

2006

The Moon, Issue 2, December-January 2006

DIT Journalism Society

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

Recommended Citation

Dublin Institute of Technology Journalism Society, The Moon, Issue 2, December-January 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 Student Publications by an authorized administrator of ARROW@TU Dublin. For more information, please contact arrow.admin@tudublin.ie, aisling.coyne@tudublin.ie, gerard.connolly@tudublin.ie, vera.kilshaw@tudublin.ie.

THE MOON



Issue 2
December - January 2006

What will you get him or her
for Christmas?

Page 12



Franz Ferdinand Interview

Page 15

Thousands march for workers' rights..

..but the government finally delivers
for the colleges.....over one billion
euro in funding.

BUDGET REPORT INSIDE SEE PAGE 4

DITSU slammed by convenors

by Cian Fitzsimons

Two DITSU site convenors have expressed 'grave concerns' with the manner in which the union is being run. "There is no proper organisation within DITSU, it feels like we're walking through a fog", according to Mountjoy Square convenor Paul O'Connell. He went on to question a "lack of clarity" surrounding the decision-making process in the SU.

Laura Phelan, convenor for Cathal Brugha Street holds similar worries. She alleged that there has been a complete lack of feedback, along with a lack of action from the sabbatical officers when issues are raised. "There is ongoing disregard for the union's constitution. The union has been going downhill since September, and students are getting disillusioned with the way things are being run", she said.

Despite the fact that they are elected officers in the students' union, both convenors feel that they are being left "outside the loop" when it comes to making decisions affecting the students on their sites.

"The lack of organisation is evident throughout DITSU," said Paul, "the President asks for patience as he is 'on a learning curve', despite being seven months in the job. It's pretty much the same situation with the Chair of our Governing Council. When I raise issues that I feel should be dealt with I'm told that they have been noted, and nothing further is done. If a mistake is made, the sabbaticals admit responsibility, say sorry, and that's it. We are a company in the service of students, and we owe them a responsibility to live up to their expectations."

The fresher's week festivi-

ties in Mountjoy Square were highlighted as an example of the confusion within DITSU. "The sum of the organised events was a DJ and two sumo suits. No-one on-site was even told they were coming. That was the last union event we have had in Mountjoy."

The lack of published plans of work for the sabbatical team was pointed out by Laura. "They should have been available from September, but there's still no sign of them," she said. "It's such a simple thing to get done, but we are still waiting. What does that say about the transparency within the union?"

These claims are disputed by DITSU President, Bob Coggins. In a statement given to the Moon, he said "I appreciate the concerns of the convenors, but everyone has to realise that we in the union are extremely busy this year, working 12 or 14 hour days most of the time. No matter what sabbatical team there is in place, they are always only getting to grips with things by Christmas."

"All decisions are made by either the board of DITSU Ltd., Governing Council or CPIT. An awful lot more work is being done behind the scenes, while DITSU Trading and the shops are in a great financial state, which is a huge turnaround over the last eighteen months."

"Of course things could always be better within the union, and it is possible that the structure could need some tinkering. People have to realise that it's not as easy to organise things on smaller campuses, the lack of student numbers can affect the atmosphere. And personally speaking, I always get back to anyone who tries to get in touch with me."

Lecturers won't pay fees



Kevin Street's DIT gym is used on a regular basis by students

by Hugh Casey

A number of DIT lecturers are refusing to pay subscription fees to the on-campus gym at Kevin Street, The Moon has learned.

Approximately 6 lecturers want to use the facilities but don't want to pay the annual 70 membership fee. Talks have taken place at a senior level in DIT administration to resolve the issue, but their result is still unknown.

Herbie McClelland, the DIT sports officer, is eager to point out that it's a minority of staff. "We had 122 people sign up, and it's only a handful of people (refusing to

pay), but I am annoyed, I didn't expect to get this kind of grief from staff".

The DIT gym is funded exclusively by student capitation fees, and annual membership rates are approximately 85% cheaper than local commercial gyms.

"We've also heard of lecturers telling students not to pay to help their cause. I think it's a disgrace. I'm employed to look after the sporting interests of the students, not the staff" said Mr McClelland. "If we can't run this little gym up here, I don't see how we're going to manage with the 20million complex up in Grange Gorman".

Outrage at Trinity Al-Qaeda speaker

By Rebecca Todd

There has been outrage from justice minister Michael McDowell and other senior politicians after Trinity College's Philosophical Society invited Islamic extremist Anjem Choudary to speak to Trinity students in favour of the motion that "September 11th was justified".

The question is whether or not the society can justify giving an Islamic fundamentalist a platform to air his views in public. The president of the philosophical society, Andrew Campbell said "the Phil does not in any way support Islamic fundamentalism. We merely wish to provide a forum for debate on issues that are relevant to society". However politicians fear that Mr Choudary's speech may encourage Trinity students to adopt an extremist outlook.

Mr Choudary said that Ireland is "a legitimate target" for a terrorist attack due to its collaboration with the US. By collaboration he means that Ireland is allowing US planes to refuel here en route to a bombing raid. He says "A US pilot is no different from the Irish person who allows the plane to land. They are collaborators." He also said that if Ireland increases their support for the US retaliation would come "swiftly".

There were other members of the British Islamic extremist group at the debate a number of whom spoke against the motion. Umran Javed, said he did not see an attack on Ireland as likely.

Minister for Defence Willie

O'Dea said that the cabinet will be holding discussions to minimise the risk of Islamic extremists being given a platform to speak here in the future. At present there is no legal obligation to inform anyone about who is going to speak at a particular meeting. Some senior politicians are calling for laws to be brought in to ban Islamic fundamentalists from entering the country at all.

Fine Gael's justice spokesman Jim O'Keefe said "I think it is very immature of the Philosophical Society in Trinity to invite someone who wants to advocate violence". He would not condemn the suicide bombing of three hotels in Jordan three days ago. Mr Choudary was out of order publicly defending the killing of innocent people. Mr O'Keefe does not want to restrict freedom of speech but is merely saying it is unacceptable and inconsiderate to openly justify acts of terrorism.

Mr Choudary is under police surveillance in Britain and gardai are considering prosecuting him for incitement to hatred.

Trinity College are standing by the Philosophical Society's decisions to have controversial figures in to speak to students. As far as they are concerned the society did not do anything illegal and have the right to invite anyone they deem of interest to speak in debates.

Daithi Mac Sithigh, former education officer addresses delegates.

USI it, or lose it!

by Andy Doyle

The USI held a special congress in Dublin on Saturday November 26th to vote on several constitutional amendments.

This was my second time attending congress. My first experience was last May, and left me wondering if DIT students really belonged to such a politically motivated

organisation. It was clear to me that most of the issues the USI focused on were of little relevance to the students I know. I felt the welfare of the students of Ireland was second in importance to furthering the interests of some left-wing political groups. The views expressed by the USI did not represent my views, or the views of anyone I know in

DIT.

But this time I felt differently. I think that of all the arguments, and all of the problems within USI are only symptoms of one single problem.

The USI is an organisation without a purpose, or rather it is an organisation with too many purposes. Some colleges want a national union that will represent the politi-

cal opinions of the students of Ireland on national and international issues. Some colleges want a national union that offers professional service and proper representation to its students - on student issues.

It's not possible to do both with the resources available. The question for USI, and for us is: Which one?

WEIRD AND WACKY WORLD OF COLLEGE

Putting the liberal in liberal Arts



LET ME IN...to the
Department of
Chastity



Department of
Butt-whoopin'
...enough said.

If majoring in philosophy gives a student all the skills he needs to cope with his impending poverty, what kind of skills does a student majoring in pure love learn? How about a major in magic? Mixed martial arts? Motor sports, health diets, "make-up coordinator" or harrista sciences?

College is indeed getting weird, and for good reason: weird majors attract students. Unconventional departments not only allow schools to offer their students more choices, but also enable the schools to build reputations for themselves in educational niches.

Department of Rabbits and Hats

The first days of college might be a magical time for any freshman, but for some students at the two-year Dong-A College, the feeling is quite literal. The school offered magic classes as an elective for a year to gauge the students' reaction; spurred by the class's success, last year it opened a Department of Magic. Korea has plenty of magician schools, but Dong-A became the country's first magic college.

Kang Hyeon-dong, a professor in the department, said that the school not only teaches tricks but also approaches the subject academically, instructing students in the field's history, psychology and management. The school also teaches

es ballet, modern dance and how to make stage props. What qualifies a person to become a professor of magic? Most of the instructors have years of experience in the field. For classes, however, they have to use imported books on the subject, Mr. Kang said.

"I'm not sure if it's a good idea to study magic at college, but it's good that students can focus on magic and get a degree," said Kim Juno, 38, a magician at the performing troupe and instruction institute Alexander Magic Family. "I think that to some degree, it's irresponsible to make trendy departments just to attract students interested by some fad."

But Lee Jin-kyu, 23, a student at Dong-A's magic department, said he doesn't regret signing up for the classes, even though some were too remedial for him. Before studying at Dong-A, Mr. Lee had already won several magic competitions.

"I wanted to learn more about magic more thoroughly," Mr. Lee said. "The history, skill, renowned magicians, how the trick names originated and how to understand people's minds, stuff private institutes can't offer."

But another student at the school, Moon Chang-min, 22, said majoring in magic wasn't necessarily a wise idea. Because of the unstable job market, he recently took the examination for public officials. "I spent about five

years, including two years at college, learning magic and dance, but right now I'm heading in a different direction. I feel like I wasted my time, even though I enjoyed it," Mr. Moon said.

Department of Speeding

If Mr. Moon was looking for a major with better job opportunities, he could do worse than to enroll in the Motor Sports Department at Ajou Motor College. Expecting the demand for workers in the motor sports industry to dramatically increase by 2010, the college began offering classes in the field this year. Driving is just one thing students can learn; other areas are mechanics, engineering and race-team management. The department facilities alone cost 1 billion won (\$960,000) and include a 350-meter (601-yard) go-kart course with a 170-meter beeline, according to Jang Hyun-tak, professor of the department.

The school also teaches driving on real race circuits at Taebaek, Gangwon province, and at Yongin, Gyeonggi province. It also exchanges information on formula or grand touring car manufacturing and technology with racing teams such as Sungwoo Indigo and E-Rain Racing.

Min Min-gu, 20, said he wants to be a motor sports engineer and is satisfied with the school. One of the course's selling points is that

it allows him to disassemble engines, study their construction and apply new ideas to existing technology. "I can do experiments in whatever I want to," he said.

Kim Han-sik, 19, who wants to be a driver, said, "I thought that I would be a better driver after learning more about cars, engines and other car parts."

Department of Butt-whoopin'

Kyungbuk College of Science is also offering a major in a sport that's rapidly becoming popular in Korea: mixed martial arts, better known as K-1 in Japan. The school's Division of Leisure Sports and Recreation started offering the major this year. Eighty student have so far signed up.

"Mixed martial arts, including K-1 and PRIDE Fighting Championships, have been popular in other countries like Japan, the States and Russia for the last 10 years," said Hong Young-kyu, professor of the department. "Korea is a bit behind."

"Noting that K-1 is a mixture of various martial arts, the school thought that it would be good to have such a major," Mr. Hong added.

The problem is that there are not many experts in K-1. Mr. Hong is just one of a small number of professors who can teach martial arts, having studied it for about 15 years. He teaches Brazilian jujitsu and Russia's combat sambo style. The school also teaches

Thai and Japanese kick-boxing in addition to taekwondo and hapkido, both of which are Korean martial arts.

Department of Chastity

Men like Lee Il-jae, however, aren't fighters: they're lovers. Specifically, Pure Lovers.

Mr. Lee is a professor at the Department of Pure Love at Summoon University (which was established by Moon Sun-myung's Unification Church). The love taught here is considered "pure" because it emphasizes abstinence before marriage, although it also teaches students about contraception.

"Society is extremely open about sex and pure values seem to have eroded," Mr. Lee said. "We teach people about sex by showing them true moral values." The education is based on the values of the Unification Church, Mr. Lee added. The church emphasizes the value of virginity prior to marriage.

The students learn how to deal with victims of sexual violence, and to teach sex education to middle and high school students. Mr. Lee said about 60 percent of the course graduates are working abroad for the church teaching sex education or doing missionary work.

Lee Jung-won, 24, the first male student in the department, said he applied for the Pure Love major after learning that purity is not only about virginity but also about living an honest and pure life.

And after graduation?

"Of course, I have realistic worries, about whether I can make a living," the student said. "But I ultimately want to be a professor in the department after experiencing life in foreign countries. And I think that I can find ways of solving social issues like sexual crime, abortion or pre-marital sex, by letting people know about what I learned at school."

Department of Glam

Less interested in love than in attraction, the two-year Seoul Hoseo Institute of Technology is creating a "Broadcasting Coordination Make-up Department"; classes are to be offered beginning in spring 2006.

"As more high school students are interested in working with actors, the college found that it was necessary to make a department that mixed the beauty and fashion majors," said Hwang Hae-jeong, a professor in the department.

The school also has a Total Beauty Design Department, covering everything a student needs to know about looking beautiful: make-up, nail care, skin care, hair and more. Ms. Hwang said the new department also instructs students in how to match colors and clothing styles, to help them select the right fashions for characters in soap operas or movies. Students will also have a chance to go practice at real film shoots.



Iranian students protest against lack of human rights

Iranian government deny Bahá'í students an education

By Sarah Pickett

As Irish third level students struggle over the proposed introduction of third level fees, some Iranian students face battle to receive an education. While technology is developing at an incredible rate, the basic rights of the human beings seem to be ignored.

"Everyone has the right to education.... and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit." Well that seems to be the opinion of one United Nations in article 26 of their Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

For young Bahá'ís in the Islamic Republic of Iran this has not been a reality. Since 1979, the government of Iran has systematically deprived its members of the right to higher education. The government has also impeded Bahá'í efforts to establish their own institutions of higher learning. This has had the effect of suppressing the Bahá'í community in Iran, ultimately leading to its demise.

There are four recognised religions in Iran; Muslim, Christian, Jew and Zoroastrian. For these the prospects are many, while for this minority of 300,000, higher education is a mere dream. Iranian authorities made it known that Bahá'ís would be allowed to attend colleges, but only if they renounced their faith. This would again appear to be in violation of article 16 of the UN Declaration.

The principles of their faith (www.bahai.org) prevent them from misrepresenting themselves as a member of any other faith, just for convenience sake. In recent times the Iranian government appeared to offer Bahá'í students access to higher education in an attempt to pacify international human rights monitors.

