

1998-2

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

DIT : Students' Union

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# The DIT Examiner

The Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union

February 1998



Rag Week comes  
But once a year,  
For whiskey, gin, rum,  
vodka, beer.  
And port, stout, sherry,  
schnapps, cognac...all in  
moderation, of course.  
Pages 6&7



Trinity Hurlers hang  
their heads in shame as  
the DIT juggernaut  
shows them how to play  
the game.

Page 8



DIT Hockey have been  
very busy of late, with  
blitzes and trips away.  
Reports and pics of the  
days in question.

Page 9.



Bluetones, goldie,  
Mediumwave, Manor,  
and Mean Fiddler  
listings. Win tickets to  
the Soma Records bash  
courtesy of Influx.  
Pages 10 & 11.

## 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

**I**t 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 vie 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.



USI Education Officer Malcolm Byrne explains the specifics of TEASTAS to an interested group of Union officers from the DIT, RTC and University sectors.

## Fitzgibbon Cup in reach as DIT go through



The team what done it; back Row, l-r: S. Duignan, J. Cullen, D. Caulfield (C), S. Hickey, N. McCaffrey, T. McGrath, M. Fitzsimons. Front Row, l-r: D. McGuire, P.J. Coady, N. Gilligan, M. Murphy, D. Quinn, D. Spain, P. Finnerty, M. Corcoran.

## 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.



# The DIT Examiner

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

## Johnny Foreigner

Anyone see Ms. Áine Ní Chonaill over the past few weeks? If the name doesn't mean anything to you, Ms. Ní Chonaill is a concerned Irish citizen. She's concerned with the influx of darkies, spics, Bosnians and other Ausländer. According to Ms. Ní Chonaill, now is the time to act on the refugee issue. She's right, of course, except that what she means by 'act' and what 'act' should actually mean are two entirely different things really. For this concerned, white, western European, professional woman, legislation to 'protect' against the racial pollution of our country should be rushed through our parliament before its too late. Some of her friends probably think its already too late, what with all those foreigners of every shade and nationality running around on social welfare and nicking our jobs.

Some Anti-Fascists who protested against a meeting she called recently were immediately dubbed Fascists by some of the Ní Chonaill camp. There is a small stink of irony lurking here, but I can't quite put my finger on it. Can you smell it?

## Seáinín Eachtrannach

An bhfaca aon duine Áine Ní Chonaill le déanaí? Mura gciallaíonn an t-ainm rud ar bith daoibh, is saoránach inmíoch Éireannach í Áine. Tá sí buartha faoin ionradh atá á dhéanamh ag na wops, agus Ausländer eile nach iad. De réir Bn. Uí Chonaill, is anois is ceart gníomhaíocht a thosú le ceist na ndéanach a réiteach. Tá iomlán an cheart aici, ach amháin go bhfuil difríocht idir an ghníomhaíocht atá i gceist aici féin agus an ghníomhaíocht is ceart a dhéanamh. Don bhean inmíoch, geal, iar-Eorpach, profaisiúnta seo, is ceart reachtaíocht a bhrú trén bpairlimint sula mbíonn sé ró-dhéanach. Seans go greideann cuid dá cairde go bhfuil sé ró-dhéanach cheanna féin, leis ne heachtrannaigh ar fad seo ag rith thart agus na postanna agus na leasa shóisialaigh againne á ghoid acu.

Baisteadh Faisistigh láithreach ag campa Ní Chonaill ar ghrúpa Frith-Faisistigh a chur in aghaidh cruinniú a thionól an bhean féin le déanaí. Tá boladh bréan d'foróin ag crochadh thart anseo, ach teipeann orm é a aithint. An bhfaigheann tú féin é?

Cearbhall Ó Síocháin

## 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 as a whole is not 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 regarded 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 strived to rectify this situation by appointing a disability officer, Linda Maguire, a long road stretches ahead. It is the arm 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.

## DITSU ELECTIONS

nominations open

Tuesday 10 Feb

nominations close

Tuesday 24 Feb,

5pm Sharp

*Nomination forms available from  
local SU Offices on 10 Feb 98*

Polling Day:  
Wed 4 March 98

Want to change  
it all? Run  
yourself!

### Clarifications

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

EDITOR: Cearbhall Ó Síocháin **EAGARTHÓIR**

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# 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 sentences I realise most are just asking to be polite, and would rather 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 T Murphy came to our school and made a presentation to the students present on just what Gaisce was all about. He talked about each of the Gaisce awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold, and the requirements necessary for each. He encouraged each person to start on the Bronze immediately, which could be attained in just three months. It would mean a day out and a chance to get the award from a famous personality. My eyes focused and my next question was how do I get involved.

I was lucky in that there was a PAL (Presidents Award Leader) in my school so all I had to do was fill out the form and wait for my log 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 controversy 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 bemused 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 finger tips from all the typing, a brochure hit the streets. All that was left then was to send in the application and wait in hope until the awards ceremony.

