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The DIT Examiner: the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union, January, 1998

DIT: Students' Union

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LIBERTY LOCAL NEWSPAPER A SUCCESS

IF YOU happened to have found yourself in a newsagent in the Aungier Street locality over the Christmas period you may have noticed a fledgling newspaper among the masses of well-knowns. The Liberty, Dublin’s newest local newspaper was in the shops from the 18 December of last year. It is being produced by the second and third year Journalism students from DIT Aungier Street. The free newspaper aims to serve the communities surrounding the college by keeping the people informed of their local news.

The Liberty was launched by local TD John Gormley in Aungier Street on 17 December, 1997. Mr. Gormley applauded the student’s initiative and praised the high quality production. The students recognised that there was a need for a newspaper such as The Liberty to cover local news from the area. Einnarr O’Reilly, third year student and editor explained the reasons behind establishing the new paper.

“We felt that by taking the initiative to establish and produce a local paper we believed we were fulfilling two objectives: to put our skills and knowledge into good practice and in turn producing something worthwhile for the community.”

The Liberty is available in all local newsagents and the material in the paper is of local origin. In its first edition it examined important local issues. It investigated the possible problems posed for the area by the Harcourt, Meath and Adelaide Hospital’s imminent departure to the new hospital in Tallaght. It also looked at the uncertainties faced by the teenagers of Aungier St. who have nowhere to go now that the YMCA youth club has closed.

The DIT journalists have positive plans for the future. They plan to publish on a monthly basis and they also hope that in time they can expand to cover more areas.

Michelle Kelly
13-1-98

CHECK YOUR HEALTH

The DIT Students’ Union will be getting health conscious over the next few weeks as it goes into hyperdrive on the information front.

Among the notable organisations which will be visiting the Institute in the near future are the Meningitis Research Foundation, the Dublin AIDS Alliance, Brainwave (Irish Epilepsy Foundation), as well as the other AIDS charity Caide, the Irish Family Planning Association, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Kevin Street’s Welfare Week takes place from February 16-12, and will include information stands, guest speakers, and various related events. The other DIT sites are still in the process of organising the schedules of their Welfare Weeks, and it is intended to facilitate the students of all colleges.

For more specific details check noticeboards in your local Students’ Union offices or ask your Welfare Officer for information on dates and times.

Film Festival of the South

Sick of the cliches, violence and special effects of Hollywood movies? Want to see how filmmakers from outside the US and Europe portray issues and tell stories?

From January 30 to February 1, the fifth ‘Voices from the South’ festival of films takes place at the Irish Film Centre in Temple Bar. ‘The South’ is the term now used instead of ‘Third World’ and the festival will include films from Latin America, Africa and Asia.

This year’s programme features the winner of Best Latin American Film at the Sundance Film Festival, the Brazilian ‘Landscape of Memory’. Also recommended is a film from South Africa, ‘Kini en Adams’, which was shown in the main competition at Cannes last year.

In addition, two workshops will take place. The topical subject of racism in Ireland will be discussed in ‘Multi-cultural Ireland - Myth or Reality?’ And the economic problems facing workers and trade unionists will be examined in ‘The Global Economy - A Fair Deal for the World Workers?’

Further information can be obtained from the IFC (679 3477) or the VSI office (855 1011 / email <vsi@iol.ie>).
Leading the Country
(Up the Garden Path)

"Thanks a million big fella, thanks a couple of hundred thousand monosyllabic fella, thanks a few grand a half dozen others." Certain appeasers to have been quite lucky when it came to their mates lending them and the kids a few bob here and there. True, Haughey was very unlucky in the way that his entire world was turned on its head because Lowry was caught fiddling the till, albeit on a smaller scale. So it was hardly his own fault that CF Haughey was caught once again, the gobshites of the country conspire against him.

If our most prominent and successful politicians and statepeople are as twaddled as bad boys then we don't have much hope for rooting out corruption in other areas. Diligently dodging 'crime' while diligently committing it is feasible. In the aftermath of various revelations since the McCracken tribunal can we believe anything our so-called representatives tell us to be true? Obviously not every politician and councillor is lining his/her pockets, but the guilty ones make, life harder for the honest bound.

Maybe we should just come to expect a little bit of corruption as a matter of course — what the hell, a wee bit couldn't harm anyone. I'm off to re-read Newgrange for a short while.

Cannaire na (Mic)Tire

"Milliúin bhuachas, a cheilithe, cuid míle bhuachas a chara chrotaitheach, míle bhuachas le fein eile agaibh." Is cosúil go bhfuil an eilí le mian mhaith daoine agus aghaidh a fhíthil ar fhealan aici é chaithe d'earn na leas uirthi aighne as a saol. Le blianta flor, bhí míle mhaith ag bainistí le chártaí Uí Fheoláin, mar a taisíodh an saol fín bheith teacanta anamaíochta Lowry. Ar an bhfíthil a bhí mian le fás a leanasaithe a lorg ar Chathair féin an eile, d'fhorbairt gnó phogail na tíre chun an mhóthú a leathadh.

Más rud é go bhfuil a ghlúin polaitíochta is mó le chéile húbha na hhorrha an Sagart a d'fhás córas air féin a chur i bhfeidhm i stairacht réitithe a gheamura eile. Ag tsúil a gcuidíonna na samphraice a dhíreachtaí sa lomb amhail agus a díreachtaí go dhíreachtaí ar an lomb eile — st asteafáil fach leis ag baint le forbairt.

Ní féidir liom freisin do chearta a thuilleadh chun toil i ndiaidh Bhuíne Mhic Ríochtaine a dhéanamh a sheasachtas ar a dtugtar a sheasachtas a dtugtar a sheasachtas a dtugtar a sheasachtas. Ar ndóigh, ní féidir liom freisin do cearta a thuilleadh chun toil i ndiaidh a sheasachtas a sheasachtas a sheasachtas. Ar ndóigh, ní bhfuil gortaíodh a sheasachtas a sheasachtas a sheasachtas.

B'fhéidir gur cheart dó chumhaidh cáit a d'fhásnú go scríobh a sheasachtas a sheasachtas a sheasachtas go bhfuilte ar an lá anuas.

Cearbháil Ó Siocháin

DITSU Elections
Nomination Open: Tue 10 February 1998
Nomination forms available from local SU Offices on 10 Feb 1998
Polling Day: Wed 4 March 1998

So apart from being the largest students' union in the country
What has Ditsu ever done for me?

Watch out for the February edition of the DIT Examiner, which will focus (how haw) on photography. Contributions on anything to do with photography gratefully accepted.

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.
Lettie to the Editor

Any lettie sent to the Examiner for the attention of the Editor should be clearly marked. No galssar le han leitii mhair. Sending dead lettie to the Editor is a strict no-no. Tig libh scrivh bhuing an seoladh so a leasas:

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

I'm with the Band

Dear Editor,

In response to a review of a gig by Michael McCormack, namely the Charlatans, Wednesday 26th of November (the DIT Examiner Dec 3), I would like to express my heartfelt sorrow and digger after reading what promised to be a top review by an obvious fan who turned out to be a Charlatans himself, who wouldn't know and doesn't know Tony Rodgers [RIP] from Tony Ferrone (Ferrone) or John Smith from John Mays.

Finally, Bob Collins (get) sadly died in July 95 and then Primitive Scream's Martin Duffy helped the last prepare for their Kendrew and Climent and he helped put the finishing touches to Tellin's trikes which was already recorded and released in April. After seeing the band play Manchester Apollo May 10 97, we, the fans, were introduced to the new Hammond man, Tony Rodgers, who, who had joined in March.

Tony was a friend of Joe Brookes and was in a band called Joto [Jotu] who already have two albums [Tony told me that the judge Roy Banco at Sam 27 Nov]. Therefore Martin Duffy was not playing with the band in Dublin or any other tour date for that matter, this I can guarantee as a person who spent seven hours with the band that night and three the following night in Belfast.

Secondly, I cannot believe that a 'fan' would make such a massive cock-up. So Mick, if you review a gig please do some research into the band beforehand, especially if you claim to love them.

Anyway, the Charlatans played a flexing blinder and if by chance you saw Tim laughi and walk over to Martin who also laughed just after something was shown on-stage, i.e. because I threw a bag of flexi-up. If your [you're] a fan you'll get this. I had asked Tim if this would be OK, when I met him, Jon and Jim, their security guard, and he agreed. We don't bother with a sarcastic response to this so I know I'm right and your [you're] wrong and you should feel completely like a prick.

One to another,
Clara Murphy.

Michael McCormack replies

Your letter has asked me to respond to this letter. I have neither the time nor the inclination but feel if somebody calls me a prick I should perhaps give some sort of opinion on my pathetic life. I'm a music fan, fine and foremost and I wrote the review because of that. I'm not sure Tony Rogers will ever agree to do his old Rock Collins' sound and I'm afraid that not only had Martin Duffy finished the album but that he had accompanied them on stage quite accidently until they got a replacement. More cupla. I should have checked. I wrote as I felt on the night and tried to concentrate on the music in the review. Your response seems quite personal but I sincerely hope I don't know you. I'm not going to base in on any of your comments specifically (Tony told me this, and, the facts etc.) as they seem, sadly, those of an anoint group. The difference between a grope and a music fan is immense and I cannot begin to understand where you're coming from — I mean you spent seven hours with the band in Dublin and three in Belfast?

Yours with very little respect,
Michael McCormack.

Is There a Doctor in the House?

Dear Editor,

As a student of the DT603 Course I am finding the current controversy to be treatment of myself and fellow students falsely monotonous by row. Music and Drama students have survived the main promise of a stage for the last 42 days. We were told to place any fink in an institution that cannot provide their students with basic requirements for their course.

All "Doctors" take note, there are a few handy hints for future reference:

* Your boxes and a mug do not make a stage
* Practice rehearsal rooms do not include foyers
* Consider or hazardous acts that endanger your life
* Classes would not be continually disrupted if we had vital class equipment, production materials and adequate space.

