DIT Independent, 1st.-31st. of March, 2003

DIT: Students Union

Follow this and additional works at: https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ditsu

Recommended Citation

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Dublin Institute of Technology at ARROW@TU Dublin. It has been accepted for inclusion in DIT Student Union by an authorized administrator of ARROW@TU Dublin. For more information, please contact yvonne.desmond@tudublin.ie, arrow.admin@tudublin.ie, brian.widdis@tudublin.ie.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License
Jones ordered to address SRA for non-attendance

By Aisling Casey

IN RESPONSE to complaints by the Kevin St Student Representative Assembly, Deputy President/Welfare Officer, Kevin St, Lyndsey Jones has been summoned by the students union’s Disciplinary Committee to address the SRA and explain her lack of attendance at their monthly meetings.

Following a complaint by the Kevin St Student Representative Assembly for non-attendance at meetings for the academic year, Ms Jones was summoned by the students union’s Disciplinary Committee to a hearing to discuss the case.

Ms Jones was summoned by the students union’s Disciplinary Committee to a hearing.

Ms Jones was summoned by the students union’s Disciplinary Committee to a hearing.

The most sweeping change to the US regulations on working visas will be the potential for the Summer Work & Travel Programme.

The J-1 USA visa programme has been a core part of college life for over 5 years and currently holds over 1/3 of the US market.

However, other proposed changes will affect all students hoping to travel to the US on a J-1 visa.

The US Embassy may also require all J-1 applicants to attend an interview at their Dublin office before the visa is issued. An additional processing fee of €35 may also be required.

Jones ordered to address SRA for non-attendance

Ms Jones was summoned by the students union’s Disciplinary Committee to a hearing.

Final year J-1’s face the axe

THIS will potentially be the last year full year students will be allowed to travel on J-1 visas because of the impending amendments in the US State Department regulations.

Heightened security measures in the US since September 11th have forced the US State Department to propose changes to the J-1 Summer Work & Travel Programme.

The most sweeping change is that potentially the summer of 2003 will be the last year that full year students will be allowed to travel on J-1 visas. In addition, second time applicants or applicants also will be prevented from travelling.

SAYIT are now encouraging anyone who falls under these categories to warn of the chance to travel on a J-1 visa this year as changes to the US regulations will more than likely take effect from next year.

If you will be a final year student for the academic year 2003/04 and wanted to travel...
### OVERALL PRESIDENT

**Name:** Hugh O'Reilly  
**Position:** Overall President  
**Age:** 22  
**Course:** Furniture Design  
**Previous Position:** Overall President, 2002/2003  

- If you succeed, what will your main aims be?  
  - To further improve the professionalism, communication, accountability and planning of the students’ union.  
  - To increase the level of training provided for student union officers and staff.  
  - To work on the recommendations of the strategic review  
  - To put in place a strategic plan for the union  
  - To improve the representation services provided by the union  
  - Increase staff levels to support the work of the union officers  

### OVERALL WELFARE OFFICER

**Name:** Eoin Kearney  
**Position:** Overall Welfare Officer  
**Age:** 21  
**Course:** Electrical and Control Systems  
**Previous Position:** None, but actively involved in the SU for 3 years (Class rep, councillor, delegate for USI Congress and sat on DITSU council)  

- If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?  
  - I hope to bring a more open view to the union. I will promote it and get as many students involved. But my main aim is to help students to be more aware of health related issues, not only STD’s etc but also issues such as depression and alcohol abuse.  

### OVERALL EDUCATION OFFICER

**Name:** Marc Murphy  
**Position:** Overall Education Officer  
**Age:** 29  
**Campus:** Kevin St  

- If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?  
  - A Chara; At a most basic level, I want to be there as a friend and ally to you in times of trouble. Whether you’re having trouble on your course or if you need to launch an exam appeal. The job of Education Officer is brand new. If elected, I will have to establish the position as well as doing it at the same time.  
  - It is a huge challenge but with seven years behind me in the college and nearly five years involvement in the SU, I believe I have the ability and maturity to take that challenge on. We are losing our friends in college, enrolment is falling and more and more students are dropping out every year and this is before you even start to take into account the fact that if the Government gets its way more of us will not be able to afford to come back next term. Students are not being represented on course committees, class reps are not attending SRA’s, and councillors are not going to council. This is a spiraling problem. If I get elected these are just some of the issues I want to work on.  

### BOLSTON STREET PRESIDENT

**Name:** Francis Fox  
**Position:** Site President, Bolton St  
**Age:** 20  
**Course:** Transport engineering/motor industry management  
**Previous Position:** Clubs & Societies Officer 02/03 and Irish language officer 00/01  

### AUNGIER STREET PRESIDENT

**Name:** Joe Savage  
**Position:** Site President, Aungier St  
**Age:** 23  
**Course:** Retail and Services Management  
**Previous Position:** Deputy President/Welfare Officer Aungier St, 2002/2003  

- If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?  
  - A continuation of the immense work and effort put in by this years sabbatical team both in Aungier St and overall.  

### VICE PRESIDENT/CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

**Name:** Brian Whitney  
**Position:** Vice President/Campaigns Officer  
**Age:** 21  
**Course:** Social Care Practice  
**Previous Position:** President Rathmines/Mountjoy 02/03, Entertainments Officer Rathmines,Disciplinary Committee, Social and Cultural Committee Rathmines, and Class Representative.  

- If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?  
  - The experience, knowledge and ability to make DITSU an effective campaign body. To challenge DIT’s ‘Do it tomorrow’ attitude.  

### AUNGIER PRESIDENT

**Name:** Elizabeth Morrissey  
**Position:** Site President, Aungier St  
**Age:** 21  
**Course:** Auctioneering, valuation and estate agency  
**Previous Position:** Has sat on student council as a class representative  

- If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?  
  - I’m chatty and energetic and now my education at DIT is coming to a close, I think it’s the right time for me to take this position. I want the chance to ensure that all DIT students have a voice and a sympathetic ear when they most it and I would do my utmost to know everything I needed to fulfill the position. I’d also like the chance to help integrate the new position of Welfare Officer into the new SU structure.  

### AUNGIER STREET PRESIDENT

**Name:** Sharon Hughes  
**Position:** Overall Welfare Officer  
**Age:** 20  
**Course:** Auctioneering, valuation and estate agency  
**Previous Position:** Has sat on student council as a class representative  

- If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?  
  - I’m chatty and energetic and now my education at DIT is coming to a close, I think it’s the right time for me to take this position. I want the chance to ensure that all DIT students have a voice and a sympathetic ear when they most it and I would do my utmost to know everything I needed to fulfill the position. I’d also like the chance to help integrate the new position of Welfare Officer into the new SU structure.  

### BOLSTON STREET PRESIDENT

**Name:** Naoimh McNamee  
**Position:** Deputy President/Welfare Officer – Bolton Street  
**Age:** 21  
**Course:** Auctioneering, Valuation and Estate agency  
**Previous Position:** Deputy President/Welfare Officer – Bolton Street  

- If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?  
  - I'm chatty and energetic and now my education at DIT is coming to a close, I think it's the right time for me to take this position. I want the chance to ensure that all DIT students have a voice and a sympathetic ear when they need it and I would do my utmost to know everything I needed to fulfill the position. I'd also like the chance to help integrate the new position of Welfare Officer into the new SU structure.  

### BOLSTON STREET PRESIDENT

**Name:** loe Savage  
**Position:** Overall President, Bolton St  
**Age:** 20  
**Course:** Aungier St  
**Previous Position:** None, but actively involved in the SU for 3 years (Class rep, councillor, delegate for USI Congress and sat on DITSU council)  

- If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?  
  - I'm chatty and energetic and now my education at DIT is coming to a close, I think it's the right time for me to take this position. I want the chance to ensure that all DIT students have a voice and a sympathetic ear when they need it and I would do my utmost to know everything I needed to fulfill the position. I'd also like the chance to help integrate the new position of Welfare Officer into the new SU structure.  

### BOLSTON STREET PRESIDENT
DITSU elections - not much contest

By Aisling Casey

CAMPAIGNING for DITSU Elections 2003 are underway. However, contention for positions is certainly not the highlight this year.

This year's Overall President, Hugh O'Reilly is hoping to retain his position. It should be a straight run for Mr O'Reilly as no one has decided to run against him.

Two of the new positions, Overall Campaigns Officer and Education Officer, each only have one candidate willing to take on the challenge.

By Aisling Casey

The elections will take place on Wednesday March 12, with the count the following day in DIT Aungier St.

Every candidate had the right to publish a picture and candidate details. Forms were available from the returning officers on each site.

KEVIN STREET PRESIDENT

Name: Nicky Cunningham
Position: Site President Kevin Street.
Age: 21
Course: Applied Science
Previous Position: Clubs and Societies Officer

If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?

