

COLLEGE TRIBUNE

THE DIFFERENCE IS WE'RE INDEPENDENT

Volume 20 / Issue 3

ucd.ie/tribune

17th October 2006



Member of the nuclear club

North Korea Analysis Page 12

Michael O'Leary

Exclusive Interview Page 8

THIS WEEK



WITH
MUSIC
FILM
HEALTH
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ARTS



"Reputation damaged" & Students "disappointed"

- UCD Veterinary School could miss out on US accreditation
- American Veterinary Association take issue with UCD restructuring

UCD's veterinary degree programme (MVB) is in danger of not being recognised as a degree in the United States as a direct result of changes made during the restructuring process.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has raised concerns about the integrity of the programme as a result of structural changes. If these concerns are not properly addressed the five-year Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (MVB) - the only recognised one in the country - will not be recognised in the United States, a goal the college has been working towards in recent years.

The AVMA - following what Dean Boyd Jones described as a 'very positive' preliminary visit two years ago were set to assess the degree this year and make a judgement on whether to award recognition, but as a direct result of structural changes that have been implemented since that visit, they postponed the assessment, pending clarification of the details of the new structure.

Students

Students in the vet college have voiced their concerns to the Students' Union and the college regarding this issue and have found school staff both helpful and supportive.

However, as of yet - five weeks into the academic year - they have failed to secure a meeting with any of the senior administrators in the university to discuss their worries.

One student explained her frustration with the process, considering the amount of work that has been directed towards AVMA accreditation in the past few years. "Our whole curriculum has been restructured."

"We now have a lecture free final year where you just do rotations in the veterinary hospital and all this is just to come more in line with what the AVMA

Ronan Dempsey

would like of us. But, when they came back to us recently and said they were postponing their visit it was because of our organisational status."

American Students Leave

Since the AVMA issue came to light, ten American students have left UCD to attend a Veterinary College in Glasgow that already has AVMA accreditation. One of these students explained that it wasn't the deciding factor in their leaving but that it did motivate them to seek alternatives.

"The AVMA decision was a precipitating event in our leaving but wasn't the actual reason why we left. We left because we found that we could get a better situation financially. It was a little disappointing."

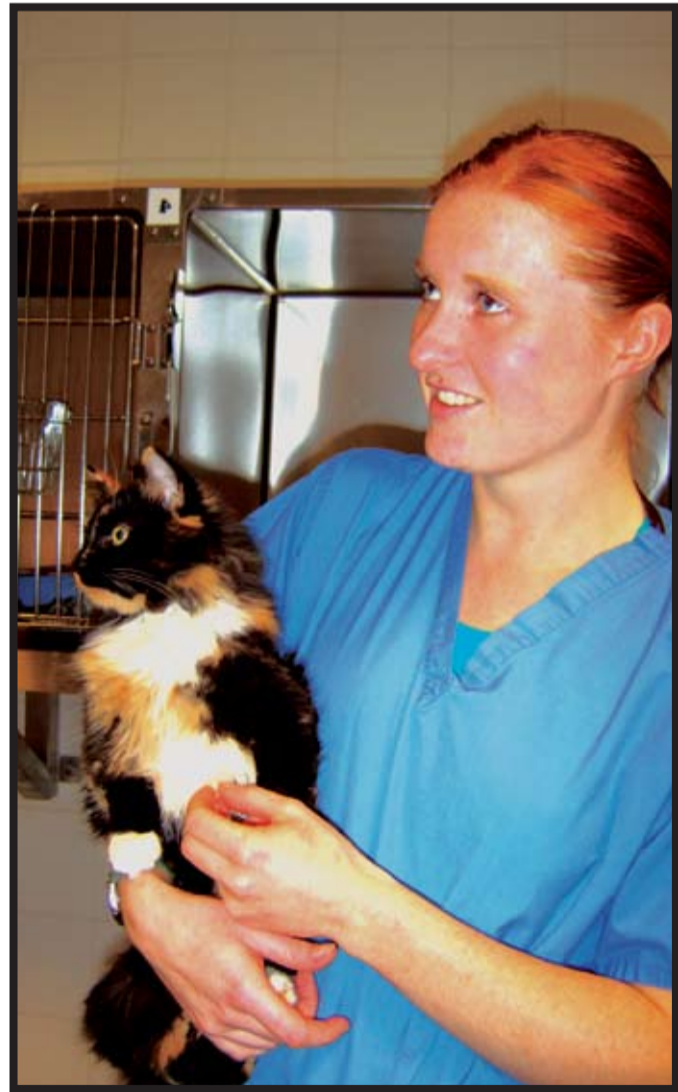
One sympathetic senior academic in the vet college commented on the student's leaving and effects this would have - both financially and in international standing.

"They're all paying E26000 a year in fees I believe, so there's big money gone out the door with them. As well as the damage that's doing to the reputation of the school so it's not good at all. UK schools are wondering what's going on that the American students are leaving."

Accreditation with the AVMA would entail a number of benefits for students of the MVB programme, as well as raising the international standing of the veterinary school.

Veterinary graduates from UCD seeking to practice in the US would no longer have to join waiting lists and pay upwards of E5500 in order to sit proficiency examinations at both national and regional level.

Continued on page 4



Vet Student: Hanging in there

Just past the Quinn School!

Open 8am - 8pm 7 days a week

MOLLOY'S CENTRA MERVILLE

SU President "undecided" about Shell to Sea

- Students commandeer Shell Headquarters
- Students' Union president calls for review of support



Mark Canavan

Motion passed

The motion that was passed last September by the SU specifies that it condemns the jailing of Willie Corduff, Micheál Ó Seighin, Brendan Philbin, Philip and Vincent McGrath for over 100 days without charge.

It also "condemns the operations of the Shell - Statoil companies off the coast of County Mayo, as it has occurred without a transparent process." It also "Calls on the Irish government to immediately release these five men who have wide public support in their campaign to protect their community."

Hayden continued, "I would say that the situation has changed a little bit and I think if there is to be continuing recognition by the SU there would need to be another motion proposed."

Independence

When asked if Shell's adherence to the recommendations set out in the Advantica and Peter Cassells' Independent Review report, Hayden replied "We called for it and as far as I'm concerned that is fulfilling it."

However, members of Shell to Sea have questioned the independence of the Report. In particular, prominent Shell to Sea activist and former SU President, Fergal Scully said "I don't think the report by Peter Cassell was very independent at all. The report was commissioned by the government and obviously they have a vested interest in seeing that this goes ahead."

The Shell to Sea group officially has concerns over the report's independence. These concerns relate primarily to Shell's positioning on Advantica's

Representatives of UCD Students' Union (SU) last week infiltrated Shell headquarters as they displayed their continued support for the Shell to Sea campaign, but President Dan Hayden is "undecided" about SU support of the campaign.

The SU delegation of the Shell to Sea campaign stepped up their efforts after a renewal of protests outside the Shell Corrib gas terminal site at Ballinaboy in recent weeks.

The main demonstration last week involved a large group of protesters, most of whom are current students at UCD, picketing the Shell E&P headquarters on Leeson Street.

Protesters are reported to have gained access to the main thoroughfare of the building and were also able to climb onto the roof.

Undecided

The UCD SU banner was present at the protest but the extent of their involvement is unclear. While it was acknowledged by SU President Dan Hayden that individual members of the Executive Council were involved in the protest, and continue to be involved in the Shell to Sea campaign, he stressed that their involvement was largely on a personal capacity.

Hayden denied that Shell to Sea could be seen as an umbrella UCD SU are under. He added, "There certainly is some of our executive council who are very well content to be but I don't think the SU has a strong enough mandate. I'm not saying we don't support it, we just haven't decided yet."

Hayden acknowledged that the SU have approved a motion to support the Shell to Sea campaign. He stated, "It is quite a specific mandate actually, it is not unqualified or timeless support."



Barging in: Commandeering Shell headquarters

list of clients.

However, in relation to these allegations, a Shell spokesperson said "the government and an advisory committee in the department, were aware of that [Shell's place on the list] at the time and they took that into consideration."

"There would be no engineering company in the country who wouldn't have, at some time or another, done work for Shell because, of course we operate in a hundred and forty five countries across the world in a whole range of businesses".

Legitimate worries

When asked if Shell felt that the protestors had any legitimate concerns, the spokesperson replied, "The issues originally weren't anything to do with the terminal, they were to do with the safety of the onshore pipeline. We've since said we will move the pipeline route, so as far as we re

concerned we've taken any reasonable steps over the last four months."

However, Scully insisted that the group's immediate aims were, "to stop the refinery being built where it is and to be built off shore. We don't want to be seen any untreated gas being pumped through residential areas."

Regarding the picketing of individual petrol stations recently, the Shell spokesperson said, "I mean they got their facts wrong there. Shell don't actually own those petrol stations that were sold last year."

"They've nothing to do with shell anymore. In fact most of those petrol stations are owned by individual entrepreneurs."

Scully replied to these claims, "This is classic marketing. They have owned those garages and while they continue to use those brand names associated with Shell we will use that publicity that those brand names garner."



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Special Thanks To: Gary, Stephen & Billy @ Spectator Newspapers, Ellis O'Brien, Dominic Martella, Alan God.

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Students still clueless

- Early Irish students still don't know what their degrees will be in
- Students' Union on the case

Nienke van Etten whose Early Irish course was dropped this year, still has no clue what her degree will be in, it has emerged.

At the beginning of September, it emerged that Early Irish was to be dropped by the college. Five weeks on, nothing has been done to accommodate the 3rd year students who have been studying this subject for the past two years.

A fortnight ago, Van Etten, a Dutch student who came to UCD in order to study the course, stated, "I came to UCD to do Early Irish. And now I don't even know what my degree will be in." Van Etten is still unaware as to whether her degree will be a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Celtic Studies.

She explains, "Nothing has been done since. I don't know what the story is. All I know is that the Students Union and Education Vice-President Brian Doyle is looking into it."

Brian Doyle, who is currently in discussions with the college regarding the case, told the College Tribune, "The Students Union were only contacted about this issue by students studying Early Irish within the last

Maree Rigney

week. I have been in contact with the Irish Department over the last three days and have been told that there will be a meeting within the school next week to discuss the issue."

Doyle went on to explain the situation, "Basically the first day back at college this year, major and minor students in Early Irish got an email stating that the school were dropping Early Irish as a degree due to the huge decrease in people studying the subject. Therefore, only three modules in Irish would be taking place.

"This led to students doing the subject as a minor being affected as they had no choice but to study the three modules offered, where usually they would have a choice of six. One student was seriously affected as they planned to study Early Irish as a major."

This student, Ian Lynch, two weeks ago told the College Tribune that he had taken Early Irish as a full course since first year. But that he has now been forced to adapt



In the dark: Nienke van Etten

to a modularised system - which he told he never agreed to take, "now I can only take three modules in Early and Medieval Irish when six is the required amount."

Van Etten was also sympathetic towards course lecturer, Gerald Manning, who was released by the college earlier this year.

Brian Doyle agreed that this decision has seriously affected many 3rd year students, "At the very least these students should be given answers to why their course has been dropped."

Mystery solved

● Societies Officer cancels Mystery Tour ● B&L & Qsoc left in ruins

Students and event organisers were left up the creek last week as Societies' Officer Richard Butler cancelled the Mystery Tour.

The Business and Legal Society spearheaded the event with Qsoc, but it was officially cancelled last Wednesday 11th October when Butler refused to sign his name to the final 'go-ahead', less than 24 hours before the event was due to kick off.

Speaking to the College Tribune, Butler declared, "The Mystery Tour was cancelled due to concerns over the safety and event management structure for the event.

"On appeal by one of the societies concerned, and following a long meeting with them, the organisers were then given an extension of time of a fur-

ther 24 hours to allow them make final efforts to resolve the outstanding issues, however given the time constraints caused by their late submission this proved impossible."

The Event Management Report was submitted before lunchtime on Tuesday the 10th of October, only two days before the event. This did not allow much time to rectify problems that may have arisen.

The reports for the previous two tours were submitted closer to a week prior to the event. However, according to B&L Society auditor Stephen

Quinlivan, the format of this event was like those in the past and to this regard the timing should not have been such a problem.

Late

The reason this report was submitted later than others was due to the problems they were encountering with buses, problems Quinlivan claims Butler was aware of. "We have been communicating with him since the summer and we've been in to him a lot over the last few weeks."

Butler, on the other hand, claims that the organisers had "numerous requests for information and warnings about the requirement to submit these details well in advance, which were first pointed out to organisers in June or July."

He understood that there were "some booking difficulties encountered by the organisers, nonetheless a final plan for the event was submitted unacceptably and inexcusably late."

Reputation

"I understand that he had a job to do", admitted Quinlivan. "But Richard Butler is faceless as far as the regular UCD student is concerned. It's very easy to look at a report in his position and dismiss it."

Quinlivan was particularly mournful of their reputation. "It's really damaging to our reputation. Our big thing was that we wanted to do something different and distinguish ourselves from other societies. Anyone can put on an event in a nightclub. You just throw up a few posters and sell the tickets. This took so much more work. To be told to cancel last minute was absolutely devastating."

Qsoc in danger of extermination

Not only have reputations been tarnished, but Q Soc particularly face potential extinction after this event. "Richard Butler banned our 3,000 strong

Linda O'Halloran

society last year," claimed Qsoc Public Relations Officer Eoghan O'Duinn. "He changed his mind a week before Freshers week and now we're on probation for a year.

"We're therefore without sponsorship for the moment. Qsoc aren't in a position to absorb the cost. I might have to take the fall for this out of my own pocket."

The extent of the financial damage is as yet unknown. "The damage investigation will commence on Monday, October 16," said Sugrue.

"The costs have to be split 50/50 between the two societies, and no small cost that is. Over 8000 texts were sent out in an effort to inform patrons of the cancellation, 3000 to all Qsoc members and 5000 to both this year's and last year's B&L members.

Cost

The cancellation was particularly disappointing to the B&L and Qsoc organisers alike, due to the massive amount of planning and cost in-

involved. "It costs in the region of €30,000 to organise an event of this scale", according to B&L treasurer Brian Sugrue.

And, according to O'Duinn, it was "the guts of 1,000 hours work." The organisers have been planning since last June and the event had met all the criteria set out by past Mystery Tours, according to Quinlivan.

The 40-page Event Management Report detailed the insurance cover of every participating venue and organisation associate, the combined cover of which came to over €43,000,000.

Butler admitted that the plan was more impressive than those that preceded it, according to Mr. Quinlivan. All 1,000 tickets were sold, 20 buses, laboriously sought from all over the country, had been booked, and three stops around Ireland had been planned.

Basic minimum standards

However, Butler confessed his dissatisfaction in spite of the 'better plan'. "While the organisers have indicated that they felt they were meeting the minimum standards required for a safe event, it would in fact be correct to say that they were falling far short of these basic minimum standards." Butler failed to respond to queries from the College Tribune as to what exactly these standards were.

According to Mr. Quinlivan, Mr. Butler did not sign off on the event because he was unhappy with three things. The first was the change of events manager, as the person with whom they dealt previously was otherwise engaged. To rectify this problem a different events manager was hired at the last moment, which Quinlivan felt cleared them on this front.

Secondly, the bus company that had been used in the past upped its price substantially and therefore was not used. This too made the event problematic according to Butler.



The tour that never was: The promised mystery tour as advertised



UCD vets likely to miss out on US accreditation

Accreditation

The AVMA states that a college may only be accredited when it is "a major academic administrative division of the parent institution and is afforded the same recognition, status, and autonomy as other professional colleges in that institution." The AVMA also requires that accredited colleges have control of their own budget.

Last year, the previously independent School of Veterinary Medicine was incorporated under a new organisational structure: the School of Agricultural, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine. The Head of School, Maurice Boland is a Professor of Animal Husbandry, an agricultural qualification.

The other professional faculties in UCD retained their singular status, which means that the veterinary college - in a school with two non-professional colleges - is no longer of an equal standing with them. This also raises doubts about their financial independence from the other two colleges included in the school.

The policy also stipulates, "The chief executive officer or dean must be a veterinarian, and the officer(s) responsible for the professional, ethical, and academic affairs of the veterinary medical teaching

Ronan Dempsey

hospital must also be a veterinarian."

The new structure, however, sees non-veterinarians take chief administrative positions over both the vet college and the hospital. Although the faculty is still headed by Dean Jones, who holds veterinarian qualifications, he is ultimately answerable to a non-veterinarian administrator who presides over the entire School.

The School Reacts

Having held meetings with the students to re-assure them; Dean Jones visited the Council of Education (COE) of the AVMA three weeks ago to 'clarify' the new structure with Professor Boland and the Registrar Philip Nolan. Since that meeting the AVMA have agreed to perform an on site assessment at some time in the future.

Dean Jones was positive discussing the situation. "I think the issue is largely dissolved and I think it would be a shame to rekindle it because everything is on. The bottom line is they postponed subject to clarification. We made the clarification, the visit is back on and now of course we have to meet the criteria."



Vet Hospital: Scene of the alleged crime

Dr. Don Simmons, a senior member of staff at the AVMA commented on the visit paid by UCD two weeks ago.

"A delegation came and they made a presentation to the accrediting body which is the council on education and I guess verbally we understood what they're doing but a letter was sent to them as to what the expectation was. I'm assuming they're going to move forward."

"What happens in the accreditation process is it's totally voluntary and so we respond when an institution says 'ok we're ready for you to come now' and that

time hasn't been requested at this point. It was requested earlier and because of the concern we didn't go but if that concern has been relieved at this point then they'll make a request for that."

When questioned whether the issues the AVMA had with the governance of the college have been indefinitely resolved at the meeting and so will present no further problems to the evaluation of the degree, Dean Jones simply responded, "We clarified the points that they wanted clarified, the accreditation visit still comes. If we hadn't satisfied them and clarified the position they wouldn't come."

Future Reviews

A further potential concern of the students lies with the fact that the vet college - which currently enjoys recognition of the MVB programme in Ireland with the IVA, in Europe with the EAEVE and in Australasia with the AVBC - will face similar problems with those accrediting bodies when they return to UCD to renew their decision in years to come.

This worry arises from the fact that the AVMA - who were previously positive about the vet college during their preliminary visit two years ago - is the first body to perform an assessment under the new system. The university communications officer - when asked if the university felt that more problems could arise with other accreditation bodies - responded decisively; "No."

Dean Jones was also confident that this prospect was not a likely one. "I think EAEVE is seven years away, I don't think it's going to be an issue."

As it stands, the AVMA will be making a visit 'probably in the new year' to review the vet college and make a judgement of whether or not to recognise UCD's MVB in the US. In the meantime, the students are still seeking consultation with senior administrators regarding their concerns.

'People working in the Veterinary School and hospital just don't feel appreciated'

The problems the vet college is currently experiencing with the American Veterinary Association (AVMA) adds to a long list of university-wide issues raised by the comprehensive overhaul of UCD during the last year and a half.

Unfortunately for the vet college, which practices an educational system unique to its subject matter, the problems are many.

In issue four of last year, the College Tribune ran an article detailing the many problems experienced by the veterinary college which arose from structural changes. Central in this article was the issue of research-intensive evaluation.

The ethos imposed on every faculty in the university since 'rebranding' strongly correlates the value of academic staff with the amount of research they perform. Aside from obvious problems with prioritising quantity over quality and research over education - there are more subject sensitive issues to be considered here.

The veterinary college is required to maintain a hospital in order to fully provide for student's education. This means that employees solely concerned with the running of the hospital and clinical staff who are required to lecture, perform labs and routine hospital duties are put under immense pressure to do research in order to be recognised.

Unfortunately, one year on, academics, staff and students alike still feel that their concerns have not been dealt with and the issues have not been resolved.

A senior academic: one of many sympathetic to the concerns of the students explained the issues raised by an impetus on research in a comparatively small vet college.

Unappreciated

"It's basically that veterinary people working in clinical areas in the veterinary school don't feel appreciated, people doing hospital work don't feel appreciated. There was a recent round of promotions in the university and none of the people working in the hospital areas got promotions.

"That's in line with the research ethos that people who are getting promotions are people who are involved in research. The people that are keeping the hospital on the road and getting involved and are committed to helping the students and training the students to be able to do the job they'd have to do when they go into practice, they're not getting any

Ronan Dempsey speaks to students and academics regarding the problems in the vet college and argues that there is serious need for change



The Vet College: Staff and students need change

recognition in the new regime."

Academics, staff and students alike feel that their concerns have not been dealt with and issues have not been resolved. One concerned student explained, "The way promotion was working and is working at the minute in the vet college is on the amount of research you're doing but most of our clinicians, surgeons and just regular vets down in the hospital; that's their job.

"That's a full time job and they teach us. They come up and they give lectures as well as physically teaching students, mainly final years, in the hospital."

Surgeons lost

"We've lost an awful lot of surgeons that we brought with us from Ballsbridge that were just top class, because the money they were being offered now was just abysmal. An awful lot of the surgeons that have left are now earning phenomenal money. It can't just be based on the fact that they haven't published a paper all year long."

The senior academic continued, "We've lost about a dozen people or so from the clinical area. It's not just the situation here of course but that has helped them. You choose your time. It's not the only issue that they have but it's certainly a major factor in their leaving, it would have encouraged them to leave.

"The main thing is it has an adverse effect on the

undergraduate student. There's less hands-on work for them: a very important part of veterinary medicine and the students are not getting the hands-on training that they should be getting because of the staff numbers.

"Basically as I see it, under the new regime: research comes before the undergraduate students. Now I think that, within a university, within a veterinary school like this one here, there aren't enough staff around. The staff numbers I would think are much lower than other veterinary schools so if research comes before the undergraduates then I think that the undergraduates have suffered."

This academic explained that the new organisational structure in the university contributed to the fact that these issues have not yet been resolved.

"[The Hospital has] run out of the veterinary budget. I don't know what it's costing anymore because we don't see figures anymore. When we were a separate faculty of veterinary medicine we used to see figures, now we don't see figures at all.

Top-down administration

"It's very top down to be honest it's kind of a top-down administration which isn't the way to go forward. I don't think the staff know [who to go to] either. There used to be faculty meetings and there'd be a lot of things thrashed out and staff used to be

able to have their say, we don't have that anymore, so now there's no real forums for people to hear our views."

Top down administrative structures can cause problems on either end of the scale though, as seems to be the case with UCD's communications office this week and what seems to be a misconception regarding the cause of the problems with the AVMA.

Requested to comment on the dealings with the AVMA over the past few weeks, the communications office stated unequivocally: "The accreditation issue was not caused by restructuring."

However, the AVMA were in a position to confirm last week that issues with restructuring were 'certainly part of the discussion' and went as far as to say that "there was concern about the restructuring process."

Deteriorating

The sympathetic senior academic, questioned about possible action that disgruntled students and staff could take to deal with their problems responded simply: "I don't think there's anything we can do about it. I'm not sure where it's going to go in terms of what can be done about it.

"All the things that came up last year are basically still going on and probably have deteriorated since, got worse since then I would think. The thing about the American students leaving, they're voting with their feet and with their chequebooks. There are a number of them gone and there might be more.

Requested to comment on progress made since last year in dealing with the problems raised in the Veterinary College by the impetus on research, the Head spokesperson for the School of Agricultural Food Science and Veterinary Medicine stated, "The School has pursued an active research programme over the past year and has been very successful in attracting research funding across a wide range of disciplines indicating the strong interdisciplinary research programme.

"As a result of the increased research funds there will be an increase in the numbers of postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the School."

'Evening students are getting a raw deal'

● Evening students dropping out after being 'sold short' ● Lack of communication highlighted as a major issue

The College Tribune has learned that a significant number of evening students in this college feel they have been issued "a raw deal" by the college.

Denis Ryan, the representative for evening students in UCD, stated, "There is a general feeling that we don't belong. We are being treated like second-class citizens and we have gotten a raw deal."

Students' Union Welfare officer Barry Colfer agrees with Ryan's sentiments, stating: "the needs of Evening students aren't nearly being met."

Ruth Thornton, an evening student who agreed to speak to the College Tribune, pointed out, "by virtue of the fact that you are coming in the evening time means you're either working or have a family and therefore find it difficult to get to college during the day to access all the facilities.

"It is very difficult if you want to access things, like if you want to pay fees, or collect your student card or if you want to enroll when the relevant buildings are closed in the evening time."

Another student, Cormac Doyle, declared, "there is the feeling that we're not getting the same service. There is discontent there."

Communication

On average, evening students are paying triple the fees paid by daytime students at approximately €3100 annually. Colfer believes, "students who are most deserving of free fees are paying the most."

Evening student Maeve Burke was also critical of the lack of communication with evening students to this regard. "Fees went up this year and nobody told us they were going up. They jumped significantly."

Another student stated, "its not clear

Bernadette Scott

how much the college values evening students other than for their cheque books. We are basically funding the college and the standard of care that we receive for the fees we pay needs to be reconsidered."

Ryan confirmed that communication is a major problem. "A number of evening students didn't know they were due to return back to college on the 11th September. They had not received a letter of notification. Unless by chance they had come across the information, they were left in the dark, resulting in some students missing the beginning of semester. Communication is a major problem."

Dropped Out

Some students have not yet managed to collect their student cards due to administration hours not suiting them. "If we don't have our student card by the end of September, we of course can't access the library." Colfer has said that the college "obviously can't be a 24-hour administrative place but there is a general sense they're not being served."

Another student, Cathy Whelan, recalled how "one guy in particular dropped out. It all got too much for him." The student in question went from studying in UCD four nights a week to dropping half of his subjects, and due to overwhelming pressure, "backed out of the exams."

Speaking of the induction she attended in first year student Mary Kelly described how undergraduates were informed of the "study courses they were going to run and all the facilities that would be available. There were a few of us there that were starting the night courses and we all looked at each other and said, 'he's not talking to us' and he



Discontent: Evening Students eagerly await a class to begin

wasn't. The facilities are purely and simply for day students."

It has also been highlighted that not all of these students are computer literate. This proves to be yet another struggle for such students as they generally missed the office hours of their school's staff.

They are left clueless when it comes to course information as a result of no contact with lecturers and not knowing how to access elearning facilities such as blackboard. Students told the College Tribune, "We haven't had proper access to computer the programs. We want to be able to use them but we cant."

Socialising

Ryan has commented that socialising is yet another factor on the agenda. Speaking of societies he states, "we didn't get targeted to join. Students didn't feel encouraged to join." A large number of these students share this opinion but have said in addition, "times scheduled for meetings of societies clash with our timetables anyway."

These students who spoke about the issues affecting them all highlighted the difficulty they face hurrying to college after work. "Its hectic, you really do have to become a better time

manager" Liam Fitzgerald declared. Other students highlighted a "lack of moral support" as a key issue.

