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DIT Journalism Society

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Recommended Citation
Thousands march for workers' rights...

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

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 Montjoye Square convenor Paul O’Connell. He went on to question a "lack of clarity" surrounding the decision-making process in the SU.

Lorna Fisher, convenor for Cualanur Brougha Street holds similar worries. She alleged that there has been an complete lack of feedback, along with a lack of action from the sabbatical officers, when issues are raised. "There is a gaping 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 site. "The lack of organization is evident throughout DITSU," said Paul. "The president asks for patience as is he is ‘on a learning curve’ despite being seven months in the job. It’s pretty much the same situation with the Chair of the 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 sabbatical officials 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 first of the week festivities in Montjoye Square were highlighted as a example of the conflict within DITSU. "The aim of the organised events was a DJ and two nano vans. Nobody on site was even told they were coming. That was the last union event we had in Montjoye,"

The lack of published plans of work for the sabbatical team was pointed out by Lorna. "They should have been available by the end of 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 charges are echoed by DITSU Presidents, Bob Cullinan. 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 busy, getting to grips with things by Christmas."

All decisions are made by either the board of DITSU Ltd, Governing Council or CGF. An awful lot more work is being done behind the scenes, while DITSU Trading and the shop 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 shuffling. 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

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 5 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 132 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 capital 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 20 million complex up in Grangegorman".

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

Daithi Mac Sithigh, former education officer addresses delegates.

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 Kamer Janir Chowdary 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 extremism. We merely wish to provide a forum for debate on issues that are relevant to society". However, politicians fear that Mr Chowdary's speech may encourage Trinity students to adopt an extremist viewpoint.

Mr Chowdary said that Ireland is "a legitimate target" for a terrorist attack due to its collaboration with the US. His collaboration, he means that Ireland is allowing US planes to refuel here on route to a bombing raid. He says "A US pilot is no different from the Irish person who allows the US planes to refuel here on route to a bombing raid". He also said that if Ireland increases its support for the US, the Catholic Church would come "swiftly".

There were other members of the British Islamic extremist group in the debate a number of whom spoke against the motion. Eoin O'Keefe, said he did not see an attack on Ireland as likely. Minister for Defense Willie O'Dea said that the cabinet will be holdling discussions to minimise the risk of Islamic extremism being given a platform to speak here in the future. As a protest there is no legal obligation to attend anyone about who is going to speak at a particular meeting. Some senior politicians are citing for laws to be brought in to ban Islamic fundamentalists from entering the country at all.

Mr O'Dea (the Justice spokesman) said: "I think it is very immature of the Philosophical Society in Trinity to invite someone who wants to spread death and destruction". He would not welcome the outside bombing of Israeli hotels in Jordan three days ago. Mr Chowdary was out of order publicly defending the killing of innocent people. Mr O'Keefe does not want to restrict freedom of speech but merely says it is unacceptable and inadvisable to openly justify acts of terrorism.

Mr Chowdary is under police surveillance in Brian and garde are considering prosecuting him for incitement to hatred.

Trinity College are standing by their decision to allow the presentation to take place. 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.

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 knew. 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 year I felt differently. I think that all the arguments, and all of the problems within USI are ent­irely symptomatic of one single problem. The USI is an organisation without a purpose, and there is no organisation with too many purposes. Some col­leges want a national union that offers professional serv­ices 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?'

Minister for Defense Willie
Putting the liberal in liberal Arts

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 majors in magic? Mixed martial arts? Motor sports, health diets, "make-up coordinator" on inputs sciences? College is indeed getting weird, and for good reason: weird majors attract students. Unconventional departments not only offer 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 magicians, but Dong-A became the country's first magic college.

Kang Hyun-joong, 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 modern dance and how to make stage props. What qualifies a person to become a professional magician? Well, of the instructors have years of experience in the field. For classes, however, they have to use improvised props on hand, according to Mr. Kang.

