1997

The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students’ Union April-May, 1997

DIT Students’ Union

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Electoral Magnificence

The DITSU elections to select the coming academic year's Students' Union body turned up a few surprises, not least of which was the fact that no-one seriously killed themselves hanging posters in places an eagle would wobble in. (Vergo, you understand.) Sinnéad Pidgeon, Site President this year in Aungier St., was elected Overall DITSU President, the first female to attain the position.

DITSU EXECUTIVE
1997-1998

Aungier St
Site President: Siobhán Weeke
Dep. President: Derek O'Shea
Clubs/Socs: Paul Weber
Ents: Maurice Deegan
Equality: Joanne Quirk
Pt-time: Leigh Farrell
PRO: Thomas Felle

Bolton St
Site President: Ross O'Daly
Dep. President: Charlie Mitchell
Clubs/Socs: Gary Cullen
Ents: Barry Smith
Gaelic: Margaret Fitzpatrick
Apprentice: Pat Moore

Cathal Brugha St
Site President: Bob Coghlan
Dep. President: Nicola Doyle
Clubs/Socs: Laura Ennis
Ents: Shane Robinson
PRO: Sarah Jane Miller

Kevin St
Site President: Tony Choi
Dep. President: Sarah McGovern
Clubs/Socs: Sarah Gardiner
Ents: Sarah Corcoran
Equality: Orla Burke
Gaelic: Con C Curdagh
PRO: Colum Cunningham

Mountjoy Sq
Site President: Ronan Emmett
Dep. President: Rosemarie Daly
Clubs/Socs: Patrick Kelly
Ents: John Sweetman
Gaelic: John Maher
PRO: Trudy Murray
Pt-time: Zoeý Scanlon

MINISTER COMMITS TO DIT HOPES

DIT may finally get long sought after status

The Minister for Education, Niamh Bhreathnach, has said that she will request the Government to establish a special committee to review the DIT's case for University status, once the Universities Bill, 1996, is passed later this year.

The announcement came in a press release from the Minister's Department on April 10, in which she was quoted as saying: "We are totally confident that when the international group has met under Section 9 of the Bill, it will ratify that the DIT should become a University."

The announcement is seen as a victory for both students and management, so many of whom have been campaigning heavily over the past few months, DITSU President, Colin Joyce, who was instrumental in galvanising students to action, has said that he is happy that students would be keeping a sharp eye on things, ensuring that "this commitment lasts longer than the generation currently at college."

Despite his cautionary tone, Mr. Joyce maintains that "it is a strong statement to the people of Ireland that DIT is becoming a University."
Clarifications

Should you encounter anything you feel is in need of clarification in this, or any other issue of the DIT Examiner, please contact the editor and any such matters shall then be clarified in the subsequent edition.
Any lettuce sent to the Examiner for the attention of the Editor should be clearly marked. No ghastly letter has left me harrowed.

Lettuce to the Editor

84 Donnybrook Manor, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.

19-3-97

Dear Editor / ChaOS,

after completing another over­
nated lunch in the Cathal Brugha St.
canteen, I journeyed to the com­
mon room to spark up a post-food
 cigar. Sucking in the contami­
ated air with feverish delight, my
eyes strayed across the room, when
WHAM! The headline “Battle of the Bands” hijacked my attention. Leaping across three innocent pun­
ters, grabbed the latest PIT pulled out the notes there would
have been some motion but
your friends made all sorts of
leaping across three innocent pun­
ters, grabbed the latest PIT pulled out the notes there would
have been some motion but
your friends made all sorts of

Dear Editor,

And you had such great plans for
the Easter holidays! You had it all
worked out, so much study, revise
the lectures notes, finish off the
assignments and contact a few peo­
ple. Now looking back on it, the
last one was your do-ufall. If you
had even started to read a bit or
pulled out the notes there would
have been some motion but your
friends made all sorts of

Dear Editor,

why, why, why do we never get
any decent articles in this here
payper of yours? Is it something we
ate?

It is also a historical fact that you
you're quite right there, sunshine.
The only thing you're wrong about
is the part between 'why...' at the
beginning, and 'gobshite,' at the
end, but aside from that I have to
hand it to you -- you make a con­
vincing lasagne.

Ed says,

you're quite right there, sunshine.
The only thing you're wrong about
is the part between 'why...' at the
beginning, and 'gobshite,' at the
end, but aside from that I have to
hand it to you -- you make a con­
vincing lasagne.

Hear B. Call

Best Wishes from
Bus Éireann to All Students
taking exams over the
coming months.

Why Not Take a Break after
your exams with Bus Éireann!

Sample Student Return Fares*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Return Fares</th>
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* You must have an ISIC and Provisional Stamp to avail of Student Fares.

Also Dublin/London from €15 Single
(excluding Govt. Tax)

For Further Information, please contact ....

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Group Travel on Scheduled Services 01 7032426
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Blokies in powdered wigs and gowns. Sounds like an expensive fancy dress, but it's all legal, as Michael Commone found out in the Four Courts recently.

The Four Courts is a central spot on the landscape of Dublin. Any time RTE Television is reporting on major court cases the Four Courts is in the background. It certainly is one of the most dramatic buildings in Dublin. It's well worth a visit.

This has been a good year so far to call on our most glittering and solemn building. First it was the Cathal Ryan versus Michelle Rocca case and then fast on its tail was DeRossa versus Dunphy. The Michelle / Cathal case was some speculation in the midst of all the serious and ponderous people and their learning was mixed with the violence and fun of the whole affair.

DeRossa and Dunphy has its own story to unfold. It is almost groundbreaking to watch a Government minister answer questions in the setting of the Four Courts. The non-stop talker Dunphy finally gets his day in court and good luck to both of them.

It's the 'religion' of the famous building that intrigued me most of all. There's a lot to see standing in that round hall and then a short walk back to the law library which is full most mornings with law people. Barristers and solicitors are also quite easy to spot. Here you then move out to the main hall, and you can do that with seven of them. In fact, you can do it with more than seven of them but I was replaced with another seven. Did you know that?

During the DeRossa / Dunphy case another case was taking place across the hall; a man who has been made a ward of court was challenging the judgement of the president of the High Court. He was conducting his own case. I was spellbound watching the procedures and listening to the arguments. This certainly was 'different'. And what I could not understand, there was no word about it in the press. From the moment it began, it looked 'interesting'.

The DeRossa case was the big one on the docket that day. The procedure was quite full, so too was the visitors' gallery. But people come and go, its sort of like zapping through three of four doors and God help you if you are not dressed in your legal gear and phylacteries beside the ears of the bigwigs. There's no check or control or prohibition on bicycles. Entering through the door at the side you find yourself in the foyer of the law library which is full most mornings with law people; barristers and solicitors and clients.

There's an air about the law people; all standing in four status. The barristers with their wigs and papers are easy to pick out, you just can't miss them but the solicitors are also quite easy to spot. Here and there, there are little groups huddled either at one of the few desks or else standing in a circle. There are teams of legal people and clients putting the finishing touches to cases that are obviously just about to take place.

If you then move out to the main hall, which means you have to go through three of four doors and God help you if you are not dressed in your legal gear and some legal-eagle comes through the door at the side you find yourself in the middle of all this black you see two miserable creatures chained to prison officers after the building. It certainly look like chained animals and you can't help but feel that they inhabit an altogether different world. And no doubt the clearest they will ever get to is coming here in chains or else breaking into houses of the legal-eagles. And certainly four great buzz this in hall. dotted about the round hall there will be one or two gardai, and Albert, the court usher or superintendent is always about to help. In among the main actors you catch the occasional "out-of-place" person. There will be the few curious people who are in it simply to see how deluded he is. The delusions of others are much more difficult to decipher.

