DIT Independent, 1st.-29th of February, 2002

DIT Students Union

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Recommended Citation
Grangegorman ‘on long finger’

Labour suggest FF inaction

By Aiding Casey

Senator Joe Costello has criticised Fianna Fáil for failing to reach a definitive decision on DIT’s proposed campus at Grangegorman.

Senator Costello (Labour) said that despite an inter-departmental committee’s recommendation that DIT be given the go-ahead for its plans to locate a new campus at St Brendan’s Park, it was clear that the decision on the site would not be made available as soon as expected.

‘It has taken the last five years to put the issue of the new campus on the table and they must ensure that DIT receives a portion of the site,’ he said.

He said that the cost of acquiring 70 hectares of the land will be $20 million and that the site would be retained by the Eastern Regional Health Authority.

Senator Costello added that the Labour party leader, Ruairí Quinn has ‘promised’ that they will ensure that the scheme is brought forward.

A Government committee established in May 2001 was reluctant to make an immediate decision on plans for the site, a demarcation of the land to DIT, with the remaining 20 acres to be retained by the Eastern Regional Health Authority.

The site includes 70 hectares of the land value of 12.7 million in 1992, today an estimated value of 12 million, possibly resulting in a delay in the decision.

The Department of the Taoiseach was unavailable for comment on the issue.

The Taoiseach’s Department has been in close consultation with the Taoiseach since assuming office and recently received a letter from Mr. Ahern promising action on Grangegorman.

Since its establishment in 1991, DIT has sought to embrace foreign colleagues.

The recent killing of a Chinese student in Dublin was truly a shocking event, but sadly, not one which was of immense surprise given the increasing hostilities faced by overseas students in Ireland in the past number of years.

The number of non-Irish students attending third-level institutes is set to increase in the future, according to the Department’s top official, as reported in an Irish staff newsletter.

One would hope that our major political parties should make greater racial inclusion a key policy during the general election campaign.

Each and every one of us owes it to those who have decided to settle within our shores to make this country feel as much a home to them as it is to those native to her.

Dermot Keys

Embrace foreign colleagues

Taioseach supports DIT programme

Taioseach Bertie Ahern receives a Manchester United drawing from a fellow Red Devils fan at Scoll Plas Mhuire, Dorset Street, at the recent launch of the second phase of an Inner City computerisation project which is co-ordinated by DIT. Also pictured is school principal Finian McGrath. See page five for report.

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Issue 19
February 2002

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Further safety scrutiny for arts building

AS HIGHLIGHTED in the December issue of the DIT Independent, the Institute’s Fine Arts building at Portland Row has been under threat by several structural and other problems. Afoie Stokes returned to see how the situation changed, for better or worse.

The Portland Row Campus of DIT will undergo a further inspection by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) following the submission by the DIT Buildings Office of a safety statement.

The inspection is on foot of an improvement notice which was served on the college in September last year following a visit by a HSA inspector. DIT was then given three months to comply with the safety statement for the building, the notice which expired on the 16th December. The Institute was served with the improvement notice by the HSA after the authority noted a lack of a safety plan and a lack of maintenance in the Portland Row building.

The building, which is used by Fine Arts and Design students, closed for several weeks in September after toilets on the first floor of the building were found to be leaking through to the rooms below.

The HSA visited the building last September and a condemnatory notice was received by the authority. Speaking to the DIT Independent a representative of the HSA said that they would be returning to the college imminently to see that they had received the safety statement from DIT in the required time.

Ms Groener, Course Co-ordinator and health and safety representative of Portland Row says that there are still major problems at DIT’s fine arts campus. Highlighting an ongoing lack of canteen facilities which she says is “just not good enough”, Ms Groener described a number of recent problems which illustrate the severity of the problems at Portland Row. “This morning we had a ceiling collapse on us, we had to evacuate two students who were in the area prior to the collapse and that particular area has had to be cleaned up obviously there was loose plaster lying around which has now been removed,” she said. Ms Groener is also concerned about a loose beam in the chapel of the college, an area which has since been sealed off. “The problems that we had last September haven’t been addressed at all.”

She also states that the staff of Portland Row were not given copies of DIT’s safety statement on the building but that they received copies of the statement from the HSA. Since the resumption of classes after the Christmas break Ms Groener asserts there have also been a number of leaks in both the canteen and the entrance hall.

In reply, DIT Co-ordination and Services Officer, Michael Marnane said that there had only been one incidence of flooding which related to a tap being left on in an upper storey of the building not rented by DIT. In relation to the incident of the collapsed ceiling in the studio, Mr Marnane said that it was as a result of accumulated dampness. “We regret that this happened and we would hope that there would be no chance of injury to people on the premises,” said Mr Marnane.

Speaking about the unsuitability of the premises, Mr Marnane said that in light of the imminent probability of Portland Row being re-housed in the long-named northside campus at Grangegorman going ahead, “we would see it as an interim solution.”

In the short term, he said, the objective was to keep the building operational for the students. He said that in light of the issues relating to Portland Row, there was “an assurance” that the building would not be re-housed in Grangegorman and would be the faculty of art’s new home before the above-mentioned promise. “We have confidence in the less than satisfactory Portland Row facility. The building was closed for three weeks in September after toilets on the first floor were found to be leaking through to the rooms below. Ms Groener said that staff and students had been instructed by their perspective unions not to enter the building once this leak assurance was put in place.

"See Editorial page five"
Apprentice exploitation uncovered

By Aisling Casey

A DIT survey has revealed that several Irish construction firms are denying apprentices their statutory entitlements.

Construction firms countrywide have come under criticism following revelations that they are leaving their employees without their legal entitlements to pay and allowances. The survey, which was conducted by DIT lecturer Eddie Conlon also revealed that less than a third of apprentices have been registered in pension schemes.

The findings based on a survey of 298 apprentices attending courses in DIT, found that such abuses are widespread in smaller firms and those not associated to IBEC or the Construction Industry Federation. The assessment shows that apprentices on unionised sites are seven times more likely to receive their entitlements, however this only covers just a fifth of all apprentices in the construction sector.

The social science lecturer recommends that apprentices receive written contracts, detailing their entitlements and greater monitoring by statutory bodies such as FAS and the Health and Safety Authority.

Conlon revealed that not only are 47 per cent of apprentices not receiving the exact take-home pay, they were also losing out on over €63.50 a week.

Mr Peter McCabe, Director of the Construction Industry Federation said that the survey’s findings were not valid today as they were based on findings on apprenticeship conditions in 1999.

Although acknowledging that several of the issues raised required following up, he added that the survey’s figures only covered two per cent of the workforce.

Fine Gael MEP Mary Banotti opened the recent language symposium held at DIT Cathal Brugha Street.

The symposium attended by educationalists, language specialists and lecturers, provided a significant insight in the development of language teaching and learning.

European Integration has called for higher requirements than previously seen. Many advances have been made in recent years, such as the introduction of languages to ten-year-old in the Primary School Project. However, there has been a decline in numbers taking languages as an option at third level.

According to research from Eurobarometer in 2001, almost 50 per cent of the Irish population cannot speak a second language, while 40 per cent of these people said it was not useful to know another language. This represents the fifth worst rate in the EU. Commenting on a claim that failure to use in learning another language, Ms Joan Williams, Co-ordinator of the European Year of Languages 2001 said such a claim is a poor reflection on Irish society, "It seems to imply a narrow, insular way of seeing the world and an unwillingness to engage with other cultures through the rich medium of their own languages," she said.

