2000-11

DIT Independent, 1st.-30th. of November, 2000

DIT: Students Union

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Recommended Citation
By Lisa Deeney
LAST minute disqualifications tainted this year’s DIT Student’s union election, with some saying the whole foundation of DIT’s election rules and regulations have been shattered.

The Election Committee did not check any of the nomination forms and, as a result, disqualifications occurred at the last minute when the supervisory committee realises that some students were not registered.

Mags O’Flaherty was campaigning for Deputy President in Aungier Street, but at 4 O’clock on Election Day she was disqualified, as she was not a registered student. “I am disillusioned with DITSU... I am very disappointed. I put a lot of work and time into the campaign and the students who did vote for me and were supportive of me. I feel disappointed for them,” she said.

Mags, who is repeating her business degree externally, did not realise she didn’t qualify for the nominations. “I feel that all the details on the nomination forms should have been checked fully. The election committee is at fault that it is up to them to check it out. I think it was disgraceful what happened, and Vinny who is in the Union should have checked it out.”

However DITSU President Vinny Dooley insists that the fault is on the student to fill in the nomination form properly and to check if there are eligible for the election. “It’s a matter of exercising one’s right to have anyone but the rules are the rules,” he said.

However as Chairman of the Election Committee, Vinny reluctantly admits that the nomination forms should have been checked and points out that this has never happened before.

Dermot Quinn, who is on the DITSU General Manager told the DIT Independent that size of the election within all the colleges in DIT for 25,000 students amounted to 38 nomination forms.

Simon Clarke who consequentely won the sabbatical election in Aungier Street said that the whole disqualification affair “look away from the election a bit”. “Mags was gifted as she didn’t know the rules, and Vinny who is in the Union should have checked it out.”

However, Maura Cunningham DITSU General Manager said the size of the election within all the colleges in DIT for 25,000 students amounted to 38 nomination forms.

Maura Cunningham DITSU General Manager told the DIT Independent that size of the election within all the colleges in DIT for 25,000 students amounted to 38 nomination forms.

Maga has been involved with the Student’s Union for three years and went along to the November grant strike in Dublin with Aungier Street President Peter Durning.

Mags O’Flaherty was the only candidate to be disqualified, Jenni Corbett who was campaigning for Clubs and Societies Officer in Kevin Street was disqualified on the day of counting the votes. Jenni Corbett, like Mags is doing external courses and under DIT’s rules she is not a registered student.

“I have not made any complaint... I should have made sure I was eligible for the nominations. It’s not entirely their fault,” Jenni said but added that the Election Committee should have checked the details on the nomination forms. Jenni campaigned from nomination day until the election ballot box in Kevin Street was closed. She was told the next day that her campaign was invalid and she was disqualified.

“I get on very well with the person that was running with me for the position and we are now consulting with each other over the different clubs and societies, as I know a lot about the clubs in Kevin Street... I’m still involved with the Union but not on an official level,” she said.

Asked about the people that voted for her she appeared not that troubled. “The people that voted for me knew that myself and the other candidate would both be consulting each other whether I was elected or not... I see the two weeks as good experience and I know what to do better next year.”

Dermot Quinn of the DITSU Election Committee has admitted that this year’s election was “not the best one”. “There is a lot of tight- en-up and clarifications of our responsibilities that has to be addressed,” he said adding, “I hold my hands up, we were at fault at the time.”

Continued on page 3

Also inside:

THOUSANDS of students marched through the streets of Dublin last week, calling for an increase in the £49 student maintenance grant to the equivalent of social welfare payment levels and the provision of rent allowance. They were also calling for an increase in the income limits to more students can avail of the grant.

USI President Julian de Spains told a rally outside the Department of Education that education is a right, it is a passport to a better future. “Yet, this Government is trying to take the steps necessary to make education available to all.”

“A maximum student grant of £49 per week costs college out of reach of many in our society. A maximum of £49 per week exists that the marginalised continue to be marginalised. It’s time to stop the discrimination and give genuinely free access to education,” he said.

This march comes in the wake of a study showing that students spend 70 per cent of their grant on drink, drugs and cigarettes. The survey estimated that each student is spending at least £1,266 a year purely on intoxicants. University College Dublin carried out the survey and it found that UCD’s 18,000 students spend over £22 million a year on drink, drugs and cigarettes.

According to Julian de Spains, President of USI, “we conducted a survey similar to this last year and we found that the cost of living away form home in college is between £4,500 and £5,000 and that would include money spent on cigarettes and alcohol. However, £49 a week is simply not good enough to live on. In Dublin it won’t even cover the cost of rent. As a result, many students are forced to get part-time jobs, meaning they are effectively working 60-hour weeks.”

The protest is the fourth in a series of student demonstrations organised by the USI. Last month alone, over 3,000 students took to the streets in separate demonstrations in Athlone, Sligo and Letterkenny.

“Today is just the beginning,” USI’s Campaign Co-ordinator Clain O’Callaghan told the DIT Independent.
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The Overall View

Vinny Dooley

Here we are only four weeks to go till Christmas but, can you believe that? So what’s been going on in DIT?”

The start, class rep training was a great success, this year it’s held in the new hotel on Harcourt St. The reps learned everything from public speaking to negotiation skills along with how to be a council to organizing your class parties. It was as usual one long day of intense training but we did have some fun and at the end of the class rep training, a social was to take place outside Dail Eireann on Monday, November 27, she explained.

We will be putting up posters and we will have parties in place so students who want a material grant can sign up and campaign to get it. Last year we had a very positive move and it gives us a push forward.”

College DJ’s go head to head

By Samantha Rowntree

CARL O’Brien, a fourth year journalism student in Aungier Street, won a top prize at the annual ESB National Media Awards. Carl, who also works as a staff reporter for the Irish Examiner, was named Young Journalist of the Year at a prize giving ceremony at Croke Park on November 1st.

The overall winner will not be short of equipment for their new career as a DJ. This confidence. So far the judges have been struggling to pick the best as the standard this year has been described as nothing less than exceptional. The outcome of the Dublin semi-finals is expected to be fascinating to say the least, with UCD up against Trinity on the 29th of November. DJ looking for victory against rivals DCU on December the 6th and the PLC colleges battling it out on December the 13th. All the semi-finals will take place on Wednesday nights in Isaacs Bar, and the respective winners have the Christmas to prepare for the Grand Final against the nation’s finest. So, if one of DIT’s students is victorious what will they receive? Apart from the glory of it all, competition sponsors, Technics, Hot Press and Sabotage have got prices up for grabs. The overall winner will not be short of equipment for their new career as a DJ, with £1,000 worth of Technics gear as part of the overall prize.

The importance of publicity will not be ignored either as the DJ will be plugging the competition to future school leavers. The competition is in its third year, and the aim is to promote music education in schools across the country. The competition is open to all school leavers aged 16 and over who are interested in DJing.