Some students have enrolled in a course simply for "intrinsic satisfaction." But as Mary Kelly has illustrated, "there are a hell of a lot of people here doing it for the sake of a career. They're paying a huge amount of money; they're coming at times that are extremely awkward and they get no help from the college."

Responding to queries from the College Tribune to this regard, the college stated, "The services to evening students here are in general more extensive than elsewhere."



Trinity College: Ireland's top ranked university

UCD falls short

● UCD fail to make top 200 universities ● Trinity College ranked 78th

In spite of President Hugh Brady's radical restructuring of UCD, the college has failed to feature in the top 200 universities in the world.

The Times Higher Education Supplement League Tables have ranked Trinity College (78th place) as the only Irish university in the top 200.

Harvard was once again voted the world's number one university, followed by Cambridge and Oxford University in Britain respectively.

Brady has made no secret of his desire to break into the top 30 universities in Europe during his time in office, and the latest tables have come as a major blow to this goal, as UCD must now wait another year to move up the table.

Having recently been voted The Sunday Times University of the Year 2006, and with a ten percent increase in student applications to the college this year, many have speculated that UCD may be moving in the right direction.

Karen Doyle

However, it is important to note that the Sunday Times exclude Trinity College from their rankings, as they concede that otherwise, Trinity would take the award every year.

Students' Union Education officer Brian Doyle remarked that due to the recent restructuring of the college and regeneration that is visible, he believes that UCD is "creeping up the scale".

Speaking to the College Tribune, a spokesperson for UCD stated, "It is important to generate awareness of the work of our researchers and academics among peers in the increasingly global university environment.

"Among the strategic objectives of UCD is internationalisation, and although our motivation is not driven by ranking lists, we will move up as we become more

international in numbers and our reach.

"Although UCD is not listed in the top 200, we have confidence that in time, we will. We have already congratulated Trinity on its achievement, as it is important that Ireland becomes recognised as a place of learning.

"UCD moved up in the rankings in the other international rankings study published by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in August and we look forward to doing the same in the Times Higher table in the future."

A total of 3703 academics from around the world were surveyed on their disciplines and these views account for 40% of the score. In addition, 736 international employers were surveyed and their views count for 10%. The other half is made up of staff : student ratio (20%), citations of major papers (20%), international staff (5%) and international students

Shell to sea campaign deserves an honest hearing

Paul Dillon argues that the Shell to Sea campaign deserves objective media coverage

There is a widespread assumption that the media covers issues in an impartial and neutral manner. The big media players assure of this much. On the basis of this commonly held assumption, much of what appears in the media is accepted at face value. The coverage of the events unfolding at the present time in Ballinaboy in co mayo might cause those who hold this assumption to re-consider.

The Gardai have been forcing through workers to begin work on Shell's inland refinery so feared and despised by local people. The media coverage, with some noticeable exceptions, has neither been fair or neutral. Some of it has deliberately tried to damage the campaign that been fought by local people.

Take an article written by crime correspondent Paul Williams in the Sunday World of 15th of October last. The campaign was smeared with accusations of violence and intimidation. The article implied there was something sinister at the heart of the Shell to Sea campaign.

Williams did not trouble to speak to anyone who might be able to refute his accusations. There was no report of the unusual circumstances in which Shell was warded its exploration rights. No mention of the compulsory purchasing orders the government has granted to shell, the first ever warded to a private corporation. No

Gama, who applied some of the most ruthless means of exploiting workers yet uncovered in Ireland, was allowed get away scot-free. No one charged, no one fined. No Gardai investigation of any kind.

mention either of the massive tax exemptions that shell has benefited from with regard to the corrib gas field.

This pattern has repeated itself all over the print media. The Irish Independent of 10 October for example, covered the sit down protest that took place in Ballinaboy the previous day. There were quotes from Guards and Shell spokespeople but no coverage of the message the protestors are trying to get out.

Both the Sunday World and the Irish independent have printed full page ads from Shell in recent weeks. Tony O'Reillys' Independent News and Media own both of these publications. O'Reilly has economic interests in every sector of the Irish economy including the energy sector.

The protests in Ballinaboy have also called into question the way the Guards work. It seems that in Ireland, laws are only made for little people. Contrast the treatment of the Multinational Gama and the people of Rosspport.

Gama, who applied some of the most ruthless means of exploiting workers yet uncovered in Ireland, was allowed get away scot-free. No one charged, no one fined. No Gardai investigation of any kind. Meanwhile the Balinaboy protestors face a massive deployment of Gardai, up to 200 every morning, to protect a multinational corporation whose plans for an inland refinery are unprecedented. This sort of deployment comes at a huge financial cost.

There is a concerted effort now to portray the Shell to sea campaign as something that does not enjoy broad support outside a small number of people in Rosspport. This line has been repeated consistently in the media and a survey commissioned by Shell is its source.

Another poll carried out by TG 4, showed clear majority in support of the demands of the Shell to sea campaign. Six out of ten people in Mayo want the Corrib Gas terminal located offshore at sea. Two thirds of those surveyed supported the stance taken by the five men from Rosspport in their defiance of a court order in relation to the Corrib Gas pipeline.

The massive solidarity campaign, which was responsible for the public pressure that eventually secured the release of the Rosspport five, a little over a year ago, is now falling back into place. UCD Student Union council last year lent its support to the campaign and UCD students have organised several pickets of the Shell stations in Donnybrook, the next of which takes place on Wednesday the 17th of October.

The least the Shell to sea campaign deserves is an honest hearing. So far, at least, the mainstream media has not provided it with one.

Paul Dillon is a former President of the Students' Union



In happier times: Kim Jung Il and US envoy Madeleine Albright in 2000

A nuclear axis

In light of North Korea's recent testing of a nuclear bomb **Eoin Mac Aodha** assesses the implications of an axis of evil with nuclear capabilities

Nuclear bombs are scary bastards.

It's no wonder therefore that George Bush and co. are worried by North Korea's recent testing of a nuclear weapon. Ally this with Iran's claims that they now have similar capabilities and you get a scared American Foreign policy elite.

In fact you get a scared Western elite.

Both North Korea and Iran are members of George W's much-vaunted axis of evil. The other 'member', Iraq, has most certainly come to regret never obtaining the deterrent power of a nuclear weapon.

The denouement of this is uncertain and its' pretty difficult to ascertain the international implications but it certainly changes the way international relations is conducted.

The 'War on Terror' has dominated headlines when it comes to international relations. Most international events are tinged with its legacy and viewed through its prism.

These developments, thankfully, cannot. They are independent and while reactionary and scare mongering elements will forward the argument that the threat of a terrorist organisation attaining nuclear capability is now increased that is not the central issue.

The crux is that countries that America has publicly condemned and publicly refused to rule out attacking now have nuclear capability.

That's a pretty scary thought.

And while there is a temptation to view these developments somewhat concurrently it is perhaps most instructive to view them separately.

North Korea is a bit of an anomaly in international relations. During the Cold War the US always had bigger fish to fry and since the fall of the Berlin Wall fighting communism just isn't sexy anymore.

Therefore North Korea has been allowed to remain in splendid isolation. A significant military barrier co-staffed by US and South

Korean troops acts a buffer between the two losers of the Korean War.

Having aided the separation of the country in the 1950's America retains a military force to ensure that it continues. Include US installations in Taiwan and North Korea is pretty much penned in.

Their decision to build a nuclear bomb germinates from this isolation, its condemnation by Bush and the insipid megalomania of its leader Kim Jong il.

In terms of Iran, whole newspapers could be given to their rationale behind building a bomb but here are a few.

The crux is that countries that America has publicly condemned and publicly refused to rule out attacking now have nuclear capability. - that's a pretty scary thought.

Firstly, Iranians as the successors to the Persian Empire are a proud people. They obviously don't ascribe to notions of Western dominance and feel that a nuclear threat would force the West to take it seriously.

It will.

Secondly, the Iranian regime is not democratic. It is a theocracy based on a strict and restrictive interpretation of Islam. Regimes like this need unifying forces. Nuclear capability thus becomes a symbol of Iranian will and power over Western oppression.

Finally, the Middle East is in need of a leader. Iraq obviously can't apply for this position and the other viable option, Egypt, is

seen on the 'Arab street' as too secular and too in thrall to America.

Despite being a predominantly Shiite country, up to 90% of Muslims are Sunni. The recent 'victory' of Hezbollah, a Shiite organisation, has shown that Islamic divisions don't matter when the opposition is the West. At the moment Iran is a source of pride for Muslims who feel that the West is an oppressive force anathema to their religion.

The problem remains that there are a number of variable and scary possibilities in this new nuclear hierarchy.

One is that Kim Yong il might just be crazy enough to launch a nuke at America. The other in terms of North Korea is that any possibility of US intervention significantly recedes. It is desperately unlikely that a US president, even a Republican, would sanction any action on purely anti-communist ideological grounds.

With respect to Iran the matter is far more complex. If Iran is to continue and actually manufacture a bomb before an Israeli pre-emptive strike then the geo-politics in the Middle East will be radically different.

It is unlikely that the political make-up will change in coming years. Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has nailed his colours to the nuclear mast and his credibility depends on his ability to see this through.

Iran is in the driving seat. America has enough on its hands in Iraq to convince it that intervention in Iran would not be a good idea. The only other option is the already mentioned pre-emptive Israeli strike, something that could not be considered beneficial for regional stability.

Thus, the likelihood is that North Korea and Iran will join the nuclear club, whether or not they are entitled to, is a separate argument.

Eoin Mac Aodha holds an MA in International Relations and is a former editor of the College Tribune

LETTERS

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Republicans

A chara,

This year has seen various celebrations of the ninetieth anniversary of the Easter rising, yet the realisation of an all-Ireland parliament or a socialist programme of government appear further away than ever.

A number of republicans and socialists in UCD have expressed an interest in setting up a society that would serve as a forum for debate and a platform to get across the republican message to the wider public. University College Dublin has a long history of Republican activists such as Kevin Barry, Frank Ryan, Thomas MacDonagh, and many others.

Such a society would be unaffiliated to any movement or party, nor would it attempt to become one.

Anyone interested in setting up such a society or receiving information should write to indyjoe@mail.com

Le meas,

Joe Keegan.

The Dutch

Dear Editor,

I'd like to respond to the article on Erasmus by Parkinson-Bennett in your previous issue. Even though I understand Parkinson-Bennett tried to be funny, his article is full of flaws that can be considered seriously offensive to the Dutch. He starts off with drug dealers and madmen 'looming towards' him as if this is an every day occurrence. Born and raised in this wonderful city, I've had the occasional madman-run-in myself, as I have had in Dublin. He portrays the Dutch as drug addicted, immoral freaks and argues that 20% of the Amsterdam prostitutes are victims of human trafficking, yet he fails to mention that Dutch police are occupied with countering their misery 24/7. He also leaves out that most of the prostitution 'customers' are tourists.

The biggest fault in his article though is that Parkinson-Bennett claims that drug use is factually criminal and that the Dutch are complete nutters not to treat it as such. He is wrong on two grounds: First, whether drug use is a criminal issue remains a political point of view. And a political argument, no matter how well established, can never be considered a fact. If not so, we'd live in a dangerous world void of any political debate. Secondly, if criminal still means to do fault against the laws of society and drug use is condoned by every Dutch authority how can it be considered criminal from a legal perspective? Yes, drug use is criminal from an Irish perspective, but Parkinson-Bennett wasn't in Ireland. While I'm in Ireland I respect Irish laws, I think I'm entitled to demand Parkinson-Bennett respects Dutch laws while in the Netherlands.

Yours,

Nienke van Etten

Car Parking

Dear Sir,

One of the most topical issues around campus today is car-parks and car parking. This was highlighted in the article in the last edition of this paper. Will motorists have to pay to park their cars on campus? Is parking a right or a privilege? What's more important: conserving green spaces for students to participate in sports and other activities, or ensuring motorists can find a place to leave their cars? Does the situation underline the bigger problem, that transport from several parts of the city to Belfield is non-existent or not good enough?

Most students will have an opinion on these issues. UCD is a busier place than it has ever been, and the situation is likely to get worse before it gets any better, with Belfield finally welcoming our brothers and sisters from Earlsfort Terrace back full-time in the not too distant future. What's going to happen when there are even more people coming and going to Belfield on a day to day basis?

Issues such as the cost of living in Dublin, finding a place to live while studying on campus, and getting in and out to college are as important to many students as anything else. The experiences students have while here are not peripheral to their education but intrinsic. If you can't get to campus, you're not going to be able to get the most out of being here, nor will you be in the right frame of mind to get the most out of your studies.

One thing is for sure, students should have their say. The Students' Union has been in discussions with the University to try and tackle this problem. To help generate Union policy on this subject, there will be a general meeting of the Students' Union (of which every student in the University is a member), this Wednesday 18 October, at 5pm in Theatre O in the Arts Block. Anyone who has anything to bring to the discussion is invited and encouraged to attend.

Students are the biggest stake holders in UCD; let us make sure our feelings on the subject are clearly communicated to the decision makers of the university.

Is mise le meas,

Barry Colfer
UCDSU Welfare Officer

COLLEGE

THE DIFFERENCE IS WE'RE INDEPENDENT

TRIBUNE

Editorial

Evening Students

The emergence of discontent among evening students may well come as something of a revelation for the average day student in UCD.

It is easy to forget about those who cannot avail of the things we take for granted, and the same can be said of day students in this instance.

It seems clear that there are considerable grounds for discontent among evening students, with the lack of key facilities a major issue.

Once again, it would seem that the college have overlooked its most crucial component – the students.

This newspaper is beginning to tire of highlighting complaints regarding the plight of students – be they daytime or evening – as the weeks of this academic term go by.

Every day that goes by seems to bring more credence to the view that UCD is a university in turmoil.

UCD is a great university and it's campaign of restructuring is bent upon nothing but raising that bar, but the way it is going about it's business seems to compromise vast sectors of the student body – something that is simply unacceptable.

Evening students have been complaining for years about the lack of facilities and the difficulties they face as they attempt to make their way through college. The general consensus however, remains – they are receiving very little support or help from the university.

The problems with students seem to stem from a lack of communication and understanding between the college administration and the students.

One evening student highlighted a "lack of moral support" from the college, as a problem. This is a real issue that needs to be addressed if discontented students are to be appeased during this time of radical change in the university.

Vet's College

This newspaper highlighted major problems in the vet's college this time last year. Further investigation in recent weeks has revealed that little has changed.

The American Veterinary Association has highlighted UCD's restructuring process as a significant reason for suspending its assessment of this university's vet college for accreditation in the United States.

This has culminated in ten American students leaving UCD for fear that the degree fails to acquire accreditation.

Reaction from academics and students in the vet college is riddled with discontent. The reputation of the school and the welfare of the students seem to have been compromised, at least in the short-term, by the university, in order to continue the restructuring process.

It is crucial for all parties that matters in the vets college be resolved as quickly but as steadily as possible, in order to avoid further disruption.

The AVMA have provided UCD with the necessary criteria to achieve accreditation in the United States, and the students of this college will be hoping such criteria is met sooner rather than later.

FEATURES



Come fly with me* (*Because it's cheaper that way)

Divide and conquer is the advice that maverick Michael O'Leary gives to Irish students in the wake of the controversy surrounding Ryanair's recent takeover bid for Aer Lingus, as he speaks exclusively to **Caitrina Cody**

Michael O'Leary - a name that can inspire admiration or disgust among the Irish public depending on whom you talk to.

For some, he is a pioneer of the aviation industry, challenging the status quo and rocking the boat while for others he is the devil incarnate. A master of show business, he takes apparent delight in confounding the expectations of his industry rivals and is irreverent in his approach to the media.

Known for his colourful language and impatience with bureaucracy, he plays a dangerous game. One thing is for sure: in person, O'Leary comes across as the epitome of reason and seems mildly puzzled but not surprised about the uproar caused by his financial offer to Aer Lingus.

Responding to the accusation that Ryanair has brought down the standards of air travel in Ireland, O'Leary retorted, "If bringing down the standards of aviation means lowered fares,

better punctuality, fewer lost bags and fewer customer complaints than the high fare airlines like BA, Air Lingus and others, then I suspect we're doing the right thing. And the travelling public seems to be supporting our version, our offer."

How does the public argue with this statement? Certainly, the statistics do not argue - in an industry with a survival rate of one in ten, Ryanair has seen consistent profits from E48million in 1998 to E239million

in 2003. The company seems to be synonymous with low-budget service and customer complaints but despite its bad reputation, the public persist in buying Ryanair tickets.

One comment by a passenger was particularly revealing, "I've never really had a problem with Ryanair, the fares have always been cheap but just make sure you stick to their rules or you'll get stung." That seems to be a common experience when dealing with the airline - the cheap fares are

inviting but pack too much into your overnight bag and you face a substantial fine. There are credit card fees based on each individual transaction that often increase the price of tickets and also the added inconvenience of arriving at airports miles away from the city that you intend staying in.

Recent weeks have seen the managing director of Ryanair come under fire for what some have seen as his 'stealthy' takeover bid for Aer Lingus. In the media frenzy that has sur-

rounded him in the weeks since October 5. O'Leary has been painted as a ruthless mercenary, the bete noir of Irish aviation, bent on destroying all competition.

Certainly, he has struck fear into the hearts of Aer Lingus management and SIPTU members as his daring plan to become the major stockholder in the rival company has unfolded. With the shares that Ryanair now hold in Aer Lingus increased to 19.6%, there have been gasps of horror from many directions and many fear that the move will threaten healthy competition in the common market. Now that the Government has confirmed that they will not be buying back any of the shares that they sold, Ryanair's position seems even more threatening.

However, O'Leary seems to shake off these fears with a bemused shrug. "No I think it'll be good for competition and consumers, because our offer confirms that Aer Lingus fares will be reduced by 10 percent over the next four years and we're also committed to reducing their fuel surcharges." He pauses to reflect. "Whereas Aer Lingus' business plan is all about increasing fares - they last week refused to confirm that they would give back any of the fuel surcharges. Lower fares and lower fuel surcharges are obviously good for competition."

Known as the no-frills airline, Ryanair has its devoted fans but also its vehement detractors. Some applaud the fact that it is now possible to visit the UK for under €50 and believe that O'Leary has opened the doors of Europe's capitals to those who simply couldn't afford the higher fares of Aer Lingus.

However these low fares mean that certain sacrifices have been made and these are all too evident on a Ryanair flight - less baggage allowance, no complimentary drinks and small cramped seats are the norm. Many claim that low prices are meaningless if the experience of flying must become an unpleasant one. Regarded as a luxury before the Ryanair era, flying was once the preserve of the well off and from take off to landing it was an industry that valued the comfort and satisfaction of its customers.

By eliminating what he sees as unnecessary luxuries from Ryanair's service, O'Leary maintains low fares and attracts a certain market niche: backpacking students on a budget, frequent visitors to the UK and families availing of affordable package holidays in the Mediterranean.

Those who bemoan the lack of comfort and customer service have stuck resolutely with Aer Lingus in the past but is that all about to change? Will passengers now find themselves without any available option but no-frill travel?

Described as a 'disaster for Ireland' by Denis O'Brien, the public seems to have been taken completely by surprise by the investment and possible future takeover of

Aer Lingus. Seen as a national institution, the Irish public feels that Aer Lingus is a source of national pride and fear that it will be swallowed up by the brash image that Ryanair presents to the world. O'Leary rejects this idea stating, "Ryanair's offer confirms that we'll retain the Air Lingus brand in a separate stand alone company - though I suspect that the Air Lingus brand will have a stronger and brighter future under Ryanair ownership than it would as a stand alone regional European carrier."

Responding to Denis O'Brien's comment, O'Leary states simply that the



Michael O'Leary: A man of many faces, all of them delirious

comment comes from a misunderstanding of the terms of the offer. "I don't think that Denis had actually read the offer document, which says that if it should succeed, Aer Lingus' fares will fall. Anyone who has read the offer document can see that the fares will clearly be lowered and overall costs lowered. If the offer succeeds it can only be good for Ireland."

When O'Leary claims that costs will be lowered, it's pretty certain that he

"I would say they have a much better future as part of one strong Irish air group than as employees of a small regional European airline."

will follow through on that promise. Does that mean that Aer Lingus staff should worry about losing their jobs if Ryanair gains control? O'Leary fails to deny or confirm that there will be job losses but concentrates on the positive. "I would say they have a much better future as part of one strong Irish air group than as employees of a small regional European airline."

So, what will the future hold for Ryanair in Ireland? "The future of Ryanair isn't really in Ireland. The future of Ryanair at the moment, the immediate future, will be to double in size from forty million passengers to eighty million in five years time. This will mean lower fares both in Ireland but also across Europe because Ireland really only accounts for a small por-

tion of our business. Ireland now accounts for only about 16% of our business."

In other words, O'Leary has bigger fish to fry. Clearly, he feels that the world is his oyster and intends Ryanair to become a major world player through its incorporation of Aer Lingus. And what about the fears that the public has expressed about possibility that Ryanair will one day offer a transatlantic flight service? An immediate vision emerges of passengers crammed into tiny seats, unable to recline or to afford the pricey snacks served on board, with no video to keep them occupied during an eight-hour flight. O'Leary dismisses this notion: "I think Air Lingus' transatlantic business will be significantly upgraded and improved if the Ryanair offer succeeds. But Ryanair will never go transatlantic."

The eldest in a family of six, Michael O'Leary went to school in Clongowes Wood College and then to Trinity, where in his own words he studied, "Business studies, drinking and girls." When asked if he believes that his college education helped him to reach the heights of success he replies, "Education helps you no matter where you finish up in life. I'm not sure everyone attending college will finish up running an airline."

And not everyone would wish to follow in the footsteps of O'Leary who commutes to his office in Dublin from Mullingar everyday and often works late into the night. His advice to aspiring business people is simple: "Get up early and work hard." And he certainly seems to follow his own advice.

He is emphatic about the possibilities in store for young Irish

people and believes they have a duty to make something out of themselves. "Well-educated Irish kids going through college at the moment could and should go and conquer the world. If they're satisfied with a small piece of Dublin or Ireland then they're letting themselves down because they've been educated to do better than that." He impresses one as a man who despises laziness and inactivity, whose intense energy often leaves others bemused.

Throughout his career as managing director, O'Leary has retained his sense of humour, often using it to his advantage against the opposition. One famous example was the controversial advertising campaign that featured Minister Mary O'Rourke in the bath, after disagreements over Aer Rianta imposed tariffs on Ryanair.

Known for his high-profile stunts, recent media pictures show O'Leary dressed as a flight attendant complete with blond wig to raise money for a charity. Is there any such thing as bad publicity for the man who doesn't shirk from confrontations with both politicians and union leaders? In response, he invokes his famous 'bums on seats' catchphrase that seems to underpin his business strategy.

"Ryanair's offer confirms that we'll retain the Air Lingus brand in a separate stand alone company"

"As long as it puts bums on seats, then it's fine but I think there's a difference between my public work persona which is high-profile and my private life which is subterranean. Hopefully anyway."

Ultimately, the bottom line of the issue is whether Michael O'Leary is wrong to cut down on expenses including staff in order to sell more seats and to make Ryanair a world player in the aviation industry? Many believe that

in the quest for profits the Ryanair Empire has lost the human element of compassion. Or have the customer's own needs changed as O'Leary believes so that they are willing to forego the luxuries in return for low fares? Should air travel be a commodity or should it be-

come merely a means of getting from point A to point B as cheaply as possible?

The answers to these questions can only ultimately be answered in the future when the consequences of Aer Lingus' possible absorption into Ryanair become apparent. In a perfect world, fares would be lowered and efficiency increased but not at the sacrifice of human compassion and customer service. Let's hope that the charismatic manager will apply his seemingly endless energy into realising that ambition.

'Where is the right to vote for those who can't read in your country?'

Jane Horgan-Jones visits Cuba and finds a very different country from the one the media would have us believe

"I do not harbour the slightest doubt that our people and our Revolution will fight until the last drop of blood to defend the ideas and measures that are necessary for safeguarding this historical process." - Extract from Fidel Castro's statement on Cuban television as he ceded power this year.

On August 1st, the world learned that Cuban President Fidel Castro had temporarily relinquished power to his brother, Raul, for reasons of ill health. As the first incident of its kind since the success of the Cuban revolution in 1959, the announcement sparked immediate reactions from around the globe. Critics and supporters of the Cuban regime alike were vocal in their commentary and predictions for how the country might cope without its iconic leader, and the world watched on to see how the traditional opponent, America, might react.

As the corporate media bombarded the airwaves with footage of Cuban exiles dancing in the streets of Miami and reaction from US authorities, coverage of any genuine reaction from inside the Caribbean island became increasingly conspicuous by its absence. President Bush supported "transition to a free Cuba", and promised "assistance" to Cuba should Castro die. We heard from exiles, from supporters, from politicians, and from reporters; but hardly a word from anyone who has lived under the regime for any length of time since its inception almost 50 years ago.

It was with this in mind that I travelled to Cuba a couple of weeks after the announcement. Depending on which kinds of reports I had read beforehand, Cuba was either a repressive, abusive and totalitarian state or a socialist paradise affording all its citizens the dignity and respect necessary for a just society. It seemed that the only way to bypass the malaise of propaganda infecting the media was to go and visit the country itself.

Cuba maintains a certain sense of nostalgia, perpetrated by the throwbacks to 1960s culture, architecture and cars that characterised every city we visited. Most notably absent, however, are the advertisements that the Western world is accustomed to seeing on every blank space available to public eyes. Bus shelters, toilet doors, ashtrays and bins all combine to ensure that at home, you never forget your status as a consumer. In Havana, both tourists and locals alike are spared the ignominy of being treated as a mere component of an ever-available market.

In Cienfuegos, a town of about 150,000 residents just south of Havana,

we were befriended by Santiago, a university lecturer.

"In Cuba, we do not pay for the school. We do not pay for the hospital. We do not pay." Santiago's emphatic extolling of the virtues of the Cuban health and education systems was common to many of the people we met. He spoke about the opportunities he felt he had been given by the regime. "I went to pre-school. I went to school. I went to university. And now, I teach. My mother does not have to work. She worked, and she raised us, and now she can relax."

Cuba is one of the first countries in the world to completely eradicate illiteracy. Education is free at all levels, as is healthcare. Even the World Bank, an institution intrinsically associated with capitalism and all Cuba stands against, has conceded that Cuba is topping virtually all other "poor" countries in health and education statistics, and continues to improve despite the stifling embargo the country has endured for almost half a century.

However, Cuba's social and communal achievements have long been contrasted with reports of human rights abuses. Human Rights Watch roundly condemns the regime for its "highly effective machinery of repression" and claims that Cuba "restricts severely the exercise of

"I went to pre-school. I went to school. I went to university. And now, I teach. My mother does not have to work. She worked, and she raised us, and now she can relax"

fundamental human rights of expression, association, and assembly."

