

1998-9

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

DIT Students' Union

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**Sport 10**  
DIT Mountaineering and Caving Clubs just have it too easy.



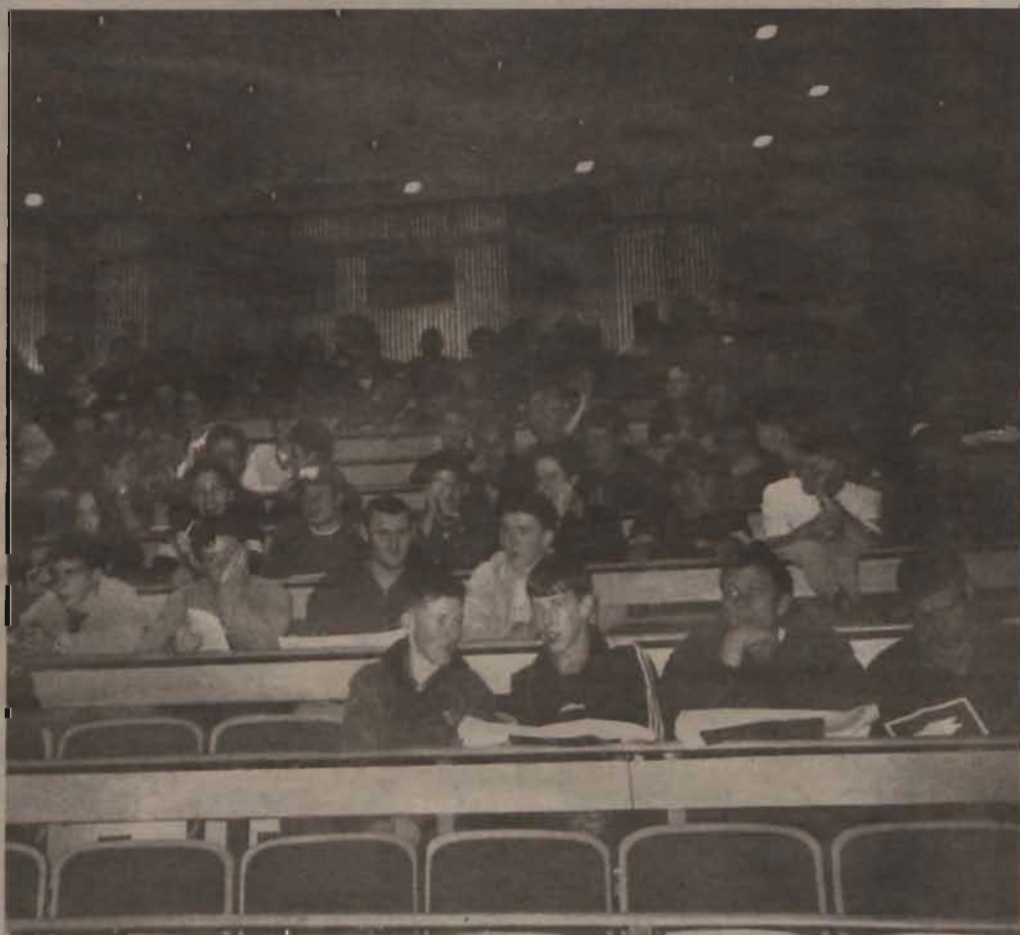
**Arts 14**  
Legendary crime-writer and country singer, Kinky Friedman, keeps it coming.



**Music 15**  
Interviews with Jim White, Nine Waxies from Baine, and Pelvis, plus reviews + listings.

# The DIT Examiner

The Newspaper of the  
Dublin Institute of  
Technology Students' Union  
September 1998



First year students eagerly waiting to be filled full of facts in DIT Bolton Street.

## Freshers' Delight

Dublin Institute of Technology's new Freshers' are currently enjoying the fruits of their Leaving Cert labour in the salubrious confines of the DIT sites across the capital. Having overcome the vicious competition for third-level places, in-coming first year students were pleasantly surprised by what they found waiting for them in college.

Owen McCorry, who opted for the Electronic Technician course in Kevin Street, was particularly pleased with the sports facilities of the Gym and the Swimming Pool. As a life guard in Cavan's Slieve Russell Hotel, a pool in which to train during the week is practically essential for him.

Owen will, of course be ready to get stuck into the drink when the need arises, but for the moment he was content to take in the introductory talks, tours, and events of the first few days of third level life, including the appearance of Murphy's Laughter Lounge all-stars, Ian Coppinger and Daragh O' Briain. "The two comedians were excellent, they were really funny."

Aine McNulty and Angela Quinn, two Dubliners studying Computer Science in Kevin Street, found their first few days in the Institute quite impressive. "It's not too bad," says Aine, 'it seems fine.' Anything they didn't like about the place? "Ask us in a few days time!"

## Accommodation Hell

Cearbhall Ó Siocháin

Having obtained much-fought-for college places this summer our students now face the added prospect of hunting much-fought-for accommodation. To call the present situation an 'accommodation crisis' is almost risible, as it has gone far beyond that at this stage.

Dublin Corporation, for example, have experienced the enormous increase of between 3,000 and 5,000 on the waiting

list for local authority housing in the past two years.

Ciarán Murphy, Director of the housing research and advice body, Threshold, told *The DIT Examiner* that Threshold have been using the term 'crisis' with regard to the general accommodation situation for the past number of months now, and not just in relation to the students' scenario. He denies that landlords, specifically, were to blame, or that we are

faced with the re-emergence of a landlord class or society in Ireland. "There's just not enough housing to go around, that's the main problem. Landlords can charge what they like, and will discriminate as they see fit. Homeless and health services are stretched to their limits in trying to cope."

Some of the landlord discrimination is evidenced in subtle (and not-so-subtle) newspaper ads, such as "Suit

more p6

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# The **DIT** Examiner

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## Abuses of Power

The bombing of Omagh this summer was a huge turning point in the history of this island for a number of reasons, not least of which was the almost immediate revulsion with which it was met in hard line circles.

Less obviously, it was a turning point in the practice of government in the 26 counties. Our present, Zero Tolerance, government has displayed unbelievable right-wing tendencies in introducing new laws which tamper with the right to silence and the presumption of innocence.

Politicians even admitted that the (ridiculous) one day the Dáil had to debate the new legislation was insufficient, yet they still passed the bill. These are the people who run our country, and by their own admission they're not even sure what they're doing half the time.

One could even argue that this new legislation was entirely unnecessary, as the hard liners had already decided to pack-in their 'field operations' and killing sprees for entirely different reasons than a fear of the new heavy-handed measures to capture them and others of their ilk. The Provisional IRA had 'warned' the Real IRA off further activities, a much more effective, if slightly illegal, method of ensuring compliance.

Bertie and Tony, champions of the Peace Process, couldn't stop yakking about how 'Draconian' (ie extremely tough) the new laws were, as though over-the-top, extreme measures were something to be proud of.

The most important thing now is to ensure that Guildford Four / Birmingham Six right-to-the-top cock-ups don't start happening here. Don't let the guards bugger this up by abusing these rushed laws which effectively give government a greater excuse to intrude on the lives of individuals.

While continuing to harp on endlessly about people in positions of power I would also urge you to keep up to date with the functions and work of your Students' Union. Don't be afraid to put questions to your elected representatives, they are here as those democratically chosen collectively by you, the student body. They are paid to do for you.

Welcome all y'all. This is your newspaper. Fill it.



The government fat cat staring smugly at us.

Cearbhall Ó Síocháin

EDITOR **Cearbhall Ó Síocháin** EAGARTHÓIR

LAYOUT **ChaOS** LEAGAN AMACH

Add water -- makes it's own sauce.

Thanks to **Paul O'Loughlin-Kennedy**

Printed by **Maypark,**

**Ashbourne, Co. Meath.**

### Clarifications

Should you see any inaccuracies printed in any issue of The DIT Examiner you should contact the Editor immediately. The matter will be reviewed and any necessary changes made.

**October Deadline: Fri 2 Oct**

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# Lettuce 2D Editor

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

The Editor,  
DIT Examiner,  
Students' Union,  
Ground Floor,  
DIT Kevin St.,  
Dublin 8.



Dear Editor,

Just a short note to let you know that we've been watching you and the mad craic that you get up to with that computer of yours. We guess you think you're very clever, even cunning, and that you've been sent here to rescue us all from literary oblivion, or maybe Evian. Well you take it from us, buster, that some of us out here are wide to your capers, we have you sussed, boy. (No, we're not from Cork, but we mean business.)

As you so delightfully outlined in many's an editorial last year, your plans to invade the DIT and annex the Studentenland won't wash with us, you bad git.

For as long as there are ropes, cratpons and crash-helmets we will launch vigorous and full-scale attacks on your ground-floor bunker, where you sit and eat Twinkies (imported at great expense and paid for directly from your bulging expense account in Geneva) and smugly make up fictional crap from around the globe. Furthermore, I feel it is my duty to inform you that the stunt you pulled last May with the combine and the monkey won't cut any ice here either. Sure, the average Joe Student might fall for it, but not us. Finally, the ultimatum. Our ultimatum to you, buddy, is that unless you get your spit together, stop cranking out

loads of made-up guff and nonsense, and give us something decent to read of a Thursday night, we'll be forced to disclose the whereabouts of your 'secret' Twinkie stash just beside where yer man left the Beit paintings. Yeh, you know we know. You bet. You do. You. Yeah.

BLUTE

Brethren of the Long Unseen Tryptich Epiphany

(And could you send us a copy of the March issue with the knitting pattern for Carrie On Crowley's marvellous double-knit sweater - the one she wears on Pot Luck? Cheers, you're a star. Don't forget our ultimatum, now.)

## The Overall's Overview

To one and all on behalf of the DIT Students' Union I welcome you. One may perceive this as the start of a long and arduous task but in reality it is simply a moment of time in the event of your life.



**Ross O'Daly**  
DITSU  
Overall President

The DIT Students' Union is the finest in the country with a unique structure to match a unique Institute. We have developed a relationship with all our partners in the field in order to ensure we can provide the best service and support possible. From the training of our Officers in the Summer to the Inductions process for our first years and the Freshers' Week for everybody we continue to collaborate and communicate with every group and element in DIT.

