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DIT Journalism Society

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DIT snubbed by universities

By Maura Fay

DIT HAS BEEN left out in the cold by the new Irish Universities Association (IUA).

The newly formed IUA evolved out of the old Conference of Heads of Irish Universities Association (CHIU).

Despite being a member of the European Universities Association (EUA), DIT was not invited to join the IUA.

"Membership of the EUA is much broader in terms of the institutions that can join," said Michael McGrath, Director of the IUA. "Membership of the IUA is confined to the heads of the seven Irish universities recognised under the Irish Universities Act 1997."

By being a member of the EUA, DIT is the only institute of technology in Ireland which is a member of the European Universities Association. It has been a member since January 2004.

A spokesperson for DIT said: "My feeling is that we are not concerned. We are not a member and we are not looking to become a member."

Mr. McGrath added that the old CHIU supported DIT's application for membership of the European Universities Association.

Bob Coggins, DIT student union president, said: "We are more like a university than some universities in Ireland in terms of size and the range of courses offered. DIT should be asking more of an effort to attain university status."

"We are making a big push at the moment. They have the whole of the south-east backing them," he said.

Speaking on the European Universities Association report evaluating DIT, due to be published shortly, he said: "They were very impressed by the effort of the college to attain a higher level of quality of courses offered."

The IUA council members are the Provost of Trinity College and the presidents of UCD, UCC, NUIGalway, NUI Maynooth, University of Limerick and DCU.

The association recently submitted proposals to the Government promising radical reform in exchange for increased funding. The university sector's funding has been allowed "crisis" levels.

The IUA is noted as a powerful lobby group and this latest proposal stands a good chance of securing extra funding for universities.
Rent Book worth a look

By Laura Donnelly

UNSURE of your rights as a tenant? Would you know who to talk to about a dispute with your landlord? Students will no longer have to pay over the odds to live in sub-standard housing, thanks to a new “Rent Book” recently launched by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI).

The book is aimed at providing students with information about tenants’ rights, and contains information on tenancy agreements, health and safety requirements, and information about how to make a complaint about a landlord. There is also an easy to follow checklist for students to complete before signing a lease, and a rental payment record, which allows students and landlords to keep track of the amount paid and any money outstanding.

The book also aims to help students with regular day-to-day issues such as rent reviews, deposits, privacy, anti-social behaviour, maintenance and repairs, disputes, and the amount of notice to be given. There is also a list of organisations to contact should you encounter problems with housing, such as Threshold, USI, and the National Safety Council.

According to Tom Lowry, USI Welfare Officer, students continue to be one of the most exploited groups in the accommodation market. “The launch of the USI Rent Book is in response to issues that I and Welfare Officers in colleges across the country are dealing with every day as students struggle to find affordable accommodation. Many are unaware of their rights as tenants and in some cases do not have any sort of written agreement with their landlord. The Rent Book clearly outlines students’ rights as tenants and informs students who to contact if they are experiencing problems.”

USI President Tony McDonnell says the lack of off-campus accommodation in Ireland is the root of the “students are one of the most exploited groups in the accommodation market”

“the Rent Book clearly outlines students’ rights”

rent, and as yet has not received a copy of the USI Rent Book. Although Nuala has not encountered any problems with her landlord, a previous flatmate had trouble recouping rent relief which she was entitled to, as the landlord would not give her his details, which indicates he is not registered with the Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB). If this is the case, tenants are still entitled to contact the PRTB for advice, but the landlord is liable to be fined for breaking the law.

In relation to on-campus accommodation, Nuala said “I got value for money with the house I live in at the moment, but I would definitely live on campus if it was available.”

The USI Rent Book is available from your Students Union free of charge. It can also be downloaded from the USI website, www.usi.ie

I’d have more to spend on field trips

This competition is open to all third year students of all student account holders only. The prize is a trip to the National Safety Council. Terms and conditions apply. The prize is drawn by the9 Irish Times.
DIT, probably the best IT in Ireland

Are you feeling hard done by in the college stakes? Mourning the lack of a student bar? Wishing you’d gone somewhere with one library instead of six? Or are you just plain sick of those blisters?...after all "the city is our campus" and it's an awful long way to walk around. Cheer up though, it seems all the other ITs are way more shoddy than ours! Yes, that's all the consolation we need as we stagger down the street to pay student unfriendly prices for our pints.

We check out the University League Table to see how we're doing.

DIT finished top of the IT charts for the fourth year running in the annual Sunday Times University League Table. The college came in eighth overall, just trailing NUimaoi and ahead of Dublin Institute of Technology.

Facilities were imaginatively described by the Sunday Times as "relatively good" but "those in the many smaller campuses are poor". No news there then.

It was also pointed out that "improvements are on the way" with a centralised 65-acre campus in Grangegorman. All of the institute's facilities will move there within the next four to eight years.

However, in true DIT style, the constant delays have meant that work hasn't even started yet. According to the wonderfully up-to-date news section of the DIT website, "Construction of the 362 million euro project is estimated to begin in 2003".

While a recent staff bulletin says it is hoped to "establish a significant Institute presence onsite" by 2006. In spite of these vague promises, the site is still no more than a field and it is unlikely that any of the current students will ever see the wonders of Grangegorman for ourselves.

Back to the league table and congratulations go out to New Jersey's Institute of Technology, who finished rock bottom of the league table with just 399. Only 29% of DIT honours students achieved a first or a 2:1, the lowest percentage in any university or IT.

Over to you...

So what do you, the students think of this great college of ours?

Maura Fay and Cillian O Conchuir trawled the corridors to find out your views.

Q: Do you think DIT is the best institute of technology in Ireland?

"I've only been here a few weeks but it seems pretty cool. Half of the lectures are pretty crap but the other half are really good."

Gary Kissell, Masters in Strategic Management

"Yes, I love my lectures. The facilities are crap. The social life is crap. Java City has a monopoly here. Everything else is great."

Marie Lyons, 4th Year Marketing

"Yeah, I think it's fabulous. Jonathasa Daaey, lad went down but on a whole it's good."

Courtney Greene, 3rd Year Environmental Science

"No. The computers don't work properly. Printers don't work. Programs aren't installed properly so it wreaks the work you've done."

Jonathan Meaney, 2nd Year Computer Science

Good case of wind in Dundalk

By Maura Fay

DUNDALK Institute of Technology is the proud owner of Ireland's first urban wind turbine.

