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DIT:Students Union

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Student shot in Mexico

By Samantha Rowntree

A DIT student has been gunned down while on holiday in Mexico. Eoghan Cranley, a final year environmental design student in Mountjoy Square, who was murdered on a beach on January 11.

The Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed to the DIT Independent that he was shot in an apparent mugging while out walking on a beach in Acapulco on Tuesday evening, January 11th.

Eoghan was invited to stay with family friends in Mexico and had travelled there for a millennium holiday. He had gone bungee-jumping last week. His father, Eugene Cranley, the former president of the Society of the Irish Motor Industry, said he was "devastated" with the news. "He loved water sports and skiing and went down to the beach regularly. He wa an accomplished artist and big into aesthetics and the environment was right up his alley." The 24-year-old had previously redesigned the Marx Bros restaurant in Dublin's South Great George's Street. "He was an art type of fella," said Mr Cranley.

In a statement to the DIT Independent John O'Connor, Head of the School of Art and Design at Mountjoy Square, said staff and students of the School of Art & Design were deeply shocked by the murder.

"Eoghan was a very creative designer with a distinctive and original approach to his work. He had a lively personality and was well known and liked in the school. It is a tragedy that such a promising life has been cut short in this manner," he added.

Sarah McGovern, President of DITSU, said she was saddened with the news. "Eoghan's death is a great loss to the Institute and at this time all our sympathy and thoughts are with his family and friends."

The admissions officer added that for a variety of reasons DIT is a very popular first preference choice for leaving cert students.

"We have a huge variety of courses on offer - 33 degree and 43 dip/cert - and we have the largest student body of any college in the country."

"On top of that we have a good rapport with secondary schools all over the country. If a schools asks us to come and talk to their students about our courses we will send a representative to the school."

"We also pride ourselves on our open day, on January 22 we hold an open day of all campuses in Bolton St where we are expecting to have our usual number of 4,000 prospective students," added Nicholl.

Meanwhile a report in the Irish Independent on Monday, January 16th, said that "DIT has emerged as the most sought after college among Leaving Certificate students."

The report claimed that "confidential CAO figures show that last year it topped the first preference league tables for both degree and diploma/certificate courses." Last year DIT had the highest number of first preferences for degree courses - a total of 7,875 for 1,500 places.
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DIT, DITSU web sites fail accessibility tests

By Thomas Felle

Both the DIT web site and the Students Union web site have failed a simple HTML accessibility test, meaning visually impaired or blind students cannot access the sites.

In a test carried out the the DIT Independent, both sites have failed the 'Bobby' test, designed by Internet development leaders to test sites' accessibility to people with visual impairment.

The DIT Independent has also learned that the recently announced DIT Disability policy fails to make any mention of an Internet development policy for people with disabilities.

DIT webmaster, Enid Bulman acknowledged that as yet no work had been done by the Institute in co-ordinating a web development policy for blind access to the Internet. "It is something we will look at," said the disability policy spokesperson.

However Bulman added that high profile DIT Web advisory committee had not made any recommendations on the inclusion of accessibility guidelines for required sites. People who use special software called screen readers to read computer screens.

The device reads aloud the screen by using the computer's sound card to allow blind people to access information online. The Independent learned there is however a problem with the DIT's access facilities, Many internal pages are often written within frames, use complicated Java scripts.

According to Desmond Kenny, from the National Council of the Blind, the problem with screen readers is that they cannot access this information and are unable to read it to a blind user.

The Bobby test shows the DIT site fails

There exists however an alternative test which can be built into the HTML at the design stage. This is a text based command, which tells the screen reader that the content contains an image and describes the image to the person accessing the site. It is also used for hyperlinks, which allow people to go to a different page with the click of a button. Web sites which do not use such text are inaccessible to the blind," added the spokesperson.

There are about 90 disabled students currently studying in the Institute, one of which is blind. DIT's disability officer, Linda Maguire, said that the Institute was fully committed to making the Institute completely accessible to all students with disabilities, and added the disability policy committee had this commitment.

A spokesperson for the Information Society told the Independent that while they had introduced a policy document for public service Internet development that included the inclusion of such alternative tests, no time frame for their inclusion had been set.

The role of the Disability Liaison Officer to the success of this policy is vital, As the main contact for students and they are advised, the policy states "to contact the disability officer early in the first term (of commencing studies) to discuss in detail their needs, staff or support services they may need during their course of study.

The Disability Liaison Officer role includes the co-ordination of specific educational supports such as notes in braille, and to ensure the sending of applications to the Department of Education's special fund for students with disabilities. Not to be outdone, the Students Union is drafting a policy on disability which it hopes will ensure that students may participate fully in all aspects of Institute life.

With both documents published, the way forward for students with disabilities at DIT of the University is to be greatly enhanced. Three years of work by the DIT Independent should hopefully result in improved facilities and services for the disabled students in DIT.

Funding for projects

The Higher Education Authority has announced a £10 million programme for research in third level institutions for the coming three years.

The second cycle of this programme launched by the Authority at the end of last term and it is hoped that the first round of applications to the new programme will be completed over the next few months.

Proposals from individual departments are currently being drafted and are to be discussed at a special meeting of the HEA's Academic committee on January 28.

According to its organisers, the HEA programme is designed to encourage and reward institutional development and co-operation. The HEA also say the programme is designed to "strengthen the academic performance of the University through the clear evidence of the project contributing substantially to the advancement of teaching at undergraduate and post graduate level. "In relation to these later two criteria, project leaders should ensure that their project will be rated fairly and allocated to the relevant category."
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Survey of Lecturers

By Margaret Donnelly

Education Correspondent

DITSU are to conduct a survey on the quality of lecturing standards despite TUI objections to the proposal.

DIT set up a Quality Assurance Committee in 1992 under the DIT Act of 1992, for maintaining, and enhancing academic standards, and quality in all courses. The committee was started to assure lecturing standards in the Institute.