Open sessions such as the recent gathering at CBS allow for the interchange of ideas from all those interested in the linguistic dimensions of European education and in creating a communal European identity.

In conjunction with cultural services in France, Spain and Germany, the meeting addressed one very important issue: how developments in Ireland affect the rest of Europe or rather how a decline in language learners can effect the changing face of European integration.

Civil Service recruitment drive

The Civil Service are looking for talented final year undergraduates to join their winning team. The Civil Service Undergraduate Development Programme 2002 (aimed at students expecting a first or second class honour as their final degree result) offers students the chance to join the Civil Service at Administrative Officer Economics or Third Secretary level. In order to raise the profile of these careers, Civil Servants will be travelling to many colleges around Ireland and holding taster nationwide over a three day period in February (18-20 February 2002). The Civil Service is directly involved in helping to shape Ireland’s future. Students entering at these levels will have an opportunity to contribute to this - through for example conducting critical analysis and research, drafting briefing material for Ministers and Government or drafting legislation for social, health and economic policy. The role of Administrative Officer is the highest entry level to the Civil Service, and is a fast track to senior management within the Civil Service. The role of Administrative Officer Economics involves initial specialised work in the area of economics before broadening into other management areas. Third Secretary is the first step into a career in the diplomatic corps - working in the Department of Foreign Affairs initially, new recruits will then be posted to an Irish Embassy or consulate in one of over sixty locations around the world. These career opportunities are initially based in the Dublin area.

All career opportunities offer benefits such as training and development, a scheme for further study, possibilities for career breaks after being made permanent and a structured career path. Interested students can register their interest on our new on-line application facility: www.publicjobs.ie, where details of locations and examples of test questions are available on Treslin is also available: 01 8587483.

For further information please contact: Aoife O’Sullivan at 01 8587438, Pat O’Dea at 01 8587481 or Cathy Harris at 01 8587483.

* With thanks to Karen Creed
Taoiseach opens window to technology

By Aisling Casey

AN Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD, recently introduced university and city schools to a new world of technology at the launch of the Dublin Institute of Technology’s Inner City Schools Computerisation Project (DISC).

The Project, which is co-ordinated by DIT aims to reduce educational disadvantage faced by inner city school children due to a lack of computer facilities. Speaking at the launch in Scoll Plas Mhuire, Dorset Street, Mr Ahern said that the DISC project will make the enormous difference to young people and their future. He added that he would continue to invest in a nationwide drive to make sure every young person in Ireland has access to appropriate educational software.

It is generally acknowledged that Dublin’s inner city has one of the State’s highest levels of educational disadvantage, which requires a targeted response in such a way as to support students and communities directly effect.

To reduce the potential limitations, faced by many children in the school area, DIT has set out to achieve its goal by upgrading computer facilities and educational software in a manner that will not stifle the capabilities of tertiary education.

It is hoped that the second phase will be as successful as the first where 20 inner city schools were upgraded to full multimedia computer education capacity over a three-year period.

The Taoiseach confirmed that he would continue to invest in a nationwide drive to make sure every young person in Ireland has access to appropriate educational software.

Mr Ahern also called on students who could benefit from this move are entitled to take advantage of it.

DIT may look abroad for future students

By Dermot Keyes

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DIT may look abroad for future students

By Dermot Keyes

The most senior education official in the state has predicted that DIT and fellow third level institutions will have to intensify recruiting activities in Ireland and beyond as the indigenous Irish student population begins to stabilise.

Speaking during a presentation made to the DIT Public Relations Committee (PAC) on January 15, John Denney, secretary general of the Department of Education and Science said the Government is encouraging third level bodies to further develop overseas links to allow for this eventual decline to be managed.

Were such measures to be intensified, Mr Denney said such would be most welcome by his Department.

As several third level centres were already actively recruiting from the Far East, “this will become more of a feature in coming years,” Mr Denney told the Representative group.

He stresses that the Government will continue to encourage as many students to enter third level education as possible. Mr Denney was replying to concerns raised by DIT’s Director of Education and Development Kevin O’Keeffe, who believes that regional third level courses may close several existing courses due to a lack of numbers.

Mr Denney also mentioned that the new arrangements which includes the National Centre for Technology in Ireland, the Hewlett Packard and the Dublin Inner City Partnership.

Lissel Alexander, MD of Hewlett Packard Ireland said, “In a rapidly changing world it is essential that our young people are prepared and educated to achieve success. You children will ensure that Ireland continues to attract the best Multinational Companies.

They locate here because of the highly skilled workforce, people like you who are well educated will become the talented employees of tomorrow.”

The project is a commitment by the parties involved to reduce the core obstacles facing children in the inner city while opening their eyes to technology. "Let this become your window to greater knowledge,” said Mr Alexander.

DITTSU Elections 2002

Dates:

- Nomineations for Elections open on 29th February and close on 5th March 7:16:00
- Candidate’s meeting with Chief Returning Office in DIT Kevin Street @ 18:30 on Tuesday 5th March where materials will be distributed and rules explained.
- Attention returning officer.
- Hustings take place across the DIT Sites on Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th March – Times to be confirmed
- Election Day Wednesday 13th March – all main DIT Sites, Polls open 9am 5pm, Annexes and smallest DIT Centers check posters or SU Office.
- Count on Thursday 14th March – Venue & time to be confirmed

Nomination forms for all office positions available on 20th February in your local SU Office, to be returned by 16:00 on 5th March. Regulations and election procedures given out with nomination form. Any questions- simply ask someone in your local SU Office.
The referendum will ask the people to disapprove or approve two new subsections in Article 40.3 of the Constitution.

The proposed new subsection 4 would provide that the life of the unborn in the womb will be protected in accordance with the Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy Act.

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

It is undoubtedly a complex referendum, arguably the most complicated such proposal to be put to the Irish voter in the history of the State, but this much is clear.

Ultimately a yes vote would approve a proposal to exclude legal abortion in Ireland for women who are suicidal.

Should one choose to vote no, one will be supporting a plan to end the right of a woman who is suicidal to procure legal abortions in Ireland.

By Aoife Stokes

THE constitutional challenge

Government's forthcoming abortion referendum has been met with a legal challenge in the High Court clearing the way for the poll, which will be held on March 6th.

In giving judgement on the challenge, Mr Justice Kelly said the court had no jurisdiction to halt a Government decision to call a referendum. In light of the decision Richard Haass, President of the Union of Students of Ireland (USI) said, "now that the High Court has ruled that the referendum is going to proceed we will be formulating an opinion on that matter." The union will not take an overall stance on the referendum but the Women's Rights Campaign, which is based within the structure of the union is entitled to take a position once a date for the referendum is announced.

In November of last year DIT Council rejected a motion to hold a campus referendum on abortion.

The Council also passed a motion to address the issue of abortion policy for the provision of information on abortion. The High Court challenge was taken by two students from Trinity College Dublin, namely Ms Joanna Morris (a law student) and Ms Paul Callan (a post graduate politics student).

Their challenge sought not to have the referendum but instead to oblige the Government to hold a campus referendum. Their challenge related to Article 46.4 of the Constitution separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution Speaking on the challenge Ms Morris said that they were the students representing the students at DIT who were being used to effect the amendment and in a manner in which it was not intended to be done. He stated that the Bill was effectively in three parts; an amendment to Article 46.4 of the Constitution, the text of the proposed amendment and the text of a proposed Act. Dr Michael Forde SC also representing the students argued that Article 46.4 of the Constitution required that any variation or addition to the Constitution must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the Oireachtas. It should not have a separate existence, he added. Mr Justice Kelly in the form of an Act of the Oireachtas and possessing the constitutional entrenched status. Attorney General Mr Michael McDowell defended the proposed amendment and legislation. Despite the possibility of a Supreme Court appeal by the students, campaigning groups and pressure groups ahead of the March 6th poll will be underway in the coming weeks.

