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DIT:Students Union

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MEET THE NEW CREW

By Eric Fitzgerald

The post-election dust has settled and you, the students, have chosen who you want to represent you in DITSU next year.

The next President is Martin Dunne, the outgoing Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs. You chose Tracey Flinter, the class rep. convened by Cathal Brugha Street, as your new Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs, while Dermot Julian will assume the mantle of Vice President for Services & Trading from Sean Gilsenan.

"DIT News" caught up with the three victorious candidates to talk about the election and what the future holds for DITSU and DIT students under their stewardship.

EAGER TO GET THE JOB DUNNE

Martin Dunne is at home with a stress fracture to his metatarsal. The outgoing Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs and President-elect suffered the injury as a result of what he describes as "too much walking."

On the journey from Cathal Brugha Street to Temple Bar, where the RAG Carnival was happening, "it just snapped!" But that hasn’t stopped him from working hard for the student body of DIT.

"I was hobbling around on it for 3 weeks before they realised it was fractured," he recalls, "I even managed to do the jump off the 40 foot for RAG with it!"

He’s keen to stress that his work is far from over. The cheery Brummie is moving onwards and upwards as he assumes the role of DITSU President next year and communication is something that he’s eager to get sorted. "I’m dying to work with Mairead Butler (communications manager)."

“There was trouble with the communications system and IT this year, but we’re hoping to get that fixed. A revamped DITSU website should hopefully be launched in September."

Union staff aren’t the only people who’ll benefit from better communication next year, though. Martin wants to get out there with his fellow sabbats, Tracey Flinter and Dermot Julian, and make the student body entirely aware of who they are and what they do.

The triumvirate should make a good team, or that’s how it seems from listening to Martin. "I knew Tracey before the elections, she was class rep. convenor with Cathal Brugha Street so I knew her from CIT. I’ve quite a good rapport with her, we’ve had a few good chats and some great nights out."

He had never met Dermot Julian, however, until the election, but following some positive communication after the voting finished, he’s confident that Dermot is up to the task.

The summer will come and go. Then it’s straight into the job for a busy year ahead. "We’ll need to hit the ground running. Once the summer is gone, you’re straight into the here and now and you’ve 3 months to organise what you want to get done. Semesterisation doesn’t help, as it cuts down the amount of time you have."

Martin will need all the time he can get, because there’s a lot that he needs to get done, including sticking by his election promises.

“Library opening hours need to be sorted out across every site, it’s been an issue for quite some time now. We need to get student support services open at lunchtime and at times that are convenient for the students using them.”

Not only will Martin be knocking down in DIT, he’ll be representing...
Welcome to the final DIT News of 2007/2008! It has been a great year that saw the launch of an independent student newspaper for our college.

It has taken a lot of work from a very dedicated team to get four issues to print - but every second has been worth it and I hope the paper continues for many years as a voice of the students of DIT.

I would like to thank every single person who helped make the DIT News a reality - through the panic to get it set up in September and October, to the panic to make deadline every time since then.

Everyone in the Society office was so welcoming and helpful to me and I really appreciate that. The paper couldn’t have happened without the support of Anita Conway and Teri Boyle, who saved the day several times and always believed in the importance of getting the DIT News off the ground.

Thanks to everyone in the SU for being so co-operative and not treating this journalist with suspicion. Thanks to all the regulars in the Clubs & Socs office. At times I was a permanent fixture sitting at the Mac in the corner and it was always good to have company to stop me tearing my hair out. Thanks Gavin for the pie charts and for keeping me sane - I feel like an honorary member of Drama now.

Thanks to Zoe for all her help organising models for last minute photo calls and for the occasional gossip! Thanks to Drama Soc and Fashion Soc who were both incredibly busy in the office all year. Well done to both for pulling off some amazing events, you should be very proud of yourselves. Congratulations to Ian and Lukasz on your wins at BICS!

The biggest thank you goes to the News Soc team. From regular and very prolific contributors to the hardcore of the editorial team, you all made this job so much easier by your enthusiasm and hard work. I am so proud of all of you for taking on such a huge task. If this is what you can do in first and second year, you’re all going on to great things.

A huge thank you to the style team of Julie, Luc and Rachael who helped pull off three fantastic fashion shoots. They may have been fun to do but a lot of hard work goes into organising clothes, photographers, models and locations and you never let me down. I’m coming back as a consultant stylist next year whether you like it or not! And thanks to the models, photographers and make-up artists who helped make the shoots look great.

Thanks to all the photographers for sending in fantastic shots all year. The quality of a publication can be judged on the photos and Mr William Walsh was instrumental in teaching this clueless print journalist a thing or two about pictures. Thanks so much for your patience Billy, you really made a huge difference.

Unfortunately I don’t have space to name all the people who contributed to the success of the DIT News, but bylines speak for themselves.

Finally, thanks to all of you for making this a great year for me, it’s been an honour to be the first editor of the DIT News, and good luck to next year’s candidate. Sure I’ll only be around the corner.

Enjoy the May DIT News, DIT has been busy since March so there’s tons to catch up on.

And from all the news team, have a great summer!

Katie Teehan
Editor

Meet the team...

Editor:
Katie Teehan
newssoced@gmail.com

The team: Marese Deely, Eric Fitzgerald, Julie Kavanagh, Aoife McGlacken-Ryan, Sascha Morrissey, Luc O’Cinnseala, Finbarr O’Sullivan, Hannah Quinn, Paul Rowley, Rachael Ryan, Heather Thompson and many, many more

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The DIT News was very sad to learn of the deaths of two DIT students. Enda Muldowney, a third year Aungier St student passed away after a short time in hospital.

And recent graduate of Aungier St Mark Haran died after a short illness. Enda and Mark’s family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers. May they rest in peace.

What’s hot:

- DIT winning two BICS awards for Best Individual and Best Fresher, well done!
- Penny’s - now that summer’s on it’s way we can stock up on an entire wardrobe for €50
- Fresh - we love the noodles!
- Aviator sunnies - make you look fab, even if the rest of your outfit is student-scruffy
- Looking forward to summer - planning holidays is the only thing getting us through
- Brunches - Old school and in an ice-cream freezer near you

What’s not:

- The hunt for a summer job - ‘cause you gotta make your bread somehow
- Leaving the classmates - somehow all the plans to meet up evaporate as soon as exam celebrations are over
- Bi-polar weather - we want to wear flip flops, but the freezing snow, hail and wind combo lately is ruining any summer outfit possibilities
- College lifts - broken buttons, getting stuck, going up and down to the basement (twice) just to get to the third floor...we should probably just walk
- Exams - No explanation necessary

Let us know what you think

If you have any ideas, stories or pictures, let us know!
Email: newssoced@gmail.com
Bebo: http://www.bebo.com/NewsS
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the college at a national level at USI. “DITSU really need to re-evaluate their position within USI. I have every confidence in the incoming president and I hope he’ll do a great job, but I’ve seen some great presidents become trapped by the position in the past.”

So is it time to consider disaffiliation? “No one person can decide whether to disaffiliate or not. That decision needs to be taken by Governing Council and the student body.”

DITSU President is a punishing job, with long hours, a great deal of responsibility and a serious workload. Martin Dunne can’t wait for it.

THE LONE RANGER

Many readers will probably know Tracey Flinter for her memorable election campaign. With her grinning head placed atop Wilma Flintstone’s body, voters were urged to elect “the Flinter” as Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs.

Such effort may have seemed perplexing, given that she was the only candidate running for the position, but she says, “I took it seriously. People were asking me why I was putting so much work into the campaign when I was the only one running, but I felt it would have reflected badly upon me if I didn’t take a professional approach. I was in it to win it.”

What prevented other candidates from running? Tracey herself puts it down to students’ perception of the post.

“Academic & Student Affairs isn’t really seen as the ‘glamour’ job. You don’t organise all the social events like the Vice President for Services & Trading. There’s quite a lot of work involved with it, too and it’s all about dealing with student issues and student problems. I don’t think students are aware of what it’s about.”

It’s a job she’s not afraid to sink her teeth into, though, and she’s got two main goals for the year. One is the integration of part-time students and apprentices into college life. “I was in Bolton Street and I was asking a lot of the apprentices if they went out during RAG Week or any of the other events, and a lot of them said no. They just feel like they’re not a part of the college and that they’re not seen as proper students.”

She also wants to see more flexible hours for student support services so as to accommodate part-time students. “A lot of part-timers are in class until nine in the evening. The cafés and shops all close at six, so they can’t even get a cup of tea after a lecture.”

The second of these goals is making students aware of the facilities available to them. She recounts how one class she visited were amazed to discover that they could avail of free medical and dentistry services within the college. “I was handing out student diaries with the numbers for these services and they just couldn’t believe it,” she recalls.

With her work ethic and vision, the VP job is sure to be one upon which Tracey will quickly leave her mark.

JOULES IS NO FOOL

The first thing that strikes you about Dermot Julian is his bashful modesty. The self-described outsider for the position of DITSU Vice President of Services & Trading is naturally delighted to have been elected and just wants to give his all in the position. “I was very surprised with the result, considering I was probably the candidate who was least expected to win. I did my best to get around to every campus at least two days before polling and I think that’s what pulled me through for me in the end.”

Before the election, Dermot had no experience with DITSU. So what motivated him to get involved now? “The main reason I went (for the election) was to get a bit of experience with PR and communication, getting people to work for you and co-ordinating people and events, that kind of thing.” Now that he’s received the mandate, he wants to follow in the example of previous officials and leave his mark on DIT.

Dermot may be inexperienced, but he’s been quick to set that right. “I’ve been talking to Sean (Gilsenan) a lot and he’s reassured me that it’ll be a great experience and one which I’ll learn a lot from.”

It’s not all fun and games, though, but he’s under no illusions. “There’s all the ground work of constitution too, grasping hold of it and getting a better understanding of how everything works.”

His relief to be working alongside two “old heads” of DITSU is palpable. “It’s great that Martin and Tracey were both involved with the SU over the years. Martin was a sabbat last year so he possesses a wealth of experience, so he’ll support me along the way and give me a helping hand if he thinks I’m lacking in some capacity.”

