

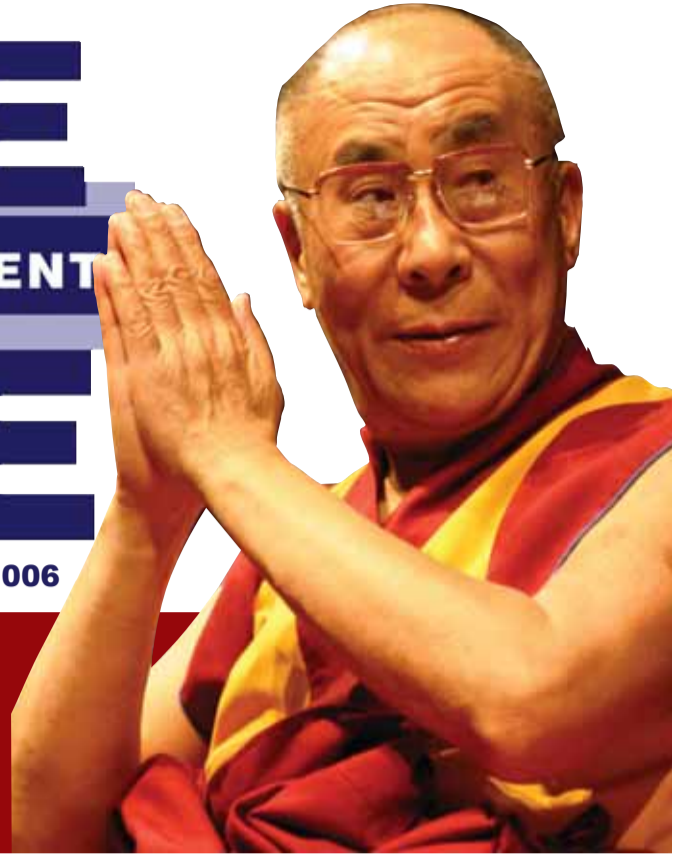
COLLEGE TRIBUNE

THE DIFFERENCE IS WE'RE INDEPENDENT

Volume 20 / Issue 5

ucd.ie/tribune

14th November 2006



Careful Now

Graham Linehan Interview Page 12

Persistent Occupation

Will Tibet ever be free? Feature: Page 14

THIS WEEK



WITH
MUSIC
FILM
HEALTH
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CULTURE
ARTS



Second years up the creek

- Second Year exams to count for fifty percent of degrees
- Students' Union in talks with College

College authorities have informed second year students that exams this year will count for fifty percent of their degrees.

The decision and late notification of the decision has sparked outrage among students.

The College Tribune can reveal that Students' Union Education Officer Brian Doyle is currently in talks with the college, in the hope that the college will back down on the proposals and allow students the choice to discount this current semester if they so wish.

Doyle has expressed his grievances over what he perceives as inexcusably late notification that second year students have been given regarding how the Grade Point Average (GPA) of their degree will be calculated.

Students have only been given official notification about these conditions during week seven of this semester.

Due to modularisation in certain faculties, students will now have their second year GPA counted as fifty percent of their overall degree.

This effects second years in the

Mark Canavan

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Social Science, Bachelor of Computer Science and Bachelor of Music programmes.

Doyle stated, "Its not the educational argument that I have a problem with here, but the late notification given to students is totally unacceptable."

He continued, "A lot of students presumed that their degree would be weighted on their final year results."

He added, "The presence of dual systems of old and new in these faculties makes students confused. Second years who talked to third years could have easily taken for granted that the situation for their degree had not changed."

Furthermore he feels that students have been given little time to come to terms with the new scenario, and that many could already be adversely affected as they have handed in assignments without knowledge of its substantial value towards their degree.

Continued on page four



Oh what a night...

UCD win the Dublin Championship. Full coverage, see sport

Just past the Quinn School!

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November 14th

Food co-op encountering difficulties

Alan Doyle

The student-run food co-operative (Co-op) in UCD has encountered difficulties during its maiden week.

Despite the stall's popularity and the surrounding enthusiasm, there have been some teething problems in the co-ordination and establishment of the co-op.

Members are currently working with the UCD Safety Office to gain inclusion under its insurance policy and are liaising with the Buildings and Services department of UCD to address some of their concerns.

"They're interesting in finding us a more appropriate location than our improvised one on the concourse," declared the students.

"Objections were voiced by corporate interests to our initially planned location of the Student Centre."

The Co-Op has the backing of the Students' Union, the motion in support of the Co-op having passed unanimously on Wednesday November 1st, but some franchises on campus view the group as "illegitimate competition" to businesses in the same area.

Members feel that there should not be a conflict of interest. "We are a group of UCD students, under the wing of the Green Society, providing a voluntary service to other students.

"We should not be frustrated in providing vegan alternatives, one lunchtime a week, or from facili-



The Food Co-op: There have been some early teething problems

tating the bulk ordering of dry foods for students interested in healthy eating, by elements that do not sell these things or cover the same areas of food provision."

There will be a stall every Monday from 12-2pm, though the location, and the possibility of a permanent home for the co-op group, remains to be confirmed.

Other aspects and services, the aforementioned bulk ordering for members, in particular, will be organised for the coming week and is presently being co-ordinated online for those who have already joined up.

Richard Smolarek, an exchange student who has experience with the Melbourne Food Co-Op upon which much of this is modelled, is keen to stress the community and social aspect of involvement in the movement.

"The UCD Food Co-Op is a magnet for dynamic, committed and passionate people, who are totally willing to put their beliefs into practice, with whom it's an absolute pleasure to be involved with."

The students declared their eagerness to expand, to welcome more members and to encourage anybody interested in taking part to drop by the stall for information or contact: ucdfoodcoop@gmail.com



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Easy on the ear

● Belfield FM to relocate ● Station undergoes overhaul

Emer Ni Chuagain

Belfield Fm is currently undergoing a mass overhaul.

The station is currently preparing a state of the art broadcast studio in cooperation with many of UCD's student organisations, including The Audio Visual Centre, Computing Services and the Students' Union.

Station manager Gary Redmond spoke of his happiness that UCD's only radio station had moved out of its port-a-cabin behind the Student Centre: "I am delighted that we has finally moving to a suitable broadcast location, this was one of my main objectives when I was appointed Station Manager to improve the professionalism and quality of output of station".

The relocation of the station is part of an overall plan to rejuvenate Belfield Fm, with the projected completion date in early 2007, whilst Redmond recognises the works as 'highly ambitious', he is confident that the stations services will resume on time.

The first phase of the works saw a new marketing strategy come into play, most notably www.belfieldfm.ie's new web stream complete with voiceovers and jingles by 2fms Rick O'Shea.

Cable installation, rerouting of the stations antenna, and the formation of a new connection to the UCD network are all part of the scope of works.

When asked whether the students on campus would benefit from the work, Redmond told of his desire to obtain a full broadcasting licence to provide the students of UCD with a full time radio service.

The station currently operates six weeks a year, which is the maximum allowed under the current temporary licence held, in accordance with the



Broadcasting House: Belfield FM's former home & (inset) station manager Gary Redmond

Broadcasting Commission of Ireland's (BCI) regulations.

Redmond is keen to see that more students have the opportunity to contribute to the station due to increased capacity created by the new web stream in conjunction with the pursuit of a full broadcasting licence.

Graham Harkness has also joined the senior management team in efforts to redevelop the station.

Harkness, who has been appointed as the Assistant Manager/Programmes Director, promises to bring a wealth of experience to the position.

The station are said to be "delighted with the appointment of Graham and look forward to continuing the redevelopment of Belfield Fm with his support".

As the station welcomes a new face to the team, they say goodbye to Pete Friel, who stepped down from the position in early September following a summer of hard work.

Redmond offered the station's gratitude to Friel, stating, "Pete was instrumental in forging closer working relationships between Belfield Fm and the Broadcasting Commission" and added that he "was a great asset the station".

Merry Christmas

What do you think of dropping autumn exams?

"I think it'll be tougher at Christmas but it's a good thing because we'll have more time in the summer especially if you're on a J1 or something. It might actually help students because they might have to put the head down a bit more if they know".



James Conlon-McKenna, 2nd Year Bcomm



"It means you can work away during the summer or whatever you want to do but there is going to be a good bit of pressure on during the term".

Tim McNamara, 1st Physiotherapy

"I think it's a better idea, I don't know why I just prefer it and I suppose you'll have more time in the summer".



Catherine Garry, 2nd Science



"I don't know. I suppose at least you won't have to come back in autumn".

Bernadette McEvoy, 1st Science

- Repeats carried through to Christmas
- No more autumn exams

Maree Rigney

Autumn repeat exams within modular programmes have been abolished.

Students who fail summer exams will now be forced to repeat them the following Christmas, while exams failed at Christmas will be carried forward to the following summer.

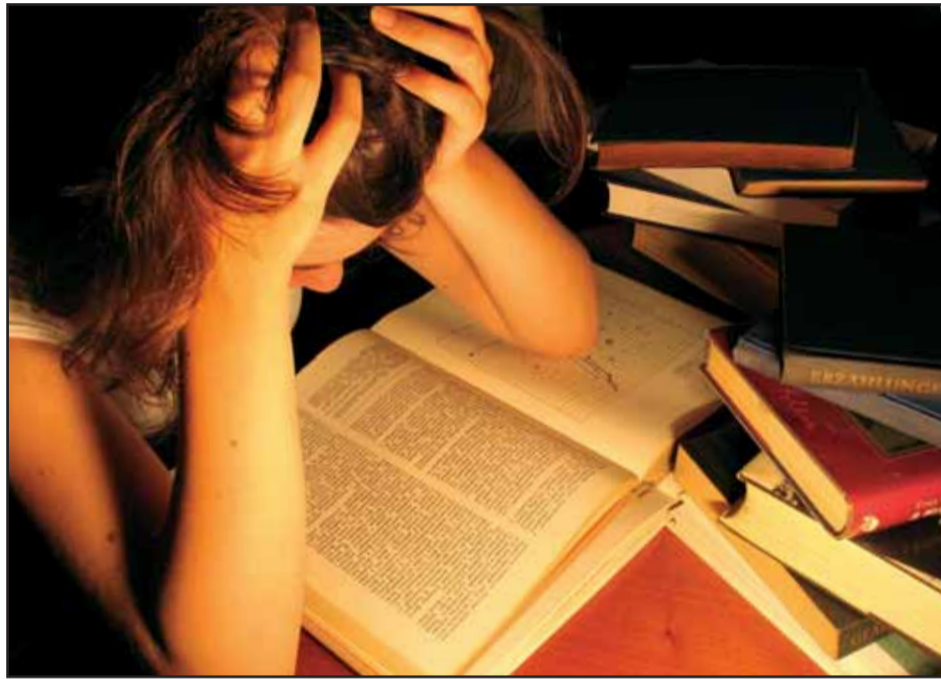
Currently, talks are ongoing between the Students' Union and college authorities regarding the details of the new system.

Students' Union Education Vice-President Brian Doyle explained, "Most staff don't want repeats in the autumn interfering with their research and the time they have to reflect on the academic year, but it suited the students to repeat exams straight after they failed them so that they could start the new semester with a clean slate."

Around 3000 to 4000 students a year sit autumn repeats. This new proposal would give students the opportunity to repeat their failed assessment for a module in the subsequent semester.

The Students' Union's main issue with the proposal is that it is being brought into use too quickly. Doyle continues, "the old system of autumn repeats should be kept for third year students upward and it should only start with first and second year students."

"At the moment, first and second years are shocked because they thought the regulations regarding previous autumn repeats would apply to them. Third year and final year students are worried that the new progression rules will be applied straight away to them."



Study time: But students who fail will have to wait until the next semester

"It is not appropriate to announce this proposal eight weeks into the semester. Students are worried about problems they shouldn't have to worry about which could be affecting their studies."

Philip Nolan, the UCD Registrar, announced the decision to students via an email last Friday

week, November third.

It caused confusion across the university, Doyle declared, "There needs to be extra-clarification about the cancellation of these repeats. No adequate communication has been sent to students, causing much of the confusion."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Compiled by Steven Humphreys

AIDS Awareness Week

The inaugural UCD AIDS awareness week is taking place this week.

The event is hosted by Medsoc and is the brainchild of fourth year Medicine student Michael Farrugia, who was inspired to do so by a recent world AIDS conference.

The overall goal of the week is to raise awareness of AIDS and to tackle ignorance on the subject.

There will be talks and lectures on the subject every evening this week at

7pm. These talks will include a 25-year history of AIDS seminar, global perspectives introduced by a host of expert guest speakers and what you can do yourself to raise

awareness.

On Wednesday, the talk will feature guests from the St. Lucia project in the Caribbean who have pioneered new ways of tackling the issue of AIDS in the island of St. Lucia. Their efforts have resulting in a decrease in those contracting the disease and they will highlight the issue of vaccines and antiviral drugs. They will outline how the vaccines can be used most effectively.

The week climaxes with a fundraising night out in Turks Head in Temple Bar and all proceeds from the event will go towards the St. Lucia project. For further information, contact Farrugia_Michael@yahoo.ca.

UCD Student Welfare Week

UCD Student Welfare Week takes place from the 20th - 24th of November.

The goal of the week is to provide students with stress relieving tactics in the run up to the Christmas exams.

There will be activities running through out the week including free massages in the student centre provided by the 2nd year physiotherapy students.

On the Thursday, the Dublin Buddhist group will give classes on an introduction to Buddhist ideas focusing on relaxation. Saturday the 25th sees a graffiti artist coming in to decorate the students' union corridor with some unique artwork, and will also

give students a chance to contribute to the project.

It is hoped that the various relaxation classes will help students to relax before and during their exams, which will hopefully lead to better results for them.

Healthy eating will also be promoted during the week. Students' Union Welfare Officer Barry Colfer sees this a key element in increasing the overall welfare of students and will be promoting a healthy eating competition due to take place in semester two.

It is hoped that the week-long campaign will provide a healthy distraction for students in the run up to the Christmas exams.

Volunteering Elective

A new elective in volunteering is to be introduced for semester two.

The idea behind the new scheme is to extend the tradition of volunteering in the college. UCD is following the lead of universities such as Limerick and Galway who are already running similar programmes.

The programme will be equal to any other elective carrying five credits. Candidates will be expected to contribute to a volunteering organisation, will be graded on attendance and will also have to submit a small project on the organisation and what they have achieved.

However, the programme will only be available for 25 second-year students for next semester. If the programme is successful, it is hoped that it will be extended for next year to allow more students to undertake the elective.

For those who are unable to do the elective, there is still a chance to volunteer; the Students' Union will be running a volunteer placement day early next semester.

'Make a difference day' is an idea from student governments in American universities and will encourage students to volunteer to an organisation and help their cause.



Gerard Murren,
2nd Year Social Science



Tara McHugh,
2nd Year Arts



Kathy Whyte,
2nd Year Arts



David McDunphy,
2nd Year Social Science

Do you feel that the notification you received in week seven of how your GPA will be calculated was adequate?

I think its grand but I'd prefer to have more time but I suppose it's not a bad idea.

No, we didn't know and we had assignments due before now.

No, definitely not.

No, well it doesn't really bother me.

Do you think you should have a choice to drop your semester GPA from your degree?

Yeah, I think we should have a choice.

I think there should. Some people have put in a lot of effort but some people may not have known about this and it's a bit unfair.