The Institute had proposed surveys of this type in the past but the issue was rejected by union leaders. In response to this DITSU are to run a survey themselves.

Stuart E. Proctor

Spear McGovern, explained to the DIT Independent that “the aim of the survey, and its findings, is not a vote to please fired but to let lecturers know what the students think of them and to get areas improved.”

However, Eddie Conlon, Dublin colleges representative on the executive committee of the TUI has said that his union knew nothing about the survey. “We are currently in the advanced stages of negotiations with DIT and the TUI is applying to relevant Government authorities to fulfil their requirements to conduct third level education in the new millennium.”

It is not just facilities that have need upgrading. Concrete jungles never made good rugby fields, and while indoor sports venues are not a recognised sport, so is GAA. The drains on sports funds from pitch rental have been enormous, and visiting teams have been greeted with the hospitality other universities and ITs are in a position to offer their teams when they visit.

DIT, up until now, own no sports pitches, and a 25 metre swimming pool, is out of date weights room and a sports hall is certainly no where near a full commitment to a well rounded education. Again, hands were tied and this situation is hopefully now about to change. Goal post and a few bags of lime do to break budgets and hopefully the new year will bring a new birth to sporting triumphs. What is needed is financial support for a sports complex, and this battle will have to be fought if it is to win the war.

Accommodation is a word that scares most students. Dublin has reached crisis level in terms of finding suitable and affordable accommodation for students and an on site campus is needed. When this will happen and what form it should take are all issues that also need to be addressed in the coming year also.

Well done DIT. Well done DITSU. Well done DIT students.

Chef to compete in major competition

By Margaret Donnelly

A STUDENT chef is Cathal Brugha Street to represent the college in a major national cooking competition.

Jonathan Adamson will face competition from 12 colleges to win the final of the Knorr Student Chef of the Year. The competition is on February 23 in the Waterford Institute of Technology. He has been studying Professional Cookery in Cathal Brugha Street for the past two years and was chosen from 30 entries to represent the DIT.

The student had to submit a written recipe for a full meal, including a starter and desert, and describe the methods used to prepare such a meal. DIT has yet to win the competition. Waterford Institute of Technology won the award twice, and Cork and Galway/Mayo ITs have taken one award each.

This year Jonathan will receive all expenses trip to the culinary olympics, taking place this September in Berlin. “The winner will be able to see at first hand the competition and will also have the opportunity to cook with the Irish team.”

New Student Website

A NEW site will be aimed solely at the student market has gone online. The website, Flunknet (www.flunk.net), in a special agreement between the DIT Independent and its webmasters, will also include the DIT Independent online.

According to Flunknet’s Olivia Morohan, the site aims to provide students with up to date relevant news articles as well as a host of other features including chatrooms, bulletin boards, classified ads and free email.

The site also has a comprehensive entertainment section, and will include the latest on clubs and gigs in Dublin, as well as other cities nationwide. The site also includes a student’s picnic book, according to the site “is filled with student survival information, everything from finance to food, sex to accommodation”.

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PART TIME FEES MAY BE ABOLISHED

By Margaret Donnelly, Education Correspondent

THE Government is to consider the abolition of part-time fees following recommendations from its Commission on the Points System.

The Commission’s report recommended the abolition of part-time fees saying that everyone should have access to the same financial support whether on a full-time or part-time basis.

It also recommended that there should be more scope for transfer and progression, particularly to degree level, from national certificate and diploma courses.

The Union of Students in Ireland has welcomed the report, brought out on December 8, and says that such a move is necessary to ensure a highly skilled labour force and the continuation of current economic prosperity.

Philip Madden, Present of USI, said “our current prosperity is largely a result of our highly educated work force and its graduates.

However to keep Ireland competitive in the 21st century we have to give people every incentive to continually re-skill to meet challenging needs.”

According to Ian Russell, Education Officer with USI, the abolition of part-time fees is not a new thing.

“It was recommended by the de Buitre Committee on Student Financial Support in 1993 and recommendations must be implemented now.”

Mountjoy Sq student wins marketing award

FIONNULA Daly, who graduated with a degree in administration marketing in December, has won a top award award for her analysis of a market case study.

The award, an engraved Waterford Crystal Bowl, was presented by the National Field Marketing Manager of Lites Marketing Group, Aidan Connely. “We are delighted to be involved in these awards.

The standard of these analyses continues to rise every year and it is great to know that new marketers are entering the work place with such a strong academic understanding of the industry,” said the manager.

The competition, which in its first year, is open to final year marketing students in Mountjoy Square. According to a Lites spokesperson, the competition was started to recognise the close relationship the company have with both the college and its graduates.

The award is part of our ongoing programme of co-operation with the Marketing Faculty in DIT, added the spokesperson.

Film student scoops top award

A FILM student has won a major national film award for work carried out as a student in DIT. Deirdre Lynch has won the 1999 Jesuit Film and Video Competition in the documentary category with ‘Salt of the Earth’.

Deirdre is a revealing portrait of life in tenement Dublin during the 1930s, 40s, and 50s and was given a public screening last year in the Irish Film Centre.

The major national film and video award attracts entries from over 20 third level institutions and is sponsored by Independent Newspapers with professionals from the broadcast and print media adjudicating.

Deirdre made the film as part of her course work for the Certificate in Media Production and is now studying Communications in Aungier Street.

DIT play on Irish team in world skills competition

The previous best of the Irish was finishing in sixth place in 1997.

The winners of the two gold medals were John Gallahue for his skills in brickwork and Rita Dempsey for waiting (food and beverage), both from DIT.

The other skills the Irish featured in were fitting, carpentry, industrial electronics, CNC milling, and graphic design.

The performance of the competitors this year is the highest ever achieved, and DITSSU Overall President, Sarah Mc Govern, was suitably delighted by the achievements of the DIT representatives.

