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

DIT Students' Union

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The IT Examiner

Get Down, Get Down

Thousands of first year students in the Dublin Institute of Technology thronged the capital’s streets, bars and nightclubs last week as they heralded the dawn of a new college year with the revelries of Freshers’ Week.

Iron stomach contests, bouncy castles, hypnotist displays and all manner of entertainment kept students’ attention well away from any vestiges of learning, education or other words generally taboo during the first month or so of third level life.

Lard was eaten and cooking oil drunk, Celine Dion was convincingly impersonated and people were warned about mischievous fairies lurking in college halls—all in the name of fun and a few laughs.

With close to 30,000 individuals making their mark on the second-last Freshers’ Week of the millennium, the DIT was represented quite fully in the various drinking emporia and boogie venues across the city.

Though not all of them wore fantastical wigs the likes of which were in evidence in the Tivoli on the Thursday, it is obvious that they all share a devotion to letting go in for the sake of a good time. So now all that matters is what Rag Week has in store.

USI face membership split

Southern Area to disaffiliate if North gets its way

The Union of Students in Ireland is currently facing what may be an extremely damaging outcome to shifts in allegiances among its membership. The rift is so large that the latest reports indicate that the entire Southern Area will pull out if any of the Northern colleges get just one more vote at National Council.

The disagreement stems from voting procedures surrounding the election of an Independent Chair and an Independent Deputy Chair to National Council. Two candidates were in the running for that position, Paul McMenamin, formerly of Queen’s University Belfast, and Malcolm Byrne, until last year a USI Officer, the eventual outcome of the election being that McMenamin won by 80-66.

The importance of an independent chair was outlined by DITSU President, Ross O’Daly: “What it means for USI is that it protects the organisation from claims of practising excessive control, or of being an effective dictatorship, because the chair can make decisions independent of USI Officer Board.”

Dublin Institute of Technology Students’ Union, DITSU, supported the election of McMenamin to the position of
If you think you can help in any way at all, please do not hesitate to contact Seán's parents or the relevant authorities at the addresses and telephone numbers supplied.

November Deadline: Fri 30 Oct
Dear Editor,

What the bloody hell is going on with you? Only last week you were faltul’ around with your friends from the Ferrari team, Fast Eddie and Sly Schumi, popping between Lillies and Renard’s like there was no tomorrow.

Not only does this all probably come directly from the coffers of the DIT Students’ Union, generous in the extreme to hand you a fat expense account for anything and everything, why did you insist on publishing letters out-and-out crackpots hell-bent on reducing us all to tears for the sake of a thundering spad on every minor little thing they find slightly upsetting or in any way disappointing with the Examiner? I sincerely doubt that, my skinny Hanson-Haired friend. And for God’s sake - give up going to gigs, pretending you’re ‘cool’ and ‘hip’ and ‘happenin’, ‘blindin’, ‘wikkid’, ‘phat’ or ‘phamous’ - cos you know what? You’re NOT. N-O-T spells NOT and you’re not it.

Professor Dwight G. Kelly
DIT School of Proper Behaviour

PS About Thursday, the wife thinks you should come for 8 since we intend to have drinks on the lawn before we commence with the banquet. HHR the Duchess of Ghent won’t be there till 9. Toodle Pip.

And another thing, why the fuchsia-wine do you believe that we’re interested in reading about Kinky Friedman (if he’s so funny then why didn’t he win the Edinburgh Perrier Award instead of Tommy Yetman-Example-Of-Brilliant-Home-Grown-Talent-Virtually-Guaranteed-Notoriety-And-Fame-Because-RTE-Quickly-Thumbed-Him-Down) or Jim White, or anyone you spoke to in your last issue. They are all boring individuals, QED.

And that’s something else - do you honestly expect us to credit you with an open-minded approach to all things bright and beautiful if you insist on publishing letters from out-and-out crackpots hell-bent on reducing us all to tears for the sake of a thundering spad on every minor little thing they find slightly upsetting or in any way disappointing with the Examiner? I sincerely doubt that, my skinny Hanson-Haired friend. And for God’s sake - give up going to gigs, pretending you’re ‘cool’ and ‘hip’ and ‘happenin’, ‘blindin’, ‘wikkid’, ‘phat’ or ‘phamous’ - cos you know what? You’re NOT. N-O-T spells NOT and you’re not it.

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Independent Chair, the reasoning behind which is explained by O’Daly.

“I feel that certain members of the National Officer Board have shown a complete lack of knowledge of the USI constitution. To date the members of Officer Board assigned with running National Council have done anything but that.”

The Northern colleges maintain that there is a discrepancy in the form of a gap or lacuna in the USI constitution, and wish to alter it to rectify the situation. This would entitle them to more votes. They have been invited by USI, according to Deputy President, Ronan Emmett, to provide documentation showing this deficiency, and have failed to do so. USI, for their part, are adamant that, on the advice of their own legal team, there is no gap or lacuna in the constitution, and that the Northern colleges are not entitled to any more votes. Both sides are at loggerheads, and it would seem that no matter what the outcome, USI stand to lose a certain proportion of their membership. If the Northern colleges don’t get what they see as rightfully theirs, they leave, if they do, the Southern Area leaves.

Says Emmett of the potential loss; “The small colleges [such as Limerick IT] are the ones that pay the affiliation money, we don’t get one penny from the Northern colleges. Even as Northern Area Liaison Officer, I do not believe that they are entitled to more votes. I would be more worried about losing the colleges in the South.”

Ross O’Daly explains his position further; “DITSU are of the opinion that one should do the right thing irrespective of popularity or subsequent consequences. If UU or QUB do not get their rightful delegate entitlements under The Bi-lateral Agreement, and they leave USI, they also leave NUS. The National Union in Britain will see that as USI discriminating against the Northern colleges.”

What about the threatened pull-out?

“I would see it as a lack of vision on the part of colleges threatening disaffiliation.”

This election was decided on a card vote, which differs from a normal vote (which allows for a one-college-one-vote system) in that it effectively introduces proportional representation, in this case giving those backing McMenamin a much greater electoral strength. The card vote was called for by the following five colleges: Dublin Institute of Technology, Tallaght Institute of Technology, Sligo Institute of Technology, Queens University, Belfast and the University of Ulster. None of these are members of the Southern Area.

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Social File: Timorese Resistance

Bill Corcoran and Carl O'Brien spent a month in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, this summer, where they met one of the leaders of the East Timorese resistance who continues to work for his country's freedom from the oppressive Indonesian military regime.

The crowd exploded. The Indonesian soccer commentator tilted over his words. Everyone's eyes were superglued to the World Cup semi-final on the TV set in the corner of the cafe.

