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

DIT Students' Union

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

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.

Clíriam 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
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 trample with the right to silence and the presumption of innocence.

Politicians even admitted that the (ridiculous) one day the Dail 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 talking 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.

Cearbhall Ó Siócháin

The government fat cat staring smugly at us.

EDITOR Cearbhall Ó Siócháin EAGARTHÓIR
Layout Ciarán Leagan Abhach
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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Dear Editor,

Just a short note to let you know that we've been watching you and the mad buster, that some buscapers, we have you sussed, Well you take it from us, to rescue us all from literary here are wide to your ness.)

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 wash with us, you bad git-the Studentenland won't invade the DIT and annex 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

Ross O' Daly
DIT Students' Union

Group Travel on Scheduled services (01) 703 2426

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2:30 in, Domhnach, 6 Meán Fómhair

I láthair:
Julian de Spáinn, Oifigeach Gaeilge, AMLE
Níola Ní Laochra, Oifigeach na Gaillimhe, Coláiste Phádraig
Aine Ní Dhúil, Oifigeach na Gaillimhe, Coláiste Mhuire
Bébhinn Ní Bhricín, Ollscoil Bháil: Átha Cliath
Máiread Ó Cuáig, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, IT Gaillimh
Julian de Spáinn, Oifigeach Gaeilge, AMLE
Níola Ní Laochra, Oifigeach na Gaillimhe, Coláiste Phádraig
Aine Ní Dhúil, Oifigeach na Gaillimhe, Coláiste Mhuire
Bébhinn Ní Bhricín, Ollscoil Bháil: Átha Cliath

1) Dúirt Julian go raibh airgad leathghealta a gairiú do iarlachaí AMLE, Colman Byrne ón HEA do mbaoiniú d' iofigeach Gaeilge ag AMLE. Ó shin a leith níor chualaíonn aon rud ón HEA. Tá Julian ag iarraidh freagra a fháil tríd Dermot Lohan, Uachtarán na AMLE, a bheurlí do chuid eolais ar HEA foirne ach go bheadh an proíseas mall.

2) Tá scéim ag Bord na Gaeilge faoi láthair ciste de €500,000 a chur ar fáil do 5 tíosnaíonn a chuirfidh an dath-ainmachtachas chun cinn ar feadh trí mhí tri bliana. Tá iarratais a chur isteach ag AMLE, ina measc tá maoiní do iofigeach Gaeilge lán-aimseartha a sheasdonú, éimeachtaí náisiúnta a chur ar siúl. sa chead cruinniú eile ag an gCoiste Cultúrtha ar 4 Deireadh Fómhair, a bhionn Seachtain Gaelach a chur ar fáil.

3) Thug Julian óráid ag UOS faoi mheid atá bainte amach ag feachtas na Gaillimhe in mbliana is thug sé cóip dóibh fóirne na Gaillimhe amach anseo is na spriocanna a bhí á leagadh sós againn. Bhi ar gach iomad an fhorbairt leis an cheann a linn na Gaillimhe ina gcéadúil a fein a lóndadh amach a phléamar na freagraí a thugad.

4) De bharr cinneadh a chuain triú thid chomhdháil náisiúnta AMLE tá an vótla céanna ag iofigeach páirt-aimseartha (Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Oifigeach Timpeallachta...). Is atá ag iofigeachtáil amháin. Ciallaíonn sé sin go mbeidh níos mó tadhla aige i gceist na Gaeilge in ór dámaí cinnidh cúra.

5) Tá geallúint faighte againn ó Bhord na Gaeilge go dtabharfaidh siad 50% d' aon chostas traenála do iofighigh AMLE nó iofigeach Gaeilge lán-aimseartha in ann cliótáilte ar chursa deireadh seachtainne nó cúrsa seachtainíúil.

6) Bhreatnaíomar i bhmbliana, do na coláistí a bhíonn Seachtain Gaelach ag roimh Nollag, na dtaifí cánanna don tSeachtain Gaeilge a phíocadh. Beidh An tSeachtain Gaeilge náisiúnta d'AMLE ar súil 9-13 Deireadh Fómhair. Socráideadh go mbeidh imeachtaí náisiúnta don tSeachtain sin, in nGallóthar is Baile Átha Cliath go príomh.

Beidh An tSeachtas ar súil Deireadh Fómhair - 1 Samhain i Trá Li, Co. Chiarraí. Táimid ag súil le baingneach 200 macleáinn an deireadh seachtainne sin. Fuireamar margadh speisialta a stiúrthóir an tSeachtain, Liam Ó Maoladúin - ticead don deireadh seachtainne ar €5. Beidh 5 iarracht cás a freisin Comhdháil Seasta na Gaeilge d'AMLE a chur ar súil i rith an tSeachtain nua a thogadh i gceist ar Gaeilge.