Bahá'í students were told they could participate in national university entrance examinations. Following the release of results in August 2004, the Bahá'ís had been falsely registered as Muslims. Bahá'ís ultimately refused, as

it showed disregard to their religious beliefs accordingly, were denied enrolment to college.

The 800 Bahá'ís who took the exam were excluded from university, in the 2004/05 academic year, by means of this ploy. The denial of education to Iran's largest religious minority seems to be the latest in a series of systematic persecutions of the Bahá'ís. Since the coming to power of the Revolutionary Government, more than 200 Bahá'ís have been killed, hundreds imprisoned, thousands have had property or businesses confiscated, lost their jobs, and/or had their government pensions terminated.

Bahá'í holy sites and cemeteries have also been targeted. Many have been destroyed and the community's elected administrative structure has been dismantled. Bahá'ís have been denied a host of other rights, ranging from freedom of movement to simple inheritance rights.

Many had hoped that these

dark days of persecution were at last coming to an end but the Iranian government has continued to pursue its discriminatory policy for the 2005/06 academic year.

By mid-August 2005 hundreds of Bahá'ís had received their university examination results with, once again, "Islam" designated as the religious orientation of the Bahá'í students.

The Irish Bahá'í community along with governments, academics and concerned citizens throughout the world have and are continuing to voice their concern against the denial of third level education to Bahá'í students. Bahá'ís as a principle of their faith accept the truth in all religions. They look forward to the day when they will enjoy the same rights extended to the other major faiths in the land of their birth, especially in the area of education.

This blatant contempt towards the Bahá'ís is appalling but only time will tell if their plight falls on deaf ears.

Budget 2005 delivers 1 billion euro for colleges

By Cian Fitzsimons

Brian Cowen's Budget 2005 has delivered a package of over one billion euro for the third level sector, making a return of fees unlikely in the near future. The Minister announced a 900 million euro package for capital projects at third level over the next five years, along with a 300 million euro modernisation fund.

Colleges will be rewarded for reform, rationalisation and cost efficiencies. The money is likely to be directed towards areas prioritised by the Government - facilities for science, technology and research.

DIT is "in a good position to take advantage of these measures through our impending move to Grangegorm", said DITSU President Bob Coggins. The Book of Estimates for Education has allocated one million euro to the establishment and administration of the Grangegorm Development Agency.

Increased competition among the colleges for funding means DIT "needs to expand the levels of research within the college", Coggins continued. He also revealed that DIT could be making a

bid for university status within the next five years.

The termination of tax relief for those investing in student accommodation was criticised by the DITSU President. "At a time when students are still encountering great difficulty in getting a reasonable standard of accommodation this decision is difficult to understand," he said.

USI President Tony McDonnell raised concerns about the possibility of a commercial agenda being forced upon third level colleges. He declared that "USI... await with concern the Minister for Education's announcement on the breakdown of the proposed capital spending and how this will be allocated."

DIT President Brian Norton welcomed the funding, saying "DIT plans to participate fully in both of these funding initiatives. DIT, as a doctoral awarding body, will participate in the development of what the Minister has called the 'fourth level' in Irish higher education, and we will be looking in particular at areas where DIT has a unique contribution to make."

DITSU and USIT about to make J1 deal

By Cian Fitzsimons

Initial plans have been made by DITSU to link up with student travel company USIT.

As part of a major drive by USIT to become more directly involved with individual colleges, they will have a direct link on the DITSU website, as well as being given a far greater level of access to DIT students. This will take the form of visits to the colleges, including a proposed visit to one of the DIT sites by the American ambassador to Ireland.

In return, DITSU will receive a commission style payment based on the number of DIT students who sign up for a J1 visa with USIT. DITSU President Bob Coggins said that in his opinion, USIT provides the best level of service among J1 visa providers.

However, questions have been raised about the legitimacy of the decision for the union to prioritise one commercial company above others without adequate student consultation.

Sudoku

Easy

	3			4		7		
		8		9			5	6
		2			6	1	3	
2			8					5
1			3	7	2			4
3					9			7
	5	3	1			8		
8	2			3		6		
		1		2			4	

Medium

				1			3	2
					3	6		
	3	7			8			
	7		8				1	5
	2	5		6			9	4
9		6			4		7	
			4			8	9	
		9	3					
2	4			9				

Hard

4			6	2	1	3		
			3				9	
	8			9				
6			1			8		
3	5						1	4
		8			4			6
				7			4	
	3				9			
		5	4	1	6			9

THE MOON

Christmas time on The Moon

Hi everyone and welcome back to The Moon! The feedback we've been getting from people over the past month has been a great help to us, and I'd like to thank everyone who let us know what they thought.

We are still looking for contributors, so whether you have experience writing articles or not, send us a mail and we'll get you involved!

Last week's budget finally had some good news for students. The announcement of a massive injection of cash into the third level sector gives a great boost to all colleges in Ireland. Hopefully DIT will manage to take advantage of the money on offer, and use it to continue to make progress toward gaining well-deserved university status.

The DIT gym in Kevin Street has been providing fantastic value for money for both staff and students since its opening. Compared to the prices charged by local fitness centres, 70 euro a year is a miniscule amount to have to pay. This makes the refusal of several DIT lecturers to pay these fees even more difficult to understand. Why should staff be exempt from paying what, on a full-time wage, is a paltry sum, when the gym is funded by students' capitation fees?

The Moon has an exclusive interview with Franz Ferdinand this month, conducted just hours before their sell-out Dublin gig. We also talk to up and coming group Editors.

We have given in to the sudoku craze, with three puzzles for your enjoyment on page 5. Just the thing for tedious winter lectures!

This will be the last issue of The Moon for 2005, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the paper over the last few months, and wish all our readers a very happy Christmas.

Cian



It is the policy of The Moon to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. Any corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of The Moon to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor.

THE MOON

Room 4025 (The Newsroom), DIT Aungier St., Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 4023071 Fax: (01) 4023284

Editor : Cian Fitzsimons

News Editor : Seosamh Ó Gallúnach

Features Editor : Ceri Teggins

Clubs and Socs Editor : Michael Donohoe

Entertainments Editor : Maeve McLaughlin

Sports Editors : Arthur Sullivan and Ronan O' Connor

Consultant and Chief of layout : Fergal D'Arcy

Graphic Design Team : Katie Teehan, Kate White, Maeve McLaughlin,

Sarah Doyle and Conor Brady

editor.dit@gmail.com

newseditor.dit@gmail.com

features.dit@gmail.com

clubs.socs@gmail.com

entert.dit@gmail.com

sports.dit@gmail.com

darcy2000@gmail.com

THE MOON'S EXCLUSIVE TOTAL ECLIPSE COMPETITIONS

If you answer this question correctly
you could be in with the chance to
scoop this excellent prize of
a 50euro voucher for gamestop and
LA Rush for PS2.

What is the name of Sonic the
Hedgehogs girlfriend?

GameStop

new . used | games . dvds

Win two tickets to the
New Years Eve celebrations
at The Village on Camden
Street!!

Name the DJs appearing at The
Villages New Years Eve party???

PLEASE EMAIL THE CORRECT ANSWERS WITH YOUR NAME,
ADDRESS AND MOBILE NUMBER TO -
EDITOR.DIT@GMAIL.COM

CUPLA FOCAIL

Liam Lawlor - mórán cainte ar bheagán cúise?



Le Lucy Rabbitte

Baineadh stad as muintir na tíre seo nuair a maraíodh an t-iar Theachta Dála Liam Lawlor i dtrimpiste carr i Moscó. Ach baineadh stad níos mó fós astu leis an ribealach a chaithe nuachtáin agus iriseoirí na hÉireann le bús obann ar fhir, a bhí go mór i mbéal an phobail le beagnach tríocha bliain anuas. Chuir sin dreach eile ar an scéal amach is amach. Dreach gránna, scannalach, agus náireach. Eachtra fhuar-dhorecha do mbeáin chumarsáide na tíre seo a bhí ann.

Nuair a thosaigh ráflaí faoi bhás Liam Lawlor ag síleadh isteach go seomraí nuachta na tíre, bhí riri agus ruaille bunille ann. Ní raibh mórán eolais ná fíricí crua le fáil. Bhí sé soiléir faoi am chraoladh na nuachta ar RTE ag a sé a chlog an lá sin gur maraíodh Lawlor agus a thiománaí carr, ach gur

tháinig bean a bhí sa charr leo slán, cé go raibh sí gortaíthe. Ba ateangaire i Julia Kushnir, a bhí ag obair ar son Lawlor, agus é i mbun fiontar gnó éigin ag an am. Nuair a shíniú beirt a bhí ar meáin nuachta os comhair an Mercedes ina raibh Lawlor ag taisteal, shleamhnaigh an carr isteach i lampa bóthair agus maraíodh an bheirt fhear láithreach. Maraíodh Liam Lawlor, fear ann féin, i bhfad óna bhaile agus óna mhuintir. Nár leor sin mar scéal leathanaigh tosaigh do na nuachtáin Domhnaigh? Faraor, níor leor.

Ní nós leis an Sunday Independent cloí le heistí, agus bhí sé nádúrtha dóibh mar sin an ceannsteideal, "Lawlor killed in red-light district with teenage girl" a fhoilsiú. Mar is eol don saol anois, breáglas scorbh a bhí i gceist anseo, agus má dhéantar an scéal a scrúdú siar agus aniar, níl aon amhras nach féidir glacadh leis an gcineál ionspair náireach

iriseoireachta seo. Bhí Dè Sathairn ar fad ag eagarthóirí na nuachtán chun slacht a chur ar a scéal agus a bhfíricí a dhéanhnú. Níl leithscéal ar bith acu as an méid a scríobhadh.

Ar an gcéad dul síos, d'úsáid an t-eagarthóir nuachta, Ciarán Byrne, a theagmhálaí óna sheanphost san Observer, Nick Paton Walsh, chua ceisteanna a chur ar na póilíní Rúiseacha. Tá meas agus clú ar Paton Walsh mar iriseoir agus dheimhnigh sé ó shin gur mis na póilíní Rúiseacha dó go raibh 'seans' ann go raibh Kushnir ina striapach, ráiteas a d'iompaigh an Sunday Independent go 'more than likely'.

An chéad bhréag ghlan eile ná go raibh Lawlor i gceantar striapachais nuair a tharla an timpiste, cé nach bhfuil ceantar striapachais per se i Moscó fiú! Tá méid áirithe striapach ann cosúil le chuile chathair mhór. Thairis seo, ní 'deagóir' a bhí i Kushnir

ach an oiread ach bean 29 cobhlana d'aois. De oir scéal an Sunday Independent, dúirt na póilíní go raibh sé soiléir nach raibh an bheirt acu ag taisteal ón aerphort toisc nach raibh aon bhagáiste sa charr, cé gur thaispeáin na póilíní bagáiste Lawlor agus Kushnir d'iriseoirí an lá dar gcionn. Is dócha gur chreid an tUasal Fanning (agus sílim gur an-chineálta an rud é an teideal sin a thabhairt air) go raibh baint shuntasach nó fiúntas éigin ag baint le grianghraf de neacht Lawlor, Glenda Gilson, a fhoilsíu leis an scéal. Is pointe tábhachtach é go bhfuil an bheirt óg seo ina mainicín, go bhfuil si go mór i súile an phobail, agus go bhfuil si ag siúl amach le captaen fhoireann rugbaí na hÉireann, Brian O'Driscoll.

Cé nach bhfuil tuairisceoirí fostaíthe ag aon nuachtán Éireannach i Moscó, agus, de réir cosúlachta gur chuir ráitis na bpóilíní a fuair teagmhálaí an Sunday Inde-

pendent tús leis an scéal faoi striapach óg, bhí an scéal céanna ag os cíonn sé nuachtán Domhnaigh an lá sin. Bhí dhá nuachtán, the Observer agus the Sunday Tribune, ar a bhfuil meas agus clú, ina measc. Cá bhfuairiadar an scéal seo? Agus más é gur 'ardaíodh' an scéal seo ón Sunday Independent, gan fiú a chinntiú go raibh sé fíor, caithfear ceisteanna dáiríre a chur maidir le hiompar agus cleachtadh mbeáin chumarsáide na hÉireann.

Tháinig sé chun solais ar an Luan dar gcionn gur deargbhréag a bhí sa scéal agus thosaigh lucht na nuachtán ag gabháil a gcuid leithcálta diadha ar ndiaidh: John Downing don Star On Sunday, Michael Denieffe do lucht Independent Newspapers. Cé gur ghabh Aengus Fanning leithscéal le muintir Lawlor, is pointe suntasach é nár ghabh sé leithscéal ar bith le Julia Kushnir, nó le muintir Kushnir, cé gur gh-

laigh an nuachtán striapach uirthi.

Spriag an eachtra seo an-chuid míshuaimhnis agus diúltachais go deo maidir leis na meáin chumarsáide sa tír seo. Níl aon cheist ach gur chóir go mbeadh náire agus uafais ar na heagarthóirí agus ar na hiriseoirí a chuir tús leis. Cinnte, bhí neart gurbh fheidir leis na meáin a rá faoi Liam Lawlor, ag tagairt dá bhás, gan a ligint orthu go raibh sé ina naomh. Ach cén mhaith a bhí le muintir Lawlor, atá fós beo agus ag fulaingt, a mhaslú agus a ghortú? Is léir freisin go raibh sé in intinn na meáin nach ndéanadh in am clámhilleadh a dhéanamh ar Lawlor toisc go raibh sé marbh. Caithfear an dlí sin a chiorradh agus a cheistiú freisin.

Sea, bhí neart gurbh fheidir leo a rá faoi Liam Lawlor agus é marbh, ach scaití, is cóir aird a thabhairt ar an té a deireann, "sin scéal do lá eile".

NEWS FEATURES

Beer googles ...beer babies?



by Edel Meade

Irish third level students spend more money every month on alcohol than food, the results of a recent study have found. Most drinking occasions among students can be considered binge drinking sessions.

More than half of young people in Ireland have begun experimenting with alcohol before they reach their 12th birthday, according to the National Health and Lifestyle Survey, 2003. With alcohol and sexual behaviour so closely tied together, this is a cause for great concern.

All over Ireland, third-level students regularly splash their cash on wine, cider and spirits and it doesn't start at the pub. The binge usually begins when friends get together in someone's living room for a few hours before they head out and there's only one goal - to get drunk!