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 Jeong-soo, 38, a magician at the performing magic and illusion institute Alexander Magic Family. "I think that to some degree, it's inescapable to make trendy departments just to attract students interested in some fun."

But Lee Jin-seung, 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, he 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 tricks are originated and how to understand people's minds, stuff private instructors can't offer." But another student at the school, Moon Chang-min, 22, and aspiring in magic wasn't a necessity 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 of college, learning magic and dance, but right now I'm heading in a different direction," he said. "I feel like I wasted my time, even though I enjoyed it," Mr. Moon said.

Department of Speeding

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 2016, the college began offering classes in this field this year. Driving is just one long student can learn, other areas are machines, engineering and race-team management. The department facilities alone cost 1 billion won ($969,000) and include a 75-meter (610-foot) go-kart course with a 176-meter (577-foot) roadway, according to Kang Hyun-soo, professor of the department.

The school also teaches driving on real race circuits at Taejon, Gungwon province, and at Yongin, Gyeonggi province. It also exchanges information on formulas or grand touring car manufacturing and technology with racing teams such as Sunway and E-Hain Racing. Min Min-ju, 20, said she 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 assemble engines, study their construction, and apply new ideas to existing technology, "I can make improvements whatever I want," he said. "I want to be a driver." He said he would be a better driver after learning more about cars, engines and other cars.

Department of Batt-whooping!

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 Taekwon-So Sports and Recreation started offering the major this year. Eighty students have to sign 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 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 jiu-jitsu 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-bae, however, aren't fighters; they're boxers. Specifically, Pure Lovers. Mr. Lee is a professor at the Department of Pure Love at Sunmoon University which was established by Moon Sun-won's Unification Church. The love union is considered "pure" because it emphasizes marriage before marriage, although it also teaches students about contraception.

"Society is extremely open about sex and pure love seems to have ended," Mr. Lee said. "We teach people about sex by showing them marital values. The education is based on the values of the Unification Church.

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 15 percent of his course graduates are working abroad for the church teaching sex education or doing missionary work.

Lee Soon-won, 24, the first major student in the department said he applied for the Pure Love major after learning that purity is not only about virginity but also about having 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 the sexual crime, abortion or pre-marital sex, by teaching people about what I learned at school.

Department of Glam

Lee min-jong is a less-than-avant-garde, the two-year Seoul Hoseo Institute of Technology is creating a "Broadcasting Coordination Make-up Department," classes are to be offered beginning in spring 2007.

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

The school also has a Total Beauty Design Department, coming everyday a student needs to know about making-up, tailoring, sales, skin care, hair and more. Mr. Kwang said the new department also instructs students in how to make up actors and clothing styles, to help them select the right fashion for characters in soap operas or movies. Students will also have a chance to go practice in real film shoots.
Iranian government deny Bahá'í students an education

By Sarah Pickett

A

s 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's 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'ís 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, and Zoroastrian. For those 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'ís 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 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, "Islamic" 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 access the truth in all religions. They look forward to the day when they will enjoy the same rights as of 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

B

rian Cowen's Budget 2005 has delivered a package of over one billion euro for the third level sector, making tuition 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 Grangegorman", said DIT/SU President Bob Coggins. The Book of Estimates for Education has allocated one million euro to the establishment and administration of the Grangegorman 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 DIT/SU President. "At a time when students are still experiencing great difficulty in getting a reasonable standard of accommodation this decision is difficult to understand," he said.

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

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."
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 OIT 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 OIT 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 student 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.

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Liam Lawlor - móran cainte ar bheagán cúisé?
Beer googles

...beer babies?

by Edel Neade

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 been 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. "It’s all fun and games until you get there or embarrassed," said she’s often woken up in the morning when she got there or embarrassed.

A 21-year-old fine arts student revealed she always drinks a bottle of wine before going out. "It’s a social thing. 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 makeup 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 snatching a can of cider into pubs when she can’t afford pub prices. She also said she’s often woken up in bed with a stranger without her knowing how she got there or embarrassed when she told her 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 away.

