

2006

The Compact, Issue 9, October, 2006

DIT: Students' Union

Follow this and additional works at: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ditsu>

Recommended Citation

Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union, The Compact, Issue 9, October, 2006. Dublin, DIT, 2006

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Dublin Institute of Technology at ARROW@TU Dublin. It has been accepted for inclusion in DIT Student Union by an authorized administrator of ARROW@TU Dublin. For more information, please contact arrow.admin@tudublin.ie, aisling.coyne@tudublin.ie, vera.kilshaw@tudublin.ie.

the compact



09

OCTOBER 2006

dit students' union



Sponsored By **Irish Independent**

Lifesize.



Irish Independent 
Compact.

the compact

- 4-9 UNION NEWS
- 12-13 DUMMIES GUIDE TO BECOMING A TD
- 14-15 GRADUATE FOCUS
- 16-17 STUDENT INSIGHT
- 18 FASHION
- 19 RANDOM RANTING
- 20 IN DEPTH with DAVID KITT
- 22 MAGIC MAN: PAUL DANIELS
- 24-26 REVIEWS
- 30 HOW LOW CAN YOU SNOW?

EDITOR
Neil Brennan

FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY
Lili Forberg, Billy Walsh,
Jamie Hogan

COVER PHOTO
Billy Walsh

THANKS TO
Mairead Butler, Paul Daniels, Lili Forberg, David Kitt, Dan
Oggly, Professor Brian Norton, Dave Reynolds

EDITORIAL



Here's something you didn't know about Paul Daniels – he doesn't like journalists. I didn't know that either, but I found pretty quickly when I chatted to him about his life and career. Paul isn't afraid of expressing his opinions, and in the first in a series of interviews with student heroes, the magician reveals some surprising thoughts on Ian Huntley, the War on Terror, and Ant and Dec. You'll like it, not a lot.

David Kitt is back with a new album that could be make or break for his career. Following two critically-acclaimed records, Kitt's form has been a bit less impressive of late, and Sarah Doyle caught up with him to find out whether the pressure was on with this album, already be-

ing hailed as a return to his best.

How clean do you reckon your hands are? If you think they're fine just because you've washed and dried them thoroughly, Maura Fay's got some fairly shocking news for you. You can also read Kevin Byrne on why the War on Terror is vital for Shannon Airport, and Yuvraj Parihar tells us why he's fed up of being told what to do.

This is the first issue of The Compact this year, and we've got a brand new team here. We want any ideas or suggestions you might have, so please get in touch. As well as all the news from the Students' Union, clubs, and societies, we're aiming to bring you the best interviews, features and opinion that we can. If you've got anything you want to see, just drop us a line at compact@ditsu.ie.

Enjoy the magazine, see you next issue.

—Neil Brennan,
Editor.



Hi all,

Welcome to the first edition of The Compact this year, and welcome to DIT Students' Union! This is the magazine of the students for the students, so use it and read it.

It's great to see all the Clubs and Societies up and running, with some putting on events and outings already, hopefully the rest will get the finger out and get active.

The extra-curricular activities really are the best way of getting involved in college, and we are keen to pursue recognition of input into student life for students who give time and energy to organise and run clubs and societies.

There is potential for us in DIT to award ECTS credits under modularisation, and this would lead to students' extra curricular work being recognised within their academic program. We'll keep ye updated on that.

We are still recruiting class reps, so if your class still doesn't have one, get down to the union office and we'll sort the rest out. It is vitally important every class has an effective representative, especially to sit on course committees and of course to organise the all important class parties!

The DIT Students' Union Handbook was also launched, and has been hugely popular.

Coming up on the social side we have the Halloween Ball, Farmers Night and other theme nights, so make sure to get dressed up and make your presence felt! As always you can keep posted on what we're up to on www.ditsu.ie.

Chat ya later,
Bob

Contributors:

Darah Biddlecombe, Catherine Bolger, Kevin Byrne, Bob Coggins, Louise Conlon, Anita Conway, Sarah Doyle, Maura Fay, Jamie Hogan, Lisa Hughes, Niamh Ingoldsbry, Hamid Khodabakhshi, Gareth Maher, Neil Manifold, Conor McCaffrey, Ciaran Nevin, Fiona Ni Chomain, Teri O'Boyle, Rebecca O'Neill, Yuvraj Parihar, Jean Redmond, Billy Walsh.



CLASS REP TRAINING DAY

UNION NEWS
REBECCA O'NEILL

SU President Bob Coggins kicked off Class Rep Training Day by welcoming everyone but the ball really got rolling when he and Colly McGivern asked the reps a few icebreaking questions. Unsuspecting students were invited to reveal details about themselves that wouldn't usually have been encouraged, from having sexual relations on a tractor to what they would use if the toilet roll runs out.

Bob and Vice Presidents Hamid and Fiona got down to business with a rundown of the structure of the Students' Union. The structures of DIT itself were explained to the students, with a rough outline given of the Students' Union involvement in all aspects of the running of DIT.

After this DIT President Professor Brian Norton gave an informal speech concentrating on how important the Class Rep system could be when it worked in tandem with DIT's academic structures. He then asked for any questions from the floor. There was

a moment or two of uneasy silence, but after Bob reminded students that this might be their only chance to pick Professor Norton's brain, the hands started to go up in the air. Questions ranged from day to day problems of class sizes and inappropriate lecture halls to queries about the Grangegorman campus.

With the thought of lunch hanging heavily over the audience, Colly McGivern launched into a snappy presentation on public speaking and communications. Once again unsuspecting students were preyed upon and not given an opportunity to relax. At different times they were invited up to give public speaking a go, and many rose to the occasion with gusto. Addressing appropriate stance, speaking tone, projection and presence, Colly dealt with the most troubling aspects of saying a few words in public.

After soup and sandwiches, the second half of the day kicked off with Colly breezing through his presentation on negotiations and dealing with committees. He dealt with correct procedure and general rules of thumb to remember when dealing with programme committees and lecturers, something that most class reps will be called upon to do over the next year.

The students were then invited to divide into groups of four, and were given a scenario to tackle. Two in the group acted as class reps, with the others taking on the role of DIT staff. There were some successes and some failures in the following negotiations, with Colly's points well illustrated by the exercise.

The respective Vice Presidents then tackled areas most pertinent to them. Hamid, VP for Academic and Student Affairs, addressed the students on how to deal with problems like lecturing standards, inappropriate lecture halls, exam appeals, and student health and welfare. Fiona, VP for Services and Trading, then dealt with what could be seen as the fun behind being a class rep: organising parties for your class.

Former DITSU Vice President Bernadette Farrell, now Education Officer of the Union of Students Ireland (USI), gave a talk with the USI Welfare Officer on the role of the organisation in representing DIT students on a national scale. This included finding out how the group deals with Government and its agencies, and about some of the campaigns the USI has been behind. This presentation was topped off with a suitably embarrassing old photograph of Bob Coggins.

The day ended with spontaneous awards for some of the students that contributed to the day, and a huge thank you to all the guest speakers, hotel staff and DITSU representatives. The students then tucked into dinner, before reconvening for a few drinks later in The Big Tree.

"It was the best Class Rep training we've had in my seven years at the college," Bob Coggins told *The Compact*. "We had a huge attendance, the biggest ever... and all of the feedback points to it being a success. Everyone took a lot out of the day."



"BEING ABLE TO NEGOTIATE IS A VITAL SKILL FOR CLASS REPS, SINCE THEY COULD BE THE FIRST PORT OF CALL FOR A STUDENT WITH A PROBLEM. CLASS REPS THEN HAVE TO TRY TO RESOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS, SO IT'S IMPORTANT THEY HAVE THE SKILLS TO DO THAT." -COLLY MCGIVERN

Colly McGivern is a man with a lot of experience of negotiation, and when he spoke to The Compact, he was keen to point out that negotiations aren't just for countries at war. "Everyday is filled with negotiations, whether it's the negotiations you have with yourself about getting up in the morning to negotiations you have with your tutor." McGivern said that he wanted the Class Reps to come away with the skills they already had "polished."

"Everyone here is already motivated, they want to be a Class Rep, they stood for election. They want to work on behalf of the students in their class. That tells me immediately that they're motivated and driven, and that they have an interest in effectively representing the students."

McGivern believes it is possible to teach people how to negotiate. "There will be people who are better public speakers, some people have a better sense of humour," he says. "We all have different skills, but negotiations can be a learned skill." One that must come in handy when it's your turn to buy the drinks.

Colly practices a system called Principled Negotiation, which tries to find a settlement acceptable to both parties. To put it another way, McGivern tries to find the win-win solution to problems. And that's what he came to help the Class Reps with.

"A lot of the work we're doing is working on those skill sets that are needed for effective representation, and that's about their own personal communication style," he says. "It's about how they present themselves, how they present their ideas, about making sure they can strike the best agreements of behalf of the students they're representing."

Campus 2006/07

Student Return Fares From Dublin

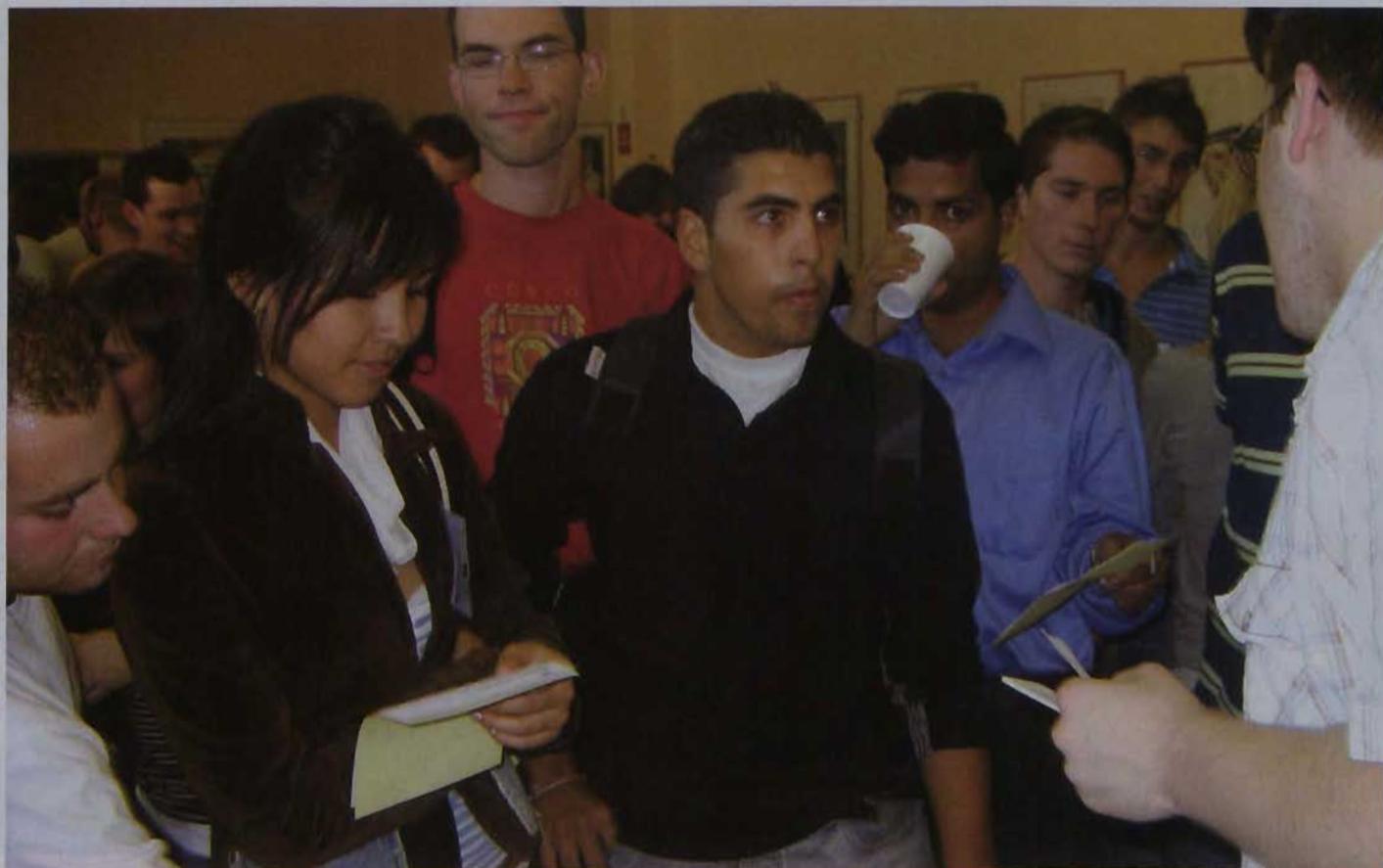
Limerick	- €15.00
Cork	- €12.00
Galway	- €17.50
Waterford	- €12.00
Athlone	- €14.00
Sligo	- €21.00
Donegal	- €23.00
Ballina	- €21.00
Clonmel	- €14.50
Belfast	- €15.00
Rosslare	- €19.00

Prices correct at time of print.

