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

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DIT Students Support CARI

The Children at Risk in Ireland Foundation (CARI) was founded in 1989. It is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. CARI was set up to provide post-assessment therapy services for children who have experienced child sexual abuse and also to provide support for non-abusing members of their families.

Students in DIT Mountjoy Square are involved in running charity events for CARI throughout this year. So far over £1,000 has been raised and the target is £10,000.

DITSU have also decided to adopt CARI as one of two charities that will benefit from any money raised during Rag Week.

What Can You Do?
The discovery, or even the suspicion that a child is being sexually abused can be very disconcerting. If you have any concerns, or simply want more information, phone one of their helplines in complete confidence.

Dublin 01-830 8529
Limerick 061-413 331

RAG WEEK ON PLANET DIT

It rolls around again, and this one promises to be bigger and phatter than anything seen.

From booze croozes and band battles to bus-laden rag trips and bed-pushing sponsorship runs, DITSU has organised a bucket-load of events, happenings and goings-on.

Rag Balls a-plenty for space with Mystery Tours, pub crawls, sex quizzes and naked mud-wrestling.

Of course, lectures will still be taking place, and projects, essays, lab reports and the like will still gain top priority when it comes to the crunch.

But when you've put your notes and books away, and you're satisfied that you'll pass you're exams then Hey — go a bit wild. Wickid.

DIT -- A Second Rate University?

Under the newly created national certification awarding body, Teastas, which currently the DIT is scrutinised and supervised regarding DIT awards certification, Teastas propose that even if, which will most likely happen, the DIT University status will be certified and scrutinised by Teastas.

All other Universities are currently under the remit of the Higher Education Authority (HEA), so why, therefore, should the DIT, on becoming a University, not be covered by the remit of the HEA. It is clearly an attempt by Teastas to justify their existence. They have no remit with regard to any other University in the state. Why should they have any remit with regard to the DIT as a University.

It is essential that these measures not be allowed to be put in place, and that like all other fully-fledged Universities, the DIT as a University would be treated as such. Anything else would be a step backwards and would devalue any progress made to date on DIT's transition to University status. Please support any further action by your Students' Union to make the DIT a first rate University.
Disabilities Awareness Day

In filling out CAO/CAS application forms, one must consider many different colleges before making that final choice. These decisions are based on many different criteria such as where the drink is cheapest and what the male/female class ratios are. However, for the disabled student, this choice is even tougher. Not only must they choose between colleges based on academic reputation, they must also, in order to enjoy a comfortable college life, make decisions on the best facilities for their particular needs. This decision should be made easier for disabled students by ensuring that all colleges have the adequate facilities in their colleges, allowing disabled students to be free to choose colleges on a facility basis and concentrate on choosing a college based on academic matters.

The consideration of this fact has led equality officers throughout the DIT to come to the realisation that, although DIT is the largest college in the country, and provides courses that are unique to the establishment, DIT is not a wheelchair accessible, and their provisions for the deaf and blind leave a lot to be desired. The actual number of disabled students in DIT — which is reported by many as few — is irrelevant. It is our concern, however, how many students for whom the college does not cater on a day to day basis. Although the DIT has arrived to rectify this situation by appointing a disability officer, Linda Maguire, a long road stretches ahead. It is the aim of the equality officers on the 11 March to raise awareness of the daily problems that face a disabled student in DIT. It is through the student body that reform and consideration for others can be achieved. Our awareness can rectify the situation and solve the problem of the disabled.

On 11 March the Irish Wheelchair Association, the National Council for the Blind, the National Rehabilitation Board, Guide Dogs Association, Rehab and the Irish Council for the Status of People with Disabilities — to mention but a few — are sending representatives to conduct discussions and workshops in the DIT. It is our hope that an event will be held that night in Gleeson Hall, Kevin St., for all to attend.

Your support could make a difference. Hopefully all will gain from the day that lies ahead.

Orlagh Burke,
Equality Officer, DITSU Kevin St.
Going for Gold
by Thomas Felle

When people ask me what Gaisce is, I start to tell them exactly what it has been for me. The insight it has given me into the lives of so many people. However, after the first two sentenced of my story, I had already been telling about the main facts. I would then talk about the weather or the price of the pint, something they have an interest in. For some however, especially young people, their eyes sharpen as they get comfortable in their seats for what is going to be an interesting story. For these people, I can almost guess with one hundred percent accuracy what their next question is going to be: How do I get involved?

For me, it was quite simple. During my Transition Year in School, the Development Officer for Gaisce, John Murphy came to our school and made a presentation to the students. He told me about the awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold, and the requirements necessary for each. He encouraged each person to sign up on the Bronze immediately, which could be attained in just three months. It would mean a day out and a chance to win the award. My eyes focused and my next question was how do I get involved?

I was lucky in that there was a PAL (President's Award Leader) in my school so all I had to do was fill out the form and wait for my book to come back. I still remember looking at the three medals Mr. Murphy brought with him to the school. Jokingly he told me that if I persisted, some day I could be looking at my own three awards. I wonder if he says that to all the participants.

My first dilemma was what to do for the Bronze award. I had to do fifteen hours of community involvement and any two of a similar time scale of either physical recreation, a personal skill or a venture project. After much contemplation with three friends who were also pursuing the award I decided. I would set up a school branch of the Credit Union. And I did. Physical recreation was no object to any of us as we were all very athletic individuals. However for our third task we were benzene as to what to do. Myself and one other in the group were very interested in tourism as we were studying it as part of the course in Transition Year. It seemed like an obvious choice then to make a tourism brochure for the local area. Several weeks later, with blisters on our fingers and a couple of cuts, we finally wrote the brochure. At last, it was sent in the application and wait in hope until the awards ceremony.

The following October, 1993 my PAL, St. Fidelis O’Keefe informed me I would be getting my award in Cavan. So off I went and received the award from former Eurovision star, Niamh Kavanagh. I still remember coming home in the car that evening with my parents looking at the award and thinking of what I had done to get it. It think it was in the car I decided I was going to try and get my Silver award.

