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Forum : the Magazine of the DIT Students' Unions, November, 1987

DIT Students' Union

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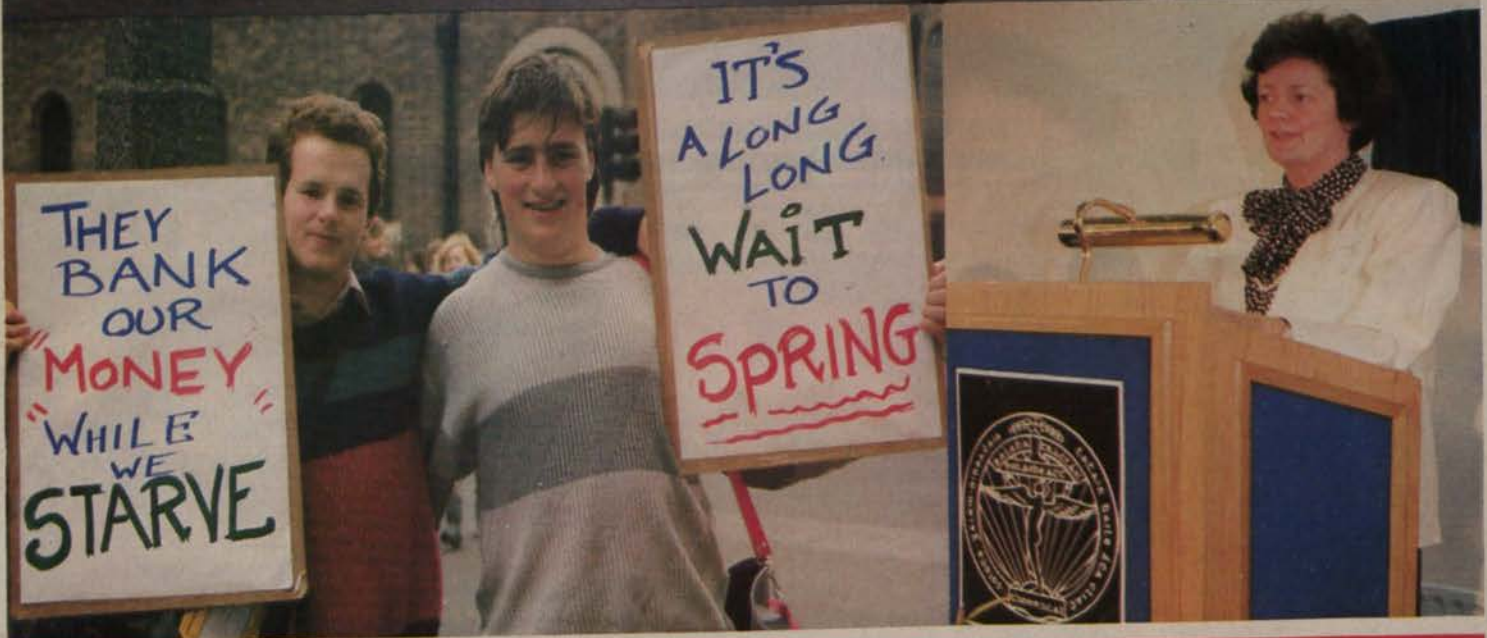
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FORUM

The magazine of the DIT Students Unions

November 1987 — Free of charge to students and staff in the DIT Colleges



PLUS

100 Years Of Kevin Street College

News And Views From Around The Colleges

Paul Prenter — From Managing Queen To The DIT

DIT Logo Design Competition

Plus reviews And Previews — Books, Records And Films

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Editorial

Grant Delays

The demonstration by Dublin Institute of Technology Students on 29th November against the delay in payment of European Social Fund grants highlights once again all the contradictions in the administration of the Irish Education System.

On the one hand £10 million worth of European Social Fund Grants is sitting somewhere between Brussels and the Department of Finance. On the other hand almost 10,000 students are facing a penniless and bleak Christmas. With such valuable money available to benefit students, surely a sensible mechanism could be found to distribute it? Who is at fault and what can be done?

Undoubtedly the major fault lies with the Department of Education who control very strictly the funding of the D.I.T. Up until this year extra staff had always been allocated to process the grants cheques. This year due to stringent cutbacks, staff allocation has been curtailed with resulting hardship for students.

The V.E.C. however must also shoulder some blame in refusing to re-allocate resources to ensure that the grants would be paid on time. The V.E.C. staff, quite rightly, in Forum's view, have refused to do extra work without extra resources. Surely the V.E.C. management should be capable of solving this problem. Instead students have been used as a pawn in a game between the Department of Education and the V.E.C. over resources.

We call on both the Department and the V.E.C. management to sit down and negotiate a proper settlement to this repetitive issue which is causing undue and unnecessary hardship to many of our members.

Happy Birthday, Kevin Street!

One hundred years of technological education is a remarkable achievement and Kevin Street College deserves to be proud of the contribution to Irish education in this, their centenary year.

Kevin Street have been at the forefront of Technological and Science courses for many years and many of its graduates have gone on to make a distinct impression on academic life both here in Ireland and abroad.

With the opening of its new extension and improved facilities we wish Kevin Street College the very best for the next 100 years.



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Kevin Street celebrates its centenary: A review of the College's history.

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Film, live theatre and record reviews.

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New Caterers for C.O.M.A.D.

Mayfair Catering have taken over the canteen facilities in the College of Marketing and Design. This comes as a result of an intense campaign by the students.

Daithi O'Connor, Student Union President, is quoted as saying 'long hours of lobbying at College Council and V.E.C. level by students and staff representatives eventually set the rusty cogs of bureaucracy in motion and this

time we received the desired effect'.

The canteen situated in a basement still has its problems, however, extractor fans are badly needed as the ventilation poses a huge problem. As of yet there is no sign of extractor fans being bought, hopefully the college authorities will see their way clear to purchasing some.



Mayfair caters for C.O.M.A.D.

Bolton Street Film Society

Bolton Street Film Society has opened its doors to membership from students in the D.I.T. Fifteen titles will be shown this year. Membership is £4. Members are entitled to free admission to all films. Admission for non-members is £1 per show and Society Treasurer, Conor Young, promises an Oscar-packed range of films in the coming terms.

Upcoming titles include:

- 'Pretty in Pink'
- 'Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid'
- 'Repoman'
- 'Runaway Train'
- 'Down by Law'

and many more films are shown every Monday at 6.15pm in the Large Kinema, Bolton Street, College of Technology.



A scene from the recently shown 'Salvador'.

Bolton Street sets up First-Aid Room

Bolton Street College has recently set up a First Aid Room in their new college extension which will offer a service for both students and staff. The facility is being funded by college management and is staffed by the Order of Malta.

Assistant Commander, Don Byrnes will be the full-time co-ordinator operating the new facility. Don has been involved in the Order of Malta since 1950, and feels that "it's only right to have first-aid in every educational institute". He has offered to give lectures to groups of students.

Job Placement

Fourth Year Marketing Students in COMAD this year have decided to introduce a job placement programme for graduates. Working with the Student Union and Lecturers the students wish to set

up a forum for past graduates to inform students on job placement. This programme, although aimed at marketing degree students at the moment, hopes to aid other courses in future years.

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European Student Grant Delays

D.I.T. Inter Student Committee Chairman Aidan J Kerins.
"Union will not allow students to be treated in this way."



Since 1984, more than 2,000 Dublin Institute of Technology students have been receiving European Social Funding while attending certificate courses within the Institute. To enable the grants to be given out in a reasonable time, the Department of Education came to an agreement with the Local Government and Public Services Union and agreed that extra staff would have to be provided by the Department so as to assist in the increased workload. Each year since then, seven additional temporary

staff have been employed in the area of European Social Fund Grants, within the D.I.T. structure.

However, at a meeting on October 19th last between the Local Government and Public Services Union and the Department of Education the union learned that sanction by the government for the employment of additional staff was not forthcoming. On October 23rd, Chairperson of the Dublin Institute of Technology Administrative Staff Association, Peter Nolan,

circulated a memo to all union members informing them of the Government's failure to comply with their side of the agreement.

10,000 Recipients

In the interim, the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee held its monthly meeting. Here, C.D.V.E.C. Chief Executive Officer, Liam Arundel, expressed concern that despite the efforts being made by the Dublin Institute of Technology staff in the grants area it was likely

that without additional staff, there would be massive delays in the payment of European Social Fund grants to recipients. He quoted the total figure of people in the C.D.V.E.C. system receiving grants as somewhere near 10,000.

Since the public services jobs embargo came in to effect some years ago, the Dublin Institute of Technology system has been particularly badly hit. This 'embargo' only allowed one person to be employed after three had left or retired. The effects have not only been felt in the grants department, but also in the Student Services, college cleaning and security areas.

Meetings were called in each of the Dublin Institute of Technology colleges. Dermot Coyle, President of Rathmines, stressed the need for such direct action, to a well attended meeting in the College of Commerce. Students from Bolton Street, and the College of Marketing and Design, assembled in Parnell Square. Cathal Brugha Street students then joined the crowd at O'Connell Street. Kevin Street and Rathmines students were to arrive after the march had moved further down O'Connell Street.

The total crowd, numbering almost 3,000, firstly handed in a letter of protest to the Minister for Education, Mary O'Rourke, at the Department's Offices in Marlboro Street. Dublin Institute of Technology Inter Student Committee Chairman, Aidan Kerins, also President of Bolton Street, read out the text of the letter to the assembled crowd and reiterated the students demands. The march then proceeded to march to the Dublin Institute of Technology Head Office at 14 Upper Mount Street, where a letter was handed into D.I.T. Education Officer, Mr Eamon Tuffy.



Minister for Education
Mary O'Rourke. "Wants early solution to the problem."

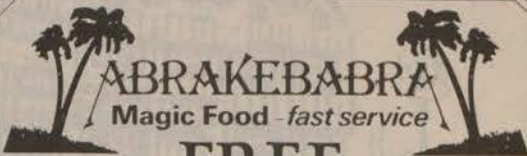
Mass Rally

The Dublin Institute of Technology Inter Student Committee was quick to react and convened an emergency meeting to discuss the best approach to take in relation to the grants delay. At this meeting, it was decided to call for a mass rally to be held outside the Department of Education offices on Thursday, 29th October. There followed on that Thursday afternoon the largest Dublin Institute of Technology student demonstration ever to take place.



Chief Executive officer,
Liam Arundel.
"Expressed great concern."





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Fianna Fail Staff

College of Marketing and Design Students Union President, Daithi O'Connor, addressed the demonstration pointing out the students anger at being told to wait for several months for payment. Looking at Fianna Fail Head Office at 13 Upper Mount Street, he asked as to whether staff there would sit contently waiting for a full academic year for payment.

The actual demonstration itself gained wide publicity in all the daily newspapers and on the R.T.E. evening news.

To keep up the pressure of the Minister's office, the Inter Student Committee decided to collect a petition for presentation to the Minister. The petition not only requested that extra staff be provided for the Dublin Institute of Technology but also that the planned 8% fee increase be reviewed and dropped by the government.

Student Hardship

Aidan Kerins, the Committee's Chairman and a member of the City of Dublin Vocational

Education Committee, met with the Minister, Mary O'Rourke, on Thursday, November 5th. At this meeting, he submitted the petition of over 3,000 names. The Minister stated the situation in relation to the financial constraints that have been placed on her Department. She did however express concern over the hardship being suffered by students and arranged that some of her civil servants, in particular Paddy McDonagh, would meet with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee officers to try and find a solution to the problem.

The meeting took place on Monday, November 9th, at the Department of Education offices in Apollo Buildings. The Department's position was that Dublin Institute of Technology staff should be redeployed within the system; not taking into account that due to cutbacks over the past few years, staffing levels have never been as low within the different departments, as they are at present.