The first, foremost and most crucial step we should take as an organisation should be to elect our Class Representatives. These are the key to a successful Students' Union by virtue of their participation. In order to have a voice and control of the running and administering of your funds you need to access the Student

Representative Assembly (SRA) or DITSU Council. Don't stand outside the fence and expect to be listened to, come into the garden and pull a weed!

Accommodation, finance, bus routes and all the other issues affecting students at this time of year are the priority of the Students' Union. Why struggle alone when you finance a service of experts in the field? Pull one of the eleven sabbatical officers or one of the twenty staff aside and let us help you with your problems.

Finally I would like to state the appreciation of the DIT Students' Union for all the efforts and sacrifices made by those who actually did their bit to plan, arrange and execute the Induction programme. Some day the value of your efforts will sing loud in the name of quality service to an ever thankful student body.

Enjoy your year and many another after that!

Ross O'Daly

### DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS UNION

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Joe Nulty, President, Bolton Street</b></p> <p>Member of Academic Council, Teaching &amp; Learning Committee</p> <p><b>Bernie O'Reilly, Deputy President, Bolton Street</b></p> <p>Member of Union and Students' Union, Teaching &amp; Learning Committee</p> <p><b>Dan Fenwick, President, Aungier Street</b></p> <p>Member of Quality Assurance Committee, Library Committee</p> <p><b>Joanna Quirk, Deputy President, Aungier Street</b></p> <p>Member of Quality Assurance Committee, Finance and Events Committee</p> <p><b>Kenny Vaughan, President, Cathal Brugha Street</b></p> <p>Member of Central Sports Committee, Recreation and Activities Committee</p> | <p><b>Mick Shannon, President, Mountjoy Square</b></p> <p>Member of Central Library Committee, Exam &amp; Awards Committee</p> <p><b>David Wyatt, Deputy President, Mountjoy Square</b></p> <p>Member of Student Services Committee, Recreation and Activities Committee</p> <p><b>Sarah McGovern, President, Kevin Street</b></p> <p>Member of Governing Body, Quality Assurance Council</p> <p><b>Sarah Gardiner, Deputy President, Kevin Street</b></p> <p>Member of Academic Council, Recreation and Activities Committee</p> <p><b>Michelle McCauley, Deputy President, Cathal Brugha Street</b></p> <p>Member of Teaching &amp; Learning Committee, Library Committee</p> |
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**ROSS O'DALY**  
Overall DITSU  
President

Ross has the overall responsibility to lead the union, act as chief spokesperson and representative of DIT Students' Union. Ross's other responsibilities include managing finance, staffing, external relations, media relations, Governing Body and Academic Council

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\*Students must be in possession of a valid I.S.I.C and C.I.E Travellers Stamp to avail of student fares

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# Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn An Coiste Cultúrtha

**Cruinniú: Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe**  
2:30 in, Domhnach, 6 Meán Fómhair

I láthair:

Julian de Spáinn, Oifigeach Gaeilge, AMLÉ  
Nóra Ní Laighin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Coláiste Phádraig  
Áine Ní Dhúil, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Coláiste Mhuire I  
Bébhinn Ní Riagáin, Ollscoil Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Macdara Ó Cuaig, OÉ, Gaillimh.  
Sinéad Ní Bhrádaigh, Coláiste Phádraig  
Muireann Nic an Rí, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, IT Gaillimh is Maigh Eo  
Darren Ó Rodaigh, Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath

Leithscéalta:

Áth Luain  
Ollscoil Ulaidh — Seán Gallagher  
Darren MacCallig — Oifigeach Oideachais  
Mícheál Ó Scathail, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, OÉ, Gaillimh.

1) Dúirt Julian go raibh airgead leathghealta ag iar-uachtarán AMLÉ, Colman Byrne ón HEA do mhaoiniú d'oifigeach lán-aimseartha Gaelach ag AMLÉ. Ó shin i leith níor chualamar aon rud ón HEA. Tá Julian ag iarraidh freagra a fháil tríd Dermot Lohan, Uachtarán nua AMLÉ, a bhfuil suíocháin aige ar an HEA faoin scéal ach go bhfuil an próiseas mall.



Dermot Lohan  
Uachtarán AMLÉ

2) Tá scéim ag Bord na Gaeilge faoi láthair ciste de £500,000 a chur ar fáil do 5 thionscnamh éagsúla a chuirfidh an dátheangachas chun cinn ar feadh tréimhse trí bliana. Tá iarratas á chur isteach ag AMLÉ, ina measc tá maoiniú d'oifigeach lán-aimseartha, imeachtaí náisiúnta a chur ar siúl, traenáil d'aontais na mac léinn ar fud na hÉireann i leith na Gaeilge, laethanta eolais a chur ar fáil ins na coláistí, béim níos mó ar choláistí páirt a ghlacadh san Oireachtas, sa tSeachtain Ghaelach.

3) Thug Julian óráid ag UOS faoin méid atá bainte amach ag feachtas na Gaeilge i mbliana is thug sé cóip dóibh foi phlean na Gaeilge amach anseo is na spriocanna a bhí á leagadh síos againn. Bhí ar gach ionadaí ann foirm i leith na Gaeilge ina gcoláistí féin a líonadh amach is phléamar na freagraí a thugadar.

4) De bharr cinneadh a chuaigh tríd

chomhdháil náisiúnta AMLÉ tá an vóta céanna ag oifigeach páirt-aimseartha (Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Oifigeach Timpeallachta...) is atá ag oifigeach lán-aimseartha. Ciallaíonn sé sin go mbeidh níos mó tábhachta ag Oifigeach na Gaeilge i dtéarmaí cinnidh móra.

5) Tá geallúint faighte againn ó Bhord na Gaeilge go dtabharfaidh siad 50% d'aon chostas traenála d'oifigigh AMLÉ nó oifigeach lán-aimseartha in aon choláiste ar chúrsa deireadh seachtaine nó cúrsa seachtainiúl.

6) Bheartaíomar i mbliana, do na coláistí a bhíonn Seachtain Gaelach acu roimh Nollag, na dátaí céanna don tSeachtain Ghaelach a phiocadh. Beidh An tSeachtain Ghaelach náisiúnta d'AMLÉ ar siúl 9-13 Deireadh Fómhair. Socraíodh go mbeidh imeachtaí náisiúnta don tSeachtain sin, i nGaillimh is Baile Átha Cliath go príomha.

Beidh An tOireachtas ar siúl Deireadh Fómhair - 1 Samhain i dTrá Lí, Co. Chiarraí. Táimid ag súil le beagnach 200 macléinn an deireadh seachtaine sin. Fuaireamar margadh speisialta ó stiúrthóir an Oireachtais, Liam Ó Maolaodh — ticéad don deireadh seachtaine ar £5. Beidh deis againn freisin Comhdháil Seasta na Gaeilge d'AMLÉ a chur ar siúl i rith an Oireachtais nuair a thoghfad Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

8) Beidh 5 Oifigeach na Gaeilge go réigiúnda i mbliana.

Oifigeach an Deiscirt

Oifigeach an Tuaiscirt

Oifigeach an Iarthair — Macdara Ó Cuaig  
2 Oifigeach de Cheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath

Caithfear iad seo a thoghadh ag cruinnithe oifigiúla réigiúnda de chuid AMLÉ

9) Luaigh Julian gur féidir linn Gael-Phacáiste a chur ar fáil do na coláistí ina mbeidh eolas faoi imeachtaí, smaointí faoi chonas an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ins na coláistí srl.

Beidh an chéad cruinniú eile ag an gCoiste Cultúrtha ar siúl 4 Deireadh Fómhair in oifigí AMLÉ i mBaile Átha Cliath ag 3 in. Fáilte roimh chách.

\*Agus sinn ag dul chun na clódóirí leis an eagrán seo, ní raibh rud ar bith breise cloiste againn ón HEA.

## Bouncers and in-store detectives: no one knows the truth so watch your step

The biggest problem with the legal authority vested in store detectives and bouncers is its vagueness. No one can or will put their finger precisely on the details, making it very difficult to ascertain what exactly their powers are. It seems as though it depends almost totally on the individual case and what precisely the circumstances surrounding any incident may be.

According to the Garda, it is up to individual store and nightclub owners to lay out policy for their various security personnel. After that, it is up to the security staff, upon apprehending of a suspected shop-lifter to assume a 'holding role', ie to hang on to the offender until the guards arrive. The guards MUST be contacted in such an event. When pushed on the difference between a 'holding role' and false imprisonment, the Garda explained that such issues might then be a matter for a solicitor. This could be very worrying, as the battle is then waged in legal jargon and definitions and can be very confusing and unpredictable. This is not a situation in which you'd like to find yourself.

In the case of store owners, many contacted by The DIT Examiner were unwilling to disclose any information regarding the guidelines given by them to their security staff as, they claimed, it would put their staff at risk. There is truth in this, though again, this is a negative attitude which means that innocent victims are kept in the dark about their rights to protect store detectives from the devious intentions of a bunch of thieves ready to exploit the situation.

As for bouncers, they may lie in even murkier legal territory. For the most part, bouncers are all good guys, and, I suppose, girls, for there are a few out there. But they are also notoriously defensive, and suspicious of anything more long-winded than 'Alright?' or 'Howya!' We've all heard the horror stories, and mostly anyone who gets in a scrape with a bouncer immediately has eight of the guy's mates to deal with all at the same time. And they don't kiss you to a pulp, either. Not to be unfair to bouncers, they can very often be under immense pressure, and do get the wrong end of the stick when confronted with scuttering gobsheens who make it their business to give grief. Just don't be one of the schnooks who feels they have something to prove.

Stay tuned for more on bouncers and store detectives in the future.

## Social File

## Rubbish: Dublin's Biggest Export?

Brendan Walsh

DUBLIN is facing a litter crisis this month in the light of a decision by Fingal County Council not to accept any more commercial waste from the City's three local authorities.