The amendment is an attempt to revert the 1992 judgement in the X case, which permits abortion when there is a real and substantial risk to the life of the mother.

The Bill will not in any way inhibit the current the freedom to travel or the right to information.

Aine Morris believes cash constraints have rendered a large movement out of bounds in the Institute by her party. "In the past it has been difficult to establish in DIT because of the limited access to funding," she said. Gerry O'Connell of Young Fine Gael also blames in-house regulations at DIT. "The DIT policy up to a couple of years ago was not letting political parties active in the campus," he added. Recruitment in DIT is also a concern, Mr O'Connell says. Young Fine Gael did have branches in Kevin Street and Bolton Street but both have lapsed in the last year. "The universities are our bread and butter. We have a huge number of members there," he adds.

Ogra Fianna Fail's Sinéad Ni Mhínsheil believes the level of support for political parties who set up as a society is minimal. "There was supposed to be a separate political societies Freshers' Day for the campuses but we were only informed about it in DIT Cathal Brugha Street. I do not know if this was intentional or not." Ogra FF did have branches five years ago but they also lapsed. "The level of support for political parties is minimal to none. There is no financial support," she adds. However, Ogra Sinn Féin's Séan MacDiarmuid, says, "Support by the Student's Union in DIT is great. We have experienced no problems with the Union." The party has an inter-political society this year involving DIT Kevin Street, Bolton Street and Cathal Brugha Street. Mr MacDiarmuid informs me that the society received limited funding of €200 so far this year.

It seems that without financial funding many of the students associations will not attempt to establish societies in DIT. Are some political parties using DIT's funding policy as a scapegoat for their own lack of effort? My advice to the young politicians it to remember - the 22,000 students in DIT, is the future of Ireland.

Sin Sinn Féin got €1,000 in funding for DIT was stated for the first couple of months but a decision was made to give extra as it is an inter society).
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Baltic Bliss

After barely eleven years of independence the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have undergone massive fundamental changes as they struggle to manage this new found freedom. Aoife Stokes took a trek through the diverse Baltic capitals.

As the train pulled into Tallinn in Estonia it was cold and wet. We had booked a hostel seven kilometers outside the city centre and so we set off in a taxi to an area in the suburbs where the skyline was dominated with a mass of grey high-rise buildings as opposed to the modern and attractive new area the hostel’s website had promised.

However once inside, the Mihtra hostel had clean and comfortable rooms and for only three pounds a night we couldn’t really go wrong.

When we finally soared ourselves into action we headed for the city centre on the welcomingly efficient bus service. The city is divided very clearly into an old and new town.

The new industrial area is practical and functional like the business district of any European city.

By stark contrast, the old town is a stunningly beautiful collection of old stone turrets and buildings, all confined in the ancient city walls.

Not only this but the area is awash with small restaurants offering a range of cuisines at very reasonable prices. Stone arches and cobbled streets also hold plenty of pubs including a couple of rudimentary Irish establishments for the parched traveller.

Spoilt for choice, we settled on an Italian restaurant. White washed stone walls and clean white linen coupled with good food and a nice bottle of wine replenished us suitably to take a hike up to the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral which is opposite Estonia’s Parliament building.

Even with eyes foggy with the drink there was no denying the stunning view over the city.

Tallinn’s town square is dominated by the only surviving Gothic town hall in northern Europe.

Its spire is 17th century but the weather vane at its top has been present in Tallinn since 1530.

On this particular afternoon the square was filled with Estonian teenagers dancing to the traditional music being blasted out by an enthusiastic Scottish band.

If you’re looking for some history there are number of museums in the town, the most interesting being the City museum where a fascinating history of this oft-invaded stronghold is presented in an interesting and accessible fashion. Tallinn, has passed through the hands of conquerors, at one stage even being sold to the Germans by the Danish in 1346.

Unfortunately, later rail passes no longer exist for the Baltics due to a cessation of international travel between the three countries.

Therefore if you’re planning on visiting all three on a budget it’s seven or eight hour coach journeys all the way. With this the only option for our budget we packed up our rucksacks and set off for Latvia on a not so spacious Europolines coach.

Eight hours later and with cramped legs and rumbling stomachs we arrived in Riga. It is a pretty city with cobbled streets lined with fantastic architecture and although it’s business district and old town overlap, they do so neatly.

Deciding to treat ourselves to a cheapish hotel we made use of the luxury to scrub up and then hit the cobbles in search of some grub. Whilst it did take some time we managed to find a great restaurant which was part of a hotel but surprisingly managed to avoid the usual cliché of awful hotel food.

Riga is the biggest and busiest of all the Baltic capitals and houses a vast amount of historical interest. St Peter’s Church, originally a 15th century structure was bombed ferociously during the Second World War but has since been restored.

There is a fantastic view from the 72 metre high spire but it can be pretty windy so be sure to hang on to the rusty railing.

There are a range of museums in the city from the Motor Museum to the Museum of Jews in Latvia. A humbling informative choice is the Museum of Latvian Occupation. Documenting the treatment of Jews in Riga and Latvia during WWII it has a chilling collection of letters and other items which highlight the personal stories of the many Latvians sent to camps in Siberia.

After a couple of nights of luxury in Riga it was onwards to Vilinwis, Lithuania’s leafy capital. With a history of occupation, famine and plague what exists today is a pretty city with examples of stunning baroque architecture and the added attraction of the relaxed feel of a university town.

Abandoning the comparative luxury of Riga we booked into the nearest hostel once we had stumbled off the bus in the dark. It is safe to say that the area around the bus station, which happens to be a red light zone, is far from pleasant. It’s wise to avoid the Smiley Face hostel where you don’t get allocated a particular bed and people fall in drunk at any time looking for somewhere to collapse.

However as an alternative to this don’t even consider the hotel opposite McDonalds right beside the bus station. Whilst the lobby is cleverly renovated the rest of the building stills from the 1950s or thereabouts and doesn’t appear to have seen a lick of paint or a spray of air freshener since then.

The area around the President’s palace and Vilinwis University is the most pleasant.

The Gedimino Tower on top of the Gediminas Hill is a good hike but in the red brick tower on the hill is a museum of old Vilinwis, the roof of which serves as a viewing point some 48 metres above the city.

There are a range of interesting restaurants in this part of the town and the University pub serves fantastic food and of course drink for a very reasonable price.

In close proximity is the large St Kazimierz Church dominating a wide plaza which has long been and still is a hub of local activity. St Kazimierz Church which was built by the Jesuits in the early 1600s functioned as a museum of atheism under Soviet rule.

Leaving Vilinwis was the easiest departure of all, not because it lacks any of the cultural attractions of Tallinn or Riga, but because of a real difficulty in booking accommodation which you should make sure you do in advance.

Tallinn in Estonia probably stands out as the naiest and easiest to navigate of all three cities but this is possibly only by virtue of the fact that it is the smallest.

And there’s nothing to detract from Riga as a potential destination.

