

2005

## The Moon, Issue 1, November-December 2005

DIT Journalism Society

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# THE MOON



THE OFFICIAL  
PUBLICATION OF  
DIT'S  
JOURNALISM  
SOCIETY

NOTHING - NOTHING 2005

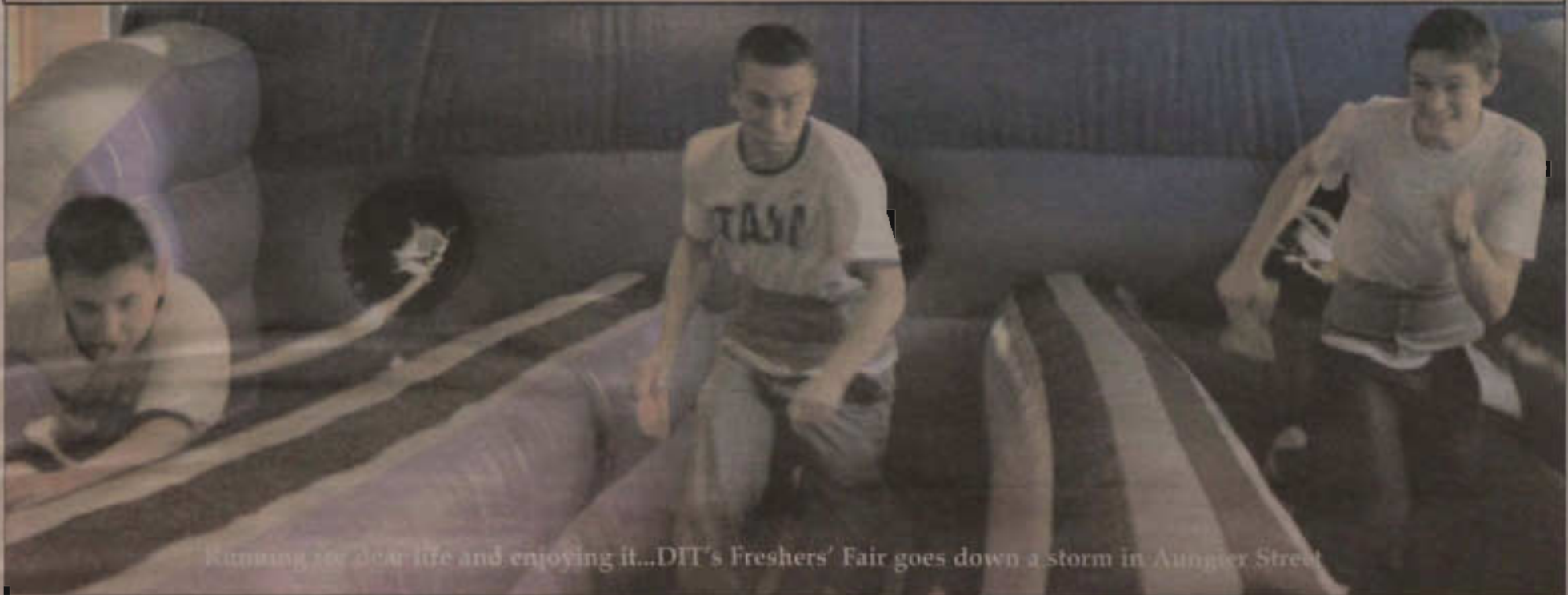
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Running for dear life and enjoying it...DIT's Freshers' Fair goes down a storm in Aungier Street

## DIT snubbed by universities

By Maura Fay

DIT HAS BEEN left out in the cold by the new Irish Universities Association (IUA).

The newly formed IUA evolved out of the old Conference of Heads of Irish Universities Association (CHIUA).

Despite being a member of the European Universities Association, DIT was not invited to join the IUA.

"Membership of the European Universities Association is much broader in terms of the institution that can join," said Michael McGrath, Director of the IUA. "Membership of the IUA is confined to the heads of the seven Irish universities recognised under the Irish Universities Act 1997."

DIT is the only institute of technology in Ireland which

is a member of the European Universities Association. It has been a member since January 2004.

A spokesperson for DIT said: "My feeling is that we are not concerned. We are not a member and we are not looking to be a member."

Mr McGrath added that "the old CHIUA supported DIT's application for membership of the European Universities Association."

Bob Coggins, DIT student union president, said: "We are more like a university than some universities in Ireland in terms of size and the range of courses offered. DIT should be making more of an effort to attain university status."

"Waterford IT is making a big push at the moment. They have the whole of the south east backing them."

Speaking on the European

Universities Association report evaluating DIT, due to be published shortly, he said "They were very impressed by the effort of the college to attain a higher level of quality of courses offered."

The IUA council members are the Provost of Trinity College and the presidents of UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, University of Limerick and DCU.

The association recently submitted proposals to the Government promising radical reform in exchange for increased funding. The universities say under-funding has been allowed reach "crisis" levels.

The IUA is noted as a powerful lobby group and this latest proposal stands a good chance of securing extra funding for universities.

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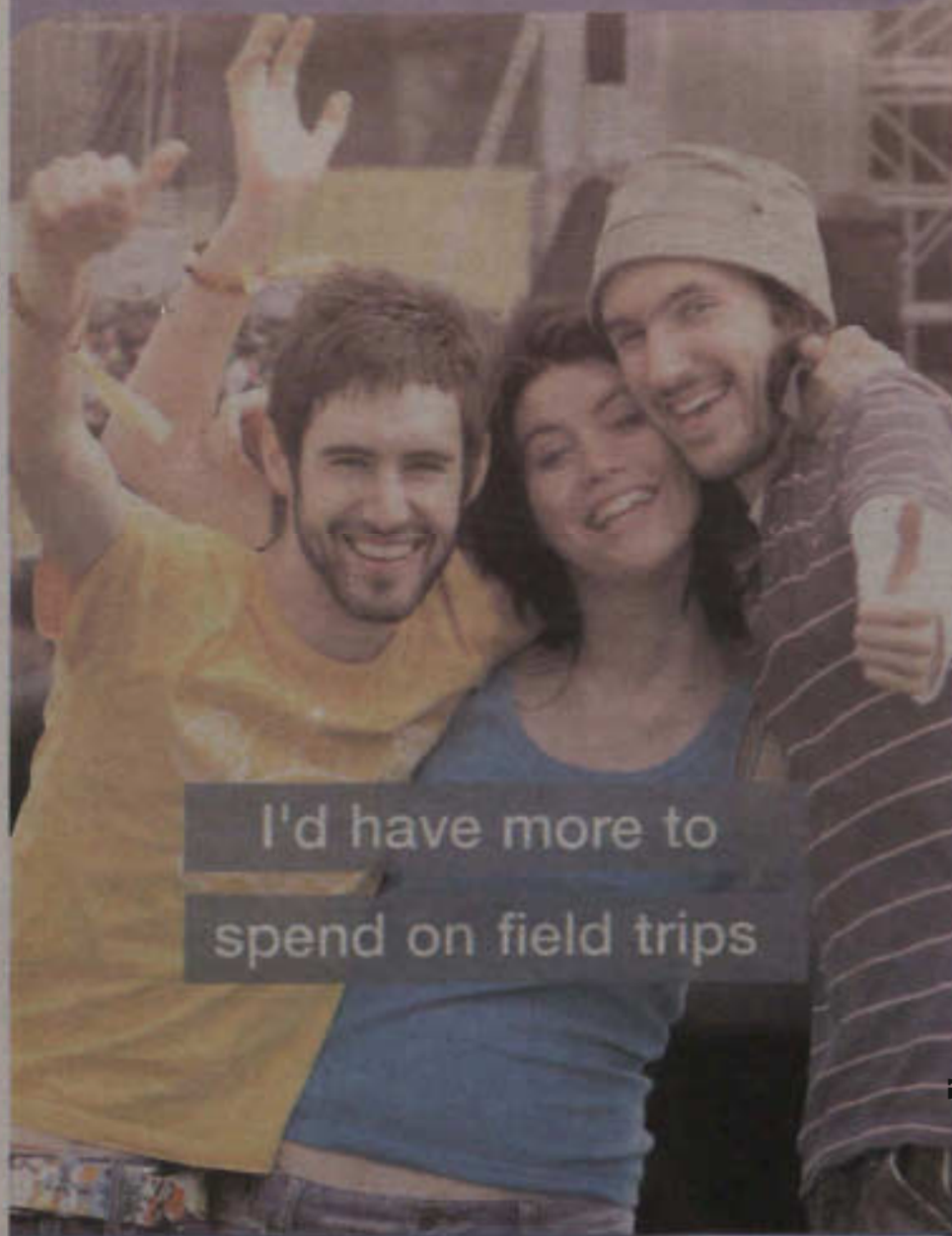
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# Rent Book worth a look



By Laura Donnelly

UNSURE of your rights as a tenant? Would you know who to talk to about a dispute with your landlord? Students will no longer have to pay over the odds to live in sub-standard housing, thanks to a new "Rent Book" recently launched by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI).

The book is aimed at providing students with information about tenant's rights, and contains information on tenancy agreements, health and safety requirements, and information about how to make a complaint about a landlord. There is also an easy to follow checklist for students to complete before signing a lease, and a rent payment record, which allows students and landlords to keep track of the amount paid and any money outstanding.

The book also aims to help students with regular day-to-day issues such as rent reviews, deposits, privacy, anti-social behaviour, maintenance and repairs, disputes, and the amount of notice to be given. There is also a list

of organisations to contact should you encounter problems with housing, such as Threshold, USI, and the National Safety Council.

According to Tom Lowth, USI Welfare Officer, stu-

dents continue to be one of the most exploited groups in the accommodation market.

"The launch of the 'USI Rent Book' is in response to issues that I and Welfare Officers in colleges across the country are dealing with every day as students strug-

affects the economy as a whole as students are forced into the private market and this consequently drives up rental prices for the rest of the market."

DIT Student Nuala Dowling says she is not fully aware of her rights as a ten-

**"students are one of the most exploited groups in the accommodation market"**

gle to find affordable accommodation. Many are unaware of their rights as tenants and in some cases do not have any sort of written agreement with their landlord. The Rent Book clearly outlines students' rights as tenants and informs students who to contact if they are experiencing problems."

USI President Tony McDonnell says the lack of on-campus accommodation in Ireland is the root of the

problem. "Ireland lags behind the rest of Europe in the amount of on-campus accommodation available to students. The lack of on-campus accommodation isn't just an issue for students, but

ant, and as yet has not received a copy of the USI Rent Book. Although Nuala has not encountered any problems with her landlord, a previous flatmate had trouble recouping rent relief which she was entitled to, as the landlord would not give her his details, which indicates he is not registered with the Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB). If this is the case, tenants are still entitled to contact the PRTB for advice, but the landlord is liable to be fined for breaking the law.

In relation to on-campus accommodation, Nuala said "I get value for money with the house I live in at the moment, but I would definitely live on campus if it was available."

**"the Rent Book clearly outlines students' rights"**

of organisations to contact should you encounter problems with housing, such as Threshold, USI, and the National Safety Council.

According to Tom Lowth, USI Welfare Officer, stu-

dents continue to be one of the most exploited groups in the accommodation market.

The USI Rent Book is available from your Students Union free of charge, and can also be downloaded from the USI website, [www.usi.ie](http://www.usi.ie)



# DIT, probably the best IT in Ireland

Are you feeling hard done by in the college stakes? Mourning the lack of a student bar? Wishing you'd gone somewhere with one library instead of six? Or are you just plain sick of those blisters?...after all "the city is our campus" and its an awful long way to walk around. Cheer up though, it seems all the other ITs are way more shoddy than ours! Yes, that's all the consolation we need as we stagger down the street to pay student unfriendly prices for our pints. We check out the University League Table to see how we're doing.

DIT finished top of the IT charts for the fourth year running in the annual Sunday Times University League Table.

The college came in eighth overall, just trailing NUI Maynooth and ahead of Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design.

Scoring well in some areas, DIT was slammed for its research efficiency, scoring a measly 10, while NUI Maynooth kicked ass with a whopping 70. Overall, DIT scored 465 and there were no surprises at the top as Trinity took its place as the highest ranked college with a magnificent 607.

Facilities at our six main campuses were imaginatively

described by the Sunday Times as "relatively good", but "those in the many smaller centres are poor". No news there then.

It was also pointed out that "improvements are on the way, with a centralised 65-acre campus in Grangegorman. All of the institute's faculties will move there within the next four to eight years."

However, in true DIT style, the constant delays have meant that work hasn't even started yet. According to the wonderfully up-to-date news

section of the DIT website; "Construction of the 262 million euro project is estimated to begin in 2003". While a recent staff bulletin says it is hoped to "establish a significant Institute presence onsite" by 2006.

In spite of these vague promises, the site is still no more than a field and it is unlikely that any of us current students will ever see the wonders of Grangegorman for ourselves.

Back to the league table and commiserations go out to the catchily-named DKIT

Facilities were imaginatively described by the Sunday Times as "relatively good"



(not to be confused with a clothing label) or Dundalk Institute of Technology, who finished rock bottom of the league table with just 399. Only 29% of DKIT honours

students achieved a first or a 2:1, the lowest percentage in any university or IT. By Maura Fay and Katie Teehan

## Good case of wind in Dundalk

By Maura Fay

DUNDALK Institute of Technology is the proud owner of Ireland's first urban wind turbine.

Some observers have suggested that the decision to switch to wind power came after the college had difficulty in sourcing green diesel for the college's heating system.

Recent Customs and Excise operations have cracked down significantly

on illegal cross-border fuel smuggling. Over 30,000 litres of laundered diesel have been seized in the north-east region so far this year.

DKIT Student Union president Niall Callery rubbished the allegations saying: "We can get green diesel if we need it".

The on-campus turbine will provide half of the institute's energy needs and allow stu-

dents to gain direct experience of wind-power technology.

The 1.1m euro turbine was built as part of the institute's Centre for Renewable Energy. Manager of the centre, Dr Larry Staudt, says the turbine project will pay for itself in eight years.

The turbine tower is 85m tall and the turbine blades are 25m long. "It's class. It looks

brilliant" says DKIT accounting student Maria Finn.