At a recent meeting Fingal councillors announced that they were sick of having to take responsibility for all of Dublin's rubbish, while the Government dithers over implementing an effective Waste Management Plan.

The decision will come into effect in about a months time, pending a report on the financial, environmental and legal implications which it will have, requested by County Manager Willie Soffe.

As well as the ban on commercial waste, the councillors voted to only accept domestic waste at a level no greater than that which was deposited at the dump on the week commencing August 31, 1998.

About 70 per cent of the commercial and domestic waste which originates in the city ends up in a massive dump at Balleally, near Lusk in North County Dublin, leading to considerable local anger as people feel that they are being forced to take responsibility for other people's rubbish.

The dump, which is located in Rogerstown Estuary, has been in existence for 27 years and local residents are campaigning for it to be closed down without delay.

However, as the city grows, so does its rubbish problems, and a report commissioned by Fingal County Council suggests the creation of a new 300 acre 'super-dump' at Tooman to cater for the increased waste coming from the greater Dublin area.

The proposed dump, if it goes ahead, will involve the compulsory purchase of several houses and, as you can imagine, local reaction to the idea has been less than enthusiastic.

'This is everybody's problem. The Government do not have a proper waste management strategy and communities in Fingal are suffering as a result,' according to Sarah Harmon from the Tooman Anti-Dump Committee.

'Instead of building an incinerator, and concentrating on recycling initiatives their short-term solution is to open these dumps, which will cost the taxpayer a lot more money in the long run.'

This view is echoed by people such as Celine Horner, an administrator with Global Action Plan (GAP). This group tries to promote

sustainable development on an individual level, with the slogan, 'Think globally, act locally.'

Despite a lack of Government funding, GAP are slowly spreading their message and breaking down Irish people's inexplicable resistance to recycling as more and more households sign up for their 14 week programme.

Residents of Lusk and Rush, beside the Balleally dump, are also insistent that Dublin Corporation originate a new approach which does not involve driving their waste twelve

option, a choice which has 'shocked' local residents.

Such is the pressure on the Government to keep the dump open, they have bent their own rules to do so. The Balleally dump was due to close down in 31 December 1997 after an affidavit was lodged before Mr Justice Barr in the High Court the previous year.

However the tip remained open for business, and the amount of rubbish going into it continued to increase dramatically.

Fingal Green Party Councillor David Healy outlined the sheer scale of the increase, pointing out that 800,000 tonnes of rubbish were dumped in Balleally in 1992. Currently that figure stands at just under two million tonnes and rising.

The dramatic increases prompted Fingal Councillors to commission MC O'Sullivan, a firm of private consultants, to find an alternative site for a dump, directing them not to consider Balleally as a possible site. The report, mentioned above, came back with the Balleally dump as their second option.

Currently there are plans to site a rubble recycling plant on the estuary. This is a commercial undertaking, and in contravention of EU Directives.

REACT members feel that once the Ballymun flat complex is demolished, the situation will get worse before it gets better.

Whatever else happens the protesters are adamant that they will fight plans to either open a new dump at Tooman or extend the existing one at Balleally, 'to the bitter end.'

As well as calling on the Government to implement a proper Waste Management Programme, they point out that it is up to everyone to do their part by starting to recycle and becoming more responsible in their attitudes to litter.

You can find out more about Global Action Plan by phoning them at 873 3993 or e-mailing them at gap@indigo.ie



Untreated and publicly-dumped litter would cause immediate and cataclysmic health problems.

miles up the road and unceremoniously dumping it on somebody else's doorstep.

Locals feel that the dump is already having a negative effect on the land and water around. Perhaps the best description of the dump and its effects comes from Rena Condrot, a member of the Rogerstown Estuary Anti-Dump Campaign Team (REACT):

'Balleally is an unsealed, uncontained mountain of rubbish approximately five times larger than Stephen's Green and almost half the height of the new Hogan Stand in Croke Park.

'It is estimated that Balleally discharges over 110,000 tonnes of slime, sludge and leachate from the rotting matter into the estuary each year,' she says. Ms Condrot links this to a deterioration in the quality of beaches at Portrane, Rush, Loughshinny, Skerries and Balbriggan.

'Where we should have tourism we are developing dumps and rubble-recycling plants. The (Balleally) dump is placed in an estuary which is also an Area of Scientific Interest,' she explains.

If the dump proposals at Tooman do not go ahead, Fingal County Council's own report recommends that Balleally be chosen as a second

professional couple..", merely a euphemism for "...if you're not working, you're not welcome..".

Should the government intervene and cap rents?

"There is no political will for that kind of thing," Murphy explains. "But without immediate short-term measures, we'll be faced with a much more serious situation in the next five to fifteen years." Ominous words, considering that for many right now, it can hardly get worse.

Fintan McNamara, of the Irish Property Owners Association, concurs with Murphy, that the biggest single difficulty facing the population at the moment is the lack of places available to rent. The DIT Examiner put it to him that there is the danger of the re-emergence of a landlord class in Ireland.

"Not at all. In fact, landlords are moving into the upper bracket, where tenants are more reliable. They are also moving to London, where, believe it or not, property is less expensive, and the tax regime is much more favourable."

He seems positive on the topic of whether landlords have, or should have, any moral obligation to citizens. "Of course, the interests of the client, without whom the business would not exist, are always kept to the fore, indeed we give guidelines to our members frequently on such matters." There are, he suggests, a few measures which could be taken to halt the trend of increasing prices and lack of rented accommodation, the main one being a curb on speculation when it comes to the housing market. He condemns present government short-term moves as having a lack of balance and of offering no protection to landlords against loss. The recent Bacon report into the housing crisis was flawed, McNamara claims, in that it focused only on the rented sector, a factor which could not possibly do justice to the whole picture. Distinctions must also be made between the various types of accommodation so as to efficiently scrutinize the problem and attempt to remedy it.

The greatest worry now is that, with 80% of landlords not registered with any government authority, the ability to monitor their behaviour will be lost. Until the government decides to take responsibility for the circumstances which brought about the current situation, we will have to face the threat of impending housing chaos across the board, and that means bad news for students, in one of the weakest financial positions to deal with it.

Check your local Students' Union for details concerning help and advice regarding accommodation matters.

# Ten Things To Do When You're a Homeless Student

Ruth Delany

The lack of rental houses and the high cost involved has been widely documented in recent times. Now that the start of the college year is upon us again this situation is certain to deteriorate. So, instead of continuing to discuss the problem further — here are ten ideas to help overcome the crisis.

1. The most obvious solution is to scan the family tree, quickly become acquainted with any form of relative who lives in the Dublin area and move in immediately. This is not the ideal situation as it will mean you cannot lead the student life in the drunken and disorderly student fashion. It will, however, tide you over until something more suitable becomes available.

2. The number and quality of youth hostels has improved over the past few years in Dublin. This option would be very suitable for a month or so as they are very central and reasonably priced.

3. Live-in accommodation with a Dublin family is becoming more common. Usually the accommodation is only available 5 days a week, which doesn't allow for much of a social life in Dublin but has many advantages, ie cooked meals provided.

4. Mosney holiday centre is planning to open all year round to provide student accommodation. Despite being based in Co. Meath, it is only a 40 minute train ride to Dublin, making it a possibility to consider.

5. Scan college noticeboards for house and house-sharing availabilities.

6. Be prepared to travel — look further afield than just the area around your college, which is guaranteed to be saturated with house-hunters. Houses in the greater Dublin area can be cheaper and easier to find.

7. Check local shops and supermarkets for housing notices.

8. If you are prepared to pay a small fee, accommodation agencies can be helpful as they tend to have a larger selection than newspapers.

9. Get friends to ask their landlords if they have any other houses available to rent.

10. If you've tried every other option, train in becoming a professional scrounge and get acquainted with all your class mates by staying with each for a week.

**Be Warned — when going to view a house ensure to be there at least an hour before the scheduled viewing time.**

Leaflets, brochures and other information on An Óige Hostels, Threshold and alternative organisations available in your local Students' Union.



**An Óige**

Irish Youth  
Hostel Association

61 Mountjoy Street,  
Dublin 7

Telephone: (01) 830 4555

Facsimile: (01) 830 5808

E-mail: anoige@iol.ie

Website:

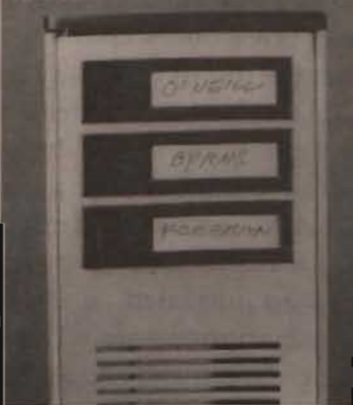
<http://www.irelandyha.org>



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A GUIDE

FINDING A FLAT

SHARING

FLAT HUNTING CHECKLIST



WORKING FOR JUSTICE ON  
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

# BATHMAN: LOOKING FOR A PLUG

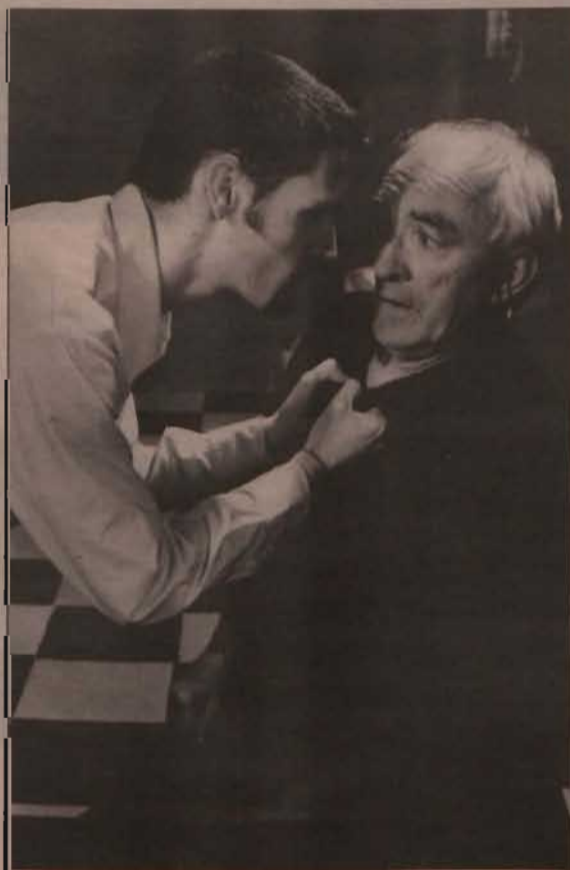
## ICONS

### The Background.....

The Fuji Film Scholarship is organised in the form of a competition, whereby film colleges and institutes in the UK and Ireland submit scripts, a number of which are selected to receive funding in the form of free film stock, sound stock, processing and negative cutting. The college provides support by providing camera, sound and lighting equipment; and editing facilities. The students have to produce a high-quality short film of between 10 and 15 minutes. In August the finished films are screened before a panel of judges and evaluated on the basis of script, camera-work, editing, sound, art direction etc. A gala award ceremony is held at BAFTA in London at the end of September, at which the winners are presented with cheques, trophies and certificates.

