay indoors.

Still in cinemas:

Blade II is a leave-your-brain-in-the-lobby action movie of the highest quality. Wesley Snipes does battle with vampires and mutated zombies and wants to kill all the unmutated vampires and then blade blade because he's a vampire too! Confused? Don't concern yourself with the plot line - this is fun, fun, gory fun all the way. Occasionally stomach churning fun that will have you buying blood for Blade II which already seems inevitable.

It doesn't matter if The Mummy Returns sucked every which way last summer, as the most electrifying man in sports entertainment has saved the franchise thanks to more high quality B-movie fun in The Scorpion King. The Rock stars as the most fearsome warrior to ever traverse the deserts as he kills pretty much every body, indulges in a little dialogue ("I've come for the girl and your head") and opens a leg can of whoop-ass as only he can against the forces of evil. This is great, brainless fun and even the most cynical of minds could not but enjoy this film. Note the credit that WWF boss Vince McMahon receives at the end of the movie, which is laced with the musical strains of 'Smack Down,' McMahon's pseudo-sport cash cow.
By Laurence Mackin

ONCE again the academic year has drawn to a close, and with it the inevitable musings and perennial trials of exams and essays. It is also a time when people will be looking back over what they have achieved over the course of the academic year, and how they made the world a better place.

This being my final year, a wiseful and somewhat romanticised image of DIT is starting to emerge in my mind, and I am sure the same is true of our outgoing student body representatives. Now is the time when you will look back and think about how much of a good job they did through-out the year, and how they helped make DIT a better place for students and staff.

That is the problem with retrospectives. They tend to be overly romantic and ever so slightly twanged with a shade of rose.

I have being a student in Ainger St. for four years and will go away with a favourable view of the college, like a mischievous little monkey that I used to keep, who was forever making a mess in my flat. But still, I was sad to see him go, when the stupid animal rights activists took him away to be imprisoned in the zoo.

But, despite the teary eyes, I can still critically see the many problems that exist in DIT (and with the mono-key) and the areas in which it lacks, as well as excel, and I am hoping that the incoming and outgoing Student's Union staff do the same. I wonder just how many will be putting their time spent in the Union on their Curriculum Vitae? And I also wonder whether their successors learn from their mistakes and perhaps get their priorities in some semblance of order?

For instance, when the Rag Ball lambers ominously on the horizon will they again decide to use a loss-making extravaganza, or use the money to, say, organise a crotch for DIT students. Could 71,000 Euro cover a creche's costs for nine months?

Obviously, there are many people within the Union who do very fine work, which goes unnoticed for the most part, in particular the permanent officers and the office managers.

But a litany of events, which were badly organised and made substantial losses, beginning with the Halloween Ball and culminating in the Rag Ball, displayed only a rugger deterior-ation not to learn from previous mistakes, and some misplaced belief that it would all come good in the end.

But it did not. It ended badly with that most oft-quoted figure of 71,000 Euro.

But every action has a subsequent and equal reaction, and so every mistake must have a result. So who was held accountable and who suffered at this result? Months after the event itself and at the end of an academic and fiscal year, who is covering the cost for the Rag Week debacle and who is being held responsible? Answers on a postcard.

Email: city_sounds@hotmail.com

Best of luck to all students in their forthcoming exams!
VdeP takes Best Society Award

"Ladies soccer back with a bang"

Review of the Year

AFTER a five-year absence from competitive action, DIT roared back into division one in emphatic fashion this year by taking the league title in their first season back in the premier flight.

The team first put studs to (synthetic) grass back in October when, thanks to the determination of Alice Massey in organising the team, they began training twice a week on (synthetic) grass back in October when, thanks to the determination of Alice Massey in organising the team, they began training twice a week on

...In the final game of the league season against Maynooth they secured a 1-1 draw. The result ended Tallaght's hopes of winning the title as, having needed a point to guarantee promotion to Division 1, Maynooth finally did so with a goal from Gráinne Warren. From their on DIT were pushed into their own box as Maynooth threw every one forward in search of the one goal they needed. With Clara Carolan, Rachel Dooley, Alice Massey and Debbie Burke in resilient form at the back they managed to hold out until the final moments. However with only minutes remaining Massey was adjudged to have taken down a Maynooth striker in the box and the referee point to spot. But incredibly the Maynooth striker buckled under the pressure and smacked the cross bar. After holding out for the six minutes of injury time DIT finally capped a glorious return to Ladies Football by being crowned champions.

