2002-3

DIT Independent, 1st.-31st. of March, 2002

DIT:Students Union

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€71,000 cost on RAG ball
DITSU left to count cost

By Athlind Casey

IT is estimated that the DIT Students Union lost €71,000 last February after failing to attract as many as 6,000 partygoers to what was dubbed as their highlight of the year. However, this number included complimentary tickets, which the union had handed out.

Although members of the Students Union were unavailable to the DIT Independent for comment, DITSU’s Board of Directors have stated that they are treating the loss very seriously and are currently looking at cost cutting measures which can be taken to recoup the money lost.

Although an insurance premium of €3,200 was taken out by DITSU for the event, it merely covered public and employer liability. DITSU clearly hadn’t learned anything from the mistakes of last year’s RAG Ball. The ticket price of €20 per ticket has also been cited as a deterrent to students at the end of a long and hectic week of exam revision.

The event attracted only 1,000 students to the Point Depot on the 14th February, on a night when DITSU hoped to attract as many as 6,000 partygoers to what was dubbed as their highlight of the year. However, this number included complimentary tickets, which the union had handed out.

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Choral society raise the roof

By Aisling Casey

The DIT Choral Society recently presented the 5th National Concert Hall with an electrifying performance of operatic favourites.

The National Concert Hall came alive last month to the melodies of the DIT Choral Society. The Conservatory of Music and Drama has been behind the production of its immense, popular, Conservatory Brunca. Dublin's newly formed orchestra, Dublin Sinfonia, also played on the night.

The society was founded in 1996 to bring together students and staff from all DIT colleges to perform. Since joining DIT, Ms Sherlock has guided the choir successfully along the way, from their first concert in Christ Church Cathedral to their debut in 2002.

The choir has also won the Culwick Cup for Chamber Choirs in five consecutive Feis Ceol. In December 2000, the choir also launched their first CD entitled, Carols for Christmas.

Societies awards - coming soon

By Anita Conway

The second DIT Societies Awards ceremony will be held in April to highlight societies and individual members who have made an outstanding contribution to the extra-curricular life at DIT.

The awards are broken into categories: "Best Society" in each site, then from the entire Institute. "Best Society", "Best New or Improved Society", "Best Event" and "Best Individual".

The awards will be judged on an application made by the society or individual detailing why they feel they deserve the appropriate award. Application should include photographs and details of successful events. A selection committee was set up to choose from those nominated.

The awards will be held in April and all details will be available in a couple of weeks. You can write to DIT Societies or Societies Officers to deal with enquiries.

Prizes to be awarded: All winners will be invited to the National Societies Awards ceremony at the University College, Cork (Board of Irish College Societies) which will be held on April 19th in UCC. In May, the overall winner will be chosen extremely successfully by being awarded National Societies Individual of the Year for two years running.

Victor Merriman is Senior Lecturer and Acting Head of the Conservatory of Music and Drama at the Institute of Technology, Dublin.
DIT Student Union Elections

Overall president candidate

By Aoife Stokes

Hugh O'Reilly is the only candidate running for the position of Overall President of the DIT Student's Union in the DITSU elections on March 13th.

Speaking to the DIT Independent, O'Reilly said that, "I have always contended that the Student's Union can be a great organisation, however it has been let down by inconsistent performances of the sabbatical we elect from year to year".

Speaking about the fact that there is only one nominee for the this year, current Overall President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick said that it is a shame but that if the students aren't happy with having just one nominee they should try for the position themselves.

"I'm sure Hugh will still put the same amount of effort into his campaign even though he's the only candidate running."

22 year-old O'Reilly has attended DIT Mountjoy Square for the past four years and is currently in his final year of a degree in Furniture Design. Throughout his college career he has been involved in the Student's Union undertaking a range of responsibilities.

He has been a class representative for the four years and has also been a member of the Student Council.

O'Reilly held the presidency of the DIT Drama Society over the academic year 2000/2001 and was a founding member of the society. Under his presidency the society went 'Best Society', 'Best Event' and 'Best Society Individual' at the first DIT Society Awards in 2001.

The main aims of O'Reilly's campaign are to bring greater levels of professionalism, communication, accountability and planning to DITSU.

"I am not contending that if elected I can immediately transform the union and all will be bright and wonderful this time next year. I am a realist and see that only as a team the union can go forward and improve the facilities and services provided to students. At the turn of the 21st Century we need to embrace changes and improvements because unprofessional standards and practices are no longer accepted by a demanding student population."

Cathal Brugha St under-represented as nominations announced

By Aisling Casey

The nominations for Student Union sabbatical and part-time officers were announced earlier this week with no sabbatical candidates going forward to represent Cathal Brugha Street.

This wasn't the only surprise for the election candidates, especially those attending Mountjoy Square, Aungier Street and Rathmines, all of whom will be competing against each other for votes.

From September 2002, Mountjoy Square students will no longer attend the Northside campus.

Instead business students will move to Aungier Street, while arts students will be accommodated on the Rathmines campus.

It will prove difficult for candidates attending any of these three colleges because canvassing will have to be done on all sites. This also includes sites at Portland Row and Temple Bar. Candidates in this position were given extra materials for attracting voters.

There will be two polling stations in Mountjoy Square, one for students who will be attending Aungier Street in September and another for those who will be attending Rathmines.

Cathal Brugha St were underrepresented at the meeting of election candidates, with no sabbatical candidates going forward. Philip Gannon was the only part-time candidate put forward by Cathal Brugha St. He is hoping "to provide a better standard of social life for the campus".

There is only one nominee for Overall President this year. Hugh O'Reilly is this year's candidate. Hugh, who has been involved in student politics over the last four years and is eager to make the Student's Union more approachable for students. He said, "I have the ambition necessary to do a good job."

Voting will take place on Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th March, with Northside and Southside campuses voting in different days. This is being done to eliminate unfairness in cross border voting.

With campaigning well underway, nominees and their canvassing teams are under strict instructions not to deface other candidates' posters, as it will result in immediate disqualification.

The election supervisory committee will monitor a breach of election guidelines over the coming week.

Candidates must now publicize their campaigns as much as possible.

They will be given the chance to state their manifestos at a compulsory session of election hosting early next week. The count will take place on Thursday 14th March.

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**DIT Student Union Elections**

**Full-time sabbatical candidates**

**Bolton Street**

Name: Cathal Gallagher
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Deputy President Welfare Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the Students' Union by providing new seating and a more comfortable surrounding for all students.

**Square**

Name: Marc Murphy
Age: 28
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the manner in which money is spent by the Student Union and in particular to reduce the ways in which it is lost by major charity events during the year.
- Also to reduce the money lost by ineffective day-to-day running of the Union, where sabbatical officers either do not turn to work or turn up late.