It’s impossible to chose but each and every one of the Baltic capitals stood in history and rich in architecture, not to mention with great pubs, are definitely worth a visit.
Life tastes good

Coca-Cola
**RAG Week 2002**

**Mountjoy Square**

"Monday Night sees DIT Mountjoy Square return to the Big Tree Tavern for a traffic light night with DIT Cathal Brugha Street. Tuesday will introduce to many first years the new infamous Mystery RAG Trip. Tickets are priced at 13. Buses will leave the college at 11.30am and will return sometime the next morning. To find out what happens in between, you’ll just buy a ticket and find out for yourself.

"All this and a lot more should hopefully see this RAG Week, the last RAG Week in the Square for many of you, be a blast for us and hugely beneficial for the charities we will be raising money for."

Joe Murphy

**Cathal Brugha Street**

"Each DIT site has chosen to take their own charity to support with the class representatives here in Cathal Brugha Street chose homeless charity Focus. The week will kick off with a pizza eating competition, which is guaranteed to be hilarious – remember to get the seats towards the back because we have learned from previous years that this can be a messy affair. So get involved as there’s a brilliant prize to be won for stuffing yourself stupid.

With Valentines Day approaching we offer you the opportunity to buy your perfect date at our ‘Slave auction,’ this night will be combined with a traffic light ball, and will include special drink promotions and you never know, you may find love!

Cathal Brugha teams up with Bolton Street for the RAG trip to its customary secret location. Tickets are on sale in the Student Union shop and cost 15. Buses will leave at 12.00 outside Cathal Brugha Street. Sorry folks, God only knows what time you’ll be home at, so tell your folks not to wait.

Wednesday will be a chilled day and just to let you all know we will be filming all you guys on the RAG Trip, with footage from the trip being shown in the Back Gate the day, so up and coming stars this could be your chance to get noticed!!! We would ask that you give generously to the buckets that will be going around in aid of Focus Ireland, the charity that helps the homeless community."

John McKeown

**Bolton Street**

DITSU Bolton St. has opted to support two local charities from amongst the many available for inclusion during RAG Week, namely The Friends of the Elderly and the Markets Area Community Resource Organisation (MACERO).

We have a Pot Noodle POTSTARS’ promotion kicking off the week on Monday, a casino afternoon on Wednesday, and ‘Babelfish’ to play in the college on the Thursday. Along with the usual events, we here in Bolton St. are running a week long competition, ‘El Mission,’ which involves teams of four taking part in different challenges with the winning team receiving a keg of beer for themselves.

El Mission requires skill determination, a touch of insanity and a hell of a lot of energy!

DIT S.U. officers offer a preview of what RAG Week will provide DIT’s party-mad students with

**Kevin Street**

"RAG Week 2002 is here and it promises to be the biggest and best yet (S.U. isn’t). The main event in the Point will be phenomenal and those of you who have set to get tickets hurry cos they are going fast. With a fantastic line up and plenty of terrific extras (see flyers and posters) it really will be a memorable occasion.

Of course RAG Week would not be the same without all the regular RAG Trip anyone!"

Try your best to get involved in some event and enjoy while we the students raise funds for two very worthwhile causes in the local Vincent de Paul homeless shelter and the Special Olympics 2003.

Des Alvey

**Aungier Street**

"Hi everybody! Hope you’ve got your pennies (or cents) because we’ve got a timetable bursting with fun-filled events.

"Of course, the big one for the week is the Ball which takes place on Thursday 14th in the Point Depot. This aims to be the biggest and best student party the world has ever seen.

For those of you who are new to college life, the RAG Trip provides the most memorable (or not so memorable) experience of student life.

"This year, as with every other year, the destination remains a mystery, and sometimes can stay that way!

But we can promise you an unbelievable time will be had by all.

For both of the events, make sure you buy your tickets early so as to avoid disappointment.

"Check out the timetables around Aungier Street to see what’s going on."

Karl Bonar

**Rag Week Revelries**

**Enjoy the week but stay safe**

By Andrew Kavanagh

Doyle (Mountjoy Square DITSU Deputy President)

It’s that time of year again when everything goes a bit blurry, as RAG Week with all its charms, loom on the DIT horizon.

This year it’s set to be a great one keeping with tradition of Mountjoy Square.

As Welfare officer there is just a few things I have to remind you such as play safe, remember to practice safe sex in other words don’t be silly put a condom on your... (remorseful - Ed).

Look after each other, on occasion people may overdosed themselves, so just make sure they get home safely and are looked after. Watch your drinks, don’t leave them down, always keep your drink with you and buy your own – don’t let a stranger buy a drink for you – the threat posed by Date Rape is real. DITSU just wants everyone to enjoy the week and stay safe.

For some, RAG Week is a once in a lifetime thing it’s a way of meeting new people in your college and having new experiences.

It’s a steep learning curve with lots of highs and the only lows are the hangovers the morning after.

So to finish off I hope to see you out or on as many of the nights as possible particularly the RAG Ball and, as someone who has never forgotten his, I know this is a week you’ll never forget!"
**BLAGGERS GUIDE TO RAG WEEK**

**MONDAY**

So it begins... the week students partake in their favourite pastimes for a great cause. Rag week is all about raising and giving. This year Kevin Street will be donating money to the homeless people of the intermediate area. The week begins with charity leg-waxing and the “Beer crate standoff” where you can win enough beer to tie you over for the week.

The night kicks off with Karaoke and a Silent & Live Auction once again in aid of charity. See details around the college for who you can purchase the services of!

**TUESDAY**

The Kevin st tradition!!! You haven’t lived until you’ve tried a Rag Trip. 500 students pile onto a bus early in the morning not knowing what to expect but sure of a fantastic experience. Stopping at nightclubs and pubs throughout the day in venues unknown.

Partying through till the early morning somewhere in the sticks before returning to Dublin early on Wednesday. Tickets are only €35 Great Value!!!

**WEDNESDAY**

Still alive?? Stumble into college for some more fun and games. The popular Marmee Brown will also be reading palms & the like. A hypnotist is off revealing your darkest secrets on the Waxophone evening with the students of Rathmines in Transit. Planet Murphy’s will be the final resting place with all your favourite party games & drinks just €2. No queues for Kevin Street students and cheap admissions sweeten the deal.

**THURSDAY**

Ah, Valentines Day, with love in the air and all that; the biggest DIT student event ever takes place in the Point.

Things are looking up for all those lonely hearts with the possibility of meeting their Romeo/Suziet among 6,000 people, if that’s not choice I don’t know what is!!! With a cracking line up such as Mark McCabe, Al Gibb, Elvis the way it was, Zoo 2, Boogie Wonderland, Johnny Massacre, the Hultabolos, a freak show to mention but a few. A total carnival atmosphere will be achieved with the jugglers, stil walkers, fire eaters, magicians, tarot card readers... all been broadcast live by the FM104 “Road Hog” and www.redfin.tv on the web. You just might achieve that 15 minutes of fame sooner than you think.

Tickets should be purchased well in advance for this amazing one off night. Tickets are only €20 and doors open at 7.30 p.m. with a late bar ID required.

Just remember it’s all for charity and the money from this will be going to the 2003 Special Olympic World Summer Games.

**ELVIS “THE WAY IT WAS”**

Featuring a 14 piece orchestra

**The Classic Beatles**

The ultimate all time experience

**Boogie Wonderland**

A tribute to the 70’s

**Zoo 2**

The greatest rock band ever

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**FOR THE FIRST TIME EXTRA BARS IN THE AUDITORIUM**

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**THREE DJ’S:**

Mark McCabe — FM 104 Road Hog

Al Gibb — FM 104 euphoria

Steve Cooper — FM 104 Road Bangers

DJ Slobby — Legend

---

**ALSO FEATURING:**

Johnny Massacre, The Hultabolos, Freak Show • Plus...Jugglers, Fire Eaters, Tarot Card Readers, Magicians, Clowns. • FM 104 “Road Hog” broadcasting live @ The Point • Hundreds of free prizes and giveaways • Live video feed on the web: www.redfin.tv

Ticket Price: <20 Doors open at 7:30PM Late Bar. ID Required. R.O.A.D.
Just get a special J1 loan for the states.