The DIT team which played in the final match was;

Tiriona Burke (Cathal Brugha St); Debbie Burke (Cathal Brugha St); Ciara Carolan (Cathal Brugha St); Alice Massey (Cathal Brugha St); Rachel Dooley (Cathal Brugha St); Sinead Spring (Cathal Brugha St); Siobhan Glennon (Cathal Brugha St); Emma Reilly (Cathal Brugha St); Ellis McGrath (Bolton St); Grainne Warren (Bolton St); Laura McAfee (Mountjoy Square).

Subs: Ann-Marie Hand for T Burke The team would also like to thank the missing panel - Orla Berrill, the star keeper who ran away to England on holidays!

Dione Keenan, who was sick in bed with the flu, Sarah Kerguen, who broke her knuckle before we even got started, but was there in spirit! Alice Doyle who had some excuse about working, Niamh McDonnell, Orna Murphy and Marie-Therese Tomas who were all swimming!

And another 20 so girls who were there at the start and just disappeared off the face of the earth.

The team also want to thank absolutely everyone who was there at one stage or another, especially those who survived the end of the season particularly a star of coach Stephen Dempsey.

Daire O'Brien, who enthralled his audience while hosting the Societies Awards at Chief O'Neill's in Smithfield.

Including the DIT Cultural & Sportport and develop societies and advisory point of view.

Activity levels were quite high but by no means reaching their full potential. I cannot stress how much society life is an integral part of the third level experience and many of you are simply missing out there is wide variety of activities available (with support from both financial and advisory point of view.

Dempsey to co-ordinate team nerves the team may have had during their match, away against the Royal Alice, they managed to cajole and some fine saves from keep

First Event In DIT; Drama Week

An unique event to DIT in its own right where 5 individual groups came together to perform dramatic pieces at the university's professional theatre. There winners of which Kevin Street represented DIT in ISDA (Irish students Drama Awards)

Best Individual: Eoin routine AESEC Society

An individual who's hard work and dedication revived the AESEC society in DIT. Recruiting and training members, his enthusiasm and professionalism provided the possibility of placing students in work placement all over the world.

"I am shocked to receive the awards as I am aware of the his MSc in Sports Management and have spent two years from SVP but it is fantastic to see recognition from DIT for the hard work" I would like to thank all those who helped support and develop societies and their activities during the year. Including the DIT Cultural & Sport

Vincent de Paul won best society award

awards night AIB and Heincken, said Societies Organizer Anita Conway.

"Looking back on the year the activity levels were quite high but by no means reaching their full potential. I cannot stress how much society life is an integral part of the third level experience and many of you are simply missing out there is wide variety of activities available (with support from both financial and advisory point of view."

Just pop into the Students' Union or contact Anita the DIT Societies Organiser on 4077941 or societies@dit.ie. Plans can start now for the next academic year, the possibilities are endless and so are the sponsorship opportunities, at the same time encouraging the most important CV and having great cric doing it."

The Táinobride conjures images of the middle-aged women preening tails of "hang-savages" in the parish hall, eagerly awaiting the victorious group of slaying men from the nearby pitch. Another role would be invaluable to any Atlanta's=f XWilier's took tremen-

DIT won best society award

...and some fine saves from keep-

The past role of women in the GAA prevails. The initial Táinobride conjures images of the middle-aged women preening tails of "hang-savages" in the parish hall, eagerly awaiting the victorious group of slaying men from the nearby pitch. Another role would be invaluable to any Atlanta's=f XWilier's took tremen-

DIT won best society award

DIT won best society award

as a great success. The major winners on the right were...

Best Society

St Vincent de Paul - Anngier Says.

Based on the activities over the year the silver Bond Housework club and fundraising of almost 4000. Almost doubled the figure from last year. Extensive sponsorship was received from companies Sinead Whelan president of the society thanked Students' Union and students' for their support throughout the year. It comes as a great surprise to win but we also feel if we feel it is deserved after our hard work, its great to give something back to the community and help provide equal educational opportunities to a local school!