Dermot is determined to forge a greater link between the different DIT campuses. He sees RAG Week as the key to achieving this goal. “You’ve too many nights where it might only be Bolton Street or Aungier Street students. The best way to get the campuses together is to get out there on the ground and get volunteers from every campus to do their best to promote societies and events, like RAG Week.”

Dermot is a firm believer in the ability of clubs and societies to help students form a identity and feel a part of college life, “particularly first years.”

“I just want to build on the great work that Sean Gilsenan did over the past year,” he stresses, “I’m just glad to have defied the odds.”
Irish students tackle the drinking issue

By Rebecca McAdam

The Dare2bDrinkAware Film Competition culminated on Thursday 17th April with an Awards Ceremony at The Digital Hub on Crane Street. Various students nationwide took part in the competition in the hope of becoming the next Spielberg or Scorsese.

A total prize fund of €5,000 was up for grabs plus the chance to kick-start some budding careers. The competition was sponsored by drinkaware.ie and organised by the Digital Hub Development Agency. The winning films explored the relationship between Irish culture and drinking, and were chosen based on their creativity, insight and opinion of young people and alcohol.

The event marks a change occurring in Irish society’s attitude towards drinking. Recent research by MEAS showed that 86 per cent of people think being drunk in public is unattractive, and eight out of 10 adults believe excessive drinking in public has become less acceptable.

Fionnuala Sheehan, Chief Executive of Meas, the organisation behind drinkaware.ie, says: “Young people have a role to play in promoting responsible attitudes to drinking, and should be more involved in coming up with solutions to the problems caused by alcohol abuse.

This competition was a way of getting young people to think more deeply about alcohol consumption, and to challenge the relationship between Irish culture and drinking.”

A team from NCAD came in a close second with their film, “The Wasted Youth”. The NUl Maynooth team won first prize with their short film “It’s Funny, But It Also Makes You Think…”

David Collins, Managing Director and Producer at Samson Films says, “It’s great to see such talent amongst student film-makers. “It’s a really good sign for the future of the Irish film industry.” Well done to all the students who took part. Your work can make a difference.

Next year’s class rep convenors elected

The class rep convenors for 2008/2009 have been elected at every site across DIT, with Aungier Street the last campus to hold elections on Thursday April 17th.

Bolton Street class reps chose Ian Mullin, the overall president of DIT Drama Soc and class rep for third year Product Design, to succeed outgoing convenor Mark Smith.

Meanwhile in Kevin Street, Sean Campbell, class rep for third year Electrical Services Engineering, was elected to follow in the footsteps of Alistair Graham, who was unsuccessful in his campaign for DITSU President this year.

Richard Healy, outgoing class rep for Mountjoy Square, will be replaced Jonathan Hayes, a first year class rep for Visual Communication.

Peter Keegan was sworn in as Cathal Brugha Street convenor, coming in for Tracey Flinter, the incoming DITSU Vice President for Student & Academic Affairs.

Aungier Street chose Eric Fitzgibbon, a second year class rep for Journalism with a Language, as convenor for next year.

The outgoing convenor for Aungier Street is Raymond Garrett.

In Rathmines, Conleth Stanley was re-elected unopposed for a second term.
European year of what?

By Seamus O'Neill

In a random survey of DIT students in early April, none were able to correctly identify that 2008 is the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. The year was officially launched by President McAleese in January, who encouraged everyone to engage actively in the intercultural dialogue process and to participate wholeheartedly.

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EYID) recognises the cultural diversity that now exists throughout Europe and asks that people explore the benefits of our rich cultural heritage and the opportunities to learn from different cultural traditions.

Fionuala Cregan is the Information and Project Officer with the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI).

They are the National Coordinating Body for the EYID in Ireland and are an independent expert body which monitors racism in Ireland. They also assist the Government in developing better intercultural policies.

When discussing awareness of the year among the public and the fact that no DIT student surveyed knew what this year represented, Ms. Cregan said that: “Awareness is out there in particular sectors. People who are already involved in intercultural work are very much aware of the year but beyond that it is more of a challenge”. She went on to outline the significance of grassroots sport and arts groups which are a great tool for intercultural dialogue because they promote participation and interaction.

Ms. Cregan predicts awareness will increase due to media organisations such as RTÉ, The Irish Times and the Daily Star covering stories about the year and its theme of interculturalism.

She noted the education system is one of the areas that is witnessing the changes in Ireland first-hand. In September the Department of Education will hold a conference on the issue of intercultural education in Ireland.

The Irish Council for International Students in Ireland are also carrying out a research report as part of the year which will examine the interaction between Irish students and students from minority ethnic communities or international students in colleges.

Fionuala states: “It will look more at Irish students and why they are not as interactive with international students as they could be.”

Ms. Cregan believes that: “Of all the countries in the EU it is the most important year for Ireland because migration is so new. Particularly in the past ten years, society has changed hugely. In Government policy up to speed on that and how can policy now be adapted to meet the needs of minority ethnic communities?”

According to the last census conducted in Ireland in 2006 there was an 87% increase of non-Irish nationals between 2002 and 2006 from 22,400 to 420,000. The majority of these people came from Eastern Europe and the Baltic states, as well as Africa and Asia.

The same census ranked Polish nationals as the largest minority in Ireland.

With regard to the bad image which is sometimes created due to incidents such as the killing of two Polish men recently in Drimnagh, Ms. Cregan admitted that: “There are challenges and racism does exist in Ireland, however, whether the attack on the Polish was racist related, we do not know and there is no way of proving that because to be defined as a racist attack the victim has to say they felt they were the victim of racist abuse and in this case we are not able to define that.”

If you have experienced racism and want to report it you can contact the NCCRI on 01-8588000.

DIT’s Hothouse announce new IP policy

DIT’s new Intellectual Property (IP) policy was announced by President, Professor Brian Norton during April.

Welcomed changes set out in the new policy recognise that the inventor or author owns their own IP. The old IP policy, like that of most other universities, colleges and companies allowed DIT to claim the IP generated by its employees and students.

“At DIT we are leading the way with our new IP policy,” said President Norton. “It is unique in Ireland and most of Europe. The fact that the creator can own their own IP encourages staff and students to be innovative. It makes DIT an attractive place to work for leading researchers, authors and inventors, and enhances our reputation for excellence and industry relevance.”

In addition to the new policy, DIT set up Hothouse the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at DIT, to help inventors and authors protect and commercialise their IP.

Last year Hothouse processed 22 invention disclosures, selected 12 patents to file and won 4 commercial licences. This level of commercialisation is equivalent to other major universities who receive 4-5 times our research budget” said Flanagan.

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DIT News took to the corridors and asked you to guess what European Year 2008 is. Here are your serious and not so serious answers:

2008 is European Year of Recycling according to Catherine Kearns, 22, studying Marketing.

Yiling Liu, a 27-year-old research student in the School of Languages, guessed 2008 is the European Year of Green World.

Emma Long, 21-year-old Marketing student predicted 2008 is European Year of Equal Rights.

Aoisie Kinsella, a 22-year-old Media Arts student was close when she guessed 2008 is European Year of Racial Equality.

Mark Flanagan gets the prize for the nearest correct guess. This 22-year-old Business Management student said 2008 is European Year of Cultural Diversity.

22-year-old Chloe Guillet and 21-year-old Anais Persigan, both Erasmus students, guessed 2008 is European Year of Fair Trade and Sustainable Development respectively.

Josh Whelan, 20 and studying Marketing declared 2008 to be the European Year of Child Protection.

Gary Murray also 20 and studying Marketing guessed 2008 to be the European Year of Global Warming.

AND FINALLY...

23-year-old Marketing student Ricky Joyce who said 2008 is the European Year of Obese people.

Rory Mac Dermott, 23, in Retail and Service Management declared 2008 the European Year of Free Love.
It may not quite be a case of "the King is dead! Long live the King!" Bertie Ahern is still atop the throne and it is nominally he who is in charge of the government.

But the regency of Brian Cowen is now well established, and a smooth succession is guaranteed on May 6th, when he becomes Ireland's eleventh taoiseach.

Apparently choosing to fall upon his own sword, before events or party colleagues pushed him, the Taoiseach has at least managed to retain the dignity of leaving office at a time and in a manner of his own choosing.

The quick rally of unity behind the Tanaiste guaranteed no acrimonious infighting, minimised Fine Gael's chances of political hay-making and led even to a five point bump in support for Fianna Fail. In less than a month Bertie Ahern will be an ordinary backbench TD and his travails in government policy will cease to be men and women of virtue. And, before he receives the plaudits that he is in no doubt due, let us take a peek behind the curtain at the behind-the-scenes politics of the government.

Crisis in public office, the shady quids pro quo regarding planning permission, and a far too cozy relationship between those with money and therefore those with access - and those with political influence have been detrimental to our democracy.

For too long the Fianna Fail tent at the Galway Races has been more important to the formation of government policy than the business conducted on the floor of Dail Eireann and this is something that must be completely exercised for true public confidence in our elected representatives to return.

The shamefaced queue of former and serving TDs, ministers and taoisigh attending tribunals of enquiry has seemed at times to stretch a length almost beyond belief, except to the most cynical of observers.

Brian Cowen is the man best placed to ensure that as few people as possible join Ireland's corrupt conga line and his achievement has been to retain the diginity of leaving office at a time and in a manner of his own choosing.

And yet, the issues surrounding Bertie Ahern's fall from power and fall from grace are not unique to him or to his circumstances, unique to the period of time in which they took place or even unique to the party of which he is a member - though they do seem to hold a special affinity for Fianna Fail.

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Perhaps attaining the supreme of substance within the Offaly constituency accounts was loot and purchase a property in her name, supposedly for her aunts. It is only following recent research by the Mahon Tribunal that she has repaid that money. It may be only natural to regret the manner of the man's departure as Taoiseach. "Alas, poor Yorick" perhaps, but let us never forget that his legacy will forever remain tainted.