I want every student who walks through the gates of Kevin St to know that the SU is there for them. I want to improve communication with all the students. I feel that the students deserve to have a strong voice to put forward their concerns. I believe I can be that voice.

Name: James Carroll
Position: Site President, Kevin St
Course: Applied Science and Computing; Year 2
Age: 21

If you succeed, what will you bring to the job?

The reason I am running for this position is to promote the facilities available to students, which are provided by the SU. If elected, I will do my utmost to make it known that the SU is not just there for students' entertainment but also for their education and welfare needs.

CATHAL BRUGHA STREET PRESIDENT

Name: Eoin Cassidy
Position: Site President, Cathal Brugha St
Age: 21
Course: Professional Cookery, Year 1
Previous Position: PRO

If you succeed, what will bring to the job?

I will aim to encourage a greater student involvement in the day to day running of the SU. I will also increase awareness of the SU in the college.
Jordan calls for review of extended pub opening hours

In response to a decision to extend pub opening hours, USI President Colm Jordan has called for an open and fair process to rethink their strategy.

Speaking at a forum on "Alcohol in Irish Society" in Dublin last week, Mr Jordan said this was just one of a number of strategies which should be looked at in the battle of curbing alcohol consumption. He called on the Government to consider, without delay, taking licenses away from pubs which are exploiting the legal age.

Mr Jordan referred to a report by a Government task force, published last year.

The report attributed increased consumption of alcohol to rising wealth, increased availability and a failure to considerably increase taxes on alcohol.

While the Government has increased the convenience of drinking by extending pub hours, it had failed to adequately increase taxes on alcohol. However, the Government has instead decided to move towards banning alcohol advertising, which the task force had discovered would have a lesser effect on curbing drinking habits.

The chief executive of the Vintners' Federation of Ireland, Mr Tadgh O'Sullivan, said it was naive of the Government to imply that increased consumption was linked to extended opening hours. He explained that following extended opening hours in 2000, there was no increase in beer and consumption in 2001 and a decline in 2002.

However, he accepted that the drinks industry had its faults such as advertising, happy hours and cheap promotions, which he said only serve to disgrace the industry.

Although the Minister for Health does not work, he said that some progress had been made in tackling the problem of increased alcohol consumption, he admitted much remained unresolved.

Happy hours and cheap promotions are attracting students to drink as much alcohol as they can.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Madam,

I have never been so glad to be in my final year as I was at the weekend when the government announced the return of college fees.

The government, instead of working to increase the numbers excluded from college education more feasible than a marginalised by the present system.

Education should be a right, not a privilege. What we need is an overhaul of the entire financial structure and in particular, the grant. This has become a chid by now but it is still true. The grant alone is not enough for a student to survive. The cut off point should be increased. The current method of assessment is unfair. Leavers should either be given a big hand up or a quick kick out.

As Staff / Student Course Meetings, if we have legitimate concerns, we want a solution and not a confrontation. It is my experience that leavers band together to improve their competence and existence while completely ignoring the issue at hand. What a shame.

The Dorm ladies do the lectures who have had continued complaints made against them? Saying, "We will take it into account at the Exam Board" is a cop-out. Send them off to do research and not to frustrate us.

We are here to learn but the Courses are only as good as the resources, standards & quality of the staff and facilities.

Regards, Jarlath Molloy.
SOUTH AMERICA & AFRICA EVENING

Talks from Airlines, Kumuka Expeditions, South American Experience, USIT, Dragoman, Tucan Travel, Language School, Work Exchange Programmes, Medical advice and more....

Wednesday, March 26
DUBLIN
USIT, 19-21 Aston Quay 6.30pm

All you need to know about
Flights & Round the World Itineraries, Work Abroad & Language Programmes, Adventure Tours, Safari & Jungle trips, Arrival Packages, Accommodation

Flights & spot prizes to be won on the night

USIT - 19/21 Aston Quay Dublin 2
Call Centre 01 602 1600
Dempsey commends
DIT's commitment to
transport industry

Mr Ahern stated: "We need
time by saying that "pouring
more money" into education
is not the solution. Speaking
at Ogra Fianna Fáil in Portlaoise on March 1st,

"Our modern dynamic
economy demands easy
access to markets, efficient
and effective movement of
goods and safe and
convenient travel for people".
Addressing the future of the
transport industry, he added, "Our legacy to future
generations must be a
modern state of the art road
and rail transport system."

Mr Dempsey said he was determined to
continue to re-introduce fees.
Students can now be sure
that the current system of free
third-level education will be
completed come next
September. Under the new system,
students will be loaned the
cost of their college fees.
According to Mr Dempsey,
students will be loaned the
cost of their college fees.

A review of third-level
fees is now in progress,
and Mr Dempsey said it is
expected before the end of
the month.

"What university has
done is outrageous,"
Mr Dempsey told the
Department of Education
officials, who have been
examining the system.

"We have no doubt that
the song of third-level fees comes only three weeks
after the Union of Students in
Ireland (USI) had indicated that
third-level fees would not be in place by next
September.

Mr Dempsey's stance on
fees is the support of all
Fianna Fáil cabinet members,
including Minister for
Finance Mr Charlie
McCreevy, who has publicly
described the abolition of
third-level fees as one of the
most socially regressive
measures ever taken.

However, the Tánaiste
Mary Harney has repeatedly
stated that the Progressive
Democrats will not support the
re-introduction of fees.

Children's course for the chop

"What university has
gone through?" Mr
Dempsey asked.

"We have no doubt that
these cuts will be part of
DIT's campaign to
increase fees.

"This University has
young children running
around. It's elitism and
egotiation at its very worst,"
said Ms Elbay of Parents for
Music.

The City of Dublin VEC is
awaiting amendments to
DIT's proposed budget for
2003-2004 before granting
approval for funding.

Student loan scheme to replace fees

By Darragh Clifford

An Taoiseach Mr Bertie
Ahern has entered the debate
on third-level fees for the first
time by saying that "pouring
more money" into education
is not the solution. Speaking
at Ogra Fianna Fáil in Portlaoise on March 1st,

Mr Ahern stated: "We need
time by saying that "pouring
more money" into education
is not the solution. Speaking
at Ogra Fianna Fáil in Portlaoise on March 1st,
## Reads of Nassau Street

**INCREDIBLE BUT TRUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>EASONS PRICE</th>
<th>READS PRICE</th>
<th>SAVINGS AT READS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEVER ARCH FILE</td>
<td>€2.99</td>
<td>€1.99</td>
<td>€1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 SPIRAL LAB BOOK</td>
<td>€7.99</td>
<td>€3.99</td>
<td>€4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIC 4 COLOUR PEN</td>
<td>€1.99</td>
<td>€1.30</td>
<td>€0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIPP-EX CORRECTION PEN</td>
<td>€3.99</td>
<td>€1.50</td>
<td>€2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 REFILL PAD 80 LEAF 160 PAGES</td>
<td>€1.50</td>
<td>.85c</td>
<td>€0.65c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 RING BINDER</td>
<td>€1.99</td>
<td>€1.30</td>
<td>€0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REXEL STUDENT PUNCH</td>
<td>€4.50</td>
<td>€2.30</td>
<td>€2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIC BIROS</td>
<td>.30c</td>
<td>.20c</td>
<td>.10c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 SPIRAL SCIENCE BOOK</td>
<td>€7.99</td>
<td>€3.99</td>
<td>€4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 PART SUBJECT DIVIDERS</td>
<td>.99c</td>
<td>.62c</td>
<td>€.37c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 POCKET DISPLAY BOOK (3 PACK)</td>
<td>€16.99</td>
<td>€8.50</td>
<td>€8.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOCUMENT WALLET</td>
<td>.32c</td>
<td>.20c</td>
<td>.12c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWINLOCK PERSONAL FILE</td>
<td>€39.99</td>
<td>€19.95</td>
<td>€20.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANILLA FOLDER</td>
<td>.20c</td>
<td>.07c</td>
<td>€.13c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIPP-EX</td>
<td>€2.35</td>
<td>€1.30</td>
<td>€1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EASTLIGHT BOX FILE</td>
<td>€8.50</td>
<td>€5.00</td>
<td>€3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLASTIC CLAMP FILE (3 PACK)</td>
<td>€7.99</td>
<td>€3.49</td>
<td>€4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLASTIC GRIP FILE (5 PACK)</td>
<td>€5.99</td>
<td>€3.99</td>
<td>€2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 SPIRAL NATURE STUDY BOOK</td>
<td>€7.99</td>
<td>€3.99</td>
<td>€4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHLIGHTERS</td>
<td>€1.50</td>
<td>.70c</td>
<td>€.80c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOTAL

- **Easons Price**: €126.05
- **Reads Price**: €65.23
- **Savings**: €60.82

**Price Check**

Easons O'Connell Street - January 28th 2003

**ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY**

### ON THESE ITEMS

**NOW OPEN SUNDAYS**

**PLUS 30% Discount off all Books**

**PLUS 10% Discount off all Magazines**

**FREE SHEET OF GIFTWRAP WITH EVERY GREETING CARD PURCHASED**

**THE LOWEST COPYING PRICES IN IRELAND GUARANTEED!**

Reads, 24 Nassau Street, Dublin. Phone: 6796011. Fax: 6711684
Anger over decision to abolish
student summer scheme

In reaction to the Government's decision to remove the Student Summer Jobs Scheme, USI has asked for an immediate resolution to its abolition.