They should give a choice. I don't know if it should be cut out completely because some people did work from the start.

I think its grand but I'd prefer to have more time but I suppose it's not a bad idea.

Second years up the creek

Continued from Page Four

UCD Students' Union Education Officer Brian Doyle has declared that the late notification to second year students that this year's exams will count for fifty percent of their degrees is "unacceptable."

While Doyle's primary reservations are about the inadequate notification, he also feels that it will infringe on students involvement in extra-curricular activities in college.

He declared, "If students are going to be studying for exams which count as a quarter of their degree, they're not going to have time to participate in activities throughout college."

He, and two students affected, convened a meeting with a board of programme officers this week.

Their primary proposal, on foot of what they see as the inadequate official notification, was that current second year students should be given the choice to discount this current semester if they so wish.

Doyle acknowledges that the college has a legal obligation to students who wish to continue to have both second year semesters added to their final Grade Point

Average (GPA), and does not want them to be adversely affected.

However, he also feels that the college must accept responsibility for the lack of notification that students received regarding the scenario.

He stated, "The college must give these students a choice as to whether they want this semester counted or not."

He did not detail how students opting for this option will have their GPA calculated but he emphasised that it is the only fair option given the situation which some students are confronted with.

The college proposes that the GPA calculation of modularised degrees will take place over both stages two and three of the degree programme, with fifty percent coming from stage two modules and fifty percent coming from stage three modules.

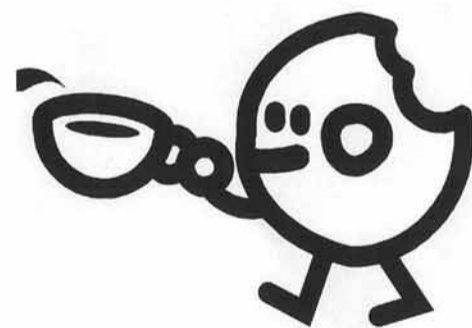
Since both stage two and stage three modules are graded equally, students will now be able to choose second year modules in their third year and vice versa. Electives will also count towards the overall GPA.

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UCD out of tune

● Music students discontent ● "Urgent" lack of facilities

Concerns regarding a serious lack of facilities for students of the music department of UCD need "urgent" attention according to class representatives.

The issue of a significant shortfall in available rooms and facilities for students in the department to get together and perform that most essential part of the course, the music itself, has reached a critical point.

This has been a growing concern for students over the past few college years.

"If there was a Science department without Science facilities it would be ridiculous," declared fourth year music class rep David Connolly. "The same goes for a Music department without facilities."

A handful of lecture rooms are currently available to students of music in the Arts Block department, but are unable to facilitate music diversity beyond reasonably basic performances, such as single piano recitals.

Dr. Wolfgang Marx, head of the School of Music, declared his empathy with the students.

"I realise and acknowledge that there is a lack of practice facilities. These teaching rooms are basically available

Lorcan Archer

to students here, provided that they do not disturb classes in neighbouring rooms."

While the department acknowledges the desire of the students to practise and perform music, common sense limits must be imposed for practicality.

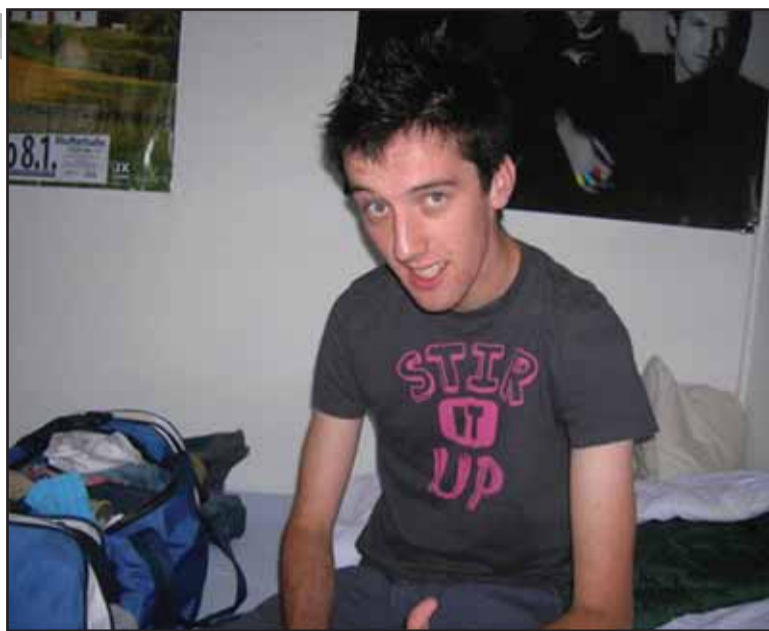
"Performance is a smaller part than musicology in our courses but we do what we can."

The constricted nature of the small department means that use of loud instruments such as those of brass or percussion class must be heavily restricted due to noise levels.

"None of the rooms are sound-proofed to my knowledge, right now we have somebody in there on piano, which is fine with me, but if percussion was going on in there, no-one on the whole floor would be able to do anything."

This was recently brought to light when a concert took place in the department while Trad-Soc were having a session in the neighbouring room, leading to a very undesirable crossover of sound.

Indeed, attempts by musical socie-



Frustrated: Music class rep David Connolly

ties such as Jazz and Trad Soc to gain more permanent performance locations in the music department have been frustrated by similar difficulties.

Connolly notes, "Music Soc itself has folded in, one of the main reasons was

there was nowhere to meet up and play music."

Adding to the levels of frustration is the full equipped and functioning music room in the lower ground floor of the Arts block which, according to students,

is being totally wasted.

"It's a resource sitting there, just unused," stated Connolly. Equipped with state of the art instruments and located well away from the constricted office space of the departments, the students are being denied use of this resource on security grounds.

Marx agrees that the room itself could be used for the students' needs, but in this case the studio is too removed from the department.

"While not pointing the finger at anyone, there would be a concern. Nobody could supervise what happens down there."

As it stands, only lecturers access the room for classes, and students are not permitted it's use outside those slots, leaving the resource unused while societies and music students look on.

The department and the students believe that new facilities are required.

"Music has always been a small department," acknowledges Connolly regarding the ongoing push for new resources.

"As far as I know, proposals were made for a music facility in the O'Reilly Hall when it was going up, just a room in the back even, but they were pretty much laughed away."

Rosspport survey results "interesting and surprising"

Kevin J. Doyle

In light of the recent controversy surrounding support of the Students' Union for the Shell to Sea campaign, the College Tribune carried out a survey of 265 students across the campus in order to gain an insight into what students really think.

SU President, Dan Hayden, has described the results of the survey as "interesting and surprising."

The Students' Union council has debated their involvement in the Rosspport issue a total of three times already this year.

The first was during the Inaugural Council, where funds were set aside for a bus to take students attending the Shell to Sea protest to Erris on Thursday 19th October.

The main argument put forward in support of this, was that SU councilors wanted to attend Class Rep training but had planned to go to Rosspport a long time in advance of this and needed to be facilitated in order to return to Belfield on time.

A motion reaffirming support for Shell to Sea came before council during the second session and was defeated.

The second motion intended to repeal to previous motions one being the support of Shell to Sea and the other SU's opposition to all deportations. The motion was withdrawn after 25 minutes of debate.

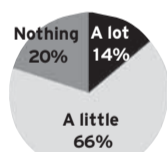
Two thirds of students surveyed claimed they knew a little about the issue. One student, Emma Durrant (Second Arts from Limerick), said she knew a lot about the issue and that most people know the basics of the situation.

Enda Duffy, a representative from the UCD contingent of the Shell to Sea campaign, declared, "It is up to the Union to inform students, and it's not a good thing for people to be ignorant or uninformed of this issue."

For example, the UCD Shell to Sea contingent held a meeting attended by 60-70 students with guest speaker Michael O'Seighen. Duffy declared, "Shell to sea meetings are better attended than

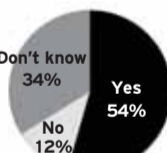
How much do you know about the Shell/Rosspport Issue?

A lot 14%
A little 66%
Nothing 20%



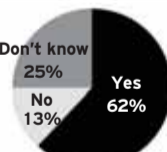
Do you care what happens to the people of the Erris peninsula?

Yes 54%
No 12%
Don't know 34%



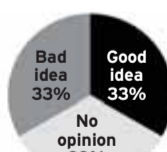
Do you think that the SU should continue to offer moral support to the people of Rosspport?

Yes 62%
No 13%
Don't know 25%



Do you think there should be a pro-Shell campaign on campus similar to UCD 'Shell to Sea'?

Good Idea 33.3%
Bad Idea 33.3%
No opinion 33.3%



the car parking meetings," an issue which the Students' Union have based a campaign on.

Duffy declared, "That 62% believe the SU should offer moral support is brilliant, and it shows that students do care about issues that affect people on a national level."

When queried about the results, Hayden declared, "Had the question been as to whether the SU should support 'Shell-to-Sea' rather than 'the people of Rosspport,' the answers would have been different."

"Sometimes the SU should take a position on this and similar issues, but I don't think at the moment we are actually supporting it. We could if the issue was more clear cut."



"I don't agree with the SU supporting the Rosspport campaign, and it shouldn't be boycotting the Shell in Donnybrook".

Rachel Goode, 1st Science

"If somebody wanted to set up a legitimate UCD pro-shell society, I wouldn't have a problem with it."

Don Roache



"The SU should take a stand on the issue."

Desmond Bates, 2nd Arts



"I would not be opposed to a pro-Shell campaign, but the government already supports Shell."

Emma Durrant, 2nd Arts



"Some students to do exams on

SU Welfare Officer **Barry Colfer** and SU Disability Rights Officer **Jean Daly** explored the Belfield campus and report back with an in depth analysis of accessibility for those carrying a disability

With the arrival of UCD Horizons, students doing different programs can find themselves in pretty much any of the academic buildings around campus, so it's important that buildings are accessible and every student can get to their classes easily and on time.

Thankfully efforts have been made to improve access around UCD. Access to the new buildings is especially good, but there

is still a lot more that can be done.

We visited most of the academic buildings, the Admin/Tierny Building, The Sports Centre and places to eat around campus, there are still a lot of places we did not get to, and this is just one student's experience of getting around campus while in a wheelchair on a given day, and this article aims to highlight just some of the findings.

We will present an indepth account of our findings to the college authorities in the hope that they will invest time and resources into getting a professional access audit done of the whole campus, as was done in the library building last year, and that eventually many of the problems we found will be rectified. Here, we will go into just some of the findings that we thought were most relevant.

Lecture Theatres and classrooms

A large aspect of college life revolves around lectures and classes. This is where a lot of the grassroots work is done, where students learn how to grasp a new subject, and exams are discussed.

Unfortunately on more than one occasion we found that lecture theatres are laid out in such a way that wheelchair users would not have a desk to write at.

In some lecture theatres and classrooms in Engineering and Agricultural Science for example, the desks and chairs were fixed to the ground in such a way that a wheelchair user couldn't get to a desk, and you couldn't bring in a movable desk due to lack of space.

Some students have even had to do exams on their laps. In some of the classrooms upstairs in The Arts block, the chairs have writing desks attached to them in such a way that wheelchair users can't use them. (if they do, the chair would fall over).

fire, the lifts are strictly not to be used, and if you're in a wheelchair, you're encouraged to make yourself known to those around you, sit tight, and wait till help gets to you).

While most of the buildings in UCD have lifts, they are not all accessible to everybody. For example, the lift in the Science Building is so small that people using bigger electric wheelchairs experience real problems trying to use them, and some students' chairs have even been damaged just trying to get to a lecture.

Also, to use the lift to get from the SU shop under the library building back up to the library, you need to use a key that you have to apply to Arts Services to get. It's difficult to understand why. What should visitors or students who are incapacitated or on crutches for a period of time do to get around? It is essential that these problems are addressed promptly and properly.



Toilets

As we all know, everybody needs the toilet sometimes. Accessibility to toilets is a huge issue for wheelchair users, as there are so many different requirements for different disabilities.

It's very positive to see a hoist in one of the toilets in the Arts Block. However, nearly all the wheelchair toilets we saw on campus are built with the doors opening in, seriously restricting access for students in bigger wheelchairs.

We saw this situation repeated around campus: in The Health Sciences, Vet, and Computer Science Buildings to name a few which, it must be said, were otherwise pretty good in terms of accessibility, despite some flaws.

Another very restricting factor is the practice of cluttering the space necessary for manoeuvring a wheelchair into with bins and brushes. This is a problem that would be very easily put right but is a serious inconvenience for wheelchair users.

On one occasion it is regrettable to say, we found one wheelchair toilet being used as a store cupboard to the degree that it was basically inaccessible for wheelchair users without having to wheel a lot of stuff outside.



Lifts on campus

It is absolutely vital that there are adequately accessible lifts around campus, not only so students can get to lectures and classes, but also for safety reasons (although, in the case of a



Admin/Tierny Building

The Admin Building is pretty much the only building that every student will have to visit at some point while at UCD. It is also the only building where we couldn't find any wheelchair accessible toilets, while it was well serviced by lifts and ramps.

As we saw this year, students may be expected to wait in The Admin Building for long periods of time in order to get properly registered, so it's very unfortunate that this is the case.

Another element worthy of highlighting is the height of some of the service desks in the building. For example, the desk where you pick up your grant payment is so high, it means that if you're in a wheelchair, you can't properly see who you are talking to, and you don't have anywhere to write on, this becomes increasingly difficult when you have to fill out forms and sign things.

For example, at the Programme Office in The Arts Block, there is a place where the desk is lower, where wheelchair users can speak face-to-face with staff.



Engineering Block

One of the most disappointing findings in our study was when we tried to access The Engineering Building. We had to go up to reception to ask how a wheelchair user could access the building, where we were told we'd have to walk around to the back of the building and wait in the cold



until the nice lady at reception came down to open the door to let us in, and again when we wanted to leave, we had to tell reception and wait for them to turn the alarm off so we could open the door and get out.

The lecture theatres had fixed seating and there was nowhere for wheelchair users to sit at a desk.

The Doors of the wheelchair toilets opened inwards, making them very difficult to access, particularly for students in bigger, electric wheelchairs.



The Quinn Building

Just across the concourse from the Engineering Building, you can find The Quinn Building, which was the most accessible building on campus that we looked at.

have even had their laps"

Saint and sinner: The engineering block was not designed with wheelchair users in mind, but the Quinn School (r) has excellent facilities



wheelchair users to get around, the lack of a lift in the sports centre, and the basic inaccessibility of Richview and Roebuck which we won't get into here.

We have a meeting with The Vice President for Students to discuss the implementation of the Disability Act 2005 on campus.

It's good to see the college take its responsibility towards students with disabilities under the act seriously, and hopefully progress will be made as a result.

UCD is in a great state of change with a more varied and diverse student populous than ever before, and accommodations must be made in order to facilitate everyone's studies.

The needs of students with limited mobility is only one example which we are focusing on here. the needs for baby changing facilities for students with small children, and the need for special areas to pray for students with different religious beliefs will also have to be dealt with in the new UCD.

One Star - Appalling
Two Stars - Very Poor
Three Stars - Adequate
Four Stars - Good
Five Stars - Excellent

Editorial: Page 9

On arrival, wheelchair users are greeted by a push button door, which is a big help, as many of the doors on campus are very heavy and hard to push open.