### The Crew.....

This year the Faculty of Applied Arts in DIT Aungier St. received word that Matt Byrne's script *Bathman* had been selected and there was immediate interest from both staff and students in the project. *Bathman* was crewed from film students from the postgraduate film course and 4th year Communications, under the supervising eye of Executive Producer Grainne O'Rourke of the Media



Production Unit. Written and directed by Matthew Byrne and produced by Jamie Rooney and Helen O'Driscoll, the fusion of the two film classes provided the production with the best pool of talent available.

The production was designed by Gillian O'Connor and lit by Johnny Richardson and Anne Boyle. The film was edited by Berni Stack. The crew consisted of Iselt O'Siochain (Assistant Director), Gail Weadick (Location

Manger), Anne Warter (Production Assistant); camera operator Nodlag Houlihan, focus puller Eoin O'Connor, sound recordist Neil McQuillan, boom op. Dan O'Hara and post-production sound by Aidan O'Connor. Jakob von Conrady provided the still photography, and Neil McQuillan doubled up as publicity manager.



### The Plot.....

*Bathman* is described by director Matt Byrne as 'a tragedy in sixteen parts', and comes with the sound-byte friendly tag-line "IN THE TUB NO-ONE CAN HEAT YOU WAZ." The story hinges on a struggle between a grandfather (Gus) and his adult grandson (Max), as Max desperately attempts to gain entry to his bathroom; in which Gus is busily preparing to re-experience his birth. The story also involves Ruprecht the dog and a Psycho, but no-one except Matt himself is really quite sure where the dog and the psycho really come into it.

### The Cast.....

The cast line-up for *Bathman* can be summarised as 'three men and a dog'; the three men concerned being Terry Byrne as Gus, John Matthews as Max, and Daithi O'Suilleabhain as the Marquis de Psycho. The dog in the equation goes by the name of Snitch. Terry Byrne has a long history in theatre having worked both as an actor and a director. He recently played the Doctor in 'A Street named Desire' at the Gate, and has featured in productions for BBC, RTE and T'na G. His directorial credits include 'Continental Call Girls', 'Death and the Maiden' and 'The Visit' at Andrews Lane Theatre. John Matthews works principally in theatre, having sung and danced his way through numerous musical productions, including 'The Rocky Horror Show' at the Olympia, 'Aspects of Love', 'Buskin', and a 'A Chorus Line'. His recent film work includes 'Turas', a cross-border production, and playing Gregory in 'Rural Heat'. Daithi O'Suilleabhain's credits include @Last TV for RTE, Mystic Knights for US television and Radio Waves for BBC. He has also worked extensively in theatre, having appeared in production for most of Ireland principle theatre companies.

### The Shoot.....

When other students were either relaxing or going mad, having finished their exams/ theses/ or end of year projects, the *Bathman* crew were busy constructing sets, preparing schedules, storyboarding, and holding rehearsals for the shoot which was scheduled for the 25th to the 29th of May. A bathroom set was built in the TV studio on the 4th floor in Aungier St., locations were confirmed, wardrobe fittings were arranged, a dog was wrangled, shotlists were revised hourly, equipment was booked, promises were made and lies were told. The producers began to look like shells of their former selves, but eventually fell or was pushed into place. Over the course of the 5-day shoot, the crew got to experience the wonder of Matt Byrne at full genius, and to catch more than a mere glimpse of our actors in their birthday suits. The shoot finished on Friday night and on Sunday cast, crew and all who aided the production drank and made merry at the wrap party in the Green Lizard.

### The Outlook.....

At the end of the month a posse of now ex-DIT students will travel to London for the Fuji awards ceremony in the hope that *Bathman* will win something, or maybe just to get drunk and fall down at an awards ceremony. A repre-



sentative of each department has been invited to this year's ceremony, so the odds are certainly good. Hopefully another success story in the making...

Thanks to Helen O'Driscoll



Third Level Education in 9 Easy Steps.



Step 1. Get them in.



Step 2. Hurry to other pub to get some more in.

Third Level Education in 9 Easy Steps.



Step 3. Some lard and lemon rind, washed down by vinegar.

First Year.  
Sex.  
Drugs.  
Rock'n'Roll.  
Don't Come Close to a Good, Hard, Swot.  
DIT's Out for the Grads.



Step 4. Lose the lard, lemon rind, and vinegar.



Step 5. A quick spot of cockfighting.



Step 6. Balls



Step 7. Become famous superstar.



Step 8. Grow daft, grungy due to superstar coke habit.

Watch noticeboards for information regarding DIT Fresher's Week. Each college will be organising various events (with booze\*), mystery trips (with some booze\*), Iron stomach competitions (tons of booze\*), comedians (who drink booze\*), pub crawls (certain amounts of booze\*), and Balls.



Step 9. Graduate with flying colours.

Watch noticeboards for information regarding DIT Fresher's Week. Each college will be organising various events (with booze\*), mystery trips (with some booze\*), Iron stomach competitions (tons of booze\*), comedians (who drink booze\*), pub crawls (certain amounts of booze\*), and Balls.

\*Strictly no alcohol.

\*Strictly no alcohol.

# Freshers' Induction Week: the cast of characters



One bronco too many. This man felt overdressed for college.



Joe Nulty, President, DIT Bolton Street, and Phil Murray, Chair, Pastoral Care Team, and a prime mover in the new induction format introduced this year.



The marvellous Bolton Street Atrium, complete with fully-functional students.



Some of Cathal Brugha Street's new bunch.



"It's all my fault the DIT is so good!"  
Ross sorts it out.



Dangerous Dave and the Ballistic Brothers



This student life's the craic.



The Rolling Stones, Hard Rock Cafe, New York, 1973, with DJ "Chalm Daown" Terry.



Priorities for Freshers in Mountjoy Square; loads of ciggies and pop down the canteen.



Surverving Cathal Brugha's restaraunt.



Einige der Erasmus Studenten  
Ola, Bien Venue, Herzlichen Willkommen, Ciao.

## DIT Mountaineering: top o' the world

Kevin Street  
Mountaineering Club

In September last year, a new Mountaineering club committee was set up. It comprised of three people, two of which had no previous club-running experience and one who had been on the previous years committee. The president was myself, Richard Eibrand, the very able treasurer was Julie Lynch and the secretary was Eoin O'Sullivan, the man from last year's committee. Needless to say

it was a little rough at the start to try and get all the appropriate papers filled in, organise the bud-

get, organise a time slot for the climbing training sessions in the gym. But we got through it eventually and the club was up and running.

The Kevin Street Mountaineering Club is involved in a lot of rock climbing, but we also organise hiking, and trekking, along with our rock climbing trips. As a club we try and get away on weekends as often as possible, to many varied places. Last year we went to the Burren in Co. Clare, which was our fresher's introductory weekend, one of the best trips we had, actually. The weather was good, the climbing better, the crack mighty, and the pub well...need I say any



more? We also went to the Mournes, Glendalough, and Mayo on a hiking weekend, each were rather brilliant outings and we

adrenaline rushes. Climbing is also a great way to relax, and to help you focus on your abilities, mind you, hiking has all of those advantages as well.

Another great thing with these weekends away is that we often go on trips with some of the other Universities, so we get to meet new people and have more fun, and share stories of previous trips and close shaves...

Nothing limits you to stay in Ireland and climb, some of our previous members (and current ones at that) have gone to some far flung places. Like our John, the pictures of the top of the world are his



hope to do as much if not more this year.

When we can't get away on far flung weekends we always try and get to Dalkey, where some brilliant climbing can be done and is invaluable also in the way it helps us to teach everyone the basics involved in safe and enjoyable climbing.

Climbing isn't just for the super-fit supermen and women who can do chin ups on their little fingers. It's for anyone who is interested in getting outside with nature, fresh air and open spaces, and for those who want some small (or even rather big)



from his trips to the Alps this summer. Our president from two years back made an attempt on Mount McKinley this summer. And I'm sure many more of

our members have done some interesting mountain stuff this year, and I can't wait to hear more about it.

We also take part in climbing competitions, the IBL (Irish Bouldering League), which take part in indoor climbing walls all around the country like in Galway, Cork, Limerick, Belfast and of course here in Dublin, and believe you me the nights out after those are rather special... Every year there is also the Intervarsities, that's where we compete against the other colleges.

They also move around the country and we tend to do rather well in those; last year we came second overall and the year before that we won them. Some

of our climbers have actually won the thing outright as individuals (check out the pictures of this year's climbing Intervarsities in Galway).

Climbing and hiking are for everybody, there is nothing compared to the sense of personal satisfaction when you complete a long climb or long hike. Climbing and hiking can become addictive so be warned.

Join our club and find that out for yourself. For more information check out our stand during Clubs and Societies day, or e-mail me at swefi@hotmail.com, or Julie at lynchjules@hotmail.com.



# THE Heineken® SPORTS GUIDE

## You won't stop raving about DIT Caving

Dublin Institute of Technology Caving Club

The DIT has a new arrival on the clubs' scene; the Caving Club has arrived. We were established in March this year as an official DIT Club but we've been around for a while (five years to be precise) in the shape of Kevin Street Caving Club. We were a local club in name only, having taken staff and students from Bolton Street and Aungier Street on several trips.