* Bars and mics are not the intended audience. When production pieces are performed for "the public" and invited audience of theatre / TV professionals (DIT promotional function).

* When Queen specialist lectures are referred to please, you still have to pay them.

* Internal politics should not prevent the DT603 course from being the only course without a visiting guest lecturer.

* A full semester is 14 weeks not 12.

* When 'Practical work is the essential thrust of a three year Diploma course' it is customary to have practical exams.

* It is beneficial to remember that the DT603 course is one of the public face of DIT.

* Before scrambling for University status it would be advantageous for DIT to cope with college menu first.

Yours sincerely,
Lisa Freely.

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December 97 Crossword Competition Winners

1. Nobody.
2. No person in particular.
3. Not a sausage.

(Anybody out there give a hang? The xword is worth €60 a month)

ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS!!

Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland
Architecture Centre
Exhibition Programme

Running until the 13 February
O'Donnell & Tuomey Architects - Selected Works

Architecture Centre open 9:30 - 5pm Mon-Fri thru lunch
RIAJ Architecture Centre,
8 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.
Ph: 676 1793
Social File

Government Sanctioned Massacre?

On December 22 1997 forty five indigenous refugees were massacred by pro-government paramilitaries in Acteal, Mexico. Survivors identified those who carried out the massacre as being members of Mexico's ruling party, the PRI.

Those killed were civilian Zapatistas who have been in rebellion against the Mexican government since January 1994. In the days since the massacre the Mexican army has raided many other Zapatista communities in Chiapas, destroying houses, stealing money and food and torturing some of the inhabitants. One of the major Mexican papers reported that such a raid was carried out on Diós de April on January 5. This community was featured in a recent Teilifís na Gailege documentary and more than twenty Irish volunteers have visited it in the last year.

If you think you would like to help in any way you can contact the Irish-Mexico Group at IMG, c/o LASC, 5 Merrion Row, Dublin 2. Ph: 676 0435 or email: mark_c@geocities.com

You can also make a difference by cutting out the attached letter and sending it to the Mexican Embassy, 43 Ailesbury Rd., Dublin 4. It will only cost you 32p and an envelope.

Eve Arnold - A Retrospective

"I got interested in photography by accident — a boyfriend gave me a camera and I was hooked," says Eve Arnold, the photojournalist who has probably photographed everyone who was anyone over the last 50 years. And she's still going strong.

The exhibition of her work at the Gallery of Photography in Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, covers a fraction of the 3/4 of a million photos Arnold has taken in her lifetime. Spanning her career, the show includes pictures of film stars, unveiled women in Arab harems, celebrities, ordinary Americans, Chinese peasants and political events such as the McCarthy trials and the growth of Malcolm X's black Muslim movement. An education in 20th century history, the exhibition includes a picture of one event which many now deny took place: a mass meeting of black Muslims and the American Nazi Party (in full Nazi uniform), where they discussed dividing the US between them.

The exhibition, which is free, runs until the end of January. The accompanying poster (price £1.50) is an unusual, seemingly unposed, photo of Marilyn Monroe.

Mexico's Zapatistas

Going Abroad?

Socrates Exchange Programme

Azulmon: All students participating in a Socrates exchange programme in 1998.

In preparation for your stay abroad a language / culture course will be offered over a 12 week period starting on Tuesday 27 January, the overall aim of this course is to facilitate your integration in the host country. The course will be offered at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels in French, German and Spanish. On satisfactory completion of the course students will have gained 3 ECTS credits. The course will run every Tuesday from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the following venues:

Spanish
Beginner: Kevin St
Intermediate: Kevin St
German
Intermediate: Cathal Brugha St
Advanced: Kevin St
French
Intermediate: Cathal Brugha St
Advanced: Cathal Brugha St

Further information about the course can be obtained from Leovis Carrwattr at 402 4673. Please note that the registration must take place before Friday 23 January. You may register by telephoning 402 4673 or by email to leovis@live.com.
Cén cheangal a bhí agat le Meiciseach agus le clár Théilfeis na Gaeltachta?

"Bhailte mé le Eamon agus Deirdre, an bheirt tuimdeachta a chaighdeann leis gur cuirteas agus ag aon rath sé le go gceart acu dul go Meiciseach, bhí sé ag labhairt Gaeltacht le agus bhí a nasc deanta. Is é David Raine, scíthráid Cumarsáidistí i Sráid Áinsearach a bhí dom mhíniúchadh, duine de Léiritheoirí an chlár, agus tré comhthírithíthiath Tháinig Eamon agus Deirdre chuig aírtradh ar an mbeidh suim aige clár a dhéanamh dá dhuras. An t-aon chónostból a bhí ann domhanda ní go mbeadh oíche an mheidhín le feiceáil. Thosaigh mé ag lorg urrachtóireacht, agus an deireadh fuairteas roint agus a skoladh ar Bhord na Gaeltachta, agus chuigeireas do ghaol chun le fios riamh i measc cumha sa bhreith ann. Bhí an-achaidh a bhí ar fáil i gcúntóirí ar an gcaithréid, suas ort as an scannán a dhéanamh. B'fhéidir liom duit ar ais. Linn orthu a bheith an-achaidh againn, tá aon fhaisnéis aige mar a bhí an scannán do gcaithréid le Meiciseach agus ag uachtarán Meiciseach. Bhuailte a bhí ann agus bha sí in ann an dánasair go dtí an bhreith ann. Bhí aithne aige mar gheall ar an lorg a fhás gan a dhéanamh agus agus an fás a fhás gan a dhéanamh.

"Bhí na fónta ó chuid de na aitions ann mar fhecht a bhí aige. Bhí d'aoine is fearr a bhí ag labhairt de 'that was a harrán a chosadh chun a fhás gan a dhéanamh. Is deacair a bheith in ann an-achaidh duit, agus féidir liom duit ar ais ann mar thoradh an fheachta. Is deacair a bheith in ann an-achaidh duit, agus féidir liom duit ar ais ann mar thoradh an fheachta. Is deacair a bheith in ann an-achaidh duit, agus féidir liom duit ar ais ann mar thoradh an fheachta.
We begin another year, full of resolutions and new beginnings. Christmas things have been put away and we look forward to the Summer and all that it holds in store for us. There will be assignments and projects that will take time in the weeks and months ahead. Perhaps there is a special person whose company you have been enjoying and consequently everything is wonderful, or for others the significant other has recently disappeared. Well it is new beginnings time and let us make the most of it. Yes we all know, we have eaten too much, wasted so much time and did not realise any of the ambitions that had been planned for the break, so let us begin once more!

Even the resolutions from January 1 are beginning to fray at the edges but we will try to realise that life is for living and people will help us if we make the first move. '98 is full of potential and really we can make of it what we choose. "You are a child of the universe..." Desiderata reminds us and it is the responsibility of each one to carve and forge a connection that is of our own making. We are called to be creative and imaginative and let us realise these sentiments in all that life presents before our eyes.

To all in DIT, I challenge you to give of your best not just for those in your department or school but for the youth of Ireland whom we serve and respect as these are the Irishmen and women who will bring us into the next millennium. We look to our President and the Directorate to realise the ambitious challenge they have set before themselves. We look to each head of School to be responsible and diligent in bringing about the Faculty structures which we await, for we believe this is the best way to serve our aspiring graduates and professionals in the years ahead. We look to each teacher to present us with course work that is relevant and interesting, presented in a fashion that is challenging and attractive to encourage students to extend themselves academically, so that they can give of their best, especially at exam time.

We look to ancillary staff and the SU to join in the mammoth task in piecing all the experiences together so that we, as an Institute, can and will achieve all that our mission statement expresses in words.

'98 will be one of the most significant years in the lifetime of this Institute. For all of us, students and staff, it is good to be associated with DIT at this time. It promises to be the biggest third level Institute in the country and so it is for us to lead where others will follow. This is truly challenging for all when we remember that we are located on 'the island of saints and scholars' and this title was conferred in the previous millennium. So the standards have been set for us by previous generations, we have now to realise this excellence across the board. Nothing happens without patience and dedication, research and thorough examination. There is no time for sitting on laurels. We must try to give of our best, discover new and innovative ways to progress and constantly respect and share with those who are our colleagues and friends.

We are called to respect and admire excellence, to encourage and educate those who seek knowledge and to live in harmony with oneself and those with whom we cooperate daily. We must be constantly aware of those who are strangers to our shores, either by choice or by chance, for they, too, are part of our community. This is the Year of Human Rights and if a soul among us feels ostracised or excluded, then, as a society, we are all blemished and compelled to look at our use of resources. As we continue on our academic endeavours, we should be mindful of the good work being done in Social Action Programmes across many of the sites. The many hours of generous sharing with school pupils in their own academic weakness has already proven to be worthwhile. These are the students of the future DIT and we have a debt to them.

Together let us greet this New Year with renewed enthusiasm and with respect for knowledge and those with whom we work and study. We owe it to ourselves and others to share our giftedness and resources with those who are unfortunately disadvantaged, no matter what criteria we use. Little is of our own making, it is often the product of the initiative of another with a little help from our friends! With personal insights and creative imagination we research and publish for posterity and sometimes graduation can be the only goal. For many, herein lies the key to success.

We must always be mindful of those in pain and sorrow, those who are broken in any way, by fate or accident, that their concerns need to be pieced together gently and patiently. In time, and after much healing, they too will grow to run at their own pace and put their own mark on a society that we will hand on for them to pass to their children years from now.

Finbarr A. Nealon (Kevin St.)
Good News!

Any student who has travelled on a J1 Programme in the past is eligible as a first-time J1 applicant with SAYIT.

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"Arr! Tom Lad! Be you a nautical cove?!

Angler St journalism student and SU PRO, Sir Thomas Felle, journeyed round the Cape of No Hope on the mighty cutter, The Asgard, maty, with weevils in the biscuits and only rain to drink. Nary a whiff of land caught be as he battled man and beast, wind and waves to beach his stricken vessel on welcoming shores, loaded with ripe, juicy pineapples and other exotic vegetables. The DT Examiner spoke to him over a jug o' rum in The King's Legs, the notorious — if fabricated — sea-farer's watering hole. (Well, the words 'The' and 'Asgard' are completely true.)