The scheme allowed students to earn up to EUR700 over the summer months, and was well received on local community projects.

USI has said that the removal of the scheme will act as a further hindrance to increasing the number of full-time students going to college.

USI has denounced the decision as both anti-student and anti-community. Throughout its existence, the scheme was heavily criticised for paying below the minimum wage. Local sporting and cultural organisations and special needs and senior citizens projects assisted by the scheme, and many of these worthy projects will now be abandoned this summer.

With the 69% hike in college registration fees, it was thought that the Government would try to upgrade the scheme to provide the poorest students with the chance of earning their registration fee.

With increased competitiveness in the workplace, employers are now unwilling to employ students on short-term contracts.

USI believe that this latest development will force many students to defer or drop out of college altogether. This is another setback from students who have been the brunt of several cutbacks this year.

The Government third level strategy will deter many families from allowing their children to further their education.

Back to Education allowance to be downsized

USI has launched a campaign against the decision to remove the Student Summer Jobs Scheme.

The scheme allowed students to earn up to EUR700 over the summer months, and was well received on local community projects.

USI has said that the removal of the scheme will act as a further hindrance to increasing the number of full-time students going to college.

USI has denounced the decision as both anti-student and anti-community. Throughout its existence, the scheme was heavily criticised for paying below the minimum wage. Local sporting and cultural organisations and special needs and senior citizens projects assisted by the scheme, and many of these worthy projects will now be abandoned this summer.

With the 69% hike in college registration fees, it was thought that the Government would try to upgrade the scheme to provide the poorest students with the chance of earning their registration fee.

With increased competitiveness in the workplace, employers are now unwilling to employ students on short-term contracts.

USI believe that this latest development will force many students to defer or drop out of college altogether. This is another setback from students who have been the brunt of several cutbacks this year.

The Government third level strategy will deter many families from allowing their children to further their education.
Sex and the Big Smoke

Furry handcuffs, vibrators, sexy lingerie and orgasm. You know what I'm talking about ... it's the Ann Summers experience. Ciara Moran took on the challenge.

I had the pleasure of attending an Ann Summers party not too long ago and I must say it was quite a surreal experience. All too quickly my friend's family room turned into a place of utter disrespect and I think it liked it! Wine flowed, lingerie was passed around the room as if I was home on the day Jamie died in Eastenders, and then the vibrators!

It all started out quite innocently enough, a bit of wine poured as each new participant entered the room with I have to say an ounce of trepidation spread across their face as they contemplated the evening ahead.

There were about twenty of us gals waiting to take a look at the goods, mainly in our early twenties with a few more mature ladies taking part in the night's costly festivities.

Our hostess for the evening, an incredibly bobby girl but not too bubbly as to make you want to throttle her, gently started off the evening as the place filled.

The room was getting excited. All of a sudden stickers were passed around with our new names for the evening upon them, cue girlish giggles and a few more raised glasses searching for wine.

I was Titanic Tits (if only!). Then we went on to a game of bingo.

We went about creating our bingo cards thinking what innocent fun.

Then our hostess explained that if we got a number we had to scream out as if we were having an orgasm (chance would be a fine thing, but you know use your imagination).

She then proceeded to go round the room and listen to what our orgasms sounds would be.

At this point I had not enough wine and one of the mature ladies in the room was my best friend's mother, who I still get embarrassed to be drunk in front of, although I've had a lot of practice, let alone scream out as if in fits of passion.

One pathetic groan later and the game began.

Oddly enough though, my competitive streak surpassed my more Catholic guilt. The lingerie was passed around the room, which was now thoroughly triluned, and sample pieces of some of the lingerie also floated across the room.

The lingerie, which is definitely not cheap in price, whatever about looking, ranged from beautiful, intricate girlish vibe looks to see-through black, slutty, split down the middle for easy access tasteless affairs.

The tasteless affairs won by a mile. It was surprising how many women were looking for easy access! As the lingerie was hauled, we moved on to vibrators and more adventurous bedroom material. The room was overwrought with enthusiasm at this stage.

Our hostess didn't have as many samples to pass around in this regard so we giggled and reddened (but I'm not sure if that was from embarrassment or rather sheer drunkenness), as we flicked through the pages and saw a multitude of vibrators, liquid latex, handcuffs, a loving couple enjoying the wonder that is bondage and the rest.

Furry pink handcuffs hopped across our knees as well as bottles of latex. Unfortunately the infamous rabbit vibrator was not attending our party for this evening, so instead another treat was in store.

A flatish star-shaped vibrator with obviously a hole through the middle, for his and her pleasure, was introduced into the night's festivities.

Each woman had to sit on it for a second or two to see some of its benefits, should I say.

Yeah, I sat on it for two seconds, felt no benefits, and

For it was tissue on...
Just another vote to be wasted?

By Barry J Whyte

Twenty-four years ago the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution was passed. It provided for the extension of Seanad voting rights to all institutes of higher education. It has never been implemented.

Currently only the old guard of Irish universities can vote in Seanad elections. Only graduates of Trinity College and the colleges of the NUI can decide who gets into the upper house of the Oireachtas.

Dr Richard Thorn, Sligo IT, wants this to change. He wants all graduates of Institutes of Technology to be included in the Seanad elections.

At the moment it works like this: there are six ‘university seats’ in the Seanad, which are divided between Trinity and the NUI. Those six seats are divided between the two equally.

It seems an unfair system. Trinity, which despite its over-inflated sense of self-importance is still only one college, gets three seats in the College of Surgeons, NCAD, Education, Shannon College of St Angela’s College of Management and the Institute of Public Administration.

So, while graduates of DIT, the college with the largest number of students in the country, have no say in who is elected to the Seanad, someone who has received a degree from the Shannon College of Hotel Management or St Angela’s College of Education does.

While this in no way demeanes the quality of the degree received in either of those two institutions, it does point out how ludicrous this situation is.

In times past, there was a prestige attached to going to Trinity or UCD but in more recent times DIT has made serious strides to becoming a university in everything but name.

And, as Sligo’s Dr Thorn has said, if the ITs and DCU and UL are good enough to attract the number of students they do, and produce the number of high quality graduates they do, then they should also have the same rights that are afforded to St Angela’s and the graduates of the Shannon College of Hotel Management.

There is, of course, a larger argument. According to Thorn, “new legislation could also have the effect of attracting increased numbers of young people to take a deeper interest in politics and community affairs.

The participation rate of young people has fallen over consecutive general elections and extending the Seanad franchise would help reverse this alarming trend.

Unfortunately, it wouldn’t.

Most graduates simply wouldn’t want to be included in the Seanad elections.

At the moment the number of people who actually get out and exercise their right to vote in any sort of plebiscite, be it general election, local election, Presidential election or referendum, is lower than it has ever been.

Recently, after the second Nice referendum and the last general election, voter turnout has been creeping closer and closer to just 50% of the electorate.

Political apathy is riding high and no one seems to want to get out there and place their mark in the box (or press the button beside the appropriate candidate). So, if vast numbers of graduates can’t be bothered getting out and voting for who will run their lives for the following four years, why would they even want the right to vote for who gets in and performs the sterling work the Seanad performs rubber stamping legislation? Still, while many would probably treat the Seanad vote in the same way they treat the vote every other plebiscite, it is undemocratic not to give them the opportunity.

The right to vote does not just mean the right to vote, it also means the right not to vote.

Not giving graduates of all the other third level institutes a chance, whether they take it or not, to vote in the Seanad elections is undemocratic, especially when the Seventh Amendment states that they have the right.

And this leads to the wider question: is it unconstitutional to deny the right to vote on Seanad elections to the rest of the population?

We look back on the not-so-distant past when only the elite had a vote in parliamentary elections as being a backward, undemocratic time, but we don’t notice that the same system operates in Seanad elections and no one bats an eyelid.

Why should the right to vote on any election be given to only one sector of society? Not only should the right to vote in Seanad elections be given to graduates of all third level institutions, but to everyone when they turn eighteen.

It won’t, as Dr Thorn believes, re-ignite the population’s love of politics but at least it will be fair.

No troublemakers allowed

The Minister needs to focus on patterns of drinking and problems of excess drinking rather than trying to prevent young people from entering pubs, writes Aisling Casey.

The Minister needs to focus on patterns of drinking and problems of excess drinking rather than trying to prevent young people from entering pubs. Forcing people to have proof of age is uncalled for as long as publicans and gardai impose existing laws.