Two years ago we had our first foreign trip, spending two weeks exploring underground France. This year we are going back to finish what we started; we're going to the Catacombs beneath Paris, then on to Vercours and Les Grands



Causes, where we'll renew some old friendships on the way and we are bound to make many more as we descend into the depths of the subterranean world!

We will be taking as many new members with us as possible, teaching the art of rope access and the techniques used to enter vertical potholes. There is nothing quite like a 300+ foot abseil into a daylight shaft, put mildly, the experience is literally breathtaking! To give you an idea of the type of thing you find at the bottom of an entrance like that, take a look at

these photos, taken by Gavin Newman, a freelance action photographer, avid caver and cave

on rescues; it was a DIT caver on the team that found the lost group



diver. I think you'll agree that they are not quite what you'd expect a cave to be like.

Membership of DIT Caving Club is open to all staff, students and alumni of the DIT, all levels of caving are catered for and training and equipment is provided by the club. If you're curious as to what it's all about, give it a go. You can't judge for yourself until you have tried it, you'll find it's not what you expect!

We are actively



involved with ICRO, the Irish Cave Rescue Organisation, having provided some of the key personnel at rescues. We have had members both above and below ground

from Queen's University last Easter.

We will be running regular training sessions during the year on all aspects of caving and rope access as well as regular trips around the country. So keep an eye out for posters announcing the latest trips or meetings.

We run trips on average once a month, sometimes more often and we meet every

Wednesday night in John Gleeson's on Camden Street from about 9 onwards. Drop in and say hello, we are always ready to take people caving, any excuse will do.

We will be there on Clubs and Socs day, come over and say hello. Promise we won't bite!

Caving itself is great fun, always a bit of craic and never boring. There is a great sense of satisfaction when you get to that last chamber, where nobody has been before. You are the first person EVER to see this part of the planet; you even get to name it. DIT cavers have discovered and named passageway in Clare. Caves are one of the few remaining unexplored regions of the planet. So go on, make your mark on the exploration of this planet.

We can be contacted through DIT Kevin Street's SU or from our



Website, <http://www.kst.dit.ie/dit/su/caving> which is currently being re-written. New members are always welcome, you form the basis of the club.

Caving is different, a break from the norm. Ah go on! Give it a go.

# SHIVER ME TIMBERS

'Sell the house, sell the kids, I'm not coming home, FORGET IT!' was what intrepid reporter and non-Nam veteran Captain Chaos told his editor earlier this year when he ditched the lot and headed to the waters and the wilds of the River Shannon. His editor still has no idea why Chaos instructed him to sell his children, but the editor, vigilant to the last, sold them for a tidy sum.



Clockwise from above: 'Aaaarrggh! Splice the mainbrace, hoist the jib, and turn on the engine...'; trying to locate the front of the boat; Shannon sunset; the sweep of the river at Clonmacnoise; Athlone marina.



## SPORT AGAINST RACISM IN IRELAND

Blackhall Place Sports Grounds, 19-20 September

Right: The SARI Trophy and medals for winners and runners-up on display;  
Below right: Monto's captain accepts the trophy on his victorious team's behalf;  
Below: captain of runner-up team, Club Éire, being given the plaque.



Right: Derek McDonald, referee and team group organiser receiving his award;  
Below right: the final between Club Éire and eventual winners, Monto, on the Blackhall Place pitch.



Among the teams in the competition were ones representing Vietnam, African Refugee Network, Hot Press, John Rocha, the RTE newsroom.



# How to set up a club or society

## Clubs and Societies in DIT:

Some 150 Clubs and Societies operate in The Dublin Institute of



Technology. These represent all of the major ( and many minor ) sporting disciplines, as well as cultural and social activity and numerous course-related societies. Sports range from Rugby and Gaelic to

Canoeing and Mountaineering, with a huge selection of societies including Drama, Film and Photography.

Any DIT student is entitled to join these Clubs and Societies and if we do not have the sport or social activity you

enjoy then you can set up the club yourself! Setting up your own club is easy



with the help of your site Clubs and Socs officer. This involves filling out a budget form, accompanied by a list of interested students and aims and objectives for the club or society. As events come along the club or society treasurer will be required to fill out a requisition

form to receive funding. It's as simple as that, so get involved.

Some of the DIT site have well equipped Gyms, and the swimming pool in Kevin Street is available to all registered stu-



dents. College life is 20% academic qualification and 80% LIFE. Live a little and be part of what is the biggest and best social and sporting scene in third level Ireland!

## DIT Sports Officers

|                                    |                    |          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| DIT Aungier Street                 | Herbert McClelland | 402 3042 |
| DIT Bolton Street                  | Michael Whelan     | 402 4009 |
| DIT Cathal Brugha Street (vacancy) |                    | 402 4341 |
| Dit Kevin Street                   | Seamus Byrne       | 402 4634 |
| DIT Mountjoy Square                | Niamh O'Callaghan  | 402 4153 |

## Noticeboard

This space has been set aside for up-coming events, tournaments, games and outings or trips information and news.

Check page 2 every issue for details of future deadlines for submission of articles and information.

Any material, including photographs, can be sent to the following address:

The Editor,  
The DIT Examiner,  
Students' Union,  
Ground Floor,  
DIT Kevin St.,  
Dublin 8.

**Sport**examiner

# The Smokingest Texas Jewboy

Kinky Friedman, musician, writer, sometime sleuth and all-time foe of the PC brigade, came to Ireland recently. Intent on bringing his philosophy to the willing punters of Erin, he made a whistle-stop dash through Dublin and Galway early in July. He spoke to ChaOS from a hotel in Norway, where he was performing before hitting our shores.

There is a partly-finished tribute album to the smokingest Jewish Texan in creation in the works, entitled *Pearls in the Snow*, and it features the talents of many, including Willie Nelson, Lyle Lovett, and Tom Waits, covering a selection of Kinky Friedman's greatest songs. How excited is he about it?

'Enormously excited, we anticipate it could be quite a financial pleasure for the Kinkster. But as I often point out, money can buy you a fine dog but only love can make it wag its tail. We got about eleven [different artists] down, we need about two or three more.'

As the Kinkster himself puts it, 'It's really nice to have a tribute album for yourself before you step on a rainbow. If you get one before you go to Jesus, then that's really something.'

He was quoted late last year as lamenting the loss of country music's spiritual heritage, pointing to the ways in which modern marketing strategies have, in part, been responsible for this. I refrain from mentioning Shania Twain.

'I don't see much of a trend of that changing. We're using very unconventional methods of marketing the *Pearls* CD. You can't compete with Garth Brooks, its like starting up a little hamburger stand and trying to compete with McDonalds.' Not a fun project, admittedly.



Willie Nelson recently signed a participation agreement for the *Pearls* record - a one page letter written by Friedman himself, which he presented to the long-haired outlaw on the golf course. The Kinkster, having decided that the level of male bonding surrounding *Pearls in the Snow* (thirteen men, no women) would require him (Friedman) to become a homosexual, explained to Willie in the letter that, depending on the success of the album, he would increase Willie's percentage, adding "Trust me, my word of honour as a Jewish record company president. And, though I am a proud, gay American, I will not fuck you, if you sign this." 'Well, Willie signed it,' says Friedman, 'and under his name he wrote, Please Fuck Me.' A release just in time for Hanukah or Christmas may be on the cards for *Pearls in the Snow*.

**"It's really nice to have a tribute album for yourself before you step on a rainbow. If you get one before you go to Jesus, then that's really something."**

As frontman for Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jewboys (who formed shortly after Friedman returned from a Peace Corps stint in Borneo), Kinky courted the wrath of such luminaries as the US's National Organisation of Women, who bestowed upon him their most-treasured 'Chauvinist Pig of the Year' award for his touching ode to radical feminism, *Get Your Biscuits in the Oven and Your Buns in the Bed*. The Jewboys were, most likely, the first country band with

a social conscience - a very stupid thing to be, he admits, on the basis that people don't want to hear that kind of thing. 'But,' he explains, 'the Lord commanded us to do it.'

Would the Lord command him to round up the Jewboys again?

'Incredibly enough, we're doing just that in Nashville next month [August], to do a track on *Pearls in the Snow*.' The line-up includes Billy Swan and Willie Fong Young, both of whom lent their vocals to the 1973 *Sold American* album, and Lil' Jewford, who the Kinkster hasn't seen since the Jewboys' mid-seventies heyday, turning the occasion into a reunion of sorts. He would have liked to cajole Bob Dylan



The Kinkster: cherishes his status as a cult guy.  
PIC: Joe Rudé MD

into participating too, though it appears that time constraints won't allow it.

As a writer, Friedman has enjoyed considerable success with his mystery/crime novels featuring the adventures of private dick, Kinky Friedman, an enigmatic sleuth who bares more than just a passing resemblance to his creator. *Road Kill*, his latest novel, was released in September 1997. Its about someone trying to kill Willie Nelson, and Nelson and the Kinkster having to figure out just who, before they are relegated to a life of playing covers on cruise ships. A prequel to his ten-plus novels, entitled *Blast From the Past*, is due out this month [September].

But does he worry that books and traditional literature may be in danger of losing out to other, more passive pursuits, such as computer games or TV? Not yet, anyhow.

'The evidence isn't all in on that one yet. It is a worry in America that everyone has the attention span of a cocker spaniel, but I don't perform for that kind of audience anyway. I'm not really affected by those trends, I cherish my

status as a cult guy — like Robin Hood or Van Gogh, or Jesus.'

Most of the time, Friedman lives in semi-retirement near the small town of Kerrville, Texas, where he once, incidentally, ran for Mayor. Does he enjoy this retreat? 'No. I deliberately try very hard to not be a happy American. I'm exploring my sexuality, too, it helps in achieving my personal goals of becoming fat, famous, financially fixed and a faggot by fifty-four!'

