

1997

## The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union April-May, 1997

DIT Students' Union

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# The DIT Examiner

The Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union

April-May '97



Paul and Janet Betts were in Ireland recently to talk to students on the dangers of drugs. The DIT Examiner heard them speak in Aungier St.

Page 6



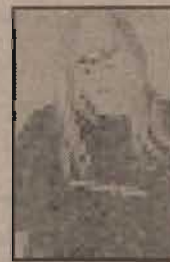
All the latest sports news from bob-sleighing to handball to the successes of the Swim Team. Plus coverage of Mountjoy Sq's victory over CIT in the Irish Technical Colleges Football Shield final.

Pages 12-15



"Mountjoy Sq spaced-out and had some sort of Science-Fiction thing going for a while. But don't ask me, I'm just a load of old wires and a telly."

Page 8



Pharmaceutical bubbas rock the block and give the Redbox hot socks. Peering through the K-Hole at the Chemical Brothers' new album and recent gig.

Sonic Bionic.  
Page 17

## Electoral Magnificence

The DITSU elections to select the coming academic year's Students' Union body turned up a few surprises, not least of which was the fact that no-one seriously killed themselves hanging posters in places an eagle would wobble in. (Vertigo, you understand.) Sinéad Pidgeon, Site President this year in Aungier St., was elected Overall DITSU President, the first female to attain the position.

### DITSU EXECUTIVE 1997-1998

#### Aungier St

Site President: Siobhán Weekes  
Dep. President: Derek O'Shea  
Clubs/Socs: Paul Weber  
Ents: Maurice Deegan  
Equality: Joanne Quirk  
Pt-time: Leigh Farrelly  
PRO: Thomas Felle

#### Bolton St

Site President: Ross O'Daly  
Dep. President: Charlie Mitchell  
Clubs/Socs: Gary Cullen  
Ents: Barry Smith  
Gaeilge: Marguerite Fitzpatrick  
Apprentice: Pat Moore

#### Cathal Brugha St

Site President: Bob Coghlan  
Dep. President: Nicola Doyle  
Clubs/Socs: Laura Ennis  
Ents: Shane Robinson  
PRO: Sarah Jane Miller

#### Kevin St

Site President: Tony Choi  
Dep. President: Sarah McGovern  
Clubs/Socs: Sarah Gardiner  
Ents: Sarah Corcoran  
Equality: Orla Burke  
Gaeilge: Con Ó Céadaigh  
PRO: Colum Cunningham

#### Mountjoy Sq

Site President: Ronan Emmett  
Dep. President: Rosemarie Daly  
Clubs/Socs: Patrick Kelly  
Ents: John Sweetman  
Gaeilge: John Maher  
PRO: Trudy Murray  
Pt-time: Zoey Scanlon

## MINISTER COMMITS TO DIT HOPES

*DIT may finally get long sought after status*

The Minister for Education, Niamh Bhreathnach, has said that she will request the Government to establish a special committee to review the DIT's case for University status, once the Universities Bill, 1996, is passed later this year.

The announcement came in a press release from the Minister's Department on April 10, in which she was quoted as having told Seanad Éireann that "on the passing of the Act into law, I will immediately request Government to appoint a body pursuant to section 9 to advise the Government on whether...the Dublin Institute of Technology should be established as a University."

DIT President, Dr. Brendan Goldsmith has expressed his

delight at the statement, and was quoted by the Irish Times as saying "We are totally confident that when the international group is set up under Section 9 of the Bill, it will ratify that the DIT should become a University." Dr. Goldsmith's satisfaction comes after many months of campaigning for the elevation of the DIT to University status. He is of the belief that, as the DIT has now been granted permission to extend its qualification-awarding powers to that of doctoral level, it "could not be regarded as anything other than a university."

At the time of this issue going to print, Section 9 of the Bill was being discussed by Seanad Éireann. Further developments may arise depending on whether additional proposals are put forward. Senator Joe Lee has already proposed

that the Government be given the choice to act or not, as the case may be, on the advice of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the Advisory Body. If they so choose, the government will then have to include the DIT in the Universities Bill by order.

To do this, the order must be approved by both Houses of the Oireachtas before it becomes law.

The announcement is seen as a victory for both students

and management, so many of whom have been campaigning heavily over the past few months. DITSU President, Colin Joyce, who was instrumental in galvanising students to action, has said that he is happy that students would be keeping a sharp eye on things, ensuring that "this commitment lasts longer than the general election campaign."

Despite his cautionary tone, Mr. Joyce maintains that "it is now only a matter of time before the DIT officially becomes a university."



Colman Byrne, erstwhile DIT son, regains his USI heavyweight title, and is re-elected President for another term. For full story see pages 10-11 inside.

## USI SAYS NO TO WOMEN'S AUTONOMY

In a DIT-led move, delegates attending USI's Annual Congress in Westport at the beginning of the month opted not to ratify motion WR3, that of Women's Autonomy, when it was raised.

Kellie O'Dowd, USI Women's Rights Officer feels that this is just a warning sign of possible further resistance to the question. It is not anomalous, and is still fully in effect as far as the Constitution itself is concerned, despite this apparent withdrawal of support. O'Dowd explains why.

"Because it's enshrined in the Constitution and it was passed at Women's Congress it still stands. We bring our policies to Congress for them to be ratified but if they're not ratified by Congress they still stand as women's policy."



Kellie O'Dowd,  
Women's Rights Officer  
with USI

In terms of changing things drastically, this rejection by Congress is not as bad as it seems: it would take a Constitutional amendment to remove autonomy. Kellie continues, "We see it as more of a danger sign that Autonomy will be under threat. It's a feeling from the ground that Women's Autonomy isn't working any more or it has come so far in working that it's not needed anymore."

She disagrees that this 'defeat' now means that the battlements need to be raised. "You can't protect something for the sake of protecting it. If the feeling of Congress — and Women's Congress, indeed — is that Autonomy is no longer needed then it will go. So it's more of a practical thing, than, you know, 'Our Women's Autonomy! How dare you attack it!!' The Women's Rights post and Women's Autonomy are there to render themselves redundant." What supporters of Women's Autonomy want is equality, maintains Kellie O'Dowd, but not to the extent that they will hold on to old policies purely for the sake of it.

On a stronger tack, she notes disapprovingly that the victors in this particular case reacted rather unreasonably. "Fair enough,

the Women's Autonomy motion fell on Congress floor. I have absolutely no problem with that, that was the will of Congress. But the triumphalist behaviour that happened afterwards was out of the question. A lot of people were very upset by it. Had it been along political lines — say, the Róisín McAlliskey motion — and people were jumping up on chairs...?!" she leaves the sentence unfinished. "That triumphalist behaviour should not happen on Congress floor. There was absolutely no call for it." (Though the Róisín McAlliskey motion was technically a human rights issue — in which calls were being made for USI to lobby both British and Irish governments to secure her release from HM Prison Holloway —, it lies in a politically sensitive area.)

The Women's Autonomy question is far from dead. O'Dowd believes feelings were hurt unnecessarily.

"The apologies were made for the behaviour, [but] a lot of people are going to want to hold on to it, more so now, than they would have if it [the motion] had gone along on good grounds."

For full Congress review see pages 10-11

# The DIT Examiner

DITSU, DIT Kevin Street, Kevin St., Dublin 8.  
Ph: 402 4636 Fax: 478 3154

## Summertime

Ring in the new. Normally, that phrase evokes images of freshness, improvement and probably constructive change. Such was my impression when the DITSU Elections were over, and, though there were moments of skulduggery and spite evident, the annual madness passed off peacefully enough. As one '97-'98 sabbatical would have it, all too many candidates — successful and unsuccessful — began to suffer from PES, Post Electoral Stress. This I would concur with, and can only say one further thing: don't go off the deep end without adequate reason to do so. It ain't worth it.

Sunny days now, of course, and with an early summer — up to 16 degrees and it's only April — we's gonna have a big water shortage. For anyone who cares, we need water to live, so go easy on the taps, folks. The Corpo has already asked us to be vigilant on that score, and if '95 was bad, you can bet '97's gonna be badder, baby.

Good luck to anyone who has exams.

For those of you heading off to warmer, more capitalist climes to work for the summer months — just stay away from the daft food, and the stupid beer. A strict ration of sensible sustenance will keep you alive until September/October, by which stage you can come home and walk under a bus in the comfort of your own country.

Again, enjoy the few months away from the ravages of the greatest Institute of Technology in Dublin. And who knows? — it might be a University when you come back.

## Samhradh

Tar éis do thoghcháin DITSU a bheith thart bhrathas go ndeachaigh gach cuid den tséisiúr chraiceáilte sin ar aghaidh gan morán d'fhadhb, cé go raibh, anois 'is arís, nóta nó dhó scanrúil bainteach leis. Chuir duine de na hoifigigh lán-aimseartha don bhliain atá ag teacht ('97-'98) go maith é, nuair ar thrácht sé ar PES, Post Electoral Stress (Strus Iar-Thoghcháin dúinne Gale-gorey). D'aontóinn leis chomh maith, agus bheadh rabhadh amháin agam dóibh siúd a bhí ag smaoineamh ar imeacht le gealaí — gan é a dhéanamh murach go bhfuil cúis an-speisialta agat lena é a dhéanamh. Ní fiú é.

Laehtanta griannmhara atá anois againn, ar ndóigh, agus a fhad is atá an Samhradh chugainn go luath — chomh hard le 16 céim agus níl dia na Bealtaine linn fós — beidh ganntanas uafásach uisce orainn. D'aon duine gur cuma leo, bíonn uisce uainn le maireachtáil, mar sin téigf go réidh leis an stuif, a chairde. Má bhí '95 go dona, beidh '97 go dona.

Go néirigh le haon duine ag a bhfuil scroodoo le déanamh acu.

Daoibhse atá ag dul i dtreo an airgid don Samhradh, bígf cúramach. Má bhíonn bairrile nó dhó ólta agaibh ná siúlaigf isteach sa chanál in Utrecht, nó faoi rotha an Trolley-Car i San Francisco (Wes' Coas' — way u at?).

Bainigf taitneamh as an saoire a bheidh agaibh ón áit seo. Seans maith go mbeidh sé ina Ollscoil nuair a fhilleann sibh.

Cearbhall Ó Síocháin

So apart from being the largest students' union in the country  
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- + FREE STUDENT NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES
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- + CAMPAIGNS ON ISSUES LIKE STUDENT HARDSHIP, ACCOMMODATION AND SAFETY, LIBRARY FACILITIES, CATERING
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# Ditsu

**RUN BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS  
SO GET INVOLVED!  
IT'S YOUR STUDENTS' UNION.**

Winners of previous Irish Times Crossword competition, Mar '97:

1. Malcolm Mac Domhnaill, 1yr, Kevin St
  2. Ann McDonnell, 2 yr, Kevin St
  3. Simon Lowther, 3 yr, Kevin St
- Prizes can be collected from Kevin St. SU offices.

### Contributors

**Róisín Carabine, Maebh Coleman, Spike Durnaburney,  
Frank Semple, cHAOS.**

## Clarifications

Should you encounter anything you feel is in need of clarification in this, or any other issue of the DIT Examiner, please contact the editor and any such matters shall then be clarified in the subsequent edition

Editor: Cearbhall Ó Síocháin  
Minister of Defence: ChaOS

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# Lettuce to the Editor

Any lettuce sent to the Examiner for the attention of the Editor should be clearly marked. Ní ghlacfar le haon leitís mharbh. Sending dead lettuce to the Editor is a strict no-no. Tig libh scríobh chuig an seoladh seo a leanas:

The Editor,  
DIT Examiner,  
DITSU,  
DIT Kevin St.,  
Kevin St.,  
Dublin 8.

An tEagarthóir,  
DIT Examiner,  
DITSU,  
ITBÁC Sráid Chaoimhín,  
Sráid Chaoimhín,  
BÁC 8.

## Nixon not Dead

84 Donnybrook Manor,  
Donnybrook,  
Dublin 4.

19-3-97

Dear Editor / ChaOS,

after completing another over-rated lunch in the Cathal Brugha St. canteen, I journeyed to the common room to spark up a post-food cigarette. Sucking in the contaminated air with feverish delight, my eyes strayed across the room, when WHAM! The headline "Battle of the Bands" hijacked my attention. Leaping across three innocent punters, I grabbed the latest DIT Examiner from the person and excitedly began scanning the article.

Then I read it more slowly.

Once more I poured over every word.

Finally I stopped.

NIXON was not even mentioned. I realise your reporter missed the first two acts, but their names were there, in bold type no less. NIXON played last, i.e. after VENA CAVA, but nothing was said about us (I'm the drummer). Even if your reporter thought we were the worst act since Howard Jones, it still would have been nice to receive some form of recognition. 12 bands played that night, and eleven got printed.

As a matter of fact, we came 6th in the heats, and after the final, Smiley informed us that we had actually come 3rd on the night, after RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. Was there any reason for leaving us out, or perhaps this deserves a good big clarification / write up? (Des has seen us a few times.)

In anticipation of the next issue,  
Henry Hodgson.  
FT401 / 4 CBS.

ChaOS says:

Due to an unfortunate misunderstanding the reporters in question left before NIXON came on-stage. This was not a deliberate move on our part, and we must stress that it was our intention from the outset to give every band equal coverage. As it stands, your letter seems to have made the necessary points as good as or better than any coverage we could have written.

## Final Countdown

DIT Kevin St,  
Kevin St,  
D8.

14-4-97

Dear Editor,

And you had such great plans for the Easter holidays! You had it all worked out, so much study, revise the lecture notes, finish off the assignments and contact a few people. Now looking back on it, the last one was your downfall. If you had even started to read a bit or pulled out the notes there would have been some motivation but your friends made all sorts of demands and here you are back in college for the last term and more work to do than you can possibly imagine. Where do you start?

Let's begin positively, all this work has a first step. Forget about the mountain ahead, just look at one area first and start working there and bit by bit some sections will fall into place. Remember there are others who are even worse off than you are and they too have to get into their struggle.

There may be others who will work with you in a group and you could cover different sections of the course and then pool the information, talking about an area of study is another great way to learn it and you are also helping others. Every time you sit down to tackle another part of the course, review what you have learnt. This transfers the learned material from the short-term into the long-term memory and there is a much better chance that you will be able to recall it at a later date. It is also a good idea to review material learnt during the day just before you go to sleep at night but this demands discipline.

If you still feel anxious about the whole thing and you feel you are not making any progress talk to somebody else. A problem shared is a problem halved, we are reminded. Also, you don't have to know everything. Pick and choose sections, revise the lecture notes, use a highlighter to check out key areas that demand particular attention and use the language and style of the lecturer including your own

individual and personal insights showing that you have integrated the material you have learnt.

It is also a historical fact that you are not the first person to have taken this course. Many have gone this way before you and many more will follow. Just look at the corridors that display graduation photographs and there is every reason that your class-piece will soon be there and you too will hold that valued parchment. College life is about helping students to prepare for the marketplace and others for further study.

Talk to students who are a year ahead of you, to members of staff, or the people in Student Services. These last few weeks of study, as you prepare for exams, are just another part of life at third level and soon you will be making final plans to go abroad with friends to get a job, or whatever, for the Summer months. Give it your all now; who wants to mess up the holidays and have to come back early for repeats?

Finbarr A Neylon

Dear Editor,

why, why, why do we never get any decent articles in this here payer of yours? Is it something we ate?

Why is it, that with 23,000 students to choose from, only a fraction have anything to say? Has some enormous cat come and taken

all their figurative tongues away?

I suggest the establishment of a strong campaign to draw the students' attention to the fact that they have a mouthpiece here ready to use. Free beer, free money, and perhaps a wonderful day out to Alton Towers might be offered as prizes to entice the little buggers to write something.

Another possibility -- this one pointed out to me by my cat, Jefferson Candywhip -- might be to line them against a wall and play BABYBIRD at them at dangerously high levels, with the option to jot down a simple article. This done, they could then be immediately released.

And another thing, you never give out any of those Scratch 'n' Sniff perfumey things on any of your pages. I don't know about the rest of your readers -- if there are any -- but I, for one, dislike the odour of indian ink invading my nostrils 24 - 7 - 365.

And now, for one more thing. You, dear editor, are a gobshite.