The following October, 1993 my PAL, Sr. 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. I 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 suppose that's what the whole object of the award is: to push yourself to new limits. For the Silver award, 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 young man taught me a lot.

More than a text book can ever teach you.

For my venture project, I decided I would get out in the fresh air, go on a holiday, oh and cycle for three days required distances to make up enough bicycle miles to qualify for the Silver award. Easy. Hell hath no fury like the piles a bicycle can give you in the middle of glorious West of Ireland summer storms. Sleeping in tents where there's more water inside than outside didn't help much either. 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 PAL 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 whipsnapper but to no great success. I suppose it was a romantic idea, but yet one 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 making us do 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 got involved with a group who were trying to bring a 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 fulfil 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 PAL and told her of my problem. Ten minutes later it was all solved: I started as a volunteer in Concern International 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 college 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 Gaisces. 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.



## "It's My Castle, Stupid!" -- Pt. 2

Concerning the article "This is my castle, stupid!" in the last *DIT Examiner*, we would like to tell OUR OWN version of that trip, which is quite different. We are all students who were on that tour.

The trip to Ballaghmore Castle was planned for students of the Irish Culture Classes, and if only these people had been allowed to go, thirty to forty persons, it wouldn't have been so crowded in the castle, but it was fun anyway. By the way, there were sixty-four of us on that trip. It was just that the kind organiser, Mr. Daragh Smyth, didn't want to disappoint anyone of us, so he let anybody go with him who wanted to. There was enough space for all of us, and we were told that we'd have to sleep on the stone floor before we decided to go on that trip.

Of course, there were some beds, though by far not enough. But the toilets, or better say new water closets, worked all right, and there was water in the castle. There was electric light in all rooms of the castle, no-one had to "share a light". There was a third floor, separated into two rooms, and access to the roof on top of it.

The true story about the castle, which was according to the article told by a "barman", was told by Ms. Pym (named Ms. Helen Gail in the essay) on the afternoon we arrived. She had discovered the castle in the 1980's. When she bought it, it was only ruins, there were only the outer walls left. Now, when we stayed in this castle, it had four massive wooden floors, stone stairs, huge fire places, and was well equipped with furniture, like grand banquet tables, at least a chair for everyone, and beds and mattresses. There was also a kitchen, a bathroom and toilets.

The article by Judith Serrano Traveria was written as an essay for a lecture in English, it had to be a "funny essay on a special topic", and for that reason, some exaggerations and small lies were included. This is fair enough, but it is not funny, that it was published in a paper to be read by people who don't know this background. They get a completely different opinion about our trip.

We really enjoyed the trip to Ballaghmore castle, and we all want to apologise for the article to Mr. Daragh Smyth and Ms. Grace Pym, who made this trip so remarkable. We would like to thank Mr. Smyth for organising this tour, and hope that there will be further trips to Ballaghmore Castle for the following generations of Erasmus Students.

Ulrich Johannmeier, Germany  
Carsten Lehbrink, Germany  
Johan Matze, Holland  
Idina (Martina) Bolognesi, Italy  
Simona Jurk, Germany  
Tobias Ruckes, Germany



# 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 Weekes.

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 Weekes, 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 to 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 content' (which includes issues such as relevance and content of syllabus, balance between theory and practical work, and course administration), and 'Presentation' (which covers standard of delivery and punctuality of lecturer), to 'Effectiveness of communication' (which deals with method(s) of teaching and handouts/visual aids).

Although the survey is anonymous, students expressed concern that lecturers might be able

to determine the identity of the students who had been critical of his or her teaching style, and that this could affect final marks. The final section of the questionnaire calls for 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 would 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."

DIT students have described it as: "pointless" and "farcical". One postgraduate student said: "It's like the police investigating the police", and another believes: "There should be an independent body dealing with the feedback."

## 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, his 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 24th 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 promises much but it withers 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 hotel. Selling the hotel, she feels, will finally sever her links with the family.

Her siblings, disgusted, 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.

What follows though is a ragged tale of conspiracy, reminiscing and social values, and when it reaches its climax it turns out not as expected and finishes off weakly.

Vera's problems lie with her brother Tom (Phelim Drew) and sister Mary Jane (Olwen Fouere), who do not want the hotel to be taken out of the family's hands.

The only member of the family who appears to be on Vera's side is brother-in-law Henry (Townsend), 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.

## 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](mailto:LGBSOC@DIT.IE).

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

## 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 which way you look at it is a disaster move," he states. Imagine you've got a Ferrari, a beautiful girlfriend and a \$40,000 a year job, but it won't matter if you live with your parents! Your underpants has a padlock on it, telephone calls are limited to five minutes and apparently saving is more important than blowing you money on frivolous enjoyment. It all amounts to a life of seclusion and intimate five minute telephone relationships with 1-900 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 enormity 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 grass scented days 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, endless opportunity and financial rewards. I must have been missing that day. Moving home was a result of no plan, no prospect of a job and crucially, NO DESIRE FOR A JOB. The benefits of home were glaringly obvious, NO RENT, NO BILLS, FREE MEALS. I must get my mother to take down that neon sign or we will have half the students in Ireland living around here.