**Name: Clárán Horan**
Age: 21
DIT Campus: Aungier Street
Nomination: Deputy President

Current course of study: Business Studies
Year: Fourth

Previous experience in student politics:
Not interested in politics, just working to achieve a better union.

Major proposals if elected:
- To sort classroom seats out and printers.
- "Fresh new ideas for a new college."

**Name: Joe Savage**
Age: 22
DIT Campus: Mountjoy Square
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare & Aungier Street

Current course of study: Motor industry management
Year: Third

Previous experience in student politics:
- Outgoing class representative and founder of DIT’s first Social Care Practice scheme.

Major proposals if elected:
- To enable a seamless integration of Mountjoy Square into Aungier Street and become more in tune with the students.
- "I am very approachable for the position of Welfare and I genuinely wish to improve the quality of life of the students I am representing."

**Name: Kevin Patrick Woods**
Age: 21
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

Current course of study: Diploma in electrical & control systems
Year: Second

Previous experience in student politics:
- Class representative for four years (92-96) during apprenticeship, and currently the Participation officer for Kevin Street.

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the manner in which money is spent by the Student Union and in particular to reduce the ways in which it is lost by major charity events during the year.
- Also to reduce the money lost by ineffective day-to-day running of the Union, where sabbatical officers either do not turn to work or turn up late.

**Name: Lyndsey Jones**
Age: 21
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

Current course of study: N/A
Year: N/A

Previous experience in student politics:
- Have dealt with the Union for the last 2 years as Equality Officer and current Deputy President.

Major proposals if elected:
- Managed campaigns this year for facilities and grant increases and representation of students at home and abroad, intend to continue to rally for these issues, in the hopes of a positive outcome by the end of the year.

"As I am the current Deputy President I know the ins and outs of the job, and how persistence and patience play a big part in getting what you want from the college. I’ve had ups and downs with the job this year but I love the job, love dealing with students. Despite the fact that it is a thankless job most of the time, it’s the self-satisfaction that I get at the end of the day."

**Name: Eamon Sheridan**
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Deputy President Welfare Officer

Current course of study: Architectural tech
Year: First

Previous experience in student politics:
Experience in debating and took part in a one-year mentoring scheme.

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the Students’ Union by providing new seating and a more comfortable surrounding for all students.

**Name: Keven Patrick Woods**
Age: 21
DIT Campus: Mountjoy

Current course of study: Diploma in electrical & control systems
Year: Second

Previous experience in student politics:
- Class representative for four years (92-96) during apprenticeship, and currently the Participation officer for Kevin Street.

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the manner in which money is spent by the Student Union and in particular to reduce the ways in which it is lost by major charity events during the year.
- Also to reduce the money lost by ineffective day-to-day running of the Union, where sabbatical officers either do not turn to work or turn up late.

"I am a mature student and I feel that I can bring both my maturity and past work experience in both entertainments and management to the Union."

**Name: Eamonn McNamee**
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

Current course of study: Business Studies
Year: Second

Previous experience in student politics:
- Chairman and founder of DIT’s first tech society.

Major proposals if elected:
- A more approachable union i.e. to remove the closed shop mentality.

"I promise to give this position my utmost attention and I guarantee that I will work to the best of my abilities to ensure my objectives are achieved."

**Name: Paul James Ross Malone**
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Aungier Street
Nomination: Site President/Aungier Street

Current course of study: N/A
Year: Third

Previous experience in student politics:
- Site President of SRA, Class representative and Site Public Relations Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To remove the closed shop mentality.

"As I am the current Deputy President I know the ins and outs of the job, and how persistence and patience play a big part in getting what you want from the college. I’ve had ups and downs with the job this year but I love the job, love dealing with students. Despite the fact that it is a thankless job most of the time, it’s the self-satisfaction that I get at the end of the day."

**Name: Naoimh McNamee**
Age: 21
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Deputy President Welfare Officer

Current course of study: Architectural tech
Year: Second

Previous experience in student politics:
- Class representative for four years (92-96) during apprenticeship, and currently the Participation officer for Kevin Street.

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the manner in which money is spent by the Student Union and in particular to reduce the ways in which it is lost by major charity events during the year.
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"I am a mature student and I feel that I can bring both my maturity and past work experience in both entertainments and management to the Union."

"I promise to give this position my utmost attention and I guarantee that I will work to the best of my abilities to ensure my objectives are achieved."

**Use your vote on March 13th and 14th**
Part-time officers

Name: Alan Keane
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Participation Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To take action on any incidents of discrimination on the Rathmines site.
- I don't back down when people discriminate against me, not that I'm stubborn, just a tad assertive.

Name: Colin Saunders
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Mountjoy Square
Nomination: Equality Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights.
- I have a good knowledge of the Union and work well with and for other people.

Name: Francis Patrick Fox
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Clubs and Societies

Major proposals if elected:
- To create a greater awareness of the Union and work well with and for other people.

Name: Georgina Daly
Age: 18
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Equality Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To encourage first-years to get involved in many of the societies.

Name: Nicola Cunningham
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Entertainments Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the entertainment facilities in Aungier Street so that it will appeal to everyone in the college, and they will all be encouraged to participate.

Name: Peter Bennett
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Entertainments Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights.

Peter Bennett and Amy Cahill
Peter Bennett: Commitment and enthusiasm.
Amy Cahill: I am about the importance of student views. I am not running for a popularity contest.

Name: Gary McDermott
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Clubs and Societies

Major proposals if elected:
- To provide a wider range of entertainments in the college.

Name: Jenny McGowan
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Mountjoy Square
Nomination: Entertainments Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights.

Name: Amy Cahill
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Bolton Street
Nomination: Equality Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To promote the SU and stop discrimination available to students via the SU.

Name: Martin Ryan
Age: 20
DIT Campus: Aungier Street
Nomination: Public Relations Officer

Major proposals if elected:
- To provide a wider selection of entertainment i.e. anything other than the Palace every Wednesday.

Name: Peter Bennett
Age: 19
DIT Campus: Kevin Street
Nomination: Entertainments Officer

Major proposals if elected:
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Name: Francis Patrick Fox
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Letters to the Editor

Praise for DITSU RAG efforts

Dear Editor

I would like to discuss the recent RAG Ball in the Point Depot. I would like to thank the DITSU Executive for running a brilliant show and congratulate them for all their hard work and effort that they put into it myself and I have to say that I enjoyed the night thoroughly.

Unfortunately though, the night was not a complete success, insofar as a loss was made. RAG Week this year stood for "Raising And Giving", specifically to the Special Olympics. Any attempt to do so will be seen for what it really is - a pitiable electioneering tactic. Quite rightly we must examine on what pretences the DITSU Sabbatical Executive of the Union ran the event. I'm sure however, that voices of discontent will rear their heads from within the Executive e.g. "I was against it from the beginning" etc.