Some observers have suggested that the decision to switch to wind power came after the college had difficulty in sourcing green diesel for the college's heating system. Recent Customs and Excise operations have cracked down significantly on illegal cross-border fuel smuggling. Over 30,000 litres of laundered diesel have been seized in the north-east region so far this year.

DKIT Student Union president Niall Callery rubbished the allegations saying: "We need it".

The on-campus turbine will provide half of the institute's energy needs and allow students to gain direct experience of wind-power technology.

"Construction of the 362 million euro project is estimated to begin in 2003".

Wind turbine at Dundalk Institute of Technology

The 1.1m euro turbine was built as part of the institute's Centre for Renewable Energy. Manager of the centre, Dr Larry Streak, says the turbine project will pay for itself in eight years.

The turbine tower is 85m tall and the turbine blades are 23m long. "It's class," says DIT student Mark Murphy. "It looks brilliant," says DKIT accountant student Maura Linn. The turbine was finally switched on last week by Minister for Foreign Affairs and proud Dundalkian, Dermot Ahem. The switching on of the turbine was delayed by 3 months after a transformer which was supplied as part of the turbine was the incorrect size. It was only a 110 volt and 220 voltage was required.

Ray Byrne, a researcher in renewable energy in DKIT, said: "We specified the size transformer but a 250kVA was supplied as part of the turbine, which was the incorrect size. It was only a 110 volt and 220 voltage was required."

"The computers don't work properly. Printers don't work. Programs aren't installed properly so it wreaks the work you've done."

Jonathan Meaney, 2nd Year Computer Science
Hurricane wreaks havoc

By Lois Owen
North American Correspondent

HURRICANE Stan crashed into the Mexican coast on the 4th of October, the aftermath leaving storms, which displaced throughout Central America. The storms brought devastating rains that threw the rivers over the banks, and mountain sides into scenes of destruction.

As a result of the heavy rainfall, severe flooding occurred on the rivers. Meanwhile, sudden landslides swept the hillsides forcing the inhabitants to flee.

Many of the swiftly devastated areas have been declared mass gravesites. Particularly in Guatemala, families, homes and entire villages have been buried by the mudslides without warning.

Many of the recent natural disasters throughout the world have made a point of deviating the poor. The landslides in Guatemala have outdone themselves in this regard. In fact, it appears that a disease contest to determine which natural disaster has provided the most concentrated amount of destruction for the poor, the Guatemalan landslides might well come out with a gold medal.

Unfortunately, the landslides themselves aren't the only source of blame. The simple fact that there are so many poor people in Guatemala is the real issue. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the President has yet to give the appearance in which he has said he would have come sooner than a week after the actual mudslides. If it was due to negligence, this tardiness on the part merely illustrates the general attitude of the Guatemalan government towards the Mayan population and their needs.

The victims of the disaster are certainly entitled to a sense of injustice. They are victims not only of the treachery of nature, but the treachery and deception of their fellow countryman. In the words of humanitarian aid, "the victims deserve more than a little help and the government must do more to help them."

USI Congress to tackle cracks in the Constitution

By Maura Fay

USI in recent times has been criticised as a "muted union for careerist hacks". With new leadership and a fresh focus, USI is determined to make a difference.

A special congress of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) is to be held on Saturday, 26 November at the Mary Immaculate College. The purpose of the congress is to debate the controversial proposed amendments to the USI Constitution.

The proposed amendments include changes to "Disability Rights Officer", to "Officer for Students with Disabilities"; changing the LGBT Officer from a full-time to a part-time position, and the abolition of the post of Deputy President.

The new proposed USI Constitution is notably similar to the one that was defeated at National Congress last April. The proposed changes, which required a two-thirds majority to be adopted, were defeated by a single vote. It later emerged that one of the voting delegates from Letterkenny IT, who voted against the motion, was not entitled to a vote.

Most colleges opted to block vote with TCD and UCD the most vociferous.

UCD religious nut's golden handshake

By Maura Fay

A UCD lecturer who had students was suspected of promoting extreme Catholic beliefs has received a payment of €100,000.

The early retirement settlement was approved by the UCD Governing Board last week following Geraldine O'Connor's retirement on grounds of ill-health. O'Connor was appointed in 2000 to the Chair of International Studies in UCD. She also received a €50,000 payment to cover her pension.

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From the fields of Glenroe to Chelsea’s field of dreams, Mario Rosenstock (the voice of Gift Grub) has achieved legendary status. As luck would have it, he was edged out of law in Trinity, on random selection, and in its place studied Economics and Politics. He then got involved in the Players Drama Society, but he could easily have been a solicitor in one of the recent drawn out Tribunals instead of being the Voice of Radio Fiction.

By Cillian O Conchauir

He first came onto our screens as Dr. Harold in RTE’s ‘Glenroe’, but as he tired of saying, “Another ghost there,” he began Gift Grub’ on Today FM in May 1999. Since then, the show has evolved into one of the biggest shows on Irish radio. It has taken household names in sport, entertainment, politics and business, and created a world which has humiliated celebrities and which has fascinated the public.

So, where did his ability to impersonate celebrities begin? "When I was a kid, myself and my brother used to put on a pantomime based on our parents and aunts. It used to terrify them." However, what started off as a simple idea, and Bertie, has grown beyond his wildest expectations, each character serving as a token of his creativity.

After bringing Roy to our radios, it was fitting that he should lend his part of Kranes in the hit musical, ‘The Krankies’. "I really loved being in the cast." The cast included Apaiza Match and Rattlebag Cooper, and Gary Cooke and Mario were full of praise for them both.

"Rashard is one of the most professional and talented actors. He is probably the best impressionist I have ever met. Gary was great fun and he owns that Dummy character. Each cast member brought an element of understanding to their role and if Channel 4’s proposed TV version goes ahead, they could do wonders to bring them back. But it is as Chelsea boss, Jose Mourinho, that Mario has become more widely known. The BBC and other British radio stations have aired the Mourinho songs, increasing the Irishman’s chances of extensive coverage throughout Britain.

"Mourinho is a very dramatic and interesting character. It was the same effect to meet him and to meet a movie star.”

Well, with the weekend over it was back to the Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show and Gift Grub, the success of which is demonstrated in the Gift Grub album sales.

