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DIT Journalism Society

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Thousands march for workers' rights.

..but the government finally delivers for the colleges........over one billion euro in funding.

DITSU slammed by convenors

by Cian Fitzsimons

Two DITSU site convenors have expressed ‘grave concern’ with the manner in which the union is being run.

"There is no proper organisation within DITSU, it feels like we're walking through a fog," according to Mountjoy Square convenor Paul O'Connor. He went on to question a "lack of clarity" surrounding the decision-making process in the SU.

Lorna Fletcher, convenor for Cusla Brougha Street holds similar worries. She alleged that there has been a complete lack of feedback, along with a lack of action from the sabbatical officers, when issues are raised. "There is ongoing disregard for the union's constitution. The union has been going downhill since September, and students are getting disillusioned with the way things are being run," she said.

Despite the fact that they are elected officers in the students' union, both convenors feel that they are being left "outside the loop" when it comes to making decisions affecting the students on their side.

"The lack of organisation is evident throughout DITSU," said Paul. "Our president asks for patience as he is 'on a learning curve', despite being seven months in the job. It's pretty much the same situation with the Chair of our Governing Council. When I raise issues that I feel should be dealt with I'm told that they have been noted, and nothing further is done. If a mistake is made, the sabbaticals admit responsibility, say sorry, and that's it. We are a company in the service of students, and we owe them a responsibility to live up to their expectations."

The final week festivities in Mountjoy Square were highlighted as an example of the confusion within DITSU. "The tag of the organised events was a DJ and two nuns. Novice nuns was even told they were coming. This was the last union event we have had in Mountjoy."

The lack of published plans of work for the sabbatical team was pointed out by Lorna. "They should have been available from September, but there's no sign of them," she said.

"It's such a simple thing to get done, but we are still waiting. What does that say about the transparency within the union?"

Those claims are supported by DITSU President, Rob Cogan. In a statement given to The Moon he said: "I appreciate the concerns of the convenors, but everyone has to realise that we in the union are extremely busy this year, working 12 or 14 hour days most of the time. Never what sabbatical teams there is in place, they are always ready getting in groups with things by Christmas."

All decisions are made by either the board of DITSU Ltd, Governing Council or UCC. An awful lot more work is being done behind the scenes, while DITSU Trading and the shops are in a great financial state, which is a huge turnaround over the last eighteen months.

"Of course things could always be better within the union, and it is possible that the structure could need some refining. People have to realise that it's not as easy to organise things on smaller campuses, the lack of student numbers can affect the atmosphere. And personally speaking, I always get back to anyone who tries to get in touch with me."
Lecturers won’t pay fees

by Hugh Casey

A number of DIT lecturers are refusing to pay subscription fees to the on-campus gym at Kevin Street. The Moon has learned.

Approximately 5 lecturers want to use the facilities but don’t want to pay the annual £70 membership fee. Talks have taken place at a senior level in DIT administration to resolve the issue, but their results are still unknown.

Herbie McClelland, the DIT sports officer, is eager to point out that it’s a minority of staff. "We had 122 people sign up, and it’s only a handful of people (refusing to pay), but I am annoyed, I didn’t expect to get this kind of grief from staff’.

The DIT gym is funded exclusively by student capital, and annual membership rates are approximately 85% cheaper than local commercial gyms.

"We’ve also heard of lecturers telling students not to pay to help their cause. I think it’s a disgrace. I’m employed to look after the sporting interests of the students, not the staff" said Mr McClelland. "If we can’t run this little gym up here, I don’t see how we’re going to manage with the 20 million complex up in Grangegorman”.

Kevin Street’s DIT gym is used on a regular basis by students

Daithi Mac Sithigh, former education officer, addresses delegates.

Outrage at

Trinity Al-Qaeda speaker

by Rebecca Todd

There has been outrage from justice minister Michael McDowell and other senior politicians after Trinity College’s Philosophical Society invited Islamic extremist Ihab Chehadey to speak to Trinity students in favour of the motion that “September 11th was justified”.

The question is whether or not the society can justify giving an Islamic fundamentalist a platform to air his views in public. The president of the Philosophical Society, Andrew Campbell, said "the Phil does not in any way support Islamic extremism. We merely wish to provide a forum for debate on issues that are relevant to society“.

However, politicians fear that Mr Chehadey’s speech may encourage Trinity students to adopt an extremist viewpoint.

Mr Chehadey said that Ireland is "a legitimate target" for a terrorist attack due to its collaboration with the US. His collaboration, he means that Ireland is allowing US planes to refuel here on their way to bombing raids. He says "A US pilot is no different from the Irish person who allows the US military to train on his land. They are collaborators."

He also said that if Ireland increases their support for the US, the Islamic fundamentalist group at the debate will number "5000".

There were other members of the right-wing Islamic extremist group at the debate a number of whom spoke against the motion. Umar Jarid, said he did not see an attack on Ireland as likely.

USI it, or lose it!

by Andy Boyle

The USI held a special congress in Dublin on Saturday November 26th to vote on several constitutional amendments.

This was my second time attending congress. My first experience was last May, and it left me wondering if DIT students really belonged to such a politically motivated organisation. It was clear to me that most of the issues the USI focused on were of little relevance to the students I knew. I felt the welfare of the students of Ireland was second in importance to furthering the interests of some left-wing political groups. The views expressed by the USI did not represent my views, or the views of anyone I know in DIT.

But this time I felt differently. I think that of all the arguments, and all of the problems within USI are only symptoms of one single problem. The USI is an organisation without purpose, either in its aims or its representation to its students - on student issues. It’s not possible to do both with the resources available. The question for USI, and for us is, Which one?"
Putting the liberal in liberal Arts

If majoring in philosophy gives a student all the skills he needs to cope with his impending poverty, what kind of skills does a major in liberal arts need in pure liberal arts? How about majors in majors? Mixed martial arts? Motor sports, health diets, "make-up coordinators" on human services?

College is indeed getting weird, and for good reason: weird majors attract students. Unconventional departments not only allow schools to offer their students more choices, but also enable the schools to build reputations for themselves in educational niches.

Department of Rabbits and Hats

The first day of college might be a magical time for any freshman, but for some students at the two-year Dong-A College, the feeling is quite literal. The school offered magic classes as an effective way for the students to practice their mind while avoiding the course success rate of 95%.

Kim Jinhwa, 24, a student at Dong-A College, says that he doesn't regret signing up for the class, even though some of the students were too timid to apply. Before studying at Dong-A, Kim had already won several magic competitions.

"I wanted to learn more about magic," he said. "I heard about Dong-A College's program and decided to apply." The school also teaches drama and photography courses at the same time.

Department of Speeding

Mr. Moon was looking for a major with better job opportunities, so he decided to enroll in the Motor Sports Department at Ajou Motor College. Expecting the demand for workers in the motor sports industry to dramatically increase over the next 10 years, the college began offering classes in this field.

Driving is just one of the many students can learn, but their main goal is to be a professional driver. After completing the course, students can enter the world of professional racing.

Department of Butt-Wooping

Kyunggi College of Science is also offering a major in a sport that is rapidly becoming popular in Korea: mixed martial arts. Known as K-1 or K-2, the school's Division of Teism Sports and Recreation started offering the major this year. Eighty students have already signed up.

"Mixed martial arts, including K-1 and PRIDE Fighting Championships, has been popular in other countries like the United States, the States and Africa for the last 10 years," said Hong Young-kyu, professor of the department. "The students learn how to deal with victims of sexual and physical violence, and they teach self-defense to middle and high school students." Mr. Lee said that students must pass course work and are graduated after completing the course work for the church teaching and missionary work.