The competition is open to all school leavers aged 16 and over who are interested in DJing. The prize includes a £1,000 Technics package, a trip to the annual DJ Convention in Amsterdam, and a chance to perform at the DIT Music Festival.

Positive protest a push forward for material grants

By Lisa Deeney

STUDENTS from Mountjoy Square and Bolton Street DIT are involved in a nationwide campaign to introduce material grants for art and design students.

The campaign, supported by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), involves art and design students from all over the country, including the National College of Art and Design.

A recent USI study has revealed that students in art and design courses are spending an average £1,500 per year on materials over the course of their studies.

Deputy President of Mountjoy Square, Kellie Dalton, claims art and design students are always under financial stress. “It’s definitely a serious and consistent problem here regarding course materials,” she said. “We’re already into the start of the year, being students availing of the student assistance fund are art and design students and the costs are getting higher and higher each week,” she said.

USI President Julien de Spini commented: “We have heard from a number of students undertaking art and design courses experience particular financial difficulties relating to the additional cost of materials.

“Therefore, we decided to survey students undertaking courses such as Fashion Design, Printmaking, Painting, Glass and Ceramic Design. The survey reveals shocking results. On average students are spending an average of £43 per week on course materials.

This amounts to over £1,500 per year, with additional costs relating to end of year projects. The Art and Design sector has had difficulty in recent years on-collating meetings and gathering information because many students in this area are not involved with USI and student union level.

According to the report it is only in recent months that the Art and Design sector group has been able to meet and begin organising a strategy, with a call to gathering information.

“How can students be expected to fund these costs out of a maximum grant of £49 per week?” asked USI Education Officer Colm Kelleher.

“We are demanding that the Minister of Education substantially increase the level of maintenance grants for all students.”

“Why is the culture of poverty for students doing 35 hours a week in college and up to 20 hours a week in work just to survive. Why do students always get the short end of the trick,” said Carl O’Brien. “We need to put pressure on the government to see what the real cost of materials over the course of their studies. The student DJ battle is back, and this year it’s gone nationwide, with entries from Belfast, Cork and Limerick as well as from all over the capital.

The size of the competition has also grown, with more entrants this year than the combination of the past two years, but now that the college bean counters have seen the semi-finals, only 20 DJs have made it into the semi-finals.

Some well known names have made it this far, such as DJ Splyce, representing Ballyfermot and last year’s winner Kornch, providing keen competition for our DIT hopefuls.

Kevin Street’s Tony Smith and Stephen Dunne from Mountjoy Square’s Patrick Butler and Alan Burke representing Aungier Street are all keen with anticipation and

The 22-year-old reporter from Glasthule, Co. Cork, is currently working in the paper’s Dublin office while he is completing his degree in journalism. Carl, who joined the Irish Examiner in July 1999, was honoured for two investigations and an exceptional constitution and the unnecessary death of cancer patients due to insufficient hospital funding.

The judging panel commented, “Carl O’Brien of the Irish Examiner, in highlighting these cancers in our society, has focused attention on them and hopefully will lead to attempts to alleviate them.”

Irish Examiner Editor, Brian Looney, said, “It is a great honour to have one of the country’s brightest young journalists on the staff of the paper and the Examiner look forward to his continued engagement with the issues.”

Carl is understandably delighted with the award. “DIT was a great place to start off and as a class we learned a lot from each other,” he said. “But I owe a whole lot of the staff, especially journalism lecturers such as David Rice and Boghan Corry who were inspirational.”

Carl was presented with his award and a cheque for $1,000 by the Minister for Public Enterprise, M. O’Rourke and ESB chair,anager, John McGinley.
Frustration over Freedom of Information Act delay

By Aoife Dunne

The Freedom of Information Act was due to be introduced to third level institutions this year but has now been delayed until July 2001.

When introduced, the Act will not only give students access to their exam papers, but also records showing how third level investment is being spent.

They will also have the right to correct or update personal information and hear reasons why decisions are made which affect them.

The Information Commissioner blamed the "training requirement" for causing the delay.

"If the Freedom of Information Act is to extend its tentacles around the country, it's going to take a huge amount of time and preparation," he said.

According to the Commissioner, each application for the Act takes six months to process and the delay was inevitable due to the increase in applications.

It will also take time to 'train the thousands of members of staff in third level institutions' to deal with the Act.

Julian de Spinnen, President of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), is not happy with the situation.

He feels that "it is the right of the student and the taxpayer to see where half a billion spent on third level education every year is going".

Education Officer with USI, Colm Jordan, is disappointed with the delay.

Education Officer with USI, Colm Jordan, is equally disappointed with the delay.

He believes that the drop-out issue cannot be effectively tackled without access to "timely and accurate information".

When the act was established in 1998, there was no reference made to broadcasters. RTE lobbied for inclusion, and the Freedom of Information Act was introduced there on the first of May 2000.

They are now the only broadcasters with the act in operation.

Peter Feeney from the RTE Press Office said that the company is in a highly competitive market and felt that the act would set them apart.

The act has made "much less impact" than expected with only a "small volume of requests".

However Mr Feeney still calls it a "worth piece of legislation," as it has "changed the culture in which public bodies operate".

He believes the delay in response to requests to be the biggest flaw.

If a piece of private information is required, it may take up to a year to access it.

You may have to go through several bodies to get it, particularly if a company is obstructionist.

Undoubtedly, the act has short-term benefits.

Companies now have to be accountable for almost everything they do and journalists can expose important information that was once unobtainable.

However, less information is being privately recorded, and this is bad news for historians of the future.

Students around Ireland will have to wait until July 2001 before they can access private information, but hopefully the Freedom of Information Act will provide the facts necessary to tackle issues that affect us all.

For the past four years, European Student Services have reclaimed tax for students from USA, UK, Germany, Canada and Holland. This year they are also adding Australia, New Zealand and Japan on to this list.

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According to Michelle Sipl from the ESS "our attitude towards tax refunds is that we’ll do our utmost to get money back for anyone who’s worked anywhere, because if you paid tax in your job, you’re almost always due a refund".

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Twinning programme leads the way

By Dermot Keyes

DIT has stolen a lead on several of Dublin's third level institutions through its 'twinning' programme with secondary and primary schools, according to the institute's Directorate of Academic Affairs.

This follows Labour TD Dr Mary Upton's demand for the city's third level institutions to 'twin' with disadvantaged schools from around Dublin to boost the number of students going to university and college from inner city areas.

DIT Lecturer Dr Thomas Cooke, who is also Director of the Dublin Inner City Schools Project, told the DIT Independent that 'four of the six colleges are linked with disadvantaged inner city schools'...

Helping young pupils in the inner city

By Dermot Keyes

DIT appointed a Community Links Education Co-ordinator in September 1996.

Study programmes were immediately established for pupils in Whitefriar Street and Francis Street primary schools, where the staff and pupils participate in the programmes within their own schools.