Russuo, an East Timorese student in his twenties, hardly notices. He sits in front of a brimming glass of beer which he hasn't touched for the last half hour and continues to talk and gesture forcefully. His attentions are fixed on explaining why he has risked his life for his country and what his hopes, as leader of the National Resistance of East Timorese Students, are for the future of his homeland.

"Everyone in East Timor has lost someone close to them, some have lost their entire families. Naturally this is a great emotional factor in our struggle. We fight with commitment and hope. Even if there is no hope for freedom, we have the commitment to free the country. We have stood under 23 years of oppressive regime and we can still resist. We will resist," he says.

Russuo exudes a fierce determination, yet he speaks in soft measured tones and is barely audible at times over the commentary of the frenetic World Cup match in the background.

Situated to the extreme east of Indonesia's vast archipelago of 13,677 islands, the east of Timor looks an insignificant island, a thousand miles from the bustling Indonesian capital of Jakarta. Yet it was this insignificant island that Indonesia invaded in 1975, placing its people under a brutal system of repression.

The number of dead is too huge to comprehend. An estimated 200,000 killed in a little-reported war between the Indonesian army and East Timorese guerrillas. Countless others kidnapped and tortured for acts as innocent as sending petitions to the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan.

But things are changing slowly. When former president Suharto was dramatically toppled from power last May, his successor, BJ Habibie, was swiftly into the presidency of a country on the brink of collapse. In a desperate bid to win the lucrative hearts of the international community, he relaxed his predecessor's dictatorial style and finally decided to open the book on East Timor.

"It's freer to talk now than under Suharto and we have more hope in the new regime, but the difference isn't as good as it seems. We are able to express our ideas freely now, not because we have been granted the freedom but because the government is weak. The military is strong. They are the ones with the real power."

"The choice of the East Timorese people must be exercised through a referendum. When the people are ready to vote, let them, and if a special status or autonomy or independence is the choice, so be it. Our basic demand is independence, but if the people of East Timor vote against it, we will accept that."

Russuo takes a rare sip of his beer. The nagging, cramped cafe in the middle of Jakarta is a long distance and several time zones away from his homeland. How then does he find the reaction of Indonesian students to the plight of the East Timorese?

"We have got great support from them despite the strong distortion of information here on East Timor over the years. The Indonesian media has been forced to report all of the things in favour of keeping East Timor illegally integrated in Indonesia. But since 1992, students have begun to discover that the cause of Timor is an international one."

In the background, the TV silences and the cafe hushed as the match slips into penalties. Russuo talks even more quietly.

"Some East Timorese have been used by the Indonesian government and this must be acknowledged. There could be much bad feeling left among East Timorese, so even in a community without Indonesia, it could be very easy for one group to disagree with the other. This makes it all the more important that we have a referendum and that the choice of the majority of the East Timorese is exercised democratically. All we want is for the country to be free from any outside power. Then it's up to the people to decide what they want."

He is interrupted by a roar from the cafe as people jump from their seats and shake their fists triumphantly in the air. His words are smothered by the noise, but it doesn't matter. You can see his eyes widen as he studies the celebrating hordes. His battle is about to enter its final phase and it mightn't be long before he gets to experience the same emotion.

Indonesia's invasion of East Timor has never been officially recognised by most of the international community. Now desperate for money to rescue the country's haemorrhaged economy, Indonesia has never needed international support so badly.

"Habibie has never shown any interest in East Timor. But I believe Habibie intends to solve the economic problems in Indonesia. For that reason he has to put a solution for Timor into his consideration because he is dependent on outside countries to solve his economic problems."

Suddenly the subservient Habibie finds that his reforms aren't so much those of his own, but those prompted by the international community.

Already the Indonesian government has offered a form of 'special status' for East Timor with autonomy similar to that already in other areas of the archipelago. This minor change of status falls far short of Timorese hopes, yet Russuo and other resistance activists would be ready to accept it — only if it was the will of their people.

for more information contact:
Tom Hyland
East Timor Ireland Solidarity Campaign,
Rm. 13, 24-26 Dame Street, Dublin 2.
Ph: 671 9207
PART-TIME STAFF REQUIRED FOR YOUR STUDENTS' UNION SHOP

Please contact your local shop manager

Aungier Street: Seamus Murphy (402) 3110

Bolton Street: Maura Cunningham (402) 3621

Cathal Brugha Street:
Maurice McCabe / Gay Dalton (402) 4370

Kevin Street: Geraldine Gill (402) 4648

Mountjoy Square: Vivienne Byrne / Claire Hartigan (402) 4110

STARTING RATE £4.25 /HR
Fionnuala Mac Aodh
Bainisteoir Raidió na Life 102FM

Ceoltóirí Raidió na Life 5 Bhliain ar an aer ar mhí seo. Labhair an DTIT Examinier leis an mbeann a stiur rudai le tri bhliain anuas agus a bheidh ina mbon sa todhchaí.

Tá Fionnuala Mac Aodh ag obair le Raidió na Life anois leis an breis is ceolbhealbhíin go leith, rud a chialltaíonn gnó rabhthi ann ón 6ú bléan beaga, nuair a chéad cloiseadh an stáisiúin phobail seo ar an aer. Idir seo agus séin tá an-chéad taraltóir, agus na céadta clóráidí, idir tig agus coata, tar éis saol a churthaíonn le Cead’s-a-Dhéar Bo. Ar na h-iníoneachtaí ba mhó atá tarlaithe leisigh don níos déanta, tá leitheidh chun chlár scéaltaí, a thosaigh i 1993 le 35 uair a chloig in agaibh thar seachtain, agus atá anois ag clú leis an 70 uair a chloig.

"Bhuil nuair a thosaigh mise phiomar ag ceolaidh óna cúig go dtí leiththear tar éis a dhéach agus ábalat mar a príaitear an bhráthar. Dürfheadh gniomhaíocht do bhliain o shin, nuair a tugadh ceaduas do mhaith faograíocht do stáisiúin.

"Bhí Deirdre Ni Dhuilligh ag plé le urraíocht ó thuas, agus d’éirigh leis €30,000 a thógaint isteach sa cheol bhliain, ach o fuireamar an cead de cheoil traidisiunta againn faoi thalltaí.

An rud goilllúnaach duit e go bhfágann daoine le dul go cgaoi thíorainn níos féin agus eile comh luath agus a oilear tadh an go príofísíonta i Raidió na Life?