The turbine was finally switched on last week by Minister for Foreign Affairs and proud Dundalkian, Dermot Ahern. The switching-on of the turbine was delayed by a month after a transformer which was supplied as part of the turbine was the incorrect size. It was only a 110 voltage and 220

voltage was required.

Ray Byrne, a researcher in renewable energy in DKIT, said: "We specified the size transformer we needed but we were still sent the wrong one."

Not only is the erection the largest structure in Dundalk, it is also the largest on any college campus in the world.



Wind turbine at Dundalk Institute of Technology

## Over to you...

So what do you, the students think of this great college of ours? Maura Fay and Cillian O Conchuir trawled the corridors to find out your views

**Q: Do you think DIT is the best institute of technology in Ireland?**



"I've only been here a few weeks but it seems pretty cool. Half of the lecturers are pretty crap but the other half are really good." Gary Kinsella, Masters in Strategic Management



"Yes. I love my lecturers. The facilities are crap. The social life is crap. Java City has a monopoly here. Everything else is great."

Marie Lyons, 4th Year Marketing



"Yeah, I think it's fabulous. Kevin St. is a bit run down but on a whole it's good."

Courtney Greene, 3rd Year Forensics and Environmental Science



"No. The computers don't work properly. Printers never work. Programs aren't installed properly so it wrecks the work you've done."

Jonathan Meaney, 2nd Year Computer Science



# Hurricane wreaks havoc

By Lois Owen  
North American  
Correspondent

HURRICANE Stan crashed into the Mexican coast on the 4th of October, the aftermath leaving storms, which dispersed throughout Central America. The storms brought thrashing rains that threw the riverbanks, lakes, and mountain sides into scenes of destruction.

As a result of the heavy rainfall, severe flooding occurred on the rivers. Meanwhile, sudden landslides swept the hillsides forcing the inhabitants to flee.

Many of the swiftly devastated areas have been declared mass gravesites. Particularly in Guatemala, families, homes and entire villages have been buried by the mudslides without warning.

Many of the recent natural disasters throughout the world have made a point of devastating the poor.

The landslides in Guatemala have outdone themselves in this regard. In fact, if there were an Olympic contest to determine which natural disaster has provided the most concentrated amount of destruction for the poor, the Guatemalan landslides might well come out with a gold medal.

Unfortunately, the landslides themselves aren't the only source of blame. The simple fact that there are so many poor people in Guatemala who are living in vulnerable, hazardous areas,

is a huge contributor. Guatemala has an extreme class division.

The wealthiest 10 per cent of the population receives almost half of the country's entire income, while an estimated 75 per cent of the country lives below the poverty line. This is a social situation that forces many of the poor into dangerous living conditions on the sides of mountains and edges of rivers. These locations are incidentally, perfect targets for a devastating landslide.

There is also a racial element contributing to the existence of such extreme poverty. Guatemala has an exceptionally large Mayan-Indian population. The indigenous inhabitants of the more rural areas are often ignored in the country's quest for development.

A decline in demand for coffee, the country's main export, has drastically reduced employment for the Mayan coffee-pickers.

The mudslides may be a mixed blessing for the poorer Guatemalans in that they have given the Mayan population a lot of attention from the outside world. Many international humanitarian groups have undertaken relief efforts, but there is still a feeling of neglect expressed by the victims.

Many have complained that the President Oscar Berger's appearance in Panjab could have come sooner than a week after the actual mudslides. If it was due to negli-

gence, this tardiness on the president's part merely illustrates the general attitude of the Guatemalan government towards the Mayan population and their needs.

The victims of the disaster are certainly entitled to a sense of injustice. They are victims not only of the treachery of nature, but the treachery and desertion of their fellow countryman.

No amount of humanitarian

aid will permanently solve the problems that the mudslides have brought to the surface. The solution comes from within.

It will take a transformation on the part of the Guatemalan government and all levels of Guatemalan society to right the wrongs that have always existed, but have only been aggravated by the recent disasters.



## USI Congress to tackle cracks in the Constitution

By Maura Fay

A special congress of the Unions of Students in Ireland (USI) is to be held on Saturday, 26 November.

The purpose of the congress is to debate the controversial proposed amendments to the USI Constitution.

The proposed amendments include changing "Disability Rights Officer" to "Officer for Students with Disabilities"; changing the LGBT Officer from a full-time to a part-time position; and the abolition of the post of Deputy President.

The new proposed USI Constitution is notably similar to the one that was defeated at National Congress last April.

The proposed changes, which required a two-thirds majority to be adopted, were defeated by a single vote. It later emerged that two of the voting delegates from Letterkenny IT, who voted against the motion, were not entitled to a vote.

Most colleges opted to block vote with TCD and UCD the most vociferous

**USI in recent times has been criticised as a "mute union for careerist hacks"**

objectors to the motion. They are expected to again oppose the constitutional changes.

Following the failure of the motion in April, DITSU governing council voted to not pay any membership fees amounting to 66,000euro to USI and change from full member to associate member unless they implemented constitutional reform.

USI in recent times has been criticised as a "mute union for careerist hacks". Deep divisions between member unions have rendered USI virtually ineffective. NUI Galway and UCC are considering disassociating from USI.

DITSU President Bob Coggins says DIT will not be block voting at the upcoming congress. "There is a lot more involvement in the constitutional review group. Everyone had the opportunity to have an input. On a whole, it [the proposed constitution] is a lot better," he said.

DITSU is entitled to send 26 delegates and anybody interested in being a delegate is invited to email their details to [administrator@ditsu.ie](mailto:administrator@ditsu.ie) before the 16 November.



USI President Tony McDonnell will have a difficult task in persuading student union delegates to accept the proposed constitutional amendments.

# UCD religious nut's golden handshake

By Maura Fay

A UCD lecturer investigated for using her position to promote extreme Catholic beliefs has received a payoff of just under 100,000euro.

The early retirement settlement was approved by the UCD Governing board last week following Geraldine O'Connor's retirement on grounds of ill-health.

UCD order an investigation after it was alleged that Ms

O'Connor told students it was obligatory to attend Opus Dei events in order to pass exams. Opus Dei has been criticised as a fundamental Catholic

**"you won't get a first unless you believe"**

"sect" which promotes a fascist ideology and is intolerant of other religions.

Events came to a head last

March when second year radiography students withdrew from Ms O'Connor's lectures in protest, after which she took sick leave.

Complaints made by the students include the allegation that the lecturer said "you won't get a first unless

you believe" in life after death.

As well as an early retirement settlement of 96,339euro, Ms O'Connor will also receive an enhanced pension of 32,113euro a year. She taught in UCD for over 26 years.

UCD Student Union president James Carroll was reluctant to comment on the settlement that Ms O'Connor received, but did say it was a "disgrace that she received that 'golden handshake'".



# NEWS FEATURES



Above: Mario Rosenstock gets his picture taken with an over enthusiastic José Mourinho

## From Glenroe to meeting Mourinho -

## The Rosenstock Story

From the fields of Glenroe to Chelski's field of dreams, Mario Rosenstock (the voice of Gift Grub) has achieved legendary status. As luck would have it, he was edged out of law in Trinity, on random selection, and in its' place studied Economics and Politics. He then got involved in the Players Drama Society, but he could easily have been a solicitor in one of the recent drawn out Tribunals instead of being the Voice of Radio Fiction.

By Cillian O Conchuir

He first came onto our screens as Dr. Hanlon in RTE's Glenroe, but as he tired of saying, "Another pint there Teasy," he began 'Gift Grub' on Today FM in May 1999. Since then, the show has evolved into one of the biggest shows on Irish radio. It has taken household names in sport, entertainment, politics and business, and created a world which has humanized celebrities and which has fascinated the public.

So, where did his ability to impersonate celebrities begin? "When I was a kid, myself and my brother used to put on a pantomime based on our parents and auntie's. It used to mortify them." However, what started off as a simple idea, and Bertie, has grown beyond his wildest expectations, each character serving as a token of his creativity.

After bringing Roy to our radios, it was fitting that he should land the part of Keano in the hit musical, 'I, Keano.' "I really thought I could bring this role to the stage and it was really fun to do." The cast included Après Match duo Risteard Cooper and Gary Cooke and Mario was full of praise for them both.

"Risteard is one of the most professional and talented actors. He is probably the best impressionist I have ever met. Gary was great fun and he owns that Dunphy character." Each cast member brought an element of understanding to their role and if Channel 4's proposed TV version goes ahead, they could do worse to bring them back.

But, it is as Chelsea boss José Mourinho, that Mario has become more widely known. The BBC and other British radio stations have aired the Mourinho songs, increasing the Irishman's chances of extensive coverage throughout Britain.

As Mourinho's side reigns supreme at the summit of the Premiership, 'the special one' is eyeing up the prospect of being #1 in the British charts this Christmas. Mario has transformed Aretha Franklin's 'Say A Little Prayer For You' into 'Sign A Little Prayer Or Two,' and the hit song from the musical Joseph into 'José And His Amazing Technicolor Overcoat,' both of whom have been approved by José Mourinho.

Stirred by Mario's interpretation of the Chelsea boss, Abramovich had him flown to London. "I was interested

that Mourinho should be so tickled by it. I was even more surprised that he felt compelled to invite me over to Chelsea," remarked the talented Liverpool fan. "The fact that I am a Liverpool fan, I felt a bit like a cheat going over to Chelsea."

His remarkable comical nature shines through when

star, billions." In stark contrast the lasting memories are quite different. "The 2 litre plastic bottles of coke on the hotel tables, which was so unusual to see and these guys being sent to bed at ten past nine in the evening with their playstations.

After dining with the Chelsea team, he conducted a

"When I was a kid, myself and my brother used to put on a pantomime based on our parents and auntie's. It used to mortify them."

speaking about the trip to Chelsea and José Mourinho. "I expected it to be much more flash. You know, Chelsea, Abramovich, five-

press conference. "I walked in with my Armani overcoat and chewing gum. I had questions in the audience which I organized that they

would ask me and I responded as José Mourinho."

He spoke with José and his staff for the best part of 30 minutes. So what is 'the special one' like? "He was exactly like he is on TV. He's fascinating, he loves a laugh, he's up for the crack and doesn't mind the piss been taken out of him. His sense of humour is underrated. Humour makes a big impact on people's lives and that is maybe why they brought me over."

"He is a breath of fresh air, not only in Premiership football, but in world football. He is candid, he's straight, he's fresh, he's arrogant, and he's unapologetically cocky. He gives cocky a good name. He is just a very dramatic and interesting character. It was the same effect to meet him and to meet a movie star."

Well, with the weekend over it was back to the Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show and Gift Grub, the success of which is demonstrated in the Gift Grub album sales.

As for his favorite personality to impersonate! "From a humour point of view it is Ronan, while the character I have most affection for from Gift Grub is Roy. He epitomizes what the show is about, in terms of the famous person

I took, and made the character my own. He belongs in Gift Grub and he is more Roy on Gift Grub than he is the real Roy."

So are there any new characters coming to our airwaves. "In football terms I was looking at doing an impersonation of Liam Brady, which I was messing around with in the office and everyone was laughing at it because it's a bit weird. We will see how the Irish manager's job goes and Des Lynham has taken over Countdown, so I'll think about doing him."

So, what next for Mario? Chelsea want him to perform at their centenary dinner in London, while it seems he has fairly modest aspirations. "My ambition would be to get more work in Britain, ultimately resulting in an album released in Britain maybe next year." His eagerly awaited sixth Gift Grub album, 'the special one,' is out November 4th and if past compilations are anything to go by, it seems Mario might have his album in Britain sooner than he thinks.

And what makes Gift Grub so appealing. "The consistency, the topicality and the freshness! It kind of comes into their life for five minutes every day and leaves."



# NEWS FEATURES

## West draws short straw in Shell sham



Supporters rally for Rossport Five

*Arthur Sullivan* examines the shortcomings of our seemingly shoddy government

FIANNA Fáil aren't renowned for their upfront honesty. Indeed you could probably say they are the most deceptive troop in the Dáil. From the days of Charlie Haughey's mega corruption to the more recent issues over the health service and the Monica Leech affair, it's always been colourful.

And in the month that's in it, the copious eulogising after the death of long-time rogue Liam Lawlor is tiring and irritating. Bertie Ahern seems to have forgotten his previous public putdowns of Lawlor in his description of the man as an "engaging, witty and larger than life character".

Yet the issue on which our government has escaped under the radar is the lamentable imprisonment of the Rossport 5. For those not up to speed with the issue, here are the facts. Shell, one of the largest oil and gas giants in the world are to build a pipeline from the Corrib Gas Field in Mayo and carry it through the 9km pipe to a refinery plant in north County Mayo.

There should be no problem. People need gas and Shell provide it. However, the gas in the pipe is untreated. In other words it is raw, potentially ex-

plosive gas, which would wreak a trail of destruction within a radius of one mile should the worst happen.

A pipeline carrying gas like this has never been attempted through an inhabited region in the world before. Thus it's quite easy to understand the concerns of the residents of the tiny village of Rossport, when they learned that the pipe would be slicing right through their little world.

Shell informed the landowners by arriving one day in 2001 and explaining that there would be a pipe going through their land and that their consent would be appreciated. When the landowners refused, Shell disappeared. In 2003 they began work on the line only to find the men and a band of supporters refusing them access.

Speed forward to June 2005 in the High Court, when Chief Justice Finnegan threw the four male landowners into Cloverhill prison along with their friend and supporter Michael O'Seighin.

And what is the role of the politicians in all of this? The men spent 94 days in jail for their protest and their futures are still in the balance with further legal 'punishment'

pending.

Ahern was ever so vocal in his support for the men, lamented their imprisonment and called for their release. Yet his government were the very ones who allowed Shell to dictate to them. We still can't see exactly what the government granted Shell to do in Mayo and we still don't know what will happen to the men.

And it's not just Fianna Fáil whose behaviour is questionable. Enda Kenny, leader of Fine Gael and a Mayo T.D. supported Ahern on the issue and spent the first day after summer recess patting them on the back for the strong will displayed.