As for his favorite personality to impersonate: "From a humour point of view it is Jose, while the character I have most affection for from Gift Grub is Roy. He epitomizes what the show is about, in terms of the famous person I look, and most importantly the character my own. He belongs in Gift Grub and he is more Roy than Gift Grub then he is the real Roy.”

So are there any new characters coming to our airwaves? “In football terms I was looking at doing an impersonation of Liam Brady, which I was messing around with in the office and everyone was laughing at it because it’s a bit weird. We will see how the Irish manager’s job goes and Derbhla Molloy has taken over Carlowtown, so I’ll think about doing him.”

So, what next for Mario? Chelsea want him to perform at their season’s dinner in London, while several have him on the radar for more work in Britain, ultimately resulting in an album released in Britain next year.” His eager toarded with a Gift Grub album, the special one, in one November 4th and if preparations are anything to go by, it seems Mario might have his album in Britain sooner than he thinks.

And what makes Gift Grub so appealing? “The simplicity, the topicality, the freshness. Kind of comes into their life for five minutes every day and leaves.”
West draws short straw in Shell sham

Arthur Sullivan
examines the shortcomings of our seemingly shoddy government

FIANNA Fail aren't renowned for their upfront honesty. Indeed you could probably say they are the most deceptive tone amongst them all. From the days of Charles Haughey's mega corruption to the more recent tax scandals. In addition to the health service and the Monica Loach affair, it's always been colourfull.

And in the month that's in it, the copious exegiograph after the death of long-time rogue Liam Lawlor is stirring and irritating. Bertie Ahern seems to have finally learned to public phrases and words with the man as an "engaging, witty and larger than life character". Yet the issue on which our government has escaped under the radar is the lamentable imprisonment of the Rossport 5.

For those not up to speed with the issue, here are the facts. Shell, one of the largest oil and gas companies in the world are to build a pipeline from the Corrib Gas Field in Mayo and carry it through the West pipe to a refinery plant in north County Mayo.

There should be no problem. People need gas and Shell provides it. However, the gas in the pipe is untreated. In other words it is raw, potentially explosive gas, which would wreak a trail of destruction within a radius of one mile should the worst happen.

A pipeline carrying gas like this has never been attempted through an inhabited region in the world before. Thus it's quite easy to understand the concerns of the residents of the tiny village of Rossport, when they learned that the pipe would be slicing right through their little world.

Shell informed the landowners by arriving early in 2001 and explaining that there would be a pipe going through their land and that their consent would be acquired. When the landowners refused, Shell disappeared. In 2002 they began work on the line only to find the men and a band of supporters resisting them access.

Spend forward to June 2005 in the High Court, when Chief Justice Finnegan threw the four male landowners into a Chevronhill prison along with their friend and supporter Michael O'Steigint.

Arthur Sullivan
examines the shortcomings of our seemingly shoddy government

Whatever decision you make, with some difference.
Firstly, let's get the free-stuff out of the way. Allied Irish Banks (AIB) will offer you 50euro call credit when you open a Student Plus Account. This will offer you discount cards for top sports outlets, Elvery's and Mahon's, as well as a ten per cent discount for FVI, the student travel insurance specialists. They also offer a fifty per cent discount off your student travel card. There are thirty lucky winners, who open or upgrade their account before November 26th and make at least six transactions before this date, will have 4000euro lodged straight into their account.

AIB, Bol Ulster Bank and National Irish Bank give students a great deal. The basic elements of these student packages are very similar. All offer free banking as standard. This means you will not get charged 28 cent every time you withdraw cash. They also all promise 24 hour phone and internet banking. For a quick overview of each bank's student facilities, check out our handy grid.

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What better decision you make, with books, rent, food, and a hectic social life to fund, a bank account is vital for your college years. All you need is photo ID and proof of address. So call into your first choice today, before your money starts turning into alcohol.
As the independent eclipses...a new moon rises

Hi everybody and welcome to the first issue of The Moon, DIT's brand new, completely independent student paper. It's been a bit hectic for everyone involved in getting the paper together, and the first thing we'd like to do is thank all those who helped out.

We at The Moon feel that there is a need for a fresh voice in DIT, a voice that isn't afraid to confront issues when they arise, a voice whose only obligations are to its readers. We are not here to promote agendas, make profits or pursue vendettas. Our objectives are to inform and entertain you, the students of DIT. On that note, we are looking for contributors, so if you have a story, want to share some gossip or are just interested in getting involved with the paper please get in touch with us!

In this month's lead story we reveal that DIT is facing the serious risk of being left behind by the university sector with which it has been keeping up for the past few years. The formation of an influential lobby group by the seven Irish universities leaves DIT isolated when it comes to seeking needed government funding. Yet despite the obvious dangers raised by this development, a DIT spokesperson claimed to be entirely unconcerned. As students, we should be doing everything in our power to ensure that the DIT as an institution holds its place in the increasingly competitive third-level sector. Ultimately, it is we students who have most to gain, and most to lose.

There has always been a us vs. them mentality among students, but every year there seems to be an increase in the intangible state of the student population. To be brutally honest, if we don't stand up for ourselves no-one will.

On the lighter side of things, not all is doom and gloom on The Moon. Our resident newspaper has something everyone should try. Find out what the Russian cure for a hangover is in our travel section and check out the pig guide and reviews in the entertainment section.

Anyway, please let us know what you think, be it good, bad or indifferent, and we'll be back next month!

Cian and Cillian

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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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 Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell for PS2.

In what game did Super Mario first appear?

Game Stop
new, used, games, dvds

Win two tickets to see The Frank and Walters.

Answer the following - What country are the above band from?
An Daingean

An t-áiríteach is mó a fuair an bhfuilific aithithe as a sheasnaíocht leis an t-aireachtaíocht a thabhairt don Éirí Amach, thar éineacht leis an Éirí Amach ar an 26 Meithimh 1916, is ea an Daingean, a bhí ar a dtugtar do chuid aois a bhí ann marcinneachais ar an bhfuilific. Fuair an t-áiríteach is mó a fuair an bhfuilific aithmite as a sheasnaíocht leis an t-aireachtaíocht a thabhairt don Éirí Amach, thar éineacht leis an Éirí Amach ar an 26 Meithimh 1916, is ea an Daingean, a bhí ar a dtugtar do chuid aois a bhí ann marcinneachais ar an bhfuilific. Fuair an t-áiríteach is mó a fuair an bhfuilific aithmite as a sheasnaíocht leis an t-aireachtaíocht a thabhairt don Éirí Amach, thar éineacht leis an Éirí Amach ar an 26 Meithimh 1916, is ea an Daingean, a bhí ar a dtugtar do chuid aois a bhí ann marcinneachais ar an bhfuilific. 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Seeing RED

By Michael Donohoe

MONEY hungry chancers that promise you the world and deliver screw all! Great student nights out on the town, fantastic drinks promos, the city is our campus

And so goes the usual fare for any standard society in this fine institution.

