DIT Student Union

2000


DIT: Students Union

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Election Experience proves nailbiting

The posters had been done, the flyers distributed and candidates had spoken to students left, right and centre all in the bid to gain that extra vote. Yes, it was election time again and it has now become apparent that one extra vote does make the difference.

On Tuesday March 21st nominations for the positions of Welfare/Deputy President, Site President and Overall President closed and the campaigning began. Each candidate was allocated the same number of flyers and posters with which they could do as they pleased as long as they spent none of their own money on materials. This system ensures that regardless of your money situation you have the exact same resources of each candidate winning votes as everybody else. Unfortunately the week of campaigning and elections this year was amid a wave of bus strikes and minimal attendance in Cathal Brugha Street. Those of you who were in were probably canvassed on numerous occasions by the same candidates. Wednesday 29th March was D Day and the votes were being cast and our candidates in Cathal Brugha Street, Cathy, Ruth, Roz and Vinny begged for votes. Cathy was running unopposed for the position of site president while Ruth Allen and Roz Farrell battled it out for the post of Welfare officer and Deputy President. Voting took place from 9am until 9pm but it would not be until the next day in Planet Murphy’s that the votes would actually be counted and the results be heard.

2pm on Thursday arrived and a bunch of nervous candidates from all around DIT gathered as the count was about to commence. Entertained by Austin Powers 2...

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DITSU Officer elected to USI

The USI National Congress in Ennis this year took place from April 10th - 14th and the new officers were elected to the USI officer board. The most contested position was for the post of Education officer. Those running for this position were Anna Browne current president of NCAD, Aoife Braiden, current education officer in NUI Galway and Colm Jordan, site president of DIT Aungier Street. It was a hard fought battle with hustings in DIT, UCD and at National Congress in Ennis. Candidates spent two weeks travelling around the country to various Students’ Unions canvassing for votes. It was hard work, compiling manifestos, posting them out, talking to officers and giving lots of election speeches. All this hard work eventually paid off for Colm Jordan, one of DITSU’s own was elected.
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THE IRISH TIMES

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Shelly says See Ya!!!

And now the end is near and so we face the final curtain! Yup it’s exam time and the end of yet another academic year. It’s also almost time for me to hand over the reigns of Presidency to Cathy who will be ruling the roost and after two years of being a full time officer its actually quite emotional to think this will be my last magazine and note to you all. Its been a class two years and I have especially enjoyed this year in particular our amazing Christmas Ball in the Temple Theatre and the RAG Ball in the Point. There are a whole heap of photos in this magazine from the last year. They include Fresher’s week, Malibu and Smirnoff Promotions, Clubs and Societies Training, the National March in October, Rag week and plenty more! There are so many people who have helped us out throughout the year and if I were to start naming them all now I’d be here all day! I’m sure you all know who you are. Basically anyone who ever got involved, class reps, clubs n’ socs people and all the students who did just drop in to say hi, all the people who ever went to an event and had a great time. 90% of a successful event is for students to turn up and make it what it is and you guys all sure did that! Thanks to Gabrielle our Union manager and Cathy who helped me out all year.

I’m still here ‘til the end of June and just to remind you that I am also the Education officer, so if you have any queries let me know and I’ll do my best to sort everything out.

And with that I will say good bye and wish you all the best in your exams. Hopefully I’ll be a student again next year so I’ll see you all after the summer. Have a wonderful summer.

Take Care
Lots of Love
Michelle xxx

DEPUTY PRESIDENT/ WELFARE OFFICER

Finally it’s the end of the year, typically the weather's lovely as exams are on. Good luck to everybody. Hopefully people found the welfare campaigns of use, or at least found out more about what was available or even learnt a little.

Alcohol awareness week was a success. We had an actor in, who went around the college with a bottle of Martini. The whole point to this was to show how people reacted when somebody else was drunk. People got up out of their seats, left their tables and were generally disgusted at the thought of having somebody under the influence of alcohol near them. Well done to the porters! They were a great help as they did not give it away when they asked him to leave. Also there was leaflets handed out which helped people become more aware to the effects of alcohol. Sheila Lyons came in to talk to some of you. She works in a centre who helps people deal with their problem. If anybody needs to get in touch with her I have her phone number in the office.