8) Beidh 5 Oifigeach na Gaeilge go ráisúnta i mbliana.
Oifigeach an Deiscirt
Oifigeach an Tuaiscirt
Oifigeach an Iarthair - Macdaire Ó Cuáig
2 Oifigeach de Cheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath

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

Beidh an chéad cruthúil eile ag an Coiste Cultúrtha ar súil 4 Deireadh Fómhair. Beidh do na 5 Oifigeach in eile ag roinnt cruinniú a bhreith in iomláin i thionóil a chéile.

*Agus sin a chuir chu úsáidte i leas an eagrán seo, ni raibh rud ar bith breise cloiste ag na Gaeilge.

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 DT 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 scrap with a bouncer immediately has eight of the guy’s mates to deal with at all 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 scurrying go-betweens who make it their business to give grief. Just one of the minds that no one has anything to prove.

Stay tuned for more on bouncers and store detectives in the future.
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 month’s 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 problem, and a report commissioned by Fingal County Council suggests the creation of a new 300 acre ‘super-dump’ at Balleally 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 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 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 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 sit two 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.
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 available all.

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 scrounger and get acquainted with all your class mates by staying with each for a week.

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

Ruth Delany

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BATHMAN: LOOKING FOR A PLUG

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 stocks, 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 coaxed 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 Janice Toomey and Helen O'Driscol, the fusion of the two film classes provided the production with the best pool of talent available.

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

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 Rupert 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 Streetcar named Desire' at the Gate, and has featured in productions for BBC, RTE and T Na G. His directorial credits include 'Continental Call Girl', '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 'Turns', a cross-border production, and playing Gregory in 'Royal 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 productions for most of Ireland principle theatre companies.

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 Rupert 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.

Thanks to Helen O'Driscol
Third Level Education in 9 Easy Steps.

Step 1. Get them in.

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

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

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

Step 5. A quick spot of cockfighting.

Step 6. Balls

Step 7. Become famous superstar.

First Year.
Sex.
Drugs.
Rock’n’Roll.

Don’t Come Close to a Good, Hard, Swot.

DIT’s Out for the Grads.

Step 8. Grow cold due to superstar cage fight.

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.

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Freshers’ Induction Week: the cast of characters

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

Some of Cathal Brugha Street’s new bunch.

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

"This student life’s the craic."

Surveying Cathal Brugha’s restaurant.

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.

Dangerous Dave and the Ballistic Brothers


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

Einige der Erasmus Studenten
Ola, Bien Venu, Herzlichen Wilkommen, Ciao.
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 Elbrand, 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 budget, 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 this year’s 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 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.
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 explore. DIY cavers have discovered pas sageway in Oare. 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 will be there on 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 pas sageway in Oare. 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

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 Versailles and Les Grandes Caves, 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 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 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 a regular basis for services, 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.

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

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.
‘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: 'Aaaarrrrgh! 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

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

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

Right: The S&Rl 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 Eire, being given the plaque.
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 students. 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.
The Smokiest 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 ponders 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] albums down, 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 McDonald's. Not a fun project, admittedly.'

Willie Nelson recently signed a participation agreement for the Pearl 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. I'm a proud, gay American, I will not fuck you, if you sign this."

'Well, Willie signed it,' says Friedman, 'and under his name points out, 'I did not see him light up in my presence.'

'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 Benin), 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 Dams 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 include Eric Dylan into participating too, although 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. It's 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, anyway.

'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 Kerrel, Texas, where he once, incidentally, ran for Mayor. Does he enjoy this retreat? 'No. I deliberately try very hard not to 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!' He adds, "I use the term 'faggot' with pride, as a young 'un, and on which Kinky used to help out. Now he is careful to look after the fifty or so hummingbirds that live there, as well as the storks. 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 not to 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 pose 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. As its merely 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 kids, 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 reading:
Greenwich Killing Time
Shel, Jesus, and Coca-Cola
Armistead and Old Lace

As published by Faber & Faber
Pelvic Thrusts!

The Pembroke plays some booming big band rat pack tunes from beyond the grave. Sinatra's haunting my Dietaphone as I read it. I can't start words of wisdom from Jimmy Rowen the vocal, song writing, front-front of Pelvis. It's late afternoon, the liquid lunches are over and Dublin's stairs have scattered back to their cubicles to play with their desk toys and photocoppy their gengits...