While measures like these are undoubtedly indefensible in themselves and are abhorrent in their nature, they cannot be viewed or understood outside of the context of the Cuban reality; that of a consistent, premeditated, malicious programme of interference pursued by successive American administrations for the past forty years.

Since 1959, in addition to the US economic blockade (arguably a form of state



Unmistakably Cuba: A world away from the west

terrorism in itself and consistently condemned by human rights organisations). Cuba has been the target of over 680 terrorist attacks. The total number of recorded deaths resulting from these attacks stands at 3,478. These have included bomb attacks, assassination attempts, hijackings, the introduction of germs and pests in agricultural areas and attacks on Cuban personnel and property on foreign soil. The roots of these attacks lie with Cuban emigrant groups hostile to the socialist ideals of the country and determined to destabilise the political climate. The US government and the CIA openly support the aims of these groups.

Faced with similar threats to their own national security after 9/11, the U.S. and U.K. governments imposed laws that might equally find their way into critiques written by human rights organisations. In the UK, the 2005 Prevention of Terrorism Act permits the issuing of control orders against any British or foreign nationals on the basis only of a suspicion stated by the intelligence agencies. These orders include the powers of house arrest for an indefinite period, without trial or knowledge of the charges preferred against the individuals concerned. The proposed legislation following the London terrorist bombings is even more draconian and includes the right to hold a suspect without trial for up to three months.

As a response to complaints that such measures infringed human rights, the British Home Secretary, Charles Clark referred to the need to act in this way in an "emergency threatening the life of the nation..." The head of MI5, Dame Eliza Manningham-Buller, affirmed that civil liberties might have to be eroded to prevent future attacks.

Similarly, the U.S. has recently introduced legislation to protect national security. Under the 'Logan Law', US citizens

anywhere, who, without the authorisation of the US government, "directly or indirectly take up or maintain any kind of correspondence with any foreign government official or agent in connection with any dispute or difference with the US, shall be fined in accordance with that provision, jailed for up to a period of 3 years or both." Human rights also fall by the wayside in relation to suspects detained at Guantanamo Bay.

It seems that identical reasons are used in the West and in Cuba to justify these actions. That is not to suggest that the geopolitical situation of Cuba excuses such behaviour, but it does go some way to explaining it. The American dollars that pour into propaganda and destabilisation exercises are at least partly responsible for the sometimes-harsh nature of the Cuban response to internal dissent.

What is most notably absent in the Cuban case study, however, is the hypocrisy and double standards that characterise Western attempts to "democratise" Cuba and rid her of human rights abuses. It must be considered whether American concern for Cuba is born out of distaste for the economic and political ideology there, rather than any genuine interest in the advancement of human rights worldwide.

Equally, Cuban human rights cannot be viewed only in the narrow perspective taken by Human Rights Watch. There are two major international instruments on rights under the UN system; one on civil and political rights and the other on economic, social and cultural rights. San-

tiago gave us examples of how the latter convention's protections that people of the West are often denied are afforded to Cuban citizens.

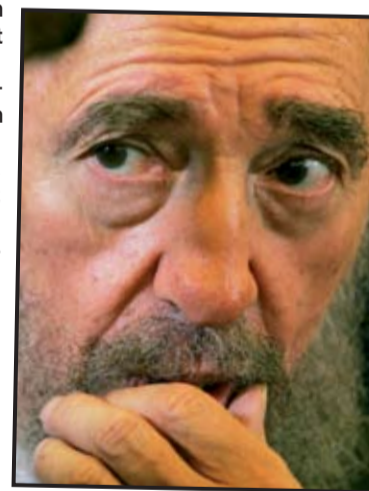
"In your country, people sleep on the street. People cannot read and write. People have to pay for their healthcare. Where are the democratic rights of someone who cannot read? How can they vote? Where are their human rights?" It stands as a self-fulfilling argument that the human rights of education and literacy are possible to provide in both developing and developed countries alike.

It remains to be seen if the benefits that the Cuban people have experienced will survive the end of the Castro era, and if the post-Castro era will be

able to manage the difficult task of extending human rights without putting in jeopardy all that has been achieved. If it is to do so, it can perhaps be helped by sympathetic and intelligent, but not uncritical, support from other small nations such as Ireland.

Santiago was firm in his belief that, "Democracy is more than just a vote in a ballot box every few years, re-electing corrupt politicians over and over again. It is about providing equality of opportunity and equality of access, which supposedly democratic countries support in their words but never in their actions and policies."

And if Castro dies? "Castro is the symbol, and Castro is my president. But the revolution is the people."



Castro: Unwell recently

Bin Laden holds that sucker down



OSAMA 'MURDERER' BIN LADEN

TERRORISM VS MALARIA



THE 'NIBBLER' MOSQUITO

A recent survey discovered Irish travelers are more afraid of a terrorist attack than contracting malaria when traveling. **Deirdre Flannery** investigates the foolishness of this supposition

A recent survey carried out by Pharmaceuticals Company GlaxoSmithKline discovered that Irish travelers are more afraid of the unlikely threat of a terrorist attack than contracting malaria when travelling to areas on high malaria alert. This is in spite of the fact that the first 36 weeks of this year had 75 reported cases of malaria in Ireland, which is an increase of over 125% on the same period in 2005.

It may be that Irish tourists are more inclined to think that malaria is an African holiday destination rather than a potentially fatal disease. The survey, carried out among 155 Irish travellers to malaria hotspots, revealed that the risk of contracting malaria only ranked ninth on their list of holiday concerns.

We are all perhaps vaguely aware that the malaria parasites, for the most part, reside in Africa, Asia and South America, but the hard facts are a little more disquieting. One million children under the age of five die every year from contracting malaria. 95% of those cases are in Africa.

There are four strains of the malaria parasite that affect humans, spread by the bite of blood-sucking mosquitoes. Malaria parasites can remain dormant in the liver for up to four years before they manifest themselves. One particular strain of the correctly termed 'plasmodium' is a fast little worker though, the parasite going straight to the brain causing cerebral malaria. If left untreated, this strain can kill within 24 hours of entering the body. Unfortunately, the new generation of jet-setting Irish is more susceptible to the parasite than those who live in the malaria-ridden areas, having built up no immunities to it.

The depth of our the apparent ignorance

on this matter was emphasised further when it emerged that one in five travellers disagreed that malaria was a fatal disease and that, worryingly, one in three disagreed that malaria could kill within 24 hours without treatment.

Perhaps the most shocking fact uncovered by the survey is that half of intending travellers believed malaria could be contracted from water, 16% from food, 13% from cockroaches, 11% from dirty accommodation and 7% from dog bites. The fact is that none of these views are correct, leading to the disturbing conclusion that the Irish abroad are sitting ducks when it comes to contracting malaria.

A spokesperson from the UCD medical centre suggested that the increasing percentage

"Irish people don't understand the seriousness of a disease like malaria, nor any other disease that we don't have in our own country"

The College Tribune also spoke with Dr. Graham Fry, the Medical Director of the Tropical Medical Bureau Ireland, who was of the same opinion. "Irish people don't understand the seriousness of a disease like malaria, nor any other disease that

we don't have in our own country", Fry explained.

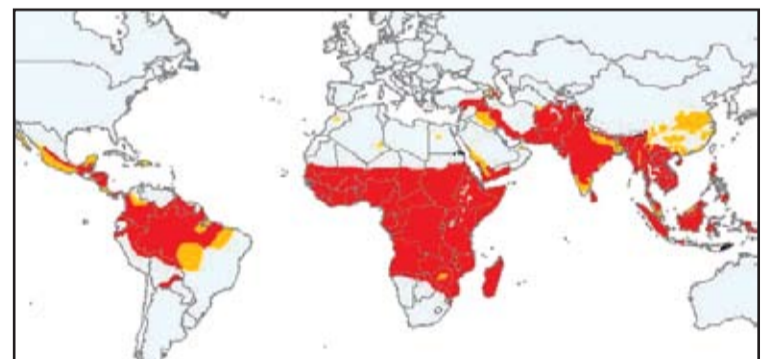
Fry concluded that the main source of information on the subject among Irish travellers is often through contact with friends that have travelled to the same areas, rather than more reliable sources within the medical world. If the travellers they are advised by haven't suffered any bites, they assume that it will be safe for others to travel without taking any precautions against the potentially deadly parasite. Fry admits

that this ignorance can have tragic consequences: "There have been deaths in Ireland", she continued. "Unfortunately, the symptoms can often be hard to spot, as they are similar to those of a common flu, often experienced after a long-haul flight."

Even when made aware of the frightening facts, many Irish tourists still refuse to avail of the readily available malaria medication. This can be put down to the perceived expense, inconvenience and unwanted side effects. Perhaps this is the reason why the most comical answers were in relation to possible methods of preventing malaria, 10% citing gin and tonic as a reliable deterrent. "It is an expensive issue," admitted Dr. Fry, referring to malaria drugs, but he brushed aside complaints of nauseating side effects.

"People only know the bad news and information, they don't know the good news". He went on to explain that the only way to discover how you will react to medication is to try it, in the same way one discovers if they have an allergy

travellers is often through contact with friends that have travelled to the same areas, rather than more reliable sources within the medical world. If the travellers they are advised by haven't suffered any bites, they assume that it will be safe for others to travel without taking any precautions against the potentially deadly parasite. Fry admits



Hotspots: Malaria is common south of the equator

to peanuts. "The vast majority of people nowadays can find a malaria drug that will suit them very well", he assured.

Fry also quashed any doubts over the effectiveness of the drugs, stating that they are all at least 95% effective. However, the UCD medical centre spokesperson added that certain strains of the plasmodium are building resistance to medication. For example, Mefloquine, one anti-malarial drug, has been conquered by the Southeast Asian parasites and rendered almost useless in preventing malaria. Another reason suggested for people's reluctance to take the required medication is the inconvenience.

Many backpackers are unwilling to lug jars of pills across countries, and students in particular aren't too keen on Mefloquine, which curtails alcohol

consumption. The UCD medical centre spokesperson also expressed concern that travellers don't bother continuing their course of medication when they return home, possibly a fatal error when reminded that the parasite can remain dormant in

the liver for months or even years.

So, if malaria is such a big deal, why do we know so little about it? Dr. Fry felt that more could be done to make people aware of the dangers. "There's no centralised government support with regard to setting down policies for people travelling overseas", he explained, adding that a national advice centre would be beneficial to the travelling public. Travel companies also have a responsibility under an EU directive to inform the customers to seek medical advice but the survey suggests that very few of them bother to do so.

Unfortunately, the symptoms can often be hard to spot, as they are similar to those of a common flu, often experienced after a long-haul flight

And as for all the Irish home birds, settling for Dublin rather than Dubai is not necessarily a safe bet either. Recently cases of "airport malaria" have been reported in Britain. It seems mosquitoes have managed to stow away on aircraft bound for London resulting in malaria being diagnosed in families living in the vicinity of the airports. So, it's insect repellent at the ready for those of you living in Swords it would seem.

'If they feel North Korea warheads then'

Paul O'Donnell investigates the ramifications of the detonation of a nuclear bomb in an underground facility

North Korea confirmed last Monday via its state news agency, the KCNA, that it had carried out a successful test of a nuclear weapon in an underground facility reported to be at Gilju in the Hamgyong province in the northeast of the country.

The international community's response indicates the perceived severity of the action. The United States said the test was a "provocative act". Britain said it was "irresponsible", and China, normally seen as an ally of the reclusive Asian state, said the test was "brazen" and that it would "resolutely oppose" any such actions. Japan's new Prime Minister Shinzo Abe felt that the test was "unpardonable". South Korea was quick to place its troops on a heightened state of alert vowing to act "sternly and calmly" to the situation. Although analysts highlighted the fact that the explosion may not have been that of a fully developed nuclear weapon, the threat still remains.

Speaking to the College Tribune, Sheila Paskman of the American Embassy in Ireland exclaimed, "The testing of a nuclear weapon is always extremely serious, we [the United States] and the participants of the six party talks have all warned North Korea that the testing of nuclear weapons would de-stabilize or would have a bad influence on the security of the whole region."

The six-party talks referred to are talks between the United States, North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan and Russia, which began in 2003 as a way of resolving the issue of North Korea's development of nuclear weapons. At present the talks are stalled. Paskman continued, "When it moves beyond the control of that [the six-party talks] you do need the U.N. Security Council to become involved."

To gain an insight into this current issue we must look at the history of North Korea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North) and



the Republic of Korea (South) as they are today, came into existence in the post-World War II period. The whole of Korea had been occupied by Japan during the Second World War. As a result of the latter's defeat in the war, the country was divided into two parts with the Soviet Union overseeing the North and the United States overseeing the South. Supposedly temporary, it soon became clear that this division would remain permanent.

As the 1950s dawned upon the world, a new era of "East versus West" situation arose. Whereas previously Europe had been the battleground for conflicting ideologies, it was now Asia where the major clash between capitalism/democracy and communism would take place.

Heightened tensions between the North and the South in 1950-53 culminated in the Korean War. Some historians feel that rather than this being a solely 'Korean' war, it was in fact a proxy war in the larger battlefield that was the Cold War. Either way, the result of the stalemate of 1953 (interestingly the war is still not officially over) was a cessation

"Nobody really knows what's going on inside North Korea because it's a very secret place in a completely desperate shape. The people are starving"

Dr. Tobias Theiler
- UCD School of Politics
& International Relations

in fighting and a return to the divide, with Soviet influence remaining in the North and the American remaining in the South.

In the following decades, the South, firmly on the American side of the Cold War and guided by this ally, developed into a prosperous economic entity. Conversely, the North fell under the strain, as did so many communist countries, of modernisation and the development of the free market in the international community.



Korean Central TV - Delivering propaganda to the Korean nation

조선중앙통신사 보도

North Korea can launch nuclear warheads if they will use force'



Inspections of North Korea's underground facility last week



famines that have ravaged the countryside and impacted significantly on the population and its growth.

Amnesty International highlights many denials of basic human rights, and there are reports of labour camps in existence. In a similar way to the past regimes of Mao's China and Stalin's Soviet Union, it seems government spending is devoted primarily to the military and as a result the population suffer from a lack of basic provisions.

Dr. Tobias Theiler of the UCD School of Politics and International Relations points out "The problem is that nobody really knows what's going on inside North Korea because it's a very secret place in a completely desperate shape. The people are starving."

The problem, it would appear, is a North Korean regime that is becoming less manageable than before. Dr. Theiler makes the point that "most people would interpret it [Monday's test] as a kind of diversion tactic by the regime, that's what regimes often do when they feel they are under threat: they kind of try to provoke confrontation with the outside world, they don't actually want to carry it all the way but they hope to rally people around them. There is also an interpretation that Kim himself maybe under threat from within his own regime, his own colleagues, and that he uses the nuclear card as a way of proving he is still in control."

Some have suggested mental instability in trying to explain the outlandish actions of the North Korean leader. On this matter, Dr Theiler feels "A lot of people would argue that Kim's mental state reflects on how he looks at the world, others would argue that he can't be that dumb, he has been in power for a long time. Although he did inherit power from his father."

The key question now is how the international community should respond to the situation and how it should deal with the reclusive state. Should the U.N. impose harsh sanctions on North Korea to act as a deterrent? Dr. Theiler makes the good point to this regard.



"If you just have across the board sanctions you just punish the civilian population who are starving already as it is." He continues. "What the Americans are really worried about is not so much stuff getting into North Korea but stuff getting out of North Korea. I think the Americans are genuinely terrified that the North Koreans are trying to export some of their nuclear technology to rogue states or terrorist groups."

Another fear for the Bush administration, according to Dr. Theiler, is not just what North Korea may do, or be capable of on it's own, but how this affects other so called 'rogue' states. For example, "The American's don't want Iran to get the impression that countries can get away with it [nuclear warhead development]. I think what the Americans will do, with respect to North Korea, is actually intended at Iran and Iran ideologically is more of a threat to the Americans than North Korea. North Korea has no regional power what so ever but Iran is a powerful regional state, it's got influence."

A peaceful resolution is obviously the desired outcome but it will not be easy. Paskman hopes that in the end diplomacy will prevail: "My hope is that

"When it moves beyond the control of that [the six-party talks] you do need the U.N. Security Council to become involved."

Sheila Paskman
- American Embassy, Dublin

we will be able to negotiate some sort of settlement to bring North Korea back to the six-party talks." Dr. Theiler feels that "the big country to watch is China. China is North Korea's 'friend'. The Chinese were seriously annoyed at that (Monday's testing). They are able to use leverage, first of all because they are obviously very big and they share a border with North Korea. The Chinese are interested in there being no instability [in the region]."

For Dr. Theiler it is possible "that this is the end game for the regime, that

this is a kind of crazy last ditch effort for the regime". If not, he points out that "if they [the international community] seriously feel that Kim has the capabilities to launch nuclear warheads, if they judge North Korea will go that far, and if they judge Kim to be sufficiently unstable then it's not entirely unimaginable that they will use force."

Dr. Theiler warns, "What regimes like that normally want to do is they want to stay in power, that's really the crux of the thing. The regime has proven that it doesn't, or

he [Kim] doesn't care about anything else, he doesn't care about his own population or any external factors. He just wants to stay in power, he will do whatever he thinks is most likely to keep him in power."



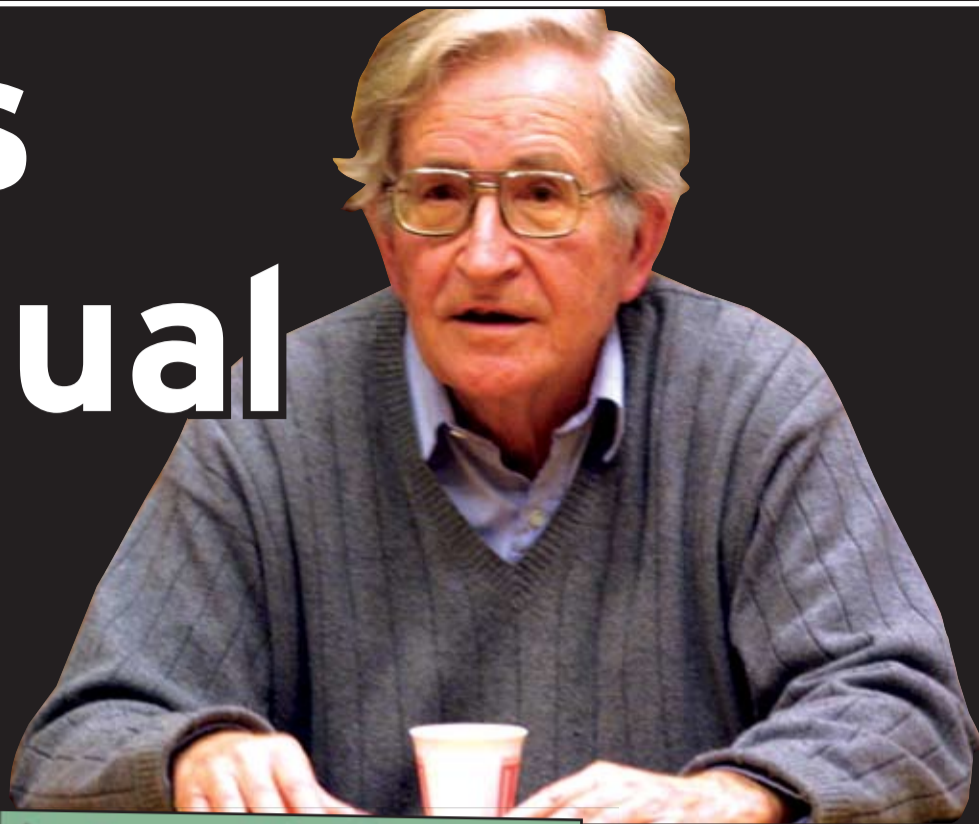
Satellite of Yongbyon nuclear power station - Where enrichment of Plutonium occurs



Kim Jung Il, his family have dictated North Korea since 1948

Media plus politics equal disaster

Susan Cahill takes a look at the emergence of 'Indie media' and examines the objectivity of such news sources



Seeking to challenge the dominance of the mainstream, 'mass' media, are an increasing number of 'Indie media' websites and Independent Media Centres (IMC).

These include the 'Indymedia' websites (including www.indymedia.org, the main site, and its Irish branch, www.indymedia.ie) and the online encyclopedia, 'Wikipedia', which runs a news service, 'Wikinews'. The content of an IMC is determined by its participants, both the users who post content and those who moderate, edit, and administer the site.

There are currently over 150 Independent Media Centres around the world. Each IMC is an autonomous group that has its own mission statement, manages its own finances and makes its own decisions through its own processes. The Independent Media Institute (IMI) is a network of collectively run media outlets. The IMI seek to offer a democratic news source. They seek out real stories, news, and opinions from around the globe. It is a collaboration of independent media organisations and hundreds of journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate news coverage.

Indymedia.ie, an affiliate of the global indymedia.org, is the primary Irish-based Indie Media website. The College Tribune spoke with a member of the indymedia.ie "collective", Robbie Sinnott, who declared, "Indie Media is about getting the people to be the media, so the media is not something you consume, but something you produce."

Sinnott explained his role on the site as that of "moderating" the content, which includes the

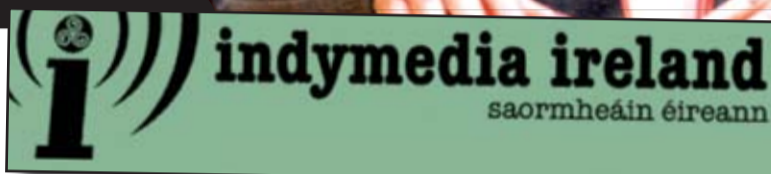
editing of pieces, which involve "unsubstantiated allegations [or] general abuse of people". However, there is no practice of background checking of the truth of stories on the part of the moderators; rather, they rely on a system known as "peer review", whereby all articles are open to responses from anybody who reads them. "If [a news piece] is absolute nonsense, it will be found out very quickly. We get something like 300,000 individual hits a month."

This, however, raises the question, are we to believe and take as truth the word of unidentified people? Are these sites reliable sources of information? Further complicating the issue is the fact that the removal or censorship of articles

which are written from right-wing or conservative perspectives is in practice in some IMCs, while some have editorial policies to remove articles promoting hierarchical thinking or systems of any kind. Sinnott, however, explains that indymedia.ie is theoretically open to all political persuasions. "There might be a perception that it's an anarchist thing. It probably could be

in that, it's about free media and equal media, and, in so far as that is political, indymedia is political, but otherwise it's not at all. It's open for everybody."

AlterNet, another such independent source, is news magazine and online community that creates original journalism and amplifies the best of dozens of other independent media sources. It has won awards for Best Web Magazine and several Independent Press Awards for best online political cover-



age. Since its launch in 1998, AlterNet has grown considerably to keep pace with the public demand for independent news and now provides free online content to an average of 1.7 million readers every month. In a contemporary culture often described as suffering from 'information overload', AlterNet serves as a filter, keeping hundreds of thousands of readers informed, in a manner they feel is preferable to the methods of the mainstream, 'mass' media.

To many, Rupert Murdoch, the media mogul who dominates much of the mainstream media, has become derided by many as too powerful, thanks to his worldwide newspaper and TV interests, and a far too influential figure in world politics and culture. His News Corporation owns 23 US television stations, cable and satellite operations in Australia, China, Europe, and Latin America. This tycoon controls a large proportion of the world's media, including The New York Post, The Times, The Sun, BskyB (which includes the Sky News television station), Fox News and even Myspace.com. There is no escaping Murdoch's influence, and it is moguls like him that Indie media are fighting against.

Asked his opinion of the mainstream media in Ireland, Sinnott responded, "In 2001 [indymedia.ie] was set-up in Ireland because it was decided that there was a need for a voice for the voiceless, because the mass media wasn't representing the stories that meant the

Media: Chomsky's quest for objectivity begins and ends at independent websites, to avoid stories like this (right)

most to people and wasn't representing the opinion that meant most to people. You had the same economists wheeled-out week-in, week-out. And that's what's you get with mass media. They decide who's going in, they decide what is important, most people are left out of the

equation, but they stick it on anyway because they want something in the car going home or whatever. They're not really given that much choice, there's the illusion of choice."

In the United States, where the rise of indie media has reached vaster levels than anywhere else, there are also numerous organisations who are working together to highlight the flaws of the mass media. An examples of these institutions is Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), a progressive American organization that documents what it perceives as political or ideological bias in media censorship, and erroneous reporting. Describing itself as the "national media watchdog", FAIR works towards greater diversity in the press while scrutinizing media practices that marginalize public interest, minority and dissenting viewpoints.

Another of these regulators is, Accuracy in Media (AIM), an organization that monitors the news media. AIM describes itself as a non-profit, grassroots, citizens' watchdog of the news media that critiques botched and bungled news stories and sets the record straight on important issues that have received slanted coverage.

A major supporter and believer in Indie media is renowned American academic Noam Chomsky. He has, along with Edward S. Herman, developed 'The Propaganda Model', which alleges systemic biases in the mass media and seeks to explain them



in terms of structural economic causes. Herman and Chomsky argue that since mainstream media outlets are either large corporations or part of conglomerates, the information presented to the public will be biased with respect to these interests. Since the mainstream media depends heavily on advertising revenues to survive, the model suggests that the interests of advertisers come before reporting the news. Chomsky and Herman also argue that, as a business, a newspaper has a product that it offers to an audience.

In an industrialised economy where consumers demand information on numerous worldwide events unfolding simultaneously, they argue that this task can only be filled by major business and government sectors that have the necessary material resources. In America, these are mainly The Pentagon and other governmental bodies. Thus mainstream media becomes reluctant to run articles that will harm corporate interests that provide them with the resources that the media depends upon - it is on these assumptions that the indie media thrive. Independent media stand alone, free from the influence of commercialism and refuse to have their voices muffled.

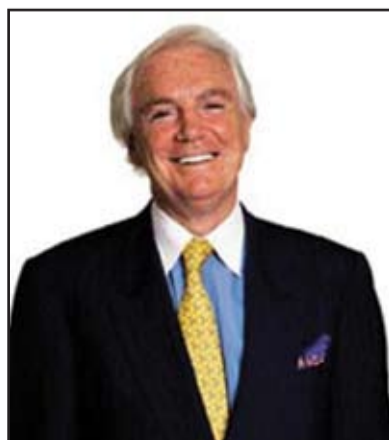
Sinnott agrees with this vision of the mainstream media: "It's impossible that advertising won't shape what they put out in some shape or form. For example, the need for oil. It's taken for granted that everyone needs oil, well, up until recently anyway. If you were getting car manufacturers advertisements regularly, you'd be less likely to push that line [that oil might not be so necessary]."