Currently, publicans are obliged not to supply alcohol to people under the legal drinking age of 18. Passing new laws in this area would not deal with the existing problems, primarily putting a stop to deregulation of the drinks industry, which unfortunately McDowell and his party the Progressive Democrats favour. However, it seems the Minister may have an underlying reason for his new plans.

It appears that Mr McDowell is simply recognising that there is no possibility of controlling the consumption of alcohol by under-age drinkers.

If a member of An Garda Síochaí arrives into a pub, I have a suspicion it may be quite hard to work out who’s drinking the coke and who has a splash of vodka in it. However, in a bizarre twist to Mr McDowell’s intended reforms, the Minister has said he is considering extending pub closing times.

He has also suggested giving local authorities the right to fix pub opening hours in their areas as ‘it’s increasingly apparent that

By Barry J Whyte

The Minister needs to focus on patterns of drinking and problems of excess drinking rather than trying to prevent young people from entering pubs, Forcing people to have proof of age is uncalled for as long as publicans and gardai impose existing laws.

Currently, publicans are obliged not to supply alcohol to people under the legal drinking age of 18. Passing new laws in this area would not deal with the existing problems, primarily putting a stop to deregulation of the drinks industry, which unfortunately McDowell and his party the Progressive Democrats favour. However, it seems the Minister may have an underlying reason for his new plans.

It appears that Mr McDowell is simply recognising that there is no possibility of controlling the consumption of alcohol by under-age drinkers.

If a member of An Garda Síochaí arrives into a pub, I have a suspicion it may be quite hard to work out who’s drinking the coke and who has a splash of vodka in it. However, in a bizarre twist to Mr McDowell’s intended reforms, the Minister has said he is considering extending pub closing times.

He has also suggested giving local authorities the right to fix pub opening hours in their areas as ‘it’s increasingly apparent that

The Minister needs to focus on patterns of drinking and problems of excess drinking rather than trying to prevent young people from entering pubs, Forcing people to have proof of age is uncalled for as long as publicans and gardai impose existing laws.

Currently, publicans are obliged not to supply alcohol to people under the legal drinking age of 18. Passing new laws in this area would not deal with the existing problems, primarily putting a stop to deregulation of the drinks industry, which unfortunately McDowell and his party the Progressive Democrats favour. However, it seems the Minister may have an underlying reason for his new plans.

It appears that Mr McDowell is simply recognising that there is no possibility of controlling the consumption of alcohol by under-age drinkers.

If a member of An Garda Síochaí arrives into a pub, I have a suspicion it may be quite hard to work out who’s drinking the coke and who has a splash of vodka in it. However, in a bizarre twist to Mr McDowell’s intended reforms, the Minister has said he is considering extending pub closing times.

He has also suggested giving local authorities the right to fix pub opening hours in their areas as ‘it’s increasingly apparent that
What dreams may come?

By Rachel Healy.

As the controversy of Roy Keane's departure from international football still lingers and while the majority of Ireland's media outlets eagerly await the Irish Open held in Dublin this summer, people tend to forget that the largest sporting event that has ever to be staged in Ireland is coming this June.

The Special Olympics, staged in Ireland this summer, will be the biggest international sports event this year. It will be the first time since its origin in 1968 that the Special Olympics will be hosted outside the United States.

While the sporting world has been tarnished by allegations of drug abuse, corruption, commercialism and greed, the Special Olympics continues to stay purely ideal, which is mirrored by the athlete's oath, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".

Throughout their involvement, athletes enhance their social and adaptive skills, build positive self-esteem, demonstrate courage and experience joy.

Originally a summer camp, the Special Olympics were initially a dream of Eunice Shriver Kennedy and became a reality in 1968. Born into the famous Kennedy clan, Eunice's sister Rosemary was born with a mild learning disability. Eunice remained very close to her sister and was aware of her capabilities which resulted in a summer camp for those with special needs in 1963, which has now become an international sporting event involving thousands of athletes.

While Special Olympic volunteers and many host families are making the final preparations to welcome the 7,000 athletes and their families, it allows many Irish people the opportunity to start afresh, to realise the idiocy of categorising people in a specific group for looking different to the accepted norm and the prodigious thoughtlessness of overlooking people with learning disabilities.

Although there are fears that in the event of war with Iraq, athletes from the United States and some parts of the Middle East would not travel, the World Games are still scheduled to take place.

With over 160 countries competing, comprising of 7,000 athletes, along with 30,000 volunteers, 3,000 coaches and officials, a further 28,000 people are expected as family members and supporters.

The Games will be located in the greater Dublin area, however the entire island of Ireland will play a vital role in the organisation of the games.

A major part of the World Games is the Host Town Programme. The host towns will welcome athletes and coaches four days prior to the Games, from the 16th June to the 20th June.

To date, about 650 homes have been visited, considered and found appropriate for the task of hosting a family. The host town phase represents a wider, community level of the Games.

Over 170 communities will welcome delegations world-wide with open arms and give them the opportunity to delight in the pleasures of Irish culture prior to the Games.

From the host towns they will move to the Dublin region for the Games. The Opening Ceremony takes place on 21st June in Croke Park, where the "Flame of Hope" will arrive for the ceremony to mark the final stage in a journey begun in Greece three weeks earlier.

The Special Olympic World Games gives the athletes the opportunity to show the world their strengths and talent, to show those who are sceptical that people with learning disabilities can achieve anything when given encouragement and the opportunity to shine.

The Special Olympic movement began in Ireland in 1978. There are now an estimated 12,000 athletes participating in the programme in Ireland alone.

The athletes compete in Ireland in local, regional, national and international level. Like all competitive sporting events, the competitors experience success and failure as only a lucky few make it to the Olympics.

The Special Olympics sporting body have a set of regulations similar to other sports organisations, which the athletes must abide by, if they fail to do so, they are disqualified.

The Special Olympics is similar to other athletic sporting events where participants are judged on their performance times, however their performance is rated differently.

Athletes are divided into levels based on gender, age and fitness levels. In this manner the Special Olympics allows athletes to be judged with their contemporaries rather than those at an elite level.

Although Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are awarded like most competitive sports to those who come in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, those who achieve fourth through to eight place are awarded a ribbon to acknowledge their achievement, reflecting the principles of the Special Olympics.

In terms of costs the World Games needs €24 million and a further €23 million in-kind products and services to be staged. Most of this has been raised through sponsorship. Now the countdown starts as athletes, coaches, families, volunteers and the public eagerly await the World Games.

The games will not only be breaking down barriers and creating awareness, but it will also be a huge investment for the tourism and retail industry. Indeed it looks certain that we will all benefit directly or indirectly from the 2003 Special Olympic World Games and so people should adopt the World games motto and "Share the Feeling".

Special Olympics World Games
Ireland 2003


Iraq: The French Connection

It draws close. Saddam Hussein has defied the UN weapons inspectors who demand he destroys the Al-Samoud-2 missile system. The US troops wait in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for that order which can only be weeks away.

Meanwhile, Jacques Chirac and the French government, desperate to avoid a war, are stretching diplomacy to its very limit. The anti-war camp, in the majority of the world's population, finally has a leader in Chirac and his government.

Jean-Pierre Raffarin, the French Prime Minister, rallied the February 15 protesters with an anti-war cry of 'France is giving hope to the world. France is giving a chance to peace a chance'.

This much is certainly true but why has France suddenly sprung to the fore of the anti-war lobby? A glance through history reveals a murky agenda revolving around that magic word: oil.

In 1976, as part of an official State visit, Chirac, then the Prime Minister, visited a young Saddam Hussein who had almost consolidated all power in Iraq. Like most Western leaders, Chirac was impressed with this moustachioed figure, later out in full military regalia. Like Milosevic in Yugoslavia, Pinochet in Chile and Batista in Cuba, Saddam was a man in a volatile region with whom business could be done. And business was, of course, the oil business.

The US has long been the entry of the French in the Middle East. A prickly but profitable relationship has long existed between Saudi Arabia, most of the Emirate states (UAE, Oman, Yemen, Kuwait), and the US. When Chirac visited Saddam, he went to establish a similar relationship, in the way you sell us your oil and we'll allow you to do unto your people whatever you wish.

The unending persecution of the Kurdish people in Northern Iraq and the Shiite Muslims in the South was forgiven. When Saddam had outlived his usefulness to the United States in 1989, the French government remained close.

In 1991, Iraq was invaded Kuwait and the Gulf War began. French troops took part in the war but the relationship between the two states remained. As soon as the war ended, the French government set about establishing itself as the main powerbroker in Iraq.

The post-war UN sanctions were killing thousands of Iraqis and the French lobbied to establish an 'oil for food' trade programme. The relationship between the two was strengthened as the French government had almost unlimited access to Iraqi oil-fields while Peugeot became one of the main automotive companies in the region. In 1995, the French Embassy was rebuilt in Baghdad.