The journalists come and go and part of the fun of the whole place is that everyone just talks to everyone without fear. Cindy, Midlan Lord talking to Pat Rabbitte on first name terms, barristers cracking jokes with their opposition. It all seems like some sort of surrealistic game play. But then at the back of your mind you can hear checkout tills ring up very large sums of money, a day in the high court is not cheap, particularly if you lose your case.

This has been a good year so far to call on our most senior and serious courthouse. It's well worth a visit.

This is the sort of thing students are famed for; tying their mates up with masking tape and spraying their hair green. Top; Ian Astbury (with fake tits) and his Holy Barbarians. Left; 'Hiya, baby.'
Well, you’ve made it. College is over, no more exams, no more lectures, and, as Ozzy might say, no more tears. But now, you gotta get some work.

Get a haircut, and get a good job. Such advice is always handy karma, but there are other factors to bear in mind. Read on for tips on handling job opportunities.

CAREERING OUT OF CONTROL

Will your CV get you a job?

Tom Mitchell is a management consultant who specialises in the people side of business. This involves him in recruiting for a wide range of companies and jobs.

In this question and answer session he gives some ideas about how to prepare a CV.

Tom, in your daily work you see a great many CVs. What is the first thing you look for?

A CV that looks like the writer was thinking of who he/she was writing to. Give me the things I need to know on the first page. Ideally, for me, the first page should have:

- Personal details - name, address, telephone number (and best times to call), date of birth, sex, family status.
- Highest level of relevant education.
- Any relevant work experience.
- What type of job you are looking for.

In short make it easy for me to decide quickly, “Do I need to see this person?”

You can add as much detail as you like after the first page. Remember a CV is only written to get you to an interview, so don’t make it hard for the reader to come up with a reason to include you on their list of interviewees.

What annoys you most about a CV?

Having to wade through five pages of school results to find out that you don’t have a relevant third level qualification. Keep it simple and direct.

What questions are on your mind when you read a CV?

1. Does this person have the academic ability to do what we want?
2. Is there any evidence of a positive attitude to work?
3. Is the CV consistent? Does it raise any questions?
4. What does this person have done in the past make it likely that they would want the job we have in mind?
5. Might this person offer us some special opportunity?

What raises doubts in your mind when you read a CV?

1. Lack of specifics - e.g. someone who says they got an honours degree, meaning 2.1. - to me like 31st December to 1st January! Do they really know what they are talking about?
2. Is there any evidence of a positive attitude to work?
3. Is the CV consistent? Does it raise any questions?
4. Lack of evidence of the potential candidate's ability to do what we want?
5. Might this person offer us some special opportunity?

How should we handle “bad news” in a CV?

Up front - if you had to repeat an exam, or a year, say so, and give a reason. There is hope for a person who failed an exam because they were too involved in “the debating society” or whatever; provided that they have learned the lesson. Someone who never made a mistake is heading for one, so don’t be afraid to admit to your failures.

Remember, the person reading your CV has seen it all before, and has seen plenty of people recover from a mistake early in their career.

Should we write a new CV for every application?

Ideally yes, however I appreciate that there are other factors to bear in mind. Read on.

Leaving content aside for a moment, a well prepared CV is one that is pleasing to the eye. A CV that is badly laid out is a CV that will be ignored.

You should always remember one possible way to improve the chances of getting a job is to improve the CV. The CV is the first opportunity to make a good impression on your potential employer. The CV is the first opportunity to make a good impression on your potential employer. Therefore, it is important to make sure that your CV is well prepared and presented well.

When you write your CV, always think about the following:

- Make sure your CV is well prepared and easy to read.
- Use a clear and professional font.
- Use bullet points to make your CV easy to read.
- Use a consistent layout throughout your CV.
- Make sure your CV is free from spelling and grammatical errors.
- Keep your CV concise and to the point.
- Include any relevant work experience and qualifications.
- Include any relevant skills and achievements.
- Include any relevant hobbies and interests.
- Include any relevant references.

Remember, the person reading your CV is going to be looking for someone who is suitable for the job. They are going to be looking for someone who has the necessary skills and experience to do the job.

Therefore, it is important to make sure that your CV is well prepared and presented well.

In conclusion, make sure that your CV is well prepared and presented well. This will increase your chances of getting a job.

COMMUNIQUE INTERNATIONAL

A job interview can be one of the most fraught encounters we ever have to experience. It is a brief period of time where our “performance” in front of one or a number of people can decide our short or long-term future.

Often a lot of time and effort is devoted to focusing on dress code and body language. Our attitude is if your current is well prepared, the body language won’t be an issue.

Interview vs Question and Answer Session

Frequently, interviewees forget in an interview they are participating in and not a question and answer session. In other words, a productive interview is not a case of the interviewer asking questions and the candidate giving answers. When we work with people going for interviews we train them to treat questions as opportunities not threats. A candidate that has prepared properly for their interview will use the interviewers questions as a platform that enables them to get their points across in a clear and concise manner, relating their experiences to the job for which they are applying and giving insights that are unique to them.

Questioning - Understanding the Interviewers Perspective

When people go for interview they often try to second guess the type of questions they are likely to be asked in order to prepare specific answers. They rarely look for the rationale behind these questions. Look at it another way, if you were going to buy a new stereo and it cost £1,000, wouldn’t you ask the salesperson a lot of questions? You’re not trying to “catch them out”, you’re just making sure that the stereo is value for money.

This is a similar situation. The interviewers are not always fully aware of the type of questions they should ask to illicit the information they require. We train people to perform an analysis of the post which will be filled, from the viewpoint of understanding the activities and responsibilities to be undertaken by the successful applicant.

We also focus on enhancing their skills in the two key areas of obtaining information:

- facilitate evaluation
- facilitate differentiation

Preparation

Once you understand the dynamics of an interview it makes preparation much easier. Like the interviewer you need to do analysis of your work / college experience and explain how it applies to the post for which you’re applying. In preparation, write down your experiences, order and be sure you know the specific additional knowledge you gained from each of these posts. This means going through all summer or part time jobs you’ve had. Never forget that in an interviewation you are selling a product and the product is you. Therefore it is important to:

1. Identify your unique selling points
2. Differentiate yourself from your competitors — what have you done in your career to date that differentiates you from all the other candidates applying for this job?
3. Understand the interviewers real need — have you conducted an analysis of the post to be filled and fully understand the requirements of the company?
4. Keep it concise — have you prepared and delivered your information in such a clear and concise manner that the interviewers will know you are the right person for the job and finally ask for the job. Some people find this very difficult to do but it is the very logical way to end the interview you wouldn’t be there if you didn’t want the job, so ask for it!

There are two main things that you need to remember in preparing for job interviews:

1. It takes a lot of time — probably more time than you think.
2. It needs to take place within a structured framework. Otherwise they can be a lot of wasted effort.

For further information on Job Interview training or other communication skills training please contact David Casey, Course Co-ordinator, 26 Herbert Place, Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 676 6989 Fax No: (01) 676 8007
A group of students who dreamed up a speciality coffee shop offering a multitude of different flavoured coffees won first place in the DIT young entrepreneurs' award. The Bolton Trust Enterprise Development Competition Finals took place in DIT Mounjoy Sq on Wednesday 19th March, and 5 third year catering students from DIT Caruth Brugha St took overall prize.

The idea to set up a coffee shop in Navan, called Café Nostalgia Ltd., was the brainchild of Jackie Dunphy, Aileen Ferguson, Lorraine Ward, Nora Moylan and Leila Ryan. The event, sponsored by The Irish Permanent, was held under the watchful eye of Jackie Dunphy. Aileen Ferguson, Lorraine Ward, Nora Moylan, Leila Ryan.