Sort out your finance before you travel, talk to us or visit www.aib.ie/students

Get the most out of college. Be with AIB.

Allied Irish Banks plc is licensed by the Central Bank of Ireland. Typical APR of 9.4% as at 19th November 2001 based on charges after interest free period has elapsed. Loan facilities are subject to repayment capacity and financial status and are not available to people under 18 years of age. Security may be required. Personal Loans are regulated under the terms of the Consumer Credit Act:1995.
Food for thought

Fiona Hynes investigates the lunchtime options for cash-strapped student around the city

Spars on Camden Street is one of the more expensive places to buy a lunch. A roll with three/four fillings and a bottle of drink comes to about Euro 4.50, the most expensive I have found so far.

the DIT’s situated around the city in an effort to find out. Firstly on the list was Mountjoy Square, where I found after a long investigation students do not have many options on offer to choose from. First on my list was Fitz Deli, a popular agent and deli off Mountjoy Square. On this occasion, Barry Tanciar, one of the city’s more popular lunchtime stands

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but if you’re like me, the idea of spending your lunch break queuing in the stuffy canteen is not exactly enticing. So, with that in mind, I hit up Gardner Street, a favourite spot for many a Mountjoy student. Here on a weekday lunchtime is full of hungry students, willing to pay the extra euros for a comfortable cushioned seat and the availability of a plug.

One of more the popular options here is the renowned “toastie”, which will set you back €2.20 for a single filling and €2.80 for a combination. If the hunger requires something a little more filling then sausage and chips is on the menu for €3.80 and a meal from the carvery costs between €4.50 and €5. Hill 16 serves lunch between 12 o’clock and 3 o’clock. Londis, Gardner Street, is also an option for students looking for a quick lunch. Here a standar roll will cost you €2.90. In cumshot some chicken or turkey stuffed in that roll, the price jumps to €3.60.

Next it’s off to Bolton Street where students have a lot more variety on offer when it comes to choosing lunch. Once you walk through the four doors of the college you are bombarded with an array of delis running the length of the street across the road. Dessi’s, a small deli’s with a limited deli seems to specialise in breakfast rolls and I am met with the sight of limp sausages swimming in grease when I enter. Such a roll will cost you €2.90 and if it’s a card or cardless roll you’re looking for, Dessi’s is the place to be.

Deli Baby, a few doors up, is a cafe set-up and seems to be with Dessi’s in the grease is the word option. Lorraine, manager at the cafe, gr bush that a full breakfast roll will only cost you €3.60, and that’s with chips! A roll is cheap at €1.90 for one filling and €3.20 if you want to cram four or five fillings in. Declan’s Newsagent and Deli on Bolton Street completes the greasy spoon experience, a breakfast roll is again a popular option here.

Peter, a fourth year Construction Engineering student, tells me that a roll here with all the frills will set you back around €4.50.

When the lunchtime break rolls around and the hunger pains become almost unbearable, a quick and filling lunch is the only thing on a student’s mind.

PJ’s Newagent next door boasts a student lunch deal where a chicken fillet roll with a bottle of coke will only cost the ravenous student €3.80. A roll with three fillings costs €2.54.

Londis on Camden Street is one of my last ports of call where I find a roll with three fillings costs €2.80, a sandwich with one meat is €2.20 and a panini with three fillings registers at €2.99.

Fiona Hynes investigates the lunchtime options for cash-strapped student around the city

When the lunchtime break rolls around and the hunger pains become almost unbearable, a quick and filling lunch is the only thing on a student’s mind.

For many students breakfast has become a thing of the past, a distant memory of soggy Cornflakes and even soggy toast lovingly prepared by adoring parents before we grabbed our lunchbox and skipped off to school. Cut to student life. For most of us, who have figured out the latest time possible to get up so that we can arrive at our first lecture on time, breakfast just doesn’t come into the equation. Unless of course, a bag of crisps consumed along the way counts for anything.

So when the lunchtime break rolls around and the hunger pains become almost unbearable, a quick and filling lunch is the only thing on a student’s mind.

Being the ever-conscientious student I decided to venture to a few of these students, is that you pay for quality. (A quality breakfast roll is available here - my gut is testament to its yuminess - Ed.)

Across the Liffey students from Aungier Street and Kevin Street have many of the same options when it comes to choosing lunch. Anne Doyle from McCrains on Aungier Street says 90% of their customers each day are students. ‘On any given day the queue for food is likely to spill out onto the street’ she said. The menu is extensive and customers can choose from various filling for rolls and sandwiches. Some hot food is also available. A salad sandwich will set you €1.90, a BLT €2.70 and extras will cost you €45 cent per item.

Café Sora on Kevin Street, boasts an impressive array of foods in its deli, from peppers to sun dried tomatoes. ‘It makes a change from chicken tikka’, customer tells me. Available on this menu are ciabattas for €3.75 with three fillings.

Wraps will cost you €3.62 and a panini will set you back €5.7. A point to note here is that at prices are subject to vat and service charge.

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**The Shape of Things**

By Adam Hyland

'Atrocities is the new black.' was Neil LaBute's introduction to his staging of Basic Lattitudes Plays when it played Dublin's Gate Theatre in March of last year. It was an American playwright and film director develops this notion further with his latest play, *The Shape of Things*, which was reviewed on January 31, (opening February 5) at The Gate. It promises, to be just as provocative and shocking.

Harold Pinter walked out of the premiere in London's Almeida Theatre the last time someone walked out in disgust, before the show even started. As rock music blared out over the audience, the famous English playwright exclaimed to his wife, "I hope it's not all like this," before deciding he'd rather not take the chance, and promptly left just as the curtain came up.

LaBute, described as "The best new playwright to emerge in the past decade" by The New Yorker, and The Shape of Things, heralded as "The best new American play in a decade" by The Independent, has certainly taken the stage by storm. The feeling that the characters are "in a contemporary look at our obsession with image and what happens to us when the lines between art and life are blurred."

True to form, the authors dig deep into the theme of what happens when the lines between art and reality become confused. The author cuts a cynical eye over the art of manipulation – of people, of art and of reality – to reveal a world where people are moulded like pieces of clay by cruel and sadistic others for the purposes of self-progression.

It is cold and ruthless, but genuinely enthralling. Like the tuggage to his second film, *Your Friends and Neighbours*, it is a "modern interior tale". The simplistic characterisation and names of the two leads, Adam and Evelyn, suggest as much. Their interaction leads to a superb twist that will leave you both shocked and delighted. It will almost certainly provoke serious thought, if not a few arguments with your partner.

This is just part of the message *LaBute* is trying to get across – it's something that makes you feel a certain way, and it doesn't really matter what way that is. The important thing is that you feel. He examines the questions of what exactly is it that makes 'art' art, and can it be separate from reality? The play succeeds in raising many unanswered questions and as such, is a fine work of art itself. "It's a piece of work", What is important is that we see this examination take place and are thus watching art. It doesn't matter if the questions are never answered, as Evelyn says: "Don't worry about why when what is right in front of you."