For lowest fares click on buseireann.ie

Bus Eireann
buy online or buseireann.ie
email: info@buseireann.ie

www.buseireann.ie/student



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DAY

UNION NEWS

FIAMIDREZA KHODABAKHSHTI

For the first time ever, DITSU held a welcome party for International and Erasmus Students last month. More than two hundred students joined the session, hailing from the four corners of the world.

Among the countries represented were China, Brazil, Nepal, Mexico, Spain, and Australia. The main reason for this event was to introduce the Union to our foreign members and to make sure that they are aware of the services available to them.

The day started with a little reception in Bolton Street. The food was ordered from the legendary Declan's Sandwich Bar, whose famous chicken fillet and roast beef rolls always go down well. Aimee O'Callaghan and myself had acquired the rest of the beverages that very morning from Lidl Supermarket. Classy, huh?

After SU President Bob Coggins welcomed the crowd, I introduced them to all the DITSU Staff, Student Representatives and the chaplains who kindly offered their services on the day. A cake was presented to Vice President

Fiona Ní Chomáin, who celebrated her birthday on the day.

Peter Keegan, Chair of the Erasmus Society, recruited everyone there to the society, which aims to integrate more Irish and international students. With a promising number of members, the society has big plans like tours of the capital and a trip to the West.

After finishing up all the food and drinks they started a pub crawl, with Bodkins the first stop for most. Regulars in the pub were amazed by the sheer number of what they must have presumed were tourists suddenly occupying the place.

Moving on to Kings Inn, some of those unfamiliar to Irish pub culture retired home to get something to eat and change for the night-club. But most remembered the old adage that eating is cheating and headed straight to the club.

Spirit was the final destination of the night, with some arriving there looking like they had just got back from a war. It's always enjoyable when you can manage to go from floor to floor in Spirit and see the familiar faces that you started the night with, and a great crowd of international students spent a late night there. After a lot of dancing and shouting they finally made it to one of the fine fast food emporiums in the area, and then home.

This being the first ever staging of the event, it was a great achievement for DITSU. In

the past some international students were unaware that the Union existed, but this year we got to know them at the very start of their time in DIT.

At the same time they were introduced to people that will be dealing with most of their problems for the year. Some of the urgent problems like accommodation were addressed straight away. Compared to the special orientations that some European universities organise for their international students, this was just a little token of DITSU's consideration for a special group of its members.

It's only fair to thank those involved, who gave their all to make the events a success. So thanks to Aimee O'Callaghan and Mary Scally from the Department of Student and Academic Affairs, as well as my fellow Sabbaticals Bob Coggins and Fiona Ní Chomáin.

Students Ciaran Nevin, Mark Smith, Declan Doohan, Jim Flynn, Peter Keegan, Justin McCarthy volunteered their time too, while Student Support Advisors Sharon Hughes, Claire Healey and Mairead Butler were as helpful as always. Finally, Padraig Gleeson, Finbarr O'Leary and Mary Flanagan from the Chaplaincy Service deserve thanks too.

5 Minutes with: Brian Norton (DIT PRESIDENT)



What's your favourite thing about DIT?

That it provides opportunities for students. I think pretension is not a good thing, and it's not a pretentious place.

What's your least favourite thing?

A lot of the buildings aren't fit for their purpose. That is a real concern, and it drives the Grangegorman project forward.

What was your first job?

My very first job was doing programming. Good work!

What's your favourite season of the year, and why?

Summer. My academic speciality is solar energy, and I like the sun in this sort of climate, but not sun in hot places.

What's your favourite album of all time?

Probably "Heroes" by David Bowie, or maybe Low.

What song is guaranteed to get you on the dancefloor?

Heart of Glass by Blondie. You can tell my vintage here!

Which luxury item would you bring to a desert island?

Oh if I was allowed, a laptop.

Which gadget can you not live without?

Right now my Blackberry.

What was your favourite book as a child?

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

To be honest I always wanted to be a scientist.

If your house was on fire, what would you rescue?

Car keys, laptop – how much can I take?!

Which period of history would you have liked to live in?

Oh no, I like to live now.

What three people would you invite to a dinner party?

Too many choices! If they had to come, George Bush, Osama bin Ladin and Kofi Annan and sit them down and say "you're not leaving this dinner party until you learn to talk to each other!"

Do you have a favourite newspaper?

We get a lot, but I would read

the Irish Times and the Irish Independent every day.

Dogs or cats?

Neither.

Favourite city other than Dublin?

Florence.

What's the best thing about living in Dublin?

It's vibrant, it's lively. It's a world city, but it's small and manageable.

What's the worst thing?

Traffic. It's appalling, a medieval street plan that they're trying to cram lots of cars onto.

What's your favourite sport?

I'm not really a sportsman, but I am occasionally forced to watch Arsenal matches.

What's your guilty pleasure?

I have a sweet tooth, so I'm partial to desserts. But you shouldn't feel guilty about pleasures.

Sum up DIT in a word.

Exciting.

SPAR 

INTERNATIONAL SPAR STORE: 1-4 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2

**DELI ORDERS NOW TAKEN BY
PHONE FOR COLLECTION
(before 11.30am & after 2.30pm)
TEL: (01) 475 8036**

DINNER TONIGHT
Ready made quality meals available - Freshly made
only €4.99

NEW SERVICES AVAILABLE

- *New 3V top-up club
- *New phone top up integrated till system
(free of charge)
- *New Signature Sandwich now available
- *New international beers



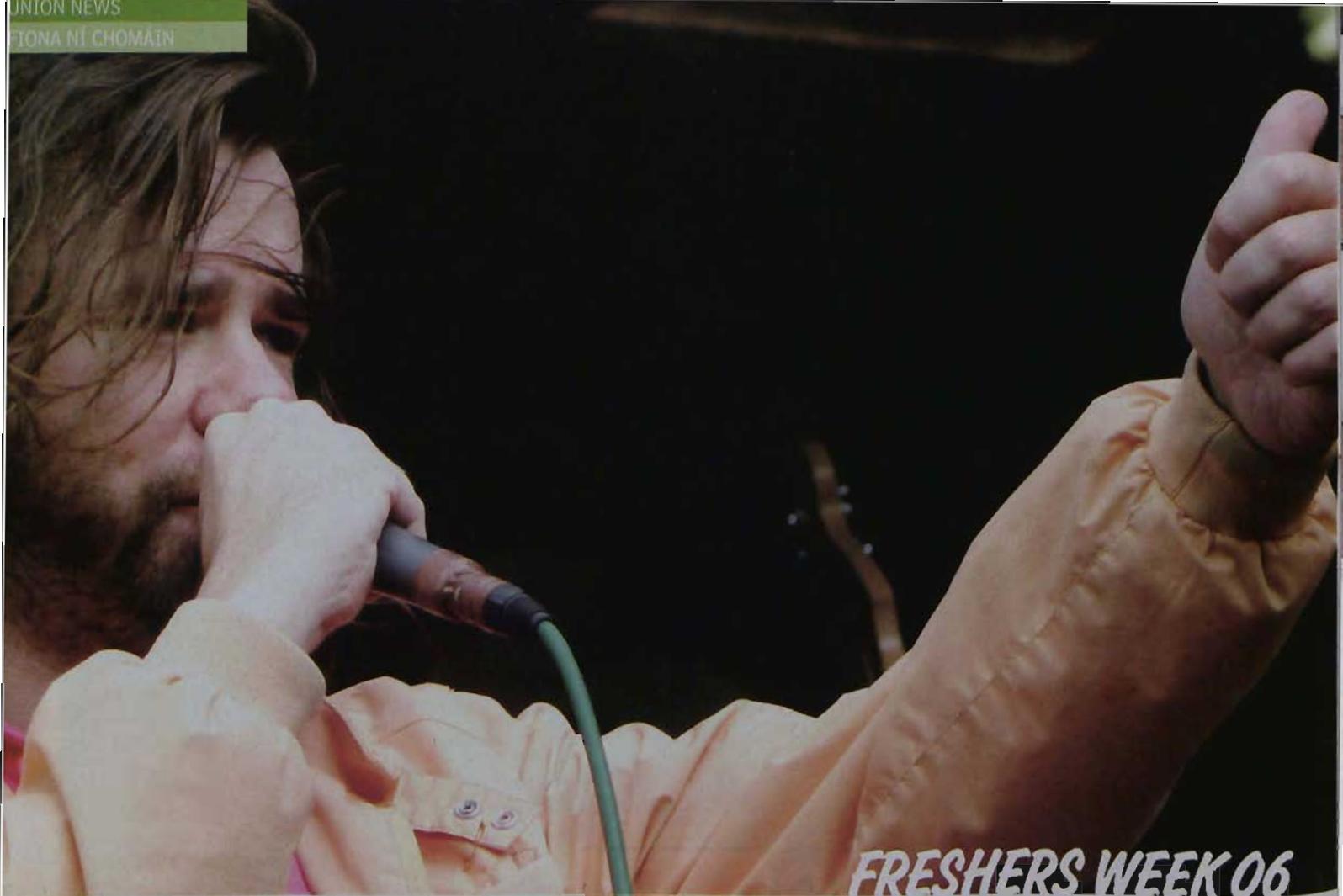
!!!FREE DRINK!!!

GET A FREE BOTTLE OF VOLVIC WATER 500ML
WITH A FRESH FILLED BAGUETTE PURCHASED FROM
OUR DELI

(valid until 31st Oct 2006)

Valid on presentation of this voucher

Must show student I.D. Student No: _____
one Voucher per student



FRESHERS WEEK 06

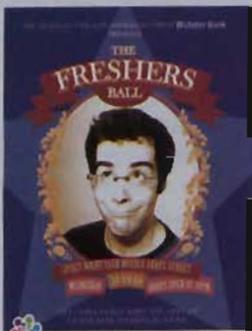


Hey guys,

Part of my job this year is to make sure that entertainment at DIT continues to grow in size and quality. The feedback from you guys suggests that this was the case with Freshers Week. We tried to offer as diverse a range of entertainments as possible, from contortionists to live bands.

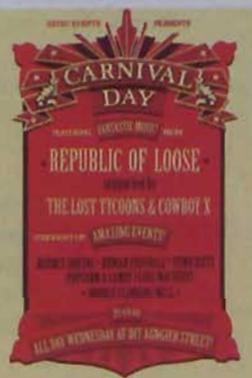
crowds had really begun to gather.

Republic of Loose didn't disappoint and played a gig full of the energy and enthusiasm that people have come to expect from them. Complaints from nearby residents brought the courtyard festivities to a close a little earlier than had been anticipated but Republic of Loose ensured they finished up with a bang and sent the crowd into frenzy.



Comedy Night on Monday was an absolute sell-out, with 98FM's Dermot Whelan stealing the show and leaving the crowd in stitches. Andrew Stanley and Damian Clark kept the laughs coming with their "I Dare You" sketch, but it was Whelan who emerged as the pick of the crop.

Tickets for the Freshers Ball were the most sought after tickets of the week. The event sold out completely and 1700 students flooded through Spirit's front doors. DJ Society's presence could be seen and heard on every level and the boys rose to the challenge, pumping out tunes till the early hours.



Lá na Gaeilge saw a host of activities celebrating the Irish language. All the day's festivities were run in association with Ofig na Gaeilge in DIT. The Ceilí provided an opportunity for students to embrace Irish culture with some rather unusual Irish dancing displays from Father Ted's Joe Rooney, while €600 was won during the Treasure Hunt.

Blue Moose took the crowd by storm playing a two-hour gig which one band member described as "the best gig I have ever played". A determined group of revellers gathered in the Big Tree and The Corner Stone on Thursday's Mystery Night, later making their way to Redz on O'Connell Bridge to mark the final fling in Freshers Week 2006.

The Carnival Day was definitely one of the week's highlights with students from all sites descending on Aungier Street for a day of sumo wrestling, foosball and live acts. Cowboy X kicked off the music in the courtyard and were very well received, and by the time The Lost Tycoons took to the stage the

So now it's on to looking forward and planning events that will ensure you guys have a blast this year. The Halloween Ball is just round the corner and with Tradfest and the



Fashion Show hot on its heels you're sure to be spoilt for choice. So when you're not buried in the books take advantage of the offers available to you guys this year. Our Northside venues remain relatively unchanged from last year with The Big Tree and Quinn's offering a home from home to DIT students.

In the city centre Boomerang and Spirit are offering concessions to DIT students on Wednesday (€3) and Thursday (€5) respectively. Southside, the Portobello have opened their doors to us on Wednesday nights and the staff in the Cornerstone are always happy to have DIT students coming in for a bite to eat or a few sociable drinks. D2 are also pleased to offer a reduced rate to DIT students and can accommodate classes.

Thanks to my fellow Sabbaticals, convenors and part time officers (especially Declan in Bolton Street who is always available to lend a hand) and all the DITSU Staff for all their help and support in ensuring the events of the last few weeks ran smoothly.

Slán
Fiona Ní Chomáin
VP Services and Trading



OR IF YOU'D
RATHER NOT
LET EVERYONE
KNOW,
TALK
TO US.