Department of Chastity

Men like Lee Hye-jin, 23, have their say about striptease and rape. Specifically, Pure Lovers. Mr. Lee is a professor at the Department of Pure Love at Sungmoe University, which was established by Mr. Lee's Church of the Purification Church. The love which is considered "pure" because it emphasizes abstinence before marriage, although it also teaches students about contraception.

Society is extremely open about sex and vice, video games have never been in a different century. Mr. Lee said, "We teach people about sex by showing them marital values. The education is based on the values of the Unification Church, but people are not interested in the church's religion."

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Iranian government deny Bahá'í students an education

By Sarah Pickett

A s Irish third level students struggle over the proposed introduction of third level fees, some Iranian students face battle to receive an education. While technology is developing at an incredible rate, the basic rights of the human beings seem to be ignored.

"Everyone has the right to education... and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of need."

Well that seems to be the opinion of one United Nation's in article 26 of their Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

For young Bahá'ís in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the government has systematically deprived them from misrepresenting themselves as a member of any other faith, just for convenience sake. In recent times the Iranian government has appeared to offer Bahá'í students access to higher education in an attempt to pacify international human rights monitors.

Bahá'í students were told they could participate in national university entrance examinations. Following the release of results in August 2004, the Bahá'ís had been officially registered in Mulkiye, Bahá'ís ultimately refused, as it showed disregard to their religious beliefs according to: were denied enrolment to college.

The 800 Bahá'ís who took the exam were excluded from university, in the 2004/05 academic year, by means of this ploy. The denial of education to Iran's largest religious minority seems to be the latest in a series of systematic persecutions of the Bahá'ís. Since the coming to power of the Revolutionary Government, more than 200 Bahá'ís have been killed, hundreds imprisoned, thousands have had property or businesses confiscated, lost their jobs, and/or had their government pensions terminated.

Bahá'í holy sites and cemeteries have also been targeted. Many have been destroyed and the community's elected administrative structure has been dismantled. Bahá'ís have been denied a host of other rights, ranging from freedom of movement to simple inheritance rights. Many had hoped that these dark days of persecution were at last coming to an end but the Iranian government has continued to pursue its discriminatory policy for the 2005/06 academic year.

By mid-August 2004 hundreds of Bahá'ís had received their university examination results with, once again, "Iranian authorities..." designated as the religious orientation of the Bahá'í students.

The Irish Bahá'í community along with governments, academics and concerned citizens throughout the world have and are continuing to voice their concern against the denial of third level education to Bahá'í students. Bahá'ís as a principle of their faith accept the truth in all religions. They look forward to the day when they will enjoy the same rights extended to the other major faiths in the land of their birth, especially in the area of education.

In August 2004 the government of Iran, ultimately leading to Baba'i's demise. This has had the effect of suppressing the Bahá'í community in Iran, ultimately leading to its demise.
Hi everyone and welcome back to The Moon! The feedback we've been getting from people over the past month has been a great help to us, and I'd like to thank everyone who let us know what they thought.

We are still looking for contributors, so whether you have experience writing articles or not, send us a mail and we'll get you involved!

Last week's budget finally had some good news for students. The announcement of a massive injection of cash into the third level sector gives a great boost to all colleges in Ireland. Hopefully DIT will manage to take advantage of the money on offer, and use it to continue to make progress toward gaining well-deserved university status.

The OIT gym in Kevin Street has been providing fantastic value for money for both staff and students since its opening. Compared to the prices charged by local fitness centres, 70 euro a year is a miniscule amount to have to pay. This makes the refusal of several OIT lecturers to pay these fees even more difficult to understand. Why should staff be exempt from paying when, on a full-time wage, it is a pittance, when the gym is funded by students' capitation fees?

The Moon has an exclusive interview with Franz Ferdinand this month, conducted just hours before their sell-out Dublin gig. We also talk to up and coming group Editors.

We have given in to the sudoku craze, with three puzzles for your enjoyment on page 5. Just the thing for tedious winter lectures!

This will be the last issue of The Moon for 2005, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the paper over the last few months, and wish all our readers a very happy Christmas.

Cian

It is the policy of The Moon to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. Any corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of The Moon to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor.

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Editor: Cian Fitzsimons

THE MOON'S EXCLUSIVE TOTAL ECLIPSE COMPETITIONS

If you answer this question correctly you could be in with the chance to scoop this excellent prize of a 50 euro voucher for Gamestop and LA Rush for PS2.

What is the name of Sonic the Hedgehogs girlfriend?

GameStop
new. used games. dvds

Win two tickets to the New Years Eve celebrations at The Village on Camden Street!!

Name the DJs appearing at The Villages New Years Eve party???

PLEASE EMAIL THE CORRECT ANSWERS WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND MOBILE NUMBER TO - EDITOR.DIT@GMAIL.COM
Liam Lawlor - mórán cainte ar bheagán cúise?

Le Lucy Rabbitte

Barneadh stad an muintir na tíre seo nuair a maraíodh an t-áir Threabhéan Dlí Liam Lawlor i dtabharfacht cóir.

Mo chroí. Ach ba iad an mbeidh dhá conclusions agus inreice ar leith leis an cheann de na haochtaí agus an t-áit sin a bhfuil an bháis, a bhí go mór i mbéal an phobail le bhuachtró a bhí an t-áit sin cheithre chúpla bliana. Chuir an t-eolaí seo éag a dhícheall sa scoil agus an t-áit sin a bhí ag an bháis na haochtaí. A chealadh i mí an t-áit sin a dhícheall.

An bhfuil an chuid den scoil chur ar a lorg nuair a bhí an t-áit sin a bhí ag an bháis na haochtaí? An féidir leis an t-áit sin a bhí ag an bháis na haochtaí a chur ar a lorg nuair a bhí an t-áit sin a bhí ag an bháis na haochtaí?

Mar atá a fhágáil, d'fhéadfadh an tír seo a bhfuil an bháis na haochtaí a chur ar a lorg nuair a bhí an t-áit sin a bhí ag an bháis na haochtaí. D'fhéadfadh an tír seo a bhfuil an bháis na haochtaí a chur ar a lorg nuair a bhí an t-áit sin a bhí ag an bháis na haochtaí. D'fhéadfadh an tír seo a bhfuil an bháis na haochtaí a chur ar a lorg nuair a bhí an t-áit sin a bhí ag an bháis na haochtaí.

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by Edel Heade

Irish third level students spend more money every month on alcohol than food, the results of a recent study have found. Most drinking occasions among students can be considered binge drinking sessions.

More than half of young people in Ireland have been experimenting with alcohol before they reach their 12th birthday, according to the National Health and Lifestyle Survey, 2003. With alcohol and sexual behaviour so closely tied together, this is a cause for great concern.

It's all fun and games until... beer babies?

Across Ireland, third level students regularly splurge their cash on wine, cider and spirits and it doesn’t start at the pub. The binge usually begins when friends get together in someone’s living room for a few hours before they head out and there’s only one goal – to get drunk.

It’s all fun and games until they end up in failure. Fuelled by booze, of hospitals or an Emergency department...beer babies?

A Kevin Street science student revealed she always drinks a bottle of wine before going out. “It’s a social thing. Friends call over, we get ready, do our make-up together while drinking at the same time. It’s my favourite part of the night - it’s the only part I remember.” She admits to often smoking a can of cider into pubs when she can’t afford pub prices. She said she’s often woken up in bed with a strange man without being able to remember how she got there or embarrassed when she’s told about her behaviour the next day.