Expressing her congratulations to the team, Mc Govern said: “I’m very proud that there were so many successful participants from DIT, and it shows how capable the Institute is in producing quality awards and training courses.”

She went on to say that “there is a huge pool of untapped potential in the rest of the Institute.”

Minister for Education & Science Micheal Martin also congratulated the team and said the surge of interest and praised their ability to compete with the best other nations have to offer.

On the achievement of the group the Minister said “Ireland can be justifiably proud of this year’s tremendous achievements winning two gold, two silver and three bronze medals and eight diplomas of excellence.”

The final report stated: “The Commission on the Points System considers that a person who did not enter third-level education on leaving school should have access to the same financial support as a school leaver, if he wishes to enter third-level education later life, whether that be on a full-time or on a part-time basis.”

Bolton St to host major conference

By Samantha Rowntree

THE incredible contribution of architecture to the world’s environmental and educational stability will be examined at an international architectural education conference hosted by DIT on February 11th and 12th.

The main theme of this conference, to be held in Bolton Street, is to tackle the future direction of architecture in the 21st century.

The future for architecture is uncertain as it’s being viewed by society as a form of art.

Ironically, say the organisers, this is happening at a time when there is a need for innovative research and design in the field to solve environmental problems and develop new products.

The conference will ask how architects can contribute to the plans for change. It will also question their influence on forces such as business and politics.

There will be presentations from Keynote speakers representing international institutes.

They include Professor Juhani Kustanen from Finland and Professor Edward Robbins from Harvard University.

The conference is the culmination of a week of events in the School of Architecture.

Students of the School will be involved in group work around Dublin City from February 7.

There will be an open critique of student’s work resulting in a prize giving ceremony on February 11th.

Careers office to hold jobs day for retail students

The DIT careers office are hosting an information and careers in retail day in Mountjoy Square on February 2nd.

The School of Retail and Services Management have collaborated with the careers office to put on the event, from 10am to 13.30pm on the day.

According to Carol Kelehan, careers adviser for both the Institute’s Irish and UK retailers will be well represented.

“These retailers will seek applications from current retail students and degree students as well as more untapped market in their stores.”

The event is open to all students interested in retail management is encouraged to attend with their CV”, concluded Kelehan.
Students visit European Parliament

A GROUP of journalism students from Aungier St took part in the first ever official visit by the School of Media to the European Parliament.

The group, headed by senior lecturer in journalism and former Irish Times Media Correspondent, Michael Foley, visited the Strasbourg plenary session of the Parliament during December 13 to 16 last.

MEP Mary Banotti hosted the tour and gave oral presentations on the work of the Parliament and her own work on education and child welfare issues in the European Union, as well as her work within the EPP Group.

She also organised briefings on parliamentary operation from Avril Doyle and John Cushnahan, both MEPs, Banotti also hosted an official lunch for the tour.

The DIT group also had briefings on the cooperation between the Parliament and Ireland from Jim O'Brien, who heads the European Parliament Office in Dublin as well as Examiner European Editor, Mark Hennessy who spoke about the work of a journalist in Europe.

The journalism students also visited the European Court of Human Rights, and were met by the most senior Irish member of the judiciary in Strasbourg, Mr Justice John Hedigan, who sits as Ireland's representative on the Court.

He spoke about the change in international relations within Europe and the effect the court has had on the lives of millions of Europeans.

The 15 students represented both undergraduate and post graduate students in journalism.

The group also included lecturer in Journalism at the Institute, David Quin.

The group of journalism students who took part in the first visit of the school of media to the European Parliament

I remember travelling to Belfast for a USI national Council Meeting around Halloween in 1987. It was my first time in the then troubled city, although ceasefire had been called, the gun and the bomb were still decisive parts of Northern Irish politics.

After settling into a hostel on the Lisburn Road, the next port of call was Queens University, a towering period building in the heartland of the city. Off campus, but not far from there lay the Queen's student centre, a building completely run by the students union in the university.

Modern architecture it was not, and, from the outside at least something certainly nothing special. But once inside, you had a feeling there was something special about the place.

Apart from the obvious benefit of two bars, a club and a sizable lounge, the centre also included serviced offices for the students' union executive, a boardroom for meetings, general administration and meeting rooms for students who needed a travel save stamp on their student card or just wanted a chat with a officer because their rent was late and they didn't know what to do about it. The centre also contained a launderette, bookshop, a small grocery shop and a news agency.

It was nothing special, but it was something special for Queen's students. It was a place they could go on a Monday evening to do their laundry, a place they could have a drink in at a reasonable price (£1 a pint when there's a promotion on), a place where they could congregate and not feel like they were alone.

DIT students have never had that luxury. Students' union officers work hard, and the back up and supports staff also ensure an ongoing basis that the interests of students came first.

But we have never had a 'student centre'. For those of us old enough to remember the USI bar in Temple Bar, city centre students at least had somewhere to go and meet other students without being charged exorbitant coverages and inflated prices for a drink.

D'Aungier Zone was first started in 1995 by the then site president, Siobhan Weech, it was originally held in Sorohan's, which is now under new management.

The move to Planet Murphy's was made by last year's President, Dan Pender. Kevin Street will continue to hold their night out in Planet Murphy's.

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Who says size doesn't matter?
Guns Solo in Stuttgart

Rebecca Kelly reminisces about her summer in the sunny southern German city

The following day, after having sampled a little too much of the local beer, I wobbled off again, this time to my summer job in the Bavarian Alps. With a little regret, I left the picturesque city of Stuttgart and my newfound friends, and took the three-hour train journey to my Heidi-like home for the summer. The trained trucked through breath-taking forests and mountain scenery and I constantly had to suppress the urge to yodel! Obertsdorf, the village I was to work in, was spectacular. Jagged, snow-capped mountains encased this idyllic town. Cowbells sounded in the surrounding fields and cable cars inched slowly skywards. No traffic. No beeping horns. No noise. But unfortunately that also meant no people. It looked like it could be a long four months.