Enthusiastic, smiling and talkative Jonny seems at odds with his sometimes unnecessarily hidden debut album Who Are You Today? Yes it is... this is not of creativity and dynamic complexity that is integral to Pelvis. Average pop band profiles have their generation name a few influence, plug a few gigs ask about drugs 'n' groupies, click 'sneak', click 'Print', click 'Pub'. Needless to say this intelligent trio (Rowan: Vocals, Bass & Piano, Ed Reynolds: Guitar and Matt Gros: Drums) are no average pop band.

I had to start off with the same, slightly medicinal, 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. In fact the idea was well a certain amount from Elvis The Pelvis. They say Rock and Roll is sexist for these reasons the name Pelvis, I think it's 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. Combining with theatrical and straightforward musical spaces of artists like Ash, Placebo, Pixies and Chicks, Pelvis inhabit a more adult, sometimes strange, but rewarding landscape of Pop Noir complete with fragmented identities, streetlights, neon shampoo city trash and a healthy dollop of urban angst.

The press consensus on the album ("Either it's a bit on the back or slag", quite Jonny with good humor,) is that it's an album which isn't instantly accessible, in this case no disadvantage. Pelvis are distinct against mundane semi-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. It's musical adaptability common with a lot of the greats here, but influences are by no means obvious. From a very early age and moving ahead, not saying 'dah lad', but 'we have to be a bit of the Love You' and that's what we're stuck with,' they actually pushed on to the next thing."

Jonny's influence are diverse, from Van Morrison, childhood recollections of Jim Reeves, The Beach Boys, Ennio Morricone, 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 down there with the 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 Skoo, 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 dress coat - even though he's the guitarist - when the Joshua Tree came out."

I collected everything The Beatles ever did, I loved their sense of melody, of adventure is music, of actual creativity and movement and pushing ahead and not saying 'dah lad', We have to be a bit of the Love You' and that's what we're stuck with,' they actually pushed on to the next thing."

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 whatever I say my hat that's my home, it's still an influence and not something you just ignored."

In fact it was the similarity 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 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; rather still was Cooper giving them a slot on the show after seeing them play only once.

Setanta appears a perfect home for such material joining the likes of The Divine Comedy, Frnk and Walters and Edwin Collins on an Irish label whose defining feature is it's back 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 you every day."

The signing has produced a healthy creative dividend with Jody Talbot from The Divine Comedy arranging the settings on the album. Pelvis are limbering up to join the band on an up and coming European tour - "We were delighted to get the offer because there was a lack of bands that put in for it and they gave it to us, so obviously we were elated. 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 brimming with possibilities; "we're always thinking 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 and 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, it's important to bombard the college stations with it. While Jonny's off on his bike through the grey 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 calssic blonde plc.

Lorcan Mc Grane
The DIT Arts Officer. Lorcan Mc Grane is based in DIT Head Office in 83 Upper Pembroke Street and can be contacted on (020) 6224. 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.

Are you good enough to run for Class Rep?

Elections to take place in late September / early October

Watch notice boards for more info for your chance to be the voice of choice.

Further inquiries can be made at your local Students' Union.
Nine Wassies From Bainne

This summer saw the release of The Wassies' new album Ciddy Hall. ChaOS spoke to Giordai Us La Oghaire 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 talking about music and other bollix, 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 girls in Waterford, 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 girls in Waterford, and he was into Captain Beefheart."

The wrong decision?

"I've been in Waterford for as long as I can remember, and I've been there for a long time."

The Bluetones

The Bluetones... (the story of their final gig)

"They finally get the recognition they deserve. British guitar bands go. The Other Way..."

The Wassies

"We've played with The Wassies, and I awaited the day with some impatience when the Wassies decided to release their new album. They should just leave thetas be."

The Other Way

"The band hail from Scotland and cite Teenage 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, Drug, Work, is an attempt to be Closer..."

Noirikar? sin

"Some of his bravado, despite the type of music they deserve. British guitar bands go. The Other Way..."

The Mean Fiddler

"They were asking him whether there were any pretty-looking girls in Waterford, 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 girls in Waterford, and he was into Captain Beefheart."

Pelvis

"Some songs on their debut album, Expecting to Fly, did grante a little and detraction from the overall brilliance of the record."