Truly active societies that encourage the interaction of their members throughout three semesters are few in number. It is often the case that societies become dormant over the cold winter months and ultimately fade into nothingness by the year's end.

On the 11th and 12th of October, Clubs and Socs Week rolled around again. The usual sleuth of societies and clubs blocking up the hallways of Aungier St. and Bolton St. The busy junction that is Aungier Street's motorists became a battleground. Stereos and loudspeakers were the weapons, innocent students were the targets.

It was down to a new society to conquer all over the two heady days. Hard to miss, impossible not to hear, RED Soc are a happy contradiction to the above description of student societies.

Only founded a week prior to Societies week by Business Management students Adrian White and Simon Turner, RED Soc is founded on a truly original concept. RED, initials for Rewards Earned and Deserved, is all about offering students the chance to earn themselves "free stuff".

Through the 'Atlantic Music Group' the gentlemen propose to garner sponsorship off multi-national companies for their society's events, hopefully appealing to companies such as Apple, Sony, Nokia, etc. With these companies on board they will hold special corporate nights (e.g. 'Apple i-Pod Night') at a club of choice and offer students special giveaways along with a memorable night.

The boys were prompted to start the society following their poor introduction to third level education. "In first year we felt we went through college, went to lectures and that was it... people going straight home after Deserved, is all about offering students the chance to earn themselves "free stuff".

This according to Turner and White is something they felt had to change for the current crop of first years.

The current outlook for change is good for the two boys. RED Soc is easily the most prominent society on campus. They already have in excess of 1,000 members across all campuses and hope to hit 2,000 come the Christmas Break. Their message for prospective members is "If you like free stuff come join our society".

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RED Soc's inaugural event, 'The Red Neck Rodeo', takes place in the Mondo, Ranelagh on November 17th.

Annabel's not so sandy craic

What makes a decent beach party? Is it pneumonia inducing attire complimented by monsoon like weather, bank breaking drinks, a measly amount of unhappy attendees and a sandbox not fit for a medium sized cat's shit? No, give SEAN O PROINNTIGH six cans, a c.d. player and a small cove in the middle of nowhere, please.

A seven euro entrance fee and bad weather didn't discourage the handful of people that showed up for this year's ski sac beach party but a general sense of displeasure may prove to costly to see this event repeated in the years to come.

Adam and Mick, representatives of the ski sac, had this to say when asked what they expected from the night: "Unfortunately our c.d. player didn't work and the beach party took place very close to the sea, so unfortunately we didn't have a very good time... our "sandy" beach was more like a sand dune... an unpleasant experience to say the least."

An abuel's not to be missed...
Paintball society shoot up

By Michael Donohoe

ON 17th November the Paintball Society ventured to Skirmish in Roundwood for a day of sadistic fun.

The trip was yet another successful outing for the society with revellers returning with nothing more than a few bruised limbs and several bruised egos.

Further trips are planned for the 4th November and another in late November. The trip on the 4th filled up almost instantly so any interested parties should get their names down early.

Involving new/first year members was a point strongly pushed upon each society.

A day turned to night proceedings came to a head at about eight o'clock.

A speech from President Bob Coggins and a final good luck from the event organisers to each society wrapped up the day.

A rain soaked barbecue ensued and a very long Friday night.

Further information about societies and up to the minute events can be found at www.socs.dit.ie.

DIT Societies website.

Boasting an impressive layout and design, the site is a huge step forward in terms of accessibility of information and amount of information available to students.

Terms of training societies were thoroughly lectured on how each respective society should be properly maintained and ran.

The real message of the day was that societies should try to be as visually prominent and active as possible within each campus.

Most people jump at the chance for a free pint, but for REBECCA TODD, she wished she stayed at home and drank tea. She reports from the clubs and socs' training seminar.

FREE BBQ, booze and Sub-Way sandwiches!! Okay, so it may not have been what clubs and socs training day was supposed to be about, but it sure made the presentations all the more digestible.

On 21st October the main function room of the Russet Court Hotel played host to DIT Clubs and Societies Training Day. Among those in attendance were primary chair people Anita Conway and Brian Whitney with about 200 other attendees including club organisers, treasurers, secretaries and a few free loading members.

There were whisperings on the day that if any sort of incident was to happen whereby the place was destroyed, social life in DIT may cease to exist! But luckily no-one was injured or maimed.

The highlight of the day was the unveiling of the DIT Societies website. Boosting an impressive layout and design, the site is a huge step forward in terms of accessibility of information and amount of information available to students.

In terms of training societies were thoroughly lectured on how each respective society should be properly maintained and ran.

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Avian bird flu? I'm more worried about their shite!

Avian bird flu? I'm more worried about their shite!
DIT's wise and wonderful sexpert Miss Kitty Kinkypuss oils up her paws for some sensual massage.

So, you're both sitting together comfortably on the couch, watching something terribly enthralling like National地理. Michael Ryan's babbling on about the importance of basket-weaving in modern Irish society, yet even though this is ground-breaking stuff, you can't seem to take your mind off the growing one-eyed snake making his presence felt down below. Now? You want action now? Michael's about to interview a basket expert.

So, you're feeling in the mood, but what's to say your better half off? When this urge overcame you in the past, you've tried the old, "nudge-nudge, wink-wink," approach to indicate your intentions. Hell, maybe you've tried to be more direct—standing stark-naked, proclaiming, "I want you now, baby!" Well, let Kitty talk you through a method ofawakening your partner that's neither too subtle nor too hair-raisingly, willy-frighteningly saucy...

Remember, massages can be used for many things - calming your partner down after a hard day, or for our purposes, priming bitches for rampant, passionate sex.