Refusing to give in so easily, I found the hotel I was to work in, nestled between sloping forests and a rushing river. My boss, a terrifying man in lederhosen, showed me to a cellar room. Dimmaded at this darkened place I was to call home. I soothed myself with thoughts of a better morning in the coming. In fact, it got progressively worse. The work was horrendous. My title as 'general assistant' would have been more accurately termed had it been 'general dogsh*'. I stuck it out for two days but I knew this remote life was not for me. I longed for the city. Noise, cars, shops. Suits on lunch and buskers singing. I picked up my unpacked bags and got the next train out of there.

Stuttgart welcomed me back. Deep in a valley and surrounded by hills and forests, the city is a prosperous centre of both industry and culture. Stuttgart is famous for its Mercedes Benz and I was suitably impressed to see many examples being driven through the city's sunny streets. Even the Hauptbahnhof, the bustling train station, sported an enormous Marc silver logo. Little did the car giants realise that it would become one of the most significant elements of my trip. A glaring star on nights out, as I stumbled home trying to locate my city centre flat!

Within three days of my return from Obertsdorf, I had found work in a city centre hotel and a flat nearby. My centre location meant I could explore the city on my days off. From the River Neckar to the Schlossgarten (castle gardens), I was intoxicated by this green city. Over half of Stuttgart is covered with orchards, vineyards, meadows and forests and you are never more than a short drive from the beautiful countryside.

The Ferentanurm, or TV Tower, at 250m above Stuttgart offers amazing views. The tower has an exclusive restaurant one level down from the top, so late diners can watch the sunset over the valley. Dressing up in late August, my group of friends and I decided to treat ourselves to one of these sunsets. Sitting hundreds of metres high, drinking the local wines and sampling the oysters, I thought to myself, life doesn't get any better than this.

One of the highlights of the summer was the 'Summer Fest'. Beer tents, bratwurst and bands. The early evening sun gave the city a honeyed glow as we gathered on the steps of the Königsbau, a magnificent building supporting columns.

The summer crowds wandered dreamily through the fragrant food stalls. We watched street artists perform to lively music and later as the beer flowed we joined in the singing and dancing.

Stuttgart has an exciting nightlife which you can be assured I took part in. The biggest and best known club in town is 'Perkins Park'. With two huge dance floors, it played a good mix from techno to rock'n'roll. However, my favourite club was 'Kim Bim'.

It lacked the style of 'Perkins Park' and with the aging DJ sporting a dodgy Bon Jovi haircut, it's not for dedicated clubber. But with my flat across the street and the Irish pub next door, what more could a student have asked for?

Germany is renowned for its efficient transport system and visitors should defiantly use this to their advantage and explore as much of the neighbouring towns and villages as possible. Tübingen and Heidelberg are laid-back university towns. A short twenty-minute train ride will take you there and the wide variety of great pubs and restaurants will keep you entertained. Disney based his fairy-tale castles on the one in Heidelberg and it is a must see.

The great thing about mainland Europe is you can take a day trip to almost any other European country for next to nothing. For £50 return, I flew to Amsterdam and explored the infamous city on the banks of the Amstel.

As impressive as Amsterdam is though, Stuttgart had captivated me. Thoughts of the balmy summer evenings spent among friends, drinking the local beer warms my winters. So for all you travel lovers out there, if you are considering Germany as your travel destination this summer, consider Stuttgart.

All play and no work

Nixon's Nixon

By Thomas Felle

On August 8th 1974 Richard M. Nixon resigned from the presidency of the US following the now famous Watergate scandal. His impeachment was imminent for some days, however, it is said he only finally made up his mind to quit after a meeting with this Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger the previous evening.

He had summoned Kissinger to the White House, where they conferred for almost three hours.

Their conversation was never known, however both Nixon and Kissinger entered the White House with differing accounts in their biographies.

Playwright, Richard Lees has taken the accounts, added some old sharp satire and cynicism and come up with Nixon's Nixon, now showing at the Tivoli.

Two excellent actors, Tim Donoghue and Keith Achtern, under direction from Charles Towers, offer a very entertaining 40 minutes of near-satire cut and thrust. They generate lots of laughs, but enhancement is not their business here.

In a powerful and inspired performance from both actors, the play recounts what might have happened that fateful night in the White House, and adds some of the author's remarkable wit to entertain the audience.

The author, Richard Lees, claims that the events in the play are in no way intended to represent the real actions or opinions of the two characters. It hardly needed to be said.

This is essentially a clash of comedy and conscience, a Nixon ranging from the manic to the lugubrious, and a self-serving Kissinger seeking to save his career from almost certain doom.

Nixon muddens with every passing moment, recalling past triumphs and compelling Kissinger to imitate world leaders, like Brezhnev and Mao, to enable him to re-live remembered glories when he met them as equals, and apparently gained their trust.

Kissinger, becoming anxious of his career, but unable to change, and jedną, on through Nixon's reluctance to resign.

He and Kissinger dream up international incident after international incident, which might demand a firm hand as a Democratic leader, leading to Nixon's accession.

Tension mounts as Nixon continues to look back with anger at how his so-called allies have all fled his side, and curses past challenges for his own weakness. Such tensions reside in Nixon's reluctance to resign.

Rebecca Kelly reminisces about her summer in the sunny southern German city

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He and Kissinger dream up international incident after international incident, which might demand a firm hand from a US leader, but all to no avail.

There is only one course of action left to the beaten former leader. Nixon bows, the play ends.

