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DIT:Students Union

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Recommended Citation
By Dermot Keyes and Jennifer Duggan

A CLEAN and fair campaign has been recommended for all candidates standing in this year's DITSU Elections. The call for an honest and accountable election campaign was made by the Election's Chief Returning Officer as the campaign entered its final week.

Speaking at the issuing of posters and other campaigning equipment at DIT Kevin Street on March 6, Dermot Quain said that 18 candidates standing for the 11 available positions "should stick to their own campaigns and fight the election on their own strengths and policies. Do not go out on a personal vendetta against anyone in your campaign."

To prevent the confusion which tainted last year's election in relation to the eligibility of candidates, it has been stated in the DITSU Election Regulations that only "candidates who are deemed fully registered students as defined by the Institute shall be entitled to run for election. Therefore any students repeating externally are not eligible to run for election."

This year there are three contestants running for the position of overall president: Marguerite Fitzpatrick, Ray Nangle and Cathy Power. Both Fitzpatrick and Power have been site presidents in DIT this year (at Bolton Street and Cathal Brugha Street respectively).

Nangle has enjoyed a high profile position in DIT as head of the Karting Club, which recently won the All-Ireland title in Galway. For a number of DITSU Executive positions, there is only one nominee and are therefore running uncontested election campaigns which in the case for both the Presidential and Deputy President positions in Aungier Street, where Karl Bonar and Noel Renehan are running unopposed. It has been stressed by a number of persons associated with DITSU that the RON (reopen nominations) option is available where students are not happy with the candidates on the ballot paper.

Quain also spoke of a number of incidents during last year's election campaign when "on one site there was a problem with posters of certain candidates being pulled down. "Your nomination be taken off the ballot if this was repeated this year and we will act if any such events take place. There are plenty of security cameras in all of the sites so you have all been warned."

Quain said that the Election Supervisory Committee, which includes Jarlath Molloy and Ruth Allen amongst others, "is responsible for the conduct of the election."

Those elected, who will be announced after the count at Planet Murphy's in Camden Street on Thursday March 15, will be anxious to restore the image of the Union after an indifferent year under the short lived tenure of Vinny Dooley. His impending resignation has not yet been confirmed as late as the March meeting of DITSU Council, when it was announced that a letter of resignation from Dooley had yet to be received by the DITSU Executive.

By Jennifer Duggan

KARTING Club finances under audit

By Jennifer Duggan

IN WHAT is believed to be an unprecedented move, the Sports Committee of DIT has frozen the funds of DIT Karting club, one of the biggest clubs in the Institute.

The club's accounts have been sent to an auditor and at the time of going to press, have not yet been returned to the sports committee.

Karting Club Chairperson and DITSU Overall Presidential candidate Ray Nangle has dismissed the rumours circulating the college recently regarding any financial wrongdoings or irregularities within the club.

"I know our accounts are clean and there is nothing wrong with them," he said. However in a recent statement, the Committee said "Ray Nangle and the Karting Club have broken rules and regulations set out by the DIT Sporting Committee."

"Due to this fact the Karting Club monies have been frozen while their accounts are under investigation."

When questioned about the circumstances surrounding the freezing of their accounts, Nangle stressed that the accounts have not been audited due to any wrong doing but that it is because of the amount of money they have raised through sponsorship.

"The Sports Committee wanted to see where we got sponsorship money and how we spent it."

"We didn't have our receipts in account form as we didn't think we needed to so the Sports Committee decided to send the accounts to an auditor to ensure that if there are any questions regarding the accounts, that there is accountability."

Declan Glynn, chairperson of the Sports Committee said the audit was "a private matter between the sport club and the Sports Committee. We reckon they need some professional help and assistance as they have grown so much but there is nothing to be read into this."
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Bank of Ireland
**President's award for Kevin Street student**

**Gaisce Constilution**

Rosita Kelly was recently awarded the Gaisce Award, which was celebrated with a ceremony held at Aris na Uachtarain.

By Dermot Keyes

DIT Kevin Street student Rosita Kelly was recently awarded the Gaisce Award, which was celebrated with a ceremony held at Aris na Uachtarain.

Rosita joined the Choral Society and has performed many public appearances. She is an experience that she described as "incredible."

As her Venture project, Rosita undertook the European Special Olympic Games, for which she organised a number of teams to participate in an Eye Testing Programme.

With sponsorship obtained from local businesses, she has been successful in attracting athletes with disabilities, and several teams have already qualified for the Gaisce Ceremony.

All the Kevin Street students greatly enjoyed the experience and Rosita had the particular distinction of presenting a medal to one of the competitors, which was a privilege she will never forget.

As a member of the DIT Canoe Club in First and Second Year (when did she first join the club?), she trained and assisted in setting up the group. Vinny and we apologise to those involved.

**DITSU Council Briefs**

DITSU has selected its provisional membership for its Constitutional Review Group, subject to confirmation by those selected.

Three members of the DITSU Executive, namely Cathy Power, Marguerite Fitzpatrick and Dermot Clarke were chosen to sit on the Committee, along with Dermot Quain, Ross O'Dwyer, Jarlath Molloy, DITSU General Manager Maura Cunningham and a solicitor who has yet to be confirmed. The findings of the review will be presented to the new Executive upon their election. The terms of reference of the Group will be established within the next two weeks.

**Resignation letter not yet received**

DITSU Councillors were informed that Overall President Vinny O'Donoghue has yet to submit his letter of resignation to the Executive. A number of members spoke of their disappointment at the Deputy President's failure to submit the letter in the past two meetings between the two parties.

Vinny has yet to reveal his intentions and we welcome to the Council Cathal Brugha Street President Cathy Power.

Seachtain na Gaeilge plans scaled down

This year's planned Seachtain na Gaeilge in DIT will be scaled down to a 'L-Gaeilge' after a vote taken by DITSU Council at Cathal Brugha Street Bolton Street President Marguerite Fitzpatrick explained: "It never came into being as it was discussed at a number of meetings as well as actually enrolling and encouraging all bronze and silver medal candidates to attend.

The main achievement of her tenure was her writing a paper on 'The Ethical Response to the Agenda of Employers' in her first year. Rosita was responsible for the organisation and publicising of meetings as well as actively presenting a medal to one of the competitors, which was a privilege she will never forget. As a member of the DIT Canoe Club in First and Second Year, she trained and assisted in setting up the group. Vinny and we apologise to those involved.

**Turism survey: still friendly**

The report was compiled by the Dublin Area Office, and was the highlight of the hustings at the Union's history.

**USI Congress**

The March meeting of DITSU saw the only candidate for the Deputy President's post, Ross O'Donoghue of MICE, fail to convince DITSU of his credentials for the position.

The only candidate for the Deputy President's position, Ross O'Donoghue of MICE, failed to convince DITSU of his credentials for the position.

But it was the selection of Garrett Williams for Overall President which proved the highlight of the hustings at the Cathal Brugha Street meeting.

The report was assembled by the Faculty of Tourism and Food at DIT Dublin's economy, it is vital that visitor attitude and characteristics are evaluated on an annual basis in order to facilitate planning for future city management and development.

The report's authors, Dr Sheila Aangan and Gerard Dunne acknowledged the assistance of their colleagues in the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism. Industry partners Dublin Tourism and a number of visitor attractions in the city were also praised for their assistance in the project, including the Guinness Hopstore and the Dublin Tourism Information Centre.

The second year B.Sc. Tourism Marketing students were also thanked for their role in the compilation of the report.
Noonan pledges college visit

NEW Fine Gael leader Michael Noonan has pledged to visit all third level institutes as part of his new tenure of the party. Among his pledges made during the leadership election campaign included a new drive to make students more politically aware and illustrate the importance of their vote.

A few short weeks into his leadership and with the Foot and Mouth crisis currently topping the agenda in Leinster House, it is not clear when Deputy Noonan will honour his promise to visit all the major third level institutions.

"He has a lot on at the moment," said a Fine Gael spokesperson. "He is arranging a lot of meetings with a lot of organisations at the moment."

With the Opposition parties pledged to supporting the USI's stance on the grant issue, DIT's mandated candidate for the overall Presidency of the Union will continue to lobby their cause during the next academic year, which looks set to coincide with the general election campaign.