The Mean Fiddler

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ultramack productions
Phunkcity @ The Funnel
Sep 25 PURE feat. Twitch & Brainstorm
Oct 2 Autrechre & Mira Challix
Oct 9 Andrew Weatherall
Oct 16 Mike Paradinas (3hr set)
Oct 23 Speedy J (Live)
Oct 30 PURE feat. Brainstorm & Dribbler
Nov 6 Nell Landstrum (Tresor)
The Funnel Bar, City Quay, D2.

influx
@ Redbox
Sat 26 Sep Stuart McMillan/Orde Moldeo/Envoy (Soma)
Sat 17 Oct Justin Robertson/Billy Scarry
Sat 24 Oct Chemical Bros (DJ Set)
Sat 12 Dec FatBoySlim (Skint)

Charged/Kitchen
Thu 24 Sep Billy Scarry/James Walsh (D1 radio)
Thu 1 Oct McO/Billy Scarry
Thu 8 Oct Gene Farris (Soma)/Billy Scarry
Thu 15 Oct Billy Scarry/Johnny Moy
Thu 22 Oct Richard Sen (Heavenly)/Johnny Moy
Thu 29 Oct Stuart McMillan (Soma)/Billy Scarry
Thu 26 Nov Richie Hawtin (AKA Plasticman) Billy Scarry

@ RIRA
Fri 1 Oct David Holmes/Dave Cleary
Fri 8 Nov The Wiseguys/Johnny Moy/Dave Cleary

Catch Johnny Moy, DeCal and Killa @ Redbox for launch of Catalyst 5, Wed Sep 30.

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 wowing an audience on his own terms. The Pentecostal Church community in Pensacola, Florida, in which Jim spent 23 years growing up, 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 reeking of 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 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 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 equals 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.
**Ritual Character Slaying**

No. 1 Dave Wyatt, Deputy President, Mountjoy Square.

Send potential RCS victim photographs to The Editor, The DIT Examiner, Students' Union, Ground Floor, DIT Kevin Street, Kevin St., Dublin 8. Submissions must include name, college, and course of victim and any other details regarding situation in which photo was taken etc.

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

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**THE IRISH TIMES**

**DITSU Simplex**

**CROSSWORD**

**Competition**

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

**RULES:** Only open to members of the DIT colleges. Employees of DITSU and THE IRISH TIMES are not eligible to enter.

No Photocopies - Entries close: Fri. 2 Oct

**SEND TO:** THE IRISH TIMES / DITSU, Crossword Competition, The DIT Examiner, (to be dropped into local Union office)

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**ACROSS**

8 Emphatic or forceful in expressing one's opinions (6)
9 Without principle (6)
10 Cross seat for rowers in a boat (6)
11 Various breeds of small dogs (6)
12 Dishonest 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 creature in seas and lakes (8)
27 Frame with beads for counting (6)
29 Ease near (6)
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 (6)

**DOWN**

1 Rope for tying up an animal (6)
2 Great 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 (6)
14 London god of Love (4)
16 Power or right to forbid (6)
18 Became sick again after rallying (6)
20 Stay in a rut and so became bored and inaction (8)
21 It is said that a little of it is a dangerous thing (8)
23 Len Estill can give great delight (7)
25 Lacking width (6)
26 What, Ed? You've not frozen anymore? (6)
28 Last month (6)
**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 1912*

I have always had a slight problem with labelling the X-Files' 'Cult TV Show.' The original Star Trek series had no ambition 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 cat. 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... universe...) 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 discus introspection 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 smattering of perverse imagery. Fluids of any sort are pretty dangerous in the flims, especially the black stuff. The black stuff in the X-Files makes you go into a cozy nest for a bad biscuit 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 hulks'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.

* Poor carpenista's wife experiences virgin birth!
* Mote gate crashes meddling with magical "just add water" wine powder
* Seven headed demon turns up at end of world!

Lorean McRane

**The Big One**

Directors: Michael Moore

Yes, he's back. The man who brought us the corporate crime fighting chicken on TV Nation, the towering documentay, 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 shaving 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 Michigander 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 heposed our 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 coup's 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 tool and deservedly so. Before he left, he managed to wangle $10,000 from Knight to match the $10,000 put up by Moore himself.

Seeing the annoyance on the faces of the publishers PR chick from city to city as they tried to distance themselves from the horrors of Moore's masquerade 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 spelling out the shine of our wonderful, western society. While in Galway, he took a camera out to gather tourist's for a spot of

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*Excellent Moore. Fitz: Boxtree/ Macmillan*

Information on some more corporate ass-holes, and we may also see the results of that shortly too. Celtic Tiger are you.

ChaOS

Michael Moore's THE BIG ONE was shown at the Galway Film Fleadh during the summer.
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WANT TO SAVE TIME?
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