He resigned the following day. Kissinger, of course, survived as secretary of state under Gerald Ford. Booking at 01-4544727.
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(Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
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9.30am - 12.45pm (Tuesday)
THE BEACH

I’m really not a fan of Leonardo di Caprio. You should know that before you read on. He always seemed to me like a guy who was technicallly brilliant, but who was always just Leonardo di Caprio you never believed for a second that he was anything other than an actor. In The Beach, the fourth film from the writer/director/producer team behind Trainspotting, Di Caprio plays Richard, an American backpacker with a taste for something a little off the tourist trail.

Whilst spending the night in a seedy Bangok hotel, he meets Daffy, (Robert Carlyle) a paranoid fellow traveller, who gives him a map to an island “a place where he’ll find the perfect beach,” a place unatticed by tourists, which Richard naturally sets off to find.

On paper, it can’t fail: beautiful locations, beautiful people, sex, violence, and for the ladies, a buff (and mostly half-naked) Di Caprio. There are problems and the romantic subplot never really kicks in, and we’re never satisfactorily told just why Richard starts going all Apocalypse Now in the second half.

These are minor quibbles, however. Boyle’s inventive visual flair livens up the extremely straightforward story, while Di Caprio is wonderfully refreshing and not trying to win any awards but simply being himself and that’s rare.

In the 1970s, he crossed this with End Of Days, you’d end up with a very decent film.

Gabriel Byrne appears in both - in End of Days, he was the devil incarnate, in Stigmata, he’s a priest-scientist investigating alleged miracles for the Catholic Church.

Frankie Paige (Patricia Arquette) is a Pittsburgh hairdresser, a hard-drinking, hard-shagging slacker chick who also happens to be an atheist.

This makes it all the more strange when she starts showing the signs of stigmata and the wounds Christ received on the cross and supposedly limited to the extremely religious.

Byrne is dispatched by the Vatican to investigate, and general wackiness ensues. Whatever the trailers may look like, this is not the next Exorcist. Despite the violent flash-on sequences when Frankie starts experiencing the stigmata, there is little or no tension. Byrne and Arquette are good, but you don’t get a chance to know them and the camera jerks about like a demented NYPD Blue wannabe while the editing makes Con Air seen sedate.

BRINGING OUT THE DEAD

If you see one film this year, you really should get out more. But if you are the uncourageous type and can only spare cash for one cinema ticket, you could do worse than Bringing Out The Dead, the latest from the writing/directing team of Martin Scorsese and Paul Schrader, who brought us the classic Taxi Driver.

Like that film, Bringing Out The Dead’s central character is a tortured loner whose job involves driving around the main streets of New York city. But whereas Taxi Driver’s Travis Bickle ended up an ambulance driver, haunted by visions of people he failed to save.

Frank Pierce (Nicholas Cage) is an ambulance driver, haunted by the mysterious Katrina Van Tassel (Christina Ricci), daughter of one of his chief suspects.

If you want mindless fun, try End Of Days. If you want to leave the cinema feeling like Martin Scorsese has dragged you around in an ambulance for two hours (and I mean this in the best possible way) then see Bringing Out The Dead above all else.

STIGMATA

Two things will ring through your head immediately after seeing Stigmata. The first is a blinding headache and the SFX of nails being driven through wrists will pound through your ears start bleeding. The second is the curious thought that if you ever experienced the stigmata, there is little or no tension. Byrne and Arquette are good, but you don’t get a chance to know them and the camera jerks about like a demented NYPD Blue wannabe while the editing makes Con Air seen sedate.

* * *

The story finds Ichabod Crane (Depp), an idealistic policeman in 18th New York whose unorthodox scientific methods lead him being assigned to investigate a number of mysterious deaths in the remote town of Sleepy Hollow. The catch is that the victims were all decapitated, and the locals blame the legendary Headless Horseman.

As the sceptical Crane delves further into a logical motive behind the killings, he finds himself drawn to the mysterious Katrina Van Tassel (Christina Ricci), daughter of one of his chief suspects.

In addition to being an exhilarating homage to the old Hammer horror films, Sleepy Hollow also features a three-way sword fight to rival the climax of The Phantom Menace. And what more could you want than that?

* * *

INSPECTOR GADGET

THERE’S a terrific joke in the end credits of Inspector gadget, one involving a ‘Minion Recovery Group’ - something like the AA for recovering evil henchmen. Richard Kiel, who played who played Jaws in the James Bond films is in it.

There. That’s it, the finest, most original part of Inspector gadget. That ONE scene is responsible for the single star this film got.

If you’re a fan of the cartoon series, you’ll love the film. If you’ve never heard of Inspector gadget, you’ll be merely irritated by it. It makes Herbie Goes Bananas look like Goodfellas.

Don’t pay to see this, don’t force it on your kids - remember, it’s an hour and a half of their childhood they’ll never get back.

*
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When eating is a problem

By Jenni Duggan

IT has been estimated that approximately one in five Irish people between the ages of 15 and 30 will suffer from an eating disorder at some stage in their lives.

Most of those who suffer will make a spontaneous and full recovery, however there are also many sufferers who will be more affected and require intensive treatment programmes. Despite an increase in cases, there is still a stigma surrounding eating disorders. Like depression, and other psychological disorders, people are not keen to admit their disorder and often feel ashamed of their condition.

Eating disorders are only symptoms of something deeper that is going wrong. For those suffering from an eating disorder controlling their bodies and their food intake is a way of feeling in control when they feel there is little else they are in control of in their lives. Often with eating disorders, there is dissatisfaction with their bodies, which is often due to low self-esteem.

In western society only slim figured people are considered to be beautiful. There is a perception that fat people are stupid and ugly. Many jokes are made about fat people and this is evidence of this perception. Everyday we are bombarded with images of thin ‘beautiful’ people in magazines and on television. Teenagers are particularly aware and unsure of their bodies and they also make up a large percentage of those who suffer from eating disorders.

There are many of magazines aimed at this age group which feature adverts and fashion pages with good looking slim models. It little wonder with all these images that there are some people who are completely dissatisfied with their body shape and size.