WHATEVER YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, WHETHER YOU THINK IT'S BIG OR SMALL, DON'T BOTTLE IT UP. AT SAMARITANS WE OFFER CONFIDENTIAL, NON-JUDGEMENTAL SUPPORT 24 HOURS A DAY.
JJO@SAMARITANS.ORG 1850 60 90 90 WWW.SAMARITANS.ORG

SAMARITANS

See the world with www.oxygen.ie

Ireland's best student website

Xposed on oxygen.ie

The Good,
The Bad,
The Ugly,
from college nights out!

- * Quirky news stories
- * Features
- * Student news
- * Flight booking
- * Accommodation finder
- * The Spanner Online
- * Student media awards
- * Ireland's wackiest web forum
- * Travel Guide
- * FREE CDs, DVDs, concert tickets, games, books & more

win a round the world
ticket every month



oxygen.ie

COLD COMFORT

FOOD

JEAN REDMOND

SUMMER'S WELL AND TRULY OVER, AND IT'S TIME TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR THE COLD AND FROSTY MONTHS AHEAD. WE'LL ALL BE ARMED WITH OUR GLOVES, HATS AND UMBRELLAS BUT IT'S OUR IMMUNE SYSTEM THAT WILL BE WORKING THE HARDEST TO PROTECT OUR BODIES FROM THE MINUS TEMPERATURES AND RAIN.

So it's only fair that we give our immune system all the help we can. If just a few vitamins or minerals vital to protection aren't available, our body is compromised. If you're ever feeling tired and lacking energy, it could be that your immune system is running low. Here are some simple tips that can help keep winter illnesses at bay.

- Try to pack your meals full of Vitamin C - this mighty vitamin tops the list of immune boosters. Fruit and vegetables are obviously good sources, the best being citrus fruit, strawberries, guava and broccoli.
- Vitamin E is an important antioxidant to keep you healthy, so include whole grains and nuts in your diet.
- Selenium, found in whole grains, tuna, brown rice, sunflower seeds and chicken.
- Zinc increases the number of infection-fighting cells. Sources include chickpeas, baked beans, wholegrains, fortified cereals and oysters.
- Omega-3 fatty acids are found in oily fish like tuna, salmon and mackerel and increase the activity of blood cells that kill bacteria.
- Hot foods such as chillis, hot mustard, peppers, onions and contain mucolytics that help clear sinuses and breathing pathways.



Here's some recipes that can help fight off colds.

SPARKLING FRUIT JUICE

Ingredients:

1 kiwi, peeled and sliced
1 orange, peeled and sectioned
Half a mango, peeled and sliced
Sparkling water

1. Pass the fruit through a juicer.
2. Pour it into a glass and fill to the top with sparkling water.
3. Serve with ice.

SAUTEÉD BROCCOLI

(as part of dinner)

Ingredients:

2lb broccoli
1 small onion
2 cloves of garlic
Quarter cup of olive oil

1. Wash and finely chop the broccoli (do not leave any large stems).
 2. Chop the onion and garlic.
 3. Sauté (fry) the onion and garlic in a frying-pan until softened. Add the broccoli, sauté for 2-3 minutes, cover and steam for 4-5 minutes
- Here's some recipes that can help fight off colds.

FRUIT AND YOGHURT SALAD

Ingredients:

1 mango, peeled and sliced (or papaya)
1 banana, sliced
1/2 tsp honey
150ml low-fat natural yoghurt
2 tbsp fruit juice (e.g. orange juice, or squeezed lemon juice)
1 tbsp chopped fresh mint (optional)
1 tbsp toasted sesame seeds
1 tbsp toasted pine nuts

1. Put the pine nuts and sesame seeds in a dry pan, stir often until they begin to colour.
2. Put the banana in a bowl and toss with a little lemon juice, mix in the mango.
3. Dressing is made by mixing the natural yoghurt, honey, fruit juice and mint. Pour over the salad, and sprinkle with the toasted sesame seeds and pine nuts.

VEGETABLE RATATOUILLE

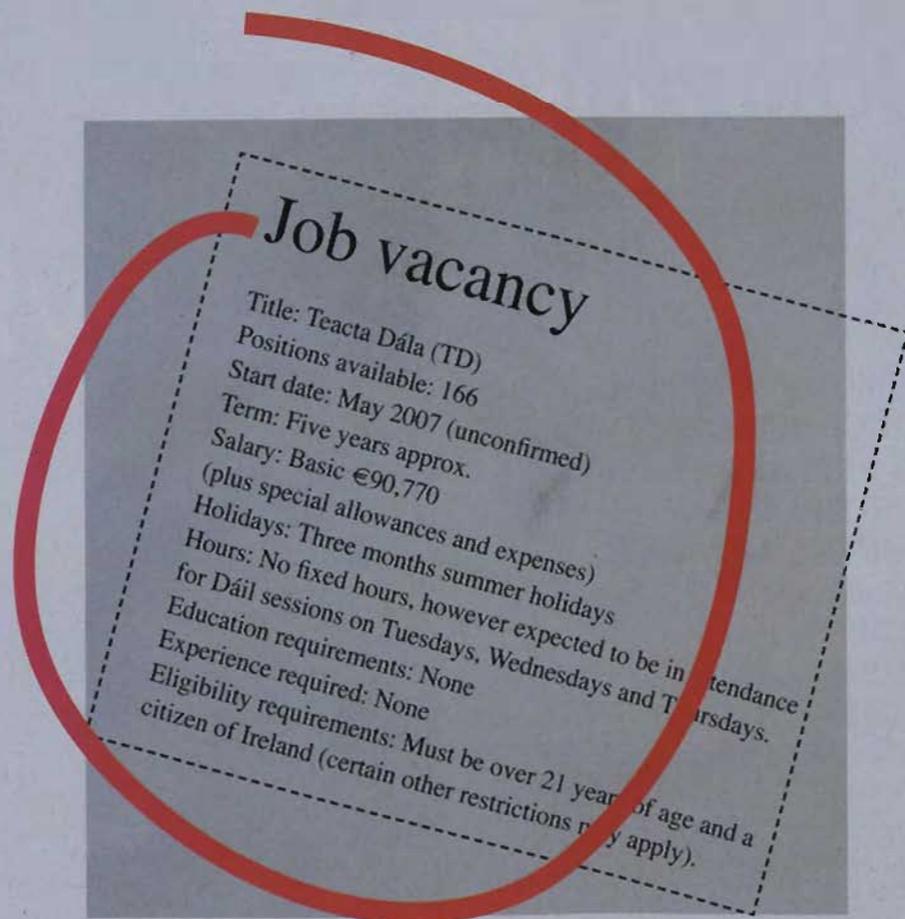
Ingredients:

1/3 cup olive oil
1 yellow pepper, 1 red pepper, cored, deseed and chopped
4 scallions, chopped
2 cups cherry tomatoes
1 large garlic clove
1 courgette, sliced
1 tsp fresh thyme
1 tbsp balsamic vinegar, salt and pepper

1. Heat 2 tbsp of oil in a pan over high heat. Sauté the peppers and scallions until lightly browned.
2. Add the rest of the oil, reduce the heat and cook for 2 mins.
3. Stir in the courgette and cook for 5 mins, make sure all the veg is tender.
4. Add the garlic, thyme and tomatoes and cook for one min. Remove from heat, season to taste with salt, pepper and balsamic vinegar.

DUMMIES GUIDE TO BECOMING A TD

FEATURING
MAURA FAY



CONSIDERING A CAREER CHANGE? EVER WATCHED THE WEST WING AND THOUGHT "I COULD DO THAT"? WHY NOT THINK ABOUT BECOMING A POLITICIAN? IN REALITY ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CONVINCING SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR YOU. WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH EVERYTHING ELSE. BUT TO BE IN CONTENTION FOR NEXT YEAR'S GENERAL ELECTION, DUE SOMETIME IN THE LATE SPRING, YOU'D BETTER START PREPARING IN EARNEST NOW.

"Where do I apply?" is probably your first question. Most major political parties have already chosen their candidates, so you'll most likely have to strike out on your own as an independent. Don't let that put you off though. In the last election independents did surprisingly well, pulling in 11 of the vote and winning 14 seats, with a total of 138 non-party candidates running.

The Irish electoral system is strongly advantageous to independent candidates. The focus is brought on to individuals; the provision of local needs and because of multi-seat constituencies, the number of votes actually needed to be elected is lowered.

NOMINATION

Surprisingly, no fee is required and you can nominate yourself. All you have to do is complete a 'nomination paper', get a petition of 30 signatures from people on the electoral register in the constituency and submit it to the returning officer. The signatures have to be certified by county officials, which can be quite burdensome as you'll have to get all those people to go into the county office with photo identification. Also, you'll have only seven days or so to get your nomination in following publication of notice of the election.

CAMPAIGNING

This is a lot of work so get your family and friends behind you. Think publicity, publicity, publicity. Consider your election strategy. How are you going to persuade people to vote for you? What platform are you going to run on? Your manifesto (a statement outlining your policies) should comfortably fit printed double-sided on an A4 page, making it nice and digestible for the electorate.

Complain that your constituency hasn't received its fair share of government spending, infrastructure needs to be improved and that you're the only candidate capable of doing so because you don't have to toe a party line. You might decide to be a single issue candidate. Finian McGrath (of 'Celebrity You're A Star' fame), Paudge Connolly, Dr Jerry Cowley and Dr Liam Twomey were all independent TDs who were elected on health reform platforms in the last election.

Think of what irks the electorate in your constituency. Maybe there are plans for an incinerator to be built or perhaps it's impossible to get planning permission for one-off houses. Then outline what you're going to do about it. Easy-peasy, lemon-squeezy.

Posters have also a big part to play in raising your profile. The standard is a head shot with 'Vote No.1' underneath. Make sure to get them out early so you bag the best telegraph poles.

Next you'll have to get your hands on your intended constituency's electoral register. This is a list of the names of the people in your constituency who are eligible to vote. As a candidate for the Dáil, you'll be entitled to send one letter free of charge to each person on the electoral register.

Canvass them on their doorstep, shake their hand, and kiss their babies. Get your family and friends to drop leaflets. A good handshake is very important; avoid the limp-wrist, 'dead fish' handshake. Give a firm, positive, dry handshake. Charles Haughey's trademark handshake consisted of an affirmative right-handed handshake with his left hand on the person's right shoulder. This is one area where copying CJ might not be a bad idea.

MEDIA

This is where your personality has to shine. Brush up on your oratorical skills. Make sure to hit up your local newspaper and local radio stations. Make sure you know exactly who to send copies of all your press releases and smiley photographs to so that you'll have the maximum possibility of getting them published.

Be prepared to go head to head with your local radio's equivalent of Joe Duffy on any issue. Think carefully about which questions you answer. "Local politicians break down our door to get airtime and understandably so," says Michael Reade, host of LFM's Loose Talk, "given the huge audiences enjoyed by local stations and the subsequent boost to an individual's profile."

He points to the way members of the cabinet appear frequently in local media. "When a topic relating to their portfolio is being discussed by a station, outside of their constituency it is commonplace that a backbench TD of the same party is left to bat for them." But it's not always the case that appearing on radio increases your chance of success. 'I remember a candidate refusing to speak to me during an election campaign' says Reade, and despite his opponents having this 'advantage' over him, he was elected as a TD."

Be aware that during the boring grind of the campaign trail, journalists love gaffes, scandal and sleaze even more than they normally do. For example, Fianna Fáil TD Dr Jim McDaid caused uproar during his 2002 Dáil campaign for calling anyone who committed suicide "a selfish bastard." He still got elected. Maybe there is no such thing as bad publicity.

MONEY

You can spend whatever you want on your campaign up until the day the Dáil is dissolved. After that, the amount you can spend until polling day is limited by the Electoral Act of 1997.

Depending on the number of seats in your constituency, the maximum you can spend on election expenses (i.e. advertising, publicity, posters, stationary, transport) between these two days, both days inclusive, is between €25,394.76 and €38,092.14.

If you receive a donation greater than €126.97, you must open an account to deal solely with donations. Any donation in excess of €634.87 must be disclosed and no individual donation to your campaign can exceed €2,539.48.

If you manage to poll more than a quarter of the quota (number of votes needed to be deemed elected) you're entitled to a reimbursement of up to €6,348.69.

ONCE YOU GET THE JOB

According to the government's information website www.oasis.gov.ie, a TD's typical working day includes "researching and preparing speeches for debates on social, economic, financial and budgetary issues... TDs may also draft amendments to and examine proposals for new legislation. TDs contribute to debates about new legislation and other important matters, they vote on issues in the House, and attend Question Time, amongst many other duties.

Along with that there's the work within your constituency, with the government site saying that TDs are "often members of local authorities, and VECs. They hold regular advice clinics throughout their constituencies so that voters can meet them personally. Often they provide assistance to constituents with a family/personal problem relating to a government department, local authority or Health Service Executive (HSE) Area." Sounds like you're kept busy. Some politicians however manage to maintain a second income. The previously mentioned Dr Jim McDaid, who has a woeful Dáil attendance record, manages to run a very busy medical practice.