Hear B. Call

Ed says,

*you're quite right there, sunshine. The only thing you're wrong about is the part between 'why...' at the beginning, and '...gobshite.' at the end, but aside from that I have to hand it to you -- you make a convincing lasagne.*

## Best Wishes from Bus Éireann to All Students taking exams over the coming months.

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**BUS ÉIREANN**  
A member of the Irish Transport Group

# Blokes in powdered wigs and gowns. Sounds like an expensive fancy dress, but it's all legal, as Michael Commone found out in the Four Courts recently.

The Four Courts is a central spot on the landscape of Dublin. Any time RTE Television is reporting on major court cases you see the famous Four Courts in the background. If you are ever passing the building during an important case you will spot the journalists and camera people waiting outside to film the famous and important.

But I suppose the majority of citizens have never been inside the daunting doors of this famous building. It's well worth a visit.

This has been a good year so far to call on our most senior and serious courthouse. First it was the Cathal Ryan versus Michelle Rocca case and then fast on it's tail was DeRossa versus Dunphy. The Michelle / Cathal case was some spectacular; in the midst of all the serious and ponderous people and their learning was mixed the violence and fun of the whole affair.

DeRossa and Dunphy has it's own story to unfold. It is almost groundbreaking to watch a Government minister answer questions in the setting of the Four Courts. The non-stop talker Dunphy finally gets his day in court and good luck to both of them.

But it's the 'religion' of the famous building that intrigued me most of all. There's a lot to see standing in that round hall and then a short walk back to the law library is another sight not to be missed.

It must be the gowns and phylacteries and wigs that help create the mystery. Maybe you could replace the word mystery with arrogance. Anyway, we'll come back to that later. The handiest way to get there is by bicycle and then you can cycle in around the side of the court and park your bicycle beside the cars of the bigwigs. There's no check or control or prohibition on bicycles. Entering through the door at the side you find yourself in the foyer of the law library which is full most mornings with law people, barristers and solicitors and clients.

There's an air about the law people; all seem to have a Dublin 4 stature. The barristers with their wigs and papers are easy to pick out, you just can't miss them but the solicitors are also quite easy to spot. Here and there, there are little groups huddled either at one of the few desks or else standing in a circle. There are teams of legal people and clients putting the finishing touches to cases that are obviously just about to take place.

If you then move out to the main hall, which means you have to go through through three of four doors and God help you if you are not dressed in your legal gear and some legal-eagle comes through the door at the same time. The legal-eagles seem to feel that they have precedence when getting through that door, and especially so if the non-legal person looks poor and inarticulate.

Its all action out in the round hall between 10:00 and 11:00; every one is getting hyped up for the legal battles. And then in the middle of all this black you see two poor miserable creatures chained to prison officers enter the building. They look like chained animals and you can't help but feel that they inhabit an altogether different world. And no doubt the closest they will

ever get to this wealth and bombast is either coming here in chains or else breaking into houses of the legal-eagles.

There certainly is a great buzz in this hall. Dotted about the round hall there will be one or two gardai, and Albert, the court usher or superintendent is always about to help. In among the main actors you catch the occasional 'out-of-place' person. There will be the few curious people who are in to have a look, students of different disciplines viewing the proceedings.

My eye caught a semi-down-and-out. I knew him in another life; he had been studying for the priesthood with a religious order but left some months before ordination. Eventually he went to a diocese in Ireland where he was ordained, turned to drink and spends most of his time walking around Dublin looking for money to quench his thirst.

He goes up to the Four Courts on a regular basis in quite a confused state and thinking to himself that he is chaplain to the law profession. But talking to him it is clear to see how deluded he is. The delusions of others are much more difficult to decipher.

The journalists come and go and part of the fun of the whole place is that everyone seems to talk to everyone else. You catch Miriam Lord talking to Pat Rabbitte on first name terms, barristers cracking jokes with their opposition. It all seems like some sort of surrealistic game play. But then at the back of your mind you can hear checkout tills ring up very large sums of money, a day in the high court is not cheap, particularly if you lose your case.

The DeRossa case was the big one on the days I was there. The press banch was quite full, so too was the visitors' gallery. But people come and go, its sort of like zapping your television; you get enough of it after a while and flick to another channel. Oh, another important aspect to it all; it seems to be very important for the main actors, whether plaintiff or defendant, to have your friends around you. Everyone has to be in some sort of group; it really is a place for groupies. And if you are not in a group, well, it says something about you.

During the DeRossa / Dunphy case another case was taking place across the hall: a man who has been made a ward of court was challenging the judgement of the president of the High Court. He was conducting his own case. I was spellbound watching the procedures and listening to the arguments. This certainly was 'different'. And what I could not understand, there was not a word about it in the press. From the moment it began, it looked 'interesting'. When it came to choosing the jury, the plaintiff challenged seven hours of the jurors which meant that they had to be replaced with another seven. Did you know that? If you just don't like the look of a juror you can tell him or her to go home. And you can do that with seven of them. In fact, you can do it with more than seven of them but after seven your action can be challenged. You learn something new every day.

Michael Commone is a Post-Graduate student of Journalism in Aungier St.

## Smooth Talkers by Kevin Hora

Words, the song says, don't come easy to me. Not surprisingly, that's what puts most people off speaking in public: the fear of standing up in front of a crowd...and realising you have nothing to say. Let's face it: it's the most embarrassing thing that could happen to you, short of running naked along O'Connell Street at closing time.

Tough. I ran out of sympathy the first time it happened to me. Speaking, I mean, not the O'Connell St. thingy. Debating and my private life are entirely different matters.

Public speaking and debating are actually good fun. I tell people that I get a buzz from it and they look at me as if I have two heads — and one belongs to a rhino! "You're crazy," they say. Point of information: I am.

In fact, we all are in the Debating Society in Aungier St. Certifiable insanity is not a prerequisite for membership, but it helps. Memorable topics of debate at meetings this year have included "That Santa Claus should bring me the Spice Girls", "That Yuppies should be exterminated", and "That the Romantic Irishman resides in DIT Aungier St." — and these were just warm-ups in private members' time!

The most recent debates, a Staff-Student and Intervarsity against UCC, again produced the type of manic argument that has characterised the Soc this year. The staff team from college succumbed to the notion that the lunatics are running the asylum. They certainly were that night — well, how often do you get the chance to put one over on your lecturers?

But, there is a serious side to debating as well. This year, we've sent teams to South Africa for the World Championships. We've also taken part in national debate competitions. It is competitive, it is demanding, but it is also one of the most enjoyable ways of meeting students from other colleges.

Last November, the Soc hosted a major debate before the Bail Referendum, with guest speakers from the government, press and both sides of the lobby. There's more to a college debating society than standing up and waffling every other week. Organising

events such as this are grist to the mill in Trinity's Hist, UCD's L&H, UCG's Lit&Deb. In Aungier St., it's a huge challenge.

The fact is that other societies have huge memberships and centuries of experience behind them. when you commit the larceny of keeping in with the Big Boys, these are the kinds of events you must hold regularly.

This is where support becomes important. There's nothing more disheartening for a speaker than to deliver a speech to a half-empty room!

Many people are put off attending a debate because they're afraid they will be bored or — horror of horrors — feel so strongly about the motion that they will have to share their thoughts with a group of strangers. Yet, somehow, we have no difficulties holding court in Barney Murphy's - blathering about the latest economic crisis (the price of the pint), geographic disasters (its a long walk to the bar) and so on.

It's a shame that so many people feel embarrassed about speaking in public. Next time you're at a hustings, ask yourself if you could do what the candidates are doing. If I had a penny for everybody who has said to me "Oh, I could if I had to — really, I'd have no problem with it" I'd be writing this from tax exile in the Cayman Islands, sipping daiquiris and awaiting for the sun to go down.

You've probably seen our flyers if you've ever been to Aungier St. when there's a debate coming up. Have you ever come? We can certainly guarantee that you'll have a new idea of public speaking when you leave. And if the strength of our arguments don't leave you speechless, the Buy One Get One Free promotions we hold afterwards definitely will!

Debating is starting to take root in Aungier St - the Soc this year is more active than ever before. Keep an eye on our notice board for more details of events coming up and come along — the more the merrier, as Henry VIII used to say. Debating is fun. Public speaking is fun. The Debating Society Aungier St. is...well, crazy. But don't take our word for it. Come along and have a look for yourself.



*This is the sort of thing stewdents are famed for: tying their mates up with masking tape and spraying their hair green.  
Top: Ian Astbury (with fake tits) and his Holy Barbarians.  
Left: "Hiya, baby."*

Well, you've made it. College is over, no more exams, no more lectures, and, as OZZY might say, no more tears. But now, you gotta get some work.

*Get a haircut, and get a good job. Such advice is always handy karma, but there are other factors to bear in mind. Read on for tips on handling job opportunities.*

# CAREERING OUT OF CONTROL

## Will your CV get you a job ?

Tom Mitchell is a management consultant who specialises in the people side of business. This involves him in recruiting for a wide range of companies and jobs.

In this question and answer session he gives his ideas on some of the crucial DOs and DON'Ts of preparing a CV.

**Tom, in your daily work you see a great many CVs. What is the first thing you look for ?**

A CV that looks like the writer was thinking of who he/she was writing to. Give me the things I need to know on the first page. Ideally, for me, the first page should have:

Your personal details - name, address, telephone numbers (and best times to call), date of birth, sex, family status.

Your highest level of relevant education.

Any relevant work experience. What type of job you are looking for.

In short make it easy for me to decide quickly, "Do I need to see this person ?"

You can add as much detail as you like after the first page. Remember a CV is only written to get you to an interview, so don't make it hard for the reader to come up with a reason to include you on their list of interviewees.

**What annoys you most about a CV ?**

Having to wade through five pages of school results to find out that you don't have a relevant third level qualification. Keep it simple and direct.

**What questions are on your mind when you read a CV ?**

1. Does this person have the academic ability to do what we want ?

2. Is there any evidence of a positive attitude to work ?

3. Is the CV consistent ? Does it raise any questions ?

4. Does what this person has done in the past make it likely that they would want the

job we have in mind ?

5. Might this person offer us some special opportunity ?

**What raises doubts in your mind when you read a CV ?**

1. Lack of specifics - e.g. someone who says they got an honours degree, meaning a 2.2. - To me this looks like you think I won't notice and will give you credit for a 1 or 2.1. Resist the temptation to try and make things look better than they are.

Someone who doesn't give me the results of earlier years; if they were good you would tell me wouldn't you?

Lack of dates in work experience - e.g. from '95 to '96 in ABC company sounds to me like 31st December to 1st January ! Be specific!

2. An imbalance between work and play - giving me details of your interests and achievements outside of study and work is useful, but half a page on your captaincy of the college soccer team and two lines on work experience gives the impression that sport is more important than work !

**How should we handle "bad news" in a CV ?**

Up front - if you had to repeat an exam, or a year, say so, and give a reason. There is hope for a person who failed an exam because they were too involved in "the debating society" or whatever; provided that they have learned the lesson. Someone who never made a mistake is heading for one, so don't be afraid to admit to your failures.

Remember, the person reading your CV has seen it all before, and has seen plenty of people recover from a mistake early in their career.

**Should we write a new CV for every application ?**

Ideally yes, however I appreciate that this can be difficult. Think of it from my side; if you are not prepared to put an hour into tailoring your CV to highlight the things that I need to know, then why should I give you an hour of my time ?

If you do write a special CV or covering letter for a job make sure to get it right. I recently received an application addressed to me in ABC company giving the reasons why the person thought they should be given a job in XYZ company !!

**Leaving content aside for a moment, how should a CV look ?**

A well prepared CV is one that is pleas-

ant to look at, easy to read and easy to find. I am currently working on a major recruiting project for a multinational telecommunications company. I have 400 CV's on my desk. Think of that pile, and think of what would make a CV stand out.

Do have it well typed and laid out - if it's hard to read I probably won't.

Do use cream or blue paper, not white - it will stand out.

Do include a photograph - I will remember you better.

Don't give me a cover or binder - they don't fit in filing pockets.

Don't give me a fifty-times-over photocopy.

Don't send me one that is out of date.

Your CV is the first information about you that a company gets. If it looks like you took trouble with it, then the message comes over, "Here is someone who likes to do it right !" The opposite is also true, one spelling mistake or typographical error gives the message "I don't care enough to get my CV right, so I certainly don't care enough to get anything else right."

**If students in the college want further advice on their CV, can you help ?**

Yes, willingly, if anyone cares to write to me care of your paper, I will comment on their CV, and give them any suggestions I can. If the demand is great enough I would be prepared to do a live question and answer session in the college.

*For further info contact:*

*The Editor,  
DIT Examiner,  
DITSU,  
DIT Kevin St.  
Ph: 402 4636*

## Communiqué International

A Job interview can be one of the most fraught encounters we ever have to experience. It is a brief period of time where our 'performance' in front of one or a number of people can decide our short or long term future.

Often a lot of time and effort is devoted to focusing on dress code and body language. Our attitude is if your content is well prepared, the body language won't be an issue. If you dress appropriately for the position dress won't be an issue.

### Interview Vs Question and Answer Session

Frequently, interviewees forget its an interview they are participating in and not a question and answer session. In other words, a productive interview is not a case of the interviewer asking questions and the candidate giving answers. When we work with people going for interviews we train them to treat questions as opportunities not threats. A candidate that has prepared properly for their interview will use the interviewers questions as a platform that enables them to get their points across in a clear and concise manner, relating their experiences to the job for which they are applying and giving insights that are unique to them.

### Questioning — Understanding the Interviewers Perspective

When people go for interview they often try to second guess the type of questions they are likely to be asked in order to prepare specific answers. They rarely look for the rationale behind these questions. Look at it another way, if you were going to buy a new stereo and it cost £1,000, wouldn't you ask the sales person a lot of questions? You're not trying to 'catch them out', you're just making sure that the stereo is value for money.

In a job interview it's a similar situation. The interviewers is that they are not always fully sure of the type of questions they should ask to illicit the information they require. We train people to perform an analysis of the post to be filled, from the viewpoint of understanding the activities and responsibilities to be undertaken by the successful applicant. Also we focus on enhancing their skills in the two key areas of obtaining information to:

- facilitate evaluation
- facilitate differentiation

### Preparation

Once you understand the dynamics of an interview it makes preparation much easier. Like the interviewer you need to do analysis of your work / college experience and explain how it applies to the post for which you're applying. In preparation, write down your work experience in chronological order and be sure that you know the specific additional knowledge you gained from each of these posts. This means going through all summer or part time jobs you've held. Never forget that in an interview situa-

tion you are selling a product and the product is you. Therefore it is important to:

1. **Identify your unique selling points**
2. **Differentiate yourself from your competitors** — what have you done in your career to date that differentiates you from all of the other candidates applying for this job?
3. **Understand the interviewer's real need** — have you carried out an analysis of the post to be filled and fully understand the requirements of the company?
4. **Close the sale!** — have you structured and delivered your information in such a clear and concise manner that the interviewers will know you are the right person for the job and finally ask for the job. Some people find this very difficult to do but it is the very logical way to end the interview you wouldn't be there if you didn't want the job, so ask for it!

There are two main things that you need to remember in preparing for job interviews:

1. It takes a lot of time — probably more time than you think.
2. It needs to take place within a structured framework. Otherwise they can be a lot of wasted effort.

**For further information on Job Interview training or other communication skills training please contact Darragh Casey, Course Co-ordinator, 26 Herbert Place, Dublin 2.**

**Tel: (01) 676 8998 Fax No: (01) 676 8007**

# the e debate

## Paul & Janet Betts

The first thing you notice about Janet and Paul Betts is that they have aged prematurely. The death of their daughter, Leah, which hit the headlines hard in the UK and Ireland in November 1995, understandably hit them very hard too, and it shows.

What does not show as much, initially, is their resolve, and they have lots of it. They are not given to sensationalism, and their stated mission is to educate, not to dictate, or to beg: Paul Betts' opening words are "What I hope to be able to do is to give you sufficient facts so that when you go away from here, next time you want to use it [Ecstasy], and you're wondering 'shall I or shan't I?', you can make a properly informed choice. In other words, the choice is yours."