The Silver award takes about a year to complete, and requires about double the workload as well as a requirement that all four categories. (community involvement, personal skills, physical recreation and a venture project) be completed. Sounds like an uphill struggle but when you put your mind to it you can do anything. I think the main thing about the whole objective of the award is to push yourself to new limits. I worked as a volunteer for the Galway County Association for the mentally handicapped in Portumna. It was one of the most challenging experiences of my life.

For the first time I realised that people who were mentally handicapped were just like everybody else: they brushed their teeth in the morning, they got sad, they laughed, and more importantly they had something to offer the world just as much as anyone else. I admit it was very difficult for me to overcome my prejudices, but working one on one with one youth man taught me a lot. More than a textbook can ever teach you.

For my venture project, I decided I would get out in the fresh air of the countryside with my bicycle and try for three days and covered distance to make up enough bicycle miles to qualify for the Silver award. Easy. Hell hath no fury like the pike a bicycle can give you in the middle of glorious West of Ireland summertime. Sleeping in tents where there’s more water inside than outside didn’t help much. The funny thing is, I’d do it all again because I enjoyed myself thoroughly. I got my Silver award two weeks before I did my Leaving Cert. The following September I started my Gold award.

Going for Gold is a noble honour in itself, or so my P.A.L kept telling me. It does take up a major part of your life for two years, however. For the first half of that two year term I concentrated on my personal skill and my venture project.

I remember from school-going days during the concert and musical season, everybody always gathered around the person who plays the guitar or the piano, and stared in amazement as chords plucked or notes played. I played tin whistle as a young whispiscallion but to no great success. I suppose it was a romantic idea, but yet I was intent on following when I decided I would purchase a guitar and learn to play it. After a quick consultation with a musician, I turned up at one of his lessons one Wednesday night in September 1995. One year later I was playing. More importantly though, I was playing because I loved playing, not because my parents wanted me to play, or not even because I wanted to do it for some award. I loved it and I loved sitting for hours trying to work out what chord an artist used in a song to make it sound the way it sounded. If I had to pick one moment out of my whole Gaisce experience, it would be in that cold room in Portumna one Winter’s evening when myself and another girl who was also learning guitar listened in awe with tears welling in both our eyes as our teacher, Brian played and sang one of his own songs. He told both of us that we could do the same and then proved it to us by maling us to it right there and then.

My venture project was not a trip to Mount Everest. It wasn’t even a week’s army survival. It was however one of the most moving experiences of my life, and one I will certainly never forget. I was with all the learners of the current group of sick and old people to Lourdes. Six months later, I stood in a pub in Lourdes drinking Stella Artois to beat the band with friends I made for life.

I had a bit of a dilemma in deciding what I was going to do to fulfill the community involvement requirement. I was moving to Dublin to start college that September and I didn’t know where to begin looking for a place in Dublin. I went for my regular visit to my P.A.L and told her of my problem. Ten minutes later it was all solved: I started as a volunteer in Concern Internationale in Camden Street within the month. I suppose everybody feels guilty as pictures of famine stricken African children flash before our eyes on the news from time to time. For me it was great to be able to do my bit to help the tremendous work being done in Africa and many other third world and developing countries in the world.

My physical recreation requirement was fulfilled by me learning to swim in the pool in DIT. Kevin Street. It is said that you are best just to dive in at the deep end and hope for the best, well there’s a little more to it than that. Again a life long ambition was fulfilled and so was my log book.

This Christmas, I got an invitation from the Gaisce Awards office to attend a presentation of an awards ceremony in Dublin Castle on January 22. There were 35 awardees to be presented with Gold Gaishes. There were four from my old school getting one. Three of my school friends, who started the Bronze Award with me almost five years ago were among the 4. I am the fourth.
Opposition to student feedback survey  
by Sarah Marriott

A proposed survey to discover what students really think about their courses and lecturers has been criticised by Aungier St SU President, Siobhan Weckes. The results of the student survey questionnaire will be given to the course lecturer who will then “summarize” the level of student satisfaction with his or her course, and put the results on a staff survey questionnaire. It is proposed that DIT will introduce these questionnaires in 1998 as part of the revised quality assurance programme. Siobhan Weckes, SU President of Aungier St, is not satisfied with this proposal. “I’d like to see it changed before the end of the year,” she said, “If you’re going to have quality assurance, you’ve got to have quality assessment. Until the forms go the course director instead of the lecturer concerned, there is little point in filling them in.” It is proposed that each student will be requested to complete a questionnaire on each of their course component/subject, “as she/he experienced it”.

The draft survey, which is divided into six sections, offers four possible answers: from “unacceptable”, “acceptable”, and “good” through to ‘very good’ . Subjects dealt with range from: ‘Organisation and contents’ of a number of strong performances through to a general summary which would be handwritten. This general evaluation and suggestions category is divided into three parts: ‘good features of the component course’, ‘weaknesses of the course’, and ‘suggestions for improvement’. It seems that the reasoning behind the lecturers receiving the student surveys is that they will receive direct feedback on their teaching skills. Then, according, to one lecturer, the teacher can work out where he or she needs to improve. Siobhan feels that this is inadequate: “There’s nothing to stop the lecturer binning the whole lot or saying that they never received any completed forms.” One Aungier St lecturer believes that these questionnaires will not change anything. “This is just a political statement,” he said, “Like a lot of things, it’s just verbalising objectives. There is a need for training of third-level lecturers in education and teaching skills and there is also a need for honest feedback of the opinions of the customer, the student.” He warns that care should have to be taken with group dynamics, or there might be some victimizing of a lecturer. However, he feels that, with enough openness and “enough people involved with a sense of decency, things don’t get of hand.” The disaster situation, which Mr Seinfeld pointed out, has arisen close by and as a result my foreseeable future will be spent in the locality. The late nights and early mornings of university are now a distant memory. Life is a constant stream of early nights, earlier mornings and working days.