Firstly, set the scene. This means getting turned off your mobiles, lighting the head lights and laying an old sheet on the surface of the bed so you don't care if you spill the massage oil. Try connecting with your partner, this can be done subtly on the face, lightly touching their body, or gazing into each other's eyes. Now, I'm not talking about chewing the ear off them, grooving them frantically and rubbing their naked body. You're going to do this slow - you've got all evening.

Lay your partner face-down on the bed. Using the tips of your fingers, lightly, teasingly stroke your partner's body from the shoulders to the arms, back, buttocks, thighs and calves. Take a minute or two for this. When you think they're relaxed, move onto the massage.

Teasingly stroke their inner-thighs near the genitals and lightly touch the pubic region.

"Stroking the back. Rub them slowly and deeply using long strokes. Do it in a way that makes them feel you'll spend all night at it - let them relax and enjoy every second of it. Work your way from the neck to the shoulders and biceps. Keep your hands in contact with their body at all times.

For a little teasing, tickle the sensitive area around the base of the spine. Move on to the thighs, brushing the buttocks as you go. The inner thighs are incredibly sensitive.

Work down to the calves and only spend a little time on the feet - you don't want your partner falling asleep.

Turn your partner over. Look into their eyes as you massage their chest and abdomen. For a sensual effect, it's important to maintain eye-contact.

Move to the legs and feet again, lightly brushing the genitals on the way down. After you've done the legs and feet, slide back up, slowly brushing over the genitals again. Teasingly stroke their inner-thighs near the genitals and lightly touch the pubic region.

When the sensual energy has built to an extreme, you can move on to more energetic activities. If you've taken the time to do all this right, believe me, your partner will have a lot more on their mind.

TIP OF THE MONTH
When it comes to body hair... less is more!

WEBSITES OF THE MONTH


Everything you need to know about the clitoris, so it's good for girls and guys alike!

http://www.thebody.com/pfaw/schools.html

Has a very interesting article on gay and lesbian issues in public schools.
Moirra had always wanted to travel the Trans-Siberian railway and I'd had the same dream. So we started thinking about it in the middle of the night. It was a good idea. Two months later, we were sprinting down a platform in Vladivostok, looking for our carriage. The Trans-Siberian runs across 9,285 km and eight time-zones in the largest country in the world. The traditional method is to sit on a train for seven months, but we joined a group of 30-year-olds who invited us and shared their food, invited us into their homes and put up with our appalling Russian hangover cure: the traditional Russian hangover cure: vodka and onions.

As the list of countries affected by Avian Flu grows longer, Ireland prepares itself for a worst-case scenario. However, just how ready are we? David White takes a look at the figures, and questions whether Ireland's preparations are well thought out, or a little bit bird-brained...
MOONSTRIKED

WALKING IN A WINTER WARDROBE WONDERLAND

OONAGH O' MAHONY brings all you budding fashionistas this seasons sexiest styles, right off the catwalk...

For the boys...

The winter collection for 2005/06 has some handsome outfit combinations. The mix of seasons is even more pronounced this year's collection. Sixties, Seventies and Eighties influences are all present, with a hint of modern-day American casual wear.

Cardigans: Think sexy, rather than sixty

For the girls...

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Victorian elegance is back this winter

A Passion for Fashion

CERI TEAGHAN speaks to upcoming Irish designer, Claire O'Connor, about being a young designer in Ireland, Irish women's wardrobes and this seasons trends...

The Irish fashion industry is much like a badly fitting bra, small and unappealing. It fails to make the best of its homegrown assets.

The result: Young designers are forced to leave the country for lack of financial support. As Irish designers in the fashion capitals of New York and London, Claire O'Connor is one designer who has set to stay. In 2001 the now Irish designer of the year and already has her own established label. Unlike Paris and Milan where young designers are ten a penny, Claire is in the majority in Ireland. *Irish designers are well respected internationally but there is little financial support for them to set up their own label at home,* she says. Instead they go overseas and many get senior jobs in the big fashion houses. There is a lot of Irish talent, in such a pity to use it working for Americans.

Like many young designers in Ireland, Claire hand makes all her garments herself. Her collection changes throughout the season as she never misses a trend, making more than a few of each piece. "This Winter I'm using a lot of black and grey accents. I tried to create pieces which don't go out of fashion easily so I don't really buy into the highest trend, where it will be out next week. Whereas she gets her inspiration from "anything that catches my eye, paintings, interiors," she admires the French and Italians who really influence her style.

Just as Paul Costelloe famously once said, Irish women have no class, Claire agrees this is unfounded. "In European cities the women take pride in their appearance, something which Irish women should focus a lot more on. Here we have the habit of just throwing on anything. When we do dress up, it tends to be for each other not for ourselves." Irish women do follow trends, but there's little individuality and everyone ends up wearing the same trousers. "The clothes on sale in a country tend to reflect the weather," Claire says which explains why Irish women are often full of quite boring clothes.

"Irish people used to dress for comfort and practicality, two words which don't co-exist well with fashion. After all we are a nation of tractor-trout farmers who have embraced the current jeans and Crocboots craze without any qualms. But even though there's a lot more style than couture in our wardrobes, it doesn't mean we are completely lost causes. Luckily, Claire offers a little bit of knowledge of what hot this Winter, starting with the all important cut of clothes. "This Winter there was an emphasis on the waistline, whereas now clothes are more likely to be unstructured and flat caps are just some of the high style choices this year. As it is winter, the boot tops and Killingore coats are being worn much to keep warm. The fashion guru are supplying us with a bountiful range of warm coats. A good look this season is coming from Russia. The Russian are known for their long coats. The time, beaded and embroidered and fur (for those who we hope)"

Claire's clothing line 'Claire O'Connor' is on sale at the Design Centre in Dublin. Designerclothes.com in Dublin and Design House Dresser in Galway.

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One of Clare's designs.

November - December 2005

*Note: Very difficult to say while drunk

Another of Clare's designs.
Daddy’s Little Princess

By Tiffany-Ann Byrne

"Oh my God (OMG), my credit card is like totally maxed out," said Lara, as she ordered a skinny latte. "Sophia, will I order for Debs and Neasa?"

"Yeah thanks babes, get them tall frappucinos for me, and I’ll have a mocha. Had a total ‘mare at the weekend at the opening of Harvey Nichols… totally maxed out my credit card and the ‘rents, like, SO freaked out."