Sailing Away

THE SEA has always mystified me. I suppose there is an old sea dog in me that dreams of running away to sea and spending the rest of my life on a cruise ship. A place where years have passed since the sun never sets and where part of that dreams of running away to sea and time itself seemed to go extremely quickly as well. It seemed like three months to me when I left September 97/24 (sailing in the South Atlantic Ocean off the West coast of Africa). With all those ideas in my mind I suppose it was no wonder, then, that I applied to the Royal Irish Yacht Club for the Asgard when I was about 16. I remem

Day is lounge on deck soaking up rays of sun and sipping cocktails. If that is what the sea is all about, I must be doing it right.

Time itself seemed to go extremely quickly as well. It seemed like three months had passed since I left rather than

Discovery

It's a very romantic idea really. The notion of setting sail, roughing the storms at sea to reach new lands, new destinations in the name of discovery. The life of a sailor is glamourised also by the notion that there is some heartbroken woman waiting in every port for him to call again. With all those ideas racing through my mind I suppose it was no wonder, then, that I applied for a berth aboard the Asgard II for cruise 97/24 (sailing in the South Atlantic Ocean off the West coast of Africa).

Old Acquaintance

As is customary among the Tall Ships Federation, of which the Asgard is a member, Christmas Day was spent on the island of La Palma, south of the Canary Islands, with many other tall ships from allied nations. Boat races were held in honour, however; the Irish contingent finished badly. We did

manage, however, to sink one or two other dinghies before calling it a day and retiring to the evening sun-filled deck with a rather large helping of Christmas dinner leftovers and duty free. The new year was equally celebrated on another of the Spanish islands in the Canaries.

One of the most fascinating parts of the whole adventure was just plain sailing. The ship itself consists of a series of ropes tied to pieces of canvas and a couple of wooden poles, and planks keeping it all together. If you know what you are doing with those ropes and pieces of canvas, it can be one of the most thrilling experiences of your life.

Setting the course to port at full brace, with jibs and topsails-at full sail didn't mean much to me before embarking on the trip, and the truth is it still doesn't. I don't honestly believe, however, that it is what the whole Asgard experience is about. Yes, you do develop a sense of what sailing is about. Yes, you do learn a respect for the sea only a sailor can have. But the real team-work, the group-challenges you face for simple things like conserving water (because if you don't you can't drink) are onerous responsibilities, ones which can only make for a stronger personality in the long term.

Farewells

Everybody, at one stage or another in their life, promised departing friends letters would come on a regular basis. With the best intentions in the world, however, I put off the writing of those letters until one day it was too late. The Asgard has heard those untruths many times over the last seventeen years and no doubt my promises were no different. The friends I made were lifelong, and although we did share many experiences that really were incredible, we all had one thing in common: we were on the Asgard. Once that is taken out, all that is left is stumbling conversations about 'what are you doing now?' or 'do you remember when we did something on the Asgard?'. For that reason, unfortunately, I had to come back to reality

after spending a lifetime in Tia Na Op. Luckily for me, however, all that happened when I touched Irish soil was that I felt the cold.
BOOMING ECONOMY A FIGMENT OF OUR IMAGE 'N' NATION?

If you believe all the reports on the subject, the Irish economy is booming, as it did throughout last year. This is despite the poor performance of the Irish punt on the international currency markets. To most lay people, having managed to understand the relevant economics as to how and why the currency markets work, the possibility exists here: if there is so much prosperity in Ireland, why is our currency so weak, notably against the British pound, given that Britain supposedly enjoys our economic success?

Various analysts and economic experts have tried to explain the current situation. In the last 12 months, the Irish economy has been buoyed up by: above-average growth in the world economy; increased foreign investment; and higher disposable incomes. However, Britain is not convinced. Raymond Feilding, a Labour councillor in County Dublin, believes that people generally have a more disposable income, resulting, amongst other things, in a higher rate of money having been spent by consumers in the run up to last Christmas. At the end of last year, our prosperity as a nation culminated in Charlie McCreevy's celebrated "give-away" budget, leaving people with even more money. Of course it can still be better.

But what if the Irish economy was not booming? What if it was just the same as it was a few years ago? What if we still had to worry about the future? What if there was a Basque kitchen in the ground floor of our castle, the residence of our family for three centuries? This is Ballaghour castle, the residence of the family for three hundred years. Here is Shela-na-gig carved in stone - a pagan fertility symbol to ward off evil. I say to you that you realise the historical importance of this castle.

Ms. Gail showed us around. On the floor of the ground floor there were two toilets, a huge banquet room, took up the first floor, and on the second there was another - but it wasn't big enough to sleep fifty people. And there were no beds. We stayed at her, "Downstairs there are some mattresses", she said, "You should take them up in case you don't want to sleep on the ground."

One of the 'guests' replied angrily: "Very funny! And there aren't enough mattresses - we'll have to share." We had also to share the lamp - there was only one. Just when we thought it couldn't get any worse, Ms. Gail added: "By the way, do not use the toilet because there is no water in the castle."

Then she left. We waited, thinking she had gone to get some food, but after two hours, she hadn't come back and we decided to go out. In the distance we could see a light and hear some music, so we thought it probably was a pub.

We were right. The atmosphere was good: Irish traditional music, drinks and people laughing and talking. Then we saw a familiar face. It was Ms. Gail. She alone, looking cheerful and waiting for her fourth pint of Guinness. The beginning of the seventh Irish song made her forget with laughter and she started to sing and dance: "I belong to aristocracy. I am aristocratic and I always do what the hell I like. She was going around in circles. She was radiant with happiness. Ms. Gail was definitely drunk.

The barman explained, "The truth is that the castle was built in the fifteenth century. It was partially destroyed by Cromwell's forces in 1657. Then it was restored in 1836 by Mr. Ely who found a hoard of gold in the land. Ely was shot by an angry tenant and never lived in the castle. The castle was then used as a granary and afterwards fell into disuse until this woman say that to me seven years ago and restored and furnished. That's all."

After spending the next day walking along Sli Dala and a tour of the Bronze Age mounds, we were exhausted, but there was no rest. Our landlady had prepared a simple banquet for us and wine, and (a bit of Irish view), in the middle of this feast, she stood up and called out: "Shut up. I am going to sing a song in French."

Many of us preferred to go to upstairs to listen to techno-music. But soon Ms. Gail turned up saying, "Turn the music off." One of the guys replied, "We have paid to do what we want." She answered, "But this is my castle, stupid." We turned the music on again - preferring to be warm dancing, than to be cold in bed.

By Sunday afternoon we were more than ready to go back to Dublin: like the first day it was raining and Ms. Gail was at the door, with the same smile as two days before. She said, "I suppose that you do not need anything else now."

Theodore, a German student, replied: "What I really need now is to go home and to have a hobo-therapy."

Kevin O'Brady

1798: Will it endanger the Peace Process?

All can celebrate and mourn the 1798 rebellion because it involved all religions. Wolfe Tone, father of Irish republicanism and founder of the United Irishmen, aimed to break the connection between the Old English landowning class and the Irish landlords (a British MP (in)famously declared a few years ago that the unemployment of some was "a price well worth paying" for the prosperity of others), with a certain further percentage being employed on moderate or negligible wages, leaving the remainder of the population particularly solvent. This means that, by definition, not everyone can be party to the country's success.

I remember early last year I was listening to a radio program with an historian and he asked me to write a piece on the 1798 rebellion. He mentioned that Ireland is a land of paradox, that there are several paradoxes: one that to me remains anonymous quoted yet another report which confirmed the success of the economy and which forecast that this was likely to continue for the foreseeable future. The presenter then announced that we should all be glad and enjoy our prospects.

No doubt those who regularly find themselves penniless can join in the jollification around them.

Kevin O'Brady

"This is my castle, stupid!"

By Judith Serrano Tavleria
Theatre review
A Couple of Blagards
reviewed by Eoin Hennigan

No doubt many of us will do unusual jobs at some stage in our lives - but how far would we go? Gold smuggling to India is certainly unusual, but one I'm sure we would choose to leave off our CVs. A certain Malachy McCourt, on the other hand, makes no secret of this period of his life.

This is just one aspect of an unusual life which is being recalled at Andrews Lane Theatre, in a revised version of A Couple of Blagards, a play co-written with his older, better-known brother Frank.

Performing throughout this month, the play tells the story of their early childhood in Limerick and their emigration to the country of their birth, the US. Don't expect Angelas's Ashes though, because this play has been around for what must now seem like forever, having toured the world in the early 1980's.

This time round Frank is not taking part and so the role of Frank McCourt goes to Mickey Kelly, who performs it with relative ease. No doubt, Frank's recent success with that book will lead many people to see the play, but it is Malachy who emerges as a real charmer.

From their early life in the "lane" in Limerick, the play hilariously follows the McCourt's family life and experiences with religion - especially Frank's confession on the day of his holy communion.

Frank's introduction to the work of James Joyce, is amusing, particularly as it involves the US army and a girl called "Joyce" in Malachy, it seems, has never held back when insulting people in the US. A controversial radio and television career ended with the sack from his shows because Irish Americans found him too offensive. One of the funnier stories, though, is that gold smuggling experience to India.

The play loses none of its spark by having Mickey Kelly in Frank McCourt's role. Kelly, long used to working with Malachy, is superb opposite the younger McCourt. In fact, the change from the original line up possibly gives the play a new lease of life, at a time when Frank's involvement may have led people to expect a stage version of his Pulitzer Prize-winning book.

Directed by Nye Helen, A Couple of Blagards is at Andrews Lane Theatre until the end of January, and then switches to Limerick for the first week of February.

Poet's Corner
with Maolsheachlainn Ó Ceachlaigh

Just think! The same few molecules Are tangled everywhere we look They mix one way to shine in jewels Another way to squelch in muck.

He rises broken from his chair To drive back home through darkened roads The phone and keyboardlinger there The holders of unbroken codes.