The Haughey era may finally end next month. It lies with Brian Cowen to institute real and meaningful change in the behaviour of Ireland's largest party.

Our Tanaiste remains somewhat of an untested quality. His achievements in government to this point have been distinctly middling and if there is a leader of substance within the Offaly TD, it has yet to manifest itself.

Perhaps attaining the supreme office open to an Irishman may aid him in shrugging off his ministerial inertia. One way or another, we will begin the Cowen era at the year dot on May 6th. Let us hope he will take the road less travelled and that the standard of politics and public life in this little country may be raised anew.
Lisbon Treaty... explained

This vote is something that will effect all our lives but how have politicians tried to engage young people on any of the important issues?

Christina Finn took to the DIT hallways to ask students whether they felt they were being listened to on issues that affect us and whether Irish politicians were out of touch.

Catherine Tierney MA International Journalism

"I don't think the Government are interested in Irish people's views. I think however it's really up to young people to take an interest and get involved.

"Enda Kenny I feel is definitely out of touch. They [politicians] are probably improving but they aren't really in touch with young people's issues. Important issues to people our age would be more support needed getting through college."

Yvonne Reynolds Marketing student

"I think they probably could pay more attention to young people. I think they are more concerned with public affairs not so much young people's affairs.

"Student accommodation, I think that's probably a big problem or student counselling."

Sean Cullin logistics and supply chain management

"With the Lisbon treaty for example, we've been covering it in lectures but haven't really heard anything from the Government about it.

"I wouldn't really vote and I don't know a lot of people that would, so they probably should try and get young people more involved."

David Roland Marketing

"I think they are a bit over enthusiastic about the whole drink thing, I think it is not the majority of us and they are just overreacting by thinking about bringing in rules like increasing the age to 21 or 23.

For students I think what is important is free education, that is the most important thing. There should be more benefits and discounts for us."

Lively debate in DIT as voting day looms

The Lisbon Treaty is a confusing, long-winded document but it's one that's going to be vitally important for the future of the European Union. Yet confusion reigns, and both the pro-Treaty and anti-Treaty sides are filling our heads with lies, damned lies and statistics.

What better way to sort the wheat from the chaff than a good old-fashioned debate? That's exactly what went down in DIT Aungier Street on March 3. The motion put before the house was "That this house believes the Lisbon Treaty is a good deal for Ireland".

Speaking in favour of the motion were: Fergal Reid of the DIT Young Progressive Democrats and Mary Francis McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna, a member of the Forum on McKenna.

Mary Francis McKenna began the debate, arguing that the Lisbon Treaty was fundamentally about updating the European Union for modern times. She claimed that pooling sovereignty was the best use of independence by nation states.

She described a potential rejection of the Lisbon Treaty by Irish voters as being akin to removing the foundation of a house, such is the importance of the Treaty for the structure of the EU. The Treaty was all about efficiency and effectiveness, she urged, and that it was introducing a raft of new initiatives, including the EU Citizens' Initiative. This would allow one million citizens from 15 member states to sign a petition imploring the European Commission to introduce legislation.

Richard Boyd-Barrett began the argument for the No side. He argued that Lisbon would create a Europe defined by neo-liberal economic policies.

Boyd-Barrett also raised concerns about the environmental impact the Treaty would have, stating that it would allow private companies to sue states which subsidise public transport, arguing that investment in public transport was needed to combat global warming.

Fergal Reid was quick to attack any concerns about the economic impact of Lisbon. He argued that the Lisbon Treaty was all about efficiency and effectiveness, she urged, and that it was introducing a raft of new initiatives, including the EU Citizens' Initiative.

He said that it was little more than a rehash of the failed European Constitution, even containing the same spelling mistakes.

He was worried about anti-democratic aspects of the Treaty, including the creation of a High Representative for Foreign Policy, effectively a European Minister for Foreign Affairs, which would be an unelected position.

The threat to Irish neutrality posed by Lisbon was a big topic of discussion in the following Q&A session. David Cochrane highlighted a clause in the Treaty which implies member states to increase military spending, while Richard Boyd-Barrett expressed concern as to the formation of a European Army for "peace-making missions", which he claimed was a synonym for war.

Fergal Reid countered by saying that "peace-making" has evolved beyond war and that the EU has been the greatest beacon of peace in recent years, citing the current presence in Chad as an example. When Boyd-Barrett claimed that the Chad mission was motivated by oil, Mary Francis McKenna and Fergal Reid both responded by saying that it was to protect vulnerable refugees in the region.

Naturally, this debate didn't even scratch the surface of the Lisbon Treaty, but it did give some insight into a document which the Irish public will vote on this June. Debates like these should help undecided voters to make their minds up. With the Lisbon Treaty causing such division within Ireland and Europe, there's sure to be plenty more where this discussion came from.

By Eric Fitzgerald
A different view

Abiba Ndeley talks to three international students to get their take on life in DIT

**SOPHIE BOLTZ, 22**

From: France – Strasbourg for 5 years and now in Paris since last October

Living in: Pembroke Street, Dublin 2


Studying: Journalism

Favourite radio stations? RTL and France Inter in France

What newspapers do you read?

Le Monde, Le Figaro, Liberation, and sometimes Jeune Afrique

**What do you think of Ireland as a place to live and study?**

Ireland is very nice place to live and study. I would have loved to stay a little longer. The welcome was very heart-warming. The teachers went out of their way to ensure that we settled in smoothly and that our accommodation facilities were OK. I was agreeably surprised as I wasn’t expecting such a welcome. Since our arrival we have been treated to a number of friendship lunches on a regular basis. I think we’ve had one almost every week. I do not think that Erasmus students who go to France are welcomed so warmly as we are here. Living in Ireland, why not? I don’t think that I want to spend my whole life in France and in spite of the Irish weather, I think I’d cope alright.

**What were your expectations of DIT?**

I am here to improve on my English and to discover Irish journalism.

**So far are your expectations being met?**

Yes, I am more or less satisfied. My English has improved a little bit but the fact that I do not interact with other Irish students other than in class is not helping. I would have loved to meet a lot more Irish students. In the course of the Erasmus program, I tend to always find myself amongst other foreign students. Irish students with whom I attend some lessons do tend to keep to themselves after class and we the foreign students are left to spend our weekends as well together.

**What has been your best experience in Ireland?**

I can’t really say there has been one. However, I have been struck by the lovely scenery of the countryside. Myself and other Erasmus students have been to places such as Dunlaoghaire, Bray, Dalkey and New Grange – where we discovered some historical monuments that are said to be older than the Egyptian pyramids. This I think was a most interesting find.

**Where would you like to live if not in Ireland?**

Honestly, I am not sure at the moment. I have an ambition to travel and I guess the determining factor would be practical. I think I would live wherever I was able to get work first whether it be in France or elsewhere.

**What are your favourite radio stations?**

Today FM; FM 104; RTL 1

**What newspapers do you read?**

The Irish Times, Irish Independent and The Star sometimes.

**What do you think of Ireland as a place to live and study?**

Ireland is a nice place – very friendly people and I love its multicultural nature. The food however is not as good as Italian food but I get by.

**What were your expectations of DIT?**

To acquire good journalistic background, make contacts and get a job either here or in Italy.

**So far are your expectations being met?**

So far they are. The lecturers are well trained and professional get me where I want to go. However organisation wise there is a need for improvement.

**What has been your best experience in Ireland?**

The Ireland vs Italy rugby Six Nations game at Croke Park.

**Where would you like to live if not in Ireland?**

There is no place like home!

**KOLA OGUNBIYI, 42**

From: Nigeria

Living in: Drogheda

Been here: 4 years

Studying: MA International Journalism

Professional experience: Accountant at Exxon Mobil for 12years in Nigeria; Pastor at the Redeemed Church of God, Balbriggan, Ireland

Do you have family in Ireland?

Yes. Wife and three kids (2 girls, 1 boy)

**What do you think of Ireland as a place to live and study?**

Ireland is a conducive place to live in – very friendly people. However, some of the Irish still have a long way to go in terms of integration. Some of them have confided in me that they only met black people as recently as five years ago.

This section of the Irish society need to accept that people of all races are created by the same God and have the right to move from one place to the other and consequently become more welcoming.

**What were your expectations of DIT?**

To become a journalist and acquire skills in global market and international business reporting.

I have presently taken up the print journalism option of the course and hope to achieve my goals through that.

I also hope to further my integration in the Irish community.

**So far are your expectations being met?**

Yes. I am 80% OK with what has been achieved so far. DIT has also provided a great cultural mix that has enabled me to understand and integrate more with others from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

**What has been your best experience in Ireland?**

As far as I am concerned there have been two things that have greatly influenced my life in Ireland.

First of all I am happy to be able to play a substantial role in the lives of others, preaching and sharing the word of God through my pastoral work. Secondly, I am grateful for my residency and the opportunity to study and improve on my skills and to become an important part of Irish society.

**Where would you like to live if not in Ireland?**

I am perfectly happy living in Ireland for as long as possible. It is a relatively welcoming society compared to other European countries. If I were to leave Ireland, it will possibly be on my retirement and the option open to me would be to return to Nigeria.

**MICHELANGELO FELICETTI, 28**

From: Italy

Living in: Stoneybatter

Been here: 6 months

Studying: MA International Journalism

Professional experience: Radio Presenter; Translator/interpreter

Do you have family in Ireland?

No
Ain’t no angry like an angry culchie

THIS MONTH: RTE ‘comedy’?
Don’t make me laugh

Angry Culchie is trundling towards its inevitable conclusion, but, true to form, there’s still one last thing he needs to get off his chest. Throughout this rollercoaster ride of a mere three columns, he feels he’s helped you all find your own, inner angry culchie.

Rants about buses, Trinity College and Valentine’s Day have been pretty cathartic, and he hopes it was as good for the readers as it was for him.

There’s been an infestation on our televisions over the past few months. I don’t know if you’ve noticed it, but Angry Culchie sure has. It’s a noxious, foul-smelling plague which has been smeared across our screens.