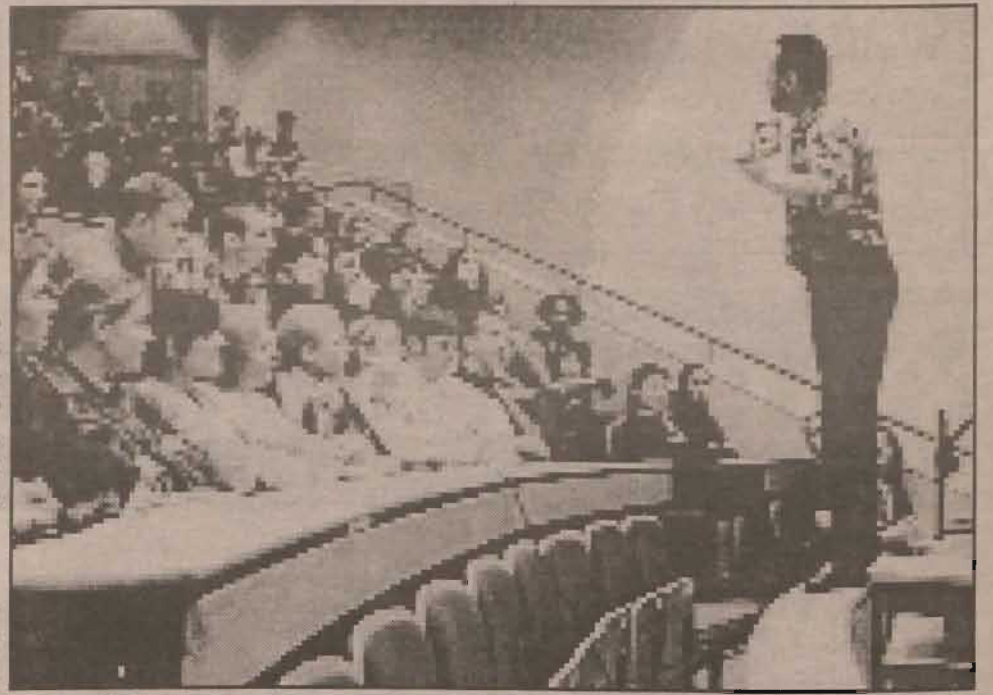
Their chosen approach is the wisest — nothing will scare the doubters off faster than the 'Just Say No' throat-rammed message. That the issue be swept under the carpet in this way is one of their greatest fears.

"My daughter killed herself." Paul Betts says this as matter-of-factly as he might say "Air contains oxygen". They are under no illusions as to the reality of the matter, they do not let parental passion or emotion or grief influence the way they present their message.

As accidental crusaders educating people about drugs, and ecstasy in particular, Leah Betts' parents are almost ideally suited. Janet Betts is a qualified chemist and a nurse, Paul Betts is a policeman. Yes, you remember, 'How ironic,' we all thought, when Leah Betts' dad turned out to be a copper, her mum a nurse. Not really

though. It shows that ecstasy, pure or dodgy, is still an unknown quantity. Some people are more susceptible to dying from munching pills, but death is death — you can't die more than anyone else. You just die.

The advertised two hour session in DIT Aungier St last month attracted a mixed crowd: almost 50-50 Old Fogeys to Hip Young Things, and spilled well over the two hours. They had already spoken to a full house in Bolton St. Paul Betts did most of the talking, though his wife spoke towards the end. They passed around four tablet containers ostensibly filled with white sugar, brown sugar, salt and flour. Everyone had a taste, and decided to themselves what the substances were. Everyone was correct in their assumptions, except that the white sugar contained minute fragments of glass; the brown sugar, baked rabbit droppings; the salt had duck-blood-muck spatters hidden in it and the flour was clean. The relief on the faces of the flour-tasters was great. The lesson learned was that because we trusted Paul Betts we lashed away and had a dab at the containers without thinking for a second what the consequences might be.



Paul Betts gains the undivided attention of a near-full Bolton St lecture hall last month.

Though it could be said that this is merely game-playing, it highlights the fact that you don't know what's in a yoke unless you've made it yourself. The flaws evident in the Betts' thesis are rather minor in comparison to the gaping irrationalities associated with the blinkered views of zero-tolerance and ultra-conservative fanatics.

The debate on Ecstasy and other uncontrolled, illegal drugs will continue for years, with people lining up on all sides to make their presence felt. It can only improve with open, honest talking of this nature. If the Betts are responsible for anticipating such progressive debate, then credit where credit is due, whether you agree with them or not.



Winners of the Bolton Trust Award, Cafe Nostalgia Ltd., left to right: Jackie Dunphy, Aileen Ferguson, Lorraine Ward, Nora Moylan, Leila Ryan.

### Brugha beats opposition to take Bolton Trust Award

by Thomas Felle

A group of students who dreamed up a speciality coffee shop offering a multitude of differently flavoured coffees won first place in the DIT young entrepreneurs' award. The Bolton Trust Enterprise Development Competition Finals took place in DIT Mountjoy Sq on Wednesday 19 March, and 5 third year catering students from DIT Cathal Brugha St took overall prize.

The idea to set up a coffee shop in Navan, called Cafe Nostalgia Ltd., was the brainchild of Jackie Dunphy, Aileen Ferguson, Lorraine Ward, Nora Moylan and Leila Ryan. The event, sponsored by The Irish Permanent, Ulster Bank, Murphy's Brewery, and Run Your Business Magazine, had over forty entries from all the DIT colleges, and competition was very high, according to chairperson of the organising committee, Phil Hanlon. Entrants had to submit a business proposal, with projections, cash flows, balance sheets and market research, in the hope of convincing the judges that their venture would work.

Six finalists eventually made it, each had to make a presentation to the audience on the night. The finalists were Cafe Nostalgia (winners), Securi-Task Ltd. (runners-up), Global Cuisine, Ragdoll Ltd., Wings (second runners-up), and Lobsters Doom (new design lobster pot).

The winners, Cafe Nostalgia, received a £500 cheque and one year's subscription to Run Your Business magazine. Runners-up, Securi-Task Ltd., an entry by Keith Donlon, Philip Chubb, Nevil O'Toole, and Graham Clarke, designed a car wheel lock, and received a cheque for £200. Second runners-up, Wings, an entry by Richard Spence, Ross Marie and Nick Russell, received a cheque for £100. They designed a new style Chinese fast food restaurant in Blackrock.

"Judging by the amount and standard of entries, the Bolton Trust is growing from strength to strength," says Phil Hanlon. "We hope that next year even more people enter the competitions. It's a tough market, and competitions like this give young people the opportunity to develop a winner's instinct."

## SHEEP NOT DEAD

College Authorities dismiss SU claim of new evidence on kidnapping & torture writes Colin Costello

The Bolton St College Authorities have denied a claim by the Students' Union President Colin Costello that the by now famous (or infamous) Three Sheep were taken in secrecy under cloak of night from their home in the pond and are being kept against their will in the dark and murky dungeons of the basement of Bolton St College.

Sources close to the sheep have said that 'they have had their legs broken to prevent any attempted escape and will not be returned to their rightful home under any circumstances. College SU President Mr Costello has also said 'this is an absolutely disgraceful act of cowardice by the college authorities.

The three sheep were taken for no apparent reason and are held very close to the hearts of the Bolton St students and deserve to be returned to the pond where they belong.'

The investigation into the disappearance of the sheep has been ongoing since before Christmas and has taken many twists and turns. Initial investigations revealed that 'they were taken after a staff survey decided that they were out of place and didn't fit into the college environment and should therefore be removed as soon as possible' said John Lowe, Head Porter for the college.

The SU refuted this claim that it was totally unfair that the students were not included in this survey stating that the students are the life and soul of the college and there-

fore should have been an integral part of the survey and if they had been surveyed its results would have been completely different.

Further investigation has heard Mr. Paul Fogarty, Buildings Maintenance Officer say 'the sheep, being made of wood, were rotten and had to be removed'.

On hearing this, this reporter decided to go straight to the top to the Secretary/Registrar Mr Tom Foley who when asked why the sheep were removed said 'Why not?' but when questioned further said 'that as soon as finances become available a new fountain will be put in place as in the garage next to the pond, a new Engine Test Bed has been installed and requires large volumes of water to cool it and a fountain in the pond is the most efficient method of achieving this.'

This further dispels the theory that the new Millennium clock, formerly located in the Liffey under O'Connell Bridge was to be placed in the pond according to Deputy Director of the Faculty of the Built Environment, Mr. Gerry Walker.

As for the poor, malnourished, dehydrated, broken-legged sheep, Mr. Costello has been told that the sheep will be returned to him but under no circumstances will they be allowed to go back in the pond. "Their release is the most important thing to us at the moment" he said.

*Members of the Cathal Brugha St Drama Society travelled down to Waterford to enter the Music, Arts & Drama Festival, 21-23 March.*

*Stephen Brennan was there...and then there was M.A.D.*

It all started on Friday 21st March 1997 with crazy camcorder shenanigans in Busaras. Martin Broaders ensured that the manic weekend we were about to experience would be forever immortalised within the chamber of time that was a video cassette.

After numerous speculations regarding our exact time of arrival we finally pulled up alongside the River Suir at 7.30 p.m. Our accommodation surprisingly rose above our sceptical premeditated expectations offering us an array of pleasant utilities within a relaxed atmosphere. After settling into the amiable surroundings of Viking House however, we erred tragically by feasting amidst the walls of K Recipe Fried Chicken. Fortunately however our recuperation time was shorter than we had initially estimated and our group leader and playwright were in apt condition to return to the hostel in order to partake in a meeting concerning the festivals drama timetable (and to enquire about the availability of subsidised intoxicants). Shortly after we were weaving our merry way toward one of Waterford's premium alcohol allocaters. It wasn't to prove long before we were to be "swingin', shakin', movin', makin', and showing just how good we really were" on the gyrating floorboards of Club L.A. or as some of Waterford's indigenous inhabitants would have it Club La.

Our previous viewpoints regarding the colour of the Suir were emphatically dispelled as the sun rose gloriously on Saturday morning. Fantastically our group leader and president arrived at 9.20am with some freshly purchased nutrients (brekkie) before the rest of us had even raised an eyelid. Soon after we plodded our woeful path uphill in order to view the primary production of the day (Denial by W.I.T). Frighteningly they utilised lighting and sound, a concept that we hadn't even attempted and this would prove to be the one thing that separated the silverware at the end of the day. With glorious aplomb we plotted our path south westerly toward the main College of W.I.T. There we were to dine eloquently amidst the colleges exquisite Dome bar. Panic was raging violently throughout the hearts and minds of all involved as one of our supporting males, Brendan Johnston had mysteriously gone A.W.O.L. rendering Gareth Mc Guinness his only possible understudy. Frantically Gar went racing through the script in a bid to memorise lines that until this point were totally foreign to him. Just when he seemed to be handling the increasing pressure pot of simmering nerves our prodigal son, Brendan returned and to everyone's frustration he was smiling. Our performance of "Vodka, Pringles and Ice cream" written by our very own Stephen Brennan, ran fantastically and received a rousing applause. It was then back to "The Junction" to watch some of the bands competing in the music section of the festival.

Club L.A. saw the return of M.A.D. festival competitors to its mezzanine level and then it was on to a party. Curfew at the hostel was 3am and at 2.55am we found ourselves racing through the streets so as to keep our beds for the nights. On our return to the room the camcorder was back in action as the top bunk became occupied by four bodies and then the camera man made it a five in a bed romp!!!!

Sunday 23 March at 12.45pm and Gareth Mc Guinness looks at me and says "this is the one". Waterford's representative for the weekend Nicola O' Connor can be heard squeaking in the background (the judge has criticised just about every effort Waterford made to stage the event). The first award of Best Actress went controversially to Galway's Aoife Lally for her performance in a "Rape" play. Controversial because only seconds before the judges made Cathal Brugha Streets very own Michelle Mc Auley the front runner isolating her as the only female actress able to "Dominate the stage whenever she appeared". The second award of Best Actor with this time Cathal Brugha Streets Brendan Johnston getting a very special and I mean very special mention as being largely underrated and subtle actor; unfortunately however the award went to Colin Coffey from Waterford for his traumatic one man effort. This award however fails to go well amidst the ranks of the other Waterford crew who at this stage are feeling largely neglected. Soon after however they finally get their greasy hands on some silverware as they won the award for best director. At this stage its looking bleak for Cathal Brugha Street as the end of the award ceremony is drawing near and Gareth Mc Guinness has been reduced to an 'over-chilled' mass of nerves. "And now the award for Best Original Play" the judge looks decided. A pause, a terrible pause and then suddenly vindication for all the time we spent rehearsing. Vindication for all those months spent organising drama meetings trying to accommodate for the ever changing needs of eight exam stricken cast members; Cathal Brugha Street for the first time win a major award in the M.A.D. (Music Art Drama) festival. As soon as the congratulatory afters had begun people started to realise that the weekend was nearly over. A certain degree of sentimentality crept into the hearts and souls of all those involved; some of them even contemplating next years festival, a touch premature perhaps but you can't argue with the enthusiasm. All that was left now was for Ann Reddington, Olivia & Lourda Killeen, Brendan Johnston, Anthony O'Sullivan, Michelle Mc Auley, Stephen Brennan, Martin Broaders and Gareth Mc Guinness complete with our very own far club Paul and Kevin (Kula Shaker) to go home and view our video diary of the weekend which by this stage has been banned by every broadcasting company the world over (except Channel 4).



*The crazy gang from Cathal Brugha St who made it to Waterford and back on a strict ration of insanity. Waterford called in the emergency services but there was little they could do to help.*

## THE AIRWAYS END OF AN ERA

For the past few weeks a major depression has hit the Brugha, initially the experts thought it was due to pending exams however on further research (ie patrolling the streets of CBS in the early hours of the morning) they concluded that all the tears are due to the threat of the closure of the much loved Airways.

Other colleges may not have been drawn in by the mystical powers of Airways but for



the hardcore, fun-loving alcos of the Brugha it has provided the lifeline of their student days.

As first years we made our debut not knowing what metamorphosis we would undergo under the low ceiling of this establishment, entering bright eyed and bushy tailed, rolling out the door gee-eyed.

Airways has been the home to all those evicted, ridiculed, and those in need of some old fashioned cheering, and those who haven't experienced the pint's and sambo's haven't lived.

From the days of knocking on the door in the early hours of the morning to the present



day of bonoffi pops it has found a place in our hearts that nothing else will fill. Life will not be worth living and college will never be the same if Airways and it's fun-loving staff are taken away from us.

The Airways has seen tea totalers turn into raving alcos, bare bums, altar boys turning into nympho's, romances blossom and hearts being broken. Who hasn't come in for an early lunch and fell out the door 12 hours later?

Well, it's time to buy the T-shirt and if Derek, Dermot and the rest of the lads are stuck for something to do next year they can always blackmail past pupils of the Airways or get together and write their memoirs.

You may forget the days in the classroom but you'll never forget "never forget".

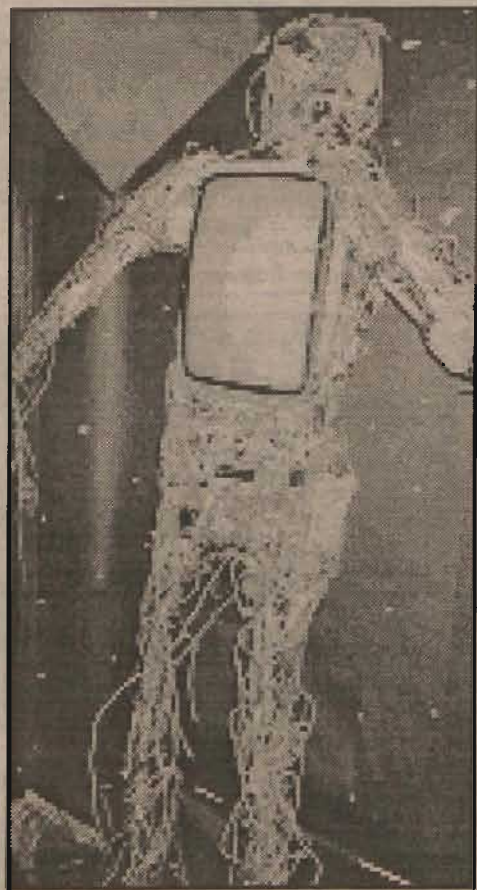
Good times come and good times go but memories last forever!