Political reporter Katie Hannon writes in her book 'The Naked Politician' that it's only a tough job for those that want it that way. "Truth of the matter is that Dáil life can be remarkably un-demanding for an under-ambitious backbencher. If one takes away the mountain of constituency work- much of which is self-generated- there can be few jobs with such generous pay and conditions where the workload is so light."

It's worth noting what the former Conservative leader, Enoch Powell, once said: "All political careers end in failure." He should have added "and a generous pension."

MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICE

We had the opportunity to meet with many of you during Induction Week but would also like to share some information about the DIT Student Counselling Service with you now that you are well settled into college life.

How does counselling help?

Counselling offers an opportunity to talk to someone in a confidential and private setting about things that may be causing you some distress or discomfort. By talking through a difficulty, no matter how big or how small, it can help you to gain another perspective on the problem and give you an opportunity to make a decision about that concern. You may find that it is helpful to talk things through first with a friend, family member, tutor or supervisor. Often problems can be resolved by talking to someone like this. But if you don't feel that these people could help you, you are welcome to try the Student Counselling Service for confidential help and advice.

Counselling can help you to help yourself, and enable you to identify resources that may help to resolve your concerns successfully. There are times when it may be appropriate to seek help separately from your usual supports and the Student Counselling Service was set up to meet just such a need. The Service has a team of professionally trained and widely experienced female and male psychologists, who are accustomed to helping people from many different backgrounds and cultures and with a wide range of personal issues.

What can I talk to a counsellor about?

The DIT Student Counselling Team can provide a safe space for you to explore any areas of your life that concern you, e.g. study issues, family concerns, settling into college or living away from home for the first time. Many personal issues that students bring to the counselling service to discuss are: eating disorders or food issues, sexual identity, making friends, feeling low or anxious, feeling lonely or missing family or old friends.

How do I make an appointment?

There are counsellors based in all of the main campus sites, both Northside and Southside. You can make an appointment with a counsellor in any of these sites or contact the service secretary at 01 402 3352, by text at 086 0820 543 or by visiting the web site at www.dit.ie/DIT/counselling/index

Aungier Street	Bolton Street	Mountjoy Square
John Broderick	Aileen Henderick	Jennifer Hughes
Wed (am) Monday/ Tuesday	& Nita Whelan Mon-Friday	Mon-Friday 4024120
(01) 4023155	(01) 4023680	Pembroke Street
Yannis Lykos	Cathal Brughia Street	Susan Lindsay
Mon-Friday	Catherine Bolger	Head of Service
(01) 4023052	Wed (am)	Mon-Thursday
Geraldine Lee	Thursdays/Fridays	4023443
O'Sullivan		Irene Gallagher
Thursday/Friday		Secretary to Service
Wed (am)		Mon-Friday
(01) 4023002		4023352

Evening Counsellors

Noelia Molina
086 8119359
Joan O'Donnell
(01) 402 3155

FOR LILI FORBERG, IT ALL STARTED WITH BRINGING HER MOTHER'S CAMERA TO GIGS WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG. SHE STILL REMEMBERS THE EXCITEMENT OF TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE CONCERTS, AND DEVELOPING THEM AFTERWARDS. I ASK WERE HER PHOTOS ALWAYS GOOD. 'I CAN'T SAY!' SHE SAYS, THEN HAS A THINK. 'YEAH, MAYBE.' ONE LOOK AT THE IMAGES ON THESE PAGES SUGGESTS THEY PROBABLY WERE.

Born in Israel, she lived there until she was ten, before moving to Germany. It was there that photography became a serious hobby, and getting top grades when she studied it at school didn't hurt Forberg's ambitions. She came to Ireland after completing secondary school, but despite all this travelling, it was capturing people that fascinated her. "I was never really into travel photography, I always wanted to photograph people and fashion," she says.

Lili graduated from DIT in 2005 with a BA in Photography. Since then she's been named 'One to Watch' by the Sunday Independent, and has had her work published in Hot Press, The Sun and Prudence. And although she's fast becoming one of Ireland's leading fashion photographers, she admits it's not an easy life. "The hardest part of the job is the discipline, you're your own boss, you have to get up in the morning and do your work. You have to email people yourself to get the work and get the clients."

More than that, "you have to chase the money yourself, and chasing money is hard." It can't be as hard as working with models and bands though. Moody, distant, hard to work with, and then there's the models too. But Lili genuinely hasn't a bad word to say about them.

"The girls I've had are really really decent, really nice girls. I've nothing bad to say about them... It's more easy-going with bands. With the models you're creating a character, but with a band you're trying to capture what they're really like. It's more chilled out."



Lili always knew that fashion and band photography was what she wanted to do, but without a portfolio she wasn't able to study for a degree in it. While she went about building that portfolio, Forberg also managed to complete a degree in Biblical Hebrew and French.

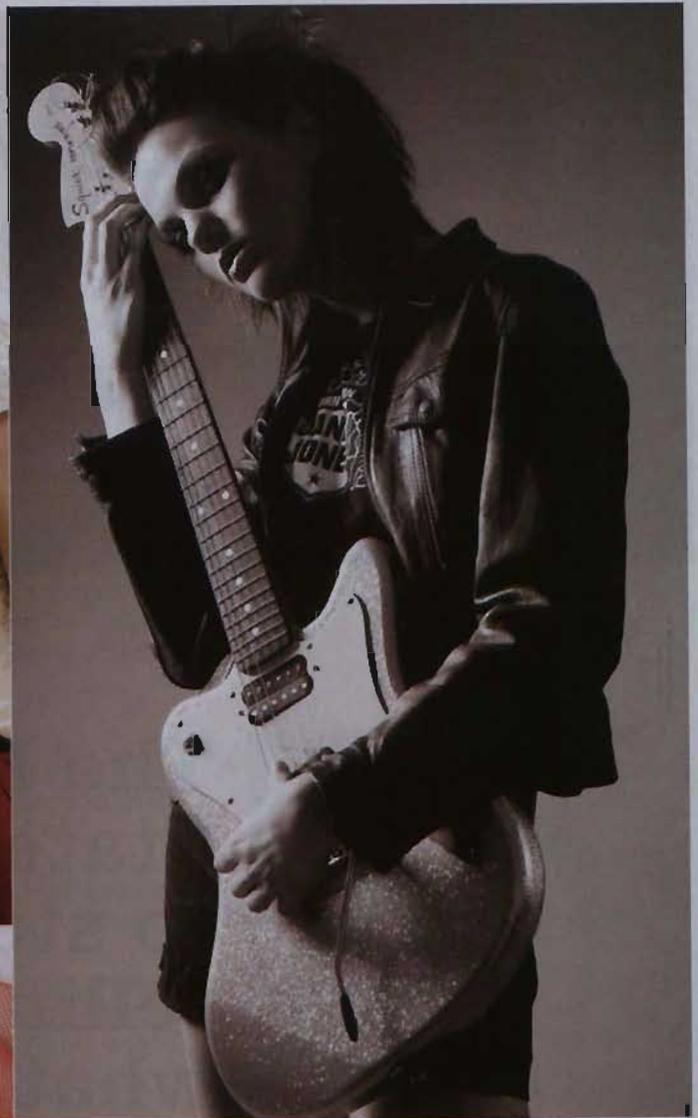
One of the reasons she chose DIT was the focus on digital photography. The past few years have seen a massive increase in the use of digital cameras, and a massive decrease in their price. There's a sense that it's now possible for Joe Soaps to craft photos that look as good as the professionals, but Lili doesn't think so.

"There will always be a difference between professional and amateur photography. You can see the difference... it's how you take the photo, rather than what equipment you use."

Digital photography and photo manipulation has caused controversy in recent years, with everyone from GQ to Time guilty of altering photos. "Every shot you see in a magazine is digitally altered," argues Lili, "every single shot. And I think at this stage people don't really think images in magazines are exactly what you see on camera." She adds that half of the job of being a photographer nowadays is knowing how best to edit a photo once it's taken.

Lili counts fashion photographers David LaChapelle and Helmut Newton as heroes, and struggles to think of any inspirations outside the worlds of fashion and photography. It really is her life, and it's no surprise who Lili would most like to work with.

"Obviously Kate Moss, she's everyone's



Main Image:

Lili's final year work recently exhibited at BT2 as part of ArtDublin.

Clockwise from Top Left:

'You're So Naive,' fashion shoot

'Rawk,' Fashion shoot

Cover for feature in iBeauty Magazine

Right:

Lili Forberg



www.misslili.net



dream to work with. I don't know if she'd be fun to work with." Pushed for what it is about Moss that's so special, all Lili can manage is that the model "just has something cool about her."

Asked if she has any advice for aspiring photographers, Lili pulls no punches. "Work their asses off...you can't wait for the work to come to you, you have to go get it." she says. "You need to put in the hard work, but once you establish yourself, it can be very good money."

I finish by asking what the plan for the next five years is. "I don't really have a plan, just to keep working hard." By the looks of it, that should be more than enough.



We need the War on Terror for the money

STUDENT INSIGHT
KEVIN BYRNE

LAST JULY, FIVE ANTI-WAR PROTESTERS WERE FOUND NOT GUILTY OF CAUSING €10 MILLION WORTH OF DAMAGE TO A UNITED STATES NAVY PLANE AT SHANNON AIRPORT IN 2003. IT'S CERTAIN THAT SINCE THAT 2005 VERDICT, THE US MILITARY HAS BEEN LOOKING AT USING ALTERNATIVE AIRPORTS IN THE UK AND GERMANY.



The Nanny State has to stop telling us what to do

STUDENT INSIGHT
YUVRAJ PARIHAR

TV PRESENTER RICHARD HAMMOND'S RECENT ACCIDENT HAS SEEN THE INDEFINITE DELAY OF THE NEW SERIES OF TOP GEAR, WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE IN BRITAIN LAUNCHING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CRASH. ANYBODY WHO WATCHES TOP GEAR KNOWS THE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN THE HSE AND THE CREATORS OF THE SHOW.



How clean are your hands?

STUDENT INSIGHT
MAURA FAY

ON A RECENT LATE LATE SHOW, INVENTOR JAMES DYSON SHOWCASED HIS LATEST 'BREAKTHROUGH'. IT'S CALLED THE AIRBLADE, AND IT'S A HAND-DRYER THAT, RATHER UNSURPRISINGLY, DRIES YOUR HANDS. THE SURPRISING THING IS THAT MOST NORMAL HAND-DRYERS DON'T EVEN COME CLOSE.

Last year, 330,000 US troops travelled through Shannon. The use of the country's second-busiest airport by foreign armies is nothing new, with both US and Soviet Armies using it during the Cold War. And the fact is that Shannon Airport, and Ireland, need the profits generated by these military flights.

The US military has a long history with Shannon Airport, having used it for more than fifty years now. Commercial flights carrying US troops are a lucrative part of Shannon's business. Last year those soldiers using the airport were estimated to be worth up to €37 million to it, business that the airport cannot afford to lose, given that in 2004 it reported a loss of €2.5m. Moreover, the entire surrounding area depends on the airport in terms of infrastructure and employment, and

The organisation has been trying for years to get Top Gear off our screens because they say it promotes an 'unhealthy attitude' to safety.

And this is just the latest in a long line of investigations, utterly stupid laws and ridiculous statements which can all be traced back to the nanny state culture that grips the modern world. It's spearheaded by a growing number of protectors of society (self-appointed of course) and saviours of baby seals and kittens everywhere.

These are the people who tell us that long-haul flights will give us thrombosis, and that all non-vegetarians are evil people who'll ensure the extinction of every indigenous species of animal life on the planet. Some of them have even tried to ban competitive sport from schools on the grounds that it

Think about it. If you flush a toilet without putting the seat down, you're sending microbes of you-know-what into the air. This same air is then blown on your hands to dry them. In one hand-dryer examined by Dyson's team, 40 different traces of faeces were found.

So normal hand-dryers don't even dry your hands properly, and especially not if you're in a rush. Who has the patience to wait there for 45 seconds? The excess water left when we don't dry them fully encourages the remaining bacteria on our hands to rapidly multiply.

Dyson claims that his invention dries hands completely in 10 seconds by blowing a wafer-thin sheet of air onto them at 400mph, in a kind of windscreen wiper effect. One small invention for man, one giant leap for hygiene.

it would be the people there that would feel the effects most if changes were made.

Many people remain annoyed at continued delays at large airports because of increased security checks. But the presence of US customs at the airport could make Shannon an attractive location for those who wish to travel to the States quickly. Without US customs at Shannon, the airport would lose a major asset and become worthless to most people travelling to and from the US and Europe, since they'd still have to go through the same checks that they would in an airport closer to home.

Without the US military's presence in Shannon, there would be no such customs checks. So, not only would Shannon lose its biggest customer if the US military goes elsewhere,

promotes, wait for it, competition. They want an end to all death and suffering. And by suffering I mean even the tiniest bit of bruising.

The Nanny State wants us to believe there is no such thing as an accident, that someone or something is somehow to blame. Pointing fingers seems to have become a national obsession and nothing less than being utterly horrified would be an apt reaction to most news stories.