It's all fun and games until they end up in the Accident and Emergency departments of hospitals or face an unwanted pregnancy or on a more long-term basis, liver failure. Filled by booze, Irish women are flirting with

danger, staying up later than ever and having sex with strangers.

A 21-year-old fine arts student revealed details of her regular weekend drinking habits. "I start drinking about five or six, sometimes earlier. I usually drink a flagon of cider or a nagon of vodka". "I'd drink about two or three pints in the pub and maybe a shot. I'd be hammered." The student has been barred from a popular Dublin hot-spot for being drunk and disorderly on several occasions.

A Kevin Street science student revealed she always drinks a bottle of wine before going out. "It's a social thing. Friends call over, we get ready, do our make-up together while drinking at the same time. It's my favourite part of the night - it's the only part I remember." She admits to often sneaking a can of cider into pubs when she can't afford pub prices. She said she's often woken up in bed with a stranger without being able to remember how she got there or embarrassed when she's told about her behaviour the night before. One of her most embarrassing drunken antics involved

urinating in a public place and then falling asleep a few metres up the road.

With sex-on-the-beach and slippery nipples available at almost every city bar, it's easy to see how sex and alcohol go hand-in-hand. Cocktails and other lethal liquors are as much a part of any young person's night out as lip gloss or hair gel. An offer of "Can I buy you a drink?" at the bar, is more likely to mean "Fancy a shag?" than an expression of chivalry.

Among female students who were sexually active, 42% said that they had used the morning after pill with 4% reporting that they had contracted an STI (sexually transmitted infection). The link between drinking and unplanned and unprotected sex has been documented worldwide.

After a few drinks, alcohol stops you from thinking clearly meaning you could end up having sex with someone that you'd run away from, when sober. The "beer goggles effect" means that you are more likely to find someone attractive after a few beverages, than if you saw them earlier

in the evening.

You're less likely to use contraception when consumed in drunken passion. If you can't walk in a straight line, it's more likely that you or your partner won't use condoms correctly. A major Irish study found alcohol to be a factor in crisis and unplanned pregnancies (where drinking resulted in the non-use of condoms). One in three Irish teenagers say alcohol is a factor in their engaging in sex.

The incidence of STIs in Ireland has increased by 165% in the last ten years with 8,900 cases reported in 2000 alone. This coincided with a surge in alcohol consumption of 41% over the same period.

Three-quarters of rape and sexual assault victims say alcohol was a factor in their attack, figures from the Waterford Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre show. Unfortunately alcohol does make people more vulnerable.

Women too drunk to remember whether they had agreed to sex were recently warned that "drunken consent is still consent". A judge in Scotland directed a jury to

bring in a not guilty verdict against a university security guard accused of raping a student, "even if you don't agree". It came after the 21-year-old alleged victim admitted under cross-examination that she was too drunk to remember whether or not she had agreed to sex.

There are an ever-growing number of drugs, used by perpetrators to assist with their use of sexual violence, alcohol continues to be the most commonly used. The drugs used are generally 'hypnotics' which means they have an anaesthetising and muscle relaxant effect. The drugs used are tasteless and odourless, although one (Rohypnol) has a blue dye added to it, this blue dye does not show up for almost 20 minutes. Just because your drink is non-alcoholic does not mean it cannot be spiked. Feeling frisky and merry don't always mean good times.

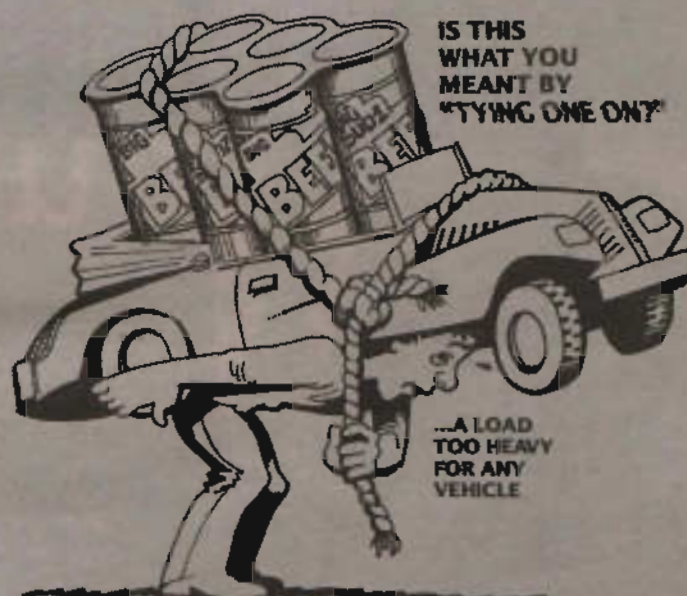
Alcohol can increase one's expectations, yet decrease arousal and satisfaction. When taken in large amounts, it masks the true feelings in a male genitalia. It also decreases female

lubrication and can lead to painful sex. Long term alcohol abuse can lead to a drop in testosterone levels in men and cause menstrual problems in women.

The right amount of alcohol can help us lose inhibitions, but when booze means snooze in the bedroom it's time to re-assess your love-making strategy.

A glass of red wine or champagne in the bathtub with your lover can give both sex drives a boost, but under no circumstance should you have multiple drinks.

Unfortunately, after just one or two drinks, alcohol interferes with a man's ability to perform. Instead of rising to the occasion, he may just fall asleep. Alcohol causes testosterone levels to drop, and with 4 or 5 drinks, most men lose their ability to maintain an erection and have an orgasm. With prolonged use over years, alcohol permanently damages the nervous system causing less sensation in the penis. Alcoholics have a high rate of erectile dysfunction for this reason. Still wondering about sex and alcohol?



NEWS FEATURES

DIT students (IFS) get national enterprise gong



L to R: George Harold, Michael Martin and Kieran Beggan. Accepting a well deserved award at the National Enterprise competition

by Katie Corkery

Under the picturesque setting of the Mansion house in Dublin's City Centre six of Ireland's finest small businesses sat in anticipation. The six finalists hailed from all over Ireland with service ranging from construction industry to online dating. After a year of competitions and deliberations this was the moment when all would be revealed.

The silence was finally broken when Bryan Dobson and Micheál Martin, Minister for Enterprise Trade and employment announced Integrated Facilities Solutions (IFS) as this year's National Enterprise winners.

This award is the culmination

of seven years development and graft by the company's founder, directors Kieran Beggan and George Harold. The two met during their time in DIT Bolton Street where they both studied Building Maintenance. It was after they graduated that the pair decided to go into business together.

Harold explained that, "Our course was extremely useful and practical; we then went to work for the consultancy and research unit for the Built Environment in Bolton Street. It was from there that we saw the commercial potential"

Established in 1998, IFS set out with an innovative idea to revolutionize 'the building trade. Be it a small job or a large project, we believed that the paper-based

Property Operations Manuals were insufficient in today's advanced market. They recognized the potential to apply technology to this industry necessity. With the help of technical partners, they created their trademarked product the IFS Digital Project Manual (DPM).

In practice, the application takes away the need for boxes of practically untraceable paper documents about every aspect of the management of a large project.

The simplest way to describe the DPM file is if you bought a new car or a kitchen appliance you get a manual of how to maintain it. If you apply this idea to somewhere like Croke Park it becomes a manual that you have some-

thing in an electronic format to search if something goes wrong in the building. The ultimate aim of the product is that if there is a need to adjust or view anything in the safety file they can do it at click of a button.

IFS now provide a portfolio of services to their clients; Beggan explained "IFS will be there from the initial concept of a project until the disposal of the asset." From their flagship product the DPM file, to Data Capture and now their latest innovation, Project Live which is internet collaboration and its due to be formally launched soon.

Keith Brock Assistant C.E.O of Fingal stated that it was their innovative idea and their professionalism that helped

them clinch the award. The company also has an impressive client list including Dublin Zoo, Croke Park and the Dundrum Shopping Centre. As the first company from Fingal to win the award, Brock also feels that the win will help promote the competition in the area and that it will be a wake up call for other small businesses.

IFS employ 10 full time staff, as they are growing at such a rapid rate they hope to double their staff by this time next year. The main goal of IFS now is to increase market share and to open offices in the UK and mainland Europe. China is another area that the company would like to explore. After a recent trip to Hong Kong with Enterprise

Ireland they saw the potential for development in the market.

So what does the future hold for Ireland's hottest Entrepreneurs? The simple answer is still working in the industry.

Beggan said, "I'd pull my hair out if I retired in the next 15 years. I always want to be doing something different and challenging, I want to improve standards and create new concepts. Both George and I want to take IFS to where we think it should go. Right now going international and refining our services our ultimate goals!"

MOONSTRUCK

THE MOON'S FEATURES SECTION

THE PORN INDUSTRY

Kitty Kinkypuss explores STDs in the industry and *Lepreporn*....Follow the rainbow to his cock of gold!

You've all heard of *Deep Throat* and *One Night in Paris*, but get ready for Ireland's very own addition to the porn scene: *Lepreporn*. Yes, that's right, we are well on the way to establishing our very own porn industry with a bit of Irish charm. I wonder will there be tractors and wellies involved? But all of you budding Ron Jermeyes and Jenna Jamesons should be aware that there are serious risks for those involved in the porn industry. Lara Roxx, 21, is a testimony to this fact.



The young Canadian arrived in LA in March 2004, hoping to make a ripple in the porn industry and create a nice little nest-egg for herself. Two months later she was broke, jobless and HIV positive. Lara's case may seem extreme, but was part of a larger scare, which rocked the Californian-based porn industry in 2004.

Lara was one of 14 people believed to have been infected with the virus while working on a film with well-known porn actor, Darren James. James is thought to have contracted HIV while working in Brazil.

Unfortunately for Lara Roxx and some others working on the LA production, which featured some risky double anal scenes, no condoms were used during filming. Lara, not being schooled on the workings of the industry, didn't know it was routine to be shown the STD results of the other actors before filming. "I wasn't experienced enough to go up to people and ask them for their test, and the only person that showed me their test before we had a sexual relation was, unfortunately, Marc Anthony."

The impact of the subsequent scare was so great that filming in California's porn paradise, San Fernando Valley, was halted and around 60 actors were quarantined. However, the shock soon subsided and was replaced by complacency. The porn industry is back to not using condoms, saying they are obtrusive, and its audience just don't like them. Apparently, audience happiness rates high above actor welfare.

However, help is at hand in the American porn industry

Top 5 First Date Tips

1. Girls remember the old reliable-fashionably late, but that doesn't mean two hours.
2. Do not get hammered. Slurred speech is never attractive so keep an eye on the drink-o-meter.
3. Don't tell your whole life story, how you have no friends and know body ever asks you out. It's weird and kind of desperate.
4. My advice girls is don't sleep with someone on a first date and boys don't expect it.
5. And of course relax, have fun and be yourself.



The Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation, AIM, an organisation set up by former porn actress Sharon Mitchell, tests 1000 porn actors every three weeks for HIV. The organisation was set up in 1998 after another HIV scare in the industry. Mitchell says that many of the actors receive extra cash for foregoing the usage of condoms, believing the risk of infection to be negligible. However, according to the AIM website, they have diagnosed 11 cases of HIV among industry actors, which if left undiagnosed could have exposed the virus to dozens,

even hundreds of peoples. "Basically, I put Band-Aids on shotgun wounds," says Mitchell. "I can't stop HIV but I can help prevent it."

In the meantime, Ireland's fledgling *Lepreporn* industry can learn a lot from the mistakes of its giant cousins in San Fernando Valley.

Unfortunately for those of you who are finding themselves intrigued by the idea of *Lepreporn*, information on the emerging industry seems to be as elusive as those little green leprechauns and their pots of gold. But kitty will keep you posted.

To flee or not to flee?

by Sarah Doyle

Ah, the student life. Finish up a hard day of lectures, go out and have fun. That's how it is for most of us. But what happens when you go home? Is there a hot dinner waiting for you on the kitchen table, or do you reach for the phone in your student pad, weighing up the nutritional values of Chinese versus pizza? Does your mother remind you to get enough rest, or are nine a.m. lectures a distant memory?

Where you live can have a huge affect on your college life. We spoke to two students with very different living arrangements to find out

whether far away hills are really all that green....

Finbar Timmons, a second year student in DCU, recently moved out of his family home. He now lives in an apartment with two friends.

"My parents asked me to move out, but I wanted to anyway. I go to DCU so it was really awkward to get to, because the only direct bus from my house is at 7:40 a.m."

While no student should really have to endure such ungodly hours on public transport, Finbar adds that convenience wasn't the only reason he decided to fly the nest.

"We weren't really getting along great, and because I

have a baby sister, my parents didn't like me coming home late," he explains, adding that "a curfew" wasn't something he felt a 20-year-old could stick to.

Rebecca Fennelly, meanwhile, is a final year student in UCD. She lives at home with her family and drives daily to and from college.

"It's a bit hard living so far away [from college]. I thought about moving out because it takes so long to get there, and I'm not a morning person!" However, she says that living at home definitely helps keep her college work on track, admitting that if she lived on campus she "probably wouldn't study" too much!

"My parents help keep me focused. If I lived away from home, they wouldn't know if I was going to all my lectures or not. The social aspect is a bit awkward, but they're not too strict, and I'm very close to both of them."

On the other side of things, Finbar sheepishly admits he hasn't "been to college in three weeks". He explains that "when you're at home, your mom gives out if you don't go in, but living on your own, you've complete responsibility. I find that very hard, especially since I'm now immune to my alarm!"

In comparison with living at home, Finbar says that "the freedom is great. We have a lot of fun in the apartment

and I've grown close to the lads. You meet a lot of new people around the complex so you can make some really good friends."

However, he is quick to add that living away from home has taken its toll on his wallet. "My parents pay the rent, but I pay for everything else myself, working as a shop manager. The 13 cent noodles in Tesco are a big part of my diet!"

And while Rebecca covers her petrol and social costs, she admits that living at home "is definitely a lot easier in terms of money. Free food, no rent, and friends close by are definitely good reasons to stay."

Like many of us, however,

she admits that there is the odd "clash" with her parents and siblings. "Sometimes I do want to get away, being the oldest, but overall, I get on well with my parents so I'm happy at home for now."

Deciding where to spend your college years is an important decision. There are many things to be considered, from finance and freedom to home comforts and family relationships. While it seems that "to flee or not to flee" is not a question with easy answers, wherever we students set up camp, it should be somewhere that makes you think "there's no place like home."

