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DIT Journalism Society

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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 University Associations (CHIU).

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 recognized 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 CHIU supported DIT's application for membership of the European Universities Association."

"Bob Coggins, DIT students' 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 asking 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 DIT.

The association recently submitted proposals to the Government promising radical reform in exchange for increased funding. The university sector's funding has been allowed reach "crippling" levels.

The IUA noted as a powerful lobby group and this latest proposal stands a good chance of securing extra funding for universities.
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 tenants' 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 Lowry, USI Welfare Officer, students 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 struggle 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 off-campus accommodation in Ireland is the root of the problem. "Ireland lags behind the rest of Europe in the amount of off-campus accommodation available to students. The lack of off-campus accommodation isn't just an issue for students, but affects the economy as a whole as students are fleeced into the private market and this consequently drives up rental prices for the rest of the market."

DT Student Nuala Dowling says she is not fully aware of her rights as a tenant and 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 got value for money with the house I live in at the moment, but I would definitely live on campus if it was available."

"Students are one of the most exploited groups in the accommodation market"
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 NUl Maynooth and ahead of DIT. DIT was slammed for its energy needs and allowed students to gain direct experience of wind-power technology. "Construction of the 50-mast wind turbine project will pay for it in eight years." It was also pointed out that "improvements seem to be on the way with a centralised 65-acre campus in Grangegorman. All of the institute's facilities 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 begun yet. According to the wonderful up-to-date news section of the DIT website, "Construction of the 502 million euro project is estimated to begin in 2005."

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 our news this week: The college came in eighth overall, just trailing NUl Maynooth and ahead of DIT. DIT was slammed for its energy needs and allowed students to gain direct experience of wind-power technology. 

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By Lois Owen
North American Correspondent

HURRICANE Stan crashed into the Mexican coast on the 4th of October, the aftermath leaving storms, which disrupted throughout Central America. The storms brought devastating rains that threw the rivers out of their beds, 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 graves. 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 left behind 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 very 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 Pakistan could have come sooner than a week after the actual mudslides. If it was due to negligence, 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 bureaucracy and desperation 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 of 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 Union 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 only exceptions.

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

By Maura Fay

A UCD lecturer is investigating for using her position to promote extreme Catholic beliefs has received a payout of just under 100,000 euros.

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 Open Day events in order to pass exams. Open Day has been criticized as a fundamental Catholic "sect" which promotes a fascistic ideology and is intolerant of other religions.

Events came to a head last March when second year radiology students withdrew from Ms O'Connor's lectures in protest, after which she took sick leave.

"you won't get a first unless you believe" complaints made by the students included 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 96,333 euros, Ms O'Connor will also receive an enhanced pension of 32.13 euros a year. She taught in UCD for over 25 years.

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

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

USI President and USI spokesman John O'Connor said it was "difficult to say what the final outcome will be".

USI in recent times has been criticised as a "mute union for careerist hacks".
NEWS FEATURES

From Glenroe to meeting Mourinho - The Rosenstock Story

By Cillian O Conchuir

He first came onto our screens as Dr. Halpin in RTE's Glenroe, but he is tired of saying, "Another one bit the Dust," 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 humanised celebrities and which has entertained 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 aunts. It used to terrify 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 lend the part of Kranzo in the hit musical, 'Kranzo', "I really thought I could bring this role to the stage and it was really fun to do." The cast included Aisling MacHale, Richard Cooper, and Gary Cooke and Mario was full of praise for them both.

"Restart is one of the most professional and talented actors. He is probably the best impressionist I have ever met. Gary is great fun and he owns that Duphy 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 Jose 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 regains supremacy at the summit of the Premiership, the special song is gaining the respect of being No.1 in the British charts this Christmas. Mario has transformed Aretha Franklin's 'Say A Little Prayer For You' into 'Sign A Little Player Or Two', and the hot song from the musical Joseph into 'Jose And His Amazing Technicolor Overcoat', both of which have been approved by Jose Mourinho.

Stirred by Mourinho's interpretation of the Chelsea boss, Abramovich has flown to London. "I was interested speaking about the trip to Chelsea and Jose Mourinho. I expected it to be more fun. You know, Chelsea, Abramovich, five-star, helicopters. In stark contrast the last time I had been there was quite different. "The 2 litre plastic bottles of coke in the hotel rooms, which were so unusual to see these days being used at ten past nine in the evening with their playstations."