Why did I move back anyway? Apparently education broadens the mind, offers travel, a sense of independence, opportunities of any kind. I went to college because the money I'd get back was a $40,000 a year job, but it won't matter if you live with your parents! Your undergraduates have a padlock on it, telephone calls are limited to five minutes and apparently saving is more important than blowing you money on ridiculous enjoyment. It all amounts to a life of seclusion and intimate five minute telephone relationships with 1-908 lines. As Oscar Wilde so eloquently put it, “Few parents pay any regard to what their children say to them. The old fashioned respect for the young is dying.”

The proposed survey to discover what students think of their courses and lecturers, was set up recently in Aungier St to hopefully fill the yawning gap left by Kevin St.

Attention all you puffs! A society for all you Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals has been set up recently in Aungier St to hopefully fill the yawning gap left by Kevin St. Anyway, over the next couple of months there shall be regular meetings as well as inter-college socials so that we can all get together and have a good old barney. If you would like to know more on dates and times and the like get your pink little fingers down to your nearest computer and give us an e-mail at LGBSOC@DIT.IE.

This is also the address for any queer-ies (sic), Alternatively contact your SU as we will be faxing them regular updates, P.S. If there’s any prank mail I’ll get me mother after you!”

Theatre review
The Wake  
by Tom Murphy

by Eoin Hennigan

There is only one word which can describe Stanley Townsend's performance in Tom Murphy's The Wake - outstanding. Indeed, he is one of a number of strong performances all round in this new production currently running at the Abbey theatre.

The Wake is Murphy's 34th play, and follows in the traditions of the small-town narrow-mindedness which he portrayed in his other works A Crucial Week and Conversations On A Homecoming, relying heavily on language to portray the communities and surroundings of the characters. However, a weak plot fails to build on the promise of the characters and the well delivered acting. The first half promise much but it wanes away in the second, the plot being lost as Murphy delves too much into exploring the characters' mental psyche.

Vera (Jane Brennan) is an outcast in an upper class family who returns home from America to sell her inheritance - a house. Selling the house, she feels, will finally sever her links with the family.

Her sisters, disinclined, plan to take drastic action to prevent the sale, but confronting Vera is not easy. For starters she stays with an old flame, Finbar (David Herlihy), in a local council estate called the "Punjab," causing much embarrassment to the family.

Vera's problems lie with her brother Tom (Phelim Drew) and sister Mary (Olwen Fouere), who do not want to have the house to be taken out of the family's hands. The other member of the family who appears to be on Vera's side is Lawrence (David Herlihy), who gives the play a touch of humour it badly needs.

Directed by Patrick Mason, The Wake runs at the Abbey theatre until March 7th.

Fringe Notes  
by John Murray

The comedian Jerry Seinfeld has a sketch about men moving back to live with their parents, "moving back in with your parents, no matter what you look like it is a disaster move," he says. If you say you've got a beautiful girlfriend and a $40,000 a year job, but it won't matter if you live with your parents! Your undergraduates have a padlock on it, telephone calls are limited to five minutes and apparently saving is more important than blowing you money on ridiculous enjoyment. It all amounts to a life of seclusion and intimate five minute telephone relationships with 1-908 lines. As Oscar Wilde so eloquently put it, “Few parents pay any regard to what their children say to them. The old fashioned respect for the young is dying.”

Quite recently my life took a vicious swing the opposite way of which has probably ended many a golfer's career. I finished college and moved back in with my parents. A job opportunity arose close by and as a result my foreseeable future will be spent in the locality. The late nights and early mornings of university are now a distant memory. Life is a constant stream of early nights, earlier mornings and working days.

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Dennis the menace gets ‘time-out’

by June Edwards

A recent perusal through Dennis the Menace annual from 1978 confirmed just how much life has changed in two brief decades.

Back in ’78 Dennis, that loveable spiky-haired character clad in the familiar striped jersey, who was every parents’ nightmare and every child’s hero, ended each adventure receiving ‘six of the best’ from an irate Dad. The last picture-frame was reserved for the image of Dad with Dennis flung uncannily across his knee, being beaten with a slipper, and occasionally with another implement such as an iron pot.

Part of the fun for readers was the hope that with each new story, Dennis would commit a fresh ‘crime’ and get away with it. But he never did, and we the readers laughed merrily along, not too concerned for his plight.

In 1978 most people believed that a good ‘smack’ or ‘spanking’ as it was politely called, didn’t do children a bit of harm, infact it prevented them from becoming ‘spoilt’. However the activities and severity of corporal punishment in schools in 1980s attitudes began very slowly but surely to change. When sociologists and educators began to openly discuss and discourage physical punishment of the issue became a source of public debate.

German Social Psychologist and author ElisabethNoelle-Neumann suggested in the 1960s that public opinion acted as a form of social control. She explored how society perceived public opinion and adapted attitudes to what is perceived to be acceptable. So it was with spanking. The more the issue was argued publicly the more willing the public were to change prevailing attitudes.

The ISPCC’s Educational Campaign of 1995 sought to change Irish attitudes toward physical punishment of children. The bill boards met the public gaze with the sad face of childhood accompanied by the message “35% of Irish adults now believe slapping children is wrong. Think About it. Let’s Value Childhood.”

A survey commissioned by the IMS/ISPCC in 1993 questioned 1,000 adults between the ages of 18 to 54, and revealed that 80% of respondents were hit with an open hand at home (20% constantly or frequently). A further 23% were hit with a flexible implement and 37% were hit with a rigid implement. Of the people surveyed, 46% said that they felt humiliates and degraded by physical punishment, 23% said that the effects of the punishment lasted 24 hours or more.

The report of the Irish Law Reform Commission on Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person, 1994 recommended that “whereas it would be premature to abolish the common law chastisement exception (which allows for ‘reasonable chastisement’ of children up to 17 years by parents) the re-education of parents should proceed without delay and the exception should be abolished at the right time”.