"Cuirteann. Táim an-cbrúidil as an rud I gceart, ach a chrochtaigh go gcaithfadh siad bogadh ar aghaidh. Ach is naisteach eisean i stáisiúin comhlphinbhair, tá an oscailte do gach duine, ach an rud eile de na go cuireann an eile. Bheadh an deas, tar éis e sin ar fad ag a raibh bheartaí an cheist ar chlár sa stáisiúin.

"Cuirteann sna stáisiúin mar stáisiúin tráchtala é Raidió na Life, agus b'fhéidir go bhfuil mar gheall ar a chuid blianta is déanaí mar is féidir aon raibh cead amháin. Taobh amuigh de sin bhre éinn ní b'fheidir dul air mar is féidir go bhfuil cead amháin sa chuid blianta is déanaí lena chugamh.

Leas an meid "...níor bunaíodh mar stáisiúin tráchtala é Raidió na Life, agus ní bheidh sé riamh mar sin.

Bhí an t-áthaíochta mar le chuid blianta agus eile ina choinne mar nach raibh sé ag clo éineachtanna agus an de chuid blianta agus eile.

IarRealta Raidió na Life
Sharon Ni Bhreolain (Nuacht RTE / News2)
Aedín Ni Ghormnaigh (Raidió na Gaeilge)
Sinead Corrigan (E-Mag / Echo Island)
Sinead Ni Chuilgaoch (Clare FM / Ceol Cainte)
Clarán Leaigh (Northern RTE)
Michael McCormack (O'Bhun Go Barr - Pop TV / Late ar 2 / Learnáire)
Domhnall O Maoladhra (Ontractaí, Teitifís na Gaeilge, saor-irisreoirí)
Trent Fearn (Nine Inch Nails)
Roisin Saxe (Popscene / Eurovision)

Ní raibh cead faograíochta ag Raidió na Life o thus, rud a chur leis na fadbhairna acu maoiniú fogaíochtá, tá sé in bhfad nós éasca fogaíocht beagá a dhíol seachas urraíocht €3,000 a lorg ar chlár amháin.

Fiaigneann Raidió na Life deontas stáit le cur leis an airgead a bhailíonn siad fáin, agus cé go bhfuil siad bás i bhfeidhm as an méid sin, cosnainn sé i bhfad nós mó stáisiúin raidió phobail a rith. Cuireann Bord na Gaeilge áiseanta ar fáil saor i anoisce, mar a dhein siad ó thuas, agus thug Gaoth Linn €40,000 do Chuid’s-Dhé le treallamh a chur ar fáil, agus tugann Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge tacaíocht leannanach d’iarraícht an stáisiúin. Ta an stáisiúin a chuir díthred leis an seachtú aon leibhéal amháin a chuir díthred leis an ceol agus eile.

"Bhí d'ilcligh d’iarraícht a d'fhéadfadh do chomhchliacht a bhíonn mar le chuid blianta agus eile.

Ni raibh cead fogaíocht a chur leis na fadbhairna agus eile a thugtar fionn as an stáisiúin na Life. Tá an eolaíocht a bheith ina dhíol leis an t-áthas.
Freshers' Week Bad Craziness

Pics: Sinéad Corcoran, ChaOS

"Switching to manual override, grab a limb...I can just hear the oesophagus making the first anti-peristaltic noises..."

We had it all: Saucy presidents strutting their stuff, "sexy" chokes in pet suits, and a guy who obeys different rules of gravity than earthlings.

Cunny: "Try and throw him up on the roof!"
Vinnie: "No, tell him to wave his hand up on the roof!"

Say the hip hop, the hiphop, a-hip hop hop and you don't stop.

Merciful Hour.

Lewed gestures, balls/willy jokes. gotta be Aungier St.

Iron Stomach: how long can you put up with DJ MG before you empty the contents of your bolg all over the floor?
Did somebody mention Morten Harket?

"Check this groove, check this groove, a-ain't all night, it's alright (ain't), a-ain't right..." et cetera

"Ah yew 'udden me fit?"

"'Fraid we, pal, "I couldn't...possibly...I've inadvertently got myself in...some sort of...vulcan mind-melt...!"

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the boys are refusing to part with their hard-earned lemon rind, butter, lard, oil etc

First year college – it’s all downhill from here...

"What time is it?" "Herraaaayy!

"Is that my girl?" "Herraaaayy!

"Oh." "Herraaaayy!

Geiltiócht Sheachtain na nÚraíthe
DIT GAA Welcomes one and all

Here we go again!

Welcome back to all at DIT GAA and we extend a warm welcome to all Freshers, looking forward to seeing as many getting involved in any code. Footballers have got their show on the road with training on Mon / Wed @ 6pm in Terenure, and are delighted to have Jody Moran back at the helm. They kicked off the U21 Championship with a game against Round Towers on October 3. Hurlers get back with a social, and training commenced Mon 5, again in Terenure @ 5pm. Anyone wanting to get involved with the hurlers can contact Damien McDonald @ 086 231 1367.

Our most successful team last year were the ladies footballers who gained promotion to Division 1 and crowned All-Ireland Champions. The same management team are continuing this year, and any interested parties should contact Gerard O'Connor on 087 275 2511. Camogie Club are delighted to announce that Dublin Handball Club again won many titles throughout a hectic year which saw them compete in the US Collegiates in San Francisco. Details of training and up-coming events can be obtained by calling Frank Semple @ 087 671907.

Up-Coming Events & Fixtures:

Oct 8 Hurling Challenge v UCD @ Belfield, 4:30pm
Oct 10 U21H Championship v Crumlin Venue To Be Announced
Oct 12 Football AGM Aungier St @ 1:30pm
Oct 14 Hurling League Away v Queens
Oct 21 Football League DIT v TCD
Nov 5 Ladies Football Away v UCD

Also note Sports Day on 13 Oct in ALSAA. Any further enquiries contact Barry Downey, GAA Officer. Ph: 402 3424 Mob: 087 270 5872
**Heineken Sports Competition**

Simply answer the following teaser. No calculators permitted. Brains used must belong to participants, read instructions carefully.

Is Heineken Ireland's No.1 lager?

Yes ☐  No ☐

**Winner to receive a Heineken Goodie-Bag. Y'all rush to the post office now, y'hear?**

Answers (in fluent Ojibwa) to:

Heineken Sports Competition,
The DIT Examiner,
Ground Floor,
Students' Union,
DIT Kevin Street.