Symptoms of exposure include rolled eyes, tuts, sighs and a hankering for the good ol’ days of Scrap Saturday (yes, Angry Culchie doesn’t remember it either, but play along), Bull Island (the programme which ruined a Power City ad campaign) and Father Ted (“That was never offered to RTE in the first place!” cries one irate reader. Go sit in the corner, you. There’s no place for your facts here.)

AC is talking, of course, about the appalling slew of “home grown comedy” which the suits at RTÉ have seen fit to throw on our screens.

You can almost hear the sickening, wet slop as this positively puerile broadcasting excrement smacks across the glass and slides down, eventually manifesting itself in the form of Katherine Lynch’s Working Girls.

Whoever decided at Donnybrook that “fat harridan + stuprodedimes + numerous references to her ba­jingo = comi­dee” should be fed to wolves. Really hungry wolves.

That’s only the tip of the iceberg, though, as audiences are unfortunately all too aware. There have been other brain-farts which have somehow slithered their way into the TV guide.

What does one think of when RTE’s pathetic at­tem­pt at a Friends clone, The Roaring Twenties, comes to mind? Witty, innovative writing? Con­vincing performances? A keen desire to beat someone’s head in with a shovel?

I’m guessing that the vast majority of you picked the latter option. If you didn’t, watch out for an angry-looking culchie holding a bloodyed shovel. If you see him, run. Run quite fast.

RTE’s biggest crime against comedy, however, is arguably The Podge & Rodge Show. Here they took a successful formula, A Scare At Bedtime, and threw a few Z-list “celebrities” and a reasonably attrac­tive co-host into the mix. How in the name of God did they think it could possibly go right?

The Podge & Rodge Show is like going in for plastic surgery and coming out missing an arm. What you had at first might have needed a slight improvement, but once the opportunity came around, they botched the job horribly.

AC hopes and prays that, one day, RTE will stumble across another gem to brighten up our screens and give us some hope. Given their track record, however, it doesn’t look too good.

By Eric Fitzgerald

Diary.... of a tormented flatmate

By JPG

This year I moved out of the comfort of my parent’s home and up to the big bad city of Dublin.

It was the first time I had left home, besides the time when I was seven and ran away from home to live under my next door neighbor’s slide; needless to say, I returned home half an hour later with my tail between my legs because I was cold.

I moved into a shoebox sized apartment with three strangers. Two of my flat mates are very nice; they have caused no more trouble than setting the odd bag of microwave popcorn on fire.

My room mate on the other hand is a nightmare. I call my roommate ‘The Bat’ because she is a nocturnal creature. She chose to walk around in the dark for three days rather than change the burnt-out light bulb; then again, maybe that could just be called pure laziness. The Bat is a self-proclaimed ‘insomniac’.

I think her definition is somewhat off because the simple fact is this - she can’t sleep at night because she sleeps all day long, so she has just made herself nocturnal and not an insomniac.

The Bat likes to ensure I don’t sleep either by doing things like playing her guitar at 3 o’clock in the morning or waking me up in the middle of the night to ask me to wake her up in the morning. One night the Bat decided 4 o’clock in the morning would be a suitable time to start her college project which consisted of her smashing a mirror with a hammer. Eventually, I got so frustrated with her that I told her I was going to sleep in the front room but she told me I couldn’t because there was glass everywhere inside the room. When I asked why she didn’t clean it up she replied “Because I didn’t want the noise of the hoover to wake you up.” Oh yeah, because the noise of her smashing a mirror with a hammer wouldn’t?

Sharing a bathroom with someone is hard enough but sharing one with the Bat is a nightmare. Actually, it’s closer to being in a horror film. The Bat has long black hair down to her ass so when I go to use the shower after her it’s like a scene from the horror film ‘The Grudge’.

The bathroom floor is covered by a thick carpet of her hair which is disgusting.

The Bat is constantly watching me do things like brushing my hair, putting on my make up or doing my college work. She eavesdrops in on my conversations so I’ve had to resort to speaking in code to my own mother so that she can’t figure out what I’m saying.

Never in my life did I think I could find a person so rude, spoilt and agitating, let alone live with them. She makes me resort to doing petty things to get her back like hiding my toilet paper because she won’t buy any or marking how much washing detergent I have left because she keeps taking it. She makes me wonder if returning home and sharing a room with my sister again would be so bad after all.

The college year is almost over so thankfully I’m almost rid of my venim room mate. It just goes to show, you don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone and next year, I’m not sharing a room!
The fabulous DIT TOYOTA FASHION SHOW rocked Vicar Street this April with a trippy Willy Wonka themed set, make up that was sweet enough to eat, sexy clothes and the hottest of DIT hotties. TV3's Xpose even turned up to film the fashion extravaganza.

Stars of the show Nikki Baume and Ciaran Walsh bagged a modelling contract each and student design award went to Maggie Danaher for her fabulous creation. DIT News photo editor William Walsh gives us a golden ticket to a world of Pure Imagination...

This is the Toyota Aygo – a car that's great around town and yours for as little as €29.99 a week for the first twelve months. Arranging a test drive costs even less, so call us now on 1850 200 724 or text AYGO to 51070.
wish...
count to three...

Left
Ciaran & Nikki
win modelling
contracts
below right
Shireen wears
winning designer
Maggie Danaher's
creation

Congrats to
Zoe & team,
you pulled off
a fantastic
night!
MAY 2008

BICS - NATIONAL SOCIETY AWARDS

DIT Drama’s Ian Mullin wins best individual

“If you’re not in a society you’re not going to college, you’re going to class...”

Wise words from DIT’s own Ian Mullin, who won the award for Best Individual at the BICS (Board of Irish College Societies) awards. The awards were hosted in Dundalk IT on Thursday the 17th April.

During the interview section of the competition, one judge asked Ian what he had planned for the rest of his year out, “Oh no, I’m a full-time student. I’m in third year.”

This must have come as a shock after hearing all about his extensive work as part of the committee for Drama, as Director of ISDA, SU class rep, and Societies Rep.

Best Individual is not just about one person,” says Ian modestly, “it’s a committee achievement. Everyone I’ve worked with – Gavin Mooney, Susan McDaid, Maeve Horan-Murphy, Caoilin Rafferty, Billy Walsh, the Societies Office...they’re the ones that brought me to the position I’m in now.”

Another winner on the night was Lukasz Luniewski (Best Fresher) who organized the DIT International Breakdancing Skill Masters competition and arranged for an internationally renowned B-boy, New Yorker Ken Swift, to come to DIT to judge.

A very dedicated Lukasz has been teaching breakdancing classes twice a week on top of a four-hour round-trip commute every day to and from Carrickmuckross in Monaghan.

Newspapers were calling him up, people travelled from abroad to see the famous B-boy at the DIT event, and Anita Conway said his win at the BICS was one of her proudest moments.

The BICS judges agreed that, of all the nominees, he was the only one whose society would simply not be the same without him. Lukasz remained remarkably cool and unfazed by the whole thing, but said that he was “very surprised.”

DIT’s Drama Soc was also nominated for Best Society and, reportedly, it was a very close call.

Their achievements could not be faulted, but it was judges’ discretionary points that meant DIT lost out in the end to DCU’s Drama Soc. Our Drama Soc was also competing for Best Event for the ISDA Drama Festival, which was hosted for the first time by us (or by any IT for that matter) this year.

It was a disappointment not to get the award, but apparently there were only two points in it between them and the winners, DCU Style Soc, and no one can deny that ISDA was a massive success this year. DIT generated a real buzz around the festival and we left our mark on it forever. We even gave it a new logo.

Other nominees included DIT Comedy for Best Poster, Fashion Show for Best Website, Intercambio for Best New Society, and An Cumann Gaelach for Most Improved.

It’s an incredible achievement to be nominated at intervarsity level, and the judges admitted later that each and every decision was extremely hard.

DIT should be proud to have had so many outstanding Societies take part, and so many dedicated people working within them all year.

Receiving both prizes for outstanding individual achievement proves what we already know; that DIT produces some truly exceptional people with great enthusiasm, drive, and love for their Societies. (And all Trinity won was Best Poster! Ha!)
Look after yourself.
Look after your mental health.

www.bebo.com/yourmentalhealth
HSE infoline 1850 24 1850
How often do you find the right society? Just Once

By Aoife Ni Glacken-Riain

With Falling Slowly playing in the background, the students who attended the Society Awards were treated to a short, Once-themed video full of pictures of happy students enjoying their societies.

Those who attended will have trouble forgetting such an eventful night in the beautiful Clontarf Castle (and beyond).

A lavish meal was served after a brief introduction by Anita, who warmly welcomed the attendees and the special guest MC, TV3’s Martin King.

All the societies deserve recognition for their hard work and progress this year, and as Anita said in her speech, all the nominees deserve praise. But each prize can only have one winner, and although there were some surprises and some disappointments, all would agree that the judgement was fair and each trophy well-deserved.

During the ceremony, after half the awards had been handed out, Brian Gormley gave a speech in which he highly praised Anita for all her work throughout the year. He received a long standing ovation and told the assembled society members: “you are the cream of DIT.”

At first the awards were all distributed and the photos snapped, the (surprisingly good) band struck up a tune and everyone hit the dancefloor. Mary Scally and other staff members were more than happy to join in. The celebrations went on until around one in the morning, at which point we were given two choices - the first bus would drop us back to town and we could head home...

The second bus was destined for Sean Gilsenan’s house somewhere in Drumcondra and the greatest and longest house party of the year. A lack of containers and cups meant certain students ended up drinking out of pots, pans, and even their new trophies. Some clever fella had the foresight to bring a guitar and a singalong started up and kept going well into the wee hours.

What other proof is needed? Being in a society is fun and very rewarding. Get involved!

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What other proof is needed? Being in a society is fun and very rewarding. Get involved!

And the winners are...