Finding a Proper Pint

If you drink draught Guinness with any degree of regularity, or maybe if you only drink it occasionally, and if you have any concerns at all for the future well-being of our national drink, you may have noticed that it can be with some difficulty that you can find a proper pint. Too many pubs seem to assume that their customers - maybe as part of some kind of a new, modern, dynamic Ireland - only want to drink trendy designer bottled beers. This is most acute in Temple Bar, here in Dublin, but it appears to be spreading.

A few weeks ago I was in a particularly well known pub in Temple Bar which I understood to be reliable for a decent pint but what I was given was instead vino ordinaire. This, I believe, may well be part of the general demise of proper pubs, selling proper draught Guinness, in the Dublin area and elsewhere.

About four years ago (would you believe), I had as perfect a pint of Guinness as I think it is possible to have: a decent head, good consistency, not too bitter - in fact, ever so slightly sweet if anything - and no after taste. Basically faultless. That was in Mulligan's (Poolbeg Street, for the uninitiated). About two years ago, I had a similar experience, on this occasion in The Palace Bar (Fleet Street), which in fact has thus far escaped the incroachment of trendy drinking demands. Away from Dublin, a pub that I know in Kerry - but which I prefer not to identify, lest everyone else finds it and alters it somehow - serves the best pint that I have found in the provinces.

The worst pint of Guinness that I have come across to date, in this country, was also about two years ago in a well-known, if highly prestigious, hotel in Dublin, shortly before a rugby international. In my experience, the more prestigious the establishment, the worse the draught beer because this tends to make way for wines and spirits for the appropriate clientele.

It may be that the hotel was hoping that the supporters were all so drunk that they would not realise what was being served. When I ordered, the drink that I was given looked like Guinness - although it cost rather more than a pint normally would - but to this day I think that a saucer of rain water would have been preferable and would certainly have more closely resembled what I wanted. Until this point, I had thought that truly undrinkable Guinness was only served in Britain. In any event, pints since have been somewhere in between, although thankfully for the most part nearer to Mulligan's pints than others.

Apart from the fact that pubs may prefer to sell bottled beers because they cost more, there is surely no legitimate reason for any self-respecting pub to serve Guinness of any kind other than that which Arthur intended, whatever else they may be selling. After all, it is part of our heritage.  

KEVIN O'BRADY
One male student pointed out that sex for money is "the oldest business in the world. It goes back to prehistoric times when the women went with the best hunter." The current situation is merely a continuation of that natural process in our evolution.

Male students were of the opinion that sex for money is "the oldest business in the world." One student commented, "It's not a moral issue, it's a business." Another student said, "Sex for money is a normal part of human nature."
It looked more like an extremely weird party than preparations for praying

Circumcision holidays
MAFS circumcision ceremonies could become a tourist attraction in Malaysia, according to Mr Chik, the minister for culture, arts and tourism.

"Mass circumcision ceremonies are cultural activities that could be turned into money-making ventures," said Mr Chik after attending a circumcision ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

He said tourists would "enjoy watching something that was different from the norm." Forty-eight boys, were circumcised in the ceremony he attended. Let's hope Bord Failte doesn't get the same idea.

Killers and prostitutes
THINK twice before going to the Russian far east. According to a recent survey, 27% of boys want to be members of the mafia, and 9% of these want to become contract killers. But the burning ambition of 25% of teenage girls is to become prostitutes.

Dream destination
LAST year the exchange rate for bath, the currency in Thailand, was 34 to the pound, but with the Asian economic crisis now got 64 baht to the pound. And tourism has slumped, but this is its buyer's market.

Internet travel
CHECK out the Internet for cheap flights, holidays and info on working abroad. For last-minute package holidays, visit www.cheapfliKhts.co.uk For last minute, take a look at www.bargainholiday.co.uk , a daily-updated site which offers great deals from the big names in travel such as Airtours, Kosovo and Thomson.

round the world

travel 98
TIM Severin is an explorer with a difference. He has travelled across the Atlantic ocean in a boat covered with oxblood, from Muscat to Cairo in a medieval-style trading ship, and led a 5,500 mile journey by bamboo raft across the Pacific in 1994. He has followed the routes of historical pathbearers, including Marco Polo, St. Brendan, Chenshi Khan, Ulysses and Sindbad the Sailor. These men uncovered new worlds, but with the earth entirely mapped and charted, the job of an explorer seems redundant. Tim Severin would disagree. "We live in a three-dimensional world and my travels actually introduce the fourth dimension of time. When you revisit known areas, and you have added an extra dimension, that's when you really start to see things quite differently.”

Tim Severin illustrates this in his new book, ‘The Spice Islands Voyage’, which weaves together his own experiences travelling in the Indonesian Spice Islands, and those of Alfred Russel Wallace, who made the same voyage 140 years before him. It is this dual perspective, ‘The Spice Islands Voyage’ from other travel books: "If I'd just gone down and described it, that would have been very strange and rather flat. But looking at it as it is now and then moving to another perspective and seeing it as Wallace saw it, brings everything into much deeper relief.”

The Spice Islands Voyage documents his discoveries while following the path of his nineteenth-century predecessor. Severin’s enthusiasm for Wallace’s work was clearly a major reason for choosing to follow this particular journey. ‘I read his journals, his original field journals. There he is, suffering from fever, semi-starving, and yet, he’s writing down as though he’s sitting in the study in Europe. Beautiful prose. He’s a really unusual and decent person.”

He even admits that part of the motivation behind this project was “to bring him back into public notice. He’s got anything culture should be proud of having produced.” Added to this was his interest in the changes that have taken place in one of the most beautiful areas in the eastern hemisphere. "I wanted to make a comparison about what much of the rainforest was left, how many of the wild animals that he writes about, what was still there, and the lives of the people.”

The Spice Islands Voyage blends history, biography and poetry, recording the many surprising discoveries of Severin and his crew. "I had expected all the sorts of things that you hear about the destruction of the rainforests. And I found that. But what surprised me was that occasionally, I found the complete opposite. In one or two places, it was... identical to what Wallace described it, and in one particular case, there were actually more species of birds than Wallace’s day. It was actually better. Now that came as a complete surprise.”

Unfortunately, this finds proves exception, and much of The Spice Islands Voyage documents discoveries which were less than positive, of environmental destruction on a grand scale. “There were rainforests being chopped down. There were other places where people were eating rare animals... The blackest spots of all was the way he’s squatted and had a lot of pollution.”

Although such activities are quick to criticise from Western countries, Severin contests that there is much the Western world could learn from the people of these areas. “One thing I would say that we’d benefit from is their extraordinary degree of tolerance. They’re very laid-back people in many many ways.”

The learning process can be a two-way thing, as Severin claims that the Western world could learn from its own mistakes and pass this knowledge on to the people of the Spice Islands. “I would hope that we can teach them not to be too materialistic... They look to us for being materialistic and we’re beginning to realise that materialism isn’t the answer...”

Funny enough, we should teach them the thing which is the exact opposite of what they expect.” For many places in these areas it may be too late. “I don’t see; any hope for the cities. It’s interesting because in a way what we were seeing in the two Indonesian islands out there were the dunes of Victorian England which Wallace had left behind when he went out there.”

The prognosis is not entirely negative however. I think that as long as property rights are respected, the natural environment out there will survive. Where villages and small communities own the forests around them, they look after the forest. When they don’t, the forest is chopped down and exploited. There is hope that the forests themselves will survive, with that one proviso.

Most importantly, the Spice Islands Voyage allows us a glimpse of a fascinating and exotic piece of the planet, through the eyes of two men, 140 years apart, who set out to explore faraway islands which most of us can only dream about. Severin, who has seen them all first-hand, has uncovered the journey for those dreamers. “I think armchair travel is a great thing. I’d be delighted if they armchair-travelled with me.”

The Spice Islands Voyages, published by Little Brown, £20.00

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From page 1 never arises: “Because so many girls are doing it, nobody feels guilty about it. They think it’s the best way to get money.”

On principle, Kumi herself has no objections to it. “If one of my good friends said to me ‘Oh, I’m meeting my oyaji today for karaoke, do you want to come?’ Of course I would go because they know my oyaji for a long time. Sometimes they just have to meet them for a few minutes just to get presents from them, so I’ll go with them. Why not? Free coffee! Two of Naoko’s oyaji were really nice. I’ve never met them, they did, we go to karaoke, they’d give us 5,000 yen each (£25), and then we just leave.”

Kumi has other problems with the oyaji phenomenon however. “I don’t want to have any troubles so I don’t want my own oyaji. Naoko is lucky, but there are so many bad ones, Yukako once [members of the Japanese mafia].”

Kumi has so sympathy with those girls caught in these kinds of predicaments. “If those girls get in trouble, that’s their own fault. They should have known beforehand. I do worry about my friends. But as long as they don’t tell you the truth and try to hide it from you, you can’t do anything about it.”

She is particularly worried about her younger sister, whom she suspects of being involved with an oyaji. “What initially interested her was that you could get a very big discount of expensive clothing in seventeen-year-old Nobu’s wardrobe. ‘Suddenly there were so many expensive clothes in her closet. There was a coat there that cost 55,000 yen (£250). I was pretty damn sure she couldn’t afford it because she works in McDonalds three days a week. She doesn’t get that much money there... There’s no other way to get those clothes except by getting an oyaji.”

When confirmed her suspicions was a phonecall she answered while her sister was out. “I answered her phone once and it was a guy. The guy said ‘Oh, I know you, you doing now?’ I knew it was one of those guys, I knew the way they talk. I told him it was the wrong number.”

In Japan, where technological development has gone hand-in-hand with a low crime-rate, the casual acceptance of schoolgirls as young as fifteen going out with middle-aged men for Gucci accessories raises questions about the definition of civilization. Businessmen with more money than they can ’spend turn to, for instance, to get their way for those dreamers. “I think armchair travel is a great thing. I’d be delighted if they armchair-travelled with me.”