Tuition Fee Rise



Ian Phillips, Deputy President, Bolton Street, looks at the background to the recently announced 8% fee increase revealed by the Government.

As part of the recent announcement by the Government with regard to cutbacks in higher education an 8% fee rise was announced.

Given the present rate of inflation this rise is more than double the rate. This increase will affect many of the 25,000 students in the D.I.T. pushing the average fee nearer and nearer the £1,000 a year mark. Over the past five years fees in the Dublin Institute of Technology have risen by a soaring 420% inflicting severe hardship on many students.

From its inception the Vocational Education Committee was set up with the intention of providing education at a low unit cost by cutting back on many of the frills seen in universities today. The knock on effect of this was lower fees. This meant that third level education was available at an affordable price.

Over the past five years the Government has reversed this policy and set about bringing VEC fees in line with universities despite the fact that students enjoy none of the same facilities as their university counterparts do. The Government now seems set to bring the whole process a stage further, by bringing fee levels closer and closer to the full economic cost.

Paul D'Arcy, President of Kevin Street Students Union, on an R.T.E. live line complained bitterly about the present Government's attitude to young people as reflected in the present economic cutbacks and fee rises. He went on to say that many students who in the past could earn their fees through summer employment could no longer do this, and were faced with either dropping out or huge bank loans.

The Students Union in the Dublin Institute of Technology have responded quickly to the announcement, and already a petition has been taken up and sent with a letter to the Minister for Education, Mary O'Rourke, stating student's objections. A mass demonstration was also organised in line with the late grant payments, and was held on 29th October last.



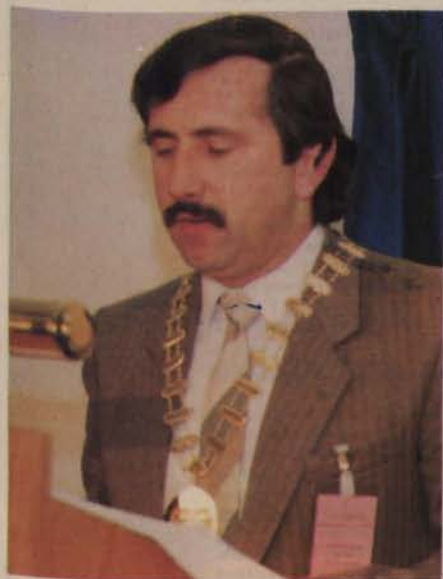
D.I.T. students at the Department of Education offices.

Continuing Negotiations

Since then, the students unions have been continually harassing and negotiating with different offices in the Government and Department itself. Liam Fitzgerald T.D., and Chairman of the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee has been particularly active in the campaign. In many cases, students have been lobbying their local T.D.'s on the issue. Ms Alva O'Dea from Bolton Street persuaded her local T.D. and a previous Education Minister, Gemma Hussey, to raise a ministerial question of Mary O'Rourke in relation to the grant delays, during last week's Dail question time.

"The support from the general student body in this campaign has been amazing", says Aidan Kerins. "But in order to be victorious, we must keep the pressure up on the government".

"I am convinced that with proper planning strategy and the continued level of student support that we have seen in recent weeks, not only will the grants come through earlier than expected i.e. next May, but they could actually arrive before Christmas", he concluded.



C.D.V.E.C. Chairman, Liam Fitzgerald.
"Situation totally unacceptable."



As it is now - Kevin Street College, 1987

KEVIN

KEVIN STREET: THE EARLY DAYS

As compiled by Jim Cooke,
DA Mac Dauid and Jim
Robinson, FORUM looks
back at Kevin Street College
from 1887 to the passing of
the Vocational Education
Act in 1930.

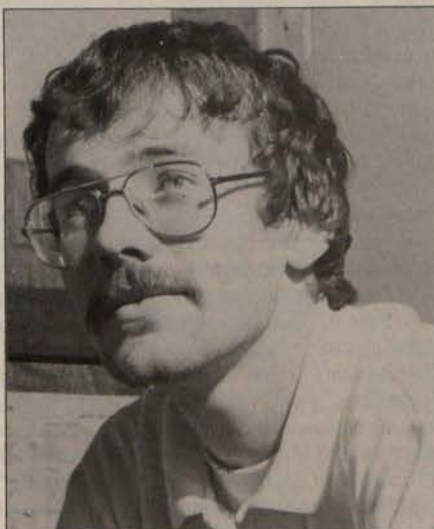
1. THE ARTIZAN'S EXHIBITION OF 1885

From 1859 onwards Science and Art subjects were taken by Irish students and were examined by the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, London, for payment by-results for the teachers. From 1867 there existed in Ireland a movement to establish a separate Irish Science and Art Department to bring about an industrial revolution similar to that enjoyed by England. On April 10th 1884, a meeting held in the Workingmen's Club in Christchurch Place which had been opened in 1881 under the patronage of the Lord Mayor, called for an Irish

Forum talks to Paul D'Arcy President, Kevin St Students' Union

Q. Could you tell us briefly about the Students Union and your job as President?

A. Well, as for the job as President, it's the most difficult job I've ever had. Not that it's without it's good points, but sometimes it seems like a good idea to give it up. But I'll never do that, I'm too stubborn I think. I don't like to give up.



Paul Darcy, President Kevin Street Students Union

Q. How do you see the job now as opposed to before your election?

A. I see it now from a totally different perspective. From the outside looking in it seems like a reasonably challenging job, but once I started the workload built up faster than I could handle. It has taken me a while to get my priorities right but even now important things sometimes get delayed.

Q. What are your priorities this year?

A. I feel that the job of the Union is divided into two areas. one being the provision of services, the second being representation. Services has been an area which has been very under-utilised by students in the past. While quite a few students come to the Students Union for help and assistance on literally hundreds of topics; I believe that many more do not know, or just do not think that the Students Union can help.

The Students Union in Kevin Street has, over the last 25 years, developed so many channels of information, advice and help, and has such resources at its disposal that it would take a magazine of this size just to list them.

My major priority is to highlight Student Union services to students.

In the area of representation I think we have done quite well this year. In addition to my sitting on College Council, I also represent the entire Institute on D.I.T. governing body. I am also the first Kevin Street President to be elected to the board of USIT, the student travel company.

Q. How do you find the College authorities?

A. Overall I have no problems at all with College authorities, at least not so far! I do

find however that their first instinctive reaction is to automatically oppose anything the Students Union proposes or does. I feel that this is a very sad situation, and an outdated and unnecessary way to look at things.

I have always felt that the 'them and us' situation helps no one. There is no earthly reason why the Students Union and the College could not have a good working relationship, because in reality, both organisations are travelling the same road. There will, of course, be differences of opinion from time to time, but if dealt with in a reasonable and responsible manner I believe that a lot could be achieved.

I would hope that this reticence to treat student union matters objectively will have changed considerably by the time I leave office. Indeed, with national attitudes among young people changing as drastically as they are at the moment, if people in positions of authority do not begin to regard the opinions and worries of young people with due regard and consideration, I believe there will be much trouble on the horizon in a very short time.

Q. What advice would you give to students in D.I.T. Colleges?

A. Well, first of all, remember why you are in College — to get a qualification. Having said that, however, I would suggest that you don't bury yourself in books for 3 or 4 years. College is a great place to broaden your outlook on things and the social and cultural organisations in College can be of great benefit.

Make an effort to meet people, lots of people, and remember everyone finds it difficult. Attend college functions and entertainments and **SUPPORT YOUR STUDENTS UNION!**

STREET COLLEGE - 100 YEARS OLD

Artizans' Exhibition to encourage industry not in the form of capital but in the form of handicrafts. According to Michael Davitt, who was to be one of the first Governors of Kevin Street Technical School, the artizans of Dublin were "asked to aid in making this a first step towards the establishment of a system of technical education in the city". The Exhibition closed on November 8th after four months and had attracted an average attendance of 10,000 weekly.

2. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 'TECHNICAL SCHOOL'

The Exhibition had initiated 'an amalgamated action among the scattered trades of Dublin' and now was the time to establish a school, following this 'new departure in the industrial movement. Since 1880 evening lectures for artizans had been established on a voluntary basis by the professors in the Royal College of Science - payment being precluded by the rules of the Science and Art Department.

Davitt together with Arnold Graves succeeded in

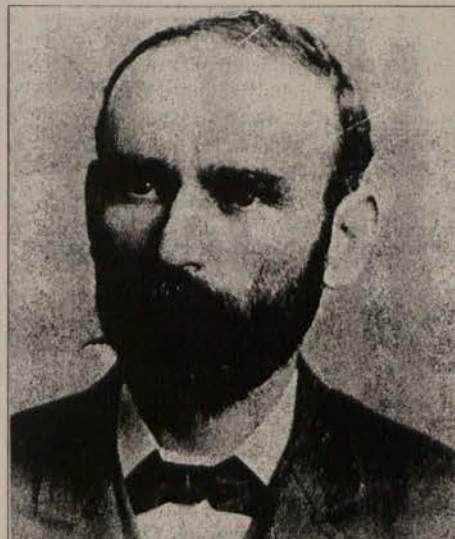
bringing trade representatives together to promote their vocational interests. It was intended to buy Fry's old factory in Lower Kevin Street from Mr. Perry. The Treasury was to be asked for £500 to £1,000, and Dublin Corporation was also to be approached.

The schools opened on October 10th 1887, the Lord Mayor chairing the inaugural meeting. 'Great trees grew from small seeds' he said, and he hoped that the institution would 'grow to very large dimensions and have a long career of usefulness'.

The college began amid worries that it would in effect be a commercial institution and compete with outside manufacturers. This did not prove to be the case.

3. FINANCING THE SCHOOLS

Under the Public Libraries Act the grant-in-aid by the Corporation could only be applied to teaching under the Science and Art Department code. This meant that the teaching of technical subjects had to be financed from subscriptions.



Michael Davitt, elected to Dublin Corporation in 1886 and one of the first Governors of the Kevin Street Schools

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By 1893 the Pembroke Technical and Ringsend Fishery School was established, the Pembroke Township raising a 1d rate under the 1889 Act for this purpose. In 1893 also Arnold Graves and others founded the Technical Education Association of Ireland, to attract government funding for technical education in Ireland comparable to the large sums applied for this purpose in England and Wales under the 1890 Beer and Spirits Duties Act - the 'whiskey money'! This campaign finally resulted in the 1899 Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, which was later consolidated in the 1930 Vocational Education Act.

4. THE SCHOOL OPENS

The School opened on October

10th 1887 with a staff of 10 teachers and 78 pupils for whom 15 classes in 12 different subjects were provided. The classes held the first year were of three types, science and art classes and technical classes. All classes were held at night. According to the Lord Mayor on opening the school, "the education of our future workmen to that standard which will render it impossible for them to be either incompetent or unskilled, except through radical personal vices or faults, is of the utmost importance to the well-being of society".

5. FUNDING THE SCHOOL

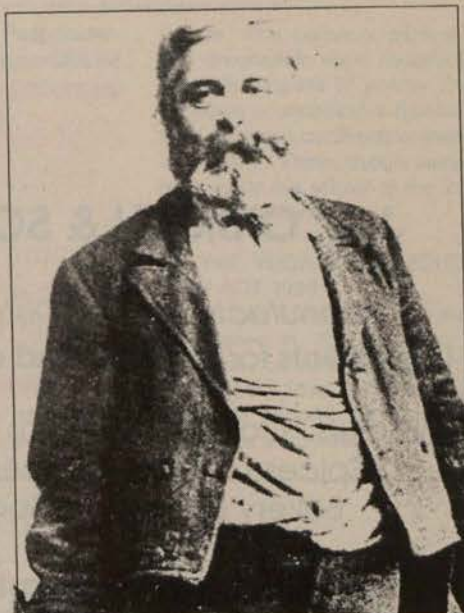
During the first few years of the Kevin Street Schools the Governors were, from lack of funds, hindered from extending their scope.