Inside, the doors of the wheelchair toilets open out, allowing enough space for all types of wheelchairs to get in and move around.

The building is serviced by a spacious lift, the classrooms are perfectly accessible, and the lecture theatre has a chair lift that brings users right down

to the front, and there is ample access to desks and computer spaces in the study rooms.

The only thing that stops this from being a five Star accessible building is the height of the reception desk, but it is easily out balanced by all the positive attributes of the building.



Conclusion

We found loads of other problems and points worthy of note around campus, which will be in our full report, which you will be able to find on www.ucdsu.net if you're interested in finding our more.

For example, the narrow space between shelves in the library and between rows of desks in the computer labs makes it next to impossible for



Blood on our hands

Paul Dillon argues that involvement in war makes war an election issue

The Republicans took a whacking in the recent US elections to the Senate and House of Representatives.

No bad thing in itself. However, jubilation aside, it is worth noting that many of the Democrats who will replace the defeated Republican candidates are not all that different politically to the defeated incumbents.

Those of us however who opposed the war in Iraq can take some comfort in the fact that it were the war that most hurt Republicans in the polls.

Proper order too. There is insufficient space here to cover once again the tapestry of lies and deceit that was propagated in the run up to the invasion of Iraq. Nor is there much sense in running through the current state of Iraq. The daily scenes of death and destruction on the news bulletins tell that story.

The Republicans tried to whip up fear, the last refuge of desperate politics everywhere, in the run up to polling day.

Their images of former US ally at large, Osama Bin Laden, failed to frighten voters to the Republican cause. The use of fear is a weapon we are likely to see used here in the run up to our own election next year.

The mass production of fear and how it is used to distract attention away from real problems is a theme for another day. Rather I want to comment here on the war in Iraq as an election issue.

The involvement of Spain in the War in Iraq led to the ousting of former Prime Minister JOSE Maria Aznar in 2004. Britain's involvement did serious damage to the Labour majority in 2005. Governments that have been involved in the Iraq war have found themselves damaged as a result.

Why then is the war not hurting Fianna Fáil and the PDs? Like it or not, we are up to our ears in the war in Iraq. The US policy of extraordinary rendition (body snatching in non 1984 speak) has been directly facilitated through Shannon airport.

Amnesty international reckons the airport has been used up to 50 times to transfer prisoners as part of this process. A BBC newsnight programme revealed details of the said flights in December 2005.

Condoleezza Rice denied they took place. Fair enough said the Irish government and refused calls for the enforcement of inspections. During 2005, over 300,000 US troops passed through Shannon airport coming from or going to Iraq and Afghanistan. No problem said the Irish government.

Through the use of Shannon and other airport facilities, including Baldonell here in Dublin, Ireland is directly involved in the warmongering in the Middle East. The question is - why is this not been promoted as an election issue in Ireland in the way that involvement in war has been an issue elsewhere?

The opinion polls are clear. The majority of people oppose the US military use of Shannon. The 100,000 who marched against the war in Iraq on February 15th 2003 gave mass practical expression of this opposition. And yet the parliamentary political opposition, with the exception of a few honorable individuals, is by and large silent.

That the Fine Gael party is silent on the issue is not surprising. They are in opposition party in name only and agree with the government on everything except the name above the door on government buildings.

That the leadership of parties like the Greens and Labour have been by and large silent on a policy that is so deeply unpopular is less easy to understand. Both of these parties have taken part in peace demonstrations at Shannon airport and the Labour conference passed a resolution ruling out any coalition deal for government that did not include the ending of removal of the US military from Shannon airport as a precondition.

The argument most frequently used as a political straightjacket is that the removal of the US military will damage irrevocably US companies' investment in Ireland. It's a red herring designed to ensure complicity.

The Turkish parliament, representing a much poorer country than Ireland, but one heavily reliant on investment from US companies none the less, refused to allow permission to allow the US military use its airports.

Those who do accept such an argument are accepting not only a falsehood but also an idea that rejects the status of Ireland as an independent country with an independent foreign policy.

Various peace organisations are attempting to use the leverage of a general election to raise the issue once again. They deserve the support of everyone who supports an independent foreign policy for Ireland that supports peace and neutrality.

Paul Dillon is a former UCD Students' Union President



No alternative

With the next General Election still months away **Eoin Mac Aodha** says the writing is already on the wall for the opposition parties with Fianna Fail all but assured a return to government

The opposition is dead. Long live Fianna Fail.

It is amazing to think that with fully eight months to go before a General Election it seems impossible to think that the next government will be led by anyone but Fianna Fail.

At his leader's speech at the party Ard Feis in City West An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, spoke of the achievements of his government.

The Taoiseach's speech, predictably, was a fine effort in congratulating himself, his colleagues and all the fine people who voted for them on their wonderful efforts to date.

It was not all happy-clappy back clapping however, with An Taoiseach sounding a word of caution lest the voters think that our current level of economic prosperity was all a happy fluke, only a vote for the Soldiers of Destiny could maintain it.

The central message being, 'look at everything we've done for you and do you really think that gormless gobshite from Mayo could do the same?'

By all accounts current Fianna Fail tactics are to belittle Enda Kenny as a non-entity, a man who spent thirty years in the Dail with hardly an achievement to his name. A policy not without logic.

Instead, collective ire is being focused at Labour leader Pat Rabbitte. Fianna Fail may still need Labour to form a government after the next election and while Rabbitte has repeatedly stated that he would not do business with Fianna Fail, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that someone like Brendan Howlin would.

The likelihood is that if Rabbitte's gamble of a pre-election pact with Fine Gael fails to pay off he'll be out on his ear anyway. Therefore damage Rabbitte, get him out and get someone more sympathetic in.

As it stands Fianna Fail are in the sort of position they could only have dreamed of about two months ago when it seemed that their chief political asset, Bertie Ahern, was doomed.

It's not all rosy however. Their natural bedfellows, the Progressive Democrats may well find themselves in a bit of bother.

Their reputation as government 'watch-dog' was hit badly by party leader Michael McDowell's 'flip-flopping' during 'Bertiegate' and it is far from certain that Junior Minister's Tom Parlon and Liz O'Donnell will retain their seats, not to talk about the rest of the Deputies.

Therefore the PD's could easily come into the next Dail with their numbers halved, if not worse. In such a situation it would be impossible for them to gain any sort of man-

The central message was, 'look at everything we've done for you and do you really think that gormless gobshite from Mayo could do the same?'

date for a Programme for Government.

In such circumstances and given similar numbers to the current Dail, Fianna Fail could prefer to form a minority government and rely on loyal back-benchers.

Therefore, it would seem at this early stage that there are a couple of possibilities for government after the next election.

The first, and not altogether improbable option, is a Fianna Fail majority. This depends altogether on the timing of the election. A scandal either way could swing it but there is probably not the groundswell of support out there at the moment for a single party government.

The second is a government along similar

lines as the current one with a minority Fianna Fail bolstered by either the PD's and/or a motley crew of independents.

The third, and one that would cause the biggest sensation, would be a Fianna Fail/Labour coalition with both Pat Rabbitte and Deputy Leader Liz McManus gone from the leadership. It would certainly be a bitter pill for many of the party faithful to swallow but it must be said that Fianna Fail are more likely bedfellows than the ultimately more right-wing Fine Gael.

The last option, and most unlikely, is a coalition led by Fine Gael and Labour. Going on current opinion polls it seems improbable that both parties could achieve an overall majority and such a coalition would probably need to include the Greens, some Independents and maybe the Socialist TD Joe Higgins.

Despite their rhetoric it seems impossible at this stage that the opposition will be able to mount a sufficient challenge. They failed miserably during 'Bertiegate' and seem incapable of capitalising on continued government ineptitude.

Something which highlights the absolute short-sightedness of the Mullingar Accords tying Fine Gael and Labour to each other.

As far as Fine Gael is concerned the party was all ready in free fall, unsure of itself, a disparate conglomeration of individuals with no coherent policies, no ideology and crucially no leader.

Worse still, the coming election could be an absolute disaster for the Labour Party, a party that needs to ask itself why in a time when workers can't afford houses or childcare and are forced to commute farcically long distances to work the Labour Party remains irrelevant to these people.

The coming election will tell us a lot about the Irish electorate, it's not likely that the opposition parties will like what they hear.

Eoin Mac Aodha holds an MA in International Relations

LETTERS

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The College Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters. The views expressed on this page are the views of the letter writers and do not reflect the views of the College Tribune.

Socialism doesn't work

Dear Sir,

I would like to contribute to the ongoing debates in UCD such as Killer Coke, high prices and abortion, and some people's ongoing pursuit to ban them all. You can't ban everything.

It is the legal right of every Irish citizen to import, export, buy, sell and consume Coca-Cola and its many products. Those who proposed its prohibition in SU shops are the same people who don't want high prices for students. As Coke is now only sold in Bars and vending machines, students now pay a higher price for the same product than they would if it were sold in the shops.

Those who barraged former students of UCD and a small majority of current students to ban Coca-Cola have yet to put forward referenda to vote for the banning of cigarettes, alcohol or automobiles. In a single hour any of these three would kill more people than Coca-Cola have allegedly been responsible for the killing of.

Those who wish to be selective socialists and try and groom UCD society like it was their lazy lover should get posters, have debates, have rallies (and socialise). If they want us to learn about abortion and

Columbian unions then may I suggest they hold a class in theatre L, and if they fill it I'd be amazed to think that 3% of the SU actually care but it is still only 3%.

You be a politician and I'll be pointless. You propose weak referenda that will somehow pass and I'll propose cramming and will somehow pass.

You will earn respect from the un-respected and I will earn more than that in cash. You will try and groom the nation and fail: my success will be derived from not trying. All in all, we're just another brick in the wall.

David Cummins
2nd Arts but admittedly single-mode Economics

COLLEGE THE DIFFERENCE IS WE'RE INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE

Editorial

Second years

The college's decision to base the degrees of this year's second year students over both this year and next year has come as a real bolt out of blue.

To be informed after seven weeks of college that work submitted since the beginning of the year is to count towards degrees is simply unacceptable. Second year students are now in a position where they face the prospect of sitting their one-quarter of their finals in just four weeks.

The proposals that Education Officer Brian Doyle has made to the college, that this current semester be discounted if students so wish, and that the new system be implemented next semester, is a proposal that should be the very least thing granted by the university.

The amount of stress, work and effort that goes into final year exams is monumental, and such a move by the college has served only to increase the stress and anxiety of students ten-fold.

The decision has, once again, exposed a lack of understanding from college authorities regarding the student body.

It seems that as time goes by, students are becoming more and more detached from the decisions that are being made, and indeed there is an ever-widening gulf forming between the students and those making all the decisions.

In many of this country's top universities, DCU and Trinity College included, the president can be seen eating in the same restaurant as the students. Office doors of the college authorities are open at all times to students. The authorities can be seen among the students.

This displays a level playing field, students can interact with those who are deciding their futures, and it displays that those in charge have a genuine interest, and indeed a love for students. It is sad, that the same cannot be said for UCD at this present time.

This newspaper would call on the university to examine its relationship with the student body, and attempt to make ground on a gulf that seems to be ever widening.

Disabilities

As this newspaper reported a fortnight ago, UCD, to say the least, is a hazardous place for those carrying a disability.

The report featured in this week's edition is an in depth analysis of what an average day for a student with a disability is like.

Revelations that students have had to write exams on their laps, in this the largest university in the country, are shocking.

Generally, the disabled toilets on campus seem to be in an awful state as well, with the in-swinging doors making it impossible for a student in a wheelchair to close the door behind them.

While there are excuses that can be put forward regarding the older buildings on campus, many of the problems outlined in the report stem from the college's newer buildings.

It is interesting to juxtapose these issues with the upcoming Gateway Project, where the college plan to spend millions and millions on "building an urban heart" in Belfield. Surely this money could be better spent on repairing the problems that the college has as it stands, rather than attempting to sugarcoat UCD with plans of hotels and multi-storey car parks.

This, more than most issues, is a genuinely serious matter, and this newspaper implores the college authorities to take the grievances outlined in this newspaper's report seriously.

www.ucd.ie/tribune

WRITE FOR THE

COLLEGE

THE DIFFERENCE IS WE'RE INDEPENDENT

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Bitting the bullets

Paul O'Donnell examines Minister for Justice Michael McDowell's recent 'Weapons' Amnesty and discusses the criticism levelled against it

In an effort to restrict the rising presence of illegal weapons in Ireland, a 'weapons amnesty' ran between September 1 and October 31. This is a method of removing dangerous weapons from society, which is used frequently around the world. The Irish model, however, came under much criticism from opposition parties.

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Michael McDowell, implemented these new reforms through the Criminal Justice Act 2006. They will impose much harsher penalties on the use of weapons including mandatory prison sentences of five to ten years for the possession of certain types of firearms.

Speaking at the launch of the amnesty on August 31st of this year, McDowell stated that the aim of the amnesty was "to afford people an opportunity to hand in illegally held guns, stun guns, air guns, crossbows, knives and other offensive weapons at their local Garda Station before the introduction of new more stringent sentences for firearms offences."

The Minister went on to say that "This is part of a two-fold attempt to reduce the frequency of dreadful crimes in which weapons are involved: a limited amnesty followed by the introduction of harsh penalties."

As of November 3, a total of 627 weapons, mostly firearms, were handed in. But this figure did not include weapons handed in on October 31, the last day of the amnesty. The Department of Justice, Equality

and Law Reform have said that the final figure will amount to close to 700.

Speaking on the final day of the amnesty, An Tánaiste said he was happy with the results but made the point that it was only the first step. "The limited amnesty followed by the introduction of harsh penalties, combined with the continuing efforts of the Gardai in Operation Anvil, are all part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce the incidence of crime in which weapons are involved. I am determined to ensure that those found in possession of firearms will pay a very serious price for their crimes.

However, Fine Gael justice spokesman Jim O'Keefe held some reservations with the amnesty. "The amount of weapons handed in during the weapons amnesty is not a spectacular result by any stretch of the imagination."

He went on to note how many of the weapons handed in were antiques and of little danger to the public. The Fine Gael TD was quick to note, "Given that there are 226,533 legally held firearms in the state, the weapons amnesty is just a drop in the ocean."

In the past, the conflict in Northern Ireland and the paramilitaries that went with it on both sides of the border meant that guns were always 'around', to use the word tentatively, and yet in everyday life the use of guns or more extreme weapons was very rare, drawing shock from the public when the use of such weapons was reported.

The same cannot be said of today. We read, hear and see daily reports of criminals using what appear to be more sophisticated weapons and on a more frequent basis. In this instance more sophisticated means more dangerous. What has become apparent is that, perhaps contrary to popular belief, more and more criminals in Ireland use guns than ever before.

Whereas it would be easy to read into a lot of the media hype that surrounds this and claim that there is a 'gun culture' in Ireland, one would

be wise not to overstate the point and bear in mind that this is a relatively new phenomenon and one which has not been fully studied.

But what we can ascertain is that how crime operates in this country has changed and that those in power certainly feel there is a problem with weapons and that some sort of curb must be placed on this seemingly alarming increase in gun related crimes.

It was in reaction to this that the Amnesty was introduced. Costing relatively little and removing many dangerous weapons from society, such amnes-



McDowell: Caught in the rain

ties are common practices in many countries. A weapons amnesty can be hugely effective, for example at the end of a war or conflict (weapons amnesties have been used in Albania and Kosovo).