The disaster situation, which Mr Seinfeld pointed out, has bombarded me from so many directions, that at present I don't know my arse from my arse.

Have you ever brought a lady friend home to your parents? In college you may have had to cajole, swoon or inebriate her. In the "X-File" world of parental cohabitation this is not enough. Combining female desire to climb stairs with the consent of your mammy can be impossible.

It is not widely known but all mothers possess acute paranoia. This ailment enables mothers to dismantle statements such as, "We are going up stairs to listen to some music," and exposing the underlying intention... "We are going up stairs to make passionate love, the sound of which will be drowned out by some music."

It now looks as though I will either have to become celibate or risk hypothermia to develop my love life. My well honed schoolboy skills of courting in the outdoors will come into their own again. Exposing your body to a minus wind chill on a park bench is never as pleasurable as it should be and right now celibacy has never looked so appealing.

Parental paranoia has seen me adopt the brief of tradesman in residence. My weekly social outing was abruptly cut short last weekend by a domestic pantomime. My mam sent word to the pub, that a pipe had burst and water was running down the walls. Sprinting home, visions of the Niagara Falls free flowing through my CD's propelled me quicker to the disaster. I burst in the back door and as I raced up the stairs there was no problem evident. I thought the leak was sorted out and the damage was in isolation.

In the middle of my room mam and dad were staring up at a slight discoloration in the ceiling. "So where is the leak?" I enquired. "Will you look at the feckin ceiling" dad quipped. This brown discoloration had been on the ceiling for weeks and it never once crossed my mind as a safety issue of any scale. "Oh the ceiling, now I see what you mean dad." My tame admission of imminent danger led to two wonderful hours, on my hands and knees, feeling fibre glass and ceiling panels for fantasy leaks. It must be recommended as an excellent way to spend a Saturday night.

My new found status as an employee has put me in the very onerous position of being present for family breakfast every morning. Breakfast has to be the most functional and least compelling of all family meal times. It comes a close second to a cousin's confirmation in the unnecessary occasion chart. How can you enjoy a meal that commences at seven AM and is invariably followed by eight hours work?

When my brother was seven he used to come down for breakfast every morning wrapped in a blanket and sit on the clothes drier to keep warm. Mam used to refer to it as "hatching". It was such an apt way to describe the morning mood, because these days even the dog shed looks comfortable.

My life is a muse of fix-it jobs, family breakfasts and a love life that will be conducted at minus three degrees in a school bicycle shed. I am caught between a rock and the home place. Maybe I'll quit my job and "hatch" all day on the clothes drier and it won't seem so bad.



## Dennis the menace gets 'time-out'

by June Edwards

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

Back in '78 Dennis, that loveable spikey-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 unceremoniously 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 'spoiled'. However, with the outlawing of corporal punishment in schools in 1982, 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 Elisabeth Noelle-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 ISPC'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/ISPC in 1993 questioned 1,000 adults between the ages of 18 to 54. It 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 humiliated 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 immediately (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 ISPC 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 edition 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 retribution we try to do so in a more humane and humourous way".

It seems as if in 1998, Dennis's 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 cold January days do little to help spirits flag occasionally. Yet already I can see a stretch in the evenings, 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. Roll on the Summer!

Life is all around me with evidence of Spring in Mother Nature, buds, 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 social, spiritual, psychological, physical and experiential aspects of my life also. I am challenged continually to grow and mature as roundedly as possible. Many of the Greek philosophers put the emphasis on the mean, life without excess in any area, a life that is regulated and routine from one moment to the next. The old yarn from the gent who was celebrating his hundredth birthday replied when asked to explain his great age said "if 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 not what I want to hear but it is the voice of lived experience, hence its value. The old customs and traditions from the country folk are tried and tested, often they may not be the most efficient but they have served generations through the centuries and these mores must not be allowed to die. Today, more than ever, we try 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 on 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 company. "No man is an island" 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 characteristic of my being. Psychological growth is very important and needs constant evaluation so I am aware of why I do what I do, particularly subconsciously. Here there is no evaluated right or wrong, just a sense of wonder that my infancy and early childhood years have created and brought me to where I am 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 transcendent questions roll from our lips and seek answers that are sometimes inadequate. It can be a lifetime task, but here again we are challenged to spend some time with a companion to examine and reflect on a maze of traditions that for many are sacred and immortal. Our spirituality calls us to seek a relationship with our Creator, however tenuous, to spend time with like-minded individuals and occasionally leave aside the mundane and secular world for the peace and quiet of a more reflective and creative time attuned with nature, self and God.