Secondary school programmes for Kings Inn School, Warrenmount School, James Street and Larkin Community College are carried out with in the DIT sites themselves.

Fifth and sixth year pupils are linked to a mentor in the assigned site and the programmes are carried out at Bolton Street, Aungier Street, Kevin Street and Cathal Brugha Street.

Book tokens, silver medals and Gaelacht Scholarships, which are funded by DIT, form part of the study incentives for Leaving Cert candidates.

DIT and The National Centre for Technology in Education have provided grants, equipment and a full-time co-ordinator for the project; Fujitsu Siemens donated 48 multimedia computers and Dublin Inner City Partnership contributed £22,000. Dr Cooke said that computers are an "excellent tool for engagement and confidence building measures in the younger generation".

The DISC project, which is directed by DIT's Dr Thomas Cooke, covers 4,500 pupils and involves approximately 400 teachers in the 11 primary and nine secondary schools who fall under the DISC umbrella.

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DISC covers inner city schools between the canals and must be classified as disadvantaged by the Department of Education and Children.

As part of the Department's IT2000 programme, it is proposed that all Irish schools will be fitted with computers by 2003.

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By Lisa Deeney

DIT students may soon be able to register for college, pay college fees and receive results from the comfort of their own home with the implementation of a new Internet-based library system.

The new Millennium system has been successfully installed in all six DIT colleges. The system is state-of-the-art in specialised computer-based management systems for academic and research libraries, and will provide an existing range of new and enhanced services for the Institute's 20,000 students and academic staff.

The Management Information System (MIS) project, implemented in DIT and other institutes of Technology, has the potential to become one of the biggest libraries in the State, increasing access to shared information across the country.

It is hoped that by September 2001 DIT students will be able to register online on a pilot basis. The multi-million pound project currently has five Institutes live with library software, with another three set to get underway by Christmas.

MIS plan to bring as much functionality to the web as possible "so students can log on at home in a number of Institutes and see the online public access catalogue (OPAC) without having to go to the library," Derek Feeney, MIS project manager said.

The new system will also facilitate students seeking niche specialities of the libraries. The Department of Education and Science funded initiative began work in 1997.

Online registration a reality for students

By Lisa Deeney

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Bank of Ireland launches new website

The Bank of Ireland have launched a new interactive website for third level students at www.autonom.ie.

The site has been designed to benefit students in all aspects of college life in what they describe as "a unique and innovative format".

There are four main parts to the site, which are entitled: Mind, Play, Motion and Lifelines. There are also a number of links to other related external sites.

John Simons, web development consultant with Bank of Ireland said, "when you think of a major financial institution, you don't automatically think of something that students might find entertaining or even remotely interesting. What we've tried to do is set aside the fact that we're a bank and produce a website dedicated to students and student life, adopting a new approach and mindset".

The site is quirky designed and there are many useful as well as interesting features on the site. There are sources for local accommodation, career advice tips and of course what a bank does best, money and budget advice. You can even access your account online with Bank of Ireland's Free online banking facilities so you don't even have to move from your seat to pay your bills.

On the fun side there are up to date listings to what's on entertainment wise and even a game to keep you amused, see what more could a student want?

EU commissioner visits Cathal Brugha Street

By Samantha Rowntree

DESPIE the deluge and flooding that beset Dublin, the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, David Byrne visited Cathal Brugha Street DIT on November 6th.

Commissioner Byrne made his address at the invitation of the School of Food Science and Environmental Health, entitled 'Food Safety: the key ingredient'.

He outlined the European Commission's strategy as set out in the White Paper on Food and Safety that he published in January. He also spoke of the controverrial Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) issue, which has caused much debate. He stated: "as European Commissioner I am wearing three hats: the consumer protection hat, the food safety one and public health one."

"My position is not ideological and I have been struck by how polarised the debate on GMO's is. It has become, how it creates even greater confusion for citizens."

The new proposals form the centrepiece of Byrne's strategy to restore public confidence following successive food safety scandals throughout the EU. The commissioner also spoke of the controversival Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) issue, which has caused much debate. He stated: "as European Commissioner I am wearing three hats: the consumer protection hat, the food safety one and public health one."

"My position is not ideological and I have been struck by how polarised the debate has become, how it creates even greater confusion for citizens."

Byrne hopes that the approach of the Commission towards GMO's is a pragmat-ic and inclusive one. "As one of the Commissioners responsible for the authorising of GMO's, I am concerned to ensure that decisions reached are sound, and based on the best scientific analysis. I also want to see that consumers are presented with the information they need to make informed choices. Clearly I want safety first and foremost."

Ms Marlene Proctor, Head of the School said: "the developments in the EU to do with food safety are particu-larly interesting to us from the perspective of our undergraduate and post-graduate work. Com-missioner Byrne is very supportive of the work in this area. We see this area as one of growing importance as the food distribution chain becomes increasingly extend-ed."

Ms Proctor presented a gift to Commissioner Byrne on behalf of the faculty.

Commissioner Byrne applauded the initiative of the School of Food Science and Environmental Health for inaugurating this series of lectures.

He concluded, "I also wel-come your initiative in estab-lishing a new course leading to a Masters in Food Safety Management. I certainly expect that my endeavours at the European level will give your students food for thought".

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for further details contact: Mark Browne, Student Officer, Bank of Ireland 34 College Green (ph: 6793777) or Kayona Fagan, Student Officer, Bank of Ireland Camden Street (ph: 4784766) or visit the new Bank of Ireland student website www.autonom.ie
Arriving in Bangkok, the first thing that hits you is the smell. A combination of intense heat, a range of different foods being prepared on every street corner, a sanitation system that leaves a lot to be desired and the countless number of stray dogs creates an odour that can only be appreciated first-hand.

The city itself is full of contrast. On one hand, there are beautiful, ornate religious temples, many of which are decorated with tonnes of gold. On the other hand, there is overwhelming poverty.

Half-built structures dominate the skyline, incomplete skeletons that symbolise the recession that has hit Thailand. Take a trip on Bangkok’s Chao Phraya river and you’ll witness the shanty town lining the banks. Here people bathe, swim and fish in the brown waters.

Something else that will hit you straight away about Bangkok is the huge volume of people, a large number of whom are Westerners. More significant, perhaps, is that many of these are middle-aged men accompanied by young Thai women.

It is no secret that Bangkok has numerous marriage agencies specifically for Western men to meet young Thai women with a view to marriage.

Finding accommodation in Bangkok isn’t a problem. The Khao San road is a popular place for backpackers to stay as it offers a huge range of low-cost hotels and guesthouses. A tip for travellers on a budget: if you visit Thailand during the low season (April to June or September or October), it is acceptable to request a discount.

If the hustle and smog of Bangkok is all a bit much for you, relief is not far away. For just £2.00, a government bus will take you the three-hour journey to the port of Ilam Phe.