ON TOUR IN INDIA

I'd thought 28 hours on a train would leave me well rested and ready for adventure by the time I got to Delhi. I left the crowded platform in Kolkata's Howrah station looking forward to doing a little reading and a lot of sleeping.

by Aoife Ni Dhalaigh



Unfortunately, having balked at spending 30 to get the express train - all air-conditioning and prepared meals - I was now going to be sleeping on what looked very much like a luggage rack.

It wasn't even an empty luggage rack - the train stopped everywhere and each station brought a fresh mess of hawkers and stowaways. Men without tickets had piled into the carriage and taken our top bunks, squatting resolutely while the couple next to us shouted at them in Bengali. (My friend and I had already spent four hours drawing planes and cars to entertain their young son, so they were happy to do some yelling on our behalf.)

The men eventually left and we all got to bed. It took me a while to drop off, with my bag as a pillow and fans whirring in my ear. When I woke up at 3.30 a.m. there was a man perched on the end of my bunk, reaching his hand up towards my face. I kicked him off reflexively and he jumped over sleeping bodies on the corridor floor and into another carriage. He was gone but so was any chance of a good night's sleep.

The train finally arrived in Delhi and I vowed it would be a long time before I boarded another one. So when a man lured us into a tourist office the next day, the idea of hiring a jeep for ten days to travel around Rajasthan offered a promising alternative.

Wajid, our driver, was small and balding, with twinkly blue eyes and a worrying fondness for drinking on duty. We rattled through the desert in his white van and reached Jaipur a few hours later. As we approached

the town, spread out in marble on the far side of a lake, we stopped to take photos. Within minutes an Indian family had pulled up alongside us, bundled all ten members out of the car, and stood us on either side of their bewildered granny to pose for a picture. It still alarms me that I feature in so many strangers' photo albums as 'that white girl we met once'.

That evening we sniggered at the signs on the way into the Raj Mandir cinema. "No photos inside?" We rolled our eyes - Eh, we've been to cinemas before.

Not one like this. Legendary (among backpackers anyway) as the best place in India to watch a Hindi film, the lobby is reminiscent of a Vegas casino. Our grimy sandals sunk into plush carpet as we stared upwards at balconies and chandeliers. The cinema hall was elaborately decorated, more like a theatre than anything else. We lapped up "Koi Mil Gaya", a sci-fi film with blue aliens and Bollywood dance numbers, despite our lack of Hindi and the odd distraction of a bat flying across the screen. Back outside it was still the same scene of mangy dogs, beggars and rickshaw drivers but for a while we were lost in a world of cool luxury and over-priced popcorn.

We continued on our way and Wajid was delighted to find us eager to eat at roadside stalls rather than fancy hotels. The men who served us grinned at the sight of two white girls eating with their hands from tin plates, scooping up dhal and downing tiny cups of sugary chai.

We were equally transfixed by their elaborate silver earrings,



colourful turbans and curved moustaches. Back in the van we sang along in pidgin-Hindi to Bollywood soundtracks as Wajid brought us to visit yet another 'cousin' or business acquaintance.

The next few days were a whirl of palaces. We clambered up onto an elephant to negotiate the steep hill up to Jaipur's Amber Fort and wandered around the imposing palace in Jodhpur to Roger Moore's audio-commentary. (He cropped up again in the Forbidden Palace in Beijing so being an ex-Bond is evidently a lucrative career in Asia.)

The most impressive stop on our trail, without question, was Jaisalmer. A city within a fort, built in the 12th century on a camel-trading route, it looms on the horizon as you approach through the Thar desert. Around

3,000 people still live in the maze of narrow streets within its walls and it's just far enough outside the "Golden Triangle" of Delhi-Agra-Jaipur to remain relatively untouched by tourism. We used it as a base to take a boat out around a sunken palace, visit Jain temples and citadels, and camp under the stars on a camel safari through the desert.

Bikaner brought another trapeze around a palace, another search for a hostel. I was determined to explore so I dragged my friend on a trip to a Hindu temple on the outskirts of the town. We walked through the gloom of late evening and, when we reached the temple, took our shoes off to go inside. A hand suddenly gripped my arm, squeezing my flesh with the

pressure of pure fear. My friend stood beside me, rooted to the spot.

"When you said it was a rat temple, I didn't think you meant it literally!"

In front of us thousands of small brown rats swarmed and scurried. I started to walk forward, remembering all I'd read about them not fearing humans - here humans treated rats well, bringing them food and water. It's considered a blessing to get specks of chewed up bread spat out on you by the rats so I knew I must be fortunate indeed to feel fur and bone squirming beneath my bare feet. Rats raced across altars, climbed up pillars, draped their tales over the faces of idols. The squeaking provided a steady background to the worshippers in the inner chamber, ringing bells and chanting as they offered up gifts to the rodents around them. Slowing down the van to negotiate a dexting cow never again seemed so strange to us.

After a week of travelling, our final stop in Agra was something of an anti-climax. Maybe it was because it was an overcast day or maybe we had just seen too many forts, temples, palaces, mansions... Whatever the reason, the Taj Mahal was merely beautiful the day I saw it. Very impressive, even awe-inspiring, but not quite the Wonder of the World I'd been expecting.

That's the problem with India - there's so much to see and so many new experiences to take in that sometimes all you want is to jump on the (express) train back to Kolkata, and familiarity. And so we did.

IS YOUR CHRISTMAS STOCKING STILL IN STYLE?

Have you got a great Christmas party to go to, but haven't got a clue what to wear? Need a little advice on completing your outfit? Or are you searching for a dramatic new make up look to accompany your big entrance? We've got all you need to know to turn you into the belle of the festive ball. **by Katie Teehan**



Festive sparkle and shine is back, but this time round it's all about accentuating your feminine assets. Think megawatt glam and hit that party in metallics, beading and sequins, teamed with luxurious fabrics like velvet and chiffon in opulent jewel colours. Oozing classic sexy glamour with ultra feminine clothes; the look is hot, hot hot!

Take inspiration from Marilyn's sexy shape and go for anything that cinches in at the waist to create that timeless hourglass figure. If you think a pencil skirt is a little impractical for a party, then wrap dresses are for you. They come in lots of different colours and styles, and the shape flatters pretty much every figure.

Alternatively, try wrapping a sparkly scarf around your waist to update a plain dress. This will also focus attention on your slimmest part, creat-

ing that perfect silhouette.

Black really is the new black, and teamed with the right accessories, it can look seriously sexy. Rich berry shades are also a must this year. Choose anything from plum tones to the deepest crimson to add spice to your party outfit. You don't have to stop at clothes either, do siren red lips with understated eyes, or add a coloured sparkly scarf to that LBD.

Sky high stilettos are a great way to achieve the classic feminine look, what girl doesn't feel a million dollars in the right pair of heels? Go for round toes if you plan to be able to stand after all that dancing or if you're really worried about your toes, there is a huge range of gorgeous flat pumps out there, especially ones with metallics, glitter and baubles.

Alternatively you can't go wrong with a pair of sexy black boots to keep you

toasty on those cold nights.

Adorn yourself with fashionably festive baubles so dazzlingly gorgeous people will want to put you on top of their tree! There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to accessories this year. If you've got a simple outfit, why not team it with lots of sparkly beads worn long, mixing gold, silver, pearls, whatever!

Sparkle and shine this party season and perfect that sexy shimmer. A subtle glow is better than a face full of glitter, so use a highlighting cream along your cheekbones to illuminate your face. Add some more to your shoulders and décolleté to leave you looking radiant.

It's Christmas, so have fun with dramatic make-up. Go for seriously smoky eyes and if you're feeling confident, siren red lips. Otherwise, smoky eyes with neutral lips work really well for a funky

sixties look. To get smoky eyes start off with a cream concealer over your lids as a smooth base. Use a black pencil liner along your top lash line, and then use the same pencil to dot between your lower lashes. Smudge the liner with a cotton bud, and then sweep a powder shadow over the lid, blending upwards.

Black, brown, grey or dark green all look great with black liner. Complete the drama with two coats of black mascara. Don't overdo on gloss, this Christmas the coolest lips will be decked out in lipstick for grown-up glam.

Above all, when choosing your Christmas outfit, make sure you feel comfortable and confident. If in doubt, think ultra feminine, ultra glamorous and ultra sexy. Now go out there and party!



Sexy Stocking Fillers

Miss Kitty Kinkypuss selects the finest of Xmas gifts...

If you're loved up this Christmas and fancy adding a little festive spice to your relationship, here's a little taster of treats to get you down and dirty under the sheets.

Miss Kitty Kinkypuss has been slinking through the naughty rails at Ann Summers to come up with the top four sexiest stocking fillers for girls and boys, guaranteed to keep the fires burning all night long.



For him...

Body search, touch and feel: The kinky version of twister, including spinner and outrageous forfeit cards. 22.00

Chocolate Body drizzle: Desserts on you! Pour this wherever tickles your fancy and wait to be taken away to orgasm heaven. 9.00 euro

Sexual Positions Memory Game: Board games will never be the same again after you've tested your memory and daring with this saucy game. Be prepared to lose a few clothes.



Edible posing pouch: Get him to slip this little, sweet-filled number on and at only 60 calories you won't be able to resist biting it right back off. 9.00 euro

For her:

Mrs. Santa Set: If dressing up is your thing, this red velvet and lace trim mini dress with matching gloves and hat is sure to hit the hot spot. But be warned, its definitely not one for the festive parties or Santa won't be the only one calling ho ho ho. 45euro

New Rampant Rabbit Thruster: This new dildo's shaft thrusts up and down, rather than going around. There's a free copy of Playgirl with each purchase. 66 euro

Clit Kit: A mini motor with five detachable jelly heads for clitoral stimulation. It comes in a free silver coloured travel case. 30 euro

Five Fragranced Massage Oils: Five sexy scents to get her in the mood. Choose one, then oil-up and massage her aching body for an appetiser of what's to come. 15 euro

(Please note that all prices above have been converted from pounds sterling to euro > aren't 100% accurate of the actual retail price.)

Turn over to the next page to get more great gifts ideas.



HIS

by Mark Tracey

HERS

by Katie Corkery

I have a few female friends who think it's absolutely impossible to buy presents for guys. In actual fact it's completely easy! We don't care about colours, types, varieties; we're not fussy. Just get us something funny or useful and we'll be very grateful. But if you really have no imagination, I will simplify it in a list of my top five gifts.



1. Aftershave is a typical yet effective Christmas gift. It's very useful and we don't really like having to buy it for ourselves. Most guys don't like shopping, so obviously smelling different types of aftershave to find the nicest one isn't the most appealing way to spend an afternoon. At this stage the aftershave from last Christmas is running out, so it'd be a welcome top-up.

2. DVD's are probably the most obvious gift to get a guy. You can't go wrong with comedy, specifically slapstick. Or if you happen to know the type of film a guy likes (Most likely thriller,) get it! Just be sure he doesn't already have the DVD you have in mind, it's really annoying to get something we already have!



3. Novelty gifts or gadgets are really cool. Most things from the gadget shop would go down well with me, or things like Simpson's memorabilia. Anything funny or amusing even if it has no real use is okay, so long as we get a laugh out of it!

4. It may seem like a very tacky and very cheap option but who cares! Get him alcohol, by the time Christmas is winding down he'll be too broke to go out so having a bit of a store at home would be great.

5. I'm not too sure about buying him clothes. If you usually help him pick out his wardrobe (and he wears it) then go ahead and get him more. If not just stick to a t-shirt with a witty caption on it. You don't want to get him an outfit he won't wear!

So there you have it, five definitely going to work ideas. Any guy would love any of these five gifts and who knows he might even love the bearer of the gift if it's a really good one! Just remember no socks or gift vouchers, the present must either be useful or hilarious and don't go too mad money wise. Best of luck with it, not that you need luck - you can't go wrong with my flawless guide!



Pat Kenny has his best woolly jumper on so it must be Christmas again. However, it is often a time of dread for men. The voices that resound throughout the streets are not those of jovial carol singers, but of petrified men sweating over, 'what will I get her one for da Christmas.'

Scrap the '12 days of Christmas', trust me if you turn up with a partridge in a pear tree you'll be getting your P45. I'm about to hit you with the remix, the 12 step guide for buying the ultimate pressie for that special girl in your life.

Firstly, be prepared; don't leave your shopping until the last minute, i.e. Christmas Eve.

Watch her for a few days to get a sense of what she likes. Ask her what her favourite colour is. Maybe base your gifts on this colour, or if you don't know what direction to take, ask around. Her friends can be extremely useful, but choose your friend wisely; remember women talk.

If you're brave enough to buy her clothes, then a word of warning; be very careful with sizes. If in any doubt go smaller. The only exception to this is of course bras, under-size here and say goodbye to snuggling up in bed together this Christmas. Don't question our logic; it will be easier for you in the long run.

Undies are always welcomed (remember above!), but nothing too kinky like Agent Provocateur if she's planning on opening the gift in front of parents. Save those ones for the mistress, but hide the receipt just in case.



Girls love to be spoiled, and there's no better place to be spoiled than in a beauty salon. Chikara Beauty in Ballsbridge offers five different Power Packages, to relax, pamper and beautify. Jewellery is another safe option. Why not say it with bling, but find out if she prefers white gold or silver. It's like the great debate between HP and Chief Brown sauce, they look the same but everyone has their preference.

If you have been on more than three dates then maybe it's time for a naughty weekend away? Skytours.ie and Ryanair have great deals. The internet is your friend and if you get lost, there's nothing Google can't do.

Girls generally aren't great on gadgets but there are a few technical things sure to hit our spot this year.

To start, everyone loves music; and an iPod mini is a girl's new best friend. It's small enough to fit in a handbag and the range of colours means that the cutest to the most retro girls will be catered for.

This Christmas the phone manufacturers have stepped up their game and produced a few gems. The Siemens Poppy is one of the most sought after gifts this year, (its pretty, pink, and the screen turns into a mirror) so if you have the cash to splash, then go on, treat her to an upgrade.



Finally boys, if you really want to score extra brownie points, do something meaningful. Find a nice photo taken of the two of you together (preferably with her looking better than you) and get it framed. Silver is a nice choice if you want to get it engraved with something special. In fact, if you engrave anything it's bound to do the trick; bracelets, necklaces, if she's a smoker even a cigarette lighter. Failing that, the old favourite of a mixed tape should go down a treat. Get all her favourite songs together and mix them with a few soppy numbers that "remind you of her."

I wish you all the best of luck, and hopefully after all those wonderful gift ideas, a peaceful Christmas.