It's the same claptrap I got when I went para-jumping a few years back, and had to read a disclaimer the size of the Alps. Yes, I understand that I may be killed, or worse yet, turned into a drooling vegetable, but you know what? I choose to take the risk, just as you may choose not to. We don't need Big Brother telling us how to live our lives every

By using room-temperature air instead of hot air, the drier will use 83% less energy, much more environmentally-friendly than its rivals. Al Gore would be proud.

Most hand-driers in DIT Aungier St. emit little more than a warm splutter, so is it just a waste of our time trying to adhere to some sort of toilet etiquette? I hope not. I don't want to develop a phobia about bathroom bacteria, but I'm not far off. I avoid touching the handle of the door going out of the bathroom on the basis that someone who didn't wash their hands might have touched it.

I'm a big fan of Channel 4's Queens of Clean, Kim and Aggie. Their show How Clean is Your House? is like cleaning porn. The satisfaction of seeing a kip of a house being tidied until it's spick and span is exhilarating.

but transatlantic traffic to and from the airport would be severely damaged. Pardon the pun, but the airport's future would be turbulent.

That's why we have to look past our political beliefs when we consider the question of the use of the airport by troops headed to Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. We're not a neutral country and even if we were, our neutrality expired when innocent Irish people were brutally murdered in New York, London and Kusidasi by barbaric Islamic extremists. Allowing the forces of freedom to use Shannon is the least we can do in the global fight against terror.

step of the way. Why must governments make laws that have little or no bearing on anything of any real value?

Don't get me wrong, tackling negligence is one thing and I'm all for laws that deal with that. But we've now gone way beyond that. Some people say that everyone on earth will die from global warming or from the slightest imbalance in the eco-system. Quite frankly I'm a lot more worried about the people who've made it their sworn duty to keep us alive.

John Wesley said that "cleanliness is next to Godliness" and he had the right idea. So here's some toilet etiquette courtesy of worldtoilet.org.

Don't flick water on the floor after washing your hands, dry them instead with the hand dryer or hand towel available. Flush the toilet thoroughly after use, with the lid down. Public toilets should be supervised permanently or checked at very regular intervals to maintain the highest level of hygiene and cleanliness. For guys using the toilets, do aim properly at the urinal so as not to dirty the floor.

Hopefully Dyson's next invention is a sort of hybrid bidet toilet that releases a copious amount of Domestos with every flush. Then maybe we won't have to worry even when using the dodgiest of DIT's toilets.



FASHION
LOU CONLON

Model behaviour at DIT fashion show casting call

Aungier Street was a sea of white t-shirts, blue jeans and high heels on October 10, as 200 hopefuls auditioned to be models for the DIT Fashion Show. November 28 sees the return of the DIT Fashion Show, the biggest student show in the country, which will leave a blazing trail of fashion anarchy in its wake. The theme this year is 'Through the Looking Glass' – think Alice in Wonderland meets Nightmare Before Christmas, an expression of wild fantasies and crazy thoughts.

A bevy of DIT beauties will be taking to the catwalk in aid of a Village For Hope, a very deserving cause (www.outreachmoldova.com.) The long legged lovelies were put through their paces on October 10 by a panel of aspiring Janice Dickinsons in order to select the models for the show.

The groups of ten were divided into two groups of five, each of whom had to strut their stuff down a 32-foot runway, at the end of which was the discerning and somewhat intimidating panel.

Registration was set up in the Aungier St lobby, which involved a Polaroid camera and a measuring tape – use your imagination! Hopefuls waited nervously in Java City as they were taken down in groups of ten

to meet the panel. Carpe Diem and Kombucha refreshments were on hand to keep everyone energized.

Emotions ran high, as not only was a place in the show at stake but also the chance to star in the a|wear Spring Summer Show 2007, with the a|wear shows each season renowned for their ingenious sets and style. This year is the first of a three-year collaboration between DIT and a|wear, Irelands leading high street women's fashion retailer.

This year's committee have been in negotiations with the a|wear directors since the show last November. After seeing last year's show, a|wear were bowled over by the talent and enthusiasm found in DIT, and decided they wanted in a piece of the pie.

The 200 potential stars that turned up were all dressed in a uniform of white t-shirt and blue jeans, with sky scraping heels for the ladies. DJ Soc supplied the electric sounds for the evening, who can all be found on a Thursday evening holding court in Dublin's best student night, Shindig.

The final 40 were chosen, with the talent on the casting runway overwhelmingly impressive. The

one thing the judges were after was not a height, a weight, or a hair colour, but an attitude.

Former DIT Fashion Show models were on hand to lend much needed advice, and also to divulge little gems of gossip from previous shows. The evening ended in the Portobello Pub, where the first of many infamous DIT Fashion Show nights out began.

The show is all about the attitude. It will be frivolous and will offer no apologies. It also demands an active audience with the show packing Vicar Street to capacity every year. The musical soundtrack will be provided yet again by musical maestro Mo Kelly, with top Irish model and ex-DITSU President Sarah McGovern whipping the models into shape before the show.

The show will offer an eclectic and tantalising mix of high street sexy, fantastic student designs, and amazing Irish fashion. The Student Designer award this year has been taken to an exciting new level, with a|wear offering the winner €2000, and a three month placement in their buying office.

The entire show is run, from beginning to end, by the DIT students. There are many differ-

ent areas you can get involved in, from styling and dressing to PR and production.

For the month of November, the campuses will be taken over by random Alice in Wonderland type events which will, as always, feature a twist. The talented guys and girls in the MA in Public Relations course will be bringing the theme to you, with three weeks of on-site events to keep you entertained.

Previously the end result has been a fabulous coming together of industry experience, and DIT talent, and this year's show will be a style explosion like no other. Be ready to indulge in your own form of escapism!

If you would like to be a part of the biggest student fashion show in the country, email DITFASHIONSHOW2006@hotmail.com with all your details, or text Lou on 085 7 353 353.

Also, check out the bebo page for regular gossip updates: DITFASHIONSHOW2006.bebo.com.

Lou Conlon is the Chair of the Fashion Society

A Good Rant for a Bad Year.



It's the beginning of another year for us all in DIT; well it was when I started typing this bloody thing up. I hope you are all looking at it with the same optimism as I am. 'Optimism?' says you. Yes, optimism. There are lots of positive things about studying at DIT.

Firstly we have the added advantage of each campus hating each other. As well as that there's an abundance of rival colleges to hurl abuse at throughout the locality, Trinity being one for sure. So what if the radiators in Bolton St. don't work? At least we don't have names like Tarquin or Fiacra.

And yeah, the food in Kevin St. does taste like decomposing carpet, and I can't think of anything good to say about the place, but it has to have something going for it. Doesn't it? Let us know if you can figure it out, though even Stephen Hawking might have trouble with that one.

Firstly we have the added advantage of each campus hating each other. As well as that there's an abundance of rival colleges to hurl abuse at throughout the locality, Trinity being one for sure. So what if the radiators in Bolton St. don't work? At least we don't have names like Tarquin or Fiacra.

And yeah, the food in Kevin St. does taste like decomposing carpet, and I can't think of anything good to say about the place, but it has to have something going for it. Doesn't it? Let us know if you can figure it out, though even Stephen Hawking might have trouble with that one.

Finding your way around Cathal Brugha St. may be more difficult than the Crystal Maze, but where is there a better place to find a housewife? Aungier St. is like a massive catwalk, and Mountjoy Square, well what can we say about it, it's modest. And Rathmines, hmm...that's a tough one. I'm not even convincing myself to be cheerful at this stage, but I have my trump card to produce yet. Finding your way around Cathal Brugha St. may be more difficult than the Crystal Maze, but where is there a better place to find a housewife? Aungier St. is like a massive catwalk, and Mountjoy Square, well what can we say about it, it's modest. And Rathmines, hmm...that's a tough one. I'm not even convincing myself to be cheerful at this stage, but I have my trump card to produce yet.

Grangegorman. You may be wondering where you've heard that name before. Remember your mad Aunt Peggy who went to St Brendan's Hospital? Well that's in Grangegorman. Seen by many as the solution to DIT's problems, plans are afoot to move all of our buildings to this one massive site on Dublin's infamous Northside.

But the best part of it is this: your auld aunt Peggy won't be disturbed (she's obviously disturbed, but you know what I mean). Our super campus is going to be shared with the HSE, but don't let that worry you, we have coped for years while our sites were surrounded by junkies and stabby Joes, at least you know where you are with a fruitcake.

They say that with Grangegorman will come the end of all our troubles, with the women from Aungier St. and Cathal Brugha St will relieve the sexual frustration that has built up in Bolton St.

However it will probably put an end to our lunchtime entertainments. The idea of waxing a crazy hoor from Cavan in front of the students from the Southside campuses doesn't seem too good. I can see their faces now, "roysh that's it, I can't bear this any longer, its unseemly." Leitrim will probably have won The Sam Maguire before we move to Grangegorman, so for this year what have we got to look forward too?

Halloween is coming up, which means thousands of us in fancy dress crammed into some place with no fire escape, wouldn't that be some job for the Gardai to identify us? Then we have Christmas; thousands of us mouldy drunk crammed into some place with no fire escape. The end of the exams will have many of us out on the town either celebrating or commiserating.

We've got RAG Week, where there will be thousands of us partying all in the name of charity. SHAG Week kind of speaks for itself, and then Farmer's Day, and God knows what else, leading up to exams, where once again we will be out on the town. So, you see, I did manage to end this quite positively.

We may have 40 buildings scattered throughout Dublin, but its better than 40 buildings scattered throughout Limerick. Dublin City is our campus; we got nightclubs, pubs, rivers and canals, not to mention the zoo, all in our campus. So smile and be glad you're not in Tallaght IT. "Closer to the real world" is our college slogan and the real world is shite, so at least we are not being set up for a disappointment.

ditwo
Bar | Lounge | Club
NIGHT CLUB OPEN WED-SUN TILL LATE
All weather **Beer Garden**
7 Bars over 2 Levels
Top DJ's & the **Biggest Drink Promotions**
All Functions Catered for..
Concession for anyone with dit id!
Dtwo Bar & Club, 60 harcourt st, dublin 2 T: 01 4764603 E: info@dtwonightclub.com
W: www.dtwonightclub.com Contact John Connolly for further details.
Over 21's i.d. required. R.D.A.R.

IN-DEPTH: DAVID KITT

WHEN YOU CONSIDER IRELAND'S MUSIC SCENE TODAY, IT CAN SEEM THAT HOME-GROWN TALENT IS POPPING UP EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, AS IF THE LAND WAS FED WITH MUSICAL MIRACLE-GRO. DAVID KITT IS A DIFFERENT PROPOSITION ALTOGETHER. ONE OF THE ORIGINALS FROM THIS DECADE'S GARDEN OF MUSIC, HE'S BACK IN SEASON AGAIN.

INTERVIEW

BY SARAH DOYLE

New album *Not Fade Away* is his fifth LP, and features plenty of collaborations with artists such as Lisa Hannigan (otherwise known as the female voice of Damien Rice's *O*) and Michelle Stoddart of UK band *The Magic Numbers*. Kitt says these collaborations all came about informally, due to friendships he formed with other musicians. "Lisa Hannigan's probably far more known than I am," he says, "but she's also just a girl I hang with who can sing, so it was cool." That statement sums up the laid-back, approachable personality that makes David Kitt the type of artist that you actually want to succeed.

On release in Ireland since August, *Not Fade Away* isn't set for release in the UK and internationally until October 30th. Was there a reason for this? "Yeah, I kind of wanted to get it out here first, let people discover it themselves," says Kitt. "Plus it means it was out there before students were back in college and before the UK release, so they could kind of just find it. I felt we'd done a lot of the work already over here."

The album's been receiving positive reviews, and is his first release since 2004's covers album *The Black and Red Notebook*. Reviewers have noted a more commercial feel to this record, and there's bound to be an impression that Kitt was under pressure to steer it that



way. "No, quite the opposite," he insists. "This album had a lot less pressure on it than the last two. I mean, I never really think about things that way when I'm making a record, so the only real pressure was from myself, just to make it as good as I could."

Square One was all about going to bed, but Not Fade Away is much more get up and go. The two are vastly different, yet there's still a distinctive sound, from the dark steadiness of 'One Clear Way' to the slow, relaxing closer 'With You'. Maybe Kitt is trying to shake things up and reach a wider audience? Or maybe he's getting back to what he knew before?

"Yeah, in a lot of ways, this album is a lot more like what I did before," he says, "like the five or six albums I made myself before [debut album] Small Moments was even released." He says there was no conscious effort to construct a different sound this time around. "This was more a labour of love. I don't ever really consider those things; they don't really get into the work as such. It's more of a natural evolution, but I suppose if something's not a bit different after three years then something's wrong."

Kitt's previous offering, The Black and Red Notebook, didn't make much of an impact on the charts, or the critics. And the 30-year-old singer admits to knowing that this album was a crucial one in terms of shaping his career. "I knew it had to be good – that was really important for this album. Don't get me wrong, I don't live in some weird nebulous artistic place, I mean, I do sometimes," he laughs, "but yeah, I was well aware this record was important. You don't get too many chances in this industry."