The ISPCC continues to sustain a political campaign for a legal ban of all forms of physical punishment in this country, believing it to be imperative to human rights.

Editor of the Beano comic, Euan Kerr, creator of Dennis the Menace, referring to the late 1970s editions commented “As scriptwriter for Dennis the Menace and The Bash Street Kids at the time, I was never comfortable that inflicting pain should be regarded as funny”. He added that with the outlawing of the cane and belt in British schools in the late 70s, it was decided by his predecessor Harry Cramond “that corporal punishment was no longer appropriate for our comic...while a wrongdoer in our comics nowadays still faces rebuke we try to do so in a more humane and human manner.”

It seems as if in 1998, Dennis’ parents have finally realised that their tearaway son never benefited from the slipper or belt. He is now happily enjoying a more humane ‘time-out’ in his room.

Spring is in the Air

Christmas and New Year have come and gone for another year and the told January days do little to help spirits flag occasionally. Yes already I can see a streak in the weather, except when it is raining, but hope springs eternal as I look forward to new challenges and opportunities and half another academic year under the proverbial belt. Life is all around me with evidence of spring in Mother Nature, birds, little plants and shrubs everywhere. There is constant growth in many areas of my own life too. The academic challenge is significant and indeed important but it is only one part of my development. Let me not forget the spiritual, psychological, physical and experiential aspects of my life also. I am challenged continually to grow and mature as a teacher as possible. Many of the Greek philosophers put the emphasis on the moral life without existence any area, a little like theflour from which wine is made. The old song from the great who was celebrating his hundredth birthday replied when asked to explain his great age said “I had known I was going to live for so long I would have taken better care of myself” is a lesson for me.

The wisdom of the elderly is often over what I want to hear but it is the voice of lived experience hence in value. They old and I witness and traditions from the country folk we tried to gather, asked them they may or may not be the most efficient but they have served generations through, these should not be allowed to die. Today, more than ever, we need to keep in touch with our roots, familial and national. Let us not forget any aspect of our genetic DNA structure for herein is the raw material with which we mould our lives and very being.

The challenge is to present well all fronts and to be comfortable and secure in myself. I can attend to different aspects of my personality from time to time, focusing on my relationships and social life as time and resources allow. It is important that there are people in whom I can confide and test the waters of new ideas. Do not be an idiot” I am reminded and I am not expected to go it alone. It is not my nature to do so. Then a balanced diet of fibre, vitamins and carbohydrates etc., in conjunction with regular exercise and a lot of common sense attends to the physical characteristics of my being. Psychological growth is very important and needs constant evaluation so I am aware of why I do what I do, particularly consciously. Here there is no evaded right or wrong, just a sense of wonder that my infancy and early childhood years have created and brought me instead of the many today, like it or not! Here there are so many options to develop and opportunities to make the very necessary inner journey so that I discover, in part, anyway, what makes me tick.

The spiritual too is searching for nurture. The basic transcendental questions roll from our lips and seek answers that are sometimes inadequate. It can be a lifetime task, but here again we and traditions from the country folk we tried and tested, often they may not be the most efficient but they have served generations through, these should not be allowed to die. Today, more than ever, we need to keep in touch with our roots, familial and national. Let us not forget any aspect of our genetic DNA structure for in there is the raw material with which we mould our lives and very being.

Taoiseach in Cathal Brugha St

An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern with DIT President, Dr Brendan Goldsmith, greeting guests at the recent launch of the Hospitality Management Course in DIT Cathal Brugha Street. Pic: Jimmie Robinson.

International architecture students at the recent Interact weekend hosted by DIT Belfas St. Students attended from Dublin, Belfas, Glasgow and Liverpool. Pic: Jimmie Robinson.

If I am a scientist of computer’s kiss, it is important that I dip into the arts occasionally. Visit an art gallery, appreciate the most artistic and imaginary genius of both artists and contemporaries, for there are as many bases on this expanse of reality as there are unique individuals. None of us have all the answers. The danger is that I become complacent with my own little world and accept it without regard for other experiences. I become insular and single-minded in my approach and outlook. I fail to fully appreciate the other’s opinion and so, out of my own subconscious inadequacy, I do not fully respect the unique invaluable outlook and attitude of the other and this may lead to degradation and an often failure to relate. Our world is rich in experience and opportunity for all of us to grow, flower and blossom to maximum potential. It is often our human inadequacy that prevents us achieving our goal. Often we blame others because we have difficulty with our own sense of failure or other times we set parameters for ourselves that are unnecessary and superfluous.

The Gospel of Saint Matthew challenges us in the Beatitudes (Ch 5) to excel and perfect ourselves in all aspects of our being. It recognizes the giftedness of each one and calls us to give the more for our own betterment and that of others. This is the challenge of a lifetime. God has blessed us with a tremendous set of gifts, share them with others and feel the sense of satisfaction in giving of self and accept the gratuitous reward of return when it comes your way!

Finbarr A. Neylon (Kevin St)
DITSU RAG WEEK

Monday
12:30pm DJ & Party Games
2pm Pub Games
8pm G-Force Night

Tuesday
11am Human Checkers
12:30pm Singled Out
2pm Pub Games
4pm Guinness Promo
7pm Rag Trip

Wednesday
12:30pm Barry Sinclair, Hypnotist
2pm Pub Games
8pm Guinness Karaoke in The Four Seasons