W hen 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 evening 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 googles” effect means that you are more likely to find someone attractive after a few beers, than if you saw them earlier in the evening.

You’re less likely to use contraception when consumed in drunken pauses. If you can’t walk in a straight line, it’s more likely that you or your partner won’t use contraception correctly. A major Irish study found alcohol to be a factor in private and unplanned pregnancies (where drinking resulted in the miscarriage of the foetus). Yet teenagers say alcohol is a factor in their engaging in sex.

The incidence of STIs in Ireland has increased by 165% at the last ten years with 8,900 cases reported in 2000 alone. This coincided with 4 or 5 drinks, most men and women do not show up for almost 20 minutes. Just because your drink is non-alcoholic does not mean it cannot be spiked. Faking drunk and money won’t always mean good times.

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DIT students (IFS) get national enterprise gong

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 Michael Martin, Minister for Enterprise Trade and employment announced Integrated Facilities Solutions (IFS) as the winner of the National Enterprise Award.

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. Realizing that 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 on how to maintain it. If you apply this idea to somewhere like Park it becomes clear that you have something 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 the 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 are our ultimate goals!”
Kitty Kinkypuss explores STDs in the industry and Lepreporn...Follow the rainbow to his cock of gold!

Top 5 First Date Tips

1. Girls remember the old reliable-fMbiooably late, but that doesn't mean two hours.
2. Do not get hammered. Drunk speech is never attractive so keep an eye on the drink-o-meter.
3. Do not tell your whole life story. How you have no friends and nobody ever asks you out. It's weird and kind of desperate.
4. My advice: girls 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 young Canadians arrived in LA in March 2004, hoping to cause a ripple in the porn industry and create a nice little second for the self, two months later she was broke, shamed and HIV positive. Lara, a 21 year old from seven extremites, but now part of a larger scene, which packed the California-based porn industry in 2004.

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by Sarah Doyle

All 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 effect 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.

F,input Tannasen, 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 stay at home. I go to DCU so it was really easy going to uni, I could get out of the house."

"It's a bit hard living far away, but it's doable. You'll have to be independent," he says. "I have schoolwork to do but I can't get out of it."

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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 Aofe Ni Dhaligh

Unfortunately, having talked at spending 30 to get the express train - all air-conditioning and compartment 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 was packed everywhere and each station brought a fresh mass of hawkers and street sellers. Bill with tickets had piled into the carriage and taken our top bunks, so we wound up on either side of their beleagured grumpy to pose for a picture. It still alarm me that I forget to carry my camera and my――

That evening we arrived at the train in the way into my mind. The light in the train was on and we could see the city through the windows. We had been to a cinema before.

Not one like this. Legendary among backpackers anyway the city in that place in India to watch a Hindi film and the lobby is reminiscent of a Vegas casino.

Our groupof girls sat into the main hall as we stared upwards at the ceiling and chandelier. The cinema had a cold circus, air-conditioned, more like a theatre than anything else. We stumbled on "Koi Mil Gaye" a sci-fi film with blue aliens and Hollywood stars. Despite our lack of Hindi and the cold distraction of a bug flying across the screen, the film held our attention for a while. The next day, we were lost in a world of luxury and over-priced popcorn.

We continued on our way and Wajid was delighted to find us eager to sit in our seats and watch a Hindi film. He was determined to explore so I dragged my friend on a trip to the Taj Mahal and the next day we reached the temple, took our shoes off to go inside, and gently stepped on the marble stairs. We were quickly turned by their "Hindu" style of sitting, colourful turbans and curved mantles. Back in the city we strolled along the ghats and barged our way through the crowds.