One of her most embarrassing drunken antics involved urinating in a public place and then falling asleep a few metres away the next day. When sex on the beach and slippery nipples available at almost every city bar, it’s easy to see how sex and alcohol go hand-in-hand. Cocktails and other lethal concoctions are a matter of taste for young people’s night out as lip gloss or hair gel. An offer of “Can I buy you a drink?” at the bar, is more likely to mean “Fancy a shag?” than an expression of chivalry.

A 21-year-old fine arts student said she’s often woken up in bed with a stranger without remembering whether or not she had agreed to sex. “It’s all fun and games until... beer babies?”. She admits she’s often woken up in bed with a stranger without remembering whether or not she had agreed to sex. “It’s all fun and games until... beer babies?”

A load too heavy for any vehicle...beer babies?

There’s been a steady rise in sexual assault victims saying alcohol is a factor in their engaging in sex. About two or three occasions among students drinking sessions can be considered binge drinking sessions.

A 21-year-old fine arts student said she’s often woken up in bed with a stranger without remembering whether or not she had agreed to sex. “It’s all fun and games until... beer babies?”

Among female students who were sexually active, 42% reported that they had consumed an STI (sexually transmitted infection). The link between drinking and unprotected sex has been documented extensively. The association of STIs in Ireland has increased by 16% at the last ten years with 300 cases reported in 2000 alone. This coincided with a surge in alcohol consumption of 45% over the same period.

Three-quarters of rape and sexual assault victims say alcohol was a factor in their assault. Figures from the Waterford Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre show. Unfortunately alcohol does make people more vulnerable to sex. Women too drunk to remember whether they had agreed to sex were more likely to find someone attractive after a few beers, than if you saw them earlier in the evening.

You’re less likely to use contraception when consumed in drunkenness. If you can’t walk in a straight line, it’s more likely that you or your partner won’t use contraception correctly. A major Irish study found alcohol to be a factor in crimes and explained pregnancies (where drinking resulted in the non-use of contraception). One in three Irish teenagers say alcohol is a factor in their engaging in sex.

The peak of STIs in Ireland has increased by 165% at the last ten years with 300 cases reported in 2000 alone. This coincided with a surge in alcohol consumption of 45% over the same period. Three-quarters of rape and sexual assault victims say alcohol was a factor in their assault. Figures from the Waterford Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre show.

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News features 8 December - January 2006

**NEWS FEATURES**

DIT students (IFS) get national enterprise gong

Under the picturesque setting of the Mansion house in Dublin's City Centre six of Ireland's finest small businesses sat in anticipation. The six finalists hailed from all over Ireland with services ranging from construction industry to online dating. After a year of competitions and deliberations this was the moment when all would be revealed.

The silence was finally broken when Bryan Dobson and Michael Martin, Minister for Enterprise Trade and employment announced Integrated Facilities Solutions (IFS) as the winner of the National Enterprise gong.

This award is the culmination of seven years development and graft by the company's founder, directors Kieran Beggs and George Harold. The two met during their time in DIT Bolton Street where they both studied Building Maintenance. It was after they graduated that the pair decided to go into business together.

Harold explained that, "Our course was extremely useful and practical; we then went to work for the consultancy and research unit for the Built Environment in Bolton Street. It was from there that we saw the commercial potential". Established in 1998, IFS set out with an innovative idea to revolutionize the building trade. Realised it wasProperty Operations Manuals were insufficient in today's advanced market. They recognized the potential to apply technology to this industry necessity. With the help of technical partners, they created their trademarked product the IFS Digital Project Manual (DPM).

In practice, the application takes away the need for boxes of practically untraceable paper documents about every aspect of the management of a large project.

The simplest way to describe the DPM file is if you bought a new car or a kitchen appliance you get a manual of how to maintain it. If you apply this idea to somewhere like Park it becomes obvious that you have something in an electronic format to search if something goes wrong in the building. The ultimate aim of the product is that if there is a need to adjust or view anything in the safety file they can do it at a click of a button.

IFS now provide a portfolio of services to their clients; Beggs explained "IFS will be there from the initial concept of a project until the disposal of the asset." From their flagship product the DPM file, to Data Capture and now their latest innovation, Project Live which is internet collaboration and its due to be formally launched soon.

Keith Brock, Assistant C.E.O of Fingal stated that it was their innovative idea and their professionalism that helped them clinch the award. The company also has an impressive client list including Dublin Zoo, Croke Park and the Dundrum Shopping Centre. As the first company from Fingal to win the award, Brock also feels that the win will help promote the competition in the area and that it will be a wake up call for other small businesses.

IFS employ 10 full time staff, as they are growing at such a rapid rate they hope to double their staff by this time next year. The main goal of IFS now is to increase market share and to open offices in the UK and mainland Europe. China is another area that the company would like to explore. After a recent trip to Hong Kong with Enterprise Ireland they saw the potential for development in the market.

So what does the future hold for Ireland's hottest entrepreneurs? The simple answer is still working in the industry. Beggs said, "I'd pull my hair out if I retired in the next 15 years. I always want to be doing something different and challenging, I want to improve standards and create new concepts. Both George and I want to take IFS to where we think it should go. Right now going international and refining our services are our ultimate goals!"
You've all heard of Deep Throat and One Night in Paris, but get ready for Ireland's very own addition to the porn scene: Lepreporn. Yes, that's right, we are well on the way to establishing our very own porn industry with a bit of Irish charm. I wonder will there be tractors and wellies involved? But all of you budding Red Jerseys and Jenna Jamesons should be aware that there are serious risks involved in the porn industry.

Lara Roxx, 21, is a testimony to this fact. The young Canadian arrived in LA in March 2004, hoping to make a ripple in the porn industry and create a nice little pension for her self. Two months later she was broke, under and HIV positive. Lara had a very busy career, but then part of a larger scene, which included the California-based porn industry in 2004. Lara was out of work, believed to have been infected with the virus while working on a film with well-known porn-actor Darren James Jones is thought to have transmitted HIV while giving a blowjob.

The impact of the subsequent story was so great that it led to a shooting of the porn paradise, San Fernando Valley, being raided and around 60 actors were quarantined. However, the shock soon subsided and was replaced by complacency. The porn industry is back to not using condoms, saying this is 'cost-effective' and the audience just don't like them. Apparently, a lot of actors are not quite that innocent.

However, there's a long history in the American porn industry of people getting HIV, not just the young girls and boys. Unfortunately for Lara Roxx, she didn't have the foresight to protect herself. The Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation, AIM, an organisation set up by former porn actress Sharon Mitchell, tests 1000 porn actors every three weeks for HIV. The organisation was set up in 1998 after another HIV scare in the industry. Mitchell says that many of the recent extra cash for forgiving the usage of condoms, because the risk of infection is negligible. However, according to the AIM website, there have been a few cases of HIV among adult actors, which if left undiagnosed could have spread the virus to dozens, even hundreds of people. "Basically, I put Band-Aids on shotgun wounds, and I can't stop HIV but I can help prevent it.

The meantime, Ireland's fledgling Lepreporn Industry can learn a lot from the mistakes of its giant cousins in San Fernando Valley. Unfortunately for those of you who are finding yourselves intrigued by the idea of Lepreporn, information on the emerging industry seems to be as elusive as those little green leprechauns and their pots of gold. But Kitty will keep you posted.
ON TOUR IN INDIA

I'd thought 28 hours on a train would leave me well rested and ready for adventure by the time I got to Delhi. I left the crowded platform in Kolkata's Howrah station looking forward to doing a little reading and a lot of sleeping.

by Aoife Ni Dhalaigh

Unfortunately, having walked at spending 30 to get the express train - all air-conditioning and unrepentant motorists - I wasn't going to be sleeping on what looked very much like a luggage rack.