BY CLARENCE



The Village

26 Wexford St.

TH 15



IN AID OF SIMON COMMUNITY
PADDY CASEY
PLUS GUESTS €30

FR 16



TOXIC PROMOTIONS.NET PRESENT
STIFF LITTLE FINGERS
€22.50

SA 17



SULTANS OF PING
€21

SU 18



MCDJIE PRESENTS
STARSAILOR
€27.50

WE 21



THE FRANK AND WALTERS
€15

TH 22



TRAVEGA
€10

FR 23



MCDJIE PRESENTS
DANIEL POWTER
€20

SA 31

**NEW YEAR'S
EVE 05**

NEW YEAR'S EVE
ACCESS ALL AREAS
DOWNSTAIRS: ROCK KARAOKE
UPSTAIRS: DJ'S FIONN DAVENPORT
MORGAN & DAVE REDSETTA
€15

LATE BAR WITH DJ'S SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK
LATE CLUBS THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
WITH GUEST DJ'S - 11PM TIL LATE
SUNDAYS: SONGS OF PRAISE 8PM TIL LATE



THEVILLAGEVENUE.COM
Phone +353 1 4758555

Tickets from Village Ticketstore, Lo-Call 1890 200 078

Tickets from Ticketmaster outlets.
Phone and internet bookings subject to €3.00 per ticket up to
€20. 12.5% over €20. Agents €2

Tickets from Ticketmaster, Road & Ticketmaster outlets.
Tickets from independent ticket outlets, TicketCity, Road,
City Direct, Concert, Clackdagh Records, Selecta

WHELAN'S & THE VILLAGE LISTINES FOR DECEMBER

HEY!
ATTENTION!
THE CHALET'S
ARE HAVING A NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
IT'S ON IN WHELAN'S ON WEXFORD STREET
ON THE 31st OF DECEMBER 2005
WITH SUPPORT FROM BOSS VOLANTI
AND NAM SANDWICH
DOORS OPEN 10PM
TICKETS €20

NEW YEAR'S EVE 05

DOWNSTAIRS
ROCK KARAOKE
with Rory Montane and Murt

DJ'S UPSTAIRS
FIONN DAVENPORT
MORGAN & DAVE REDSETTA

NEW YEAR'S
EVE
ACCESS
ALL
AREAS



The Village
26 Wexford St.

SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER Doors 8pm til 3am

€15 Tickets from WAV, Camden Row - locall 1890 200 078

WHELAN'S

25 Wexford Street, Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 4750706
www.whehans.ie

THURSDAY 15th DEC €13/16

VYVIENNE LONG
(FOLLOWED BY FEAR & LOATHING ON WEXFORD ST
JOHN WALSHIE - DJ SET)

FRIDAY 16th DEC €16

TURN
(FOLLOWED BY LATE CLUB)

SATURDAY 17th DEC €16.50 UMACK PRESENT

PELICAN
(FOLLOWED BY LATE CLUB)

SUNDAY 18th DEC €10

CHUZZLE
(BERNARD & JACK COMEDY/MUSIC IN THE FRONT BAR 8PM)
(DJ IN THE FRONT BAR FROM 10PM - DAVID KITT)

MONDAY 19th €5

THE BLIZZARDS
(ACOUSTIC SESSION IN THE FRONT BAR)

TUESDAY 20th DEC €10

WALLMARK
(ACOUSTIC SESSION IN THE FRONT BAR)

WEDNESDAY 21st DEC €10

GIG CITY
CORONA, KUDOS, THE NATIONAL
(7-11 PM IF THEY CAN'T TAKE A JOKE - IN THE FRONT BAR)
SPECIAL GUEST DJ - SHAY COTTON

THURSDAY 22nd DEC €10/€13

**NO ROOM AT
THE INN**
SIMON COMMUNITY
(FOLLOWED BY FEAR & LOATHING ON WEXFORD ST
JOHN WALSHIE - DJ SET)

FRIDAY 23rd DEC €15

STAND
(FOLLOWED BY LATE CLUB)

SATURDAY 24th DEC

CHRISTMAS EVE
CLOSED AT 11.30

SUNDAY 25th DEC

CHRISTMAS DAY

MONDAY 26th DEC

STEPHENS DAY
CLOSED

TUESDAY 27th DEC €15 AIKEN PROMOTIONS

ROCCO DELUCA
(ACOUSTIC SESSION IN THE FRONT BAR)

WEDNESDAY 28th DEC €15

**CARNIVAL
SALOON**
7-11 PM IF THEY CAN'T TAKE A JOKE - IN THE FRONT BAR
SPECIAL GUEST DJ - DANIEL (THE THRILLS)

THURSDAY 29th DEC €16

LIR
(FOLLOWED BY FEAR & LOATHING ON WEXFORD ST
JOHN WALSHIE - DJ SET)

FRIDAY 30th DEC €16

MR NORTH
(FOLLOWED BY LATE CLUB)

SATURDAY 31st DEC €22

**NEW YEARS EVE WITH
THE CHALET'S**
(FOLLOWED BY LATE CLUB)

wav

Lo-Call 1890 200 078

* Tickets from Ticketmaster, Road & Ticketmaster outlets. Phone and
internet bookings subject to €3.00 per ticket up to €20. 12.5% over €20
Agents €2 ** Tickets from independent ticket outlets, TicketCity,
Road, City Direct, Concert, Clackdagh Records, Selecta
The above prices are subject to change. Where necessary, we reserve
the right to change prices without notice.



Wired to the Moon

The Moon's official ents section



Willy be on again this year?

So the presents are a distant memory, you've gobbled down the turkey, stuffed yourself with spuds and polished off the pudding. What's the perfect accompaniment to that stack of selection boxes glinting seductively in the corner? Your favourite Christmas movie of course. **KATIE TEEHAN** talks us through a few of her favourites.

Many of the favourite Yuletide films have nothing whatsoever to do with Christmas, but maybe this is what makes them so timeless. Come to think of it, it's unlikely that Christmas with the Kranks or Bad Santa will ever become seasonal classics in the way that *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Sound of Music* or *The Wizard of Oz* have.

My personal favourite has been recently given a glossy 2005 Hollywood makeover that I've refused to see because the original is so magical; it brings me back to the days of unbearable Santa-related excitement and *Curly Wurly* induced sickness.

As predictable as noxious brussel sprouts and drunken uncles, RTE has shown Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory every year since I can

remember. Sometimes it's buried down the schedule with the 'Would You Believe' re-runs, but I always find it.

From the vaguely disturbing Oompa Loompas to the edible multicolour wonderland of the chocolate room, it's a world of pure imagination. Who could ever tire of seeing the hideous Veruca Salt get what's coming to her. I'm terrified that some time they'll choose to show *The Grinch* instead and my Christmas world will fall apart.

Love Actually is a film which, while set around Christmas time, is not festooned with fake white beards, even faker snow and nauseating moral messages. Stuffed full of beautiful well-known actors like Keira Knightley, Hugh Grant, Colin Firth and even Denise Richards, involved in several

interlocking love stories, there's plenty for everyone to enjoy. It manages to stay just the right side of Christmas tacky, leaving you feeling warm and fuzzy by the end. Isn't that what we want from a Christmas movie?

Others prefer to wash down the turkey with a good swash-buckling adventure like *Indiana Jones*. You can't beat these movies for good old-fashioned fun and it doesn't hurt that Harrison Ford is looking his best in them.

Recently, Christmas has become inextricably linked with the release of blockbuster series like *Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter*. It's likely that these DVD box-sets will become annual favourites in the years to come.

Whatever your favourite, make sure you do it justice this year. Snuggle up on the sofa, stuff yourself with chocolate and gorge on your festive flick of choice. It's the only way to round off a great Christmas.



Genie-us: Mondo does Panto

By Karl O'Doherty

Fantastically elaborate sets, dazzling costumes, giant plants and one magnificent flying carpet. Sound vaguely familiar? It's that time of year again and we all know it.

Time to ditch the hard, cynical veneer college has given us, let loose and head out for a night of laughing at other peoples' misadventures. Panto sea-

son is upon us once again and there something for everyone on this year.

Whether laughing at a man dressed as an outraged old woman is your thing, or cooing over how cute the Billy Barry kids look all dressed up is your idea of a good time, in this city there is sure to be something to suit your needs.

This year the Galety Theatre is putting on a show of *Aladdin* that will run from Sunday 4th De-

cember until Sunday 5th February. The show stars George McMahon - ('Mondo' from Fair City) as the hero Aladdin who is saving the kids from the wicked Abanazer (Michael Grennell) while at the same time trying to score with Princess Jade (Joanna Ampil).

As usual the Dame of the piece is thrown in there with the people's favourite, Widow Twankey, doing the honours. One to look out for is the crazy Japanese guy from Ianzai who pops up here and there and shouts in Japanese. It's funny, trust me.

Also for those of you who don't like *Aladdin*, Draiocht theatre is playing *Jack and the Beanstalk*

from the 7th-14th January. This is performed by the Coolmine Panto Group who has pulled out all the stops this year to mark their 25th anniversary. Performed to an exceptionally high standard by amateur players, the set design and costumes are themselves a show worth going to see.

These are just two examples of the huge range of pantos and plays that are on in Dublin over Christmas, so my advice is, forget about the regular Saturday night's entertainment involving a six-pack of Holland's finest and go to see one of Ireland's best produced performances. After all Christmas comes but once a year.



Irish fans go crazy for Franz

FRANKIE WHELAN and JAMES GOULDEN interview Paul Thomson of Franz Ferdinand just hours before their headlining show at The Point, and SARAH DOYLE reviews their performance at the gig.

When was the last time you listened to your first album?

In a photo shoot we did in LA for a Japanese magazine. The photographer thought he'd make us feel at ease by playing our first record just after we're doing press for the second one, so we just thought "thanks", and every time the

odd keyboard sound would come on we'd just cringe and go "Oh my God why did we do that?"

This is probably your biggest tour with such a big production...

Well we just felt that since we're playing bigger venues we better step up with the production a bit and we want-

ed to incorporate video into it as well. Particularly like in London, we're playing in Alexandra Palace and a couple of the guys went down to see The Strokes two years ago, and they go for quite a bare set with just a curtain behind them because they like to try and make it look like a smaller venue even though it's obviously not, and it doesn't really translate to the back of the room, even though they're such a great live band. So yeah, we just wanted something visual to engage people without taking away from the live performance.

Would you ever get another musician on stage to play keyboards through more of the songs?

We've got one. We've got a friend Andy Knowles who's been about since the start. Our first ever gig was in his girlfriend's bedroom and he's playing drums on Walk Away and I'm playing guitar. He's also playing keyboard on about five songs and some extra drums on Outsiders. On

Outsiders we've got three people playing one drum kit. I noticed on your website that you picked the music for your Halloween gig. Is this always the case?

for the encore spitting fake blood all over the place and they just looked a bit bemused, sort of thinking "well this is new, are they going to do this every

never really stop. I think when you stop then you just become a sort of glorified karaoke band playing your own material, covering your own material practically.

'Eleanor Put Your Boots Back On' [from the new album] has a very McCartney/Beatles feel to it without being clichéd. Is this a direction you can see the band going in?

It's not the only direction I can see us going in. I mean, I don't see us becoming Wings or anything, although I wouldn't mind, I quite like Wings, but I think with some of the songs, they were written acoustically on guitar or piano and we wanted to keep them that way to bring some variety to the record and keep a range of different styles on it. That was the inspiration for putting that one, and Fade Together. Walk Away was very different to anything we'd done before. Now that we've gone that way we might take it other directions for the next record. It's still early days.

We came on for the encore spitting fake blood all over the place and they just looked a bit bemused, sort of thinking "well this is new, are they going to do this every night?"

Yeah usually I'd do it. I'd put together some sort of CD before we go on. We wanted to do something special for Halloween, although we were in Rouen in France and I don't think they really do Halloween that much in France. I mean, we came on

night?"

Are you still writing constantly on the road?

Yeah we did a brand new one that we wrote in two hours, that we did for an acoustic session we did for Virgin Radio, but yeah, it's something we do constantly. We



Photo by James Goulden

Franz frontman Alex Kapranos

Friday November 18th saw the welcome return of Franz Ferdinand to Dublin. The Scottish lads, who played here in July as part of the Bud Rising Festival, were back in town for their own gig at The Point, following the launch of their new album, 'You Could Have It So Much Better'.

To say the gig was live music at its best would almost be unfair, because it was 'so much better'. Kicking off with the thumping 'This Boy', lead singer

"Lead singer Alex Kapranos was in finely-tuned form"

Alex Kapranos was in finely-tuned form, and the crowd were loving it. The extended live intros into most of the songs built an atmosphere that even made The Point feel like a night out in your favourite cosy pub.

The latest single, 'Do You Want To', saw the unveiling of a giant screen and light display, showing the musicians in all their trademark style. Everywhere the eye could see, fans were going crazy, and tracks like 'The Fallen' and 'Evil and

a Heathen' kept pulses racing. At one stage, Kapranos did sound a little bit off, but in fairness to him, after the energetic guitar-playing, he was probably knackered!

The show was a perfect mix of songs from 'You Could...' and their first album, 'Franz Ferdinand'. For every song they played, you could feel the crowd's energetic reaction. Seeing practically everyone 'rocking out' to 'Take Me Out' was almost inspiring!

"You could feel the crowd's energetic reaction to each song"

Kapranos and co. were funny, musical, and as tight and together as every great band should be.

After an encore of five songs, they left a sweaty crowd feeling energised and ready to hit the pub for more fun.

Franz Ferdinand's second album *You Could Have It So Much Better* is out now



Photo by James Goulden

"I love you more", "No, I love you more!"

"Please forgive me".....David Gray babbles on



Photo by James Goulden

by Maeve McLaughlin

David Gray returned to his spiritual home of Dublin to play a sell-out gig in The Point on December 1st.

Gray began his set with the opening track of his latest album "Life in Slow Motion", the terrific "Alibi". This song

was received well by the crowd, as Gray delivered an impressive performance.

Next, Gray launched into the opening bars of "Sail Away". The song is from Gray's most successful and well-known album, "White Ladder", and the crowd was obviously pleased that they'd be hearing some of their old favourites, as well as the new material.

He tailored some of the song's lines to include Irish

place names, and references to Irish people; a trend which continued in various songs throughout the night. Unfortunately this was more cringe-worthy than crowd-pleasing, but it raised a few laughs all the same.

Gray continued his set with "Nos de Cariad", which went down well, but one of the best performances of the night came next with a fantastic rendition of "Please Forgive Me".