Closing date for entries:
Fri 30 Oct '98

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**Heineken**

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**Attention!! All DIT staff and students**

**Come and Sing with the**

**DIT Choral Society**

Conductor: Bernie Sherlock

Rehearsals: Tuesdays 6.30 - 9.00 pm
Gleeson Hall, DIT Kevin Street

The 1998-99 programme includes:
- Choral Weekend in Galway Nov. 98
- Christmas Concert in Christ Church Cathedral Dec. 98
- Charpentier Messe de Minuit pour Noel & Te Deum
- A Tree for Christmas
- Honegger's exciting Le ROI David
- April 99 Dublin & Limerick

The DIT Choral Society was formed in 1990 to bring together students and staff from all DIT Centres to perform great choral masterpieces. Rehearsal times are provided for those who cannot read music, rehearsals are fun and there is a decent coffee break halfway through! All DIT staff and students are welcome. However, weekly attendance at rehearsals is essential to ensure excellent performances.


Bernie Sherlock is the Choral Director of the DIT Conservatory of Music, and a Music Lecturer in both DIT and TCD. An honours graduate of TCD, he studied conducting for 2 years in Hungary with Istvan Herényi Koncér and Peter Enes. She has extensive choral experience with children's and adult choirs, and her choirs have won prizes at most Irish festivals including the 1998 Cork International Choral Festival.

Further info.: Tel. 402 4773

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**Noticeboard**

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**DIT Sailing Club**

DIT Sailing Club will begin giving lessons from Sunday the 18th of October for four weeks. They will take place in the INSS (Irish National Sailing School) in Dun Laoghaire — right beside the DMYC (Dublin Metropolitan Yacht Club) and the DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) line. Be sure to bring wet gear, deck shoes and warm woolies if you dislike cold weather. OK (Ostrich Keabs)?

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**DIT Karting Club**

Meeting
Room 259
1:15pm
Bolton Street
Wed 15 Oct

**DIT Chess Club**

Room K154
Every Wednesday
6pm
Kevin Street

For further information ring
Clodagh Barry @ 086 811 4301
Michael Lewis @ 087 285 7662
DIT Students' Union

Date: 22/Oct/98

Class Rep. &
Councillor
Training 1998/99

Glencor Hall
Kevin St. from 16 AM

Your SU Needs You!

DITSU '98/99

DITcouncil

Class Reps can run for positions on Council on the day. Each Campus will be electing their respective Class Reps.

Get all the required information to understand and actively participate in DITSU Council.

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Get all the knowledge you need to be an effective and respected Class Rep.

Training in the Areas of:
- Leadership - Public Speaking
- Negotiation - The Structures of the SU - Conduct in Meetings

Challenging Times?

Last Year DIT Reached the Final of RTE’s Challenging Times
This year we can do it!
Watch out for Challenging Times Quizzes in your DIT Centre soon!

Are You Ready For Some More....

Influx Festival

Bank Holiday Weekend 22-25 October
Featuring...

The Chemical Brothers
Derrick Carter
Billy Nasty
Johnny Moy
Richard Sen
Luke Vibert
Glen Brady
Dub Pistols
And many more....

See p17 for full details.

THE LIBERTY

Due Out October 23

Featuring
The Future of the Adelaide
What now for Dublin’s Inner City Hospital?

The Councillors’ Scrappage Scheme
Dublin City Council to introduce fresh blood
Northside v Southside
Discrepancies in the cost of living
Who runs the DIT?

Dr. Brendan Goldsmith, President of The Dublin Institute of Technology

The President’s Office is located in the administrative Headquarters of the Institute, DIT Fitzwilliam House, in Upper Pembroke Street.

Faculty of Business
Mr. Paul Sullivan, Director of the Faculty of Business, is based in DIT Aungier Street. Mr. Sullivan was Acting Director in DIT Mountjoy Square since 1992, where he spent his early career as a Lecturer in Communications. In 1992 Mr. Sullivan was Head of Postgraduate and Management Studies for several months. Mr. Sullivan has responsibility for Management Studies, Accountancy, Distribution, Business & Management. He is administratively responsible for the DIT centre at Mountjoy Square, and is assisted in this area by Ms. Therese Grogan.

Faculty of Engineering
Mr. Francis Brennan, Director, Faculty of Engineering, has his office in DIT Bolton Street. Mr. Brennan was Director of DIT Kevin Street for the past 14 years. He was previously Academic Registrar for the Institute and a Lecturer in Electronic Engineering. Mr. Brennan has responsibility for Control Systems & Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Telecommunications, Electrical Installation, Science, Engineering Technology, Maths & General Studies, Transport and Engineering Trades. He is administratively responsible for the DIT centre at Bolton Street, and is assisted in this area by Mr. Tom Foley.

Faculty of Science
Dr. Matthew Hussey, Director, Faculty of Science, has his office in DIT Kevin Street. Dr. Hussey has been Head of the Department of Physics in DIT Kevin Street since 1983, prior to which he was a Lecturer in Physics for 8 years. Dr. Hussey has also been Chairperson of the Postgraduate Studies Committee for the Institute. Dr. Hussey has responsibility for Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science, Biological Science, Bakery and Languages. He is administratively responsible for the DIT centre at Kevin Street, and is assisted in this area by Mr. Damien Gallagh.

Faculty of Tourism and Food
Mr. Michael Mulvey, Director of the Faculty of Tourism and Food, is based in DIT Cathal Brugha Street. Mr. Mulvey has been involved with the School of Hotel Catering and Tourism Management in DIT Cathal Brugha Street where he was a Lecturer, then Assistant Head of School and subsequently Acting Head from 1993. Mr. Mulvey has responsibility for Tourism, Food Operations, Food Science & Technology. He is administratively responsible for the DIT centre at Cathal Brugha Street, and is assisted in this area by Ms. Margo Fitzpatrick.

Director of Academic Affairs
Dr. David Gillingham is based in DIT Fitzwilliam House, and is the Director of Academic Affairs. Dr. Gillingham joined DIT from Groupe ESC Rennes, France, where he was Vice-President, Academic and International Relations and previously Dean / Director of Postgraduate Studies and Professor / Head of the Department of Marketing and Sales. Dr. Gillingham also worked in Canada where he was the Director of the School of Commerce and Administration in Laurentian University.

Director of External Affairs
Dr. Declan Glynn is the Director of External Affairs and is based in DIT Fitzwilliam House. Dr. Glynn joined the Institute from Enterprise Ireland where he was Chief Executive for eight years. Prior to this Dr. Glynn was Chief Executive of the National Board for Science and Technology. His early career was in Industry and the IDA.

Director of Finance
Mr. Ray Wills, the Director of Finance, is also based in DIT Fitzwilliam House. Mr. Wills was a Managing Consultant in Price Waterhouse where he had worked for 15 years before coming to the Institute.