Such is the nature of democracy however, that when a project is proposed, those who may not fully agree with it help carry it out - usually with their objections taken into account and incorporated into the same. Therefore the Executive should not only split up the issue - as we ALL know what it can lead to...

Therefore, Sabbaticals must take back the chalk on the chin and try to see points in the up coming elections. Any attempt to do so will be seen for what it really is - a pitiable electioneering tactic. Quite rightly we must examine on what pretences the Sabbaticals engaged in were unusual and how we can once again see them formally engage in the campaign just a week before the poll on March 6th. Sabbaticals must be proactive in their efforts and not wait until the very last minute.

Sabbatcular points to note:

1. DITSU lost Eur4,000 on the Halloween Ball last year, an event that was to take place on the 2nd of November.
2. RAG days in 2002 saw a total of seven days before voting is as remarkable as the myopia that the DITSU Sabbatical Executive of the Point Depot have been affected by. As Mr. Hyland so aptly put it: "Is it not time that they actually spent more than they can afford and fork out Eur20 for a ticket? Clearly they did and therein lies the problem.

Less RAG Trip tickets were issued this year at the SU shop for each year and we all know that the students should already have spent more than they can afford and fork out Eur20 for a ticket? Clearly they did and therein lies the problem.

With respect to the acts that performed at the Point, a headline act would surely have enticed more students to the RAG Ball - again this tactic proved a failure. The whole concept of RAG Week as students are currently fanning the flames needed to be addressed and an overhaul of the event is definitely required. "RAG days" have come as Research Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sabbatical Sab...
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Laurence Mackin savours the highs and lows of a long night in Dublin’s answer to the Golden Mile.

Although Las Vegas Nay be all glitter and glamour, Dublin’s equivalent is not so extravagant. Montague Street is home to two of Dublin’s private members clubs where the privileged few can spend their life savings on a game of cards. Being the debonair playboy that I am, I decided it was time to get a piece of the action at the Montague Leisure Club.

It’s 2AM and everywhere else is sleeping. The bouncer shows us in and hands us forms to fill in, to certify us all as temporary members. We duly fill in false names and forwarding addresses for the junk mail.

The entrance hall looks like a small hotel lobby. Big desk, security camera, fake cheesy Romanesque statue in the corner, service as an ashtray. Once the formalities are out of the way we make our way into the arena.

My dreams of neon lights, Elvis music, hookers and free alcohol are dashed on the rocks of a room Laura Ashley would be proud of. Seven tables of either blackjack or roulette divide the floor. Each table has a small huddle of gamblers, quietly staking their chips, overseen by a croupier and a supervisor seated on a high chair, like an umpire in tennis.

The atmosphere is at best subdued with the light background music broken only by the quiet murmur of voices and the innocent click of the roulette table.

I am in completely uncharted territory, with virtually no back-up. There is a strict no alcohol rule, and although there are free drinks you will not find a drop of illicit substance for blood or money.

The nearest thing I could find to a season’s remember has attached himself to a nearby blackjack table, and I follow suit. Quickly firing up the spectrant sport, in the pure interests of journalism and absolutely nothing to do with greed I hand over my 20 euro. The croupier slots it into a hole and hands me a pile of chips. Let the games begin.

Blackjack is a deceptively difficult game to master and I have no idea what I am doing. I look around the table and there is no Mario Beacon character to show me how to take money off the English girl firing cards at me and unmercilessly asking me questions to which I have no answers.

Everything about the casino is cliché. The good-looking girls in the black dresses dealing out cards at lightning speed, the almost complete absence of female gamblers in the room, (there are about three women to 40 men at this early hour, the entire room permeates machismo).

In an attempt to ingratiate myself with the atmosphere I bat into every cliché there is. Foresaking all else, I start using the most insignificant movement possible to indicate another card or a stick. It reminds me of torturous childhood days at cattle markets, watching old men wave over a fine flock of heifers with a flick of the Farmer’s Journal. Despite this, due to what could only be divine intervention, I start winning. I’m not just breaking even. My lonely 20 euro rashly thrown into the rabbit hole has come back from the dead, Jesus-like. And it’s brought a few apostles.

Half an hour and 20 euro later, things are looking sweet. I save my original stake and set it aside, vowing not to use it. I send in a little blue chip brethren off into the battlefield and pretty soon they’ve come back with some POW’s. I’m up to 30 euro, then 40.

The atmosphere is at best subdued with the light background music broken only by the quiet murmur of voices and the innocent click of the roulette table.

When asked if he sometimes feels guilty, he shrugs. “I’m not forcing anyone to throw their money away,” I realise my pony stake is insignificant and when my new best friend tells me he once knew a man who lost €100,00. Five nights in a row.

The dealer has obviously been around the blackjack block, so I figure he must be damn good at the game. “No”, he replies, a judicious glint in his eye. “I never gamble”. I feel like I should have learnt some sort of lesson at this stage.

Things have gone from great to worse. The battlefield bodes ill and my reserves are considerably depleted. I haven’t been watching the cards and I’m in dire straits.

All my treacherous blue chips have surrendered and I send in the last of my light wallet brigade on a rescue mission. Desperation clouds my judgement and my high hopes of Bond girls and martinis by the pool are swallowed whole by a somewhat sympathetic croupier with an “I told you so” look on his face.

My foot’s paradise has burned to the ground. I decide to call it a night, and my only regret is that I have no money to tip the dealer. I step outside and Camden Street is deserted, save for some friendly pidgeons. I have lost in a big way tonight, yet I haven’t felt this good in ages.

The only thing I know for certain is that I will have my revenge on that damned casino. Probably next weekend.

Laurence Mackin cashing his chips. Honestly.

My combat transmutes peak at around 25 euro, and the battle swings back and forth for a while. For about 15 minutes I sustain heavy casualties, but just before I call for reinforcements, I’m back on track and looking set to regain all lost territory. The problem here is that you rarely see cash. You are playing with chips and the whole experience seems somewhat unreal.

Most of the gamblers seem completely indifferent to the monopoly money they throw on the table. One patter muscles in beside me and throws a single 50 euro chip down. He doubles it to 100 euro and lets it ride.

It doubles again and he decides to try once more. Bad move, and the dealer collects 200 euro.

He merely shrugs and moves off to another table. Most people fall into casinos with a set amount that they can lose. Only the very good, the very desperate and the very desperate to go in with a set amount which they must win.

My combat transmutes peak at around 45 euro, and the battle swings back and forth for a while. For about 15 minutes I sustain heavy casualties, but just before I...