Around this time, Saddam decided a special reward was in order. The French state-owned oil company, TotalElfFina, was granted exclusive rights to two Iraqi oil-fields. Majnoon, on the Iranian border, is worth an estimated 10 billion barrels of oil while Bin Umar can produce approximately 440,000 barrels a day.

This brings us to the present day. Chirac has what he envisioned all these years ago: a powerful trading relationship with a country second only to Saudi Arabia in terms of oil reserves.

George W Bush is absolutely sick of having to rely on the bony Saudis for oil. Those Iraqi oil-fields would reduce this reliance on the bolshy Saudis for oil. Those Iraqi oil-fields would be a step towards democracy or human life. If this war goes ahead, the US will win. And Chirac knows what approach a US-friendly Iraqi government will take to promises made by Saddam to a French government which supported his tyranny for over twenty years: "sorry Jacques, all bets are off".

This is why the Chirac administration is throwing all of its diplomatic weight around to prevent this war from taking place. At this stage, the anti-war camp will take as its leader anyone who is willing to exert all influence to stop military action but one can only worry that the future of Iraq is a depressing one. If Bush emerges the victor and invades without the UN, Iraq will be another American ally with little concern for democracy or human life. If Chirac's diplomacy wins the day and war is prevented, history seems to dictate that France will continue to trade with, and prop up, a murderous despot.

Jacques Chirac's administration is throwing all of its diplomatic weight around to prevent this war from taking place.

---

The US troops wait in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for that order which can only be weeks away.

Meanwhile, Jacques Chirac and the French government, desperate to avoid a war, are stretching diplomacy to its very limit. The anti-war camp, in the majority of the world's population, finally has a leader in Chirac and his government. Jean-Pierre Raffarin, the French Prime Minister, rallied the February 15 protesters with an anti-war cry of 'France is giving hope to the world. France is giving a chance to peace a chance'.

This much is certainly true but why has France suddenly sprung to the fore of the anti-war lobby? A glance through history reveals a murky agenda revolving around that magic word: oil.

In 1976, as part of an official State visit, Chirac, then the Prime Minister, visited a young Saddam Hussein who had almost consolidated all power in Iraq. Like most Western leaders, Chirac was impressed with this moustachioed figure, later out in full military regalia. Like Milosevic in Yugoslavia, Pinochet in Chile and Batista in Cuba, Saddam was a man in a volatile region with whom business could be done. And business was, of course, the oil business.

The US has long been the entry of the French in the Middle East. A prickly but profitable relationship has long existed between Saudi Arabia, most of the Emirate states (UAE, Oman, Yemen, Kuwait), and the US. When Chirac visited Saddam, he went to establish a similar relationship, in the way you sell us your oil and we'll allow you to do unto your people whatever you wish.

The unending persecution of the Kurdish people in Northern Iraq and the Shiite Muslims in the South was forgiven. When Saddam had outlived his usefulness to the United States in 1989, the French government remained close.

In 1991, Iraq was invaded Kuwait and the Gulf War began. French troops took part in the war but the relationship between the two states remained. As soon as the war ended, the French government set about establishing itself as the main powerbroker in Iraq.

The post-war UN sanctions were killing thousands of Iraqis and the French lobbied to establish an 'oil for food' trade programme. The relationship between the two was strengthened as the French government had almost unlimited access to Iraqi oil-fields while Peugeot became one of the main automotive companies in the region. In 1995, the French Embassy was rebuilt in Baghdad.

Around this time, Saddam decided a special reward was in order. The French state-owned oil company, TotalElfFina, was granted exclusive rights to two Iraqi oil-fields. Majnoon, on the Iranian border, is worth an estimated 10 billion barrels of oil while Bin Umar can produce approximately 440,000 barrels a day.

This brings us to the present day. Chirac has what he envisioned all these years ago: a powerful trading relationship with a country second only to Saudi Arabia in terms of oil reserves.

George W Bush is absolutely sick of having to rely on the bony Saudis for oil. Those Iraqi oil-fields would reduce this reliance on the bolshy Saudis for oil. Those Iraqi oil-fields would be a step towards democracy or human life. If this war goes ahead, the US will win. And Chirac knows what approach a US-friendly Iraqi government will take to promises made by Saddam to a French government which supported his tyranny for over twenty years: "sorry Jacques, all bets are off".

This is why the Chirac administration is throwing all of its diplomatic weight around to prevent this war from taking place. At this stage, the anti-war camp will take as its leader anyone who is willing to exert all influence to stop military action but one can only worry that the future of Iraq is a depressing one. If Bush emerges the victor and invades without the UN, Iraq will be another American ally with little concern for democracy or human life. If Chirac's diplomacy wins the day and war is prevented, history seems to dictate that France will continue to trade with, and prop up, a murderous despot.

Jacques Chirac's administration is throwing all of its diplomatic weight around to prevent this war from taking place.
School's Out For SUMMER!

STONES THROW!

EDINBURGH/GLASGOW €36

LONDON €43
BRUSSELS €65
AMSTERDAM/PARIS €72
FRANKFURT €79
BARCELONA €82
DUSSELDORF €83
MADRID/MUNICH €87
PRAGUE/MILAN €87
ATHENS €121

FAR FLUNG!

MEXICO CITY €476
JOHANNESBURG €516
HONG KONG €547
BUENOS AIRES €572
BANGKOK €587
CAPE TOWN €618
SYDNEY €950
AUCKLAND €950
NEW YORK €324
BOSTON €324
CHICAGO €414
SAN FRANCISCO €372
LOS ANGELES €372

Fares are 1-way ex. Dublin. Taxes not included. Valid for students and under 26’s.

THIS SUMMER check out

- InterRailing
- J1 2003
- Weekenders
- Beds On A Budget
- OZ & Round The World tkts
- Adventure Tours
- Insurance
- Busabout
- Clubbing Holidays

13 Crown Alley, Temple Bar (BEHIND CENTRAL BANK)
01 671 5900

1850 487 283 www.sayit.ie
Fashion victims off the rails

By Clara O Donovan

Off the Rails live is the brainchild of Catherine Condell. The shows producer and stylist. Her aim was to capture trends from the world's catwalks and re-create them with merchandise from the cream of the Irish fashion industry.

Combine this with top Irish models, presenters, a talented team of hairdressers, make-up artists, and technology crew, along with a decently priced ticket and you have yourself an event to remember. The RDS was the chosen venue and proved excellent in terms of commuting, size and facilities.

Teetering to the fashion show in our stilettos, Andrea and I arrived fashionably late.

Thankfully, the fashion show had not commenced. Nesting in the seat, placed favourably beside the catwalk, I observed the style conscious people. The audience in fishnets teamed with jeans and a lace top when compared to the girls wearing tight combats and trouser-holed tops.

Military chic was undoubtedly the order of the day. Fashion victims one might think, but these women could pull off the military look effortlessly, without taking the look to extremes. Like Christina Aquilina in the "dirty" video.

Finally, after a thirty-minute wait, music began to pound from the speakers, and in cohesion with the music, the two saucy presenters Caroline Morahan and Pamela Flood strutted their stuff down the catwalk.

Both women were stylishly dressed; Caroline in an Indian inspired red top and tight jeans and Pamela in a sophisticated and military look. The fashion show had already begun.

From a cinema screen came clips from the musical "Chicago." This theme was sure to be illuminating throughout the show.

Next two male tap dancers exploded onto the stage, lifting the spirits of the female contingent.

The first garment was a black and cream satin dressing gown that carried with it all the connotations of 20s seductiveness. Each outfit had bedding and fringing, recreating the dazzling and allure of the 20's époque. Fishnets, sexy suspenders, and feisty lingerie further eroticised the outfits.

The male models sauntered down the ramp in double pin stripe suits and held an air of arrogance, as they absorbed the wolf whistles from the female audience. The roaring twenties was instantly reiterated. The clothes were mainly from Debenhams with jewellery by Carriona Hanly and suits by Louis Copeland.

Next, the audience was transported to the orient to a land of beautiful design and soothing music.

A visually entrancing journey of fine textured coats, kimono shapes and blossom prints entrapped us. Traditional headdresses, delicate Chinese slippers, and flashes of bright colours adorned the models that carried off the outfits with their angular features. The ob he belts by Roccoco were my favourite.

However, the most dominant theme was "Army Dreamers" and boasted an array of trendy mini skirts, tailored jackets, combats, and mesh tops.

This look reflected the audiences' style and the impending war.

Several of the garments were from Julien designs and footwear was by Faith at Top Shop.

Other themes were "The Sopranos" which was a mélange of sharp tailoring and boudoir chic. Killer heels and an assortment of accessories made this quite a lucrative look.

It's a style for men with gangster attitude and women with Bling Bling! There were also collections for kiddies, sports enthusiasts, and mothers to be. Bridal wear by Vera Wang was the final showcase and how dramatic it was.

Simplest swan like dresses and kilts conjured up images of medieval Scotland.