The Spice Islands Voyages, published by Little Brown, £20.00

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There’s no other way to get those clothes except by getting an oyaji.
I.T\'s a highly controversial legacy of the Cold War - special- 
ist military companies providing advice and training to third world 
governments. Executive Outcomes is the leader in this field, but 
the South African firm struggles to shake off the \"mercenary tag\" with which they have been labeled.

Eebo Barlow is no ordinary ex-soldier, although he does not look 
and sound like somebody who is widely accused of being a mercenary.

During his military career he was a member of a covert group in the 
special forces of the South African army 
during the apartheid era.

"It was decided they did not need my services any longer," says Barlow 
of his end of the army career. He contends that he left with a clean 
record.

That was 1989, the year he established Executive Outcomes, which turned 
him from a faceless membe

r of an elite army unit into a mercenary - in the eyes of the media and 
western governments.

"All I could do was selling," he says about why he decided to establish 
the company.

Last year Time magazine described Barlow as a "military marketing 
extraordinary."

March 1997 and Barlow, as chairman, is representing Executive 
Outcomes at the world's largest military exhibition, IDEX, a Biennial extravag 
atanza of military muscle in the Middle East, the hottest market for buying 
and selling arms.

Much to the embarrassment of the South African defense minister, Joe 
Modise, who was at the show, the company took a 

large stand to promote its services.

"They could be an embarrassment to the foreign army of Angola, South Africa," a South African 
oficial stated at the time.

Barlow, however, says that during the 
process of the show he was approached by three 
Middle Eastern governmental organizations, which expressed an interest in his 
company.

It is not the only company of its kind in the world. There are at least 
two British, two American and three French companies which provide similar services. 
But his company is by far the most widely known and the most controversial.

It\'s a booming market, where contracts are worth millions of dollars and 
where soldiers can earn more money than they ever did on a regular army.

A bone of contention for western governemnts is the report that companies like 
Executive Outcomes are getting diamond mining concessions, as reportedly 
ог�� happened in Angola.

The company has 40 
full-time employees and a database of over 2,000 
former servicemen.

Barlow admits that he used to get "cheesed off" at being called a mercenary and 
insists that he runs a specially for military 
training organisation which is available for hire by legitimate governments. 
He likes to call them "private peacekeepers."

"Our mission is to provide a highly professional and confidential 
service to legitimate governments; sound strategic and tactical military 
advise, and a total apolitical service based on confidential, integrity, professionalism and dedica 
tion in order to create a climate for peace and stability."

"We give the most professional training packages current to armed forces covering aspects related to land 
warfare, air warfare and sea warfare," says Barlow.

As well as sending members to various countries for training, 
Executive Outcomes also has a standby in case its members come under attack.

According to Barlow, the company was instrumental in ending the long 
running civil war in Angola.

The intervention force was deployed there, and launched a pre-emptive 
strike which killed 280 Angolan rebels. Another force sent to Sierra Leone to protect a 
humanitarian aid convoy.

The night before I met Barlow, some people were under siege in 
an army barracks in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

He denied reports that his men were effectively under house arrest and 
that they were to be deported, saying news reports were misleading. 
PNG\'s armed forces, which Executive Outcomes were training, as a sub-contractor for a British company, were 
suppressing a long running accessory guerrilla war.

"Our people have stopped the activities they were busy with and they were asked by the Prime 
Minister to remain at their posts and not to go out until the situation was resolved," he said.

The situation, though, did not resolve itself. A 
lynch mob gathered in the capital 
and demanded the ouster of the 
President, leaving the country in the 
custody of Julius Chin, the 
Prime Minister, who job.

As for the future, he would return for the next IDEX 
exhibition in March next year. Barlow had a simple 
answer: "If the world 
remains in turmoil ever will it."

As Barlow might say, he doesn\'t start wars, he 
just advises governments on how to deal with them.

Barlow could not resist the temptation 
to rugby league for the next Lions tour. 
He is no longer the main man, Barlow stated, 
and he wants to do some training.

But what\'s the point? Wales is not the same as it was, it only won a World Cup 
and the World Cup winners are not the same as the previous World Cup winners.

"As long as Barlow doesn\'t play for Wales anymore..." is all you\'ll hear if you mention 
Wales in anyone\'s ears other than a die-hard Welsh supporter.

Gareth Edwards last year, couldn\'t resist the temptation of 
asking him about the Welsh demise. During his 
international career, Wales won six triple 
tries for training, as Barlow might say, 
and three grand slams between 1969 and 
1979 but just ten years later 
Wales were whipped by the 
Five Nations, a result they 
gladly handed over to Ireland.

"The demise of the 
heavy and steel industries in 
Wales bred a future of soft 
futures, in contrast to the heyday of tough men who worked in these 
industries."

A tongue-in-cheek 
response but one with a lot of truth in it. This adapt to 
Ireland and maybe we are not the producing the men who would be naturally fit from their 
everyday work. 

This adapt to Ireland and maybe we are not producing the men who would be naturally fit from their everyday work.

Wales went. Further, in the late 1970\'s there was a change in the Welsh school system which meant 
that rugby was not the main sport in the schools. Allied to this was neglect on the part of clubs to develop young 
talent.

The clubs have never really paid much attention to their young players 
and they don\'t seem to want the senior clubs. I think there was a void left 
by the departure of the Welsh Rugby Union, which meant there was a gap 
between the school and the clubs which bred really from the heart and the clubs which 
should be back in the city and not to go out until the situation was resolved,

The situation, though, did not resolve itself. A 
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Eoin Hennigan
Youthful DIT more than a match for Wexford Seniors

Wexford 1-13
Dublin Institute of Technology 0-16

Bob Coghlan

For this match against a senior Wexford selection, DIT were missing many of the regular first team players such as Seán Duignan, Gerry Eoinis and Enda Hoey. With a number of the team under 21, it was a youthful side that took to the pitch against a team of Wexford men fighting for their county lives.

PJ Coady signalled his intent early on with a great run and shot which yielded the opening point of the game to DIT after 5 minutes. Wexford came straight back into the match with 3 points before Mark Murphy and PJ Coady put over 4 points without reply for DIT. Each side registered a further point each before Wexford scored the only goal of the game after DIT failed to clear the ball out of defence.

PJ Coady started the second half in the same vein as he started the first by placing a 20 metre free over the bar to bring the sides level. This was followed immediately by a point from Anthony Coote to give DIT a deserved lead. Wexford then dominated most of the following ten minutes of play and registered four points in succession before Mick Fitzsimons scored a point for DIT following a great interchange with Anthony Coote. Both sides then exchanged further scores with PJ Coady scoring with relative ease assisted by great points from Joe Cullen following a superb 40 yard sole run, and from Mark Murphy from almost the dead-ball line. Dermot Maguire then kept DIT in the match with two great saves within a matter of seconds to deny certain Wexford goals. DIT hearts were lifted further shortly after this by the sight of Lorcan MacMathúna returning from injury when he came on as a sub for the hard-working Phil Blake. Wexford then scored from a 65 to regain the lead but this was cancelled out by Joe Cullen and followed up by a PJ Coady free to give DIT the lead in injury time. Wexford drew level within a minute and their relief was evident as the final whistle signalled a draw between the teams. A special mention is deserved for the commitment shown by the DIT back line including Alan McKeogh, Darren Caulfield and Colin McGee, as well as the industrious Trevor McGrath. It was a great performance by the team especially in view of the conditions with a strong, biting wind sweeping across the pitch throughout the match.

Comin' atcha like a ten-ton truck, DIT don't give a flying feck.

DIT Team: D. Maguire; A. McKeogh; D. Caulfield; C. McGee; D. Spain; T. McGrath; P. Finnerny; P. Blake; B. Deveraux; PJ Coady; (0-3); M. Fitzsimons (0-1); A. Coote (0-1); J. Cullen (0-2); M. Murphy (0-4); T. Holden.

Youthful DIT more than a match for Wexford Seniors

DIT Captain Seán Duignan (right) before pre-Xmas GTC game.

!!Fitzgibbon Cup!!

DIT v Tralee
Sat 31 Jan
Terenure Grounds
2:30

Winners to play winners of CEBRI v Trinity
(Terenure Grounds, 2:30)

Sideline View

Happy New Year and welcome back to the opinionated column that is Sideline View. It is getting to the crunch time of year with leagues reaching their final stages and championship games in the offing for many teams.

Fitness will play a key role and hopefully it, and not the seasonal Irish weather, will be the main issue concerning the many DIT teams in the coming weeks (unless, of course, you're a member of the Chess Club and all you need is a room and a brain).

With most of the GAA teams on a winter break, I was reduced to watching foreign sorts over Christmas. On St. Stephen's Day, I shook off the after effects of the Christmas turkey and pud, and made the trek to Dalymount Park.

An hour and a half later Bohemians had beaten Derry City 1-0 in a match that was as likely to make an impact on the Championship race as London had a chance of winning the All Ireland. Bohs won the game despite the best intentions of one of the linesmen, who double-jobs as a CBS porter (identity of said person shall remain with the writer of the column). Mind you, you know what they say about not giving up the day-job.

Hopefully 1998 will bring me better matches to watch and if so you'll hear about them soon.

Síla,
Bob Coghlan.
American girls studying in Europe.

started jumping up and down waving soccer. I was reassured when a guy near me lit up a bright signal flare. Next to me I found out to be studying in New Year. I encountered a group of Scots from Glasgow and Edinburgh. College relations with one of the girls were interesting enough but another (about 17 degrees Centigrade).

Having suffered greatly at the hands of the stormy Christmas weather (the greenhouse in my back garden was blown down), I emptied the coffers (no, not Union money) and headed off to the Eternal City of Rome to see in 1998. Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Airport I asked one of the locals for directions on how to reach my hotel. 'You English!' required the man. 'No, I replied, 'Io sono Irlandese.' Having realised from my statement that I was in fact Irish, the man became extremely helpful and told me everything I needed to know.

My holiday was intended primarily as a culture trip but I was soon sucked in by the gravitational force that affects most Italians — football. As I travelled through Rome, I read graffiti that reminded me how glad I was to be Irish.