# 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 Bolton St. Students attended from Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow and Liverpool. Pic: Jimmie Robinson.

If I am a scientist or computer scholar, it is important that I dip into the arts occasionally. Visit an art gallery, appreciate the more artistic and imaginary genius of both ancestors and contemporaries, for there are as many hues 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 disagreement and often a 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

## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## AUNGIER ST

### Just-When-You-Thought-It-Was-Safe-To-Start-Studying Day

12pm Official Opening in the SU  
 12:30pm DJ Mick Glynn in canteen  
 Tequila & Taco Competition, Mission Impossible, Head & Chest Shave, Prizes Galore!  
 3:30pm Pub Quiz and Carlsberg promotion in Barney Murphy's  
 DIT Aungier St. / DIT Mountjoy Sq  
 Cross-Fertilisation Evening  
 5:30-7:30 Happy Hour in Club USI...party games & DJ...  
 8pm Karaoke in the Furnace & Guinness Promotion in Club USI  
 10pm Ready, Steady, Go!! Ball in Boomerang's  
 Tickets: £3 from SU Shop Over 18s ID essential, ticket only event.

What-Goes-On-Tour-Stays-On-Tour Day  
 The Rag Trip 98  
 Destination: Top Secret (so we can't tell you)  
 Tickets: £10 from SU Office  
 Price includes return trip to Destination  
 Two stop-over discos  
 Promotions in 3 pubs in final destination  
 Entry into a top nightclub  
 ALL PINTS £2 from 11pm-1am  
 Coaches leave outside Aungier St @ 10:30am  
 Coaches arrive back in time for first buses & Darts!!

Multi-Vitamin-And-Caffeine-Overdose Day  
 8am Aerobics-athon on O'Connell St to raise money for AWARE or Post-Rag Trip Mad Bastard's Morning in the White Horse Early House  
 12:30 DJ Glynn in the Canteen  
 4pm Pool Competition in Common Room  
 7pm Warm-Up Promos!!  
 Gleeson's - Guinness Promotion  
 Sorohan's - Any Guinness Product  
 8pm Party Animals' Guinness Party in Gleeson's  
 Loads of Deadly Guinness stuff to be won, including a Sony CD Player!  
 10pm The Best Rag Ball in the World...Ever!  
 Access-All-Areas in the PoD, Redbox and the Chocolate Bar, Aungier St & Kevin St give it loads in Dublin's Premier Niteclub.  
 Guinness & Bud £2 All Night!  
 Tickets: £5 from SU Shop in advance  
 Numbers limited, Over 18 ID essential

Let's-Separate-The-Men-From-The-Boys Day  
 2pm Scavenger Hunt  
 6pm 'Simpsons' Videos in the Common Room  
 7pm Party Games in Gleeson's  
 8pm D'Aungier Zone  
 Rag Week Special "Mexico Night"  
 One last shot of Tequila before you go on the day...  
 Pints: £1  
 Beck's: £1.50  
 Tequila: £1

## BOLTON ST

### 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



# SEACHTAIN NA NGIOBAL

## CATHAL BRUGHA ST

### Monday

12-2pm Coca Cola Party in the Common Room  
3-5pm Zak Powers, Hypnotist, in Legends of Sounds, £2, Over 18  
8pm Games in The Back Gate

### Tuesday

8:30am Booze Cruise (Dublin Port to Holyhead) Tickets £10  
8pm Guinness Party in The Back Gate

### Wednesday

12-2pm Bands in the Common Room  
3-4pm Lecturers Firing Range  
5pm Pub Crawl and Pub Games (various locations)

### Thursday

10:30-11:30am Charity Bed Push down O'Connell St  
12-1:30pm DJ in Common Room  
1:30-5pm Interclass Table Quiz in Common Room (£10 per team of five)  
9pm onwards GUINNESS RAG BALL in TEMPLE THEATRE (£6)

### Friday

12 noon Mystery Film in Virgin Cinemas, Parnell St.

## KEVIN ST

### Monday

"College days are the best days of your life"  
All day long in Gleeson Hall  
13:00 Hypnotist Barry Sinclair.  
Free leprechauns. £2  
14:30 Revenge is sweet-Tony is getting his headshaved if the £1000 is there.  
15:00 Band Society in top flight  
17:00 Riverdance, I think not. Ceili.  
18:00 Ya-hoo! Bar opens.  
19:00 Gigantic Table Quiz £10 per table of 5  
22:00 Sing your heart out-Karaoke

### Tuesday

"Are we there yet? Are we there yet?"  
11:30 Rag Trip-Carlow & Waterford. £8  
13:00 If you didn't get a ticket, Treasure Hunt!  
5-9pm Mean Fiddler Free 2for1 cocktails  
17:00 More cheap drink in Barney's

### Wednesday

"The day between Tuesday and Thursday"  
13:00 Blind Date  
14:30 Man Hunt in College  
19:00 Again more cheap drinks in Barney's and Devitt's  
22:00 Access all area - Rag Ball in the Pod, Chocolate Bar and Red Box. £5

### Thursday

"The day after the night before"  
13:00 DJ in the Snackery & Pool Finals  
14:00 Students' Choice. Whatever you want to do. Cinema? Bowling? Booze Cruise?  
21:00 Seventh Hevin.