The atmosphere is at best subdued with the light background music broken only by the quiet murmur of voices and the innocent click of the roulette table.

Laurence Mackin cashing his chips. Honestly.
Will you have some time to spare this June? If you've got a few extra hours, Special Olympics Ireland needs your help. Janice Gaffey spoke to Pat Costello, the Director of Special Olympics Ireland. The increased attention from the media has been very positive, with the exception of the controversial, but seen by most people as a personal opinion, Mary Ellen Synon. The Organisation for the 2003 World Games will be selected at this year's National Games. "The athletes have refocused on this part of the fact that Team Ireland for 2003 will be selected at it", added Mr. Costello.

The forthcoming events are also beginning to receive increased attention from the public and the media. "In general the media coverage has been very positive, there has been great support and interest," said Mr. Costello. He dismissed the infamous Mary Ellen Synon article about Special Olympics as "controversial, but seen by most people as a personal opinion".

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A Labour of Love

"I can't remember a time when I wasn't interested in public issues," said Joan Burton, former Minister of State and currently representing the constituency of Dublin West in Local Government. Now in her third year of Labour Party membership, Ms Burton reflected on her reasons for joining the major party of the left when speaking to the DIT Independent. "I joined the Labour party in the context of Ireland joining the E.E.C. which I was very opposed to," she said. "I saw it as a very big loss of sovereignty." As a native of the inner city, Joan felt compelled to engage in the political process given that the capital faced an accommodation crisis during that period. In Dublin the really big issue was housing because the housing situation was just appalling and the quality of people's accommodation was appalling. Acting as an active member of the party as opposed to forwarding herself for elected representation initially, Joan's role in the party changed some two years into her involvement.

"Noel Browne was having one of his continuous difficulties with the Labour party. He had been meant to represent some branch at the Labour party's annual conference in Cork, but for various reasons, ended up not being able to do so. I was invited in this branch and a number of people asked me to arrange for him to be delegated of the branch. And of course I was delighted."

Browne was a man ahead of his time in Irish politics - the instigator of the ill-fated Mother and Child scheme in the first multiparty government led by John A. Costello from 1948-51, a policy which would lead to his resignation as Health Minister after some two years into his involvement. According to the agreement, he had thrown open their careers to the women. Joan Browne, 70, was a member of the party as opposed to forwarding herself for elected representation initially. Joan's role in the party changed some two years into her involvement. By the end of what she dubbed "the Spring tide" of Labour, where obviously women's rights are traditionally circumscribed. Women are not terrible advanced, and the country was dirt poor, although it's a lovely country, but nonetheless, they have the right to divorce and remarriage. I strongly believe that more women should be pushed along as candidates," she said. "I then found myself having to become a candidate in order to supply a quota of women. I wasn't very enthusiastic and I had quite a seminal experience, in that as soon as I became a candidate, I worked in the University of Dar Es Salaam. "We left Ireland around the advent of the 1980's, she was a lecturer Joan met a man called Pat Carroll, who was to work as Director of Elections for the Waterford-Born Browne. "At the next election, Pat ended up being nominated as a candidate for the area (Quinnstown Road, in Cabra) and he got elected. About a year later, we got married." She added with a grin, "politics is not all about slogging - there are interesting times as well."

As well as representing Dublin West in Dublin City Council, Joan Burton lectures business and journalism students in DIT Aungier Street, a position that she immensely enjoys. An excellent Leaving Certificate result saw the young Joan rewarded with a scholarship to University College Dublin, where she studied Commerce and English. "I was the first person from my school to go to university and probably the first person from Oxtmantown Road to do so."

She noted that while socioeconomic constraints have improved the situation for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, the current student population still reflects the difficulties for aspiring students from areas of economic difficulty. "In the 1950's and 60's the people who went to college were the better off. There was no point system and it was just a matter of having the money, or for a very small number of people like me, getting scholarships. Though nowadays you look at the statistics and the number of working class kids who go to third level is still quite tiny,"

By the time the obstacle of university education had been successfully cleared, Joan committed herself to Labour and was a noted member of the party's anti-coalition extreme left. By the advent of the 1980's, she was honorary secretary of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, "before it became fashionable". By 1983, following her husband's resignation from Dublin Corporation, Joan and Pat moved to Tanzania, where both back from Tanzania. It's a third Muslim country, where obviously women's rights are traditionally circumscribed. Women are not terribly advanced, and the country was dirt poor, although it's a lovely country, but nonetheless, they have the right to divorce and remarriage. I strongly believe that more women should be pushed along as candidates," she said. "I then found myself having to become a candidate in order to supply a quota of women. I wasn't very enthusiastic and I had quite a seminal experience, in that as soon as I became a candidate, I decided to put my foot down and be one."

"The conduct of the disgraced Liam Lawlor could provide Burton with the votes of many disillusioned Dublin West voters"

Acting as an active member of the party as opposed to forwarding herself for elected representation initially, Joan's role in the party changed some two years into her involvement.
J1 time again

By Debbie Flood

Going on a J1 is the definitive rite of passage for every student. You will find out more about yourself and the people you go with in those short months than you would in a lifetime. All the planning and preparations fly right out of the airplane window as soon as you touch down on Yankee soil. Everyone goes on a J1 looking for something, be it fun and adventure or work experience and a holiday.

I had just turned 19 and wanted independence away from the safety net of home. A group of us headed to New York, and organised a house on Staten Island before we left. It was a comfort knowing that I wasn't homesick when I arrived.

The first two weeks in New York were tough. The heat was unbearable and only five out of the 20 in the house had secured a job.

It was depressing coming home at night after spending hours begging for jobs and returning home with nothing.

After twelve days my boyfriend and I left New York for Cape Cod, a coastal area in Boston. It was a huge difference from the big city. In the house, we had barely any room left for our luggage. We were forced to listen to the same music and watch the same movies. It was a huge difference from the massive skyscrapers and bustling urban jungle we had left behind.

The living conditions are likely to resemble those of a pensioner. You'll be sharing a two-bedroom apartment, and the bus service will be a prisoner in your little cottage.

Forgetting to do a J1

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ne of those who work on the J1 is the best thing since white sliced. And then there's another school of thought which compiled a list of reasons to avoid the H like the plague that it is.

1. Chances are that you won't make any money, or at least no more than you would have if you had worked closer to home. A significant number of returning J1 students do have a price of a pint of ale when they land on Irish soil, and count themselves lucky if they break even and can repay the bank parental-/support/family.

2. The reasonable likelihood of being arrested if you're under 21 and attempting to get drunk on a fake ID. It's illegal to drink in the US if you're under 21, and if the police catch you they will arrest you.

3. It's worth noting that many Americans go to the pub for food, and if you don't get locked. The only times I saw leaving the pub was when we had a bad state of being my friends and the other Irish students in the cottage.