However, the Irish amnesty differed greatly from the models used elsewhere, as was noted by Fine Gael at the launch of the initiative, those who were handing over weapons had to identify themselves when doing so. This causes two problems, from the point of view of the amnesty successfully completing its task.

In a formal sense at least, the details given over are supposed to be used for administrative purposes only. But who's to guarantee that the fact you have handed over a weapon will not be used against you in the future, that it may in some ways prejudice the legal system against you?

Secondly, this fact, that people had to identify themselves at the time of passing over their weapons, may have been a major deterrent to criminals, no matter how big or small, to give up their weapons.

In effect, only those not otherwise engaged in criminal activity may have been handing over their weapons. If this is the case, then the amnesty itself may be somewhat irrelevant as the whole point of it is to aid An Garda Síochána by disarming the hardened criminals who pose the greatest threat when armed.

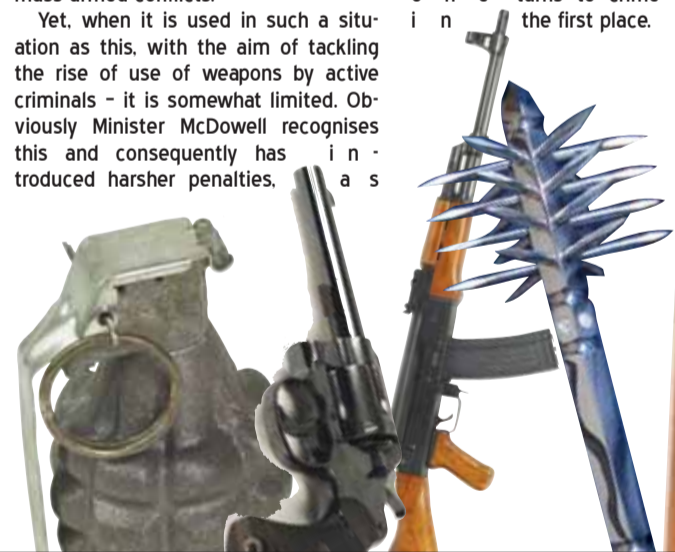
Interestingly, a similar amnesty in New York during 2000 actually gave participants money for weapons that were handed in: \$50 for handguns and \$25 for shotguns and rifles. A similar

idea was used in Russia for a weapons amnesty implemented there. Would offering a certain amount of euro persuade more criminals to hand in their arms?

Presumably not, because although there is somewhat more of an incentive there, the fact remains that no matter how big an incentive there is, the gang-members, the drug-lords, those who are major criminals are not going to hand in their weapons no matter what they are offered.

Ironically, the overall effectiveness of a weapons amnesty can be curtailed and hindered by the very nature of amnesties. An amnesty is defined as 'a general pardon for offences' or 'an act of forgiveness for past offences'; it is retrospective. As such, it may be highly effective when used in the aftermath of mass armed conflicts.

Yet, when it is used in such a situation as this, with the aim of tackling the rise of use of weapons by active criminals - it is somewhat limited. Obviously Minister McDowell recognises this and consequently has introduced harsher penalties, a s



"I am determined to ensure that those found in possession of firearms will pay a very serious price for their crimes"



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"Who ees is no Cree

Strokes of Genius: Chris Morris presents in Brass Eye (above), the dysfunctional characters of Father Ted (below) and Black Books (far right) which propelled Bill Bailey to stardom

When one thinks of the great Irish writers, one thinks of people like James Joyce, Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney. Great a work as it might be, Ulysses has always had a limited readership. Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot' was absurd, but was it as absurd as there being a China town on an island off the west coast of Ireland?

No doubt, Heaney captured the austerity and quiet dignity of rural life, but has he captured the essence of Irish life as effectively as the pseudo-innocence and barely concealed sexism of the Lovely Girls Competition? Or the low-level corruption of rural life when the 'King of the Sheep 1998' competition was disgracefully fixed by Fargo Boyle in conjunction with Hud Hastings and Giant Reid?

A name, then, to add to the list of great Irish writers is Graham Linehan, the man who, along with partner Arthur Mathews, created 'Father Ted', a classic of Irish writing.

"I really hated the political comedy of the early 90's," he begins. "It was very right on. It was righteous, patronising, and pompous. And Ben Elton's stand up, I just hated it."

"So we made a decision that we are going to be completely apolitical, we are never going to tell a joke. We are just going to be funny, like Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, sure."

[Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, surreal comedy double act], try and do your own little world and not get involved about politics."

Father Ted was the pan. Along with comedian Dylan Moran, Linehan wrote the first acclaimed sitcom 'Black Books' and is responsible for the success of the second series. Linehan is writing the moment.

Linehan is also a accomplished sketch writer. With Mathews, he wrote the first series of the sketch show 'Big Train', although Linehan bowed out of the second series.



Hees? Zere

y 'ere"

Eoin Murphy speaks to Graham Linehan about writing Father Ted and the rest of his extensive contribution to television



Mathews and he have also contributed significantly to Brass Eye, Harry Enfield and Chums, The All New Alexei Sayle Show and created the characters of Ralph, the English estate owner and his farm labourer, Ted, of The Fast Show. Linehan also directed the pilot episode of Little Britain.

Before embarking on his mission to save British television though, Linehan had to settle for the decidedly more humble surroundings of Dublin's Hotpress magazine where he was a music and film journalist.

After moving to England, Linehan continued to be a music journalist, writing for the now defunct 'Select' magazine during its heyday in the late 80's and early 90's. But he always felt like an outsider.

"I was just kind of sitting on the sidelines. I stopped because I really didn't have much of a place amongst a lot of the kind of dance music journalists. No one could place me, you know."

After his stint as a music journalist, Linehan turned his attention to comedy, and sit-coms in particular.

Perhaps his own feelings of being an outsider in the journalistic world informed his later work, as he created the ultimate outsiders in Fathers Ted, Dougal and Jack, stranded on Craggy Island Parochial House off the west coast of Ireland.

Despite popular opinion, Linehan did not offer Father Ted to RTE, simply because he felt they would not have been able to make a sit-com properly.

"There is no history of sit-coms on RTE. There's a few duff ones you know, but they don't know how to

do it. Arthur [Matthews] once said, 'Why would we have given Ted to RTE, it would have been like giving it to Waterford Glass.' I'm really not slagging off RTE because it's not their fault."

Father Ted lasted for three seasons from 1995-1998 with a total of 25 episodes. The casting was inspired and the show has now attained classic status. It recently came sixth in Q magazine's list of best television programmes of the last twenty years, beaten only by The Simpsons, The Sopranos, The Office, Seinfeld and South Park.

Dermot Morgan, who played Father Ted, died a few days after filming the last episode of Father Ted, an episode Linehan feels is a fitting swan song for Morgan.

"You know the episode that Dermot filmed a few days before he died, it's the one with Tommy Tiernan depressed and the song 'Shaft'. I really think, if you want to see Dermot at his best, you look at him in that episode."

Linehan has especially high praise for Ardal O'Hanlon who played Fr. Dougal McGuire in Father Ted.

"Ardal kind of understood our sense of humour better than anyone. Pauline [McGlynn, who played Mrs. Doyle] would be very close behind that; Pauline really knew what we were up to as well.

"I was just kind of sitting on the sidelines. I stopped because I really didn't have much of a place amongst a lot of the kind of dance music journalists. No one could place me, you know..."

"But Ardal just knew exactly what we were after, his style of acting, the way he was, the way he just switched into playing Dougal, that was really our sense of humour. I think if Ardal hadn't been in Ted, it would have damaged its chances a lot. I think Ardal was like our secret weapon."

Frank Kelly, who played Fr. Jack, is an Abbey trained actor and is actually a very well spoken man unlike Fr. Jack. Did he ever complain about having the same lines all the time?

"He was great about that. He is hilarious and I felt sorry for Frank because he has all these stories as well that he loves telling. For instance, what people don't know about Frank, he was in the Italian Job with Michael Caine

"He has all these stories about his life. When he was on set, he would have all this make up on, including wax coming out of his ears and a milky left eye like Marilyn Manson. He just looked awful and no one would eat lunch with him because he was so disgusting. You couldn't look at him while you were eating so he had a very lonely time on the show."

It is a curious thing that Linehan and Mathews are not more celebrated in Ireland. Father Ted is surely one of the greatest Irish television achievements of the 20th century, yet Linehan and Mathews are far from household names.

It was almost as if the Irish nation was slightly embarrassed that Morgan had to go to England to find a regular place on television and so

bestowed the entire achievement of Father Ted on Morgan as a kind of apology for not having appreciated him in his days of Irish comedy. The majority of the credit for Fr. Ted however, must go to the writers, Linehan and Mathews, as it was their creative vision that was realised.

Around the time that Father Ted was at its peak, Linehan was also contributing to Chris Morris' controversial but brilliant satirical spoof documentary series 'Brass Eye', although he took his name off the 2001 special which dealt with paedophiles.

"Yeah, the paedophile thing. I personally thought that maybe it was a bit too strong. My theory on the paedophile thing was that if you have subject matter that's potentially very offensive, you can step off the accelerator to some extent.

"My favourite jokes in that were things like the paedophile dressed as a school. To me that's great because it's silly. But then there was the whole documentary strand about Sidney Cook, who was that paedophile guy, I just think its horror stuff so finally I took my name off it. The other thing was I didn't want the Daily Mail to print my picture with the word paedophile next to it."

Linehan's leaving Brass Eye was not without precedent. He left 'Big Train', a comedy sketch show he created with Mathews, after the first series and he also walked out on 'Black Books' after the first series, a sit-com, which he wrote with Dylan Moran.

"I didn't really enjoy the process of making it, when we were writing together, we had a great time but when we got to rehearsals, there was something about the dynamic that changed and I just didn't enjoy it so much."

Rumours abound that there was a personality clash between him and Moran, although when pressed about whether there was a problem with the working relationship, Linehan stumbled over his words before confessing, "It just didn't feel as much fun."

Linehan's sit-coms: Father Ted, Black Books and the IT crowd, are decidedly apolitical. They involve simple, often lovable characters, toiling away in a humdrum existence, where they get into all sorts of amus-

ing scrapes, but ultimately, they never have with anything too heavy.

But do artists and writers not have a responsibility to subvert and criticize the establishment? "At the moment comedians and comics aren't at all and like any extreme it's bad, especially you've got an American President that, you know, away with the Geneva Convention.

"Then it's kind of your duty to be political, why I have a feeling the 'Borat' film is good, because I feel that's pretty political and

And what is Linehan most proud of? "I'm hoping the second series of the IT crowd something I can really be proud of, because I have ironed out some of the problems there in the first series. Ted, I know, is always be there as an example of what I can do at my best."

And that is a comforting thought. In an increasingly turbulent and uncertain world, Father Ted may be frivolous but if nothing else, the thought of Dougal standing in the middle of Baghdad with placards saying 'Careful Now' and 'Down with the Government of Thing' will always bring a smile to your face, you can't ask for more than that.



MISSING

A forgotten people

Barra Ó Fianail examines the granting of the 2008 Olympic Games to China in light of their continued occupation of Tibet and appalling record in human rights

For 56 years the Tibetan people have been struggling under the unimaginable suffering born unto them from this horribly twisted proclamation, made on radio Beijing: "the task of the People's Liberation Army for 1950 is to liberate Tibet".

Matt Whitticase, a representative from the Free Tibet organisation explains that "in 1950, China invaded Tibet which was a country the size of Western Europe, and it has been illegally occupied by them ever since. Hundreds of thousands of Tibetan men, women and children have died as a result of that occupation."

The Tibetans freedom to practice their religion and show their allegiance to the Dalai Lama has been cruelly repressed by the Chinese authorities. Monks and Nuns have been routinely arrested; in fact they comprise 80% of all political prisoners in Tibet.

"The situation is becoming even worse recently, with an intensification of the crack down on dissent in Tibet. One of the reasons for this is that China wishes to send out a very strong warning that during the Olympics, no dissent will be tolerated. They want the Olympics as a platform to showcase the new China, and they don't want political dissent to capture the attention of the media during the games."

Whitticase is referring to the hugely controversial decision of the International Olympic Committee to award the 2008 Olympic Games to Beijing. Whitticase feels that "the granting of the Olympic Games to Beijing to 2008 was a catastrophe because it has given a huge platform to a country that regularly and systematically abuses human rights, a platform to showcase what it refers to as the 'new China'.

"They will talk a lot about economic modernisation and try to pretend that China is a very harmonious society in which people from different ethnic origins all live harmoniously together. It gives China a propaganda tool to publicise their lie that Tibet has always been a part of China and there are no problems there. In reality, China's record on human rights directly contravenes everything the 'Olympic spirit' of peace and harmony between nations is meant to represent."

Dr Tobias Theiler from the UCD School of Politics and International Relations echoes these sentiments, stating, "It was a mistake to give the Games to China in the first place. They want to show the world that they are a successful, well-run country.

"There should be a general rule that the Olympics are not given to countries that have extreme shortcomings in their human rights record. The Olympics should not be a way by which repressive regimes can try to legitimise themselves to the western worlds. It's of course go-

ing to be used as a propaganda tool by the Chinese."

It must be said that Tibet is not recognised internationally as an independent, sovereign nation, but rather as a part of China. Witticase, however, maintains that "China of course claims that it has a territorial claim to Tibetan lands, and over the last two millennia, boundaries, like in Europe, have shifted with the rise and fall of Chinese and Tibetan empires, but what is beyond doubt is that from the nineteenth century onwards Tibet has been a distinct historical, cultural and geographical entity.

"It was a functioning state that administered government, that issued coinage and passports, all of which can be proven. Of course, the Chinese say that it was always really a Chinese area and that they didn't really invade Tibet so much as liberate them. Of course, all independent newspapers in 1950, testified to a large movement of troops very quickly over a well understood land border, and therefore there can't be much doubt that China invaded a separate sovereign nation."