The music as well as the entrances were powerful and created a mystical atmosphere.

The stands were a disappointment after such an array of fabulous clothes.

The only impressive stall was Peter Marks because they had interesting demonstrations. It was more fulfilling, to sit, and watch the fashion pack mingle with the crowd of style conscious people.

"Off the Rails live" was an enjoyable event but not an exceptional one.

Dublin band lead NME Revolution

By Claire Mc Keown

Tonight the NME took over the Ambassador to showcase the darlings of their self styled "New Rock Revolution" scene.

The cynical amongst you may only see this hype as a way to shift more magazines but there is no denying the current music scene is very exciting and diverse, at least more so than in recent years during which we've had to endure the draughtiness of Oasis. Stereophonics, Travis et al.

First on stage tonight were London based band The Beatings. I've heard a lot about this band, and they didn't disappoint. They were exciting, energetic and seemed to have a very Jarvis Cocker-esque guitarist who, by the look of him, was definitely suited for e's and whizz.

I would definitely recommend looking out for this four-piece in the future.

Next up were Dubliners The Thrills. Looking at the bill initially, I wasn't sure how much this mellow band would fare with the crowd's groups of punky/AC/DC speedbreaks, but I was pleasantly surprised.

Their blend of countryish Neil Young, Beach Boys and jangley Smiths-style guitars with the vocal style of Mercury Rev or Grandaddy really touched the crowd. Recent single "Santa Cruz, (You're Not That Far)" was stunning, and it was obvious why everyone from Morrissey to Hotpress to NME are appraising them.

They had a lot of hope to live up to but it didn't seem to faze them and they definitely won a few more fans on the night.

Headliners The Datsun's, however, I was not so sure about. I liked their recent single "In Love" but I wasn't so taken in by the album that just seemed too immersed in 70's AC/DC stuff, (see song "Malcolm"

"MF From Hell"). But I was looking forward to seeing them live probably because of the way they have been hyped up in the press. Unlike The Thrills, however, they didn't quite live up to all the praise.

Although there is no denying that lead singer Dolf de Datsun is sex on legs of elastic, or that they really go for it live, a lot of the rock posing was a bit over the top for me, and a little embarrassing. (Phil, the guitarist in the white trousers, constant back bending was verging on a Spinal Tap piss take).

They wanted to be AC/DC a little bit too much for my liking.

In saying that though, they did entertain me, if not impress me, and if cheap hard rock thrills and rock posturing is what you're after, The Datsun's are the band for you.

At last year's NME bash, the Coral and Black Rebel Motorcycle Club were bottom and second from bottom on the bill, respectively.

Considering that they are the one's who have hit the big time out of the last bunch, perhaps the same fate awaits The Thrills, who were definitely my surprise favourites. You never know, it could be a case of number one; you're not that far....
By Eoin Murphy

Neil Jordan has brought us many classic genre movies that range from Interview with a Vampire to Michael Collins. Now he sets his mind to another classic genre piece, the caper movie.

The Good Thief: looks and feels similar to Ronin, yet it lacks the pace provided by the unique car chase.

By Darragh Clifford

Decent horror movies are a rare thing. Over the past decade, there have been some memorable horror moments with movies such as The Sixth Sense and The Blair Witch Project. Now, he sets his mind to another classic genre piece, the caper movie.


To make matters worse, Rachel’s ten-year-old son Aidan (David Dorfman) starts behaving in a strange manner. When Rachel herself watches the video and gets that phone call, she knows she has seven days to solve the mystery before she kicks it. Unfortunately for Rachel, her son Aidan and her ex-boyfriend Noah (Martin Henderson) also see the tape. As Rachel’s seven days progress, she becomes more and more desperate in her attempt to exorcise whatever spell the tape has unleashed.

The movie progresses, different clues that are contained within the tape become apparent to both Rachel and the audience. And in true horror flick fashion, what you think to be the end of the movie is not quite the end. The final 15 minutes are truly terrifying, and even when the credits start rolling, you will leave the movie theatre feeling uneasy. Unless of course, you wait until it is out on video.
**Keep on Your Mean Side**

Ken McHugh has a wealth of production experience behind him

The Kills

Domino Records

Release Date: March 7, 2003

By Donal Griffin

The Kills can certainly make a racket, considering there are only two people in the band. Hotel (guitarist, American, male) and VV (singer, English, female) met in London, left, formed the Kills in America and returned to record this.

Keep On Your Mean Side, the Kills' debut album, is certainly one from left field. Which is not to say it's not very good. The opener, 'Superstition', start with a drubbeat and making it work is still relatively unchartered territory in rock music. The White Stripes have proved its worth and now the Kills are doing the same.

Things get slow and psychedelic on 'Kissy Kissy' and 'Monkey 23'. There is certainly a definite strong taste of the Velvet Underground and My Bloody Valentine in the Kills' music, i.e. why use more chords when one will do, over and over again? The slower songs give room to the vocals and VV has a great female rock voice - powerful, intimidating and soulful.

The album even finds some room for twisted country music on 'Wait' and 'Gypsy Dancer'.

However, Keep On Your Mean Side isn't without its flaws. Many, many flaws. The Velvet-style jazz needs an edge to keep it interesting. Some songs just don't have this and begin to grate after a few listen.

But this can be forgiven. Anyone lucky enough to witness the Kills supporting the John Spencer Blues Explosion at the Tivoli in January saw the onstage chemistry/sexual tension shared by Hotel and VV and, hopefully, this band can build on this excellent debut. And here's hoping they release 'Rock The People' as a single. MTV viewers will be singing along to the best chorus written in years: Hey...fuck the people.

**Jive Country**

Autarrata

Jive Country

Leftfield Records

By Ciaran Murray

This track is culled from Dublin-based artist/producer Ken McHugh's debut album My Sanctuary and it's a pleasant enough electronic pop song.

With a wealth of production experience behind him (he owns Dublin's Area 51 studio), he showcases the full range of his technical ability on this single.

Maybe that's part of the problem: in his eagerness to use every gadget in his well-packed studio, he has forgotten to let the song breathe. Leaving the Poor Leno vocals aside, there is nothing exactly wrong with this melodic, keyboard-driven track. It's just a little too nice, skilfully crafted but with no edge.

B-side Where the Heart is is all hip-hop beats, brooding vocals and whistles. Although McHugh namechecks Orbital and Aphex Twin as key influences, this is in an entirely different genre from either.

Lacking Orbital's experimental edge or Aphex Twin's pioneering weirdness, this is straightforward pop music, catchy but throwaway.

Third track Nocturnal Daydream is an instrumental filler with little to recommend it.

**Not So Super Stan**

By Sarah Graham

God help the newly formed Lomp Recordings if this "Moonlight EP" is their maiden release. I'd rather chop my ears off and flush them down the toilet than listen to 'Stanley Super 800' again. The title track 'Moonlight' is bed. Stan sings the same note over and over to a type of electro-acoustic beat, guaranteed to irritate even the most open-minded of listeners. This song is about a fabulous journey on the back of some girl's bike from darkness to light. It reminded me of 'My Lovely Ways' by Tan and Dougal.

In fairness, Mr O'Sullivan hails from Cork, so he can be forgiven for taking a road of rubbish and writing atrocious lyrics but these take the biscuit. "You were sent down from up above to fill the world with all your love" oh please! What are they feeding you in Cork boy?

"Rolled up in Gold" is a tad more enjoyable only due to its catchy Supergrass versus 'The Monkees' melange. It also sounds like one of those Irish songs you were forced to listen to in school. The chorus written in years: 'Hey...fuck the people'.

The trio hail from the home of country music, er, Vancouver. Frozone, Trish and Lyn are apparently came together through their passion for old-time music and vintage clothes. Well, each to their own.

Mainstays of country music, guitar, mandolin and banjo are all present, and the skilful interplay between them works well. All three have angelic voices, and the overlaid harmonies contrast nicely with the otherwise unpolished production.

And yes, my top tipped once or twice, but I swear it was a spasm.

This at least restores some pride to the straw hat brigade, after years of damage inflicted by the twee bastardisation of country music by Satan's minions Brooks, Swans and Rimes. The return to form of a certain Mr Cash may be the only thing standing between this lot and a scattering of Best Country awards come the end of the year.

But not this, as folk music goes. Just don't tell anyone I said that.

**Stylophonc 'Man Music Technology'**

OH MY GOD. I hope this is a joke album but I worry that isn't. Fair enough. I'm not a fan of retro beat, happy house, vinyl style etc but this is just hideously, truly hideous. I like some kinds of dance music but this is even worse than 'inspired by'. I know I sound like a fifty-year-old but the newly little electronic noises just annoyed the crap out of me.

I'm sure a hardcore dance fan would want me dead as they cannot understand how anyone would enjoy this music. I accept that it's intended to be danced to, but it's not exactly dance-friendly (I tried and failed). Some tracks are less offensive than others. 'Way of Life' is a bit like a 'Firestarter' Phonic which is just 56 seconds long, but it's the only thing that made my ears bleed, and not in a good 'I rocked my world' style.