Thursday
11am Slave Auction
12:30pm Wheel of Fortune
2pm Pub Games
7pm Promo in The Four Seasons
9pm RAG BALL in the TEMPLE THEATRE Wonderwall & Blues Brothers
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<td>12-2pm Coca Cola Party in the Common Room</td>
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<td>8pm Games in The Back Gate</td>
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<td>8pm Guinness Party in The Back Gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12-2pm Bands in the Common Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4pm Lecturers Firing Range</td>
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<tr>
<td>5pm Pub Crawl and Pub Games (various locations)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-11:30am Charity Bed Push down O'Connell St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-1:30pm DJ in Common Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30-5pm Interlass Class Table Quiz in Common Room (£10 per team of five)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9pm onwards GUINNESS RAG BALL in TEMPLE THEATRE (£6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12 noon Mystery Film in Virgin Cinemas, Parnell St.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEACHTAIN NA NGLOBAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>College days are the best days of your life</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All day long in Gleeson Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 Hypnotist Barry Sinclair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free leprechauns, £2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30 Revenge is sweet-Tony is getting his headshaved if the £1000 is there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00 Band Society in top flight</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00 Riverdance, I think not. Ceili.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:00 Ya-hoo! Bar opens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:00 Gigantic Table Quiz £10 per table of 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:00 Sing your heart out-Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 Rag Trip-Carlow &amp; Waterford, £8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 If you didn't get a ticket, Treasure Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9pm Mean Fiddler Free 2for1 cocktails</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00 More cheap drink in Barney's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 Blind Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30 Man Hunt in College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:00 Again more cheap drinks in Barney's and Devitt's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:00 Access all area - Rag Ball in the Pod, Chocolate Bar and Red Box. £3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 DJ in the Snackery &amp; Pool Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00 Students’ Choice. Whatever you want to do, Cinema? Bowling? Booze Cruise?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21:00 Seventh Hevin.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12 noon Mystery Film in Virgin Cinemas, Parnell St.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEACHTAIN NA NGLOBAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>On Your Marks, Get Set, Go!</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1pm Crazy Games with the one and only DJ Glyn in the Canteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm Make sure you’re Listening, A Mystery Keg will be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm Get Those Beers Down You, with a Pre-Boomerang Promo in Club USI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 pm Mountjoy Sq and Aungier St are going to Dublin’s Hottest Niteclub, for the “Ready, Steady, Go! Ball” Tickets Only Event!!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1pm Our own Andy Woods Singing Live in the Canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>2pm DART Crawl</td>
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<tr>
<td>8pm Rag Week PUB COMAD in The Big Tree, Guinness Promo &amp; Prizes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1pm Busking Competition in the Canteen — Anyone can enter</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm 3 Legged Pub Crawl — Assemble outside College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strip Darts &amp; Sex Quiz, Stoney's</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30pm Infamous ‘Crazy Night’ — Venue To Be Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals of the Boat Race</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr &amp; Mrs COMAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sticky Bun Contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron Stomach Contest</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12pm DJ in the Canteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pm Free Keg in The Shakespeare</td>
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<tr>
<td>4pm Make Sure You Have Your Ticket for the Rag Ball, then put your Glad Rags On!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7pm Big Tree — Massive Pre-Ball Promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-30pm Buses Start Leaving for Rag Ball 98 in the Vortex Nightclub, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30am Buses return to Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6am Still Standing? Mad Bastards’ Morning in Slattery’s Early House, Capel St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rag Week Video in the Canteen.</td>
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Despite winning by double scores this was a hard won victory for the DIT hurling team in the preliminary round of the Fitzgibbon Cup. As the form of the Kerry hurlers was unknown no chances were taken by the DIT team in their preparations for the game at Terenure. Tralee proved to be physically strong and uncompromising opponents who were eventually defeated by the skill and discipline of the home team.

PJ Coady opened the DIT score sheet with a point from play. On the fourth and seventh minutes Coady added two further points from short range frees. The first DIT score from play came from Niall Gilligan who collected a Sean Duignan clearance and pointed. The visitors then put DIT under sustained pressure which was absorbed by the DIT back formation ably marshalled by captain Darren Caulfield. DIT could count themselves lucky that this period of pressure, which lasted for the final quarter of the game, only resulted in two points for Tralee. The final DIT score was a point by PJ Coady who showed his opponents how to do it.

The DIT team was:
Maguire, D. Caulfield, N. McCaffrey, S. Hickey, D. Spain, T. McGrath, P. Finnerty, M. Fitzsimons, S. Duignan (0-1), J. Cullen (0-1), PJ Coady (0-5), M. Murphy (0-1), D. Quinn, N. Gilligan (1-2), G. Ennis

Substitutions: M. Corcoran for N. Murphy, P. Blake for M. Fitzsimons, C. Buggy for G. Ennis

AND THE SECOND
DIT 0-16 TCD 1-5

Just four days after defeating Tralee the DIT hurlers faced TCD in a first round Fitzgibbon Cup game at Belfield. If Tralee were an unknown quantity for the team management, Trinity, who had defeated Galway RFC, were also unknown quantity. Trinity, who won the toss elected to play into the strong downfield wind and bright sun. Perhaps this was a bad choice for the visitors.

Martin Corcoran, who lined out in place of the injured Gerry Ennis, collected a clearance from Trevor McGrath, rounded his man and scored the first DIT point in the second minute of play. A swiftly moved ball from Sean Duignan was snapped up by his midfield partner, Michael Fitzsimons, and sent on to PJ Coady who scored the second DIT point. McGrath stepped up to take a long range free from inside the DIT half and increased the DIT score to three points. On eight minutes Coady sent over a free from fifty metres and eight minutes later converted again. In the meantime TCD scored their only point of the first half. Ice cool McGrath repeated the dose with another converted long range free and when half forward, Mark Murphy, was brought down Coady punished the transgression with a pointed free. A forty metre free by Coady was followed by a superb point by Michael Fitzsimons, who with Sean Duignan was completely dominating midfield. Martin Corcoran ended the half as he had begun it with a neat point from play under pressure giving DIT a nine point lead at half time.

On the resumption Niall Gilligan collected on the forty metre line and set up Darragh Quinn for a superb score with an immaculate low ball. A foul on Gilligan was punished by Coady with a thirty metre free into the sun and strong wind. He repeated that dose twice in the next two minutes and a Trevor McGrath ball which was latched onto by Darragh Quinn ended up on the bar on the twelfth minute. TCD, who had added on a point during the DIT blitz, then tackled two more points to their tally.