Dieting is widespread in our culture and it is estimated that approximately 70 per cent of women between the ages of 25 and 54 will admit to being on a diet at some stage in their lives. Every time we turn on the television or open a magazine or newspaper there are adverts about new ways of dieting and features about how to keep our weight down. Due to this obsession with dieting and image, it is not always easy to detect when someone has a problem.

Possibly the most well known eating disorder is anorexia nervosa. Sufferers of this disorder will under eat, often to the point of starvation.

The main symptom is an obsession with food and body weight. Losing weight is the number one aim and due to a distorted body image, those suffering from this disorder perceive themselves as being fat even though in reality they are often dangerously thin. This disorder is most likely to occur at times of stress or unhappiness. Those suffering from anorexia are usually very lonely and tend to isolate themselves and withdraw from social contact.

A similar eating disorder is bulimia. The main symptom of this disorder is repeated episodes of compulsive binge eating often with self induced vomiting and laxative abuse.

This disorder can be quite difficult to detect as sufferers can be very quiet. It is often overlooked or not considered to be as serious as the others. It is described as the excessive accumulation of fat in the body.

Obese is the medical term to describe someone who is 20% above the average weight for their stature and age. It tends to run in families mostly because most children follow their parents’ habits and become ‘comfort’ eaters. The marked decrease in physical activity in affluent societies seems to be a major factor in the recent rise in obesity.

While eating disorders are more common in females, the number of reported male sufferers has increased greatly over the past few years.

Many sufferers never seek professional advice and often it is only when they become medically at risk that their disorder comes to light. While eating disorders are caused by psychological factors they lead to physical problems which can become extremely serious. It is important therefore that a person who suffers from an eating disorder gets professional help.

The Independent looks at the effects of:

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All prices correct at the time of going to press. Prices are per minute, in Irish Pence and inclusive of VAT.
Welfare Officer, Yvonne Ross talks to Margaret Donnelly and gives some advice for students worried about eating disorders

The causes of eating disorders are hard to pin down. Lack of self-esteem, family problems, emotional problems, personal insecurity, and abuse are the most common reasons someone enters a path of despair. But even harder to pin-down are the triggers that affect many people, especially teenage girls. No one ever wants to think that they got a problem and become consumed by it. Anorexia and Bulimia sufferers are often forced to admit that the problem is extremely difficult for anyone else to become aware of it.

Everyone who has an eating disorder has a problem, not the disorder, but something which has triggered off the disorder such as depression, a personal problem, or lack of self-esteem. It is not slimming gone wrong.

Anorexia Nervosa is the main problem with Anorexia and Bulimia, and Bulimia is that people are often in self denial that they have a problem. In most of the cases I've been involved with people are so insecure within themselves and insecure that someone could be developing an eating disorder,” says Ross.

Mary O’Neill has some healthy advice

There is so much food and drink around, and people tend to eat a lot of fast food after parties as well. We try to encourage people to keep up regular exercise over Christmas, and in that respect, treat it like any other time of the year.

That sounds easier said than done, as most people view Christmas as a time for over indulgence, and remembering to keep up daily power-walking is put to one side. But Weight Watchers is, in a way, like a social centre in itself.

“We essentially, a support system,” explained Carmel. “We hold meetings every week, where we encourage people in thinking about weight loss. Losing weight is basically about changing what you do, and if you are going to make changes, you have to be happy with them.”

The Weight Watchers policy is based on a fairly simple points system. Every food is valued, and members are allotted a certain amount of points everyday. In this way you can still eat your favourite food, as long as you don’t exceed the daily allocation of points. Members are encouraged to read labels, and the purchase of products that don’t display sufficient nutritional information on their labels is not recommended.

Since the points system was introduced, the age profile of members has decreased. The average age of subscribers is now between 18 and 45 years.

Olivia Kelly, a 23 year old student in DTU Aungier street, has recently joined Weight Watchers.

“I try every year that I will try and stay more healthy, but I generally never get round to it. But this year I was feeling especially fat so I went along to Weight Watchers to try and feel better about myself.”

Ollivia admitted she approached the experience with a sense of dread, but was pleasantly surprised. “I was expecting everyone to be massive, but they weren’t. It’s kind of like AA in a way. I thought a lot of people would be there for a quick fix, but there are people who have been going for years, it just to have it as a sort of support group.”

Initial subscription fees to Weight Watchers are £6, and that covers the cost of the first class. Classes are at a cost £7.50 a week and last an hour. Members record their weight on a weekly basis, “I think it’s fantastic value”, Olivia said, “think how much you’d have to spend to join a gym for a month. At least with this you have a group to encourage you.”

Weight Watchers is not the way to go for everybody though. Some people prefer to devise their own methods of weight loss, and find the whole support group idea a little disconcerting. Others believe that weight loss is not so much about eating less than it is about keeping fit. Elaine, another DT student from Mountjoy Square decided to counteract her Christmas indulgences by joining her local gym. “I really think the only way to get slim is to keep fit, and then you can eat and drink as much as you like”, she said.

Elaine attends the gym everyday. It cost her £45 to join and is £34 a month after that. With that kind of cost, on top of all the other bills and expenses with which students are bombarded, it is probably wise to attend as often as possible in order to get value for money. She joined with her friends and sees it as a good way of making friends: “There’s always people to chat to down there, and most people join along with someone else. It’s stressless at the start but you get used to it. The hidden expense is getting there and all the special clothes you have to wear.” So maybe it’s not so difficult after all, once you can summon a little bit of motivation.

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January 2000 DIT Independent
AFTER all the predictions of planes falling from the sky, impending nuclear disasters and all the other Millennium palaver, we’re all still alive and returned to college life.

As DIT students (in their dozens) declined to say anything or proved too dumbstruck at the sight of a camera lens, a number of victims, sorry volunteers bravely stepped into the fray to tell the DIT Independent what their New Year’s resolutions were. An ancient, if not always upheld tradition, resolutions usually last for about the length of time that you think about making one! Here’s how some students hope to make Y2K different to how they spent the past twelve months.