It wasn't even an empty luggage rack - the train stopped everywhere and each station brought a fresh mess of hawkers and street vendors. Blue without tickets had piled into the carriage and taken our top bunks, squatting rakishly while the couple next to us slept at them in Bengaluru.

My friend and I had spent four hours drawing plans and cards to entertain their young son as they were happy to do some yelling on our behalf.

The cars eventually left and we got to bed. It took me a while to doze off with my bag as a pillow and an arm all waiting in my face. When I woke up at 5:30 a.m., there was a man seated on the end of my bunk, scratching his head up towards my face. I kicked him off rebelliously and he jumped for sleeping bodies on my side of the bed. I was still effects of a bad night's sleep.

The train finally arrived in Delhi and I needed a long nap before I boarded another one. Somehow a man handed me a yellow envelope from the next day. I left without a lot of time before I boarded another one. Somehow a man handed me a yellow envelope from the next day.

We continued on our way and Wajid was delighted to find us eager to eat on the side of the road, rather thananey hotels. The tour we were going to the city of two white men eating with their hands from a plate, slopping up chutney and diving into cups of sugar chutney.

We were quickly transfixed by their ladders and colourful turban.

When we got to the train station, we saw signs for a train to the next city. We were delighted to find the train was leaving. We were happy to see the train leave and it was a little sad to say goodbye to our new friends.
Have you got a great Christmas party to go to, but haven't got a clue what to wear? Need a little advice on completing your outfit? Or are you searching for a dramatic new make up look to accompany your big entrance? We've got all you need to know to turn you into the belle of the festive ball. by Katie Toohan

**IS YOUR CHRISTMAS STOCKING STILL IN STYLE?**

Festive sparkle and shine is back, but this time round it's all about accentuating your feminine essence. Think pashmina, glitz and glint that party in metallics, beading and sequins, teamed with luxurious fabrics like velvet and chiffon in opulent jewel colours. Cashing in on the sexy glitz and glamour wave with ultra-feminine clothes; the look is hot, hot hot.

Take inspiration from Marilyn's sexy shape and go for anything that clashes in an attempt to ensure that timelessly handsome figure. If you think a pencil skirt is a little impractical for a party, then wrap dresses are for you. They come in lots of different colours and styles, and the shape flatters pretty much every figure.

Alternatively, try wrapping a sparkling scarf around your waste to update a plain dress. This will also focus attention on your slimmest part, creating that perfect silhouette.

Black really is the new black, and teamed with the right accessories, it can look seriously sexy. Rich berry shades are also a must this year. Choose anything from plum tones to the deepest crimson to add spice to your party outfit. You don't have to stop at dresses either, since red lips and undramatised eyes, or add a coloured sparkly scarf to that LBD.

Sky high stilettos are a great way to achieve the classic feminine look, what girl doesn't feel a million dollars in the right pair of heels? Go for round toes if you prefer to be able to stand after all that dancing or if you've really worried about your toes, there is a huge range of gorgeous flat pumps out there, especially ones with metallics, glitter and baubles. Alternatively, you can't go wrong with a pair of sexy black boots to keep you toasty on those cold nights. Adorn yourself with fashionably festive bobbies to delectably gorgeous pectplo will want to put you on top of their true! There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to accessories this year. If you've got a simple frock, why not team it with lots of sparkly jewels worn boho, mixing gold, silver, pearls, whatever!

Sparkle and shine this party season and perfect that sexy silhouette. A supply glow is better than a face full of glitter, so use a highlighting cream along your cheekbones to illuminate your face. Add some more to your shoulders and décolletage to leave you looking radiant.

It's Christmas, so have fun with dramatic make-up. Go for seriously smoky eyes and if you're feeling confident, wear red lips. Otherwise, smoky eyes with neutral lips work really well for a fanny sixties look. To get smoky eyes start off with a cream concealer over your lids as a smooth base. Use a black pencil along your top lash line, and then use the same pencil to dot between your lower lashes. Smudge the liner with a cotton bud, and then top up a powder shadow along the lid, blending upwards.

Block, brown, grey or dark green all look great with black liner. Complete the drama with two coats of black mascara. Don't over-dose on gloss, this Christmas the cooler lips will be decked out in lipstick, not grown-up gloss.

When choosing your Christmas outfit, make sure you feel comfortable and confident. If in doubt, think often feminine, ultra glamorous and ultra sexy. Now go out there and party!
I have a few female friends who think it's absolutely impossible to buy presents for guys. It seems that completely normal things like T-shirts or books about subjects they're interested in aren't very thoughtful, but they'll be happy if they get something funny or useful. I won't go too far in saying I'm grateful, but if you really have no imagination, I will help you if you'd like free gifts.

DVD's are probably the most obvious gift you can get a guy. You can't go wrong with comedy, specifically slapstick. Or if you happen to know the type of film a guy likes (Most likely thriller) get it! Just be sure he doesn't already have the DVD you have in mind, it's really annoying to get something you already have!

Novel gifts or gadgets are really cool. Most things from the gadget shop would go down well with any gadget lover. Anything funny or amusing can be a real plus, so long as we get a laugh out of it!

I may seem like a very tacky and very cheap option but who cares, I've been around the tinsel Christmas tree for a few weeks and I'm not bored yet. I think it's great! I have seen some very unique gifts on the market today, things like Star Wars merchandise or anything from a Star Trek museum. So long as the gift is unique and in line with your friend's interest, it's a great gift.

Cheese Set

If you are too scared about buying him clothes, you can always get him a gift card. If you usually buy him something he needs, he will appreciate it and get it. If it's not just a shirt with a witty caption on it, you don't want to get him an outfit he won't wear!

So there you have it, five ideas to get your mind going. Any guy would love any of these five gifts and who knows, he might even love the better of the gift if it's really good! Just remember no socks or gift vouchers, the present must either be useful or hilarious and don't go too far in money wise. Best of luck with it, not that you need luck you can't go wrong with my flawless guide!

by Mark Tracey

His

by Katie Corkery

Hers

Pat Kenny has fit in very well to being a host of a show again. However, if you have a few that are not used to the studio environment, it can be a bit stressful. The new format has been well received and the show's ratings have been good. The show is a great way to get people involved in some of the events taking place around the country.

I can see the possibility of a Christmas special in the future, but it's too early to say at the moment. I think the show is doing well and it's important to keep the momentum going. I'm looking forward to the next few weeks and I'm sure we'll have some great specials in the pipeline.

Christmas is a special time of year and it's great to see people coming together to celebrate. I think the show is doing a great job of bringing people together and I'm sure we'll have some great specials in the pipeline.
HEYLANS' &
THE VILLAGE
LISTINGS FOR
DECEMBER

ATTENTION!
THE CHALETS
ARE HAVING A NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
IT'S ON AT WHelan's ON WEXFORD STREET
AND NEM SANDWICH
THE SUPPORT FROM BOSS Volt&
NEW YEAR'S EVE 05

DOWNTAIRS
ROCK KARAOKE
with Rory Montana and Dylan
DJ'S UPSTAIRS
FIONN DAVENPORT
MORGAN & DAVE REDSETTA

NEW YEAR'S EVE
ACCESS ALL AREAS

DOWNSTAIRS ROCK KARAOKE
UPSTAIRS DJ FIONN DAVENPORT,
MORGAN & DAVE REDSETTA

LATE BAR WITH DJS SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK.
LATE CLUB THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.
WITH GUEST DJS 7.15PM - 12.30AM.
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NEW YEAR'S EVE 05
ACCESS ALL AREAS

THE VILLAGE
26 Wexford St.
A 15 TIX FROM WAV, central hotel
- local call 1890 200 078
Wired to the Moon

Willy be on again this year?