The advertised two hour session in DIT Mounjoy Sq last week attracted a mixed crowd—almost 50-50 Old Pionees to Hip Young Things, and another 200 showed up over the two hours. They had already spoken in a full house in Bolton St, Paul Betts did most of the talking, though his wife spoke towards the end. They passed around four tablet containers ostensibly filled with white sugar, brown sugar, salt and flour. Everyone had a taste, and decided to themselves what the substances were. Everyone was correct in their assumptions, except that the white sugar contained minute fragments of glass; the brown sugar, baked rabbit droppings; and the salt had duck-blood-muck spatters hidden in it and the flour was clean. The relief on the faces of the crowd was great. The lesson learned was that because we trusted Paul Betts we lashed away and had a dab at the containers without thinking for a second what the consequences might be.
Members of the Cathal Brugha St Drama Society travelled down to Waterford to enter the Music, Arts & Drama Festival, 21-23 March.

Stephen Brennan was there... and then there was M.A.D.

It all started on Friday 21st March 1997 with crazy campus shenanigans in Busaras. Martin Broaders ensured that the manic weekend we were about to experience would be forever immortalised within the chamber of time that was a video cassette.

After numerous speculations regarding our exact time of arrival we finally kicked off inside the hostel at 7.30 p.m. Our accommodation surprisingly rose above our sceptical premeditated expectations offering us an array of pleasant facilities within a relaxed atmosphere. After settling into the humble surroundings of Viking House however, we ended dramatically by feasting amidst the walls of K Recipe Fried Chicken.

Fortunately however our recuperation time was shorter than we had initially estimated and our group leader and playwright were in top condition to return to the hostel in order to partake in a meeting concerning the festival's timetable and to inquire about the availability of subsidised intoxicants.

Shortly after we were weaving our necessary way toward one of Waterford's premium alcohol accessions, it wasn't to prove long before we were to "swingin', shakin', movin', makin', and showing just how good we really were" on the gyrating stage of the Suir with some freshly purchased nutrients (brekkie) before the rest of us had even raised an eyelid. Soon after we proliferated our excitement with the view of the primary production of the day (Denial by W.I.T.) offered in order to view the primary production of the day (Denial by W.I.T.) Frantically they utilised lighting and sound, a concept that we hadn't seen before. Soon after however they finally get their greedy hands on some alluring red lights they won the award for best director. At this stage the food looked shockingly good for Cathal Brugha Street as the end of the award ceremony is drawing near and Cathal Brugha Street have been reduced to an ever-coveting mass of nerves. "And now the award for Best Original Play" the judge looks decided. A pause, a reprimand and then suddenly vindication for all the time we spent rehearsing. "For all the time we spent organising drama meetings trying to accommodate for the ever changing needs of eight exam-stressed cast members: Cathal Brugha Street for the first time win a major award in the M.A.D. (Music Arts Drama) Festival. As soon as the curtains were raised the audience were given a chance to realise that the weekend was nearly over. A certain degree of sentimentality crept into the hearts and souls of all those involved: some of them even contemplating next year's festival. A touch pressure perhaps but you can't argue with the enthusiasm. All that was left was for the final curtain to come down and the hosts to read the final speech: "The Airways has seen too many returning ex-students, too many who have returned to the ever-coveting mass of nerves. "And now the award for Best Original Play" the judge looks decided. A pause, a reprimand and then suddenly vindication for all the time we spent rehearsing. "For all the time we spent organising drama meetings trying to accommodate for the ever changing needs of eight exam-stressed cast members: Cathal Brugha Street for the first time win a major award in the M.A.D. (Music Arts Drama) Festival. As soon as the curtains were raised the audience were given a chance to realise that the weekend was nearly over. A certain degree of sentimentality crept into the hearts and souls of all those involved: some of them even contemplating next year's festival. A touch pressure perhaps but you can't argue with the enthusiasm. All that was left was for the final curtain to come down and the hosts to read the final speech: "The Airways has seen too many returning ex-students, too many who have returned to the ever-coveting mass of nerves. 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Though the theme of Art & Design Week centred around sci-fi in general, the coincidental worldwide cinema re-release of the Star Wars Trilogy seemed appropriately timed. All gratitude to George Lucas in that regard for holding off the release of the first of those features, Star Wars, until Mountjoy Sq were good and ready, ready to rock. The week zapped-off (whatever) with a monster Sci-Fi Table Quiz in Stoneys Bar on the Tuesday. Wednesday saw rakes of spacers head out to the Plex for Quasar, followed by Sci-Ft drunkenness in Pub COMAD. Thursday, the big day, meant people got their space-cake glad rags out with phasers set on SUN for the fancy-dress banquet in the canteen, and though George Lucas was in attendance, he was sufficiently disguised, so that his presence there was known only to three people, whose presence, in turn was known only to Jabba the Hutt. The Hutt was not there.

"It's all just a big mish-mash of ideas," says Eoin, of the artwork effort. "There was no president, or captain saying 'Right, let's do it like this...-' or anything. Everybody had their own ideas, everybody just chipped in, and banged it all out." For a mish-mash it looked great.

Academic staff are fully supportive, and grants were made available by the SU, but apart from that, the work is all undertaken by the students on their own time. Stefan Murphy, 2nd year Marketing student, felt the futuristically-bedecked canteen merited praise, saying, "It's dead-

Julie, a 3rd yr. Marketing student whose lunch I interrupted, felt Art & Design Week "puts Rag Week to shame." She was going to the fancy dress as Pigs in Spaceaace. And if you don't know what she's on about then you missed out on the best TV series the galaxy has ever seen. Third years take control." The 'Sci-Fi' mural took Eoin a total of about 11 hours to complete, and looks like it took ten days. A committee is set up between VisComm (Visual Communications) and Environmental Design, and also people from courses in the Portland Row Annex. The committee number comes to about twenty in all. "There are supposed to be two from each year," says Janet Murphy, an Art & Design student, "so you can get everyone to know each other, another way of getting the courses mix as well." Alma Kierman, also Art & Design, explained that many ideas had been sound-ed out, including 70s Week, & Greek and Roman Week. Finally, they had hit upon Sci-Fi Week. "Rather than something real clean-cut, real industrial, we used bits of everything, and tried to make the most of the canteen with the materials we had." So are there legions of STAR WARS fans in Mountjoy Sq?

"The VisComms are all... freaks," jokes Alma, (at least, I think she was joking ... ) going on to describe the combined VisComm effort which came up with the life-size cryogenically frozen Han Solo, worthy (almost) of an early ILM creation.
What worries you most for the future about students' union politics in general?

That students won’t be politicised enough to know that government legislation does and can effect their lives daily as students in Ireland.

What’s the single most important thing you have learned since beginning in union politics?

To respect someone else’s opinion even though it might differ from your own.

Who is your favourite author?

I am a fanatical reader and all authors interest me.

Who is your greatest idol and why?

Olarie Haughey & Mary Robinson for their strength and charisma. Albert Reynolds for risking talks with the Provisional IRA which ultimately led to a ceasefire. John Hume for continuously opposing violence no matter what. David Ervine & Gerry Adams for trying to bring the men of violence into democratic politics.

What do you see as the worst aspect of students’ union politics in any third level institution?

The in-fighting and bitching which takes place from time to time. It takes people’s attention away from the real issues which the Union should be dealing with.

What was the most enjoyable part of the job?

Meeting people and achieving our aims. When Niamh Bhreathnach made her (Universities Bill) announcement last week, it finally proved the real power of DIT students. The most enjoyable part of the job, though, was being able to sort out major problems for students. I know that sounds conceited but it genuinely is rewarding.