"This is an exciting time to be involved in USI in the run up to the general election," said O'Lionnain. "All opposition parties are supporting USI and I'm anxious to see our role in social partnership increased.

"We need to run massive voter registration campaigns and tell students that your vote is your voice and to use your voice," said O'Lionnain. "We have serious commitments from the opposition parties and what we have to do is hurt politicians. What hurts them is the ballot box."

The forthcoming USI Congress is certain to see the three candidates re-iterate the need to see the third level electorate act through their voting franchise during the next general election, which seems certain to take place in the next 12 to 15 months.

School of Art win London award

Dr. Ellen Hazelkorn applauded the efforts of the staff and students of the Certificate in Design (Display) course in the School of Art, Design and Printing following their winning of the International Display Week Design Competition in London recently.

The staff and students who travelled to London were: Rebecca Higgins, Caroline Hayes, Rowena Doyle, Philip Knott (Course Coordinator), Annette Buckley (Lecturer in Display) and Philip Doyle.

"This was a major coup for all involved and they are to be congratulated for their efforts in scooping such a major prize."

DIT staff and students who travelled to the International Display Week Design Competition, from which they returned victorious.

Student Ideas Winners

Pictured at the awards of the winners of the December 2000 Bolton Trust Student Ideas Competition for the best business ideas among undergraduate students of DIT Kevin Street and Bolton Street are, from left to right:

Ciara Twomey of AIB (Sponsors of the Prize), Barry Arthurs, a fourth year student in Geographic at Bolton Street and Phil Murray, Head of the School of Construction, DIT Bolton Street. Mr Murray is the Director of the Bolton Trust and the Coordinator of the competition.
The value of your vote

The idea of students voting in an election is anathema to the vast majority of the Irish third-level population, despite the fact that access to the ballot box is the most fundamental right we possess as citizens of a democratic state.

DIT SU’s election of a new Overall President and the five main site presidencies and deputy positions should prove useful practice for those DIT students who choose to vote this year and will help decide who forms our next government next year.

Students may well have the opportunity to avail of the right to vote again before next year’s DITSU elections. With the Hanaa Faal/PD coalition hoping of seeing our country in a better state and a presidential election due next year, a General Election will top the political agenda in early 2001.

As the nominees for the Presidency of USI all advocated when speaking at this month’s DITSU meeting at Cathal Brugha Street, the greatest way of voicing one’s political view is to vote whenever the opportunity arises.

For the first time, the opposition parties have sided with the USI and provided a number of assurances in relation to a long-awaited increase in the student grant and the area of social partnership which the national student body is anxious to see fully implemented.

Fine Gael’s new leadership, which has been busy trying to stamp down on any hint of the issue in the past ten days, has pledged to visit all three level institutes before the general election. Michael Noonan is only too aware of the voting power of the student population and presumably it is only a matter of time before the Fine Gael/McArdle team begin the campaigning process with the nation’s third-level attendants.

The young voters of Ireland who are interested in politics and who are not satisfied with the current system of SIAs are of course the primary target for the main two political parties in the run up to electing the first new Irish administration of the 21st century.

It is those who cast their votes at the tribunal, and reveal their political views in the daily newspapers that are the future of Ireland, and one can only hope that there is a genuine effort to encourage all the students who are of a voting age to go out and vote.

The next Dall is almost certain to be a coalition given the nature of our election process and when one looks at other systems used around the world, our society is all the better for it.

But were the USI to put in place a well-drilled and effective campaign next year to encourage people to vote, then a body of votes which have not been previously accessed by the major parties, the third-level franchise could prove instrumental in the formation of the next government.

The power to be is not one that is at the disposal of any or all students even though it is here, inside all of them, it is in their hands, and if they choose to use it.

Your vote is your voice and this DITSU election is a chance that every student must take to learn the value of the ballot box.

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. As far as we are aware, the comments that have been published are correct. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Dit Independent or the students union.

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CBS quartet win enterprise competition

By Dermot Keyes

THE Bolton Trust competition, a monthly enterprise venture held within DIT, has been won by a group of four students from the Leisure Management Courses at Cathal Brugha Street.

With an entry titled ‘PHEW (Promoting Healthy Employee Wellness)’, the winning team of Liz Hogan (Marketing Manager), Lisa Keyes (Finance Manager), Lisa Muldowney (Operational Manager) and Orla Waters (Sales Manager) were announced the first winners of 2001.

Their effort was pinned through their web site (www.universityarena.co.uk) and their project "is putting employee wellness on the agenda of employers.”

The site claims to offer employers and employees “knowledge about health, time and money management and to undertake voluntary changes in their daily routines.”

A number of modules dealing with health decisions, taking part in fitness classes and massage and stretching workshops form the main section of the programme.

The goal is to put “employee wellness on the agenda of employers.”

"As a direct response to the growing trend towards holistic health within the leisure industry and the less time available for employers, PHEW has been developed. "Our main aim is to encourage employees by activity empowering them to take action as regards their personal wellbeing.”

The group is currently in the pulse of modern Irish life, with a pressure and commitment stacked on commitment forming the daily diet of both the Irish employer and employee.

Cathal Brugha Street Students Union President Cathy Power was delighted with the group’s success.

"A big congratulations to all involved," she told the DIT Independent.

The March 2001 Bolton Trust winners pictured with their prize. Pictured with the cheque from left to right are: Liz Hogan, Lisa Keyes, Lisa Muldowney and Orla Waters.

DIT tourism survey: Irish still friendly

VIRTUALLY all visitors to Dublin think that Irish people are as welcome and friendly as ever according to a recent report by DIT’s Faculty of Tourism and Food.

The report, which was assembled by the Institute of Technology, states that 94.8 per cent of tourists surveyed felt that Dublin is a safe city and over 86 per cent felt that Dublin was a clean city. Eight out of ten respondents felt that Dublin was a safe city, the report revealed.

The report shows that visitor attitudes towards Dublin are mostly positive with the city receiving an average overall rating of eight out of ten. Nine out of ten respondents said that they would visit Dublin again in the future. Most tourists saw Dublin as a highly cultural destination, and over 85 per cent felt that Dublin was a safe city, the report revealed.

Based on over 1000 visitors surveyed throughout Dublin over a 12-month period, the report highlighted a number of areas of concern for the city’s tourist sector. Almost a quarter of the surveyed visitors expressed the view that Dublin is a dirty city. One in three stated that it is expensive and one in five felt that it was too overcrowded for sightseeing.

Speaking at the launch of the report, DIT President Dr Brendan Goldsmith, said that the report is the first of its kind, which will provide concrete evidence and information on which we can move forward and build and refine the tourism industry.” Referring to the value of the report to the city, Dr. Goldsmith added: “Given the importance of tourism to

The report was assembled by the Faculty of Tourism and Food at DIT.

Dublin’s economy, it is vital that visitor attitude and characteristics are evaluated on an annual basis in order to facilitate planning for future city management and development.”

The report’s authors, Dr Sheila Flanagan and Gerard Dunne acknowledged the assistance of their colleagues in the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism. Industry partners Dublin Tourism and a number of visitor attractions in the city were also praised for their assistance in the project, including the Guinness Hopstore and the Dublin Tourism Information Centre.

The second year B.Sc, Tourism Marketing students were also thanked for their role in the compilation of the report.

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Battle of the Bands gets underway

THE DIT Rock Society’s Battle of the Bands will be fought out over three nights in Eason’s Doran’s in Temple Bar in the forthcoming weeks.

Two heats will take place on March 12 and March 17, with the final being held on March 27.

With tickets priced at £2.50 per night or £4 for the three nights, it looks like being a value for money trio of evenings as the Institute’s finest bands pit their wins against each other.

Four to six contestants will be chosen from the heats to compete in the final.

The final number of finalists has yet to be confirmed.

First prize is a day’s rehearsal in a state-of-the-art studio and a half-day mixing a hard copy CD of as many songs as the winners will like.

The runners up will win a half-day’s rehearsal and a half-day mixing in a state-of-the-art studio.

For tickets and further details on the Battle of the Bands, contact Leonora Colacelli of DIT Rock Society at 087 9406532 or email kcolacic@maths.dit.ie.
Anonymous exam marking:
a better approach?