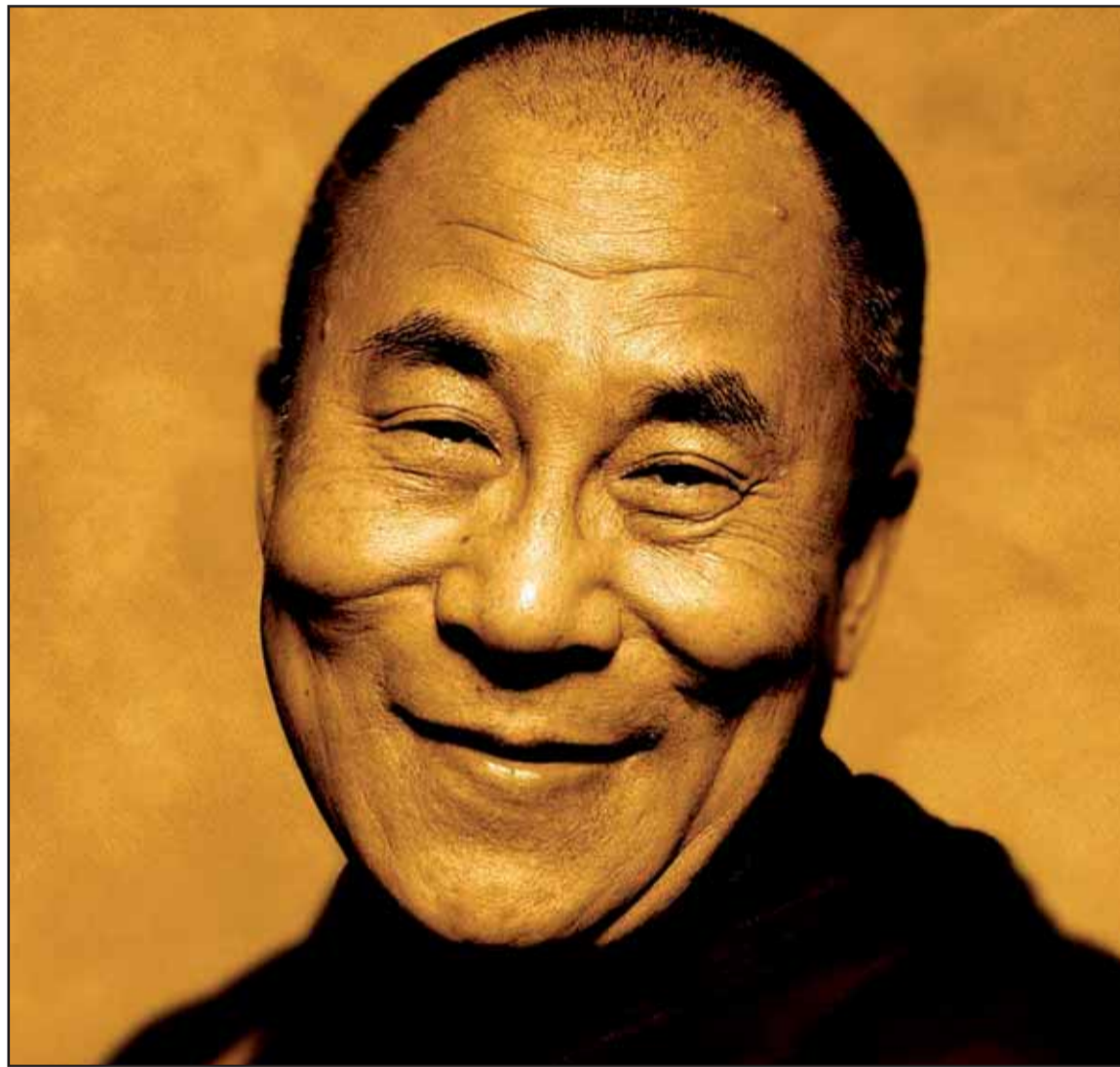
One should be wary when looking at the position adopted by foreign governments with regard to the Tibetan situation, because as Theiler declares, "Everybody sucks-up to China simply because they are a huge economic power." Doing what is right has often been regarded as being too expensive by world governments and it would appear that Tibet has fallen victim to China's lucrative market.

Whitticase certainly feels this to be true. "China's rise on the international stage has made projecting the Tibetan issue in the media far more challenging because of course many media organisations want to look at the astounding economic growth, but there is another side to the story of China and that is that economic growth is coupled with appalling and ongoing human rights abuses.

"China still leads by a long way the international league tables on executions. And of course, there is no proper rule of law in China so these executions are largely of political prisoners rather than criminals. In terms of governments raising the issues, many governments, like businesses, are censoring themselves, and not wishing to say anything remotely critical of China for fear of damaging their business prospects there.

"It is because of this silence on the part of Western governments that China feels that it can act with such impunity, and is able to get away with such appalling human rights abuses. That is why Chinese border guards shot at defenceless Tibetan refugees only last month on the Chinese-Nepal border.

"They felt they could do that, even though they were witnessed by many



Exiled: The current Dalai Lama has been in exile since 1959

western climbers in the Himalayan region, because Western governments have, for so long now, been so uncritical of the Chinese government and its obvious and appalling human rights abuses."

The Chinese government acts with a reckless disregard for the Tibetan culture. Perhaps one of the most shocking and conspicuous examples was the abduction, in May 1995, by the Chinese government, of the six year-old Panchen Lama - an important figure in Tibetan Buddhism - from his home in Tibet. No one there has seen or heard from him since.

Whitticase explains, "The Panchen Lama has a very important role in recognising the reincarnation of any future Dalai Lama, and of course that means that the Panchen Lama has a role in determining the long term political future of Tibet, given the both religious and political leadership

that the Dalai Lama gives to the Tibetan people.

"The Chinese, whenever they are asked by foreign politicians, just say he is being kept away from the media as per his own wishes. We know that they just don't want him to be able to provide leadership to the Tibetan people. It has severe implications for the recognition of the next Dalai Lama when the current one passes away."

This constant attack on the Tibetan Buddhist way of life is having a dangerously damaging effect. These people cannot safely carry such things as their national flag or a picture of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, for fear of being arrested and imprisoned.

Whitticase continues, "The Tibetan culture is certainly in danger of being marginalised in Tibetan areas. We have spent a lot of time analysing Chinese population movements into Tibet. We sent a researcher out to Tibet during the summer and he came back saying that,

in the cities particularly - which are obviously the focus areas for Tibet's cultural, political and business life - there are large numbers of Chinese settlers."

In fact, the Tibetan community claim that this population shifting is perhaps the most sinister attempt by the Chinese to eradicate the Tibetan culture, and that Tibetans are in fact now outnumbered by the Chinese in their homeland.

Whitticase continues, saying that "after a certain age at school, all instruction are in Chinese, all instructions in civic institutions such as post offices are in Chinese, so yes, Tibet's culture is in danger in Tibet.

"Of course, it is being kept alive by the large Tibetan population which lives in exile in Dharamsala (in Northern India where the Dalai Lama himself lives) and in other parts of the world. We calculate that roughly 2000 Tibetan refugees flee over the Himalayas every year into Nepal, and then on to India, which is an incredibly arduous journey.

"The reason they do that is, that Tibetan parents wish their children to have an education in Tibetan culture that they can't get in Tibet. Many of the people who flee Tibet are either very young children seeking a Tibetan education abroad, or they are monks and nuns who are unable to develop their religious Buddhist education in Tibet."

The Olympics should not be a way by which repressive regimes can try to legitimise themselves to the western worlds. It's of course going to be used as a propaganda tool by the Chinese."

MISSING



Given the horrible situation, it is no surprise that Whitticase says "people react to our Free Tibet campaign very positively. Whenever we talk to the public about these issues they have an instinctive sympathy for the Tibetan people, largely because they recognise Tibet and the Dalai Lama offer a uniquely non-violent approach to the resolution to a very long-standing political problem."

"That approach stands in contrast obviously to very unpopular policies to the very unpopular approach pursued by the British and Americans in the middle-east, which is one obviously of violence and occupation." This is one of the saddest elements of the situation in Tibet. Here we are dealing with a people who are steeped in the Buddhist philosophy of peace, compassion and non-violence.

We deplore those who pursue aggressive foreign policies, and we are angry at those who lead us in the wrong direction by amassing arms. However, Tibet is an example of a country that did not do such things, that tried to follow the non-aggressive approach promoted by so many, and they have been forgotten.

So what should we do? Theiler maintains, "In an ideal world, countries would boycott China." Whitticase explains that his organisation "believes in the transformative ability of public opinion."

"The students of UCD can look at our website which is www.freetibet.org, they can campaign on a very traditional basis by signing postcards which can be downloaded, or they can write to their elected representatives in the Dail.

"People always think that these things are boring, but we know full well that the number of postcards that are written on behalf of Tibetan prisoners is always a factor in determining their early release from prison and from torture. So people should never underestimate their ability as individuals to effect change in Tibet."

Again, with regard to how the 2008 Beijing Olympics should be treated, Dr Theiler argues, "Giving the Olympics to a totalitarian dictatorship, which is what China is, is giving that system an opportunity to legitimise itself. And that system will say 'look, they gave us the Olympics so opposition can't be that bad.'

"That's not the kind of message you want to send, so I would encourage people not to get involved, or at least to use their judgement. Don't do things that the regime can use as a kind of propaganda, like celebrating at the embassy for example."

The International Olympic Committee and the Chinese embassy refused to comment on this issue when contacted by the College Tribune.



Missing: The Panchen Lama was kidnapped six years ago

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Play your cards right

Karen O'Connell looks for the root of the political apathy among young Irish people today (if you want to play at all)

For some, politics is a way of life and being on the register of voters is unquestionable. However, for a very large proportion of the public: politics, voting and engaging in political discourse is very low down on their list of priorities.

To quote Sandi Thom, "I wish I was a punk rocker with flowers in my hair". "In '77 and '69, revolution was in the air, I was born too late to a world that doesn't care."

Whether our attitudes might be more in line with the ethos of the hippies or the punks, many of us would like to live in a more committed era than the present one.

If young people are not voting, why can't the government at least make it an easier task? Finn Brophy is a 3rd

Year Arts Student studying Geography and Politics. He is from Mayo but during term time lives in Donnybrook. His geographical location at the time of the election will tremendously affect his ability to vote.

Finn would like to vote for a candidate in his constituency Cllr Harry Barrett but will find this difficult considering he will be sitting his

finals at that time. "I don't know much about the candidates in Dublin.

"I would like to vote, but I'm not about to get on a bus to Mayo during my Finals in May. It's not very fair that I should be forced to vote for a candidate in Dublin that I know nothing about because some rule says I can't vote for my preferences at home"

Irish voting turnout is the fourth lowest in the EU. In the 1930's, Irish Electorate turnout was 83%. For the last referendum in held in Ireland, in 2004, the turnout was at 64%.

Why is it that the interest in voting has declined? Professor Richard Synnott from The Department of International Relations and Politics in UCD has written many books on Irish Voting behaviour and has cited many reasons for this.

The recent Economic climate appears to have bred a new generation that is quite uninterested in politics. "Poor electoral turn-out is unfortunately endemic of our economic success," states Synnott.

"In a modern thriving economy, people see politics as less important to their ordinary lives, a side effect of this success is naturally that people are under more pressure time-wise and so find it difficult to vote."

One of the main issues arising from the last census was situational circumstance as a reason for young people not voting. In Ireland, elections and Constitutional Referenda are always held on a Friday. Synnott cites this factor as an "exceptional situation."

"Ireland is one of four European countries that do not hold polling day on a Sunday, in fact the day of voting is a significant factor effecting the turnout of the electorate adversely in Ireland, holding voting on a Thursday or Sunday would mean that more people would be

in a situation to vote."

Perceived corruption in politics has significantly affected the way in which people do, or sometimes do not, vote in this country. The cacophony of scandals and a multiplicity of tribunals, which have involved major Irish parties in recent years - the years when today's student population was maturing and learning about the political system - have had a significant impact on public perception of politics and politicians.

The recent scandal surrounding Bertie Ahern served to refresh the distrust many people have with regard to politicians. It seems clear to many that the political system in which we operate allows for and condones illicit and untoward payments. Even today,

there appears to be no political will to address the real causes of the corrupt system of building land price determination.

For citizen participation to increase, parliamentary politics must be made relevant to a wider section of the public.

Democracy first emerged in

circumstances in which the people as a whole (or rather the citizens) would decide all-important issues. There was no delegation. The rationale for democracy is that it amounts to self-government: the citizen is at once sovereign and subject.

But the delegation of almost all political power to an elite leaves the citizen as merely a subject for all but a few fleeting moments at a ballot box every four or five years. Democracy becomes even hollower when the elected representatives themselves are seen to exercise almost no power, since the subjugation of parliament to the executive.

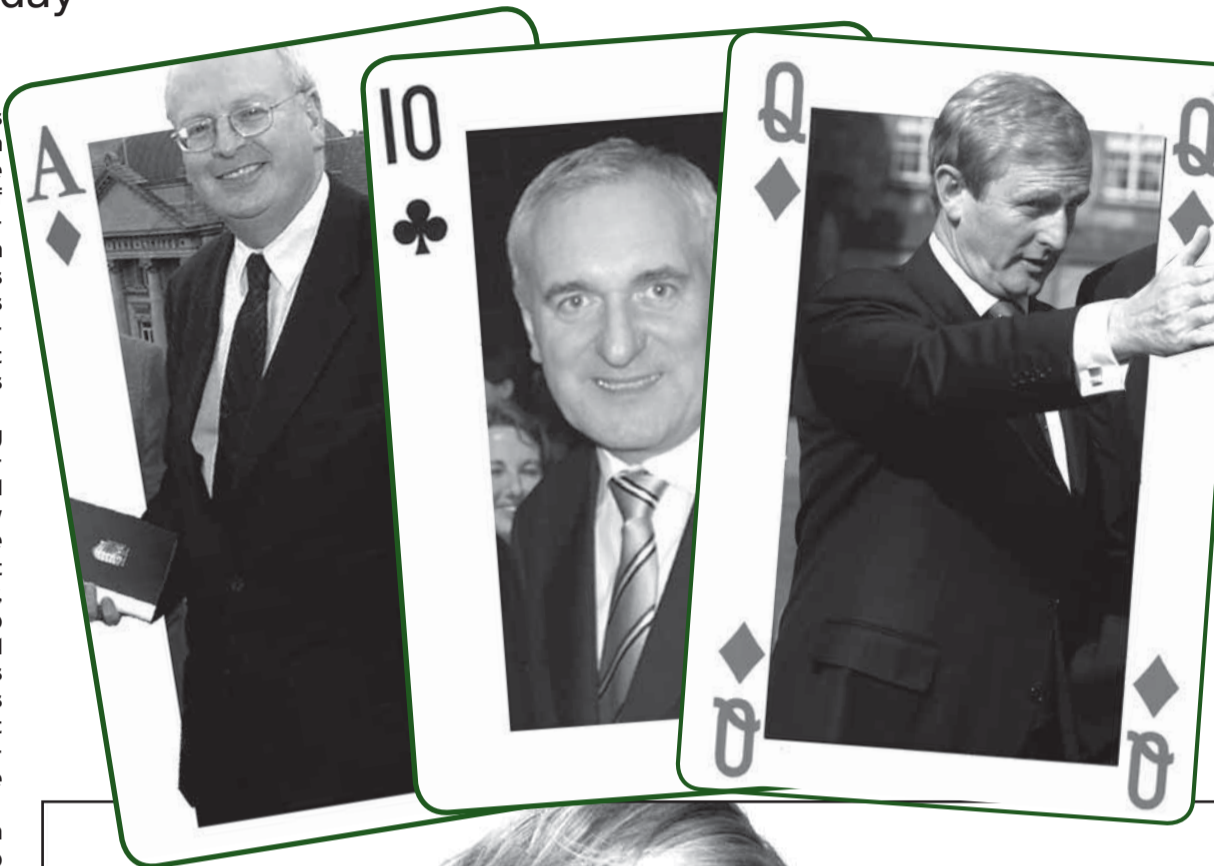
There is no way of stemming the tide of apathy towards politics without re-involving the people directly - and that involves changing the political system totally.

Our traditionally adversarial form of politics has been suited to the introduction of checks and balances that modern government necessitates, and has created a mode of political discourse that does not appeal to the public.