Secretary to the Institute
Mr. Robert Lawlor (see main picture) is the Secretary to the Institute and has his office in DIT Fitzwilliam House. Mr. Lawlor was Director of DIT Cathal Brugha Street from 1973 to 1993 when he took up his present post. He served as a member of the Higher Education Authority for ten years and was Deputy Chairman of the Authority from 1991-1993.
Poet's Corner

Maolcheachlainn Ó Ceallaigh

Traffic Island

Perhaps I should stay on this grassy oasis
Perhaps sheer surrender is best
And watch all the drivers who scoot to new places
With nowhere to offer them rest.

Perhaps some will throw me means to exist
Though most will just throw me a jibe
Perhaps some will see me and want to enlist
And I'll build up my own little tribe.

And though cut away from all good people there
I shall neither meet cad or weasel
My lungs will expand in the constant hot air
Just a little polluted by diesel.

As driver on driver goes past in his car
My fame will grow bigger and bigger
The town will make stories in which I will star
They'll make me a mythical figure.

But when winter comes and the rain storms begin
My scheme will be knocked out of kilter
I'll stand there, quite frozen, and drenched to the skin,
And beg passing drivers for shelter.

Space Travellers

We conquered space before we reached the moon;
We conquered it in penny magazines.
Before we flew the biplane or balloon
We filled it with imaginary scenes.

And many a daring tale of human hope
Ran to the skies, where pedants could not knock it.
What was ruled out, seen through the telescope?
The universe was infinite and cosy
With planets that mankind would frolic daily in.
The future would be dangerous but rosy
And unromantically truthfulness prevails.
And now, though astronauts scurry through Barsoom
Earth still resounds with echoes of our tales;
Space is not cold, while human hearts are warm
We weave our myths where constellations gleam
Where facts cannot go further, fictions swarm;
There are no bounds or borders to a dream.

sonic bionic

RELEASES

Sheryl Crow
The Globe Sessions
ASM

The great My Favourite Mistake opens for us
on another good record from the gal who
back-voiced Michael Jackson for a year and a half,
and, like us, she's probably thankful
she gave that up. Describing her first trip in
There Goes The Neighbourhood, it comes
out on top of the acid-babble that ensued.
She sees what the fuses is about and brings it to us
is funk-form replete with brass.

Further on into the Sessions provides with
songs, which just emphasise the fact that this
woman is an extremely gifted songwriter, in
the great American tradition of Tom Petty
(Roswellade, It Don't Hurt)
Many lines, the nature of "I dress up with a
consciousness when I think you'll be watching.." in
Am I Getting Through Pt.1, indicate the
fledgling human qualities of a real person,
though this song seems carelessly in a Zeppelin
direction, complete with huge Bonham sound
on the drums.

You Don't Bring Me Anything But Down
smells like a single - it's not great - and the
slow-mover, The Difficult Kind leads us into
the smiling regret of Mississippi.
The dark emptiness of Crush and Burn is quickly filled
by the up-tempo looking, final take,
Resurrection. Sheryl's no crook.

Chaos

The High Llamas
Lillo Rosso
V2

More hot-trod-casino madness from Sean
O'Hagan and friends, this time a release of
previously incarnate Llama tunes, remedied
to great effect by a bunch of their musical peers
with something like the same sitcom-sunglasses.

Commercing with a Mouse on
Mars take on Shoutstop Hip Hop, this is
quickly followed by 'Big in Ireland' rippereese
Drama, the Manaced Cornelius-man, Keigo
Owada, doing Homespin Rerun in the mid
dle of an ad for itself.
More interesting sti -
and it seems to follow chronologically like this
- is the next one up, from Schneider TM, containing elements of
Homespin Rerun, Shoutstop Hip Hop, and Over the River, all
coming together in the cleverly Frankenstained
(i.e. stitched together by some mad doped
German doctor...) Homespin Ubershow.
Makes for good ear-use anyway, Kid Loco is
in there with his Space Raid Remix of
Homespin Rerun, as are Stack, Hansen &
Williamson with their effort at Three Point
Scrobble. Jim O'Rourke and the Llamas
finish off with 6 & 7 respectively; the
lollingly delightful Mini Management by the former,
which includes spectacular Metal Mickey
(remember that tin gobshite?) wurbles and
buzzes, and Milting Tindmills, the bent-assed
view of the original Tilting Windmills, by the
 rewritten-that-Hammond and increasingly
infectious latter. Kraftwerk without the arctic
temperatures, that's what

Chaos

Traffic Island

Poet's Corner

Space Travellers

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Chaos
AFRICA FESTIVAL

Theatre, Music, Film and various arts events will turn Dublin into a scene for the exploration of African culture later this month.

4th Africa Festival

Wed 28 Oct - Sun 8 Nov

Venues:
National Concert Hall, Dublin.
Irish Writers' Centre, Dublin.
Irish Film Centre, Dublin.
The National Theatre, Dublin (Peacock Stage).

Theatre:
Award-Winning Irish-language theatre company, Amharclann de hide will give a rehearsed reading of a specially-commissioned Irish language translation of Misère, a play by Thierry Nnundu Mayamb in Congo-Kinshasa.
Peacock Theatre, Dublin, Sat 31 Oct, 11am.

Music
N'Faly Kouyaté & Dunyakan (Guinea-Conakry).
National Concert Hall, Dublin, Mon 2 Nov, 8pm.

Labi Siffre
Vicar Street, Thomas Street, Dublin. Thur 5 Nov, 8pm.
Bessa Band (Ghanaian Highlife Music).
UCD, Belfield, Wed 29 Oct, 1:45pm.
Whelan's Dublin, Wed 28 Oct, 9pm.

Theatre:
Misère*, a play by Thierry Nnundu Mayamb in from Congo-Kinshasa and translated by Liam Ó Muirthile.
Three half-mad, hal-philosopher tramps sit around talking with humour on wasteground in a country devastated by corruption and the cult of power. Everything in the country has a price and can be bought — work, justice, love, diplomas — even a passage to a little corner of Paradise. They are wanders in a monstrous labyrinth, devotees of Dionysus, who are unequally reconciled to their circumstances of material and spiritual destitution, as well as to the inevitable destitution of moral values, the result of what they modestly call 'the 20th Century'.

Music:
N'Faly Kouyaté & Dunyakan
Hailing from the Munding Empire (which encompasses Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Gambia). N'Faly Kouyaté is the son of a Koukoba, the highest order of Griots (professional singers). An accomplished singer / songwriter, master of the kora (African harp/lute) and minstrel, N'Faly was shaped by the rigorous standards demanded of traditional musicians in West Africa. Nonetheless, he broadened his horizons to embrace jazz and classical music at a young age, and these influences are reflected in his live-up of Dunyakan (Voice of the World).