### Friday

"There's no place like home"

## MOUNTJOY SQ

### Monday

On Your Marks, Get Set, Go!  
1pm Crazy Games with the one and only DJ Glynn in the Canteen  
3pm Make sure you're Listening, A Mystery Keg will be announced  
6pm Get Those Beers Down You, with a Pre-Boomerang Promo in Club USI  
9:30 pm Mountjoy Sq and Aungier St are going to Dublin's Hottest Niteclub, for the "Ready, Steady, Go! Ball" Tickets Only Event!!

### Tuesday

1pm Our own Andy Woods Singing Live in the Canteen  
2pm DART Crawl  
8pm Rag Week PUB COMAD in The Big Tree, Guinness Promo & Prizes

### Wednesday

1pm Busking Competition in the Canteen — Anyone can enter  
3pm 3 Legged Pub Crawl — Assemble outside College  
Strip Darts & Sex Quiz, Stoney's  
8:30pm Infamous 'Crazy Night' — Venue To Be Confirmed  
Finals of the Boat Race  
Mr & Mrs COMAD  
Sticky Bum Contest  
Iron Stomach Contest

### Thursday

12pm DJ in the Canteen  
2pm Free Keg in The Shakespeare  
4pm Make Sure You Have Your Ticket for the Rag Ball, then put your Glad Rags On!  
7pm Big Tree — Massive Pre-Ball Promotion  
9:30pm Buses Start Leaving for Rag Ball 98 in the Vortex Nightclub, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath.  
2:30am Buses return to Dublin  
6am Still Standing? Mad Bastards' Morning in Slattery's Early House, Capel St.

### Friday

Rag Week Video in the Canteen.



*Tony Kinsella*

## DIT HURLERS CLEAR THE FIRST FITZGIBBON CUP HURDLE

DIT 1-11 TRALEE RTC 0-7



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

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 management 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.

P J Coady opened the DIT score sheet with a point in the second minute which was cancelled by a Tralee 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 scored with ease. A side line cut from Joe Cullen seemed to go over the bar but the referee signalled a wide while Trevor MacGrath had hard luck with his long range efforts from frees. Sean Duignan completed a move begun by Coady with a fine point from fifty metres while a clearance by Darragh Spain was collected and converted by Mark Murphy. A fifty metre free was pointed by Coady and, under extreme pressure, Gerry Ennis rounded off the first half with a point from play to leave the scoreboard reading eight

points to four in favour of the home team.

The second half opened with a shock point by the visitors from the throw in but a high lofted free by Coady which dropped on the edge of the square was buried into the back of the net by Gilligan. Another fifty metre free by Coady resulted in a point which put clear blue water between the teams. Joe Cullen made no mistake about his score when he took 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 Gilligan 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 M. 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 RTC, were a completely 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, Micheal 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 over the bar on the twelfth minute. TCD, who had added on a point during the DIT blitz, then on tacked 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.



*Fluid play gets DIT another point. Pic: Jimmie Robinson*

The DIT team lined out as follows:

Maguire, D. Caulfield, N. McCaffrey, S. Hickey, D. Spain, T. McGrath (0-2), P. Finnerty, M. Fitzsimons (0-1), S. Duignan, J. Cullen, PJ Coady (0-9), M. Murphy, D. Quinn (0-2), N. Gilligan, M. Corcoran (0-2)

Substitutions : E. Hoey for D. Caulfield, C. Buggy for D. Quinn, P. Blake for M. Fitzsimons.

## FITZGIBBON CUP NOTICE!!

NEXT GAME: DIT v WIT IN WATERFORD

WEDNESDAY 18 FEB 98 2:30PM

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!!



# 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 shakily 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 was 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!!

short corner struck by Fiona Sweeney.

Emer O'Byrne shone at her new position at centre back, keeping the defence strong and steady. Positional changes at half time, in which more emphasis was placed on attacking, made a huge difference. This experimenting with players and positions would prove to be useful when choosing the team for the Triangular Tournament the following week.

## 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.

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-stick 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 goalie 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 DIT team and from here on, each DIT player put 100% into their game.

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 paid off as 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.

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 adrenalin pumping we fought on with a new urgency, realising that the victor would most likely be the team which scored first. Our defence, Brona, Emer, Mo, Rebecca and Avril were strong and the midfield of Wendy, Sandra and Nicola, though visibly tiring, worked hard.