He concluded with an estimation of the true revolutionary potential of the Indie media, "The Internet will tear down mass media as we know it. That's my view. I don't think there will be room for them to live side-by-side. Because we're far more flexible. Instead of being told what they're watching on the television every night, people will choose and are choosing what they'll watch."

"There is no escaping Murdoch's influence, and it is moguls like him that Indie media are fighting against"

"There was a need for a voice for the voiceless, because the mass media wasn't representing the stories that meant the most to people"

Moguls: Rupert Murdoch (left) and Sir Tony O'Reilly (Right)



Get the shell out of here

Matthew Parkinson-Bennett explores the reason behind the protests at the Corrib gas pipeline, after weeks of heavy protest in Rossport and at Shell Headquarters

Last Wednesday's protest at the Shell's Dublin Headquarters was the latest action of years of reaction by Irish citizens against the proposed Corrib gas pipeline. Local residents and the Shell to Sea organisation have been spreading awareness, and attempting to disrupt the construction of the pipeline. They have been processing/refining a complex in the Rossport area of Co. Mayo since permission to build was first applied for in 2000 by a group known as Enterprise Energy Ireland, which later became Shell E&P.

So why has this story provoked such strong reactions from locals and such widespread concern across the country? And why were five local men willing to take such measures in their opposition to the project that in June 2005 they were given a gaol sentence by the High Court?

With this project, Shell are proposing to bring onto the land processes that normally take place at sea. So unprecedented is this approach that the relevant existing legislation presumes its non-existence. Whereas at Kinsale, gas arrives onshore in pipes pre-odorised, that is, supplied with the distinctive smell we recognise as gas, the gas contained in the underground pipe in Rossport is to be odourless, and hence potentially undetectable should a leak occur. Perhaps less probable, but nonetheless possible, is that the pipe may explode. It is to be four times more highly pressurised than existing onshore pipelines. It would traverse boggy land where landslides have occurred in the past.

The College Tribune spoke with Dr. Mark Garavan of the Department of Nursing, Health Science and Humanities of the organisation Shell to Sea, who co-ordinate the protests against the Shell project both at the site and around the country. He remarked, "The primary concerns of the campaign are centred not on the principle of the Corrib gas or indeed on bringing gas ashore but the principle concerns at all times have been on the methods by which shell are processing the gas. The primary difficulty we have is that they're planning to process the gas at an

inland refinery site about 9 kilometers from the shoreline within an area that is populated."

As well as the safety concerns, there are significant environmental concerns. Broadhaven Bay is an area of Special Conservation under EU regulations, where breeding and rearing of dolphins and whales takes place. Carrowmore Lake is on a list of UN protected conservation areas. Both are to be affected by pollution in the form of wastewater used in the processes of refining gas.

Furthermore, with this approach there will necessarily be a large industrial complex built for the processing and refining of the gas. Garavan has an environmental concern connected with this not related to the endangering of animal or plant-life, but to the disruption of the landscape in a rural area, he described as "pristine". He continued, "It is going to be a building covering twenty-two acres of ground. This is a massive intrusion into an area that is entirely rural and non-industrial."

Garavan cites four alternative (and more commonly used) approaches that Shell might have chosen. None of them involved the building of the type of potentially dangerous, high-pressure pipelines used in what he calls "the fifth method". "The fifth method is to process the gas inland, and it's that method that Shell have selected. That's the one we're opposed to. We can except any of the other methods, so it's we who have the moderate position on this, Shell are stuck on this one specific method of processing the gas."



On the outside: Protesters converge on Shell HQ

Garavan is adamant that it is not Shell who are solely to blame, but that the responsibility for the situation lies with the Irish Government. "I think the Irish government are more to blame [than Shell] because they've created the conditions that have allowed shell to operate in the way in which they are. The Irish government should be establishing a very rigorous regulatory regime governing this project. They have clearly failed to do so from the start. The Irish government have been the co-architects of the project with Shell.

"After all, the on which the project is being built was given to them by the semi-state forestry company Coill-te.

Consents were granted by the Department of Marine even in advance of things like planning permission and so on. Compulsory acquisition orders were

"I think the Irish government are more to blame [than Shell] because they've created the conditions that have allowed shell to operate in the way in which they are"

given by the state to a private company, the first and only time this has happened in the history of the state. The Irish government are not intervening to try and solve the problem, and they're not intervening to try and protect the safety of citizens."

Although they have received planning permission (and that af-

ter many appeals to both Mayo County Council and An Bord Pleanála) to build their refinery, Shell have not yet received all the consents required to complete their project. "They have [yet] to get consent and agreement from the Department of the Marine to install and operate that pipeline so they're a long way short yet", Garavan stated.

Interestingly, however, Garavan continued, "They also do not have an agreed pipeline route yet they say that they want to get that only with the agreement of the local people affected by it." He is not, however, convinced that this apparent show of concern for the locals is genuine: "[While] they appear to want consent for the pipeline, they appear indifferent to whether they get consent for the processing plant or the refinery. The worry that we have is that they're only saying they want consent, but ultimately they will push it through with the same methods they're using now, in other words deploy very large numbers of gardai and simply put down the pipeline."

Defiant: Some of the Rossport 5 - (l-r) Vincent McGrath, Willie Corduff, Michel Seighin and Philip McGrath



PUB TALK

WITH
**OWEN
PRIESTLEY**

THIS WEEK: FEMALE ETIQUETTE



It wouldn't be fair on the boys if Pub Talk was to go into male etiquette last week and not grace the pastures of our lady loves as well.

Since the beginning of time men (and some women) have fallen, be it lustfully or otherwise, at the feet of the fairer sex.

Women for centuries were given the cross of beauty, emotion and elegance to carry upon their ever so gentle frames. So now the question must be asked Where did it all go wrong? Before this goes any further let it be known that Pub Talk is an equal opportunities criticiser and would admit under the influence of a few er-dingeroos that we are quite fond of the fairer sex.

Now as you read this and look at your undoubtedly stunning girlfriend beside you and say, "not my girl, never.

She is like a angel sent from above to make my existence worthwhile" and maybe yes, she is one of those not sent from below but spare a thought for the rest of us.

Pub Talk is not one for generalisations. The specific women that we are talking about have been documented many times before. They are best known for their starring roles in the hit tragedy *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly Drunks*.

Week after week after week the student bar is littered with girls who, were it not for their friends would find themselves out on their proverbials. Why do they do this? Is it all not just harmless fun?

Yes it is a bit of a laugh. The guys pointing and laughing by the bar definitely think so as your mate tries (and gets desperately close) to stripping off on the dance-floor.

Of course it is really just a floor now that she has scared off all the other punters.

If it is just a laugh then try laughing at yourself when you're stuck outside in the cold. You are without your bag and jacket because the bouncers wont let you back.

You wonder to yourself as your friends screams "I need to pee, let me in or I'll give



Classy: One socialite has had a little too much to drink

your floors a free wash." Please excuse the crudeness but Pub Talk witnessed this not so long ago.

So what is the solution? Is there one? The first thing we must all understand that the fault is not with them. It is with ourselves.

We let them get so drunk that they could, in the words of Baz Lurman, dance the funky chicken like it was their 75th wedding anniversary as you only hope that its sunscreen on the side of her face.

They get that way because we let them. They know subconsciously that they can do whatever they like and you will always be there to pick up the pieces.

They know that you will carry them home. They know that you will be the one to deny that they kissed a bus stop poster the night before.

They know that you will be there no matter what. You think you are only being a good friend but in the long run you are doing more damage than you thought possible.

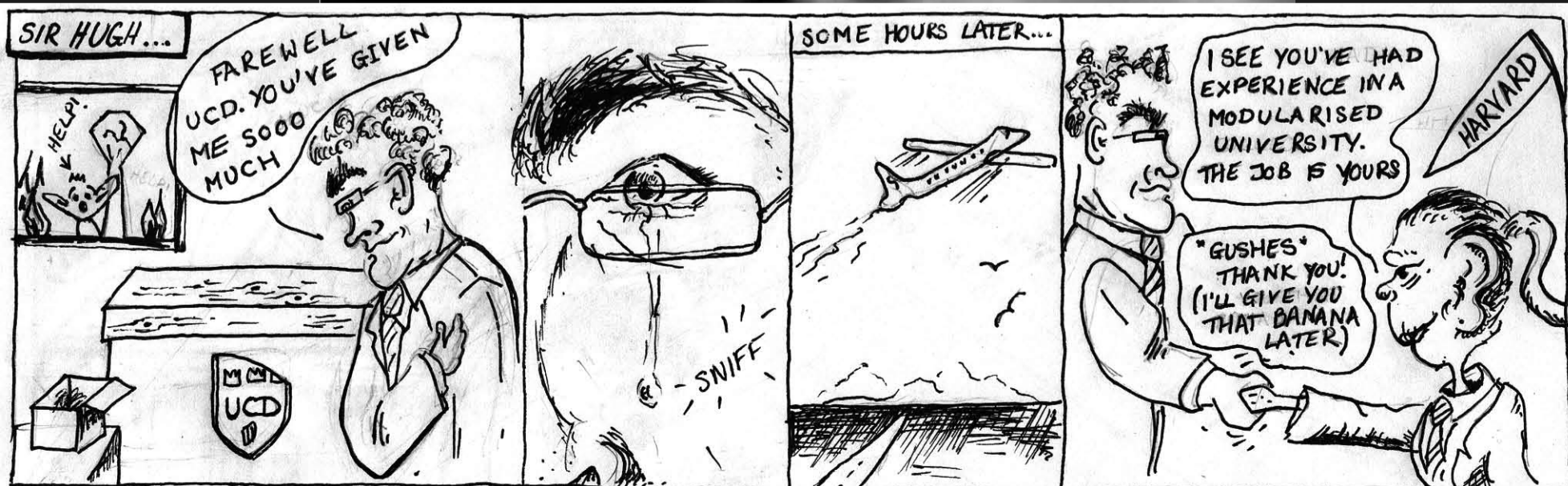
Pub Talk is not advocating just ditching your friends when they are drunk. (Although if you hide from them and attach a camera to their head the result is normally hilarious).

But if you don't say it to them (preferably when they are sober or not holding anything sharp) then they will go on thinking that there is nothing wrong with what they are doing and the only person that you will be hurting is yourself.

So will this Pub Talk make a difference? Will the girl that everyone knows stop throwing herself at every Tom, Richard and Harry when there is no snakebite left behind the bar?

Honestly, probably not but for every time you've been left waiting beside a bush as your friend vomits, then scores some scummy 14 year old, then vomits again it was worth being said.

DOCTOR HUGH



PARALYSIS ANALYSIS PART THREE



This issue our interview took a bit of a darker turn. It was strange as we were struggling to find someone up to our drunken standards on a mild autumn evening in our dirty old told. Then out of nowhere this guy grabs one of our interviewers by the arm and begs us literally to come interview his friend. Our potential interview guest didn't take much of a liking to us asking him questions and then things took a turn no-one expected.

Have you ever heard of Paralysis Analysis?

Oh no, no way there is no way I am talking to you guys.

Ok so no problem!!! (We get up to walk away)

I mean it, don't ask me again. *(Our very esteemed friend then proceeded to front up to our interviewers)*

Ok relax we won't. I just wanted to say you had nice hair for a girl (in retrospect not the best thing to have said)

(Angrily) What? (Expecting a punch or two worthy of the ultimate fighting championship, our subject clutches his stomach as if trying to bring forth his fighter within)

You alright? *(Now looking quite concerned)*

I told you not to ask me any more questions. For fuck sake what have you done to me?

(Now not knowing really what to do)
Should I call an ambulance?

Go on, I dare you ask me one more question and my mates will kick the fuck out of you, you c**t. *(As he collapses to the ground clutching his sides)*

(Looking around for these friends who are obviously either non-existent or have abandoned their friend) Oh shit hold on.

Don't tell me what to do.

Are you serious right now?

Don't ask me questions.

(At this point, we considering pulling down his trousers and leaving him there, but one scream later we knew we couldn't leave, we get on the phone and call an ambulance)

Help is on the way
(A few minutes later and his friend returns shouting at him and then believe it or not kicks him in the gut. We stood there in complete shock, as soon as we realised what happened we grabbed him to see the biggest, vilest smile on his face)

What the fuck are you doing? *(A siren is heard in the distance, and then from just behind us a rather familiar voice whispers)*

You've just been punked.

What?

Ha we got you, you thought you were interviewing drunks but we were sober all along. *(The sounds of the ambulance gets closer)*

Oh very funny, enjoy your ambulance guys (we turn and walk away frustrated)

Fuck you guys. *(They shout after us as the ambulance pulls up by the curb)*

Unfortunately for them, they had attracted a lot of attention and the crowd was none too impressed at being led along for the ride. The last thing we saw was a black coated pair of bouncers lifting the two jokers by the neck and forcing them to explain why they needed an ambulance so urgently.

We then laughed as the police rounded the corner towards the fray. Moral of the story, if you are going to be sober don't pretend to be drunk you'll just end up with a caution and none of the fun or having an ambulance to play with.



If you happen to find yourself in a position like this, feel free to send it in to us. If its your mates, then even better. We can make a good show of them, expose them for the drunken tyrants that they are. Send any ideas into tribune@campus.ie the best comment sent in every issue wins a half-price copy of the College Tribune.

PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT

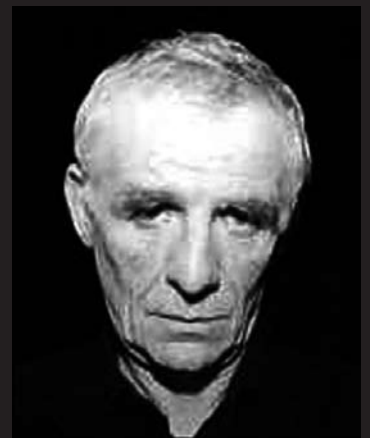
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TO CONNECT
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**ROLLING
STONES KNOCK
PEOPLE OVER**

**WEATHER:
DRY SHITE**

STAN STAUNTON – I'M GOOD ENOUGH TO MANAGE IRELAND



Irish fan: Looking for Stan Staunton

The Turbine has learned that Steve Staunton believes he is good enough to manage Ireland's international soccer team.

The claims come in the wake of Ireland's dropped points at home to the Czech Republic last week. Speaking afterwards, Staunton declared, "We've done it. I'm the gaffer, and we're off the mark."

Supporters outside the ground were euphoric as George Hamilton contemplated a historic point won. "Dublin will erupt in a burst of joy, firecrackers, flags and tearful embraces tonight. We're celebrating a home draw after a nail-biting game against a team who are fairly good, to be fair."

Supporters flocked to the centre of the capital to vent their delight and relief, scenes echoed in villages across Ireland from Derry in the north to Kerry in the deep south.

Hundreds of young people, many stripped to their under-

wear, frolicked on the banks of the River Lee in Cork, waving Irish flags and splashing on-lookers as ecstasy took hold of natives and tourists alike around the people's republic.

Staunton could be seen afterwards grinning like a Cheshire cat as he lapped up the adulation. "I'm the gaffer," he stated when quizzed on his team selection for the game.

Staunton had been hailed after the performance, with some going as far as to say that it was his inspired substitutions of Alan Quinn and Alan O'Brien that baffled the Czechs. Dunphy stated, "Well it was the two Alans really wasn't it. Those Czechs have fuck all English so when they saw two guys with the same name, they got mixed up. They didn't know who to mark. And hey presto."

Staunton responded to praise outside the ground, stating, "I'm the gaffer. I'm the boss," before adding, "I'm the gaffer."

LOUIS WALSH GAY FOR MEN

The Turbine can exclusively reveal that Louis Walsh is gay for MEN.

It had been previously thought that Walsh was just gay but one previous lover has today declared that it is in fact men that he's gay for.

One music industry insider stated "It's come as a bit of a shock really. I just can't understand this. We all knew he was gay, but men, we never saw it coming."

At the time of going print Walsh was unavailable for comment. It is probable that he was with a MAN at the time.

A spokesperson for the Organisation For Gays who like Men welcomed the revelations about Walsh.

Speaking in a camp and girlish voice he stated "this is just fabulous news, absolutely fabulous, I can't overemphasise how fabulous it is."

One of Walsh's protgs Brian Ormonde was reluctant to comment but did say that he owes all his success to Walsh.

Ormonde presents a children's television show and is a failed pop star.



Louis Walsh: Attempting a cover up



SUPER LEAGUE

with Jack Horgan Jones

DOWN THE LINE

A true master lost



Paul Hunter: A fighter right to the last

Paul Hunter, one of the most gifted snooker players of his generation, tragically lost his eighteen month battle with cancer last week. **Harry Smyth** examines the achievements of an extraordinary man



"Also, it has emerged that the 89% of statistics used in student newspaper sports columns are never independently verified. This leaves their authors to use the 13% of the surface area of the paper given over to them free to say more or less what they want"

So with all the grace of Paul Robinson's horrendous swipe at machismo, UCD again subjected itself to the spectra of youths gaily chasing the leather across Belfield. It is, in fact, estimated that the average dogger can expect up to 34% of prime campus hunting grounds to be taken up with this activity at any point over the weekend.

Also, it has emerged that the 89% of statistics used in student newspaper sports columns are never independently verified. This leaves their authors to use the 13% of the surface area of the paper given over to them free to say more or less what they want.

The featured match this week took place on the curiously inclined Old Merville pitch. What initially looked to be developing into a highly competitive occasion between feisty newcomers 'the Posh' and the 'Superfriends' descended into a fraught, disjointed rout of the former after some questionable refereeing decisions led to a good fight. Posh defensive lynchpin Brian Kennedy was later hospitalized after receiving what was, by common consensus, a lucky punch.

Superfriends captain Mark Ryan was unfazed by the rough and tumble afterwards, "It was a good physical game, and we're glad to have come away with such an impressive result. We're aiming to mix it up with the top this season and win the league. It's hard to imagine talking about any negatives after such a thumping result."

The task of surmising the Posh's awful performance fell to defender Eoin Delap, "it's the same story every week, it's not a matter of ability, individually we're capable of pushing anyone. Where we're falling down is the basics, our fitness, and unfortunately, our effort." Superfriends midfielder John Butler was keen that his hat-trick be noted.

To see such a great champion taken in the prime of his career is a devastating blow, not just for snooker but the sporting world as a whole. Leaving behind a wife and ten month old daughter, it can only be hoped that they have felt some degree of comfort from the massive outpouring of grief his many legions of fans have shown.

Tributes from his fellow players were quick to follow in the immediate aftermath of his passing. "Paul was just a really nice guy and a great player", said seven-times world champion Stephen Hendry. Ken Doherty echoed this sentiment by saying, "We've lost a great character, champion and a great friend. It's a shocking loss."

Respected pundit and former player Willie Thorne was in no doubt that Hunter would have gone on to claim snooker's most prestigious prize if cancer had not struck. "Paul was a great player and I'm sure that he would have been a future world champion, without a doubt."

Early on in his amateur career, there were signs of the immense talent that Hunter would develop into. He turned professional at the age of 17 on the back of two victories at the Pontin's Star of the Future event. His first ranking event title came at the Welsh Open in 1997 when he beat John Higgins in the final. This helped him to establish a position in the lucrative top sixteen of the world rankings and he rose to a career best of number four.

The Masters is the tournament that he will be best remembered for with his three titles all achieved in the most dramatic of circumstances. His first victory came against Ireland's Fergal O'Brien in 2001, which required a tremendous fight-back from a 7-3 deficit.

His great sense of humour was perfectly

illustrated by his famous tongue-in-cheek remark about resorting to "plan b", during the interval. This referred to him seeking inspiration from his future wife Lindsey before the evening session. It clearly worked as he stormed back to eventually triumph 10-9 in a truly compelling sporting occasion.

His fondness for the Masters continued the following year as he managed to successfully defend the title by staging a similarly astonishing comeback, this time at the expense of twice former world champion, Mark Williams. The icing on the cake for Hunter in the event

"Paul was a great player and I'm sure that he would have been a future world champion, without a doubt"

Wille Thorn

came in 2004 when he defeated arguably the best snooker player of all time and certainly the most talented, Ronnie O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan was in imperious form early on and established a 7-2 lead. Hunter was not about to give up but surely it was impossible to fight back from this position. However for Hunter, no task on the snooker table was beyond his capabilities and he managed to hit top form just when he needed to as only great sportsmen can. With the tension in the arena almost unbearable, Hunter stayed cool and finally came out on top after an engrossing final frame decider.

It is often said that there is an absence of characters and entertainers on the snooker scene today but that clearly didn't apply to Hunter. He was admired by all snooker fans for his fun personality, infectious sense of humour and modesty in victory.

His courage when he was first diagnosed with cancer in April 2005 shone through as he continued to compete at the highest level for the love of the sport and his fans. He put in an extremely brave performance that same month in the World Championship, battling all the way before just losing out 10-8 in the first round.

Despite feeling very weak from his ongoing bouts of chemotherapy and suffering from numbness in his hands and feet he courageously elected to participate in both the Masters and World Championship earlier this year. It really is a great testament to Hunter that in spite of obviously being very ill in April, he continued to play with a smile on his face and never once complained about the gruelling hospital treatment he was receiving.

Sadly we will never see Hunter again on the big stage but at least people can cherish the memories of the many special moments that he managed to provide in such a tragically short space of time.

A decision by the World Snooker Association on a lasting tribute to Hunter has yet to be reached. Many of his fellow players have already given their support to the idea of naming the Masters trophy in his honour and this does seem fitting given that it was his favourite tournament. Perhaps the greatest tribute that can be paid to Paul Hunter is the fact that in many people's lives, he will never be forgotten.

Let the games begin

The IFIUS World InterUniversity Games graced the playing fields of UCD, DCU, IT Blanchardstown and the National Basketball Arena, Tallaght all last week.

In its eighth year running, the Games were originally founded to facilitate a competition in which universities from around the world came together to compete in a

soccer tournament.

It later branched out however, and now consists of Men's and Women's Soccer, Men's Basketball, Men's and Women's Volleyball and an indoor soccer game known as Futsal.

Held in the Netherlands last year, officials chose Dublin because of its abundance of top-

class facilities and almost 1500 competitors from just under 30 nations touched down in Ireland to take part in the four-day event.

UCD entered sides in all but the Futsal group, and had varied degrees of success. Here is a closer look at some of this week's action.

College crash out at the first hurdle

Ian Mahon provides a round up of the escapades of UCD's men's soccer team in the World Intervarsity Games

A valiant effort from the UCD freshers' team in the Intervarsity games last week was not enough to see them through their group.

Things looked bleak on Tuesday when they were completely outclassed by MESI Moscow in a 4-0 drubbing, yet they regained some pride the following day with a comfortable 3-0 win over ASC Bucharest. Goals from Fitzsimons, Wilson and D'Arcy ensured they restored some pride to take with them to the final day of the group.

What UCD lacked against Moscow was composure, yet it was seen in abundance following their opening day defeat. Shane Nolan, UCD's central defender, proved instrumental in the maintenance of a clean sheet with a commanding display. Their hard work in gaining a clean sheet was nearly all in vain however when Bucharest's striker Juzcun Isma scored a scissors kick from roughly twelve yards, only to have it cruelly disallowed for offside.

College went in search of a positive goal difference after earning -4 on the opening day, so in order to achieve this they approached each game with a refreshingly attacking attitude. Despite leaving them slightly exposed at the back, the style of football being implemented was very pleasing on the eye.

UCD went to the final day with two matches, the first against Helsinki and the second against Portuguese outfit Santarem. Whilst knowing they had to win to progress

from their group, they were also waiting on MESI Moscow to stumble at the final hurdle. The unlikelihood of this happening was magnified by Moscow's results so far: 4-0 against UCD, 5-0 against Helsinki and 7-0 against Santarem.

Yet, what's admirable is that UCD never gave up, despite knowing they were up against it. First up was Helsinki, where the constant screams of "Pressure" from the Helsinki players were as annoying to the crowd as they were useless to the intimidation of the UCD team. When Dwayne Wilson struck the post with a penalty won by De Verehant, the excuse of 'It wasn't our day' appeared to be looming.

Yet, when De Verehant went down again in the box in the second half, he decided to keep penalty taking duties to himself, calmly striking the ball to the keeper's right. Sean O'Connor then made it 2-0 with a sweet left foot shot from the edge of the area that went in off the post to cap off a victory margin that failed to show the dominance UCD possessed in the game.

The final game against Santarem reached half time at 0-0, and was a shock considering Moscow had

crushed the same opposition 7-0. Yet UCD went out in the second half a different team, and made it 1-0 shortly after the restart through Art O'Connor with a good finish following poor defending. Ian Fitzsimons made it 2-0 shortly after with a mazy run from the right wing following which he slotted the ball into the bottom left corner.

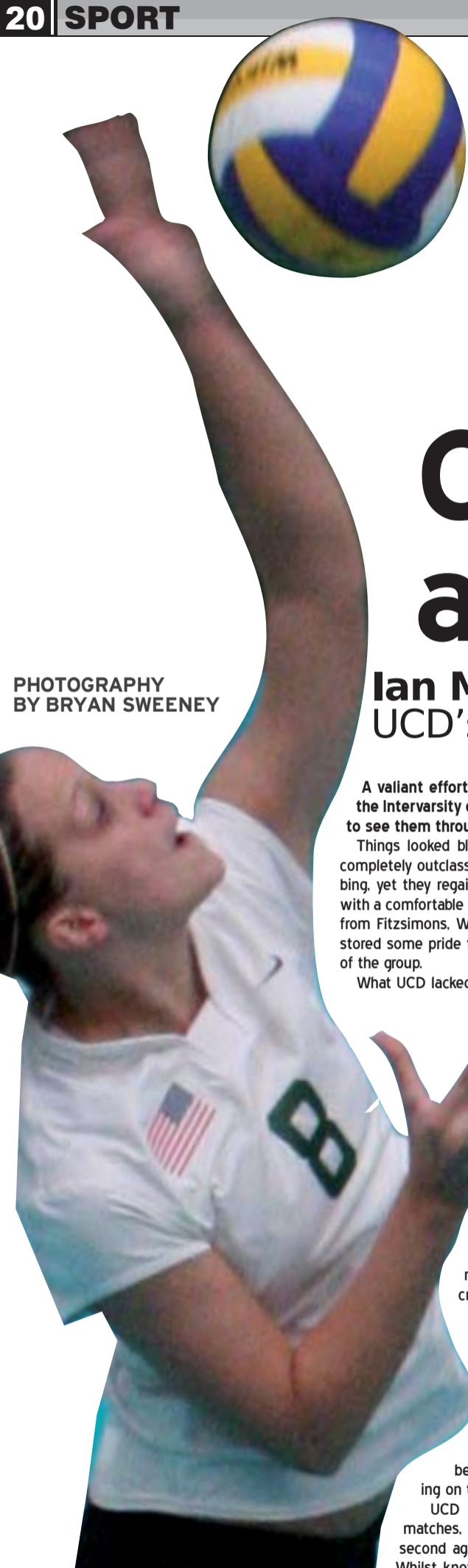
There was some relief for Santarem when Helder Baiao converted a penalty, but this was short lived and the UCD onslaught continued. Peter Clinton resurfaced memories of Ronaldinho vs. Seaman in 2002 with a cross-cum-shot that looped over the hapless Santarem keeper and into the goal. And Paul O'Connor finished the 4-1 rout with the last kick of the game, neatly placing the ball high into the right side of the net.