It's easy to see the protestors as looking out for their own petty interests in the face of progress and change. But this is untreated raw gas which will place the men and their families at huge risk. Imagine that the people of Dublin were the guinea pigs in this experiment. Would their safety be sacrificed for the sake of Shell's interests? It's doubtful.

Here we have another case of the people in the west being treated like useless pawns, in the government's playful love-ins with corporate beasts like Shell.

## Show me the money

By Kate White

SO you're a student, you're on the poverty line and somebody offers you free phone credit. What idiot would say no? Banks will try anything to win you over, to lure you into their catalogue of clients and more importantly, to manage your millions when you're all top-paid accountants, journalists and engineering graduates. Have you ever seen the Bank of Ireland ad where the strong, assuring voice says, "When you start making money, we do too"? Most of us will never change institutions after opening an account, leaving these financial vultures literally laughing all the way to the bank. This foolproof summary tells you exactly what's on offer, aside from the gimmicks. It's important to consider your options before signing your pennies away.

And there are plenty of options. You may not be even aware you qualify for the student package, available to any person enrolling or engaged in a full-time third level course, which lasts a minimum of one year. Although the four main financial institutions in Ireland offer the same basic package, there are

some differences.

Firstly, let's get the free-stuff out of the way. Allied Irish Banks (AIB)

"AIB, BOI, Ulster Bank and National Irish Bank give students a great deal"

will offer you 50euro call credit when you open a Student Plus Account, but only after you use their text top-up service twice and make ten other transactions. Bank of Ireland (BOI), will give you discount cards for top sports outlets, Elvery's and Maher's, as well as a ten per cent discount for FVI, the student

travel insurance specialists. They also offer a fifty per cent discount off your student travel card. In addition, thirty lucky winners, who open or upgrade their account before November 20th and make at least six transactions before this date, will have 4000euro lodged straight into their account.

When it comes to things that will really matter in the long-term, AIB, BOI, Ulster Bank and National Irish Bank give students a great deal. The basic elements of these student packages are very similar. All four offer free banking as standard. This means you will not get charged 28 cent every time you withdraw cash. They also all promise 24 hour phone and internet banking. For a quick overview of each bank's student facilities, check out our handy grid.

Whatever decision you make, with books, rent, food, and a hectic social life to fund, a bank account is vital for your college years. All you need is photo ID and proof of address. So call into your first choice today, before your money starts turning into alcohol.

Bank of Ireland	Credit card with a limit of 400 euro. Grant advance overdraft facility, interest free if cleared within 9 months. Up to 2000 euro travel loans.
AIB	Credit card with a limit of 400 euro. 1.5% discount off standard rates on overdraft and basic loans.
National Irish Bank	Credit card with a limit of 400 euro. No fee and interest free overdraft facility.
Ulster Bank	Interest free overdraft facility up to 650 euro and up to 2,800 euro on loans. Up to 2000 euro travel loans.



## THE MOON



# As the independent eclipses...a new moon rises

Hi everybody and welcome to the first issue of The Moon, DIT's brand new, completely independent student paper. It's been a bit hectic for everyone involved in getting the paper together, and the first thing we'd like to do is thank all those who helped out.

We at The Moon feel that there is a need for a fresh voice in DIT, a voice that isn't afraid to confront issues when they arise, a voice whose only obligations are to its readers. We are not here to promote agendas, make profits or pursue vendettas. Our objectives are to inform and entertain you, the students of DIT. On that note, we are looking for contributors, so if you have a story, want to share some gossip or are just interested in getting involved with the paper please get in touch with us!

In this month's lead story we reveal that DIT is facing the serious risk of being left behind by the university sector with which it has been keeping up for the past few years. The formation of an influential lobby group by the seven Irish universities leaves DIT isolated when it comes to seeking badly needed government funding. Yet despite the obvious dangers raised by this development, a DIT spokesperson claimed to be entirely unconcerned. As students, we should do everything in our power to ensure that the DIT as an institution holds its place in the increasingly competitive third-level sector. Ultimately, it is we students who have most to gain, and most to lose.

There has always been apathy among students, but every year there seems to be an increase in the lethargic state of the student population. To be brutally honest, if we don't stand up for ourselves no-one will.

On the lighter side of things, not all is doom and gloom on The Moon. Our resident sexpert has something everyone should try, find out what the Russian cure for a hangover is in our travel section, and check out the gig guides and reviews in the ents section.

Anyway, please let us know what you think, be it good, bad or indifferent, and we'll be back next month!

Cian and Cillian



*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.*

## THE MOON

Room 4025 (The Newsroom), DIT Aungier St., Dublin 2.  
Tel: (01) 4023071 Fax: (01) 4023284

Co-Editor : Cian Fitzsimons  
Co-Editor : Cillian O'Conchuir  
News Editor : Maura Fay  
Features Editor : Ceri Teggin  
Clubs and Socs Editor : Michael Donohoe  
Entertainments Editor : Maeve McLaughlin  
Sports Editors : Arthur Sullivan and Ronan O'Connor  
Consultant and Chief of layout : Fergal D'Arcy  
Graphic Design Team : Katie Teehan, Kate White, Maeve McLaughlin, Sarah Doyle and Conor Brady

## 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 50euro voucher for gamestop and Tom Clancys Splinter Cell for PS2.

In what game did Super Mario first appear?

**GameStop**

new · used | games · dvds

Win two tickets to see  
The Frank and Walters.

Answer the following -  
What county are the above  
band from?

PLEASE EMAIL THE CORRECT ANSWERS WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND MOBILE NUMBER TO -  
EDITOR.DIT@GMAIL.COM



# CUPLA FOCAIL



## An Daingean

Deirtear gur pobal ar leith iad muintir Chiarraí agus más fíor sin, níl aon cheist ach gur pobal ar leith iad muintir iarthar Chiarraí go háirithe. Tá an-bhród go deo acu ar a gceantar cónaithe, toise gur ceantar Gaeltachta í, cinnte, mar gheall ar áilleacht na háite gan dabht. Agus cuithfear trácht a dhéanamh don mhuintearna atá le mothú ann, tá aithne ag gach duine ar a chéile, nó ar mhuintir a chéile ar a laghad. Is baile i an Daingean atá síte fuaithe leis na tréithe seo. Tá clú 'gus cáil ar an mbaile beag seo ar fud na cruinne dá bharr seo. 'Sé sin le rá, go bhfuil clú agus cáil ar 'Dingle', baile nach maireann, go hoifigiúil, a thuilleadh. Sa mhí Márta 2005, d'athraíodh an t-ainm oifigiúil go dtí 'An Daingean' mar chuid den Acht Teanga Oifigiúil 2003

mar aidhm an Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta Éamon Ó Cuív. Agus da mba cheap Éamon Ó Cuív go gcloifear go breá ciúin leis an athrú sin sa Daingean, níorb' fhada gur bhaineadh staid as!

Is ábhar í seo atá ag suaitheadh na háite agus ní hé sin le rá go bhfuil gach duine ar aon intinn amháin faoi. Deir dream amháin gur chóir ainm oifigiúil an baile a bheith as Gaeilge, sa chaoi ceannainm ceanna le gach baile eile i ngach Gaeltacht eile. Ar an taobh eile, deirtear go bhfuil 'Dingle' cosúil le branda anois, agus go mbrathann muintir na háite ar an mbranda sin chun a gcuid airgid agus beatha a bhaint amach. Bain an t-ainm, bhain an cáil, laghdaigh líon na turaseoirí, agus abair slán leis na sli beatha.

An réiteach atá ag Aire Ó Cuív? Más mian leo an t-ainm oifigiúil a athrú ar ais go dtí Dingle, ní bheadh an baile sa Gaeltacht a thuilleadh, agus d'fhéadfadh slán a fhágáil leis an 2m euro ón Roinn Gaeltachta agus an 2m euro eile ón Údaráis a cuirtear ar fáil dóibh gach bliain.

Sin ráite aige, an bhfuil réiteach na faidhbe ar fáil anois? Go dtí an Satharn seo caite, is cosúil go raibh. Beidh reifrinn ag Chomhairle Condae Chiarraí chun a aimsiú céard atá ag teastáil ó muintir na Daingine iad féin. Ach tá sé tagtha anois chun solas nach mbeidh aon éifeacht ag toradh na reifrinn ar chúrsaí. Dúirt an t-Aire Ó Cuív ag an deireadh seachtaine, agus é ar chuart i gCorca Dhuibhne, nach mbéadh aon athrú éifeacht

dleathach ag an reifrinn.

"Tá sé ceart go leor caint mar sin, ach go practiciúil ní oibríonn sé mar sin. I mBaile an Daingean anois tá an-chuid Béarla ann. Tá rud déanta amach ag Roinn na Gaeltachta go labhrann 25% de muintir Baile an Daingean Gaeilinn agus 75% Béarla," dar le Séamus 'Cosá' MacGearailt, Fine Gael. "Cad a dhéanfaidh na comharthaí bóithre lán gaeilge a thuilleadh don nGaeltacht don nGaeilinn, ó thaobh eir chun cinn na Gaeilne de?" Is cosúil go bhfuil roinnt firinne i ráiteas an tUasal MacGearailt.

Céard is féidir le muintir na háite a dhéanamh anois mu na bhfuil aon rogha dleathach acu an t-ainm Dingle a choinneáil go hoifigiúil? Bhuel dar le Éamon Ó Cuív, d'fhéadfadh

'Beverly Hills' nó 'Fungi Town' nó pé rud gur mian leo a thabhairt ar go neamhoifigiúil, ach An Daingean atá agus a bheidh ar na comharthaí bóithre. Tá rogha acu is dócha. D'fhéadfadh uinéirí na siopaí, gnó agus tithe ósta an focal Dingle a úsáid ar a gcuid chomharthaí taobh amuigh de na foirgneamh, ionas nach mbéadh dabht ar bith ag turaseoirí agus iad ag tiomáint timpeall an baile, gurb' ionann An Daingean agus an baile beomhar sin Dingle a bhí á lorg acu.

Cé go bhfuil roinnt daoine i nGaeltacht Corca Dhuibhne fáilteach roimh an leagan Gaeilge a úsáid, tá cuid acu ag moladh gur 'Daingean Uí Chúis' an fíor logainm Gaeilge atá ar an mbaile. Tá cáipéis curtha faoi bhráid ag Coimisiún Roinn Gnóthaí

Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta 'An Logainm An Daingean/Dingle: fianaise stairiúil' mar fhreagra ar an argóint seo, ag cruthú go raibh 'An Daingean' á úsáid níos tóisce.

Agus an scéal pléite siar agus aniar, agus an-chuid cur síos ar aha meáin, is cosúil go leanfaidh an conspóid ar aghaidh ar feadh píosa níos faide, le comhartha ceist ar céard a tharlódh amach anseo. Ach tá rud amháin ríshoiléir maidir leis An Daingean, ní dhéanfaí turaseoir ar bith dearmad ar go ró-thapaídh, agus níl aon dabht go n-imrofaí an baile beomhar aobheann go mór i gcionn orthu, pé rud a bbeidh scríofa ar na comharthaí bóithre.



# Seeing RED

By Michael Donohoe

**MONEY** hungry chancers that promise you the world and deliver screw all! Great student nights out on the town, fantastic drinks promos, the city is our campus blah...blah...blah... And so goes the usual fare for any standard society in this fine institution.

Truly active societies that encourage the interaction of their members throughout three semesters are few in number. It is often the case that societies become dormant over the cold winter months and ultimately fade

into nothingness by the year's end.

On the 11th and 12th of October, Clubs and Socs Week rolled around again. The usual sleuth of societies and clubs blocking up the hallways of Aungier St. and Bolton St. The busy junction that is Aungier Street's main foyer became a battleground. Stereos and loudspeakers were the weapons, innocent students were the targets.

It was down to a new society to conquer all over the two heady days. Hard to miss, impossible not to hear, RED Soc are a happy contradiction to the above description of student societies.

Only founded a week prior to Societies week by Business Management students Adrian White and Simon Turner, RED Soc is founded on a truly original concept. RED, initials for Rewards Earned and

Deserved, is all about offering students the chance to earn themselves "free stuff".

Through the 'Atlantic Music Group' the gentlemen propose to garner sponsorship off multi-national companies for their society's events, hopefully appealing to companies such as Apple, Sony, Nokia, etc. With these companies on board they will hold special corporate nights

(e.g. 'Apple i-Pod Night') at a club of choice and offer students special giveaways along with a memorable night.

The boys were prompted to start the society following their poor introduction to third level education. "In first year we felt we went through college, went to lectures and that was it..... people going straight home after

lectures was a given and the place lacked any college spirit".

This according to Turner and White is something they felt had to change for the current crop of first years.

The current outlook for change is good for the two boys. RED Soc is easily the most prominent society on campus. They already have in excess of 1,000 members

across all campuses and hope to hit 2,000 come the Christmas Break. Their message for prospective members is "If you like free stuff come join our society".

RED Soc's inaugural event, 'The Red Neck Rodeo', takes place in Il Mondo, Ranelagh on November 17th.



Like a red rag to a bull: RED Soc members go wild for the camera



Above and below: Good clean drunken fun at the Ski Soc's beach party in Annabels



## Annabel's not so sandy craic

What makes a decent beach party? Is it pneumonia inducing attire complimented by monsoon like weather, bank breaking drinks, a measly amount of unhappy attendees and a sandbox not fit for a medium sized cat's shit? No, give SEAN O PROINTIGH six cans, a c.d. player and a small cove in the middle of nowhere, please.

A seven euro entrance fee and bad weather didn't discourage the handful of people that showed up for this year's ski soc beach party but a general sense of displeasure may prove too costly to see this event repeated in the years to come.

Adam and Mick, represen-

tatives of the ski soc, had this to say when asked what they expected from the night: "F\*\*king women not a cock department. We expected the sand to be sandier and drugs on sale. SALT, SEA, SAND AND SEX." Obviously the lads weren't in charge of the arrangements prompting the

question with a pair of aces in the hold why play sixes and sevens?

An awful night's only highlight was being forcefully removed for reasons unknown to me but in retrospect staying put any longer would probably have been more painful in the long run.