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,



Action from the recent DIT blitz in the Pembroke grounds. Pic: Jimmie Robinson



DIT Mountjoy Sq.'s team, eventual winners of the tournament. Pic: Jimmie Robinson

## 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 Miamh Malone adapted well to their new positions at centre back, sweeper 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 Mulcahy. Again the Ulster side scored leaving the score at 1-2. We came back with a goal coming from an excellent

was quick to spot the free ball and pushed it passed 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 Chateaux 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. Coming soon: a full Inter-DIT Chess Competition, beginning Feb 26. Fantastic prizes on offer. Contact Michael at Doctor\_Who9@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 puzzles and bafflers on the crossword pages. We cannot confirm the matter as yet, though we are working to provide prizes, your honour.



# SONIC BIONIC



## NEW RELEASES

### Wediumwave Thank God for Parallels (Independent Release)

Recently returned from an NME weekender in Eng-er-land (only their eleventh gig), Wediumwave are a Dublin based four piece recently evolved, though whose constituent parts have played at many's an affair. **Thank God for Parallels** is their first recording.

*Venetian Blinds* unfurls this three tune 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, melodic, cascade of whatever lies behind that dam as it crumbles at Wediumwave's feet. Floating on top of the intermingled layers are lead singer, Joe Wilson's sunbeam vocals.

*Jay*, the second number, sounds like Ash if Ash were adults. Thought it was maybe some reference to Mr Mascis of Dinosaur Og fame, but that's just the similarity between his and Wilson's vocal tone. A poppier, quicker tune with plenty of cymballic riding and crashing.

*Disappear* is Deus like in that it begins exquisitely softly, and you expect for it to erupt immediately and frighteningly into blues'd-up pop-rock. It doesn't, but gets there gradually, going through Joy Division for a short cut until they come out the other side like a Hawkwind minus the garbage-load of accessorial sounds. Some gift electronic noises dotted throughout the background here, à la Kraftwerk or Can. Kool? Ja, natürlich. Wediumwave play the Music Centre, Feb 13 and the Mean Fiddler on Feb 18. Tune in.

ChaOS

### goldie saturnzreturn ffrr records

This is a 2CD collection, the second of which contains the Noel Gallagher-collaborated *temper temper*, and also *digital* and the rest of the regular-length choonz which comprise the 'album' proper. The first CD is a 75 minute, two-track disc containing *mother* and *truth*, and breezes with ease through quite an eclectic grouping of musical styles: from the obligatory d'n'b to operatic soprano, orchestral classical and even minimalist-ambient. There are probably more genres there still. Finding the second disc heavy going, at times, I was more concerned with the swings of *mother*, a fine foray into the world of experimentation. goldie has obviously spent some time with his expert team of sonic scientists in various music laboratories to deliver the aural banquet that is *saturnzreturn*. The

only thing is that the ingredients do not always compliment one another.

The production credits are ridiculously long, and I don't get the Latin translation of his written monologue on the sleeve, but then the English version doesn't amaze either. The most interesting thing about this record might just be that it gives us a clearer picture of what Señor Noel Gallagher sees as the future for Oasis, ie one without him, which is none at all.

ChaOS

### Return to the Last Chance Saloon The Bluetones PolyGram

Palpable relief, then. This is not a record made by the bastard sons of Ocean Colour Scene, nor is it a retreat into smug Mod muso safety.

These are the accusations facing The

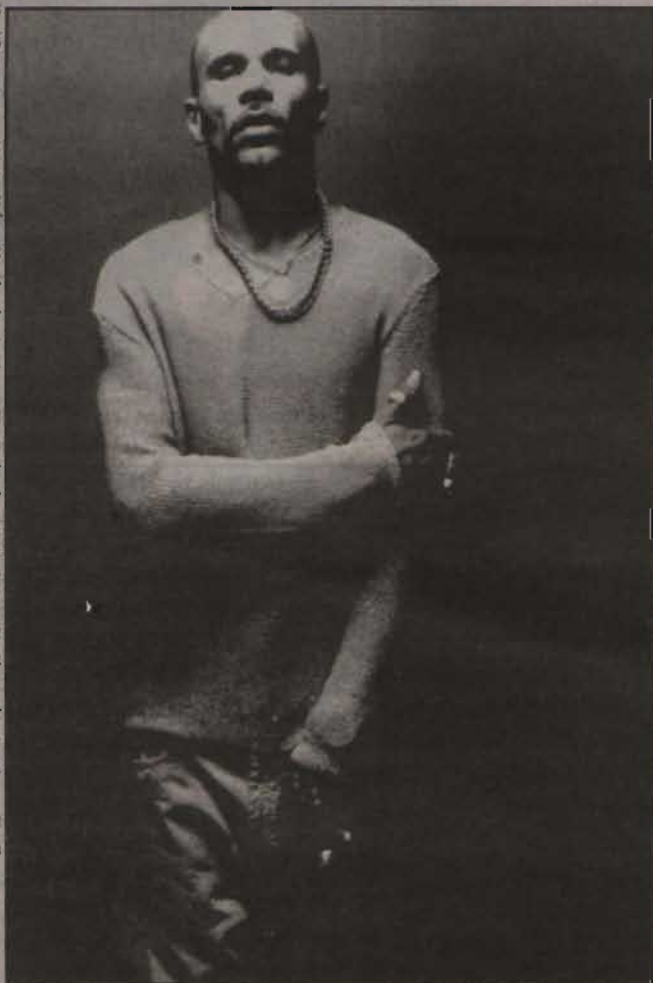
*Jub Bird*.