4. This won't apply to everyone, but the Irish students that I know are very sensitive to the sun, and even if you've got a free hand with the Ambre Solaire, you'll still get a tan. Give that a huge amount of J1 students get sunburned on a beach holiday, it's worth noting that many Americans go to the pub for food, and if you don't get locked. The only times I saw leaving the pub was when we had a bad state of being my friends and the other Irish students in the cottage.

5. If you're fond of life's little luxuries, then it's not for you. The beach was a minute away from the cottage and I would regularly visit it before work to top up my tan.

6. Speaking of food, it may be worth pointing out at this juncture that several J1-ers spend three months living in a shop window and don't go to get locked. The only times I saw leaving the pub was when we had a bad state of being my friends and the other Irish students in the cottage.

7. Finally, remember that despite growing up under the impression that Americans love the Irish, IT'S NOT TRUE! J1 students are regarded by many Americans in much the same way as a suburban bus-load of Spanish students in your local supermarket.

8. Employers do not love you, and if they do it's only because they see you as slave labour. Even if you're working at a McDonald's, they may take off work, so they'll also ask offensive questions about the work back home, or whether or not you know Paddy Joe O'Heaney from Knocknaheeney.

9. Your choice of 4 quality programs:

Could you offer a discount on the J1 visa? We are interested in visiting as many places as possible and the visa restrictions are one of the biggest issues we face as tourists.

Erica

March 2002 DIT Independent DIT

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Prepare for Xmas all over again

By Jamie McCormick

Microsoft are very well known as a developer of some excellent games in recent years. Names come to mind like Age of Empires or the Flight Simulation series. On the 14th of March, their first foray into console gaming will be launched in Ireland – the Microsoft Xbox.

The console has been greeted warmly in the US when it launched in November last year, and quite the opposite to what some people thought, it has shown that Microsoft can pull off quite a lot with a bit of effort (and $500 million) to spend marketing it worldwide.

Having played the console itself, I can tell you that it is impressive. Physically it is bigger and bulkier than the PlayStation 2, and has a controller that takes quite a while to get used to. On paper, it is about twice as powerful as the PlayStation 2, offering gamers plenty of room to manoeuvre in the future.

It also features a built-in hard drive, allowing games to be much larger than before with little if any, and is ready for the launch of broadband internet services whenever NTL gets around to it.

Don’t be fooled though, the console is a games console, not a computer, and you will not be able to surf the internet through it. When the service gets launched in Ireland you will be able to play in Internet leagues that are being set up for the hot games. Also those of you who are hoping to use the DVD player will be disappointed. Although it does allow DVD playback, you will have to buy an additional peripheral to activate the feature.

The console is very much a multiplayer gamers dream. Each console can plug four controllers into the front, and on top of that, you can also network up to four machines for multiplayer thrust.

The launch title Halo supports this up to sixteen players on four televisions to fight it out to the death in first person mode, or team up for a more tactical game. When the Internet services become available, this will be further extended.

The console launches on Thursday March 14th around the country. Weighing in at an expected price of £299, it may be a little too hefty for most students.

But for those of you who will be fortunate enough to land yourself one of the consoles within launch, you will be very well looked after. Microsoft has learned from the mistakes of other console launches.

While others and notably Nintendo have launched consoles with some great games, there tended to be a drought of titles for a number of months after.

This is not seemingly the case with the Xbox. Microsoft have announced an impressive line-up of titles for the launch period. On the day, twenty titles should be available. These will include the much anticipated and excellent first person shooter Halo, a graffiti hit Jet Set Radio Future, Project Gotham Racing, Dead or Alive 3 and Tony Hawk's Pro Skate 3.

There have also been a host of great titles announced for the first three months of the console’s European life including Samurai title Gennosuke, Crash Bandicoot, Championship Manager, Chuck, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Fifa World Cup and Spiderman. These games are expected to sell at around £49.99.

The official launch of the console takes place in Virgin Megastores on Aston Quay, and will feature an Xmas theme (for those of you who put off Christmas presents to get it). Santa will feature giving free presents to the first hundred to get an Xbox, and there will be Game Poles out of the store to allow gamers to test what games are on offer.

Only time will tell whether Xbox can establish itself in Ireland against the hugely popular Sony PlayStation 2, but with the line-up that the console has going for it, we will be an interesting year!

Game Title: Headhunter
Format: PlayStation 2
Publisher: Sega
Computer Entertainment Europe
Rating: 15+

Set in Afghanistan, Headhunter arrives on the Playstation 2 to take on stealth action titles. But how does it fare? Not too badly actually. The game sees you as Jack Wade, the #1 Headhunter working for the Anti-Terror Network. But this thing changes drastically when you lose your licence to Headhunt and your job, but you have also lost your memory. So working for the Anti-Terror Network, you have to find out who killed the ACN chief, and find out what happened to your memory along the way.

The game is a mix of action, stealth and adventure. When you begin the game, you will need to earn a licence to hunt down wanted terrorists from LELA, the Losers Elite Liberation Army.

Graphically the game is quite good, with plenty of detail on both the characters and the environment. It is also well written, with the score recorded by the London Session Orchestra, and the controls are easy enough to get to grips with. Look out for the ABCs of Sega's Metal Gear Solid, but it has an interesting storyline and is fun to play. Rent it first if you’re not convinced.

Game Title: Maximo: Ghosts of Glory
Format: PlayStation 2
Publisher: Capcom Europe
Rating: 11+

Capcom have released Maximo, a title that takes quite a lot from the PlayStation's Crash Bandicoot and Ghost'n'Goblins. You take on the role of Maximo, a knight who has returned from a distant war to find his homeland is being invaded. Although he has a pretty good story to go on, his love interest has been captured and is being held hostage.

Maximo has harnessed the power of the underworld after defeating a great Demon, a demon himself. It's up to Maximo to get rid of this under world under their control. When Maximo confronts him, Achilles kills him, leaving Maximo a ghost. It's up to you to put Maximo back in the game, and save his love interest. Although it does allow DVD playback, you will have to buy an additional peripheral to activate the feature.

The graphics are great, with detail compromised a little to allow the sound to be high. The sound is very good too, with an old-style soundtrack to back up the action. There is a lot of action packed into the game, and while you controls are very easy to get the hang of, and as you progress through the game you will learn a lot more about the game.

Maximo is fun good, although it only contains about 25 stages and not the hardest game around. It's good old-fashioned fun, if you're fed up with gory hack and slash titles, or want a fun and interesting 3D platform game, Maximo is the game for you.