MOST IMPROVED
Cumann Gaileach

BEST SMALL EVENT
Comedy Soc’s Father Ted Quiz

BEST POSTER
Comedy Soc

BEST WEBSITE
Fashion Show

BEST PHOTO
Environmental Soc

BEST FRESHER
Lukasz Luniwinski (Breakdancing)

BEST INDIVIDUAL
Ian Mullin (Drama)

BEST EVENT
Drama’s ISDA Festival

BEST NEW SOC
Intercambio

BEST SOC
Drama

BEST SITE SOC
Aungier Street - Intercambio

Bolton Street - Comedy Soc

Cathal Brugha Street - Theatre Musical Soc

Kevin Street - Physics Soc

Mountjoy Square - Reject Muzakel Soc

Paintball Cost
€200.00

Movie Soc
€200.00

Leisure Management
€200.00

Environmental Health
€200.00

CAFA
€200.00

Games Soc
€200.00

Musical Theatre Soc
€200.00

Old Folks Party
€200.00

Contingency
€200.00

Total
€1,000.00

Aungier St Societies

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There are 85 societies across DIT who received a total of €229,170 this year. As well as regular budgets for each society, 18 special events were funded: Art & Design Week, €2,500; BICS, €5,000; Drama Festival, €2,000; Fashion Show, €10,000; Socs Training, €5,000; ISDA, €15,000; Battle of the Socs, €2,500; Battle of the Bands, €2,000; International events €1,800; Paintball day, €500; Paintball cup, €1,000; Comedy, €5,000; Green Week, €500; DIT SkillsMasters, €4,000; Photo exhibition, €500; EASA, €2,500; CSSA, €600; Contingency, €7,000. TOTAL: €68,000.
Los noches calientes del verano
Above, right and below ELIZA White bow top £14.90, red shorts £15.90 and sun hat £8.99 all H&M, shoes, model's own.

Previous page: ELIZA: Flower sundress £15.90, H&M; headband £2 and sandals £11 both Penny's.

Right ELIZA: Shirt dress £29.90 and orange vest £8.90 both H&M, earrings and pendant both C2, Penny's. Bangles, stilettos own.

Below right STEPHEN Shirt £45 and aviator glasses £18 both Topman; jeans £90, Tommy Hilfiger.
**PHILIP:** Blue stripe top £95, navy tie £15, grey trousers £35 and aviator glasses £18. White shirt C99, Tommy Hilfiger.

**STEPHEN:** As below

**Above:**
- **PHILIP:** Grey cardigan £46, black trousers £30 and blazer £23 all Topman; black long-sleeved T-shirt £9.50 and shoes £17.50 both Tommy Hilfiger.
- **ELIZA:** Pink top £14.99, H&M; white skirt C99, Tommy Hilfiger; belt C1 and pearls C2, Pennys; shoes, model’s own.

**Left:**
- **STEPHEN:** Black shirt £90 and silver tie £9.49, both Tommy Hilfiger; blazer C31, Topman.
Stylists: Katie Teehan, Luc O Cinnseala, Rachael Ryan and Julie Kavanagh.

Models provided by DIT Toyota

Fashion Show: Philip Deignan, Eliza McLaughlin and Stephen Moloney.

Photographed by: William Walsh.

www.williamwalsh.eu

Shot on location at Floridita cocktail bar, Abbey St.

Clothes, shoes & accessories kindly provided by H&M, Tommy Hilfiger and Topman.
Sex and the student

... everything you need to know to have fun and stay safe

By Heather Thompson

Sex! It's on everyone's mind just about every five seconds, especially on our attractive DIT campuses.

But what to do about satisfying those urges?

Well, here shall be proffered some knowledge which may come in handy during term.

First of all, if you have managed to get past all the social hurdles, you'll be needing contraception.

For ladies, this is where the free onsite medical centres really come in handy.

Northside colleges can go to Linnenhall Lodge on Bolton St, and the Southside health centre is on the second floor of the Aungier St campus.

Here you can discreetly get free pill prescriptions, emergency contraception, and—saving you €50 you'd have to pay at any women's clinic—free cervical smear tests.

It's not all about the girls though; there's also free STI testing on offer for both sexes.

Some infections take ages to reveal themselves and others, like chlamydia, never show up at all until the damage has been done.

That's why it's so handy to be able to pop into the medical centre between classes to get checked up.

Advice is also on offer if you're wondering how certain diseases are transmitted.

Don't worry lads, both pharmacies on South Great George's St offer a 10 per cent student discount on a variety of condoms and other Durex products.

It's also worth checking out one of Dublin's many sex shops.

Intimidating though many of them look, be assured that the staff working inside don't care who you are and the stores themselves are generally as clean as any other.

You can find costumes, accessories, DVDs, and toys for gay and straight preferences.

Speaking of costumes, one of the most discreet places is Glamworld on Mary St which looks just like a fancy clothing shop from the outside.

The staff are nice and usually have one eye on Friends on the TV.

There's also Ann Summers on O'Connell St, where the hugely practical and helpful staff can explain and recommend any products, including DVDs, books, and the many breeds of Rabbit.

So far no sex shops show any signs of offering student discounts, but it never hurts to ask.

Students have enough stress this time of year, so make sure you have some fun by one of these safe methods.

Happy shagging!

Dream Destinations

Choose from over 15,000 hostels in 168 countries worldwide

HOSTELWORLD.com

SLEEP EASY
Into the sunset...

Can you imagine a time when you won’t have to spend every day in the stuffy library and exams are a distant painful memory? Yes, summer’s on it’s way and the best way to spend it is to jet off to see the world. Paul Rowley and MARESE DEELY check out the most popular options

J1: WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE USA

Our college year is coming to an end and we can finally see the ray of Irish sunlight at the end of a tunnel full of assignments, study and stress. As our Irish sun is not the warmest, you may be among the thousands of students aged between 18 and 22 heading to the United States this summer on a J1 for that ‘cultural learning experience’.

The J1 is designed to give third-level students the opportunity to legally live and work in the United States for four months, with one month’s grace to travel around the U.S. The majority of students find jobs in the restaurant business and then use their final month to travel.

Although New York, Chicago and Boston are popular for J1s, the west coastal areas of California, San Francisco and San Diego will become the choice home to masses of students this year.

While securing a job for your time in the States is obviously important, Caoimhe McManus, 20, who is heading to San Diego this year, advises that suitable accommodation be your number one priority. “Try holiday homes as they are furnished and the phone and electricity bills are usually included,” she said.

She recommended to “give yourself plenty of time to find a house as some may fall through.” As the US Open takes place in La Jolla this year, houses in San Diego are in demand and prices are high. “Be open to moving a bit away from San Diego,” Caoimhe advised. “Houses there can be much larger and cheaper.”

Although preparations for the J1 can be stressful at times, the universal conclusion from students who have been is that it is fantastic. “It’s the experience of a lifetime,” Caoimhe assures us.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR J1:
- Apply for your J1 with a travel agency, such as USIT on Aston Quay.
- USIT will provide you with a letter to be stamped by your college. You will also have to fill out forms for an interview with the American Embassy. You will receive the date of your interview by text or email.
- On the day of the interview, you will have to pay your embassy fees. The interview itself takes place in the American Embassy in Ballsbridge and usually only takes a few minutes, but make sure you show up on time.
- The Embassy will keep your passport to process your visa application.
- Once your flights are paid for, you can collect it from USIT.
THAILAND: EXOTIC BEACH & CITY DESTINATIONS

Exotic, stunning, mystical, a step into the unknown. Thailand is dragging Irish students to its shores in search of a greater thrill and a potential life-changing experience.

Gary Ward, a 20-year-old Arts student in UCD, spent five weeks in Thailand last summer. The Gormanston native saw the trip as a chance to do something “totally different” and “get away from normal life”.

Gary’s favourite destinations were the secluded island of Ko Tao, Bangkok and Ko Phangan. Ko Tao gave Gary the chance to laze on “epic” beaches, while the slums in Bangkok were a “massive eye-opener” for the Meath man. But the highlight was Ko Phangan and its famous “Full Moon Party”.

Spanning 24 hours, the party is “hard to explain”. 25,000 people of all ages gather on a beach and “dance more or less non-stop for 24 hours”. Bizarrely, alongside five stages of music, there is even a sleeping area for people who cannot stand the pace.

Summing it up Gary said, “I cannot put it into words. You just have to experience it. People from 16 to 60 giving it socks.”

The upfront payments may be the main setback for any would-be visitor. Return flights to Thailand amounted to €1,000 for Gary, while immunisations set him back €140.

But the low cost of living will inevitably be good news for student visitors. Gary managed to survive on €1,000 for five weeks, which included travel between islands, accommodation, activities, and eating and socialising every night.

Potentially you could survive on much less, but Gary said it is worth spending more to “stay in nice places and eat great food”.

According to Gary, a nice main course and two drinks cost €4, but you could eat for just €2.50.

A beer costs about €1, but Gary normally drank “buckets” of vodka or whiskey, a Thai speciality, for €5.

Risk of infection is a concern for any student travelling to the Far East and it’s important to get your immunisation jabs sorted at least six weeks before you go.

Students must also be aware of sexually transmitted infections, such as hepatitis B, which are more common in the Far East than Ireland.

Thailand seems to be a student’s paradise.

Cheap drink, friendly faces and electric nightlife are a given, and for the more refined among us, culture is at a premium.

With so much to offer, Thailand is a must visit area for any adventurous college student.

INTER-RAILLING: 30 COUNTRIES IN ONE

Of all summer plans open to Irish students, inter-railing offers the widest choice in one holiday. Venice, Barcelona, Krakow, Ljubljana, Stockholm, every corner of Europe is a train journey away.

A month of dirty hostels, alien food and unfathomable languages might not appeal to all.

But to many students, the prospect of cheap drink, new people and no responsibility will sway the balance.

Inter-railing offers the chance to visit any of 30 European countries.

Although western countries offer the beauty of Paris, the originality of Venice, and the insanity of Amsterdam, students should concentrate their endeavours on Eastern Europe.

For the more culturally inclined, Eastern Europe boasts a host of beautiful scenery and historical architecture.

Sights range from quiet medieval villages in Austria to triumphant gothic cathedrals in Prague.

However, due to its exposure to numerous cultures over time, Croatia offers a unique experience, with visitors being treated to a host of Greek, Roman and medieval architectural remains.