Simon Twomey



# ART & DESIGN WEEK A STELLAR EXPERIENCE

# STAR WARS



Mr ROBO MAN guards the canteen entrance

This year's Art & Design Week in Mountjoy Sq owed its conception to a genre of story-telling made famous by the likes of Frank Herbert, Isaac Asimov, and certain tabloid newspapers, namely Science Fiction. 'Sci-Fi' unless you're a complete arse-candle.

Eoin Connolly, responsible for the 'Sci-Fi' mural in the canteen (see pic) explains who's involved.

"I first started off with it when it started three years ago, but its mainly a third year

affair. Third years take control." The 'Sci-Fi' mural took Eoin a total of about 10 hours to complete, and looks like it took ten days.

A committee is set up between VisComm (Visual Communications) and Environmental Design, and also people from courses in the Portland Row Annex. The committee number comes to about twenty in all. "There are supposed to be two from each year," says Janet Murphy, an Art & Design student, "so you can get everyone to know

each other; its another way of getting the courses together as well."

Alma Kiernan, also Art & Design, explained that many ideas had been sound-ed out, including 70s Week, & Greek and Roman Week. Finally, they had hit upon Sci-Fi Week. "Rather than something real clean-cut, real industrial, we used bits of everything, and tried to make the most of the canteen with the materials we had."

So are there legions of STAR WARS fans in Mountjoy Sq?

"The VisComms are all...freaks," jokes Alma, (at least, I think she was joking...) going on to describe the combined VisComm effort which came up with the life-size cryogenically frozen Han Solo, worthy (almost) of an early ILM creation.

"Its all just a big mish-mash of ideas," says Eoin, of the artwork effort. "There was no president, or captain saying 'Right, let's do it like this —' or anything. Everybody had their own ideas, everybody just chipped in, and banged it all out." For



The subway-like graffiti-strewn wall that dominated the canteen.

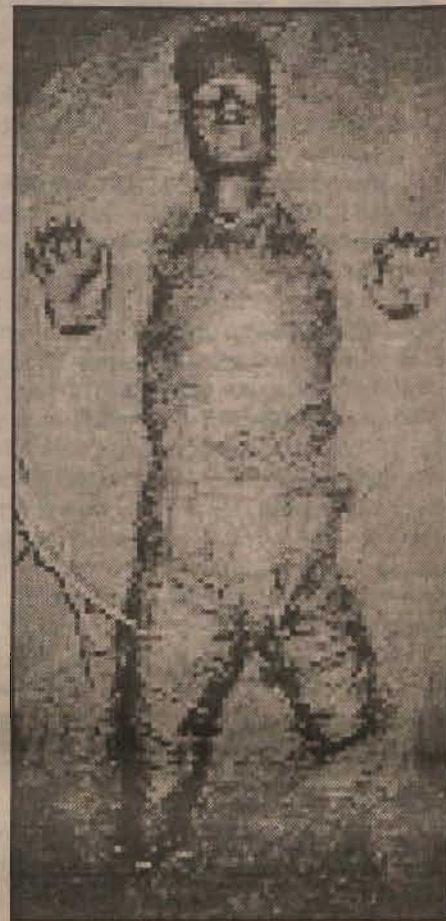
a mish-mash it looked great.

Academic staff are fully supportive, and grants were made available by the SU, but apart from that, the work is all undertaken by the students on their own time.

Stefan Murphy, 2nd year Marketing student, felt the futuristically-bedecked canteen merited praise, saying, "It's deadly," and on the question of how it compared to last year: "This is a lot better. There's a lot more effort gone into it."

Julie, a 3rd yr. Marketing student whose lunch I interrupted, felt Art & Design Week "puts Rag Week to shame." She was going to the fancy dress as Pigs in Spaaaaace. And if you don't know what she's on about then you missed out on the best TV series the galaxy has ever seen.

Though the theme of Art & Design Week centred around sci-fi in general, the coincidental worldwide cinema re-release of the Star Wars Trilogy seemed appropriately timed. All gratitude to



An expertly-made frozen Han Solo replica

George Lucas in that regard for holding off the release of the first of those features, *Star Wars*, until DIT Mountjoy Sq were good and ready, ready to rock.

The week zapped-off (whatever) with a monster Sci-Fi Table Quiz in Stoneys Bar on the Tuesday. Wednesday saw rakes of spacers head out to the Plex for Quasar, followed by Sci-Fi drunkenness in Pub COMAD.

Thursday, the big day, meant people got their space-cake glad rags out with phasers set on STUN for the fancy-dress banquet in the canteen, and though George Lucas was in attendance, he was sufficiently disguised, so that his presence there was known only to three people, who's presence, in turn was known only to Jabba the Hutt. The Hutt was not there.

Once sated, the troops headed for the USI space / time continuum, bordering the Furnace nebula, a mere parsec across town, where DJ Francois and some Drum n Bass lads spun the vinyl all night long.

## I AM A DIT STUDENT, HEAR ME ROAR.

says Maebh Coleman

Hopefully by now your vote is registered and come election time, politicians will be fighting over your vote!! Be afraid, be very afraid.

What do you do if a politician calls to your door and asks for your vote in the next election?

Don't look at him/her in benign acceptance of their claims of lower tax and higher skirts. There are real political issues that effect you as a student and your life as a whole. They have ignored and disappointed all students, especially in DIT, but as soon as election time comes around, these same people will expect you to vote for somebody who will not do anything for your interests. This election do not let anybody condescend or de-prioritise.

The only way to make politicians listen is to become a political force. In DIT we have 25,000 students, that means the same again in votes, up to 50,000 parents and their votes, not to mention brothers, sisters, aunts etc... We are the people who make a difference. Over 65% of young people aged 18-25 have no political preference. This, in my opinion is because young people don't feel as though politicians are really interested in what we want. Well this time around. MAKE THEM INTERESTED.

As students, we are trying to get a qualification which will put us in a position to give back to the economy what the country has given to us. This is a re-investment of skills, tax and social participation. I think that the country has not made enough investment in me, this is the fault of politicians who will not listen.

This year we should make them listen. Students are locked out of the social welfare system. The grant is £25 below the recommended poverty line which is accepted by the government. This is the only investment you will receive while you are a student, unless of course you can pick your way through reams of regulations in order to receive paltry allowances

from the Social Welfare.

### HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

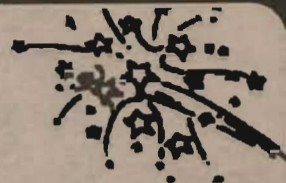
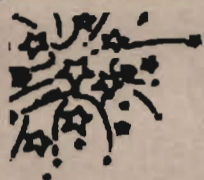
- 1) Register your vote: There is no point complaining about people you haven't had a say in electing.
- 2) Challenge canvassers: Probe, ask the candidate questions, challenge their motives.
- 3) Use your vote wisely: Vote for the person who will give you what you want.

### PROBING ADVICE

- a) Ask: What have you ever done for me? How much do you earn? (this will always be at least 5 times what you have in a week) What do you think of DIT as a University?
- b) Stare them down (à la John Wayne) and tell them you aren't interested in election promises and you want them to write it in blood before they leave.
- c) If they have not run away by now, inform them that there are 25,000 others just like you who all have a vote.

The politician will either faint or take you onto their campaign team!

Good Work Remember, don't let them get away easily, put your foot down and BE HEARD.



**DUBLIN 1-5 MAY 1997**

**BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

**THE COURTYARD DUBLIN CASTLE**

**FRI 2ND MAY**  
**DIVINE COMEDY**  
**BABY BIRD**

**SUN 4TH MAY**  
**suede**  
PLUS: CATATONIA

**SAT 3RD MAY**  
**BECK!**  
**THE SEAHORSES**

**MON 5TH MAY**  
**COUNTING**  
**CROW'S**  
KIERAN KENNEDY

**texas**  
the red box • 2nd May

**BETH ORTON**  
Whelan's - 3rd May

**JERU THE DAMAJA**  
THE MUSIC CENTRE SAT 3RD MAY

**THE PROPELLERHEADS**  
Music Centre - FRI 2ND MAY

**THE BOOTLEG BEATLES**  
MIDNIGHT/OLYMPIA 2/3 MAY

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THE IRISH TIMES



# Colin Joyce Outgoing DITSU President



Outgoing DITSU President Colin Joyce has spent the last three years of his life concerned with all aspects of student politics, warts and all. So why is he now turning away from it and going back to school?

Though I would have liked to run for another term of office, I cannot, because the maximum no. of years at sabbatical level is 3. I have given my heart and soul for 3 years, so now its time for others to channel their energies and enthusiasm into student politics.

What do you see as the worst aspect of students' union politics — in any third level institution?

The in-fighting and bitching which takes place from time to time. It takes people's attention away from the real issues which the Union should be dealing with.

What was the most enjoyable part of the job?

Meeting people and achieving our aims. When Niamh Bhreathnach made her [Universities Bill] announcement last week, it finally proved the real power of DIT students. The most enjoyable part of the job, though, was being able to sort out major problems for students. I know that sounds conceited but it genuinely is rewarding.

What would you most like to be remembered for?

As the person who brought the DIT campaign for University status to the forefront of government policy on Education, and for calling for proper facilities, particularly sports facilities.

Who is your biggest idol and why?

Charlie Haughey & Mary Robinson for their strength and charisma. Albert Reynolds for risking talks with the Provisional IRA which ultimately led to a ceasefire. John Hume for continuously opposing violence no matter what. David Ervine & Gerry Adams for trying to bring the men of violence into democratic politics.

# Sinéad Pidgeon Incoming DITSU President



The DITSU's first ever female overall President, Sinéad Pidgeon, climbed up through the Union vines in DIT Aungier St.

As Deputy President and Welfare Officer (1995-96) and Site President (1996-97) she acquired the skills necessary to co-ordinate one of the six separate union sites that collectively make up the largest students' union in the country.

What do you see as your greatest challenge in taking up the position of DITSU Overall President?

Including all the membership so they know how strong the union can be, and making facilities in DIT a reality for all and not just a 'what could be...'

What worries you most for the future about students' union politics in general?

That students won't be politicised enough to know that government legislation does and can effect their lives daily as students in Ireland.

What's the single most important thing you have learned since beginning in union politics?

To respect someone else's opinion even though it might differ from your own.

Who is your favourite author?

I am a fanatical reader and all authors interest me.

Who is your greatest idol / role model and why?

My parents, Eileen and Syl, for all their support through my students' union years.

# Comhbháil AMLÉ



Dermot Blake, Orla Burke, Robbie Whelan, and Colin Costello in the foreground, while Ross O'Daly, Maebe Coleman and Bob Coghlan take up the rear at DITSU, sorry, USI Annual Congress

As you all know we are part of the Union of Students in Ireland, every year there are a number of meetings for everybody in the country (called National Council) but over Easter National Congress took place in Hotel Westport, Co. Mayo.

Congress is where delegates debate and discuss their priorities for the next year. And our National Union are therefore obliged to do it. DIT is one of the largest delegations, this year we had 22 votes out of 160 delegates.

There were hundreds of motions to get through, including International and National Affairs, Welfare, Women's Rights, Education, Union Organisation and Constitutional Amendments. Some of the most controversial were; the introduction of a full time LGB rights officer, and the motion on the human rights interest in the Róisín McAlliskey case. There was more debate over the RTC sector changing to Institute of Technology than you could shake a stick at. Debating was from 10am till around 9.30pm and then it was drink, drink, drink in the hotel bar!!

The hotel staff were great, the food was lovely, so if you can speak in public and want a week in a top hotel next year — get in with the union!!! (not forgetting, of course, the importance of Congress!!) (NARF!!)

## INTERESTING FACTS FROM USI'S 39TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

1. Cork RTC refuse to recognised themselves as anything but Cork Institute of Technology and their president Mattie O'Callaghan, is running in the general election !!! (Welcome them into our gang.)

2. This year was the first that student nurses were involved in the Student Union movement.

3. UCD speak more than any other delegation present.

4. DIT drink more than any other delegation present.

5. None of the elections for full time officers in USI were contested, that means that whoever ran, got in (nice move).

President: Colman Byrne  
(2nd year running)

Deputy: Helen Ryan  
(formerly welfare officer)

Welfare: Noel Clarke  
(1st male welfare officer)

Education: Malcolm Byrne  
(2nd year running)

6. The DITSU delegation were mandated which way to vote in the elections by DIT council.

7. The average sleeping hours by any Ditsu delegate during the week was 8.

## No Surprises at Congress

With a full complement of delegates seated in the Cara Suite by 11 o'clock on DAY 2 (the first day of business) of USI Annual Congress number 39, it seemed as though co-operation was going to be the name of the game.

Though hungover from the previous night's introductory razz-session — Election Hustings had been on — delegates were chatty and eager.

The session kicked off with Full Time Officers presenting their reports to Congress. Hitting on a football theme, Congress was told how 'the Team' which was the USI Executive, had pulled together so well this year. They had plenty of evidence to back this up, and dele-

guilty of making 'snide remarks' and pursuing 'personal vendettas' against certain members of the USI Executive. Colin Joyce, DITSU Taoiseach, put it to her that the Executive was paranoid. 'Great!' thought everyone, 'some action early on at Congress!' This was not to be, unfortunately, as matters soon calmed sufficiently for proceedings to continue.

Peadar Mac Pháidín, USI Irish Language Officer, and Julian de Spáinn manned the Simultrans (simultaneous translation) gig all week, Julian providing the voice-over with Peadar for emotional, professional and managerial back-up. Togha Fhearaibh! The inordinately expensive machinery — complete with headsets — on hire from Bord Na Gaeilge at a reduced rate, was utilised by everyone at one stage or another. At one point,



USI Congress in the Cara Suite: DITSU's strong delegation were prominent up the front all week, though here they clearly have serious things on their minds

gates were impressed. Then things went a bit pear-shaped, as the 'Team' seemed to score a bit of an own-goal.

Dermot Quain, USI Union Development Officer, said that he was unhappy with the headway being made in the Dublin Area, implying that the Dublin Area Co-Conveners (Fiona Hannon, UCD and Mark McKenna, RTC Dundalk) needed reminding as to what their brief is. In reply, the two Co-Conveners stated that the Area was 'diverse and underdeveloped' and that they had 'not enough resources' with which to efficiently manage operations under their control. Indeed, some dissatisfaction was shot in President Colman Byrne's direction by Co-Convener Fiona Hannon; apparently, he reacted in a not-taking-it-seriously fashion and was verbally reproached because of it.

Within 15 minutes of the start, it appeared as though the USI Executive was on the defensive. Noeleen Hartigan, USI Deputy President, cautioned delegates, some of whom, she felt, were

Mountjoy Sq's SU Deputy President, Ronan 'the Runner' Emmett, was given the opportunity (or took it, maybe) to do his 'Pat Kenny / Eurovision' Master of Ceremonies impression. Lotsa people laughed, and anyone without headphones became very freaked out and agitated at a hal' full of people laughing uproariously at utter silence.

Tuesday afternoon saw Education matters raise their controversial heads. Motion ED3, which dealt with the £150 student services charge imposed by the Minister for Education in 1995, was clearly a contentious issue, and the present Minister, Niamh Bhreathnach, will have to listen soon and carefully to USI and its affiliate unions on this topic. USI Education Officer, Malcolm Byrne, urged delegates to 'bring the information back to your students', and to lobby Minister Bhreathnach to maintain the cap on this sum. ED 30, which brought up the Grants question, again drew attention to monetary difficulties. "The greatest barrier to students is financial..."

Malcolm Byrne told us, in referring to those continuing education. ED 10, the issue of proper facilities for art & design students, saw Nicole Grimes, Chatham Row SU President, lamenting the 'completely appalling' conditions in which students in her college find themselves studying.

After lunch — during which delegates cast their votes for next year's USI Executive — the election results, were eagerly awaited. Few, if any, surprises were in store as Colman Byrne (Pres.), Malcolm Byrne (Education), and Dermot Quain (UDO), were all re-elected. Helen Ryan (former Welfare Officer) was elected Deputy President, with outgoing Deputy, Noeleen Hartigan, heading back to the groves of academe next year.

On the question of Institute of Technology (IT) status for non-IT colleges, Colin 'Joycer' Joyce threw in a political hot potato, mildly challenging Cork Institute of Technology's newly-born IT status. CITSU President Matty O' Callaghan caught and crushed the aforementioned spud. Everyone soon got over it.