So the presents are a distant memory, you've gobbled down the turkey, stuffed yourself with spuds and polished off the pudding. What's the perfect accompaniment to that stack of selection boxes glistening seductively in the corner? Your favourite Christmas movie of course. KATIE TEEHAN talks us through a few of her favourites.

Mome of the favorite Yuletide films have nothing whatsoever to do with Christmas, but maybe this is what makes them so timeless. Come to think of it, it's unlikely that Christmas with the King of Bad Santa will ever become seasonal cliché in the way that it's a Wonderful Life, The Sound of Music, or The Wizard of Oz have.

My personal favourite has been recently given a glossy 2005 Hollywood makeover that I've refused to see because the original is so magical; it brings me back to the days of unbridled screen-related excitement and Curly-Wully induced screams. As predictable as nostril-brushed spouts and doughnut mashes, RTE has shown Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory every year since I can remember. Sometimes it's buried down the schedule with the 'World You Believe' runner, but I always find it. From the vaultingly discoverable Oompa Loompas to the election night-style wonderland of the chocolate room, it's a world of pure imagination. Who could ever tire of seeing the hideous Veruca Salt get what's coming to her. I'm terrified that some time they'll choose to show The Grinch instead and my Christmas world will fall apart.

Love Actually is a film which, while set around Christmas time, is not feted with face white beards, even blue snow and nauseating moral messages. Stuffed full of beautiful well-known actors like Keira Knightley, Hugh Grant, Colin Firth and even Denise Richards, involved in several interlocking love stories, there's plenty for everyone to enjoy. It manages to stay just the right side of Christmas tacky by leaving you feeling warm and fuzzy by the end. Isn't that what we want from a Christmas movie?

Recently, Christmas has become ever-closely linked with the memories of blockbuster season like Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter. It's likely that these DVD box-sets will become annual favourites in the years to come.

Whatever your tastes, make sure you do just one thing this year. Snuggle up on the sofa, stuff yourself with chocolate and gaze on your favourite film of choice. It has only way to round off a great Christmas.

By Karl O’Doherty

Genie-us: Mondo does Panto

oF fantastically elaborate sets, dazzling costumes and one magnificent flying carpet. Sound vaguely familiar? It’s that time of year again and we all know it. Time to tighten the hips, cyndi-vein varicose veins college has given us, let loose and head out for a night of laughing at other peoples misadventures. Panto season is upon us once again and there something for everyone on this year. Whether laughing at a man dressed as an oversized old woman is your thing, or moving over how cute the Billy Barry kids look all dressed up is your idea of a good time, this city is sure to be something to suit your needs.

This year the Gaiety Theatre is putting on a show of Aladdin that will run from Sunday 4th December until Sunday 5th February. The show stars George McMahon (Mondo from Fair City) as the hero Aladdin who is saving the kids from the wicked Abanazar (Michael Grendell) while at the same time trying to score with Princess Jasmine (Jonna Ampil).

As usual the Dame of the piece is thrown in there with the people’s favourite, Widow Tinker, doing the honours. One to look out for is the tiny Japanese guy from Bazazi who pops up here and there and shouts in Japanese: ‘It’s funny, trust me.’ Also for those of you who don’t like Aladdin, Dooly is playing Jack and the Beanstalk from the 7th -18th January. This is performed by the Coolabun Panto Group who has pulled out all the stops this year to mark their 25th anniversary. Performed to an exceptionally high standard by amateur players, the set design and costumes are themselves a show worth going to see.

These are just two examples of the large range of pantos and plays that are on in Dublin over Christmas, so my advice is, forget about the regular Saturday night’s entertainment involving a trip to Holland’s finest and go to see one of Ireland’s best produced performances. After all Christmas comes but once a year.
Irish fans go crazy for Franz

FRANKIE WHEELAN and JAMES GOULDEN interview Paul Thomson of Franz Ferdinand just hours before their headlining show at The Point, and SARAH DOYLE reviews their performance at the gig.

When was the last time you listened to your first album? In a photo shoot we did in LA for a Japanese magazine. The photographer thought he’d make us feel at ease by playing our first record just after we’d done some press for the second one, so we just thought “thanks”, and every time the odd keyboard sound would come on we’d just cringe and go “Oh my God why did we do that?”. This is probably your biggest tour with such a big production... We just felt that since we’re playing bigger venues we better step up with the production a bit and we wanted to incorporate video into it as well. Particularly like in London, we’re playing in Alexandra Palace and a couple of the guys went down to see The strokes two years ago, and they go for quite a bare set with just a curtain behind them because they like to try and make it look like a smaller venue, even though it’s obviously not, and it doesn’t really translate to the back of the room, even though they’ve got such a great live band. So yeah, we just wanted something visual to encourage people without taking away from the live performance. Would you ever get another musician on stage to play keyboards through more of the songs? We’ve got one. We’ve got a friend Andy Knowles who’s been about since the start. Our first ever gig was in his girlfriend’s bedroom and he’s playing drums on Walk Away and I’m playing guitar. He’s also playing keyboard on about five songs and some extra drums as Outsiders. On Outsiders we’ve got three people playing one drum kit. I noticed on your website that you picked the music for your Halloween gig. Is this always the case?

We came on for the encore spitting fake blood all over the place and they just looked a bit bemused, sort of thinking “well this is new, are they going to do this every night?”

You said you’d do it. I’d put together some sort of CD before we go on. We wanted to do something special for Halloween, although we were in Rouen in France and I don’t think they really do Halloween that much in France. I mean, we came on Outsiders we’ve got three people playing one drum kit.

“I love you more” – “No, I love you more”

Paul Thomson has a habit of forgetting what he’s doing mid-song and for the encore spitting fake blood all over the place and they just looked a bit bemused, sort of thinking “well this is new, are they going to do this every night?”

For “Eleanor Put Your Boots Back On” from the new album has a very McCartney/Beatles feel to it without being copycat. Is this a direction you can see the band going in? It’s not the only direction I can see us going in, I mean, I don’t see us becoming Wings or anything, although I wouldn’t mind. I quite like Wings, but I think with some of the songs, they were written acoustically on guitar or piano and we wanted to keep them that way to bring some variety to the record and keep a range of different styles on it. That was the inspiration for putting that one, and Fade Together. Walk Away was very different to anything we’d done before. Now that we’ve gone that way we might take it other directions for the next record.

When was the last time you went to your first album? In a photo shoot we did in LA for a Japanese magazine. The photographer thought he’d make us feel at ease by playing our first record just after we’d done some press for the second one, so we just thought “thanks”, and every time the odd keyboard sound would come on we’d just cringe and go “Oh my God why did we do that?”. This is probably your biggest tour with such a big production... We just felt that since we’re playing bigger venues we better step up with the production a bit and we wanted to incorporate video into it as well. Particularly like in London, we’re playing in Alexandra Palace and a couple of the guys went down to see The strokes two years ago, and they go for quite a bare set with just a curtain behind them because they like to try and make it look like a smaller venue, even though it’s obviously not, and it doesn’t really translate to the back of the room, even though they’ve got such a great live band. So yeah, we just wanted something visual to encourage people without taking away from the live performance. Would you ever get another musician on stage to play keyboards through more of the songs? We’ve got one. We’ve got a friend Andy Knowles who’s been about since the start. Our first ever gig was in his girlfriend’s bedroom and he’s playing drums on Walk Away and I’m playing guitar. He’s also playing keyboard on about five songs and some extra drums as Outsiders. On Outsiders we’ve got three people playing one drum kit.