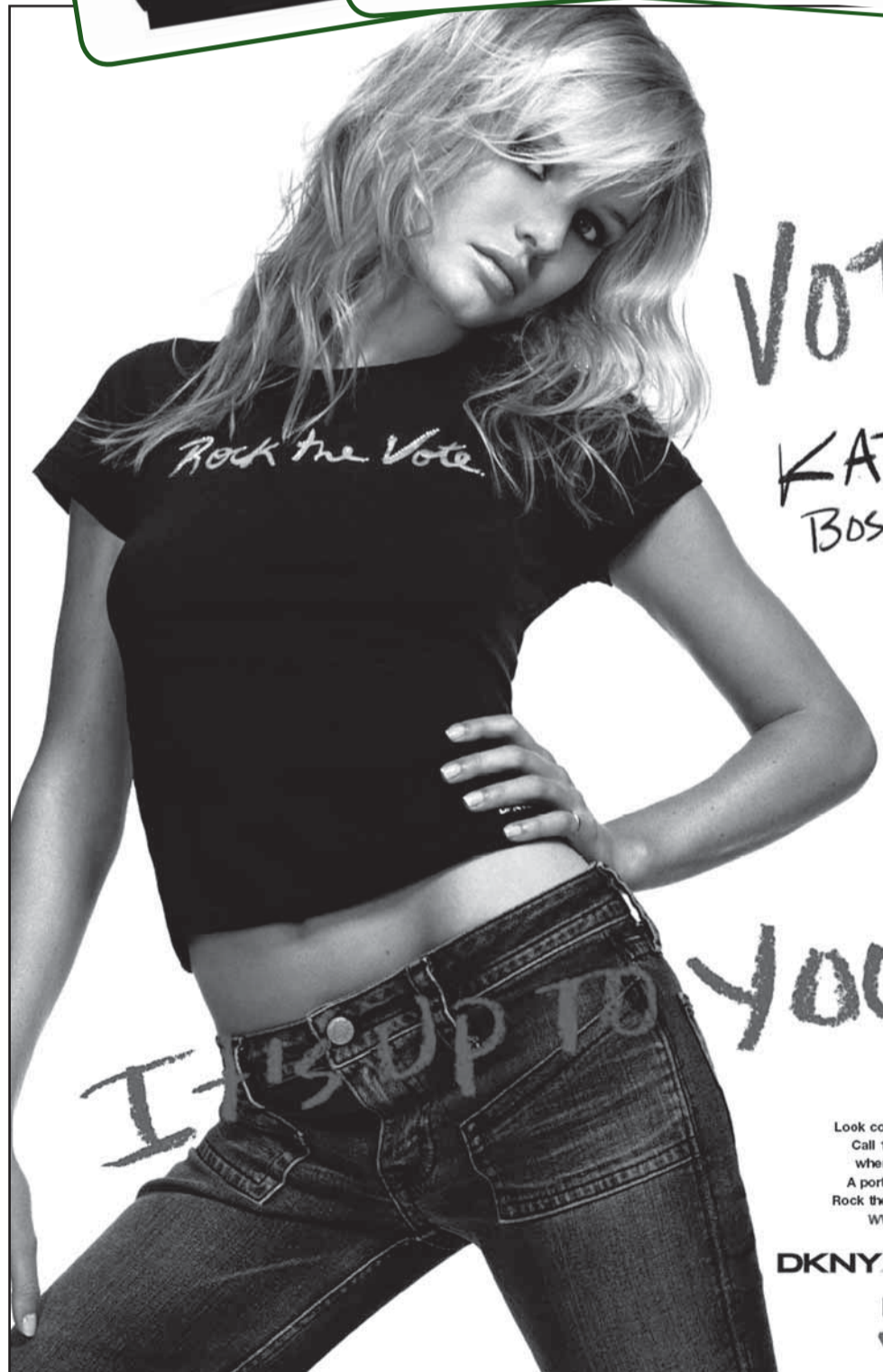
In Belgium voting is compulsory and their voting turnout is on average 90%. Compare this to Ireland's abysmal performance of 63%. The possible remedy of compulsory voting has been proposed in this country, but has given rise to arguments regarding civil liberty.

These arguments however can be contested. People could choose to spoil their vote if they disagree with the options available and candidates put forward. Getting them to the polling station in the first place would ensure some participation.

It is important to ensure that our parliament is chosen on the basis of an accurate register of who is entitled to vote, then it is their competence and commitment to the public interest that deserves to be questioned.



I would like to vote, but I'm not about to get on a bus to Mayo during my Finals in May. It's not very fair that I should be forced to vote for a candidate in Dublin that I know nothing about



VOTE.

KATE BOSWORTH

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Up to you: Similar apathy in America led to Rock the Vote, a campaign to reverse this trend

THE TURBINE

VOLUME XX ISSUE V

IT'S SATIRE, STUPID!



STILL ONLY

31P

BRITNEY:
'I'M SICK OF
CARRYING
THIS LUMP...
I ALSO
HATE BEING
PREGNANT'

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INSIDE

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WE'RE OFF



Martin Cullen: Late. Again.

In a move set to rock the Fianna Fail party to its core, Martin Cullen and Dick Roche have today confirmed plans for a breakaway party.

The two party hotshots have reportedly tired of positive publicity attributed to competent colleagues like Brian Cowen and Mary Hannafin.

Instead the two men have decided to set up their own political party 'NI S Mise' or 'It Wasn't Me'.

Speaking at the launch new Party President, Dick Roche, stated, "We, as in my esteemed colleague and I, feel, quite strongly in fact, that this name represents our core political values.

"During our incredibly long careers as public servants we have consistently shifted the blame onto innocent third parties when our ineptitude was frequently exposed.

"Obviously on those rare occasions when we, a civil servant, or a predecessor, made a correct decision we took full and absolute responsibility for it.

"We, as in my esteemed parliamentary colleague and I, feel that our new party, and by extension its name, reflect these core political values we hold so dearly."

New Junior Vice President, Martin Cullen, who arrived forty-five minutes late as a result of traffic and having spent half an hour sitting in the lobby of the wrong hotel had this to say; "Martin Cullen is delighted to be a part of this exciting new venture in

Irish politics.

"What people don't know about Martin Cullen is that he is in fact relatively competent and Martin Cullen, as in Martin Cullen the man, not Martin Cullen the politician is in fact a real man with real feelings. Martin Cullen also believes that this new party will allow Martin Cullen to express his true worth to the Irish people."

The two renegade TD's have been stripped of their ministerial responsibilities with Taoiseach Bertie Ahern moving swiftly to control any damage done to the party by their departure.

"Em, to be honest, the two of them are welcome to each other. Here at Fianna Fail we're loyal to a fault and its very rare we discipline party members. I had considered demoting the two eejits for their rank incompetence but that's not what Fianna Fail is about.

"This is probably the best result that we as a party, and indeed the Irish people, could have hoped for. This way they'll never get near another ministerial post again."

Before being given responsibility for the Irish transport system, Martin Cullen spent 60million of tax payers money on unusable electronic voting machines.

Dick Roche, presided over a scheme that successfully wiped half the electorate off the voting register and has been described in many circles as a bollocks.

NURSERY RHYME SCANDAL

It has emerged that parents across the world have been corrupting their toddlers with scandalous nursery rhymes.

The Turbine has in the past fortnight investigated some rather suspicious activities, and can report startling results.

As the rhyme goes, "Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water. Jack fell down and broke his crown. And Jill came tumbling after." Shockingly, it has now emerged that Jack, was in fact, pushed.

The Turbine has alerted Gardai as to the incident, and they have in fact apprehended Jill, who has now also been linked with the Humpty Dumpty incident.

Jill was quick to dismiss the charges, declaring that she was "shocked", "very upset" and "wanted her mommy."

The Turbine, however, was able to provide the Gardai with two witnesses who are said to have been hiding in a mulberry bush at the time of the assault, after running around it as they attempted to "pop a weasel". (Police and the ISPCA are now looking into these claims also.)

"We saw her do it. I just couldn't believe it. She shoved him so hard, it's no wonder his crown is broken."

Chief of Police, Tom Flaherty declared, "Jack is



said to be in a stable condition in intensive care, but should Jill be found guilty of the Humpty Dumpty incident also, she could be going away for some time. I mean there's no way anybody's going to be able to put him back together. It's just such a tragedy."

In other news, it has emerged that the cow who jumped over the moon was under the influence of performance enhancing drugs. The dog who

laughed to see such a sport is said to be now crying as it rocks back and forth in the foetal position.

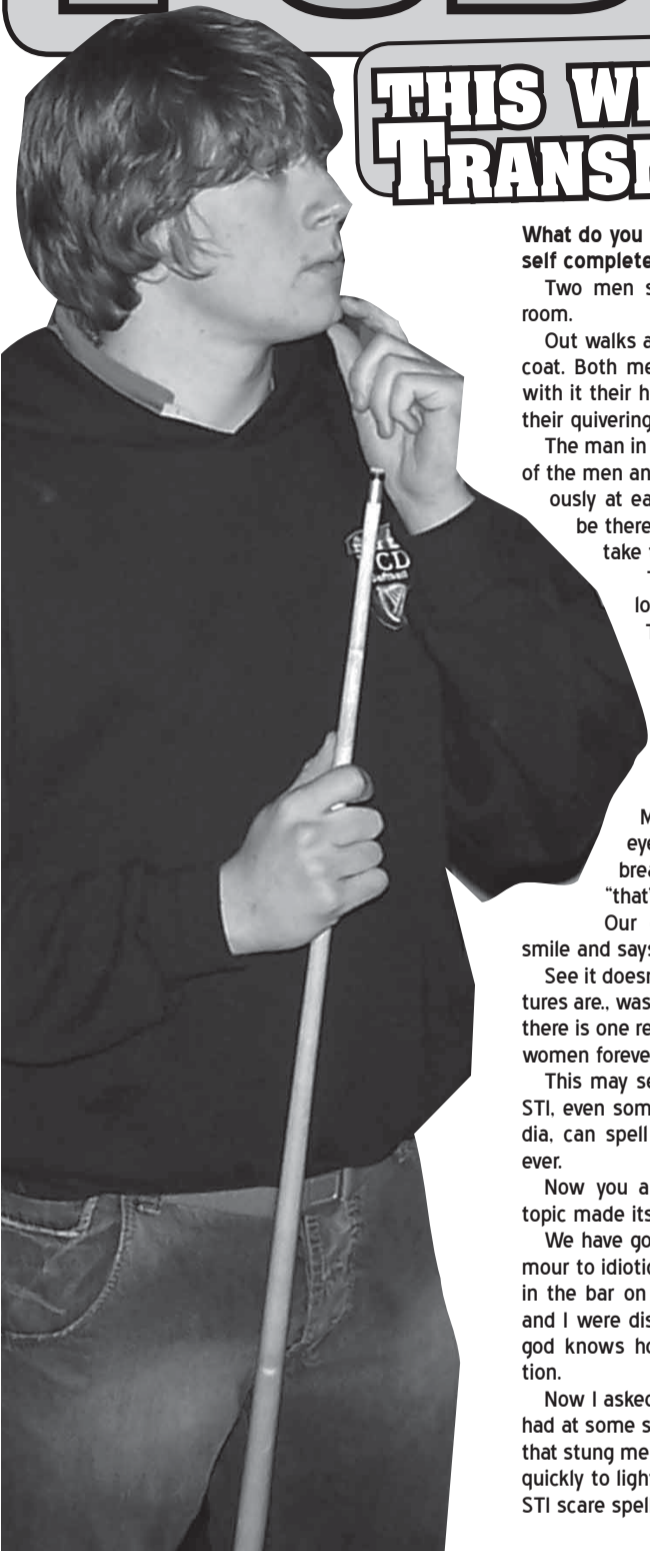
Also, the police are said to be "very close" to capturing the farmer's wife, who is wanted in connection with cutting the tails off three blind mice.

Police are also in search of an apparent homophobic attack on three men in a tub who were found singing "Rub a Dub Dub", before being set upon by a gang of homophobes.

PUB TALK

WITH **OWEN PRIESTLEY**

THIS WEEK: SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED ISOLATION



What do you have to do to make yourself completely unattractive?

Two men sit anxiously in a waiting room.

Out walks a man in a long tired white coat. Both men jump to their feet and with it their hearts take up residence in their quivering Larynxes.

The man in the white coat hands both of the men an envelope. They look nervously at each other, gulp what could be there last worryfree breath and take the plunge.

They tear open the envelopes and then it comes. The first man's face normally greasy, shadowed and sallow rose with the delight of a million suns.

The second man who's face resembled a Mens Health cover model eyes drop and under his breath utters the words "that's it then".

Our greasy skinned hero turns with a smile and says "who's attractive now?"

See it doesn't matter how chiselled a man's features are.. washboard his abs or sparkling his smile, there is one result that can ruin your chances with women forever.

This may seem drastic but the diagnosis of an STI, even something as easily curable as Chlamydia, can spell the end of dating life literally forever.

Now you are probably wondering how such a topic made its way into pub talk.

We have gone from common sense, to wet humour to idiotic men and finally to this. Well sitting in the bar on a Tuesday past a very good friend and I were discussing one thing and another and god knows how but STI's came up in conversation.

Now I asked would she ever be with a guy who had at some stage had an STI. It wasn't her words that stung me it was her reaction and it came very quickly to light that in life not just in UCD even an STI scare spells out the end.



STI's: Not great for your chances

The disgusted look on her face at even the suggestion spoke a million words.

Of course she gave the cliché response of how if she were in love she might consider it but in today's society where love goes hand in hand with sex is that possible?

It has become the chicken and the egg when it comes to relationships, modernly did the sex come first or did the love? Does sex lead to love or love lead to sex? Scientists claim the former, romantics the latter.

According to various medical journals one in every eight people in America have Genital Warts or one kind or another. Every year another two million cases are discovered. Think about it like this, if you have ever had a cold sore on your lip (a symptom of the Herpes Simplex Virus, not serious so don't stone the next red lipped person you see for being an unclean lepper.) would you consider kissing them?

Now multiply that by 100 fold when someone has herpes, warts, chlamydia or worse.

Once you have fessed up to your past regardless if you are perfectly clean now it would always be in the back of your partners mind and it would

mentally affect both of you.

This isn't a lecture on safe sex. I'm not going to state the obvious. I just don't know what I would do in the situation if a partner of mine turned around and said oh by the way I forget my herpes pill this morning don't worry you will be fine.

By my estimates and please keep in mind I am failing stats 2000 odd people have the Human Papilloma Virus more commonly known as the warts family which is a major source of cervical cancer in women.

Over 2000 and that is just one disease. One medical student said to asked me if I had kissed three girls in my life and then asked my friend the same question and finally put the question to himself.

He summarised that our nine kisses collectively meant that each one of us had a phenomenally high chance of carrying a dormant sexual disease. Have you kissed three people?

Look at your partner and think if he turned to you and said "hun, I have the clap" would you be quick to applaud and jump into bed anyway for the passion of love, or would you be finished right there in that moment?

DOCTOR - HUGH



PARALYSIS ANALYSIS PART FIVE



Paralysis Analysis is our fortnightly interview with a random drunk. It's an in depth analysis (hence the name) of issues affecting UCD and generally the world at large today. The results through up some interesting commentary..

This week, Leeson Street was the venue, and three DCU students were the victims. Lisa, Mark and Charlie are all pretty much locked and we decided to get their views on this week's current affairs.

What do you think about the Leas Cross Nursing Home Scandal?

Charlie: Their only crusts. Who cares?

Chris: And they get to travel free on the bus! What's that all about? Crusts should have to pay bus fare the same as everybody else..!