From here you can take a fishing boat to the island of Ko Samet. This tiny island boasts long golden beaches and, unlike Bangkok, the weather is usually good. Ko Samet was once quiet, but now it is teeming with tourists all year round.

Chiang Mai, the northern capital of Thailand, is another busy city, but it has a certain charm that Bangkok lacks. The air here is less pungent - although there are as many cockroaches! This ancient city is rich in ruins and temples, a legacy from earlier Thai kingdoms.

For the die-hard shoppers, Chiang Mai has many markets, where everything from handcrafted to clothing can be bought. It is necessary to bargain for just about everything, but this can be a lot of fun.

Transport is also quite cheap. It costs just £2.00 a day to rent a moped in Chiang Mai - useful for visiting some of the less central sites.

If the hustle and smog of Bangkok is all a bit much for you, relief is not far away. Thailand has many beautiful islands.

One of the most popular activities from Chiang Mai is to take a trek through the tribal areas in the hills to the North or visit the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet (and much of the world’s opium originates!).

To the south lies Thailand’s largest island, Phuket, linked to the mainland by a bridge. The island has an international airport and attracts a huge number of tourists to its beautiful beaches and offshore islands.

The main strip, Patong, full of busy pubs and nightclubs, is not unlike some of the less central sites.

The beaches here are very crowded and it is almost impossible to sit on any of the main beaches without renting a sunbed for the day. Traders walk along the beaches loudly hawking their wares.

Only four hours away from the chaos of Phuket is Ko Phi Phi. Ko Phi Phi consists of two islands, Phi Phi Don and the smaller and unthreatened Phi Phi Le, where The Beach was filmed.

Phi Phi Don is a small but beautiful island with sparkling golden beaches and a neat, clean little town. The island is still unspoilt and surprisingly quiet.

There are a number of snorkelling and diving trips on offer and it is worth trying one of these to explore the rich marine life in the clear waters of the Andaman Sea.

Off the eastern coast of Thailand are a number of islands including Ko Pha-Ngan and Ko Tao. Although often described as quiet, Ko Pha-Ngan and Ko Tao are home to the famous full moon party.

This happens once a month and attracts people from all over the world for a night of dance and techno music on the main beach of Laem Haad Rin.

Like Ko Phi Phi, Ko Pha-Ngan and Ko Tao both offer diving and snorkelling courses.

Ko Tao is much smaller and quieter than Ko Pha-Ngan but because it lies even further away from the mainland it is considerably more expensive.

This diverse country has a lot to offer. So what are you waiting for? Haul out your backpack and get going!
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SAYIT, FREEPOST, 13, Crown Alley, Temple Bar, Dublin 2
Worthwhile work yields unmatchable experiences

By Colin McGann

A winter arrives again, many students will now be getting itchy feet. Each year thousands of students receive J1 visas and head across the pond to work in the United States. The incentive is money, travel and possibly a break from our incessant bad weather. Set up eight years ago, Camp Counsellors USA offers all these, but with a difference.

The programme was founded with the main aim of providing cultural exchange for 18 to 30 year olds worldwide. It was set up internationally and has provided placements for over 65,000 participants from 60 countries.

The group also run two work experience programmes, Work experience USA and Work experience Downunder.

The basic idea is that people aged between 18 and 30, not necessarily students, travel to America and work in summer camps for a 10-week period. Placement is based on the applicant's skills, which they are asked to list on a very detailed form.

On receipt of this form, an interview will be set up in order to ensure that both the camp and the applicant will be satisfied with their allocation. A long list of qualifications isn't necessary, but an interest in working with kids is essential.

The package costs a total of £245, divided into an initial deposit of £75 with the application form and £170 when you have been accepted.

The deposit is refundable if you are not accepted for the programme. This fee includes pre-departure party and orientation, return flight to New York and overnight accommodation in Columbia University, and transport to your designated camp.

"Candidates don't work for free but if you want to make money you are taking the wrong option," says Emma Merriock, Director of Work Experience USA. Your bed and all meals are included in the £245 fee. You will receive pocket money of between £400 and £750 depending on age, experience and position at camp.

The counsellors act as a sister/brother figure to the children, so applicants must be prepared to work hard in getting along with the children.

"The main important factor to consider is that you will be living with children aged between 6-16 for the ten weeks," explains Merriock.

"People have come back to us and told us how hard they have worked but they have emphasised how enjoyable an experience it was."

She recommends this option for people pursuing courses in social studies or PE. The certificate awarded at the end of the programme is very valuable and this is the main incentive for most when choosing this option over normal J1 employment.

Annette Ball (22) took part in the programme three years ago. Sent to a camp in North Carolina, she found herself working as a canoe instructor and has nothing but praise for the programme.

"It was organised really well," she said. "They meet you at your departing airport and when you arrive. They bring you straight to your accommodation where you meet the other counsellors."

"You don't go over for the money, you go for the experience."

It is then you get told where you are going. "You could be sent anywhere, from from a private camp to a special needs camp."

It seems the only downpoint of the trip was almost getting sunstroke after spending all day in the sun!

"You don't go over for the money," said Annette. "You go for the experience."

Only 150 Irish people took part in the programme this year, but with agents employed in all of our university cities this year, Camp Counsellors USA hope to have a much larger group.

The opportunity to meet and work with people from Russia, South Africa, Australia and America combined with a month after your camp work to make money under normal J1 conditions could make this a very beneficial summer for those who take part.

*Camp Counsellors USA can be contacted at 41 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 6793235. or email them at ireland@campcounsellors.com*
M any people have a stereotypical vision of poor students rifling through Oxfam's bargains rails to pick up some of last year's cast-offs. But this survey has blown this perception out of the water.

The most popular street in Dublin for students' shopping trips is Grafton Street. The red-brick street, located just off Trinity College, is four out of ten students' first choice when they want to put Daddy's credit card limit to the test.

"I'm, boy, that's exactly what they do," Wallets turn anorexic as students wear themselves away from the exclusive shopping area.

Students spend, on average, £230 a shopping trip. In Grafton Street, however, that's £1000 poorer after each shopping trip. If they shop, as they claim, on a monthly basis, that's £2,400 a year on clothes. Just for their greenly selves - more than what many people would earn.

"Grafton Street shoppers say they are "cool", "casual" and "trendy"." Next up is the Northside's Henry Street. It comes in a close second to Grafton Street. 35 per cent of students go there to buy clothes and shoes.

It is more of a people's street than Grafton Street. Having, as it does, much of the same items, but less price. It is especially popular with students who love shopping, but don't have criminal amounts of money to spend.

Mind you, shopping trips in Henry Street still punish the pocket. An average student shopping trip costs £120. So anyone who thinks the street is a skintfink's paradise, is sadly, mistaken.

Many students who shop on Grafton Street say they mix expensive designer labels with cheaper, department store ware to give an overall expensive look. When describing their look, the most common adjectives are "posh", "casual", and "sporty".