What do you see as your greatest challenge in taking up the position of DITSU Overall President?

Including all the membership so they know how strong the union can be, and making facilities in DIT a reality for all and not just a "what could be..."
As you all know we are part of the Union of Students in Ireland, every year there are a number of meetings for everybody in the country (called National Council) but over Easter National Congress took place in Hotel Westport, Co. Mayo.

Congress is where delegates debate and discuss their priorities for the next year. And our National Union are therefore obliged to do it. DIT is one of the largest delegations, this year we had 22 votes out of 160 delegates.

There were hundreds of motions to get through, including International and National Affairs, Welfare, Women's Rights, Education, Union Organisation and Constitutional Amendments. Some of the most controversial were: the introduction of a full time LGB rights officer, and the motion on the human rights interest in the Róisín McAlliskey case. There was more debate over the RTC sector changing to Institute of Technology than you could shake a stick at. Debating was from 10am till around 9:30pm and then it was drink, drink, drink in the hotel bar!!!

The hotel staff were great, the food was lovely, so if you can speak in public and want a week in a top hotel next year — get in with the union!!! (not forgetting, of course, the importance of Congress!!) (NARF!!)

INTERESTING FACTS FROM USI'S 39TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

1. Cork RTC refuse to recognise themselves as anything but Cork Institute of Technology and their president Mattie O'Callaghan, is running in the general election!!! (Welcome them into our gang.)

2. This year was the first that student nurses were involved in the Student Union movement.

3. UCD speak more than any other delegation present.

4. DIT drink more than any other delegation present.

5. None of the elections for full time officers in USI were contested, that means that whoever ran, got in (nice move).

President: Colman Byrne (2nd year running)
Deputy: Helen Ryan (formerly welfare officer)
Welfare: Noel Clarke (1st male welfare officer)
Education: Malcolm Byrne (2nd year running)

6. The DITSU delegation were mandated which way to vote in the elections by DIT council.

7. The average sleeping hours by any Ditsu delegate during the week was 8.

No Surprises at Congress

With a full complement of delegates seated in the Cara Suite by 11 o'clock on DAY 2 (the first day of business) of USI Annual Congress number 39, it seemed as though cooperation was going to be the name of the game.

Though hangover from the previous night's introductory razz-sess — Election Hustings had been on — delegates were chatty and eager.

The session kicked off with Full Time Officers presenting their reports to Congress. Hitting on a football theme, Congress was told how 'the Team' which was the USI Executive, had pulled together so well this year. They had plenty of evidence to back this up, and delegate guilt of making 'snide remarks' and pursuing 'personal vendettas' against certain members of the USI Executive. Colman Joyce, DITSU Taosach, put it to her that the Executive was paranoid. 'Great!' thought everyone, 'some action early on at Congress!' This was not to be, unfortunately, as matters soon calmed sufficiently for proceedings to continue.

Peadar Mac Phaidín, USI Irish Language Officer, and Julian de Spáinn manned the Simultrans (simultaneous translation) gig all week, Julian providing the voice-over with Peadar for emotional, professional and managerial back-up. Togha Fhearaí! The inordinately expensive machinery — complete with headsets — on hire from Bord Na Gaeilge at a reduced rate, was utilised by everyone at one stage or another. At one point, Mountjoy Sa's SU Deputy President, Ronan 'the Runner' Emmett, was given the opportunity (or took it, maybe) to do his 'Pat Kenny / Eurovision' Master of Ceremonies impression. Laos people laughed, and anyone without headphones became very freaked out and agitated at a half full of people laughing uproariously at utter silence.

Tuesday afternoon saw Education matters raise their controversial heads. Motion ED3, which dealt with the £150 student services charge imposed by the Minister for Education in 1995, was clearly a contentious issue, and the present Minister, Niamh Bhreathnach, will have to listen soon and carefully to USI and its affiliate unions on this topic. USI Education Officer, Malcolm Byrne, urged delegates to 'bring the information back to your students', and to lobby Minister Bhreathnach to maintain the cap on this sum. ED 30, which brought up the Grants question, again drew attention to monetary difficulties. "The greatest barrier to students is financial..."
Malcolm Byrne told us, in referring to those continuing education. ED 10, the issue of proper facilities for art & design students, saw Nicole Grimes, Colman Row SU President, lamenting the ‘completely appalling’ conditions in which students in her college field themselves studying.

After lunch — during which delegates cast their votes for next year’s USI Executive — the election results, were eagerly awaited. Few, if any, surprises were in store as Colman Byrne (Pres.), Malcolm Byrne (Education), and Dermot Quin (UDO), were all re-elected. Helen Ryan (former Welfare Officer) was elected Deputy President, with outgoing Deputy, Noeleen Hartigan, heading back to the groves of academe next year.

On the question of Institute of Technology (IT) status for non-IT colleges, Colin ‘Joyce’ Joyce threw in a political hot potato, mildly challenging Cork Institute of Technology’s newly-born IT status. CITSU President Matty O’Callaghan caught and crushed the aforementioned spud. Everyone soon got over it.

Other issues created very heated debate, not least of which was W2, the drugs question, which arose in the evening. This motion read in part, that ‘Congress believes: 1. That harm reduction education is the most effective method for third level students. 2 That the Government are not investing enough into drugs education for third level students.’ The can of unfortunate mis-count passing the motion had to be re-counted. Steering came in for a lot of flack, but luckily the outcome was the same.

The Education session in the afternoon of DAY 3 saw Congress suffer heavy delegate losses to the Ireland-Macedonia match. While many watched Jason McAteer kicking someone in the throat, the more committed were inside trying to force through DITSU proposals ED15 (upgrading of Waterford RTC to WIT), 16 (to exclude DIT from the framework of the Teasact) & 17 (to have Irish as an optional language on Third Level courses). They were all successful.

That evening saw Congress attempt to get through some more welfare issues, as the drugs education question had all but halted proceedings the evening before. This session heard two very good speeches, both from UCD delegates, Gerry McDonnell and Justin Simnett, on the issue of prioritising disadvantaged access to the third level. McDonnell received an ovation (the only genuine one that I was aware of) and the motion was carried with vehemence.

The 39th Dinner Main Event that evening meant that crowds of people dressed up in suits and dresses and stuff, though I myself began that trend two days beforehand.

The whole week was given pretty good local and national press coverage, and for the most part, worms were open. Queues — long, angry queues — formed quickly on either side of Steering Committee’s stage/tower of power. The main bone of contention was whether harm reduction or prevention was the solution to the drugs problem. Sinead Pidgeon, DITSU Overall President Elect, who favoured prevention over harm reduction, urged delegates to vote against the motion, saying, ‘It’s about education, not harm reduction!’

The bad verbal craziness raged on, until C ‘J’ Joyce inquired of Steering as to how they monitored official delegates’ voting, and some semblance of disorder was restored. Dinner time came around, and Welfare matters were put on hold awhile.

Constitutional Amendments were discussed following an unnecessarily prolonged/delayed evening meal, as was the question of whether or not USI could financially afford to create a full-time Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Rights Officer. This quickly became a very emotional issue, particularly for USI LGB Co-Conveners Megan Stewart and Duane Farrell. After an

Paddy Byrne (recently returned from dinner in Bulgaria), Patsy Summer and a blurred out Pension

Noel Clarke, current SU President in St. Patrick’s College, Drumondra, was elected Welfare Officer, with Nuala Toman of Queen’s University, Belfast replacing Kellie O’Dowd in the Women’s Rights office.

Quotes of the week

“I’ll take you all on,” Laughlin Deegan (Steering Committee) to Congress, when threatened with a procedural motion of no confidence in the Chair (SF) to remove him as Chairman. The motion wasn’t even taken.