Lisa: Shut up you idiot, they're old, they deserve some help..

Chris: If there's one thing I can't stand, it's the smell of crust when I'm on the bus.

What about George Bush losing the House in the States?

Charlie: Where's he going to live?

Lisa and Chris: Laughing
Chris: Maybe now they'll get out of Baghdad

Charlie: (Seems very drunk) How would he feel if somebody bagged your dad? How would your mother feel about that? Huh??

OK, what about the television show 'Lost', who will Kate get with? Jack or Sawyer?

Charlie: She's a randy bitch and a typical woman so she'll go after the scumbag Sawyer, but that fucker should be hung, and not by his neck.

Lisa: Yeah, poor Jack always gets screwed over, and not in the good way.

A quick thumbing down of a taxi and our trio were out of there, so that about rounds up Paralysis Analysis for another fortnight..



THIS WEEK SOME POOR LADY HAS GETS INTO A STICKY SITUATION...

PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT



SUPER LEAGUE

with
Jack Horgan Jones

Superleague rolls around again.

The ebb and flow of weekends over the pitches of Belfield is restored to its natural order. With equal verve, the top teams in the leagues build on their confidence and move gracefully along, as lower league sides stutter from match to match, not yet full of the confidence, but probably in this small spectrum full of the ability.

Premier Saturday sees the all-conquering Park Celtic FC slide along at the top, maintaining their usual comfortable three-point cushion between themselves and the eternal hopefuls. In addition to the service they provide with their solid brand of football, they also see fit to endorse the league and concept with their sound literary musings.

Thankfully the eternally egalitarian superleague website provides them with this facility. This column would like to urge all superleague competitors to avail of this opportunity to share their own heavy intellectual burdens.

In the battle of filth at the other end of the table, the creative, wonderfully named Sex Poets United continue their eternal struggle against the more traditionally maternally aimed monkier of

"Thankfully, Yer Oul Ones Box have displayed a brand of football not as disastrous as their name"

Medocs Gunning Your Mother.

One would expect this kind of basic humour from a team that allies themselves so closely with a high points course society, ignorant as always of the development of other aspects of the self.

Premier Sunday remains the predictably unpredictable of the leagues, with no team able to open up any meaningful gap and as before, the top seven teams covered by just two points. John Reid's Broga Nua remain in the hunt for the worst defence title, shipping an impressive six goals to Fr. Romeo Sensini XI.

While the cream at the top are banging it in, Nobis Asten, Mike Bassett's allsorts and the as ever understated Sexual Terrorists have yet to register a point

Division One Saturday seems to be attempting to provide some competition for Premier Sundays, well, competition. The top seven were covered by six points and the top five by two going into this weekend's fixtures, with the crunch fixture of Superfriends and Ruck Fangers certain to attract some attention.

Hopefully the Superfriends will be able to keep their previously detailed poor behaviour under control to allow a clean, fair, contest to develop. Interestingly, West Hammered have come off the back of some poor early season form to record a fortuitous result against crowd favourites The Posh, only to be downed in vengeance by the Bare Naked Badger Enthusiasts.

Division One Sunday is also close, with five points covering the top five. Thankfully, Yer Oul Ones Box have displayed a brand of football not as disastrous as their name to rise to the top of this particular heap.

DOWN THE LINE

Layeth the smackdown



Ben Blake dissects the problems faced by the International Rules Series after last week's bust-up at Croke Park

We have all seen the pictures. The GAA billed it was the ideal family day-out for young and old alike, an over eighteens censorship certificate would have been more appropriate

International Rules managers Sean Boylan and Kevin Sheedy were lightening-quick to point the finger of blame at one another post-match.

The following day's national newspapers were plastered with the sickening images of jerseys being pulled over heads while fists flew, referees David Coldrick and Shane McInerney battling helplessly to bring a halt to the first quarter chaos, and haunting stills of an unconscious Graham Geraghty sprawled out lifeless after his head had been bounced off the immaculately-cut turf of Croke Park.

GAA President Nicky Brennan led calls for the International Rules Series to be abolished. He stated, "My personal view is that the series is over."

Numerous respected personalities in the sport conformed to this view, as Páidí Ó Sé agreed, "Abandon the series - there is no future in it."

This debate is by no means a recent one, and spans back as far as 1967 when the concept of Compromise Rules was introduced.

The All-Ireland winning Meath team of that year played Australia while touring the country, and from that spawned this hybrid sport.

In recent years though, violence on the pitch has threatened to spiral out of control. No more so was this the case then in Melbourne last year, when new heights of carnage were reached.

What exactly is the reasoning behind these outrageous acts of malice? There are several fundamental problems to be dealt with in

attempting to merge two (in some aspects similar, but in others considerably contrasting) field sports.

First and foremost, the core rules of the game, and in particular the tackle, need to be analysed. In a sense, it welcomes violence. Geraghty felt the full rasp of its potential after twelve minutes when Danyle Pearce floored him.

The challenge in question was actually deemed legal, and was described by some pundits as an unfortunate accident. However, if such an unintentional incident can cause a man to lose consciousness for five minutes, there is something seriously wrong.

The more cynical among us will recall the Tama Umaga / O'Driscoll scenario during the Lion's Tour of New Zealand 2005, and come up with a far more sinister conclusion. It has been claimed that the Meath forward was targeted by the opposition, and that it was only a matter of time before he was stretchered off the field.

The story goes back to 1999, when Geraghty admitted to racial abusing a young South African player during a warm-up game against the AFL Academy. Then, in Salthill a fortnight ago, Lindsay Gilbee (who was injured in the same game) alleged the player kneed him in the head, and that his compatriots would exact their retribution at Croke.

Abuses of a racial kind are acts of real cowardice and show strong

signs of ignorance on Geraghty's part. However, that matter has been dealt with and the player sanctioned by the ruling bodies. Such degrees of retaliation are without question, unacceptable.

Diversity of culture in the two sports plays a part in flaring up the battles on the park. While there is no excuse for the events witnessed over the years, the sets of players are

accustomed to addressing confrontation in varied ways.

In the AFL, shoving off the ball and individual scuffles are commonplace, and observed on a weekly basis. Tending to grapple in body

locks, both attempt to constrain their opponent and blows are not often exchanged.

Gaelic football on the other hand, is a different kettle of fish. While fighting is relatively rare (but creeping into the sport more and more. See Tyrone v Dublin - Spring 2006), when the situation does arise, punches will most probably follow. A combination of the contrasting styles then, equals a recipe for mayhem.

Which brings us to disciplinary sanctions. In the current circumstances, a player cautioned with a yellow card spends fifteen minutes in a sin bin, with a substitute allowed to replace him. There is simply no incentive to behave.

Receiving a caution or getting sent off in an International Rules game will not lead to any subsequent ban. Therefore, players are free to act as

they like knowing their availability for the following year's league or championship games will not be deterred.

The superior physical condition of the Australian players is another relevant issue worth exploring. While the Irish undoubtedly train rigorously throughout the year in order to gain an excellent state of fitness, their counterparts from the Southern Hemisphere hold a huge emphasis on upper-body strength obtained through bench-pressing.

The AFL is also a professional organisation. Its players make a career in the sport and are unconditionally dedicated to their own well being, as they do not need to pursue other professions in order to make a living. The results are evident as the side representing the GAA were comprehensively beaten for strength nine times out of ten.

This year, Boylan chose a team he felt could match the opponents physically, opting mainly for toughness over technical skill. It proved a bad move unfortunately as his team were second best for much of the 72 minutes. Perhaps a line-up of more accomplished foot-passers would have found each other in the spaces and let the Aussies do the running off the ball.

As it was, after a slow start in Galway, the team from down under got to grips with the round ball, and Ireland's sole advantage was all but lost. Punch-ups aside, our lads took a beating of considerable size on Sunday.

Sheedy afterwards laughed off enquiries of Irish journalists on the games future, maintaining we were a nation of jokers. "Every time Australia win, the series is coming to an end, unbelievable, ye are the greatest comen I've ever met."

"When fighting does arise, punches will most probably follow. A combination of the contrasting styles then, equals a recipe for mayhem"

Success is right up her alley

Killian O'Connor catches up with All-Ireland Handball champion Eimear ní Fhallúin, to talk about her great success and the problem of funding in her sport

Eimear Ni Fhallúin surely must be one of the most decorated athletes representing UCD today and yet many of her fellow students would fail to pick her out of a line-up.

She is one of Ireland's most talented young handballers, the least known and played of the GAA sports in Ireland, the irony being that it is the only GAA sport that is truly international.

The second year physio student recently added her first 60x30 handball intervarsity gold to her already bulging trophy cabinet when she comprehensively defeated Lisa Falvey in the finals in Wexford.

This is a further addition to Ni Fhallúin's long role of success. Having been introduced to the sport by her father, a primary school teacher in Leixlip, she went on to represent County Kildare, at all age levels, and Ireland with distinction - winning the world U-17 title.

However, despite her success, Eimear, who is also the treasurer of the handball club in UCD, finds it increasingly difficult to inter-

nationally due to the lack of funding and support that Handball receives.

Last year, Ni Fhallúin finished second in the world intervarsity in Arizona, losing on a tie break - her reward for this sporting achievement - having her grant pulled by the Irish Sports Council.

Despite the coaching given by the UCD high performance centre, and in particular John Barry, Ni Fhallúin admits that the level of funding for the handball club - at €1500 a year, has serious impacts on the competitions UCD handballers can enter. She confesses, "I decide what competitions to enter based on how much they cost."

With Handball being a varsity sport in America, she finds herself competing, and winning against athletes who have levels of support and training beyond her wildest dreams. Offered a scholarship to America, she chose to remain in Ireland and pursue her ambition of becoming a chartered physiotherapist.

The difficulties of our scholar-athletes are highlighted by Ni Fhallúin's reason for missing the world championships this



Scholarship: Eimear ni Fhallin receives her prize from Mary Clayton

year, a competition which she would have hoped to have seriously competed. She failed physics and couldn't reschedule the exam. It is a balancing act, "I train every day, one day in the gym, one day training

and then I have lectures and study to do."

She is faced with real difficulty in order to train at a level that will allow her to compete internationally and to dedicate herself to her degree. The significance

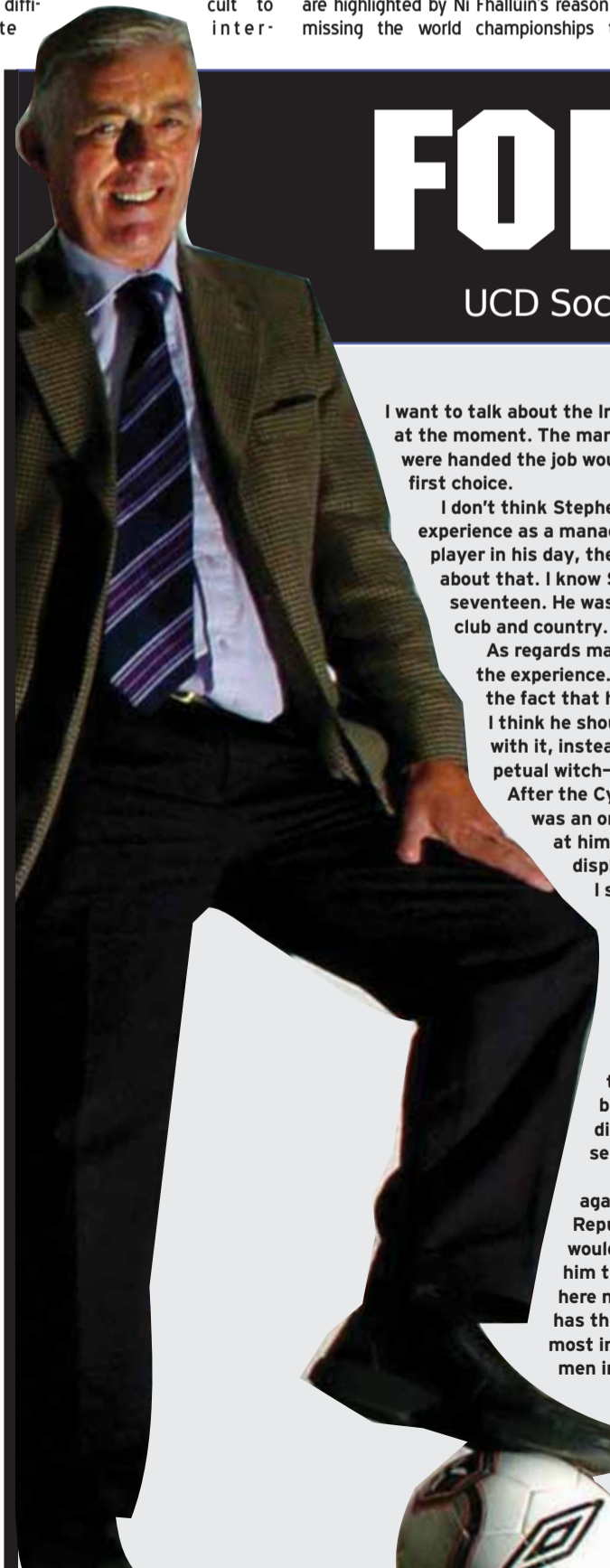
of this is not lost on Ni Fhallúin. "I know I won't be playing handball forever," she declares.

Despite this, the UCD athlete has the target of competing on the professional US circuit after her degree. Prize money is sizable for a minority sport with first prizes of \$50,000; a substantial amount for a sport that rarely merits more than a mention in the sports round-up pages.

It is clear that this girl is a passionate advocate for handball, a sport that she clearly loves and excels in. It is a testament to her inner motivation that she has managed to compete so successfully despite a serious lack of recognition and support.

Sports governing bodies in Ireland need to strive to ensure that our elite athletes, no matter what sport they compete in, have the necessary funding and support to allow themselves to reach their full potential.

Ni Fhallúin remains both narrow-minded and dogged about her ambitions. "Long term goal is the world championships. I want to win them."



FOR PETE'S SAKE

UCD Soccer Manager **Pete Mahon** writes exclusively for College Tribune

I want to talk about the Irish Senior side set-up at the moment. The management team who were handed the job would not have been my first choice.

I don't think Stephen Staunton has the experience as a manager. He was a top player in his day, there's no question about that. I know Stephen since he was seventeen. He was a model player for club and country.

As regards management, he hasn't the experience. Having said that, the fact that he was given the job, I think he should be allowed get on with it, instead of having this perpetual witch-hunt after him.

After the Cyprus game, there was an orgy of blame thrown at him. It was an abysmal display undoubtedly, and I suppose the manager has to accept responsibility for the way his team plays, but as he said himself, he prepared the team as best he could. He put his trust in his players, but they went out and didn't do him or themselves justice.

They rectified that against the Czech Republic however. What I would be saying is to give him time. What matters here most of all is that he has the full backing of the most important people, the men in Merrion Square.

Chances of qualifying for Euro 2008 are extremely slim, but you must remember there are only three games played.



Staunton: Too inexperienced?

We have two games coming up against San Marino with Wales. I think we are well capable of taking nine points. Two of those are home games, which gives us an excellent chance of winning. If we have any aspirations of making the finals, those matches are must wins.

It's going to be difficult, but I'm sure Stephen knew that it would be going into the job. When all is said and done, we don't have the players to be a top quality side. I don't want to come across as if I'm telling him what to do, but what he must do now is man-manage the players properly to get the best out of them.