Anyway, just to wish everybody luck during the summer, whether you’re in sunny Ireland (hmmm) or away have a great time and don’t work too hard. It’s been a great year and thanks to those of you who helped out during the year. Also to everybody who helped out the different charities during the year. The AWARE National Depression Survey from 1998 results are in, if you still have your number call into the welfare office to collect them.

Cathy
Continued from front page

Nervous candidates awaited results. First up was Aung­
gier Street. Only one candi­
date had run for election and that was Peter Durning for the position of site Presi­
dent who was elected. Next in line was Cathal Brugha Street and the posi­
tion of Welfare officer/ Deputy President. The re­
sult was astounding. On the first count Ruth Received 74 votes to Roz’s 73. After a recount Ruth gained a vote with 75 and Roz remained at 73. If you think that was close a similar situation arose in the Bolton Street elections with Neal Cromien beating Colm Sharkey by one vote for the position of Welfare officer and Deputy President. Cathy Power this years Welfare officer and DP ran unopposed in Cathal Brugha Street and was elected site President as was Margeurite Fitz­
patrick in Bolton Street. In Mont­
joy square a 4th year student Da­
mien Fallon was elected President and Kellie Dalton was elected wel­
fare. The race really hotted up in Kevin Street with five people running for the posi­
tion of Welfare. Will Nelson another 4th year student was elected with outgoing welfare officer Nicky Lawlor being elected President. The title of Overall President was also unopposed elect­
ing Vinny Dooley the Overall President of DITSU for 2000/2001.

Exam time...........Relax!!!!!

We all know it's a stressful time as exams are in prog­­ress but the more uptight you get about them the worse you are going to feel. Try and wind down a bit from all the tension. Easier said then done I know but freaking out is not going to help you and I’ll start working”

• Sidetracks - “I’ll watch
that tv programme and
then I’ll start working”

• Procrastination - “I’ll
do it tomorrow”

• Daydreaming - “Some
day I’ll travel the world”

• Negative thinking - “I’ll
never be able to do this”

Best of luck everyone in your exams!!!!!!

Want to help out with next years Inductions????

It may seem early days but we are going to start plan­
ing next September Induction days for the incom­
ing first years. We’ll be looking for students who will be around in September who would like to help out. All you have to do is wel­
come students at the door, direct them around the col­
lege, maybe have a chat with them at the coffee breaks about the different courses and college life. Its good fun and you’ll get the first look at all those new boys and girls!!! Help make that transition from second level to college that little bit eas­
ier. Use your knowledge and experience to teach the ways and works of being a Cathal Brugha Street Student. If you are interested in help­
ing out let us know in the Students’ Union.

Go on You know you want to !!!!!!
Well, they asked me to write about the RAG Trip 2000, so here it is or at least the bits that I can remember. It all seems to be a wee bit of a blur……

We kicked off the whole event in the “Sidewalk” (surprise surprise!) at about midday where the good people from Guinness had laid on some free booze, which disappeared, pretty sharpish. Alan Gogarty was singing away playing any requests and just as we were starting to get settled the mystery machines appeared (ok so they were just buses but we had to get into the spirit!). We then headed off full of anticipation and excitement at the thought of getting pissed and making fools of ourselves in places where no one knew us. After lots of guessing along the way, we finally arrived in Enfield (yea I know I had never heard of it either!) and that’s where things really started to get going. Straight into the pub and the adjoining nightclub, the booze started to kick in, this is where those of us who thought we could dance decided to embarrass themselves (myself included). After staying there for awhile we emerged from the nightclub, only to find it was still bright outside and only 4 o’clock in the afternoon. FECK! It was bizarre and a little too much for our alcohol soaked minds to take. It was then back onto the bus but not before stocking up on alcohol in the off licence, which went well with the glasses stolen from the pub!