“I have a friend, it’s actually true,” DCU delegate, Dermot Lohan, beginning his ‘story’ on the Indian Reservation that is the Irish Caith Gaeltacht.

‘USI is like the GAA — a beautiful monument in Croker Park and shiny pitches around the country.’ DITSU President, Colin Joyce, on the table, in the hotel bar.

Clockwise from top left: Colman Byrne accepts a congratulatory handshakes on his re-election as USI President; Navan O’Carroll of St. Pat’s Drumondra; elected as USI Welfare Officer; Dermot Quin manages to get a photograph of his twin victory applause between taking shots of everyone else, Duane Farrell and Megan Stewart following the passing of the LGB Full-time Officer motion.

USI Congress
'Pirates' lose out narrowly to crisp, golden 'Bashers', matey

Gleekon Cup Final
Aungier St 46
Mountjoy Sq 44
Wednesday 19 March 1997
Terenure College RFC

Ed McGowan and his Aungier St 'Bashers' were pushed all the way to the Gleekon Cup in Terenure College with a pulsating 46-44 win over the Mountjoy Sq 'Pirates'.

The competition began way back in January where each of the DIT teams played each other once on a league basis. The top two teams went straight to the final, and what a cracker it was.

It was the kicking accuracy of John Quinn that steered the Aungier St to success; he kicked six from nine.

The wheels of the WRTC juggernaut, in the form of Mountjoy Sq, were beginning to take a stranglehold on the competition. Twenty minutes into the game, the 'Bashers' - through Alan Temple and the mercurial James Waddock in the centre - ralled a quick succession of backs, after which the ball found its way into the hands of Thomas Trainer, and there was no stopping him, even 30 yards out. The execution was perfect, and Quinn again did the honours, and an almost comfortable lead of nine points was established.

The introduction of John Campbell to the 'Pirates' pack of backs instilled a memorable fight which nearly toppled the champ. Seventeen minutes later, after a few powerful surges and effective marking by the 'Pirates' led to a well-deserved scrum 5 metres from the 'Bashers' line. Under severe pressure, and a controlled fullback, the 'Pirates' struck again with the towering Paul Hatton. Gavin McAllister popped over the conversion and there was now a game on our hands.

With the score tensely poised at 19-17 to Aungier St, it was anybody's game. Mountjoy Sq came back stronger through their pack again. Great work by their backrow forwards, namely Scottie Hanna and Paul O'Connor, ensured a good supply of possession to the willing backs. Unfortunately, the 'Bashers' backs were equal to the task coupled with some superb defensive work from Richie Bull, Brian Murphy and Alan Temple.

A break by McAllister brought play into the 'Bashers' 22, where they forced another scrum. From this Hatton was on hand to collect his third try, which was unconverted. The 'Pirates' were beginning to take a stranglehold on the game. Quinn reduced arrears to level the scores at 22-22, through a penalty in the 67th minute.

After recovering possession from the 'Bashers' 5 minutes later, the 'Pirates' passed the ball through their backs, but James Waddock seized his chance, intercepting just in his own half and well out of sight before the 'Pirates' were aware what was happening. Quinn slotted over the easy conversion to establish a seven point lead.

Only four minutes later, they were back down exerting substantial pressure on the 'Pirates' line, the ball was moved swiftly through the hands, and Waddock cantered over unopposed. This time Brian Murphy stepped up and converted the conversion with ease.

Trailing by 14 points and with only 3 minutes remaining of normal time, an unbelievable twist was woven into the tale. Desperate and determined not to let the cup slip through their fingers, the 'Pirates' conjured up two memorable conversions through Paul Hatton and his hungry pack of forwards. McAllister converted both difficult scores, after 3 minutes of injury time had elapsed. Who would have predicted it, the match ended 36-36 apiece.

After consultation with the rule book, it was agreed between the Outgoing President of the Irish Colleges Rugby Union (ICRU), Terenure College RFC, namely Philip Flood and Martin Scarton respectively, to play 20 minutes of extra time. If at the end of extra time the scores were level, a replay was agreed as the alternative.

The first half of extra minutes was very even, with both teams reluctant to make any crosses which would jeopardise their penalty each to leave the scores at 30-39. Midway through the second half of extra time, Waddock broke the deadlock to score a try which was thought to be the winner at that time, the winning score. Quinn converted the pressure-kick. Therefore ensuring a six point lead. The 'Pirates', not to be outdone, decided to claim a share of the spoils for themselves. Hatton, capped off a marvellous individual performance to claim his sixth try. Unfortunately, the kick was very far out and the pressure was just too great, and McAllister narrowly missed the conversion. The final whistle came a minute later and Aungier St had retained the Gleekon Cup, but only just.


Martin Scarton

The DIT Intermediate hurling team, captained by Ger MacGrady, were deprived of a place in the final of the Intermediate League Championship by the crossbar which deflected a shot by Padraig Howard over the bar to put the game beyond the grasp of the visitors. Even though they had the strong wind at their backs, Ulster were unable to capitalise on their home advantage in the first half and despite dry sunny conditions the heavy and prevented either side from pulling away from their opponents in this closely fought contest. DIT goalmam Lar Lacey brought off the save of the match and excellent performances were put in by Dave Clohessy at full back and Damien Hallissy at half forward. The DIT team were; Lar Lacey, Anthony Brohan, Dave Clohessy, Owen Breslin, Darragh Spain, Mike Lambert, Lorcán Mac Thoinua, D. Donn (0-1), Damien Hallissy, Ger MacGrady (Captain), P. Peter Bowes * Capt., Padraig Cooke (1-2), Paddy Howard (0-2), Rory Hickey (0-2).

DIT FRESHERS FALL BEFORE WATERFORD

DIT 1-6
WRTC 1-9

The DIT Freshers hurling team fell beneath the wheels of the WRTC juggernaut, while the semi-final stage of the All Ireland Freshers League competition. The unforgiveable and avoidable confusion about the time of the throw in of the game, which was held at the Terenure pitch, did little to help the preparations of the DIT players for this crunch match. Despite the size of the ultimate deficit on the DIT score sheet the WRTC coach had words of encouragement for the home team which were echoed by Supremo Damian Mac Donald who reminded the team that they had reached the semi-final stage of an All Ireland competition. This would not have been expected of any DIT team at the beginning of the season in October. While players may feel defeated after the game there is great potential in the DIT panel who will make a name for themselves in 3rd level hurling competitions in the future.

The DIT team was
Lar Lacey, Sean Kelly, David Clohessy, Prinac O'Meara (0-1), Colm McCooe, Paul Dunneley (Ccapitain) (0-1), Mark Kavanagh, Trevor MacGrady (0-1), Michael Byrne, Rory Hickey (0-1), Mark Murphy (1-1), Joe Cullen (0-1), Gerry Ennis, Martin Corcoran, Darren McCormack.

INTERMEDIATE HURLERS FOILED BY UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

UL 2-6
DIT 1-7

The DIT Intermediate hurling team, captained by Ger MacGrady, were deprived of a place in the final of the Intermediate League Championship by the crossbar which deflected a shot by Padraig Howard over the bar to put the game beyond the grasp of the visitors. Even though they had the strong wind at their backs, Ulster were unable to capitalise on their home advantage in the first half and despite dry sunny conditions the heavy and prevented either side from pulling away from their opponents in this closely fought contest. DIT goalmam Lar Lacey brought off the save of the match and excellent performances were put in by Dave Clohessy at full back and Damien Hallissy at half forward. The DIT team were; Lar Lacey, Anthony Brohan, Dave Clohessy, Owen Breslin, Darragh Spain, Mike Lambert, Lorcán Mac Thoinua, D. Donn (0-1), Damien Hallissy, Ger MacGrady (Captain), P. Peter Bowes * Capt., Padraig Cooke (1-2), Paddy Howard (0-2), Rory Hickey (0-2).
The DIIT Handball Club has now become a full-blooded club and has firmly established itself on the handball map, with titles in the Dublin Champions League, DCU Blight, and the Intervarsities as Team A winners.