## Societies Events Timetable

### Poker Soc

Meet every second Monday. Contact Paul at the details below for more info.  
Contact: Paul Redmond paul.redmond@student.dit.ie

### Electronic Gamers

The Electronic Gamers meet every Wednesday and Thursday from 6pm - 9.30pm in room 439 and 405.  
Contact: Padraig O'Connor padraig.oconnor@gmail.com

### Macra

Macra meet every Thursday in Madigans on O'Connell St beside the Savoy at 6.30.  
Contact: Liamon O'Sells bogman\_bass@yahoo.co.uk

### Capoeira

A combination of martial art, dance and rhythm of body and spirit.  
Meet every Friday 5pm - 1.30pm in the Kevin St Gym, Over Swimming Pool.  
Contact: Tony Flynn dit\_capoeira@campus.ie

### Dance Soc

Dance Soc meet every Monday in the Multi Purpose Room beside the Students' Union in Aungier St and shake their thang from 6.00pm - 8pm.  
Contact: Edana Gorham edana\_dance@yahoo.com

### Cinema

Weekly film in UCC costing 2euro, also all members can avail of a ticket for 2.50 euro for any film once a week.  
Contact: Hamid Khodabakhshi hamid@dublin.ie

### DJ Soc

Meet 6pm - 8.30pm every Tuesday in the Multi purpose Room in Aungier St beside the Students' Union. Regular open decks night in Carnival bar on Westford St after the workshop.  
Contact: Ene Keenan nakwa\_4@hotmail.com

### LGBT

Meet every Wednesday at 6.30, meetings take place on a different campus every week. To find out where you can check out the website www.ditlgbt.org, email lgbt@dit.ie or you can contact them at Keith Martin gokempe@hotmail.com

### Jugglers

Meet every Wednesday at 5pm - 9.30 in the Kevin St Gym, above the Swimming pool.  
Contact: Cecily Weeks cecilyweeks@hotmail.com



Avian bird flu? I'm more worried about their shite!

## Paintball society shoot up

By Michael Donohoe

ON 17th November the Paintball Society ventured to Skirmish in Roundwood for a day of sadistic fun.

The trip was yet another successful outing for the society with revellers returning with nothing more than a few bruised limbs and several bruised egos.

Further trips are planned for the 4th November and another in late November. The trip on the 4th filled up almost instantly so any interested parties should get their names down early.

## Freebies, sambos and beer lure students to clubs&socs

Most people jump at the chance for a free pint, but for REBECCA TODD, she wished she stayed at home and drank tea. She reports from the clubs and socs' training seminar.

**FREE BBQ, booze and Sub-Way sandwiches!!** Okay, so it may not have been what clubs and socs training day was supposed to be about, but it sure made the presentations all the more digestible.

On 21st October the main function room of the Russel Court Hotel played host to DIT Clubs and Societies Training Day.

Among those in attendance were primary chair people Anita Conway and Brian Whitney with about 200 other attendees including club organisers, treasurers, secretaries and

a few free loading members.

There were whisperings on the day that if any sort of incident was to happen whereby the place was destroyed, social life in DIT may cease to exist! But luckily no-one was injured or maimed.

The highlight of the day was the unveiling of the



Even the chess soc got board

DIT Societies website. Boasting an impressive layout and design, the site is a huge step forward in terms of accessibility of information and amount of information available to students.

In terms of training societies were thoroughly lectured on how each respective society should be properly maintained and ran.

The real message of the day was that societies should try to be as visually prominent and active as possible within each campus.

Involving new/first year members was a point strongly pushed upon each society.

As day turned to night proceedings came to a head at about eight o'clock.

A speech from President Bob Coggins and a final good luck from the event organisers to each society wrapped up the day.

A rain soaked barbecue ensued and a very long Friday night.

Further information about societies and up to the minute events can be found at www.socs.dit.ie.



# MOONSTRUCK

## THE MOON'S FEATURE SUPPLEMENT

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the cuckoo's nest  
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## The Sex Column

DIT's wise and wonderful sexpert *Miss Kitty Kinkypuss* oils up her paws for some sensual massage.

So, you're both sitting together comfortably on the couch, watching something terribly enthralling like *Nationwide*. Michael Ryan's babbling on about the importance of basket-weaving in modern Irish society, yet even though this is ground-breaking stuff, you can't seem to take your mind off the growing one-eyed snake making his presence felt down below. Now?! You want action now? Michael's about to interview a basket expert!

So, you're feeling in the mood, but what's to say your better half is? When this urge overcame you in the past, you've tried the old, "nudge-nudge, wink-wink," approach to indicate your intentions. Hell, maybe you've tried to be more direct - standing stark naked, proclaiming, "I want you now, baby!" Well, let Kitty talk you through a method of arousing your partner that's neither too subtle nor too hair-raisingly, willy-frighteningly scary...

Remember, massages can be used for many things - calming your partner down after a hard day, or for our purposes, priming him/her for rampant, passionate sex.

Firstly, set the scene. This means getting naked, turning off your mobiles, lighting the scented candles, killing the

harsh lights and laying an old sheet on the surface of the bed so you don't care if you spill the massage oil. Try connecting with your partner; this can be kissing softly on the face, lightly touching their body, or gazing into each other's eyes. Now, I'm not talking about chewing the

“ Teasingly stroke their inner-thighs near the genitals and lightly touch the pubic region. ”

head off them, groping them frantically and ogling their naked body. You're going to take this slow - you've got all evening.

Lay your partner face-down on the bed. Using the tips of your fingers, lightly, teasingly stroke their body from the shoulders to the arms, back, buttocks, thighs and calves. Take a minute or two for this. When you think they're relaxed, move onto the massage.

Straddle your partner, oil up your hands and begin mas-

saging the back. Rub them slowly and deeply using long strokes. Do it in a way that makes them feel you'll spend all night at it - let them relax and enjoy every second of it. Work your way from the neck to the shoulders and biceps. Keep your hands in contact with their body at all times.

For a little teasing, tickle the sensitive area around the base of the spine.

Move on to the thighs, brushing the buttocks as you go. The inner thighs are incredibly sensitive. Work down to the calves and only spend a little time on the feet - you don't want your partner falling asleep.

Turn your partner over. Look into their eyes as you massage their chest and abdomen. For a sensual effect, it's important to maintain eye-contact. Move to the legs and feet again, lightly brushing the genitals on the way down. After you've done the legs and feet, glide back up, slowly brushing over the genitals again. Teasingly stroke their inner-thighs near the genitals and lightly touch the pubic region.

When the sensual energy has built to an extreme, you can move on to more energetic activities. If you've taken the time to do all this right, believe me, your partner will have a lot more than massaging on their mind.



### TIP OF THE MONTH

When it comes to body hair..... less is more!

### WEBSITES OF THE MONTH

[http://www.the-clitoris.com/n\\_html/n\\_massage.html](http://www.the-clitoris.com/n_html/n_massage.html)

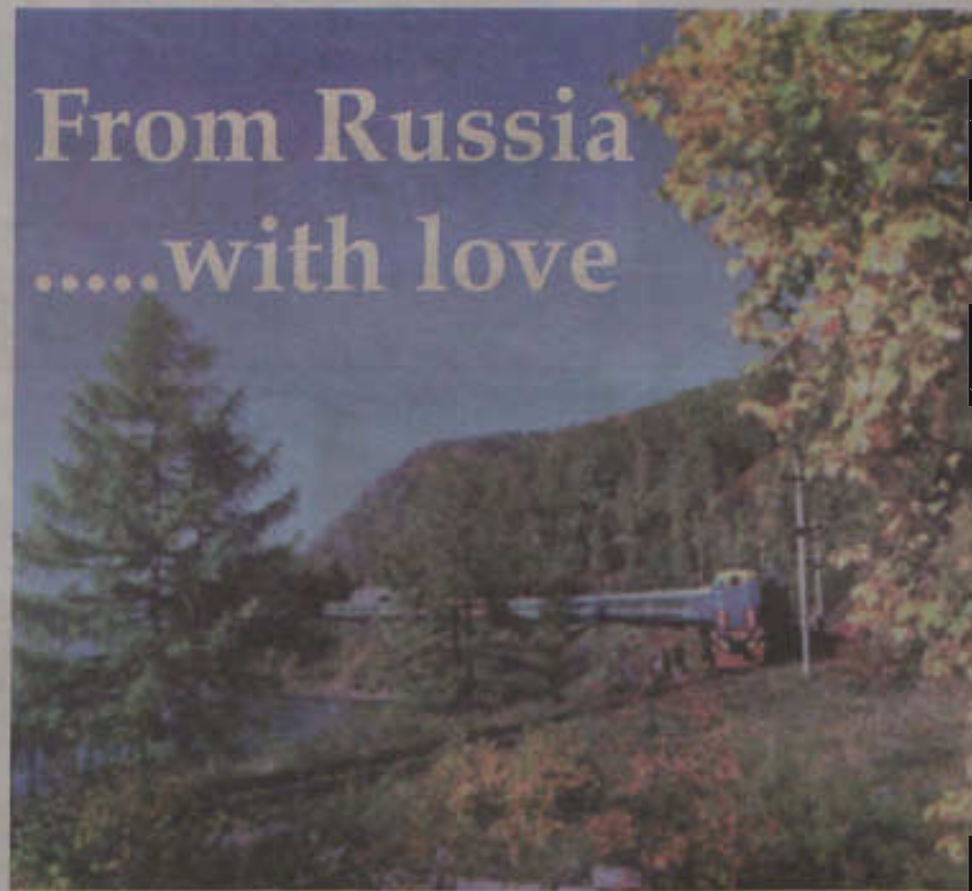
Everything you need to know about the clitoris, so it's good for girls and guys alike!

<http://www.thebody.com/pfaw/schools.html>

Has a very interesting article on gay and lesbian issues in public schools



## From Russia .....with love



**M**oira had always wanted to travel the Trans-Siberian railway and I'd had enough coffee to think doing it in the middle of winter was a good idea. Two months later, we were sprinting down a platform in Vladivostok, looking for our carriage.

The Trans-Siberian runs across 9,289 km and eight time-zones in the largest country in the world. The traditional method is to sit on a train for seven days from Moscow to Vladivostok - we started at the opposite end and took five weeks.

We travelled by platzkart; each carriage slept 54 and we shared our living quarters with babies, grandmothers and everything in between. People settled in for the days ahead and we soon had our own routine of slippers, knitting and an occasional trip to get more tea from the samovar.

A bit of politeness is necessary with a two-day journey ahead, so we joined a group of 30-year-olds who invited us drinking. That evening we pooled food for supper. Our supplies of bread and cheese were minimal compared to the Russians' stock.

Their plastic bags hid a feast of boiled eggs and potatoes, home-grown tomatoes and cucumbers, dried fish, hunks of sausage and smetana. The best we could do was jump off at the next stop to haggle for warm cabbage pies and cold beer from the babushkas on the platform.

The provodnitsa, a scary-looking woman in

charge of our carriage, thawed when she saw the two foreign girls trying to keep up with the vodka drinking. The following morning she smiled at us sympathetically and offered

**My nose  
crackled  
with  
freezing  
snot!**

us the traditional Russian hangover cure: more beer.

In Tynda we said goodbye and stepped out of the warm carriage into a foot of snow and temperatures of -30c. My nose crackled with freezing snot; clearly the layers of thermals were doing little to keep out the stinging wind. Russian winter had arrived.

We soon mastered the slow shuffle necessary to survive Russia's icy, unpaved footpaths and set about exploring the towns along our route. In Krasnoyarsk, we went to an exhibition on the region's reindeer-herding tribes and got two tickets to a Tchaikovsky opera for under a fiver. In Ekaterinburg, we stood on the spot where the Romanovs were executed.

The hospitality of strangers followed us wherever we went.

When we shared a boat on Lake Baikal with 10 Uzbeki steelworkers, they adopted us and fed us fresh fish and home-made lavash.

Soldiers on the train to Novosibirsk changed into their uniforms so we could photograph them on the platform. In Moscow we stayed with two students we'd found on the couchsurfing website and spent the weekend meeting their friends and seeing the city.

The final stop of our journey was Moscow, somewhere we'd been before, but winter brought out its true magic. Queuing for Lenin was bearable with fresh blini warming your hands. Gorky Park was transformed into a huge ice-rink and Red Square looked even prettier through a flurry of snowflakes.

Waiting for our flight home, we wished we were getting on another train. The days had slipped by as we drank tea and looked out on snow and birch forests. Nights were spent falling asleep to the rhythm of the train or being jolted awake as another drunk swayed past our feet.

We had travelled from the Pacific to the Kremlin in the company of submariners, alpinists, housewives and tractor drivers. All across the country, people had shared their food, invited us into their homes and put up with our appalling Russian - experiences no expensive package could have given us.

Our train journey had cost just under 150. It was far from luxurious but the memories we had would sustain us through another few months at home. That was all that mattered.

## Irish reaction for the birds...

As the list of countries affected by Avian Flu grows longer, Ireland prepares itself for a worst-case scenario. However, just how ready are we? David White takes a look at the figures, and questions whether Ireland's preparations are well thought out, or a little bit bird-brained...

**E**ver notice how Irish people react to alarms? They don't.

Between the years of 1918 and 1919 the Spanish Flu, an unusually deadly strain of avian influenza, killed at least 25 million people worldwide. It is thought to have been one of the most deadly pandemics in human history so far.

Avian Flu is a highly-contagious virus that infects birds. The high pathogenic form, H5N1, attacks the inter-

nal organs and usually results in death within 48 hours. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), H5N1's mortality rate in birds is almost 100%.

The virus is highly contagious to poultry but does not infect humans easily; at the moment only people who are directly exposed to chicken faeces or blood are thought to be at risk. This puts poultry workers and Satanists in the high-risk category. However, experts

fear that if H5N1 mutates or combines with human flu, it could become highly contagious and lead to a deadly pandemic.

Since 2003, 67 people have died from H5N1 in Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia. The mortality rate for this strain is 50% in humans.

There is a possible cure, Tamiflu, an antiviral drug produced by Roche Pharmaceuticals, is effective against the flu. Sales have rocketed as countries attempt to



**With the threat of bird flu on the horizon, the government find a use for the spike as they reveal their secret weapon.....**

stockpile the vaccination. However, the company is unable to meet the huge demand. For example, Ireland has ordered enough anti-viral drugs to vaccinate a million people but it is thought that only 60% will be in stock by the end of the year.