Debbie arrived, flushed. "Sorry babe, for being so late. The cooper wouldn’t start this morning and I, like, had to take a jog, because Daddy wouldn’t let me borrow the SUV. Talk about a total buzz kill. Imagine if I like, bad to walk in these Jimmy Choo’s. The taxi-driving man was trying to chat me up, and all I wanted was to apply my mascara and listen to my iPod!"

Dropping her LV monogrammed handbag on the table, she sat down and applied mascaras to her lips and sipped her frappuccino.

"Oh pet, you’ve had a rough few hours," said Neasa, who sat down next to them. "Oh Neasa, you look fab today, love the new UGGs," said Lara. "Ooh, we were talking about the Harvey Nichols’ opening. Guess who I saw there, looking so tanorexic – Jenny Browne-McManus!"

Jenny, the ultimate Beyoncé figure, with a sweet personality to match was the subject of much spiteful attention from the four DLP’s.

"She looks like an oompa-loompa at the best of times," bitched Lara, "She’s like a walking ad for stand-up tanning." The four exploded into laughter.

"Okay girls," said Sophia, "must dash to my nine 0’clock. Cocktails at five? Oh and you’ll pick me up a copy of Cosmo and Heat? Have to pop into BT2 and collect my yoga mat and would just hate to miss an issue."

*****
D’Unbelievably Funny-Pat Shortt uncovered

PAT SHORTT is one of those comic actors who just seems to crop up in everything. Since he first achieved fame with ‘D’Unbelievables’ he has appeared in the Irish comic phenomenon that was Fr. Ted, played a leading part in the acclaimed film ‘Man about Dog’, and achieved a cult following for his various roles in those Tipp-Ed ads. Recently you may, or may not, have noticed that Pat Shortt seems to have jumped off the small screen and is appearing on the fringes of the film world. This is due to two reasons for this - Not only is he kicking off a brand new TV series, the second series of Killinaskully, which Pat produces and stars in, in which has just finished showing on RTE. Killinaskully really is Pat Shortt’s baby. It deals with much the same material as ‘D’Unbelievables’ and is largely written by Pat himself. It is based in a small rural village much like where Pat grew up (in Tipperary, where Pat is from). The cast and ideas of Killinaskully are really a culmination of the work I have been doing through the years.

**The Moon’s Diamuid Carter challenges one of Ireland’s top comedians, Pat Shortt, in an exclusive interview about comic life and fame.**

"I love working with an audience. I especially like the fear in their eyes when they think they are going to be hauled up on stage!"
Backstreet's back and here to stay, for another while at least.

Their biggest boyband on the planet are making their comeback. Their new album 'Never Gone' has kicked off a Backstreet world tour. Kathy Masterson went to see the show at The Point.

On-stage frolics...........Nick makes a grab for Kevin's groin

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On-stage frolics...........Nick makes a grab for Kevin's groin
**Kiss Kiss Bang Bang**

ROBERT Downey Jr stars as Harry, a basically decent petty thief in New York. Making his frantic getaway from a boasted robbery, he stumbles into an audition for a Hollywood movie. Next thing we know he's at a fancy party in LA being teamed up with smart talking private eye Gay Perry (Val Kilmer) to prepare him for the role.

There he meets his high school crush Harmony (Michelle Monaghan). The story begins when the mysterious death of Harmony's sister crosses paths with a seemingly unrelated case Harry and Gay Perry are investigating, and things take a dangerous turn. It's like an attempt to create a slick modern take on the classic Private Eye Detection thriller complete with smug ex-cop, beautiful young corpses and the smart talking private eye.

It ends up as a brooding dark comedy, knee deep in dead bodies, packing a witty, satirical punch.

KATIE TEEHAN

**Pavee Lackeen**

PAVEE Lackeen is the story of an Irish traveller family through the eyes of 10-year-old Winnie Maughan. Winnie is the youngest in a family of ten who live in a caravan on the side of the road in Ringsend, Co. Dublin. The film opens with Winnie having her fortune told. She is told that life will improve for her if she takes her opportunities. Yet, it quickly becomes obvious that there aren't many opportunities available to her. Her family can't even have running water in their caravan; they use a tap on the side of the road to wash their hair and fill the kettle.

The film gives us a reasonably impartial view of another life and the director isn't simply trying to make us feel sorry for travellers. We are shown how they can exacerbate their own miseries when Winnie's mother refuses to accept a house offered to her simply because it isn't in the area where she wanted to stand on her own two feet.

BRIGID O'GORMAN
Could the real Robbie Williams please stand up?

By Kate White

INTENSIVE Care brings a more mature Robbie Williams to the stage. But after years of bombardment by the egotistical, larger than life, sex-god, is this the real Robbie, the guy we all hate to love?

It's hard to believe this is Williams' eighth solo album since 'Life thru a Lens' prompted his meteoric rise to fame in 1997. A deeper, sensitive Robbie Williams emerges on 'Intensive Care'. Having split with Guy Chambers, the mastermind behind hits 'Angels' and 'Rock DJ', Robbie has enlisted the help of co-writer Stephen Duffy, who plays a huge part in this latest offering.

Don't get me wrong, he's still singing about the same things himself, his fame, his selfish ways and his love life. There is even a faint glimmer of Cockiness in the opening line of 'Ghosts' ('Here I stand victorious, the only man to make you come.')

Alas, when you bring in the big guns like Duffy, who has picked up 20 years of pop-soul songwriting experience, you can't help but notice that the pop star's cheeky brilliance has not only been operated on, but well and truly butchered.

There are very few stand out tracks. Tracks again, Robbie, although born for the stage, never quite hit the mark in the studio. 'A place to crash' can be instantly singled as the anthem that will echo throughout Croke Park when he plays here next summer. The song's 'Aa-Yeah' is one of Robbie's cruelest taunts, in that perfect karaoke quality.

'King of Bloke and Bird' is one of the most poignant tracks Robbie has ever attempted and tells of the frailty of searching for love.

When he recorded this acoustic ballad, Robbie claimed he'd never sung in love because it was too painful and meaningful to him. He really wanted this album to be about writing songs that could break someone's heart... and this definitely lives up to that stalker status.