His father, Tom, runs a summer camp for children on Echo Hill Ranch, the Friedman homestead since Kinky was just a young 'un, and on which Kinky used to help out. Now he is content to look after the fifty or so humming birds that live there, as well as the armadillos. In fact, that is one of the few things that worries the genial Texan, namely, who looks after his assorted animal community when he's away.

**"I deliberately try very hard to not be a happy American. I'm exploring my sexuality, too, it helps in achieving my personal goals of becoming fat, famous, financially fixed and a faggot by fifty-four!"**

Normally, he gets members of the summer camp posse to attend to them, but that doesn't always work so well. That, and whether they can get Ray Charles or Ray Price to play on *Pearls in the Snow* are his only current concerns.

On a recent visit to the White House, where Kinky and his father were dinner guests, the Kinkster, being very fond of Montecristo No.2 Havanas, presented Bill Clinton, a fan of Kinky's books, with a cigar of the same brand. Kinky explained to the President that 'Remember, we are not supporting the Cuban economy, merely burning their fields.' Clinton had a good chuckle, but as the singing Texas Jew points out, 'I did not see him light up in my presence.' Apart from all that, Hollywood is also knocking on the door, offering both movie and TV series options. Its just a matter of choosing the man to play the Kinkster. If Charlie Sheen can't make it out of rehab, the Kinkster is considering Lionel Richie as a possibility.

For the Irish gigs, he treated us to old Kinkster classics such as *They Ain't Makin' Jews Like Jesus Anymore*, *Sold American*, and his first ever song, penned when he was eleven, *Ol' Ben Lucas*, who had a head full of mucus. Long may the Kinkster run.

#### Recommended readings:

*Greenwich Killing Time*  
*Evils, Jesus, and Coca-Cola*  
*Armadillos and Old Loce*

All published by Faber & Faber

# Pelvic Thrusts!

Lorcan Mc Grane

The Pembroke plays some booming big band rat pack tunes from beyond the grave. Sinatra's haunting my Dictaphone as I ready it to accept words of wisdom from Jonny Rowen the vocal, song writing, front-third of Pelvis. It's late afternoon, the liquid lunches are over and Dublin's suits have scurried back to their cubicles to play with their desk toys and photocopy their genitalia....

Enthusiastic, smiling and talkative Jonny seems at odds with his sometimes-melancholy ridden debut album *Who Are You Today?* Yet it is this sort of creative and dynamic complexity that is integral to Pelvis. Average pop band profiles have their generic: name a few influences, plug a few gigs ask about drugs n' groupies, click 'Save', click 'Print', click 'Pub'. Needless to say this intelligent trio (Rowen: Vocals, Bass & Piano, Ed Reynolds: Guitar and Mick Goss: Drums) are no average pop band.

I had to start off with the name, slightly medical, strangely sexual but ultimately memorable- "myself and the guitarist still argue about who came up with the name Pelvis" Jonny begins with a smile "but we never decided, anyway it just stuck. I suppose the idea was a certain amount from Elvis The Pelvis. They say Rock and Roll is sexual for those reasons the name Pelvis, I think is highly rock and roll."

In a world where instant cultural gratification is demanded *Who Are You Today?* Is a rare occurrence. A pop album that's emotionally and technically mature, obviously very good, but with the added twist that you won't know why for a while. Contrasting with the shouty and straightforward musical wares of trios like Ash, Placebo, Bis and Chicks, Pelvis inhabit a more adult, sometimes strange, but rewarding landscape of Pop Noir complete with fragmented identities, streetlights, neon shaded city trash and a healthy dollop of urban angst.

The press consensus on the album ("Either a pat on the back or slag", quips Jonny with good humour), is that it's an album which isn't instantly accessible, in this case no disadvantage. Pelvis are distinct against mundane teen-pop fodder - "I think if teenagers are going to buy it, it's going to be eight months down the road before they're actually going to start copping on to it". There is musical adeptness common with a lot of the greats here, but influences are by no means obvious. "From a very early age

I collected everything The Beatles ever did, I loved their sense of melody, of adventure in music, of actual creativity and move-



Pelvis

ment and pushing ahead and not saying 'ahh lads! We have it here with 'She Loves You' and that's what we'll stick with,' they actually pushed on to the next thing."

Jonny's Influences are diverse, from Van Morrison, childhood recollections of Jim Reeves, The Beach Boys, Ennio Morricone and the ever-present U2 - "there's a couple of U2 Albums I think are amazing like Achtung Baby - I played it every day for about a year!". In fact Jonny puts listening to and writing music up there with any drink or drug. "I get a bigger buzz just going to the sea for a walk. I love listening to music on my own with a big selection so you don't have to say 'Can I play this?' " "Ed, our guitar player, grew up listening to Ska, he was big into Madness, The Specials and all that kind of crack, he became a big U2 fan very early on. In fact he got his first drum kit — even though he's the guitarist — when the Joshua Tree came out"

The complexity of influences are apparent with 'Hang My Hat' the band's second single - "I always hated that song by Paul Young but liked the idea of wherever I lay my hat that's my home, so it's still an influence and not something you just ignored"

In fact it was the subtlety of the 'Hang My Hat' EP which attracted the ear of Mark Cooper, producer for *Later With Jools Holland*. "I think we just approached every song individually, more on a relationships level rather than 'Look at the state of the world', they way you might fall in love with someone and then it's over it's like cold turkey". Such comprehensive thoughtfulness is rare in a new band; rarer still was Cooper giving them a slot on the show after seeing them play only once.

Setanta seems a perfect home for such material joining the likes of *The Divine Comedy*, *Frank and Walters* and *Edwin Collins* on an Irish label whose defining feature is it's lack of traditional 'Irishness' reflecting expertly the reality of intelligent Irish youth. "You can very easily be forgotten about on a major label, at least with Setanta they're thinking about us every day."

The signing has produced a healthy creative dividend with Joby Talbot from *The Divine Comedy* arranging the strings on the album. Pelvis are limbering up to join the band on an up and coming European tour - "We were delighted to get the tour because there was a load of bands that put in for it and they gave it to us, so obviously we're chuffed. We're really looking forward to it, Kicking off on the 15th of September, 12 dates in England, 12 in France then on to Belgium and Denmark".

The immediate future for Pelvis is brimful of possibilities, "we're always scooting back and forth to London, but we'll hang around Dublin for the crack, all my friends are here. As time goes by we'll be over there more and more so who knows?" Where next, America? "February maybe, it's a case of setting things up properly, the record's not released yet over there, its important to bombard the college stations with it".

With that Jonny's off on his bike through the city sun; it's a busy time for Pelvis, recently finished a sell out Temple Bar Music Centre Gig.

'I Am The Supergrass' is out now on Setanta. See **sonic bionic** p16

## Lorcan McGrane, DIT Arts Officer

The DIT Arts Officer, Lorcan McGrane, is based in DIT Head Office in 30 Upper Pembroke Street, and can be contacted on (402) 3424. If you intend to

organise any sort of arts-related event, and would like assistance in publicising it or need advice on other events-related topics, Lorcan is the one to contact. He can also be found touring the different DIT sites, which he does on a weekly basis. Information can be left for him in your local Students' Union.

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# THE Heineken® MUSIC GUIDE

b o n i e



3 i n o 9 d

## RELEASES

Pelvis

I Am the Supergrass

The title track of this single is a stop-start type of rock number. The vocals are weak and so the song is pretty much uninteresting. The second of three, It's Your Smile, is a Neil Youngesque country-tinged weepy that would probably do more for them if it had been the main track. The final song, Monkey On a Stick, reminds me for some reason of The Only Ones, but overall the single lacks the energy of their live performance.

Godsy

Annie Christian  
The Other Way

This band hail from Scotland and cite Teardrop Explodes, Joy Division and the Velvet Underground as influences. It's prettymuch your standard fare as far as British guitar bands go. The title song, sounds like Ash, and I'm sure will give them a minor hit with its up-beat, summery sound. The second number, Drugs Work, is an attempt to be Closer era Joy Division; 101/2 bloody minutes. Finally, its Joy Division. Well, a cover of that band's Transmission, and is absolutely spot-on. They should just leave the arty sub-goth rubbish alone.

Godsy

## GIGS

The Bluetones  
Mean Fiddler Thur 27  
Aug



Predictably, wildly varying analyses are strewn across the Mean Fiddler dance floor in the wake of the Bluetones' fourth Dublin appearance. Some

enjoyed it, others were disappointed. But it couldn't have been any other way, as these were the emotions generated by the Hounslow boys' new album.

Personally I've always liked them - but that doesn't mean my critical faculties go AWOL whenever I stick on a Bluetones record. Some songs on their debut album, Expecting to Fly, did grate a little and detracted from the overall brilliance of the record.

But in the Mean Fiddler they shone again. It's been almost three years since I've last seen them live, but Mark Morriss has lost none of his bravado, despite the less-than-enthusiastic response to the new album, Return to the Last Chance Saloon.

Old favourites are given an airing, although judging by the crowd's response, they probably would have liked more classics. Business is business, however, and I guess they wanted more punters to hear their new work. Nothing wrong with that usually - but certainly not in this instance. Songs like If and Broken Star, which is the logical climax, to both the album and the gig, are criminally underrated and I await the day with some impatience when the 'Tones finally get the recognition they deserve. Brit-Flops they ain't!

Michael Scully

## Nine Wassies From Bainne

This summer saw the release of The Wassies' new album Ciddy Hall. ChaOS spoke to Giordai Ua Laoghaire about the Wassies progression to a much-awaited record.

Where did the name come from?

'I was inside in Cork City about five years ago, and there was this guy from Waterford with that peculiar Waterford accent, and we got to talking about music and other bollox, and he was into Captain Beefheart, and some of us didn't know who Captain Beefheart was. So, anyway we were asking him whether there were any pretty-looking women in Waterford, and then one fella says, 'There's nine lovely lassies in Bandon!' And so it was that the name Nine Wassies from Bainne entered the language. Giordai qualifies this, however, 'I have to emphasise that its not popular among the members.'

An bhfuil aon lár-théama ag an gcéirnín seo, nó an é gurb é seo ceithre bhliain de na Wassies ar aon diosca amháin?