The next day we were in a small town and we decided to walk to the main street and bargain them to front of all thousands of small brown boxes sown and scattered. We started to work forward, remarking about all we read about them not having hands - hands having hands and hands having hands. We wandered around the narrow streets and alleys in the old city and finally we reached a narrow street. The next stop on our tour was in a fort, built in the 14th century. We arrived there in the morning, guided by our guide, who showed us around the temple. We were overjoyed to find a man smoking a cigarette. He had already been smoking for a while we were there. We were allowed to enter the temple, and we were filled with the peaceful yet powerful atmosphere of the Taj Mahal. We left it feeling content and fulfilled.
MOONSTRUCK Features

December - January 2006

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 Toehan

Festive sparkle and shine is back, but this time round it's all about accessorising your favourite pieces. Think pashmina shawl and hit the party in metallics, beading and sequins, teamed with luxurious fabrics like velvet and chiffon in opulent jewel colours. Getting close to Christmas, start with ultra-feminine clothes; the look is hot, hot hot.

Take inspiration from Marilyn's sexy shape and go for anything that clinches in at the waist to create that time- less 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, creating 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 dresses either, as sequined red lips with underlined 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 her right pair of heels? Go for round toes if you plan to be able to stand under all that dancing or if you've really worried about your toes, there is a huge range of gorgeous flat pumps out there, especially ones with metallics, glitter and beading. 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 to dazzlingly gorgeous pectplo 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 behind, stringing 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 décolletage 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, wear red lips. Otherwise, smoky eyes with neutral lips work really well for a finkysixties 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 along 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 it on gloss, this Christmas the coolest lips will be decked out in lipstick, for grown-up glitz.

When choosing your Christmas outfit, make sure you feel comfortable and confident. If in doubt, think super fun, ultra glamorous and ultra sexy. Now go out there and party!

For her:

Mrs Santa Sis. If staring up is your thing, then red vel- vet and lace are really in. Shop with amassing gloves and hat to suit to hit the hot spot. But be warned, it's challenging hat one for the festive party or Santa won't be the only one calling by his real 45-turn New Rampant Rabbit Theatre. This new slip-on's arlows are both pretty and down rather than going around. There's a new spirt of Flirtiss with each purchase, 99 euro.

Get KAT. A panty with five detachable jelly heads for racial stimulation. It comes in a five silver coloured travel case, 30 euro.

Five sexy smooches we get her in the mood. Choose one, then nip up and manage her adding body for an appetising what to come, 15 euro.

(Please note that all prices above have been converted from pounds sterling to euro to vary 100% accurate of the actual retail price.)

Turn over to the next page to get more gift ideas.
MOONSTRUCK Features

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December - January 2006

The SATURDAY SAYS

by Mark Tracey

I have a few female friends who think it’s absolutely impossible to buy presents for guys. In actual fact, it’s completely easy. They don’t have much idea about clothes, shoes, watches, electronics, wetsuits or surfing. Just get as something funny, unusual and useful. They’ll be very grateful, but if you really have an imagination, I will buy it in a box like this: five gifts.

1. A take-off on the popular yet effective Christmas gift. It’s very useful and you can’t really have to buy it for yourself. Most guys don’t like shopping, or obviously spending different types of after-shave to feel the closest one. It’s the most annoying way to spend an afternoon. At this stage the alternative: a pair of sunglasses that last Christmas is running out. I’d be a welcome pop-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 (Monty Python, cliche) get it! Just be sure he doesn’t already have the DVD you have in mind, it’s really annoying to get something you already have.

3. Novelty gifts or gadgets are really cool. Most things from the gadget shop would go down well with anyone, eg things like Simpson’s earphones. Anything funny or amusing will be appreciated, but it can’t ruin it too much. 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 a real, by the tine Christmas is winding down he’ll be too broke to go out so having a bit of a share at home would be great.

5. I’m not too sure about buying him clothes. If you generally help him pick and his wardrobe (and he wears it) then go ahead and get him snazzy. 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 better 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 money wise. Rest of luck with it, but if you need help, you can’t go wrong with my flawless guide.

THE JACK

by Katie Corkery

Pat Kenny has his hands kind of limp as it must be Christmas again. However, it’s often a time of dread for him. The rules are ground through his legs are not those of Pavlovian dogs, but the emotional ones over-riding, “man will get you for dx Christmas.”