In July 1892 the Municipal Council instructed the Finances and Leases Committee to include in their estimate such an amount as the levy of one penny in the pound would produce for the purpose of Technical Instructions. By 1897 with 925 on the roll the decision was taken to build an extension to the main building. By 1902 every local authority in the country had resolved to strike a rate for technical instruction.

6. KEVIN STREET IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Over a quarter of the 64 premises in this street were devoted to the sale of intoxicating liquor, and this was no wonder, considering the number of cart-drivers that had occasion to frequent the area. Kevin Street lecturers had to keep pupils under control despite the shouting and clamour that emanated from the next-door weigh-house. They would point out the advantages of book-training to these working-class children, and ask would they like to be working down in Joe Sargents, No. 53, where boys of eight years and upwards were employed in nail-making? The tav-

erns accommodated the casual drinker, and since there were no fixed drinking hours, they could be frequented at any time, night or



Michael Cusack, founder of the GAA. He taught Irish in Kevin Street Technical School from 1894 to January 1897.

day. Rowdy revellers had to keep an eye-out for the mounted police who were stationed in the barracks

where the gardai now hold power. The Dean of St. Patrick's looked out on all these comings and goings from his spacious home in the shadow of the Barracks. By the middle of the century, Lr. Kevin Street had degenerated into a tenement area. The Weigh House was now in the charge of Dublin Corporation, while the Charter School had given way to a Workman's Hall and Coffee House. These Coffee Houses were being promoted by the

"The education of our future workmen to that standard which will render it impossible for them to be either incompetent or unskilled, except through radical personal vices or faults, is of the utmost importance to the well-being of society.."

Temperance movement, who hoped that cabbies and carters might make more use of them than they did of the taverns.



Rowdy Revellers in Kevin Street had to keep an eye out for the mounted police stationed in the barracks nearby.

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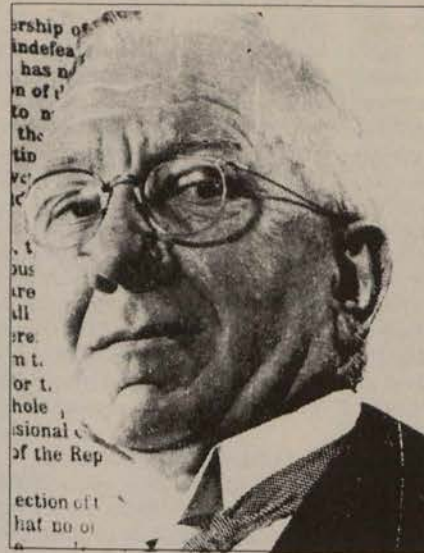
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Sean T. O Ceallaigh (1882-1966)
 Vice Chairman, Technical Instruction Committee,
 1915; Chairman 1916
 Founder Member of Sinn Fein (1905)
 He was Staff Officer to Padraig Pearse in the
 G.P.O. in 1916 and subsequently interned in
 England. In 1926 he became Minister for Local
 Government and Public Health in the 1932
 Government. In 1941 he became Minister for
 Finance and held that position until he became
 second President of Ireland 1945.

Many Irish visitors interested in Art drew public attention to the excellence of the Exhibition, urging the advantage of exhibiting to Irish teachers and students in Dublin a selection of the works. In January an Exhibition was opened in Kevin Street. This Exhibition was an unqualified success.

According to the Annual report of 1910, "All the Science and Art classes were well attended, the Courses being graded from the standard suitable for trade apprentices to that required for University degrees in Arts and Engineering. Some of our Technological or Trade Classes are but poorly attended, might be remedied if employers and Trades' Societies took a keener interest in the work of our Schools".

A year later the college decided to extend the Educational Programme and to advertise for teachers of Aeroplane Construction, Land Surveying, Pharmacy, Millinery, and for additional Teachers and Assistant Teachers in Physics, Chemistry

7. THE PUBLIC LIBRARY KEVIN STREET

Kevin Street Library, established in 1905 was lucky in its first librarian, Johnny Whelan, who became well known in the Dublin of his period for

his literary interests. Because there was a technical school adjoining the Library he saw to it that the book-stock was always adequate for the needs of the students. Soon the library in Kevin Street became widely known not only to students, but also to experimental engineers, craftsmen, radio amateurs, and those studying for the City and Guilds Examinations. In those times the library was regarded as the poor mans university, whose gates were always open.

"Permission to hold wireless telegraphy classes was granted on condition that every student produce personal particulars and credentials to local police authorities to "prevent persons of enemy antecedents or undesirable character" from gaining a certificate or indeed instruction.."

and other subjects. Special Classes in Telegraph Construction and Technical Electricity for Post Office Engineers were inaugurated at the instance of the Postmaster-General and similarly, at the instance of the Architectural Association of Ireland. Little development of classes took place during the war years.

10. THE WIRELESS-CLASSES 1916
 In September 1916 the students attending the theoretical classes in Wireless Telegraphy

8. DEVELOPMENTS 1909 - 1919
 The Third International Drawing Congress was held in London in the summer of 1908, and examples were exhibited showing the various methods pursued in the Art Schools of different countries.

at the Kevin Street Technical Schools petitioned that wireless apparatus should be installed so as to provide experience and training. However the Secretary of the General Post Office, writing for the Postmaster-General (London) re-

fused to sanction use of wireless apparatus for instruction purposes and wrote to the teacher, Mr. Lyons, saying that the question of Kevin Street holding such classes was under consideration by the naval and military authorities and pending a decision permission to conduct the classes was refused. Permission was granted on condition that no aerial, external or internal, be erected; that no attempt be made to send signals to, or receive signals from, any other school or station, that the apparatus be subject to the supervision of the Post Office, that every student of wire-

less telegraphy be required to produce personal particulars and

the request of the Postmaster-General, and that the apparatus be

A year later (1911) the college decided to extend the Educational Programme and to advertise for teachers of Aeroplane Construction, Land Surveying, Pharmacy, Millinery, and for additional Teachers in Physics, Chemistry and other subjects.

credentials, and that any student shall be excluded for instruction at

unsealed by an officer of the post office and sealed at the end of each

lecture. The personal particulars and credentials were required to "prevent persons of enemy antecedents or undesirable character" from gaining a certificate or indeed instruction. These details were to be sent by the school to the local police authorities.

10. THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACT 1930

In the new Free State of Ireland established in 1922 technical instruction continued under the terms of the 1899 Act. Two years later the Minister for Education appointed a Commission to enquire

Some Famous Graduates of Kevin Street

Kevin Street College has produced its share of household names over the years. Eurovision winner Johnny Logan spent a couple of years here, as did John Sheehan of the Dubliners and the famous jazz guitarist Louis Stewart. R.T.E.'s Ian McGarry also passed through along with politicians Prionsias de Rossa and Labour's Brenda Halligan.

Capitalising on last year's win, singer Johnny Logan is currently jetting all around the world, pausing only briefly for a recent appearance on R.T.E.'s "Saturday Live". The Dubliners are still celebrating twenty five years in the business, and are playing in Amsterdam at the moment, while Louis Stewart recovers from a Trip to Belfast and prepares for the annual jazz orgy in Cork. We were lucky to catch up with Ian McGarry, as he's already planning his two months skiing in the French Alps this winter. Politicians, of course, are always on hand with a sentence or two.



Prionsias De Rossa, T.D.

Workers Party T.D. Prionsias de Rossa went to Kevin Street "somewhere around the middle 50s" where he did the Group Cert and Radio Officer's course. "It was an old building and the facilities weren't great. I wouldn't imagine it's the same now", he says.

Coming from a primary school where discipline was rigid, the freedom of Kevin Street was "a whole new world" for de Rossa. However he remembers the social life as having been "non-existent" and "lamented the dearth of political activity. "There was some sort of Student's Union but it was weak - in fact I recollect that the teacher selected the Union member. It wasn't very democratic anyhow".

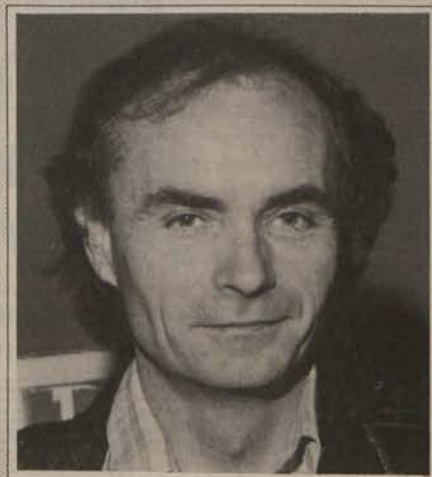
Ian McGarry also did the Group Cert in Kevin Street, and went on to study electrical engineering there at the beginning of the 60s. He has "fond memories" of his time there and the friends he made, although as he was working in the E.S.B. and playing in various showbands at the same time, he didn't have too much opportunity to become involved in college activities. "At that stage I had no idea I'd end up in R.T.E. although people suggested that I become a sound engineer because of my involvement in music".

Instead he joined R.T.E. as a cameraman, after a stint playing tympany and percussion in the R.T.E. symphony orchestra, and drums in the light orchestra. Now an executive producer, at present he is involved with the new series of 'Encore' and Dave Fanning's 'Visual Eyes'.

Brendan Halligan, former T.D. and M.E.P., was a student "at the real beginning of third level education at Kevin Street College". Himself and Principal Frank Brennan were in the first ever senior science class, which was intended to prepare them for the B.S.C. (London) exams. Kevin Street was quite a change after the years he spent at CBS in James Street. The main novelty was the presence of females, although the class was predominantly male. "The girls had a great time - they adored it".

He remembers bringing out a magazine "The Alchemist", which featured a number of articles and cartoons by Frank Brennan. His interest in politics was stirred by his participation in the debating society, and he can remember being

involved in drawing up the constitution for the Student's Union in the early 50s. His spare time was devoted to playing rugby in the early 50s. His spare time was devoted to playing rugby against other DIT colleges. "I still have some of the scars" he laughs.



Ian McGarry



Brendan Halligan

into and advise upon the system of Technical Education in relation to the requirements of trade and industry.

The main changes in technical education proper as defined by the 1930 Education Act were the increase in scope of work that could be done under its broader definition and the establishment of wholtime day courses for young people between the ages of 14 to 16. To implement the Act on a national scale Vocational Committees were established in each County Borough, in each of the scheduled Urban Districts, and in each of the Counties. They had the powers to raise loans and acquire properties. These Committees - the VECs - still exist today.

11. CHANGING TITLES

Changing trends at Kevin Street over the years are reflected in the

Science & Arts Schools, Kevin Street". Then came the "City of Dublin Municipal Technical

"The main changes in technical education proper as defined by the 1930 Education Act were the increase in scope of work that could be done under its broader definition and the establishment of wholtime day courses for young people between the ages of 14 to 16.."

various titles used. Thus, up to the early years of the century it was the "City of Dublin Technical School &

Schools"; followed in the late 1930s by the "Technical Institute, Kevin Street", (City of Dublin Technical

Schools). The early 1940s saw the "Schools of Science and Technology, Technical Institute, Kevin Street", and in the mid 1940s emerged the "Institute of Science and Technology, Kevin Street."