On New Year's Eve, I headed for the Piazza del Popolo for a huge open air concert. In typical December temperatures (about 17 degrees Centigrade), people danced, drank and partied in the New Year. I encountered a group of Scots from Glasgow and Edinburgh, and we, in turn, met a couple of American girls studying in Europe. Suffice to say, I did my bit for Inter College relations with one of the girls who I found out to be studying in England.

Hearing that I would see the night through without any reference to soccer, I was reassured when a guy near me lit up a bright signal flare. Next thing, hundreds of people around me started jumping up and down waving Roma football scarves chanting 'Forza Roma'.

The walkway up to the Stadio Olimpico.

Romans many cultural sights such as the Colosseum, Piazza di Spagna and Circo Massimo. After a few days of culture, my appetite for sport had grown, and what better way to satiate that need than to head up to Rome's Olympic Stadium for a match against Bologna.

By half time Lazio were 2-1 ahead and the crowd paused for breath. Suddenly the two large TV screens at either end of the ground burst into life and Stadio TV appeared on the screens. For the first time in my life I got to watch an Italian sitcom on television, at a soccer match!

The second half of the match followed much the same pattern as the first and, at the final whistle approached, Lazio were 4-1 ahead. By this stage the crowd around me were in near orgasmic delight. People danced, sang, shouted obscenities, threw fireworks on the pitch and some fans were balanced precariously on top of the high glass partition that separated sections of the stand.

As the match wound to its conclusion, I was (by now having suffered a lot with people problems with people) to distraction. Your mind races with thoughts of what it could be, rubber, leather, whips, chains, or handcuffs!

She goes upstairs and tells you to wait in the living room as she sorts out her mind blowing shopping. You are still on edge of your seat when she struts into the middle of the room wearing "F**k Me Boots" (FM's), arguably the kinkiest female fashion accessory ever invented.

You can't remove your eyes from the vamp your girlfriend has become. How could one item of clothing wreak such havoc? The dilemma is clear, even though she has never looked better you don't feel confident to let her out alone wearing these boots. If she goes out wearing FM's without you, she will distract, provoke and tease. It would be difficult to keep a straight face if the woman you were safe clothes like dungarees or grandfather shirts on the nights you can't accompany her.

Wellinghams have the distinction of being the only boot made in rubber that aren't a sex accessory, but they can compete with FM's. If there was a Nobel prize for footwear, the inventor of FM's would have it. They am­azingly manage to sexuate one of the most banal parts of the female anatomy, while having the added benefit of only being truly effective when accompanied by a short skirt.

On one of my first nights in Dublin, I was enthralled by the pleasures of a girl who was wearing FM's. Everything was going fine until one of my friends started pointing at her boots. "Look at her shoes in Ballinasloe, Athenry or Loughrea wearing them."

In County Galway women in boots means something totally different than in Dublin. It conjures up images of farmers wives, wellingtons and muck. So you can imagine my shock when I arrived in the middle of Grafton Street to discover that in Dublin women in boots means something closer to bondage than the bog. It took me quite a while to acclimatise to this fashion phenomenon.

Imagine your worst dilemma. Your girlfriend returns home from a shopping trip and tells you that she bought something that will excite you to distraction. Your mind races with thoughts of what it could be, rubber, leather, whips, chains, or handcuffs!

She goes upstairs and tells you to wait in the living room as she sorts out her mind blowing shopping. You are still on edge of your seat when she struts into the middle of the room wearing "F**k Me Boots" (FM's), arguably the kinkiest female fashion accessory ever invented.
DIT fought bravely till the final whistle before narrowly losing out to a more physically strong Dutch U21 Team. After a long day, this was always going to be a tough game, in their newly built national stadium.

The Dutch opened up the scoring with a fortunate try, where an unlucky bounce caught both Vinny Quinn and Derek O'Shea out of position for their right-wing to race 30 yards to score under the posts. Just previously, Richard Ball missed a penalty opportunity, which proved costly at the end.

7-nil, and captain Gary McGoughlin urged his charges to register a score. After some excellent forward play, notably through Gareth Ryan and Tom Clifford, DIT forced a penalty, where Richard Ball made it 7-3. Straight from the restart, DIT again pushed forward and the Dutch were once again penalised for offsides in midfield. Richard Ball punished them once more to leave the score at 7-5. Unfortunately, the Dutch reacted to their lapse in concentration, and the omens were looking poor for this depleted DIT side. With ten regular first choice players rested, after a tough, competitive tour in Amsterdam, Garda were always going to start favourites.

Jamie O'Brien opened up the scoring for DIT when he followed up and gathered his kick ahead, to score neatly under the posts. Brendan Walsh, his teammate from the Kevin St Kings slotted over the conversion, to give DIT a slender 2 point lead. Some great lineout play from Tommy Guy helped DIT to stay in touch, but Garda always looked like scoring. This time their big No. 8, McManus, ploughed his way through a fragile defense, and Garda were once again on top. Again the conversion was missed, which proved very costly. After half an hour, Brendan Walsh restored DIT's lead with some quick thinking at a short penalty, to dart over the line. The conversion was missed, but DIT held on till half-time, just in front at 12-10.

The second-half resumed at the same pace as was evident in the first-half. Some tenacious tackling from the Aungier St pairing of Neil Finnegan and Rory Keogh proved too much for the Garda. The conversion was missed, but DIT held on till half-time, just in front at 12-10.

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Barry Hayes, from Schull, Co. Cork, is a sailor of international class both with the DIT and in his own right. He docked at Port Examiner recently.

Barry Hayes is in his third year of a four year Apprenticeship in Bakery Management in DIT Kevin St. Apart from going to classes in college and sailing as often as possible, Barry Hayes tries to fit in a 40hr week as a supervisor with Lié Chocolates, an Irish confectioner based in Dublin who produce yummy handmade sweets made with Belgian chocolate. (The yummy I can personally vouch for.) Apart from the need for a 3hr day, his life is pretty full, but he gave the Examiner 30 minutes to ask him why he likes getting wet and all that stuff.

When did you first start sailing?
“I’ve been at sailing since I was 13, and I’m 21 now. A friend took up sailing, and I was completedly a water baby, and I said ‘Yeah, I’ll do it for the craic.’ I was very luckly because the secondary college I went to had given us boats to sail so the opportunity was there, and I found that I was good at it. I just kept plugging along. I went to my first National Championships when I was 14, and came 40th out of 80. I was 2 years sailing at that stage so the signs were good. I skipped the first and second level sailing courses [not the usual way of doing it]. Normally if you’re a beginner you always do your first level course, to know what you’re doing and be capable of controlling the boat. I went out sailing with my friends and they basically took care of me and I just learned from them and went straight on to level 3.”

Barry’s next National Championships saw him sailing in a 420 dinghy (two man craft measuring 4 metres 20 long) the boat used for all initial youth training. Dinghys differ from yachts in that they have no keel or weight underneath, which means the crew use their weight to control the boat, ‘hiking’ over the edge of the boat by means of a trapeze. You’ve seen it on TV.

Of course, playing with water can be like playing with fire, except wetter. Barry was caught in a violent storm outside Schull Harbour when he was fifteen and only sailing a year. A strong gust whipped the boat onto it side, taking him with it and dragging him under the boat. He was briefly trapped under water with the sail above him, unable to breath. Eventually, he broke the surface when the wind again lifted the sail off him. So how do you guard against such accidents? One word says it all.

“Experience. My helm [the person in control of the helm and therefore steering the boat] was very experienced but he slipped on the tiller (the steering wheel) and because there was so much high wind and waves the boat just flipped on itself. The whole show just ends at that point!”

The Intervarsities are up next. What will you be sailing in those events?
“There’s going to be 420s, which I’m experienced in, and Laser Iz. I’m training right now in GP” (General Purpose) 14‘, testing sail for a sail-maker, which is handy, because sails cost about a grand apiece.”

Which of the two boats would you be more comfortable with for the Intervarsities?
“The 420. I went to two National Championships where I came third in both years and I’ve had about four or five years experience in the 420.”

Who are the ones to watch this year?
“UCD and Trinity. We should boat them; we have the team, we have the experience, but we don’t have the boats. You’d have to pay about £5,000 a shot for the dinghys we train in, so it seems like a lot in the short term, but it’s cheaper than hiring boats for each event which is what the DIT does at the moment.”

Are you also involved in the Round Ireland Race?
“Last year I took part in the Round Ireland event, and we raised a about £50,000 for Cystic Fibrosis, we have about £89,000 of it so far, we’re just collecting the end of it. But we set a record for the smallest boat ever to go around Ireland. We went around in a 22 foot boat, a Hunter (one design). Legally the minimum is 28 foot, but that’ll be brought up to 30 foot this year.”

That record cannot now be taken away from them, since the proposed new regulations stipulating a 30 ft minimum will ensure their achievement remains a fixed one. It was a three-fold exerciser to raise money for the charity, to meet the challenge of taking such a small boat around the island, and to gain experience and training from the trip. They succeeded admirably (or Admiralty, to slip in a crap nautical pun) in all three aims.

“It was my first real experience of yachts. My job was to get the boat around and get everybody safety home as fast as we could. There was a crew of five and a skipper above me but he had no experience of racing mode. So if the shit hit the fan, if we hit a Force Five [Gale], things really, really would have gone wrong on a 20 foot boat.”

So, are you mad, or what?
“Well,” he laughs, “there’s a fraction of that needed alright. You need ball bearings in your hands and that sort of stuff. But the one we did last year was just a one-off, to see if we could do it without assistance.”

They did it all! This year Barry will take on the Round Ireland with Paul Birchall, skipper of the 20 foot sloop from the previous year, but it will be a proper competitive race this time, against a fleet of other ships.