Best New/Improved Society

DIT Sean Fein

Again based on their activity level and extensive poster and flyer campaigns they have risen to a membership of 300. They have organised speakers such as Gerry Adams, Mitchell Mc Loughlin and David Trimble. Many of these meeting had to be held in Trinity College due to the lack large rooms available in DIT. We are thrilled to win this award and hope to do better and fulfil our objectives next year." If students are not willing to join or have allegiance to another party. The Sinn Fein Coman would encourage them to set up a society of their own backing the party in question so as to bring politics to DIT to a whole new level through debate and seminar."

The first meeting of the rebellious player's medium and now we have cards on the table to And last but not least, we have the loyal lone female supporter, rhet after they had lost to a hood tomboy. She travels near and far, in all weathers, to a local pub to listen to her voice has become nothing more than a whisper in the third place. But the surrounding crowd who the next substitute and is decisions on the view.

And so, my friends, the images of the..."Loyal Supporter" fade away as a new, more And so, my friends, the images of the..."Loyal Supporter" fade away as a new, more

Women in a Changing World: The impact of Women's Sport

THE emergence of reputable ladies football line-ups in recent years has helped redefine the role of women in a traditionally male dominated GAA. Also, the original and persistent problem of other women are taking over a male tradition of transition has been plain, old-fashioned male prejudice.

The past role of women in the GAA prevails. The initial Táinobride conjures images of the middle-aged women preening tails of "hang-savages" in the parish hall, eagerly awaiting the victorious group of slaying men from the nearby pitch. Another role would be invaluable to any Atlanta's=f XWilier's took tremen-

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By Miguel Delaney

WHILE DIT's basketball team proved the big winners at this year's DIT Sports Awards, the first sportswoman to clinch the Club of the Year Award was a worthy recipient of the DIT All-Star in the Women's Division, Ciaran McKenna.

There were also special awards for the DIT Sub Aqua Club and Bob Coggins of the DIT Ping Pong Club. The Sub Aqua Club was awarded for its impeccable safety record and ability to consistently compete with other clubs in the rest of the country. The club, one of the first of its kind when established in the 1970s, is active 12 months of the year and runs one of the best dive clubs in the country as well as achieving success in both hockey and underwater rugby.

Coggins meanwhile was praised for his hard work in getting the DIT club back on its feet after the annual horridness that 2000/2001 proved to be.

Mr. Glynn acknowledged Coggins for his excellent 'business brain' as well as his tireless work in camps and training for the club and increasing its profile and reputation.

His organisational skills ensured that the club was able to successfully defend its title in the All-Ireland League, an event they have won for five years in a row.

The Memory Man McGee's speech proved Sports Awards highlight McGee's speech proves McGee's speech proves

Basketball's triumphant term

DIT Basketball celebrate winning the club of the year at this year's DIT Sports Awards

By Sarah Graham

After clinching the ICBA Men's All Ireland Colleges League DIT basketball club was a worthy recipient of the DIT Sports Council's Sportsman of the Year Award in its first year as an all DIT club.

The first major college competition of the year was the ICBA Freshers tournament, held in Maynooth College. DIT were left behind their rivals. Having worked hard and joined in the ICBA League the following month, the DIT team travelled to the semi-final of the ISSA All Ireland League.

DIT then proved the team was not invincible however. Narrow defeats in both games put them out of the Cup and meant that they had to remain unbeaten in the ISSA League to make the finals.

Lucky enough to make the finals over Cork IT (45-49), Waterford IT (46-54) Carlow IT and a playoff win over Tralee IT in the Men's team places in the Finals in early March.

The men's team had slightly better luck in their semi-final V's NUI Galway.

With Danny Bates running the show at point guard and strong play by Dave Harrison and team captain Dermot Kavanagh ensured that DIT went to the end but St Patrick's College scraped through to the Final by an eventual winning margin of six points. The Men's team had slightly better luck in their semi-final V's NUI Galway.

The following month the men's team travelled to Galway to play Tallaght IT in the Semi-final of the ISSA All Ireland League.

Basketball's triumphant term

The final against Tolka Rovers proved experience can get the better of youth. Tolka Rovers started to a 15 point lead at half time and despite a revival in the last quarter DIT were condemned to defeat by a margin of 7 points and had to settle with runner up medals.

However, after a phenomenal victory over Trinity College clinched the League for DIT. A place in the Final Fours event at the end of the month is the club's reward.
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