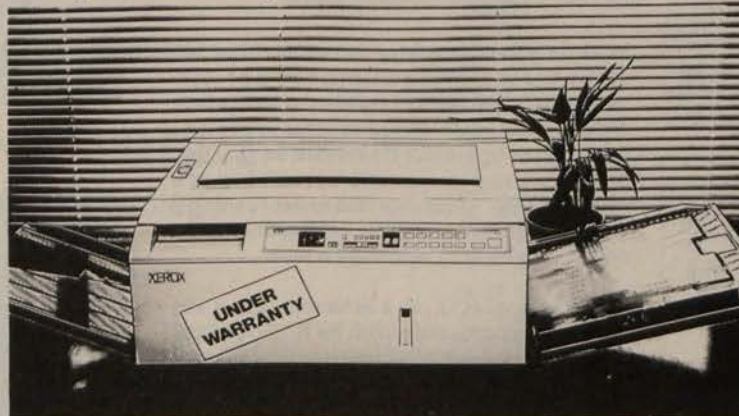
12. CHANGING COURSES

From the inception of the 1930 Act until the end of the decade development of day courses occurred slowly. A course for 'Kinema' Operators started in 1931 as did a course in Electrical Engineering. At the request of the ESB a course for Electrical Apprentices was started in 1938. A course for Bakery Apprentices was started in the same year, with day courses for Apprentice Bootmakers and Tailors having started the previous session.

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Part-time day classes for girls who were temporarily unemployed were also conducted in Kevin Street during this period. By the end of the 1937/38 session the total enrolment for day courses had reached 502 and the total for evening classes 1,546. Pressure for accommodation led to the dropping of the Tailoring, Hairdressing and Girls' classes, which were transferred elsewhere. By 1941 there was more pressure for space and the Domestic Science classes were also dropped.

13. THE WAR YEARS

With the outbreak of WW2 the demand for courses, both existing and new, was greatly increased. One other change was the decline and eventual cessation of courses in Arts and Arts Crafts. The importance of mathematics and particularly of physics for all courses became obvious and the need for the inclusion of liberal studies not much less so. During the war years many scientists were freely available for part-time teaching during the day, and many devoted themselves solely to this task. However, after the war, very few of those well qualified professionals were content to remain in teaching and their replacement was slow as they had set standards for teaching and technical expertise which had come to be regarded as the norm. At the end of the war many day and evening courses were being run to cater for local and national postwar needs. Many part time staff were established engineers and scientists of their day and created a strong link between industry, state organizations and the College.

14. THE NEW BUILDING PROGRAMME 1955

In 1953 the authorities consented in principle that a major building programme should be undertaken. However it was not until August 1955 that the situation was transformed with the acquisition of the factory and site of Messrs Perry & Co. Camden Row. Up to 1968 all courses in the College worked to external examinations, mainly City and Guilds, and London University. After 1968 the College began to issue its own certificates. By 1970 the College internal structures had radically changed. The CDVEC concluded that the best solution for the development of its third level sector was in transferring it to a new campus which was available in Glasnevin, and thus the "Ballymun Project" was born. The NIHE, however, eventually were to occupy that site and Kevin Street remains today on the street where it was founded in October 1887.

FORUM TALKS TO FRANK BRENNAN OF KEVIN STREET.

When did the College first come into operation?

Well, Kevin Street formally opened in 1887 and by 1893 they had opened another school for fisheries in Ringsend. Then they extended the premises here in 1901 and there were all kinds of trades and semi skilled operations being taught in the place. Alongside that there were connections with other academic activities. We were involved in the teaching of physics, chemistry, mathematics and so on from way back. Then into the 20th century some of the activities had to be transferred to what was then Rutland Square, and which later became Parnell Square. Then in 1911 a major centre was established in Bolton Street and construction work and mechanical engineering went on over there. There was also a link with the College of Music and the College of Commerce in Rathmines.

And how was it run in those days?

They started off with a provisional committee which eventually became a Board of Governors. There were close links with other academic institutions - there were three professors of the Royal College of Science on the board. The Vice Rector of the Catholic University was on the board. Professor FitzGerald of Trinity College, who was quite a dynamic character intellectually and every other way, was involved as well.

There was also a great deal of help from the Dublin Trades Council and there were people such as Parnell and Michael Davitt who had been behind the Artisans Exhibition of 1885 involved as well - in fact Michael Davitt was one of the first Governors of the College. Sean T O'Kelly, who was later to become President, was Vice Chairman.

Ely Carol was Secretary and Director of the Dublin Technical Schools Committee from the beginning of the century and he continued on to become the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee up to about 1943 when Martin Gleeson took over.

But what I find fascinating about the whole thing was the bringing together of the trade groups and getting them to work side by side with the Lord Mayor and the Corporation with the backing of private sponsors to

begin with.

So the College was funded by business initially?

That's how it was funded at the start about seven or eight Earls along with many companies

which have either just recently gone out of business or are indeed still with us - Arnotts, Dollard, Hibernian Bank, Easons, Jameson, Power, Guinness - in fact, we seem to owe a great deal to the whiskey people.

How long have you been involved with Kevin Street yourself?

Well I started my connection in 1952 as a Day Junior - Kevin Street used to do the Day Junior Certificate in one year, which was half the time other places would do it in, and we would spend the second year trying to get jobs. But I took a fellowship into a new course which was started at the time which was common to both the science and engineering streams.

Kevin Street was possibly the third level College where the role of light current engineering was first acknowledged in this country as something deserving a course in its own right. Hugh De Lacey, who was my predecessor as Principal, started teaching here in the late thirties and was in fact one of my teachers on that course.

What would the fee levels have been like when you started?

Oh they would have been very small. I got a scholarship when I started and it was for, I think, £20.

Who would have been Principal at the time?

Martin Cranby was Principal at the time - he took over from Edward Martin who had been appointed in 1932 as the first post VEC Act Principal. Martin was there until he died in 1952 when Cranby took over until 1962 when he was appointed Director General of the IIRS. Hugh De Lacey then took over until 1982 when I took over.



What would you see as the main changes in Kevin Street since it started? Well initially the College was founded here in the Liberties at a time when a lot of the trades were being practiced in the area but at the start they had a broader vision than simply the trades. Now we have shed the junior work, we have shed the trades, we have still a large department of electrical installation and we have a section for training bakers' apprentices and production managers in the bakery field. They would be our two remaining links with the trades. Some of the trades have gone and some have changed very much.

One of the original trades associated with Kevin Street was printing, which was then transferred in 1904 to premises in Chatham Row and then later on to Bolton Street. That was a major change at the time.

But the drift was towards the sciences on the one hand and the many branches of light current engineering on the other. Also there has been a particular trend in the science area towards the medical field - our department of biological science makes a fair contribution to that.

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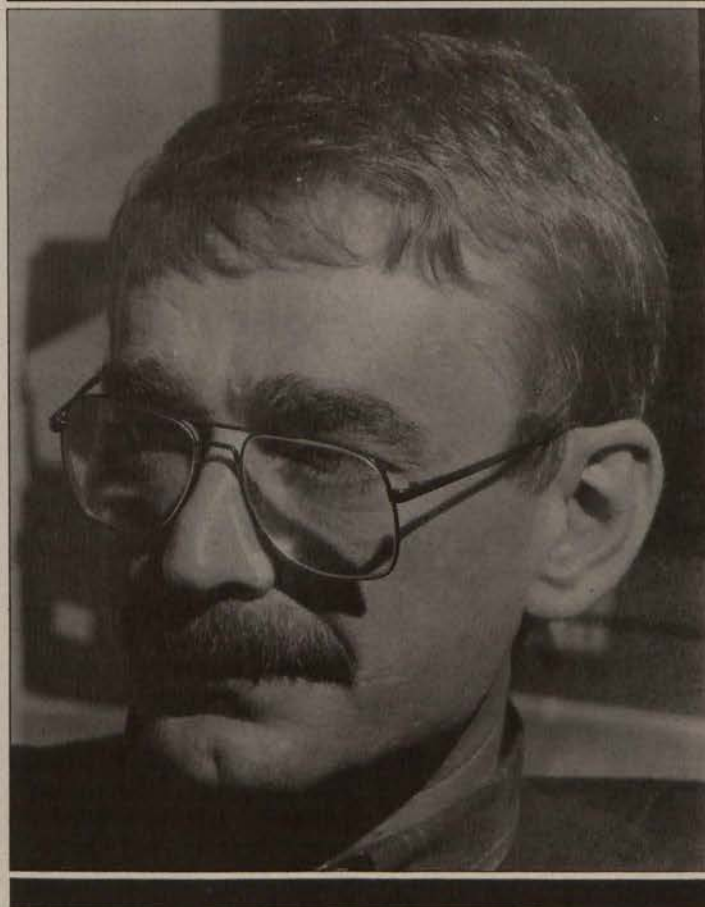
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From Wembley Stadium to DIT Discos

FORUM talks to Paul Prenter, former manager of Queen and now Entertainments Officer for the DIT Students Unions



DITSU Entertainments Officer Paul Prenter

From negotiating multi million dollar contracts for one of the rock world's biggest bands to sorting out a numbered ticket system for a DIT concert in Blooms Hotel may not be everybody's idea of a giant step forward career wise, but for Paul Prenter it is a logical, challenging and enjoyable move. He has turned down requests to return to his old post, and has instead chosen to work for nine months as Entertainments Officer with the DIT Students Unions. And despite his protestations after one day in office of temporary insanity being a possible cause of taking on the role, it is clear that the former Queen manager is looking forward to the challenge of coordinating entertainments and raising the profile generally of student life in the five DIT Colleges.

Paul Prenter was born in Belfast in 1951 and stayed there till 1972 when he realised after two years in St Joseph's College that he had no desire to be a teacher (ostensibly because he "hated other people's children"). He also had no desire to stay in Belfast and when he was offered a job with EMI London as assistant promotions manager he jumped at the opportunity. He then moved to the Tamla Motown label and spent three years as General Manager there until the advent of local radio in Britain brought him back to Belfast as promotions manager and broadcaster with Downtown Radio. But ten months later he had had enough of that.

"It was the year of the peace marches and the managers of the station announced that they did

not want to see any of the staff of Downtown Radio involved in the peace marches - several people including Wendy Austin, Gary Gillespie and myself decided that we had had enough so we left. I knew the guy who was managing Queen

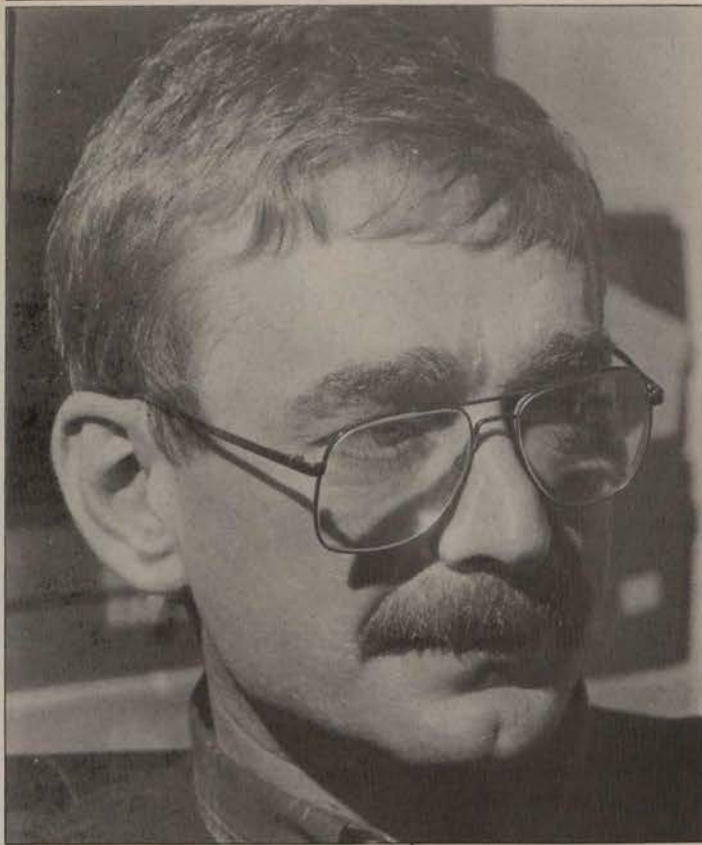
"It was fun to begin with, but it became a real drag. It was like looking after four children, four spoiled brats. I was pleased to be away from them and if I never saw them again it would be too soon.."

at the time - a guy called John Reid - and he hated Queen at the time but they were making money. But anyway he told me that yes, you can come over and look after these four people if you wish. I went over and three months later Queen

Productions was formed after a split with the John Reid organisation and I then went with Queen and for my sins stayed there looking after their management for nine and a half years".