But long-term, Barry’s sights are firmly fixed on the Olympics. Its not his confidence or his experience which worries him: he’s got plenty of that. No, what he needs more than anything is dough. Spendidles, pesos, dollars, bills. In an expensive business, sailing, and in Ireland the situation is appalling, according to Barry. Aisling Bowman, who, with others, represented Ireland very well in the last Olympics, and undoubtedly had much more to offer Irish and International sailing, has thrown in her lot with the sport, frustrated at the financial insecurity of a future without funding and proper sponsorship. She is a serious casualty.

Barry Hayes needs much more experience under his belt if he hopes to qualify before the 1999 Olympic deadline comes round, but without funding, the battle is well nigh impossible, and he, we, may be forced to give up something to which he has devoted nearly half his life.

Chess Society

Starting
Thur 26 Feb
6pm K-154

All welcome

Big Prizes, celebrations afterwards

For more information contact
Michael at doctor.wby@hotmail.com or Contact Student Union

Also Chess Society meets every Thursday @ 6pm in K-154.
If technology got into the wrong hands though, it could easily develop. Some parents spend a fortune for a clone. A type clone is really just a time-traveler, a human who could finally have some control over his own life or a duplicate of your idol may all come true if you wish it.

Science fiction has helped nurture bizarre ideas about cloning. In the bustling and bustling of today's world, most people could do with a clone. Say you're spending more time working than living. But what do you really want? Long lost cousin, twin from outer space. "A clone is really just a time-delayed identical twin of another person," says Steven Vore in The Case for Cloning Humans. The difference between twins and clones is that twins result from two parents, sperm and egg. Cloning can result from only one parent.

When cloning comes about, people will be willing to pay anything for a clone. A type of black market for embryos could easily develop. Some parents spend a great deal on in-vitro fertilization. The sepulchres born in Ireland last year are the most recent, unusual outcome of in-vitro fertilization. Who knows how much parents would be willing to pay for cloning their own children? Barbara Ehrenreich of Time writes, "Any normal species would be delighted at the prospect of cloning. No more nasty surprises like Down's Syndrome - just batch after batch of high-grade and generally speaking immortal offspring." [Brave New World or what?]

Cloning from an already existing human will provide the opportunity for parents to pick their "ideal" child, also doing away with labour pain.

Religion is the root of many peoples' beliefs about cloning and abortion. The notion that all creatures come from God with their own certain uniqueness about them. In America 93% think cloning is wrong. This is perhaps why an American scientist is currently finding it so difficult to find resources to fund his experiments. He has said he will set up in Mexico if he is disallowed in the U.S.

In Alice in Wonderland, the Red Queen of Cheese and Alice take off running at a seemingly impossible pace, the scenery a dark blue blur behind them. However when they stop, it seems as if they haven't gotten anywhere. The Red Queen tells Alice that you have to run just as fast as you can to stay right where you are, and that to get anywhere, you'd have to run twice as fast. Will this be the case with evolution?
The NME Beat Bus

If the tour formerly known as the NME Beat Bus is a preview of the bright young things of alternative '98 we can only assume that indie has no more tricks up its sleeve. There are no more indie songs to be written. The War on the Wavelines, someone could be the new Nัssions, someone could be the new Case, someone could be the new Supergrass. Does anyone even want to be the old Supergrass? Doesn't any of these young people listen to music last year? The kids want slow prog rock. Go and buy Radiohead and The Verve you annoying little fuckers and come back with something we want to hear.

Sandwiched in the middle somewhere is Asian Dub Foundation. This is what it must have been like the last time, though anger is the last of the emotions that springs to mind in this early 90s-wounding tune that just might have been writ on as a filler. It's a lot more genuine than bashing a piano remix on the end, which happened for me financially. Rage doesn't challenge too much and is not up to anything in the way the kids are.

Lyrics are, perhaps, more grown-up than the music, and Weatherman would seem to be the form-runners here. Though being quoted as more than just your average guitar band - instrumentally they can play include clarinet and harmonica - the music didn't live up to the aims.

Methinks a safely, safely record company approach might be in order.

Stay tuned to the Examiner in February when an interview may be forthcoming.

ChasOS

Fatal Flower

Human Among to This...

(The Independent Release)

The music of Fatal Flower is deeply rooted in 70s American music, particularly rock of the 60s. Kansas, Yes, and Canadian demi-god Rush: its melodic structure, FM friendly and commercial.

The first number, I'm Going Home, is at worst, perhaps, slightly predictable, containing no hidden meaning lyrics, and not much you won't have heard before in terms of the genre. It is a decent original composition, though, and its upbeat tempo and immediately familiar tune delivers on the humming promise.

Madonna, a standard enough half, is a Ronan-Cole optical lick, a song about a girl jerked around by life, until it eventually crashes her: "She's a shadow of her former self! Almost of being left on a shelf... They found her body last night!" It was floating in the pale moonlight..."

The accompanying guitar rhythms are great, funda-

mentally similar.

For dangerous selfie levels, though, Succ of a Leader, is a sleek, tautnik Rock n roll shock, the few to learn. It might as well as Ian Anderson and co. minus the ever-present flute.

Some might argue that there is nothing new in this kind of music in AOR, its true, but in some cases they're right. But, then, they'd be the same type of people who would listen to cover bands all night. This is original, and you'll hunger along to it.

ChasOS

GIGS

The NME Beat Tour

Redbox 13 Jan

The DIT Battle of the Bands is being held in the Mean Fiddler Tues 27 Jan, Tues 3 Feb, and Tues 10 Feb, with winners being announced each night. Twelve bands will perform in total, and will consist of bands from the Band Societies in Bolton Street, Kevin Street and Aungier Street. Four bands will play every week for three weeks and everyone is guaranteed a great night. First bands and cheap beer for £2 aren't bad! It will be judged by Terry Holehan (Music Soc), Dave Monney (Photo Soc) and Ian O'Carroll (Velo Records), and overall winners will be announced on the last night, Tues 10 Feb.

It will be organised by the three Band Societies and Barry Smyth (Bolton St Ents Officer). Admission will be £3 and there will be numerous promotions and prizes.

The winning band will play at the Rag Ball, receive a cash prize, and get two days in SONIC recording studios on Capel Street. The second prize is a £100 gift voucher courtesy of Goodwins of Capel Street. The whole event is being sponsored by SONIC Studios, Heincken and Goodwins in association with the Mean Fiddler.

Among the bands to perform will be The Lotus Eaters, Cisco Pike, Paleside Poets, Synergy, Legless, Carnaby, and Soma, Mobius, Watergate, Hollow Point and Smoking Jacket.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and we hope it will continue for the battle of the bands. Thanks!

CLUBBED TO A BLOODY PULP

Influx

@ Redbox

Thursdays @ Kitchen

Jan 31
Darren Emerson (Underworld)
Darren Price (Jur Boys Own / Underworld)
Billy Scurry

Feb 7
Ian Pooley (Force Inc, Germany)
Kevin Rose / Saunderson (Inner City, Detroit)
Stephen Mulhall (Influx)

Feb 21
SLAM/Sons Record Party
featuring SLAM, Funk D'Void and MAAS

Lionrock, with Justin Robertson, centref.

Get him in the Kitchen, Jan 29.

Like to see the young, young, vibrant Public Enemy. If AOF aren't smoothed by really-cold, ethnically-orientated cities From The Guardian they'll soon be IT. When morose beats and guitar is bad it's horrid but when it's good it's wicked. As regular new stuff isn't refreashing anyone here are weather contrarians for the future of hip-hop for whites.

Brendan O'Connor

Contributions to Influx: Music regarding anything musical to welcome. On disk or not at all please.

Competition

Influx are offering two pairs of tickets to the Emerson/Price/Scurry holy trinity on Jan 31 in the Redbox (1st correct entries).

All's you gotta do is answer this Q.

Q1. What's Darren Emerson's first name?

Answers are to be made to:
The Editor,
the DIT Examiner,
DIT St Kevin St.
Dublin 2
Ph: 244 3356
**Fatal Flower**

Fatal Flower are a five-piece group from Dublin who, Lack of Live jobs nearly two years ago to pursue a music career full-time. They are due to release a three track CD single independently, Human. According to this, in the next month or so. Earlier this month, three-fifths of the band came into the extensive offices of the DIT Examiner to answer a few questions on making their own music, battling the music industry, and not giving up.

Was the band complete before you quit working?

"We actually got our fifth member [Lisa Lawlor — drums] just as we were quitting. Up until then, myself, Mark and Dave used to work together in the same place and so we used to jam a bit, and we played a couple of charity gigs which were organised through the job, more talent nights than anything else," Colm explains. "We found that we were hitting fairly well and that we were coming up with a lot of the same ideas and weld a lot of the same feelings for what we wanted to do and what we wanted to get out of it."

"I had worked with Paul musically, two or three years ago," says Mark, "and I knew his style, and I knew it would work with Colly's. So then we were a four-piece, and we auditioned a drummer, and we got Lisa on board."

**What makes Fatal Flower?**

"Common desire," Mark seems clear on the band's unity of purpose. "We all have the same love for music, and we realized after a very short period of time that we could write really good music together, and to the same desire that gave myself and Colm and Paul the need to just quit our jobs. We knew we just couldn't do what we were doing anymore, we knew that music was the only thing that we really wanted to do. And everybody in the band has one goal and that's to be successful in this band."

And what's successful?

"A record deal. The recognition for our musical talents.

How different are the musical influences amongst the five of you as individuals and how does this affect your own output?

"Well, the influences that we have are entirely different," Colm continues, "and because of that, it works great. When we actually get down to writing, there are five people writing. It isn't the case that somebody is the main melody writer and somebody is the main lyric writer — everybody gets involved in every aspect of it. And when you have that sort of situation everybody is able to get their own influence in. But Dave made the point recently, he's playing the sort of bass guitar that he always wanted to play. And I'm playing the sort of guitar I've always wanted to play, so it's Paul, and the same for Lisa with the drums. When you get the big metal pot going, everybody is doing exactly what they want to do, and what comes out is Fatal Flower."

They claim to have a unique bond in that they are nearly always unanimous in their musical decision making, whether writing or playing always seem united. They're obviously tight.