Although the Temple Bar area is loved by students for its hip pubs, clubs and restaurants, it is not as popular for clothing shopping as many people might have expected. Only one in eight students shop there. Female students seem repelled by the area. Only one in twenty girls buys clothes there. Perhaps they feel the area caters more for the alternative market, and doesn't stock enough ultra-fashionable garments.

"Or maybe it's just that Grafton Street is snootier? Who knows? Who cares? Maybe it's just one of life's little mysteries. I wasn't being any sleep over it.

Yet, for boys, it is much more popular. One in five male students go there when they want to pick up something groovy.

This group describe themselves as "granny", "trendy" and "cheap". That's a good joke. They say they'll spend up to £250 pounds on a single shopping trip. That kills off the image of alternative stuff being cheap, doesn't it?

The rest of the students surveyed say they shop in some of the city's side streets like South William Street (beside the Powerscourt Centre), or in suburban shopping centres like Blanchardstown Shopping Centre. The most surprising element of this part of the survey, for me, was how much money students say they spend on clothes. Is everyone loaded? Lying?

"Or are they just carrying loaded weapons into banks, and robbing them???

Grafton St is a popular place for DIT students to spend

"Slim style icons sway students"

A question on celebrities' dress sense threw up some interesting results. Students were asked which celebrities' dress sense they liked best.

Who else but Posh Spice would come first in the girls' list? Scrawny Georgia Beckham is admired for her slim figure. The reasons they give for wanting to be like her are: "she's so thin" and "she looks good in anything".

"Could those reasons be more wrong? Personally, I think her head's like a Halloween pumpkin; nothing inside and looks better in the dark!" Tied at a close second were Spice girl, Jennifer Aniston and actress Liz Hurley. Jennifer is most revered of second place, however. None of Liz's male admirers summed all that interested in her either.

"In fact, they didn't even want to talk about her. 'I like it when Liz takes too top off,'" purred one. Another sighed: 'She's always scantly and she knows where her best sets are.'

Not surprisingly, Britney Spears topped up a respectable third place on the list. Strong male support for "sexy bitch" kept her ahead of Saints singer Nicole Appleton, "brat" picture.

"Female students seem to approve of any style, but mainstream, dressed up styles. Other celebrities to feature highly in the list are Drew Barrymore: "individualistic"; Natalie Imbruglia; "smart, vivid, saucy"; and Kase Wilmot: "stylish even though she's not a typical stick-insect figure."

Male students were more coy about naming their favorite than the girls. Some avoided the question, claiming they'd "no interest in celebrities" list.

Others tried not to take the question seriously (or if they were, I'd be worried, because Bob Monkhouse was rated for being "so damn winning"); DJ Carey, for being a "sex god"; and Dicky Buck, "because he's naked!

Some answered the question honestly. Brad Pitt emerges the most popular. He's admired for being "scruffy but stylish", "clean" and wearing "cool clothes".

Singer Craig David also scores well. "His dress sense is very stylish," observes one admirer. These are the top two, but Eddie Irvine, Graham Norton, Gary Barlow and David Ginola got a few mentions.

Enda Murphy takes a look at students' fashion favourites and asks - why?

Student Style File

The DIT Independent asked students how important looking good was to them. Students gave mixed, and sometimes conflicting, responses.

"Surprisingly, two out of three students said they wouldn't ditch a partner for not dressing well. Does that mean that if their partner turned up for a night out, sporting trackspit bottoms and green wellies; they'd be thrilled? Don't think so.

More confusingly, those same people say they judge other people by their clothes they wear. Perhaps most of us make judgments before we go out with someone. One honest respondent said: "If my partner wasn't stylish, I wouldn't be with them in the first place!"

Yes, style does seem to matter to most students, whether we like to admit it or not. Three out of four students confess they secretly envy other people's fashion sense. Some even admit they've asked a friend where they picked up a particular item, so they can bag one on the cheap for themselves!

You are what you wear

Psychologists and top fashion gurus claim the colours you wear are an accurate reflection of your personality. This, is bad news for DIT students. The survey's results get us: we're a boring bunch!

Only 15 per cent of students say their favourite colour to wear is red, pink or orange. Bright, bubbly, outgoing people wear these colours, experts claim. What does this say about the rest of us?
Fit for (college) life

As the excesses of college life take their toll, there are some students who could probably use a helping hand in the fitness department. There are the usual ways to get fit of course - the gym, running, aerobics, etc.

But if the idea of working out in a gym leaves you cold, or aerobics conjures up images of bore-club 80s chicks, perhaps something a little more interesting is called for.

Of course, there are many other ways to get in shape, but we've picked out a few that just might appeal to your sense of fun.

**Yoga**

A student's life can be rather strenuous with all those exams - and not to forget hectic social lives.

Yoga is a good way to forget about all it for a while and relax your mind and body, while improving your flexibility and increasing your fitness and energy levels.

What more can you ask for? I took up Yoga not really knowing what I was getting into - but it sounded interesting. On my first class, I thought it was a bit weird and I was half-expected it was just for me. However, I paid my money and being a stingy student, I was determined to get my money's worth. By the end of the six weeks I was hooked.

Yoga originated in East India. There are many different types, but essentially, they all teach you to let your mind become still.

The main part of Yoga is the postures, or asanas. In essence, they all teach pretty much the same thing. The main part of Yoga is the postures, or asanas. In essence, they all teach pretty much the same thing. The main part of Yoga is the postures, or asanas.

Yoga involves practically turning yourself inside out. You do them in a sequence to focus on different parts of the body.

One of the youngest martial arts systems, kickboxing, has been around since the 1960s. If you want to increase your strength, flexibility and all-round fitness, this could be just what you're looking for.

Kickboxing, if practiced regularly, will provide a cardio-vascular workout and develop muscle tone. The physical at the beginning of each class can be tough, especially if the closest you've come to a sit up recently is reaching for the remote control. Just remember: it's for your own good, not to punish you. But just to be on the safe side, don't piss your instructor off, because you might find they develop a sadistic streak.

Salas Dancing

Every fancied yourself as a Latin lover? Well if you don't have the looks, why not try out the moves? Salsa dancing is the new craze that seems to have hit Dublin.

A fun and easy way to get fit, it also gives you some fancy moves to impress the opposite sex on the dancefloor.

There are many classes taking place around Dublin that cater for all levels of experience. Many salsa nights start with a class and then there is a chance for you to practice your new steps in a club.

This is a great way to get fit and have fun at the same time. Starting off, I felt like I had two left feet and by the end of the night my partner's feet were sore from me stepping on them. However, I would recommend this for a really good night out. Why not get a group of friends together once a week and make a night of it?

Unlike many other ways of getting fit, Salas dancing is a very sociable way of improving your fitness.

**Picture the scene:**

It's 6.30 p.m., you've just arrived in from college for a hard day's studying (ahem) and your stomach is rumbling.