Robert Laird is a student in DIT Kevin Street. Here’s what he had to say about New Year’s Resolutions: “I never keep them. When I was really young, I told myself I’d give up sweets and I didn’t keep that either.” He thinks the tradition is dying out especially among students. He supposes that it’s too much too soon after such over indulgence during Christmas, “especially when you’re a musician”.

Another resolution he has is “to get some decent blokes in me band.” “We play all over the place. To get a record deal wouldn’t be bad now, you know – to be famous.” They’ve already made a demo. “The name of the band is ‘Desh’. We’re the best band in the world. I hope you get that down. We play Thin Lizzy, a bit of Crowded House, a bit of U2, a bit of our own, usually in Slattery’s up on Caple Street.”

Kevin Walsh is in 2nd year Physics and Physics Technology in Kevin Street. “My New Year’s Resolution is to party more because I’m not doing it enough,” he jokes. A Dublin native, he admits to knowing most of the pubs and clubs in Dublin but “I only seem to go out about one or twice a week. Everyone else I know knows seems to be going out three or four times a week, which is not fair. I need more money.” When asked if he had a resolution to get a part time job to get money, he replied, “That sounds like work. I’m not going to happen.” He added that he’d like to win the lotto, but without buying a ticket.

David Lynch studies International Business and French. “To quit smoking and swearing” was his promise. “I was swearing in front of children one time and I just thought it was bad.” He only kept his promise to himself for a week. “I gave up smoking loads of times. He thinks it’s a good time to try to give up such habits “because people feel guilty after Christmas after eating and drinking so much. People overindulge at Christmas and then try to feel good about themselves.”

Jim Conway is studying for a Phd in Experimental Physics in UCD and lectures in DIT. “My New Year’s resolution was to cut out smoking completely. I’m only a very casual smoker when I’d be drinking. That’s about it. So far it’s been a resounding failure, but I’m hoping to remedy that. I’m just putting it down to having no will power because I’m run down after Christmas, but when I get my health and my strength back, I will certainly apply myself to it.”

Kevin Last in 2nd year Biomedical Science student in Kevin Street made a resolution to give up cigarettes, but like so many other students interviewed, Imelda lasted only a few days, “I smoked pretty much into the New Year so it wasn’t a very good resolution. I can’t keep rules. That’s why it’s a stupid idea.”

Conor Clooney studies Electronic Engineering. He was adamant about his resolution. “To get the best results I can possibly this year. I’ve already started studying.”

Imelda Moynahan, a 4th year Biomedical Science student in Kevin Street made a resolution to give up cigarettes, but like so many other students interviewed, Imelda lasted only a few days, “I smoked pretty much into the New Year so it wasn’t a very good resolution. I can’t keep rules. That’s why it’s a stupid idea.”

Jamie Hannigan, a Communications Student in Aungier Street had put a lot of thought into what he wanted to do differently in and beyond 2.000. “I got a new phone and whenever I use someone else’s phone, I make really long calls so this year I’ll be making very short phone calls, nothing to it. Hello and that’s it.”

“Because people feel guilty after Christmas after eating and drinking so much. People overindulge at Christmas and then try to feel good about themselves.”

Laura Foley who is in the 3rd year Film and Broadcasting class wants to stop spending so much money and to try to cut back a bit. “I’m spending too much at once and then have to struggle for the rest of the week. I’d go to the cinema, spend it on clothes, you know – impulse buying and that kind of stuff.”

She’d rather spend it on more important items such as books or as she says herself, “instead of buying a pair of shoes with heels of six inches or something like that, buy a pair of decent boots that are going to last me.”

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DIT has cycling cream

By Margaret Donnelly

ONE of Ireland’s top cyclists, Gary McQuaid, is currently training in Lanzarote to qualify for the Irish cycling team.

Gary, who is a first year business student at Aungier Street, is training with members of the Olympic team who are on endurance and heat training exercises in the Canary Islands.

If he succeeds he will be in one of the smallest clubs in Ireland. There are only two professional cyclists in Ireland, Morgan Fox and Kieran Power both turned professional last year and are the first professional cyclists in this country since Sean Kelly.

The DIT Independent spoke to McQuaid’s father, Kieron, who represented Ireland at the 1972 Olympics about his son’s chosen sport.

“Gary is currently in Lanzarote where the weather and road conditions are more suitable for cycling. He’s gone for two weeks on the recommendation of cyclists who travelled last year and hopes that it will improve his chances of becoming a full Irish International.

“Gary will have to go abroad to further his career. There are no professional cycling teams in Ireland and to cycle in something like the Tour de France you have to be part of a professional cycling team.

“He will currently cycle 200K races and at the money is going to gain as much experience as possible, because cycling is all about techniques, and you have to have experience to have tactics.”

McQuaid, from Rathfarnham, cycles for the Emerald Cycling Club which started cycle racing as a schoolboy. The 19-year-old has an impressive, yet virtually unknown, list of successes under his belt already. In 1997 he won the Eagle Grand Prix, the again Mc Manus Memorial, both junior level, and the M.E.R. Summer League.

1998 was his most successful year to date when he qualified for a place on the Leinster cycling team, took the M.E.R. Autumn League, the M.E.R. Battering race, Second in the Newbridge Grand Prix, came third in the Mayo Grand Prix, and finished fourth in the Kelly/Robbie Classic and the Meath Grand Prix.

Tony Allen, Executive Officer with the Federation of Irish cyclists, says that it is a great future ahead of him in cycling, but added it was very difficult for a cyclist to make the cut with study and training, considering DIT offer no financial support to the athlete.

“Educational institutions should offer more support to all sports people. Athletes are often much more rounded individuals, as they are able to get away from the mental strain of study and develop themselves.”