His time with Queen was not all plain sailing, to put it mildly. Ten years is more than four times the time anybody else has ever lasted in a management capacity with the group. "The first three or four years were very good, but when they started to make money, the last six were unadulterated misery" says Paul. "They are four very difficult, demanding, single minded, unreasonable and ungrateful individuals. Their prime motive at any time is another hit single, and nothing is allowed to get in the way. It was fun to begin with, but it became a real drag. It was like looking after four children, four spoiled brats. I was pleased to be away from them and if I never saw them again it would be too soon".

So what was it that went wrong? "It started off great, I was seeing the world and it was rock 'n' roll, but you can only enjoy the same stage show so many times, and then you sit in a studio and listen to someone singing "no, no, no" into the microphone a hundred and ninety three thousand times when we were recording Bohemian Rhapsody.. but my life was also altering. I was ten years older. I wanted to settle down more. The band had different attitudes. They had never had a real job, they had come straight from University to becoming stars, and they didn't have the same concept of the real world as I had. They were single minded in the pursuit of success, and nothing was allowed to get in the way.



Having said that, they are no different from anybody else who wants to be a star, but it just didn't suit my requirements any longer".

If it was all that bad, why did he stay on? "It was well paid. It was an exciting period. Every time I wanted to leave, something exciting would come up - getting the television advertising together for Queen's Greatest Hits, then there was Queen's Greatest Hits and Queen's Greatest Flicks, then there was Freddie's solo album which involved working with another record company. Also there was the ever present 'what do I do now, I'm 32 or whatever and where do I go from here' and traditionally in the record industry you're not expected to want to get down to the roots again, but I did. Realistically though, I had to wait till I had my mortgage paid off and so on till I could do that".

Was he ever worried about selling what he knew to be a false image to the public? "No. That didn't bother me in the slightest at all. Everybody who sells any kind of product sells a false image. The crappiest magazine will go out of its way to have a good front cover so that people will buy it. The shittiest album - even by a well known artist with a good track record - will not have the worst track on it released as a single. Everything that's sold has a veneer. I was selling an illusion but the fact was that Queen's records were good, the singles were good, the albums were good, and they were good on stage.

"What would bother me would be when I would organise an interview for Freddie and he wouldn't show up. In one case I had to lie and tell Simon Bates that Freddie was ill when he didn't

didn't bother me at all. Nobody knew that James Dean was gay until he died. Rock Hudson was the same. Nobody openly publicises drug addictions or homosexuality and to a large extent it shouldn't be publicised because it is their private life. But Queen were performing well, the

"What would bother me would be when I would organise an interview for Freddie and he wouldn't show up. In one case I had to lie and tell Simon Bates that Freddie was ill.."

fans were getting their money's worth ... although I must admit they did badly in Slane - I mean, three of them arrived in the country 45 minutes before they were due on stage and that's no way to prepare for a festival for eighty thousand people who have been soaked in the rain all day".

Managing Queen was clearly a very full time job. It was, says Paul, a twenty four hour a day operation. As well as taking care of the management he would have to take care of

turn up four times in a row for a radio interview that had been promoted on air. Simon then explained in his Daily Star column that Freddie was sick and the whole thing got out of hand. Now that sort of thing would bother me because I was in a sort of balancing position between the band and the record companies and the BBC ..

"But no, hiding their personal lives from the public to the extent that I tried to

personal matters and his private life became non-existent. When he decided to go on holiday someone would say "hey, that's a good idea, why don't we all go" and that was not Paul's idea of a holiday. Freddie Mercury needed people more than the others. He can't drive, for example, and needed somebody to drive him around when he was on tour. The non stop court jester type lifestyle eventually got to Paul, as did the continual drink and drugs merry go round. After the inevitable experimental stage he decided that throwing up was not his idea of a good night's fun. And he began to sit back and observe.

His was essentially an overseeing managerial role. The nitty gritty details of contracts would be dealt with by a high whizz legal firm after he and the four band members would sort out the main points they wanted covered. Paul was responsible for all of the promotion for the albums, getting the album from the studio to the cutting stage, to the artwork stage, to the marketing stage, to the pressing stage. He would take care of getting the band from A to B on a tour, organising interviews, hiring wardrobe, personnel, bodyguards. He had top class back up personnel. Gerry Stickles, who organised Woodstock, was responsible for tour management. The best legal brains were provided by EMI. Had it not been for the pressure of the personal counselling type management of the band members themselves, he reckons he would still be there.

It was also the era of 'designer drugs'. "They seemed to appear from everywhere, and they were fairly well accepted - you know, you either did or you didn't. But nobody was becoming a drug addict out of it, and no one does any more in the music business. You don't get people O.D.ing now in the music business, like you did in the sixties. You don't have your Janis Joplin's any more. Now not everyone did drugs, and not everyone who did did it to the same extent, but that I found was the more you tried to fight it, the more you tried to help people, the worse it became.

"I didn't come through the era unscathed myself. I at one stage had a major drink problem which I got over by simply cutting out drink completely for a period two years. I wasn't an alcoholic but I had an alcohol dependency problem, which apparently is worse than alcoholism because it creeps up on a person and you can drink a lot more without realising it than you can if you are an alcoholic. You just take a drink if anyone else is taking one and keep at it. Alcohol Dependency is very prevalent in the music industry today. People always assume that rock stars are continuously smoking joints, taking cocaine and so

on - and some of them are - but to be very honest, if Queen were doing that every day they just couldn't go on stage and perform at the level they perform at. But I would say that alcohol is the most widely abused drug in the world today."

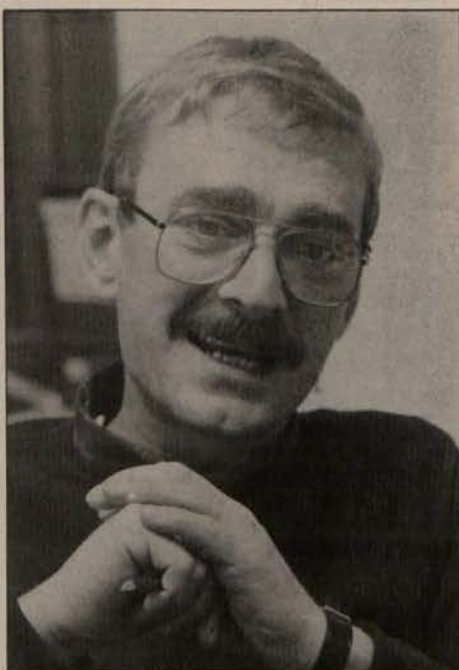
Who are his top three bands at the moment? (long pause) "I like Talking Heads. I used to like Abba. I really did like Abba a lot, I was very distressed when they broke up. Going way way back to when I was a kid, I was mad about Dusty Springfield. I had cuttings and clippings and everything and I was a member of her fan club. I would have walked miles to see her. I was mad keen on the Stones. Of the bands around at the moment I like Wet Wet Wet. There are a couple of groups I absolutely loathe at the moment. I loathe Swing Out Sister with a passion. I could put my foot through the television every time they come on. And Curiosity Killed the Cat I absolutely loathe."

"Irish groups - I like U2. I'm very fond of their music and I've seen them perform a couple of times. After the Bee Gees, they're the best live group I've ever seen in my life. That's, incidentally, after seeing the Bee Gees in 1968 and it was mind boggling, I'd never seen anything like it, and I'd seen the Beatles and the Stones at the time."

"I obviously liked the whole Camp Rock era - New York Dolls, Gary Glitter, Slade, Sweet - you know, the era when the objective of every band was to have a lead singer that looked like Joan Crawford did in the 1950s and wear nail varnish and so on. It was the time that unisex hair salons were catching on and it was like unisex rock and like let's all wear frocks and so on."

"Then you had Punk which was another exciting period, although their revoltingness was in fact well practiced and not at all spontaneous. It always amazed me how the Sex Pistols could get sick on cue and bleed on cue and so on, but they were able to do it anyway and they were very exciting. They got where they got by hype, by having their first record banned, by being dropped by their record company and by swearing on national television. But they were good. So were the Jam. So were the Rats. I never actually saw the Rats perform but I thought they were going to be very big at one stage. Then they had their internal fighting and Gerry Cott left and Bob Geldof became a spokesperson for youth and I don't quite know what went wrong for them."

"Then you had the New Romantics and now you're back to spectacle again. I like a bit of spectacle on stage. I like firebombs and I like



"Most people in the street have never heard of Queen. Mr and Mrs Tallaght have never heard of Queen. And when they did, it was largely as a result of hype.."

lasers and I like flashing lights and I like the music blaring. I like to be deafened after a gig. I think if you come out of a gig and you can talk properly and you're able to hear, then the gig's a failure. I remember one time in Queen where everybody connected with the group thought they were going deaf, but all it was was that we had just played 69 gigs in 73 days and we were still speaking to each other at the volume that we would have to speak at while we were on stage."

There are no rock legends at the moment,

says Paul Prenter. "Frank Sinatra is trying to have his life story filmed before he dies so he can cast it himself, but you can't hype legend status. There are no live rock legends. Elton John isn't a legend. Bruce Springsteen isn't a legend. The likes of Marilyn Munroe became a legend by her death and its circumstances. Most people in the street have never heard of Queen. Mr and Mrs Tallaght have not heard of Queen. And when they did, it was largely as a result of hype. Even the Bohemian Rhapsody video, which was perceived as a breakthrough in the use of video techniques, was the product of hype. It was the first nine minute long video, it was number one in the British charts for nine weeks, it cost only £5,000 to make, it was the first number one not performed live on top of the pops, but it was no breakthrough in terms of video. All of the techniques had been used before, and up to two years before. What it was was a breakthrough in terms of video being used as a promotional tool."

While working in Downtown, how far did Paul think he would go in the Rock business? "Oh I never thought about it like that at all. Even prior to that I had been working in Motown and I had been working with people like Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder and I had begun to realise very quickly that the facade that people see, the idea that people have of the artiste, is not what the artiste is really like at all. Apart from Stevie Wonder, who is the only one that I can say that what people think about him, he is. He is a genuinely nice guy. His only slight problem is that he's a randy sod and he can't leave any woman alone and he has a sort of ninth sense about him that says 'hey, there's a woman within forty miles, let's go'. But seriously, he's very genuine."

Diana Ross, now, is different. Firstly, she looks in real life nothing like she does on her sleeves - you know, thank God for airbrushing, and secondly she is not as easy to get on with as her public image would suggest. Then there are others whose public image was reach out and touch my hand and in reality it would be reach out and touch my hand and if you have a gold bracelet on I'll hack it off. So I quickly realised that the artistes were not what they seem. One other guy who is an exception, and this has got to be said, is Cliff Richard. I mean, he is a genuinely nice guy and is everything he seems, and the only obnoxious thing about him is that he looks twenty years younger every time you see him."