ONLY three colleges in the Republic of Ireland use anonymous marking to rule out the possibility of bias against students. Only the student's examination number appears on their exam paper, so the examiner does not know who the student is.

DIT introduced the system several years ago, while Trinity College and UCD are in various stages of its implementation and DCU are looking into the system. This year TCD will see anonymous marking extend to include the three junior undergraduate years, before reaching all departments next year. Its implementation came in response to the student charter, stating that students have the right to be marked anonymously. UCD piloted anonymous marking in 1999, in the first and second year examinations in medicine, and its gradual introduction to all departments is on the cards. The pilot study in the medical faculty included a survey of student attitudes on the issue. It found that the majority believes that without anonymous marking there was a potential for "unfair grading". This opinion was strongest among female and overseas graduates.

UCD's Pilot Study stated from the examiners' point of view that anonymous marking was feasible. Some 53% of staff surveyed felt that it should be introduced "as soon as it can be" with 38% holding the same view but feeling that introduction was "not urgent." The remaining 29% had no strong opinions either way; and no staff members were against its introduction. One of the merits of the system is that it avoids victimisation of individual students, and also other more subtle bias, including gender and racial bias, which might creep in, said Frank Bannister with the Department of Statistics and Chairperson of TCD's working group on anonymous marking.

The primary argument against anonymous marking is that it can lead to students getting lower marks, because lecturers tend to give a student the benefit of the doubt if they know them. "The examiner tends to be more detached, so students tend to get slightly lower marks," added Bannister. "If an examiner is marking the script of a student they know and believe is good but having an off day, they're really agonising over what's going on and thinking about the person concerned." This scenario is ruled out by anonymous marking. So just how difficult would it be for a lecturer to get a student's corresponding examination number?

Leaving aside the incidence where a student's handwriting or name lying around, there's no way a lecturer could get at examination numbers via the system file, according to TCD's Mr Bannister. DIT Academic Affairs' Tom Duff supports this view, pointing out that only people in the examination office have access to these and they would not disclose them under any circumstances. Assuming that a lecturer wanted to discriminate against a student, the simplest way is to keep samples of the student's handwriting beside the scripts being marked. So the only way to guarantee complete anonymity then is to get students to type exams on PCs. Students with personal problems will be unable to informally raise the issue, with a lecturer they are friendly with, who could alert the committee to the importance of a borderline case being passed, on account of the pressure of personal problems.

To this end, Mr Duff believes the guarantee of total anonymity and equality should take precedence over such cases. Then at the very end stage, when all the names are on the broadsheet, certain candidates' extenuating circumstances may be dealt with.DIT is moving toward a more formal approach to students informing the department if they have extenuating circumstances. "If students have a personal problem and want it taken into account, they can request that the issue not be discussed with the entire examination board, and the chairman will deal with the sensitive issue accordingly," said Mr Duff. TCD's Mr Bannister explained that his College's policy differs and in such circumstances a student is advised to defer taking the exams. "Once anonymous marking is implemented, there is no way the lecturers could make allowances for a student being very ill during the year, or if their parents had died before the exam," he pointed out.

TCD is in the process of overcoming a number of issues with implementing the system. A great deal of course work in Trinity is continuous assessment, such as group work, oral and presentations. In various language courses, there may only be three or four students in the class, so the lecturer knows the identity of the student from handwriting and literary style. Merging continuous assessment and anonymous exams is likely to prove challenging for colleges, especially in the large departments where students are studying various aspects of two courses, in combinations of their choice. Anonymous marking only really impacts on class sizes between 20 and 50. In larger classes, although the lecturer may know the student by name, they usually cannot identify their writing. Human error is difficult to prevent with this system. "It's easy to cut and paste into the exam spreadsheet, making the wrong column, and getting the wrong set of marks. Making sure the marks are anonymous is not that difficult to achieve - but making sure that an examiner doesn't make a mistake is extremely difficult."

TCD's Mr Bannister explained for that reason, anonymous marking requires stringent re-checking procedures.

For several years now, DIT have been using anonymous marking. One of the main selling points of the system, as seen by Tom Duff, is that it introduces the privacy of the student. When exams are posted on the notice board, their examination number is given as opposed to their name. "A student's name is only disclosed to the exam board meeting, when the results are being logged into the examination broadsheet, to facilitate borderline students," said Duff. Review its exam regulations almost on an annual basis, to ensure that they are as effective as possible. They are currently looking into implementing a protective strip system - where a student writes his or her name on the exam paper, which cannot be opened until the end of the markings.

Figures from a forthcoming Higher Education Authority report show that female students are far less likely than their male classmates to achieve first class honours degrees. Despite outnumbering men by a ratio of three to two in one university, women account for just a third of the top degree awards by that institution. Gender discrimination should be ruled out at all costs, USI's, Women's Rights Officer, Andrea Leahy insists, and has called for further research in the area. With the increasing threat of litigation, spokespeople in DIT and Trinity College believe all colleges will eventually introduce the privacy of anonymous marking, given the success that the system has enjoyed to date.
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UCD Engineering

racing car win

The competition provides a fertile breeding ground for Formula One designers and engineers, according Irish Formula One team owner Eddie Jordan who is sponsoring the team.

limited to 75 b.h.p., the
design brief is for a
lightweight chassis, to
achieve a high power-to-
weight ratio which should result in a machine with
taxing performance.

The competition provides a fertile breeding ground for Formula One designers and engineers, according Irish Formula One team owner Eddie Jordan who is sponsoring the team.

Eddie Jordan who is
sponsoring the team."Our
key objective in sponsoring
the team is to assess the best
students and recruit them for
the future," he explained.

UCD's "omnibus" entry to
ingineering is being scrapped this
year, with students specifying
their degree programme preference in their
initial CAO application.

The move hopes to address the
common problem of students not
getting their first option when
they broke up into second year,
on account of quotas on each
course.

This amounted to about one
in five students, UCD's Head of
Mechanical Engineering, Jerry
Burns told campus.ie.

The six degree courses include
agricultural and food
engineering, chemical
engineering; civil engineering;
electronic or electrical
engineering; mechanical
engineering, or civil engineering
for mechanical engineering.

However students will still be
taking a common first year, but
they will be identified as a part of
their selected department from
the beginning.

Prof Burns maintains that the
benefit of students getting the
discipline they want outweighs
the disadvantage of choosing the
discipline on limited knowledge.

We're trying to give Leaving
Certificate students as much
information about the courses as
possible," he said.

Students wishing to transfer
between disciplines will be
facilitated by the faculty once
they have the original entry
requirements such as that for
mathematics.

In addition, Civil Engineering
and Mechanical Engineering
will offer a common entry course
from which students will make
a free choice to enter second
year Civil Engineering or second
year Mechanical Engineering.

In the case of Electronic and
Electrical Engineering the first
three years are common with free
choice in fourth year to either
Electronic Engineering or
Electrical Engineering.

Prof Burns believes the new
changes will reduce drop out
rates from the course.

"We feel that people coming
into the course will know what
they want to do, and so will be
more committed - although
engineering faculty is know for its
excellently low dropout rate."

The entry system will probably
change the mix of students, resulting in a much more
focussed and demanding student
body, he maintains.

Students will no longer have to
meet with the
Minister for Health,
Michael Martin, later this
year.

In recognition of the
growing cost, USI are extending this year's
annual survey to include
costs of opticians, along with
the costs of health care
medical cards and
dentist fees.

Despite the fact that there is currently no
scientific evidence to prove that the
test use causes any damage to
the eye, the test remains that a high proportion of
computer users complain of some level of eye
problem.

The most common complaints include
eyestrain, tired eyes, dry or irritated eyes, a burning
sensation, redness or
blurred vision.

Since 1992, EC legislation
has placed responsibilities on
employers to make sure employees regularly use
computers as part of work, regardless of whether
they work in an office or from
the home. In such cases, the
employer must:

* Provide a full
examination free of charge at regular intervals
(approximately two years)

* Provide a free
examination if employee is
suffering from problems which may be
due to working with a
computer

* Pay for a pair of
glasses if it is shown that
computing results in
them specifically for
color blindness

* Provide adequate
breaks or changes of
activity to reduce general
visual fatigue

* Provide health
and safety training to
include information
relating to the work
environment.