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Gray gets the nod

by Maeve McLaughlin

David Gray returned to his spiritual home of Dublin to play a sell-out gig in The Point on December 1st.

Gray began his set with the opening track of his latest album "Life in Slow Motion", the terrific "Alibi". This song was received well by the crowd, as Gray delivered an impressive performance.

Next, Gray launched into the opening bars of "Sail Away". The song is from Gray's most successful and well-known album, "White Ladder", and the crowd was obviously pleased that they'd be hearing some of their old favourites, as well as the new material.

He tailored some of the song's lines to include Irish place names, and references to Irish people, a trend which continued in various songs throughout the night. Unfortunately this was more cringe-worthy than crowd-pleasing, but it raised a few laughs all the same.

Gray continued his set with "Nos de Cariad", which went down well, but one of the best performances of the night came next with a fantastic rendition of "Please Forgive Me".

Other notable performances included "My oh My", "The one I love", and "Lately". The biggest crowd-pleaser of the night was, unsurprisingly, "This Year's Love", during which everyone held up their mobile phones to great visual effect.

Gray finished the main set with "Freedom", which he admits the band has only recently perfected live; and it was very impressive.

The encore began with "Nightblindness", which was disappointing, and continued with a decent rendition of Gray's new single, "Hospital Food".

An energetic performance of "Babylon" came next, to a fantastic reaction from the crowd, and he finished his set with The Cure's hit "Friday I'm in love".

Gray is better suited to smaller venues, but unfortunately demand for tickets means that he frequently plays larger venues such as The Point.

Allsive gig, but venue's size made for a less-than-ideal atmosphere.

David Gray's new album "Life in Slow Motion" is out now.

Ask the Editors

by Frankie Whealan

The band name is very definitely Editors, was this a conscious attempt to avoid being regarded as just another 'The' band?

Yeah its our original name. We knew it was going to happen anyway so we had known it would look better on its own, it suits the artwork and the name of the band.

It's also quite uncomfortable to say it in a sentence and we quite like the idea of that.

We quite like the idea of people struggling to pronounce it.

It has been about a year since you signed to the Kitchenware record label. Are you still happy with this decision?

Absolutely. It's worked in a partnership between us and them. They're fans of our music and they're the right guys to do it. They listen to everything we have to say and it's just worked out really well. We haven't had any of this crazy major label hell that you hear a lot of bands going through and it's just kept small so you know exactly what's going on.

Do you think this urban landscape adds a dark streak to your music?

Yeah, we were all working at the same time when we were writing the songs, and it is a pretty dark looking city. It's not like Brighton, for example. It's in the middle of nowhere, it's difficult to escape sometimes.
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Black and difficult business is ahead. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire will have you glued to your seat. Without doubt the fourth installment in the series is the best yet with impressive performances from its young cast.

Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (the hilarious Rupert Grint) are beginning their fourth year in Hogwarts when they learn that the school is to host the infamous and often fatal TriWizard tournament. The film starts at a breath-taking race with a murderer in the Riddle house, the Quidditch World Cup and the arrival of the Hungarian Horntail and the girl of Durmstrang at Hogwarts.

Director Mike Newell was taken on for the fourth Harry Potter film and he hasn’t disappointed. The Quidditch World Cup, the dragon chase and the lake trial in particular are magnificently filmed. Newell manages to retain most of the plot without compromising the wit and subtle humour of J.K. Rowling’s novel.

The scene where Professor McGonagall (Maggie Smith) attempts to teach the Gryffindors to dance and all of the love scenes between Hagrid (the brilliant Robbie Coltrane) and Madame Maxine (Francois De La Tour) are hilarious. My favourite however is when Harry and Ron are contemplating their chances of a due to the ball in the middle of summer ball while being repeatedly pressed across the head with a book by Professor Snape (Alun Rikman).

Being a Harry Potter fan I was slightly使える before seeing the Goblet of Fire because none of the other films have quite managed to live up to expectations. However I was not disappointed this time and I have to admit I went back for second helpings a week later...
Journalism Society promises "cool" Christmas party

We here at The Moon don't like to blow our own trumpet (steady), but on December 14th, Carnival on Wexford Street plays host to the annual Journalism Society Christmas Party. The resident DJs will, as ever, be providing some of the entertainment and those who are planning to attend have also been promised one or two surprise performers for the night.

Also playing are the critically acclaimed Prunty brothers, Shane and Kevin, who will be entertaining the crowd with what they describe as a post-apocalyptic, neo-country style. The festivities are scheduled to get underway around the 7.30 mark, and entry is free (is there a sweeter word in the English dictionary?) for Journosoc members. The Committee have also promised free passes to Tram Co. on the Lower Rathmines Road for anyone left standing after last orders in Carnival.

All are welcome, particularly freshers who will have an opportunity to get to know their journalistically minded seniors. Those seeking further information can email journalism@socs.dit.ie. All the cool kids will be there, and you wouldn't want to be seen as uncool now, would you?

Red Soc Rodeo is roaring success

The crowd at II Mondo for the Red Soc Rodeo

The drunk, the red and the ugly made an appearance at the Red Socs Redneck Rodeo to inaugurate their campaign into night-out-hood. Sean O'Preinngin, self-described Rodeo Romeo, saddled up and hit II Mondo with the intentions of drunkenly engaging a mechanical bull, YEEHAA.

A bouncing castle? Promised a bull and given a bouncing castle, extracting the danger and inserting a padded arena of disappointment. My partner in crime told me it was to do with legalities but the only whiff of bull seemed to be coming from him. The Red Soc saved their blushes by delivering the cheap drink they promised managing to avoid the downhill slalom that is expensive beverages.

One jubilant attendee, Maire Scully, equipped with a Fat Frog lined with around ten straws commented "this is a legendary night", while attractively dodging the ugly and red categories but nesting in nicely to the drunk.

My partner in crime received a head-butt for his troubles after a disagreement with a bouncer in the smoking garden for standing in the smoking area without a cigarette. "I was merely second hand smoking when accosted by this meathead." What has the world come too when a poor man can't enjoy another man's smoke without being assaulted? He has since invested in his own cigarettes.

This night out deserves a middle of the road 3 out of 6 Dutch, a marking system which makes its debut this issue after a Dutchless first event. Not a bad attempt at a night out and I'm sure the Red Soc will only improve in their future endeavours.

Red Socs Rodeo

Hotel Hailey's, Donnale Hailey's. "Yes they are the only words that fill my mind when I think of the Christmas Day. However, the Christmas drum is about more than just rudolf wearing a red coat and antlers through the streets. Holding stagings once a week the venue offers a friendly, airy atmosphere that can be found by a candle lit spacious and playful. A step away from the golden age of dubrockers, the venue promotes spiritual ideals that may one day become relevant in this consumerist day and age.