Do you a) poke around the kitchen in the vain hope that yourflatmates may have taken pity on you and left some of his/her dinner, b) break out the Cornflakes (after all, they're not just a breakfast cereal) or c) reach for your phone to call the local takeaway, only to realise that you can't afford it?

Well with a little advance planning, your days of poking around the kitchen for leftovers could end, even if your attempts at gourmet cooking usually start and end at the microwave. A balanced diet is improved by variety and unfortunately beer doesn't make up one of the essential food groups.

To get you on your way, we at the DIT Independent have dished out a few of our favourite recipes below.

**Quick Chicken Stir Fry**

Quick and easy recipe ideas for students on a budget

A balanced diet is important

To get you on your way, we at the DIT Independent have dished out a few of our favourite recipes below.

**Quick Chicken Stir Fry**

1. Heat a little oil in a wok (or frying pan)
2. Dice the chicken and add to the pan, fry until cooked through
3. Add the mixed vegetables and noodles to the pan
4. Serve immediately

**Pasta Carbonara**

1. Boil Linguine pasta
2. Fry each egg
3. Grate Parmesan cheese
4. Chopped parsley
5. Add pepper
6. Serve with pasta

A balanced diet is important

To avoid your dinner sticking to the pan and becoming an unrecognisable mess, subdue your appetite, add the mixed vegetables and noodles to the pan

**Crissy Potato Wedges**

3 potatoes (with thick skins)
1 tbsp vegetable oil
Salt and pepper

Scrub potatoes. Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Celsius/Gas mark 6. Cut each potato into quarters lengthways. Cut out the centre of each wedge, leaving a little potato attached to the curved skin. Put the wedges into a polythene bag. Add the oil, salt and the thyme. Hold the bag closed and shake gently, coating the wedges with the mixture.

Arrange the wedges on a baking tray, skin side up. Bake until crisp and serve with a dip of your choice.

*If your attempts at cooking are less than successful, don't show it in the towel straight away. Give it another chance and in the meantime always remember: pot noodles are not quick and easy snack, and beans on toast will keep you going for a couple of hours at least. Good luck!"
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Solid acting, witty dialogue

Way of the Gun
(Cert 15, Released November 17th)

With a title like this, one would expect Way of the Gun to be a blood-soaked, tongue-in-cheek caper flick, a sort of American Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, with big, good-looking gangsters snapping at each other and making smirking references to popular culture.

But not all the great crime movies of the 90s have the words “Reservoir”, “Fiction”, “Pulp” or “Dog’s” in the title. Let’s not forget “Heat”, “L.A. Confidential” or (and here’s what I was building up to, eagle-eyed readers) “The Usual Suspects”.

The Usual Suspects didn’t just make a star out of Kevin Spacey and director Bryan Singer, but out of screenwriter Christopher McQuarrie, whose exceptional script is now justly regarded as a benchmark in

The DIT
Independent film buff, Jamie Hannigan brings you the best of the latest movies

Which brings us around nicely to Way of the Gun, which is not only written by McQuarrie, but is his directorial debut. Ryan Phillippe (Cruel Intentions) and Benicio Del Toro (The Usual Suspects, Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas) are two drifters who get involved in the kidnaping of Juliette Lewis, a heavily pregnant woman who’s acting as a surrogate mother for a couple with Mob connections.

So many movies casually use gunfire and violence as a background prop that the audience is usually anaesthetised to its effect.

As if taking his cue from the soaring Omagh Beach landing sequence in Saving Private Ryan, McQuarrie couples every bulllet with a verbal visceral punch that can’t help but make you wince.

Nothing feels glorified here. Everybody has shadowed faces and an even more shadowy past, none more so than the two anti-heroes. The trouble with a film that dwells so much in this murky underworld, where everyone has an ulterior agenda and casually plot double and triple-crosses, that major plot twist sail right under your nose without you realising it.

Overall, Way of the Gun is a well-above average crime-thriller. The acting is solid, the dialogue witty and the gunplay downright terrifying.

And the soundtrack’s terrific.

***1/2

Pitch Black
(Cert 15, Released November 10th)

The number of people with a penchant for these Ravenous-Monster-in-the-Dark films is probably far higher than many of you would like to let on. It’s been 14 years since Aliens graced the big screen and few - if any - films have come close to challenging it.

And Pitch Black is no exception. It does, however, knock the living hell out of anything that came before it, notably, the dire Alien: Resurrection. And in honour of Pitch Black, Alien 4 should have been based.

Based on the short story “Nightfall” by classic SF author Isaac Asimov, the set-up is simple: a ship transporting homesteaders to a new life is forced to crash land on a desolate planet. The disparate group of survivors discover that they were not the first humans to visit 22 years ago, something very nasty happened to the original settlers, something that only comes out at night.

And naturally enough, the same planet is about to go into massive solar eclipse.

An old concept, but one that’s been tweaked and extended into a suitable vehicle for David Tよko into something dark, grisly and highly enjoyable. Pitch Black is a corse on the verge of becoming a diamond.

***1/2

Still showing:

... anyone with some American relatives for sure to see everything before it gets a release here has to go see the Cohen brothers’ O Brother Where Art Thou, which still hasn’t been released state­side. Come to think of it, never mind the stupid American relatives - everyone should see this on the big screen while they still can.

The same is true of Christopher Nolan’s stylish noir-Thriller Momento, which finds Guy Pearce (L.A. Confidential, Ravenous) as a man with severe short-term memory loss trying to track down his wife’s killer...

...those of you who don’t have horror-movie biased mates, Tom Green (MTV) may be able to endure Road Trip, which has done surprisingly well here in the States...

...more in the teen-comedy vein from Clueless-director Amy Heckerling in the shape of Less which sees Jason Biggs... best known for doing strange things to an American Pie-plot, of all things, a loser... the decorations might be down, the pumpkin might be bring the compost and the cat might still be in shock, but any one who wants to relive Halloween scares would do worse than check out What Lies Behind...

Jerry O’Connell and Connie Nielsen in Mission to Mars

Russell Crowe in Gladiator

No social life? Bad weather getting you down? Can’t leave the house because of that pesky court injunction? You need to know what’s

and unbridled energy of Gladiator help overcome the few shortcomings that become all the more apparent on video (Joel’s Phoenix’s Emperor Commodus veers close to pan­

tactical at times, and Hans Zimmer’s sometimes brilliant score occasional­

ly threatens to go into warbling Enya territory)

On the basis of this triumphant return to form, one can’t help but look forward to director Ridley Scott’s treatment of the Silhouette of the Lamb-sequel Hannibal, due out next year.

***

Mission To Mars

“Oh God Almighty this is dreadful” is not how you should open an unabashed, critical review, but with Mission To Mars I came damn close.

Veteran director Brian de Palma has had his fair share of duds, but all his films have had some redeeming feature; if not astonishing - set-pieces; the Langley vault robbery in Mission Impossible, the train-station shoot­

out in The Untouchables, Al Pacino adulating the murderous gangsters the end ofCarlito’s Way.