Scrap the 12 days of Christmas, treat me if you turn up with a partridge in a pear tree you’ll be getting your P50. I wouldn’t hit you with the remit, this 12 step guide for buying the ultimate present for that special girl in your life.

Firstly, be prepared; don’t leave your shopping until the last minute, it’s Christmas Eve.

Watch her for a few days to get a sense of what she likes. Ask her what her favourite colour is. Maybe one of your gifts should be in her favourite colour. She’s either a brown or silver, but vice versa. Jewellery is another safer option. The only exception to this is not with frilly underware, hi-hi and say goodbye to naggling up in bed together this Christmas.

Don’t question your heath, it will be easier for you in the long run.

Under are always welcomed (remember she’s a heath in her teens, but nothing is wrong.)

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

Gifts for guys aren’t easy on pockets but there are a few technical things sure to hit spot. This year.

Firstly boys, if you really want to score extra brownie points, do something meaningful. Find or 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.

Mothers, if she’s a mother, even a cigarette lighter. Falling that, the old favorites of a mixed tape should go down a treat. Get her favourite songs together and ask her to fill the tapes with a few of your numbers than “remind you of her.”

I wish you all the best of luck, and hopefully all those wonderful gift ideas, a peaceful Christmas.
The Village
26 Wexford St.

MELAN'S & THE VILLAGE LISTINGS FOR DECEMBER

ATTENTION!
THE CHALETS
ARE HAVING A NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
IT'S ON AT WHelan's ON WEXFORD STREET
AND NAM SANDWICH

NEW YEAR'S EVE 05

DOWNTOWN ROCK KARAOKE
with Rory Montana and David

NEW YEAR'S EVE ACCESS ALL AREAS

The Village
26 Wexford St.

NEW YEAR'S EVE ACCESS ALL AREAS

DOWNTOWN ROCK KARAOKE
UPSTAIRS GIG FROM DAVON DAVENPORT.
MORGAN & DAVE REDSETTA £15

LATE BAR WITH DJ'S SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK.
LATE CLUB THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.
WITH GUEST DJs 8PM - 2AM. LATE.
SUNDAYS: £5 OFF PRICES WHERE APPLICABLE.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

DOWNSTAIRS

ROCK KARAOKE
with Rory Montana and David

THE CHALETS

MORGAN & DAVE REDSETTA £15

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NEW YEAR'S EVE ACCESS ALL AREAS

ROCCO DELUCA

DOWNSTAIRS GIGS EVERY SATURDAY.

CARNIVAL SALOON

SPECIAL GUEST £5.

LIR

PROMOTIONS

MR NORTH

PROMOTIONS

THE CHALETS

WAV

Lo-Call 1890 200 078

The Village
26 Wexford St.

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WAV

Lo-Call 1890 200 078
Wired to the Moon

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 glistening seductively in the corner? Your favourite Christmas movie of course. KATIE TEEHAN talks us through a few of her favourites.

Mood of the favorite: Yuletide film franchises 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 glowy 2005 Hollywood makeover that I've refused to see because the original is so magical; it brings me back to the days of untrammelled bucket-knocked excitement and Cindy-Willy-induced screams. As predictable as motorised spouts and drunken elves, RTE has shown Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory every year since I can remember. Sometimes it's buried down the schedule with the 'World You Believe' xmas, but I always find it. From the vaguely disconcerting Oompa Loompas to the ethereal, moonlit 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 snow and nauseating songs. Stuffed full of 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.

What's your new favourite Christmas film?

By Karl O'Doherty

Genie-us: Mondo does Panto

The Moon's official ents section

O’Doherty

Fantastically elaborate sets, dazzling costumes, giant plants and a magnificent flying carpet. Sound vaguely familiar? It's that time of year again and we all know it. Time to ditch the hard, cynical screenwriter's college and head out for a night of laughing at other peoples misadventures. Panto season is upon us once again and there something for everyone on this year's programme. Whether lauging at a man dressed as an outraged old woman, or awing 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 Gaiety Theatre is putting on a show of Aladdin that will run from Saturday 4th December until Sunday 5th February. The show stars George McMahon as the hero Aladdin; Michael Grennell while at the same time trying to score with Princess Juicie (Joanne 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 eponymous guy from Bantry who pops up here and there and shines in Japanese. It's funny, trust me.