Did he ever want to be in the band itself? "Never" says Paul. "Everyone assumes that anybody who works backstage or works in the

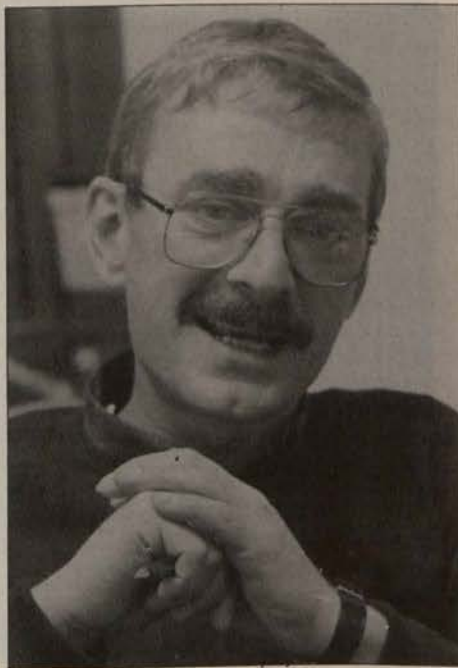
background has an innate desire to become a star. I had tried a bit of acting when I had been back in Belfast and I realised how difficult it was and I had done a bit of broadcasting and I realised how difficult that was, although I enjoyed broadcasting very much and it's something that I would love to get back into if the opportunity ever arose. But I can't sing so that never came into it, and I never had visions of putting on an Edwardian frock, black eye make up and black nail varnish and flinging myself around a stage for two hours like a demented fairy. I never had any visions of that whatsoever".

He does, however like the Rocky Horror Show, which he thinks was a great influence on the Camp rock era. "I think it was one the best movies ever made. I know Tim Currie very well and he is a true star. He can really do anything. He is one of the few English people that I've met that can take a northern Irish accent off to perfection. Tim is a true star. fabulous. Great in Blue Money, great in everything that he does.

What would he say to the argument that the Rock Music Industry is basically about selling sex? "I would disagree with that entirely. You're selling excitement. You're selling an overall package that has got to encompass good music of a high standard. You simply have to look at Queen's Greatest Hits. There are eighteen tracks on that, all of which have been in the top twenty. Queen have had more singles in the top twenty than the Beatles ever had. But the music simply has to be good. Queen have had their flops. U2 have had their flops. Every big band will have their flops. If the music is not good, the single won't sell. Records are too expensive and the punters aren't idiots.

What would Paul say are the most important qualities to make it in the entertainment business? "Talent and singlemindedness. You have to be hungry for success. You really have to crave it. Anyone who has talent and combines it with singlemindedness will make it, in any field - singing, dancing, writing, acting. But you have to have the talent. They are very few instances I can think of of any person who has made it in any form of entertainment who is totally talentless, though if you give me half a second I'm sure I'll think of one. The Clash. There is one example who are totally talentless. I mean, I have seen them four times and as far as I was concerned they were all playing different songs. They are in my opinion completely without any talent whatsoever. But that's only my opinion. Somebody must like them.

"You also need luck, timing, being in the right



"But I never had visions of putting on an Edwardian frock, black eye make up and black nail varnish and flinging myself around a stage for two hours like a demented fairy.."

place at the right time. And you also need the acumen and astuteness to change image at the right time. Like when it was time for Freddie to get out of frocks, he got out of them. Whereas what happened to Culture Club to an extent was that when it was time for Boy George to change that silly little girl image, they took a little bit too long about doing it and the group took a bit of a nosedive for a while. Look at the Beatles. They changed enormously from the early stuff to Sergeant Pepper and that worked perfectly".

So what advice would he give to an aspiring young group who want to make it big? Is it worth it? "It is" he says. "If you really want it. It's not a nice business, and you probably won't end up a nice person, though you might if you're very very very fortunate. But if you really want to make it you'll already know that you not only want to make it, but you have to make it. You'll have the hunger. You'll have that worm gnawing away inside you and you'll know that you have to make it - that's what you're there for, it's what you were put on this earth for. You'll know it if it's there.

"Then you need to get a manager, a good manager who won't rip you off. You need a record company who will be prepared to back you. And you need persistence and determination - there are very very few overnight successes. Queen came directly from University but they had been gigging for four years while they were at University. The Sex Pistols were not an overnight success. U2 were certainly no overnight success. But if you have the talent and the perseverance and the singlemindedness then you will make it. Eventually".

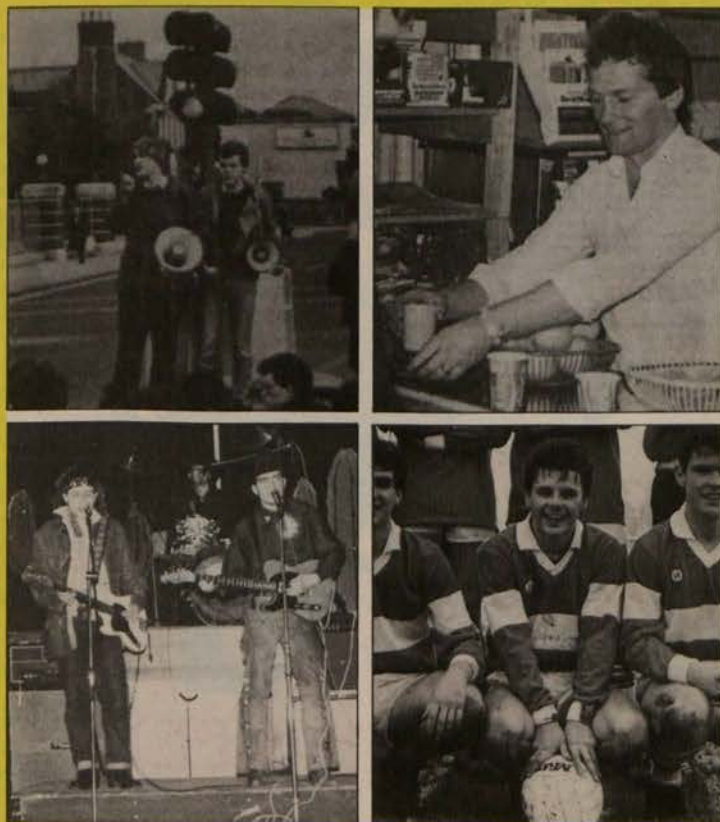
After he finished with Queen he took a year off to see the world - including a short break when he went to Munich for a week to attend Freddie Mercury's birthday party and stayed for three months - turned down requests to go back to managing the group, and applied for the post of Entertainments Officer with the DIT Students Unions. Why?

"It's so wide ranging" he says. "I have a nine month contract, which suits me very well. I'll know by Christmas whether I can increase the profile of the DIT Students Unions and the revenue they can achieve to benefit the students of the Institute. It's exciting because there are no parameters set. As far as I can see the whole scene has been very hit and miss up to now but I hope we can standardise things with a proper numbered ticketing system, proper negotiations with bands - there was a band hired to play in a number of colleges here recently and they played three nights for the same amount of time with three different fees and three different sound rental charges to the Students Unions! With five Unions there has to be a standardised system of ticketing, accounting, posters and so on if things are to work.

"Okay, so its a different scale from trying to get EMI to agree to spend a million on TV advertising instead of half a million, but just from the day and a half that I've been involved I can see it's going to be as demanding. There's so many threads to tie together - whereas I was dealing with four

WIN £50 IN CASH PLUS THE TOP 25 ALBUMS

DESIGN A LOGO FOR THE DIT STUDENTS UNIONS



As the first step in the programme to define and increase the public profile of the DIT Students Unions, FORUM magazine offers you a chance to win £50 in cash plus the current top 25 albums.

All you have to do is design a logo that will capture in visual format the essence and / or activities of the DIT Students Unions - these activities include both

political / campaigning work and services, as well as sports and entertainments.

The winning entry is likely to include the letters DITSU and will capture the concept of cooperation and integration between the DIT Students Unions. It must be clear and simple enough to reproduce on badges, T shirts, sweatshirts, posters, letterheadings, documents, tickets and

other promotional items. It must be printable in 2 colours.

Entries will be judged by DITSU Entertainments Officer Paul Prenter, DITSU Admin Officer Eamon Connor, DITISC Chairperson Aidan Kerins and FORUM Editor Michael Nugent. The decision of the judges will be final and results will be announced in next month's FORUM.

Entries to Paul Prenter, DIT SU Entertainments Officer
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On or before Friday October 30 1987

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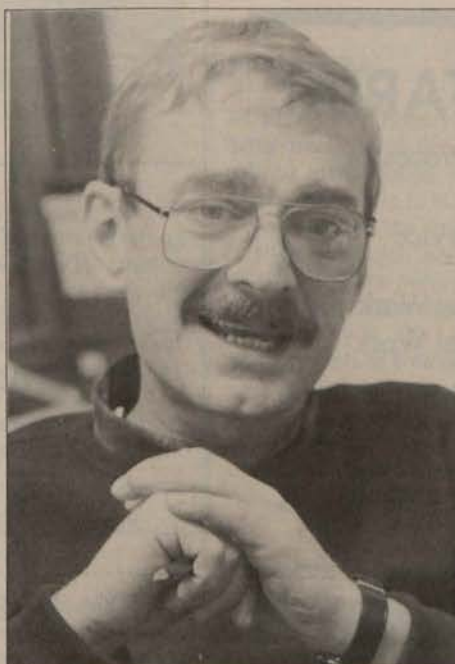
ANGLESEA STREET DUBLIN 2

children beforehand I'm now dealing with five Unions who have come together under the umbrella of DIT SU, and I'm dealing with 24,000 students, all of different age groups who will all want varying and diverse entertainments. I mean, I may not be into going into a headbanging disco but there are a lot of people who are and they should be catered for. There are mature students here who are into 70's type music and they have to be catered for. All in all it's a very challenging prospect and will be just as difficult as my previous post, if not more so".

So what will be his immediate priority? "Well, as far as I can see, the first step in unifying the Unions entertainment wise is to get the students from the colleges realising that they are in fact students of the DIT and not just Kevin Street or COMAD or whatever. That obviously is the case politically as well, because as far as I can see none of the students seem to realise the power that 24,000 people actually have if they coordinate what they are doing to achieve whatever aims they may have. But going back to entertainments, I would see a unified rag week as vital. It seems like lunacy to me that there should be such a waste of resources as to even consider having five separate small rag weeks. You can only milk a cow so many times a day, and with UCD and TCD having established rag weeks you then have the option of creating a third rag week to take them on or else bringing the number up to seven by holding individual rag weeks. And that's not even counting the NIHE and God knows how many others.

"We also have to raise our profile by a rag magazine to raise money for which ever charity we choose to raise money for - Queens University in Belfast have a magazine called PTQ - that's Pro Tanta Quid, which is latin for something or other - and that is bought by virtually everybody in Belfast. It's in virtually every house in the city and everyone knows that the Union exists and that the rag week exists and that it's raising money and who it's raising money for. We have to reach a stage here where the DIT Students Unions have the same sort of profile among the public.

"I would also like to see us having a rag queen. I know some people will think that that's sexist but I don't think it has to be. And if people are worried about that then why don't we have a rag king as well? I'm not talking about women parading up and down in bikinis and being leched at - I loathe that sort of competition myself - but again if you look at Queens they always have a shot of Miss PTQ on the cover and it's a fully clothed facial shot and it doesn't offend anybody.



"Some of the attitudes that exist in these colleges are disgusting. There are elevators in Kevin Street and only the staff are allowed to use them.."

I think we should do something like that."

"We also have to get a unified approach to sponsorship - we have 24,000 people involved in our Union and it should be possible to get decent levels of sponsorship for things that we do. It's crazy that you walk into Kevin Street and see posters advertising events that are simply ads for a major bank and that bank has had to pay nothing or even print the Students Union's name on the poster. We definitely have to sort that whole area out and tidy things up financially."

Paul has been struck immediately by what he calls the primary school mentality evident within parts of the Institute. "Some of the attitudes that exist in the colleges are disgusting in my mind" he says. "There are elevators in Kevin Street and only the staff are allowed to use them. They are teaching third level students and they should treat them as such. There were students in Cathal Brugha Street threatened recently with suspension or expulsion for what seemed to me to be an exceedingly petty offence, if indeed an offence was committed. They had to sign an undertaking that they would be good little boys and girls and make sure they had a clean handkerchief in their pocket in the morning and have their hair brushed and all that.