Coady sent over another free from the forty five metre line to end the DIT scoring spree with six minutes to go. What seemed like a certain point from the same position by Coady was ruled to be wide by the referee. In the dying minutes of the game TCD staged a rally which saw them score two further points in normal time and a goal, from a penalty, late in extra time.

Gettng down to it before the Tralee game. Pic: T. Kinsella

Tony Kinsella

FITZGIBBON CUP NOTICE!!
NEXT GAME: DIT v WIT IN WATERFORD
WEDNESDAY 18 FEB 98 2:30PM
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!!

8
Hockeyed out of it

Sandra Wilkinson

DIT Ladies v UCC

A 1-1 draw was a very satisfactory result against UCC. Considering the DIT team had never played together before, the performance was good. Understandably, the team started out slowly and play was sloppy. Despite the best efforts of our own defence, Cork were 1-0 up at half time. However, after the restart the players adjusted to each other and play improved. Emer O'Byrne slotted the ball past the Cork goalkeeper to bring the score to 1-1 and this is how it remained at full time.

Fiona Walsh at sweeper and Avril Copeland as goalkeeper both had excellent games and were instrumental in keeping the defence solid and the score level. All in all this was a promising start for the DIT ladies team. If the team's talent for scoring on the pitch can be as good as it is off the pitch, the season looks to be a successful one!!

We opted for the straight shot again but this time short corner struck by Fiona Sweeney. Emer O'Byrne slotted the ball past the Cork goalkeeper to bring the score to 1-1 and this is how it remained at full time.

The full time whistle sounded and it was decided that 5 minutes of extra time would be played after which, if a draw remained the game would be decided by penalty flicks. Both mentally and physically exhausted, neither team relished the prospect of another 10 minutes play. With a trip to Holland to be won and adrenaline pumping we fought on with a new urgency, realising that the victor would most likely be the team which scored first. Our defiance,Brona, Emer, Mo, Rebecca and Avril were strong and the midfield of Wendy, Sandra and Nicola, though visibly tiring, worked hard.

After the initial surge of pressure by the RTC team, the DITs found their feet. Despite this, the RTCs were first on the score sheet. The DITs rose to the challenge and after a period of pressure we were rewarded with a short corner. Emer O'Byrne's accurate push-out was reverse-sticked stopped by Sandra Wilkinson and superbly struck by Fiona Sweeney, hitting the back-board, bringing the score to 1-1.

As the first half was coming to a close the players were tiring and after a scramble in the DIT circle one of the RTC players kicked the ball past goalle Avril Copeland. The referee, unable to see the incident, awarded a goal, despite much demonstration from both the DIT players and supporters. This decision, however, aroused intense desire to win among the RTC team, the DITs found their feet.

Directly from pass back a spirited' drive into the RTC circle resulted in a corner. Again, in the same way as our first goal, this corner was superbly executed, with Emer O'Byrne getting a touch on Fiona's strike, deflecting it into the goal. 2-2, and with that the half-time whistle blew.

Tensions were running high as the second half commenced. Both sides played hard and tough, but RTC, with an early break, drove into our circle, winning a penalty corner which they converted. Refusing to give up, we placed all our energies into attack, realising that we had nothing to lose at 2-3 down. This way we won yet another corner after Fiona was taken down by the goal keeper (incidentally, this foul usually results in a penalty stroke). We made full use of this chance and in a repeat of our first goal, Fiona Sweeney again hit the back board. The atmosphere was amazing as both players and supporters were elated.

At the change around after 5 minutes the score was still level. The tension was becoming unbearable. With only a few minutes to go we got a short corner. We opted for the straight shot again but this time Fiona's shot was saved by the keeper. Emer, however,

We came back with a goal coming from an excellent

Triangular Tournament

THE match of the Triangular Tournament in Waterford had to be that between the DIT Ladies and the RTC Ladies. As this was the deciding match for the ladies it was decided by captains and referees that the teams would play 35 minutes a side, and a very hard fought 70 minutes it was to be.

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DIT Ladies v UUJ

After a delayed and extremely long journey to Belfast the DIT overcame many disadvantages to draw 2-2 against a very talented Ulster side. Without the excellence of our usual goalkeeper Avril Copeland, we had to call upon a very unwilling Glenda Bailey (Mountjoy Sq) who agreed to step in at the last minute. Missing three other valuable players, Fiona Walsh, Niamh Murphy and Jenny Ross, we were forced to rearrange positions. Emer O'Byrne, Rebecca McLoughlin and Maimh Malone adapted well to their new positions at centre back, sweep and left wing respectively.

UUJ were first to score, making full use of a free ball due to confusion among our own defence. DIT retaliated with a goal from left wing, Niamh Muckley. Again the Ulster side scored leaving the score at 1-2. We came back with a goal coming from an excellent

short corner struck by Fiona Sweeney.

DIT Mountjoy Sq.'s team, eventual winners of the tournament. Pictured: UUJ's defender.

DIT Ladies v UCC

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At the change around after 5 minutes the score was still level. The tension was becoming unbearable. With only a few minutes to go we got a short corner. We opted for the straight shot again but this time Fiona's shot was saved by the keeper. Emer, however,

was quick to spot the free ball and pushed it past the keeper, giving us the long-awaited lead. We managed to hold off any RTC pressure, retaining the lead until the full time whistle sounded.

Exhausted and relieved, but nevertheless elated and overjoyed, we had won the Tournament and our place on the plane to Holland! But first it was back to the Big Tree to celebrate.

Thanks to Seamus Byrne and WIT for organising the tournament. Also to our supporters, and to the DIT men, who also won the tournament.

[The stunningly good-looking Editor would like to take this opportunity to invite the ladies' hockey team around to the offices of the DIT Examiner for an evening of drinks and entertainment. He would also like to point out that he owns a rag-top Ferrari, a Malibu beach-front condo and a small Chateau in the Swiss Alps.]