Typically the cost of eye
tests range from €14-€20.

"Dealing with students who are
working with computers in
a paid job, the burden of cost
falls on the employer,"

With the exception of
Specs-Xpress, none of the
other main opticians offer
a student discount on eye
tests.

Specs-Xpress' policy varies
depending on location, but
ranges from a 10 per cent
coupon, to £3 off before
11am, weekdays.

Changes in
engineering course

UCD's Career wins Website of the Year

UCD's Career Service has been awarded the
impressive Career Service Website 2000 by
the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory
Services (AGCAS).

UCD won £1,000, beating off stiff
competition from colleges in the UK and
Ireland, including Brunel University, the
University of London, the University of
Plymouth, the renowned Association of
Graduate Careers Advisory Services in Ireland
and the UK.

AGCAS represents over 1,100 careers staff in
170 universities and education institutions. "It's a great
accomplishment to have been chosen over so
many large UK institutions which put a lot of
resources into their sites," said UCD's Head of
Career Services, Seamus McEvoy.

The adjudicating panel assessed the site with
reference to ease of navigation, the likelihood
that a viewer will return to the site, links to
existing high quality resources, and evidence
that the site is reviewed and updated regularly.

With about 800 hits a week, the site's objective is
to provide students with
information on careers, or links to
other sites with additional information, ruling out
unnecessary or misleading
jobs. Jobs are listed from
all over Ireland.

"As like a public notice board, in that job
offers are posted as soon as employers contact
the university," Mr McEvoy said. UCD Careers
Service can be accessed at www.ucd.ie/careers.

UCD Engineering

racing car win

A team of UCD mechanical
engineering students who
have designed a racing car
from scratch will enter the
Formula Student competition in
July.

This will be the first time
that an Irish engineering
school participates in the
competition.

A team of 24 is working
around the clock to make the
design, ahead of the
collegiate competition in Birmingham.

Mack will be awarded for a
presentation on the car given
by one of the students, and
four students will be chosen
to drive the car during tests.

The UCD team is currently
finalising the Computer
Aided Design because
costs commence. Regulations
limit the size of the
car engine to 610cc and
testing events are designed to
analyse the performance of
the car under several areas
such as acceleration, pit
testing and endurance.

With the power output
topped the European league
the dangers of alcohol has
carries the slogan "less is
more," he said.

Importance of cutting down
on drinking has
comes to

The adjudicating panel assessed the site with
reference to ease of navigation, the likelihood
that a viewer will return to the site, links to
existing high quality resources, and evidence
that the site is reviewed and updated regularly.

With about 800 hits a week, the site's objective is
to provide students with
information on careers, or links to
other sites with additional information, ruling out
unnecessary or misleading
jobs. Jobs are listed from
all over Ireland.

"As like a public notice board, in that job
offers are posted as soon as employers contact
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Service can be accessed at www.ucd.ie/careers.

UCD's Career wins Website of the Year

UCD's Career Service has been awarded the
impressive Career Service Website 2000 by
the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory
Services (AGCAS).

UCD won £1,000, beating off stiff
competition from colleges in the UK and
Ireland, including Brunel University, the
University of London, the University of
Plymouth, the renowned Association of
Graduate Careers Advisory Services in Ireland
and the UK.

AGCAS represents over 1,100 careers staff in
170 universities and education institutions. "It's a great
accomplishment to have been chosen over so
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Burn baby burn!

The complete quota for student visas to the States this summer has been issued. For those of you who have decided to explore the West Coast and are thinking of spending the last few days relaxing before your stay has expired, Burning Man Festival is a must.

This year will be the fifteenth year of this cultural/survival event. It originated at Baker Beach in San Francisco when Larry Harvey and a friend Jerry James burned the first man. From a small gathering at a local beach it has proliferated into a festival of 28,000 participants, taking place in Black Rock Desert, Nevada State.

Last year, while living in San Francisco a friend suggested going to the Burning Man Festival during labour weekend.

The prospect of paying $200 each to spend 5 days in a tent in the middle of the desert did not appear appealing, in fact the word lunacy came to mind. I began asking friends who had visited the festival on previous years about the event. Their responses were all positive but unremittingly vague. 'Amazing', 'Out of this world', 'Bring oranges they make the best cocktails in the hot afternoon'. 'Best party ever' were a few of the comments I encountered.

Intrigued by such enthusiastic yet non-descript feedback, I decided to surf the ever-useful internet to try and discover what this festival actually involved.

The official Burning Man website described the festival as 'an annual experiment in temporary community dedicated to radical self-expression and radical self-reliance'.

Included on the website were practical guidelines, an in-depth survival guide which warned about the dangers of dehydration, recommending a daily quota of two gallons of water.

It emphasised that it was a survival adventure, mentioning how you could be exposed serious heat. Due to all of the positive responses we had heard about Burning Man, my friends and I decided to go. We drove through the state of Nevada down a two-lane highway unsure and mystified by what lay ahead.

We were excited about seeing the desert as we turned into the last stop off from civilisation, a basic mini-market in Black Rock City which has a population of fifty people. Ironically named 'The Road To Nowhere' there were people cluttered around the small store in highly decorative costumes, others half-nude and some dressed conservatively. Inside, we bought necessities need for the experience then clambered back into our rented car.

Soon we were driving slowly across the plays of the 400 square mile destination known as Black Rock Desert.

At the entrance, greeters welcomed us, warned us not to litter, to leave the plays as we found it and presented us with maps. The maps were detailed guides to our new home for the next five days. Each road referred to a different part of the body which we discovered was the prevailing theme of the festival. The worlds' first giant laser pictogram greeted us as did numerous people waving and some presenting gifts.

We had arrived into a surreal community, a magical place, the biggest fun fair you can imagine, alongside a constant contrasting battle of hot and cold weather.

The days frequently reached a temperature of 105 degrees which were often followed by evenings of endless rain and wind, sand embedding everywhere. It was an introduction to new kinds of performing arts, poetry, sculpture, a rich variety of theme camps and all sorts of music.

Ruth Carson risked the intense heat of the desert to take part in a unique festival...

It was an introduction to new kinds of performing arts, poetry, sculpture, a rich variety of theme camps and all sorts of music.

The days frequently reached a temperature of 105 degrees...
Karting club claim
All-Ireland crown

By Brian Healy
The All Ireland Intervarsities Karting Championships took place at the Pall as Karting track in Tynagh, County Galway on February 23rd, and once again it was DIT that emerged as champions for the third successive year.

It was Mark McIntyre who clinched the title for DIT, finishing first place in the final and therefore defeating nearest rivals Waterford IT by 317 points to 307.

But unlike the two previous years, when DIT recorded relatively easy victories, this year’s competition was closely contested, with both WIT and CIT boasting impressive, competitive outfits. UCD, Sligo IT and FJ's were also a lot stronger then previous years. The All-Ireland Final consisted of 20 teams, with a driver from each team driving two heats, which were followed by 10 semi-finals and a grand final featuring a driver from each team. Points were awarded throughout with heat positions determining driver positions in the semi-finals.

Sixty drivers from the various colleges around the country made the trip to Galway to race against the defending champions, but their best efforts were not enough to dethrone DIT from the top spot on the podium. Each of the competing colleges entered with the choice of sending either one team of five or two teams to the event. DIT gained the honour of sending the first ladies team to compete in the championship. With some superb driving from Denise in particular and the consistency of Lisa Dunne, the female team finished ahead of the male UCD team and fully justified their inclusion.

This year’s championship was filled with drama. During the first set of heats, the biggest crash of the meeting took place. While not quite the ferocity of Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve's recent shunts in Australia, Karl Lewis experienced a nonetheless heart-stopping incident when in fourth position. On the second corner of the circuit, two drivers ahead of Lewis collided. Breaking hard, Karl spun and hit the back of the cars ahead of him, throwing both driver and kart into the air before landing awkwardly on his side and head. In a sporting gesture, DIT Karting leader, Ray Nangle, who was in a great position to win the race, retired to ensure Lewis was not badly hurt. Two other drivers were not as compassionate and passed Ray on his way back. However, he did manage to pass one of them to finish in second place. Thankfully, Lewis emerged with little more than bruising on his arm and a sore head. Despite this, he was back in a replacement kart for the next heat.