After dining with the Chelsea team, he conducted a press conference. "I walked in with my Armani overcoat and chewing gum. I had questions in the audience which I organised that they would ask me. I responded as Jose Mourinho." He spoke with Jose and his staff for the best part of 30 minutes. So what is the special one like? "He is exactly like he is on TV. He's fascinating, he loves a laugh, he's up for the crack and doesn't mind the pies being taken out of him. His sense of humour is excellent."

Hear that again, 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 O Loughlin has taken over. So I think about doing him." So, what next for Mario? Chelsea went on to win the game at their centenary dinner in London, while he seems to have mildly missed him. "My ambition would be to get more work in Britain, ultimately resulting in an album released in Britain maybe next year." His eager to invite Irish Gift Grub album, the special one, to one November 4th and if part competitions 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 funny. It kind of comes into their life for five minutes every day and leaves."
West draws short straw in Shell sham

Arthur Sullivan examines the shortcomings of our seemingly shoddy government

NEWS FEATURES

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, assertive voice says, "When you start making money, we do too"? Most of us will never reach that point. But we all promise 28 cent every time you withdraw cash. They also all promise 24 hour phone and internet banking. For a quick overview of each bank 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 a bank account. Leaving these financial vulnerabilities open will offer you 50 euro call credit when you open a Student Plus Account, 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, the health service and the Monica Laeche affair, it's always been colourful.

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

Yet the time on which our government has escaped under the radar is the lame-faced 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 producers in the world are to build a pipeline from the Curragh Gas Field in Mayo and carry it through the West pipe to a refinery plant in north County Mayo.

There should be no problem. People need gas and Shell provides it. However, the gas in the pipe is untreated. In other words it is raw, potentially explosive 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 in Mayo in 2001 and explaining that there would be a pipe going through their land and that their consent would be required. When the landowners refused, Shell disappeared. In 2002 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 men and their supporter Michael O'Seighin into jail. The other thirty lucky winners, who open or continue their account.

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. Bertie 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 Fionnuala Fail where the government are questionable. Eoin 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 good work Shell displayed. It's easy to see the protestors as looking for their own petty interests in the face of progress and change that this unnoticed 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 bereavement with corporate behemoths like Shell.
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 posed 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 equity among students, but every year there seems to be an increase in the hierarchy 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 expert has something everyone should try. Find out what the Russian cure for a hangover is in our travel section. Check out the pig guides and reviews in the arts 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

Cian Fitzsimons
Cillian O'Connor

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 comments or opinions contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor.

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THE MOON'S EXCLUSIVE
TOTAL ECLIPSE COMPETITIONS

If you answer this question correctly you could be in with the chance to scoop this excellent prize of a 50 euro voucher for gamesstop and Tom Clancy's 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 editor2005@gmail.com
An Daingean

Drámaigh go pobail le ris do riachtas Uachtair Cheo agus an Chorp cheoil 8 November - December 2005.

An t-óige ann an Aontas Fhoclóir, Tairise agus Gaeilge, an t-ainm, agus an teagmháil, linn na h-ainmhiúnaíochtaí i bplainn an Cheo, roimhe sin, do chuir Rith na h-Albanaí, a chuirreamh don oideachais, a d'fhágann ghné idir

An bhfheidhm na saothair seo ann le linn an t-seachtaine seo beagnach. Mar sin, déanaim ar cheidic an t-ainmshaothar, a d'fhanann a ghníomh, toisc ghlac siad a chur i réimshála an dráma. Tá teacht ar a lorg. Theas, tú mar pathair, a d'fhágann a fheiceáil, a chuir a gcuid oibre ann. Tá fáilte romhainn a fháil.
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 and far between. 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 multi-layer 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, people going straight home after lectures was given the Christmas Break. Their message for prospective members is "If you like free stuff come join our society"."

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.

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 Neon Rodeo', takes place in the Mondo, Ranelagh on November 17th.

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 PROINNTIGH 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 dissatisfaction may prove too costly to sustain this event repeated in the years to come.

Adam and Mick, representatives of the ski soc, had this to say when asked what they expected from the night: "*King women and cool weather. We expected the sun to be -9°ler and drugs on site. SALTY TEA, SAND AND SEX." Obviously the lads weren't in charge of the arrangements, prompting the question with a pair of noses in the hole why play screw and seven?"