Other notable performances included "My oh My", "The one I love", and "Lately". The biggest crowd-pleaser of the night was, unsurprisingly, "This Year's Love", during which everyone held up their mobile phones to great visual effect.

Gray finished the main set with "Freedom", which he admits the band has only recently perfected live; and it was very impressive.

The encore began with

"Nightblindness", which was disappointing, and continued with a decent rendition of Gray's new single, "Hospital Food".

An energetic performance of "Babylon" came next, to a fantastic reaction from the crowd, and he finished his set with The Cure's hit "Friday I'm in love".

Gray is better suited to smaller venues, but unfortunately demand for tickets means that he frequently plays

larger venues such as The Point.

All in all, it was an impressive gig, but venue's size made for a less-than-ideal atmosphere.

David Gray's new album *Life in Slow Motion* is out now

Ask the Editors

by Frankie Whelan

The band name is very definitely Editors, was this a conscious attempt to avoid being regarded as just another 'The' band?

Yeah it's our private in-joke, we kinda knew it was going to happen anyway so we just knew it would look better on its own, it suits the artwork and the aesthetic of when you look at a record.

It's also quite uncomfortable to say it in a sentence and we quite like the idea of that.

We quite like the idea of people struggling to pronounce it.

It has been about a year since you signed to the Kitchenware record label. Are you still happy with this decision?

Absolutely. It's worked in a partnership between us and them. They're fans of our music and they're just the right guys to do it. They listen to everything we have to say and it's just worked out really well. We haven't had any of this crazy major label hell that you hear a lot of bands going through and it's just kept small so you know exactly what's going on.

You all have backgrounds in music technology, does this mean you're more hands on in your recording and with performances?

No. It's weird because you learn bits and pieces at college and you're in a studio with a little tiny desk and everything's very simplified and then you go into a professional studio and you just think "ah, I won't bother". It's very different; the stuff we were taught was very different in how to mix and how to record.

Birmingham [where the band live] isn't renowned as the happiest place on earth.

Do you think this urban landscape adds a dark streak to your music?

Yeah, we were all working at the time when we were writing the songs, and it is a pretty drab looking city. It's not like Brighton, for example. It's so in-land, it's difficult to escape sometimes.



Photo by James Goulden

MOVIES MOVIES MOVIES MOVIES

The Family Stone



Meredith always took staring contests too seriously

Hosting a stellar cast including Rachel McAdams, Claire Danes, Sarah-Jessica Parker, Luke Wilson, Diane Keaton, and Dermot Mulroney, *The Family Stone* certainly doesn't disappoint in terms of star quality.

The film tells the tale of the annual Christmas gathering of a New England family, the Stones. The eldest son Everett (Mulroney) brings his girlfriend Meredith (Parker) home to meet his parents, brothers and sisters. The bohemian Stones greet their visitor - a high-powered, controlling New Yorker - with a mix of awkwardness, confusion and hostility. But before the holiday is over, relationships will unravel while new ones are formed, secrets will be revealed, and the family Stone will come together through its extraordinary capacity for love.

The commendable script juggles elements of comedy,

romance and drama - and the cast carry it through with all-round excellent performances. McAdams is the standout performer in the role of Everett's temperamental younger sister Amy. Parker surprisingly shakes off the 'Carrie Bradshaw' preconception with ease to shine in the role of the controlling, rigid and tightly wound character of Meredith. And Mulroney - well, he simply smoulders in the role of Everett!

With a healthy mix of humour, sentimentality, and poignancy, *The Family Stone* is a chick flick of the highest order. Sure, it's predictable - but isn't that what we want in a chick-flick?

So leave the boyfriend at home, round up the girls, load up on chocolate and head for the cinema to witness this year's *Love Actually*.

ELAINE BUCKLEY

© © © © ©

March of the Penguins



"Step back, Fluffy... Let me handle this!"

This simple documentary charting a year in the life of the Emperor penguin was the surprise hit of the summer at the U.S. box office and it is easy to see why.

The film charts the penguins' seventy mile journey across Antarctica to reach their breeding ground.

Once there we see the hardships they endure in their effort to keep their egg alive and protect it from the freezing winter in a place where the temperature can go as low as minus 80 degrees.

It is fascinating to see the lengths they go to so that both they and their egg can survive. One of the most interesting things is the fact that the father takes care of the egg - and goes up to four months without food - to allow the mother to return to the sea to feed.

I know you're probably

thinking: a documentary? About penguins? Boring. But give this film a chance because it really is fantastic.

It has all the elements of a good story: love, death, conflict, suspense and humour. And if you don't go 'aaaawwww' at the sight of the fluffy little baby penguins then you just don't have a heart.

The filmmakers have to be applauded - their footage is breathtaking. You can almost feel the chill of the biting arctic winds. Morgan Freeman's velvety voice is the perfect choice as a narrator, putting real emotion into this beautiful story.

I would definitely recommend this film, it's really enjoyable and you might even learn something.

BRIGID O'GORMAN

© © © ©

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire



Hermione had found a new use for her magic wand

Dark and difficult times lie ahead. Harry Dumbledore warns and he's not far wrong. From its eerie opening to its dramatic ending *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* will have you glued to your seat. Without doubt the fourth instalment in the series is the best yet with impressive performances from its young cast.

Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (the hilarious Rupert Grint) are beginning their fourth year in Hogwarts when they learn that the school is to host the infamous and often fatal Triwizard tournament.

The film starts at a breathtaking pace with a murder in the Riddle house, the Quidditch World Cup and the arrival of the Beauxbatons girls and the sons of Durmstrang at Hogwarts.

Director Mike Newell was taken on for the fourth *Harry Potter* film and he hasn't disappointed. The Quidditch World Cup, the dragon chase and the Lake trial in particular are magnificently filmed.

Newell manages to retain most of the plot without compromising the wit and subtle humour of J.K. Rowling's novel.

The scene where Professor McGonagall (Maggie Smith) attempts to teach the Gryffindors to dance and all of the love scenes between Hagrid (the brilliant Robbie Coltrane) and Madame Maxine (Frances De La Tour) are hilarious. My favourite however is when Harry and Ron are contemplating their chances of a date to the ball in the middle of study hall while being repeatedly bashed across the head with a book by Professor Snape (Alan Rickman).

Being a *Harry Potter* fan I was slightly sceptical before seeing the *Goblet of Fire* because none of the other films have quite managed to live up to expectations. However I was not disappointed this time and I have to admit I went back for second helping a week later...

JULIE HOGAN

© © © ©

DECEMBER
GIG GUIDE

The Point

Sun 11 Hallelujah Concerts 2005
Thu 15 Russian State Ballet - Swan Lake
Fri 16 Russian State Ballet - Swan Lake
Sat 17 Russian State Ballet - The Nutcracker
Sun 18 Russian State Ballet - The Nutcracker
Tue 20 Foo Fighters
Wed 21 Oasis
Thu 21 Oasis
Fri 23 Pogues
Thu 27 Asian
Thu 29 Christy Moore with Declan Sinnott
Fri 30 Christy Moore with Declan Sinnott

The Village

Thu 8 Josh Rouse
Sat 10 Autumnata
Mon 12 Jose Gonzalez
Tue 13 Stars
Sun 18 Starsailor
Wed 21 Frank and Walters
Fri 23 Daniel Powter

Whelan's

Tue 6 Mark Eitzel
Wed 7 Martin Stephenson
Thu 8 The Rogers Sisters
Fri 9 The Answer
Sat 10 Pierce Turner
Sun 11 Blue Side Down
Mon 12 Jose Gonzalez
Tue 13 Joe Chester
Wed 14 Leya
Thu 15 Vyvienne Long
Fri 16 Turn
Sat 17 Pelican
Sun 18 Chuzzle
Mon 19 The Blizzards
Tue 20 Wallmark
Wed 21 Gig City
Thu 22 No Room at the Inn
Fri 23 Stand
Tue 27 Rocco Deluca
Wed 28 Carnival Saloon
Thu 29 Lir
Fri 30 MENORTH
Sat 31 New Year's Eve with The Chalets

The Olympia

Mon 12 Paul Weller
Tue 13 Paul Weller
Wed 14 Damien Dempsey
Thu 15 Damien Dempsey
Fri 16 Ocean Colour Scene
Sat 17 Ocean Colour Scene
Sun 18 Thunder from down under
Mon 19 Whipping Boy
Tue 20 Blondie
Wed 21 Blondie
Mon 26 Doves
Sat 31 Buggy Malone

The Gaiety

Mon 12- Aladdin
Sat 31

Vicar street

Mon 12 Aled Jones
Tue 13
Fri 16 Des Bishop
Sat 17 Paul Mc Kenna
Sun 18 Paul Mc Kenna
Mon 19- Des Bishop
Wed 21 Kila
Thu 22 Mundy
Fri 23
Tue 27 Legends of Irish Folk
Fri 30 Declan O'Rourke
Sat 31

The Ambassador

Sun 11 Embrace
Thu 27 U18's Christmas Party
Sat 31 Old Skool Reunion

Societies Under The Spotlight

By Michael Donohoe

Certain societies of DIT don't get half the amount of exposure that they warrant. Societies, founded on grand ideas, sometimes find themselves overshadowed by those with greater resources and superior execution of events. It may indeed be down to laziness on behalf of these societies or that their principles are somewhat skewed, but it's time to wheel these societies out under the spotlight and see what they have to offer!

Young Fianna Fáil

The society's main aim is "to promote current affairs and to make students more aware of governmental issues facing Irish society". They also wish to encourage debate concerning issues involving the EU. I'm not sure if there has been a brown envelope or two passed between the Young Fianna Fáilers and the EU, but let's hope that they get a bit more vocal about various college issues coming into the New Year.

Contact: youngfiannafail@soes.dit.ie

Christian Union

Bible Bashers! Damn dirty Bible Bashers! Yep, they are the only words that enter my mind when I think of the Christian Union. However, the Christian Union is about more than just endless recitals of Rosary and unleavened bread dinners. Holding meetings once a week, the union offer a friendly ear to students in this workaday world as well as music and prayer. Maybe peddling a loss cause in this golden age of debauchery, the society promotes spiritual ideals that may one day become relevant to this seemingly lost generation.

Contact: christianunion@soes.dit.ie

Reject Muzakel

I'm not sure if this society was founded off the back of seasoned 'You're A Star' contestant performer Brendan Kilkenny, either way he's probably their God. Basically for the musically retarded among you, the society offer the opportunity to people to showcase their lack of talent unwilling audiences. If your prospects of filling the Point D'op aren't so rosy, make your way to Mountjoy St. to join in on the fun/foolery.

Contact: rejectmuzakel@soes.dit.ie

Pirate Society

I honestly could not find any information on this society. Contact details are somewhat sketchy and their location is somewhere due-east (Bolton St.). What this society actually do I can't be sure but I'm intrigued to say the least. Possibly they're just affluent youths from the south Dublin suburbs who thought up a cool name. Or maybe they're actually pirates. The bounty is out on these Scurvy Lords. Watch this space.

Contact: pirate@soes.dit.ie

Journalism Society promises "cool" Christmas party

We here at *The Moon* don't like to blow our own trumpet (steady), but on December 14th, Carnival on Wexford Street plays host to the annual Journalism Society Christmas Party. The resident DJs will, as ever, be providing some of the entertainment and those who are plan-

ning to attend have also been promised one or two surprise performers for the night.

Also playing are the critically acclaimed Prunty brothers, Shane and Kevin, who will be entertaining the crowd with what they describe as a post-apocalyptic, neo-country style. The festivities are scheduled to

get underway around the 7.30 mark, and entry is free (is there a sweeter word in the English dictionary?) for Journosoc members. 'The Committee' have also promised free passes to Tram Co. on the Lower Rathmines Road for anyone left standing after last orders in Carnival.

All are welcome, particularly freshers who will have an opportunity to get to know their journalistically minded brethren. Those seeking further information can email journalism@soes.dit.ie. All the cool kids will be there, and you wouldn't want to be seen as uncool now, would you?



The crowd at Il Mondo for the Red Soc Rodeo

The drunk, the red and the ugly made an appearance at the Red Socs Redneck Rodeo to inaugurate their campaign into night-out-hood. Seán Ó Proinntigh, self-described Rodeo Romeo, saddled up and hit Il Mondo with the intentions of drunkenly engaging a mechanical bull, YEEHA.

A bouncing castle? Promised a bull and given a bouncing castle, extracting the danger and inserting a padded arena of disappointment. My partner in crime told me it was to do with legalities but the only whiff of bull seemed to be coming from him. The Red Soc saved their blushes by delivering the cheap drink they promised managing to avoid the downhill slalom that is expensive beverages.

Willie Nelson would be turning in his grave if he had heard the music that was more O-Town than Hoe Down! But luckily he was neither there nor is he dead.

One jubilant attendee, Maeve Scully, equipped with a Fat Frog lined with around ten straws commented "this is a legendary night", while attractively dodging the ugly and red categories but nestling in nicely to the drunk.

My partner in crime received a head-butt for his troubles after a disagreement with a bouncer in the smoking garden for standing in the smoking area without a cigarette: "I was merely second hand smoking when accosted by this meathead." What has the world come too when a poor man can't enjoy another man's smoke without being assaulted? He has since invested in his own cigarettes.

This night out deserves a middle of the road 3 out of 6 Dutch, a marking system which makes its debut this issue after a Dutchless first event. Not a bad attempt at a night out and I'm sure the Red Soc will only improve in their future endeavours.

Red Soc Rodeo is roaring success



Moon staff enjoying the Red Soc night out



Brian Fontana made a guest appearance along with other members of the "Newsteam", but as you can see, they were accosted by fans throughout the night...

DIT Fashion show 2006... ..uncovered

by Rebecca Todd

The DIT Fashion Show 2006 will go down as the year's finest party. The show dazzled the packed out Vicar Street audience. Hip-Hop dancers at the interval left spectators with a difficult decision. Get a pint or miss the fantastic spectacle.

To open the second half a team of break dancers invaded the catwalk. They left everyone in awe; they pulled off head-spins, one-arm handstands and other impossible looking moves.