The semi-finals were equally dramatic. Waterford IT's Bob Riley crashed on the final corner in the last lap to see victory dashed from his grasp, allowing DIT's Ross Clarke to claim the full compliment of points. This was a hammer blow to Waterford's efforts, who had been neck and neck with DIT throughout the competition. This incident would prove a major factor in DIT's ultimately regaining the crown. Drivers were pushed to the limit in the semi-final with the winner of each heat qualifying to the final.

The final saw CIT's Robert Lewis holding pole position, with DIT's Mark McIntyre lined up alongside him. Lewis on the front row. And it was McIntyre who emerged victorious, with fellow DIT driver Simon Clarke in second place and WIT's Ian O'Brien finishing in third. McIntyre's win clinched the overall title for DIT Karting Club, defeating WIT by 317 points to 307. IT Sligo finished third with a respectable 302 points. The night was spent in joyous revelry in Galway as three hundred free pints from Heineken were duly downed by the DIT drivers.

The full DIT team were: Mark McIntyre, John Hanrahan, Ken Gallagher, Karl Bonar, Ross Clarke, John Reilly, Ray Nangle, Simon Clarke, Noel Renehan and Pissy Goggins.

The Ladies team consisted of Kate McNamara, Denise Drennan, Lisa Dunne, Lisa Holten and Amy Williams.
**Overall President**

Dermot Keyes and Jennifer Duggan spoke to the three aspirants to DITSU’s highest office in the run up to the elections, which take place on March 14

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**Marguerite Fitzpatrick**

Marguerite is currently Site President of DIT Bolton Street. She has been involved with the students union for the past five years being a member of various committees and a DITSU council. Through her experience, Marguerite believes she has “gained valuable experience in the mechanics of how the union is actually run”.

If she is elected as overall president, Marguerite intends “to bring the newly elected DITSU executive together as a cohesive unit, forming a strong, focused, enthusiastic team”.

She has a number of aims and policies to implement if elected among these are to “bring a much needed sense of Professionalism and Relevance to the work of DITSU and to improve its communication both internally and externally.”

She intends to start from basics to improve the Union. This includes improved Internet access for all Union officers. She also intends there to be “hard working and efficient Union Officers who have undergone comprehensive and relevant training during the summer months including a module on Basic Officer Management.”

“If elected, I intend to improve the professionalism of the Union’s entertainments by introducing a full-time Entertainment’s Manager to the staff of the company.” She believes that such an appointment is “needed within the Union.”

“DITSU can not afford to remain in the past as students move forward and regrettably further away from their Union. I intend to seriously examine the relevance of the Union in today’s student society and implement the much needed changes.” If elected, Marguerite proposes to carry out a Strategic Review of the Students Union. Communication, according to Marguerite, is vital to the running of the Students Union.

“That comes straight from the top; the Overall President has to communicate well with his/her executive and staff and ensure that the chain of good communication continues down the line to part-time officers, class reps and lastly but most importantly students.”

To ensure communication, Marguerite believes that “class reps are the key to the strength of the Union. I intend to initiate a campaign throughout the sites encouraging students to be class reps.”

Another way in which she intends to communicate with the students is through the official DITSU website.

“The potential of our site is huge and should be maximised. I intend to employ a company to deconstruct and rebuild the site: www.ditsu.ie should be the most widely accessed website among DIT students.”

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**Ray Nangle**

As head of the DIT Karting Club, Ray Nangle has certainly been one of the more high profile students attending DIT Angier Street during the past two years. His reasons for standing for DITSU’s top position was a logical one, he told the DIT Independent.

“After two years of involvement with clubs and societies and having seen some things right and some things wrong, there are a number of policies I would like to implement should I be elected. I’d like to get the facilities issue sorted out for all DIT students, to establish extensive channels of communication at all levels throughout DIT and to see the Grangegeaman issue finally sorted out.”

Nangle believes that his experience with the Karting club in relation to leadership, negotiation skills and dealing with businesses would make him a good choice for election come March 14.

“To organise a team effectively; that’s what I’m good at. I had a year’s sabatical with Coca Cola and was put in charge of a team of 17. I love business, I love organisation and from that point of view, being DITSU President is pretty much the ideal job for me. I get to do what I am being taught in.”

As well as being Overall President, there are two company chairmanships assumed by the election winner and it is business and not politics that is his main area of concern should he become the holder of the highest office in the Union.

“Pursuing a political future is not on my agenda,” said Nangle.

Of course, the political context of the job has to be recognised and it has been used in the past as a step into the political world.

“You have to be political when it comes to negotiations but I feel that it is equally important to get the organisation of an event right and to put in place a number of business organisation structures in DITSU.” His ultimate aim, it would appear, is to change the way that DITSU is perceived by the average student.

“The Students Union has fallen to an all-time low, I believe and that’s been said a lot in DIT circles. It’s time for something fresh, new and different.”

---

**Cathy Power**

Cathy Power currently holds the position of Site President in Cathal Brugha Street. She has four years experience with the Students Union and has believes she has “a long proven track record as a member of the Union.” In 1998/99 she held the position of Equality Officer and the following year she was the CBS Welfare Officer/Deputy President.

Cathy’s main aim for her presidency, if elected is “to make sure that all the students of DIT achieve the very best out of the union.”

Speaking about her campaign Cathy said: “Having been a member of Governing Body this year, I have already laid positive relations with the superior figures within DIT and Dublin City Council.”

Among the issues Cathy will be focusing on are facilities, quality assurance, welfare and education campaigns and part time officer training. She will be looking for answers about the Grangegorman site as two years after the students were told that it would be going ahead nothing yet has been done. Cathy believes that “it is time to get the power of the students back on board and finally get some answers.”

Cathy also wants to examine the Student Quality Assessment of lecturers scheme. An agreement was met whereby assessment forms would be given out to students but as of yet this has not happened. Power told the DIT Independent that “it is time to get course committees up and running in all the colleges and ensure wide spread student representation.”

Welfare and education campaigns are also an integral part of her manifesto.

“The welfare campaigns are always run very well,” but she believes that “a lot more effort needs to be put into running education campaigns.”

She also sees part time officer training as being a very important issue and one which she would address if she were to be elected.

“It is important that our part time officers have proper training to ensure that they can carry out their jobs to the best of their ability.”

Cathy intends to look after the needs of all DIT students including part time and international students who are often left out of Student Union activities.
**Election candidates on campaign footing**

It's that time of year again, as DIT students get ready to vote for the DITSU that will serve them during 2001/2002. Jennifer Duggan and Dermot Keyes got the lowdown from those who hope to come up trumps come election day.

### Aungier Street

**Karl Bonar** - running for President in Aungier Street

"I want to get a clubs and societies room and two Internet access computers in the Students Union. We've got to make the Union more accessible and more useful to students in Aungier Street. I'd like to put an interactivity centre in place for next year, maybe run a Wednesday night in a small pub and then every second week run an interactivity night with UCD and DCU. This would be something I would be confident of seeing put in place next year. Nights out should be more enjoyable and more fun. I'll make a big push for a student welfare officer.

**Aungier Street Deputy President/Welfare**

Bonar is the only candidate for the top job in Aungier Street. With Noel Renihan the sole nominee for the Deputy President's position, so barring a strange occurrence come election day, it would appear that Peter Dunne and Simon Clarke's replacements will be chosen without too much drama.

### Cathal Brugha St

**John McKenna** - running for President in Cathal Brugha Street

"I see a great need for improvements to facilities for Cathal Brugha Street and for Sackville Place and Denmark Street, which have been neglected in this regard for far too long. Part time students seem to get a raw deal so I would like to get them more involved in the union next year. There are a couple of issues about the canteen that I'd like to see resolved. If I win, I'd like to get DIT to serve full breakfasts in the morning and to increase the vegetarian options for meals. We need an upgrading of the facilities in the common room and I'd like to get couches in the pool room."

**Cathal Brugha Street Deputy President/Welfare**

McKenna is unopposed in his bid to become President, as is the nominee for the number two position in DITSU CBS. The elections of both McKenna and Jennifer O'Connor should not be too problematic come polling day.