Despite Moscow defeating Bucharest on the final day as expected, UCD's never say die attitude was admirable. They knew they were waiting on other results in order to progress, yet they didn't let this get in the way of their football. Coach Diarmuid McNally, despite UCD's failure to progress, can hold his head high as he knows his troops fought as hard as they could.

It's an encouraging display that bodes well for the future. Some of the players on show throughout the week look capable of breaking into the UCD first team in the future. And nobody would be more jubilant about this statement than McNally himself, who is highly involved in youth development.



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MESI Moscow clinch world title

Eoin Delap	
MESI Moscow	0
Sth. Russian State	0

Moscow win 3-1 on penalties

The all-Russian final of the World Interuniversity Games Men's Football tournament was decided by a penalty shoot-out after the sixty minutes of regulation time failed to separate the ultimate winners MESI Moscow from South Russian State University.

Both sides had copious opportunities to snatch the win but were prevented by poor finishing and outstanding goalkeeping.

The Muscovites can thank their 'keeper Kolarev Stanislaw for making some excellent saves and ultimately securing the silverware with two penalty stops.

The contrasting styles on show, with MESI playing a passing orientated game and South Russian utilising their physicality, produced a fantastic spectacle and kept the crowd enthralled throughout.

The southerners had the best opportunities of the opening period as they dominated possession and pushed forward through their playmaker Alexey Rudakov. It was Rudakov who fed forward Eziqozy Gukasyan for their first attempt on goal, which travelled marginally left of the Moscow post. Again Rudakov was involved shortly before the break, beating Stanislaw in the Moscow goal only for it to be disallowed due to an offside.

MESI broke the stranglehold that South



Russian had imposed on the game as the half wore on. Their two front men Soulin Eregny and Aragyan Sragis linking up with their midfield through neat passing caused problems for their opponents. On one such occasion winger Matreer Konstantin crossed after making an incisive run to the by-line, his pass found Eregny who sent the ball well over the cross bar.

Again Rudakov was involved shortly before the break, beating Stanislaw in the Moscow goal only for it to be disallowed as the linesman had his flag raised for offside.

The second half followed a similar pattern to the first, as South Russian State dominated the early period but failed to score. Zenis Golobozodik in the South Russian goal saved well from MESI midfielder Bolshekov Denis, as the Muscovites came into the game.

MESI 'keeper Stanislaw produced a breathtaking save from a Kazbek Kaputhin

effort with only moments left on the clock. Kaputhin, who had taken a heavy knock earlier in the second half and made a Lazarus like recovery to play the entire game, shot towards the upper left hand corner of the goal. It seemed destined to be a sensational goal when Stanislaw rose majestically to beat the ball away for a corner.

By the time the referee blew the whistle to conclude the second period MESI were fortunate to still be within reach of the title. It was Stanislaw in goal, combined with some cool penalty execution that ensured them the accolade. A hundred percent conversion rate of three spot kicks for the Muscovites meant that two saves by their keeper and a third sent wide by South Russian Alexander Belyavsky decided the outcome. Kazbek Geteriov's saved penalty clinched the title for MESI, and sent the victorious side hurtling euphorically towards their keeper.



Total football wins out in ladies final

UCD fielded a strong side going into the Women's Soccer section of the games, and by the second day, it showed. Thumping local rivals Trinity College 13-0 in a Dublin Derby, they were sent at an outrageous speed back down to reality when eventual winners, The Hague University, put five past the hosts with only a single reply.

The German sides involved caught the eye from the early stages and when two of the three met in the semis, an enthralling battle followed. University of Karlsruhe and Munich University of Technology locked horns for an hour without let-up. A grueling penalty shoot-out then took place, and although the two show a characteristically steely determination even in their spot-kicks, Karlsruhe eventually prevailed victorious to earn a place in the final with The Hague.

The Final at Belfield Park saw brains meet brawn as the Dutch's 'Total Football' faced the physical efficiency of the

Ben Blake

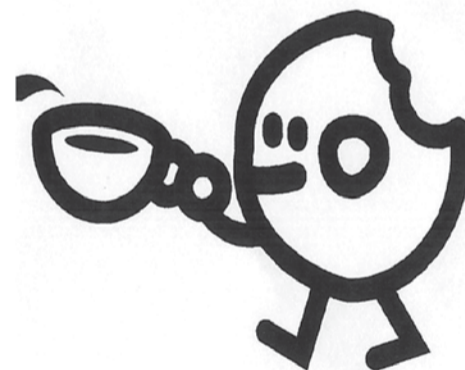
Germans. An intriguing battle was witnessed, as the teams obviously drained from the commitment showed en route to the final, seemed to cancel each other out. Not for the first time in the week (or the last, as the Men's suffered the same faith), the cruel coin-toss of penalties decided the winner.

It was now down to who could hold their nerve, and on a historically based presumption, the odds would have seemed to be stacked against the team from Holland. Down the years, German's thrived on the pressure such circumstances provided.

The Hague's charismatic keeper had other ideas, however. As her team mates did their bit by coolly slotting away each and every one of the spot-kicks put before them, she managed to guess the right way on two occasions, overcoming Karlsruhe 4-2 and winning the prestigious prize for her side.

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Dublin championships in chaos

UCD's Evening Herald Dublin Senior Football Championship semi-final clash with Kilmacud Crokes due to take place last Thursday, was called off the day before.

The second last four meeting in a double-header scheduled for Parnell Park that evening was even given the green light after the other tie between Na Fianna and St. Vincent's was postponed.

Following the lodgement of St. Oliver Plunkett's Eoghan Ruadh's objection into the eligibility of Na Fianna player Gary Mullins, the fixture was 'put on ice' until the procedure of a Gaelic Administration Committee (GAC) hearing took place. The GAC have since rejected Plunkett's case and allowed Na Fianna to progress. However, the Navan Road club may yet decide to take their argument to the Leinster Council.

In a highly complicated and contro-

Ben Blake

versial situation, Kilmacud Crokes then decided to make a complaint with the Dublin County Board over the time-span given between the quarter-final and semi-final. The Stillorgan side met Lucan Sarsfields on the Saturday and were due to play College on the following Thursday. The Board believes that the fixture complies with their five-day rule, however.

The day of the week the match was penciled in for has also been objected to. Seeking their third successive Dublin Championship, Croke officials had previously hoped that the tie land on a weekend evening, and claim that their players would otherwise struggle to make it from work. They also believe the 8:30 throw-in time is detrimental to specta-

tors' needs and especially those with children, as one would do well to return home before 11:00 that night.

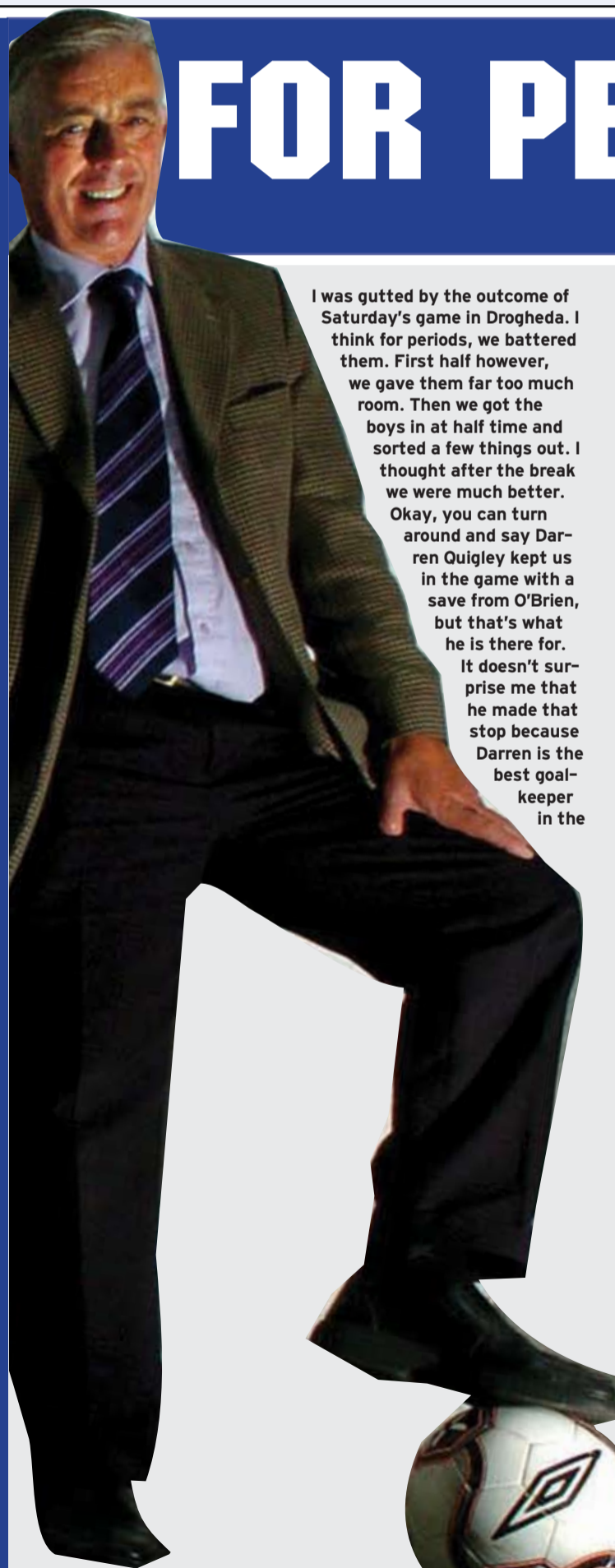
UCD on the other hand would gladly benefit from the midweek game, as many of the players return home to other counties on a Friday.

What these developments mean is that the Dublin SFC has been effectively thrown into a state of chaos. The Final was scheduled for the last weekend in October, but with the two semis as of yet unplayed, the odds are stacked against the county having their champions ready to enter into the Leinster Championship.

The winners in Dublin are due to face the victors of Meath or Louth on November 5th, but at this rate the current Leinster champions Kilmacud Crokes may be forced into giving up the defence of their title.



Called Off: UCD will have to wait for another day to face Kilmacud Crokes



FOR PETE'S SAKE...

Exclusive to the College Tribune

I was gutted by the outcome of Saturday's game in Drogheda. I think for periods, we battered them. First half however, we gave them far too much room. Then we got the boys in at half time and sorted a few things out. I thought after the break we were much better.

Okay, you can turn around and say Darren Quigley kept us in the game with a save from O'Brien, but that's what he is there for.

It doesn't surprise me that he made that stop because Darren is the best goalkeeper in the

league.

At the end of the game in particular, I thought Drogheda were very cynical. There were a lot of elbows being used throughout the match. Without a doubt, the referee left a lot to be desired. He sent our coach Eddie Wallace off out of the technical area for simply throwing a bottle of water on the ground. Stephen Staunton kicked his bottle of water across the pitch; Eddie threw it on the ground. I thought that if he had been watching what was going on on the pitch, he would have served both teams better.

I mean, Darragh Ryan was victim of an elbow from Damian Lynch early in the match, and that is what caused the goal. He had blurred vision; he missed the tackle when they broke on us. We were set up well to deal with any counter attack, but he's got a bang in the eye. We had to take him off. He will be alright, but he's had a bit of a concussion.

After that then, we changed things by bringing on Paul Byrne and putting Ronan Finn out right. We did get more crosses into the box, but it wasn't to be. Their goalie made a great save from Tony McDonnell, and that was it really. I was so disappointed;

I went home and ate three Danish cakes. Talk about binge drinking, I was binge-eating.

I'm just really upset to be beaten by them. As everyone knows, there is no love lost there. That little man

Doolin has a problem with me, big time. I think looking

at them on Saturday night though; there is definitely an underlying problem in that club, but I don't know what it is. For the number of play-



Paul Doolin: Pete isn't expecting a Christmas card

ers they have, and the amount of money that they spend, I'm sure they're raging about their current situation, deep down. They can

dress it up all they like. Six months ago, it was about winning the league. Now they're on as if finishing third will be a success.

I have no doubt that if we can get the three experienced players that we need for next year,

we will go places. We are not far away. We have been beaten by the odd goal a couple of times this year by the likes of Cork City and Drogheda, and I don't feel we're

a million miles away really. I'll be quite happy if we can strengthen the side by getting in the three players that I'll be looking for in the off-season.

Obviously, we're going to try our best to hold on to all our current lads as well. It's not going to be easy, however. If I was a betting man, I would say there are a couple of our players being tapped-up already. I'd have no doubt about it. This is something we are going to address very soon. As I've said before, I'm from the old-school whereby, if the lad wants to go, we won't stand in his way. UCD are looking for people who are committed and willing to battle for the cause.

Take a look at Sligo Rovers and their achievements this season for example. We honestly believe that this club can at the very least emulate their progress if not better it, by having in place a number of small but significant changes

"I was so disappointed, I went home and ate three Danish cakes. Talk about binge drinking, I was binge-eating. I'm just really upset to be beaten by them"

Kicking for Club and Country

UCD and Ireland Under-19 out-half Ian Keatley speaks to **Jack Horgan-Jones** about winning the Leinster Schools Senior Cup and progressing on both the club and international stage

The rise of professionalism in rugby has given birth to a path of maturation from schools player to professional. Nearly every single player who would comprise a full strength Irish XV has graduated from the schools system into provincial and international under age teams, and finally on to the full international scene.

The only real exceptions to this rule are John Hayes, Simon Easterby (who was exposed to a different brand of the same system, being educated in the UK) and Geordan Murphy, who was plucked by Leicester Tigers before coming to the attentions of his province.

One player in the crux of all these professional machinations is Ireland U-19 representative out-half centre Ian Keatley, a rising star with province, country, and the UCD AIL first team. Keatley followed the emerging natural route of schoolboy rugby, including playing a pivotal role in the return of the Leinster Schools Senior Cup (SCT) to Belvedere College in 2005 after an absence of 32 years.

It is this memory that still ranks among his favourite in the game. "The feeling when the final whistle

went was incredible. Of all the activities in school, participating in the SCT is without doubt the most time-consuming. The bonds you form with the other lads in the team go very deep, and to win the cup after it becoming such a monkey on the backs of various teams over the years was very special."

Having been something of a surprise selection at 10 the previous year, provincial schools honors evaded Keatley, and it was not until after the Leaving Certificate that he got his initial chance with the Leinster U-19 squad. Impressive performances at various trial games, including representing Leinster A in a game against Ireland U-21, led to Leinster awarding him an academy contract. It is with the academy that he mainly plies his trade outside of UCD now.

All across the world of rugby, the increasing physicality of the game is coming to the fore. The professional game has diffused from one whose charter was specifically designed to accommodate people of all shapes and sizes to one where the Guinness premiership is considered to be one of the



Penalty: Ian Keatley splits the posts to win for Leinster U19s (Left)

best examples of rugby union in the northern hemisphere.

"While we do three weights sessions a week, the emphasis is on developing power to avoid contact and play the ball out of the tackle. The field sessions have a strong emphasis on pace

and ball handling, and while the lads are obviously fairly massive in some cases, the idea is not to run at each other and see who the last one left standing is."

To date Keatley has won the inter-provincial competition with Leinster at

both U-19 and U-20 level, with his fine kicking, both out of hand and for goal, becoming a feature of the Leinster team's game plan. Couple this with considerable skill with ball in hand and formidable distribution abilities and the picture of Keatley's influence over the game becomes clear.

"Obviously I was pleased with my boot recently, but I'm working hard on other areas of my game too. It's important not to rest on what you've achieved and I'm always looking to improve other aspects of my game"

Keatley was part of the Irish U-19 team, which played in the World Cup in Dubai earlier in the year. Although an out-half by trade, he was mainly employed in the centre. "I do prefer to play ten, but at 12 I'm comfortable too. I think it's important to introduce versatility to your game."

While he was impressed with the standard of coaching in Dubai, he alludes to a little frustration, possibly born of the failure to yet saturate Irish rugby entirely with the professionalism seen in other nations. "You got the impression the lads on the other teams were with each other a lot more in training camps, whereas we only were in camp once every three weeks. That's not to slag off the training methods or coaches; it was a little niggle at the time though."

Student Assistance Scheme 2006/2007



The Student Assistance Scheme 2006/2007 is funded by the Department of Education and Science with assistance from the European Social Fund under the National Development Fund 2000-2006. The scheme is administered by UCD's Student Welfare and Assistance Committee.

Applicants should note that funding for the scheme has been significantly reduced from that of previous years. This is due to a change in Government policy whereby funding for the Local Authority Top-up grant has been increased. This reduction in funding means that successful applicants will not receive the same level of assistance as was allocated in previous years.

Eligible Applicants

The Student Assistance Scheme is open to students who are currently registered for a course at UCD. The course must be of at least one year's duration and must lead to an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification.

This scheme is targeted at those disadvantaged students most in need.

Application Forms are available from

- <http://www.ucd.ie/advisers>
- Chaplaincy and Student Adviser Offices
- Welfare Officer, Students' Union

Closing Date

Thursday October 26th 2006 at 2.30pm

All students will be notified of the result of their application in November 2006

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Dogged Droogs keep students at bay



UCD Sweep forward: Conor Sammon's best chance of the game is saved by Drogheda goalkeeper Dan Connor



Photo: Ben Blake

UCD were left kicking themselves over three points dropped as they failed to make the most of second half dominance, going down to a single strike in the eircom League Premier Division at United Park last Friday.

Getting caught flat-footed by a tremendous early Drogheda break resulting in a Declan O'Brien finish. College found themselves chasing the game after just four minutes. While Darren Quigley undoubtedly kept them in the clash on a couple of occasions, Conor Sammon and Tony McDonnell both saw their efforts superbly saved.

A high-tempo encounter was predicted as the two sides headed into the match off the back of morale-boosting victories. While the Students disposed of Bray Wanderers with a 4-0 drubbing last week, United got the better of Derry City to keep alive aspirations of a top-two finish.

Darragh Ryan returned to the line-up for UCD, whose only other injury concerns are the long-term lay-offs of Pat McWalter and Stephen Hurley. For Drogheda meanwhile, Declan O'Brien and Glen Fitzpatrick were handed the task of infiltrating a strong visiting backline, with Tony Grant and James Keddy still out and

Ben Blake	
 Drogheda Utd	1
 UCD	0

Eamon Zayed warming the bench. And it was the combination of the front two with a neat finish from the former, which provided the opener. Paul Keegan ended a UCD attack with a well-timed interception before surging up field. Slicing open the heart of College's defence, he offloaded to Fitzpatrick wide on the left, who teed-up "Fabio" to sweep home comfortably from eight yards.

Conceding so early on had not been in the plan-books and going a goal down was a stinging setback for the Students. Pete Mahon had aimed to pack the midfield in a 4-5-1 with Ronan Finn dropping deep during Drogheda possession, keeping a clean sheet and hopefully nicking a winner in the process. All that was now out the window.

The hosts, accompanied by a boisterous home crowd, dictated much of the play in the early stages, without creating too many clear-cut chances. Stephen Bradley latched onto the end of a quick

free-kick but his low drive could only force a corner. The energetic midfielder then turned provider, ending a weaving run with a flick to Damian Lynch, who lacked accuracy in his attempted lob.

Both sides were hit with injuries and made the respective alterations. Ryan was left with blurred vision after catching an elbow from Lynch, and in his place came Derek Doyle. Glen Whelan also suffered a knock, causing Paul Doolin to shift Lynch forward to right wing, sending Brian Shelly to right-full and inserting Jason Gavin into centre-half.

The midfield pairing of Gary Dicker and Paul Crowley struggled to stamp their authority on the game in the first half, meaning the away side created little going forward. Sammon and Finn were left to feed off scraps consisting of long, high balls sent mainly from Quigley. Although the two worked the line tirelessly, they caused Gavin et al. little concern. Indeed, the closest chance arrived when Derek Doyle stormed in to close down an over-elaborate first touch by Dan Connor.

The game opened up after the restart, as the Droogs weren't content to sit on a narrow lead, while the Students were desperate to level the terms. Keith Doyle's free-kick wasn't too far away. Then

down the other end the same player tracked back excellently to snuff out O'Brien's powerful run. The ex-Dublin City man has adapted with ease since his arrival, and is becoming a decent asset both at the back and going forward.

UCD seemed to be finding a degree of luck down the left flank through the understanding of the two Doyles: Keith and Derek. When they won a throw-in, Sammon was first to react to latch on to a long one. Deciding on accuracy over power, College's top scorer this season side-footed goalward, but saw the outstretched Connor scramble it away, and eventually clear after several attempts.

Now on the ascendancy, Mahon took Kavanagh off for striker Paul Byrne and reverted to 4-4-2, with Finn pushing out right. The playmaker found more success out there than before, now launching in crosses long and short, whereas before he couldn't manage to impose himself on the tie.

When the ball fell to McDonnell on the edge of the opposition's box, the skipper show great composure to step inside onto his left, and then let fly with a dippy strike. An agile dive and strong fist of Connor were on-hand to push it around the post,

however. Zayed was given little time to make his mark on proceedings, but a thunderbolt from Shelly after a determined surge from the backline nearly put the result beyond doubt. Quigley was again on-form to make himself big and keep Sami Ristila at bay when Lynch's chip to the back was met by the ex-Finnish International.

Drogheda United: Connor, Lynch, Grey, Gartland, Robinson, Whelan (Gavin 21'), Bradley (Zayed 88'), O'Brien (Ristila 75'), Fitzpatrick, Shelly, Keegan. Subs unused: Treacy.

UCD: Quigley, Kenna, K Doyle, Crowley, McNally, McDonnell, Kavanagh (P Byrne 72'), Dicker, Sammon, Finn, Ryan (D Doyle 15'). Subs unused: Shortall, Hussey.

Shelbourne	24	31	52
Derry City	22	19	45
Cork City	25	16	44
Drogheda Utd	24	8	44
Sligo Rvrs	24	1	39
St Pat's A	26	1	33
UCD	26	-2	29
Bohemians	26	0	28
Longford Tn	25	-4	27
Bray Wndrs	26	-28	14
Waterford Utd	26	-22	12

the SIREN

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charlie bird

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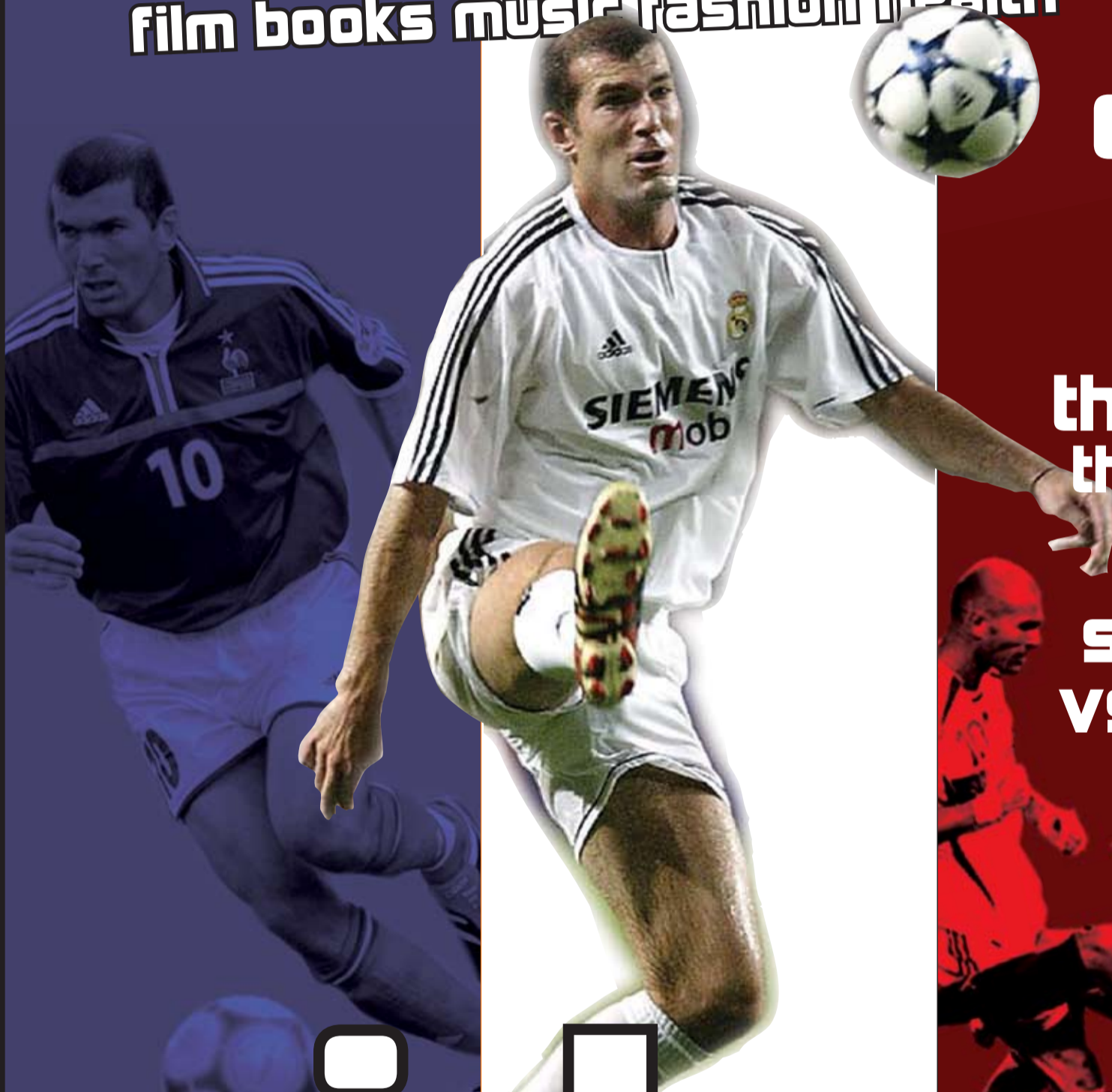
the frames the go! team

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superman vs batman

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ZIDANE

a genius' many faces hit the big screen

inside
October 17th

music



Kitt's voice is often criticized as being monotone, but here it is lifted and given a whole new resonance.

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"They were killing people, they were exploding bombs, but this is what journalists do"

Interview: Charlie Bird: P6

fashion



Summer is a distant memory by now so lets tone down the orange fever. Please?

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film



Chiefly, they seem to expect him not to head-butt Italians who insult his seriously ill mother.