Also for those of you who don't like Aladdin, Druids of Limerick are playing Jack and the Beanstalk from the 7th-14th January. This is performed by the Coomlara 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.
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'd been numbed by 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 wanted to incorporate video into it as well. Particularly nice is 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've 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 guy Andy Knowles who's been around 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?

Well 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. I don't think they really do Halloween that much in France. I mean, we came on in our old school suits and they probably had a bit of a laugh.

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 in our old school suits and they just thought, "what's this new, are they going to do this every night?"

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 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.

When was the last time you had to incorporate video into the set?

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.

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Gray gets the nod

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 sive 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 Whealan

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

Yeah it's one regret in-joke, we kinda knew it was going to happen anyway so we just knew it would be a cool name, 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 stuff 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 dark looking city. It's like a film location, for example. It's so in-land, it's difficult to escape sometimes.

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Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

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 as 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-around excellent performances. McAdams is the standout performer in the role of Everett's youngest 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 smolders in the role of Everett!

With ahealthy 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, lead up on chocolate and head for the cinema to witness this year's Love Actually.

ELAINE BUCKLEY

March of the Penguins

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

The film charts the penguins' seven-mile trek 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 eighty degrees.

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

I know you're probably thinking: a documentary? About penguins? Boring, that's 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 'awwww' 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 winds. Monge Freeman's 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

The Family Stone

Hermione had found a new use for her magic wand
Journalism Society promises “cool” Christmas party

The crowd at II Mondo for the Red Soc Rodeo

One jubilant attendee, Maev 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 to 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.

By Michael Donohoe

Young Fianna Fíil

The society’s main aim is to produce current analysis and to make students more aware of governmental issues and how the media reacts to and comments on them. They want to change students’ views on the issues involving the RSA, which state that the RSA has too often been involved as a scapegoat or convenient scapegoat.

Contact: youngfianna@rca.dit.ie

Christian Union

Billy Bradley, Donnacha Bradley: “We think that we are the only group that can offer this to the student. However, the Christian Union is about more than that. It offers a service to the students, particularly those who are looking for a friendly, non-religious body that is available to help with all kind of issues and problems.”

Contact: christianunion@rca.dit.ie

Reject Muzakel

I’m not sure if this society was formed off the back of academic Writing 101 but if it was, it makes sense. It seems to be a group of people who are against the music that is played in the canteen.

Contact: rejectmuzakel@rca.dit.ie

Pirate Society

I honestly would not find any information in this society. My best guess is that it is a bunch of people who are against dieting and health issues.

Contact: pirate@rca.dit.ie
DIT Fashion show 2006...
..uncovered

by Rebecca Todd

The DIT Fashion Show 2006 will go down as the year's finest party. The show delighted 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 hand stands and other impossible looking moves.

The Fashion Society truly pulled out all the stops for this one. The theme was perfect for the show's burlesque theme. Dressed in red and purple velvet curtains it set the salubrious scene for the stunning models. The DJ provided the popular beats and remixes which set the show in motion. A sexy strut and photogenic pose was the only requirement from the runway 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 Maybury 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.