As a founder and orchestral director of the Kaloum Soguë Theater Company, he was instrumental in the cultural development of his country, and in 1994 was appointed the youngest ever musical director of La Troupe Nationale de Guinée which went on to be awarded the first prize at the Festival de Bouaké (Côte d'Ivoire).

N'Faly was a member of the Afro-Celt Sound System, a collaboration of Irish and African musicians which received critical acclaim in 1997.

Labi Siffre
Labi Siffre is best known for the Ivor Novello award-winning hit song (Something Inside) So Strong, written for the black community of apartheid South Africa, and for all the victims of injustice, and which has been adopted as an anthem by the marginalised and dispossessed in many countries.

With seven albums, further hit songs, Watch Me, It Must Be Love, and Crying, Laughing, Loving, Lying, and a multitude of international performances over a period of twenty seven years, Labi Siffre has no interest in nostalgia, is more interested in the work than in the applause, and continues to change, develop and grow as an artist.

Following his successful 1997 debut at the Edinburgh Fringe with his performance piece A Day in the Knife (*"Spectacular, reworkable, a gut-wrenching, emotional roller-coaster ride...compelling...fearless...an incisive talent..."*, The Scotsman, 29 Aug 97), Labi Siffre took an extended version on a UK tour.

Based on, and introducing work from his third book, Monument, A Day in the Knife is a portrayal in songs and spoken word of a journey from childhood to adulthood in which brutality and ignorance are overcome by courage, hope and eventually, love.

"My work is founded on the (perhaps naive) belief that reason is the road to hope.

With the writer of three volumes of poetry, Nigger, Blood on the Pages and the recently published Monument (all published by Xavier Books), Labi Siffre has made a move, and for many, a disturbing impact as a poet, 'live' and on radio and TV.

Bessa Band (Ghanaian Highlife Music)
Highlife is a brand of guitar band music which emerged from the urban centres of former British colonies of the Gold Coast (now Ghana), Nigeria and Sierra Leone. It has now developed into a full electric band and its popularity extends throughout West Africa and beyond.

London-based Bessa Band are one of the finest exponents of Ghanaian Highlife music and this will be their first participation in the festival. Formed in 1989 to play original outstanding West African dance music, the Bessa Band is a mix of African and European musicians, bringing together Ghanaian hi-life music and jazz. In 1990, the band's debut album, Sii Nana, was launched in the UK by a Jazz Moves Tour, which supports innovation musicians.

Since 1992 the band has toured the UK extensively with the support of various national touring grants from the Arts Council of England. The band also leads musical workshops programmes which provide an insight and experience of African music. The Bessa Band released their second album, Accra Junction in 1994 on their original label (Ojama Productions — distributed by Sterns, London) on Europe and Ghana.

In August 1994, the band was invited to Ghana to host the state dance for the Afahye Festival. With support from the British Council the group toured Ghana and made a considerable impact on the cultural scene there. Together with their video, the tour popularised Bessa's music and the final track Belembé became a hit.

Since then, the Bessa Band have completed a full national touring programme, including the 1995 Folk and Roots Festival on Jersey. They have completed Bessa The Live Album (Ojama 002), recorded at Conway Hall. The album was recorded in collaboration with Overtones and partly funded by the Arts Council. They have just released a dance album entitled Bessa Si Beas.
**The Crocketts** - We may be skinny and wiry

"I may be skinny and wiry honey, but I can tell you the square root of every letter in the alphabet," booms Davy Crockett, Dublin-born lead singer of The Crocketts. We may be skinny and wiry, but we're telling you the truth. The Crocketts' debut album from the Welsh-based band and sees them carrying a well-deserved hero status.

Everything from the opening punk-rock raptures of "Flower Girl" and "It's A Party" to the painlessly good-hearted ballads of "Blaster Boy" and "Six Years and Seven," confirm such a status. Achingly poignant love songs, raw and bitter rock some places, uniquely punk-pop in others - all delivered through the heart-breaking vulnerability of a voice that makes the band. They may be skinny and wiry, but we like it.

**Lions Ark**

"beautiful weather - the outdoor gig by the lake is cancelled for fear that the artists will be blown away. But those of us who escaped the wrath of the gods by 'shledding' into the marquee (capacity 870) to witness the wonders inside are brought back to the warmth of that smoky-bar-open-air-feel. The whole package is what is wanted and, that includes the fact that the band look like a group of friends who stumbled on stage and took back to leave.

Donkeys 92-97 is the perfect introduction for the 'under' virgin and the well-rounded companion for the veteran 'fan'. On first listen many different styles merge into that which seem closely linked in style yet create a sonic collage that will leave you in totalPaginicon.

"Early to late Bob Sevitt, Cowboy Junkies, Lost Reid, Martin Stephenson, even Pavement (who make an appearance in the wonderful version of Here). The collection links between all being their band back, sometimes comatose, delivery which suggests having lived through that certain something which all writers believe is the case. Bedlam's rock star, goons insist of baritones with whisly chaser and unlimited husky smudge interlaced with nights of placid passion eternally searching for that perfect hole to fill the aching hole in your soul. Music to help you enjoy feeling bad, feeling low, feeling alone. It's that selfsame reason that some of us enjoy watching shit-scary movies before waking home in the hollowed wind on pitch-black nights.

This is a wonderful compilation that shows how much a voice with that comes with an instantly recognisable breathless trait, the band still use their ability to arrive in craft memorable pop songs that don'tlinger incase but stay distinctively hummable. The release is a compilation of the best that inhabits their live show. From the debut single Patchwork in 1992 and its wonderful hook through Markleys and Her two classics live - the album feels like a soundtrack to the world of Timmerticks. Travelling Light and Bathtime still sound as fresh as on first listen and the little gem of a B-side that is Ois Redg's 'I've Been Loving You Too Long, and the French version of No More Affairs (originally free with their second album) sit perfectly in the middle between raw and rock. This is a masterpiece with orchestral A Marriage Made in Heaven with Isabella Rossellini, and For Those. Through the orchestral treatment seems the perfect tool for airing their songs, the band show the maturity not to abuse this method, and by doing so, never lose the intimacy they just so well. There is a movie for this music but it's probably better left to the imagination.