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

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

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 whispers on the day that if any sort of incident was to happen whereby the place was desolate of personnel, social life in DIT may equal to exist! But luckily no-one was injured or maimed.

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 Cagigas and a final good luck from the event organisers to each society wrapped up the day.

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

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.

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

So, you've both sitting together comfortably on the bed, watching something, terribly enthralling like National Geographic. Michael Ryan's bubbleooning on about the importance of basket-weaving in modern Irish society, yet even though this is groundbreaking 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 off? 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 bair-raisingly, wilfully frighteningly easy...

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

Firstly, set the scene. This means getting turned off your mobile, lighting the scented candles, killing the harsh lights and laying an old sheet on the side of the bed so you don't care if you spill the massage oil. Try connecting with your partner, this can be tingling softly on the face, lightly touching their body, or gazing into each other's eyes. Now, I'm not talking about chewing the hand off them, grooving 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 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 naked 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.

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

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 on 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 sexual 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 just lust 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

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

http://www.thebody.com/pow/schools.html

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

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

ter notice how irish people react to alarms? They don’t. Between the years of 1918 and 1919 the Spanish Flu, an unusual strain of Avian Flu, killed at least 28 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 internal organs and usually results in death within 48 hours. According to the World Health Organisation it is a “highly deadly strain 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 flocks or birds are thought to be at risk. This puts poultry workers and Satelites in the high-risk category. However, experts fear that if H5N1 mutates atombomb with human Flu, it could become highly contagious to humans and lead to a deadly pandemic.

Since 2003, 67 people have died from Avian Flu 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 stockpile the vaccine.

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 50% will be in stock by the end of the year. Franz Humler, 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 effective in combating 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 still unprepared to defend itself during a pandemic. On present trends, most developing countries will have no access to vaccines and anti-viral 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 terms have been ringing for years. Isn’t it time Ireland paid attention?
For the boys...

For the fashion conscious, there's no need to worry. With the right pair of trousers, a shirt and a jacket, you're set. For the autumn and winter months ahead, layering will be the key. Combine shirts with trousers and jackets for a layered look. For a casual look, blue jeans and a t-shirt can be worn over a shirt and jacket. Wear with a pair of boots for a casual look. The key is to look effortlessly stylish.

For the girls...

The winter collection for 2005/2006 has some unique outfits combinations. The mix of colors gives every woman the chance to experiment and be different. However, one thing is for sure: this year's trends - Senate chic. Wearing the senator's hat and coat, along with a black dress and boots, will ensure you stand out from the crowd.

Victorian elegance is back this winter, with lace trimmings and corsets. The overall look is quite closely related to this season. Victorian elegance is a real popular trend this winter, and that's why we're seeing it everywhere. Not just in the UK, but also in America and Europe.

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 season's trends...

The Irish fashion industry is much like a fashion parade, small and unimportant, it fails to make the best of its homegrown assets. The result: Young designers are forced to leave the country for lack of business. As a result, many designers in the fashion capitals of New York and London. But Claire O'Connor is one designer who set to stay. In 2001, she won Irish designer of the year and already has her own established label - United 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 no 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, but such a pity to waste working for someone else. Like many young designers in Ireland, Claire hand makes all her garments herself. Her collection changes through the seasons, and this Winter, it makes more than a few of each piece. "This Winter, I'm using a lot of black and navy, maroon and emerald green. "I try to create pieces which don't go out of fashion easily so I don't really buy into the highest fashion, which often won't be in the next season. "Whereas, she says, "Especially in the French and Italian fashion, which really influence our style."

Just as Paul Costello famously once said, "Irish women have no class, Claire agrees this is 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 individuality and everyone ends up carrying the same clothes and working the same trousers. "The clothes on sale in a country tend to reflect the weather," Claire says which explains why her clothes are often full of quite boring clothes. "Ireland people need to dress for comfort and practicality, two words which don't co-exist well with fashion. After all we are a nation of tractor owners and farmers. Those目前 have embraced the current pajama bottom and cranberry boot, with a lot of black and velvet. But even though there's a lot more choice than our wardrobe, 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, this season clothes are more likely to be emerald cut. There's a lot of bows, black and red, and a lot of prints."
Daddy’s Little Princess

By Tiffany Amélie Doyle

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

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

Debbie arrived, flushed. "Sorry babe, for being so late. The co-op wouldn’t start this morning and I, like, had to take a jog, because Daddy wouldn’t let me borrow the SUV. Talk about a total buzz kill. Imagining if I like, bad to walk in these Jimmy Choos. The taxi-driving man was trying to chat me up, and all I wanted was to apply my mascara and listen to my iPod!"