Film Review: P11

Electrical storm

Daniel O'Neill previews the highly anticipated DEAF festival

The Dublin Electronic Arts Festival, or D.E.A.F. as it's more commonly known, is celebrating its fifth birthday this year and is looking like being one of the best since it began in 2001.

It has been acknowledged both as a groundbreaking step in developing the electronic arts in Ireland, and as the definitive first chapter in the cementing of Ireland's reputation as a creative centre for the digital arts.

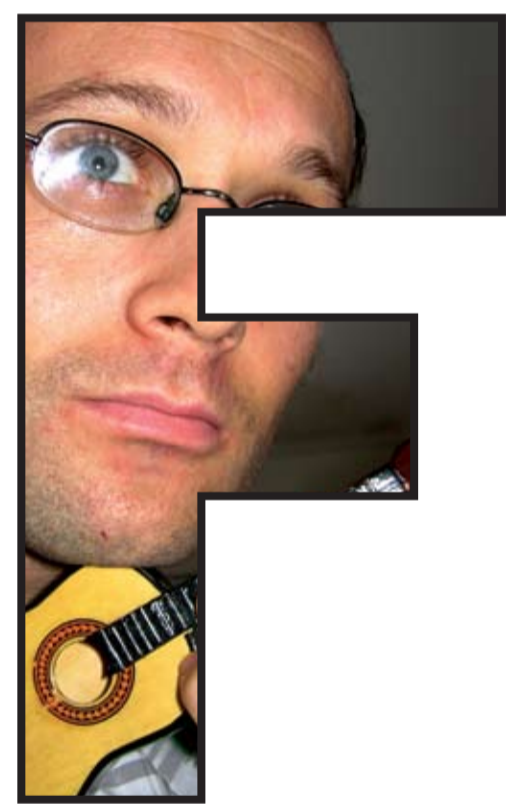
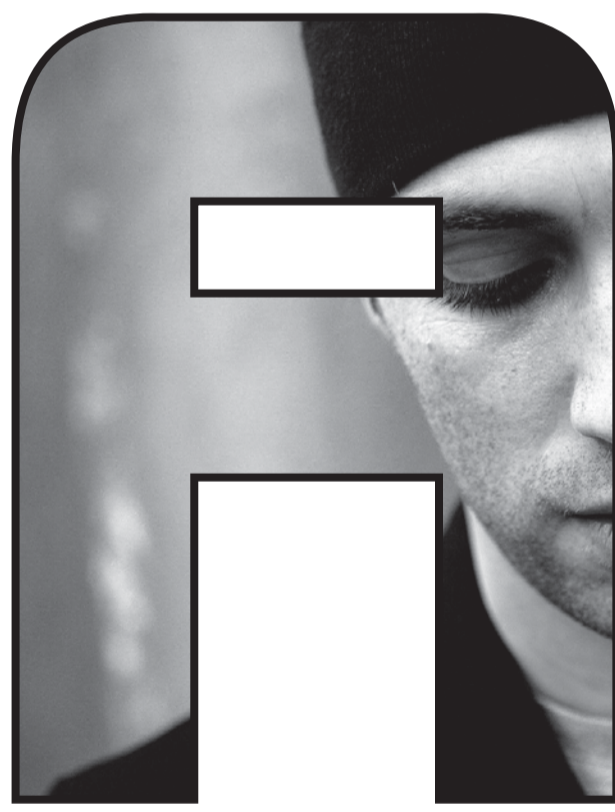
You might be wondering what the hell is meant by electronic arts, and no, it has nothing to do with a computer company that made the game Fifa soccer.

Eamonn Doyle is head of Dublin record company DI records and one of the main organisers of DEAF. "We take a very broad view of the electronic arts", he explains. "we're open to including any art-form that incorporates electronic elements from indie guitar bands using electronics sequencers, through to electronic sound art installations, video work etc."

D.E.A.F. was established in 2001 in order to give Irish artists a "platform to showcase their work to Dubliners in the company of their international peers." And according to Doyle, "there have been some great highlights over the years including performances from Underground Resistance, 4 Hero, The Bug, Coil," and this year promises to be as good, if not even better than years gone by. Doyle himself got involved in the music industry just after he finished college. "I set up an indie label with some friends called 'Dead Elvis' in the early 90s. As my interest in electronic music started to develop, I decided to set up DI Recordings by myself.

"Many different things have developed out of that over the years from running our own record shop and distribution company, a weekly club night for the past eleven years, the D.E.A.F. festival and numerous recording projects." This year D.E.A.F. promises the very best in the contemporary electronic arts being created by artists resident in Ireland. "We are especially privileged this year to be able to offer up a celebration of the work of Irish electronic music pioneer Roger Doyle. Drawing from his numerous adventures in early electronica and avant-synth-pop from the 1980s." But how popular are the electronic arts in Dublin at the moment? Doyle reckons they're on the rise: "Right now I think it's a fairly healthy scene here, that's one of the reasons we decided to do an all Irish line-up this year.

"It's not necessarily a very large scene, but many more people are starting to incorporate electronics into their work so it's expanding all the time." Our intent is not to project an exclusivity of 'Irishness', but rather to assert that it is our shared experience of living together, which makes us what we are. Thus, as Irish, we have asked our friends, associates and contemporaries to come up with something special for DEAF 06. We're sure that they won't disappoint." One of the stranger performances this



year is Declan McNulty who plans to "perform half a dozen unique live music sets in as many apartments in Dublin

"Right now I think it's a fairly healthy scene here, that's one of the reasons we decided to do an all Irish line-up this year"

over the course of the festival week". It would be great if McNulty decided to use a Merville or Belgrove apartment for one of his performances, though services probably wouldn't be too keen on the idea.

Other notable acts set to attend this year's festival include a special multimedia performance written by Mike Liffey.

Taking place in Trinity College, this combines traditional aspects such as music, film and theatre, with technologies such as real-time video process-

ing, gestural control interfaces and multi-channel sound distribution. A special panel discussion is also set to take place in the Odessa Club entitled Digital Distribution: Art, Opportunities, and Ownership. The panel will include Nicky Gogan from Darklight, Tim Redfern of Pixelcorp, Seamus Carroll of RNG plus lots more.

"I think it's an exciting overview of what's happening in the Irish scene right now. Because we try not to be held back by commercial constraints, there's a good chance you're gonna see something quite different to what you're going to be exposed to at other

Irish music festivals" declared Doyle. "We usually get capacity attendance at the D.E.A.F. events. The events

this year range from very small to medium size gigs". With an abundance of artists set to perform in venues such as Anseo, Uki Yo, The Globe, The International Bar, and The Sugar Club, regardless of the size the events during D.E.A.F. are guaranteed to be a lot of fun.

This year the festival takes place between Wednesday 25th and Bank Holiday Monday 30th October. For more information on D.E.A.F. visit their website at www.deafireland.com.

"There's a good chance you're gonna see something quite different to what you're going to be exposed to at other Irish music festivals"

Thinking outside the frame

Conor Doyle speaks to Colm Mac an Iomaire from the Frames about life at the moment

A few weeks ago, that ever illustrious music-bible, the Evening Herald, printed a small article entitled "What's the bottom line on... The Frames", written by a certain George Byrne.

The Herald does this every week: run an article on an event/celebrity/band and proceed to give an 'in a nutshell' overview of something/someone the average person might not know an awful lot about.

However, this specific article tried to 'introduce' The Frames to the reader as one of the worst bands this country has ever produced. The Frames are a band that any decent lover of music from Ireland already knows a fair deal about, and, most importantly, respects.

Anyone who witnessed their unplanned set, closing The Big Tree stage at Electric Picnic, will know that in light of that performance the band duly deserve the crown of one of Ireland's greatest, past or present. The hardcore fans were satisfied as usual, and the unconverted were enlightened. Georgy Porgy obviously wasn't there.

If there is one criticism that can be levelled against The Frames, then that would be the reputation they have built over the years as a band whose records are less impressive than their live act. "I agree with you but I also have another take on that argument," says Colm Mac Con Iomaire, one of the band's two founding members.

"I don't necessarily see that observation as a fault. To be honest, I don't think there are many good live bands out there. Most bands these days try to give their audiences a note-perfect rendition of their albums. Our gigs are usually quite different to what we do on record: I'd like to think that we're one of the few live bands that take it seriously and get a kick out of doing things differently."

This reputation as a band who are more easily appreciated live than on record could have been one of the reasons why

The Frames decided to record their new album, 'The Cost' entirely live in the studio, without any overdubs. "Yeah, it was definitely," says Mac an Iomaire.

"I think it's important to recognise the actual performance and the moment and to approach the whole recording process from a more photographic point of view rather than resorting to layering the music. Capturing the spontaneity and the ether in the room is the most important thing and I know with this record we've got closer to it than before."

Although The Frames have been massively successful in Ireland, and moderately so in America, their music seems to have fallen on deaf ears in the UK. When asked if they were content with the level of success they currently have, or if they will give the UK more attention in the future, Mac an Iomaire stated, "I think at this stage what concerns us is longevity and sustainability. Also,

once you play into the way things operate in the UK you're either going to be recognised as a success or a failure.

"It's not that we have our feet up or are complacent, it's just things are heading along in such a good direction as regards having control over our own copyright, our own assets, and we've got a few worldwide deals with people who make our records available.

"It's taken us a long time to o

"It's taken us a long time to put the right people in place and now that they're there it definitely feels like the tide is coming in, in America and Europe"



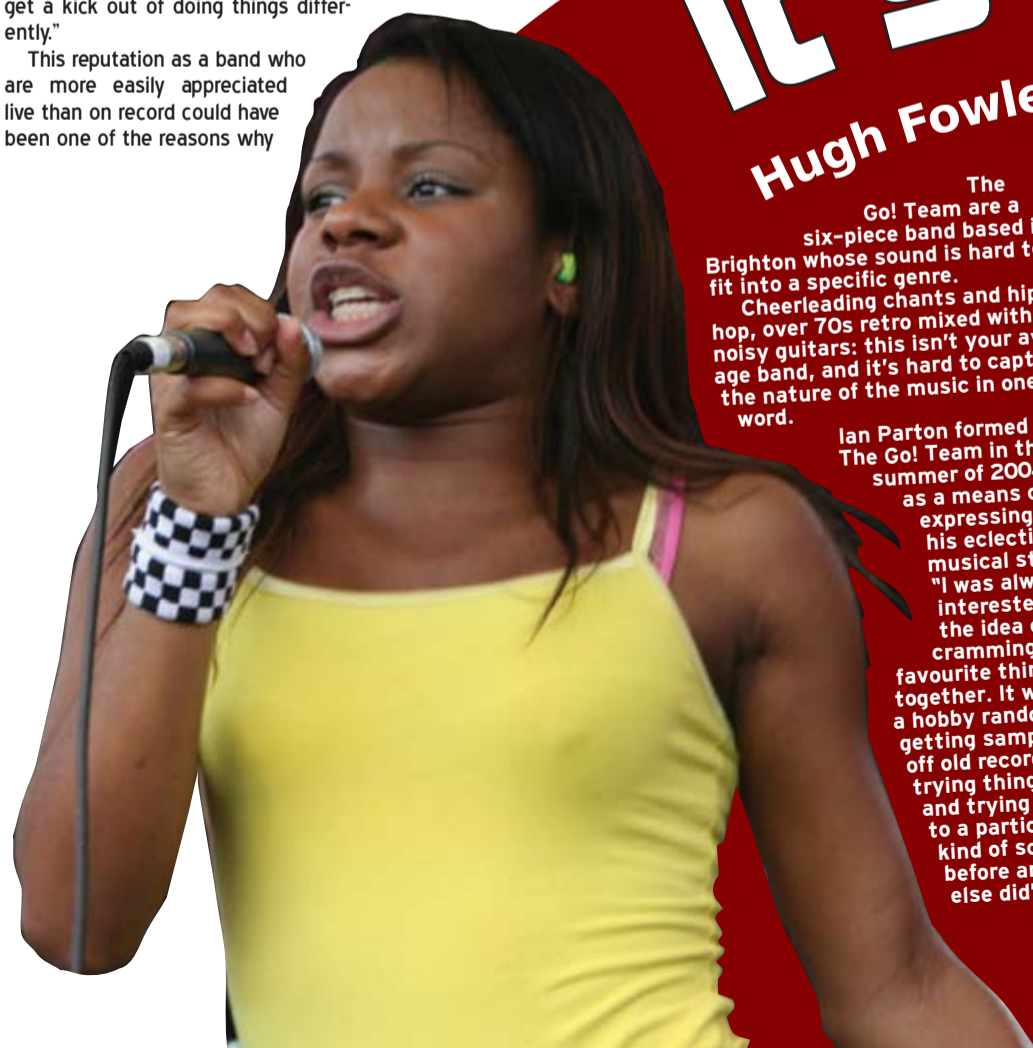
put the right people in place and now that they're there it definitely feels like the tide is coming in, in America and Europe. We will be playing more gigs in the UK over the next year or so but I suppose we've just been elsewhere, in

America mostly. With the UK, the most important thing to consider about us having success there is at what cost"

It is clear that unlike other bands who have whored themselves and their music over the years, The Frames have integrity as one of their primary concerns. Until 'The Cost', it could be argued that their albums failed to deliver the intimacy and energy of their live shows, but as Mac an Iomaire explains, that is only a testament to the power of witnessing them live.

It's a go-er

Hugh Fowler catches up with the Go! Team



The Go! Team are a six-piece band based in Brighton whose sound is hard to fit into a specific genre. Cheerleading chants and hip-hop, over 70s retro mixed with noisy guitars: this isn't your average band, and it's hard to capture the nature of the music in one word.

Ian Parton formed The Go! Team in the summer of 2004 as a means of expressing his eclectic musical style. "I was always interested in the idea of cramming my favourite things together. It was a hobby randomly getting samples off old records, trying things out and trying to get to a particular kind of sound before anyone else did".

The Go! Team's debut album "Thunder, Lightning, Strike" captured that "particular sound" and went on to receive huge critical acclaim including a nomination for the Mercury Music Prize in 2005.

But admiration isn't what The Go! Team are after all - "we're on a quite small label and we're not advertising much or anything like that, it really was two years before people actually vaguely knew us and we're still very cultish at the moment. I'm quite happy with that."

Even though they're content with a moderate fan base they embarked on a tour of America during the summer supporting acts such as The Flaming Lips and Sonic Youth, a big influence of Parton's.

"I'd probably say that they're my favourite band from when I was sixteen or something. And I'm still interested in them now, so if somebody had told me when I was sixteen or even a year ago, that we'd be supporting them, I wouldn't have believed it."

The Go! Team are in the process of recording their second album and Parton concedes he is feeling the pressure in trying to improve on their successful first album. "I'm in the studio every day sometimes 'til the crack of dawn, six in the morning [and] I'm still slugging away. [Compared to the first album] it's certainly more of a team effort

which is good, but it is more complicated to balance the opinion."

The fruits of his efforts should be available in album form before the middle of next year, but according to Parton, those who attend the upcoming performance in Dublin will get a sneak preview of five songs which aren't on "Thunder, Lightning, Strike".

Along with their unique sound, The Go! Team are also noted for their exuberant live performances, with two drum kits and a host of instruments including banjos, recorders, harmonicas and xylophones.

"There are six of us on stage and we all play lots of different instruments, so it's pretty chaotic from that point of view. Literally after every song we're sort of sprinting across the stage to get to another instrument!"

And this is exactly what we can expect from The Go! Team when they play in the Olympia on the 23rd October, chaos.

Check out: www.myspace.com/thegoteam

aural examinations



david kitt
not fade away

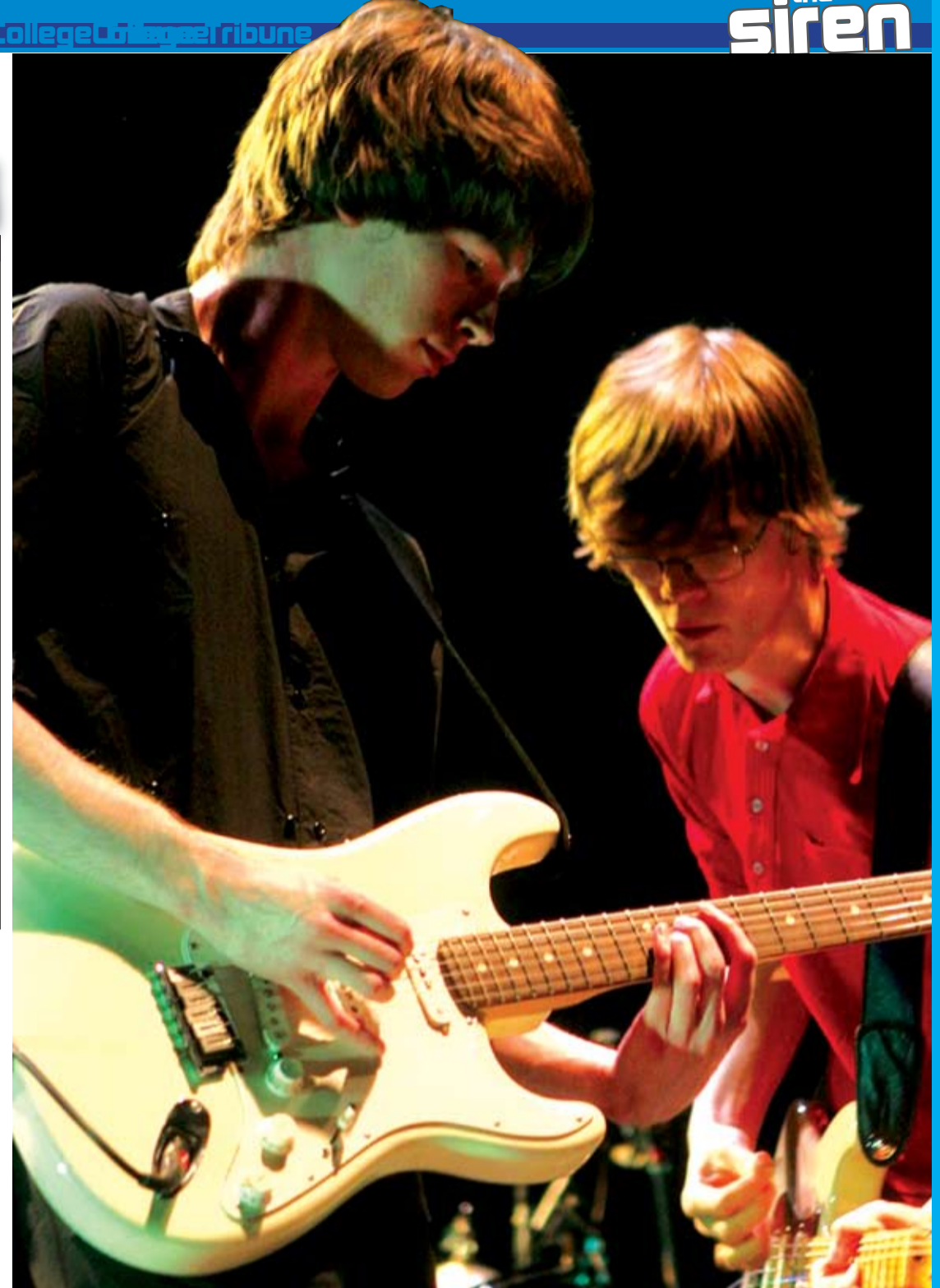
which is, *Nothing Else*. Kitts melodic singing comes to life over soothing organs and an Air-style drumbeat. While songs like *Grey Day* and *Sleep* have classic David Kitt written all over them, they possess a musical quality and lyrical resonance which was lacking on *Square One*.

His two rockier efforts: *Don't Fuck with Me* and *Say No More* impressively show a darker side both lyrically and musically, and *Say No More* is a competent upbeat track worthy of any aspiring indie band.

The excellent use of backing vocals throughout *Don't Fade Away* is a defining feature of the album. Kitt's voice is often criticized as being monotone, but here it is lifted and given a whole new resonance. This is vividly heard on the brilliant *Up To You*, where he enlists the help of Romeo and Michelle Stoddart (from *The Magic Numbers*) with outstanding results.

Don't Fade Away is an excellent album with a good combination of melodic songs with thoughtful lyrics.

Morgan Sheehy



David Kitt's latest offering is a fine return to form after the let down of his last album *Square One*. This fine collection of songs definitely won't disappoint his dedicated followers who adore him for his low-fi melancholy wanderings.

Interestingly the album also features some edgier rock songs that work extremely well, but it is in the quieter songs where we see him return most triumphantly.

The opening track, *One Clear Way* sets the tone for the easy listening songs on the album, the best of



oldsquarelines
habit of energy

Oldsquarelines are a quintet of young Dublin jazz musicians, consisting of piano, saxophone, guitar, double bass and drums. They formed in 2001, intending to perform their original compositions "with an emphasis on innovation mixed with accessibility". Their debut album, recorded in 2003, was launched last Sunday to coincide with the beginning of their Irish tour.

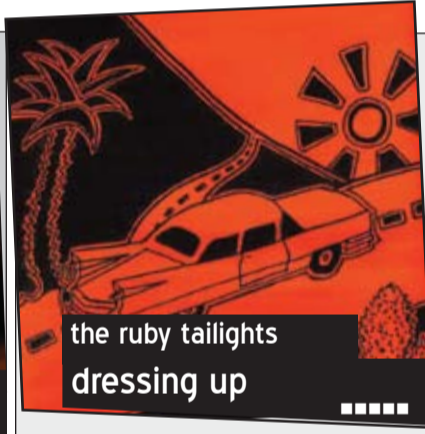
'Ritual' opens the album with a strong bass groove from Dave Redmond, leading into a meticulous piano solo by Greg Felton, before the band break into a dramatic jagged melody. Guitarist Daniel Jacobson's 'Peaceful Dreamings' is a beautifully arranged piece, complex but wonderfully hum-able, and on 'Beam', Jacobson and saxophone player Sean Og perform a delicate dancing ballad.

'Frail Aurora' provides another high point on the album, a joyful, intricate melody which launches into great sax and piano solos, before pushing the band through a set of tightly executed codas, lightly flavoured with electronic whistles. On 'Upside Down', the band juggle with tempo shifts, anchored by Redmond's bass playing. On the final track, 'Channel 2', Carpio's drumming shines as he tears up the rhythm of the outro, before rebuilding it up again.

With this recording, Oldsquarelines have established their skills both as players and composers. They have recorded an album of contemporary music that is indeed accessible, lively and exciting.

This album captures the essence of their impressive live shows; as a result of playing together for many years, they display great collective empathy when improvising, and this is reflected in the coherency found throughout the album. Recommended.

John O'Flynn



the ruby tailights
dressing up

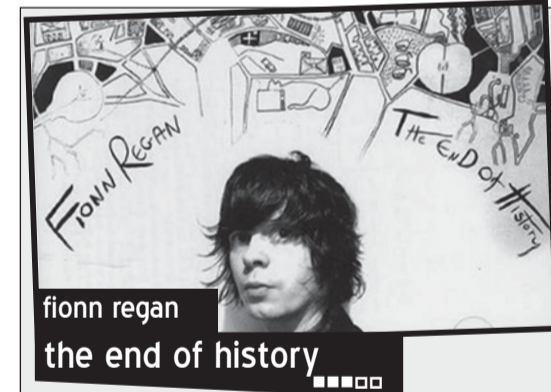
"It's first and foremost a collection of honest pop songs. It's simply about escape and that strange end of summer feeling. It's just what it is" remarks Martin Kelly (A.K.A. the "Ruby Tailights") regarding his much anticipated debut. The ever-modest ex-member of nineties group Sunbear is right on the button in describing *Dressing Up*, a collection of lo-fi, fuzzy, feel-good pop.

The Ruby Tailights originally started off as a one-man acoustic project before evolving into a full live band, but on this album DIY enthusiast Kelly makes a return to his roots of sorts. He plays most of the instruments on the album, with a little help from long-time friend Joe Chester, and the end product is certainly impressive.

The opening track *Bloodboy* oozes sun, sand and good vibrations, and along with *Lighthouse* and *Back Around*, is reminiscent of the summery sounds so often associated with Ash or Sufjan Stevens. Title track *Dressing Up* stands out as the most eerily beautiful of Martin's more haunting numbers, while *Rocket* is pick of the shoe gaze songs, no doubt a reminder of Martin's Sunbear days.

Single Switch will sound pretty familiar, having already received plenty of airplay when it was released as part of an EP earlier this year. The *Switch* EP was met with such enthusiasm and critical acclaim that the demand for more sun-drenched harmonies was high. The Tailights only too happily produced an album that exceeded all expectations, gentle enough to fill the background with soothing summer melodies but far too entrancing to ever be labelled background music. In other words, it's perfect pop

Deirdre Flannery



fionn regan
the end of history

Most good albums take some 'getting into', and this is certainly true when talking of Fionn Regan's debut album. Regan fits into the recently saturated singer-songwriter category, but he thankfully provides something refreshingly different with some neat melodies and very abstract lyrics.

Once the above said 'getting into it' phase is complete, Regan's *The End of History* gets interesting. Some critics reckon the Bray man is the next Bob Dylan; high praise indeed, but not without reason: at any point in *Hey Rabbit* it seems Regan could break into Dylan's *A Hard Rain's a' Gonna Fall*.

The track *Hey Rabbit* is a real gem. The lyrics are very abstract but they are also fun to listen to, especially when he begins sentences with the likes of *Hey Badger*, *Hey Rabbit*, or *Hey Worm*. Alongside *Hey Rabbit*, tracks: *Be Good Or Be Gone* and *Put A Penny In The Slot* make the top three, with the latter two songs definitely influenced by Paul Simon melodies.

The lyrics and the melodies are what make Fionn Regan different to his singer-songwriter counterparts. However, although promising in parts, a number of songs are lacking in originality and sound a little too like Damien Rice.

Frank Clune



Baby J
Fight the Power 2

Welcome to 'How To Make A Hip-Hop Record In Four Easy Steps' with Baby J, surely Derby's finest living hip-hop producer.

Step One: Listen to lots of good soul and R&B albums from the 60's and 70's.

Step Two: Steal big chunks from said soulful classics.

Step Three: Get a load of your mates to rap unconvinc-

ingly about life "on the streets" over pilfered samples.

Step Four: Repeat 14 times.

Baby J leers menacingly out from the album cover looking like a bouncer that you've just accidentally spilled your drink on. He's an old hand at the producing game by now, having been around since he was discovered by an A&R at Wu-Tang in 1995.

J is probably best known for his work with British rappers Yogi and Skinnyman, churning out passable radio-friendly hip-hop. Yogi pops up on FTP2, along with a host of other British artists including Fallacy, Laurissa, Dynamite MC and Rukus. Rukus' track is called *You Think Your Cool*.

It's a bouncy, energetic number, and the only thing worth listening to on this formulaic, dull and instantly forgettable record.