Draw to Raise Funds for DIT Hockey Trip to Holland

Prize: Dinner for Two in Planet Hollywood and a Bottle of Wine

To Enter: Buy a Line for £1 Draw takes Place Wed 25 Feb in Club USI

Chess News

Congratulations to Rodney Lakes, who competed in the Ballyfermot Chess Open and received a grading prize. Also well done to everyone else who took part.

Upcoming: a full Inter-DIT Chess Competition, beginning Feb 26. Fantastic prizes on offer.

Contact Michael at Doctor.Who@Hotmail.Com or contact the Kevin St. Students' Union before 19 Feb.

20-22 February: Trip to Clare for Bunratty Chess Open. 13-15 March: Cork Chess Open

- Contact Michael on Thursdays in K-154 5pm-7pm.

Look out for posters for more information.

Chess Society meets every Thursday in room K-154 (Kevin St.) @ 5pm.

Keep all eyes on future issues of The DIT Examiner for chess puzzlers and bafflers on the crossword pages. We cannot confirm the matter as yet, though we are working to provide prizes, your honour.
Mediumwave
Thank God for Parallels
(Independent Release)

Recently returned from an NME weekend in Eng-land (only their eleventh gig), Mediumwave are a Dublin-based four-piece secondarily evolved, though whose constituent parts have played at many an affair. Thank God for Parallels is their first recording. Vonemann Birch aficionado this three-track collection and after you've blinked the quiet musical sunlight from your ears the lead guitar screams through a reinforced concrete dam and the bass storms through on its heels. The resulting sound is the dramatic, meditative, cascade of whichever lies behind that dam as it crumbles at Mediumwave's feet. Floating on top of the intermingled layers are lead singer Joe Wilson's sunbeam vocals. It's like Ash if Ash were adults. Wilson's sounds. Some gift electronic doesn't, but gets there gradually, going... through layers are lead singer, Joe Dinosaur Og fame, but that's reference to Mr Masds 0 you expect for it to erupt background here, a la Kraftwerk. It begins exquisitely softly, and gradually, going through Joy Division for a short cut until they come out the other side like a Flawed win chap as the garage-bed of needed sounds. Some gift electronic noises dotted throughout the background here, ie Kraftwerk or Can. Koof Ja, estabilish.

Mediumwave play the Music Centre, Feb 13 and the Mean Scene, Feb 21. Tune in.

ChaOS

Return to the Last Chance Saloon
The Bluetones
PolyGram

Pulplike relief, then. This is not a record made by the bastard sons of Ocean Colour Scene, nor is it a retreat into smug Mod music safety. These are the accusations facing The Bluetones today, their first album, Expecting to Fly, was a guitar pop gem that was ripped out of the ordinary by the introspective, intelligent lyrics of vocalist Mark Morriss. Whatever about expecting to fly, reaching number one in the album charts means that two years later expectations are high. Too high. But, true to form, they deliver with a little charm and a lot of style. As recent as Nifsith's Bridge, suggested, the Bluetones are in transition. This is a much heavier record, with elements of blues, rock, and even proto-metal (not as bad as it sounds) combining with glorious pop to produce soaring crescendos, especially on If, Broken Starr and The Job.

Job Bird.

UTA is their darkest effort yet, Adam Devlin's distorted, ragged guitar sound cleverly augmenting Morriss' take on modern America — the blaring claxon that comes out of nowhere increasing the sense of unease as they move into Manic territory. Down at the Reservoir and Solomon Bits the Worm are the exact opposite — jaunty and concocted with a sense of mischief. If one must make a Mod connection then let it be this. Return... captures the spirit of Ogden's Nut Gone Flake. And that's good enough for me.

Michael Scully

The boozing brothers are back in town and they're getting better at it.

CLUBBEd TO A BLOODY PULP

Influx

@ Redbox
Feb 21 SLAM/Soma Records Party feat. SLAM, Funk D'Void and MAAS Doors: 10pm

Kitchen
Billy Nasty Friday 13
Billy Scarry Doors: 10.30pm

Competition

Influx are offering two pairs of tickets to the Soma Records Party in the Redbox, Sat Feb 21 (1st correct entries). All's you gotta do is answer this Q.

Q1. What daft French duo are Soma attributed as having broken?

Answers on an old mule to:
The Editor, the DIT Examiner, DIT South Kevin St, Kevin St, Dublin 8, Ph: 402 4696
The Juniper interview due to be included in this issue has been held off until the March issue. This also applies to the photography section, and the second dx98 supplement both of which were also due to appear this month. These changes were unavoidable and the Editor would like to ensure contributors and readers that anything omitted from this issue will be considered for publication next month.

Leah Henry tried to corner roudy rockers Manor somewhere on the grounds of their musical estate recently, as they tried to fend off some of the blasted peasantry.

A beacon of brightness, as detailed they are confident. "Some bands think they're brilliant, we know we are," Manor, a Dublin based band with an all-American line-up is set to take the Mean Fiddler by storm on Feb. 27th. A four-album outfit, Manor are currently stepping up their authority all over the Dublin turf.

Tony Villiers (vocals), from Atlanta City and Randy men Kerry Kavanagh (guitar and vocals), Mark Congan (vocals), and Gordon Lee (guitar), have succeeded in making quite a dent on Dublin's recording music scene since moving here. Manor were formed in early February 1996 and bassist Tony Villiers says it was a year of learning: "We kept quiet for most of that year. We played a couple of low-key gigs in Dublin but it was basically a year of getting to know each other again, to help us have a sound and form a band.

Things started to pick up for the band in early 1997. Following a couple of more high-profile gigs, they decided in June of that year to release their EP. On Sep 26th 1997, Manor released their debut E.P. Delicately Posed (here recorded), at a big launch in Whelan's. Lead vocalist Kerry Kavanagh: "This is the culmination of eight months hard graft, blood, sweat and tears. At the start of this year we were playing to 15 people at our local pub, now we are launching our first E.P. on consecutive nights."