Hell, even Snake Eyes had moments where you sat up in your seat and quietly muttered, “Well I don’t know about the whole thing, but that is hell-good.”

Sadly, that ain’t the case here. Firstly, the “twist” is given away on the front cover. Secondly, that “twist” is lame - lamer than a bag

full of lame monkeys who’ve become too lame for lame monkey school and are retiring on a shady retirement package to the small town of Lame Deer, Wyoming (look it up if you don’t believe me).

Thirdly, almost everything of merit (and all of these, I’m afraid to say, are special FX-related) is in the trailer.

Actually, the giant-earth-tornado-

worm thing that wipes out a load of astronauts in the first fifteen minutes is relatively amusing, but from such acorns, great things do not grow.

One can only hope that De Palma has used up all his Bad-Film quota with Mission to Mars, and his next work will be a piece of genius of such power and beauty it will strike us dumb.

Well, one can hope.

Jerry O’Connell and Connie Nielsen in Mission to Mars

Russell Crowe in Gladiator

Van Diesel in Pitch Black

On video now

Gladiator

The General that became a slave, the slave that became a gladiator... the Gladiator that cut a bloody swathe through the weary likes of M.1-2, Gone in 60 Seconds and those other, so-called summer blockbuster.

Gladiator became a lot of things to a lot of people - Russell Crowe’s scene-stealing break into the big time, Ridley Scott’s long-awaited comeback and, of course, Oliver Reed’s final swan-song.

The opening battle scene in Germany still manages to get the blood pumping (the panoramic view of the forest engulfs by hundreds of flaming arrows will be hard to beat) but in being reduced to the small screen, does it go the way of Saving Private Ryan, limping its way to a dump inside?

Thankfully, the answer is a resounding NO. The massive scope

The last word in beer

Entertainment

Pitch Black is a corse on the verge of becoming a diamond.

***1/2

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In the shadow of 'Big Brother'

I

must make a confes-

sion: you've truly

must have been

the only

person in the de-

veloped world not to

have watched the sum-

er's television

phenomenon, Big

Brother. While the rest of

the country enthused over a les-

bian ex-nun, I was doing

whatever it was that that no

one else did while the pro-

gramme was on.

Despite this, I still felt like

I knew everything about what

had gone on in that house as

I read the newspapers, maga-

zines and radio made the show

impossible to avoid.

Spin-offs are inevitable,

but the Irish website Oxygen

claims it isn't one of them.

This is a completely new

series that charts the daily
goings-on in the

lives of five young folk.

“Five students, 24 hour

surveillance, anything can

happen,” boasts the home

page of the website, which

has undertaken a major pub-

licity drive to ensure maxi-

mum coverage for their in-

teractive venture.

Our motley crew share a:

flat in Dublin city centre

called No 54 (surprise, sur-

prise) and welcome in guests

forgive.

The outside world can find

out what's going on in the

gaff by text messaging the

gang on a mobile phone or by

email. Siobhan O'Dowd, Freda

O'Mullane, Ewan Kelly and

Liam Doyle were the five

students selected for the chal-

lenge after the event's organis-

ers sifted through mountains of

applications prior to the launch.

The launch party on

November 3 was followed by

an appearance by the five

incumbents on the Late Late

Show, where Pat Kenny

hummed and hawed his way

through the questions. (No

change there, then!)

The national press devoted

several column inches to the

web-soap in its first days of

life, leaving the moguls of

Oxygen presumably well

pleased with so much publici-

ty.

So what exactly happens

in No 54? Well, apart from the

normal run-of-the-mill rig-

marole of student life, which

actually involves going to

college (these folk are not

indoors at every passing

moment unlike Big Brother),

bands such as the Walls have

dropped in, along with more

publicity-seeking in the guise

of In Dublin magazine.

Apart from that, the whole

thing plods along like the

average student's daily ritu-

als, i.e. not that eventful,

f

n

Despite being allowed to

leave the flat, the rules of No

54 state that one of the gang

must be present within its

walls at all times.

With 20 cameras promising
to track every move made by

our wee cyber guinea pigs,

little can be missed. Well, lit-

tle would be missed if logon-

ners were allowed to select

the camera of their choice.

As for the 20 cameras, well

there's only four currently

installed, but the owners of

the flat will eventually get

around to installing them all,

at some stage.

Oh, and no one gets evict-

ed, unlike Big Brother. No 54

just might become a hit. It

might...

Dermot Keyes checks out the latest reality challenge to hit our screens (computers, that is). Big Brother it ain't, No 54 has arrived and our intrepid reporter isn't getting too excited

Good times ahead for badminton club

By Ciaran McKeon

(Treasurer and PRO, DIT Badminton Club)

The second game against Carlow IT also

was the beginning of the new-look team

have

on

in

Aungier St Hockey team reaches final

Aungier St Hockey team reached final

In the HESF League, which

width of the competition.

With 20 camera

sessions (6.00- 8.00 p.m.) at

Limerick next March.

The team's first game in

the League was away to

Tralee I.T. on November 16,

when this paper went to

press. Hopefully, next month's

eager to add to a Colm Brady brace.

Defeat to Inchicore (3-1) was incidental,

as qualification to the finals on November

23 had already been secured thanks to the

earlier wins. Susan Waters netted Aungier

Street beat close rivals Kevin Street 3-1,

thanks to two goals from Keith Benson and

one from Andrew Whitaker, the team's

captain.

The second game against Carlowl IT also

ended in victory, as Whisker hit another

goal to add to a Colm Brady brace.

For further information

Contact: Ciaran McKeon.

Aungier Street's hockey club got their

year off to a superb start by qualifying for

the final of the opening college hockey

event of the season at Crumlin recently,

writes Dermot Keyes.

In their opening group match, Aungier

Street beat close rivals Kevin Street 3-1,

thanks to two goals from Keith Benson and

one from Andrew Whisker, the club's co-

ordinator.

Aungier Street's hockey team pledged their qualification to the Crumlin hockey tournament finals

Aungier Street's hockey team pledged their qualification to the Crumlin hockey tournament finals

DIIT's hockey team, pleased with their qualification to the Crumlin hockey tournament finals

Sport
The game where it’s okay to handle the ball

OLYMPIC handball is not a game that would figure highly on the lists of favourite sports with many of the collegiate sporting brethren. A game that honed the ball-blocking skills of one Peter Schmeichel, it is certainly a fascinating and worthwhile sport to watch on the rare occasions it is screened on our televisions.

For the top man in DIT’s own Olympic Handball Club, Colin Brosnan, 2000/2001 is a year that the club is seeking to secure its grounding after its foundation last year.

“The Olympic Handball Club was set up with the intention of getting students involved in this in the up and coming sport at every level,” Brosnan told the DIT Independent.

“The club welcomes not only the experienced player but the beginner too. So whether you just want to learn the game, or are good enough to teach us, there is something at the club for everyone.”