So then it was off to pastures new – well actually Mullingar. On the way there, there was plenty of so called singing which was interrupted every so often by the lads in the other bus mooning at us - not a pretty sight!!!

We finally got to Mullingar and into another nightclub, Stringfellows for more drinking and dancing. It was pretty good from what I remember. Then we stuffed ourselves with Mc Donalds and prepared ourselves for the long night ahead. I couldn’t tell you about the next part of the trip but I woke up in our final destination – LONGFORD! We descended into yet another nightclub and danced the night away to some great tunes
provided by DJ Stevie O Connor from Bolton Street and posing for Michelle and her camera (see the photos in the common room of everyone looking drunk). After we had drunk as much as we could handle (and in some cases more than we could handle) it was time to go before we were run out of town by angry locals with pitchforks. We staggered onto the bus and waved goodbye to Longford. I’m sure they’ll not forget us in a hurry. Then we headed back to Dublin, drunk and happy. More so called singing on the way kept tired people awake and made the bus driver wish the stereo was working. Wrecked and in need of our beds (or at least someone’s bed) but ready and willing to do it all again next year.......

![Image of a group of people posing for a photo]
Scooby Doo Mystery Trip
RAG Ball in The Point
DATE RAPE - Rohypnol

Last year, there were 292 female rapes reported to the Gardaí. Only 108 women instigated criminal proceedings against their attacker.
Figures from the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit at the Rotunda Hospital reveal that between six to eight percent of the people attending following a violent sexual attack, are men. Around 20% of callers to the Rape Crisis Centre helpline are male.

ROHYPNOL

This is more commonly referred to as the “date rape drug” or “roofies”. This sedative, widely available here on prescription, is legally administered in the treatment of insomnia. It is similar in nature to Valium but ten times more potent. Once consumed the drug kicks into effect in less than 15 minutes. As well as causing temporary amnesia and in some cases, blackouts, Rohypnol is also known to cause muscle relaxation and impairment of psychomotor responses. When mixed with alcohol, it heightens the alcohol’s effects and victims will quickly appear very drunk even after only a couple of drinks.

In essence, Rohypnol allows the body to function even though the mind is practically unconscious; that is the person will appear conscious although afterwards they will have no short-term memory of events.

There have been no official reports implicating Rohypnol in cases of alleged sexual assault here. In 1998, the Gardaí seized 361 Rohypnol tablets, all destined for sale on the black market. There are two main suspected uses for this drug; clubbers and junkies mix them with other drugs such as heroin and alcohol to intensify their ‘high’, and assailants use ‘roofies’ to drug their victim prior to raping them.
The effect of the drug will last for up to 22 hours, all traces of Rohypnol will be undetectable in the blood within 36 hours, and the urine within 72 hours.

Last year, following increased concern regarding this illicit use of Rohypnol, its manufacturers, Hoffman La Roche, reformulated the solvency of the drug to allow a blue dye and tiny particles to be emitted from the tablet once mixed with alcohol. While this is a welcome step, the current black market for drugs still contains the old stock and these distinctive diamond-shaped purple tablets usually sell for under £1 each.

If a person suspects they were sexually assaulted under the influence of Rohypnol, they are advised to contact the police immediately. The drug only stays in the system for up to three days, it is imperative that forensic tests be carried out to ascertain whether or not this drug was administered, and if so, to ensure that, at last, these attackers are brought to justice.
MACY GRAY PLAYS THE POINT

When I got the ticket, the first thing that I noticed was at the bottom in bold print was NO CROWD SURFING OR MOSHING. At a Macy Gray concert? Surely it was going to be a chill out mellow event.