The Fashion Society truly pulled out all the stops for this one. The stage was perfect for the show's burlesque theme. Draped in red and purple velvet curtains it set the sultry scene for the stunning models. The DJ provid-

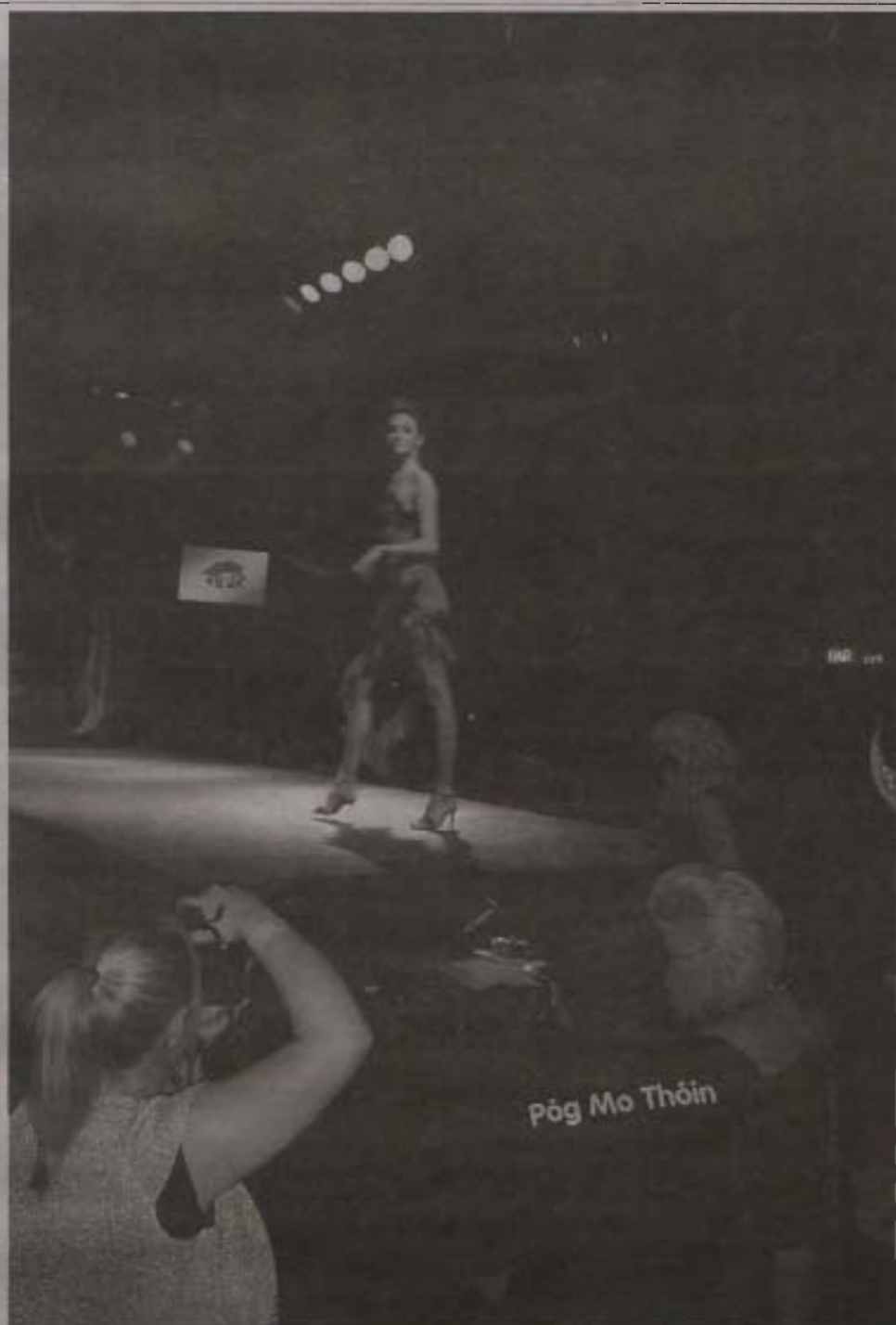
ed the popular beats and remixes which set the show in motion. A sexy strut and photogenic pout was the only requirement from the sultry models.

The talent among the models was impressive. There was a lot of potential at the show and I'm quite positive we'll be seeing more of these beautiful youths. They really gave the show their all. They were up-beat and vibrant all the way through, from underwear to winter woollies. They oozed confidence with anyone of them being worthy of the professional stable.

Two of the models were awarded modelling contracts by Compact modelling agency. The show wasn't a first for all the models however. Both Jane Wilde and

Lisa Mayburry who starred in the show are seasoned professionals. Jane has a modelling contract with Compact modelling agency and Lisa has been working the European scene with considerable success. They added to the show's professional air, parading down the catwalk full of personality and charisma.

Louise Conlon, the main organiser of the show, was quite deserving of the crowd's ovation. In fact the whole production team were subject to an awesome response from the exceedingly vocal crowd. All their efforts really paid off. I'll look forward to next year's show but it certainly has a hard act to follow.



Dramasoc carry on in DIT

by Julie Hogan

A group of individuals acting very strangely can be seen in the games room in Aungier Street every Monday evening. At first glance one can be forgiven for thinking that they may be drunk. On closer inspection however you will find it's the weekly workshops held by the DIT Drama Society.

The two hour workshops start with a warm up which consists of jumping around and pretty much clapping until your hands get sore. Thankfully however no form of embarrassing stretching is necessary.

Every week two professional actors teach the group skills through various activities and games that will eventually be displayed in a series of plays in February. Last weekend the society also took off to the wilderness of Connemara for a few days where a good time was had by all.

When I first joined the society I was a bit apprehensive of what exactly I had let myself in for but I have been most pleasantly surprised. The whole learning new skills thing and confidence building and all that is grand but most importantly the meet-

ings are great craic. One week the group spent an hour leading each other around blindfolded through a practical obstacle course. As you can guess hilarity (and some slightly awkward situations) ensued.

So if you have nothing better to do on a Monday evening and are in need of some cheering up at the start of yet another week come along to one of the meetings its never too late to start. Auditions will also soon be held for the upcoming plays for any interested parties.

SPUTNIK SPORTS

ROONEY READY
TO JOIN ELITE

KING?: Will Wayne Rooney be crowned as the new Pele?

By Nanook
Nosworthy

The Magnificent Magyar team of 1954 played with Ferenc 'Galloping Major' Puskas, Zoltan Czibor, Laszlo Budai and 'Golden Boy,' Sandor Kocsis up front. Four years later, Brazil boasted a strike force of Vava, Garrincha, Mario Zagallo and Pelé.

'Total Football' was introduced by the Netherlands team of 1974 which included Johan Cruyff, Rob Rensenbrink and Johnny Rep. The victorious Argentine sides of 1978 and 1986, had Mario Alberto 'Matador' Kempes, Leopoldo Luque, Jorge 'El Filósofo' Valdano and Diego Armando Maradona in its ranks.

The list of gifted teams that graced football's greatest global gathering is endless. Recent times have seen; defensive tactics, pitiful teams and scandalous refereeing de-

cisions tarnish what was once the 'Beautiful Game.' Consistency, with the exception of Brazil, departed with the theft of the Jules Rimet Trophy.

As the final places for next summers FIFA World Cup were decided, scepticism overshadowed any excitement at the world's biggest sporting event. France flattered to deceive during qualifying. Italy, mediocre at best, imploded against Slovenia. Spain did their best to avoid underachieving at a World Cup by not qualifying and England strove to prove their critics right, that they can't win a World Cup.

At least expectations on the Swiss, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Australia et al to perform are minimal. They offer little in terms of exciting and attractive football. Three games, three defeats later they will depart for another four years. Their inability to defend provides an entertainment factor, the World Cup is much more than that. Well, it was a show case where the world's greatest proved that they were a cut above the rest.

Reliance on tired old stars, a fear of going forward, ignorance of opponents and excessive hype over teams have seen the downfall of many an exciting side. The 2002 World Cup illustrated these points. Conservatism should have no place in football, but harsh lessons have been dealt, if not learnt. France and Argentina are prime examples of this. Prior to Korea/Japan

2002, France seemed all conquering. Les Bleus had won the 2001 Confederations Cup, 2000 European Championships and the previous World Cup. Meaningless friendly matches were deemed sufficient preparation for the defence of their trophy. France were certainly breathtaking. Three winless games, no goals and loyalty to a defective rearguard saw Roger Lemerre out of a job.

It was unlucky 13 for an Argentine side that selected a 35-year old Claudio Caniggia and a 30-year old Claudio Husain ahead of the young, creative and talented Juan Roman Riquelme and Javier Saviola. The current Albiceleste coach, Jose Pékerman, would do well to remember Lionel Messi, Rodrigo Palacio and Javier Mascherano when selecting his final 23. If not, it could come back to haunt him.

It is the biggest show on earth, where the biggest and best players demonstrate why they are paid bizarre amounts. It has often shown the discrepancies of international football, as giants crumble at the hands of minnows. Paul Robert says, "In football, the greatest satisfaction is winning when they say you can't." One wonders if die hard football fans would agree.

Even so, it would be nice to see Italy, France, Spain and Argentina perform to the best of their ability. As for England it's their time and expect Mr Rooney to be leading from the front.

"It is the biggest show on earth, where the biggest and best players demonstrate why they are paid bizarre amounts"

Gaelic Games

By Mark Rodden

THE WEATHER is awful and the training is tough. The wind and the rain hit hard against the 24 players present, and if you didn't know any better you could easily have thought you were in Ireland.

But at the ASPTT sports complex in Paris, the sight of a Gaelic football team in training must have been fairly strange. Formed in 1994 by a group of Irish people who found themselves in the French capital, Paris Gaels is a mix of Irish businessmen, tradesmen and students, as well as an increasing number of local players.

Pierre Gauthier discovered Gaelic football when he spent seven weeks in Leitrim in the summer of 2003. The 20-year-old Breton student attended the Kerry-

Roscommon All-Ireland quarter final, where the game, Croke Park, and the banter among rival supporters left a lasting impression on him. On his return to France, he began playing with a club in Rennes, and this Monday is his first training session with Paris Gaels.

"I discovered Gaelic football when I was working in a supermarket," he says. "What I really liked about it was the mix between football and rugby. I already played football for a number of years in France and I found a number of common elements in Gaelic."

"I think what's really interesting," Gauthier continues "is that you see points and goals all the time. It's true that in football you can have a 0-0. But in Gaelic football, that never happens."

Last November, the Railway Cup was held over-

seas for the first time at the Stade Yves du Manoir in Paris. One notable sight at the match was the curtain raiser, which featured the French national team - with 'An Fhrainc' emblazoned on their jerseys - playing their first ever game against a European selection. This followed the formation of the Association Française des Sports Gaéliques (AFSG), the French Gaelic Athletic Association, in October 2004.

President of the AFSG and Secretary of the European GAA board, Hervé Guicherd, was introduced to Gaelic football by a colleague at work. "An Irish colleague knocked on my door and asked if one day I would like to tell my grandkids that I had played Gaelic football. I said yes."

He quickly became involved with the Ar Gwazi

Gouez (Wild Geese) club in Rennes. "When I joined, the club was unorganised and some of the others convinced me to get involved in the organisation," he says. "I realised that the problem with the European Association is that the chairman is in Munich, the Vice-Chairman in Amsterdam, the Secretary in Rennes, the Development Officer in Barcelona. It's difficult to run through the internet and every country has their own peculiarity with the laws."

"So to make it more effective I found it necessary to create a French association with a goal of obtaining recognition for the sport. We also wanted to organise competitions on a French level, which is why we set up the Brittany Championship."

The AFSG meets every four months, and are targeting the development of the

Gaelic football in France is growing. 2004 saw the formation of the French Gaelic Sports Association and in May, the final of the inaugural Brittany GAA Championship took place.

game in French schools. With thanks to support from Gaelic Gear and Goalposts Ireland, the association recently held a challenge match in which 200 kids aged 11 to 18 took part.

The demands from schools in Brittany has seen Jean-Paul Laborde and Didier Perou, an ex-French volleyball champion turned GAA fanatic, take charge of a programme dedicated to introducing the sport to French children with the help of Irish coaches. "We (the association) don't have a lot of money at the moment," Guicherd explains. "It's progressing quickly, even a bit too quickly for us as we're getting a lot of demands."

So with this development in Brittany, will the game become popular elsewhere in France? Guicherd predicts that Gaelic football will be played in stadiums all around

the world in twenty years time, but Coffey and Bouvier are not so optimistic. "I think development in Brittany is easier than in Paris, because there's a lot of community spirit there," says Coffey.

Similarly, Bouvier feels it will be difficult or at least take a lot of time. "It's going well in Brittany and it will be good to see how it evolves, but for the rest of France it will be difficult."

As for Pierre Gauthier, the Frenchman who discovered Gaelic football in Leitrim, he hopes to organise a tournament in Paris next year, and is confident of attracting thousands of locals to watch. With already seven clubs in France, perhaps his dream is not as unlikely as it sounds.

www.parisgaa.org
www.rennesgaa.com

IBROX PARADOX

By Ronan O Connor

FOR THE blue half of Glasgow it is the best of times, it is the worst of times. Rangers' Jekyll and Hyde season continues into yuletide. They lie a miserable fifth in the SPL, having collected a paltry (for them) twenty-four points from seventeen games. The silver lining to this dark cloud is their European form. A tense draw with Inter Milan at Ibrox was enough to steer them into the last sixteen of the Champions League.

The man at the centre of this odd coming together of the sublime and the ridiculous is Alex McLeish. The much maligned Scot is hanging on to his job by the skin of his teeth. Dismal league form has seen Rangers endure their longest run of games without a win in their history. It is not bad enough that they trail cross city nemesis Celtic by an astonishing seventeen points, but the unexpected form of Hearts has put the notion of a

top two finish for 'Gers almost out of the question.

The yin to this yang is the poorly titled 'Champions League'. Rangers just managed to finish ahead of a Porto team in steep decline ever since the departure of the 'chosen one', and Artmedia Bratislava, Celtic's conquerors but no great shakes by all accounts. They accomplished this feat with a nervy draw at home to an Inter Milan side that had already topped the group with relative ease. Even with this draw the Rangers players and fans were left with a nervy few minutes at Ibrox. After the final whistle they were forced to wait for the result of Artmedia's clash with Porto. A goal either way would have seen Rangers tumble into the UEFA Cup, and McLeish tumble into the Dole queue.

Many will point to Rangers being the first Scottish team to emerge from the group stages into the last sixteen. This Sky Sports oriented claim should trouble all football fans. Such claims do great injustices to Celtic's

Lisbon Lions of '68, and even Walter Smith's Rangers team of 1992/1993 who dumped a hapless Leeds out of the competition that year. The current Rangers team is a poor relation of those two sides.