Other issues created very heated debate, not least of which was W2, the drugs question, which arose in the evening. This motion read in part, that 'Congress believes: 1 That harm reduction education is the most effective method for third level students. 2 That the Government are not investing enough into drugs education for third level students.' The can of



Peadar Mac Pháidín, Oifigeach Gaeilge AMLÉ, agus Julian de Spáinn, a dhein sár-jab den aistriúcháin combhuaineach i rith na seachtaine. Gabhadh iad ag 'dossail' anseo.

unfortunate mis-count passing the motion had to be re-counted, Steering came in for a lot of flack, but luckily the outcome was the same.

The Education session in the afternoon of DAY 3 saw Congress suffer heavy delegate losses to the Ireland-Macedonia match. While many watched Jason McAteer kicking someone in the throat, the more committed were inside trying to force through DITSU proposals ED15 (upgrading of Waterford RTC to WIT), 16 (to exclude DIT from the framework of the Teastas) & 17 (to have Irish as an optional language on Third Level courses). They were all successful.

That evening saw Congress attempt to get through some more

Welfare issues, as the drugs education question had all but halted proceedings the evening before. This session heard two very good speeches, both from UCD delegates, Gerry McDonnell and Justin Sinnott, on the issue of prioritising disadvantaged access to the third level. McDonnell received an ovation (the only genuine one that I was aware of) and the motion was carried with vehemence.

The 39th Dinner Main Event that evening meant that oodles of people dressed up in suits and dresses and stuff, though I myself began that trend two days beforehand.

The whole week was given pretty good local and national press coverage, and for the most part,



Paddy Byrne (recently returned from ski-ing in Bulgaria), Pádraig Staunton, and a blissed-out Ronan 'Pat Kenny' Emmett, being led into battle by Colin Joyce and Sinéad Pidgeon, with...er...microphones.

Noei Clarke, current SU President in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, was elected Welfare Officer, with Nuala Toman of Queen's University, Belfast replacing Kellie O' Dowd in the Women's Rights office.

worms was open. Queues — long, angry queues — formed quickly on either side of Steering Committee's stage / tower of power. The main bone of contention was whether harm reduction or prevention was the solution to the drugs problem. Sinéad Pidgeon, DITSU Overall President Elect, who favoured prevention over harm reduction, urged delegates to vote against the motion, saying, 'It's about education, not harm reduction!'

The bad verbal craziness raged on, until C 'J' Joyce inquired of Steering as to how they monitored official delegates' voting, and some semblance of disorder was restored.

Dinner time came around, and Welfare matters were put on hold awhile.

Constitutional Amendments were discussed following an unnecessarily prolonged / delayed evening meal, as was the question of whether or not USI could financially afford to create a full-time Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual Rights Officer. This quickly became a very emotional issue, particularly for USI LGB Co-Conveners Megan Stewart and Duane Farrell. After an



Clockwise from top left: Colman Byrne accepts a congratulatory handshake on his re-election as USI President; Nollaig Ó Cléirigh of St. Pat's Drumcondra, elected as USI Welfare Officer; Dermot Quain manages to get a photograph of his own victory applause between taking shots of everyone else; Duane Farrell and Megan Stewart following the passing of the LGB Full-time Officer motion.

### Quotes of the week

"I'll take yez all on," Loughlin Deegan (Steering Committee) to Congress, when threatened with a procedural motion of no confidence in the Chair (SF) to remove him as Chairman. The motion wasn't even taken.

"I have a friend, it's actually true," DCU delegate, Dermot Lohan, beginning his 'story' on the 'Indian Reservation' that is the Ráth Cairn Gaeltacht.

"USI is like the GAA -- a beautiful monument in Crake Park and thirty pitches around the country." DITSU President, Colin Joyce, on the table, in the hotel bar.

# USI Congress

# 'Pirates' lose out narrowly to crisp, golden 'Bashers', matey

Gleeson Cup Final  
Aungier St 46  
Mountjoy Sq 44  
Wednesday 19 March 1997  
Terenure College RFC

Ed McGowan and his Aungier St 'Bashers' were pushed all the way to lift the Gleeson Cup in Terenure College with a pulsating 46-44 win over the Mountjoy Sq 'Pirates'.

The competition began way back in January where each of the DIT teams played each other once on a league basis. The top two teams went straight to the final, and what a cracker it was.

It was the kicking accuracy of John Quinn that steered Aungier St to success; he kicked six from nine. It was as close as that, where twelve tries were shared equally between the two teams. Paul Hatton accumulated six tries to his credit, but unfortunately it wasn't enough to win it.

It was a very relieved Aungier St team that heard the final whistle. The foundation of this historic cup victory was laid prior to the season, with almost all of last year's winning side, added to a crop of new talent who were to make their own mark throughout the competition. In contrast, very little was known about the dark horses of the



Mountjoy Sq's Pirates in their Jolly Roger black strip — made walk the plank by Aungier St

tournament, namely a valiant Mountjoy Sq side. They showed their immense power in seeing off the challenges of the Bolton St 'Bears' and the Kevin St 'Kings'. A walkover was taken from the lowly Cathal Brugha St team, while slipping up to Aungier St 'Bashers' in another titanic struggle, left them in a comfortable position for a place in the final. Hence, a rematch was set for an unbelievable showdown, which went straight to the wire.

It was never less than an absorbing match with the threat of a real upset adding to the sense of anticipation. There was a lot in the way of attacking play behind the scrum, with both sides willing to run the ball.

The 'Pirates' had the wind in the first half, but it was the 'Bashers' who opened up the scoring through the ever present Ben McCauley at number eight, after 8 minutes. John Quinn missed the conversion which proved to be vital towards the end. Still, 30 barren minutes passed

before the 'Pirates' registered a score, a penalty, through Gavin McAllister, after he spurned three chances earlier. Aungier St ran in another try, this time through the speedy running of right-wing Thomas Trainor just on the stroke of half time. John Quinn stepped up and duly converted to leave the score at an unflattering lead of 12-3 to the defending champions.

Five minutes into the second-half, the 'Pirates' came back through the powerful Paul Hatton at number 8; he was to feature very prominently in the remainder of the game. Gavin McAllister stepped up and comfortably knocked over the conversion to leave the score at 12-10 to the 'Bashers'.

Visibly disturbed by this spirited comeback, the 'Bashers' — through Alan Temple and the mercurial James Waddock in the centre, rallied a quick succession of rucks, after which the ball found its way into the hands of Thomas Trainor, and there was no stopping him, even at 30 yards out. The execution was clinical. Quinn again did the honours, and an almost comfortable lead of nine points was established.

The introduction of John Campbell to the 'Pirates' pack at half-time instilled a memorable fight which nearly toppled the champs. Seventeen minutes into the second-half, after a few powerful surges and effective mauling by the 'Pirates' led to a well deserved scrum 5 metres from the 'Bashers' line. Under severe pressure from a more controlled and heavier pack, the 'Pirates' struck again through the towering Paul Hatton. Gavin McAllister popped over the conversion and there was now a game on

our hands.

With the score tensely poised at 19-17 to Aungier St, it was anybody's game. Mountjoy Sq came back the stronger through their pack again. Great work by their backrow forwards, namely Scottie Hanna and Paul O' Connor, ensured a good supply of possession to the willing backs. Unfortunately, the 'Bashers' backs were equal to the task coupled with some superb defensive work from Richie Ball, Brian Murphy and Alan Temple.

A break by McAllister brought play into the 'Bashers' 22, where they forced another scrum. From this Hatton was on hand to collect his third try, which was unconverted. The 'Pirates' were beginning to take a stranglehold on the game. Quinn reduced arrears to level the scores at 22-22, through a penalty in the 67th minute.

After recovering possession from the 'Bashers' 5 minutes later, the 'Pirates' passed the ball through their backs,

but James Waddock seized his chance, intercepting just in his own half and well out of sight before the 'Pirates' knew what was happening. Quinn slotted over the easy conversion to establish a seven point lead.

Only four minutes later, they were back down exerting substantial pressure on the 'Pirates' line, the ball was moved swiftly through the hands, and Waddock cantered over unmolested. This time Brian Murphy stepped up and converted the conversion with ease.

Trailing by 14 points and with only 3 minutes remaining of normal time, an unbelievable twist was woven into



Aungier St, subtly known as 'the Bashers', in victorious spirit after vanquishing sea-faring COMAD

the tale. Desperate and determined not to let the cup slip away, the 'Pirates' conjured up two memorable tries through Paul Hatton and his hungry pack of forwards. McAllister converted both difficult scores, after 3 minutes of injury time had elapsed.

Who would have predicted it, the match ended 36-36 apiece. After consultation with the rule book, it was agreed between the Outgoing President of the Irish Colleges Rugby Union and the Secretary of the DIT Rugby Club, namely Philip Flood and Martin Searson respectively, to play 20 minutes of extra time. If at the end of extra time the scores were level, a replay was agreed as the alternative.

The first half of ten minutes was very tense, with both teams reluctant to make any errors which would jeopardise their penalty each to leave the score at 39-39. Midway through the second half of extra time Waddock broke the deadlock to score what was thought to be at the time, the winning score. Quinn converted the pressure-kick, therefore ensuring a seven point lead. The 'Pirates', not to be outdone, decided to claim a share of the spoils for themselves. Hatton, capped off a marvellous individual performance to claim his sixth try. Unfortunately, the kick was very far out and the pressure was just too great, and McAllister narrowly missed the conversion. The final whistle came a minute later and Aungier St had retained the Gleeson Cup, but only just.

Aungier St: B. Murphy (con.), T. Trainor (2 tries), J. Waddock (3 tries), J. Quinn (2 pen, 4 con), A. Temple, R. Ball, R. O'Reilly, B. McCauley (try), G. Guilfoyle, M. O'Brien, C. Wilson, E. McGowan, C. O'Grady, P. Weber, Brophy. Subs: K. Keogh for B. McCauley, E. Tuohy E. McGowan.

Mountjoy Sq: R. Corcoran, D. O'Riordan, M. Buggle, L. Murphy, D. Hickey, D. Henry, G. McAllister (2 pen, 4 con), P. Hatton (6 tries), S. Hanna, P. O'Connor, C. Marrianan, M. Hamill, D. Collins, B. Grehan, G. McLoughlin. Subs: J. Campbell for D. Collins.

Martin Searson

## DIT FRESHERS FALL BEFORE WATERFORD

DIT 1 - 6  
WRTC 1 - 19

The DIT Freshers Hurling team fell beneath the wheels of the WRTC juggernaut at the semi-final stage of the All Ireland Freshers League competition. The unforgiveable and avoidable confusion about the time of the throw in of the game, which was held at the Terenure pitch, did little to help the preparations of the DIT players for this crunch match. Despite the size of the ultimate deficit on the DIT score sheet the WRTC coach had words of encouragement for the home team which were echoed by Supremo Damian Mac Donald who reminded the team that they had reached the semi-final stage of an All

Ireland competition. This would not have been expected of any DIT team at the beginning of the season in October. While players may feel down after the game there is great potential in the DIT panel who will make a name for themselves in 3rd level colleges hurling competitions in the future.

The DIT team was  
Lar Lacy, Sean Kelly, David Clohessey, Frank O'Meara (0-1), Colm McGee, Paul Finerty (Captain) (0-1), Mark Kavanagh, Trevor MacGrath (0-1), Michael Byrne, Rory Hickey (0-1), Mark Murphy (1-1), Joe Cullen (0-1), Gerry Ennis, Martin Corcoran, Darren McCormack.

## INTERMEDIATE HURLERS FOILED BY UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

UL 2 - 6  
DIT 1 - 7

The DIT Intermediate Hurling team, captained by Ger MacIntyre, were

*DIT Freshers Gaelic Football  
Event: All Ireland Final  
Time: Wed 30 April  
Venue: TBA  
Supporters welcome  
Bus will be organised*

deprived of a place in the final of the Intermediate League

Championship by the crossbar which deflected a shot from Padraig Howard over the bar to put the game beyond the grasp of the visitors. Even though they had the strong wind at their back UL were unable to capitalise on their home advantage in the first half and despite dry sunny conditions the heavy sod prevented either side from pulling away from their opponents in this closely fought contest. DIT goalkeeper Lar Lacey brought off the save of the match and excellent performances were put in by Dave Clohessey at full back and Damien Hallisey at half forward. The DIT team were: Lar Lacey, Anthony Brohan, Dave Clohessey, Owen Breslin, Darragh Spair, Mike Lambert, Lorcán Mac Mahúna, Dave Doran (0-1), Damien Hallisey, Ger Macintyre (Captain), Peter Bowles, Casey, Padraig Coote (1-2), Padraig Howard (0-2), Rory Hickey (0-2).

# FROM OUT OF NOWHERE



Frank Semple, Shane Dormer, and Pádraig Gaffney of DIT Handball are, naturally, all smiles.

The DIT Handball Club has now become a full-blooded club and has firmly established itself on the handball map, with titles in the Dublin Champions League, DCU Blitz and the Intervarsities as Team A winners.

Many parts of the DIT have contributed to the success. On the administration side Matt Hussey acted as President for the Club while Diarmuid Hegarty helped a great deal too. From the GAA Development area, Josephine Rogers was a great help and so too were the rest of the GAA people at the colleges. The Students' Union were helpful as were the chaplains at Kevin St. All concerned gave support and recognised the achievements made by the handballers.

The year began in the canteen at Cathal Brugha St. on the premier night for Michael Collins. A small group of handballers met to draw up a plan for the year. There were no elections of officers needed as everyone angled where they could best serve the job, and all was agreed. One point arising gave way to considering if the AGM should take place before the year ended, thereby eliminating the chaos that occurs each September as the clubs try to get their act together.

The first task was to register the Club with the County Board in Dublin. Then we had to decide who should play at the different levels. That was impossible for most as we were unfamiliar with the Champions and players. However, we made our decisions, and eventually picking two titles; the Junior singles Pádraig Gaffney (Ballaghaderreen), Novice doubles; Frank Semple (Bray) and Shane Dormer (Monavie). Altogether we played sixteen players from Kevin St., Bolton St., Mountjoy Sq., Aungier St., and Cathal Brugha St.

The blitz organised by UCD in November went a little haywire as players could not make the fixtures and subsequently the Club came home empty handed, although some new players represented the Club and it was encouraging to see the Club expand.

Next up was the Dublin League which could provide a sounding board as preparations for the Intervarsities in Tralee. After the poor show at the blitz, more groundwork was needed so the courts were booked at UCD and Croke Park and more efforts were made to increase the player base. Both plans worked well.

We arrived in Tralee with ten players and registered in four events. We faced the host college in the first match of the Team A Male Singles. Paul Brady (Mountjoy Sq) drew the favourite and eventual winner, Tony Healy (UCC). Ladies Singles' Carol Elsted (Kevin St) drew favourite and finalist Brig McCorry (Queens) while the B Team drew UCG.

First round defeats for the male and female singles were quick and soon after the B Team suffered at the hands of Galway. The A Team then started their campaign as the team with no form, beating the home side 124-98 on accumulative scores on the Saturday morning. Paul Brady won the first singles 21-11 and 21-13 over JJ Quirke. Frank Semple and Shane Dormer won 21-14, 21-16, and 21-17 over Wayne Doyle and John Smith leaving an overall score of 105-71. Pádraig Gaffney then had only 9 aces to

make in the second singles to win the match and comfortably did so 21-10, 21-13 over Ger Sherlock. With this victory came the support of the home crowd.

The semi-finals saw Queens of Belfast underestimate DIT Team selection and strength. Though Shane Dormer won out in his singles game 21-16, 21-17 against Paul Graham, Paul Brady and Frank Semple were unable to contain Seán Devine (All Ireland U21 Champion) and partner Connor Conlon, leaving an overall score of 87-94. Up steps DIT anchor man, Pádraig Gaffney needing two wins and an overall victory margin of 8. This he did in style with a 21-10, 21-9 win over Niall Goram, and the DIT reached the final for the first time.

The final saw UCC with the experienced Tony Healy to parade, whereas the Dublin college had the better balanced side and the element of surprise still lingered. Shane Dormer set off like a train against John O' Connor, winning 21-12. While coasting in the second he cut his leg, and struggled to concentrate, but won out 21-19. Then came the doubles as Frank Semple and Paul Brady took on Tony Healy and Trevor Lynch. DIT lost the first game, levelling the score at 51-51. Healy and Lynch went on to win the next two games, putting Cork in a very strong position.