*UTA* is their darkest effort yet, Adam Devlin's distorted, ragged guitar sound cleverly augmenting Maorriss' take on modern America — the blairing claxon that comes out of nowhere increasing the sense of unease as they move into Manics territory.

*Down at the Reservoir* and *Solomon Bites 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

Contributions to Sonic Bionic regarding anything musical welcome. On disk or not at all please.



goldie goes further into the audiosphere



The booze 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 Scurry 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,  
DITSU Kevin St,  
Kevin St,  
Dublin 8.  
Ph: 402 4636

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 Morris.

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 b-side *Nifkin'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 searing crescendos, especially on *If, Broken Starr* and *The Jub*



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.

# Mean Fiddler

February

Wed 4 Boxtie, Cedar, National Prayer Breakfast.

Doors 8:30pm Adm £4/£3

Wed 11 Northlight Razorblade, Observers, Plague Monkeys

Doors: 8:30pm Adm £4/£3

Wed 18 Paleside Poets, Mediumwave

Doors: 8:30pm Adm £4/£3

Thur 19 Nick Heyward with guest John Butler

Doors: 8:30pm Adm £6

Sat 21 Santa Cruz with guests Goldrush

Doors: 8:30pm Adm £6

Wed 25 Ricky Ross  
Doors: 8:30 Adm £7

Fri 27 Manor  
Doors 8:30 Adm £5

## Mind your Manor!

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 buoyant bag of badgers, as talented as they are confident: "Some bands think they're brilliant, we know we are." Manor, a Dublin based band with an all-Armagh line-up is set to take the Mean Fiddler by storm on Feb. 27th. A four-piece outfit, Manor are currently stamping their authority all over the Dublin turf.

Tony Villiers (bass), from Armagh City and Keady men Gerry Kavanagh (guitar and vocals), Mark Creegan (drums), and Gordon Lee (guitar), have succeeded in making quite a dint on Dublin's rivalling 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 hone a sound and form a set." Things started to pick up for the band in early 1997. Following a couple of more high profile gigs, they decided in July of that year to release an E.P. On Sep. 24th 1997, Manor released their debut E.P. *Delicately Poised* (b.o.b. records), at a big launch in Whelans. Said lead vocalist Gerry 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 E.P. on consecutive nights." In December of 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 realised there. We also have a new manager. We have an album more or less recorded and we've been nominated for the Heineken Hot Press Music Awards for Best New Band of '97. It's been a great two years for us." Describing Manor's sound is no mean feat. They are perhaps trad, without ever sounding self-conscious or styled by retro, rock'n'soul, without going overboard by making a big statement about the fact. Said Tony: "We don't have any obvious influences directly in the music. But we are influenced by bands like Radiohead, The Who, Bigstar, Teenage Fan Club. The list is endless. There's a real broad spectrum."

It seems the band have been artful in their tag-dodging, possessing a distinct sound but refusing to become pigeonholed into any one music genre. They have at times been compared to Embrace but it is not a comparison they welcome: "Yeah, we have been compared to Embrace but we wouldn't say we're influenced by them. We're far better than Embrace. Check out a live show and you'll see."

Indeed, Manor have become well-known for their bracing live shows: "That's what we're renowned for at the moment. Because we've very little recording experience, the live shows have won over a lot of people, especially in the North. It's the standard set up without the frills. Live, it's a knockout", says Tony.

Based on the success of their debut E.P. "Delicately Poised", a full-length album should see Manor well on their way. The four tracks featured on the E.P. are but a teasing starter for their fans, whetting the appetites of the many who have followed their live gigs.

The tale of "Delicate Boys", the opening track, is one of self-announcement for the band: "We're delicate boys, delicately poised, making some noise..." The tale is told by a voice which floats somewhere between Lloyd Cole, (Lloyd Cole and the Commotions), and Fran Healy's (Travis) powerful baritone — but with an understated emotional resonance that quietly tells us it speaks the truth. Perhaps Manor know even better than us where



Dublin based rockers, Manor, present their credentials.

their destiny lies. Creeping guitars, a complimentary drum'n' bass coupling, and swelling strings threaten to engulf you.

Elsewhere, "Pretty Peculiar" suggests power and brashness backed by a strong melody. One high-volume rush through this track will get the blood pumping. The closing track, an acoustic version of "Delicate Boys", rolls in like a lullaby. The pure passion in Gerry Kavanagh's voice ensures that you won't fall in love with the track. You'll dive. Wake up Ocean Colour Scene, you're dead. No really.