The mere fact that many see Rangers best chances of going further in the competition is to face an English side and rely on a 'battle of Britain-style' blood and guts contest to see them through. One can hardly see the stronger teams in Europe quaking at the thought of a trip to Scotland's second city.

The curious situation of Rangers is compounded by the curious situation of their manager. Were it not for his sides continued European competitiveness, McLeish would have been dismissed by David Murray long ago. He will surely jump ship or be pushed in the near future. We are currently witnessing strange times when a manager who has guided his team to the last sixteen of the Champions League is being linked to the Portsmouth post before he has quit his post.



GOD HELP ME: Alex McLeish appeals to his Protestant God for help

BILBAO BASQUE IN

If there was ever a club like Athletic Bilbao in Britain, certain members of the fourth estate whose articles may sometimes betray a soupçon of xenophobia would have seen their pens run out of ink.

By Ronán O'Connor

Athletic Club de Bilbao is a club like no other. Owned exclusively by its supporters, or members, it plays only canteras - players who come from the local area. Many would argue that this is how football should be. In stark contrast to this we can see that Chelsea in the late nineties managed to field an entire squad that did not include a single Englishman.

Today the club is in trouble; joint bottom of La Liga and with no real option of improving the squad in January. They have eleven points from fourteen games and a goal difference of minus six. Alaves and Real Betis are keeping them company down in the basement of Spain's top division.

Javier Clemente, the former Spain manager who led the club to back to back league titles in the eighties, is the club's new saviour. Three weeks ago he replaced the maligned José Luis Mendilibar and has seen a slight upturn in the club's league form. Bilbao now stand a decent chance of hauling themselves out of their malaise, but one has to worry for the club in the long run.

The team is bolstered by an ageing core and the historical flood of talent that used to come Bilbao's way is now more of a trickle. In recent years only Francisco Yeste and Roberto Tiko have made an impact in the first team. Bilbao are reliant on these two to spark the midfield, while Joseba Etxeberria (a constant in the Spain squad) is

"This extra experience translates into more and more Bilbao players having thenous and experience to go on and represent their country at the highest level."

the brightest star of the team, they are overly reliant on the ageing talents of warhorse striker Ismael Urzaiz, who is 34.

An even stranger phenomenon is the case of Julen Guerrero. In the mid-nineties Guerrero was hailed as the kingpin of Spanish football and expected to form a rock-like partnership with Barcelona's Pep Guardiola. It would never be, Guerrero suffered an almost incredible loss of form that saw him fall from contention for the Bilbao team for three seasons. Only towards the end of last season did he make a substitute appearance for Bilbao, to a spectacular ovation from the devoted fans.

There are many who claim that because the club plays only canteras, home grown players, they are adding to nationalist tensions that exist in the Basque region. This ill-informed criticism levelled at the club does not do either critics or criticised any credit. As with any organisation, there will always be one or two idiots who

blacken the name of a club, but Bilbao is often the source of more Spanish internationals than any other club.

The reason for this anomaly, a Basque team providing more than their quota of players for the national team can be traced to the cantera policy. There are no foreign stars to take the places of young talent. Therefore the younger players get much-needed game time and experience in the top division. This leads to obvious development of the youngsters, who generally have a head start on their young rivals at other clubs. This extra experience translates into more and more Bilbao players having the nous and experience to go on and represent their country at the highest level.

The cantera rule that Bilbao employ has had its critics, not for the fact that it is still being employed, but because it has been applied with differing levels of strictness during different periods of the club's history. The Basqueness of players has been interpreted dif-



FIERY: Bilbao boss Javier Clemente is known for his razor tongue

FORMER GLORY

differently from time to time. Miguel Jones, born in Equatorial Guinea but raised in the Basque region, couldn't play for Athletic in the 1950s, while other players born abroad with Basque ancestors have in some cases been admitted. Currently the rule is being applied rather laxly, with plenty of Navarrans and second-generation Basques in the squad.

This contrasts with the practice of one of Athletic's Basque rival Real Sociedad, who once had a similar Basque-only policy but has now abandoned it. In the club's history only one foreigner has played for the club. This was the well-known French full back Bixente Lizarazu who, although he is French, came from the southern region of France that is also part of the Basque region.

One can see that Bilbao's home-grown only policy has and will cause them problems when they are attempting to field a side that can compete at the very highest level. This seems to be getting more and more difficult for the Basque club, as the likes of Barcelona and Real Madrid are trawling the globe for the cream of world talent, Bilbao can only choose their players from one small region in Spain.

This rule can be double-edged for Bilbao. On the one hand their players can often have a much stronger affinity for the club that sees them from a real team spirit and would make most worth to ever leave the San Mames for another club. As Joseba Etxeberria said, "We identify more with the club than other players; we're not mercenaries who join one team one year and

"Even when they do get the talented youngsters to play for them, there is never a guarantee that they will stay."

another the next." On the other side of the coin, Bilbao don't even have exclusive rights to Basque players (Alaves, Real Sociedad, Osasuna and Racing Santander are all Basque clubs in the Primera Liga). There is a long list of quality Basque players plying their trade outside of the region. Gaizka Mendieta and Xabi Alonso are both eligible to play for Bilbao but choose to play elsewhere. Even when they do get the talented youngsters to play for them, there is never a guarantee that they will stay. In the summer top scorer Santi Ezquerro left to warm the bench at Barcelona, while Asier del Horno went to Chelsea with a cool £8m coming to the Basque club.

This is a real crisis that won't be solved with back to back wins. For Bilbao to come out of their current malaise a true turnaround is needed. Perhaps Clemente can change things around. He has a true understanding of the club, the people and the pride of the region. He once chased John Toshack

out of town before he performed a previous saving act at the club. Whatever the outcome on the field, things are sure to be entertaining off the pitch with Clemente back at the helm. This is the man who once put down a journalist who claimed he knew about football because he had been watching it for years with this stinging rebuke, "the cows at Lezama [Athletic's countryside training ground] watch football every day and they haven't got a fucking clue."

The future of this great romantic club is certainly hanging in the balance; there is renewed pressure to break the cantera rule. But would cheap (Bilbao are not a rich club any more) foreigners be any better than what they have now. They are one of only three clubs to have never been relegated (with Barca and Real). They will want to preserve their record, but with their worst start in 100 years and their second coach of the season Bilbao aren't doing it the easy way.



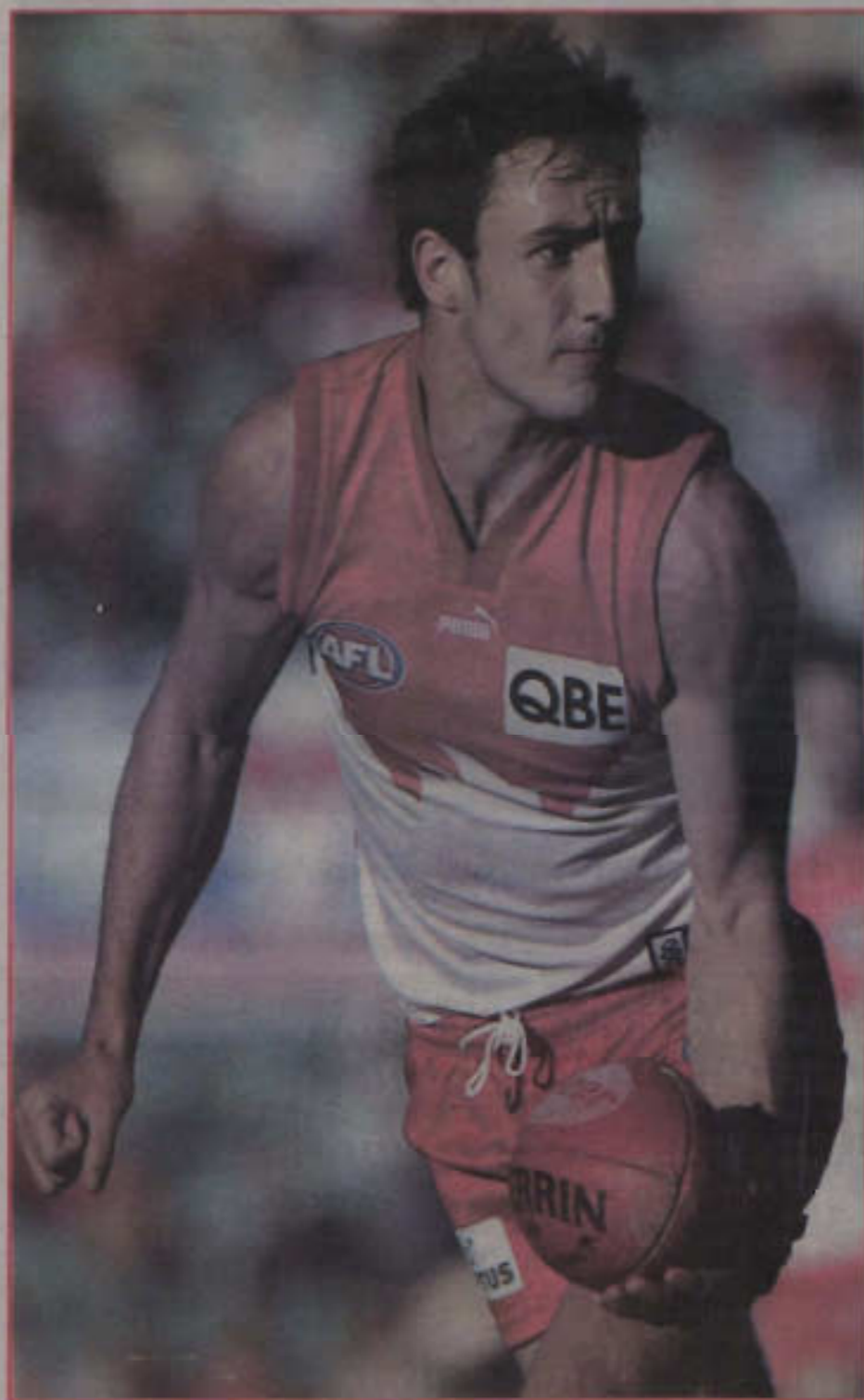
BROTHERS IN ARMS : Bilbao players love each other very much

There are many who claim that because the club plays only canteras, home grown players, they are adding to nationalist tensions that exist in the Basque region. This ill-informed criticism levelled at the club does not do either critics or criticised any credit. As with any organisation, there will always be one or two idiots who blacken the name of a club, but Bilbao is often the source of more Spanish internationals than any other club.



SPUTNIK SPORTS

IN MEMORY OF THE HORSE



Tim Kennelly's son Tadhg in action for Australian NFL side Sydney Swans

by Arthur
Sullivan

HE TREMBLES as he walks towards the forty. He's been given the number 11 jersey, the leader of the attack. The place is unfamiliar, yet he's been in the stadium many times before. He makes his final trudge to his position, ready to brave the elements of the flesh, to face the might of bone and sinew. He looks up, and towering like a prize stallion stands Tim Kennelly, the toughest centre-half in the business. It's a frightful prospect but it's the life he chose. It's moments like this he'll relish when his boots are up and he's warming his feet by the fire.

It's a familiar story to anyone who came across the man they called 'the Horse'. Tim Kennelly was the archetypal centre-half back. Shoulders like walls, arms that closer resembled heifers, legs like an elephant and a chest like a bag of hard cement. He came right at the start of Kerry's golden era. Introduced by fresh new manager Mick O'Dwyer into the team for the start of the 1975 campaign, the granite-made 20 year-old of Listowel Emmets was groomed for residency at number 6.

It wasn't long before Kennelly was the anchor of the

Kingdom's rearguard. He was brutally strong, like a steam engine, made so by his daily labour on his farm in Listowel. He possessed a radar-like awareness when manning the forty, switching across the line and swatting away buzzing forwards like flies. He presented a huge obstacle to any prospective attacker and in beating Kerry, you inevitably had to beat the Horse.

He was not a simple man of mettle, a destroyer, so often deployed in that era. He was a gifted fielder and when he rose for a high one, he rarely came down without it. Kerry's style was like a blitzkrieg. They played in rapid scurries of short passing on the ground but mixed with heaving aerial bombing of long balls into the heart of the opposition area. Kennelly was the launch pad of so many Kerry attacks. He was blessed with a booming kick and the sight of him sweeping up at the back before finding Johnnie Egan, Mikey Sheehy or Ogie Moran with a pinpoint punt was a familiar one to all football followers of the era.

With his power came a cool sense of responsibility. Team-mate Pat Spillane said "He wasn't known as 'Horse' for nothing but he was a cool character. I don't ever recall him losing his temper."

Kerry won the All-Ireland in 1975 with a swagger that would define them for the next 12 years. The next one came in 1978 when they slaughtered Dublin by 17 points and in 1979, Kennelly captained his side to victory over the Dubs again and it was a whipping once more, 3-13 to 1-8.

While the 1979 triumph was probably the proudest moment of Kennelly's career, it was in 1980 that he gave his finest display. A young, hungry Roscommon team stood in the way of the three-in-a-row. After 12 minutes, the men from Connacht had a five point lead.

Kerry turned to Kennelly to pluck them out of the mire. It was steel they needed, a calling to stand up to the plate and show what they were made of. The Horse began to repel rampaging Roscommon star Dermot Earley on each of his forward forays. Each athletic stride of Earley was met with the stone-cold manhood of Kennelly and his resilience held out as Kerry claimed a 1-9 to 1-6 victory.

Kennelly picked up his fifth medal the following year but he also endured the agony of Seamus Darby's last gasp goal for Offaly in the 1982 final which denied Kerry the five-in-a-row.

Tim drifted away from the Kerry team after this. He had achieved enough with 5 All-Ireland medals pocketed before he had reached his thirties. He continued to farm his land in Listowel and run his pub with wife Nuala.

In 2000, Tim's son Noel was on the Kerry team that won the All-Ireland. His other son Tadhg has made the successful transition from GAA to Australian Rules football with Sydney Swans and this year made history in becoming the first Irishman to win a Premiership medal. Tim was in Australia with his wife for the day and was beaming as he watched his son celebrate on the podium.

It was a crowning salute to the life of Tim, the son that had longed to showcase his talents on the professional stage had triumphed. It was a dream that bore fruit in the throbbing city of Sydney but that was forged on the distant sod of his dad's farm in Listowel.

Tim Kennelly's death due to a heart attack at the age of 51 is a shock to everyone in GAA. But every GAA fan knows that the best thing football gives you is happy memories that don't fade with the passing of time and the Horse has provided us with plenty.

"He wasn't known as 'Horse' for nothing but he was a cool character."