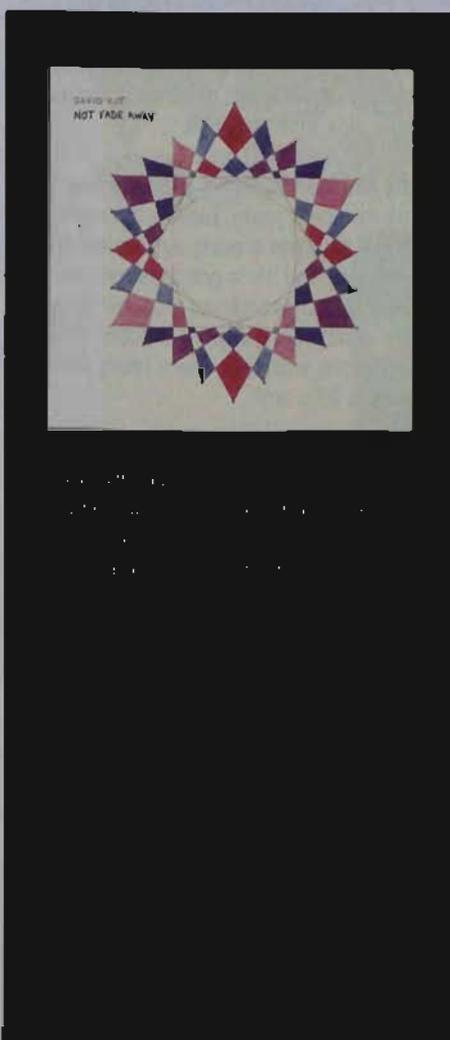
"Plus I think that's the nature of Ireland. People grow up more quickly nowadays so it's hard to make that kind of impact and get that kind of buzz that you get with a debut when you're on your fifth or sixth album. But I think anyone who wasn't really into Square One will see that this album is a lot closer to what I'm like. I'd do two months' work, leave it for a while, then go back and see how I could improve it. That was good because it kept it exciting and interesting to me, which you need when you're working on an album for two years!"

If "exciting and interesting" is what Kitt was hoping for, then it's what he's delivered. Aggressive tracks like 'Say No More' and

'Don't Fuck With Me' are upbeat and in your face, and work effectively alongside slower, silky numbers like 'Wish and I Won't Stop' and 'Guilty Prayers, Pointless Ends'. The latter song has elements of 'Dance With You' from Square One, just serving to prove that this album is Kitt through and through. One track, 'Up To You' shows some traits of U2, but Kitt's voice is all his own.

"I'm pretty happy where I am musically right now", he says of the promising reviews the album is getting. "Now, financially speaking, I could maybe do with a break, a bit more play on the radio, maybe," he laughs. "I'm doing ok, I mean, I'm surviving and I'm still making music full-time, so I'm happy."

He lists 'Nothing Else' as one of his favourite tracks from the album. It's a slow, melodic song that nestles halfway through the album and is probably best described as 'special'. It pretty much sums up Not Fade Away – a mix of sounds that are just that bit special. Kittser is definitely not fading away.



DUBLIN GIG GUIDE:

23/10
The Go! Team
 Olympia Theatre (€28)

23/10
Phoenix
 Spirit (€30)

24/10
Patrick Freyne and His Bad Intentions
 Crawdaddy (€10)

26/10
Lambchop
 Vicar Street (€32)

28/10
Arrested Development
 Tripod (€20)

28/10
The Gorgeous Colours
 Whelan's (€10)

29/10
Final Fantasy
 Whelan's (€17)

29/10
James Brown
 The Olympia (€55)

30/10
We Are Scientists
 Ambassador (€22.50)

1/11
Sufjan Stevens
 Olympia (Sold Out)

1/11
The Fratellis
 The Village (€16)

2/11
Sean Lennon
 The Village (€33)

3/11
The Blizzards
 TBMC (€15)

3/11
Muse
 Point Theatre (€43)

(all details correct at time of going to print)

PAUL DANIELS HAS TURNED ON ME. IT COMES WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT REFORM OF THE BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS OF ALL THINGS. 'THE MEDIA DIDN'T LIKE THAT, BUT THEN THEY'RE NOT VERY INTELLIGENT, ARE YOU?' HE SAYS IT IN AN OMINOUS AND FAINTLY RIDICULOUS WAY BUT FOR A MOMENT I'M WORRIED THAT I'VE RUINED IT. I'VE PISSED OFF THE LEGENDARY MAGICIAN, THE MAN WHOSE TELEVISION SHOWS DOMINATED MY CHILDHOOD. BUT THEN HE LAUGHS, AND I REALISE THAT HE WAS JUST MESSING. SORT OF.

BLACK MAGIC MAN

INTERVIEW

BY NEIL BRENNAN

That's the curious thing about Paul Daniels. He's warm and charming in person, and certainly not afraid to express his opinions. But then he starts to discuss issues like prisons and religion, and you realise that there's more to the man than card tricks, self-deprecating jokes and the lovely, lovely Debbie McGee.

The reason we got on to the subject of politics is Paul's blog. Unlike most entertainers of his age, Daniels has adapted to the internet with gusto. He records podcasts, runs an online store, and updates his blog almost daily.

And as much as he uses it to plug his magic shows and products, the blog is also for telling us how he sees the world. It was here that Paul first wrote about Ian Huntley, who murdered two young girls in Soham and tried to kill himself earlier this year.

'I wrote I would've helped him,' says Paul bluntly. 'I cannot understand if the man wants to die why we should pay half a million a year to keep him alive.' In general, Paul thinks prison is too easy for criminals. 'I really believe that the legal principle that the punishment should equal the crime is totally wrong. I believe that the punishment should be at least twice as bad as the crime, because at the moment it's no deterrent for kids from a rough area to go to prison.'

Born in 1938, Paul says he was raised in a rough area, which is part of the reason he won't buy it as an excuse for misbehaving youths. He's almost seventy now, but still touring regularly, driving himself up and down the country. He was into his thirties

when he got his break, having been a soldier and civil servant before. So Daniels appreciates hard work.

'Someone was asking me just this week where I got the energy from, cause they're laid on the floor after three minutes. I don't know! I mean my mum's ninety and she's still lifting stone statues around the garden. I don't know where it comes from, I guess I just enjoy life. And not drinking those mischievous ales that you drink.'

Daniels has found another lucrative line of work in recent years, playing shows to crowds of students craving a nostalgic shot of sleight-of-hand. He's got conservative views on almost everything else, but is more positive about young people in 2006. 'There's nothing wrong with kids, there really isn't,' he says with a little sigh.

'They're just nice, 'having a laugh' people. Sure the media pick on the bad guys, but they do that with everybody. I just long for some form of media to show just how hard-working most of these kids are.' The media, tabloids in particular, are a real bugbear of Daniels. 'Debbie said it right this week, she said 'I'm so glad I'm not a journalist.' She likes people, so do I. And we don't look at the world through the cynical eyes of a journalist... somehow they seem to be a bit jealous. And that's sad, I'm not jealous about anything.'

At this point the phone rings, and Paul apologises, saying he'll have to take it. I listen in while a booker for Sharon Osbourne's show asks if Paul is available tomorrow. The magician runs it over in his head and remembers that he's not. He really is busy. Then with another apology, he's back on the line. I

remind him of a comment he once made, that he views the world with 'a mixture of wonderment and despair.' I ask exactly what it is that upsets him.

'I despair that the people of the world are still being controlled by religious groups. And I don't think that religion, which I consider to be ancient superstition, should have anything to do with democracy.' And what makes him happy? 'My life, my country, beauty in nature, cruising down the river. The world itself... it's a shame there's people on it to spoil it.' He chuckles at his own joke.

Paul says that one thing he can't get over is how many people tell him they miss his show on Saturday nights. He says live television just isn't the same any more, and it's all the fault of media colleges.

'I think the real problem is that the people who are shooting the shows have no experience of live entertainment, they've only experience of media studies...so although the entertainers are good, the people who are shooting it are not.' He says Ant and Dec are 'fine', but adds 'I feel sorry for them. They're not getting the kind of back-up I got, where everybody in my team was involved in live entertainment.'

Paul's just back from a show at the City Varieties theatre in Leeds, and is full of praise for the stage there. It reminds him of the sort of venues he started out on. 'You flip back in time,' he says of the theatre, 'it's timewarp stuff.'

Bit like talking to Paul then.

To Eat or Not to Eat

How many of you reading this knows somebody who believes that if they were 'thin' everything in their life would be perfect? How many of you think that yourself?

How many times have you overheard the following statements in the lunch queue or on the bus or in a store: 'I need to lose weight', 'I need to fit into those trousers next weekend'? How many of you hold the following beliefs about yourselves: 'I'll never be the popular one being fat' or 'I'll never find a boyfriend looking like this'?

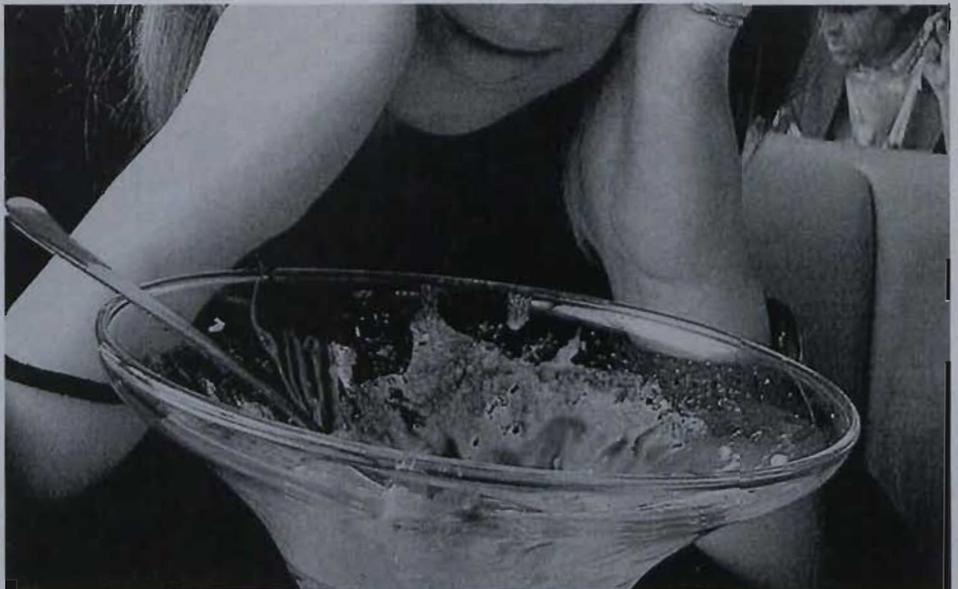
Both men and women struggle with their body image and this battle can become so great that they start to believe that everything would be okay— they would be loved, they would be popular and successful and most importantly, they would be happy - if only they could control their eating!

Issues with food can take many guises. There's the anorexic who tries everything not to eat, starving and exercising to extremes. The bulimic who starves then binges then purges. The over-eater who cannot control their intake of food, and the binge eater, who tries to "be good" but sometimes loses control and binges. For those with eating disorders food is strongly linked to emotions – when we're sad we eat, when we're bored we eat, when we're angry we eat. When we feel fat, we eat to comfort ourselves and so the cycle continues.

One girl's struggle with food issues became so great, she was so unhappy with life and how she looked that she believed it was all because she was 'fat'. How could anyone love her if she was fat. She spent most of her waking hours consumed with thoughts about food and how not to eat it. At times she was successful in her quest, managing to go nearly the whole day without swallowing anything. Other times were harder, ending in bingeing and purging episodes.

How many of you reading this can relate to her – how she thinks, how she tries to control her natural urges to eat and how she believes that if she were thin, then she would be okay? Eating disorders are a very common way of coping for many young women and men in our society. I use the word 'coping' because that is what many of the sufferers of eating disorders are struggling to do. Trying to cope with being grown up, or with their changing bodies, or with changes in their lives or families. When they feel out of control, they battle: to find some power and realise that governing what they put in their bodies allows them feel in control again.

There are many services available to help with food issues and eating disorders. If you



feel that you would like to talk to some one about this issue you can contact any of the following:

DIT Student Counselling Service at
(01) 4023352 0860820543
DIT Medical Service at

(01) 4023051/4023614
BodyWhys at
01 2835126
Marino Therapy Centre at
01 8333126
The Kildare Street Clinic at
01 6629737

IRELAND'S NO.1 STUDENT NIGHT
PLAYGROUND
THURSDAYS @ SPIRIT



Interactive DJ texting
Bebo Meeting Point
Diary Room
Sexy School
Headmistress: Jane
The Class Clowns
& MC Dave Colt



DJ Ray Shah



DJ Party Marty

visit us on
thursdayspirit.bebo.com

Reviews

☆☆☆☆☆ TERRIBLE
 ★☆☆☆☆ POOR
 ★★☆☆☆ AVERAGE

★★★★☆ GOOD
 ★★★★★ EXCELLENT
 ★★★★★ UNMISSABLE



Praying Mantis Rui Da Silva

By: Conor McCaffrey

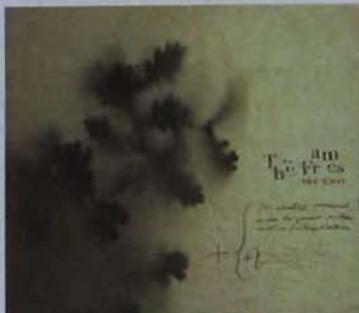
★★★★☆☆

Rui Da Silva was responsible for 'Touch Me', the Balearic-by-numbers single released in 2001 that still gets played in those 'clubs' for people who don't really like music.