Many parts of the DIIT have contributed to this success. On the administration side, Matt Hanley acted as President for the Club while Dianrou Hanlin helped get a good deal done. From the GAA Development area, Josephine Rogers was a great help and so were the chaplains at Kevin St. All concerned gave support and recognized the achievements made by the handballers.

The year began in the canton at Caisal Brugha St. on the premier night for Michael Collins. A small group of handballers met to draw up a plan for the year. There were no elections of officers needed as everyone angled where they could best serve the job, and all was agreed. One point arising gave way to considering if the AGM should take place before the year ended, thereby eliminating the chaos that occurs each September. That was impossible for most as everyone needed to concentrate, but won out 21-19. Then came the doubles as Frank Semple and Paul Brady needed two wins and an overall victory margin of 8. This he did in style with a 21-10, 21-9 win over Naill Gorman, and the DIIT reached the final for the first time.

The final saw UCC with the experienced Tony Healy to parade, whereas the Dublin college had the better balanced side and the element of surprise still lingered. Shane Dornier set off like a train against John O’Connor, winning 21-12. While coasting in the second he cut his leg, and struggled to concentrate, but won out 21-19. Then came the doubles as Frank Semple and Paul Brady took on Tony Healy and Trevor Lynch. DIIT lost the first game, levelling the score at 51-51. Healy and Lynch went on to win the next two games, putting Cork in a very strong position.

Cork were quietly confident that their man, Michael Raftery, would get the required 19 acres from the remaining two games to take the title against DIIT in the form of Padraig Gaffney, but had other ideas. Padraig won the first game 21-11. Raftery needed 6 acres in the last game, and though Cork confidence was evident in the gallery, it was Padraig who was in the gallery as Gaffney had his opponent guessing wrong and missing his chances. Gaffney picked off his shots until Raftery split his concentration. Gaffney drifted in the opportunity and won the game 21-7, ending the match with the overall score of 117-110 to wrap-up a stunning contest which will live long in the memories of the packed gallery and players.

DIIT Handball later went on to win the other games of the Dublin League, winning a close semi-final against St Pat’s, Dominican, and beating the Garda Club in the Junior League at Cork. Another weekend blitz was organised by DCU, and this DIIT won a semi-final against Trinity 103-56, going on to win the final, beating UCD 116-61. Our ladies representives kept up in a close contest with UCD’s Claire Doyle.

The January Interleague started with a bang, with the DIIT facing off against UCD in a friendly contest. DIIT showed up well in the game, but unfortunately lost 12-20. Despite this set-back, the DIIT team was confident and continued to improve throughout the season, winning several matches and coming close in others. The DIIT handball season ended with a convincing win over UCD in the semi-final, setting up a final against DCU.

The final saw DIIT in a strong position, having faced and overcome many challenges throughout the season. DIIT was able to capitalize on its strengths and outplay DCU, winning the final 116-61. The DIIT handball team was crowned the champions of the Dublin League for the 2018-2019 season, having cemented its place as a dominant force in the Dublin handball scene.
DAWN OF NEW ERA IN IRISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL
Denis Byrne

Most Irish people get their impressions of American Football from late night sportswatching on Channel Four. Not many realise that they could actually leave the comfort of their living room to experience the game in person.

American Football has a twelve year history in Ireland with the first Shamrock Bowl in 1986 and the Irish equivalent of the Super Bowl, being played between the Dublin Dubs and the Claregalway Tai in 1990. In 1997 the Dublin Dubs peaked at the mid 80s with the Dublin Cabs being well known throughout Europe where they played against top opposition and in doing so clinched large sponsorship deals with Irish companies.

The interest in the game started to wax in the early "90s but this is turning around at the moment partly because of the hype generated by the Notre Dame v Navy game last year. A professional marketing expression has been given the task of promoting the game in Ireland. Jim Button of Image Management and Promotions explained, "Up to now players hadn't been receiving a fee or gaining the best possible publicity but we want to change that as we work on them just the same as they do just given a few cans of beer and thanked for turning up. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are treated on a professional level from now on.

The Irish American Football League starts in April every year and concludes with the Shamrock Bowl in the Autumn. This year there will be six teams competing in the league; three from Northern Ireland and three from the Republic, namely the Belfast Spartans, Carrickfergus Knights, Portadown Panthers, Dublin Tomahawks, Dublin Bulls and Dublin Lightning. Jim Button outlines his thinking on the league structure this year, "We had got for the first time six teams competing in the league when in years gone bye the league survived with just four teams taking part. This made it manageable to make a point every game and the season was longer than ever before. We have spread the season over a longer term because it's a very strenuous game, its like rugby multiplied by three, the effort that must be put in. So you need to give a space of a week at least between games. The future plans are to outline the potential of American football here as a spectator sport for all the family.

"American football is a very vigorous game but all the razzamataz surrounding it makes us think its a soft sport. We eat hard training every day but in hard training day after day we have to commend a good optimist. Still seething with anger the label is regrettably women's play. What kind of effect would this have on our men's team, considering they were very much left behind by our ladies. Obviously the DIT men did not appreciate what had happened to their women and they must have started to go to the other teams. And if they suffered a nerve attack in the match against UCD pops in the back of our net. Some will think it buddy for me to blame it on the referee, but in all seriousness we commend the involvement of a good optimist. Still seething with anger the label is regrettably women's play."

The DIT Waterpolo Championships. It was a bitter-sweet affair. Our ladies team pro­gressed into the all the Quarter - finals - which we just once again we were unlucky enough to be drawn against UCD. However, not to be outdone they fought back and nail and at the end of four quarters it was three goals to one. They continued to fight through two periods of extra time only to finish four goals a piece. It was now to sudden death and through the cruelest of outcomes the women's plate was decided with UCD popping in the back of our net. Some will think it buddy for me to blame it on the referee, but in all seriousness we commend the involvement of a good optimist. Still seething with anger the label is regrettably women's play.

The future proved that this year's Shamrock Bowl in Dublin 1997 is definitely a case of "so far so brilliant!"

The year continued with the Freshers Interuberity Championships in Cork, a 30 strong team boarded the train and we arrived in Cork ready to take on the best. The first Competition was fierce, however the DIT team rose to the occasion, our DIT Ladies swimmers brought home the women's competition crown un­opposedly to UCD. In the Men's competition things were a lot more competitive but in the end the big men proved too strong. The competition finished second, this time pipped at the post by the University of Ulster. The waterpolo championshipmarginally to UCD. In the Mens

The DIT Waterpolo team, which will compete in the Irish National Championships and the Waterpolo Championships for Ireland at the end of four quarters it was three games to none. They continued to fight through two periods of extra time only to finish four goals a piece. It was now to sudden death and through the cruellest of outcomes the women's plate was decided with UCD popping in the back of our net. Some will think it buddy for me to blame it on the referee, but in all seriousness we commend the involvement of a good optimist. Still seething with anger the label is regrettably women's play.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate each member of the team.

Aungier St

Maurice Gaffney
Stephen Mignan
Rachel Murphy
Paddy O'Cahill

Boylston St.

Stuart Clarke
Brian Conover
David Fithy
(Peter Baillie)

WATERPOLO TEAM can com­pete and enjoy success at the highest level of our sport and without doubt this is a shining day in the history of DIT Football.