Game Title: Medal of Honour: Allied Assault
Format: PC CDrum
Publisher: Electronic Arts
Rating: 15+

Medal of Honour has been the most popular first person shooter series on the PlayStations, and it has made the transition to the PC with style. The hugely popular World War 2 title sees you as Lieutenant Mike Powell, a special forces soldier during the Allied invasion of Europe. You will take on six overall missions during the invasion, and includes a range of light hearted lifestyle pieces, images from the year in sport and some of the more disturbing events from the year.

One such photograph is 'Thin Ice', a dark and foreboding image of the Garda sub-aqua team stretched across a frozen lake, attempting to recover the bodies of two girls who had fallen through the ice. The black and white and disturbing composition conveys feelings of desperation and isolation.

Many of the images are quite lightweight emotionally, a humus and fascinating image of a bird catching its own reflection in the mirror is truly memorable, along with a photograph of two little boys at a pro-life rally. This image is a typical example of photographers playing with people's perceptions of a controversial issue, and is a heavily loaded image that has been in heavy circulation in the run up to March 6th.

A favourite for many is a photograph of a small boy surprised and bewildered by two drag queens. This image captures the changing nature of Irish society.

The winner of the EireIIe/e/odafone Irish Press Photographer of the Year is Brenda Fitzsimmons. Ten works from this Irish Times photographer are on display, including 'Earth Angels,' which features five little girls walking to their navy play. The lighting, colour and tone have an overall magical effect, and convey the aura of innocence and fairytime ambiance associated with such childhood events.

Life caught on the run

By Debbie Flood

BY taking thirty minutes out of to the movies, pub or a gig and doing something different, I found something that is both interesting and entertaining. The Gallery of Photography in Temple Bar is holding the EireIIe/e/odafone Irish Press Awards.

A collection of over 100 of the best press photographs of the year is on display for the public to view, free of charge.

The exhibition provides the perfect opportunity to view the amazing images that have featured in the national and regional press in the last year. The photographs are broken up into eight categories: news, sport, features, people, the arts, politics and individual study.

There are three prize-winners in each section and an overall winner.

The exhibition features a selection of photographs which made the news in 2001, and encompasses a range of light hearted lifestyle pieces, images from the year in sport and some of the more disturbing events from the year.

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Life caught on the run

By Debbie Flood

BY taking thirty minutes out of to the movies, pub or a gig and doing something different, I found something that is both interesting and entertaining. The Gallery of Photography in Temple Bar is holding the EireIIe/e/odafone Irish Press Awards.

A collection of over 100 of the best press photographs of the year is on display for the public to view, free of charge.

The exhibition provides the perfect opportunity to view the amazing images that have featured in the national and regional press in the last year. The photographs are broken up into eight categories: news, sport, features, people, the arts, politics and individual study.

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Deafening silence

By Clara O'Connor
Ah, sweet mystery of a seated venue. For some reason, a place like the Project Arts Theatre has a soporific effect on what is normally an animated crowd.

The NPB (previously National Prayer Breakfast), Deputy Fuzz, Future Kings of Spain gig was a definite test of the bands' quality, as the excruciating silence only contributed to the widely held perception that these bands are utterly professional, and note-perfect.

The opening act was Lisa O'Neill and John McNeagh from Ballyfermot Rock College. They played two original folk/ acoustic songs, which warmed the place up considerably. Lisa's soulful voice with a strong country swing was complemented well by John's quiet, soft rock style vocals.

Their harmonies are exquisite and their timing impeccable. The Future Kings of Spain were the next act to tread the boards. They are a well-publicised and much discussed group; however, it was the first time I had been subject to their powerful rock. Looking exceptionally stylish in suits (we won't mention the trainers), the FKOS bring a new meaning to the word noise. The silence between songs was clearly unnerving for them and I'd safely say their regular crowd does not sit deferentially in their seats and pay full attention.

Next up were Deputy Fuzz,... what a weird band. Their consistently outlandish vocal sounds married to a demo on a Casio keyboard (remember Christmas '88?) made for a very bizarre treatment of songs about everything, from sandwiches to pet gorillas to a tribute to Samantha Jones from Sex and the City. The whole set was a mish-mash of 40 second to 2 minute long snippets of what new and old sounds the band had managed to formulate. I don't think they spent just a little longer on the musical quality of what they are producing, as, at least, it is really original. Basically they are a crescendo of strange noise.

If that's what you like, and many people did, then their debut album, Music for Toys, is out on March 14th.

Finally, the headlining act, Primal Scream, was a treat to the ears. Their satirical tribute to Louis Walsh, which has taken on a cult-like status, was one of the high-points of the night. It is testament to the Revs that the lyric 'Louis Walsh said, Rock & Roll's dead' remains just an ironic anachronism. The band has been nominated for the Best Newcomer/ Hope for 2002 at the upcoming IRMA awards alongside Louis' trio of pop sensations Six, Reel and Bellefire. They championed their own cause throughout the night as the only credible choice for true music fans.

The unique style with which they blended their own songs almost seamlessly with popular songs is something which sets them apart from other contemporary acts. Also of note was their slant on Kylie's worldwide smash-hit 'Can't get you out of my head' (or bed as the boys' crudely interjected). played a la Travis' rendition of 'Hit me baby one more time'. The Revs' singles 'Wired to the Moon' and 'Still alive with you' harboured the most expectation and again failed to disappoint.

We feel obliged to say a few words about the second support act Deputy Fuzz. They are playing in Whelan's on March 16th. Lets just say we will be somewhere else come the 16th. The first-support band Cody were not half- bad however, possibly worth another look.

The Revs' cover of Hendrix's ' Foxy Lady' proved a perfect end to a great night even though the security at times seemed a bit over-enthusiastic. Lets just hope that the Revs win the IRMA beating those 'bubble gum disposable mass marketed over-hyped Frankenstein creations'.

The next single from their debut album Sonic Tonic, "Turning Japanese" has been tipped as an Irish Wolf Cup anthem.

Revs rock
Ambassador

By Andrew Rea and Kieran Dineen
"They're thinking of changing their name to Number 3 inspired by their ideal, 1, 2-Unlimited, Five, Six and Club 7 but that is all hearsay," or so said the rather jubilant announcer before The Revs took to the stage.

Dunne's finest were here to rock and they did just that.

From the off they engaged with the young audience getting them worked up, mooshin' and jumpin', through their own brand of exhilarating, fast pop-punk music. This threesome play simple catchy tunes keeping their music accessible to all ages yet not selling out to the mainstream. Both Rory Gallagher (lead singer) and John McIntyre (bass guitarist) worked the stage as if they have been years on the circuit and Rory's soshears-jumps', were a true crowd pleaser. Indeed songs like 'We love America' which was dedicated to the politicians in the venue, show just how much they have improved since their 'Battle of the Bands' winning days.