There's a lot of innovative, exciting stuff coming out of Britain's burgeoning hip-hop scene right now, but instead of having confidence in his own scene, Baby J tries (and fails) to copy US artists like Cam'ron and Ludacris. As such this is a big step backwards. Bad buzz.

Aidan Mac Guill

Going directly to the top of the charts

Fionn Dempsey checks out the first album from Ireland's hottest up-and-coming band

From their first appearance in Dublin music-venues, high on two years ago now, Director showed great promise.

A series of Temple Bar Music Centre gigs, nearly every two weeks in early 2004, brought them instant attention from Atlantic Records, and presentiments of a new and distinctive force in Irish music began to surface in diverse places.

Watching them play was to know the quiet tremor of watching a grand history unfold before your eyes. By all accounts, great things were expected.

Here, on their debut album, 'We Thrive On Big Cities' (WTOBC), Director deliver something really special. This is, perhaps the perfect kind of debut album. At 34 minutes, it is compact and precise: a statement of intent, an aural manifesto, and a consummate piece of extended song-craft.

A comparable debut would be The Killers' 'Hot Fuss' - short, fresh, innovative, and bursting with youthful, elegant vigor. Director write songs; self-contained snappy pop-ballads, instantly likeable, and with an emotional depth that rewards further listening.

Hot Press has branded them an "Irish Interpol". This is a shallow observation, and does justice to neither band. The comparison rests, I am sure, on the similar vocal range of Director's Michael Moloney and Interpol's Paul Banks, but other than this, the comparison falls flat.

While Banks' voice reverberates with a stuttering, inarticulate angst inherited from Ian Curtis, Moloney's voice visits entirely different territories, and a closer vocal kinsperson would be Nina Simone.

Indeed, his singing is perhaps the centerpiece of this record. At times brash and self-possessed, at times smooth and crooning, Moloney's performance

makes excellent use of a modest mid-range, although one suspects that he is not confined to it.

His voice is both sharply crisp and warmly inviting, yielding a rich and delicate sensitivity. He can exude the suave confidence of Alex Kopranos, and yet still plunder the weighty and sonorous tones of Nick Cave. Consonant-perfect delivery only serves to sharpen the poignancy of his lyrics, giving the lie to the belief that enunciation and emotion operate at opposite ends of a sliding scale.

More generally, the band's sound is fastidious and refined. Normally, when a band chooses to produce a record on its own, this is an occasion for reservations, but in this case it has proven to be the correct decision.

WTOBC reveals a band acutely aware of its own sound, of its strengths and affinities. Nothing about this record is an accident. Sparse, tender lyrics are deployed in smart, catchy melodies framed by perfect instrumentation.

Crisp, simple drum rhythms inconspicuously underscore the verses, with just the right amount of rudimentary spice. Stout, clever basslines pepper the mix, a faint echo of Talking Heads. Lean, chirpy solos lift off the record in neat, punchy tones, recalling the timeless, production-perfect quality of Steely-Dan.

This is pop music in the classic sense. Not the cynical adherence to formula in service of marketability which fills our charts, but that perfect, delicate balance between content and form; that sheer creativity tempered by strict, economic craft with which the Beatles became great, by which Brian Wilson became a household name.

Fans of top 10 single 'Reconnect' will find here plenty to please them, with a strand of comparable

alternative guitar pieces running through the work. 'Standing In My Way' is a swift, eloquent lamentation on estranged love. The sombre verse of 'Leave It To Me' explodes into a concert-killing refrain, in what could perhaps be the flagship single.

But it is the unusual songs on WTOBC that really deliver the punch. Title track 'Big Cities' is an ironic, uneasy lament on loneliness, the most beautifully serene vocal track on the album.

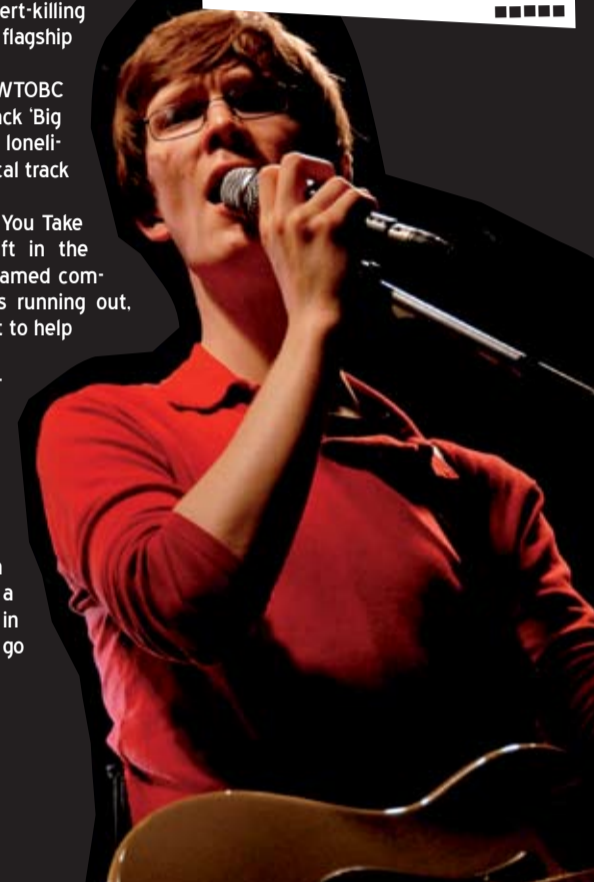
The sad, shuffling rhythm of 'Can You Take It?' evokes downhearted days, swift in the passing, as Moloney sings to an unnamed companion: "You're filling time, and it is running out, you've got to help yourself, you've got to help yourself".

And still, after all this, what emerges, what is most astonishing about the work, is its deliberate restraint. What could so easily have been an overreaching compendium of live hits is instead a deftly contained masterpiece. "We Thrive On Big Cities" is only the first modest movement in a longer campaign: the overture to a future epic. It's no fluke it's at No2 in the album charts, and I urge you to go out and hear why.

5 out of 5

Fionn Dempsey

director
we thrive on big cities



Gig Watch

From 17th October

Wed Oct 18	Goo goo dolls	Olympia Theatre
Fri 20 Oct	Miss Kittin	TBMC
	Andy Cato & FunkD'Void	Tripod
Sat 21 Oct	Zero 7 & Jose Gonzalez	Olympia
	Andy Smith	Pod/Crawdaddy
Sun 22 Oct	Ryan Adams & The Cardinals	Olympia
Mon 23 Oct	The Go! Team	Olympia
	Liam McDemott	Whelans
Tue 24 Oct	Tom Jones	The Point
	John Cale	Vicar St
	Buena Vista Social Club	NCH
Wed 25 Oct	Toumani Diabate's	
	Symmetric Orchestra	Vicar St?
Thu 26 Oct	Magda	Wax
Fri 27 Oct	Messiah J &	
	The Expert	Crawdaddy
Sat 28 Oct	Electric Shock	TBMC
	DEAF Festival	Various venues
Sun 29	Scratch Perverts	TBMC
	Steve Angello	Spirit
Sun 29	James Brown	Olympia
Mon 31	We Are Scientists	Ambassador
Nov 7 th	Dropkick Murphys	Ambassador
Nov 21	Christina Aguilera	Point
Nov 22 nd	Tool	Point
Dec 10	Tenacious D	RDS
Dec 15 th	MC5, David Holmes, Johnny Moy, Humanzi	Ambassador

UCD:

November 8th - The Stone Roses Experience
November 16th - Justice Dance Pig

myspace artist of the fortnight

This Week:
The Faint

www.myspace.com/thefaint

Electro-rock done properly is delightful. Americans The Faint do delightfully proper electro-rock excellently. Signed to the independent Saddle-Creek Records along with other credibles Orenda Fink and electronica masters Schneider TM, The Faint don't prioritise popularity over their art.

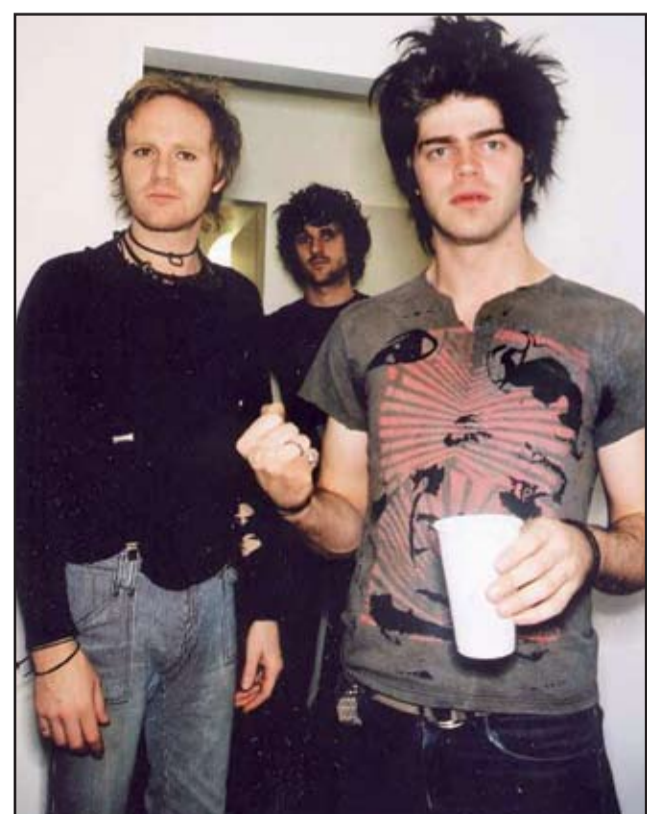
Fortunately for them, and us, their art is writing the filthiest synth-lines, the most infectious beats, with catchy basslines and guitar riffs. Attention grabbing lyrics - dealing with interesting and novel reflections on the sleazy underbelly of modern life - are cloaked in the most interesting vocal effects this side of the 1980's to great effect.

Treading the thin line between Berlin-cool and hammed up synth music, they reward the visitor to their myspace page with four catchy, funky and gritty tunes from their five-record back-catalogue. Standout 'Worked Up So Sexual' is a perfect example of the frenzied, relentless and compelling mixture of electronics and instruments that The Faint do so well.

A blog posted on the page even allows fans to request the next songs to be added to the player on the page and to add to a list the bad are compiling of every show they've ever done, this is a band using myspace to actually interface with their fans. The Faint aren't to be found through the myspace 'Search Artist' function, you have to type their URL to find them or go through people they are friends with.

Nonetheless, they still enjoy a fanbase of 39531 friends on the network. That many people can't be wrong, go and listen to them now.

Ronan Dempsey



A bird's eye view the world

Coinciding with the release of his new book 'This is Charlie Bird', the man himself speaks to **Colin Gleeson** about his secret meetings with the Provisional IRA, his time covering the Gulf War and about being a journalist

He is an animal who is well and truly out of his skin. Yet, he seems comfortable with this juxtaposition. "I'm getting used to the other side of the microphone," he chuckles. "It does feel weird to be interviewed though," he concedes.

The irony of recent times for Charlie Bird lies in the fact that any element of celebrity status that has come his way with the recent release of his new book is as close to normality as it gets for the Dubliner, whose escapades span three decades of adventure, courage and facing up to adversity.

This juxtaposition is not an alien concept for Charlie Bird. He recalls how he failed his leaving cert and got involved in the Labour Party, purely because there was little else to do at a time when "everybody in the country was involved in one protest or another.

But the day you become a journalist is the day you walk away from politics. And thankfully, I was happy to walk away from politics. I don't think I would have made a good politician anyway. I wasn't particularly good at it. It's hard to look back at the time, as I say the north of Ireland was happening, civil rights marches were happening, Bloody Sunday had happened. The whole country, everybody down here, was involved in some form of protest. Things were going on so I was no different to anybody else.

"When you become a journalist, you have to do your job without fear or favour to anybody. If you're a journalist and wearing a political collar on your sleeve, you're dead, you're finished; you're not going to survive in it."

Bird speaks like a metronome might. Like he is reporting the news still. He is composed, calculated, he means to say every word that leaves his lips. His emotions under lock and key. He is modest about the courage he has displayed in his field. He explains, "Richard Downs who goes to Baghdad regularly and Richard Crowley who goes to the Middle East, Israel and the West Bank, these people really have tremendous courage. There are lots of reporters and organisations all over the world doing this. They are the true heroes of journalism on an international level. I wouldn't even put myself in their shadow."

The truth of the matter however, is that Bird has put his head on the block for the cause on many occasions. He recalls covering the Gulf wars for RTE. "I was out there for the first Gulf War. I went to Baghdad on two occasions. It was after the Iraqi invasion I

went there. In relation to the second war, my colleague Richard Downs was the person who was sent to Baghdad. And I'm being quite honest about it; I'm not certain, given what's happening there today, that I'd have the courage to go there. You've seen the latest reports, the amount of death and destruction.

"But I covered the second war from Kuwait. You're scared. Every reporter who goes to these places is either scared or mad. You're totally mad. It's good to be a little scared or apprehensive because if you're not, then I think you're no use to anybody. There are some people who are totally devoid of any fear of anything but I think it's good to have a certain amount of fear and apprehension. But I have to say that there are far better reporters, by a long way, who have gone into

difficult situations."

Bird's voice lowers slightly as he recalls his most frightening experience as a journalist. "I remember in the early nineties, I went to Mogadishu in Somalia just after the civil war. It was Easter time with an RTE camera crew. There were three of us and I was scared witless because there was so much shooting going on.

"It was one of the most dangerous places in the world to go to at the time. I was well out of my depth but I was with the international committee of the Red Cross, and it was scary. The cameraman was a man called Johnny Coughlan from RTE who'd worked in Belfast and the soundman was Paddy McEntee, who had experienced

troubles in the North of Ireland, but I can tell you what we witnessed out there was difficult and it was bloody and I was scared. But you go places and when you're there, you've no choice; you just have to go with it and try to make sure you're as safe as possible."

The emotional trauma of witnessing the atrocities of the world can take a significant toll on the mind of a journalist, and the Dubliner concedes that these were hard times in the course of his life. "It has an effect, and any reporter who says it doesn't is a liar. I mean last year I covered the Tsunami and the Pakistan earthquake. You have to do your job but it's difficult and it'd hard. But listen, you go there for a week or ten days, think about the doctors, the nurses, and the rescue workers who have to go to an even bigger level.

"It's difficult to leave these places you know. That's where we're fortunate and that's why I've always given sincere praise to people who volunteer, be it working for GOAL, Concern or the Red Cross. Take even the Irish soldiers who go to Lebanon, who went to the Congo. The guards who went to Bosnia and Sarajevo, these people are streets ahead.

"There are missionary Irish priests and nuns who are working all over the world in difficult places in South America, in Brazil, campaigning against slavery. Believe it or not - there are still people who are slaves today in the world. Irish missionary priests and nuns all over Africa, who are at the sharp end of dealing with helping people who are suffering from AIDS, these are just brilliant people. So, if you go there for a week as a journalist, you can get on your nice plane and come home and then a few gin and tonics on the plane back. But these people are staying there longer, and even more importantly, the people themselves who live in these countries; they will be there for many years afterwards.

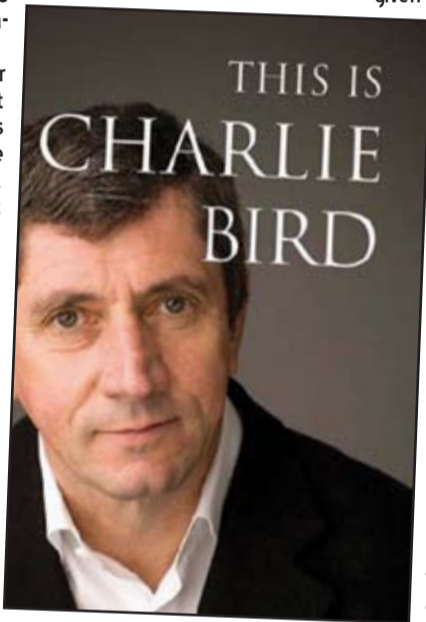
"I think the one important thing, journalism today, twenty years ago we went to places and we never went back there, at least journalists today are going places and then going back time and time again. So we don't just run in and walk out and never go back again. I think that's important."

Charlie Bird has seen his faced his fair share of adversity at home as well as abroad. For many years, he has been the middleman between the Provisional IRA and the Irish people. Secret meetings and covert conversations have left him with a unique insight into Irish history over the past twenty years.

"It came about in the early nineties. Other broadcast organisations, other international media had contact with the IRA, and RTE felt we should do the same. I was asked to do the job and I went did it. Initially it was a bit scary but it got easier.

"The more that you went on, the more that you become familiar with the people you meet. I mean put it this way; I never felt my life was in danger. I might get a bit scared and I went places that I found a bit odd and this was when their campaign of violence was still in progress. They were killing people, they were exploding bombs, but this is what journalists do.

It is a frightening prospect to humanise these men. But that's what Bird had to do, and that's what he does now. "I spoke to them," he explains, "I'd sit down with them for a cup of coffee, depending on where I was and



"There were three of us and I was scared witless because there was so much shooting going on"



Honoured: Bird pictured with Michael Flatley on receiving an honorary degree in 2004



say, you know, 'How are you doing' and for a couple of months, how are things going to them. There were four of them. I met them. I got to know who they were, a little. How they operated and so on.

"I describe in the book one particular was the first guy I met, and he wouldn't of day other than what he was supposed to there was one or two of them who would conversation but I knew I wasn't going. But it was an interesting dialogue.

The element of surprise in his voice responds to a question about making smart men. "Yeah of course I did. Not with all some of them I did. It was fascinating. That's what I thought of certain things.

"And of all the dealings I've had with my contacts, they never once told me a lie. Never once. Now, there were many occasions when they wouldn't answer questions or say anything but when they did say something, it always turned out to be correct. There were plenty of occasions when I asked a question and they said: 'We can't talk about that', 'I'm not going to answer that', and so on.

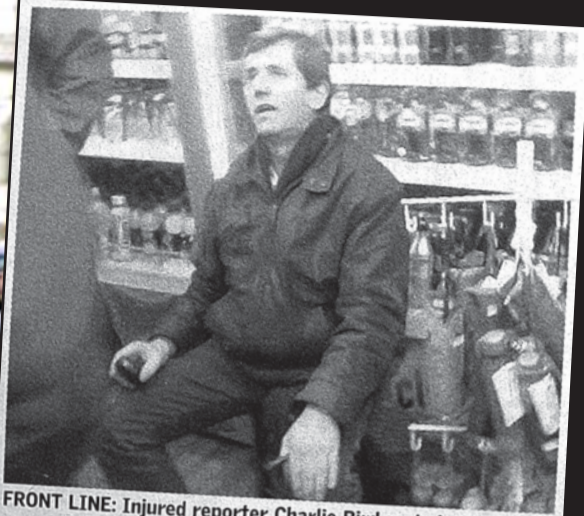
"That was the basis of the relationship. Somebody told me something that wasn't true. The relationship wasn't going to last. It was built to an extent, I was like the postman. I was coming from a paramilitary organisation and I was talking to the public.

"But I did get an insight. And by meeting people around them, I did get an insight, that I got an insight into the peace process going on and how it was developing which journalists never got. The meetings are described as they happened in the strangest places."

It was Bird's connections with the Provisional IRA that made the attack on him during the 'Love the IRA' the more baffling. He recalls, "I was in the D Hotel meeting a person about a story at the day, nothing to do with what was going on."

"At about twenty past twelve, I was in the D Hotel. I got a phone call from the RTE newsroom. I was in trouble on O'Connell Street and was

view of



FRONT LINE: Injured reporter Charlie Bird rests in a shop

Sectarians are the 'syphilis of our passions'

"Haven't seen you doing', yeah I'd talk mean I got to know the bit about them.

ar guy I met, he tell me the time ed to tell me. But ould engage me in to change them.

is clear as he re- all talk with these of them, but with they would ask me

to help because it was getting bigger. I put money in my meter in Merrion Square at three minutes to one and at twenty-five to two, I was on my way to the Mater Hospital.

"I just walked up there, I was talking to the RTE news-room, and out of nowhere, an unprovoked attack happened. There were a couple of them I think, although I've no idea. I heard somebody calling 'Charlie Bird you orange bastard', and they started to rain punches down on me. I'm sure there are lots of people, lots of students who've gone through the experience of an unprovoked attack, but I now know what it's like.

"If it happens to you once, it's something you will never ever forget in your life. That was the first time I was ever involved in an unprovoked attack, out of nowhere. There's a legal case pending now with the guys involved."

The path Bird has chosen to tread in his life is one that has put considerable strain on his family life - most notably when his marriage broke down in 1998. After a disturbing media slur campaign against him, Bird was reluctant to write about his private affairs in much detail as he put the book together.

"I didn't go into that in great detail, I touched on it because I would have been a hypocrite if I didn't mention it - the fact that my marriage broke up. But it is not a central issue. In fact, I've been criticised in some book reviews because I didn't give it more detail, but I was never going to go down that road. All I could say was - marriages break up, problems happen. I'm sure you know people, everybody does, whose had marriage difficulties or a break-up. I wouldn't wish it on anybody but life goes on and things happen."

His book is out now, and it gives a remarkable insight into the life and times of this country's most famous journalist. He is a man who is passionate about what he does. He explains what it means to him, and in doing so, gives a rare glimpse of what drives the man. "You just have this desire. You want to do something. To me, being a good journalist, it's in your head. It's like, once you get up to ride a bicycle: you'll be able to ride it forever. You get that feeling. If you're going to be a good journalist, it's there. It's in your head. It's an ability that you have. A good journalist is someone who has a love for the job."

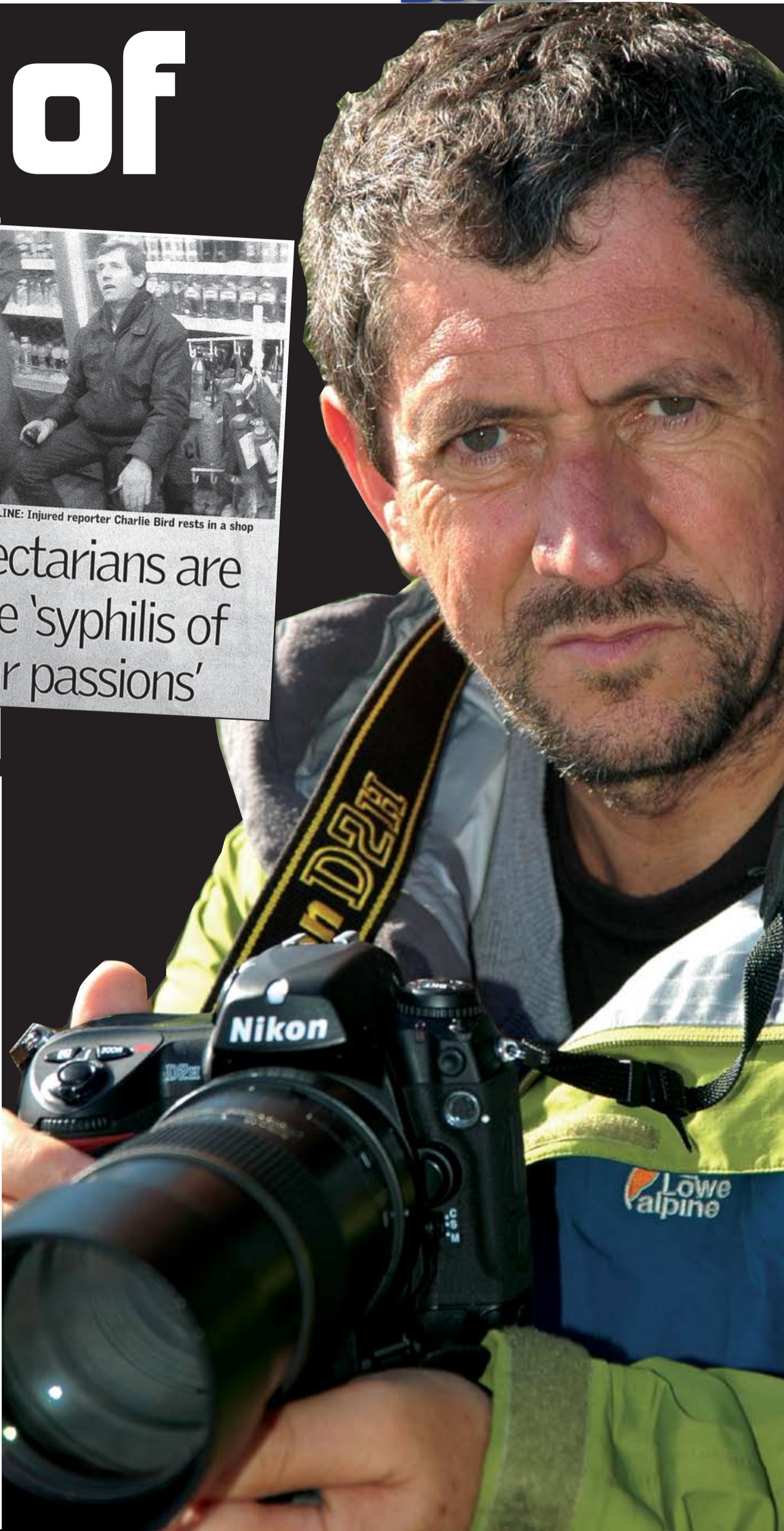
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Alive and kicking

Feeling tired and lethargic? An enjoyable way to improve your lifestyle and raise your energy levels is just around the corner. **Suzy Cody** explains the benefits of getting involved in sports

Sports. Why do people bother? All that effort involved and for what? First, you have to drag your gym bag all the way into college. Then you have muster up the courage to walk to the sports hall and play sports (or in other words run around like a headless chicken) and get all red in the face and sweaty.

Don't forget, all of this in front of your peers. If you join the gym then you pay the exorbitant fee of 185 euro and all in principle to get fit, build those muscles and maybe lose some weight.

Outweighing the obvious disadvantages, every expert in the health field promotes exercise as a positive step towards living a healthy life. The most obvious purpose of exercising is for the benefit of our bodies and minds.

BUPA Ireland advises the public to exercise in order to:

- Increase Levels of HDL or "good" cholesterol.
- Lower blood pressure.
- Help improve body composition by burning fat.
- Promote healthy blood sugar levels.
- Promote bone density.
- Boost the immune system.

Things like HDL and bone density mean little to the average UCD student but the conclusion of the bullet points is that activity is good. Those of us who do partake in exercise and sports do so for other reasons than the above.

Studies have shown that regular exercise could be just as effective as anti-depressants for lifting your mood and building your self-esteem.

Exercise releases adrenaline and gets the blood pumping, thereby producing a feel-good effect. Having a good work out and getting a little sweaty makes you feel you're actively helping your body and self-image. This adds to a healthy mind and enables you to focus on the more pressing matters in life. What night you're

going out, what you're wearing, the essay that was due yesterday and so on.