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Aungier St

Frances McCarron
Brenda Matters
Catherine Smithers
* (Irish international team captain)

Cathal Brough St.

Maureen Gaffney
Chloe O'Sullivan
Dawn Mc Glynn
Rachel Murphy
Paddy O'Cahill

Boylston St.

Stuart Clarke
Brian Conover
David Fithy

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First Karting Intervarsities leave DIT with five finishers in top eleven

The first ever Karting Intervarsities took place on Saturday 5 April. Eight colleges entered a total of twelve teams to take part in the four-hour endurance race which took place at the fabulous "Kartworld" outdoor track in Watergrasshill, Co. Cork.

Bolton St A Team held the lead for a period during the race but was eventually pipped at the post to finish third behind Cork Institute of Technology with RTC Sligo the winners of the event. Bolton St's B, C and D teams finished ninth, seventh, and eleventh respectively with Mountjoy Sc's team finishing in sixth place. The event was organised by the DIT Karing Club and was a credit to the organisation and atmosphere created in the Intervarsity Committee members, all of whom study in Bolton St. I would also like to thank Bolton St's sponsors for the event, Murray Motorsport — suppliers of Sparco Racewear.

The 1997 Karting Intervarsities was a great success and a time was had by all. It is without doubt that future Karting Intervarsities will be just as good, if not better.

Michael Rooney, Chairman, Intervarsity Committee.

The hills are alive with 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary'

Rosemary Mc Goughy

I f you think of Ireland and sport you'll probably conjure up images of Hill 16, the Sam Maguire Cup, the boys in green and more recently Sonia O'Sullivan and Michelle Smith. You don't instinctively picture four men in a bobsleigh somewhere on a mountain in America, with the sound of cowbells ringing in their ears.

Well, maybe in the not too distant future, you will. The sport of bobsleighing may not be the sport of kings but it's extremely popular across Europe, Canada and the US even since it's appearance at the first ever Winter Olympics in 1924.

Ireland's history in the sport however, is a bit more recent. In 1989 founding members, former rower, Pat Mc Donagh and Irish javelin champion, Terry Mc Hugh established the Irish Bobsleigh Association. Within two years the Irish team qualified for the 1989 Winter Games in Calgary but without the approval of the Olympic Council of Ireland, they were unable to participate. Again in 1992 the team qualified for the Albertville Games this time supported in some manner by the OIC. In Albertville, Ireland finished 32nd and 38th in a tough two-man and four-man event. The fastest of the two bobs finishing just over seven seconds behind gold medalists, Switzerland.

Not surprisingly an Irish bobsleigh team attracted some attention just as good, if not better.

I asked Jeff why he thought the team received very little media coverage. "There's a Virgin Islands bobsleigh team however, have practised at the Bobschool in Inglis, Austria and have a bob in Dolphin's Barn Ice-rink and plan to attach wheels to it in order to practice the start, which is the most crucial part of the race.

I asked Jeff why he thought the team received very little media coverage. "There's a Virign Islands bobsleigh team as well, which no one knows about a Virgin Islands team, Puerto Rico, there's a lot of smaller nations. The reason we don't get publicity, it's just a minority sport". He added, "you'll always get five lines in a paper or something and they'll scoff at the fact you finish 23, 24 out of 35, 36 competitors but I mean you could look at the English, the English have the same facilities as us, no facilities and they're ranked in the top ten in the world in bobsleighing, so it's something we have the potential to be very good at."

Jeff maintains that over the next four or five years Ireland have the potential to reach the top ten, if they're able to compete continuously and if they get the much needed financial support. Equipment is the key to success. The German team have the boat bob in the world, the 'Dresden Bob' which cost in the region of $500 000 and the Americans have a bob made by NASA which cost $1 million to develop.

Currently Ireland rent bobs from different associations and have found that Irish good will around Europe is exceptional. The Swiss at the Europa Cup in Austria earlier this year recorded all their own people coming down the track and recording the Irish as well. The Irish team in the end were driving the track so well, the Swiss were learning from them.

Eleven years on people are still amused at the thought of an Irish bobsleigh team. "You get the obvious jokes, everyone seems to have watched 'Cool Runnings', it must have been a big success in the cinema or something because you get everyone going, where's you're dreadlocks, all this kind of thing."

The Jamaican bobsleigh team, the basis for Disney's 'Cool Runnings', were the darlings of the 1988 Winter Olympics. The four-man team stunned the Games by posting the seventh fastest starting time in the third of four runs, unfortunately the sled crashed putting them out of the competition.

However exciting and dangerous bobsleighing is, Jeff's feet remain firmly on the ground, so to speak. As springing continues to be his number one priority, "I won't do bobsleighing to harm my sprinting. I'll always be a sprinter and a bobsleger on the side kind of thing but I mean to get to the Olympics and to represent your country is something every athlete wants to do, in any kind of sport, tiddy winks."

Look out for the 'boys in green' on the track in Japan next year.
Ditsu hits the web!

The Dit Students' Union makes its appearance on "the World Wide Web" today and is willing and able to serve you...

The page is still in its infancy but will soon be up and running with all the latest:

- Welfare information
- Events guides
- Ents info.
- Clubs and societies

The site's creators are waiting for you to put forward contributions for the site.

The address of the site is:

http://www.kst.dit.ie/ditsu

Ditur looks at the Internet from Ireland's point of view, and wonders what lies in store for broadcasters and creative entertainers when it comes to the crunch.

The Internet is the first major manifestation of a new era in societal development, which was largely anticipated in this country in August 1997 by the then Minister for Transport, Post and Telecommunications, Eamon Gilmore. In the Digital Age, technology is converging, or "converging" as Gerry McGovern calls it, towards a new reality, namely the "convergence" of media. The outcome of this process seems to be that existing communications infrastructures (i.e. Broadcasters - PSB - in general). RTE's dominance in the broadcasting of content and the Internet's ability to provide a much faster speed of delivery may lead to the country being left behind in the rest of the world embraces technology. Ireland is rich in potential, as is demonstrated in the development of "digital" industry, but it is essential that we must move to "wake up" the country's potential to E-Mail mailboxes, HTML in the US). This process seems to be

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Chemical Brothers

Dig Your Own Hole
(Virgin Records)

Before I even start I am faced with a major dilemma! It's my editor you see, he kind of has this thing for the Brothers. On several occasions I have entered his office to be confronted by "Exit Planet Dust", as his foot taps below his neat desk. It kicks away in the corner as my editor's head bounces up and down; I can't possibly give it a poor review! He'll be heartbroken.

Thanks be to God it's a totally thumping album (super I'd say). I spent 4 hours in my father's sizeable 2 litre estate listening to this full volume (understanding Dad or what?). There are too many highlights to mention, the two you already know (Setting Sun and Block Rockin' Beats), both kickin' and rockin'. I have no doubt that this will do the business for Tom & Ed.

They played the Red Box recently to rave reviews and you guessed it my bloody editor (bless his heart) was there to bounce around as cool as he knows how. Fans will love his happy Cork face! If you have not heard "Logical Progression" you are missing out. An excellent night with the best host on the planet!

DJ HYPE

4 April 1997 The Kitchen

Scratchmaster and uncompromising motormouth supreme, Hype, who has led his Ganja Crew into major label success, played the Kitchen to a crowd of pure maniacs. His cut-ups, re-winds and scratching were more exciting than a fireworks display. His re-winds spin deftly back and forth to the beginning of popular jungle hits. His jump-up style is mainly fixed to the dancefloor: the drums are fierce, the drop down into the bass, dramatic and the hook, easy to grip. As the clock hit 12 a pale figure moved into the box (that's not a DJ, it was HYPE). From the start it was madness, from a low-key "No Diggity" to his more renowned rough style, it was original Hip-Hop jungle at it's fiercest, finest and most gunshot-peppered. The chant went up as Hype left the building: 'The Super Sharp Shooter'. The S, the U, the P, the E, the R...."
Dear Agatha,

Recently cycling home from school I got chatting to a bus driver. I have met her again on a number of occasions and on our most recent encounter we decided to meet for a coffee. She seems a very lovely person and now when we meet she just stops her bus and we chat for a few minutes. She seems to become oblivious of traffic. The only problem is I am almost twice her age. Do you think we should meet?