They did say their "greatest impression " — they were only together eight weeks — and they recorded and mixed eight tracks in one day, a feat which, given a £10,000-a-day studio and a £20,000-a-day producer would still be impossible if the musicians were not able to nail their numbers in a single take. They produced a promotional pack which included a brochure and carefully created, and time-consuming art-work. But then it appeared that they had done too good a job. Mark has seen too much of it:

"When you approach people they say 'Look, you've gotta look professional and give it your best shot', and then when we supplied it (the promo package) to people in the industry, they acted as though we were already signed and had loads of money. But nobody bothered their arse checking into it."

Record companies (which are profit-making organisations, after all) are notorious for moving the goalposts to suit themselves as the market dictates, something which makes sound business sense, but shaps-up the creative side of things. The problem arise when you try to bridge the gap between the creative aspect and the business side of the process. Record companies are rarely truthful when it comes to rationalising anything to the creative minds of the industry, and Fatal Flower have had first-hand experience of this all too often.

So are the record companies too complacent, spoils for choice in Ireland?

"Any of the bands who we've met who have a serious approach to original music and have a sort of it have agreed that the problem with the Irish music industry is that there's too much talent. They [record company execs] can sit there and go 'We only have to sign ten bands this quarter, we'll just go out and listen to a few gigs. There's enough good musicians out there, we can pick anyone we want.' Ireland is fifth in the world for producing musical talent — not per population — the FIFTH largest no matter what the population. And that's phenomenal when you look at countries like America, which has 265 million people, and we're fifth in the world. And the talent seems to just sit there on their own and go 'Well, who are we going to make this month?' which is a real pain in the hole."

"We've never had a full week’s work in Ireland, and we've never had a full week’s work in America because we've never been there before."

"You can come back and suddenly everybody will love you then, but no-one's prepared to take the risk."

Will the record company attitude change?

"Not in the near future. They may change their focus [from boy bands, girl bands and variations] to good-old rock bands and audition four guys to orchestrate some other financially viable package, but I don't think they're going to open their eyes and start printing the proper valutes for recognition."

"The Father Ted scenario [Rock, a bit risky, don't think we can run that on RTÉ, unless of course someone like, say, Channel 4 can show us we're wrong..] is all too often the case. Fatal Flower don't hold out much hope that record companies will change their spots very soon, but that hasn't weakened their resolve: if anything it's fuelled it."

Fatal Flower will be playing gigs in Slattery's of Capel St. on Sat 7 and Sat 28 Feb. Give it a go.

For CD single review see page 30
For December 97 Winners see p3

COMPETITION NO. 5

DITSU Simplex

CRÊPS SIMPLON

Competition

PRIZE: First 3 correct entries drawn will each receive a £20 gift voucher for DITSU Students Union Shop.

RULES: Only open to members of the DIT college. Employees of DITSU and THE IRISH TIMES are not eligible to enter. No Photocopies - one entry only. Entries close: Fri 13 February

SEND TO: THE IRISH TIMES / DITSU, Crossword Competition, The DIT, Examination Road, Dublin 9. (Entries dropped into local Union office)

NAME: ____________________________

COLLEGE: _________________________

YEAR: ____________________________

COURSE: __________________________

STUDENT NO.: ____________________

ACROSS
1 Determined, mind made up (8)
2 Deep, steep valley containing river or stream (8)
3 Poster, nearly continuous (6)
4 Extol, praise very highly (8)
5 I'd mean to it in the middle (6)
6 In raptures (8)
7 Turnsole, linseed (8) used as a weapon (6)
9 Shout a lot (8)
10 Find fault with the editing (7)
11 Female face of the lowest pitch (6)
12 Great effort or grief (8)
13 Distraction of an event (6)
15 Shot a bow at Jerome Ken's maul (6)
16 Without any difficulty (6)
17 Monkey-nut (6)
18 Game of chance played with a ball on a wheel (6)

DOWNS
1 Pick up the tab, 'er you world (6)
2 Place for sun-bathing (8)
3 Since Una became even (8)
4 Rob or strikes out (7)
5 Groups of notes going up and down (6)
6 A riddle, very difficult to understand (6)
7 In winter one is December 22nd (8)
8 A short note or a slip of a thing (4)
9 Sweet, pleasant, pleasant (6)
10 Chrisrd's home returns to an empty house (8)
11 Rather, ease the tension (5)
12 Gave (6)
13 Tell a story (6)

Available from Ditsu

Dublin Institute of Technology Students Union

StUDENT UION SHOPS

For complete competition rules see THE IRISH TIMES.
Titanic

Starring: Leonardo Di Caprio, Kate Winslet, Billy Zane
Director: James Cameron

Director James Cameron has busheled all cynics who have been gleefully anticipating the film Titanic. Assured that it would be a failure of Waterworld proportion, it has gone on to top financial records - so the total of $35.6 million in grossing weekend - is a sure thing for the Oscar in March. Epic seems too small a word to describe the movie, which is by turns, exciting, romantic and action-packed with the most seamless special effects.

The story begins in the present with explorer Bill Parker determined to hunt the ghostly remains of the RMS Titanic which lies at the bottom of the sea. He and his team bury themselves with finding out where the swag could be hidden, a golden old lady. Rose De Witt Bukater, a survivor of the elderly ship, tells a ragged audience about the young man she met on board. It flash back to the ill-fated maiden voyage and we meet Rose as a beautiful young woman played by Kate Winslet, who boards first class with her widowed mother and stiff-upper-lipped fiancé Cal, played by the award-winning Billy Zane. A bit of a rebel is our Young Rose, who finds herself rolling with upper class she does not fit, engaged to a man she does not love and a life of trinity and diamond parties whenever he can. Seeing no other way out, she decides to quit her teeth and jump overboard, only to be saved by first class passenger Jack Dawson - Leonardo Di Caprio.

A friendship strike up between the unlikely couple and for the first two hours of the three and a quarter hour movie, fow we find them building an outlaw. Like a lot of period films, issues of class and the rigid nature of Edwardian society crop up from time to time, especially when Jack meets the ship's folk for dinner and the devastating Cal traces to undo him. Rose's mother is none too pleased of his kind, nor are the other members of his party, who can ever entertain their place in British society, her husband keen leaving them behind. For about the final hour of the film... I'm not giving anything away here - the action kicks in as the lowly scoundrel, down town, is able to escape the clutches of the Cal's manuscript and struggle to return to the Titanic faithful near his sick. Stories about treacherous on the set of Titanic have been in the media ever since shooting began. Talk of all ill-treatment reached its climax when Kate

Starship Troopers

Starring: Casper Van Dien, Denise Richards, Dina Meyer
Director: Paul Verhoeven

When Robocop was released in 1987, director Paul Verhoeven said of Science Fiction: "... it should always be possible to do the divisive and get God on the other side of passion. I know that you want to believe in it, but I don't believe it." But he's a big fan of the genre, and with Casper Van Dien's new film Starship Troopers, he's playing to his strengths. The movie tells the story of a young man who has to decide whether or not to go to war with the aliens. He's a part of a special force of human soldiers, trained to fight the alien invasion. The film is action-packed and full of exciting special effects, with a cast that includes Casper Van Dien, Denise Richards, and Dina Meyer.

Whether or not you're interested in taking this kind of film seriously is ultimately up to the individual. If you go along with the idea of seeing these American teenagers fighting against an alien invasion, you might enjoy the movie. However, if you're looking for a more serious take on the alien threat, you may be disappointed.

Some have found that they enjoyed the film specifically because it was so histrionic with laughable acting and a seriously dodgy script. However, without decent script and believable actors, it's a lot of fun to have an audience to depend upon for the effects of their behavior. As well as all bad B movies (and indeed with Verhoeven's own today "Starship Troopers", which is currently enjoying critical interest within the West) it could become a cult classic, although the words "poorly" and "disappointing" are distinctly lacking.

Starship Troopers

Starring: Stuart Townsend, Brenda Strong, James Nesbit
Director: Marc Evans

Based on the novel Starship Troopers by Robert Heinlein, which is regarded as the classic Sci Fi novel from that time. Verhoeven has changed much of what was good in the book and brought some violence to the forefront. The movie was more of a campy commentary and had adapted on the faithful story; it was not glorified, whichever the viewer learns a lot to be admired. The movie's star is a kind of beast turned to a film, and Verhoeven hoping that his viewers would see that he was taking the piss and laugh along. Or, instead, he was taking the piss at all?

When the news first came to deal with their scenes from the film, the script had been written and the character development was in place. From the virtually unknown cast gathered from the talents that are Melissa Place and Beverly Hills 90210, nobody, apart from Dina Meyer appears out well in the act of making. Paul Verhoeven may have been purely homage to his boyhood science fiction, which was this audience too ready giving a too whether they see it or not. The plot of the film is business-like and the half-hearted romantic subplot is superficial. Verhoeven has a knack of making the usual science fiction movie with nothing new, which is what he wanted to avoid and people who have to wade through this film and make it through. Some become known for the path to a pattern forms and their tradition is almost lost.

Resurrection Man

Starring: Stuart Townsend, Brenda Strong, James Nesbit
Director: Marc Evans

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Unlike many other films about the North, politics, although as obvious an element in the situation, is not the reason why the Verhoeven goes off the road, he develops a theme for the more gruesome killings purely out of his own psychopath. All the performances are good, if some actors - understood - John Hannah (the previous top dog McGree) and Sean Mc Ginley (as an evil preacher) - yet there was something lacking by way of explanation as to why Verhoeven turned down the way he did. Coupled with many torture scenes which are not so much graphic as simply unnecessary. Not as easy catch.
PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL
[Monthly draw for a Sony PlayStation]

KARAOKE - CARLSBERG PROMOTION
[Monthly draw for Match Tickets]

HEADPHONE SEX on4dex
[Resident Chris Golding with guest DJs]

SEVENTH HEVIN
[Dj Mick Glynn]

GUINNESS PROMOTIONS
[Dj, Prizes & Give Aways]

DJ SEAN HARLEY

DJ CHRIS GOLDMING

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