But for many students, the real benefit of traveling east is the value for money. Wherever your travels take you, cheap food, hostels and alcohol should invariably follow.

Hostels in Prague can be found for as little as €7 a night, while pints of beer will rarely if ever cross the €2 mark.

Inter-railing also benefits from its flexibility. Plans can be changed on a whim, with nothing to stop you making new friends and joining them on their travels.

Many students choose merely starting and end points and fill the middle as they proceed.

Wihi over 40,000 train stations available, the possibilities are endless.

However, given the ample choice, planning can be beneficial.

It allows ten-hour train rides, such as the journey from Amsterdam to Munich, to be avoided.

Although students can ensure most of these long journeys are on night trains, the uncomfortable nature of the couchettes, the noise of the train and the danger of your luggage being stolen can lead to a potential bout of insomnia.

For students aiming to explore Eastern Europe, a good idea is to start in Krakow, famous for its hectic nightlife.

From there students can travel down through Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Croatia, taking in as much as they see fit.

Inter-railing offers students an unparalleled opportunity to explore Eastern Europe before western culture infiltrates its borders.

If package holidays have lost their appeal, Eastern Europe is a great alternative.
A rising from the sparse landscape, between endless valleys and flat concrete residential squares, a thriving vibrant city reveals itself, seconds before touchdown. ‘City’ doesn’t quite fit it really. A splash of flashing lights and high-rise buildings surrounded by no-man’s-land. This city of sin, as it’s known, could be anywhere else in the world.

But it’s not, it’s here. Slap bang in the middle of nowhere.

There is no concept of time in Las Vegas. It is whatever you want it to be. You can have your breakfast at six in the evening or dinner at four in the morning. You can stroll through St. Mark’s Square and wave at passing gondolas under a pale blue sky, although outside the moon is high. Then for a pint of black stuff beside the Statue of Liberty, a yard-long margarita in an Egyptian pyramid, and a bite in a café at the feet of the Eiffel Tower.

Las Vegas sees over 30 million visitors a year, and it’s easy to see why. Before I came, I had this image of a smelly squalid has-been town, polluted with smoke and neon lights. Of course, if you look hard enough, you’ll find almost anything. But Vegas oozes with history and charm, and has a thousand stories to tell.

The Grand Canyon is one of those things a person must see in their lifetime. It’s so vast that the mind almost cannot conceive it. Vultures soar over novelty shops that stock Indian bows-and-arrows and leather trinkets. The history here is less crime boss and high-roller, more cowboy and Indian.

Travelling down endless dusty roads, you can’t help but think of all those horror films and episodes of CSI where bodies are buried and teenagers are chased by big trucks with blinding lights, but it’s not like that. In fact, it’s really beautiful. Cacti spring from orange shingle, and the open space stretches out in front. It’s mesmerising, but also refreshing.

Back on the strip, each hotel has its story to tell with its own awe-inspiring features. The Flamingo was built by the one and only Bugsy Siegel. A lavish vision in pink, from the gaming tables to the rooms, it’s hard to think that such a place was conceived by a man implicated in at least thirty murders.

The Stratosphere has America’s highest free-standing observation deck. It also has three rides, one of which teeters over the side of the hotel, hanging its passengers 866 feet above the ground.

Vegas is the only place where hotels are attractions in themselves. Working so hard to compete with each other, there are hundreds of things to see and do, many of which won’t cost a penny. These include the fountains at the Bellagio, the lion habitat at the MGM, the erupting volcano at The Mirage, the water-slide through sharks in The Golden Nugget and much more.

This way you can save your money for gambling, eating, and shopping. If you are gambling, then you also don’t need to worry about paying for drinks once you’re over 21 that is.

Downtown is perhaps the closest thing to what Vegas once was. The hotels are closer together and the street is regularly filled with music and partygoers. The Freemont Street Experience begins on the hour several times a night.

The world’s largest flat-screen covers an area of over four acres, engaging its audience with a stunning collage of music and imagery.

People gather together - some lying on their backs to stare at the canopy 90 feet above, awe-struck by 550,000 watts of sound and over 12 million lights.

Whatever can be said about the world today, at times like this it’s hard not to feel like each stranger is your friend - much like on a typical drunken evening at home.

Often you will feel like you’ve stepped onto a scene from Fear and Loathing and sometimes it seems you’ve been transported back to an age when these hotels where the regular haunt of true Hollywood stars like The Rat Pack, Clark Gable and Elvis Presley.

The bright light city is like a vampire. It puts you under a spell and sucks the life from you, but it’s so seductive, you can’t help going back for more.
Sex & The City
it's back...

Cocktails, handbags and heels at the ready, ladies—Sex and the City is back. For all the hardcore fans in need of a fix, the movie version of the hit series is due to be released at the end of May.

Rumours are rife concerning what our favourite not-so-single New York quartet will get up to, following pictures of Carrie in a wedding dress and Charlotte with a baby bump, while cast and crew are remaining tight-lipped on the plotline.

When the series ended in 2004, everything looked very much happy-ever-after for the girls: Carrie and Big had finally realised they meant to be; Samantha had met her match in toy boy Smith and overcome breast cancer; Miranda had moved to Brooklyn with husband Steve and baby Brady and Charlotte and Harry had finalised an adoption of a baby girl from China.

However, the trailer for the movie hints that not all is perfect in the girls’ worlds.

It looks like Carrie and Big are about to tie the knot, despite initial claims that shots of her in a suitably quirky Vivienne Westwood wedding dress were filmed as part of a dream sequence.

Typically, all does not seem to run smoothly for the bride, while marital problems are on the cards for Miranda and Steve as the trailer suggests infidelity on Steve’s part.

There is also a new recruit to the cast in the form of Jennifer Hudson, of “Dreamgirls” fame, who is Carrie’s new assistant, while old reliable gay friends Stanford Blatch and Anthony will resume their camp and catty roles.

In the long run, the plot takes a back seat as all we’re dying to see again is the fashion, the glamorous city, the witty one-liners and of course, the girls.

By Hannah Quinn
The portrayal of Irish people on film has moved on since Far and Away. Rebecca McAdam takes a look at two recent hits that ditched the leprechauns and still endeared viewers worldwide.

Irishness was long ago turned into a commodity and re-packaged as a caricature of itself. It’s meant to represent a nation that, in reality, is as modern and advanced as the next. The Irish charm and wit has always been loved around the world, but when it comes to capturing it on film, it’s often hit-and-miss.

Putting aside all the classics - like The Commitments, The Crying Game, In the Name of the Father, and basically anything written by Roddy Doyle - in recent years true depictions of Irishness or Ireland itself have been sparse. That is until two little gems came along, both completely different in form, plot, and setting.

Once hit Irish screens in 2007 and was met with much acclaim, particularly in recent months. Since its release it has been nominated for numerous awards and has won many, including the 2008 Oscar for Best Original Song “Falling Slowly”. It’s one of the few films in years to receive a standing ovation at the Sundance Film Festival.

The Irish film, directed by John Carney, encapsulates a pre-Celtic Tiger Dublin and the poverty and struggle of those often forgotten. For many, this film paints the most truthful portrait of Dublin city and its people. There is no fancy photography, no cringe-worthy over-the-top Irish accents, and absolutely no glamour. Even the main actors, are not actors by trade. There is merely the landscape as it is, the people as they are, and life as it often goes.

Glen Hansard from The Frames and Markéta Irglová, a professional singer/songwriter, play the parts of an Irish guy and a Czech girl who meet on Grafton Street. The guy works in his father’s hoover repair shop while busking on the side, and the Czech girl sells Big Issues and roses. Through their common love for music, they develop a close bond.

The two musicians actually began dating during filming, and their natural ease with each other translates effectively to the screen. Once comes to life through its beautiful score and its characters’ natural chemistry. It is simple and effortless, but extremely powerful.

In Bruges is a different matter entirely. A powerful film in its own right, it is more of a black comedy. Irish playwright Martin McDonagh (The Beauty Queen of Leenane), known for his dark sense of humour, violence and lessons in morality, brings these characteristics to his debut feature, an emotional rollercoaster of a film.

Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson play the roles of Ray and Ken, two assassins sent to Belgium to lay low after a botched job. Their Ted and Dougal-esque performances represent the unique wit of Irish humour.

Colin Farrell made a good choice with this one. He steps away from the often-disappointing Hollywood blockbuster towards a part he knows best, a trouble-making, law-breaking, loveable buffoon. What at first seems simple, later develops into a complex plot which entwines guilt, horror, comedy and emotion.

These films don’t claim to be something they are not. They are stories in their own right, without trying to stand up on the sole fact that they are Irish, or base themselves on where they’re made, or by whom. Once is a story of two lives influencing each other, regardless of their nationality. The film doesn’t state its Irishness, it simply basks in it.

The characters in In Bruges are not stereotypically Irish characters, but two men caught up in life in a foreign country. It is their wit and manner that reminds viewers of their heritage.

These films are testaments to Irish talent and art. The two directors, representing the Irish, are making a mark on the film landscape, and giving audiences everywhere an exciting glimpse of what’s yet to come.
The year is coming to an end at DIT, but fear not. Besides some exhilarating jobs to keep us busy, we still have a multitude of music festivals at the end of the summer to look forward to; Oxegen, Electric Picnic and Slane to name a few. As usual, organisers have pulled out all the stops when it comes to booking their acts. Here DIT News' entertainment reporter Luc O Cinnseala checks out the vital stats of the biggest festivals - the acts, ticket pricing and value for cash.

OXEGEN: July 11-13

Oxegen's highlights this year will include R.E.M, Rage Against the Machine, The Chemical Brothers, Stereophonics and The Fratellis.

For those of us looking for something a little bit out there, Aphex Twin will do the job nicely. Other notable artists appearing will be Amy Winehouse, providing she does actually appear (sorry, sorry), Justice, Hot Chip, Bowling for Soup as well as everyone's current favourite Oscar winners Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová.