**Michael McCormack**

Mercury Rev Descemer's Songs V2

200 words will never be enough. Much stuff! The Beatles could have written, everyone will have a different version of that. One-off masters, pieces like this are memorable for their rarity, and, though not as moving as another V2 masterwork, OPI'S Slush, quite damn brilliant anyway. As complete as Currie's Tapestry this is towering and humble, whispered and turned-up-to-eleven, cleaner and tranquil, it will walk off store shelves forever. Crossing styles and genres like a dream that recognises no barriers or rationality, tracks like Tonite It Shines, Opus 40 (flick it, practically ALL OF them) and the Fawny Bird and the closing Delta San Fontenot Stemp are classic right from the get-go. Lyrics such as "you were a walking civil war..." and "all I've seen you, that's all we met, Th' way you were, Th' day we changed, to another, core porter phrase..." highlight the beautiful simplicity so effectively communicated by Holy hell - yet another excellent American band. Thank Christ for V2. This is where true music begins and ends. (Forgive the push.)

**Chaos**

For more see Arts p41

**Make It Anyway**

Leah Henry

"Make It Anyway represents a concrete determination and an unfulfilled belief in everything that is good and deserving of success. It's emblematic of what Manor is about. So say Manor of their new single, Make It Anyway, released on Pale Moon Records on October 10. The song itself knocks you down with its sheer rock power, and just as the soft melodies and gentle vocals lift you back up onto your feet, another burst of unsung passion and heartfelt feeling bowl you over. 'You gotta feel it in your heart, cos you don't wanna sell your soul,' pleads lead singer Gerry Kavanagh, while being backed up by the most delicate of guitar melodies. This song shifts up a gear, however, as loud, brazen guitars ensue, with Kavanagh genuinely declaring: 'You're gonna make it anyway, cos there's so much you can say...'

Manor released a video at the same time as the single, directed by award-winning Irish director, Enda Hughes of The Eliminator and Flying Suacer 'Rock 'n' Roll fame.

"The single inspires a never say die attitude which Manor always possess. We're not going to sit back and wait for things to happen. We're impatient and we want this music heard," admits trying Villiers, bassist. This impatience is reflected in the fact that Make It Anyway is an independent production. "It's not bitter, its jubilant. Everybody can be bitter about the industry but you just have to get up off your ass and do it yourself," says Villiers.

Doing their own thing is what Manor are all about. This has made it harder for the band, but where honesty and integrity are concerned, Manor have bucketed it. Says Kavanagh: "We know that we're stepped on people's toes along the way. We don't make things easy for ourselves, but we'd rather do it that way anyway. Honesty pervades Manor's music as well. For them, everything ends in songs. In a world doomed of much originality, their live set sticks two fingers up to such vapid derivations. While other bands are still cowering their shoesaces, Manor have already grasped firmly the concept that you need a decent hook to hang it on. The single is available at gigs or by sending 64 (includes p&p) to Pale Moon Records, Ballybannock, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

Manor play Eamon Dornan's, Dublin, Oct 17

Phantom Radio, Party, Temple Bar Music Centre, Oct 22

The DA Club, Oct 31
conversational cHAos – the sonic bionic interview

THE MARBLES

Seanus Simon: vox / drums
Jonathan McGlynn: guitar / vox
Justin Whelan: bass

Skipping lightly over the famous patronage aspect of The Marbles we learn that they have successfully attracted the worthy attentions of ex-Pagone Terry Woods, who is their manager, of BP Fallon, who is their sometime photograhper, and lately of Here Comes The Quiet Cornishman Doneen, who qualifies as some sort of mentor, both as tour co-biller and musical lighthouse. The recently-released single In My Eye / Got the Fandango 7" is the result of being in the studio since February this year.

"Well it’s a re-recording we did in Wales with Simon Dawson. Our tastes are very diverse, we’ve got different angles and avenues to examine at the moment, and though everyone has their own favourite, this is just an Irish release. It was something we just stuck on cos we recorded it down the country on an 8-track. I like it a lot." Is there an album due?

"Yeah there is. We did some tracks with Simon and Trevor (Burn) when we were in London for a week, and we also spent four weeks in Dublin with Ed Buller working on stuff. We’re going to take the rest down the country where my cousin looks after a castle near Lough Key where we’ll get to work on some more." Lough Key, eh? E-e-excellent. Obviously somewhere they’re happy then, this Lough Key sanctuary?

"Yeah we used to go on the piss all the time there, and now that all our mates are off doing different things in college or wherever, it’s great that we can all come back to the castle. There’s a good feel there." They aren’t the only ones who like the environs of Lough Key and its wooded serenity. Popscene, the Examiner and a whole horde of marauding journalist have been steadily beating a track to their door there. Indeed, certain actors have also been spotted in the vicinity. As Seamus puts it, with a touch of the original disbelief in his voice, “I looked out the window and there’s John Hurt coming along...!”

Currently halfway through their Here Comes The Night Out Tour with An Úsáid Doneen, (they had just played the test of time.” Though this might initially seem a little naïve, the proof is in the pudding, that’s touring the country at the moment, and attracting the admiration of many. Of heroes, for some reason, they have a lot of respect for four guys from Dublin, go by the name of U2...and Seamus cites ex-Nirvana and Foo Fighter, David Grohl, as one of his favourite drummers, and shares more than just an ability to hit, his goat-skin head and sing in the head by their party guests etc. The Funnel Bar, City Quay, D2.

The Funnel

Influnx

Influnx festival weekend Oct 22-25
Thur 22 Oct The Kitchen RICHARD SEN 11-2am
Fri 23 Oct Mean Fiddler DERRICK CARTER 11-2am
Sat 24 Oct Redbox CHEMICAL BROS / INVISIBLE ARMIES / JOHNNY MOY 10:30-2:30am
Sat 24 Oct Music Centre BILLY NASTY / ROB BOWLAND 11-7am
Sat 24 Oct RıRa LUKE VIBERT (WAGON CHRIST) 11-2am
Sun 25 Oct Music Centre DUB PISTOLS / SUPERCHARGER / GLEN BRADY & JOHNNY MOY / BARRY ASHWORTH

And its well in your eye they’ll be before you know it. With little harmonies as effective as this one you’ll have a fair idea that these fellas might be around for a few summers, and luckily they weren’t signed to PolyGram. The first of two songs on this single release, In My Eye is destined for much radio play, and though that doesn’t always mean that a song is intrinsically very good, In My Eye will be around for a while. Of even greater sowing power is the neon-and-rain, nine minute long Got The Fandango! This is wonderful, low-key study of what is a distinctively metropolitan landscape. Sure, singing in the background help, but this is genuine, diatomic (look it up) movie soundtrack gear. It will please me to hear more of the Boyle lad’s stock. Who said there was anything common about Ross!
**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. 30 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 Hat, Lock, in the US (8)
10 9's number of standing (6)
11 O, if I sin, it will be but slight (5)
12 Poor part of a city inhabited by racial group (6)
13 Sinner, violator of a law (8)
15 Bill of fare (4)
17 Forn growing abundantly on hillside (7)
18 It's St Patrick's Day (7)
22 Flat, thin, circular object (4)
24 Lent cats be Indecent (8)
27 Water-bottle for the table (6)
29 It's set to go off (6)
30 Ed lies about the fuel (6)
31 Calm, unruffled, as a prince/ess maybe (6)
32 Disclaim, disown (8)