Franz Humer, Roche's Chief Executive, has stated that the company will consider allowing other companies to manufacture the drug, adding that "patents will not stand in the

way of producing the drug for mankind." A generic form of the drug would benefit poorer countries.

However, Scientific journal Nature recently reported "that Tamiflu may not always be sufficient to combat the infection." Also, a vaccination against the new avian flu cannot be made until the human strain is fully developed.

The WHO statement is chilling. "Despite an advance warning that

has lasted almost two years, the world is ill-prepared to defend itself during a pandemic. On present trends, most developing countries will have no access to vaccines and antiviral drugs throughout the duration of a pandemic."

Ireland's Emergency Plan says there could be between 500 and 10,000 deaths in the country.

These alarm bells have been ringing for years. Isn't it time Ireland paid attention?



# WALKING IN A WINTER WARDROBE WONDERLAND

\*

OONAGH O' MAHONY brings all you budding fashionistas this seasons sexiest styles, right off the catwalk...



Sexy



Not sexy

## For the boys...

For the fashion conscious men out there this year's look is really simple to achieve. It's all about being laid back and comfortable.

During the cold winter months ahead, layering will be the hottest trend - combine shirts under t-shirts and jumpers.

For bundling up, don't think jackets but gilets. The padded gilet is to be seen everywhere this season. They can be worn over jumpers and hoodies - again this is a great way to achieve the season's layered look.

Another 'essential' fashion item for the boys is the cardigan.

While this may drum up images of your pipe smoking great-granddad, this year's look is a little different. Tight fitted cardigans are the choice of fashion experts. However, word on the street is that this trend is better left to the over sixties.

## Cardigans: Think sexy rather than sixty

Stripes are big again this year. Pin-stripe trousers and shirts are popular items for going out, especially if teamed with a blazer. Worn with t-shirts for a casual look, the blazer is a great way to look effortlessly stylish.

Another option for guys is the Military style jackets. Think light grey colours and teal blues. This is definitely an option for guys who want to stand out from the crowd.

## For the girls...

The winter collection for 2005/2006 has some bizarre outfit combinations. The mix of eras gives every woman the chance to experiment and be different. However, one thing is definitely on this year's agenda - female chic.

Whatever you're wearing, the emphasis is on femininity. From inside-out, lace and frills are to be seen walking the streets of Ireland this season. Victorian elegance is a really popular trend at the moment, likely inspired from the much loved film, *Pride and Prejudice*. Now everyone can (unashamedly) do frills. High-necked



Victorian elegance is back this winter

blouses, with lace trimmings and ornate cuffs are a great way to dress up any outfit. They look beautifully stylish with dark, drain-pipe jeans. Embellish with brooches and your mother's pearls to add a little colour to the outfit.

Swinging back into fashion are the 1960s. Tight jeans and black are the ethos of this era. Think Audrey Hepburn and Parisian café-bars. Mini-skirts, polo neck dresses

and flat caps are just some of the high style choices this year.

As it is winter, the lace tops and mini-skirts won't be doing much to keep us warm so the fashion gurus are supplying us with a beautiful range of warm coats. A good look this season is coming from Russia. The Russe sees bulky, long coats make a return. This time decorated with embroidery and fur (faux we hope!)

# A Passion for Fashion

CERI TEGGIN speaks to upcoming Irish designer, Claire O'Connor, about being a young designer in Ireland, Irish women's wardrobes and this seasons trends...

The Irish fashion industry is much like a badly fitting bra, small and unsupportive, it fails to make the best of its homegrown assets.

The result? Young designers are forced to

leave the country for lack of finance, to find refuge in the fashion capitals of New York and London.

But Claire O'Connor is one designer who's set to stay. In 2001 she won Irish designer of the year and already has her own established label. Unlike Paris and Milan where young designers are ten a penny, Claire is in the minority in Ireland. "Irish designers are well respected internationally but there is little financial support for them to set up their own label at home," she says. "Instead they go overseas and many get senior jobs in the big fashion houses. There is a lot of Irish talent, it's such a pity to use it working for someone else."

Like many young designers in Ireland, Claire hand makes all her garments herself. Her collections change throughout the season as she never makes more than a few of each piece. "This Winter

I'm using a lot of black and jersey material," she says. "I try to create pieces which don't go out of fashion easily so I don't really buy into the highstreet much, what's in one month will be out the next" Whereas she gets her inspiration from "anything that catches my eye, paintings, interiors," she admits its the French and Italians who really influence her style.

Just as Paul Costello famously once said, Irish women have no class, Claire agrees this isn't unfounded. "In European cities the women take pride in their appearance, something which Irish women should focus a lot more on. Here we have the habit of just throwing on anything. When we do dress up, it tends to be for each other not for ourselves"

Irish women do follow trends, but there's little individualism and every-

one ends up carrying the same bag or wearing the same trousers. "The clothes on sale in a country tend to reflect the weather," Claire says which explains why the shops here are often full of quite boring clothes.

Irish people tend to dress for comfort and practicality, two words which don't co-exist well with fashion. After all we are a nation of tracksuit bottom fanatics who have embraced the current pyjama bottom and eskimo boots craze with surprising gusto. But even though there's a lot more cosy than couture in our wardrobes, it doesn't mean we are completely lost causes.

Luckily, Claire offers a little inside knowledge of what's hot this Winter, starting with the all important cut of clothes. "Last season there was an emphasis on the waistline, whereas now clothes are more likely to be empire

cut. There's a lot of bows, ties and faux fur trims, with pencil skirts replacing the old gypsy styles." As for colour and material, black is back and velvet is the fabric of choice.

This all sounds good, but keeping up with the trends comes with a hefty price tag so Claire suggests some capsule items that warrant student investment. First up is a good pair of knee length boots. "These should be black and suede," Claire says, with either a wedge heel or if you want a more sophisticated look, a standard high heel. A coat is also essential, black, three quarter length, in a princess style. For going out in the evening a short jacket which you can throw on over anything is a good buy. And finally, petrol blue is a popular colour which is set to carry through till next Winter, so it should definitely be on our shopping lists.

Claire's clothing line 'Claire O'Connor' is on sale at the Design Centre in Dublin. Designerknitwear.com in Dalkey and Design House Barna in Galway.



One of Claire's designs



Another of Claire's designs



V

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## Daddy's Little Princess

By Tiffany-Anne Doyle

"Oh my God (OMG), my credit card is like totally maxed out", said Lara, as she ordered a skinny latte. "Sophia, will I order for Debs and Neusa?"

"Yeah thanks babes, get them tall frappuccino's hun, and I'll have a mocha. Had a total 'mare at the weekend at the opening of Harvey Nic's... totally maxed out my credit card and the 'rents, like, SO freaked out."

Debbie arrived in, flushed. "Sorry babes, for being so late. The 'cooper wouldn't start this morning and I, like, had to take a jo maxi, because Daddy wouldn't let me borrow the SUV. Talk about a total buzz kill. Imagine if I like, had to walk in these Jimmy Choo's. The taxi-driving man was trying to chat me up, and all I wanted was to apply my mascara and listen to my i-pod."

Dropping her LV monogrammed handbag on the table, she sat down and applied juicy-tubes to her lips and sipped her frappuccino.

"Oh pet, you've had a rough few hours", said Neusa, who sat down next to them.

"Oh Neusa, you look fab today, love the new UGGs," said Lara. "Ooh, we were talking about the Harvey Nic's opening. Guess who I saw there, looking so tanorexic - Jenny Browne-Mc Manus!"



Jenny, the ultimate Beyoncé figure with a sweet personality to match was the subject of much spiteful attention from the four DLP's. "She looks like an oompa-loompa at the best of times", bitched Lara, "She's like a walking ad for stand-up tanning." The four exploded into laughter. "Okay girls," said Sophia, "must dash to my nine o' clock. Cocktails at five! Oh and you'll pick me up a copy of Cosmo and Heat? Have to pop into BT2 and collect my yoga mat and would just hate to miss an issue."

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MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER 11.50 MCD PRESENTS

### JOHNATHAN RICE

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TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 12.00

### JOHN JORGENSEN

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WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 12.15

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(11) IN THE FRONT BAR FROM 10PM - (LATE 11.1)

THURSDAY 10th NOV 12.30 MCD PRESENTS

### CLAIRE SPROULE

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FRIDAY 11th NOVEMBER 12.40

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TUESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 13.20

### JOHN DOE, PETER CASE, MICHAEL WESTON KING

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WED 16th NOV 13.30 INDEPENDENT RECORDS PRESENTS

### ERIC BACHMAN

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THURSDAY 17th NOV 13.50 BAC PRESENTS

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Pat Shortt uncovered

The Moon's Diarmuid Carter challenges one of Ireland's top comedians, Pat Shortt, in an exclusive interview about comic life and fame.

PAT SHORTT is one of those comic actors who just seems to crop up in everything. Since he first achieved fame with 'D'unbelievables' he has appeared in the Irish comic phenomenon that was Fr. Ted, played a leading part in the acclaimed film 'Man about Dog', and achieved a cult following for his various roles in those Eircom ads.

Recently you may, or may not, have noticed that Pat Shortt seems to have jumped off the small screen and is appearing on the front of such glossy as the RTE Guide and every tabloid T.V. guide in the land. There are two reasons for this - Not only is he kicking off a brand new tour; the second series of Killinaskully, which Pat produces and stars in, which has just finished showing on RTE.

Killinaskully really is Pat Shortt's baby. It deals with much the same material as 'D'unbelievables' and is largely written by Pat himself. It is based in a small rural village much like where Pat grew up (in Tipperary, where Pat is from, there is a town called Killinaskully). By his own admission many of the characters are based on, or an amalgamation of, people Pat knows from living in Tipperary: "The cast and ideas of Killinaskully are really a culmination of the work I have been doing through the years

and people I have always known. I like to take people's personalities and exaggerate them" explained Pat. Indeed there is a certain symmetry between Killinaskully and Pat's stand-up act - neither are too far from real life in a rural village, as outlandish as that may seem.

As well as much of the content of Killinaskully being Pat's, he also does a

"I love working with an audience. I especially like the fear in their eyes when they think they are going to be hauled up on stage!"

lot of practical work on the show. He plays a whole host of different characters, including three main ones, and also produces the series. An average day on the Killinaskully set begins at 6 a.m. and ends at midnight, yet Pat maintains he enjoys the experience. "I'm so used to touring on my own that it's great

having so many people around, plus it takes a lot of pressure off," the Tipp man says. "Also all the different actors that work on Killinaskully bring something new to the show, whether it be a catchphrase, facial expression or whatever. It always makes for a good laugh," he adds.

So does this mean that Pat might be tiring of the comedy circuit? It doesn't seem so.

Television is nothing new to him and throughout his career he has juggled the stage and the set, enjoying both for their different merits.

"With stand-up there is a lot of pressure which is not there with television. You can't afford to make mistakes. But sometimes this

only adds to the experience and I love working with an audience. I especially like the fear in their eyes when they think they are going to be hauled up on stage!" Audience participation is a huge part of Pat's stand-up and there is no denying, if you're singled out you could be ripped to shreds. Rumour has it that he sends out scouts to find information about people he can use later on the stage. Mind you there is nothing vicious about this and Pat's comedy is much more silly than it is anything else, something he freely admits.

Not taking himself too seriously is obviously something Pat prides himself on. In fact he is so down to earth it is easy to forget how successful he has been. He has worked with household names such as Dermot Morgan and Brendan Gleeson; he coined the catchphrase "that's right" which rivalled "whasup" for popularity just a few years ago; he has even shared a set with Mia Farrow. Yet with Pat Shortt there is always the sense that he is someone you know. Personally, if I saw him on the street I'd be much more likely to give him a salute than ask for his autograph. I think that's what makes Pat so prolific, and even timeless; everybody knows who he is but somehow he avoids being famous.



## Some shows are bigger let-downs than others

By Sharon Vogiatzi

WHEN I heard Katie Brayben perform 'Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want' on the Ray D'Arcy show, I knew I had to catch the musical 'Some Girls Are Bigger Than Others' before it finished up.

A group of us bundled into the Olympia, full of high expectations. Seventy-five minutes later, we were a mixed bag of opinions- some of us were delighted, others delighted that it was over, and quite a number of us left the theatre feeling a little bewildered.

The show was conceived by Andrew Wale and Perrin Manzer Allen of the Anonymous Society. It features 20 songs, originally performed by 80s indie band, the Smiths, and depicts the disintegrating relationships of two men and four women.

The musical opens with a young man who has a sexy Scottish accent. I thought the story line would become obvious with time but it never did. Basically, the women touch up their makeup, the men get dressed and undressed, secretaries throw bundles of pages around the stage, and a man in a suit is murdered. Twice.

In the background, flickering pictures battle for the audience's attention, occasionally flashing random German words across the screen, just in case you weren't baffled enough!

Amongst all the singing, dancing and weirdness, one can detect subtle references to ambiguous sexuality, compromise, infidelity and passion.

One thing that cannot be disputed is the talent of the cast. The slain man surprised us with his tap-dancing while Brayben played the cello and frolicked on a trapeze (not at the same time, she's not that good). The performers belted out songs that sent shivers down my spine.

Perhaps 'Some Girls Are Bigger Than Others' gave out an arty eccentric vibe that I just didn't get. It received a cheer from the audience but not a standing ovation. All I know is that it wasn't worth the 43.30 ticket.

On-stage frolics.....Nick makes a grab for Kevin's groin



# Backstreet's back, alright

The biggest boyband on the planet are making their comeback. Their new album 'Never Gone' has kicked off a Backstreet world tour. Kathy Masterson went to see the show at The Point.

THE screaming teenyboppers were replaced by the twenty-somethings at the Backstreet Boys concert on Sunday 23 October. Pink flashing cowgirl hats lined The Point Depot as the boys opened with the fast-paced 'The Call', from the 'Black and Blue' album.

A unique Irish welcome greeted the band with one fan brandishing a sign proclaiming "Ye are all sexual", and a tricolour proudly draped one of the popstar's shoulders.