Bits of 'Man Music Technology' sound like Daft Punk on a bad day, but that's about the only 'compliment' I can give them. The man responsible for this shamrock is 33-year-old Stefano Fontana. He says that he was heavily influenced by eighties dance music, and all we know is that the worst 'eighties' and 'dance music' still have some teeth in the heart of any right-thinking man. The electronic, synthesised vocals and synthesised music right back to 1988 and we all know that this can't be a good thing.

**Nada Surf 'Hi-Speed Soul'**

Do you remember the Weezer-like outing called 'Popular' out in '96? The men responsible were Nada Surf and this is the second single from their third album 'Let Go'.

The word 'Weezer' is highly relevant here because the two bands are uncannily alike. They both go for the whole 'round the clock' look and they both write very catchy, melodic songs. 'Hi-Speed Soul' is a fine example of this. It's an upbeat, feel good summery song (highly welcome in the winter when 'Popular' came out all those years ago, but MTV viewers will be look and they both write a fifty-year-old but the

'Hi-Speed Soul' is a fine example of this. It's an upbeat, feel good summery song (highly welcome in the winter when 'Popular' came out all those years ago, but MTV viewers will be

'Hi-Speed Soul' is a fine example of this. It's an upbeat, feel good summery song (highly welcome in the winter when 'Popular' came out all those years ago, but MTV viewers will be
**SPORT FEATURES**

**F1 gets back down to business**

By Jason Burke

The Formula 1 season is just around the corner. It promises to be exciting and interesting while being a little confusing as teams and fans alike get to grips with the changes in the sport.

The Australian Grand Prix will once again play host to the season opener on the 9th of March. This year sees a few changes to the F1 calendar. The Belgian GP has been dropped due to tobacco advertising. There will also be a few extra late nights for European fans as the F1 road show moves on to Malaysia after Albert Park and will not arrive in Europe until the San Marino GP in April.

Jordan’s announcement that Ralph Firman would be their senior driver was unexpected. However, he is a driver with good racing credentials. He won both the British F3 championship and the Macau F3 championship in 1996 in which he beat the likes of Juan Pablo Montoya and Nick Heidfeld. His only experience in an F1 car came last December when he impressed in a test for BAR.

Firman may be a rookie in terms of Formula 1 but the 27-year-old is an experienced driver. He has spent the last six years in Formula Nippon in Japan and won the championship last year. He has known both good times and bad and it is hoped he will not be unfazed by the difficulties facing him as he attempts to establish himself in F1. It appears that Firman’s nationality has helped persuade a tobacco company Benson and Hedges into returning to F1. Born in Norwich of an Irish mother, Firman seems to have been a perfect incentive to lure B&H from its fag smoker.

The nature of Formula 1 dictates that the top teams will be most likely to adapt quickly to the new rules and thus will remain on top of the sport.

Michael Schumacher and Ferrari will once again be favourites to secure both the drivers and constructors championships. McLaren Trioli, the Italian driver has made good progress over the winter and will hope to improve on a relatively poor showing last season.

Williams BMW has a strong package but Juan Montoya has too long been touted as the man to shake up F1 without fulfilling the promise. He needs to firmly establish himself over the younger Schumacher before he can challenge Ferrari domination.

It remains to be seen if the rest will be able to make any inroads into the superiority of the big three. Jordan, having secured an engine deal with Ford, may start the season well but could fall back as the Works teams continue to develop.

Having secured exclusive youthful Danish engines BAR will have to deliver a car that will get results if they want to keep Jacques Villeneuve from leaving at the end of the season.

Renault has taken a back seat to continue with the Jekyll and Hyde of F1, Jarno Trulli. The Italian driver is consistently quick in qualifying but rarely produces the same speed in races. Fernando Alonso is a much brighter prospect.

Sauber should consolidate their strong showing. In Frentzen and Heidfeld, they have two experienced and consistent drivers.

Toyota will be hoping to progress with a new partnership of Panis and Brazilian rookie Di Matta. It will be left to Juegar and Minardi to scrap it out for points at the end of the grid.

The rule changes are the most drastic taken in the 54 years of the Championship. The emphasis is being placed at the feet of the drivers, literally. From the first race in Melbourne, telemetry from the pit lane will be banned and other devices such as traction control, launch control and fully automatic gearboxes will be banned from the British Grand Prix onwards.

Although this season may not see a change in the results, the stirring goals are sure to provide some interest. If the predictability of last year came as a disappointment, you would be forgiven for looking for this season’s opener with some scepticism. However it may be worth staying up on March 9th.

The signs are that this season is set to be far but formulaic.

**Usual suspects line up for Champions' League knockout**

By Keith Reilly

In recent seasons the UEFA Champions’ League has continually attracted criticism from football fans in response to the convoluted format it has adopted since the 1999-2000 campaign.

Having introduced a second group phase, European football’s governing body thus ensured a massive increase in the number of games played and, of course, revenue generated by the globe’s most prestigious club competition.

However, the updated format means that the eventual winners for the last three seasons have had to play a total of 17 games in order to claim the famous trophy. This represents almost half the number of games they play in an entire domestic season.

Predictably, such a burden of games has provoked bitter complaints from many of Europe’s top managers, and UEFA has taken the ultimate step to assuage the tension.

Next season’s competition will see the abolition of the second group phase as the Champions’ League takes the shape of a knockout competition from the last 16 onwards.

So, with this season’s competition nearing the end of the campaign. Of the line-up seems certain to have attempted to establish himself in the feet of the drivers, literally. From the first race in Melbourne, telemetry from the pit lane will be banned and other devices such as traction control, launch control and fully automatic gearboxes will be banned from the British Grand Prix onwards.

Although this season may not see a change in the results, the stirring goals are sure to provide some interest. If the predictability of last year came as a disappointment, you would be forgiven for looking for this season’s opener with some scepticism. However it may be worth staying up on March 9th.

The signs are that this season is set to be far but formulaic.

Juan Montoya has too long been touted as the man to shake up F1 without fulfilling the promise.
By Niamh Egan

STUDENTS from six different Irish colleges and universities took part in the annual, world-collegiate handball championships, which ran from February 19-22 last at Portland Or. Amongst these were 13 DIT students, comprising ten men and three women.

The students travelled to the west coast of America to participate in the tournament that incorporates 27 different third level establishments from all over the US. The championships, now in their 51st year, were hosted by Portland Pacific University with 230 players in all taking part.

The Irish did not fail to make their mark on the competition and the birthplace of the game was indeed well represented. In the top men's competition the men's open, Ireland contributed three of the four semi-finalists, a true reflection of the country's impact on the tournament.

The eventual winner was Dessie Keegan, an Aungier St. student and a member of the Ballinladeenhandball Club, Keegan, presently competing on the US Pro Tour, is the first Irishman to win a world title in the open competitions. Keegan finished the championships in Portland, Oregon, playing directly to San Francisco to take part in the second stop of the US Pro Tour.

Next year sees the collegiate championships set in Springfield, Missouri but prior to that all eyes will be fixed on the 2003 World Handball Championships which will take place in Ireland from the 17-26 October at various venues around the country.

By Sarah Graham

DIT Ladies Basketball could not fluctuate any more this season. After last week, plagued with injuries and exams, we finally had a full panel for a Dublin League game on Wednesday 12th of February last. And what a difference it made.

Nobody had to play the whole game without a rest and everyone enjoyed playing together for the first time in ages. The DIT spirit was back and we were on fire.

By Naomh Egan

Ironically, Keegan defeated two fellow Irishmen on his way to the title. Ollie O'Flynn of NUIG in the quarter final and fourth seed. Sligo IT's Noel McGrath in the semi-final.

Keegan overcame the stiff opposition of number two seed, Emmet McCardle following a tie breaker in the final. Keegan lost the first game 21-14 as Peixoto turned on the style, but the Mayo man never looked back taking the second game 21-11. In the tie-breaker, Keegan controlled the play well and went for the kill at every opportunity with Peixoto's passing shot proving ineffective against Keegan's power.

The DIT man emerged eventual winner on an 11-4 scoreline in the tie-breaker.

While Keegan impressed his dominance, DIT's colleagues on their American opposition. Padraigh Cahill was unlucky to go out to St. John's University's Neil Larson after a tie-breaker in his opening game. Cahill's doubles partner, Paul Fitzpatrick won his first round game, but went down to number 5 seed, Barry Durham in the consequent round.

Kevin Street's Mark McGowan won his opening game in style (14,4) only to meet fellow Ulsterman, Ryan Daly of Queens in his second round game. After a closely contested game which led to a tie-breaker, McGowan overcame the mighty of Daly to reach the last 16. Here McGowan faced Sligo IT's Joe McCann but the DIT lad could find no way to overcome the sixth seed, losing in two straight games 4-9.