The fact that Manor started their own record label ensured involvement at every level of the mixing. The name b.o.b. records stands for Bag of Badgers. As Tony explains: "Badgers are crazy creatures. If you put more than one badger in a bag, they'll start attacking each other. We haven't tried it. We've just heard from a reliable source!"

Fans of the Mean Fiddler will hope that these badgers are not claustrophobic when they play there this month. Manor are currently unsigned: "For the *Delicately Poised* E.P., we had our own record label which we would love to be able to continue but finance really dictates everything. We're not signed at all now but hopefully we'll have some good news this year," said Tony.

Although Manor are now beginning to reap the benefits of the move from Armagh, their move was not, according to Tony, down to the so-called vibrant music scene here: "The main reason for the move was because the singer and guitarist lived here. Around Dublin, the live music scene is terrible. There's thousands of bands trying to make it at the moment and everyone is just tired. A and R men are pretty spineless. They rarely sign bands in the South anymore."

February 27th sees Manor's fifth gig at the Mean Fiddler. So what can one expect from Manor on this night? The Friday gig will be the guts of the new album. We've a fresh approach to the whole set mainly due to recording the album and getting to know the songs from the beginning again. We reckon there's three or four singles on the album and we'll be showcasing all of these. It will be a knock out show."

And what of Manor's ambitions for the future?: "Personally, I'd like to meet Bob Dylan, but that's besides the point. To secure a major record deal is the main priority at the moment. Fame and fortune and a good record deal, yeah. Oh, and to play support to Radiohead and to blow them away!"

Fame and fortune and a good record deal — what every up and coming band wants really. So, do Manor possess that something extra to make them rise above all the thousands of hopefuls on the scene? A healthy self-confidence and a pervasive perseverance has paid off much of their hard graft of the past two years.

A successful debut E.P., a new manager in the form of Derek Turner, who has played with the Honeythieves, a new album on the way, and a nomination for the Heineken Hot Press Music Awards for Best New Band of 97 — welcome to the world of Manor. Look out 1998, the year is theirs for the taking.

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





# REEL Life

## The Big Lebowski

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

A case of mistaken identity involving a unemployed, laid back Californian and a millionaire businessman form the basis of the brilliant new comedy/thriller 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 trophy 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 mate for copulation. She is not the only one looking for the young Mrs Lebowski. Former employer and Porn King Jackie Treehorn is owed money and a bunch of novice German blackmailers who call themselves The Nihilists, decide it would be a good business venture to get in on the action, engaging the most 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 L'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.

Extortion , double dealing and deception are all familiar themes for the Coen brothers and all themes are employed here in a comedy along the same lines of *Raising Arizona*. There are some hilarious dream sequences with the dude caught in a humungous bowling alley, a big Zigfield follies musical number in which he gets to dance down an enormous staircase.

The cast for any Coen brothers film is usually guaranteed some darn fine roles and this film is no exception. Jeff Bridges turns in an excellent performance as the timewarped dude. For whom, the pot head would-be Philip Marlowe, pacifist and a one time roadie for Metallica, things are "slow at the moment" hence he embraces the novelty of being involved with something so exciting as this kidnapping case ".....well, you know this is a very difficult case...a lot of ins and outs...a lot of wheres and what fors...". John Goodman is also excellent as the wacky Walter who regales the dude with stories of his friends lying face down in the mud-ridden trenches back in 'Nam. Another Coen regular, John Turturro, almost steals the show with the small part of Jesus, the bowling legend, a sight to see in tight purple lycra. Although Steve Buscemi, who was so good in their lasting outing, may feel somewhat hard done by with his fairly minor role of Donnie.

Sam - handlebar moustache- Elliott also stars as the cowboy narrator who rambles on about tumbleweeds and forgets the plot of the story.

The script, co-written by the Coen brothers is sharp, surreal and wickedly funny — all you would expect from the people who made *Fargo* and the *Hudsucker Proxy*, and the soundtrack, with songs by the Rolling Stones and The Eagles, captures perfectly the period of time the dude wishes he could be left in. All Coen Brothers fans should be well pleased with *The Big Lebowski*, it could even perhaps persuade those unconverted to their distinctive style and humour with this hilariously funny film.

## The Ice Storm

*Starring: Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Joan Allen, Christina 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 Hoods 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 Ben and Janey engage in a little neighbourly

extramarital affair.

We arrive at the dramatic highpoint with a "key Party", a partner swapping, vodka martini swilling event where Ben finds that 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 kitsch furniture in the family homes. The effect of the actual ice storm on the night of the cocktail party leaves you positively shivering as 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- Byrd) 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 expounds hypocritical speeches at his daughter but perhaps the ladies steal the show. Joan Allen delivers another wifely portrayal ( 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 smallest grievance- along the lines of "...husband, stop shagging 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 turns 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.