Praying Mantis is a U-turn for the Portuguese producer in terms of both sonics and commercial intention. It's a download release, available as a full album only - a contrary gesture to vinyl purists and shuffled-up iFans alike, but it's sure to gain plaudits from the chin-stroking techno fraternity.

While most of the album lurks in the shade - scuttling, humming, brooding - subtle departures like the Orbital chime of 'The Depths of Ketalar' and the acid squelch of 'The Hive Mind' offer respite from the claustrophobia, before the swirling siren of 'The Entity' guides us out of the black hole.

The album is a bold mission statement. Dancefloor fillers are absent but this only heightens the hypnotic nature of the album as a whole, which should be prescribed as an antidote to insipid superstar DJs and Russell Branded indie kids alike.



The Cost The Frames

By: Gareth Maher

★★★★★★

It's about time The Frames released an album worth talking about. Their previous records never seemed to match the energy of their live performances.

But they've overcome that stigma with *The Cost* - an album that crams in everything that the band remain good at. There's the superb musicianship, likeable melodies, and thought-provoking lyrics.

Opening track 'Song For Someone' begins with a softness that is repeated on numerous occasions throughout this album, and revolves around some steady drumming and rising guitar playing.

'People Get Ready', is a song that will have Frames fans howling with delight. When previously played live it was a thumping song, but here it slowly builds up momentum to a thrilling climax that stretches over the five-minute mark before drifting out. A song like this perfectly encapsulates everything that The Frames tried to achieve with this LP. And they pulled it off to make what could be the album of their career.



The Wee Hours Revue Roman Candle

By: Gareth Maher

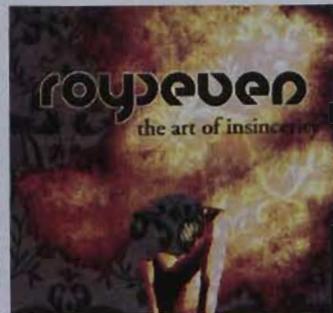
★★★★☆☆

The twelve songs on this album first appeared back in 2002 but contractual complications and other issues ensured that the album never got an official launch. The band re-recorded the songs and the result of all that is this well-crafted album that perfectly blends together elements of alt. country and indie-pop.

Brimming with songs that vary from nostalgic crooners to winding storytellers, this impressive opus owes a lot to lead vocalist and songwriter Skip Matheny.

Not only does he pen lyrics that are as rich in imagery as they are in emotion, but he also possesses a vocal style that is instantly likeable. His vocals are used in such a way that they become pivotal to making each song flow.

In fact, his singing becomes the most recognisable instrument on the album because of his inserts of tone and character, just one of the elements that will have you humming these tunes long after the CD stops spinning.



The Art Of Insincerity Royseven

By: Gareth Maher

★★★★★☆☆

Royseven (formerly known as Jove) have released a fire-cracker of a debut album with *The Art Of Insincerity*. Their blend of indie-rock will draw comparisons with Muse and lead vocalist Paul Walsh will instantly remind of Matt Bellamy when his distinctive pitch croons over a barrage of guitar licks.

The Dublin-based six-piece are far from being a coveys though and have enough tunes on here to convince you of that.

One of the album's best tracks is 'February' - a slower tune that not only mixes up the flavor of the album but gives the listener a song to connect with. The strings on it are a nice touch, while Walsh's vocals call upon a deeper drawl.

The same formula is used on 'I Laughed Alone', where the pace of the tune revolves around some soft percussion and emotionally strung lyrics.

Royseven aren't a household name yet, but with this impressive debut acts as a sure sign of their talent.



HP recommends Windows® XP Professional

CASH IN NOW!



THE COMPUTER IS PERSONAL AGAIN

A TOP QUALITY HP LAPTOP FOR JUST €699.



€699 inc VAT

HP COMPAQ nx6325
Part code RH499ES

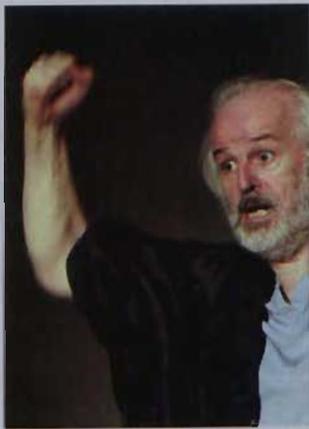
- Mobile AMD Sempron™ processor
- Genuine Microsoft® Home Edition
- 80GB hard drive
- DVD writer



Start the new term with the hottest laptop deal on campus. *You can also get your FREE Microsoft® software if you upgrade your operating system to genuine Windows® XP Professional or if you purchase genuine Microsoft® Office Professional (Student Edition) including Microsoft® OneNote® at point of purchase. Free titles include Microsoft® Moviemaker (with XP Professional), Microsoft® Publisher (with genuine Microsoft® Office Professional), Microsoft® Learning Essentials for Teachers and Students, Microsoft® Producer and Microsoft® Defender and more.

Visit hp.com/ie/studentlaptop
or call 1850 200 659





Empress of India Abbey Theatre

By: Niamh Ingoldsby

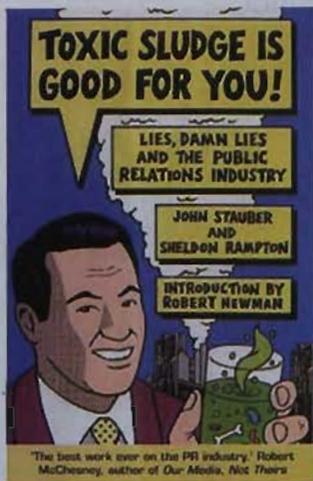


Stuart Carolan has said this play is about people unsuccessfully trying to find faith, but *Empress of India* features so many more themes than that. It focuses around widower Seamus and his family, with the main character portrayed by Sean McGinley.

It seems that the faith that both Seamus and his sons lament is embodied by women that they have lost or are losing. The play is striking in its contrast between old and new, with its look at what faith once meant to Ireland, and what it means now.

At the centre of the stage is a massive suspended mirror titled towards the audience. This doubles up as a video screen to play Seamus's memories of his boys when they were young, but also plays a central role in the gaining of momentum to conclude the first and second half with deafening effect.

Death comes full circle in the script. The end is bloody, violent and beautiful in a play that continues Stuart Carolan's impressive drama career.



Toxic Sludge Is Good For You John Stauber & Sheldon Rampton

By: Lisa Hughes

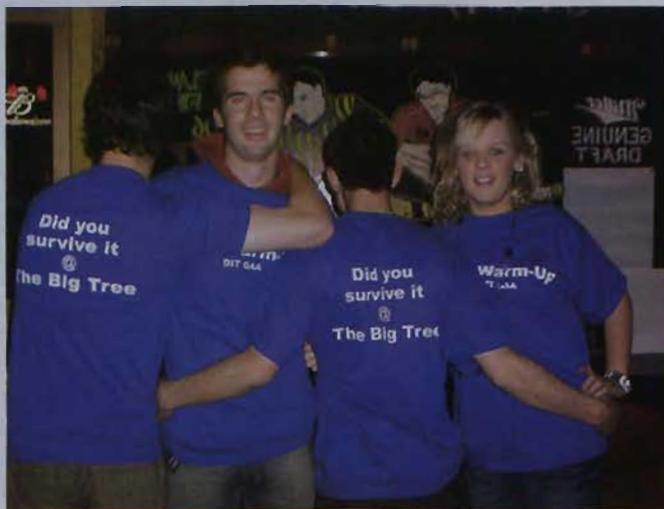


This accessible book deals with how the actions of everyday people impact upon and threaten the establishment, revealing the extent to which the strong arm of PR has influenced and just plain manipulated the public. The best example of this is the chapter devoted to The Body Shop and how the research of one journalist threatened the grounds upon which this multi-million dollar business is built.

Stauber and Rampton's book reveals some essential PR secrets, from the skilful preparation of press releases to extreme legal action. Cases like spying on animal rights activists or the actions of PR godfather Bernays will either shock or simply confirm what you already thought about the industry. This book paints a picture of the dirty, behind-the-scenes end of public relations as it faces many crisis scenes. It's a short and snappy read that still gives the profession a slating.

DIT GAA Club 'warm-up' at the Big Tree

SPORTS
NEWS



The DIT GAA Club started the year off with a strenuous session not on the playing fields, but on the dance-floor of The Big Tree, with the Dublin 1 venue seeing many of the members testing their stamina to the limits.

Fielding teams in Gaelic football, hurling and camogie, the club is one of the biggest in DIT serving over 400 members. The Warm-Up night was organised so that members of the freshers' teams could get to know each other off the playing pitch. It also helped them become familiar with some of the more established senior players whom they will be playing with throughout the year.

The Big Tree kindly sponsored t-shirts for the evening, which were collected by the players as they arrived. Entertainment was provided by The Glitterbugs, scantily clad rockers dressed in the style of Kiss. They really got the crowd going, venturing down off the stage on several occasions to mingle with the players while still performing. The gesture was returned by members of the womens team when they joined the band on stage to assist with their performance. This was followed by a DJ who played until the late hours of the night.

The Warm-Up was a great night out and was enjoyed by all. Watch out for the club's next major night out, the annual trip to the dogs in November. It was a fantastic night last year, and will hopefully be even better this year.

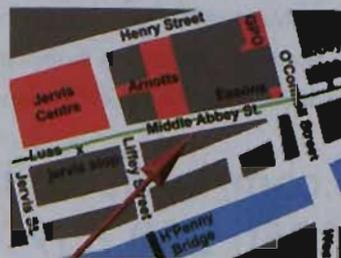


54 Middle Abbey St.
Dublin 1
www.snakebite.ie

Snakebite Tattoo Piercing

01 8740011
086 2656116
12-7 Mon-Sat

Professional Piercing since 1996
Experienced Tattoo Artists
Custom Design Service



10% off

DIT's Archery Club hits the target

Since its formation three years ago, the DIT Archery Club has become one of the most successful clubs within DIT. Winning almost every Intersarsity they've competed in, their record has established them as one of the most promising clubs in the college, with a healthy membership of over 120 students.

The club was formed by Keith Colton and Sinead Cuthbert, two distinguished players in the archery circuit. Keith, currently on a year's grace with the society, acts as the club coach. He has represented the college at Intersarsity level and at international competitions.

Sinead holds the womens college record (553/600), which she scored while competing at UL in 2005. She has represented the college along with Noel Farrell at the Euro Nations and other international competitions.

The Archery Club trains two times a week in Linen Hall, on Monday and Tuesday and are always looking for new members to join up.



PLAYER PROFILE

Name: Niall Doyle

Sport/Club: Archery Club

College: DIT Kevin Street

Course: Electrical Engineering

Year: 2nd Year

Achievements: Irish Young Sportsperon of the Year 2004

Most Memorable Achievement: Winning the above prize.

Influence on career: Continuing support from family and friends, encouragment from other archers throughout the country

Other sporting interests: Karting, Golf Rugby

Favourite Film: Pulp Fiction

Favourite Music: Alternative Rock

Favourite Food/Drink: Don't have a favourite

What would you do if you won the lotto: Spend it

Freshers Engineer Football Victory

First year engineers defeated a solid Kevin Street side to win the DIT Fresher football tournament held last month. DIT GAA Club organised the competition in Grangegorman as a warm-up for trials for the DIT Fresher A and B football teams. A record 74 first year students from across DIT came out to compete. Five teams participated: Management & Retail, Marketing & Accounting, Kevin Street, Built Environment and Engineering. After five games Engineering came out on top in a keenly contested final against Kevin Street.

The freshers have all been invited back next week to compete for a place on the Fresher A and B panels. Last year's freshers won the Division 1 Fresher Shield when they defeated GMIT in the final. This year's team will be hoping they can emulate this achievement. DIT share a very tough group with Jordans-

town, DCU, UCD and Queens, all teams with strong footballing pedigrees.

This year's team will again be managed by Dublin footballer Alan Brogan, and he got the season off to a start with two opening challenge games against IT Tallaght and Maynooth. Check the next issue of The Compact to find out how they got on.





SOCIETY FACTFILE

NEIL BRENNAN

BREAKDANCING SOCIETY

David Reynolds is Chairman of Breakdancing Society

How did you get involved in the society?

I set up the society last year, because I used to train quite a bit and just thought it would've been handy to do that in the college. But also because it's growing very rapidly in Dublin, it was good to get involved with other colleges.