As with *The Company of Men* and *Your Friends and Neighbours*, *LaBute*‘s characters here are both sharply drawn and vague at the same time, combining just enough of each to allow the audience to play "insert face here". They will remind you of people you know. Their behaviour inevitably touches a nerve and forces you to relate to them in more ways than you might want to admit. Who you relate to care the Simmon Community's provides. The hike accounted for one fifth of the funds raised last year.

"The Simmon Community are tackling an increasing problem which affects everyone," says Adam. "The housing and rent crisis as well as the expanding divide between wealth and poverty means that people can very quickly go from a state of relative comfort to absolute poverty and can quite easily find themselves living on the streets."

If you would like to donate to Adam Hyland's campaign or have any suggestions for fundraising, contact The DIT Independent (diteeditor@hotmail.com) and we'll pass on your details.

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**China Challenge**

How far would you go to help the 'homeless'? One DIT student is going a few steps further than a few coppers in a cup. Adam Hyland, MA student at DIT Aungier St is setting off to hike along the Great Wall of China, as part of the Simmon Community's "China Challenge" campaign.

Along with 70 other volunteers, Adam has to raise 4,440 single handedly to finance the expedition. It runs over five days, and by the end, Adam and the group will have covered 100 miles on foot. The trip entails walking through areas of China rarely seen by westerners due to the inaccessible nature of the terrain. However, the group will be accompanied by a guide from "Across the Divide", a company who specialise in excursions that run off the beaten track.

Walking an average of 20 miles a day they will trek along the wall, which hangs perilously on the Yanshan Mountains, down to the low-lying rural villages of China.

The cast of 'The Shape of Things', which opened at the Gate on February 5

**Theatre Reviews**

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There are more homeless people sleeping rough in Dublin alone than in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Nottingham and Oxford put together.
The Classic Beatles, who perform at the DITSU RAG Ball at the Point Theatre on February 14.

TWENTY two thousand students, six thousand tickets...yes folks the maths don’t add up for this year’s RAG Ball, which is being held at the Point Theatre on Valentine’s Night February 14th. DITSU has lined up a hugely entertaining line-up with enough musical variety to cater for every discernible taste.

With Elvis ‘The Way it Was’ the glory days of American rock and roll will be revisited and the Classic Beatles will play the legendary notes and lyrics, penned by Lennon, McCartney and Harrison. Bono lovers will be more than entertained by Zoo 2, who are certain to get the packed auditorium rockin’, while Boogie Wonderland will awe the inner 70’s swinger in all of us. With DJ’s Al Gibes, Mark McCabe and Steve Cooper to follow with the latest chart music as well as the best in dance, this year’s RAG Ball is set to become one to be remembered.

Extra watering holes under the Point roof will whet the appetite of the thirsty throng on what promises to be the highlight of a week of drunken debauchery and débâcle! So get your tickets now for the major DIT student event of the year, which, if successful, will represent the biggest such RAG Ball held anywhere in Ireland this year.

And with your money going towards Special Olympics Ireland as the countdown to next year’s Special Olympic World Games continues, remember, that the sound in the game has always been a key selling point of games however primitive and nothing has changed. There is a great mix of dance tracks in the game including some top names such as Orbital. The sound effects are also excellent, created out of a basic set of Logic II supported. While the controls take a while to get used to, once mastered one will be flying around with the best.

Fans of racing games will enjoy this title, and it comes highly recommended.

By Dermot Keyes

DUBLIN group Babilfish will play both DIT Bolton Street and Cathal Brugha Street during Rag Week. The group, composed of Gerry Hormans, Stuart Marcell and Catherine Dowling promise to provide top class entertainment on CBS on the 14th of February and at Bolton Street on Valentine’s Day.

Catherine Dowling, previously involved with Cassa, has been writing songs for several years and offers a vocal delivery style, as individual as her melodies and all the better for that.

Bassist Karl Odlum has recently moved more and more into the field of music production and recently collaborated with Gemma Hayes and Pina Colada amongst others. On guitar, Gerry Horan has contributed lots of noise to numerous underground garage bands in his teenage ‘angst-ridden’ years.

Combine the lazy throaty vocal styles of Dowling, the ambient guitar-playing styles of Horan with the polished production skills and bass playing of Odlum and you’ve got Babilfish, who formed in March of last year.

Despite their relatively short time together, the group has moved faster than most with some of their tracks appearing on a number of leftfield compilations as well as on film soundtracks for both Irish and international productions.

Their debut EP, ‘Sometimes’ is an upbeat fusion of electronica, ambient sounds and leftfield pop, according to a group press release and reflects the lighter side of their collection with their live show featuring heavier grooves and trippier moods.

‘Sometimes’ has been making a considerable mark on both press and radio since its release. As well as being voted onto Tom Dunne’s (Petrusounds) weekly charts on Today FM, it was also recently awarded a ‘single of the week’ on 2FM.

Babilfish play DIT Cathal Brugha Street on Monday February 10th from 5 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. as part of the Rag Week festivities. They also have a hunchtime gig at DIT Bolton Street on Thursday February 14th.

Babilfish also play Whelans on Tuesday, February 19th. Doors 8.30pm.

*For more information contact babilfish@eircom.net or call 087 9480710

Dublin stores: Blanchardstown Centre, Grafton Street, Henry Street, The Pavilions Shopping Centre, Swords & Tallaght

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There's Hal to pay at the movies

Shallow Hal
It's been a busy season at the box office with wave after wave of American war films being churned out. It was refreshing to go and review something that didn't comprise of America defending the moral and social lines of an endangered nation. Mind you the other side of the coin was a comedy from the men that make inbreeding in southside Dublin a regular and normal practice. I am of course talking about the Farrelly brothers and their latest creation, Shallow Hal.

Hal, played by Jack Black, is an emotionally retarded twenty-something who has incredibly high standards when it comes to women. He spends his nights plaguing gorgeous women in clubs and across the hall with little success. No way to go through life I agree. Of course something has to give and when Hal gets trapped in an elevator with positive thinking guru Tony Robbins, his perception and outlook on life are changed forever.

Hal now sees only the inner beauty in women turning a Picasso into a Rembrandt. In turn he turns into the most caring guy and falls for the Rosie, played by the always stunning Gweneth Paltrow, the rather overweight daughter of his boss. Thanks to Tony, Rosie looks like a model to Hal, and they fall in love. It is only when Hal returns to his original state of mind that he is forced to choose between his head and his heart.

Of course this is a Farrelly Brothers movie and there are plenty of slapstick moments to keep you entertained. It's at times a little trashy and even sentimental, which is surprising from these film makers, but all in all it is worth a viewing. It's no 'There's something about Mary' but close enough to warrant a screening.

Eoin Murphy

From Hell
Starring: Johnny Depp, Heather Graham and Ian Holm.

One ordinarily expects creepy, spooky-themed movies to be, well creepy and spooky and the Hughes' Brothers' latest effort more than delivers on this count. The latest retelling of the Jack The Ripper legend takes us back to late 19th century London when the world's most famous serial killer wreaked a reign of terror in one of the city's best known red light districts.

Hot on the heels of the mysteriously miscueful murderer is the unorthodox Inspector Abberline (Depp). Via a combination of some mind blowing narcotics and all the instincts one would expect from a crafty cockney copper, Abberline opens a homely nest during his investigation, which brings him into contact with Irish-born prostitute Mary Kelly (Heather Graham). As the Ripper sets about avenging a decades long grudge against one of Her Majesty's finest, Abberline's hunches about who and what is behind the ghastly murders of several prostitutes become more and more plausible.