Cork were quietly confident that their man, Michael Rafferty, would get the required 19 aces from the remaining two games to take the title again. The DIT in the form of Pádraig Gaffney, had other ideas. Pádraig won the first game 21-11. Rafferty needed 8 aces in the last game, and though Cork confidence was evident in the gallery it was otherwise in the alley as Gaffney had his opponent guessing wrong and missing his chances. Gaffney picked off his shots until Rafferty split his concentration. Gaffney revelled in the opportunity and won the game 21-7, ending the match with the overall score of 117-116 to wrap-up a stunning contest which will live long in the memories of the packed gallery and players.

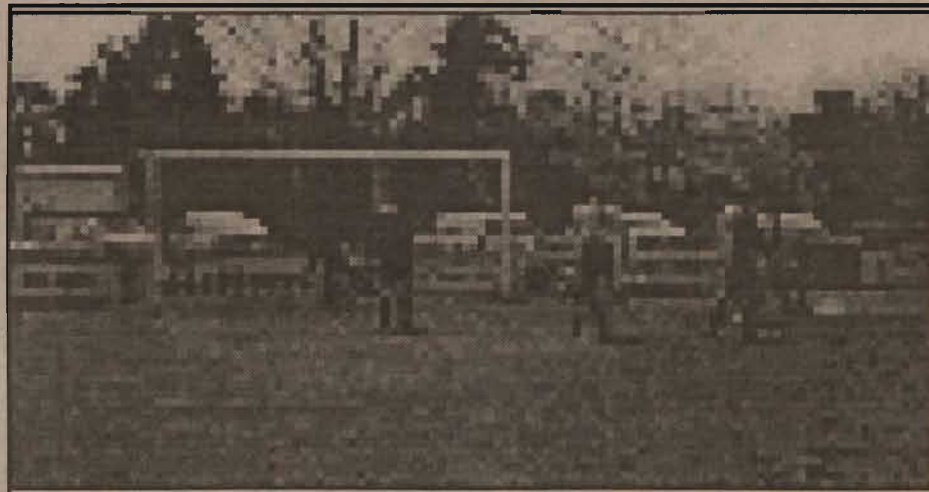
DIT Handball later went on to a further series of games in the Dublin League, winning a close semi-final against St Pat's, Drumcondra, and beating the Garda Club in the Junior League at Croke Park. Another weekend blitz was organised by DCU, and this time DIT won a semi-final against Trinity 103-56, going on to win the final, beating UCD 110-61. Our ladies' representative lost out in a close contest with UCD's Claire Doyle.



## Aidan Dempsey Victorious

The Irish National Fencing Championships, held recently in Glenageary, Co. Wicklow, proved very successful for Kevin St. student, Aidan Dempsey, who finished second overall. Following a number of heats to sift through the 32 entrants and weed out the better fencers for the direct elimination rounds, Dempsey showed himself capable of beating the best in the country in his particular area.

## Mountjoy Sq take Irish Technical Colleges Football Shield trophy



Mountjoy Sq's Dara Brady sends the 'keeper the wrong way as he sticks the penalty in the corner.

DIT Mountjoy Sq 3  
CIT 2

The glorious sunshine which beamed down on the Home Farm pitch did nothing to deter the COMADIANS from focusing on the ITCF Shield final.

A fighting fit, fully-uniformed Mountjoy Sq side turned out for this most important game of the close of the season, under pressure in their home town to put on a good show.

Cork Institute of Technology had come to town to prove that there was more to soccer in Cork than Dinny Irwin and Roy Keane.

Both teams vindicated themselves, more or less, in an exciting five-goal thriller which went right to the full-time whistle and looked as though extra time might have been a distinct possibility.

Though it began quite slowly, the pace soon picked up, and several good runs were made early on by the DIT side into the Corkonians' penalty area but the finishing was slack. The first goal came in the 30th minute following a great pass from Dermot Slattery at number 8 to the number 2, Aidan King, playing up front, who slotted it in.

Three minutes later, it was Cork's turn to celebrate, as Connor 'Biliç' Hannon cleared off his own number 5, Seán Bryce, into the goal, and it was 1-1. The score remained unchanged until after the break.

Following the re-start, the home side, egged-on by legions of blondes, brunettes, and the odd SU President, began to put better moves together.

The Comadians took to the front again after winning a penalty which found the back of their opponents' onion sack, but, like Liverpool reliving that Newcastle nightmare, again threw away their lead for no apparent reason, and the score stood at 2 apiece.

Robbie Whelan missed an easy enough chance after 25 minutes of the second half, though he did bounce one off the CIT crossbar shortly afterwards.

Mountjoy Sq's keeper pulled off rather a marvellous save to keep his team in the game, something which

bade them well, as they were to get their result eventually.

A free won by 'Biliç' Hannon thirty yards from the CIT goal provided an opportunity to settle the matter four minutes from the end.

Up stepped Dara 'Darcy' Brady to bend the pumped-up pig's bladder into the top corner with the ease of a Brazilian street player. Goal of the match without a doubt; perfectly executed and couldn't have come at a better time. Cork were deflated and the job was done.

The battle for the prized shield was won, but the war was still on. 'What war?' you ask. The War of Drink. It was time to get hammered, and I'm not talking West Ham United.

Everyone filed back to the Big Tree and the DITree bar for a well-fed meal and lots of booze. The presentation of medals and shield were made by Bob 'Eustace, Irish Technical Colleges Football representative, and beer was laid on by Heineken.

Manchester United were being pissed upon by a stylish Borussia Dortmund and the drink tasted really good because of it.

To cap the night, Pub COMAD was celebrating its second-last evening of the year -- yes, there is one left still -- and the participants began arriving for the 9pm start as early as 7:30.



Hangin' around, lookin' for a ride, at PUB COMAD after the game

# DAWN OF NEW ERA IN IRISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Denis Byrne

Most Irish people get their impressions of American Football from late nights spent watching the game on Channel Four. Not many realise that they could actually leave the comfort of their armchairs and watch a game "in the flesh" in Ireland.

American Football has a twelve year history in Ireland with the first Shamrock Bowl, the Irish equivalent of the Super Bowl, being played between the Dublin Celts and the Craigavon Cowboys from County Armagh. The game was at its peak here in the mid '80s with the Dublin Celts being well known throughout Europe where they played against top opposition and in doing so clinched large sponsorship deals with Irish companies.

The interest in the game here started to wane in the early '90s but this is being turned around at the moment partly because of the hype generated by the Notre Dame v Navy game last year. A professional marketing organisation has been given the task of promoting the game in Ireland. Jim Hutton of Image Management and Promotions explained, "Up to now players hadn't been receiving a fee or gaining the best possible publicity from personal appearances they were making. Most of the time they were just given a few cans of beer and thanked for turning up. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are treated on a professional level from now on."

The Irish American Football League starts in April every year and concludes with the Shamrock Bowl in the autumn. This year there will be six teams competing in the league, three from Northern Ireland and three from the Republic, namely the Belfast Spartans, Carrickfergus Knights, Portadown Panthers, Dublin Tornados, Dublin Bulls and Dublin Lightning. Jim Hutton outlines his thinking on the league structure this year, "We have got for the first time six teams competing in the league when in years gone by the league survived with just four teams taking part. This should make it tenable to operate this year with more games and the season being longer than ever before. We have to spread the season over a longer term because its a very strenuous game, its like rugby multiplied by three, the effort that must be put in, so you need to give the space of a week at least between each league game." Hutton goes on to outline the potential of American football here as a spectator sport for all the family.

"American football is a very vigorous game but all the razzamatazz surrounding it makes it a family oriented sport. For this reason we are attempting to promote the game as an attraction at various festivals around the country. The match would be an actual league fixture and would market the sport to a much wider audience."

Leaving the business aspect and returning to the playing side the Dublin Tornados

are one of the most successful teams in the history of the sport here. They were founded in 1986 and have been a major force since 1993. Their Running Back, Alan Byrne recalls how he first became interested in the game, "I was about 15 and I watched the game on television but I decided that I would find out more about the rules and the way the game is actually played as it is sometimes difficult to follow on television. I went along to the first Shamrock Bowl in 1986 and the game took on a whole new dimension for me. It was made easier by the fact that the guy doing the public address announcements took it for granted the spectators did not know anything about the rules of the game. He explained every play in detail which made it much clearer for me and I have been hooked ever since."

The intense physical aspect of the game is something which appeals to Alan, "Many people believe that the protective gear prevents the players from being hurt. In fact, the opposite is true. The gear, particularly the helmet, is used as a weapon against your opponent. A good player can really hurt someone if he tackles correctly, using the helmet as a battering ram. He can also dislodge the ball from an opponents grasp in this way."

In addition to the American football league there is also the Irish international team which was formed in 1995. They played their first game on St. Patricks weekend 1995 and made history in November of the same year by becoming the first Irish American football team to beat an English side, the Northwestern GB Allstars. Doug Platten, an American, is Chief Executive Officer of the Irish International team. How did he become involved in the sport here?

"I came on the scene about five years ago when two fellas asked me if, as an American, I knew anything about American football. I had played the game in the U.S so I decided to involve myself in the administrative side here and I have been active ever since."

How highly is the international team rated at the moment. Doug Platten explains, "Three years ago we were unknown, now everyone wants to play us. There is the possibility of trips to play teams in Germany, France and the U.S in the coming year or two so the future looks good."

Finally I asked Doug what makes American football special to him as an American, "In America we eat, drink and sleep American football. To us its a very hard-hitting, down in the trenches, game. Its one on one with no quarter asked or given."

With people as passionate about the game as Doug is, its sure to survive and prosper in this country.

## THE DIT SWIM TEAM - 1997

### TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS.

1997 is definitely a case of "so far so BRILLIANT!!" We began the year with an Inter - DIT Championship which brought together 80 DIT swimmers to compete for the first time. The standard of competition was excellent which for us signalled that 1997 could well be a vintage year for DIT SWIM TEAM. And not to disappoint, it definitely has been, and we aren't finished yet.

The year continued with the Freshers Intervarsities Championships in Cork. A 30 strong team boarded the train and we arrived in Cork ready to take on the Best. Competition was fierce, however the DIT team rose to the occasion, our DIT Ladies swim team led the way finishing second marginally to UCD. In the Mens Swimming Championship the DIT team also finished second, this time pipped at the post by Trinity. On to the next day of competition and the Waterpolo teams took to the water. Unfortunately the DIT womens drew UCD in the first round and lost, UCD went on to take the ladies title. However with fire in their bellies our mens team fought on to win the Mens waterpolo championship. This left us second only to UCD in the overall points table who won by a comfortable enough margin.

So it was back to the training pool to put in more long hard hours. Added to the swimmers gruelling individual training schedules, we also train twice a week in Sean Mc Dermott St. After the Christmas break we got back to training one week before DIT reopened as there was only a matter of weeks to the Intervarsity Championships and there was no time to let the cold turkey settle. This year's Intervarsities was to be yet another milestone in the DIT SWIM TEAM'S illustrious history. We hosted the Championship for the first time ever, and we also put in a record breaking performance in the pool. In the swimming championships our women's team put in an outstanding performance to finish second despite having to compete without two of their strongest swimmers out through injury. In the Men's Swimming Championship our men swam their lungs out to finish in front of UCD and Trinity. However, the elusive first place escaped them as DCU took the honours thanks to wonderful performances from their Irish Team swimmers. So we gathered up forces and we headed into the

Waterpolo Championships. It was a bitter-sweet affair. Our ladies team progressed into the Quarter - finals where once again we were unlucky enough to be drawn against UCD. However, not to be intimidated they fought tooth and nail and at the end of four quarters it was three goals apiece. They continued to fight through two periods of extra time only to finish four goals a piece. It was now down to sudden death and through the cruelest stroke of faith UCD popped one in the back of our net. Some would think it bitchy for me to blame it on the referee, but in all fairness we could definitely recommend a good optician. Still seething with anger the ladies regrouped to win the women's plate.

What kind of effect would this have on our men's team, considering they were VERY attached to our ladies team? Obviously the DIT men did not appreciate what had happened to their women and they literally kicked ass, all the way to the final. And did they suffer a nerve attack in the final? Not likely. They won the mens waterpolo championship emphatically treating the spectators to an exhibition of waterpolo as it should be. The overall results were the closest ever in Intervarsity History with DIT finishing only 10 points behind the UCD team. Listed below are those who competed on the DIT Swim and Polo teams 1996 - 1997. We would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate each member of the team.

#### Aungier St:

Francis Corcoran\*  
Julie Hogan  
Catherine Smithers\*  
(Irish International team captain)

#### Cathal Bruagh St.

Maura Gafney  
Leanne Masters  
Dawn Mc Glynn\*  
Rachel Murphy  
Padraic O' Cathain

#### Bolton St.

Stuart Clarke  
Brian Conway  
Brian Farrell\*  
David Fehery  
Steve Lyon\*  
(Irish International team captain)  
Kieren McKeown  
Micheal Mc Adam\*  
Ciaran Mc Adam  
Padraic O' Cathain

Eric Ryan  
Arpad Szabo  
Robbie Vaughan

#### Kevin St.

Brendan Giles\*  
John Kealy\*  
Maria O' Donnell  
Mountjoy Sq.

Rita Campbell  
Derek Cooke  
Claire Corbett  
David Cremin  
Alan Fogarty\*  
Colin Morrissey\*  
Celine Pager  
Damian Pedreschi  
Colm Walsh\*

\* All the swimmers above denoted with an asterisk have been selected for the Irish universities team, which will compete in Glasgow in April. This is yet another huge success for the DIT SWIM & WATERPOLO team. We have the largest contingent on the Irish team & both the women's and men's captains are DIT swimmers.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who helped us this year, Diarmuid Hegarty and everybody on the DIT Central Sports Committee, the local Students' Unions especially Vivienne in DIT Mountjoy Sq. and Maura in DIT Bolton St. We would also like to thank Ms. Therese Grogan and Mr. Paul O' Sullivan for all the support they offered us, and Mr. Jimmy Banks. This year, above all, was of vital importance to the DIT Swim and Waterpolo Team and it would not have been as successful without the support of our sponsors, ARENA "active competition" SWIMWEAR & and HEINEKEN.

### THE FUTURE

This year has proved that the DIT SWIM & WATERPOLO TEAM can compete and enjoy success at the highest levels. This is a fact that all the sports clubs in DIT should act upon. The more DIT Sports Clubs competing at the highest levels, the better it is for DIT sports. While it is true that DIT Sports Clubs are grossly underfunded and as such have no facilities of their own, I would encourage clubs not to use these factors as excuses but to turn them around and therefore

work even harder to achieve the successes which we as a sporting body deserve. As a third level institution we have the largest student body to select our various teams from, and therein lies our huge advantage. However, this is a daunting challenge, as there are many factors which can stand in the way, inter-DIT communication being top on the obstacle list.

It is now time that the various DIT Sports clubs took the initiative to organise themselves properly at DIT level. We have to get our own shop in order before we can go forward and take on our established and often single campused sporting rivals. The key to success is an active inter faculty committee, who are not reliant on outside help, such as Sports Officers etc, but who work with the Sports Officers and other people to better their own club and DIT Sport as a whole. In order to work within the DIT Central Sports each club will have to be organised, knowing exactly what they want to do and how they are going to do it.

Already there have been terrific improvements by individual clubs, and this should not go unnoticed. The DIT must recognise the many sporting achievements which continue to enhance the image of the DIT whilst not receiving their just rewards. We, as a sporting body, have no facilities to speak of, and we find ourselves in an appalling situation. Constant pressure must be put on the DIT at all levels to ensure this situation is improved and this improvement should begin immediately. The DIT SWIM & WATERPOLO TEAM and hopefully many other sporting clubs will continue to compete at the top levels and whilst doing so we will ensure that this important issue stays as near to the top of the DIT agenda as possible.

It is only with a concerted and organised effort that the DIT Sports Clubs will improve this situation. The time is now right for us as a sporting body to see some reward for our efforts, a reward which we feel we more than deserve.

A University cannot be a University without the proper Facilities.

Damian Pedreschi  
DIT SWIM & WATERPOLO TEAM  
CAPTAIN

# Karters burn rubber in Cork

*First Karting Intersvarsities leave DIT with five finishers in top eleven*

The first ever Karting Intersvarsities took place on Saturday 5 April. Eight colleges entered a total of twelve teams to take part in the four hour endurance race which took place at the fabulous 'Kartworld' outdoor track in Watergrasshill, Co. Cork.