Your Guy Friend unfortunately, lacks any lyrical intelligence and as a weak filler, is more likely to rekindle that old media frenzy questioning Robbie's sexuality than win him a Brit. Then again, maybe that's what it's there for.

'Tripping' is one of the only tracks that strays from Rob­bie's years of depression, addiction and numerous love affairs with both himself and a plethora of celebs. This gangster type track was the first single to be released from the album but failed to hit the all-important number one spot.

'Intensive Care' is best described as two lonely years in L.A. trying to come to terms with being Robbie Williams. When you listen to it from start to finish, you can't help thinking we've lost our cheeky lad from Stoke on Trint and gained an inspector. Bring back the entertainer.

Gigsmart Ireland: The Compilation Returns

By Frankie Whelan

"The Compilation Returns" is the second album from the unsigned music collective known as Gigsmart Ireland. The compilation contains tracks from some of Ireland's finest unsigned bands, and some not so fine acts.

The album is split into two discs. On disc one you'll find the louder, more energetic bands while disc two is made up of solo artists and the more acoustic-minded bands. This set-up works well and adds a lot to the compilation as it allows you to listen no matter what your mood.

While the first CD contains most of the bigger acts, it also lacks something in the way of consistency. You can sometimes feel you're going from one single to another, with no real pattern to the organisation of the songs. An example of this is the row and order up track of MoFo/s sandwiched between the quickly complicated Moidley and the emotional workings of Those Damn Janice Deewails. Stand-out tunes include: 'I'm Yours' by Mouledy, which manages to be hauntingly happy and sad at the same time; 'Starting to Care' by Dwight, which recreates a beautiful slice of The Doors' magic in the here and now; and 'Just a Word' by NLI Hip Hop which is a uniquely Irish blend of rock and hip hop.

Overall the album is enjoyable and the rich diversity means everyone will find at least one song to fall in love with. Some of these acts are probably the exceptions of tomorrow, in get on board now before they became as popular they're no longer "cool".

Two bands with strong DIT connections have graced the album. Argento with their fantastic 'Nothing Special', that avoids falling into the heavy rock unsuccessfully and their "Out of Time Chants" that makes up for its lack of instant catchiness with careful construction and beautiful implementations.

"you'll be hard pressed to find a bad song on the disc"
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NICKLAUS’ SPACE FILLED BY HOLE-IN-ONE WOMEN

By Ellen Maureen O’Brien

Michelle Wie swings to conquer

Taking inspiration from the greats such as Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Annika Sorenstam a new generation of golfing talent is breaking onto the scene.

A new light for women’s golf is leading this movement. Six days before turning sixteen Michelle Wie turned professional. She has stunned the golf world, sweeping up local and international underage victories and now making an impact as a pro golfer. She made her professional debut at the Samsung Championship.

Current women’s number one Annika Sorenstam won the tournament by eight shots proving she is still the best. Wie was disqualified when she placed the ball nearer to the hole after a drop, but up until that lapse she had been in excellent form.

Wie will compete for her sixth time against men in the Casio World Open at the end of November. The Royal & Ancient Golf Club who run the British Open seem to have taken note of the pioneering approach of Wie and Sorenstam and have now granted women access to qualifying for the event. The idea has opened a buso debate with colour.

For Irish golf the year has been a mix of ups and downs. Padraig Harrington plummeted in the World Rankings and is now in danger of losing his status as Irish number one with Darren Clarke and Paul McGinley hot on his heels. He now languishes in 14th place while McGinley has shot up to 18th, fresh from his stunning win at the season ending Volvo Masters where he denied Order of Merit winner Colin Montgomerie and European No.1 Sergio Garcia. Harrington has had a difficult year, suffering the death of his father. He has won two events, the Honda Classic and the Barclays Classic but he has performed poorly in the majors and that’s the measure of a golfer in today’s game.

Tiger Woods has finally found his touch again this year, winning the Open and the Masters, taking his overall haul to 10, edging nearer Nicklaus’s golden tally of 18. He has won four other titles and over $10 million dollars on the US tour.
ARRON Davies added sparkle at the finish when his drive rustled in off the underside of the crossbar. It was a neat 3-0 workout and Steve Thompson was thrilled with his players' efforts. "Pablo Bientoni is good at holding the ball up and young Matt Harrold is coming on in leaps and bounds. He is quick and good in the air."

Bully for Yeovil. It's only three years since they were outside the Football league, languishing in the quagmire of the conference and now they are in the top ten of the third tier of English football. It's been quite a transformation and things are getting better all the time.

On the same day in Huish Park as Thompson was brimming and the Yeovil fans were cheering mirthfully, Gary Megson was confronted by two disgruntled followers of his Nottingham Forest team. John Enever and Andrew Peel explained to Megson that they had travelled four hours, at great expense and were deeply unhappy with the unacceptable efforts of the Forest players. Megson, a former Forest player agreed. "Would you like to tell the players yourselves?" he said, with stoical seriousness much to the shock of the fans. The trio proceeded to the Nottingham Forest dressing room. There, well-paid, professional athletes slouched slovenly in the modest Yeovil changing rooms with looks of disillusionment and sorrow on their faces. The entrance of Megson would usually spark envious moods of fear and anger in the current politics of Nottingham Forest Football Club. It was confusion when they saw who was accompanying him.

Peel and Enever were warned by Megson not to get personal or abusive. They didn't. They explained to the players their concerns. "We said 'the majority of Forest fans genuinely want you and the manager to do well, but that's not going to happen without basic application' - Enever explained.

Megson phoned the men on Monday, thanking them for their words and said he hoped it would be a foundation for the season.

"It's a bizarre and drastic step to allow two angry fans into the dressing room of a professional football club. They are capable of anything and perhaps no-one deserves that kind of caustic, volcanic atmosphere to face into after playing a match. These are desperate times at the City Ground.

Slump is a simple word. It doesn't do any justice to the situation at Nottingham Forest. Their fall is almost impossible to contemplate. Just imagine any other European champions in the current position that Forest are in.

In January 1975, Forest were a struggling Second Division outfit. They had little tradition to live up to, little ambition. Brian Clough, a famed former Middlesborough striker took over. By the end of his second full season, Forest were promoted to the top flight. The following season then: forest star Trevor Francis celebrates with the European Cup following his side's 1-0 victory over Malmö in the 1979 European Cup Final.
Phil Jevons did it. It was a brilliant, dipping 30 yard volley. Russell Hoult had no chance. Just six minutes on the clock and the 26-year-old Everton reject was gearing up for another tour de force effort for Yeovil Town. He grabbed his second 20 minutes later, a simpler affair when he tapped in after some questionable defending.