The ensuing nightmare that envelops the Whitechapel area in the August to November 1888 period is excellently recreated and the murders never go without being graphic, leaving the true manner of each become horrific to the imagination. The movie is incredibly dark, both in plot development and in its direction, with about 80% of the action performed under darkness. The suspense is well maintained, the supporting acts of Robbie Coltrane, Ian Holm and the brilliant Ian Richardson more than adequately support the always excellent Depp while Graham proves the weakest star on show with a less than spot-on Cockney dialect.

This is very much a scary movie in the classic sense of moviemaking - much of the horror is created in the mind of the viewer while the directors still provide enough harrowing moments to witness on screen.

Definitely worth a viewing, though you may never consider your inside in the same light again.

Dermot Keyes

No fencing for Swordfish

Video Review
By Eoin Murphy

Swordfish is a sharp, fast paced, glib, witty adventure that bears more than a little resemblance to the Matrix and boasts an all-star cast.

As part of his acting renaissance, John Travolta heads up this impressive line up that includes Halle Berry and Hugh Jackman, both from X-Men, the always tough and menacing Vinny Jones. Directed by Dominic Sena, this highly acclaimed action adventure tells the story of a very powerful and well connected gangster named Gabriel (Travolta), who enlists the services of a down and out computer hacker, who is fighting desperately to get his daughter back from his porn-star wife, to attempt to steal ten billion dollars from a corrupt government agency.

This is a good flick with more twists and turns than the road to Loughrea.

Travolta and Jackman give good accounts of themselves while Berry steals the show with a complete performance and a small bit of toplessness.

While there is a classic moral dilemma running through out the movie, in order for Jackman to save his daughter he must help Travolta complete the perfect crime, it generally gets a bit preachy.

It is definitely one of the better movies out for rent at the moment, and appeals to both male and female audiences.

While there are fast cars gorgeous women and slick computers, there is also a good story, interesting plots and sub plots, separating Swordfish from the mindless trash that is circulating Xtra vision shelves at the moment.

If you are thinking of a good night in with a vid, then Swordfish is my recommendation.

Enjoy.

Eoin Murphy

Rat Race
Second up is Rat Race. This is more of a three stooges kind of movie with an all-star cast and that unbearable Rowan Atkinson.

By now the world is running out of things to gamble on and in the world's center for gambling, Las Vegas, a casino owner (John Cleeese), decides to hold a contest.

The six teams selected must go off in search of millions of dollars, using whatever means of transport they can. What they teams don't know is that people are betting on them and that they are being watched the whole time.

The cast consists of Cuba Gooding Jr., Whoopie Goldberg, Seth Green and a great cameo by Cathy Bates. Rat Race is brought to the big screen by David Zucker, creator of Airplane and the Naked Gun movies, yet it lacks their wink and style.

There are a few very funny incidents in the film as it meanders through this unlikely event. Of course the participants ultimately see find out the magnitude of their task and that they are the world's longest horse race and decide to do something about it.

It is a little disappointing given the director and becomes a little tacky in the end. Personally I would wait till it came out on video.

Eoin Murphy

Inspector Abberline (Johnny Depp) ponders the imponderable in 'From Hell'
City Sounds
By Laurence Mackin

There are many different things in this world that I enjoy, many forms of entertainment that I indulge in, and I am perfectly willing to try pretty much everything, if only the once, and damn the consequences, be they judicial or medical. But seriously, lad, modern dance: what’s the story with all that? Now I know my culturally sheltered rural upbringing may have stunted my appreciation of all things arty a little, and granted, it is extremely difficult. I think. Well, I know the whole ballet thing is pretty much beyond the realms of my physical comprehension. I think it’s a Russian thing, self-punishment, living in freezing temperatures, communism. But modern dance, really and truly, is there a point?

Answers on a postcard.

I have attempted to defend most art forms, be they high or low, but sometimes I find myself speechless and dumb with wonder at the sheer pointlessness of some of the stuff that occupies our galleries and theatres. The annual Turner Prize is always good for a laugh, and this year was no exception. Did you know that the fruits of your labour when you tried to rewire the ESB in the dodgy student flat after the capitalist swine cut off you could have won the Turner Prize last year? Light turning on and off? Confused? You should be. It’s art apparently.

Anyhow, back to the world of comprehensible entertainment. By the time you read this, two dinosaurs of music will have roared their Jurassic heads at the Point. Brian Wilson (ex Beach Boys) and Deep Purple (ex all command head guy). I don’t touch the stuff anymore, I’ve got a family to look after now! play within a week of each other. Purple toured the US with Lynyrd Skynyrd throughout the summer in the US leaving us all wondering just which version of Ozzy Osbourne are they using.

The Project Arts Centre has a really good line up going wise for February, with Thrush playing on the 6th, the Havana Orchestra on 7th and Red Neck Manifesto on the 8th. Nice bit of hardcore, followed by some big band Cuban style and then some well honed post rock. Break out me coffee mug it’s going to be a long weekend. Gorky’s Zygotic Mynci are in Whelan’s on the 8th of February as well. They haven’t played here in two years and this will be a welcome return for one of indie music’s long serving soldiers. This could be the time to cash in though, their lead singer is called Euro Child. Stick that in your marketing pipe and smoke it. Project strikes again with the Jimmy Cake on the 28th of February and some of the nicest buses in Dublin. Wonder how many times that pun get used.

There is a gig or something on in The Shelter on 2nd February called ‘Dark Funeral and Occult’, I haven’t a notion what this is about but it sounds brilliant.

On your to do list said: must get tickets for Godspeak You Black Emperor, The last time they played was in the TBMC with Sigur Ros and Fly Pan Am and it was a night of gargantuan proportions. I’m not sure if this night will live up to the precedent though. Avoed anti-festivals of things people, GYBM have come in for some serious criticism for turning to the dark side and playing at an MCD venue, which goes against their previous refusal to involve themselves with the corporate side of the industry. Check out their website and you will know what I mean. The OR interview in particular smells like the sweat of a poorly read writer in over his head. I can relate to that. Apparently, ticket sales for the gig are slow, but I think most people will get over their disgust and go anyway. Promises to be an epic night, so make like Stansky and go, go, go.

If anybody has anything they want to let me know (now little. I know about music comments are the norm) or any answers to my questions above then bang in an email to city_sounds@hotmail.com especially in relation to that whole modern dance thing because I can’t figure it out.

By Frances Rocco-Governey

What with all that life has given me I do feel like giving a little back sometimes. Writing this column is practically charity-work anyway.

Every year we hold the annual black tie sore in aid of charity. Basically it’s a 360’ plate, which is for nothing when you think that its Jean Michael on the stove. Basically it’s in aid of inner city children. Sometimes as the DTU campuses are all in the city centre we thought we would get together to raise some money for them, I mean, hopefully it will stop the little knackers keying my boner every week, it’s practically protection money to stop them from begging off me. I think it’s to open up more methadone clinics or tanning booths or something, whatever keeps them off the streets is fine by me.

Several people have asked me how I manage to do so much with such a packed schedule so FYI, I thought. I would reveal some of my favourite time-saving techniques. But don’t tell everyone, they are strictly on the g & t. Firstly, I have a car but it’s practically a power trip we should start with the basics, just I mean, come on, we have to get to play with the flunky in the office to get out and get you a low fat frappucino in a tanning booth or something, it’s practically how they socialise. Not like moi and are well used to it; it’s practically charity work anyway.

Anywho, ce tout pour le mo. Until next time, ciao.