On the evening, all set up for a relaxing night, I arrived in the Point (remembering our RAG ball!) and made my way to the front of the stage. The Black Eyed Peas were on stage sounding a lot like Tribe Called Quest / The Roots and really got the crowd going. When they were finished, it took Macy about 45mins to get on stage, in the meantime a fairly poor DJ started scratching making the crowd a little impatient. However we were glad to find out that we were not to be disappointed. On she came, a towering 6’5 singing the first song on her album Why Didn’t You Call Me? The crowd got going straight away. The band seemed to be almost James Brown like tight with Macy effortlessly instructing her band with just her fingers! She jammed her way through more numbers of her album then decided to give some advice to the crowd..... “You ever fall in love with the wrong motherf***ker???” she asked to be greeted by thousands of people screaming “Yeah!!” With that she played her current single “Still”. The crowd was well and truly hopping by this stage. After a surprise cover version of Que Sera Sera (quite close the Sly and the Family Stone version) she finished with 15 minute version of “I Can’t Wait To Meetcha”. Emotion levels ran high when, as an encore, she played “I Try” turning it into a fantastic 10 minute rollercoaster of a ride.

There it is, a great gig overall but maybe she could do with a few more songs. She promised she’d be back and with another album under her belt she’ll be unmissable!
This year DIT Karting has gone from strength, seeing the establishment of a karting club in every DIT site. Before Christmas a huge Grand Prix was held out in Santry that was so big it had to be run over two separate days! The DIT Karting team was eventually whittled down to six main drivers who headed off to Galway for the Irish karting inter-varsities. I felt it my duty to go along and make sure they would all be okay—nothing to do with the session! We woke up in Galway’s Eyre Square on Saturday morning at 8.30 with raging hangovers and in dire need of dirty big fries. It was then into the cars and off to Tynagh, which hosts the largest purpose built karting track in Europe.

Karting teams from various colleges around the country including Letterkenny, Sligo, Cork and Waterford took part in the four hour endurance race. The way the race ran was like a relay where each driver drove for twenty minutes at a time before arriving into the pit stops for refuelling and to change drivers. It was compulsory for each team to have at least 12 pit stops.

The DIT team were a strong team leading the race throughout but had been penalised five laps for leaving the pit early, a move which lost them the championship and re crowned the Bolton Street lads champions for the second year in a row.

At one stage in the race Cathal Brugha Street’s very own Mark Mc Entyre was involved in a head on crash with a driver from Waterford IT leaving both drivers with injuries and leading to the race being stopped for a while. The crash happened while the drivers were reaching speeds of 68mph leaving the WIT driver unconscious for 5 minutes before being brought to hospital.

After a long day of karting it was back into to Galway’s Eyre Square for some food watering and a keg kindly sponsored by Guinness. Club Cuba hosted the night drinking dancing and debauchery. It was then time to watch the Formula One in the wee hours of the morning accompanied by 3rd year Aungier Street film students who had been filming the day out in force with their cameras. God knows what they captured on film at that hour in the resident’s bar. Probably a whole lot of drunken scandal but as they say “What goes on tour stays on tour.....”

Karting Intervarsities
Good Morning to the Brugha. It's that time of year again when everyone finds out where the library is and how to check out a book. Looking around me of late, I have noticed a lot of stressed people. Everyone is complaining about having too many presentations and assignments. My advice, which isn't much help, is that it's nearly all over with. Good Luck to everyone in exams and I hope that I will see you all back here next year.

I would like to congratulate Cathy on being elected site President for 2000/2001 and Ruth Allen who will be our Welfare officer and Deputy Prez. As it is coming to the end of the year I would like to thank all those who helped with the running of a club or society this year. Special thanks go to Gabrielle Dalton, Caragh O'Buachaila, Sister Margaret, Anita Conway and Shelly who have been a great help to me this year. It was much appreciated.

John Mc Kenna

Societies

The Karting Society went away to Galway for a weekend. A good time was had by one and all. More about that in a separate article by Shelly.

Cultural, Art and Design Week took place across the DIT campus from 3rd – 6th April. Highlights of the week were the comedy on Monday night in the Sidewalk with top Irish comedians Paddy Courtney and Des Bishop. Hypnotist Barry Sinclair had students doing the silliest things in Baccus on Tuesday night. Cathal
Brugha Street Language society held a language and cultural awareness day in the boardroom in Cathal Brugha Street on Wednesday which proved extremely informative and successful. Mountjoy Square went all out transforming their canteen into a farmyard for the week (they had live pigs aswell!!!) Well done to Anita Conway and co. for organising the week.