Dareen McArdle, Darren Flynn and Conor McGinnity all made early exits from the open competition, but McArdle and McGinnity, as well as Cahill, won their first round games to add further points to the overall team competition.

Ronan Costello, who was a Sportsmanship Award nominee, came close in several games to advancing in the competition but was incidentally playing two grades higher than last year, just couldn't get that lucky break. Dermot Reynolds, having dropped down to contender level, reached the last of the competition but was unfortunately beaten by Ben O'Halloran of Western Washington University.

Ken Clarke, who had over handfuls of nights not being forced to play all his games at 8am, put in great effort and qualified for the last 16 of the men contenders level but lost out to Brian Powell of the University of Kentucky.

In the women's section, DIT's hopeful, third seed, Emmie Healy was unfortunately defeated in the quarter final by Samanta Lijgah. England was ranked sixth but the Lake Forest College student put up a great performance to beat the US girl and take her place in the semi-final. The final was defended by number one seed, Lake Forest's Megan Melhols, who also took the doubles title with partner Amy Kon.

Dorothy Cassidy, who won the women's B intervarsity title in Belfast recently, won her opening game of the BC split with great determination but was unfortunately defeated in her further games. Niamh Egan lost her opening game and had to play in the intermediate level. She was beaten at the semi-final stage, but won in the grand slam to make Boggs of University Texas.

In the team competition DIT men finished a healthy second while the women finished in fourth place.

The Irish colleges represented were Waterford IT, Sligo IT, Queens University Belfast and University Limerick.

Dessie Keegan also received an All-American award, a certificate awarded to the most successful in the open competitions. Keegan finished the championships in Portland, Oregon, playing directly to San Francisco to take part in the second stop of the US Pro Tour.

Three-in-a-row success for DIT ladies

DIT men runners team receiving trophy; Left to right Dessie Keegan, Ronan Costelloe, Conor McGinnity, Fiona Healy, Mark McGowan, Padraig Gaffney, Ken Clarke, front (r-l) Paul Fitzpatrick, Darren Flynn, Ronan Costelloe, Darren Mcardle, Dermot Reynolds, Niamh Egan, Dorothy Cassidy

Back row (l-r) Padraig Cahill, Conor McGinnity, Fiona Healy, Mark McGowan, Padraig Gaffney, Ken Clarke, front (r-l) Paul Fitzpatrick, Darren Flynn, Ronan Costelloe, Darren Mcardle, Dermot Reynolds, Niamh Egan, Dorothy Cassidy

Three-in-a-row success for DIT ladies

By By Sarah Graham

DIT Ladies Basketball could not fluctuate any more this season. After last week, plagued with injuries and exams, we finally had a full panel for a Dublin League game on Wednesday 12th of February last. And what a difference it made.

Nobody had to play the whole game without a rest and everyone enjoyed playing together for the first time in ages. The DIT spirit was back and we were on fire.

DIT men runners team receiving trophy; Left to right Dessie Keegan, Ronan Costelloe, Conor McGinnity, Fiona Healy, Mark McGowan, Padraig Gaffney, Ken Clarke, front (r-l) Paul Fitzpatrick, Darren Flynn, Ronan Costelloe, Darren Mcardle, Dermot Reynolds, Niamh Egan, Dorothy Cassidy

Three-in-a-row success for DIT ladies

Three-in-a-row success for DIT ladies

Back row (l-r) Padraig Cahill, Conor McGinnity, Fiona Healy, Mark McGowan, Padraig Gaffney, Ken Clarke, front (r-l) Paul Fitzpatrick, Darren Flynn, Ronan Costelloe, Darren Mcardle, Dermot Reynolds, Niamh Egan, Dorothy Cassidy

Three-in-a-row success for DIT ladies

DIT handballers take honours in US

Three-in-a-row success for DIT ladies
By Migel Delaney

SO, DIT's Sigerson Cup adventure is over for another year. However this season Joe Moran can keep their heads held high, having pushed an illustrious UCD side to the very limit in a pulsating and exhausting first round match at Belfield.

In a game where neither side truly dominated, UCD's players will have been relieved to hear the final whistle as DIT pushed them right to the final minutes. Indeed it had not been for the magnificent performances of UCD's Liam O'Heaneachain and Peter Lawless, the outcome could have been very different. With many of UCD's key personnel struggling on the day it was down to three in the fight to save Dave Billings' team. And they duly did with O'Heaneachain's scoring prowess and Peter Lawless' flawless kicking contributing all but a point of UCD's scoring on the day.

It was O'Heaneachain who was first off the mark, putting UCD into a 0-2 lead within minutes. However DIT responded quickly and with the full forward line of Freeman, McKeigue and O'Hagan caused UCD's usually impermeable backline all sorts of problems and it wasn't long before DIT had established the lead. Making better use of their possession they managed to go 0-6 to 0-4 after two frees from O'Mahoney and a point from Stephen Bray.

It was DIT's midfield that was the launch pad for the team's performance with Ger Coughlan and Dublin under 21 star Hugh McInerney dictating the play for long periods and even overshadowing UCD's impressive Brendan O Hannanidh.

With DIT looking stronger, it appeared a quarter-final place in the Sigerson Cup was well within their reach, with a half-time score of 1-9. However, just like that game, it was one swift counter-attacking move, which once again turned the game in UCD's favour and underlined the Belfield side's quality.

Three minutes before half-time Brogan played a perfect hand pass for O'Heaneachain to run onto. He collected and blasted the ball home for the only goal to make it 1-5 to 0-7.

O'Mahoney and Lawless then exchanged frees, leaving UCD with a one-point lead.

The balance of the game didn't change much in the second half, with DIT managing to keep their heads held high and push UCD. However, just as O'Heaneachain's scoring had been their bane in the first half, Lawless' kicking consistency proved to be in the second. He added three more inch perfect frees, followed by the best point of the day to put UCD just out of DIT's reach.

DIT continued to press, but UCD's defence eventually recovered their usual stingy form and limited Joe Moran's side to only two points in the second half. DIT simply couldn't conjure one last grand assault and the match ended 1-11 to 0-10 to see UCD through to the Quarter-Finals of the Sigerson Cup.

DIT GAA Development Officer Des O'Donnell was proud of the team's performance and paid tribute to the progress made.

"It was a magnificent performance by the team. They controlled the play for 35-40 minutes of the match and were at many times the superior team. It was unfortunate the UCD goal came when it did. It took the momentum out of our performance and we petered out towards the end. The match was a great tribute to the attitude and determination by Seamas Reilly and Joe Moran, the quality of that core making this progression to the last four was beyond Limerick's reach.

"It was a magnificent performance by the team. They controlled the play for 35-40 minutes of the match and were at many times the superior team. It was unfortunate the UCD goal came when it did. It took the momentum out of our performance and we petered out towards the end. The match was a great tribute to the attitude and determination by Seamas Reilly and Joe Moran, the quality of that core making this progression to the last four was beyond Limerick's reach."

DIT: S Duffy, L Mooney, F Fitzgerald, R O'Hagan (make), D Burke, B McGrath, G Coughlan (0-1), H McInerney (0-1), G Prior, D O'Mahoney (0-3), S Bray (0-2), D Freeman (0-1), S Griffin, T O'Connor, B Cahill, R Kelly, D Magee, B O'Hannanidh, P Curran, J Hanly, L O hEaneachain (1-3), A Brogan, J Sheridan, P Lawless (0-7)

Subs: B Duffy for Evans (25mins), R Barry for Curran (35mins), R Ronaghan for Sheridan (40mins), S Lucey (0-1) for Kelly (44mins)

It was DIT's Sigerson Cup dictated the play for long periods on the day.

LIT put on an all-star show for DIT h hurlers

UCD: G McGill, D O'Donnogue, C Evans, P Fitzgerald, T O'Connor, C Coughlan, B Cahill, R Kelly, D Magee, B O'Hannanidh, P Curran, J Hanly, L O hEaneachain (1-3), A Brogan, J Sheridan, P Lawless (0-7)

Subs: B O'Connor for Evans (25mins), R Barry for Curran (35mins), R Ronaghan for Sheridan (40mins), S Lucey (0-1) for Kelly (44mins)

The only sour note of the afternoon for LIT was when Geraint Condoir was forced out with a serious leg injury midway through the second half.

He was missed the following Saturday as LIT were thrashed by UL in the quarter-finals.

It would appear that DIT have a long way to go before becoming truly competitive at the elite stage of third-level hurling.
WE GIVE STUDENTS THE BEST DEALS BECAUSE:

- the voices told us to
- in 10 years you’ll be our best customers

Want it all?
Drop into Bank of Ireland Camden Street, and speak to your Student Officers, Michelle or Louise, or phone 4784766.
Email: michelle.whelan@boimail.com louise.wall@boimail.com

*Lending criteria and terms and conditions apply.
Bank of Ireland is licensed by the Central Bank of Ireland.*