FRG
Note on February Sport

This month's DIT Independent was due to cover the DIT hurling team's first match in the Fitzgibbon Cup away to Limerick on Saturday February 2nd, but because of the adverse weather, the match was called off. The game was moved to Wednesday, February 5th, but unfortunately this meant the game was too late to be reported in this month's issue.

Meanwhile, the replay of the first round Sigerson Cup game against NUIG, which was held on Tuesday, February 5th, as the first match was called off due to inclement weather, results for both will appear in next month's issue.

Any queries, sporting tidbits and the like can be mailed to me at dlspport@hotmail.com, so please feel free to do so. Well worth reading, isn't it.

DIT Independent

Irish Colleges Hockey Cup

DIT get second chance after player mix-up

By Dermot Keyes

DIT hockey's Simon Clarke was a mighty relieved man as his team was provided a second bite of the cherry by Tallaght IT. Clarke, who is a member of his team was found to be ineligible in a recent match against NUIG. Clarke had played, but was not named in the team sheet. The replay was due to take place on Tuesday February 5th, but in the event the game was postponed due to bad weather. Clarke had just been named as one of the best player of the year by the Irish Hockey Association.

Simon Clarke: his team was provided a second bite of the cherry by Tallaght IT

DIT Independent

Whistle Blowers

Eurosport: NTL give it the R.I.P.

It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month.

Well, that's it. The channel provoked its fair share of ridicule.

But while we may laugh at Statto's joyous cheers over the Irish team's flights in Dublin Airport, with the IFA's comments on its handling of the World Cup and the FIFA's comments on the World Cup, this is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month. It is with great sadness with which we scribble our Whistleblowers musings this month.
Sporting anoraks everywhere have been raving about an Irish soccer website devoted to the world of the football commentator.

Dermot Keyes spoke to its Editor Larry Ryan about the simply brilliant DangerHere.com. “And here comes a newspaper editor with a deadline to meet, danger here.....

Dermot Keyes: Larry, where did the idea for DangerHere.com come from?

Larry Ryan: Hi Dermot. The DangerHere thing actually started nearly two years ago. Myself and a few of the lads were watching Real Madrid give Man U a chasing in the Champions League Quarter Final. And when a red card and a huge Madrid penalty came on George Hamilton come out with his legendary rabbit in a suit of armour quote. Fantastic stuff. Certainly the best quote ever. I just thought it deserved to be recorded for posterity and decided to stick it up on a web page. Gareth, my flatmate, kindly provided a delightful drawing of a rabbit in a suit of armour being obnoxious to some headshakes. “Danger Here” has always been the phrase most associated with George, so DangerHere.com was born.

To the uneducated, that incredible quote reads: “Real Madrid are like rabbits in the glare of the headshakes in the face of Manchester United’s attacks. But this rabbit comes with a suit of armour in the shape of two precious away goals.” What can one say? Magic.

DK: When exactly did the site come online and what kind of a reaction has there been since it was launched?

LR: We didn’t really do anything else with the site for another year. But then in March 2001, myself and a few friends decided to add some more of George’s quotes and some other guff we had written. I doubt if it would have ever really become more than a one off except for the kind intervention of Mary Hanrahan of The Irish Times, who gave the site a big plug in her Planet Football column. Suddenly, there were loads of people logging on so we all became glory-crazed and hungry for world-domination.

DK: Do you feel DangerHere.com has ‘cashed in’ on anything else? (As a newspaper style humour has become so popular over the past few years)

And was this a factor in setting up the site?

LR: Unfortunately, the whole delightful lark has ensured that ‘cashing in’ might not be the most accurate description. But yes, we all like the Amye Smith ads although I reckon the real Big Ron is much funnier than Ron Manager.

As I say (there’s the first bit of football speak for you) we didn’t really have any ambitions at the beginning and it just began as a bit of fun.

This season, though, it’s really taken off and thanks to a few mentions in the UK media (Football 365, Simon Mayo’s BBC radio show, Daily Mirror) we now get a lot of English readers. I think George has become a bit of a cult figure in English football circles.

LR: We now get between 15-20,000 readers of George Hamilton, come numbers are growing every week. So we are hoping to perhaps make a bit of cash to redecorate DangerHere Towers. We’re urgently looking for a sponsor at the moment and are hopeing to bring out a range of t-shirts so the likes of Davy Keough will have something nice to wear in Korea.

DK: I presume that you and your colleagues on the site have professions other than managing and updating the website.

LR: Sadly, we do have to leave the fun to you to try to do some proper work. There’s seven of us in all who contribute stuff regularly, plus a few more friends who send articles in occasionally. We’re all actually professional writers, working for the same company in Dublin.

The Towers itself is a palatial structure in a prestigious Dublin city location, although much like FortyCoats’ trickshop, it’s inner splendour is masked by an exterior which looks something like a small bedroom. Er, yeah, Gareth and me update the site from the flat.

DK: The site is of course named after George Hamilton’s famous catch phrase. You met the man himself before Christmas – what does he make of the venture?

LR: George is a gent. We bumped into him in the Fair City after one of the Ireland games. He’d already seen the site because you can also get it to through them. And he’d obviously been checking himself out. He thought it was all a good laugh and didn’t mind in the least. He told us loads of stories about all the commentary greats (apparently, Martin Tyler is most generous with his notes) and he does a fantastic Jimmy Magee impression.

LR: Early doors, I was billed as Tipp’s answer to Marty Morrissey, but a fledging commenting career was destroyed when I was struck in the larynx by a stray 21 yard free during a National hurling League Division 3 game between Mealh and Wicklow in Dunshaughlin.

However, I know our serious football journalists, Paul / Altr Late, would love a go in the gantry. So, if there’s anyone out there short a commentator for the World Cup...

DK: Which brings me on to my next question – what would be your ideal of the perfect football pundits line-up if given one presenter’s lot, two analysts, a commentator and a co-commentator?

LR: Well, I’ve always felt that a Hamilton-Ron link-up would make a fascinating double-tandem and would be fair to say, gentlemen, that Billo would be in with a good shout of making the reclining presenter’s chair? Although, there’s something quite fantastic about the way B in Wilson seems completely oblivious to the fact that he’s on television at all. A genius.

However, the presenter’s got to be commenting a own James Bond, Jeff Stelling. As for the pundits, give Dunphy and Brady in the seats, remind Liam what Eamon said about him when he was at Javert and get Jeff to ask Dunphy who was better; Brady or Gigs. Game on.

DK: This will be of interest to Waterford readers. Any thoughts on where Jim Beglin got that accent from, because there’s no-one in the city or country that sounds like him?

LR: Can’t help you there, Dermot. Though, having once exchanged pleasantries with Jim from an adjacent urinal, I can assure you the accent doesn’t slip for a second even when his mind is on weightier matters.

DK: What kind of reaction has the site received from the Irish “meja”?

LR: The Times and the Indo have given us a lot of coverage and one of the lads, Ed, went on TV3’s breakfast show last summer to talk about the site.

The boys at TV3 have all got a bit of a slanging but they’ve all taken it very well, especially Aidan Cooney, who’s good craic. Paul Collins on Today FM has also given us a few mentions. And, so I mentioned, the UK has taken to the Ronglish and we’ve had good reviews in FourFourTwo and When Saturday Comes magazine. I think the best reaction so far though has been an email we got from some guy called Ian who simply wrote: “Please could you advise how I can contact Neil Webb?” Someone seriously over-rating our contacts in the circles of porty ex-England internationals or a cosmic genius. Either way, it made it all worthwhile.

DK: Thanks for the chat.

LR: No problem Dermot, cheers.

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