**DOWN**

1 Rough drawing without detail (6)
2 Magic not is attractive (6)
3 Sadie, on one's own (6)
4 Dried crocus used as dye or flavouring (7)
5 Sash, unexpected event (6)
6 A listener of judge (6)
7 Not disposed to activity (8)
14 Bundle, commotion over trilley (4)
16 'All's well that...well'(Shakespeare) (4)
13 Clue to known, understood (8)
20 Uniform, unexpected event (8)
21 Outdoor feast, cooked over charcoal (8)
23 Laws of equal pressure (7)
25 Subjects for discussion (6)
26 Belongs to mind, produces memories (6)
28 Shorn wool of a sheep (6)

**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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**Ritual Character Slaying No.2 Pádraig Staunton, Mountjoy Square.**

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Velvet Goldmine

Director: Todd Haynes
Starting: Ewan McGregor, Johnathan Rhys Meyers, Brad Melchko.
Release Date: October 23rd

It was the inspired but bizarre cast-concoction of Todd Haynes' latest collection of wayward story telling that got the most attention. Famous names aside, this is a complex, witty and sensitive alternative fairy tale vision of Seventies British Glam Rock. Ewan McGregor is the self consciously named rocker, supposedly assimilated on stage but in reality disappears and constantly reinvents himself. It's also the story of Arthur Bole (Christian Bale) who in an almost Orwellian 1984 is assigned to cover the 10th Anniversary of Slade's apparent demise. This opens the flood gates to his own vivid and lasting memories of the era which meant escape from small town England to the bright lights, dark clubs and platform shoes of early Seventies London.

The theme of constant change is ever present here in the frequent change of settings or fluctuations in musical style to the fluid carefree sexuality of all the main characters. Few films have portrayed bisexuality with such, straight forward realism, the characters here frequently distinguish themselves as bisexuals when met with constant passed blocks in the street abuse for wearing skirts and make up. Bole's swatchy love interests from wife Mandy to and intense and passionate affair with Curt Wild also keep change prominent throughout the film. The 1984 sections are in harsh contrast, with bland music stars, blinder pads and an unseeing almost surgically sexless.

To many the film may not make perfect sense, but what does it's not the straightforward Glam Rock equivalent of This Spirial Top which could be. It does see a lot to Art House during Slade's theatrical and expressionist video pieces. Overall there is a broad comparison to the free-wheeling dandyish decadence of Oscar Wilde's end to the 19th century and the immense the over the top fashions, music and sexuality of the Seventies as portrayed here.

The very individual force behind this is Todd Haynes, whose debut indie flick Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story probably has its place in film history by now because of its cast made entirely from Ken and Barbie dolls telling the story of the skinny singeress. Music too has a huge influence in R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe co-produced and there is new music from the likes of Pulp, Placebo, Radiohead's Thom Yorke, Brian Eno and Grant Lee Buffalo.

Lorcan McGreave

A Perfect Murder

Director: Andrew Davis
Starting: Michael Douglas, Gwyneth Paltrow, Viggo Mortenson.

I don't know what it is about people today but when ideas such as remaking a Hitchcock film are touted around Hollywood everybody just seems to look to see who's drawn the short straw. Maybe its just that its Hitchcock we're dealing with and they feel his work cannot be equaled yet alone surpassed, or maybe they just haven't the balls to try. Enter Andrew Davis and his 1998 remake of Hitchcock's 1954 film Dial M for Murder! Forget 1954, forget London, forget Grace Kelly and most of all forget Alfred Hitchcock because this contemporary suspense thriller set in the bustling streets of New York has taken on a life of its own.

Michael Douglas, Gwyneth Paltrow and Viggo Mortenson head the cast of this cat and mouse game thriller, and with superb direction from Mr. Davis the film never loses its "What's lurking in the shadows" appeal. The film, however, isn't purely plot or character driven, especially as it hits the opening scenes, Darius Wolski's photographic genius treats the audience to some of the most breath-taking shots of New York that I've ever seen. And despite the amazing beauty of these shots, as the camera pans across the skyscrapers to catch the sky in the background, they are not just for aesthetic effect. It's like they're saying "This is New York. Anything can happen here." And it does. Steven Taylor (Michael Douglas) is a millionaire industrialist, but his wife Emily (Gwyneth Paltrow) seems to be spending a little too much time with struggling artist David Shaw (Mortenson) in his Brooklyn loft. She thinks he's unaware of her passionate trysts but hey, he's a man and for men trust is hard to come by. Revenge! Or perhaps the appeal of her $100M trust fund? Who knows, but one of these two things sets the wheels in motion for a perfect murder with Emily claiming the leading role. Isn't love grand?

And following the not-so-perfect murder there ensues not a whodunnit but a howdunnit headed by Arab-American detective Mohamed Karaman (David Suchet). Each new twist was indeed surprising, a welcome departure from the butler did it type films of the genre. Steven Taylor's character has been described as the 'centre of gravity in the story, an impassioned predictor who plans the perfect murder.' Basically he's a conniving bastard and they couldn't have picked anyone better to play the part than Michael Douglas. Douglas actually describes Taylor as charming yet conniving and potentially lethal, but points out that the film should actually lose love his wife, but pardon my ignorance, how does trying to kill your wife show how you love her? OK so perhaps I don't understand love as well as the makers of the film! Paltrow plays the emotionally driven Emily who responds to each new event with strength and character. Once again Paltrow turns in an amazing performance but what else can we expect from such a talented actor. Surprisingly, however, I must admit that I found myself extremely impressed with Viggo Mortenson's portrayal of David Shaw, surprisingly because he isn't quite so established as his fellow leading actors. (Watch Sean Penn's Italian Rental - Ed.) And as for mostach-less Swoff, well, his accent is pretty good! Perfect Murder is a real rollicker of a suspense thriller with excellent character portrayals by its leading actors. The plot, though intricately-woven through sub-plot upon sub-plot, never ties itself up in its own genius. Its themes of greed, jealousy and intrigue will be close to everybody's heart I'm sure so don't make the mistake of missing this film. And for the guys who don't really care what the film is about I'll just repeat Gwyneth PALTROW IS IN IT! And for the ladies there's always older man Michael Douglas or young blood Viggo Mortenson. A Perfect Murder and an almost perfect film? Don't miss it! The Boss.
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