### Bolton Street

**John Hanrahan** - running for President in Bolton Street

"Securing accommodation for Bolton Street students would be one of my major goals and to get that accommodation in Grangegorman is one of my top priorities. The need for our own sports fields on the site is a must. If for one am sick and tired of seeing students having to travel to pitches in Terenure and other parts of the city. If we could just get three or four acres out of the 65 available in Grangegorman that could be used for the students in time for the start of the next college year is very important. The cleanliness of the toilets in the college needs to be looked at.

"We need to improve the image of the Students' Union also needs to be examined. At Bolton Street, the Students' Union has become a bit of a no-go area for some students. A friendly and more approachable atmosphere must be emphasised. I like the Union myself and I'd like to improve and enhance the profiles of welfare, clubs and societies and entertainment. I myself know the importance of student welfare as I availed of it myself this year and I want the area of student welfare to be looked into."

**Bolton Street Deputy President/Welfare**

The race for the Deputy Presidency will also be fought out between two candidates, namely Paddy McElligott and Donna Mulligan, so the battle in Bolton Street should make the count a little more interesting here than it will be when the Aungier Street ballots are counted.

---

**Your choice . . . Your vote . . . Use it**
Campaigns swing into action

Kevin Street

Keith Magee - running for President in Kevin St

“I am running for the position of President in Kevin Street because I see it as a great challenge and because I believe I have a lot to offer. Among my main policies should be a greater database of information and communication within both the Union and the entire student body. I would like to create a greater database of information and communication within both the Union and the entire student body. "There's also a need to resurrect the class rep situation and ensure that each class has a class rep and the appropriate number of class reps is appointed as per the number of students in each class. The Union must act on problems that our students face. The grants issue, Grangegeorge and problems with facilities have to be addressed. Student opinion must be sought. I want to ensure that events will run more efficiently. A professional approach to ticket sales and a greater variety for students on nights out is another area I would work on." 

Des Alvey - running for President in Kevin St

“I’ve been involved in the union for three years and I ran for Deputy President and Welfare last year and I have been events officer this year. My three years experience in the Students Union would prove valuable for me were I elected. There’s a feeling in Kevin Street that the Students Union is not a welcoming place for all students; it’s a bit cliquey and a little intimidating for a number of students who never go down into the Union at all. I would like to create a greater database of information and communication within both the Union and the entire student body. "There’s also a need to resurrect the class rep situation and ensure that each class has a class rep and the appropriate number of class reps is appointed as per the number of students in each class. The Union must act on problems that our students face. The grants issue, Grangegeorge and problems with facilities have to be addressed. Student opinion must be sought. I want to ensure that events will run more efficiently. A professional approach to ticket sales and a greater variety for students on nights out is another area I would work on." 

Mountjoy Square

Mountjoy Square

Sinead O'Leary - running for President in Mountjoy Square

“...a new policy for the Students Union in terms of heightening student awareness in what the Union can do for them and would be one of my main policies. The Art and Design students have a number of issues which need to be addressed and I would ensure that their cause would be put to the relevant bodies within DIT. "The facilities issues, such as an upgrading of the library from its current level and to increase the interest in clubs and societies is something I would put a lot of time and energy into. The grants campaign needs to be continued. "I’ve worked a lot with TD’s and the Minister for Education and I have been recently invited to the Dail to meet with a number of deputies to discuss the material grant. General entertainments need to be examined and talks with pubs and clubs would feature highly on my agenda. "We need to broaden the horizons for canteen entertainment in the canteen and try and get a few bands from within the college to play there more often.”

Andrew Kavanagh Doyle - running for Deputy President/Welfare

“I would increase the push for DIT’s University status and would institute campaigns both with students and lecturing staff. We need to get more students on course committees as well as getting more people involved in the Students Union itself. "We need to make more people aware of the facilities that are currently available to them. I would put in place an easier system for people to get student welfare as well as obtaining student information. "I’ve decided to stand because I’ve been involved in the Students Union for the past three years in a class rep. I’ve been involved with DIT Rugby Club as well as playing a role in the campaign for Grangegeorge. I’ve been a student councillor and part-time student officer this year. I know that I can do the job; it’s not an easy job, but I can do it. I enjoy the challenge and I know that I’m capable of doing my job.”

Joe Walsh - running for President in Mountjoy Square

“There’s a need to overlook the integration between Aungier Street and Mountjoy Square and ensure that all courses from Mountjoy Square are maintained and properly catered for once the move is made. The social event integration between Aungier Street and Mountjoy Square must be maintained in connection with the move to the new site. "Rag Week was widely criticised and we need to look at the way we run the week and ensure that in the future we all just don’t treat it as a party week. We should orientate it back to the raising of money for charity and try and increase the importance of this area of the week. "We need to build up the hype for Rag Week and have the week and the importance of the week emphasised. "A comprehensive look at Rag Week is required but at the same time it’s important that students enjoy themselves during those five days as well. I’d look to build on this year’s increase in grants campaign and try and increase the grants campaign and try and increase the grants campaign and try and increase the pressure up on the government. "Dropping of the third world debt was something I lobbied for as welfare officer this year and I see the cancellation of the debt as vital. We will be sending a petition to the G8 Conference in Tokyo in July in relation to dropping the debt.”

Alison Boyle - running for Deputy President/Welfare

“I would like to continue the policy to drop third world debt, continuing the campaign that we began earlier in the year. I would also continue to address the drug and alcohol awareness campaign and try to get the Art and Design grant increased as they have some major expenses during the academic year. "I would also like to raise the awareness of all students about the services that the Union provides and to treat them all equally in the college. "I’ve decided to stand because I’ve been involved in the Students Union for the past three years in a class rep. I’ve been involved with DIT Rugby Club as well as playing a role in the campaign for Grangegeorge. I’ve been a student councillor and part-time student officer this year. I know that I can do the job; it’s not an easy job, but I can do it. I enjoy the challenge and I know that I’m capable of doing my job.”

No Vote, No Voice, Polling March 14th
Not such a gift

THE GIFT
(Cert 18/112min)

CONSIDER THE SET-UP.
In the tiny town of Brixton, Georgia, young widow Annie Wilson (Cate Blanchett), supports her three children in the tiny town of Brixton, Georgia through a meagre living as a psychic, reading cards and telling fortunes. When a promiscuous young socialite (Katie Holmes) goes missing, the authorities reluctantly turn to Annie for clues to her whereabouts.

Add to this a supporting cast of sceptical locals, superstitious white-trash hicks (Keanu Reeves is surprisingly convincing as a menacing wife-beater, making his ludicrous turn in The Watcher all the more dreadful) and the unnatural creepiness of the Georgia swamps and you should have a damn good supernatural thriller.

A great cast, an established director (Sam Raimi, behind the upcoming Spider-man) and Oscar-winning screenwriter (Billy-Bob Thornton). So what the hell went wrong?

Thoratlon and fellow screenwriter Tom Epperson certainly have a knack for the nuances of small-towns life in the deep south. The redneck element, in particular, seems to be dead-on, from the John Deere baseball caps to the grits they had for breakfast.

All the more shame that the story is so lacklustre. As a whoadnuttin' it's made redundant by the fact that you can't bring yourself to care either way for any of the supporting characters... not only that, but the eventual culprit seems so blatantly obvious that you'll have figured it out half-an-hour before the film has caught up. By the end, you're left with the nagging impression that you just paid £4.50 to see a TV movie.

Balancing this is Blanchett's astonishing central performance as Annie. It's the sort of acting that bypasses the part of your brain telling you that what you're watching is fiction and has you hanging on her every move. It's a shame that being in such an average film probably harmed her chances of a well-deserved Oscar nomination.

***

STATE AND MAIN
(Cert 18/102min)

STATE AND MAIN is one of the funniest films I have seen in recent years and if it doesn't end up on my Top Ten of 2001 than this will have been the best 12 months for cinema in a long, long time. A Hollywood film crew descend on the small town of Waterford, Vermont - a place where everybody knows each others first names and the local doctor wears a bow-tie.

The film crew have enough of their own problems: Director Walt Price (William H. Macy) has to contend with a leading lady (Sarah Jessica Parker) who won't take her clothes off in a nude scene and a leadng man (Alec Baldwin) with a predilection for underage girls.