Exercise also gives you an opportunity to mix socially. Included in the price of joining a club, are the people and the friendships that come hand-in-hand. It is a unique strategy of making friends with common interests. There is a huge array of clubs to suit any interests. For example, the range includes: archery, basketball, canoe, fencing, golf, kung fu, ninjutsu, surfing,

A huge bonus of being a member of certain clubs, beyond the obvious, is that trips and competitions are often organised. In the Ultimate Frisbee club, they are organising a trip to Edinburgh in October for a beginner's tournament. Traveling by train for an enjoyable weekend away with plenty of banter and the obligatory drinking is definitely an event not to be missed. For any who missed out on joining a particular club back in fresher's week, don't despair,

because there will be another chance in January when the college runs the Refreshers week.

But if a weight bearing exercise is not for you, don't worry. Every student can exercise in his or her own personalised way. There are many alternatives if joining a gym or team sports do not appeal. The key to any activity is finding the right one. An exercise that you enjoy, something that you find fun, e.g. swimming, rollerblading, skipping, rock climbing, cycling. It can help you to relieve stress, something that can be very important to do in the lead up to exams.

If motivation is something you're lacking then here are some suggestions that the UCD Health Service makes.

In addition to, or in place of relaxation exercises, you may choose to work off your stress through physical exercise. Apart from calming you down, exercising also increases the rate of blood

flow around your body, and to the brain as well. It appears that this can really help you to think more clearly and to learn better.

It doesn't really matter whether you cycle, swim, play tennis, kick box, or do anything else as long as it's your whole body you're exercising. Sorry, Chess just isn't good enough. Try going for a brisk thirty-minute walk. And focus on letting go of body tension. Most students return from such walks feeling decidedly more relieved and relaxed.

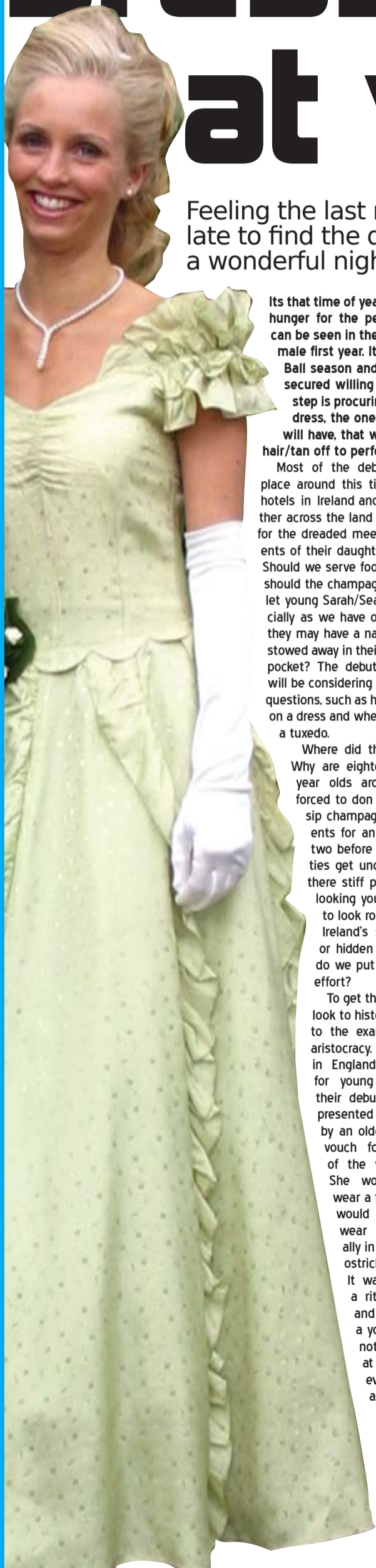


ultimate frisbee etc.

Archery originated as a form of hunting and was then adopted for use in destructive warfare. However, it then evolved in medieval times, into a lower-class weapon due to the cheap production of bows and arrows, compared to armour and a sword.

Now it is a highly competitive and specialised sport, requiring much expertise in the field. Luckily, in the archery club in UCD there are experts at hand to help the novices.

Dress to impress at your debs



Feeling the last minute panic? Don't worry because its not to late to find the debs dress (or tux) of your dreams and have a wonderful night. **Caitrina Cody** has some advice.

Its that time of year again, when the hunger for the perfect debs dress can be seen in the eyes of every female first year. It is the Debutante Ball season and having hopefully secured willing escorts, the next step is procuring that 'to-die-for' dress, the one that nobody else will have, that will set your eyes/hair/tan off to perfection.

Most of the debs' will be taking place around this time in the various hotels in Ireland and mothers and father across the land will be gearing up for the dreaded meeting with the parents of their daughter or son's escort. Should we serve food? How expensive should the champagne be? Should we let young Sarah/Sean drink any, especially as we have our suspicions that they may have a naggin of something stowed away in their dainty clutch/tux pocket? The debutantes themselves will be considering many of their own questions, such as how much to spend on a dress and whether to rent or buy a tuxedo.

Where did this custom begin? Why are eighteen and nineteen year olds around the country forced to don evening wear and sip champagne with their parents for an awkward hour or two before the night's festivities get under way? Why are there stiff portraits of uneasy looking young couples trying to look romantic hanging on Ireland's sitting-room walls or hidden under beds? Why do we put ourselves to such effort?

To get the answer we must look to historical tradition and to the examples of the old aristocracy. It was tradition in England until the 1950s for young ladies to make their debut at court, to be presented to the assembly by an older lady who could vouch for the reputation of the young debutante. She would traditionally wear a formal gown and would be required to wear feathers, usually in the form of an ostrich feather fan. It was considered a rite of passage and until her debut, a young lady would not be permitted at the social events of the aristocracy.

The Irish debs ball on



the other hand, is an informal affair and thankfully, nobody is required to vouch for anyone's reputation. For most first years and some second years it will be the social event of the year - the last chance to party with all the school friends that have been left behind and to compare notes on college life. It's an opportunity to force your boyfriend or girlfriend to converse with your parents and teachers, something that's always amusing and a little bit horrifying to witness.

So, what sort of dress is it customary to wear? Thankfully, anything goes at the debs for ladies, provided it's not a tracksuit and looks semi-respectable. Some choose the full-blown ball gown approach, complete with tiara and gloves while others opt for a more toned down, casual style in simple shorter dresses. One misconception is that it's necessary to spend the equivalent of a down payment on a car for your dress, not including accessories or makeup. If you have thousands at your disposal, by all means go for it, but for the rest of you, do not despair. There are plenty of affordable options in the high street shops and unique dresses can be found in the vintage and second-hand stores of Dublin.

Monsoon is a great source of beautiful evening dresses in unusual colours and styles, many priced at under 200. There are modern strapless styles in striking colours along with more old-fashioned lace gowns, inspired by the 1930's flapper style.



Alternatively the Harlequin shop in Dublin city centre has many once-off dresses, while the nearby Jenny Vander's stocks a range of vintage pieces. The advantage of buying your dress in a vintage store is that you can be sure that nobody else will be wearing your dress



on the night.

The money saved by buying an affordable dress can be spent in the hairdresser's or on a bag to go with the outfit. While many girls decide to get their hair or nails done in a salon, this is not strictly necessary and often it can be more fun to get an older sister or cousin to help you look your best for the big night ahead.

For the guys, a tuxedo is the usual choice and the most affordable option is to rent one out for the night. Packages are available from Blackties Dress Suit Hire in several locations around Dublin. The most popular package is priced at a very reasonable E89.95. You risk a hefty payment however if something should go wrong on the night, say if you get too close to the guy who drank fifteen pints after the dodgy chicken he had for dinner, when it all became too much.

Another option is to purchase a good tuxedo that will see you through the inevitable weddings and college balls of the future. For the fashionably adventurous soul, there is the vintage suit route; complete with wide lapels, flared trousers and shiny winkle pickers. Relics such as these can be found in the Wild Child Vintage Emporium on George's St at affordable prices.

Whatever you wear and however much it costs, the most important thing is to have fun at your debs. Bring a camera and make the best of a ceremony that marks the end of an era, the last gathering of the friends and classmates that you have spent years with. Make it a night to remember and try to get that beautiful dress or rented tuxedo home in one piece.

Jumper Dresses

Warm, comfortable and great with tights- a winter essential. Choose from the vast range of high street examples.

Patent

Shoes, bags belts...patent will be big this season on all accessories.

White Trousers

However dubious they might be in the summer sunshine, they are simply not meant for the winter months so put them away until next year.

Flip-flops

Its nearly winter so lets stop fooling ourselves- getting our toes cold and wet everyday for the sake of our favourite pair of flip flops is simply not worth it. So dust off those boots.

Fake Tan

Summer is a distant memory by now so lets tone down the orange fever. Please?



OUT



This question has been long debated by some and hardly ever considered by most, who would win if Superman were to fight Batman? Rory O'Halloran investigates

The likelihood of this occurring is remote, not withstanding the fact they don't really exist, as both Superman and Batman both fight against evil and are generally known as 'good guys'.

Therefore, in order to test our hypothesis we must first decide which of our superheroes would be likely to become evil, and thus make the confrontation a reality. You can only determine their evil tendencies by looking into the heroes' past. As the old saying goes 'we must look to the past to see our future.'

Superman has a very colourful past. He is in reality an intergalactic hero, born on the planet Krypton and sent to Earth when his planet self-destructed. It could happen to anyone. Jonathan and Martha Kent from Smallville Kansas raised him on Earth. His parents were farmers and Clark Kent (that's Superman) had a modest upbringing.

Throughout his childhood, Clark discovered his super abilities of speed, strength and both x-ray and laser vision. His parents kept these abilities secret from the world, as they knew he would just become a lab rat if they were ever revealed. Clark eventually left Smallville and went to Metropolis where he would keep a secret identity as Clark Kent, journalist extraordinaire, as he carried on the work of Superman. Now let us contrast this with that Caped Crusader, Batman.

Batman was born in Gotham City (think New York but cooler) to billionaire parents Thomas and Martha Wayne. Batman/Bruce had a tragic childhood as he witnessed the murder of his parents in a street robbing and was raised by Alfred (atypical British butler that comes with every billionaire household) in his parent's mansion. Bruce lived his entire childhood plagued by the memory of the murder of his parents. He eventually

became consumed by revenge, which caused him to emotionally shut down and not trust anyone. Bruce became chairman of Wayne Enterprises and created the identity of Batman to fight evil in Gotham City.

Now most people are aware of both Superman's and Batman's abilities but we'll run through them anyway, let's be thorough. Superman has genuine super abilities: he can run as fast as a speeding bullet; he can fly; he has unbelievable strength; ability to see through walls or other materials; he also has laser eyes; and he can survive bullet hits. All in all, these powers can be classed as being fierce handy.

"We also know his childhood has caused him to have some serious mental problems and he is a grown man who dresses up as a bat to fight crime"

Batman on the other hand is a normal man. He is, however, trained in all forms of combat and uses gadgets to gain an upperhand on his enemies. In reality, Batman's super ability is money, as he can basically buy whatever device he needs for any situation.

Now that we know their strengths lets take a look at our heroes' weaknesses.

Superman has but one weakness: Kryptonite. This material isn't easy to find unless of course you are a Supervillain bent on Superman's destruction. Then its pretty much the bog standard secret weapon against our Man of

Steel. This substance makes Superman extremely weak, he loses his powers and 'in theory' he becomes easily killed. I say 'in theory' because despite coming against this substance numerous times his enemies have never managed to actually kill him.

Batman on the other hand has no single weakness. No, his weaknesses are much more numerous. In short, if it can kill you, it'll kill him: bullets, a severe car crash, maybe even some random disease etc etc. Unlike us, however, Batman will probably have the best car money can buy, the best armour, the best doctors. We could go on, but you get the point: money + Batman = Survivability.

Having reviewed our Superheroes, it's now possible to determine who would become evil. The answer would have to be Batman. He doesn't have the clean-cut image of Superman; he is human and a billionaire. Who knows how he would react if his company started to go bankrupt. He might use all those gadgets to rob banks or kill competitors. We also know his childhood has caused him to have some serious mental problems and he is a grown man who dresses up as a bat to fight crime.

Superman, on the other hand, really wouldn't have a reason to turn to evil to solve his problems because he actually has super powers and is pretty much emotionally stable.

Now to the good part. Superman has to take an insane Batman down before he blows up Metropolis with some nuclear bomb he purchased on the black-market. Batman wants to destroy his main rival's business before his company goes under and Superman is the only person the police believe can exterminate this bat.

Of course, we must assume Bruce has bought as much Kryptonite as he could find, as he knew Superman would be coming after him. This is a real problem for Superman and he is not going to rush into the situation so he will try and lure Batman away from his stockpiles of Kryptonite.

Batman would certainly be on edge in this situation, he isn't normally evil and his conscience would be telling him to stop. For the first time in years, he has left Gotham and is unfamiliar with this terrain. His cave of gadgets and backups are nowhere near and of course, he has gone insane as he is trying to blow up a city in order to resolve a business

"Batman is darting from shadow to shadow trying to stay hidden while Superman watches from above waiting for the right moment to strike"

dispute. Under the circumstances, we can assume he wouldn't be the most rational of people to deal with and Superman could probably find a way to lure him away from the large quantities of Kryptonite.

Batman has left the stockpiles of Kryptonite behind as he fell for one of Superman's ingeniously clever plans that always work, but he still has a utility belt full of the stuff.

For some unknown reason the fight will occur on a rooftop; they're everywhere so why not use them for something. Of course, let's not forget that it's a black rainy night with frequent thun-

der strikes on a nearby spire. Batman is darting from shadow to shadow trying to stay hidden while Superman watches from above waiting for the right moment to strike. In one of his many sprints across the roof, Batman slips and Superman uses this pause in movement to burn Batman's belt off and then destroy it with his laser eyes.

Superman doesn't want to kill Batman (that's just not his style) and instead hopes to reason with him and eventually convince Batman to turn himself in to the police. Of course Batman has no intention of surrendering and Superman's show of superiority has made him just a tad nervous. He begins wildly firing his 'bat gun' into the air in a desperate attempt to wound Superman. Superman easily dodges this feeble attempt and decides to end this battle by swooping in and grabbing Batman.

When Superman tries to grab Batman his hands slip off the costume. Unknown to Superman Batman rubbed 'bat lube' all over his body. Superman is disturbed that Batman has outwitted him for once. He decides to settle this once and for all in hand-to-hand combat.

As the two superheroes square up to each other Batman knows he need to use every device he has to try and stop Superman. As he tries in vain to think about whether he should try the 'Bat-arang' or another volley from the 'Bat Gun', Superman closes in on Batman and with one shattering punch, knocks him out cold.

Superman finds the detonator for the nuclear bomb and quickly disarms the device. With his enemy defeated Superman brings Batman to the nearest mental hospital. He immediately heads back to work as Clark Kent to write an article about Metropolis's latest brush with destruction.



Love Zidane, hate this

People expect a lot of Zinedine Zidane. Chiefly, they seem to expect him not to head-butt Italians who insult his seriously ill mother. But removed from that, to expect him to produce a 'compelling' piece of cinema by sticking a grandiose amount of cameras on him for 90 minutes is so far beyond ridiculous it ceases to be funny.

What is really dangerous here is that the pompous arthouse twits who assembled this farce could have damaged the

Zidane: A 21st Century Portrait

impeccable cool and heroic qualities of Zidane, but it appears that he has in fact tricked them.

However, hopefully whatever fee he managed to extract from the bloated pockets of the filmmakers has with any luck done no more than emphasise, not only how much cooler he is than them, but also infinitely cleverer.

The only discernable skill portrayed by these film-makers is the ability to trawl through film archives to find relics so obscure that they can be used for the purpose of stealing material.

Perhaps the worst aspect of this film is the seditious undercurrent that the film-makers in question are trying to use a working class medium to con 'the great unwashed'. If this is true, then they may as well have filmed polo or croquet, it would be less invasive and certainly less preten-

tious.

That said; the film is not all bad. It features an impressive score by Mogwai and the use of sounds throughout the film is interesting and engaging. The quality of the camerawork is outstanding and if treated as a purely visual experiment, it is fascinating and beautiful. Also, it is right to extol the genius of Zinedine Zidane; he embodies everything that is true and beautiful, amazing, breathtaking and admirable about football.

But why not try and save the game he moves so passionately in? Why not stick a camera on Didier Drogba for 90 minutes and show up that cheater for what he is? It might just help save a game that is self-destructing at an alarming rate.

All in all, this film offers plenty aurally and visually, but these nuggets do little more than tease the viewer and ultimately embellish what an utter failure the main thrust of the film is.

Jack Horgan Jones

Dance, dance, I'm falling in love

If you love side-splitting comedies with action and mindless violence thrown in on top of star-studded casts, well then this is not the film for you. If you love romantic chick flicks with lots of dancing and predictable storylines however, Step Up is the one to watch.

It made millions on its first week-end of release in the US box office, despite fairly average reviews from the American critics and the fact that it had been called a poor imitation of 'Save The Last Dance'.

We open with bad boy Tyler Gage (Channing Tatum) breaking into a school for theatrical arts late at night with his 'homies' and they completely thrash the place.

Unfortunately for Tyler he gets caught and after a court hearing is sentenced to 200 hours of community service in the school, where the crime was committed. He is to work as the Janitor's assistant.

On the other hand we have Nora Clarke (Jenna Dewan), who is a student at the school and is working on her performance piece that will determine whether or not she graduates.

However, Nora's dance partner, Andrew, twist's his ankle and can no longer dance in the performance and Nora can't find anyone else to take his place.

Enter Tyler, the knight in shining armour, ready and willing to take Andrew's place, even if it does mean he might have to wear tights.



Step Up

Tyler really begins to enjoy the dancing and wishes he could be a student in the school, but with his criminal record and history of not seeing things through, will his wish be granted?

Since Step Up is of course a chick flick, Tyler and Nora obviously develop feelings for one another, but unfortunately for Tyler, Nora already has a boyfriend.

The first thirty minutes of the film are mind numbingly clichéd and uneventful. After that, however, the film becomes enjoyable and the viewers start rooting for the lead characters to achieve their goals.

There are even a couple of action-based scenes involving gang wars thrown in for the lads to-

wards the end of the film.

The only truly negative thing about the film is the terrible acting. But even with a cast of bad actors, the script is written so well, that the characters are still enjoyable to watch.

The choreography is amazing and even people who know nothing about dancing will appreciate it, the music is funky and catchy and manages to blend R'n'B with Classical, which leads to some head-bopping tunes.

Girls will love this film, it has everything from romance to dancing and any guy who is dragged along by their girlfriend will secretly enjoy it to, even if the chances of them ever admitting that will be slim to none.

Cian Taaffe



A tale of confused adolescence

The History Boys

After receiving critical acclaim since its introduction to British theatre two years ago, Alan Bennett's play, 'The History Boys' has been brought to the big screen.

Nicholas Hytner directs this tale of a small group of gifted history students preparing for the prestigious Oxford and Cambridge entrance exams in early eighties Sheffield. Pressured by their manic principal to gain entrance to Britain's elite universities, the boys are guided by their brilliant but unconventional teacher Hector.

To bolster their push for admission a young 'by the book' teacher is introduced which splits the students' allegiances between the two masters. Amid the stress to gain acceptance into the colleges the boys ponder not just the whole idea of the education system but their own sexualities too.

What separates this from Byker Grove or Grange Hill tripe is it avoids the clichéd adolescent stereotypes of education in and out of the classroom. Instead 'The History Boys' confronts sexual experimentation and ambiguity, leading to genuinely awkward yet hilarious moments.

This film is strange and does not shy away from anything. Sexually charged tension between master and pupil dominate scenes that can at times be almost too uncomfortable to watch. This ballsy approach from the writer pays off as it is highly different and therefore fascinating.

The fumbling eccentric Hector, the boys' history teacher, played by Richard Griffiths, absolutely steals every scene he is in. His outlandish teaching methods endear him to his students and

audience alike.

Despite his occasional penchant for groping his male students and insisting they ride on his motorcycle you can't help liking him. His faint sexual harassment is more amusing than disturbing.

The film thrives on the sharp and witty remarks in the discussions within the classroom, which keep up the lightning pace of the film.

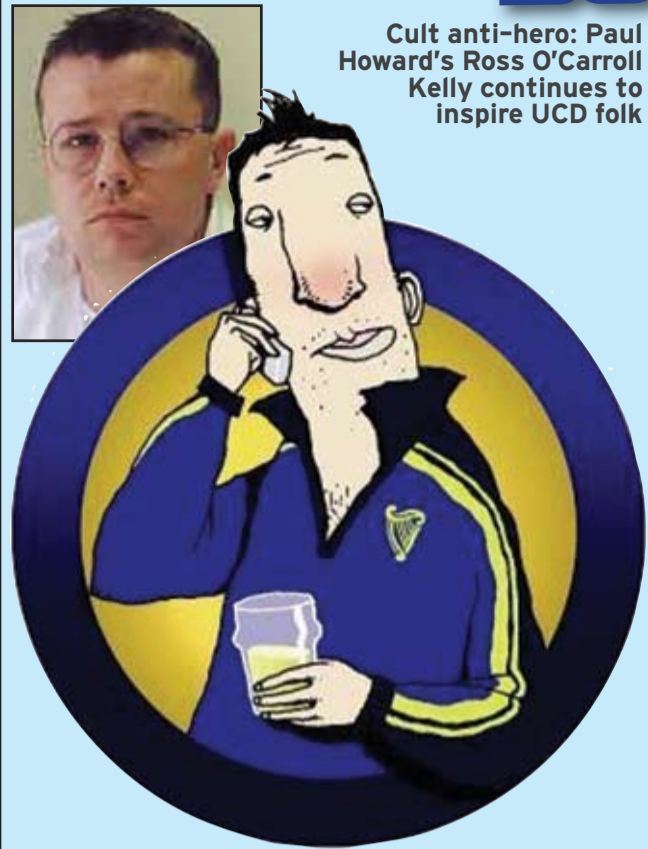
Driving this refreshing British comedy is a cracking soundtrack of early 80s pop which is perfectly in tune with the energetic feature.

Despite having a cast lacking of any major feature length experience the young actors are brimming with charisma and charm throughout. This is the first decent Brit comedy in a long time that doesn't have Vinnie Jones on the billing. Go in with an open mind and enjoy this strange but highly original movie.

Robert Hanly



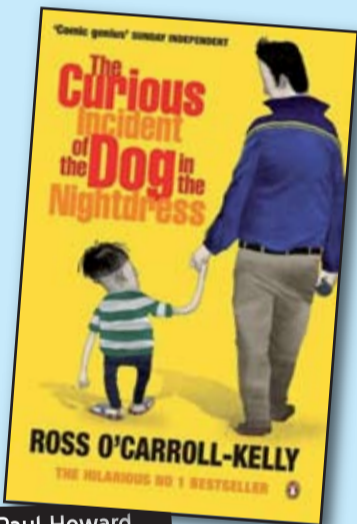
Cult anti-hero: Paul Howard's Ross O'Carroll Kelly continues to inspire UCD folk



Annoyingly good

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nightdress is the latest offering from journalist Paul Howard, a.k.a. the monstrous Ross O'Carroll-Kelly, and continues the farcical exploits of the shallow, insensitive, womanising, rugby-playing Southsider.

Basically, Ross has found himself, yet again, in a spot of bother. His brand-new bride is looking for an annulment, and worse, he's just found out he has an illegitimate love child from, horror-of-horrors, the north side. Could things possibly get any worse for poor old Ross?



Paul Howard

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nightdress

For a start his love child is (somewhat unbelievably) an eight-year-old crime boss with the entire Dublin underworld at his beck and call.

And there's the no small matter of winning back his disgruntled bride Sorcha, which involves a bizarre seal-napping incident. Oh, and his best friend has gone all happy-clapper Jesus-lover on him.

At times Ross' exploits do stretch the boundaries of believability (and then cross them, stomp all over them and spit at them) but that's partly where the charm of the book lies.

As a satire on the privileged offspring of Dublin's Southside this is very good probably hitting a bit too close to home for some, but very funny and true-to-life for the rest of us plebs.

Interestingly, Howard is also the author of The Joy, a harrowing no-holds-barred account of life inside Mountjoy prison. Like the Ross O'Carroll-Kelly books, it is written from a first person perspective, but obviously tells a very different life-story than that of Ross's.

Taken together the books depict two extremes of modern Irish life, both highlighting the rather more unpleasant aspects of contemporary Irish society.

I'd like to believe that Ross is a rather far-fetched figment of Howard's imagination with only a slight grounding in reality, but encounters in and around the UCD campus would suggest that Ross is a bit more real than any sane person should want.

Serious social commentary aside, basically no-ones going to be particularly impressed that you read this book, but as word fodder goes, it's quite good, very readable, and there's lots of clever wordplay to keep you amused and chuckling quietly away to yourself on the bus like a crazy person.

Merran Hulse



Sophie's a bit weird

Who are you? Early on, the author made a decision. He could have went with the whole drunken overly aggressive 'who are you', and it probably would have been a great book. Aggression and violence are terrible, but over aggression and too much violence, they're just funny.

What is not funny however, is this book. Gaarder chose to take the philosophical path when posing this question to a nearly fifteen year old Norwegian girl at our stories birth. Fair enough - let's examine it on its merits. You do have to mourn for the lost hilarity though. Who are you?

What this results in, is a reasonably concise yet comprehensive history of human thought. Remove the skeleton plot and this could be a philosophical reference book. Most of the text is spent explaining what some Socrates or another thought about life and what not.

It is good stuff though, the kind of stuff that's cool to know. As one of the aforementioned Socrates' put it, 'any man who can not draw on 3000 years is living from hand to mouth'. Probably true.

In just over four hundred pages, we go through over four thousand years. It's just too much to take on board and sometimes you feel the effort isn't worth it.

However, it's still a good book and if you're into you philosophy you have a treat in store. The human species still

Philosophical: Sophie's world as debated by Socrates

Jostein Gaarder
Sophie's World

don't really know what the hell we're doing here, not that the thousands of years of 'philosophy' has helped much.

The plot as well, does help move the lecturing along. From the outset, thought provoking questions are created for us. Then basically we walk along with our Sophie as she is taught about thinking by this mysterious character.

Half way through, you would be forgiven for thinking this is all we are going to get: a little girl to ask our questions for us, but things do get a little bit twisted. The

ending is definitely a high point in terms of the plot: it gets a few pages of the book for one. Philosophy has been a bit slow lately.

In conclusion, if you know your philosophical stuff already but just can't get enough, go on, treat yourself. If you want to know your stuff, this is easier to read than a text book would be. If it's just a good read you're after, Sophie's isn't the World for you.

Barra O'Fianail