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Ali
Starring: Will Smith, Jamie Foxx, John Voight
Director: Michael Mann

Depicting the life of the most famous man alive was always going to be a difficult task for director Michael Mann. The retelling of the life of Muhammad Ali is a story whose whirlwind of controversies and drama could never truly be justified in a two and a half-hour movie.

But to Mann's credit, Ali is an interesting if not riveting account of the most turbulent decade of 'The Greatest's life. The movie kicks off with Cassius Clay's surprise victory over Sonny Liston and ending with his even more sensational knocking out of the human monolith that was George Foreman in the 1974 'Rumble in the Jungle'. Will Smith is a convincing Ali and his beefed up physique. His intense preparation is evident in each of the movie's excellently shot fight scenes. Ali's relationship with TV sports presenter Howard Cosell (brilliantly played by a barely recognisable John Voight) is recognisable John Voight) is convincing Ali and his beefed up physique. His intense preparation is evident in each of the movie's excellently shot fight scenes. Ali's relationship with TV sports presenter Howard Cosell (brilliantly played by a barely recognisable John Voight) is

The movie's murder is an enjoyable thriller-type suspense with the help of Michael Douglas playing an heroic role. The Fellowship of the Ring remains on the big screen for salvo anoraks such as little old me, and still represents the greatest action fantasy ever committed to celluloid. Yes, that means better than Star Wars...
By Laurence Mackin.

Once again Rag Week has come and gone and left in its wake a plethora of decimated students with blurred memories, odd scarring and smiles on their faces.

Rag Week sums up all that is good about the carefree happy go lucky nature of student life, the kind of thing that leads accountants in their thirties to look back at their time in college, when they had friends outside of an office and didn’t use terms like “weekly SWOT breakdown” and “FYI financial solvency”, and come over all misty eyed. At least that’s the ideal. In DIT however, we dance to the beat of a different drum.

Rag Week has not exactly become the zenith of the student entertainment year.

A cobbled together number of boozing sessions in some less than salubrious drinking emporiums, a Rag Ball that is a continual disaster year in any year out, a trip to the most godforsaken pan of the city—busy night at a smaller northside hotel. I can’t think of investigating and found that there was no VIP room.

Before I even thought about committing my name to the guest list I did a little bit of investigating and found that there was going to be no VIP room.

I mean, seriously, what’s the point, some sort of hyper p.c. nonsense that means I have to mix and match with a bunch of total skangers mouthing the words to Dancing Queen? I don’t think so.

And to add insult to injury, they were holding the non-event in the Point and that difficult. DIT doesn’t have the grounds to get past my velvet rope was nothing but a glorified bus stop. And in a good audience, both within and outside the college, the DITSU’s plan of attack is to put a bunch of cover bands in a warehouse miles from the city centre.

Although I understand that DIT doesn’t have the grounds to stage a huge event, surely it would be better to have a tiny night at a smaller centrally-located venue than an empty loss making barn? Promoting Rag Week within a college is preaching to the converted.

Frequently, providing case loads of cheap beer is substituted for providing good entertainment.

Giving students a good night out is like shooting fish in a barrel, every week they go out several times and enjoy themselves and spend a lot of money.

So getting them to enjoy themselves at an organised event, targeted at people from their college should not be that difficult.

The fact that a poor Rag Week has become a part of the DIT academic year should not be accepted by students and DIT management alike, and those responsible should be held accountable.

Email: city_sounds@hotmail.com

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By Fiachra Rocco-Govern.

Well it’s no surprise that the rag ball was a disaster, we’re talking wearing light blue this season disaster. How can you expect an event to be a success when you don’t cater for the people that really matter, like moi? Where were the invites, the cocktail reception, the promo nights in the Fitzwilliam, the free accommodation and transfer to the Shelbo, and the fashionable but nutritionally conscious tit bits? I mean, it’s hardly much to ask.

The Rag Ball was a case in point. DIT is the largest college in the country and as such should have an annual event that even people outside of the college want to go to every year.

Louie am I to promote that most arrogant of institutions, but the Trinity Ball has demonstrated just how effective and how well these events can be handled on an annual basis, and rarely have I heard people complain of a bad night at the Trinity Ball.

Rather than get a number of original acts that would be real crowd pleasers and draw in a good audience, both within and outside the college, the DITSU’s plan of attack is to put a bunch of cover bands in a warehouse miles from the city centre.

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And to add insult to injury, they were holding the non-event in the Point and wouldn’t even provide a limo to bring me there, much less a red carpet. I mean honestly, I’ve heard of better hospitality in northside hotels.

So anyway, in order to placate the anger that such a blatant disregard for moi was taking place, I decide to hold my own petit soiree at FRG Towers, and the people were to die for. Everything is now back at it’s normal short of Oscar night-like. The theme was Moulin Rouge, the people were to die for and the night was a fabulous success, from the wasabi sushi rolls (low-fat bien sur) and tofu tempura by my NSF Jean Michel de Chong (he’s half French, half Italian and half Thai, but then all the best chefs are) to the Dom Perignon reception (none of that cheap and cheerful Moet rubbish in my pad, thank you very much).

We danced the night away and not an impersonator or fake personality in sight. M y only mistake on the night was not selling the exclusive rights of coverage to Hello beforehand, but never mind, one lives and learns from one’s faux pas. Maybe someone should tell DITSU that. Thankfully, the seventh plague that is the January sales is over, and one can return to B.T.’s without the threat of some total scrubber asking if they have an Amanda Wakeley in a size 16. I mean honestly, it was like Ray fiddling in a tree after Christmas.

Everything is now back at it’s normal prices and most of the clothes are reassuringly over the £500 mark.

Another thing I noticed about the introduction of the euro is that everything else seems more expensive, so you can feed even better in your Ralph Lauren’s when your painting the town red.

Anyhow, must go, because quite frankly I have lost interest. Ciao.

FRG
**News in Brief**

- The DIT Annual Sports Awards Night will be held at the Ibis Styles Hotel on Wednesday 20th March. All DIT Sports Clubs should submit their nomination forms to Niamh O’Callaghan before Wednesday 13th March. Guest speaker on the night will be former RTE commentator Jimmy McGhee.

- Monday, March 18th —’s 2003 World Winter Games will come to a close on Thursday 27th February and a man named Jim Shea will be in line for a million dollars.

- Anyone interested in inter-varsity road running should contact Padraig Marrey, Youth Development Officer with Cycling Ireland, on 01-792/8572 or e-mail ucddc@hotmail.com or call Niamh O’Callaghan (0-21) 272 1794.