This month’s DIT Independent / Heineken Sports Star is ‘Vara’ the Month In cyclist and 19-year-old business student Gary McQuaid.

The first semi-final was contested between the current holders Dimbos Lunchbox and Well-Oiled Stallions. Unfortunately for Well-Oiled Stallions it wasn’t much of a contest with Dimbos Lunchbox scoring ten unanswered goals.

The game was a one sided affair with the men of the match McQuaid and Brendan Flynn. Flynn had a goal disallowed in the second half for a push on the Dimbos keeper.

The second semi-final was everything the first wasn’t. This was a true battle, fought between the fourth years and Mahers last second goal set up a repeat of the last two finals, in which The Mighty Bostoons had lost out to Dimbos Lunchbox. This was to be an epic encounter between two footballing sides. The tension showed in the wrong when he scored two goals in quick succession.

At the score now 5-3 Brendan Owen really rattled the Dimbos Lunchbox and proved the point with a clinical finish. McManus Memorial, both junior level, and the M.E.R. Summer League.

Tallaght got the upper hand last year but a determined Cathal Bruga St took the fight to the big league at last night’s clash. The first half saw a gripping opening with both teams controlled play but were unable to score due to excellent defensive performances from goalkeepers Robert Morgan.

The second half started off as the last finished but a break for Cathal Bruga St was enough to ignite the fire and they looked set to take the lead. Cathal Bruga St’s second match of the day was against Aungier IT who they had beaten last year, but tonight they were not as dominant and looked to be a stronger side.

However forwards John Kelly and Chris Kenny took the game to Aungier and managed to score. According to one bystander Kenny crashed into a wall and had to walk down to a particular spot to pick run and had to leave the pitch.

The defence of Cathal Bruga St was mirrored with recruits and nothing was able to pass through their wall. Wing play was excellent and helped Cathal Bruga St to score goals. McQuaid has a great future in him and the pressure will have been the best version of their side.

Dimbos Lunchbox were too strong for Aungier and the game was put to bed quickly. The game continued with a flurry of goals and it was Dimbos Lunchbox who had the best chances.

Half way through the second half and the game was already won with the score now 5-3. Brendan Flynn was finally able to find the back of the net and Dimbos Lunchbox were on their way to another League title.

The match ended with Dimbos Lunchbox looking strong and Cathal Bruga St looking strong and Cathal Bruga St. The match was a chance to prove what a great league they have and the tension showed in the wrong when he scored two goals in quick succession.

At this stage it appeared that Dimbos Lunchbox were comfortably in control but Maher was to do the opposite. With the score now 5-3 Brendan Owen really rattled the Dimbos Lunchbox and proved the point with a clinical finish. McManus Memorial, both junior level, and the M.E.R. Summer League.

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Maher is still young, and unbelievably close to the goal line, but if he keeps going we would hope he be in contention for a place on the Irish squad,” concluded Allen.

Hockey team take the sticks

By Katie Draper

CATHAL Bruga St’s hockey team had a lot to live up to after last years success in the plate finals as runners up to IT Cork. Their first match was a double header against Tallaght IT and Athlone IT.

Tallaght got the upper hand last year and a determined Cathal Bruga St was against in a tough fight this time. The first half saw a gripping opening with both teams controlled play but were unable to score due to excellent defensive performances from goalkeepers Robert Morgan.

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Team to compete in Holland

THE DIT hockey team will compete in international hockey competitions in Holland in February. The team are to play a number of international teams from February 21 to 26. Anyone interested should contact Kevin Draper, team manager, Sean Byrne.

Aungier Street show the way in indoor soccer blitz

By Daniel Metcalfe

AIBIST the fiery coed from the YMCA sports hall, students from Aungier Street indoor soccer club put on a display of four-sided ability to warm the hearts of all involved on a bitter mid- December afternoon.

After a series of league matches and knockout stages, the biggest club in DIT held its own in a tournament that afternoon for the second time in semi-finals followed by the final.

The first semi-final was contested between the current holders Dimbos Lunchbox and Well-Oiled Stallions. Unfortunately for Well-Oiled Stallions it wasn’t much of a contest with Dimbos Lunchbox scoring ten unanswered goals.

Brendan Owen and Niall Crevey in action in the final

Jarchester and second year students Michael Mahon, who was able to help him from the field, and Marcus Smyth fell. The fight was on.

The impressive Alan Maher then kept his cool and equalised, to tie the game at three each. The scoring continued when Flynn put Jarchester ahead with a thunderous volley, only for the more fit Bostoons to score back again. It was still 3-3 at the end of the first half in the encounter of the century.

With just over a minute on the clock Jarlath Flynn scored against the onrushing crowd. Five goals up and only seconds left, Brian Mahon again looked for his head and only for referee refeering would have been sent off for his actions. The Man of the Match, Alan Maher poked in the winner after a الفت討ed goal mouth scramble.

The second semi-final was everything the first wasn’t. This was a true battle, fought between the fourth years and the University of Limerick. The second final was everything the first wasn’t. This was a true battle, fought between the fourth years and the University of Limerick.

Over the next few minutes the heat and tension continued to rise, Jarchester went ahead through an own goal from Faugham only for Brendan Owen to equalise. By now the large crowd of spectators present were turning up the noise and the game became more heated with several late tackles.

Jarchester went ahead again, this triggered more volleys of encouragement from the crowd. The contest was now building up until a third challenge by Jarchester keeper Paul Molihan incensed the crowd, a brief scuffle ensued between Brendan Owens and Molihan. These shenanigans were quickly dealt with by referee and co-organiser Peter Durning.

The impressive Alan Maher then kept his cool and equalised, to tie the game at three each. The scoring continued when Flynn put Jarchester ahead with a thunderous volley, only for the more fit Bostoons to score two quick goals on the back of the first three in the encounter of the century.

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All right, go if you must, but don't come back here pissed.