Old favourites mingled with newer tracks from the group's latest offering 'Never Gone', but it was clear that most of the crowd was there for a trip down the memory lane of 1990s pop, judging by the screams at the opening chords of songs like 'I

Want It That Way' and 'Quit Playing Games With My Heart'.

Needless to say, there were a few cheesy moments during the show, but the Backstreet Boys wouldn't have sold out The Point otherwise. His fellow band members brought a cake on stage as AJ McLean celebrated his third year on the wagon. AJ spent time in rehab during the group's absence from the charts to combat his growing dependence on cocaine and alcohol. But there were hugs all round on the stage as the group celebrated AJ's success.

While cheesiness is expected and accepted at a Backstreet Boys concert, greediness is not. The one moment of the night that didn't have the audi-

ence screaming in adulation was when Nick Carter got them to hold up their phones.

He said that the Backstreet Boys needed some help with their new single, 'Just Want You To Know' and implored them to text a number to order a ridiculously expensive ringtone. To add insult to injury, the price displayed on the screens was £50 sterling.

Apart from trying to rip us off, the lads put on a great show. Fireworks, lasers, tight harmonies, and intricate dance routines ensured that no-one was left wondering how the Backstreet Boys have managed to outlive most other 1990s boy bands. Backstreet's back and here to stay, for another while at least.

IT'S been a while since we last heard from Backstreet. Once the golden boys of pop, their lives are now a cesspool of sex, drugs and law breaking antics. Before, you could have taken them home to meet your mother, but would you do it now? CONOR BRADY examines the past five years in Backstreet world.

Nick Carter had the joy of being Paris Hilton's boo, but his inner wigger was exposed on Ashton Kutcher's 'Punk'd'. His ancestors, of German, Irish and English descent must have rolled in their graves every time he used the word "dawg". I'm sorry Nick, but you're white, it doesn't say 'Cartizzle' anywhere on your birth cert. As if that wasn't bad enough, a boozy Nick was arrested in March of this year for drink driving.

Clean-cut Brian Littrell has kept his good-boy image by playing charity basketball games and releasing the single 'In Christ Alone', a track dedicated to big JC himself, and not the N'Sync supreme JC Chavez, but Jesus.

AJ McLean has been staying mclean. Not a drop of liquor or a sniff of coke has entered his system in three years. While in Dublin, the lad's decided to celebrate AJ's newfound sobriety with a piss-up in the Brazen Head. Afterward, they brought a dieting fatty to a pie shop.

Tall, dark and handsome Kevin Richardson married in June 2000 and has kept a low profile.

As for Howie D, I'm sure he's been battling his sexuality daemons.

So why are they back? Money of course. The bling-bling, fast cars and STI treatments don't buy themselves.



## MOVIES

## MOVIES

## MOVIES

## MOVIES

## In Her Shoes



Rose hadn't realised that the TV was in the other direction

THIS rom-com/drama from director Curtis Hanson (8 Mile) has all the ingredients of a recipe for success. It is a moving story about two sisters who have nothing in common except their size 8 1/2 feet and an array of problems. The plot traces the sisters' journeys to find answers to these problems and discover who they really are.

The story follows irresponsible party-girl Maggie Feller (Cameron Diaz in a brilliant display) as she finds out how much more there is to life than having a good time, and her sister Rose (Toni Collette) who needs to learn how to stop thinking and let love into her life.

After a fight, Rose throws freeloader Maggie out of her house. Maggie goes in search of their lost grandmother (Shirley MacLaine) and ends up living in a retirement home in Florida with

her. There she learns humility, selflessness and how to stand on her own two feet.

At the same time, Rose, who is still in Philadelphia, lets her responsibilities go and finds love in a man she never had time for before. In a superbly-written script, the image of the polar-opposite sisters becomes blurred as the two discover they are not so different after all.

This film will probably be classed as a 'chick-flick', but there is definitely something in there for the guys (apart from Cameron Diaz) in the well-written, heart-warming story.

It is a great film about the universal power of love, and how different types of love act in different, albeit mysterious, ways.

KARL O'DOHERTY

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## Kiss Kiss Bang Bang



The boys wanted their cops and robbers game to be realistic

ROBERT Downey Jr. stars as Harry, a basically decent petty thief in New York. Making his frantic getaway from a botched robbery, he stumbles into an audition for a Hollywood detective movie. Next thing we know he's at a fancy party in LA being teamed up with smart talking private-eye Gay Perry (Val Kilmer) to prepare him for the role.

There he meets his high school crush Harmony (Michelle Monaghan). The story begins when the mysterious death of Harmony's sister crosses paths with a seemingly unrelated case Harry and Gay Perry are investigating, and things take a dangerous turn.

It's like an attempt to create a slick modern take on the classic 1950s detective thriller complete with smoking guns, beautiful young corpses and the smart talking private eye. It ends up as a frivolous dark comedy, knee deep in dead bodies, packing a witty, sarcastic punch.

The worst thing about the film is Robert Downey Jr.'s narration.

At the start of the film he takes it upon himself to fill us in on the background story. The problem here is the downright annoying use of freeze frame and rewind, zipping from scene to scene, in order to go back and show us something he has left out. As if it was all completely accidental. Clever.

From here on, the pace picks up and it's an entertaining ride through mystery and murder in the bright lights of Los Angeles.

Val Kilmer is hilarious as 'Gay' Perry and Michelle Monaghan is the perfect scantily clad damsel in distress. Robert Downey Jr. may be an acquired taste.

KATIE TEEHAN

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## Pavee Lackeen



The Sudoku quiz always puzzled Pavee

PAVEE Lackeen is the story of an Irish traveller family through the eyes of 10-year-old Winnie Maughan. Winnie is the youngest in a family of ten who live in a caravan on the side of the road in Ringsend, Co. Dublin.

The film opens with Winnie having her fortune told. She is told that life will improve for her if she takes her opportunities. Yet, it quickly becomes obvious that there aren't many opportunities available to her. Her family don't even have running water in their caravan, they use a tap on the side of the road to wash their hair and fill the kettle.

The film gives us a reasonably impartial view of traveller life and the director isn't simply trying to make us feel sorry for travellers. We are shown how they can exacerbate their own misery when Winnie's mother refuses to accept a house offered to her simply because it isn't in the area she would prefer.

We observe how miserable and boring life can be for Winnie. She is suspended from school and spends the day wandering around the city. In a particularly poignant scene we see her taking coins out of a fountain to get money to play an arcade game.

Most actors in this film are non-professionals from the travelling community. While their lack of experience sometimes shows, they give the film an authenticity which it wouldn't have otherwise had.

This is not the type of film I would choose for a fun night out at the cinema, but it is worth seeing. It is an affecting film which reveals the miserable living conditions of many of the travellers in this country.

BRIGID O'GORMAN

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NOVEMBER  
CIC GUIDE

## The Point

Wed 9 Billy Idol  
Thu 10 The Frames  
Thu 17 The Prodigy  
Fri 18 Franz Ferdinand  
Sat 19-Sun 20 WWE Raw - The Survivor Series Tour  
Fri 25 UB 40  
Sat 26-Sun 27 Bob Dylan

## The Village

Mon 7 Skatalites  
Tue 8-Wed 9 Ray Lamontagne  
Thu 10 Gavin Degraw  
Tue 15 Public Enemy  
Wed 16 The Earlies  
Thu 17 Kathleen Edwards  
Sun 27 Sons and Daughters

## Whelan's

Mon 7 Jonathon Rice  
Tue 8 John Jorgenson  
Thu 10 Claire Sproule  
Mon 14 Fred Eaglesmith  
Tue 15 John Doe, Peter Case and Michael Weston King  
Wed 16 Crooked Fingers  
Fri 18 Tim Freedman  
Sat 19 The National  
Sun 20 Jimmie Dale Gilmore  
Sun 27 Wolf Parade

## The Olympia

Mon 7 Bloc Party  
Tue 8-Thu 10 Dandelions  
Fri 11 Sigur Rós  
Sat 12 Dandelions  
Sun 13 Declan O'Rourke  
Mon 14-Sun 20 Dandelions  
Mon 21-Sat 26 Brendan O'Carroll  
Sat 26 Stairway to Zeppelin  
Sun 27 Rick Astley  
Tue 29 Roy Chubby Brown

## The Galety

Sat 5 Rhythm in our shoes  
Sat 19 La Traviata  
Sun 20 Imeneo  
Mon 21 La Traviata  
Tue 22 Imeneo  
Wed 23 La Traviata  
Thu 24 Imeneo  
Fri 25 La Traviata  
Sat 26 Imeneo  
Sun 27 La Traviata

## Vicar street

Sat 5 Rachid Taha  
Wed 9 Elbow  
Thu 10 Focus  
Fri 11 Adam Hills  
Sat 12 Al Murray - the Pub Landlord  
Sun 13 Mariza  
Mon 14 Dionne Warwick  
Tue 15 Lucie Silvas  
Wed 16 Juliet Turner  
Thu 17-Sun 20 Des Bishop  
Mon 21 Patrick Kielty  
Thu 24 Emma Grynner  
Fri 25 Antony and the Johnsons  
Sat 26 Alexander O'Neal  
Sun 27 Savina Yannatou and Primavera En Salomio  
Mon 28 Stephen Bishop  
Tue 29 Blind Boys of Alabama

## The Ambassador

Fri 4 Dena  
Thu 10 My Chemical Romance  
Fri 25 The Bravery

## The Abbey Theatre

Sat 5-  
Wed 30 Drama at Inish

## National Stadium

Mon 7 Nov Jamie Cullum



# Could the real Robbie Williams please stand up?

Intensive Care, EMI  
Out Now

By Kate White

'INTENSIVE Care' brings a more 'mature' Robbie Williams to the stage. But after years of bombardment by the egotistical, larger than life, sex-god, is this the real Robbie, the guy we all hate to love?

It's hard to believe this is William's eighth solo album since 'Life thru a Lens' prompted his meteoric rise to fame in 1997. A deeper, sensitive Robbie Williams emerges in 'Intensive Care'. Having split with Guy Chambers, the mastermind behind hits 'Angels' and 'Rock DJ', Robbie has enlisted the help of co-writer Stephen Duffy, who plays a huge part in this latest offering.

Don't get me wrong, he's still singing about the same things-himself, his fame, his selfish ways and his love life. There is even a faint glimmer of cockiness in the opening line of 'Ghosts'. ("Here I stand victorious, the only man to make you come.")

Alas, when you bring in the big guns like Duffy, who has notched up 20 years of proper song-writing experience, you can't help but notice that the pop stars cheeky brilliance has not only been operated on, but well and truly butchered.

There are very few stand out tracks. Then again, Robbie, although born for the stage, never quite hit the mark in the studio. "A place to crash" can be instantly singled as the anthem that will echo throughout Croke Park when he plays here next Summer. The song's "Ah-Yeah's" ooze that perfect karaoke quality. "King of Bloke and Bird" is one of the most poignant tracks Robbie has ever attempted and tells of the futility of searching for love. When he recorded this acoustic ballad, Robbie claimed he'd never sing it live because it was just too painful and meaningful to him. He really wanted this album to be about "writing songs that could break some

body's heart" and this definitely lives up to that tear-jerking status.

"Your Gay Friend" unfortunately, lacks any lyrical intelligence and as a weak filler, is more likely to rekindle that old media frenzy questioning Robbie's sexuality than win him a Brit. Then again, maybe that's what its there for.

"Tripping" is one of the only tracks that strays from Robbie's years of depression, addiction and numerous love affairs with both himself and a plethora of celebs. This gangster type track was the first single to be released from the album but failed to hit that all-important number one spot.

'Intensive Care' is best described as two lonely years in L.A. trying to come to terms with being Robbie Williams. When you listen to it from start to finish, you can't help thinking we've lost our cheeky lad from Stoke on Trent and gained an impostor. Bring back the entertainer.

## Gigsmart Ireland :The Compilation Returns

By Frankie Whelan

"THE Compilation Returns" is the second album from the unsigned musician collective known as Gigsmart Ireland. The compilation contains tracks from some of Ireland's finest unsigned bands, and some not so fine acts.

The album is split into two discs. On disc one you'll find the louder more energetic bands while disc two is made up of solo artists and the more acoustic-minded bands. This set-up works well and adds a lot to the compilation as it allows you to listen no matter what your mood.