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**Calgie Games round 1**

- **Fitbuggin Cup**
  - Limerick IT 1-14 - DIT 0-10
  - Just 24 hours after the football teams were knocked out of the Fitzgibbon Cup, Sigerson Cup so there is a bigger problem.
  - DIT had taken control of the Sigerson Cup for a second bookable

- **Sigerson Cup**
  - DIT 1-14 - UCC 0-10
  - The DIT Senior Football team were knocked out of the Sigerson Cup this month after they had a carry from the league. By Derek McCormack, DIT

- **Sligo Cup**
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DIT crowned ICBA champions

DIT ... 78
UCC ... 61

By Ronan Holohan

DIT men's basketball team were crowned college league champions for the first time ever after defeating UCC in the final.

DIT led the game from start to finish playing with a high tempo style on both ends of the court. In what proved a superb all-round team performance.

By the end of the first quarter DIT were in control of the game leading 25 to 9 with big offensive rebounds and great inside play from Jerome Fouquet, John Norris and David Harrison.

In the second quarter DIT upped the pace of the game with some excellent team defence frustrating the UCC team. This defensive work led to a run and gun fastbreak offence with great scores from captain Dermot Kavanagh, Sean Coughlan, and Rob McNulty. With Danny and Barry Bates controlling the play and excellent outside shooting from Yanak Jayet and Ian Barrett, DIT led by 20 points at the half-time break.

The third quarter saw the Cork side try to redeem themselves but DIT continued were they left off in the first half with intense defence, fast break scores and dominating inside play.

In the fourth quarter UCC returned to the court like a different side, with a full court defensive press which rattled DIT.

Some excellent individual play from Niall O'Reilly and Martin Kennedy brought UCC in within 11 points, but soon DIT managed to break the Cork side's press and saw them increase their lead again.

Some strange refereeing calls saw David Harrison fouling out with three minutes to go in the game, but the DIT team were never going to let this game slip from their grasp. UCC ended up having to feel to try and get back into the game, and Barry Bates's free throws and a Jerome Fouquet fast break sealed an impressive and dominating 18 point victory.

DIT Top scorers: Jerome Fouquet - 32 points John Norris - 18 points.

Final score: DIT .......... 70

NUI Galway ... 50

Karting Club finally receives funding

By Dermot Keyes

The DIT Independent has learned that DIT Karting Club 2001 has received insurance, which permits it to press ahead with a list of events previously restricted by its lack of funding and insurance cover. The DIT Sports Council has a policy whereby all sports are covered, except Mountaineering and Karting as these are considered 'dangerous' sports. Despite this policy being in operation for several years, this omission has only recently been discovered. Although discussions have seen the club's financial allocation of €3,000 (€389) finally been granted to the club by the Sports Council, a decision which delighted its chairman Bob Coggins.

'This is good news for all concerned and we're looking forward to some good karting now that the nagging problem have been resolved,' said Coggins.

'The DIT Sports Council recently looked to have us insurance for the first time, which was the beginning of the year when the problem was discovered,' he said. 'However we are now free to book events and we can get back on track in main events than ever before.'

For the small portion of the remaining college year, DIT's karting aficionados can expect a little more action than the previous Christmas scenario permitted.

Prior to their good news, DIT Karting Club 2001 began preparations for the All-Ireland Intervarsity Championship, which they are currently co-ordinating. This annual event has been won by D.I.T. for the past three years and Bob is confident that they have the talent to pull off another victory despite the lack of recent competition. The event is to be held on the 9th of March, in Pallis Karting 'Spop, Westport.'

At the moment, the club is in the process of organizing funding for the weekend, which usually turns out to fairly expensive, so any help is appreciated. The club members would like to thank Brian Simo 'Sinto' Sinnott and Ken Gull Gallagher for the work put in over the year as well as everyone else who has helped out.

Man Celtic claim indoor crown

By Anthony O'Sullivan

RAG Week saw another Indoor soccer league in Kevin Street come to a close. This year's matches were just as intense as last year's, with the same amount of blood and sweat being pulsed out of players as they were checked up against the climbing wall.

The one difference this year was the thankful absence of match fixing, most notably in the final. There were the usual outrageous team names though, with many sides not lining up to them.

'Can we kick it obviously couldn't as they finished bottom of their group without securing a single point, while the fabulous 'Dream team' actually played like their on-screen counterparts: crap. And then there was 'Man Celtic'.

Such a bold name needed some balls backing it up by some fancy footie and they didn't have it. What the hell are students learning these days? What is happening to the good old days when footballers could handle their drink? The fabulous 'Dream team' actually played like their on-screen counterparts: crap. And then there was 'Man Celtic'.

'Ten left feet' meanwhile proved aptly named as they crashed out losing 3-12 to the 'Smogey Joe's'.

Their excuse was that they were still recovering from the rag trip.

What the hell are students made of these days? What happened to the good old days when footballers could handle their drink?

The next bunch up were the 'United'. This toughened outfit put up a good show against the formidable 'Jelly Tots' who had won Group B with a record breaking 22-1 victory over the 'Al's' on the way. (The 'Al's' actually set a new record for the most goals conceded in the competition with 96. Good show lads! Are you American Sammo in disguise? Ed.)

The 'Jelly Tots' however paid no heed to their opposition's name, with this one threatening to resemble scenes from a Tyson-Lewis press conference.

After the dust settled, the 'Jelly Tots' won it 10-9. The last quarter-final match never happened, as the 'Moda' decided that their rag week was better off spent in the library studying. So 'Lacoste Dublin' get a bye into the semis where they too fell to the 'Jelly Tots'.

In a game mired by questionable refereeing decisions, the Tots ran out 13-12 victors. In the other semi-final, Man Celtic put the philosophy of total football into practice with an 11 to 7 win over the gallant 'Smogey Joe's'.

So to the final, which with both group winners competing lived up to expectations.

This was true cup football with a last second goal from the not so soft 'Jelly Tots' putting it into extra-time. The cooler heads of 'Man Celtic' however won through in the end by 11 goals to 8.

On getting their hands on the lustrious 'On Campus Sports' Trophy the boys assured me that the prize money would indeed be sunk towards education.

* On Campus Sports are organizing a 5-side Soccer World Cup Blitz for March 13th in Astropark.

They hope to see many more Man Celtics competing on the day for the 400 up for grabs. Details can be found on posters around the DIT campuses.

Man Celtic: 2002 Indoor Soccer winners

DIT college team: Dermot Kavanagh (captain), Barry Bates, Daniel Bates, Jerome Fouquet, Ian Barrett, John Norris, Sean Coughlan

Niall Maher, Colin Price, Graham Masters and Derek Ameen.

Holohan. Assistant coach: Keith McGee

Smiles all round as Man Celtic celebrate their victory.
unbeatable promotions as always

planet murphy & the palace nightclub, camden st.

palace
dublin's no. 1 student venue