Some people might be a bit more reluctant to experience Oxegen after last year's arrangements at Punchestown, when some die hard fan saying I'd walk knee deep in horse shit for twenty minutes to see my favourite band,” would have been held to it by promoters MCD. The campsites' hot showers fancy but has seen lesser known bands such as The Blizzards, Republic of Loose, DeLorentos and old-school Sister Sledge take to its two stages in the past two years. This year's festival will happen on 2nd August. 2-day pre-sale tickets are a very reasonable €55.

ELECTRIC PICNIC: August 29-31

This "boutique" festival is an interesting one. Shiatsu massages, yoga and tai-chi workshops, along with a strong recycling and fair trade vibe, make Electric Picnic sound like it could be a cult led by a guy with long hair, a hemp robe and an smell of well, hemp.

Organisers push it further with an inflatable church where you can get married, a 24-hour cinema, cabaret shows in the form of Pussy Palure and a drag tent led by the queen of Ireland, Panti.

If you missed out on DIT's amazing Rag Week silent disco, fear not, you can witness it for yourself two days in a row at Electric Picnic.

Oh, and then there's the music; Sex Pistols, Franz Ferdinand, Goldfrapp, The Roots, My Bloody Valentine and Sigur Ros have all been bagged. For a good rave it will have to be Underworld.

Organisers have stolen CSS and The Gossip this year from Oxegen 2007's NME stage.

Tickets aren't expected to sell out until the summer.

The bad news is that it's all or nothing; you can only purchase a three day camping ticket for €240.

The acts aren't necessarily all on A-list status but a comparison between Oxegen's line up this year and 'Leccy Picnic's last year will show you that this bunch are on the ball and can spot talent early.

OTHER IRISH FESTIVALS

Slane organisers are keeping their lips sealed for now. With past acts such as The Rolling Stones, U2, Queen and Madonna under Slane's belt, this festival will have a lot to live up to and, with any luck, will deliver.

Castlepaleooza is still in its infancy but has seen lesser known bands such as The Blizzards, Republic of Loose, DeLorentos and old-school Sister Sledge take to its two stages in the past two years. This year's festival will happen on 2nd August. 2-day pre-sale tickets are a very reasonable €55.

Parking was also affected with many of the festival's car parks becoming waterlogged and unusable.

Were fans happy to do this for killer performances from Muse, Snow Patrol, Bloc Party and Scissor Sisters and a not-so-killer performance from (ironically) The Killers and no-shows like Wino? Of course. Will they pay good money to do it all again? Probably, it's Oxegen!

Four-day camping tickets completely sold out at £244.50 each with a few day tickets (£99) and some three day non-camping tickets (£200) still on offer.
4 Minutes - Madonna ft Justin Timberlake

The queen and master of pop have teamed up with the current king of production Timbaland. The result is everything you would expect from this musical aristocracy; a great club track loaded with vocals, brass and drums. Good luck avoiding 4 Minutes over the next few weeks. This one will be big.

One Pure Thought - Hot Chip

This is the second single from Hot Chip's third album Made in the Dark. It contains the same lively tempo as Ready for the Floor but the group have taken on a slightly darker sound and given us a fun dance song about looking for that one thing that can make you feel good about yourself.

Eric Fitzgerald at Tommy Tiernan's Bovinity

The maniac from Meath is back, and he's funnier than ever. Navan-born Tommy Tiernan had Vicar Street audiences in stitches with his new show, Bovinity, in which he displays what is arguably his funniest material since his first show, Tommy Tiernan Live.

The affable comic pokes fun at Irish attitudes towards the rapid rise in immigration, often pausing to pose the question, "are we (the Irish) racist, or are we just having the craic?" As is typical of Tier­nan, he delivers his material at break­neck speed. One wonders just how he manages to continue breathing, such is the pace at which he relays his unique take on the world to his audience.

Throughout the course of Bovinity he muses on life's big questions like love, relationships, family, and just how many biscuits it's okay to scoff before the kettle is boiled. "They don't count," he assures us.

Taboo is a word that doesn't exist in Tommy Tiernan's vocabulary. No subject is left untouched as he spins his side­splitting stories. Some people may think that Tommy has gone too far this time, but he's eager to justify his material, pleading to one's sense of humour as only he can. Besides, you'll be too busy doubled over with laughter to care.

Tommy Tiernan's appeal ultimately lies in his boundless energy. He leaps about the stage like a thing possessed as he tells us tales of a proud goat determined to commit suicide. He tells us of his hatred of the "English bitch on the sat nav," and of the time he used the line "Do you know who I am?" - while trying to join Xtravision.

It is an utter joy to watch a comedian at the top of his game, but Tommy Tiernan's not at the top of his game. He scaled that peak long ago.
Over to you...

Hannah Quinn took to the corridors of DIT to ask:
Where are the best places to go out?

Verina Bast
Erasmus journalism student
Favourite nightspot?
Whelans on Sundays because of the good music.

Paddy Leahy, Marketing
Favourite nightspot?
Crawdaddy because of the good music/XXI on Monday nights because my friends always go there

Nick O’Connor, Journalism with French
Favourite nightspot?
The Palace because my old friends from school always go there or Whelans because the music and craic are good

Avril Murphy, Marketing
Favourite nightspot?
XXI/Tripod – because they always have a good crowd

Ciaran Behan, Marketing
Favourite place to go out and why?
Tripod because the music is better

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Floridita

Monday to Wednesday in association with F Dub, Floridita gives you after work sips and snacks
This month’s wine selection Semilion Chardonnay or Shiraz cabernet with 3 tapas for €25.00

Wednesdays:
Florida presents The Salsa Academy From 7.30pm

Thursdays:
Ladies night with Kaleb. Enjoy two for one daquiris and listen to live soothing latino rhythms. Free Admission

Fridays:
After work cocktail specials. Live Cuban music with ‘Floridita Cuarteto’ plus DJ’s from 10pm until late. Admission €10

Saturdays:
Live Cuban music with ‘Floridita Cuarteto’ from 10pm followed by DJ Rico until late. Admission €10

Irish Life Mall Abbey Street Dublin 1 | Tel: +353 (1) 878 103 | www.floriditadublin.com | info@floriditadublin.com
Tracey Edwards is known for two things. The first is that she was the skipper of the first female crew to sail around the world in 1989, an achievement which won her an MBE and Sportswoman of the Year. The second is that she went bankrupt to the tune of £8 million in a very public manner.

She admits that she was very lucky to have a series of mentors who encouraged her at a time when women did not have active roles on boats. Her proudest sailing moment was on Maiden, the vessel which took the first female team around the world, 'One of the best moments of my life was winning the second leg on Maiden coming into Australia because up until then we still a joke, people thought the Southern Ocean was not a place for girls. I will never forget it, jaws actually dropped'.

The position of women in sport is something which she feels strongly about. 'We worked really hard for women to have the right to get into boats and we took a lot of criticism and a lot of people laughed at us, but we stood up and were counted. I think if you are a strong woman and you have a certain amount of power and voice, then I think you should stand up and fight.'

Following the birth of her daughter, Tracey decided to step down from competitive racing. In 2003, she set up Quest International Sports Events and signed a deal with the Crown prince of Qatar to create two round-the-world races plus a marina complex. The first race of the Qyx Quest was a resounding success, but the Qatar government funding was then cancelled. They refused to pay Tracey the £8 million she had borrowed to facilitate the event. She was forced into bankruptcy in 2005. The legal issues are still ongoing. She says 'So I said okay, got onto the boat and fell in love with it. I think probably within four days I realised this is what I want to do with the rest of my life'.

She has since rebuilt her life and now works as a project manager for CEOP, the British Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, a job which is a far cry from the sporting world but something she finds extremely fulfilling. She says that although she deliberately chose to move away from sport, she still loves the 'joy of sailing'. She feels that she got the 'best years of competitive sport' and is critical of it since it went professional. 'There's a lot of stuff that has come into the sport...the politics, the commercialisation, the back biting.'

Despite this, she speaks lovingly of sailing and admits that life at sea is an escapism: 'It makes sense to me, it's about survival, team dynamics, it's about putting the right things in place and getting the right results.'

Tracey Edwards is clearly scarred by the events of the last few years. She admits that were it not for the fact that she had to look after her daughter and mother, she probably 'would have done something stupid.' She has however put her life back together and is using her experiences to fuel the motivational talks which she occasionally gives. 'For the first time in my life I am really proud of getting through this nightmare, probably more proud than any sailing achievement', she says.

But in the end it is clear that life on solid ground is not where she wants to be. She says: 'The sea is not talking about you behind your back, it is not playing power games, it is trying to kill you but it makes it very clear that its trying to do that so there is no ambiguity.'

Tracey Edwards, then, is like the sea, there is no ambiguity about this woman, she is unapologetically outspoken and perhaps rightfully so. The world of sailing, the one which to her was 'my every waking moment', has lost a mould breaker, a record breaker and they will now never know what else.
DIT Sailing honoured at Sports Awards

By Cathal Foley

John Delaney was the special guest at the annual DIT Sports awards which took place in Croke Park on the 3rd of April. More than two hundred people were in attendance to celebrate the very fine achievements of the elite level athletes of Ireland's largest IT.

Executive of the Ladies Football Club, Emma Bailey, was the first person to be rewarded on the night, as she picked up the “Executive of the Year” award for her unparalleled dedication to ladies football in DIT.

Manager of campus life, Brian Gormley, was on hand to present the All Star of the Year awards – an award which recognises outstanding achievement within the respective sporting clubs in DIT.

The first All Star went to Martin O’Leary of the Sailing Club, who capped off an incredible year having already been awarded the Irish Sailing Association’s “Sailor of the Year”.

Three other All Star awards were handed out, with Sinead Ahern (ladies football), Brian Carroll (handball) and Deidre Codd (Camogie) all picking up gongs for their excellent contributions to their respective clubs.

With Billy O’Loughlin, Joe O’Brien, Conor Sheridan, Graham Elms and Mick Ruddy all being recognised with Special Recognition Awards for their coaching roles played in the men’s fresher football, men’s soccer, waterpolo and ladies football respectively, focus then shifted to the stars of tomorrow with the “ Fresher’s Team of the Year” award.