In December 1997, the band returned to the studio to start recording material for an album and are currently working on it.

It's now February 1998. Two years down the road and what have Manor achieved? I spoke to bassist Tony Villiers: "We have an E.P. out, so one of our biggest ambitions has been realized there. We also have a new manager. We have an album more or less recorded and we've been nominated for the Heinemann Hot Press Music Award for Best New Band of '97. It's been a great two years for us.

Director of Manor's music is Tony Villiers. "They're not too afraid. They're perhaps a bit, without ever sounding self-conscious or scaled by self-conscious, their music is so raw and unpolished yet without being overly overbearing by having too many people involved. The first, said Tony: "We don't have any obvious influences directly in the music, but we are influenced by bands like Radiohead, The Who, Status Quo, Teenage Fan Club. This is the list is endless. There's a real broad spectrum of music we've been influenced by.

It's raining hard and the band has decided to change their plans. They have a lot of things to do, but they have a lot of work to do. We'll be back in the studio shortly.

Leah Henry is a Degree student of Journalism in DIT Aungier St.
The Big Lebowski

Starring: Jeff Bridges, John Goodman, Steve Buscemi, Julianne Moore
Director: Joel Coen
Producer: Ethan Coen.

A case of mistaken identity involving an unemployed, laid back Californian and a millionaire businessman form the basis of the brilliant new comedy/sho... from the Coen brothers.

Jeff Lebowski, who prefers to be called The Dude (Jeff Bridges), is a slacker with a passion for bowling and hallucinogenic drugs. When two thugs break into his apartment and try to convince him that he is indeed the rich Lebowski and ask him for stacks of cash, he decides to follow up by paying a visit to his wealthy namesake and get a replacement for his soiled rug—(don’t ask).

Big Lebowski employs the dude’s services when he believes his wife has been kidnapped. The reluctant hero and his friend Walter (John Goodman) are now on the case. When they go for the handover of cash for young empty wife, they mess it up and are left to ponder their shortcomings in the amateur private eye stakes, over many bowling games with their friend Donnie.

General mayhem ensues as they try to retrieve the money, encountering various crazy characters along the way. Big Lebowski’s militant feminist daughter, played by Julianne Moore, is sure that her father is trying to embezzle funds from their corporation and has her eyes on the dude as a possible muse for copulation. She is not the only one looking for the young Mrs Lebowski. Former employer and Porn King, Jackie Treeshorn, is owed money and a bunch of surly German blackmailers who call themselves The Nihilists, decide it would be a good business venture to get in on the action, engaging the unexpected methods to extract information (at one stage they drop a stoat-like creature into dude’s bath where he is lying, stoned).

Having three different parties to fend off as he tries to somehow work out where the Big Lebowski’s wife has gone, the dude begins to wonder whether she has been kidnapped at all and how to keep his Vietnam Vet buddy, Walter, a bit of a trigger happy, gung-ho kind of guy, from going over the edge.

The Ice Storm

Starring: Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Joan Allen, Christine Ricci.
Director: Ang Lee.

Marital bliss is fully evident in this romantic scene.

Ang Lee is no stranger to the subject of dysfunctional families. Having dealt with just that in Eat, Drink, Man, Woman—now the director of Sense and Sensibility has chosen to explore this idea further in his latest film, The Ice Storm.

Set in Connecticut in 1973 with Watergate and the American Feminist women’s movement about to explode, two families - the Fosters and the Carvers - are planning their Thanksgiving and trying to avoid their many domestic problems which have dogged them throughout the year.

Banker Ben Hood (Kevin Kline) is the well meaning, bumbling husband of Elena (Joan Allen), who is well aware that their marriage is not working out and is close to a breakdown. Their children, meanwhile, are about to discover sex. Daughter Wendy (Christina Ricci) is more than a little curious about the neighbouring Carver boys and their son Paul (Toby Maguire) has gone to New York in the hope of bedding a beautiful rich girl.

The Carvers themselves are not without troubles. Jim and Janey’s marriage is also on the rocks yet they seem to accept that there is no point in trying to save it. Janey, played by Sigourney Weaver, is thoroughly bored with her humdrum housewife existence while her husband, played by Jim Sheridan, is too busy with his work to notice her frustration. In search of a little excitement Bea and Janey engage in a little neighbourly extramarital affair.

We arrive at the dramatic highpoint with a “key party”, a partner swapping, vodka and red wine fuelled adventure that the Fosters find Janey is curiously disinterested in their affair and Elena is unusually vocal.

The seventies atmosphere is perfectly recreated, from Kevin Kline’s dodgy hair and lapels to the kitch furniture in the family homes. The effect of the actual ice storm on the night of the cocktail party leaves you positively shivering at the natural surroundings are slowly but surely smothered.

Ang Lee’s direction is spot on and all performances are excellent. The four teenagers (who also include Elijah Wood and Adam Hann-Bryd) take their cue from their parents, whose hypocritical behaviour leaves them all the more determined to find out what all the fuss is about. “I’ll show you mine if you show me yours”, Kevin Kline has never been better as Ben who exposes hypocritical speeches at his daughter’s party but perhaps the most stella steal the show. Joan Allen delivers another widely portrayed (Nixon, The Crucible) with a difference and Weaver is brilliant as the frosty unfulfilled Janey.

Both she and Elena are indicative of the transition many women found themselves in during the early seventies. Having been given the nod to burn their bras, they realise they are caught in non-starter marriages with children to consider. Chomping at the bit to join the sexual revolution, yet slow to encourage their offspring to do the same. Much as they want to take up the Gloria Steinem cause, it is hard for them to articulate the smugness groans along the lines of “...husband, stop stopping our neighbour.....”.

Adapted from Rick Moody’s novel of the same title (written, coincidentally in 1994). The Ice Storm has already won the award for best screenplay in Cannes last year for James Shamus’ witty and at times tragic script. A little gem of a film which is both entertaining and thought provoking, on the subject of marital breakdown and the absence of any real communication within the nuclear family unit.