Bolton St A Team held the lead for a period during the race but was eventually pipped at the post to finish third behind Cork Institute of Technology with RTC Sligo the winners of the event. Bolton St's B, C and D teams finished ninth, seventh, and eleventh respectively with Mountjoy Sq's team finishing in sixth place. The event was organised by the DIT Karting Club and was a credit to the organisation and perseverance of the Intersvarsity Committee members, all of whom study in Bolton St. I would also like to thank Bolton St's sponsors for the event, Murray Motorsport — suppliers of Sparco Racewear.

The 1997 Karting Intersvarsities was a great success and a time was had by all. It is without doubt that future Karting Intersvarsities will be just as good, if not better.

**Michael Rooney,**  
Chairman,  
Intersvarsity Committee.

# THE UNTOLD STORIES

*You've heard the official versions, but they were just government cover-ups. Some of the real stories are contained below.*



*Sinéad Pidgeon has a third hand — inside her head — which comes out her ear at night, in this case to hold some beer.*



*The cover was USI Congress, but to those in the know it was really a secret gig for Bee-Gees frontmen Ian Lucey and Ken Curtin.*



*The ITCF game was a covert operation to gather intelligence on dictator CJ 'Haughey' Joyce, and his two henchmen Colin 'the Jackal' Costello & Ross 'Arfur' O'Daly, seen here in shades.*

## The hills are alive with 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary'

Rosemary Mc Gaughey

If you think of Ireland and sport you'll probably conjure up images of Hill 16, the Sam Maguire Cup, 'the boys in green' and more recently Sonia O'Sullivan and Michelle Smith. You don't instinctively picture four men in a bobsleigh somewhere on a mountain in Austria, with the sound of cowbells ringing in their ears.

Well, maybe in the not too distant future, you will. The sport of bobsleighbing may not be the sport of kings but it's extremely popular across Europe, Canada and the US ever since it's appearance at the first ever Winter Olympics in 1924.

Ireland's history in the sport however, is a little more recent. In 1988 founding members, former rower, Pat Mc Donagh and Irish javelin champion, Terry Mc Hugh established the Irish Bobsleighbing Association. Within two years the Irish team qualified for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary but without the approval of the Olympic Council of Ireland, they were unable to participate. Again in 1992 the team qualified for the Albertville Games this time supported in some manner by the OIC. In Albertville, Ireland finished 32nd and 38th in a tough 46 team two-man event. The fastest of the two bobs finishing just over seven seconds behind gold medalists, Switzerland.

Not surprisingly an Irish bobsleigh team attracted some interest at the Games, probably for the novelty value. A BBC camera crew filmed one of their practice sessions during which the bob turned upside down on the second bend leaving the crew fourteen more heads upside down. As the bob capsized the push handle came out and began scrapping off the top of the track causing streams of fire jumped from the bob. Once the two athletes inside knew they weren't hurt they started singing 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary', upside down with flames leaping out of the back of the bob, live on BBC.

Six years on, reputations still intact, undeterred and

under-financed an Irish squad is once again looking towards the Olympic flame in the hope of qualifying for the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

The current crew includes: Terry Mc Hugh, sprinters; Jeff Pamplin and Pete Donaghue and throwers; Simon Linscheid and Ed Healy. With Pat Mc Donagh now as team manager.

I caught up with recent bobsleighbing recruit, Jeff Pamplin, who began bobsleighbing just over three months ago. When he was first approached to join the team he was initially very hesitant, "I can't get on a ride in Funderland, I'm scared, I can't do anything like that". Jeff now drives in the two-man and is hoping to drive in the four-man. The tracks, "is just phenomenal the size of it, you've got 30 foot walls of ice, you've no concept of it until you actually get over there and look at it, it really is huge".

Practice is naturally very difficult, with only twelve to fourteen tracks in the world. It's an elitist sport. The team however, have practised at the Bobschool in Inglis, Austria and have a bob in Dolphin's Barn Ice-rink and plan to attach wheels to it in order to practice the start, which is the most crucial part of the race.

I asked Jeff why he thought the team received very little media coverage. "There's a Virgin Islands bobsleigh team as well, which no one knows about a Virgin Islands team, Puerto Rico, there's a lot of smaller nations. The reason we don't get publicity? It's just a minority sport". He added, "you'll always only get five lines in a paper or something and they'll scoff at the fact you finish 23, 24 out of 35, 36 competitors but I mean you could look at the English, the English have the same facilities as us, no facilities and they're ranked in the top ten in the world in bobsleighbing, so it's something we have the potential to be very good at."

Jeff maintains that over the next four or five years

Ireland have the potential to reach the top ten, if they're able to compete continuously and if they get the much needed financial support. Equipment is the key to success. The German team have the best bob in the world, the 'Dresden Bob' which cost in the region of \$50 000 and the Americans have a bob made by NASA which cost \$1million to develop.

Currently Ireland rent bobs from different associations and have found that Irish goodwill around Europe is exceptional. The Swiss at the Europa Cup in Austria, earlier this year recorded all they're own people coming down the track and recorded the Irish as well. The Irish team in the end were driving the track so well, the Swiss were learning from them.

Eleven years on people are still amused at the thought of an Irish bobsleighbing team. "You get the obvious jokes, everyone seems to have watched 'Cool Runnings', it must have been a big success in the cinema or something because you get everyone going, where's you're dreadlocks, all this kind of thing".

The Jamaican bobsleighbing team, the basis for Disney's 'Cool Runnings', were the darlings of the 1988 Winter Olympics. The four-man team stunned the Games by posting the seventh fastest starting time in the third of four runs, unfortunately the sled crashed putting them out of the competition.

However exciting and dangerous bobsleighbing is, Jeff's feet remain firmly on the ground, so to speak, as sprinting continues to be his number one priority. "I won't do bobsleighbing to harm my sprinting. I'll always be a sprinter and a bobsleighbing on the side kind of thing but I mean to get to the Olympics and to represent your country is something every athlete wants to do, in any kind of sport, tiddly winks."

Look out for the 'boys in green' on the track in Japan next year.



## *Daragh Lane has been looking at the Internet from Ireland's point of view, and wondering what lies in store for broadcasters and creative entertainers when it comes to the crunch.*

The Internet is the first major manifestation of a new era in societal development, which was first heralded in this country in August 1967 by the then Minister for Transport, Power, Posts and Telegraphs; Erskine Childers. In the Digital Age, technological advance is rapid and relentless thus making traditional organisational structures (of Business, Government, Relationships, etc.), inadequate.

In this new Era traditional boundaries become blurred: the telephone, the television set and the home computer are already interacting and will soon become indistinguishable from one another. An example of this can be found in Florida where Time Warner are producing a 'Full Service Network' (FSN) to 4,000 volunteer homes. The FSN is essentially Video-on-Demand along with some shopping possibilities. However, according to George Gilder on 'Life After Television' such innovations as High Definition Television, on-line Games, etc. cannot hide the fundamental flaws of television. He sees computers and the Internet as the replacement of television where a two-way, interactive medium will develop, with viewers contributing greatly to programme production.

Ireland can benefit greatly from the opportunities offered by the Digital Age. The Internet represents an ideal technology for selling to a huge global market. According to Gerry McGovern, in his report for Forbairt, Ireland must become an exporter of 'Original Content' rather than simply a skilled workforce that is used by multinationals to export 'their' original content. McGovern also feels that the over-conservative and over-complacent attitudes to New Technologies in Ireland may lead to the country being left behind as the rest of the world embraces technology. Ireland is rich in the raw materials of this new era (i.e. Imagination, original content, excellent film / video production, etc.) and it is because of this that Ireland can be a leader if the necessary vision is forthcoming from the government.

To begin with, the government must reinforce the view that Ireland has an excellent education system with a move away from a process which produces good workers who fit into, and instead start encouraging good entrepreneurs who go out to create a system. We must create products; and create content. In most advanced countries the debate on the implications of the Digital Age is well underway, and many countries are already moving from debate to action. Ireland must move quickly to develop a clear vision as to how it can best exploit the Digital Age opportunities and it must initiate strategies to achieve further prosperity in the future.

Over the last 15-20 years, the burgeoning use of personal computers has popularised a number of new information services, including Electronic Mail (E-Mail). E-Mail is a form of information interchange in which messages are sent from one computer to another via modems and a telecommunications systems. E-Mail began as a means of information interchange for small, select groups; its use has spread to encompass millions of people all over the world, creating 'Virtual Communities': i.e. groups of individuals, often widely separated geographically, who share common interests. E-Mail has unique properties that distinguish it from other forms of communication: for example, it supports true interactive communication among multiple participants. 'Broadcasting', or as it will soon become 'Narrowcasting', is not confined solely to television stations anymore; information can become accessible to the whole global population.

E-Mail uses modern information and telecommunications technology to provide a much faster and more efficient means of conveying information than current postal systems. This increased speed and efficiency could have many commercial and economic benefits; it could contribute to increased Irish economic competitiveness (as Gerry McGovern points out in his report). E-Mail makes possible much more egalitarian, reflective dialogues among individuals and groups and therefore would contribute greatly to the development of 'Plurality' in Irish society.

Looking at the American situation for guidance it is clear that both public and private policies in Ireland should be geared towards the development of a National Network (similar to the National Information Infrastructure, NII in the US). This process seems to be

beginning in government circles with the implementation of a comprehensive plan (by Central Information Technology Services, CITS) to facilitate interworking between various government departments. To help ensure equality of access for all citizens a government Web page has been set up with provisions for public information kiosks in prominent buildings.

The goal of achieving Universal Access to E-Mail in Ireland has two main sub-goals: firstly, interconnectivity between different E-Mail systems, and secondly, widespread accessibility of all individuals to some E-Mail system. Widespread accessibility is hampered by many obstacles: increasing income and education gaps, gaps in the availability of computers and access to networks brings to light the fact that government policy changes are a necessary remedy. Again, looking at the American situation we can see that: creative ways to make terminals cheaper; to provide access in Libraries / Community Centres; and to provide E-Mail 'vouchers' or support other forms of subsidies would be a good start for government policy makers. As in the US, government policy in Ireland must also give priority to universal home access.

The technical barriers to providing universal access to E-Mail must also be taken into account and dealt with. For instance, the interchangability between E-Mail systems needs to be dealt with (as it has been on the Internet with software developments such as SMTP and MIME). Public access is vital; a possible solution could be the introduction of 'Pay Terminals' similar to the payphone system. Also it is evident that E-Mail 'Yellow-page' directories much like phone books, must be introduced. In Ireland there is a need for a simple E-Mail address system that gives every citizen a 'default' address. It is believed that this would jump start a universal access system because theoretically everyone would be reachable. This needs to be coupled with a programme of economic assistance, such as a subsidy service, to the marginal consumer: i.e. the Information Poor, there is no doubt that with time, the proper infrastructure, correct government policy making and community involvement E-Mail will become a universal method of communication in the future.

Another important issue for Ireland in this new Digital Age is Convergence. Convergence is a term used to describe the merging of the modes of production (producers) of media; the modes of transportation of media; the merging of different services (i.e. telecommunications with media organisations). Convergence is made possible by Digitisation (of content) and Compression (for transport). As a result almost every content can be transported from point A to point B in any physical way thinkable (telephone, cable, fibre, wireless, satellite). Every existing communication infrastructure will be able to integrate voice, data, and pictures in an interactive way. Basically, Convergence enables any type of existing service (telephone, television), or any new service (Video-on-Demand) to be communicated on any carrier (e.g. satellite, fibre, etc.).

The ultimate technological convergence dream is Fibre-to-the-Home, or FTTH, because of its so-called unlimited capacity. This refers to one ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) which offers all communication services. However, apart from selected trials, it hasn't happened yet. Many analysts believe that, given the level of investment in cable and telephone up until now, and the extreme high cost of ISDN, the up-grading of existing cable/telephone networks is a preferable option. With regard to the media, it is projected that production costs will drop dramatically due to digitisation (e.g. scenery could be generated by computers). Also, the possibilities of trans-border data flow are unlimited, thus making geographical borders essentially irrelevant. That is to say that, technically speaking, it would be possible to dial up a Video-on-Demand service in the US and view it in Europe.

The actors, or potentially interested parties, in convergence are: the carriers of data; software companies; media-content industries; consumer electronics industries; and computer manufacturers. It is true to say that the telecommunications industry (as carriers), and broadcast industries (as content providers) are at the core of the convergence business. Telecommunications is ideally suited

because the telephone is used only 5-7 minutes per day (in the UK), leaving the network largely unused.

Broadcasters will be important because no 'user habit' has to be established: television is already the largest human activity after sleeping and working. Convergence makes it possible for a one-way mass medium to become a distributed two-way medium (with the help of software companies, multi-media, etc.). Interactivity becomes the norm.

The consequences of convergence in Ireland, and more generally in Europe, are varied: to be competitive in an environment of convergence an actor must control as many of the four domains of the new communication process as possible (i.e. production, distribution, content, and software/hardware). This will stimulate the formation of Pan European groups / multinationals which will raise certain questions about regulation. For instance, the EU's policy on cross-subsidisation will need to be looked at. That is to say that if the electricity or water companies come in as carriers, they can outprice competitors using profits from their own industries. It is clear that regulations regarding content (e.g. pornographic material) are inadequate in this new environment: what laws of censorship apply in individual states? The old definitions of mass media are no longer relevant to these new forms of communication? The question also stands whether there is demand for these services and whether it is sufficient to support the necessary investment. It has been suggested that because innovators are such a small percentage of the population that this demand does not exist.

There is also no reason to believe that because someone cruises on the Internet that he/she will do the same in broadcasting. Will the consumer be willing to pay for Video-on-Demand? Does it add anything to the multitude of channels already available? Homogeneity across the Pan-European market is also a problem because it is difficult to ensure that a programme is appealing to all communities simultaneously. The digitisation of communication generates all kinds of problems in order to ensure the progression to convergence.

In this new environment RTÉ's dominance is more and more questionable, (this is true of all Public Service Broadcasters - PSB - in general). RTÉ's dominance in the marketplace is now under threat. The Green Paper on Broadcasting which was published in 1995 dealt with some recommendations including the splitting of the Radio and Television services into two bodies, as well as transferring transmission away from RTÉ's control. This latter point is an important question when viewed from the perspective of the 'onslaught' of Convergence. The dominant view at the present time is that broadcasters in Ireland are not adequately prepared for the Digital Age. Increasingly, PSB is looking desperately like an anachronism; it does not belong in this new Digital Age (at least not in its present form). However, in a recent BBC 'Horizon' special called 'TV is Dead, Long Live TV' on 2/11/96, William Randolph Hearst, the Head of the '@ Home Network' in America, claimed that New Technologies are no match for creativity in programme making. Hearst believes that people will always have the desire to be 'Entertained At' i.e. Interactivity is not desired all the time by everybody. For this reason he believes PSB will metamorphose and ultimately survive in the new Digital Age.

It is true to say that government and public services generally in Ireland are not utilising the chances and opportunities offered by the Digital Age. Compared with Denmark, for instance, which has introduced universal access to the Internet in all its schools. There is a serious gap in Ireland between rhetoric and what is actually being done. In this new age it is possible to be left behind in a matter of months rather than years. We missed the Industrial Revolution because of our lack of raw materials; we must not miss the Information Revolution due to a lack of foresight. However, Des Bell's notion of building our nation before our infrastructure is an interesting one. Ireland, unlike the rest of the world, Bell claims, is still working with the old cultural and ideological projects and it must modernise them before hitching its ride on the Information Superhighway.

Daragh Lane is a 4th yr. Comm. student in Aungier St.

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The Dit Students' Union makes its appearance on "the World Wide Web" today and is willing and able to serve you...

The page is still in its infancy but will soon be up and

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The site's creators are waiting for you to put forward contributions for the site.

The address of the site is :

<http://www.kst.dit.ie/dit/su>

The contact addresses are:

e-mail:

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[aconchubhai@maths.kst.dit.ie](mailto:aconchubhai@maths.kst.dit.ie)

snail-mail:

DIT Students' Union,

Kevin Street DIT,

Kevin Street,

Dublin 8.

fax or phone:

4783154

To be marked for the attention of Andoni O Conchubhair, Clubs and Societies Officer. Information received in typed format will be considered first and entered first.