'Sin scéal na Wassies ó thús. Ní gach aon phíosa ceoil, dar ndóigh, ach d'fhéadfá a rá gur representation de chineál atá i gceist.'

Bhfuil sibh le chéile, ag cleachtadh an t-am ar fad, laistigh den ceithre bhliain sin?

'Mise agus Peter (O'Kennedy) le cúig bhliain anuas, ach tá bass players ag teacht agus ag imeacht, agus tá an t-amhránaí Dave Murray linn ar feadh bliana, táim ag ceapadh, ach tá ré Dave Murray thart anois.'

An dhéanann tú féin an-chuid cleachtadh - tá cloiste agam go gcaitheann tú ceithre uair a chloig gach lá ar an ngiotar?

'Go dtí Mí Aibreán seo chaite bhínn istigh i mo sheomra go rialta, beagnach gach aon lá in aghaidh na seachtaine. Tháinig an-Samhradh agus tá mo shaol imithe beagáinín as smacht mar táim an-busy faoi láthair na h-uair. Táim ag obair le beirt ceoltóirí eile, agus idir rud amháin agus rud eile ní thig liom a rá cad a bheidh ar siúl agam ó lá amháin go lá eile.'

Tá ethos na Wassies le brath go soiléir ón gcarachtar agat féin agus an gcuid eile den ngrúpa - tá sibh andáiríre faoi. An bhfuil s sin fíor i gcoitinne faoi cheoltóirí an lae inniu an dóigh leat?

'Tá deighilt ann faoi láthair, mar suas go dtí cúpla bliain ó shin bhí dream ann, go h-áirithe i mBleá Cliath, agus bhí an cheoil mar chuid den agenda acu chun a n-ainm-riacha a chur ar aghaidh, agus ba chuma leo an cheol, bhíodar ag iarraidh clú agus cáil a bhaint amach. Ach anois tá sé intuigthe, táim ag ceapadh, in áit ar nós na hÉireann, atá ana-bheag, nach fiú iaracht a dhéanamh clú agus cáil a bhaint amach. Agus anois tá ceoltóirí ag iarraidh ceol a chumadh agus taitneamh a bhaint as sin. Tá ceoltóirí ar nós Pet Lamb, agus Sack, DeCal agus b'fhéidir Pelvis, ag iarraidh albums maíthe a dhéanamh. Níl siad ag iarraidh cáil a bhaint amach a thuilleadh, agus tá caighdeán an cheoil ag éirigh níos fearr dá bharr. Tá daoine ag déanamh rudaí suimiúla, agus ag obair le chéile ar nós na Wassies agus DeCal, nó na Jubilee Allstars agus Stan Erraught. Ní móide go dtarlódh sé sin deich mbliain ó shin.'

'Ireland's answer to Beefheart and Zappa' is a common tag used to describe the Wassies, and like both of them, the Knockbonya residents have opted to remain outside the mainstream. This is also due to, in part the type of music in question; highly complex structures, time signatures,

lyrics like literature and a general approach most musicians shy away from or just can't comprehend, and Polygram will not be knocking on the Wassies door in the morning to say 'We like what you do, sign here please.'

Another aspect of the truth-by-association gag is the drug question. Though Beefheart apparently dabbled lightly in the narcotic field, Zappa was completely (cigarettes aside) drug free, something people, upon hearing his music, simply can't believe. The same dope-fiend argument could be levelled at the Wassies for the 'wapped-out' music they create; they must be into drugs.

'Well it disappoints me, really. When I was young I took drink, I took speed and I took acid over, say, a two year period, and then I gave the lot up. Even now, I only have the occa-

sional drink. Peter only drinks the odd whisky or beer, and smokes fags. But between us we never once had a joint in the rehearsal room, it's not allowed, for any drug. People think I've taken a lot of drugs over the years but it's not true.'

Tá na meáin ceoil éagsúla á mheascadh ag na Wassies ar Ciddy Hall - le DeCal ar Níos, mar shampla. Bhfuil sé sin fíor faoi na Wassies i gcónaí?

'Bhuel bhí Peter ag casadh na drums le The Golden Horde le deich mbliana, agus bhí sé braon den 'straight rock'n'roll' agus chuala sé fúrsa agus tháinig sé chugainn i ndiaidh gig sa White Horse oíche amháin. Bhí sé deacair orm ceoltóirí a fháil ar feadh tamall. Ansin bhí an gig sin in Whelans le DeCal agus Dawn Kenny agus mic léinn an DIT. Scríobh Dawn na nótaí don cheol a chum mise, agus bhí síse thar a bheith go maith. Do theip orm, creidim, an oíche sin. B'fhearr go mbeadh sé nó seacht seisiúin cleachtadh déanta agus ansin go bhféadfá seinnt i gceart. B'fhearr liom é a dhéanamh i gceart nó gan é a dhéanamh ar chor ar bith.'

The record defies comprehensive description, but includes virtually every kind of recognisable (and not-so-recognisable) modern musical styles, from songs with the metre of traditional Irish music, to speed metal variations and the Jello Biafra-vocal-sounding Whah! Whah! Did and Connie Balltie intermingled with samples, vox pops, and the poetic-philosophic and very sharp observations of Roger Gregg's Shop at Fleadhworld. Pat Kelleher, vocalist with Manhole, contributes a beautiful spoken-word piece towards the end of the record entitled Not Burma, which evokes the poetic styles of Edward Lear and Ogden Nash. A lyrical and musical trip of great beauty and massive wit, the Wassies have succeeded in recording a collection of lasting songs. Foilche go Ciddy Hall, loike.

Ciddy Hall is out now on Numnum Records in most decent record shops including Road Records, Fade Street.



The Wassies of Knockbonya with Giordai, far right.

# THE Heineken® MUSIC GUIDE

## Mean Fiddler

- Oct2** Universal Beat Bank presents Dave Angel, Gedge & Aidan Kelly 10pm
- Oct3** Rocket from the Crypt with Bls & You Am I 8:30pm
- Oct9** Whole Lotta Led A Tribute to Led Zeppelin 8:30pm
- Oct10** Shed 7 with guests 8:30pm
- Oct11** Toots & Maytalls with guest DJ Clare Mooney 8:30pm
- Oct13** The Master Musicians of Jouka 8:30pm

## ultramack productions

### Phunkcity @ The Funnel

- Sep25** PURE feat. Twitch & Brainstorm
- Oct2** Autechre & Mira Challix
- Oct9** Andrew Weatherall
- Oct16** Mike Paradinas (3hr set)
- Oct23** Speedy J (Live)
- Oct30** PURE feat. Brainstorm & Dribbler
- Nov6** Nell Landstrum (Tresor)

The Funnel Bar, City Quay, D2.

## influx

### @ Redbox

- Sat26 Sep Stuart McMillan/Orde Meikle/Envoy (Soma)
- Sat17 Oct Justin Robertson/Billy Scurry
- Sat24 Oct Chemical Bros (DJ Set)
- Sat12 Dec FatBoySllm (Skint)

### Charged@Kitchen

- Thu24 Sep Billy Scurry/James Walsh (D1 recs)
- Thu1 Oct MrC/Billy Scurry
- Thu8 Oct Gene Farris (Soma)/Billy Scurry
- Thu15 Oct Billy Scurry/Johnny Moy
- Thu22 Oct Richard Sen (Heavenly)/Johnny Moy
- Thu29 Oct Stuart McMillan (Soma)/Billy Scurry
- Thu26 Nov Richie Hawtin (AKA Plastikman) Billy Scurry

### @ RiRá

- Fri9 Oct David Holmes/Dave Cleary
- Fri6 Nov The Wiseguys/Johnny Moy/Dave Cleary

Catch Johnny Moy, DeCal and Kila @ Redbox for launch of Catalyst 5, Wed Sep30.

## conversational cHAos – the sonic bionic interview

### JIM WHITE

A Milan model, a Hawaiian pro-surfer and a Floridian musician, Jim White has seen things we people wouldn't believe. He was in Dublin in early '98 as support to David Byrne, where he first caught ChaOS' attention, and he returned in early July for the second Nashville Babylon in Whelans.

Touring with David Byrne was a mixed blessing. While not his 'demographic', as he puts it, he is aware that the David Byrne audience would be pre-disposed to him since word was out that David Byrne had 'discovered' Jim White. Though it does not bother him that they have such preconceptions, he obviously relishes the prospect of wooing an audience on his own terms. The Pentecostal Church community in Pensacola, Florida, in which Jim spent 23 years a-growing was, by that time, hell on earth for him. His girlfriend had left him for someone else, and his six cats had systematically died or been killed in one way or another in a very short space of time. Worst of all, a close friend, a motorcyclist who had been hit by a car, was now lying in a coma.

"All the people in the Pentecostal Church would call me every night and say 'We're having a prayer meeting for him tonight, we just want you to tell us that he's going to live,' and I couldn't say that. I couldn't dictate to God what he should and shouldn't do." It was the community's limited concept of dogma that eventually disillusioned Jim with their way of thinking. Fiery prayer sessions reclaiming people's lives just didn't wash with him. Following two weeks during which the Church affirmed that the biker would live, he died. "It was a moment in which

things sort of broke apart," says Jim White, though he still



He whispers beautiful secrets into drainpipes, at night, to help the old folks with their sleeping...

remains an intensely spiritual — as opposed to religious — person. This spirituality manifests itself in ways even Jim puzzles over. Anyone who has read the *Mysterious Tale of How I Shouted Wrong-Eyed Jesus* in the sleeve of his record, will know what he means by 'seeing through things' Does he still have these visions?

"It happens from time to time. I have this idea that I'm surrounded by 'currents'. I can vaguely distinguish between the currents that lead to God and the ones that lead away." He relates a spooky story concerning a difficult letter he wrote to his girlfriend from a friend's house. After much deliberation he decided to include some kind words towards the end of the letter, as it was a sobering one all told. When he tried to print it out, the computer crashed. No biggie. When the computer had rebooted and he'd got the letter

back, the kind words weren't there. Coincidence, perhaps, or maybe he just forgot to save them. ("You can't go screaming 'Miracle!' at every thing that happens.") He was planning on simply printing out the initial, just-the-facts letter, when, from the rear of the house he heard a music box playing. His girlfriend had confided in him, that her father, who had taken his own life, tries to communicate and speak with her through music boxes. It may sound too far-fetched, but Jim White sees it as significant. "That's connecting on some weird other level. I can't say what it means, but I can say something pretty peculiar happened. That's just a little strange to me, and I went back and put those kind words in."