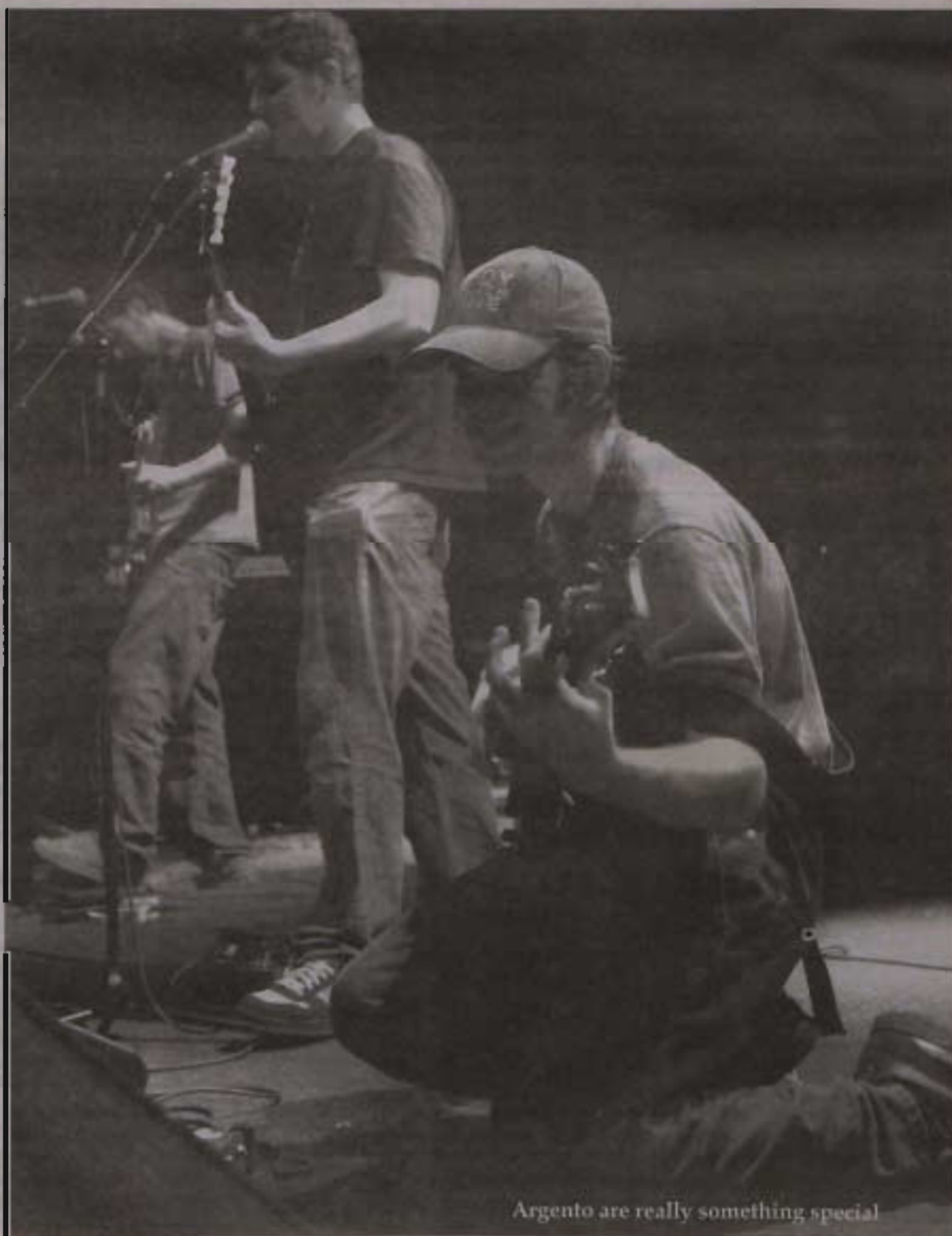
While the first CD contains most of the bigger acts it also lacks something in the way of consistency. You can sometimes feel you're going from one single to another, with no real pattern to the organisation of the songs. An example of this is the raw and straight up rock of Mo'fro sandwiched between the quirkily complicated Moesley and the emotional workings of Those Damn Junkee DeeJays. Stand-out tunes include: 'I'm Yours' by Moesley, which manages to be hauntingly happy and sad at the same time; 'Starting to Care' by Dwight, which recreates a beautiful sliver of The Doots' magic in the here and now; and 'Just a Word' by N.I. Hip Hop which is a uniquely Irish blend of rock and hip hop.

Disc two is more consistent with its sound and you'll be hard pressed to find a bad song on the disc. It might not be everyone's cup of tea, but every song on this CD is better than a lot of the successful solo artists in the country. At least no-one says: "Anyone can be a saint". My current favourite is "Long Way Down" by Herm with its contrasting vocals and beautiful rhythm.

Two bands with strong DIT connections have graced the album: Argento with their fantastic 'Nothing Special', that avoids falling into the heavy rock unknown by being interestingly clever and well thought-out, and Skylight with 'Our Little Hour Class' that makes up for its lack of instant catchiness with careful construction and beautiful implementation.

Overall the album is enjoyable and the rich diversity means everyone will find at least one song to truly fall in love with. Some of these acts are probably the superstars of tomorrow, so get on board now before they become so popular they're no longer "cool".

**"you'll  
be  
hard  
pressed  
to find a  
bad song  
on the  
disc"**



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## DIT FC TRAGEDY AS TWO RISING STARS LOSE THEIR LIVES



Colm Cooper



Shane Brennan

THE DIT football club has been shocked by the death of two of its players in the last six months.

Shane Brennan lost his life as a result of an accident on a construction site in May. Shane represented the college for four years, and played for the Irish Colleges team on three separate tours. He also played League of Ireland Football for Athlone Town, Monaghan United and Longford Town. Colm Cooper died in a car crash in Monaghan in October. Colm played for the college last year. He helped the team to the semi-finals of the Collingwood Cup in Limerick. Both Colm and Shane will be sadly missed.

"The deaths of Shane and Colm have knocked me for seven. I have been involved with Whitehall Celtic for 20 years and never had to attend the funeral of a team-mate or a player under my management. To have to do so twice in such a short

space of time is numbing to say the least. I will always remember both lads in my prayers and the best compliment I can pay to each of them is that they were a joy to work with on and off the pitch. They were a credit to themselves and their families. May they rest in peace." Tony O'Connor, Manager DIT FC.

"Both Shane and Colm were great lads. In fact, I was with Shane at the World Student Games trials just days before his accident. He gave me a lift home that day. I remember he was very excited about getting his degree and continuing his football with Athlone.

He was a great mate off the pitch. Both Shane and Colm were brilliant for the team.

"They were always there for matches and never gave less than one hundred per cent. They were liked on and off the pitch by all the lads." Derek Treston, team-mate.

## Michelle Wie swings to conquer



## NICKLAUS' SPACE FILLED BY HOLE-IN-ONE WOMEN

By Ellen Mairin O'Brien

TAKING inspiration from the greats such as Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Annika Sorenstam a new generation of golfing talent is breaking onto the scene.

A new light for women's golf is leading this movement. Six days before turning sixteen Michelle Wie turned professional. She has stunned the golf world, sweeping up many local and international underage victories and now making an impact as a pro golfer. She made her professional debut at the Samsung Championship.

Current women's number one Annika Sorenstam won the tournament by eight shots proving she is still the best. Wie was disqualified when she placed the ball nearer to

the hole after a drop, but up until that lapse she had been in excellent form.

Wie will compete for her sixth time against men in the Casio World Open at the end of November.

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club who run the British Open seem to have taken note of the pioneering approach of Wie and Sorenstam and have now granted women access to qualifying for the event. The idea has opened a huge debate with colourful Frenchman Jean De Velde so incensed by the idea, he says he will try to play in the Women's British Open.

The past year has seen golf say goodbye to a legend, Jack Nicklaus. He played his last competitive round at St. Andrews on July 15, 2005. On the

18th hole, Nicklaus finished his career in style by putting a birdie. He received a ten minute standing ovation from the crowd after he finished the round at even par and missed the cut at score of +3, painstakingly close to the cut line, a remarkable achievement for a 65 year-old. Nicklaus will remain in the game for commentary and public events but will be missed as a golfing great.

For Irish golf the year has been a mix of ups and downs. Pádraig Harrington plummeted in the World Rankings and is now in danger of losing his status as Irish number one with Darren Clarke and Paul McGinley hot on his heels. He now languishes in 14th place while McGinley has shot up to

18th, fresh from his stunning win at the season ending Volvo Masters where he denied Order of Merit winner Colin Montgomerie and European No.1 Sergio Garcia. Harrington has had a difficult year, suffering the death of his father. He has won two events, the Honda Classic and the Barclays Classic but he has performed poorly in the majors and that's the measure of a golfer in today's game.

Tiger Woods has finally found his touch again this year, winning the Open and the Masters, taking his overall haul to 10, edging nearer Nicklaus's golden tally of 18. He has won four other titles and over \$10 million dollars on the US tour.



# ROBIN HOOD CAN'T SAVE THEM NOW

By Arthur Sullivan

ARRON Davies added sparkle at the finish when his drive rustled in off the underside of the crossbar. It was a neat 3-0 workout and Steve Thompson was thrilled with his players' efforts. "Pablo Bastianini is good at holding the ball up and young Matt Harrold is coming on in leaps and bounds. He is quick and good in the air."

Bully for Yeovil. It's only three years since they were outside the Football league, languishing in the quagmire of the conference and now they are in the top ten of the third tier of English football. It's been quite a transformation and things are getting better all the time.

On the same day in Huish Park as Thompson was brimming and the Yeovil fans were cheering mirthfully, Gary Megson was confronted by two disgruntled followers of his Nottingham Forest team. John Enever and Andrew Peel explained to Megson that they had travelled four hours, at great expense and were deeply unhappy with the unacceptable efforts of the Forest players. Megson, a former Forest player agreed. "Would you like to

tell the players yourselves?" he said, with stoical seriousness much to the shock of the fans. The trio proceeded to the Nottingham Forest dressing room. There, well-paid, professional athletes slouched slovenly in the modest Yeovil changing rooms with looks of disillusionment and sorrow on their faces. The entrance of Megson would usually spark ambivalent moods of fear and anger in the current politics of Nottingham Forest Football Club. It was confusion when they saw who was accompanying him.

Peel and Enever were warned by Megson not to get personal or abusive. They didn't. They explained to the players their concerns. "We said 'the majority of Forest fans genuinely want you and the manager to do well, but that's not going to happen without basic application' - Enever explained.

Megson phoned the men on Monday, thanking them for their words and said he hoped it would be a foundation for the season.

It's a bizarre and drastic step to allow two angry fans into the dressing room of a professional football club. They are capable of anything and perhaps no-one deserves that kind of caustic, volcanic atmosphere to face into after playing a match. These are desperate times at the City Ground.

Slump is a simple word. It doesn't do any justice to the situation at Nottingham Forest. Their fall is almost impossible to contemplate. Just imagine any other European champions in the current position that Forest are in.

In January 1975, Forest were a struggling Second Division outfit. They had little tradition to live up to, little ambition. Brian Clough, a famed former Middlesbrough striker took over. By the end of his second full season, Forest were promoted to the top flight. The following season



**THEN:** Forest star Trevor Francis celebrates with the European Cup following his side's 1-0 victory over Malmö in the 1979 European Cup Final

**"It's a  
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Phil Jevons did it. It was a brilliant, dipping 30 yard volley. Russell Hoult had no chance. Just six minutes on the clock and the 26-year-old Everton reject was gearing up for another tour de force effort for Yeovil Town. He grabbed his second 20 minutes later, a simpler affair when he tapped in after some questionable defending.



**NOW:** A devastated Forest fan cries as he contemplates life in the third tier of the league after their 2005 relegation

they accomplished the rare and astonishing feat of winning the top flight in their first season after promotion, something which no one has managed since in England.

Nottingham Forest secured their place in the football pantheon forever in 1979 when they won the European Cup at their first attempt, beating Swedish champions Malmö 1-0 in the final. To imagine Forest as champions of Europe is strange and surreal today. Crashing 3-2 to Woking in the LDV vans competition, struggling beneath Scunthorpe, Chesterfield and Brentford in their league is not usually associated with European champions. In the years before Forest's win, Liverpool, Bayern Munich and Ajax were the winners. Forest are the first winners of the European Cup to slip to the third tier of their national league.

In 1980, Forest retained the European Cup, this time beating Hamburg 1-0 in the final. They were the undisputed kings of European football, they played with confidence and style. In their side they possessed Trevor Francis, Peter Shilton, John Robertson and Martin O'Neill. They had sown the seeds of a legend that could not die. They were immortal.

In the years following the European successes, Forest consolidated their position as one of the top sides in England although they didn't add any silverware until the League Cup success in 1989. They came very close that year to securing an unprecedented domestic treble but in the end they were outdone by Liverpool and Arsenal. So, at the end of the 1980's, the European Cup glory was in the past, the team was changing yet they were still in the English football elite. In May 1993 however, Forest were relegated bringing a sad end to Clough's glorious 18-year

career. Since his departure, Nottingham Forest have had eight managers and spent just four out of 12 seasons in the Premiership.

There were brief streaks of light. Frank Clark, a left-back on the 1979 team, took the team to a third-place finish in the Premiership in the 1994-5. Stan Collymore, Bryan Roy and Stuart Pearce were among the finest players in the country. Collymore was an iconic figure, capable of electrifying and captivating football while Pearce was the very emblem of bullish English spirit.

In June 1995 Collymore was sold to Liverpool and his successor Andreas Silenzi was a massive disappointment. The goals dried up and Forest dropped down the league in the seasons that followed. They endured successive relegations and promotions but in 1999 they tumbled out of the top flight and have not returned since.

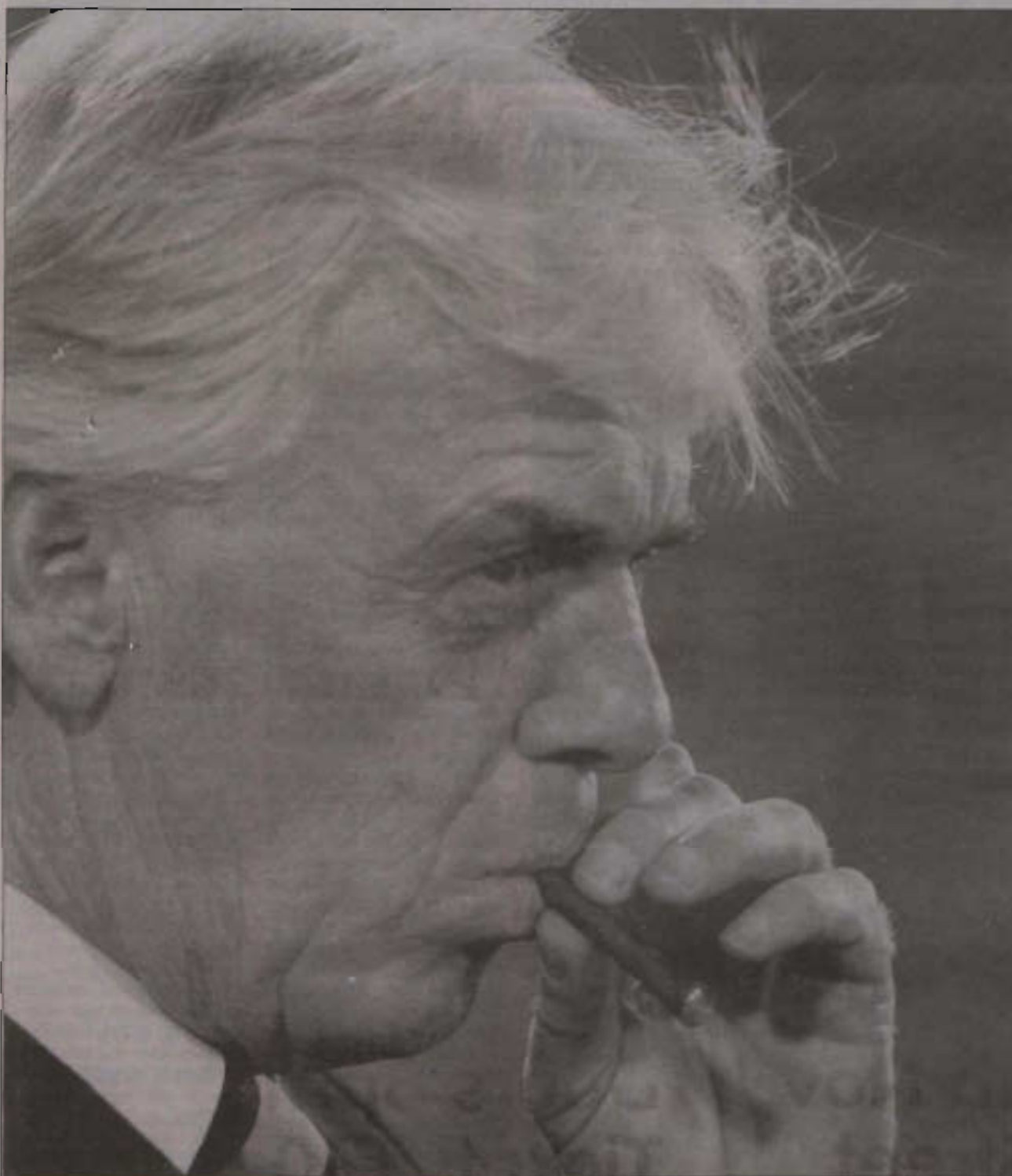
They turned out a talented set of youngsters in David Prutton, Andy Reid, Michael Dawson and Jermaine Jenas. Manager Joe Kinnear could not get the best out of them and by now, all four have been sold. Kinnear jumped ship before relegation from Division One was mathematical and Megson took over as the club embarrassingly but inevitably slid into the pompously named League One, in other words, the third tier.