Dropping her LV monogrammed handbag on the table, she sat down and applied her mascara and sipped her frappuccino. "Oh pet, you’ve had a rough few hours", said Neasa, who sat down next to them. "Oh Neasa, you look fab today, love the new UGGs."

"We were talking about the Harvey Nicks’ opening. Guess who I saw there, looking so tanorexic - Jenny Browne-McManus!"

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."
D'Unbelievably Funny-Pat Shortt uncovered

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 received a cult following for his various roles in those sitcoms. Recently you may, or may not, have noticed that Pat Shortt seems to have jumped off the small screen and is appearing on the fringe of such luminaries as the RTE Guide and every tabloid TV 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 it 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 Pat says, in that may seem.

As well as much of the content of Killinaskully being Pat's, he also does a lot of practical work on the show. He plays a whole load 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, yes Pat maintains he enjoys the experience: "I'm so used to staring at my own face that it's great having so many people around, plus it takes a lot of pressure off," the Tipperary born says. "Also all the different actors that work on Killinaskully bring something new to the show, whether it is 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 stage and the set, enjoying both for their different merits. "When you are doing stand-up, there is a lot of pressure which is not there when 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 big part of Pat's act 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 on stage. Mind you there is nothing vicious about it 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 "what's up" for pop culture just a few years ago, he has even shared a bed with Mia Farrow. Yet with Pat Shortt there is a 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.
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.

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'. By Sharon Vogiatzi

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Kiss Kiss Bang Bang

ROBERT Downey Jr stars as Harry, a basically decent petty drug dealer who quickly becomes obvious as smart talk. In LA he is a fancy party in in a particularly poignant scene we see her taking some out of a fountain to get money to play an arcade game. Most actors in this film are no professionals from the travelling community. While their lack of experience sometimes shows, they give the film an authenticity which would have otherwise been lost. This is not the type of film we would choose for a fun night out at the cinema, but it is worth seeing. It is an offering film which reveals the untenable living conditions of many of the travellers in this country.

KARL O'DOHERTY

The worst thing about the film is Robert Downey Jr's narration. At the start of the film he takes its upon himself to fill us in on the background story. The problem here is the down-right annoying use of police frame and rewind, ripping 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 in the perfect scienti- fically classed as a 'chick-flick', but there is definitely something in there for the guys (apart from Cameron Diaz) in the well-written, heartwarming story. It is a great film about the universal power of love, and how different types of love act in different, albeit mysteri- ous, ways.

KATIE TEEHAN

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 some out of a fountain to get money to play an arcade game. Most actors in this film are no professionals from the travelling community. While their lack of experience sometimes shows, they give the film an authenticity which would have otherwise been lost. This is not the type of film we would choose for a fun night out at the cinema, but it is worth seeing. It is an offering film which reveals the untenable living conditions of many of the travellers in this country.

BRIGID O'GORMAN

Pavee Lackeen

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 oppor- tunities 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 kettles. The film gives us a reason- ably impartial view of another 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.
Entertainments

18

November - December 2005

THE JACK

Could the real Robbie Williams please stand up?

By Kate White

STIVE

briup a IlCmi 'tnature' Robbie er

WiDiams to
die stage.

But af­

ter 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

tame in 1997. A deeper, sen-

titive Robbie Williams

emerges in ' Intensive Care'.

Having split with Guy Cham-

bers, the mastermind behind

hits 'Angels' and 'Doom 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

neatly 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

nabbed up 20 years of pro-

pop songwriting experience,

you can't help but notice that

the pop stars cheeky brilli-

ience has not only been op-

erated 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 songs 'Ain't That A

Cute' that perfect karaoke

quality. ' King of Blake and

Bird' is one of the most poigna-

nt tracks Robbie has ever at-

temted and tells of the frail-

ity 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 al-

bum to be about ' writing

songs that could break some-

body's heart' and this defi-

nitrily lives up to that resent-

ing status.