An oldie cyclist

Dear Agatha,

My shampoo just isn’t working. But I haven’t got the guts to change it. It leaves yellow urine-like streaks in my hair and everyone thinks I’ve got highlights. When I was growing up my mother told us it was important to use the one shampoo and over time, I got used to this. Now I look at all the adverts on the TV at night and think ‘oh why can’t I just try Pantene once?’ I feel inadequate and I feel like I haven’t lived. Everyday is a bad-hair day for me. I need some exemplary advice, please help.

You poor girl, you must look so ugly. You should never have listened to your mother, you could have a boyfriend by now. I’m sorry I can’t even begin to empathise with you on this one. I’ve always had nice hair. It must be particularly difficult for you at the moment with Jennifer Aniston now advertising Elvive, her beauty makes you more aware of your inadequacy.

However I don’t think using Pantene at this late stage in your life would help you one bit, the shampoo is good but not that good. What I would suggest is that you do a Tele Savalls and shave off your hair. That way you won’t have to worry about changing your shampoo as you won’t need any, but what you will need is a lollipop.

Dear Agatha,

I am worried that as I near the end of my degree year that I have not put in the work in order to pass the final exams. I cannot face the thought of returning home to my home town as a failure to my family. Can you give me some advice as to what to do as I near the exams and what I can do if I fail my exams. Money is also a financial burden if I fail my exams this year round. What can I do?

A worried Aungier Street student

Well, with sentences such as yours my only hope is that you are not studying English. If you do fail your exams, don’t go home, let’s face it – your parents probably couldn’t handle living with a failure, it lowers the tone of the place. You’ll be the laughing stock of everyone you know. If I know my hard in today’s cruel and ugly world (the girl with the shampoo problem will verify this) to get a job with no qualifications. But if you take a little initiative you can get by.

Get yourself a really cute dog and a tin whistle (it doesn’t matter if you can’t play) and go down to Grafton street and just stand about playing your tune, looking like the failure you are. This should get you enough money to buy yourself a bottle of white spirit so you can drown away your sorrows in a permanent state of stupor.

Crash, Bang, Zzzzz...

CRASH

A nipple on a car bonnet. Sex with a leg-wound. So what? Hailed by some critics as a modern tale of human isolation in an uncaring urban cesspool of fast cars and casual sex, Crash is an unengaging film upon which Sheamus Smith has bestowed a groundless notoriety. Shot in Toronto, Crash could be set in any city. Reference to place is avoided as the sky rises and was screened.

Directed by David Cronenberg, Crash is adapted from J.G. Cronenberg's cult novel. James Spader plays James Ballard who with his wife Catherine (Deborah Unger) and myriad other undeveloped characters shares an obsession with car crashes and the sexual arousal initiated by them. Greys, silvers, blues and blacks dominate Crash echoing the colours of the cars worshipped by the characters. Its monochromatic tone also reflects the clinical sterility of the world in which it is set.

For the duration of the film, the characters either speculate on or stage car crashes, using them to fuel their seemingly arbitrary sexual desire. Almost like a porn film, the process of desire awakening is not documented or explored as the characters engage in random promiscuous sex which is never removed from the car in or around which it usually happens. None of the characters in Crash are given any identity or depth besides their fascination with car crashes. No psychological motivation for their behaviour is even hinted at as they reconstruct the car crash in which James Dean was killed, become aroused while watching videos of previous crashes or attempt to instigate car crashes involving another.

When Sheamus Smith dictates what a cinema audience can and cannot see, instinctive responses are curiosity and perhaps a desire to defy. During the Dublin Film Festival Crash was sold out long before it was screened. I half expected to be entertained. I half expected to be shocked. I didn't expect to be bored. If Crash had simply gone on general release without controversy it might have appealed to a small number of genuine Cronenberg fans and had a limited, inconsequential run.

Directed by David Cronenberg
Starring: James Spader, Deborah Unger, Holly Hunter, Rossanna Arquette, Elias Koteas.

According to the censor's office no decision has been taken to revoke the ban on Crash.

RIDICULE

Beginning with a flash forward in which a vengeful man urinates into the lap of a mute, paralysed invalid, Ridicule is a period drama exploring the hypocrisy and flippancy of the French aristocracy before the 1789 revolution.

Charles Berling plays Malvoy, a philanthropic landowner whose malaria ridden marshes are rapidly killing his tenants. In order to obtain the funding necessary to drain the marshes, he travels to Versailles where the demoralisation of "wit" is the only way to get a hearing with the frivolous Louis XVI. Malvoy is given lodgings and coached by a well-intentioned doctor obsessed with the intricacies of epigrams, word plays, double entendres and quick, cutting sarcasm.

Mathilde, the doctor's daughter, with whom the protagonist inevitably falls in love, is the antithesis of the superficiality and shallowness of the court. Madame de Bistoyac (Fanny Ardant) is her rival, a character like that of Glenn Close in Dangerous Liaisons - not the only point Ridicule shares with the earlier film.

Directed by Patrice Leconte, Ridicule is less psychologically complex and more fast-moving than his earlier film, The Hairdresser's Husband. It lacks the subtlety and pensiveness which made the former so compelling.

Ridicule is a high budget film which, like most French period pieces, can afford to pay attention to detail. In one way the film celebrates the corruption and petty competitiveness it ostentatiously condemns. Versailles's glamour and affluence are indulged at every given moment. When Malvoy and Mathilde leave Versailles the film ends. We see the doctor's post-revolution exile in England but only hear about the fate of the other two characters. It is as if the film cannot transcend its fear of dwelling too much on the hushness of a world which is as poor as Versailles is opulent. Exquisite costumes and decor are focused on far more than the grim reality of the peasant's plight and the spectator - at times almost encouraged by the form of the film, to adopt the policy of wilful ignorance advocated by the aristocrats.

Directed by Patrice Leconte
Starring: Fanny Ardant, Charles Berling, Bernard Giraudou.

Like Roddy Doyle's Family or The Australian film Once Were Warriors, Trojan Eddie is a tale of protracted redemption and the triumph of the weak in a grey world of petty crime, unemployment and domestic violence.

Stephen Rea plays Eddie, a fundamentally good, non-confrontational and entirely led character quite like that of Fergus in The Crying Game. Eddie fancies himself as a master salesman and robbed the audience response to his gags at the makeshift auctions he conducts with his accomplice Dermot (Stuart Townsend). Eddie, whose domestic arrangements are as unstable as his career, is a hustler working for John Power (Richard Harris) the belligerent head of the local traveller community. When Power's young bride absconds on her wedding night with Dermot and £11,000 of a dowry, Eddie is suspected of aiding the flight.

Ending happily for its protagonist, Trojan Eddie manages to raise a number of challenging questions about power structures, the difficulty facing ex-cons and the way in which traveller men view and treat traveller women.

Gillies McKinnon has moved away from the stereotypical, over-the-top, semi-romanticised view of Ireland inherent in his earlier film The Playboys. With Trojan Eddie, McKinnon brings a full realism to an unconscious story almost incidentally set in and around the traveller community.

Directed by Gillies McKinnon
Starring: Stephen Rea, Richard Harris, Sean McGinley, Brid Brennan

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