Not only that, but shooting a film called "The Old Mill" becomes that little bit more difficult when it turns out that the town no longer has an old mill. The responsibility for ironing such problems out of the script falls onto the shoulders of idealistic young playwright and first-time screenwriter Joe White (Philip Seymour Hoffman) who finds his loyalties divided between a promising career and small-town life with local theatre director and book-shop owner Ann Black (Rebecca Pidgeon).

Renowned writer/director, David Mamet accepted a commission to write the first draft of The Silence OF The Lambs-sequel Hannibal (also reviewed) just as he was gearing up for pre-production on State And Main. It's possible that Mamet's original script was so poor (Schindler's List-scribe Steven Zaillian was brought in to do a major re-write) because he was so preoccupied with State And Main.

If that was indeed the case, than any of Hannibal's failings can be seen as a worthy sacrifice. State And Main is the finest thing you will see this month.

Eye eye! Here comes the ball

By Deirdre Groatke

FOR too many years, we in DIT have stood on the periphery of college entertainment. For longer than we care to remember our students have suffered the insult and indignation of being labelled a boring college.

For too long Trinity, UCD and DCRU rather unsuccessfully might add, have claimed superiority in the organisation and presentation of events. They claimed to hold the best events fuelled by the best sponsorship. This year, though, it will be different.

Three brave courses have elected seven courageous individuals who have vowed to chastise the stereotypes and eradicate the pretension of those in other colleges. The Engineers, Auctioneers and Surveyors have joined forces, devoted an entire summer to restructure their courses and have agreed to play with the EYEBALL...... aptly named, I know.

Meaningless words.......

I had my reservations going to Velvet to review their student night, Tongue 'n' Cheek. Unfortunately most of them were confirmed.

First, there was the small matter of getting past the bouncer.

I truly had never met such an ignorant and conceited one before in my life. Words had no effect on this man, and after a five-minute clarification session, my mates and I eventually got in.

Admission is £4 and after that it is an impressive £1 per pint for the whole night. There were one or two vicious rumours going around on the night however, that the pints were watered down but I am happy to dispel all such nonsense.

Unfortunately the price of the pint did not make up for the state of the nightclub that night.

The bathrooms were cramped and dirty with no locks on the cubicle doors.

First-year student Deirdre Woods was less than impressed with the cleanliness of the ladies toilets and was insistent that a "bottle of Domestos or two" was urgently needed. Overall, comfort is lacking in Velvet and there are few areas to relax in. Apart from one area by the entrance, seating is sparse and the carpet was stood on for the entire evening.

The dance floor was also quite cramped and at times it felt like we were dancing in the cloakroom rather than the club.

To its credit, the music in Velvet was good. It ranged from House to R&B and there was even a selection from the sixties.

This was a refreshing change from some of the hard core dance music that other Dublin clubs pump out.

The lighting over the dance floor was ample but without any dramatic features. Large television screens surrounded the dance floor and in case of boredom, the punters could always watch a bit of a Disney classic such as The Lion King which was played all night.

On the night I visited, Velvet was pumping and customers there was an eclectic mix of people ranging from Erasmus students to natives from Cork.

However, despite the crowd, you were never left long waiting at the bar.

Velvet's Tongue 'n' Cheek night is considered by the management to be a sure fire success and they believe that students prefer "cheap beer instead of free admission".

However, there are very few surprises and apart from the occasional free, there are no other real incentives to go.
**The Watcher**

**CERT: 15/97min**

**APOLOGIES to anyone expecting a comprehensive critical breakdown of the pros and cons of The Watcher, but I can't do it. Just shy of Battlefield: Earth, The Watcher is just, well, bad.**

**Matt Damon plays Rannulph Junuh in The Legend of Baggar Vance**

Everyone knows their hidden passions and unexpected emotions in the average person might balk at casting him as a coldly deviant serial-killer. Maybe we've been spoiled by a rake of villains with above-average intelligence; Hannibal Lecter, Keyser Soze, Patrick "American Psycho" Bateman, Seven's John Doe... The Watcher, on the other hand, boasts a serial-killer who couldn't return an overdue library book without getting arrested for it. The only reason that he seems to be able to get away with garrotting young women for so long is that the authorities chasing him are even dumber than he is.

With the exception of James Spader, or course. Spader is like the "Anti-Keanu" in that he seems to quietly raise the IQ of any film he appears in. But even he can't fight off the combination of Keenu "Whoa!" Reeves, pointlessly-flashy camera angles that leave you with a throbbing headache and a copyright notice that may raise your—or your local council's—headaches and a script with a better idea of what character he's playing. With this in mind, the average person might balk at casting him as a coldly deviant serial-killer.

Unsurprisingly, the film of Hannibal - the third to feature gruesomely seductive serial-killer Dr Hannibal Lecter - diverges from the novel's surreal closing pages. Other than that, Ridley Scott's film is admirably faithful to the original novel, which border on unfilmable ending.

The Legend of Baggar Vance is a beautifully-photographed drama set in the Depression setting and is based on a novel by Paul Newman. It stars Robert Redford and is set in the strict-but-fair town of Lusquesnet, France.

The year is 1957 and the main character, Rannulph Junuh, is a world-class golfer who is known for his perfect swing. His main problem in life seems to consist of dispensing little nuggets of home-brewed wisdom while helping Junuh find his "perfect swing." Despite the Great Depression setting and impending world war, director Robert Redford draws a rose-tinted charm over every single frame with the sole intention of leaving the audience with a warm glow when they leave the cinema.

Against all odds, it works. Like another Redford film (The Sting, in which he starred with Paul Newman) The Legend of Baggar Vance gives you two hours of an unusually sentimental world that could never exist outside of the big screen. Just don't forget to leave your cynicism outside.

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I HATE it when people eat chocolate, which is then chewing all available scenery like some American Psycho Bateman, Seven's John Doe... The Watcher, on the other hand, boasts a serial-killer who couldn't return an overdue library book without getting arrested for it. The only reason that he seems to be able to get away with garrotting young women for so long is that the authorities chasing him are even dumber than he is.

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Our DIT astrologer predicts what the month ahead holds in store for students everywhere

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
This is the month to widen your horizons. Recently you have felt that your life is quite unfulfilling and that there is something more you could be doing. If this is the case, try organising a short trip to a place that’s almost always interested you or arrange a big night out with your friends. Afterwards, you will feel refreshed and ready once again to tackle the mundane. Remember life is too precious to waste.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
A small winfall mid-month will be a welcome reward for your help with a family matter. You have been working so hard lately it is about time you treated yourself. Be good to yourself.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
You have a great head for business. mars moves into your seventh house of career and finance, work becomes the focal point this month. Recently, you have been feeling as if you have been taken for granted. Now is the time to ask for that raise. You have to stop associating money with greed. The fact is, you deserve it and as long as you accept bad pay, nothing will change.

Cancer (June 21 - July 23)
By performing a good deed in secret for someone special in your life could have unintended rewards for you. Close relationships have been under a lot of pressure lately. By performing a small kindness, you will help ease this tense situation. Personal disappointments have been getting you down lately. Stop obsessing over the past. Future happiness can be yours if you allow yourself to move on. Destiny begins with the letter W.

Leo (July 24 - Aug 23)
Love is definitely in the air for Leo this month. A good friend of yours has confided in you a lot recently. You will be glad you did so in the long run. Destiny is a legal document.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
This is a particularly busy time for you. Friends are likely to invite you to a fun gathering mid-month, and tempting as it may seem, you are overloaded with work. The stars advise taking care of as much of your work responsibilities as possible before letting your hair down. In a few weeks there will be plenty of time to party but until then, buckle down. You will be glad you did so in the long run. Destiny is a phonecall from abroad.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)
Go to the gym and pound the treadmill. You’ll be amazed what the month ahead holds in store for students everywhere.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Take advantage of this time to get in touch with your physical side and go out and tempt yourself. Help others and you will feel rewarded.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You haven’t been feeling so good about yourself lately. Improving your wellbeing can be as simple as doing some volunteer work. Helping those less fortunate than yourself can be very rewarding and fulfilling. It might just be the confidence boost you need.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 20)
Your health is the focal point for this month. You have let yourself go lately and now is the time to get in touch with your physical side and go out and get some exercise.

Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
This month could be a lucky time for you. As Jupiter moves into your fifth house of career and finance, you may find yourself up for promotion or a very large raise. All of a sudden, your work colleagues are recognising the enormous potential you have to offer. Take advantage of this time and talk yourself up to the right people.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You have been feeling a little overwhelmed by personal problems lately. Perhaps it’s time you enlisted the help of your family or friends in solving them.

Remind yourself of the support you need at the moment.

A little jolly good sport every Monday...

...on Thursday its the business...

...on Saturday, get into the Weekend! Every day the students paper!

Irish Independent
Ireland’s National Quality Daily.

Student Price only 50p
Independent a member of the club
Holden, Treasurer, Alan McDonnell, John participating in outside budget we were only able to of the club. And the results so this has not stopped the always seen the potential basis.
THIS year has been a great registered three further points holding Maynooth to a one­point lead.

Unfortunately, Maynooth was confident that they were in with a serious chance onto the pitch at Maynooth for 25 minutes of the first half, our players asserted themselves excellently, holding Maynooth to one­point lead.

Unfortunately, Maynooth registered three further points just before the break to get a major advantage at a crucial time in the game.

Super a goal from Galway’s Colin Coen hammered the ball into the net to dig DIT back into the game.

Sadly, our team failed to build on that score and Maynooth eventually pulled away to win by 0-17 to 1-6.

Despite valiant efforts from Eamon Curly, Willie Camody, John Cullen, Colin Coen, and Barry Lambert, Maynooth were deserving winners and possessed a number of all­round points which was illustrated in the final score.

The result was hard to take for DIT, but the spirit that sport should always transmit holds true - there is always another day. The players involved in the team can be quite proud of their efforts in this year’s campaign.

We can all look to the future and build on what has been achieved to date.

GAA Development Officer Des O’Donnell reflects on DIT’s exits from both the Fitzgibbon and Sigerson Cups

The second part of the black Wednesday double whammy administered to DIT came in the premier Inter­varsity football competition. In this case the dose was delivered by ladies Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick.

DIT seemed to be cruising into the next round of the Sigerson when they scored a point in injury time to go two points up. But a last minute penalty award by the referee K Walsh to MUC. The penalty was duly dispatched into the net and DIT’s hopes for one more year of Sigerson\\

Bolton Bears Pool Club

THIS year has been a great year for the Bolton Bears Pool Club and a very busy one at that too.

Over the past few years they have shown a strength to numbers doubling each year.

To cater for the approximately 300 odd people constantly participating on a day by day basis.

Chairperson John Murray says “as a member of the club for the past six years I have always been aware of the potential within it. I am very proud of our club and have always tried to get every member to be involved with the running of the club. And the results so far have been proven.”

This club has always survived on a very low funding from DIT central but this has not stopped the players from organising competitions and participating in outside events such as the inter­varsities.

This year due to a low budget we were only able to send 2 teams consisting of 10 players to represent Bolton Street in the inter­varsities.Both teams played their hearts out with some great victories from the likes of the Howlin Brothers. Alan McDonnell, John Murray and many more to mention.

In all we managed to secure a semi­finalist position. This year however, the club intervened as a top prize winner to Bolton Street for the first time ever.

Players are all geared up for the event which takes place in March ’01.

The Club kicked off the year with a massive singles competition that ran smoothly with a great turn out.

Subscription for the year is only £2 contrary to Ray Nangle’s statement that his club is the only “college club” to have a subscription fee. Also, I’m sure that we are too not the only clubs around to do so.

We also had a great night out following the competition in one of the local pubs with a lot of great prizes for all participants.

Our Christmas Singles Competition was also a great success with Andrew Faulkner coming out the overall victor. This competition showed us that we were capable of taking home the Trophy for the first time in the year.

Rag week too took out to be a winning week with the club raising a lot of money for both the Rape Crisis Centre and the Cancer Research Society. I’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who helped in making the week a great success.

We have many plans for the Club before the year is out. We also would like to participate in a Blackpool competition which will be the guest speaker at the gala highlight of DIT’s sporting year. Confirming that all sports have been cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth scare, McClelland said that mats will be placed outside the hotel on the night in question.

RTE’s horse racing analyst Tracy Piggott will be the guest speaker at the gala highlight of DIT’s sporting year. Confirming that all sports have been cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth scare, McClelland said that mats will be placed outside the hotel on the night in question.

Restrictions on all sporting fixtures nationwide is expected to be reinforced for at least 30 days after the Department of Agriculture stands down from its current Foot and Mouth alert.

The Intervarsity Cross Country Competition is being held as a highlight of the third level athletics season, which were to be run over the second weekend in March this month, was called off by the World Cross-Country Championships in Leopardstown, where McClelland was to form part of the stewarding team for the races, look set for a switch to a continental venue as this paper went to press. The selection process for the World Student Games in Beijing this summer have also been hampered by the scare and it has not yet been established how the Irish team will now be picked. An introductory sailing course in Carlingford was cancelled, and were planned events for soccer, hockey, mountaineering and canoeing.

The National Swimming Intervarsity Championships and the continuation of the golf competitions look to be the only events that have survived the alert, according to DIT Sports Officer Liam O’Callaghan. “The only sporting activity that has not yet been cancelled is the Inter­DIT four­ball golf league to be played during the month of March with the finals scheduled to take place in City West Golf Club on Thursday 5th April 2001,” he said. “The comprehensive sports and recreational activities timetable organised by each of the individual college sites will continue to operate as usual,” he added.

In what has been an unprecedented incident for this generation of students, it will be interesting to see what makes the headlines in next month’s edition of the DIT ‘Indo’ as there might not be anything to report!
Indoor football league set to kick off

Compiled by Dermot Keyes

Soccer

DIT reached the final of the prestigious Collingwood Cup final only to be beaten by the University of Ulster Jordanstown by three goals to nil in the deciding penalty shoot-out. Michael Whealan’s charges came through the rounds, beating DCU 3-1 in the opening tie, University of Limerick in the semi-final. Unfortunately, UUJ proved a little too good for DIT in the final. Despite several efforts by this paper, team manager Michael Whealan was unavailable for comment on the team’s superb achievement in reaching the final.

Cathal Bragha Street manager Sean O’Gorman is pleased with his team’s efforts this term, but the Foot and Mouth scare looks set to bring their season to a premature end. A 2-0 win over Mountjoy Square, thanks to goals from Conor Smith and Dave Smith, who combined for both goals. A foul tempered tie at Clontarf was nonetheless testament of the good form that CBS have displayed throughout the season.

Ladies Football

Chairperson Karen Ward and coach Pat Byrne have put in sterling service this season in getting their club off the ground. The team competed in the Harney Cup without success and preparations for the O’Connor Cup were well underway until a combination of Spring snow and the Foot and Mouth scare put pay to their tie against St Mary’s in Belfast. New players should contact Karen Ward at the Students Union shop at Mountjoy Square or Des O’Donnell at 30 Upper Pembroke Street.

This is reflected in the high level of sponsorship from companies such as Red Bull, Guinness and Arnstel. The season lasts eight to nine weeks and matches take place in the YMCA on Aungier St. Participation levels are high, with twenty teams, comprising first, second, third and fourth year students, all competing for the top spot, and the small matter of the £300 prize money for the winning team.

At least twelve matches are played per week and each year, new and enthusiastic teams join in the competition to square up to the more established teams.

The first four seasons were dominated by indoor football’s answer to Man Utd. The Dimbos Lunchbox, took all the silverware and swept the floor with all who opposed them. However, their reign of terror was dramatically put to a halt last season, when Eat The Lee (don’t ask) snatched the title from their grasp, in a closely contested final.

However, The Dimbos contend that the absence of influential team captain, Dave Barry can account for their uncharacteristic lack of success last year (excuses excuses).

With The Dimbos seeking to regain their supremacy and the new teams trying to prove their worth, the season is shaping up nicely. So who will it be? Can Eat The Lee regain their title or will one of the newcomers take the league by storm and surprise us all.

Or perhaps the trophy will leave the country with one of the Erasmus teams.

But (altogether now, in your best possible David O’Leary accent) at the end of the day, as I say, it’s a game of two halves, and only time will tell.

The motley crew get some beers in after indoor victory.
Planet Murphy & The Palace Nightclub, Camden St. Open 7 nights 'til late. Come early.