'Your Gay Friend' unfortu-

nately lacks any lyrical intel-

ligence and as a weak filler,

is more likely to remind that

old media frenzy questioning

Robbie's sexuality than win

him a Brit. Then again, maybe

that's what it's there for.

'Tripping' is one of the only

tracks that stray from Rob-

bie'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 the all important number

one spot.

' Intensive Care' is best de-

scribed as two lovely 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

shockingly laid from Sroke on

TNT and gained an inspector.

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 con-

tains 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

hearer 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 compiliation as it allows you to

listen no matter what your mood.

While the first CD contains most of the

bigger acts it also lacks some-

thing 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 unpolished track of Me Me's sandwiched between the quirky

complicated Munday and the emotional

workings of Those Damn Janice

Deenays. Stand-out tunes include:

'Tim You're' by Munday, which man-

ages to be hauntingly happy and sad

at the same time; 'Starting to Care'

by Dwight, which recreates a beau-

tiful slice of The Doors magic in

the here and now; and 'Just A Word'

by N.I. Hip Hop which is a sustain-

ably 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

Henna with its contrasting vocals and

beneficial rhythm.

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

Argento are really something special
NICKLAUS’ SPACE FILLED BY HOLE-IN-ONE WOMEN

By Ellen Mairin O’Brien

Michelle Wie swings to conquer

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 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 the first time against men in the Casual 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 debate with colour Frenchman Jean De Velde so incensed by the idea he will try to play in the Women’s British Open. The past year has seen 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.
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 Bantinini 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 Middlesborough 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
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.

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 Malmo 1-0 in the final. To imagine Forest as champions of Europe is strange and surreal today. Creaching 3-2 to Woking in the LDV vans competition, struggling beneath Scunthorpe, Chatteris and Bournemouth 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 1990, Forest returned the European Cup, this time beat- ing Hamburg 1-0 in the final. They were the undoubted 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 seen 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 unprece-dented domestic double but in the end they were undone by Liverpool and Arsenal. So, at the end of the 1980s, the European Cup glory was in the past, the team was chang-ing yet they were still in the English football elite. In May 1993 however, Forest were relegated, bringing a sad end to Clough’s glorious 13-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 little-known on the 1979 team, took the team to a third place finish in the Premiership in the 1994-5. Stan Collymore, Andy 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 Silvestri was a massive disappointment. The goals dried up and Forest dropped down the league in the seasons that fol-lowed. They suffered successive relegations and promo-tions but in 1999 they managed to slip out of the top flight and have not returned since. They tried out a talented set of youngsters in David Price, Andy Reid, Michael Dawson and Jermaine Jenas. Manager Joe Kinnear could not get the best out of them and as if all four have been sold. Nottingham Forest have been in the promotion and relegation football ever since. Division One was mathematical and Meegan took over as the club’s chairman, but inevitably slid into the uniformly named League One, in other words, the third tier.

And that’s where they stand; fans in dressing rooms, watching the odds. Moyes like Brian Deane and Scott Dobie bring their superstars. Being consigned to visits to Leyton Road, the Recreation Ground and the Pittodrie Stadium are a far cry from the heavenly packed terraces of the Bernabeu in Madrid and the San Siro in Milan. Yet you can sleep soundly in the knowledge that all is well.
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

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.
BRIAN'S GONE, BUT WHO KERRS?

By Fergal Browne

The shortest Irish football management reign for thirty years ended last Tuesday, when Brian Kerr was unceremoniously 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 hint for a vote at the Great Southern Hotel on Dublin’s northside from the ten FAI members present. Only Chief Executive John Delaney was present at the press conference that revealed Kerr’s fate. 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 launched the decision to relieve him of his duties as “unfair” and claimed it was “contrary to the much vaunted spirit of the Leasuit report” in a statement released by his agent, John Brady. Kerr added he was unequently saddened to be sacked from a job he once called the best job in the world.

Kerr’s supporters have argued that the FAI has been too busy in getting rid of a man, who had 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 were not first team regulars for their respective clubs, including substituteækker in a game Ireland had so won.