**Clubs**

The Mini sports Day took place on Wednesday 5th April 2000 out in ALSAA. It was enjoyed by all. There were many sports on offer including soccer, GAA and rugby. The day was sponsored by Guinness and DIT Sports council.

Wednesday 12th April saw the annual sports awards. This year it was held in the Stakis Hotel. The Guest Speaker on the night was Eamonn Coughlan. I would like to extend best wishes to all nominees and to congratulate all the winners including the Karting club who won best overall club!!!!

DIT Golf Inter varsities were held in City west Golf club on Tuesday 11th April. Cathal Brugha Street entered a student team of 4. The Brugha Lecturers entered with Gerry Dunne and Donnacha Geraghty heading the posse. The event was sponsored by Guinness and the days golfing was followed by an evening meal.

On May 3rd the HESF golf championships are being held in Carlow. Anyone interested in competing, male or female please contact Caragh on 4024341.
Easter time always means its time for the Union of Students in Ireland’s National Congress. DITSU, due to the size of DIT, always have the largest delegation so on Monday 10th April all 25 of us set off on our way to Ennis. It was to be a week of speeches, debates, arguing, electioneering and voting. The whole idea about congress is that we set policy and mandates for next years elected officer board in USI. Basically we vote on the issues we want addressed and campaigned on over the coming year.

Monday night’s proceedings went on until after midnight with National Council and hustings for the positions of President, Deputy President, Education, Welfare and Equality officers of USI for the year 2000/2001. The most memorable quote of the evening came from Colm Jordan site president in Aungier Street. Colm was running for the position of Education officer and was asked what he thought about setting up student councils in second level schools, to which he replied “It’s important to get in there, get them young” hmmmm......

There were very few contentious motions at this year’s congress. The first one that sparked any real debate was a DIT motion on accreditation for clubs and societies. What we were saying was that USI would campaign for the introduction of an accreditation system where students who got involved in Clubs and Societies could earn extra marks towards their studies along the lines of the extra credits in America. There was lengthy debate both for and against the motion, mainly UCD against it and DIT for it but eventually the motion was defeated. Wednesday morning a very hungover bunch of delegates made it onto congress floor at 9 am with a maximum of about 2 hours sleep after the Carrolls Comedy Club in the bar the night before. The first motions of the day were constitutional amendments, the main one being the call for a full time women’s rights officer. For a constitutional amendment to be passed there needs to be a two-thirds majority in favour of the motion. After lengthy debates covering whether we needed a full times women’s rights officer, could we afford it and was it not discriminatory towards men, the motion did not achieve a two thirds majority and was defeated. The motion that caused the most amount of problems was one regarding northern college voting entitlements. The situation with colleges in the north is that they are members of both USI and NUS the British equivalent and pay something in the region of £5.70 per student as opposed to our £2.25 per student. This means that these colleges can not declare their full amount of students because they simply cannot afford to, which also means they have fewer votes than they should do. This argument has been going on for the last nearly three years and it was hoped that the situation would be resolved at this year’s congress. There were two motions submitted regarding this issue, one from the constitutional review group and one from UCD. The motion from the constitutional review group was the one to be debated. The motion basically meant that 2 part time students would be the same as one full
time student when it came to declaring student numbers. It didn't really effect too many colleges in relation to gain or loss of votes except for DIT where we looked set to lose 6 votes going from 26 votes to 20. We weren't really too sure what to be thinking about this motion and when we discussed it the night before we felt the best thing to do would be to abstain from the motion. We listened to the debate and our minds were changed. It was fast approaching the guillotine and DITSU got up and walked out to discuss this ourselves and come to a decision about which way we should all vote. We eventually decided that in the interest of pure fairness we would support the motion. We had to literally run back into congress floor to get back in time for the vote. Unfortunately the motion again did not achieve a two-thirds majority and was defeated, upon which the entire northern college's delegation got up and walked out.