After this year’s Sigerson Cup breakthrough, DIT look set to remain competitive in this field due to the success of the Fresher’s football team, which deservedly picked up the award after defeating UCD in the All Ireland Fresher’s Championship final at Parnell Park.

Irish soccer legend, Packie Bonner, was on hand to present the award for most improved team of the year. And fittingly, the award went to the men’s soccer B team who completed a double by winning both the All Ireland Division 2 Title and the All Ireland Umbro Cup, with players Stephen Roche and Brian McCarthy gaining call-ups to the CFAI tour to North Carolina.

The prestigious Club of the Year Award went to the very deserving Sailing Club due to the fact that they achieved an unparalleled level of success; winning almost every tournament they entered.

Thankfully, they were appropriately recognised for their achievements, closing out the night which celebrated a very successful year for sport in DIT.

DIT have qualified to the final of the College Cup after defeating NUl Maynooth 15-7.

Carlow IT await in the final to be played on the 23rd of April in Waterpark RFC at 1pm.

DIT Rugby travelled to Cork for their eagerly awaited quarter final match with Colaiste Stiofan Naofa knowing that they would need a big performance in order improve on their record of the last three years and win a match in the play-offs for the first time.

After a scrappy opening period, CSN were first to put points on the scoreboard with a well taken drop goal after a period of sustained pressure. This was as good as it got for the Cork team, however, as OIT bounced back strongly, unleashing wave after wave of attack and but for some desperate last gap CSN defending, were unlucky not to have gained a five-pointer on more than one occasion.

With half time approaching, CSN finally cracked when number 8, Leigh Jackson, strolled over the CSN try line after blocking down a clearance kick. Barry McLaughlin added the conversion to give OIT a 7-3 lead at half time.

OIT entered the second half with the smell of blood in their nostrils, and after a period of strong pressure, Leigh Jackson crashed over for his, and OIT’s, second try of the day.

After excellent work from Steven Cassels, Peter Cusack and Clement Thiery, Gavin Murphy raced in under the posts for the Dublin student’s third try of the game. He then secured matters when he slotted over a penalty to see OIT run out deserved winners on a 20-3 score line.

DIT 20 Colaiste Stiofan Naofa 3

By Cathal Foley

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2007/2008: Sporting year in review

As we knuckle down to start panic studying for those fast-approaching exams, Sports Editor Finbarr O'Sullivan reflects on a highly successful year for DIT sport

October

SAILING: In its very first inter-varsity event of what proved to be a highly successful year, the DIT sailing team were victorious. Down in Wexford, on the 20th & 21st of October, DIT overcame UCC - who had represented Ireland in the Team Racing World Championships - in a best-of-five series. UCC seized the initiative winning the first two races but DIT recovered and won the final three races to seal victory.

SOCCER: On October 22nd, DIT's soccer team had their appeal to compete in the Collingwood Cup turned down. The IUFE had informed DIT it would have to apply to enter the competition every year. Previously, DIT had been invited to participate.

November

SAILING: The team clinched two more titles. DIT2 won the UCD Invitational in Dun Laoghaire harbour where they beat Trinity 2-1 in the final. Over the weekend of the 17th and 18th November, DIT1 won the Intervarsity Westerns Trophy, which was held in Bantry.

DIT defeated a Trinity side who had just returned from a seventh place finish in the Student Yachting World Cup. In a tightly-fought best-of-five final, DIT won the first and third races with Trinity winning the second and fourth ones. It all went down to the fifth race. After a stuttering start DIT eventually prevailed, finishing in a 1, 3, 5 combination to claim the IUSA Western Championship.

BOXING: In December, DIT's Colm Kavanagh and Brian Daly both clinched gold medals in the inter-varsity boxing championships that took place in Trinity College. DIT finished in third place overall. The competition was spread out over eleven weight categories. It was an impressive achievement for the DIT team, who were competing in its first ever tournament.

December

March

FOOTBALL: The team created a little piece of history when they lined out in DIT's first ever Sigerson Cup semi-final against Jordanstown. DIT's march to the semis included victories over UCC, a strong DCU side and Tralee IT. See Cathal Foley's Sigerson Cup semi-final report, page 27

Congratulations to all DIT clubs and athletes who competed in the 2007-2008 sporting year and good luck for next year.

Thanks to Cathal Foley, Graham Cullen, Conor Byrne, Andrew Gillick, Enda Healy, the DIT Sports Office and all the contributors and photographers who helped out with DIT News Sports this year.
INTRODUCTION

DIT and Dublin footballer Mark Vaughan

Taking some time out from a hectic schedule is merely a luxury for DIT student and Dublin football star Mark Vaughan and although most students take their free time for granted Mark has to try and juggle his football commitments with study for a degree in Business Management. ANDREW GILICK catches up with him during one of his few daily intervals to find out how he manages it all.

Q. Well Mark, you must be pretty pleased with DIT’s football achievements in the Sigerson Cup this year, and with your performance individually?

Yeah I was happy enough with this season’s performance but unfortunately I picked up an injury along the way and couldn’t play all the games I wanted to but it was terrific work by the whole team to make it to the semi-finals.

Q. Was it a bitter pill to swallow when you did eventually go out of the competition?

Well, we went out to a good team in the end, UUJ have won the competition four times and they have many inter-county players, especially from the north. We probably should have beaten them though, we gave away two sloppy goals in the first half and playing into gale force winds wasn’t easy either.

Q. And beating DCU in the quarter-finals of the Sigerson Cup, that was a feat in itself, there must have even been a bit of surprise around the DIT camp?

That was definitely a shock result. DCU are always a very strong side laden with inter-county players and they are always tough to beat. They had something like fourteen inter-county players on their freshers team which won the Division-One football this year so it just goes to show you how deep their squads are.

Q. Not only playing in the Sigerson Cup but also with the Dublin panel and with your senior club team, Kilmacud Crokes, you must be fatigued at this stage of the year?

I suppose I’m a bit tired all right but there’s still obviously more work to do coming up to the championship season and more preparation for the upcoming games. I still have to fight for my place on the panel you know so I’ve got to keep training.

Q. But surely your performance in the Sigerson Cup, scoring a tally of 21 points, cements you a place in the Dublin forward line this summer?

No I can’t just rely on the Sigerson Cup performance to keep my place in the squad because lots of players have been playing well this season for club and county. I’d be competing with Mossy Quinn for a place and he has had terrific season with his club, winning the All-Ireland club championship with St. Vincents.

Q. So, no breaks on the horizon for you, not even a week away?

‘None so far because as soon as I’m finished the training with my club in May I’m still going to be in the height of it with Dublin. Plus I’ve got my finals coming up in college which I’m going to have to knock down to.

Q. And finally your prediction for Dublin’s bid to regain the Sam Maguire Cup this summer?

‘After the Leinster stages the championship is really a dog-fight, it’s anyone’s for the taking. Obviously losing in the game against Armagh was a bit of a knock but they’re a very strong side and hopefully we have learned something from that. Kerry obviously are always a big threat but we only lost to them by a couple of points in last year’s semi-final so who knows what could happen this time round.’
The DIT Fresher football team were crowned 2008 All-Ireland football champions following an impressive final performance against UCD at Parnell Park on Wednesday 12th March.

This historic win for the first year Gaelic football team is the first ever for the college.

The final win came on the back of a solid Division 1 league campaign before Christmas which saw the team beat Queens, UCD, Jordanstown and UCC before going out to a star-studded DCU team in the league final.

The draw for the All-Ireland after Christmas saw the team pitted against rivals DCU in the quarter-finals. Despite DCU’s victory in the league, home advantage and a whole host of DCU GAA academy players to call on, DIT put in the performance of the year and knocked them out after extra time.

This brought on a semi-final showdown with Tralee IT down in Templemore. Following some patchy performances in the first half, DIT got to grips with the game in the second half and ran out winners.

The final with UCD in Parnell Park saw a powerful display by Longford minor forward Michael Quinn, who racked up a goal and two points after fifteen minutes. UCD countered but were always playing catch up. Dublin U-21 Barry O’Rourke lifted a revival for UCD in the second half with a well executed penalty.

However Quinn and Dublin U-21 Chris Carthy proved a constant thorn in UCD’s side and answered with two points in quick succession. A long ball delivered by Paul Flynn set up Chris Carthy for a goal which killed the game. DIT 2-09 UCD 1-07.

DIT GAA Development officer Darragh Biddlecombe exclaimed “this was a very special team. We knew there was something about them after the first two weeks of trials. They just gelled well and had a great team spirit.

“A team like this may only come along once in every ten years or so, so when they do you just have to go for it.”

DIT Freshers’ historic All-Ireland win

Fresher hurlers beat off St Pat’s to nab Leinster Championship crown

IT Freshers came from six points down to claim the Leinster Freshers Championship against St. Pat’s in Drumcondra.

The team showed great character to keep their nerve and composure despite facing a six point deficit with fifteen minutes to go.

Two goals clinically finished in quick succession by team captain Matty Weldon and Dublin U-21 Paul Ryan turned the match in DIT’s favour. Up to this point, St. Pat’s & Kilkenny star Mark Bergin was dominating procedures at midfield.

However, a powerful defensive display from Alan Nolan in goal and Martin O’Sullivan at the back helped get the DIT show back on the road.

It also provided a platform from which DIT launched attack after attack.

Two goals followed by points from Mark Langan Murphy, Eoin Costelloe and Paul Ryan saw DIT emerge victorious 3-09 to 1-12 in front of a large crowd at the teacher training college.

An equally exciting victory in the semi-final against Maynooth “really helped to give the team self belief and a never say die attitude,” said Fresher manager and Business Masters student Niall Kelly.

The semi-final ended in two periods of extra time and bizarrely had to be settled by penalties, which DIT duly won.

DIT last won the Leinster Freshers title in 2005, a victory which brought an end to UCD’s seven year dominance.

That team went on to provide the backbone to the current Senior and Fitzgibbon team and the hurling club will be hoping that this current crop of freshers will now go on to replicate the 2005 team’s achievements.