A group of individuals acting very strangely can be seen in the scenes room in Astoner 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 wildness 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 great but most importantly the meetings are great craic. One week the group spent an hour loading 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 it is never too late to start. Auditions will also soon be held for the upcoming plays (for any interested parties).
2001, France seemed all conquering. Les Bleus had won the 2001 Confederations Cup, 2000 European Championship 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 seen against a defective rearguard saw Roger Lemerre out of a job. It was unlucky 13 for Alpbine'sbat. A 35-year old Claudio Caniggia and a 30-year old Claudio Husain were ahead of the young, ered and talented Juan Roman Riquelme and Javier Saviola. The current Albicelestes coach, J Pekerman could do well to remember L' I M i, Rodriao Palacio and Javier MucberanO 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.
By Ronan O' Connor

For the blue half of Glasgow it is the best of times, it is the worst of times, it is the age of Rangé-Jeayly and Hyde resonance continues into yuletide. They lie in a miserable fifth in the SPL, having collected a paltry 17 points (for them) from twenty-four points from seventeen games. The silver lining to this dark cloud is their European form. A music draw with closer Milan at Ibrox was enough to make them into the last sixteen of the Champions League.

The man at the centre of this paradox is manager Sir Alex McLeish. The much maligned Scot is hanging on to his job by the skin of his teeth. Dramatic changes have seen Rangers endure longer run of goals without a win in their history. But there is bad enough that they trail cross city rivals Celtic by a goal. The search for a 'chosen one' continues to be played in stadiums all around the world in twenty years time but McLeish and Bowyer are not so optimistic. "I think development in Britain is easier than in Paris, because there's a lot of community spirit there," says Coffey. Similarly, Rovers feels it will be difficult or at least take a lot of time. "It's going well in Britain 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.parisgaels.org
www.ressources.com

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 better you could have thought you were in Ireland.

But at the ASPI signs sports complex in Paris, the sight of a Gaels 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 Léirin in the summer of 2003. The 20-year-old Breton student attended the Kerry-Goan (Wild Geese) club in Léirin. When he arrived, the club was unorganised and some of the players 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 Remes, the Development Officer in Barcelona. It's difficult to run through the internet and every country has their own peculiarity with the law.

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 December - January and is the final of the inaugural Brittany GAA Championship.
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. Alevrin and Real Betis are keeping them company in the basement of Spain's top division. Javi Clemente, the former Spain manager who led the club to back to back league titles in the club's new avatar. Three weeks ago he replaced the maligned Josè 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 Joséba Etxeberria (a constant in the Spain squad) is the brightest star of the team, they are overly reliant on the ageing talents of workhorse striker Iñaki Urdangi, 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 incredulous 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 national tensions that exist in the Basque region. This ill-informed criticism levelled at the club does not do either critics or the club any credit. As with any organisation, there will always be one or two stars 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.

"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."

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

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

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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-back in the business. It’s a frightful prospect but it’s the life he chose. It’s a moment like this he’ll cherish when his boots start 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 man of hard cement. He came right to the start of the Kerry golden era. Introduced by fresh new manager Mick O’Driscoll into the team for the start of the 1975 campaign, the granite-made 20-year-old of Listowel Emerald was pressed for residency at number 6. It won’t be long before Kennedy 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 running the forty, switching across the line and swaying 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 with the rose for a high one, he often came down without it. Kenny’s style was like a Blitzkrieg. They played in rapid scones of bombing of long balls into the back of the opponents 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 John Joe 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 straight that would define them for the next 12 years. The next one came in 1978 when they slaughtered Dublin by 17 points. In 1979, Kennedy captained his side to victory over the Dubs again and it was a whipping one, 3-13 to 1-8. While the 1979 triumph was probably the proudest moment of Kennedy’s career, it was in 1980 that he gave his finest display. A young, hungry Rooneymaen scored in the way of the three-in-a-row. After 12 minutes, the west from Comeragh had a five-point lead.

Kerry turned to Kennedy 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 Kennedy and his resilience held out as Kennedy claimed a 1-9 to 1-6 victory.

Kennelly picked up his fifth All-Ireland 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 in Listowel. In 2000, Tim’s son Noel was on the Kerry team that won the All-Ireland. His other son Tadhg had 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 glowing salute to the life of Tim, a man that had longed to showcase his talents on the professional stage had triumphed. It was a dream that bore fruit in the thrilling city of Sydney but that was forged on the distant sod of his land in Listowel.

Tim Kennelly’s death due to a heart attack at the age of 51 was 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.

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

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