Remember if you are going away on an Erasmus program you will still be able to see the page and make contributions to it.

Thanking you for your attention and looking forward to hearing from you.

Andoni O Conchubhair.

# sonic bionic

## ALBUMS



Ed Simons & Tom Rowlands have come along way since Bomb the Bass's 'Bug Powder Dust'

### **Chemical Brothers** **Dig Your Own Hole** (Virgin Records)

Before I even start I am faced with a major dilemma! It's my editor you see, he kind of has this thing for the Brothers. On several occasions I have entered his office to be confronted by "Exit Planet Dust", as his foot taps below his neat desk. It kicks away in the corner as my editor's head bounces up and down; I can't possibly give it a poor review! He'll be heart-broken.

Thanks be to God it's a totally thumping album (super I'd say). I spent 4 hours in my father's sizeable 2 litre estate listening to this full volume (understanding Dad or what?). There are too many highlights to mention, the two you already know (Setting Sun and Block Rockin' Beats), both kickin' and rockin'. I have no doubt that this will do the business for Tom & Ed.

They played the Red Box recently to rave reviews and you guessed it my bloody editor (bless his heart) was there to bounce around as cool as he knows how. Fans will love

this fierce, tough, sonic bionic album no end. I was amazed by the diversity within this little box of tricks, a must for anyone who likes

dance music. One of the best this year but albums are easy to make!

9/10 (loses 1 mark to piss off my editor)

## Live Gig

**LTJ Bukem**  
**March 30 1997 Temple**

Oh my God, I can't believe I'll see him at last, "LIVE". It is sad that in this day and age we still have to go the same bullshit route to get musically accepted, if it wasn't for the independents, a few ghetto guys we would not have the music we have today. Some of these guys will die penniless, but in the process they have been the true renegades and true renegades always walk alone. Danny Bukem is one of the fore-fathers of Drum n' Bass and for that deserves all the respect he has got. The night was pure bliss with a genius behind the turn-tables mixing and moving the tunes around the dance floor. Donal Dineen (No Disco, Radio Ireland fame) was there, loving every moment by the look

of his happy Cork face! If you have not heard "Logical Progression" you are missing out. An excellent night with the best host on the planet!

**DJ HYPE**  
**4 April 1997 The Kitchen**

Scratchmaster and uncompromising motormouth supreme, Hype, who has led his Ganja Crew into major label success, played the Kitchen to a crowd of pure maniacs. His cut-ups, rewinds and scratching were more exciting than a fireworks display. His rewinds spin deftly

back and forth to the beginning of popular jungle hits. His jump-up style is mainly fixed to the dancefloor: the drums are fierce, the drop down into the bass, dramatic and the hook, easy to grip. As the clock hit 12 a pale figure moved into the box (that's not a DJ!), it was HYPE. From the start it was madness, from a low-key "No Diggity" to his more renowned rough neck style, it was original Hip-Hop jungle at it's fiercest, finest and most gunshot-peppered. The chant went up as Hype left the building: "The 'Super Sharp Shooter'. The S, the U, the P, the E, the R....."

COLUM CUNNINGHAM

## CLUBBED TO A BLOODY PULP

**Influx**

**@ Redbox**  
**Sun 16 Mar**

This time Influx got all the ingredients right - the main slot DJs, the support, and the venue. What are we talking about? We are talking about the most enjoyable night out that we've had in a while - **The Chemical Brothers** with **James Holroyd** and **Rob Bright** at the Red Box.

Priding ourselves for having the foresight to arrive early, (the queues were already beginning to form at 8 o'clock), but wondering what the hell we were doing in a club when it was still bright outside, we dumped our paraphernalia in the cloakroom, and set up shop on the balcony - better view, more air, and hopefully more room to dance.

The place filled faster than a speeding rocket... empty to capacity in about 15 minutes, but with a very decent crowd; only a light sprinkling of posers and shapers.

The first support DJ managed to get heads nodding, the second one to get bodies

bopping, so that when the Chemical Brothers eventually lurked out (they did lurk out, very goofy and nerdlake), everyone was warmed up and ready to let loose.

By this stage our private space to dance had been invaded by everyone and their mother but we didn't care. The best crowd responses were for Block Rockin' Beats (which I'm sure pleased the lads on the decks, as they were about to release it), and of course Setting Sun because everyone knows it.

Drawbacks on the night included no ice at the bar, and no water in the toilets (we wonder if that is quite within the law?), however they did ensure that they had enough Evian @ £1.50 a thimbleful.

There were copious amounts of sweat dripping off the bodies, not to mention the walls, and sometime before 3 o'clock the Brothers lurked off again, leaving everyone to go home tired but happy.

**Ruth Delany**  
**Iscult Ó Siócháin**

# THE IRISH TIMES

*DITSU Simplex*

## CROSSWORD

*Competition*

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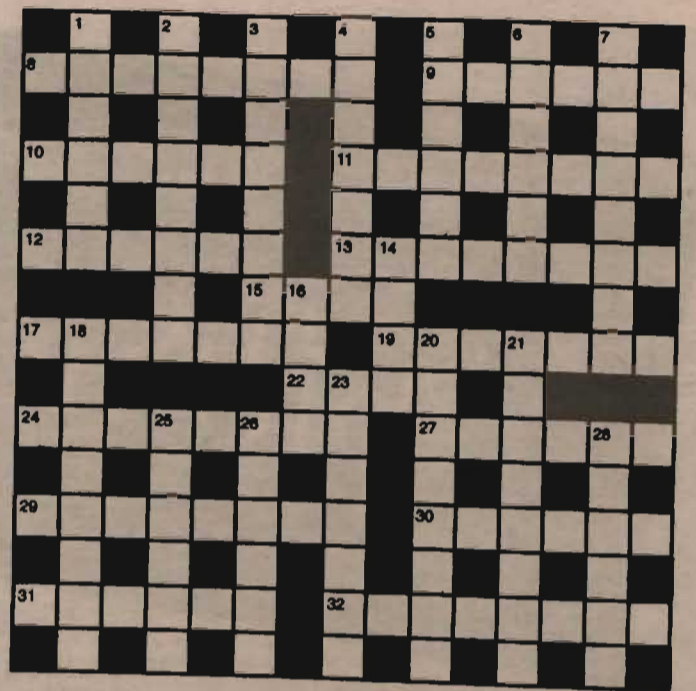
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**ACROSS**

- 8 Extravagantly, profusely. (8)
- 9 A smoking jacket? (6)
- 10 Decay, waste away, dry up. (6)
- 11 Forms mental images. (8)
- 12 Rise up against, rebel. (6)
- 13 Brief pithy saying. (8)
- 15 Cast amorous glances. (4)
- 17 Coloured handkerchief with spots or diamonds. (7)
- 19 Sea or lake margins. (7)
- 22 Time for a tiny insect. (4)
- 24 The 'H' of H<sub>2</sub>O. (8)
- 27 Ordinary, not deviating from the standard. (6)
- 29 Held ours up on part of the body. (8)
- 30 Up to the minute. (6)
- 31 Severe trial or examination. (6)
- 32 Insinuation. (8)

**DOWN**

- 1 Ill-will, spite. (6)
- 2 Keep back, refuse to give up. (8)
- 3 He rats on a hotel group (8)
- 4 Believing the worst of people. (7)
- 5 Circlet of inter-woven flowers. (6)
- 6 Unit of weight of nylon yarn. (6)
- 7 Turned the other way about, went backwards. (8)
- 14 Destructive insect or troublesome person. (4)
- 16 Sport, contest, amusement. (4)
- 18 Year when you could be any place. (8)
- 20 Building divided into dwellings for a number of families. (8)
- 21 Shortened, curtailed. (8)
- 23 The feeling of being disinclined to move. (7)
- 25 Or used to be stirred up. (6)
- 26 Blood-sucking fly who feeds on cattle. (6)
- 28 Wear down or wear off. (6)

For Mar '97 winners see page 2

COMPETITION NO. 6

Dear Agatha,

Having problems? Acting slightly weird? Biting your own toes off in a shark-like feeding frenzy? Let Agatha do for you.

Dear Agatha

Recently cycling home from school I got chatting to a bus driver. I have met her again on a number of occasions and on our most recent encounter we decided to meet for a coffee. She seems a very lovely person and now when we meet she just stops her bus and we chat for a few minutes. She seems to become oblivious of traffic. The only problem is I am almost twice her age. Do you think we should meet?

An oldie cyclist

*Hey, it doesn't really matter what age you are if she is old enough to be going around Dublin driving a bus she is old enough to be going out with you, even if you are twice her age. Some girls like a man with a lot of experience, that father figure image appeals to a lot of girls with a perverted sense of reality.*

*The only real advice I will give you about your situation is that if you continue those chance meetings it could become quite dangerous, not for yourselves but for other drivers on the roads. Has this girl no sense of responsibility? She is putting the lives of passengers at risk by pulling over to talk to you, not only that but she is disrupting the Dublin Bus timetable and how can this country ever hope to function properly if every Tom, Dick or Harry decides to chat up people on the roads?*

Dear Agatha,

My shampoo just isn't working. But I haven't got the guts to change it. It leaves yellow urine-like streaks in my hair and everyone thinks I've got highlights.

When I was growing up my mother told us it was important to use the one shampoo and over time, I got used to this. Now I look at all the adverts on the TV at night and think 'oh why can't I just try Pantene once?' I feel inadequate and I feel like I haven't lived.

Everyday is a bad-hair day for me. I need some exemplary advice, please help.

*You poor girl, you must look so ugly. You should never have listened to your mother, you could have a boyfriend by now. I'm sorry I can't even begin to empathise with you on this one. I've always had nice hair. It must be particularly difficult for you at the moment with Jennifer Aniston now advertising Elvive, her beauty must make you more aware of your inadequacy.*

*However I don't think using Pantene at this late stage in your life would help you one bit, the shampoo is good but not that good. What I would suggest is that you do a Tele Savalis and shave off your hair. That way you won't have to worry about changing your shampoo as you won't need any, but what you will need is a lollipop.*

Dear Agatha,

I am worried that as I near the end of my degree year that I have not put in the work in order to pass the final exams. I cannot face the thought of returning home to my home town as a failure to my family. Can you give me some advice as to what to do as I near the exams and what I can do if I fail my exams. Money is also a financial burden if I fail my exams this year round. What can I do?

A worried Aungier Street student

*Well, with sentences such as yours my only hope is that you are not studying English. If you do fail your exams, don't go home, let's face it -- your parents probably couldn't handle living with a failure, it lowers the tone of the place. You'll be the laughing stock of everyone you know. I know its hard in today's cruel and ugly world (the girl with the shampoo problem will verify this) to get a job with no qualifications. But if you take a little initiative you can get by.*

*Get yourself a really cute dog and a tin whistle (it doesn't matter if you can't play) and go down to Grafton street and just stand about playing your tune, looking like the failure you are. This should get you enough money to buy yourself a bottle of white spirits so you can drown away your sorrows in a permanent state of stupor.*



Joanne Hayden

## Crash, Bang, ZZZZ...

### CRASH

A nipple on a car bonnet. Sex with a leg-wound. So what? Hailed by some critics as a modern tale of human isolation in an uncaring urban cesspool of fast cars and casual sex, *Crash* is an unengaging film upon which Sheamus Smith has bestowed a groundless notoriety. Shot in Toronto, *Crash* could be set in any city. Reference to place is avoided as the sky rises and motorways become the neutral backdrop of a repetitive non-plot in which the characters are at once each other's lovers and nemeses.

Directed by David Cronenberg, *Crash* is adapted from J.G. Ballard's 1973 self-referential cult novel. James Spader plays James Ballard who with his wife Catherine (Deborah Unger) and myriad other undeveloped characters, shares an obsession with car crashes and the sexual arousal initiated by them.

Greys, silvers, blues and blacks dominate *Crash* echoing the colours of the cars worshipped by the characters. Its monochromatic tone also reflects the clinical sterility of the world in which it is set.

For the duration of the film, the characters either speculate on or stage car crashes, using them to fuel their seemingly arbitrary sexual desire. Almost like a porn film, the process of desire awakening is not documented or explored as the characters engage in random promiscuous sex which is never removed from the cars in or around which it usually happens. None of the characters in *Crash* are given any identity or depth besides their fascination with car crashes. No psycholog-

ical motivation for their behaviour is even hinted at as they reconstruct the car crash in which James Dean was killed, become aroused while watching videos of previous crashes or attempt to instigate car crashes involving one another.

When Sheamus Smith dictates what a cinema audience can and cannot see, instinctive responses are curiosity and perhaps a desire to defy. During the Dublin Film Festival

*Crash* was sold out long before it was screened. I expected to be entertained. I half expected to be shocked. I didn't expect to be bored. If *Crash* had simply gone on general release without controversy it might have appealed to a small number of genuine Cronenberg fans and had a limited, inconsequential run.

*Directed by David Cronenberg*  
*Starring: James Spader, Deborah Unger, Holly Hunter, Rosanna Arquette, Elias Koteas.*

*According to the censor's office no decision has been taken to revoke the ban on Crash.*

### RIDICULE

Beginning with a flash forward in which a vengeful man urinates into the lap of a mute, paralysed invalid, *Ridicule* is a period drama exploring the hypocrisy and flippancy of the French aristocracy before the 1789 revolution.

Charles Berling plays Malvo, a philanthropic landowner whose malaria ridden marshes are rapidly

killing his tenants. In order to obtain the funding necessary to drain the marshes, he travels to Versailles where the demonstration of "wit" is the only way to get a hearing with the frivolous Louis XVI. Malvo is given lodgings and coached by a well-intentioned doctor obsessed with the intricacies of epigrams, word plays, double entendres and quick, cutting sarcasm.

Mathilde, the doctor's daughter, with whom the protagonist inevitably falls in love, is the antithesis of the superficiality and shallowness of the court. Madame de Blayac (Fanny Ardant) is her rival, a character like that of Glenn Close in *Dangerous Liaisons* - not the only point *Ridicule* shares with the earlier film.

Directed by Patrice Leconte, *Ridicule* is less psychologically complex and more fast-moving than his earlier film, *The Hairdresser's Husband*. It lacks the subtlety and pensiveness which made the former so compelling.

*Ridicule* is a high budget film which, like most French period pieces, can afford to pay attention to detail. In one way the film celebrates the corruption and petty competitiveness it ostensibly condemns. Versailles's glamour and affluence are indulged at every given moment. When Malvo and Mathilde leave Versailles the film ends. We see the doctor's post-revolution exile in England but only hear about the fate of the other two characters. It is as if the film cannot transcend its fear of dwelling too much on the harshness of a world which is as poor as Versailles is opulent. Exquisite costumes and decor are focused on far more than the grim reality of the peasant's plight and the spectator is at times almost encouraged by the form of the film, to adopt the policy of wilful ignorance advocated by the aristocrats.

*Directed by Patrice Leconte*  
*Starring: Fanny Ardant, Charles Berling, Bernard Giraudeau.*

*At: The Screen*

### TROJAN EDDIE

Like Roddy Doyle's *Family* or the Australian film *Once Were Warriors*, *Trojan Eddie* is a tale of protracted redemption and the triumph of the weak in a grey world of petty crime, unemployment and domestic violence.

Stephen Rea plays Eddie, a fundamentally good, non-confrontational and easily led character, quite like that of Fergus in *The Crying Game*. Eddie fancies himself as a master salesman and relishes the audience response to his gags at the makeshift auctions he conducts with his accomplice Dermot (Stuart Townsend). Eddie, whose domestic arrangements are as unstable as his career, is a hustler working for John Power, (Richard Harris) the belligerent head of the local traveller community. When Power's young bride absconds on her wedding night with Dermot and £11,000 of a dowry, Eddie is suspected of aiding the flight.

Ending happily for its protagonist, *Trojan Eddie* manages to raise a number of challenging, maybe even unwelcome questions about power structures, the difficulty facing ex-convicts and the way in which traveller men view and treat traveller women.

Gillies Mckinnon has moved away from the stereotypical, over-the-top, semi-romanticised view of Ireland inherent in his earlier film *The Playboys*. With *Trojan Eddie*, Mckinnon brings a dull realism to an unselfconscious story almost incidentally set in and around the traveller community.

*Directed by Gillies Mckinnon*  
*Starring: Stephen Rea, Richard Harris, Sean McGinley, Brid Brennan*  
*At: The Screen*



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