DITSU had submitted a motion to abolish the part time officer positions of Women's rights, LGB and Disability rights, however after hearing the officer reports of the part time officers this year we decided to get up and say that after hearing these reports we did not think the question should be put. So after supporting the north regardless of our loss of votes, pulling our motions and we even gave UCD a lift home on the bus(!) DITSU were certainly flavour of the month.

And so congress ends but as per tradition at the banquet dinner on the last evening UCD and DIT continue warring with songs that are written to basically just slag the other college. UCD's offering this year was unbelievably lame, singing to "You better shape up" they told us (again) that we would never be a University...same old same old. However DIT's superior songwriting skills shone through with a song written to the tune of "Tragedy". We sang about their lack of support for the North:

UCD!
If the North is gone we can't go on
You're a Tragedy
You think you're great
But you're no ones mate
It's plain to see with no one behind you you're going no where!

We also sang about our better events, top venues and our Rag Ball in the Point as opposed to theirs in Boomerang. We finished off by letting them and everyone know that we will be a University and the best one at that!

DIT!
Our Day will come we'll have some fun
Quality
Conditions met, u can bet
We will be
The biggest and best
University!
Congress Baby!
Western Panel of Chefs Competition

Dragging myself out of my sleeping bag at 5.30 in the morning, I was not a happy guy. I was tired, it was cold outside and I'm not a morning person at the best of times. But hopefully on this occasion the sacrifice of a few hours sleep would be worth it. Five of us budding young chefs (John Kelly, Maria Kavanagh, Lynette Bradshaw, Olivia Higgins and myself Ian Mannix) had travelled across to Galway to compete in our first ever competition. We were representing Cathal Brugha Street in the hope of winning some medals and getting some experience of the competition set up.

We made it to the location – Galway racecourse at 6.30am and our competition wasn't until 8.00am, so at least at that early hour we wouldn't have too many people watching us. John, Olivia and I were competing in the junior larder competition, which involved trussing chicken, cutting it for sauté and also preparing Dover Sole en paupiette, en goujon and en tresse, all in 40 minutes!

After checking out the kitchens we registered and were allocated our table numbers. Then began the fun task of setting up our equipment, which seemed to take ages. We had loads of stuff, from chopping boards, knives, sanitising bowls and trays, all of which had to be carried down from Dublin by us. We were just ready when the starting time arrived and before we knew it the three of us were under the watchful eyes of the judges. We worked at the task, trying not to look at how other competitors were doing as this can put you off if you see them doing well.

I can't speak for the other competitors, but before I knew it our time was up, the forty minutes seemed to have flown through. But I had all the chicken and sole finished, so at least I had completed the task. We then presented the items for judging. Next was the junior chicken competition. Maria presented chicken
stuffed with wild mushroom mousse, with basil sauce, served with tarragon potatoes and turned apples. Lynette presented chargrilled supremes of chicken with a lemongrass, coriander and ginger risotto, served with balsamic vinegar and white wine sauce. After presenting these dishes for judging it was simply a matter of us all waiting for the results. When they were announced we had all earned certificates of merit. Obviously we would all have liked to have bringing back gold medals but it wasn't to be. These things take time and experience.

After that we took a look around the exhibition, getting our hands on as many free samples as possible and also managing to be brought to a great, free, three course lunch courtesy of Masterchefs, which was much appreciated by us poor starving students.

Next it was time to head home. Even though we didn't win, it was a great experience, and really good to see how the whole thing was done. Hopefully for our next competition we will be better prepared and come home with those gold medal that have been avoiding us.

I would also like to thank all the staff who helped us prepare and practise for the event and also for their support – Dave O' Connor, John Clancy, Gerry Byrne and Joe Erraught.
Ciara Toomey  Tel: 8740409  DIT Bolton Street

For all financial queries including:

- Student Loans
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Cathal Brugha Street Campus Times:

**Monday 2.30 - 3.30pm**

To arrange an appointment outside above times contact the Students Union

DIT Students Union Cathal Brugha St.