As we spoke, vast tracts of his native Florida were being torched by (possibly man-made) brush fires. The Sunshine State is also well used to its fair share of hurricanes and tornadoes. But he doesn't see God behind these destructive forces of nature, merely equates such acts with Tolstoy's wry observation that 'God Hears Our Prayers, And Remains Silent'. His spirituality comes across in his music, which is definitely of the listen-to-the-lyrics kind, and his album, *The Mysterious...etc* is a powerful affirmation of his keen descriptive abilities. He's definitely a romantic and the music he creates is heavenly.

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Nothing too shocking, lowest form of humiliation considered, SU Officers in particular. Yes, especially SU Officers. (Much diabolical laughter...)

**THE IRISH TIMES**

*DITSU Simplex*

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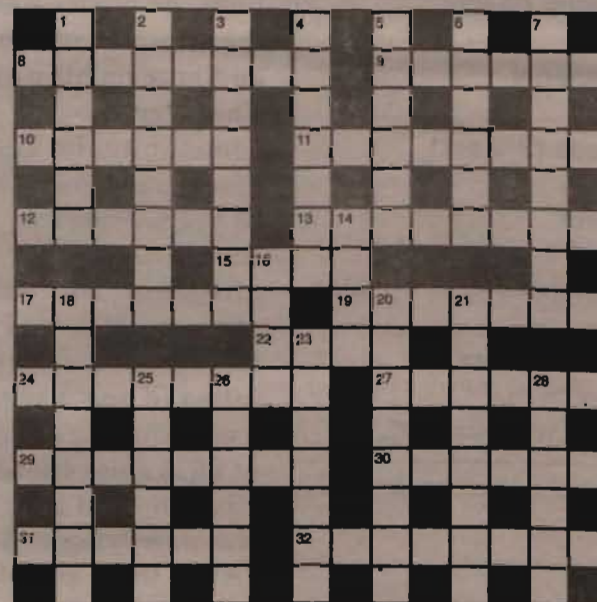
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- ACROSS**  
 8 Emphatic or forceful in expressing one's opinions (8)  
 9 Without principle (6)  
 10 Cross seat for rowers in a boat (6)  
 11 Various breeds of small dogs (3)  
 12 Disastrous or sad (6)  
 13 One who deserts his side or religion (8)  
 15 Rave but declare positively (4)  
 17 Flat iron pan for baking (7)  
 19 They used to look after horses at inns (7)  
 22 Short examination, trial (4)  
 24 Very tiny living creatures in seas and lakes (8)  
 27 Frame with beads for counting (6)  
 29 Draw near (8)  
 30 There is quite a number in the tiny NE (6)  
 31 Do away with, cancel (6)  
 32 The power or right of self-government (8)

- DOWN**  
 1 Rope for tying up an animal (6)  
 2 Greed, Dan, will make you crazy (8)  
 3 Standing upright (8)  
 4 Height, importance or reputation (7)  
 5 One who supports an artist or the arts (6)  
 6 Changing house could be emotional? (6)  
 7 Region of Newfoundland (8)  
 14 London god of Love? (4)  
 16 Power or right to forbid (4)  
 18 Became sick again after rallying (8)  
 20 Stay in a rut and so become bored and inactive (8)  
 21 It is said that a little of it is a dangerous thing (8)  
 23 Len Hart can give great delight (7)  
 25 Lacking width (6)  
 26 What, Ed? You're not frozen anymore? (6)  
 28 Last month (6)

# MURPHY'S

# Reel Life

MURPHY'S

## X Files: Fight the Phenomenon

Don't Touch The Black Stuff!....Postcards from X-Land

"The world is a totality of facts, not things, and it breaks down into independent facts which divide the world up."  
-Wittgenstein, Tractatus 1922

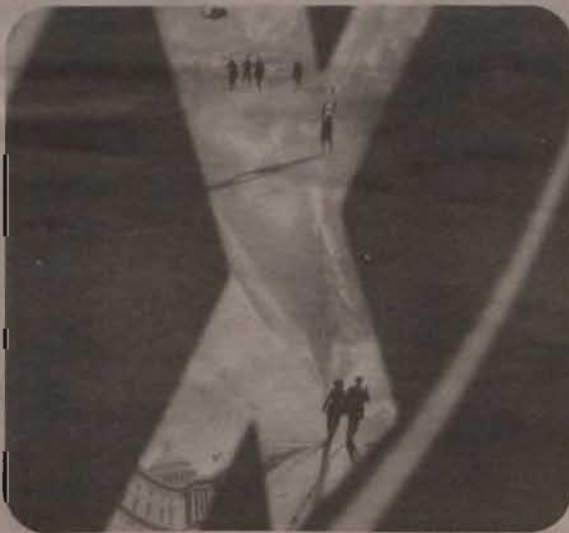
I have always had a slight problem with labelling the X-Files 'Cult-TV Show'. The original Star Trek series had no ambitions to be a cult, it just wanted to be a TV show, to make money so that the fledging hungry young actors involved would have enough eat. The X-Files had a pre-mapped market of what characterised a cult. With Star Trek the gaps in the technical aspects, not to mention acting, allow the viewer to get more involved, thus the curse of the 10,000 stock Kirk impressions was spawned to keep third rate American stand up comedians from dying prematurely.

(Basically eat a lot of pies and talk....really....slowly....about.....love.....and....the....uni-verse....). The X-files represented decent acting and special effects along with some of the most engaging stories picking up on the paranoia of modern living. For me the occasional intrigued X-files viewer can be distinguished from the fervent, X-Phile by the way, in which they relate the series with the real world. The main fantasy of the series is not UFO's or aliens but the belief in an all-encompassing Truth that can be applied to every major event of the Twentieth Century. Thus the senseless chaos of the world is structured by organisations forever unseen. And as the film showed we'll never get all the answers, why explain all when you have a few more series /films/lunchboxes to flog.

Just as we'll never see Mulder and Scully in the throes of nocturnal passion, we'll

never really know the truth. The whole series is a bout of psychological coitus interruptus where no one gets to reach the climax of full knowledge. Sex is seldom addressed in the X-Files overall, instead we are left with a sprouting of perverse imagery. Fluids of any sort are pretty dangerous in the flick, especially the black stuff. The black stuff in The X- files makes your guts into a cosy nest for a bad bastard of an alien who will replace you. At least the black stuff this side of the Atlantic only wrecks your guts temporarily.

The X-Files also labours under the delusion that an intelligent race of aliens would actually travel from the far reaches of the galaxy just to stick something shiny up a hillbilly's arse. Would we really want to meet these spindly legged, bug-eyed rubber midgets, did no one take lesson from Christopher Walken in Communion



Can the X-Files keep us entertained forever?

They'll tamper with your head, your hole make you dance with them and do magic tricks leaving you with only a nervous breakdown and a multi-million dollar book deal. That's not even taking into account what they did to South Park's Cartman. Scully's devout Christianity is a strange character trait. It's almost as if the studio thought they'd better get a character for all the American religious fanatic to balance out all the ungodly weirdness that abound in X-Land. Here is a level headed scientific woman who, although see most of the paranormal events of the 20th century with her own ginger eyes still believes in the following ancient X-Files found in that good book that people hand in the street.

Unexplained cases like  
\* Entire planet complete with ecosystem and species created in a week!  
\* Boy found in whale's stomach!

- \* Poor carpenter's wife experiences virgin birth!
- \* Man gate crashes wedding with magical 'just add water' wine powder
- \* Seven headed demon turns up at end of world!

Lorcan McGrane

## The Big One

Director: Micahel Moore

Yes, he's back. The man who brought us the corporate crime fighting chicken on TV Nation, the towering documentary, Roger & Me, and the book, Downsize This!, returns with another documentary, simply entitled The Big One. The name refers to Moore's own choice of tag for the inappropriately-named, as he sees it, United States of America, feeling that The Big One does it more justice and addresses reality too. Working from the same premise as his other work, that of bluntly asking huge multi- and trans-national (but mainly American) companies why they insist on shagging up people's lives in the way that they do.

Initially Moore was heading out on a book-signing tour across the grand ole US of A at the behest of his publishers, but the bright young Michiganian figured a camera might not go astray as he traveled, and another film was born. The truly hilarious incidents which occurred are too numerous to mention, but they are really just the delicious icing on the cake. The cake itself being the manner in which he noses-out corruption and how deviously clever he is at obtaining audiences with people who control vast power, either by embarrassing them into giving him an interview (and most of these people have forgotten what embarrassment is) or by feigning innocence and honesty in a convincing enough way.

One of his major coups was getting inside the office of Philip Knight, top man at Nike, who he challenged to a hundred yard dash for the sake of jobs for Americans. Knight looked a fool and deservedly so. Before he left, he managed to wangle \$10,000 from Knight to match

\$10,000 put up by Moore himself.

Seeing the annoyance on the faces of the publishers' PR chicks from city to city as they tried to distance themselves from the horrors of Moore's modus operandi brings a smile to your face immediately. What is obvious from The Big One is that working people, unemployed and disgruntled, and more often than not the focus of his attention, trust Michael Moore, and approach him in the belief that he may be able to help them, which he often is. He will be back on our screens shortly in the new year, courtesy of Channel 4, where we will be treated to some more of his acerbic wit and exceptional talent for sniffing out the shite of our wonderful, western society.

While in Galway, he took a camera out to



Excellent Moore. Pic: Bostree/ Macmillan

gather a spot of information on some more corporate assholes, and we may also see the results of that shortly too. Celtic Tiger how are you.

ChaOS

Michael Moore's THE BIG ONE was shown at the Galway Film Fleadh during the summer.

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