I don't think these intimidatory undertakings have any place in a third level college, and I feel that if a student doesn't want to sign such an undertaking then he or she should know that they have the backing of the student body. And not only in their own college, but in the Institute as a whole. That doesn't seem to be the case at the moment, but hopefully it will be an important by-product if the unified entertainments help to bring people together".

Paul has a couple of writing projects that he has been working on for a while that he hopes to have published - there is talk of a book on his life with Queen, with definite interest from the publishing world. It is his ambition to have someone in a hundred years time going into a public library and going to the classic section and asking for something he has written. He used to write the Queen fan club magazine and he used to compile all of their programmes. When he was with Motown he used to do biographies for Diana Rossa and Stevie Wonder. He has written for television and will continue to write "as time permits".

But in the meantime, Paul Prenter will be making his mark on the student entertainment scene in Dublin City, helping to raise the profile of the DIT Students Unions and of the 24,000 young people that comprise the student population of the Dublin Institute of Technology. A major task, and one which would daunt the most energetic and optimistic of promoters. And a task that will leave the DIT Students Unions either incredibly satisfied or incredibly despondant in nine months time. Because if Paul prenter can't do the job, nobody can.

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STUDENTS GRADUATION BALLS DRESS
HIRE A SPECIALITY.

New Secretary for Cathal Brugha Street

Cathal Brugha Street recruited a new member of staff, Gay Delton, who has replaced Tina Forrester as Secretary.

Newsdesk would like to take this opportunity of welcoming Gay and wishing her every success in her new post.

At a reception for Gay Delton, Student Union President, Clare Gantly, thanked Tina for all the hard work she put in over the past years.



Gay Dalton.

Bolton St says 'No' to Smoking!

In a recently held plebiscite on smoking in the new canteen in Bolton Street, an overwhelming majority decided to make the canteen a 'No Smoking' area. The plebiscite was co-ordinated by Lorna Elliot with assistance from Andy McCullagh.

Cairdeas trip to Wales

The newly-formed Bolton Street Society 'Cairdeas' went on a trip to Wales for the October Bank Holiday Week-end. The group went with a view to sampling Welsh culture and exchanging cultural views.

The group were well received by a group of largely native Welsh speaking students from Bangor University. The group also visited a nuclear power station and hope to invite the Welsh contingent to Ireland for a similar visit.

STUDENT CONCERN OVER LIBRARY HOURS

Over 600 Kevin Street students signed a petition on Library opening hours last week.

The students were concerned over the fact that due to under-staffing Kevin Street's Library was closing early on Friday and not opening at all on Saturday.

Student's Union President, Paul D'Arcy, presented the petition to College Council on Monday. The Council expressed grave concern and agreed to push for extra staff for the Library.

KEVIN STREET STUDENTS WIN AWARDS

Nine Kevin Street telecommunication students were awarded first prize for highest mark achieved worldwide in examinations of The City & Guilds of London Institute.

Another Kevin Street student, Kevin Treacy, received The City & Guilds highest award, the Insignia Award.

D.I.T. G.A.A. BLITZ

A total of five teams participated in the G.A.A. Blitz, two from the College of Marketing and Design, Cathal Brugha Street, one from Bolton Street, one from Kevin Street and one from Rathmines.

The games lasted for 20 minutes and were 'Australian like' in that all kick outs, frees and sidelines were kicked out of the hand. Kevin Street and Cathal Brugha Street/C.O.M.A.D. made it to the final, which was a very close encounter. In the end C.O.M.A.D./Cathal Brugha Street held out against a very formidable Kevin Street.

The day was finished by an enjoyable meal in Barry's Hotel where the Blitz Cup was presented by Mr Michael Whelan to Chris Grogan.

CATHAL BRUGHA STREET DRESS DANCE

The Cathal Brugha Street Dress Dance will be held this year in the Burlington Hotel on Saturday, 6th February.

According to Helen Blackburn, Chairperson of the Dress Dance Committee, 'tickets should cost between £16.50 and £17 each and will go on sale in January'.

HOTELYMPIA

At the end of January 1988 students from Cathal Brugha Street will be participating in the bi-annual college trip to Hotelympia. Hotelympia is the international catering exhibition which shows all aspects of the hotel and catering industry. The trip is being organised by a trip committee which consists of 6 people.

Patricia Morrissey
Dominic Galvin
Michelle Smith
Colette Moyles
Susan Doyle
Neil Loftus

C.O.M.A.D. SET FOR SCREEN TEST FINAL

Students from the College of Marketing and Design who are members of the energetic rock band 'Stateline' have hit the big time by winning the semi-finals of R.T.E.'s SCREENTEST.

'Stateline', who have already appeared at C.O.M.A.D. Halloween Ball, will probably be appearing sometime in the near future at other D.I.T. venues.

HOME BREW SOCIETY SIGNS UP PRINCIPAL

Kevin Street's newest society, The Home Brew Society, attracted a rather special new member at their Freshers Day, none other than the College Principal, Mr Frank Brennan.

Mr Brennan engaged the Society members in conversation and displayed a remarkable knowledge of the brewers art.

The Principal accepted an invitation to sample the Society's first brew and to give the Yea or Nay.

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When the Wind Blows *Half Moon Street*

When the Wind Blows is excellent but highly disturbing. Based on the best selling book by Raymond Briggs it is a classy animation, especially the weapons of war. It tells the story of an elderly retired couple living in deepest Essex who start preparing for the inevitable third world war. They follow all the directions in the Government booklets and build an 'inner core shelter' which they have to hide in for fourteen days. The wife, portrayed by the voice of Dame Peggy Ashcroft, doesn't realise the seriousness of the situation and keeps insisting that all will be perfectly normal 'after the bomb' but her husband, voice-over by Sir John Mills, gently cajoles her into the belief that the situation is critical. The dreaded bomb drops and the couple shelter in their 'inner core'. However they can't bear to stay put for fourteen days as the wife is worried about the state of her house and starts to clean up, 'just in case we have visitors'. This is the beginning of the disturbing part of the film, as we witness the couple disintegrate under the pressure of the fall-out. Brilliant and very moving. The only bad aspect of the movie is the instantly forgettable theme tune by David Bowie but I can't recommend the movie highly enough.

The story of the Bloggs and the Bomb



Half Moon Street

Half Moon Street stars Sigourney Weaver and Michael Caine and it takes its name from the area for high class hookers in London's Mayfair. The delectable Miss Weaver plays an American Professor, at the Institute for Middle Eastern Affairs, in London, who discovers that she can't survive on her miserable salary. Out of the blue she receives a video tape advocating the benefits of high calibre prostitution. It all seems so harmless and easy, that Sigourney decides to give it a try because as she says, 'she likes sex'. Enter Michael Caine as a client. Caine plays an international peace negotiator involved in the Middle East. It gradually unfolds that Caine is being set up for assassination and Weaver is an innocent accessory and to add to the complications they have fallen in love on the way. Sigourney shows what a shrinking violet she is by appearing naked several times. For me, a highlight, but doubtless a sexist remark. The movie is an entertaining and gripping thriller and the performances of Weaver and Caine are totally compelling. Highly recommended. Do yourself a favour and see it.

Oliver Brothers

For those of you who have not yet been lucky enough to see the incredible Oliver Brothers, then do yourself a big favour and catch them at the Junction on November 25th or the Old

Common Room, Bolton Street on December 10th. Believe me, they are astounding and the four handed guitar playing has got to be seen to be believed. Of all the bands I've seen over the last few years the Oliver Brothers deserve to make it more than any other.

Gothic

It is many years since Ken Russell has directed a widely successful and acclaimed movie and this will not break the mould. Starring Gabriel Byrne it is about the famous visit of the Shelleys to Lord Byron. The action takes place on the night prior to the event that made that visit historic i.e. Mary Shelley's writing of the horror classic Frankenstein. The assembled multitude included the aforementioned plus two other weird friends, decide to pass their time by throwing literary gems hither and dither while having a seance, the purpose of which is to call up absolute evil, which according to Byron 'is a figment of a fertile mind'. Surprise, surprise, they succeed and this evil presence thus conjured maraudes dementedly throughout the isolated mansion. However the evil isn't portrayed as something tangible, but rather as an invisible, intangible being, who tortures and dements the five characters. However if Mr Russell's portrayal is true, then they deserved everything they got. To say that none of them is playing with a full deck would be too kind - they are all mad. It's a horror movie in more ways than one, but Ken Russell's direction is the greatest horror. To be avoided at all costs. Rates 5 pips on the rotten scale.

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Aslan release their first single "Please Don't Stop" for EMI records on 21st September in Ireland, and 28th September in the rest of Europe.

"Please Don't Stop" was produced by Mick Glossop (Van Morrison, The Waterboys, Mott The Hoople, etc) and recorded in Dublin's Westland Studios.

Aslan are just finishing a British tour where they played shows with such people as Joe Cocker and Geno Washington. At the Joe Cocker show in Brighton Aslan played a great set, and had to do an encore. Geno Washington (remember Dexys Midnight Runners smash hit 'Gino') told Aslan "You have the most soul for a white band I've ever seen".

At the major venues in London

where Aslan played, people were turned away from the doors. In some cases people on the guest lists could not get in. They are playing to capacity audiences every where.

"Please Don't Stop" is currently getting massive air-play on RTE2 and the major British radio stations. A video has been filmed and will be shown on TV in early October. Fax Future have already ordered a copy.

Aslan will be back in Dublin in late September where they will be recording TV shows for broadcast later in the year. An album will be released early next year.

Aslan are now a major force on the International rock scene, but unlikely to have a hit with this single.

TOP 10

'TAKE YOUR PICK FROM THE TOP TEN COMPUTER GAMES'

Once again FORUM brings the opportunity for you to select and buy the top computer games from the comfort of your own pad. Just fill in the coupon below and you can get the pick of the top games delivered to you.

1 **RENEGADE** (Imagine/Ocean) Top of the charts last week and still top, the Ocean/Imagine team have got their smash hit they have been waiting for. This arcade conversion is the best of the current vogue for 'beat-em-ups'. You, the hero, hopefully beat off gangs of muggers in the New York Subway, in Dockland, and three other well illustrated settings. The graphics are excellent, as is the animation. This is also one of those games that has got all the various versions right - It's top of the Spectrum and Amstrad charts and no 2 in the Commodore charts. It's an AA 'Rave', Your Sinclair 'megagame' and a ZZap 'Sizzler', so you can't really go wrong.

2 **TAI PAN** (Ocean) Tipped for the top last issue and now in at number two, the Ocean team have obviously got their marketing strategy right, and released their 'biggies' just in time to capture the Christmas market. This is a game that just about lived up to the massive pre-launch hype and deservedly has rewarded all the efforts to get it right before the launch. It's a *Crash* 'Smash', and a *Your Sinclair* 'megagame'. It's a mixture of arcade adventure, strategy and action so there is something for everyone. If you like the works of James Clavell of SHOGUN fame, and computers, you can get the best of both worlds.

3 **BUBBLE BOBBLE** (Firebird) Firebird make a comeback to the full price charts with this classic arcade conversion. If you have been around the arcades at all this year, you couldn't possibly have missed it - it was the one with all the crowd around it waiting their turn to play this totally addictive game. It's quite hard to describe - it's a bit like BOMB JACK but with a lot more charm and character, as

two cartoon dinosaurs blow bubbles then bounce up and down to burst them and collect points. There are one hundred stages to the game (they say - I've got nowhere near there yet!) so you'll spend weeks cracking this one. Superb large and colourful graphics, sound and music, it's picked up virtually all the awards ZZap: 'Gold Medal', *Commodore User*: 'Screen Star', *C+VG*: 'Game of the Month', *Crash* 'Smash' and an *ACE* 'Ace' - so it's not just me saying how good it is!