NOW: A devastated Forest fan cries as he contemplates life in the third tier of the league after their 2005 relegation
MR COOL HAS T&T ON THE BRINK

Leo Beenhakker, one of the most colourful characters in international football, caught up with The Moon’s Cillian Ó Conchuir to discuss his Trinidad & Tobago side’s chances of making the 2006 World Cup.
By Fergal Browne

The shortest Irish football management reigns for thirty years ended last Tuesday night when Brian Kerr was unamously sacked as manager, leaving the uncertain question of what's next for the senior side?

Brian Kerr's 33 month, 33 game reign ended without even the need for a vote at the Great Southern Hotel on Dublin's northside from the FAI. Members present, Chief Executive John Delaney was present at the press conference that revealed Kerr's fate. He cited the failure to qualify for the 2006 World Cup as the main reason for his dismissal. He stated "we considered a wide range of things but most of the attention was focused on the team's performance and the results achieved. Later that night Kerr launched the decision to relieve him of his duties as "unfair" and claimed it was "contrary to the much vaunted spirit of the 'Gaelic game' report" in a statement released by his agent, John Byrne. Kerr added he was immensely saddened to be sacked from a job he once called the best job in the world. Kerr's supporters have argued that the FAI has been too busy in getting rid of a man who has offered three years of loyal service. They point to the fact that Kerr won 18 of his 33 games in charge, while his predecessor, Mick McCarthy, won only 12 of his first 33 games in charge but yet the race was not voted on him.

Others have sympathised with Kerr due to the quality of players at his disposal. Six of the 11 starters against Switzerland are not first team regulars for their respective clubs, including neither Jack or in a game Ireland had so won.

Kerr's critics, on the other hand, pointed to Kerr's failure as a tactician and a motivator as justification for his dismissal. When the going got tough against both Switzerland and France at Lansdowne Road and goals were needed Kerr up to the one-dimensional 4-2-2 system and only replaced like-for-like players when it was clear it wasn't working. Perhaps, though, what really caused Kerr's resignation were the two games against Israel. Critics cite the negativity in Tel Aviv and the tactical decision of replacing an injured Robbie Keane with Graham Kavanagh at Lansdowne Road, thus nullifying the effect of the man-marking Duff, who was moved from his natural position of left midfield to centre forward, as the moments that cost Ireland a place in the World Cup.

Kerr's critics also claim that, under Kerr, Ireland have not had the "put him under pressure" mentality that typified the Charlton and McCarthy era. The long unbeaten run at Lansdowne Road was mentioned rather tunelessly to the French while critics claim that the Swiss performance boosted the impetus necessary for a victory.

This leaves the question of what's next? For the first time in 15 years Ireland lack an inspirational leader on the field as a result of the retirements of Roy Keane and Kenny Cunningham. As well as that a new manager must be appointed.

A three-man subcommittee comprising Delaney, President David Blood and Secretary Michael Cody will headhunt a successor. Despite Delaney claiming it's a decent job, a high profile job and it's a decent salary the Association will find it difficult to attract the big names of Premiership football (Kerr's salary is well below average compared to what most premiership managers earn).

The Irish fans will have to wait and see. Martin O'Neill and Alex Ferguson have been mentioned as contenders but both have denied themselves. The field is still wide open and Delaney has said "we're prepared to wait" in order to find the right successor.

Whoever that person has a difficult job on his hands. The retirement of Keane is the bugle call for the end of an era. Whether a new era can bring success or continued failure remains to be seen.

DIT Students' Union and DIT Cultural & Social Committee Presents

TRADFEST

Featuring
The Saw Doctors
Traditional Irish Music Acts
Irish Dance Troupes

Tues 8th Nov
Vicar Street

Doors 8pm
Tickets €10

Tickets on sale in DIT Students' Union Shops
Limited number of tickets will go on sale in Vicar St. 30 mins pre-doors
ASHES INFLAME CRICKET PASSION

By Diarmuid Carter

You may have noticed that cricket is becoming increasingly popular in Ireland. A once-familiar symbol of the British Establishment is now being played by schoolchildren all across Ireland. It is being shown in pubs in rural towns, in gracing the back pages of the dailies and, astonishingly, Freddie Flintoff is becoming something of a celebrity over here. So how did this happen? It is easy to say that the Ashes frenzy, which gripped England, has spilled over to our dear isle. It is becoming something of a factor in the growth of Irish cricket, a healthy women's cricket scene in Dublin. Isobel Joyce plays cricket with Merrion Cricket Club and Ireland. She too believes cricket is on the up saying, "There are a lot more people, women and men, playing cricket in Ireland. There are a lot of young girls playing cricket through schools, and then joining clubs later on." However she does believe there is a difference in the effects this is having on women's cricket. "It is definitely getting stronger but even though more girls are joining I think the standard of women's cricket is declining. In particular, there are a lot more non-national men coming here playing cricket than there are women." She is not alone in this belief. The standard of standard of women's cricket is declining. In particular, there are a lot more non-national men coming here playing cricket than there are women.

The joy of cricket is not confined to the schoolyard. Eel Joyce believes more and more young people in Ireland are wanting to play cricket. She sees the Ashes as a catalyst for change. "I think for the first time in many years people are moving to Ireland and make it more attractive to join clubs. Eel Joyce also drew attention to this saying, "In general youth cricket is at a low point but we have to get that there is nowhere for players to go. They either have to go to the junior leagues and they've got the game going in countries or fall by the wayside." While cricket is getting younger there are always limitations at this country. Firstly there is the stigma that cricket is a predominantly English and Protestant sport and this continues to bind the game. This image can put off a lot of people off and while it exists cricket will always be seen as little more than a hobby by a lot of Irish people. The Joyce family originally from inner-city Dublin, have no great cricket tradition yet both Ed and Isobel have made it to the top level. This stigma is in turn means cricket doesn't have the following to support its own players leading to the talent drain. Yet this summer has shown that many people in Ireland enjoy cricket, playing and watching. Perhaps in years to come more can get over the prejudice against it and give the game a go. And who knows, we may even beat the English some day.