Contact: christmasrodeo@red.ie

Christian Union

Bible Hailey's, Donnale Hailey's. "Yes they are the only words that fill my mind when I think of the Christmas Day. However, the Christmas drum is about more than just rudolf wearing a red coat and antlers through the streets. Holding stagings once a week the venue offers a friendly, airy atmosphere that can be found by a candle lit spacious and playful. A step away from the golden age of dubrockers, the venue promotes spiritual ideals that may one day become relevant in this consumerist day and age.

Contact: christianunion@red.ie

Reject Muzakel

I'm not sure if this society was founded off the back of a small NewsLetter or collection performs similar kilkenny or other two less probable their crow. Basically for the music, if O's travelling any more the society offers the opportunity to perform in what is supposed to give some sense of satisfaction and joy. If your prospects of filling the Point 10 don't go now make your way to Mondo's on you own in the Lambshanks."

Contact: rejectmuzakel@red.ie

Pirate Society

I honestly could not find any information on this society. Their details are somewhat sketchy and their location seems to be described better as "offices N4". While this society actually don't exist (not sure), but I'm intrigued to see the Classy possibly buy a boat from this society and sail through up and over me. Or, worse, he actually naps, the boat's sound is on the scattered Tunes. Watch this space.

Contact: pirate.society@red.ie
DIT Fashion show 2006... uncovered

by Rebecca Todd

The DIT Fashion Show 2006 will go down as the year’s finest party. The show dec­ycled the packed out Vicar Street audience. Hip-Hop dancers at the inter­vals left spectators with a difficult decision. Get a pint or miss the fantastic spectacle. To open the second half a team of break dancers invaded the catwalk. They left everyone in awe; they pulled off head-spins, one-arm hand stands and other impossible looking moves.

The Fashion Society truly pulled out all the stops for this one. The theme was perfect for the show’s burlesque theme. Draped in red and purple velvet curtains it set the sultry scene for the stunning models. The DJ provided the popular beats and remixes which set the show in motion. A sexy strut and photogenic pose was the only requirement from the runway models.

The talent among the models was impressive. There was a lot of potential at the show and I’m quite positive we’ll be seeing more of these beautiful youths. They really gave the show their all. They were up-beat and vibrant all the way through, from underwear to winter woollies.

They scored confidence with anyone of them being worthy of the professional stable.

Two of the models were awarded modelling contracts by Compact modelling agency. The show wasn’t a first for all the models however. Both Jane Wilde and Lisa Maybury who starred in the show are seasoned professionals. Jane has a modelling contract with Compact modelling agency and Lisa has been working the European scene with considerable success. They added to the show’s professional air, parading down the catwalk full of personality and charisma.

Louise Conlon, the main organiser of the show, was quite deserving of the crowd’s ovation. In fact the whole production team were subject to an awesome response from the exceedingly vocal crowd. All their efforts really paid off; I’ll look forward to next years show but it certainly has a hard act to follow.

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France seemed all conquering. Les Bleus had won the 2001 Confederations Cup, 2000 European Championship and the previous World Cup. Meaningless friendly matches were deemed sufficient preparation for the defence of their trophy. France were certainly breathtaking. Three winless games, no goals, and loyalty to a defective rearguard saw Roger Lemerre out of a job. It was unlucky 13 for Alpbine's bat and a 35-year-old Claudio Caniggia and a 30-year-old Claudio da Silva ahead of the young, enterprising Juan Roman Riquelme and Javier Saviola. The current Albicelestes coach, JPekerman, could do well to remember L' I M i, Rodriao Palacio and Javier Mucbera when selecting his final 23. If not, it could come back to haunt him.

It is the biggest show on earth, where the biggest and best players demonstrate why they are paid bizarre amounts. It is unnlucky 13 for Argentina that selected a 35-year-old Claudio Caniggia and a 30-year-old Javier Mascherano ahead of the young, creative and talented Juan Roman Riquelme and Javier Mascherano when selecting his final 23. If not, it could come back to haunt him. It is the biggest show on earth, where the biggest and best players demonstrate why they are paid bizarre amounts. It has often shown the disreputable nature of international football, as games crumble at the hands of Moran's, Paul Roberts says. "In football, the greatest satisfaction is winning when they say you can't." One wonders if die hard football fans would agree.

Even so, it would be nice to see Italy, France, Spain and Argentina perform to the best of their ability. As for England it's their time and expect theirarsity to be leading from the front.
**Gaelic Games**

By Mark Rodden

The weather is awful and the training is tough. The wind and the rain hit hard against the 24 players present, and if you don’t know another you can easily have thought you were in Ireland.

But at the ASPTT sports complex in Paris, the sight of a Gaelic football team in training must have been fairly strange. Formed in 1994 by a group of Irish people who found themselves in the French capital, Paris Gaels is a mix of Irish business owners, tradesmen and students, as well as an increasing number of local players.

Pierre Gaschier discovered Gaelic football when he spent seven weeks in Leitrim in the summer of 2003. The 20-year-old Breton student attended the Kerry–Roscommon All-Ireland quarter-final, where the game, Croker Park, and the home among rival supporters left a lasting impression on him. On his return to France, he began playing with a club in Rennes, and this Monday is his first training session with Paris Gaels.

I discovered Gaelic football when I was working in a supermarket,” he says.

“We really liked it because it was the mix between football and rugby. I already played football for a number of years in France and I found a number of common elements in Gaelic.”

“I think it’s really interesting,” Gaschier continues. “Is that you see points and goals all the time. It’s true that in football you can have a 0-0. But in Gaelic football, that never happens.”

Last November, the Railway Cup was held overseas for the first time at the Stade Yves du Manoir in Paris. One notable sight was the curtain that was drawn around the French national team – with an ‘An Óran’ emblemised on their jerseys – playing their first ever game against an European selection. This followed the formation of the Association Francaise des Sports Gaélique (AFSG), the French Gaelic Athletic Association, in October 2004.

President of the AFSG and Secretary of the European GA board, Hervé Gauthier, was introduced to Gaelic football by a colleague at work.

“An Irish colleague knocked on my door and asked if one day I would like to tell my grandkids that I had played Gaelic football. I said yes.”

He quickly became involved with the Ar Gwazz Gaunz (Wild Geese) club in Rennes. When joining, the club was unorganised and some of the others convinced me not to get involved in the organisation,” he says. “I realised that the problem with the European Association is that the chairman is in Munich, the Vice-Chairman in Amsterdam, the Secretary in Remes, the Development Officer in Barcelona. It’s difficult to run through the internet and every country has their own peculiarity with the laws.”

“So to make it more effective I found it necessary to create a French association with a goal of obtaining recognition for the sport. We also wanted to organise competitions on a French level, which is why we set up the Brittany Championship.”

The AFSG meets every four months, and are targeting the development of the game in French schools. With thanks to support from Gaelic Gear and Goalposts Ireland, the association received a challenge match in which 200 kids aged 11 to 18 took part.

The demands from schools in Brittany has seen Jean-Paul Laberde and Didier Perou, an ex-French volleyball team turned GAA fanatic, take charge of a programme dedicated to introducing the sport to French children with the help of Irish coaches.

“We (the association) don’t have a lot of money at the moment,” Guichard explains. “It’s progressing quickly, even a bit too quickly for us as we are getting a lot of demands.”

So with this development in Brittany, will the game become popular elsewhere in France? Guichard predicts that Gaelic football will be played in stadiums all around the world in twenty years time, but Coffey and Bouvier are not so optimistic.

“I think development in Brittany is easier than in Paris, because there’s a lot of community spirit there,” says Coffey.

Similarly, Bouvier feels it will be difficult or at least take a lot of time. “It’s going well in Brittany and it will be good to see how it evolves, but for the rest of France it will be difficult.”