4 **INDIANA JONES** (US Gold) I still have never played this, so I can still only quote the experts who seem to reckon it's pretty good. Never mind the experts though, it's the players that count and they have given it the thumbs up by its position in the charts.

5 **WORLD CLASS LEADERBOARD** (Access/US Gold) Undoubtedly the best of all the golf simulation games. You select the club, judge the wind, try to hit it straight, or fade it or hook it - and then stand back and curse as you get it wrong! Three real live courses to choose from - St Andrews, Doral Country Club, Cypress Creek, and a monster of a 'created' course. St Andrews is the easiest course to play, because there aren't the trees to get stuck behind, or the lakes to splash into (with a sadistically realistic sound effect!). For golf addicts who know better than the Golf Pros how to play golf, this is for you.

6 **PAPERBOY** (Elite) Now in the charts for 54 weeks, what new can you say about this all-time classic? Superb animation, a faithful conversion from the arcades, but basically just a lovable, colourful and addictive piece of game playing.

7 **BARBARIAN** (Palace) In the charts for nineteen weeks, originally only in its Commodore version, but now available in all formats. It's the game that got the most notoriety for its inclusion in the pack of a free poster that showed a gorgeous hunk for the ladies, and a scantily dressed (well the top half of the dress missed actually) young lady. However, when the lads actually got around to playing it they found it was an excellent martial arts type game with oodles of action and mighty grunts as the hunk demolished the baddies.

8 **ROAD RUNNER** (US Gold) This version of the famous cinema cartoon series has done very well indeed with thirteen weeks in the charts and still very steady. A *Commodore International* 'Mega Game', and a *C+VG* 'Game of the Month', it's easy to see why it is up there with the real blockbusters. Well known and lovable characters to start with, good animation and the game play is not too hard for the non-experts like myself. Good clean harmless fun.

9 **SUPER SPRINT** (Electric Dreams) This is another coin-op conversion like most of the current hits, and again anyone who has been in the arcades this last year can't have failed to see it. This is its first week in the charts and it's bound to go higher. It's the racing car game where you look down on the figure of eight track and steer your car around the course against the other cars run by the computer. In fact, more than one can play so you can race your friends - it's far more fun that way too. Personally, I prefer the kind of racing car game where you are 'behind' the wheel, but I can easily see why others prefer this.

10 **LIVING DAYLIGHTS** (Domark) As I said last issue, this game turned out far better than the cynics forecast, and almost certainly would have been a hit in its own right without the James Bond tie-in and hype. As it is, it gives the player a chance to recreate eight scenes from the movie and do all the action that Sean Connery used to do until he got too old (and rich) to bother. The action is again not too hard, so you haven't got to be a joystick genius to get a lot of harmless fun from this.

TIPS FOR THE TOP

SIX PACK 2 (ELITE HIT PACK) Six Pack 1 is still in the charts after 27 weeks, and now here comes SIX PACK 2. It will inevitably sell faster than stores can get supplies, because it is based on the simple basis that if One Hit gets high in the Charts, then Six Hits on tape for the price of one should do even better. On SIX PACK 2 they have put 'ACE', 'International Karate', 'Into the Eagle's Nest', 'Shockway Rider', and 'Lightforce' all hits in their own right, then added a new one 'Batty' to make up the half dozen.

ENLIGHTMENT/DRUID 2 (FIREBIRD) Just as SIX PACK 1 is followed by SIX PACK 2, Firebird too have followed the old maxim - "if it works, do it again". Druid was probably the last big hit for Firebird before their current crop of success, and this follows the same format. Again you rush round as the Druid, bumping off your adversaries, casting spells and generally causing mayhem all round. Graphics and presentation are excellent, with speech, music and sound effects thrown in for good measure.

TITLE	AMST CASS	SPEC CASS	COMM CASS
RENEGADE	10.50	9.50	10.50
TAI PAN	10.50	9.50	10.50
BUBBLE BOBBLE	NA	10.50	11.50
INDIANA JONES	11.50	10.50	11.50
WORLD CLASS LEADERBOARD	11.50	11.50	NA
PAPERBOY	10.50	9.50	11.50
BARBARIAN	11.50	11.50	11.50
ROAD RUNNER	11.50	10.50	11.50
SUPER SPRINT	NA	11.50	11.50
LIVING DAYLIGHTS	11.50	11.50	11.50
SIX PACK 2	11.50	11.50	11.50
ENLIGHTMENT DRUID 2	NA	NA	10.50

HOW TO ORDER

Put an X in the space provided for the game or games you wish to buy, making sure that it is the correct computer version. The prices quoted include Post and packaging and VAT. Make out your cheque or postal order (no cash please) to CATALYST, crossed "not negotiable A/C Payee only", fill in your name, address and type of computer and post to "Forum Offer", PO Box 2118, Dublin 6. Allow 28 days for delivery. Orders must be received by the 12 December. To order via VISA card, or for any queries, phone (01) 605363.

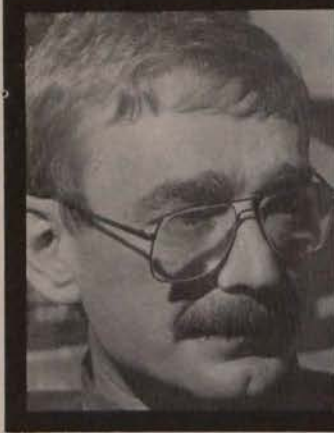
Name

Address

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Phone no

Computer type



A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum ..

With DITSU Ents Officer Paul Prenter

Vomit In Print Dept

Although I personally feel that the libel award of J. Archer was over the top and the judge was biased, the Star did not appeal. I was on the side of the Star during the trial, however the paper has now become the most sexist rag ever printed. It makes the Sun look like the Universe. The Star last week carried no news, N.E.W.S. - none - just lots of tits and ass on every other page. A plethora of previous publications have been called putrid rags, but I hereby nominate the Star for the Supreme and Ultimate Oscar; Vomit in Print.



No News Today - one way to avoid libel actions

Judge correct in rape self defence killing case

I can only applaud the recent judgement in a U.K. court, that a rape victim was justified in believing her life was at risk and therefore her killing of the rapist was self-defence. Whilst deploring the loss of any life for any reason, I must add that rape is one of the most heinous crimes conceivable and must rank beside murder, treason and kidnapping. It is obvious to everyone with an I.Q. above that of an earth-worm, that all rapists are potential killers and any victim of such an attack has the right to self-defence, just like any victim of a murder attempt. Men tend to trivialise rape by saying the crime is caused by drink, drugs, excess libido or a multitude of social or medical reasons. It might be true in many cases. Not all rapists are murderers. Not murderers of the body perhaps - but a woman who survives a rape bears the scars forever. She is a victim twice. After her first ordeal, she then faces the police, courts, family and the feeling of guilt. Draw your own conclusions, but if I were a victim of such an attack, I would fight for my life. Rape ranks with murder. Women have the moral and legal right to self-defence.

Davis at Very Large

Is it just my defective sight or does Derek Davis grow bigger as you watch him on T.V? The man already has more chins than steps on a fire-escape on the side of a skyscraper. Enough is enough. It is unforgivable of the BBC to have the aforementioned mountain

range investigating, salivating, eating and growing to the size of a continent, whilst apparently reporting on the gourmet high-lights of N.I. Imagine being the second survivor of a plane crash in the remote Andes. Mr Davis being the first survivor. Who would eat whom first?

Lizzie 2 - how does she cope?

Over the last two weeks I must admit that I felt sorry for royalty, E 2 to be precise. I mean within two weeks she slips from No. 2 in the Worlds Richest People Chart to No. 5, apparently only worth £4.8 Bn (how does she keep herself) and then Fiji. In two weeks she slips to pauper and loses a vital jewel. I wonder why I'm a republican.

Wacko Jacko

Apparently Michael Jackson was so upset at the single 'Bad' not reaching No. 1 in the U.K. he rushed off to the plastic surgeon and had a second nose attached to his forehead. Next week he returns to have it altered. Also Mr J decided to answer his growing multitude of critics by a hand written reply. WRONG. Apart from infantile grammar, spelling and content, apparently a 'hand-writing expert' analysed that Wacko Jacko was definitely Wacko. Having met him



Infantile grammar - Michael Jackson

on more than one occasion, I can confirm that opinion without reading any wacky notes to the world.

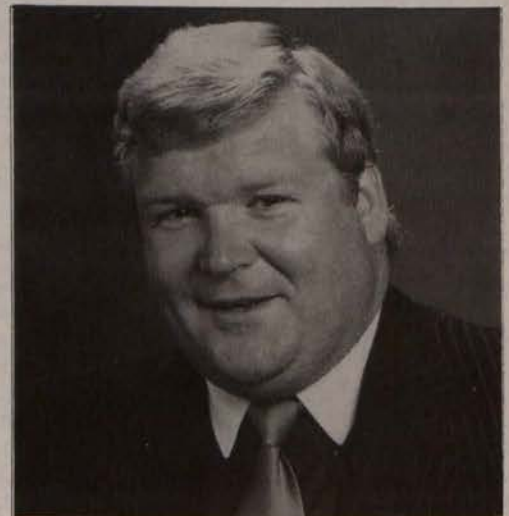
Grow Up

Its time that all students within the D.I.T. realised that they have the support and back-up of 24,000 fellow students. Stop behaving as secondary school kids and behave like folk old enough to vote, marry and die for their country. You aren't kids - you are the future. Fight for your future and behave like you'll do a good job. You are the one who is going run finance and create employment in the next decade. Stop being school kids. Just because we don't have a unified campus

doesn't detract from our power. 24,000 intelligent, articulate and active 18 yrs plus folks will make even God - C.J. Haughey think twice. Lets unite under DITSU and use it to the good of the country.

Tell it to Big Mouth

Allied with being ENTS Manager I'm not a student therefore I'm the best vessel for major problems that you may be loathe or scared to raise. Big Mouth will do it for you, if you give me the details, personally or c/o FORUM magazine.



Growing into a planet? - Derek Davis

Stop. The man is growing into a planet. I suggest Mr Davis try starvation. it might not only lengthen his life but it would also salvage my eye-sight and stop me thinking that I am watching a balloon that is

endlessly being inflated evry time he appears on screen. Having said all that, the man is a great broadcaster, he's just too fat.



**LESS TALK
MORE MUSIC**

And banks are faceless institutions?



*Student Officer - Mary Connor
Bolton Street, College of Technology*



*Student Officer - Garry Stokes
College of Marketing & Design*



*Student Officer - Therese Mitchell
College of Commerce, Rathmines*



*Student Officer - Ciaran Lynam
34 College Green*



*Student Officer - Brian Cummins
College of Catering, Cathal Bruagha Street*



*Student Officer - Aundreena McGibney
Kevin Street, College of Technology*

Well we'll let the above faces end that illusion. They're our student officers.

They've been dealing with students for quite some time and they know pretty much what's happening.

So you don't have to worry if the cheque is coming late when the landlord's coming early. Or if you find you've to buy the plane ticket when you apply for a J1.

Or when it suddenly dawns on you that the professor's own "indispensable" text book is a mere £30.

Our student officers will be there to lend a hand. But luckily life isn't all loans.

There's a free ISIC card and Countdown card for all first year students, saving you £5 on the cards

themselves. And any amount once you put them into use.

On the subject of cards there's PASS.

"Strange" you may think but we are aware that there's life after midnight. Unlike other Cinderella banks, our PASS card lets you get at your cash 24 hours a day.

Then there's the cheque book and card.

Very handy, very flexible.

And free to use.

Provided your account is in credit.

That said, why not call in, open an account and meet our officers face to face.



Bank of Ireland

Now, what can we do for you?