How good are you?

I've competed at international level, and we've had various sponsorships, and we do various shows almost weekly. Last year we were sponsored by 3 Mobile to go over to Europe for a freestyling session.

Can someone who has never done breakdancing before join?

That's the whole idea behind the society. The society is just classes. There's nobody in the society who had done breakdancing before they joined.

What's the social side of the society like?

It's great, it was great to go up in Kevin Street last year and hear the music playing. And there were people who used to come just to watch, and it wasn't a case that people had to join in, they were just interested.

Why had breakdancing become so big in Ireland in the past few years?

We probably don't have as big a scene as Germany or France, or even the UK, and in those countries it's almost seen as a professional sport. In Korea they have an academy for breakdancers, there's a lot of money to be made in winning these huge competitions.

And I think the reason it's become so big here is down to that overseas influence.

Do you have to be into hip-hop to breakdance?

No you don't. I know the association is there, but the hip-hop out there now is so commercial. What you notice if you go to any of the competitions is they might not even have DJs, they use live instrumental bands to play the music. It's not the way you'd think of hip-hop.

Do you ever get into dance-offs if you're out and you see someone breakdancing?

They call them battles, and that's how they decide competition winners and things like that, and it can be quite aggressive. You try to better your opponent, but there's also that element of trying to humiliate them.

How long does it take to get good?

That's one of the reasons why a lot of people can give up. They see people do incredible things, and think they'd like to do that. Then they see how much effort it takes and they think 'no thanks'.

Ever been injured?

I've torn muscles in both wrists, torn my hamstring – just pretty much from not warming up properly. But I think they're mistakes that are only going to be made once!

What's the plan for the year ahead?

Hopefully we can give it more time this year and just get bigger and better.

Judo Club get a kick out of 10th birthday

The Judo Club celebrates its 10th birthday this year. Recent successes include runners up in last years Intervarsities in Galway, taking bronze in the international team Intervarsities in France in 2002 and winning the ISSA two years in a row, a competition for IT colleges throughout Ireland.

They hope to go one step better than last year in the Intervarsities, and take the crown this year, which would be a fitting way to mark their 10 year anniversary. The DIT Open will take place on November 4 in Kevin Street, with players using it to prepare for the Intervarsities in February.

SOCIETIES NOTICES

WAVES

WAVES aims to provide a support and information network for all its members and to actively promote female's participation in engineering and technology through initiatives within the college and outside the college. Contact us at waves.dit@gmail.com

RED SOC

For those of you who don't know, Red Soc is all about getting better deals for the stuff you can't avoid paying for, so that you can spend more cash on the real student stuff. Most of the time though, we just want to have fun. Right now you have: no boss, no bills and no responsibilities – so don't waste it! If you missed us on sign-up day, we'll be doing another one soon, but if you can't wait til then, send us an email at redsociety@gmail.com

What's your society up to? Let us know at compact@ditsu.ie

STUDENTS



RETURN

Late night bar 7 days a week
Food served all day

STUDENT PROMOTIONS
(see enclosed brochure
'The Party Guide to Dublin')
for concessions

come fly with us!



Q-BAR

0' CONNELL BRIDGE, DUBLIN 2

STUDENTS WE WANT YOU!



Late night bar 7 days a week
Food served all day

STUDENT PROMOTIONS
(see enclosed brochure
'The Party Guide to Dublin')
for concessions

JOIN US NOW!

Check out our luxurious Beer Garden
for some fun and frolics

Tram^{co}

121 LOWER RATHMINES ROAD, DUBLIN 6.



TRAVEL

BOB COGGINS

How Low Can You Snow?

'I SWEAR, IF YOU GO ONCE YOU'LL GO EVERY YEAR. IT'S LIKE NO OTHER HOLIDAY ON EARTH!' HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HEARD THAT FROM THE FRIEND JUST BACK FROM A SKIING HOLIDAY?

Skiing has become a favourite holiday for many adventurous Irish, and not just because we're all stinking rich now, but due to the accessibility brought by low cost travel agents and carriers. Skiing is as affordable as you want to make it.

Having gotten hooked on skiing by way of a €350 holiday to Andorra, I am a self professed ski addict. At the moment I'm in the middle of organising our 4th annual ski trip, with the group having grown from six in the first year, to 50 and counting this year. But I've learned that there are a few key factors to consider when planning a skiing trip.

Peak/Off-Peak

Christmas Holidays, mid-term break and Easter are the most expensive times for skiing, with families driving up the prices. Also, late January to mid March offers the best skiing conditions, so prices tend to be higher during this period. The week after the January exams is an ideal time, with plenty of good offers available.

Choice of Resort

The best ski resorts obviously have the greatest demand and therefore are more expensive. France, Italy and Austria have the most comprehensive and developed ski areas in Europe, but you might want to look elsewhere if you are a first timer looking for a cheap way to learn without needing to experience huge black runs. Andorra and Bulgaria have a lot to offer by way of cheap package holidays, but with limited scope for the more experienced skier.

Accommodation

Accommodation offered ranges from basic apartments to luxury hotels and lodges with full catering supplied. Apartments or B+B's are the cheapest and most practical if you are in economy mode, and are usually available in abundance off peak. Self catering is a good option in the likes of Andorra, where food and alcohol are extremely cheap in supermarkets.

Package Vs Self Booking

If you have the time and interest, organising the trip in parts can work out cheaper than the traditional package holiday, but only if you are going in a group.

Ski Equipment

Again, there are savings to be made when travelling in groups. E-mail the local tourist office of the area you wish to travel to, requesting a list of ski hire and ski pass providers. Then just e-mail these requesting a quote for the group for a total package, and always make a very low offer, leaving yourself room to haggle!

Clothing

Get the gear you need before going, as buying gear in any ski resort is not cheap. There are numerous shops around Dublin running 'Ski Sales' at various times of the year, and this is the time to purchase, not in the winter or early spring.

Insurance

You will need winter sports insurance, it is essential. At least one person has been injured on every ski holiday I've been on, and that includes me. Most insurance companies have deals, with Ryanair offering annual travel insurance with winter sports for €74, and VHI and BUPA offering packages tied in with health insurance.

Ski lessons

Ski school is recommended for all beginners, but it's not cheap. A cheaper alternative is for a group to get together and hire an instructor for cash for an hour each day for a few days until you get the hang of it. And the best craic you will have is when you are learning!

DIT Ski Club are running their fourth annual ski trip in conjunction with UCD Ski Club in January, and are currently running practice trips out to Kiltiernan dry slopes. Check them out ditskiclub@gmail.com and ditskiclub.bebo.com.

www.directski.com
www.gohop.ie
www.skialpine.co.uk
www.skimcneill.com
www.ryanair.com
www.clubmedski.com
www.cheapflights.co.uk





**SIGN UP
TODAY!!**

Text 'member' to 086 8261912



dit students' union
www.ditsu.ie

Join DITSU Textlink now to stay in touch with all DITSU activities & receive exclusive discounts and promotions!

*Standard text rates apply for sign-up. Messages received are free

The Granny

by Neil Manifold
nmanifold@yahoo.co.uk

The Granny is the most common breed of the elderly species. It is an irritable and cranky animal. Here we have a typical dwelling for the average Granny. To most of us, the Granny comes across as being little more than a slightly bothersome organism. But take heed, all is not what it seems, in the dangerous underworld... of the Granny!



At first sight the Granny seems to pose no foreseeable threat. But this is what it wants you to think. Beneath its wrinkly, hunched, almost cute exterior, lurks a mind of unfathomable evil.



Grannies are day walkers. They surface at 10am to congregate at bus-stops, talking utter nonsense to random strangers. As the bus arrives, they casually barge to the front of the queue, brandishing their passes, cutting down anyone foolish enough to object. But where are they all going? What is their purpose?



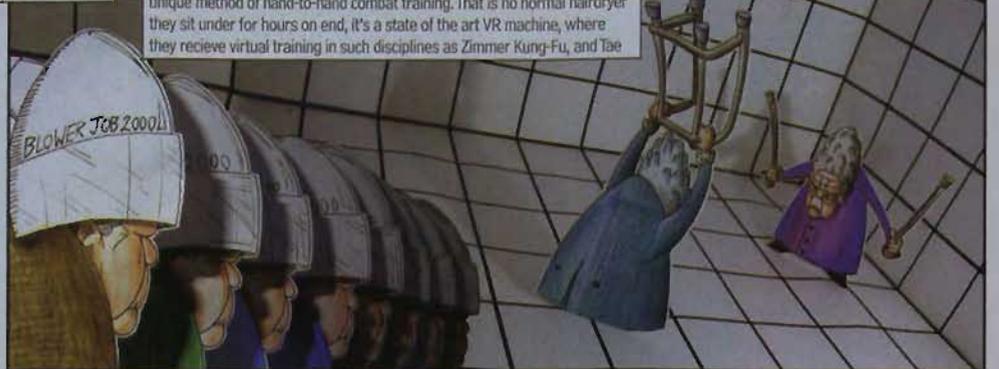
As this mysterious tale continues, we find ourselves at a post office on a typical Thursday morning. As usual, it will be chock-a-block with Grannies. We assume its their pensions they are here to collect. This is sadly not the case. They are really stocking up on guns and ammunition! But for what reason? Who would put weapons in the hands of such a malevolent beast?



The two-wheeled shopping cart never leaves the Granny's side. As we take a more detailed inspection at this tartan relic, it reveals a treasure trove of death. The granny is a walking arms dump, loaded with anything from a machete to a sub-machine gun. It explains their sloth-like pace as they take up the whole footpath, holding up everyone.



The Granny's weekly visit to the hairdressers for a blue-rinse is not all that it seems. Because of their weakened, fragile bodies, Grannies have a unique method of hand-to-hand combat training. That is no normal hairdryer they sit under for hours on end, it's a state of the art VR machine, where they receive virtual training in such disciplines as Zimmer Kung-Fu, and Tae



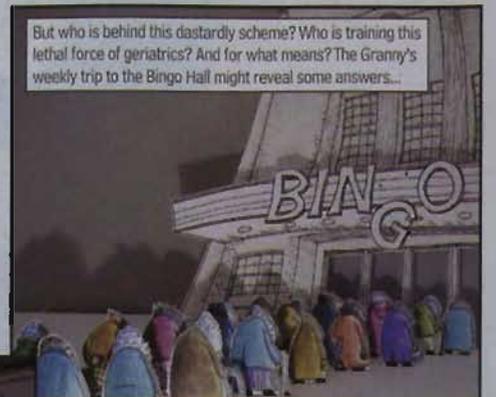
Daily church visits play a big part in the Granny life. But behind closed doors in the house of God, something sinister is afoot. It is here that the Grannies can train with their lethal weapons, without fear of getting rumbled. They use statues of our Lord, tabernacles, and sometimes even a stray priest as target practice.



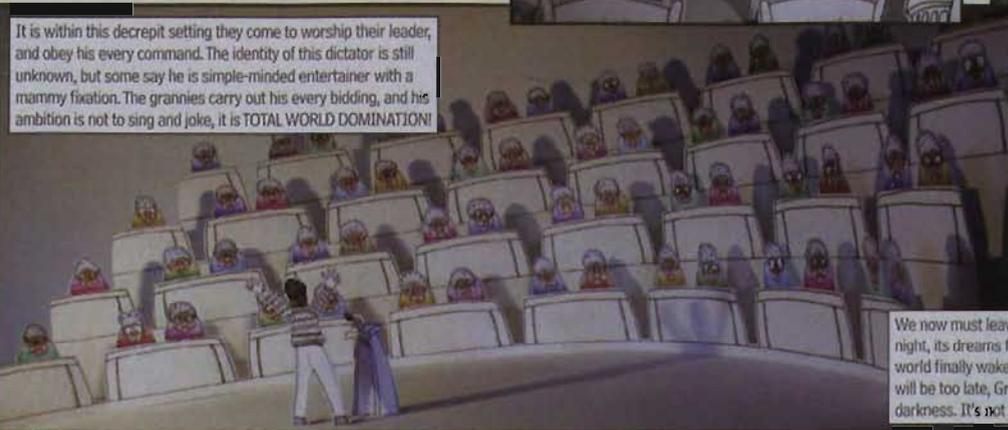
The Granny's fascination with death and religion has a deeper meaning. Because no-one reads the deaths or church services in the daily papers, except the Granny, the dates and times of their clandestine meetings and training days are announced here.



But who is behind this dastardly scheme? Who is training this lethal force of geriatrics? And for what means? The Granny's weekly trip to the Bingo Hall might reveal some answers...



It is within this decrepit setting they come to worship their leader, and obey his every command. The identity of this dictator is still unknown, but some say he is simple-minded entertainer with a mammy fixation. The grannies carry out his every bidding, and his ambition is not to sing and joke, it is TOTAL WORLD DOMINATION!



We now must leave the Granny, as it tucks into bed for the night, its dreams filled with destruction and war. When the world finally wakes up to this danger living amongst us, it will be too late, Granny's will have enveloped the world in darkness. It's not a matter of IF, it's a matter of WHEN...