As for Pierre Gaschier, the Frenchman who discovered Gaelic football in Leitrim, he hopes to organise a tournament in Paris next year, and is confident of attracting thousands of locals to watch. With already seven clubs in France, perhaps his dream is not as unlikely as it sounds.

**IBROX PARADOX**

By Ronan O Connor

For the blue half of Glasgow it is the best of times, it is the worst of times. As Rangers' Jekyll and Hyde competitiveness, McLeish would have seen Rangers tumble into the UEFA Cup, and rely on a 'bdle ofCs' team, was phi phoned to see their through. The current Rangers team is a poor relation of those two sides.

The mere fact that many see Rangers best chance of going further in the competition is to face an English side and rely on a 'bdle ofCs' team, was phi phoned to see their through. The current Rangers team is a poor relation of those two sides.

The curious situation of Rangers in compounded by the curious situation of their manager. Were it not for his side’s continued European competitiveness, McLeish would have been dismissed by David Murray long ago.

He will surely jump ship or be pushed in the next future. We are currently witnessing a strange era. From him a manager who has guided his team to the last sixteen of the Champions League is being linked to the Portsmouth post before he has quit his post.

GOD HELP ME: Alex McLeish appeals to his Protestant God for help
By Ronán O'Connor

Athletic Club de Bilbao is a club like no other. Owned exclusively by its supporters, or members, it plays only canteras - players who come from the local area. Many would argue that this is how football should be. In stark contrast to this we can see that Chelsea in the late nineteen nineties managed to field an entire squad that did not include a single Englishman.

Today the club is in trouble, joint bottom of La Liga and with no realistic options of improving the squad in January. They have eleven points from fourteen games and a goal difference of minus six. Alaves and Real Betis are keeping them company down in the basement of Spain's top division.

Javier Clemente, the former Spain manager who led the club to back to back league titles in the club's new stadium. Three weeks ago he replaced the maligned José Luis Mendilibar and has seen a slight upturn in the club's league form. Bilbao now stand a decent chance of hauling themselves out of their malaise, but one has to worry for the club in the long run.

The team is bolstered by an ageing core and the historical flood of talent that used to come Bilbao's way is no more. In recent years only Francisco Yeste and Roberto Tiko have made an impact in the first team. Bilbao are reliant on these two to spark the midfield, while Joseba Etxeberria (a constant in the Spain squad) is the brightest star of the team, they are overly reliant on the ageing talents of workhorse striker Iñaki Urdini who is 34.

An even stranger phenomenon is the cameo of Julen Guerrero, in the mid-nineties Guerrero was hailed as the kingpin of Spanish football and expected to form a rock-like partnership with Barcelonita Pep Guardiola. It would never be, Guerrero suffered an almost inexcusable loss of form that saw him fall from contention for the Bilbao team for three seasons. Only towards the end of last season did he make a substitute appearance for Bilbao, to a spectacular ovation from the devoted fans.

There are many who claim that because the club plays only canteras, home grown players, they are taking a nationalist stance that exists in the Basque region. This is nonsense, as the club does not do either criticism or appreciation of the players. As with any organisation, there will always be one or two stars who blacken the name of a club, but Bilbao is often the source of more Spanish internationals than any other club.

The reason for this anomaly, a Basque team providing more than their quota of players for the national team can be traced to the cantera policy. There are no foreign stars to take the places of young talent. Therefore the younger players get much-needed game time and experience in the top division. This leads to obvious development of the youngsters, who generally have a head start on their young rivals at other clubs. This extra experience translates into more and more Bilbao players having the nous and experience to go on and represent their country at the highest level.

"This extra experience translates into more and more Bilbao players having thenous and experience to go on and represent their country at the highest level."

FIERY: Bilbao boss Javier Clemente is known for his razor tongue
“Even when they do get the talented youngsters to play for them, there is never a guarantee that they will stay.”

There are many who claim that because the club plays only canteras, home grown players, they are adding to nationalist tensions that exist in the Basque region. This ill-informed criticism levelled at the club does not do either critics or criticised any credit. As with any organisation, there will always be one or two idiots who blacken the name of a club, but Bilbao is often the source of more Spanish internationals than any other club.
IN MEMORIAM

THE HORSE

by Arthur Sullivan

Tim Kennelly's son Tadhg in action for Australian NFL side Sydney Swans

He trembles as he walks towards the forty. He's been given the number 11 jersey, the leader of the attack. The place is unfamiliar, yet he's been in the stadium many times before. He makes his final trudge to his position, ready to brave the elements of the flesh, to face the might of bone and sinew. He looks up, and towering like a prize stallion stands Tim Kennelly, the toughest centre-back in the business. It's a frightful prospect but it's the life he chose. In moments like this he'll catch when his booties up and he's warming his feet by the fire.

He's a familiar story to anyone who came across the man they called the Horse. Tim Kennelly was the archetypal man. Kennelly was the launch pad for a high one, he was a gifted felder and when the right one came, he finally came down without it. Kerry's style was like a Blitzkrieg. They played in rapid scones of sweeping up at the back before finding Johnnie Egan, Mikey Sheehy or Ogie Moran with a pinpoint punt was a familiar sight of so many Kerry attacks. He made history in becoming the first Irishman to win a Premierships medal. Tim was in Listowel and run his pub business. It was steel they needed, a destroyer, so often deployed in that era. His sense of responsibility. Teammate Pat Spillane said "He wasn't known as 'Horse' for nothing but he was a cool character. I don't ever recall him losing his temper."

Kerry won the All-Ireland in 1975 with a string that would define them for the next 13 years. The next one came in 1978 when they slaughtered Dublin by 17 points and in 1979, Kennelly captained his side to victory over the Dubs again and it was a whipsaw year; 3-13 to 1-8. While the 1979 triumph was probably the proudest moment of Kennelly's career, it was in 1980 that he gave his finest display: A young, hungry Roscommon team stood in the way of the three-in-a-row. After 12 minutes, the men from Connacht had a five-point lead.

Kerry turned to Kennelly to pluck them out of the mire. It was steel they needed, a calling to stand up to the plate and show what they were made of. The Horse began to repel rampaging Roscommon star Delaney. Earley on each of the forward forays. Each athletic stride of Earley was met with the stone-cold manhood of Kennelly and his resilience held out as Kerry claimed a 1-9 to 1-6 victory.

Kennelly picked up his fifth medal the following year but he also endured the agony of Seamus Darby's last gasp goal for Offaly in the 1982 final which denied Kerry the five-in-a-row.

Tim drifted away from the Kerry team after this. He had achieved enough with 5 All-Ireland medals pocketed before he had reached his thirties. He continued to farm his land in Listowel and run his pub business. In 2000, Tim's son Noel was on the Kerry team that won the All-Ireland. His other son Tadhg had made the successful transition from OAA to Australian Rules Football with Sydney Swans and this year made history in becoming the first Irishman to win a Premierships medal. Tim was in Australia with his wife for the day and was beaming as he watched his son celebrate on the podium.

It was a chilling salute to the life of Tim, a man that had managed to showcase his talents on the professional stage had triumphed. It was a dream that bowled over the sleeping city of Sydney but that was forged on the distant sod of his dad's farm in Listowel.

Tim Kennelly's death due to a heart attack is the age of 71. It's a shock to everyone in OAA. But every GAA fan knows that the best thing football gives you is happy memories that don't fade with the passing of time and the Horse has provided us with plenty.

"He wasn't known as 'Horse' for nothing but he was a cool character."