Fun might be part of the game, but there is also the more serious, competitive side of Olympic Handball to contend with.

“We are entered in the national league and we will play six home matches and six away matches in this event,” said Brosnan.

“Our first match is on December the 3rd away to UCD. There are a number of friendly matches planned, and also a number of blitzes. A number of the other teams in the league are from other colleges. Other games and club events will be made known to members during the year,” Brosnan added.

Brosnan was realistic about DIT’s prospects for the forthcoming league campaign. With an average chance of success, he explained much depends on how many participate in training.

“We had good turnouts in the first few weeks and need to keep this up to have any chance this year.”

“The potential is there, just over fifty students signed up during the various club andUCS days in the college during Fresher’s Week.”

As with anything to do with a healthy and happy approach to life in DIT, see each other outside of the Belvedere Gym is a regular and integral part of the club’s proceedings. “Of course a college club would be nothing without its social aspect,” he explained.

“To this end we hope to organise some excellent nights out during the year. We are even considering some joint social nights with some of the other clubs.

Enjoying oneself outside of the sport is an important part of club membership, in Brosnan’s view.

“Hopefully at the end of the year our members will feel that the club served them well at more than just the sporting aspect.”

The seven-a-side game, a hybrid of soccer and basketball, is a physical game, but one well worth catching a glimpse of.

Brosnan concluded that anyone interested in joining the club or wanting to learn about the game should “come along to training and we’ll give you a proper demonstration.”

DIT Olympic Handball training takes place in Belvedere Gym near Mountjoy Square every Monday from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. For further information on the club, Colin Brosnan can be contacted at 087 2960160.

Relay team claims third spot in Maynooth meeting

By Dermot Keyes

DIT’s Athletic club got their new season off to a flying start with an army of runners place finish at the Inter-Varsity relay at Maynooth on Saturday, November 11. Club PRO Paul Campbell was happy with proceedings when he spoke to the DIT independent that evening.

"It looks like we'll be in very happy with the way it went," he said.

This annual event consists of a five-man effort over nine miles of road, which involves the first runner pounding the track for a mile, the second runner for two miles, the third for three, with the remaining two members running two miles and a single mile respectively.

Leinster Under-18 champion Dunilan Barrett was the opening participant for the DIT outfit and his strong run left his team third after the first mile.

The second runner, Campbell himself, had work to do to get back in touch with the leading athletes, from UCC and the University of Ulster.

Campbell, who is the Scottish Senior Indoor champion over 800 metres, was impressive over the first mile, reeling in the UCC runner ahead.

Running the fastest two-mile leg of the relay, Campbell handed over to Irish international Eugene O’Neill, who looks to have regained his competitive streak after an indifferent twelve months.

His powerful run, the fastest three miles on the day brought DIT into the lead, handing over to American club member Aidan Doyle for the penultimate leg around the Kildare roads.

A strong run by Doyle wasn’t enough to hold onto the lead over the second two-mile leg.

A recent competitor in the Dublin City Marathon which Campbell handed over to American club member Aidan Doyle for the penultimate leg around the Kildare roads.

A strong run by Doyle wasn’t enough to hold onto the lead over the second two-mile leg.

A recent competitor in the Dublin City Marathon which he completed in just over three hours, Declan Keggan was a little short on the speed required for middle distance running after his marathon preparation and was reeled in on the anchor leg to bring DIT home in third place overall.

But Campbell was happy that the team had done as well as they had.

"It's a good beginning for us and hopefully this will stand us in good stead for the cross country races to come." said Brosnan.

The 'B' team in Maynooth, essentially substitutes for the relay team, were Gerard Victor, Michael Mulligan, Barry Shield, Justin Falvey and Andrew McCraith.

The club also wished to express its condolences to Aidan Doyle on the recent loss of his mother. May the rest in peace.

Paul Campbell pounds the Maynooth tarmac, receiving great encouragement along the way.

Eugene O'Neill crosses the line following his contribution to the DIT effort.

By Dermot Keyes

DIT Rugby head Ross O'Daly has admitted that this year's campaign has got off to a rather sluggish beginning. "It's been a slow start to the year so far but to our advantage, Galwegians, who are strong opposition, postponed the game until the new year." With the fixtures confirmed for the year, O'Daly spoke about the structure of the club.

"DIT Rugby has never had the formal appointment of a coach and indeed the AGM of the DIT Rugby club indicated that the student players are organising an internal competition (The Grenson Cup) to be used as a means of providing games for everyone and for the select potential players for the DIT first fifteen.

"The internal event appears to have made the oval game more popular amongst students but O'Daly remains steadfast in making the game more accessible to the interested and the committed players.

"I would like to raise the profile of the DIT Rugby set-up. The team has at best only ever made the semi-finals.

"DIT should be a front runner in the (Ascent senior Cup) competition and not be a relegation threat each year," commented O'Daly.

"We are devising a three-year plan to develop DIT Rugby and ensure early participation from all potential players each year."

The plan for the immediate future is to nominate a captain for the first team as well as the appointment of representatives in each of the colleges to put up posts and to contact players for training and games.
One was about me replacing Ward and the other was about the Pope coming to Ireland. So I got top billing with the Pope!

Whatever the reason for Campbell's selection he more than justified it. He scored 19 points in the first test against Australia and helped Ireland win the second test game to clinch the series. "We were the first Northern Hemisphere side to win a test series in the Southern Hemisphere. And as it turned out the second test on that tour, which we won 9-3, was the last time Ireland beat Australia."

The tour of Australia was the springboard he needed to launch his now famous career. In Irish colours, Campbell set a new record for five successes (46). For the Five Nations Championship in 1980, selection for the Lions against South Africa in 1982, and in 1986, when Ireland clinched the elusive Triple Crown.

"No one was talking about Triple Crowns or Championships. We had lost seven games previous to the victory over Wales. We were just delighted to have beaten such a strong Welsh side. Then we had England away which we won by a point, a very difficult to quash. He is determined to get back into the coaching side of the game and is adamant that he is on a "temporary sabbatical." The loss of such a talent to the game would be inconceivable. Not that Ollie Campbell, the gentleman that he is, would ever admit to such a thing.

Ollie Campbell and Colin Patterson in jubilant mood following Ireland's sensational first Test victory over Australia in 1979

Former Rathmines student and legionnaire of kicking fame, Ollie Campbell, spoke to Brian Healy about his career and the game he loves.

One of the highlights of Campbell's career came in 1982 when he was selected for the Lions tour to South Africa. The young fly-half picked up the important role of right wing in the second Test on that tour, one which Ireland won 9-3, was the last time Ireland beat Australia.

The tour of Australia was the springboard he needed to launch his now famous career. In Irish colours, Campbell set a new record for five successes (46). For the Five Nations Championship in 1980, selection for the Lions against South Africa in 1982, and in 1986, when Ireland clinched the elusive Triple Crown.

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