Kerr’s critics, on the other hand pointed to Kerr’s failure as a specialist and a motivator as justification for his dismissal. When the going got tough against both Germany and France at Lansdowne Road and goals were needed Kerr turned 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 reputation 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 man-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 them under pressure” mentality that typified the Charlton and McCarthy era. The long unbeaten run at Lansdowne Road was mention only to the French while critics claim that the Swiss performance tested the impasse 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. Whatever that person has to offer him on their hands.

The retirement of Keane is the bigger call for the end of an era. Whether a new era can bring success or continued failure remains to be seen.

DIY Students’ Union and DIY Cultural & Social Committee Presents

TAP FEST

The Saw Doctors

Traditional Irish Music Acts
Irish Dance Troupe

Tues 8th Nov
Vicar Street
Doors 8pm
Tickets €10

Tickets on sale at DIY Students’ Union Shops
Limited number of tickets will go on sale in Vicar St. 30 mins pre-doors.

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ASHES INFLAME
CRICKET PASSION

By Diarmuid Carter

You may have noticed that cricket is becoming increasingly popular in Ireland. A once-forgotten symbol of the British Establishment is now being played by schoolchildren all across Ireland. It is being shown in pubs in rural towns, in grading 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 sudden interest is not confined to the schoolyard but Brian has seen quite a few young Irish adults develop an enthusiasm for cricket. They've watched the Ashes during the summer and realized that cricket can be really exciting. In turn, makes them want to play the game. These adults include women and there is a healthy women's cricket scene in Dublin.

By Isobel Joyce, 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 Scotland.

people are moving to Ireland from countries like Zimbabwe, Australia, South Africa and Pakistan. Places where cricket is strong. 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 but Isobel has seen quite a few young Irish adults develop an enthusiasm for cricket. They've watched the Ashes during the summer and realized that cricket can be really exciting. 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 Women's 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 has on women's cricket "Women's cricket is definitely getting stronger but even though more girls are joining, I think the standard of women's cricket is diminishing. 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 Ireland and England. Clubs such as Ed Joyce, Isobal's brother, and Eoin Morgan play for Middlesex. Nick 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 unfailingly he prefers to play for England. He said, "If I get a chance to play for England I will take it." So while Brian O'Keeffe believes more and more young people in Ireland are wanting to play cricket, there is always the fear that they can only ever go as far in Ireland, if they really want to make it, they'll have to cross the water. Ed Joyce also drew attention to this saying, "In general youth cricket in Ireland is not up to the standard of England but there are plenty of players to go. They either make it into the Irish team and they've got to learn how to get into counties or fall by the wayside." While cricket is getting younger 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 bane the game. This image puts a lot of people off and while cricket will always be seen as a 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 stems in turn means cricket doesn't have the following to support its own players leading to the talent drain. Yet this summer there has shown that many people in Ireland enjoy cricket, playing and watching. Perhaps in years to come young Irish can get over the prejudice again and it give the game a go. And who knows, we may even beat the English some day.

Sputnik Spaces

By Sean 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 Scotland. The biggest event in the long history of Irish cricket by the biggest event in the long history of Irish cricket. This sudden interest is not confined to the schoolyard but Isobel has seen quite a few young Irish adults develop an enthusiasm for cricket. They've watched the Ashes during the summer and realized that cricket can be really exciting. 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 Women's 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 has on women's cricket "Women's cricket is definitely getting stronger but even though more girls are joining, I think the standard of women's cricket is diminishing. 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 Ireland and England. Clubs such as Ed Joyce, Isobal's brother, and Eoin Morgan play for Middlesex. Nick 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 unfailingly he prefers to play for England. He said, "If I get a chance to play for England I will take it." So while Brian O'Keeffe believes more and more young people in Ireland are wanting to play cricket, there is always the fear that they can only ever go as far in Ireland, if they really want to make it, they'll have to cross the water. Ed Joyce also drew attention to this saying, "In general youth cricket in Ireland is not up to the standard of England but there are plenty of players to go. They either make it into the Irish team and they've got to learn how to get into counties or fall by the wayside." While cricket is getting younger 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 bane the game. This image puts a lot of people off and while cricket will always be seen as a 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 stems in turn means cricket doesn't have the following to support its own players leading to the talent drain. Yet this summer there has shown that many people in Ireland enjoy cricket, playing and watching. Perhaps in years to come young Irish can get over the prejudice again and it give the game a go. And who knows, we may even beat the English some day.