And that's where they stand. Fans in dressing rooms, shouting the odds. Players like Eugen Bopp and Scott Dobie being their superstars. Being consigned to visits to Layer Road, the Recreation Ground and the Fitness First Stadium are a far cry from the heavily packed theatres of the Bernabeu in Madrid and the Allianz Stadium in Munich. Life goes on and Phil Jevons can sleep soundly in his car on only it.



# MR COOL HAS T&T ON THE BRINK

Leo Beenhakker, one of the most colourful characters in international football, caught up with The Moon's *Cillian Ó Conchuir* to discuss his Trinidad & Tobago side's chances of making the 2006 World Cup



**ICE COOL:** Beenhakker smokes a trademark cigar as he looks on from the sidelines

THIS November, Leo Beenhakker will aim to bring Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) out of football obscurity and onto the world stage. Before his side's crucial play-off with Bahrain on November 12th and 16th, the former Real Madrid, Ajax and Dutch manager spoke about the dramatic turn around in T & T's fortunes.

Beenhakker was called upon to rescue the Caribbean

outfit back in April after an abysmal start under former coach, Bertille St Claire. On the receiving end of an opening 2-1 defeat at the hands of USA, then, a 5-1 drumming at Guatemala and a scoreless draw with Costa Rica, left T&T bottom of the final CONCACAF group round. He seemed unfazed at the task in hand. "When there is a lot of pressure its okay. It doesn't deter me. I can handle

it perfectly," said the cool, slick Dutchman.

His appointment was crucial and many asked why it had not come sooner. "From what I saw," began Beenhakker, "there was no team. We had players but no team. At the same time I saw that there was much more in every player and more in the team."

"Of course qualifying was not realistic. Normally we

would have been out, but we took it as a challenge, knowing that we were at least on the same level as Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama. With a little bit of luck we thought from the beginning that we could do it. We took the challenge and it is going well."

T & T instantly looked a changed side. "I wanted to enforce three things! First of all building a team, working on the fact that the left hand

has to know what the right hand is doing. Second we worked one hour, each session, on ball possession because that is what football is all about. Finally, to get much more confidence and forget that the other guys are better than you are."

If there ever was a complete opposite to Jose Mourinho, it's Beenhakker. On the brink of greatness with Trinidad, he is modest, self-effacing and reserved. Beenhakker went straight for the tunnel after the dramatic comeback against Mexico. "I was the first guy to go inside because the players had all the right to celebrate it on the pitch. It was not the end, it was only the beginning. It was nice, but we have not won anything at all."

His faith in his players is striking and he is confident without seeming arrogant. "I was surprised that Mexico scored the first goal because we had the whole match in our hands. I was full of confidence that we could win this match and I said that at half time to the players. Just go out and perform, the chances will come and you can win this match. It was a match where you had the sensation within five minutes that you could win it."

Dwight Yorke (34) and Russell Latapy (37) emerged from retirement for this World Cup qualifying campaign, but Beenhakker rubbished claims that the pair are difficult to work with. "These guys are no more difficult than any other players. To manage a football team you need two things. You need your knowledge of football and you need to understand people and give your time to them."

Latapy at 37 is known as 'the little magician.' "The key is not 37. I always say your age based on your date of birth is not important. Age is how you feel inside. He has a good eye for what a team needs and how they are to play. At this moment age is not important. He can still play two matches in four days."

The relationship he shares with his players is unparal-

leled. "I give all my time 24 hours a day to my players. It can be on the pitch, it can be outside the pitch, it can be in a mental way, social way, but I live with them 24 hours. I think that is the key of building a good team and also to do your job, not only in a professional way but also in a human way."

His managerial record is impressive: three Spanish titles with Real Madrid, three Dutch league titles, with Ajax (2) and Feyenoord (1) as well as a World Cup appearance with Holland in 1990. Obviously not feeling indebted to him for getting them to their first World Cup in the USA '94, Saudi Arabia dismissed him before a ball was kicked at the Final's.

In 1989 T&T were in a similar position. With qualification at their finger tips they were defeated at home by the USA. That victory not only put the USA into the World Cup, but it gave a new lease of life to football in their nation. It might well have been T & T in that position today had the team, which included a 21 year-old Russell Latapy and one Dwight Yorke, lived up to expectations. "For sure they will look back on that game, but that is not my problem. I work now and I live now. I don't live in the past."

So, what would qualifying for Germany mean to the 23 islands that make up Trinidad & Tobago? "A week's carnival," he replies with a little laugh. Bahrain will test Beenhakker's resilience as a manager. "We will not underestimate Bahrain in any way. The supporters and everybody can dream of Germany. The main part is that we the professionals keep both feet on the ground. Let's first play Bahrain. I always want to win. I will only be happy when we win and when we qualify for Germany."

With rumours of Bobby Zamora and J-Lloyd Samuel possibly linking up before the showdown with Bahrain, the future looks bright for Trinidad. If, however, Trinidad take the Saudi option and sack the Dutchman, he could always come manage the Irish team.



# BRIAN'S GONE, BUT WHO KERRS?

By Fergal Browne

The shortest Irish football management reign for thirty years ended last Tuesday night when Brian Kerr was unanimously sacked as manager, leaving the uncertain question of what's next for the senior side?

Brian Kerr's 33 month, 33 game reign ended without even the need for a vote at the Great Southern Hotel on Dublin's northside from the ten F.A.I. members present. Only Chief Executive John Delaney was present at the press conference that revealed Kerr's faith. He cited the failure to qualify for the 2006 World Cup as the main reason for his dismissal. He stated "we considered a wide range of things but most of the attention was focused on the team's performance and the results achieved."

Later that night Kerr lambasted the decision to relieve him of his duties as "short-sighted" and claimed it was "contrary to the much vaunted spirit of the Genesis report" in a statement released by his agent, John Drury. Kerr added he was

intensely saddened to be sacked from a job he once called the best job in the world.

Kerr's supporters have argued that the F.A.I. has been too hasty in getting rid of a man, who has offered them 8 years of loyal service. They point to the fact that Kerr won 18 of his 33 games in charge, while his predecessor, Mick McCarthy, won only 12 of his first 33 games in charge but yet the axe was not wielded on him.

Others have sympathised with Kerr due to the quality of players at his disposal. Six of the 11 starters against Switzerland are not first team regulars for their respective clubs, including neither striker in a game Ireland had to win.

Kerr's critics, on the other hand, pointed to Kerr's failures as a tactician and a motivator as justification for his dismissal. When the going got tough against both Switzerland and France at Lansdowne Road and goals were needed Kerr kept to the one-dimensional 4-4-2 system and only replaced like-for-like players when it was

clear it wasn't working.

Perhaps, though, what really sealed Kerr's resignation were the two games against Israel. Critics cite the negativity in Tel Aviv and the tactical decision of replacing an injured Robbie Keane with Graham Kavanagh at Lansdowne Road, thus nullifying the effect of the ram-paging Duff, who was moved from his natural position of left midfield to centre forward, as the moments that cost Ireland a place in the World Cup.

Kerr's critics also claim that, under Kerr, Ireland have not had the "put 'em under pressure" mentality that typified the Charlton and McCarthy eras. The long unbeaten run at Lansdowne Road was surrendered rather tamely to the French while critics claim that the Swiss performance lacked the impetus necessary for a victory.

This leaves the question of what's next? For the first time in 15 years Ireland lack an inspirational leader on the field as a result of the retirements of Roy Keane and Kenny Cunningham. As well

as that a new manager must be appointed.

A three-man subcommittee comprising Delaney, President David Blood and Secretary Michael Cody will headhunt a successor. Despite Delaney claiming "it's a decent job, a high profile job and it's a decent salary" the Association will find it difficult to attract the big names of Premiership football [Kerr's 400,000 per annum salary is well below average compared to what most Premiership managers earn].

The Irish fans will have to wait and see. Martin O'Neill and Alex Ferguson have been mentioned as contenders but both have ruled themselves out. The field is still wide open and Delaney has said "we're prepared to wait" in order to find the right successor.

Whoever that person is has a difficult job on their hands. The retirement of Keane is the bugle call for the end of an era. Whether a new era can bring success or continued failure remains to be seen.



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## SPUTNIK SPORTS

ASHES INFLAME  
CRICKET PASSION**By Diarmuid Carter**

You may have noticed that cricket is becoming increasingly popular in Ireland. A onetime symbol of the British Establishment is now being played by school children all across Ireland. It is being shown in pubs in rural towns, is gracing the back pages of the dailies and, astonishingly, Freddie Flintoff is becoming something of a celebrity over here. So how did this happen? It is easy to say that the Ashes frenzy, which gripped England, has spilled over to our dear isle. This is certainly true to some extent, but Irish cricket is now stronger than it has ever been before.

In July of this year Ireland hosted the ICC trophy, an event that was described as "the biggest event in the long history of Irish cricket" by

Stan Mitchell, the President of the Irish Cricket Union. Ireland finished runners-up in the competition, losing to Scotland in the final, qualifying them for the Cricket World Cup in 2007. Even more recently Ireland won the ICC Intercontinental Cup, beating Kenya in the final and winning out against Scot-

land, the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates along the way. This success must be credited, but is it merely a flash in the pan? Is cricket here to

stay as a serious sport? Brian O'Rourke, development officer of the Leinster Cricket Club and Irish U-19 coach thinks so.

"More and more kids are taking up cricket, especially through schools. While many people

"people are moving to Ireland from countries like Zimbabwe, Australia, South Africa and Pakistan. Places where cricket is huge. When they get here they want to play cricket, which is a huge boost to the sport. As well as that, a few years down the line they'll have kids who'll want to play. All in all cricket has a good future in this country."

This sudden interest is not confined to the schoolyard and Brian has seen quite a few young Irish adults develop an enthusiasm in cricket.

"They've watched the Ashes during the summer and realised that cricket can be really exciting. This, in turn, makes them want to play the game." These adults include women and there is a healthy women's cricket scene in Dublin.

Isobel Joyce plays cricket with Merrion Cricket Club and Ireland. She too believes cricket is on the up saying, "There are a lot more people, women and men, playing cricket in Ireland. There are a lot of young girls playing cricket through schools, and then joining clubs later on." However she does believe there is a difference in the effects this is having on women's cricket "men's cricket is definitely getting stronger but even though more girls are joining I think the standard of women's cricket is declining. In particular, there are a lot more non-national men coming here playing cricket than there are women."

Proof that cricket is establishing itself in Ireland, is the strengthening of links between Irish clubs and English County clubs. At the moment there are four Irish players playing for county teams. Ed Joyce, Isobel's brother, and Eoin Morgan play for Middlesex, Niall O'Brien plays for Kent and Andrew White plays for Northants. These ties have undoubtedly improved the Irish game and make it more desirable to try and turn professional. Yet it also means that Irish cricket suffers a

drain of talent as players leave the country to play for the Counties and perhaps even qualify to play for England through residency. Ed Joyce is a perfect example of this.

Generally seen as one of the best players Ireland has produced in the last forty years, Ed Joyce has played for both England and Ireland. In the ICC trophy Joyce hit 399 runs for Ireland, yet justifiably he prefers to play for England he said, "If I go on the England A tour, that counts so I can't play for Ireland. I've made my decision now. It was great to go back and play for Ireland but that was a one off." So while Brian O'Rourke believes more and more young people in Ireland are starting to play cricket, there is always the fact that they can only ever go so far in Ireland. If they really want to make it, they'll always have to cross the water. Ed Joyce also drew attention to this saying, "in general youth cricket in Ireland is quite strong but after that there's nowhere for players to go. They either make it into the Ireland team - and they've to get jobs then - get into counties or fall by the wayside."

While cricket is getting stronger there will always be limitations in this country. Firstly there is the stigma that cricket is a predominantly English and protestant sport and this continues to hound the game. This image puts a lot of people off and while it exists cricket will always be seen as little more than a hobby by a lot of Irish people. The Joyce family, originally from inner city Dublin, have no great cricket tradition yet both Ed and Isobel have made it to the top level. This stigma in turn means cricket doesn't have the following to support its own players leading to the talent drain. Yet this summer has shown that many people in Ireland enjoy cricket, playing and watching. Perhaps in years to come more can get over the prejudice against it and give the game a go. And who knows, we might even beat the English some day.