If he does that, and they go out and play to their full capacity in every game, that is all he can do. It is similar to what Brian Kerr did. He got the team going again and was unfortunate that we didn't qualify for the World Cup.

Really when you sit down and analyse the base we are working from, it's like when a fella goes to bake a cake. He has to have all the raw materials, the proper ingredients if you want to be successful. If he is lacking some vital ingredients, all he will end up with is a lump of dough.

All joking aside, it is a very difficult job. Managing any team is tough; we all have the same

problems. The international team manager is the most important because it reflects well on football in this country, and if the national team is successful then that will filter right down through the levels.

I'm not into personalities and who is managing the team; it doesn't really matter to me because I am not going to manage them. I wouldn't even be considered for the post, but hypothetically (because it will never happen), I am working now at the level that I like working at. I'm at the highest level that I can be, and am happy enough in that regard.

Whoever the manager may be in the future, I hope the team does well, that is what fills Lansdowne road. There are two types of soccer supporters in the country - there is the genuine football fan and then there is the Republic of Ireland supporter. The lads with the glass hammer and the leprechaun hats will be gone if the team is not doing well. So, it is crucial that we repair the damage. This should be a watershed in relation to the eircom League and the trophy.

It is crucial for next season, with the FAI joining up with the league, that they implement the rules from day one. We need to stamp out the carry on that went on this year.

If they introduce the rule that a club's wage bill can be only 65% of the clubs income, then we all might be playing on a level green. At the moment, it is extremely distorted.

Clubs are signing players that we are trying to sign, but they are being promised the sun, the moon and the stars elsewhere. It's not just Shelbourne. They are the most high profile club, but I can name a few more who have not paid their players this year. All the negative publicity is going towards Shels in that regard, but there are other who need to examine their conscience.

Personally, I am glad the season is over; that it was our last match on Friday. We all have a chance to take stock, see what we are going to do, see where we are going to be. Lets see the FAI get their act together for next season, and nail anyone who breaks the rules in the future.

UCD light up the night's sky

Adrian Collins provides post-match reaction and analysis to UCD's astounding comeback in the final of the Dublin Senior Football Championship

The game was Vincent's for the most part, as they produced the better football, giving UCD hardly any space to move. They were the ones converting their chances, even though they missed a fair share early on, but they settled in well after some early jitters.

The Students seemed to lack a cutting edge up front, and as the lead was extended to three and then four points, they were going to need a serious shift to change the game, and maybe even a goal.

As it happened, they didn't need it. Austin O'Malley was introduced. He carried a hamstring injury into the game, but still managed to produce the scores that brought College to within one point, and then later, level.

Identified by all as the catalyst for the UCD comeback, he wasn't taking any of the credit after the match. "You can say I turned the game, this, that and the other. But at the end of the day, it's all about the fifteen and the lads on the bench. Just to come in and give the boys a dig out, there were a lot of tired legs out there, a lot of football played all year. I was delighted to get in and do my bit".

For O'Malley, this particular piece of silverware had been a long time coming after the disappointment of the last campaign. "Things didn't go right for us last year. Maybe we peaked too soon, but we made a promise to ourselves the night we were beaten by the Garda that we'd come back and repay Malachy O'Rourke. Eamon Prenter and David Billings. It was for them tonight, more for them than us".

Contrasting the jubilation of O'Malley, was the desolate Vincent's manager Micky Whelan. Although he lost, he couldn't have been prouder of his team. "I thought we were unlucky. We just ran a bit out of steam, our young lads just panicked a bit. The fact of the matter was we were playing eighteen or nineteen inter-county players and we did heroically".

What Whelan did have a problem with was the selection that the College can draw on, as the UCD players can go and play for their clubs back at home on the

weekends. "What should happen is simply this, UCD should be allowed play in the Championship, but the same as the rest of us. If they play Championship in UCD, that's it. If our lads play Championship for Vincent's, that's it".

This was something which Kilmacud Crokes had also taken exception to in the last round, and did their best to weaken the UCD side by demanding to play the semi final on the weekend, but eventually conceding after being thrown out of the Championships.

The sourest bunch of grapes however was to come from UCD Director of Sport and Vincent's selector, Brian Mullins. He was less than pleased with the trophy going back to UCD, and in what little he was willing to say, he gave some of the credit for the victory to the referee: "he gave two crucial decisions that favoured UCD".

He wasn't alone in this evaluation, as exasperated calls of "ah ref" were to be heard from the stands throughout the game, from a very pro Vincent's crowd, who really were their sixteenth man, despite Niall Dunne's best efforts. However, Gerry Barrett did one of the toughest jobs on the field very well for the most part.

Mullins wasn't the only one with torn loyalties, as Selector Dave Billings is also a Vincent's man at heart. "I take great professional pride in the win tonight, I don't take much personal pleasure, Vincent's is my club".

This didn't stop him however from partaking in the joy of the moment. He saw it as a milestone for college teams, "everyone has seen tonight that college teams aren't just a crowd that come together every now and then, that they have heart and spirits and guts".

He pointed towards Craig Rogers as one to watch for the future. "He's a player with a lot of potential, and as a Dublin selector I'd love to have him available to me. But we're proud of everyone on the pitch, the whole panel".

For him too, the introduction of O'Malley had been the turning point. "He's a top, top footballer, and we expect guys like



Photo: Brian Sweeney

Jubilation: Billings and O'Rourke at the final whistle

that to stand up and be counted on the pitch". Manager Malachy O'Rourke too felt that O'Malley had done his bit. "He came in and got two or three points there at the end, even carrying a hamstring injury into the match".

The whole panel put in a great performance, of this everyone agreed. Mark Ward was notable, winning a lot of balls in the air and using his strength to get at Vincent's, as well as the entire back line who showed some cool heads and fought tooth and nail to keep the opposition out.

The Marino side too was outstanding, coming into the game as the rank outsiders, but they had their homework done. They knew the men they needed to watch, and gave them as little room as possible. In all honesty, they probably deserved the game, but they simply couldn't hold on for the full 60 minutes.

Their gritty defence had thrown in some

great last ditch blocks and fantastic pressure to force the College players wide and out of shooting range throughout the game, but they opened up a bit towards the end at the back, as the Vincent's selectors pointed out. "We were worthy of a draw at least. I think it was probably tired legs that let UCD in. We play a very offensive game, there's a lot of work involved with it, and it probably caught up with them".

It wasn't all gloom and doom for Whelan though, as he looks to the future with his young team: "It's worth pointing out that in the team that started for us tonight, eleven of our players are under twenty three. We'll keep at it and we'll see what happens in 2007".

The cup however, is in the hands of the

Belfield men. Despite the great Vincent's performance, they were unable to trump the College team. They did their illustrious predecessors who had dominated Dublin football for so long proud, with a superb achievement in getting so far and almost beating the favourites, but this was scant consolation.

It was to be UCD's night, as it was 4 years earlier. The crowd had seen a much more compelling game this time round, keeping them on the edge of their seats right to the end.



No revolution for Wolfe Tones

UCD dispelled any danger of a Dublin Championship hangover as they dispatched a lively Wolfe Tones side in Navan last Sunday, and progressed to the semi-finals of the Leinster Senior Football Championship.

The students were on top for most of the game and corner forwards Colm Judge and Cathal O'Dwyer were instrumental whenever the ball came their way.

College struggled in the half forward line as the Meath outfit mopped up much of the breaking ball in their own half back line. But a strong breeze in the first half ensured the students went in at the break leading 0-7 to 0-5.

The second half burst into life when Shane Lennon fired in a goal for UCD to stretch their lead to five points. Things were to go from bad to worse for the home side, as they

	Wolfe Tones	0-11
	UCD	1-11

were reduced to fourteen men just minutes later.

Wolfe Tones seemed incensed by the decision and kicked the next three points without reply, as the boys in blue seemed to lose their scoring touch.

It looked as though UCD were set for their second photo finish in a week as the Meath side reduced the deficit to just two points with less than five minutes remaining.

But it was Shane Lennon who plucked up the courage to take a strike at the posts in the dying moments, to ensure that College were on the way to the semi-finals.

UCD manager Malachy O'Rourke declared afterwards, "I'm happy with how the game

went, especially after Monday night you know. Obviously, coming five or six days after the county final, it was always likely to be difficult.

"But, it's a great spirit among the lads, they dug deep, they were all dead on their feet there at the end of the match. But you can't fault them for their attitude and application.

"Our six defenders were brilliant tonight, and have been outstanding throughout the Dublin Championship. Our defensive unit has been the cornerstone of our recent success."

UCD now go on to play the Offaly champions Rhode, in Parnell Park at 2:30 this Sunday afternoon.

UCD: S Gallagher, J McCarthy, P Navin, M Duffy, E O Quiv, P Conway, D O'Keefe, M Dunne, S Brady, M Ward, C Rodgers, J Sherry



Victorious: UCD march on to the Semi Finals

Sammon on the menu

A brace from Conor Sammon ensured that UCD wrapped up their eircom League season with a convincing win over mid-table rivals Longford Town on a miserable Friday night in Belfield Park.

Despite going behind to an early goal from Dessie Baker, the students' competitive attitude ensured three unanswered strikes.

The victory marks a positive end to what has been a successful season for Pete Mahon's side. While sixth place in the eircom League is not yet certain, Friday's result puts UCD beyond the reach of Longford.

The game opened with fireworks as UCD took the ball forward straight from the kick-off. Derek Doyle advanced to just outside the box, shooting powerfully to the left of Longford keeper Shay Kelly. The longford man dived superbly to bat the ball away for a corner.

The visitors responded immediately with a neat attack, as right-back Alan Murphy made a decisive run and crossed for Baker who finished assuredly passed a helpless Darren Quigley. After getting the early goal, Longford played with confidence, dominating possession and gave the Students little opportunity to attack.

College's reaction came on fifteen minutes as neat passing resulted in a shooting opportunity for Patrick Kavanagh on the edge of Longford's box. Firing through a crowded penalty area, his effort took a slight deflection that diverted the ball into the top right hand corner of the net.

Any hint of weather induced depression among the home crowd was dispelled as UCD took hold of the game. Conor Sammon played a vital role in the resurgence, winning much of the

UCD	3
Longford Town	1
Eoin Delap	

aerial ball that came his way.

He was also consistently effective moving forward and carved a great chance to extend his team's lead. The striker swivelled well over the ball inside Longford's box only to shoot straight into Kelly's arms.

The Midlands Team did manage to construct some good opportunities, mainly through the sniping Baker who dropped into midfield frequently and added his pace to the attack. Baker was the provider on one such occasion as he dashed to the by-line and pulled the ball back brilliantly to the on-running Stephan Gough who shot well over.

Longford's striker Dave Mooney brought the best out of the student's goalkeeper Quigley as the period drew to a close, curling to the right of the goal only to be denied brilliantly by Quigley. Mooney again came close at the stroke of half time, this time beating the stranded stopper only for the right hand post to prevent the northerners from taking the lead.

The hosts reappeared with renewed initiative after the break and it was Sammon who would reap the benefits of their attitude. Paul Byrne played an intelligent ball to his strike partner, cutting the Longford defence and allowing his team mate a clear path to goal. He moved to the right of Kelly before unleashing from an oblique angle, with an excellent finish not allowing the covering defence the opportunity to clear.

This was followed immediately by a gilt-edged opportunity for Doyle who



was sent through by Sammon, but only managed to send the ball left of the Longford goal.

The Student's backline was beginning to operate assuredly, with the Player of the Year and Captain Tony McDonnell frustrating Town with dominance in the air. Longford were forced to take speculative efforts from distance, none of which threatened the excellent Quigley in the UCD goal.

The visitors looked visibly demoralised with fifteen minutes on the clock as their attacking avenues closed. With more numbers being committed to

the attack it was inevitable they would struggle against a lightning quick home attack.

UCD took advantage of this with precision, as they counter-attacked an under-manned Longford goal. Substitute Francis Moran availed of his fresh legs to work in from the left and cross to the ever dangerous Sammon. He didn't need a second invitation and dispatched the ball to the right corner of the goal from short range.

Summer football ended on a cold night in November, but the Students will go into the winter break content with a

good season and a positive finale. Judging by the exuberance of some of the younger players, not least Sammon, Pete Mahon will have a content winter and be looking forward to a great start for the young guns come February.

UCD: Quigley, McKenna, K Doyle, Finn, McNally, McDonnell (C), Kavanagh, Dicker, Byrne, Sammon, D Doyle. Subs: Shortall, Moran, Harte, Ryan, Hussy.

Longford Town: Kelly, Prunty, Paisley, Brennan, Murphy, Kirby, Doherty, O'Connor (C), Gough, Baker, Mooney.



You couldn't aust for much more

Jordan Daly speaks to Mayo's Austin O'Malley, the man who changed the game for UCD as they clinched the Dublin Football Championship

The introduction of Austin O'Malley in last Monday's Dublin Senior Football Championship has been deemed the crucial turning point of the match.

The twenty-six year old full forward shrugged off an injury to spearhead the UCD comeback, which saw them dramatically clinch a victory in the final minutes of play.

"I was absolutely thrilled. It was a just reward for the effort we put in throughout the year. We made a big push for the final and it was nice to win in the end and give something back to the college."

The Mayo man had to sit out the first 50 minutes but came on to lead the attack, scoring a free kick and a point from open play; "I was hampered from an injury. I was lucky to be fit enough to play the fifteen minutes or so. I had a lot of treatment during the week and I was happy enough to get the two scores when I came on. The emphasis was on giving the lads a dig out."

Throughout the championship, O'Malley has proved his worth, scoring in every game and holding his nerve to put away match winning free kicks. "I've been quite lucky with my scoring record this season. I think I might have been second top scorer in the championship overall. It's the team around me that were creating the scoring opportunities."

The six thousand spectators were treated to a nail-biting finish to the final. UCD edge back from 0-9 0-6 to win by a single point 0-10 0-9.

"It was a pretty intense encounter in the last ten minutes. The match was hanging in the balance. We didn't take the lead until we were a minute into injury time and a lot of people would say we were very fortunate. This has been the way we've won matches, we've been gritty, we've been hanging in there and we haven't been panicking. It was a fascinating end to a brilliant game."

Matches are won on the training ground and the UCD footballers reaped the rewards of their preparation. "We had an awful lot of hard work done earlier in the year and out of this sprang a great team spirit. This was definitely evident in the matches we won from behind. In the last five minutes of the final we battled and managed to hold on to the result."

The key to UCD's success has been in their rock-solid defense. "Our defenders have been phenomenal. They put the shackles on some high class forwards."

O'Malley and Co. toppled some big names on the road to the final, knocking out last year's winners Kilmacud Crokes among others. "The Lucan Sarsfields game stands out in my mind as a tough encounter. There was also Clondalkin Round Towers, fairly stout opposition."

The gifted footballer from Louisberg has been involved with the Mayo seniors for over four years now. Unfortunately, an injury ruled him out of last year's All-Ireland final, making him even more determined for the future.

"My long term goal is to nail down a regular starting position with my county. I've always wanted to play for Mayo, ever since I was young and started

football. I'd be joking if I said I didn't want to go and represent my county. Football is a huge part of my life."

O'Malley is naturally adept at football but names hard work as his mantra for life. "I would have to put my success down to hard work and determination. In life you have to work hard, persevere and be honest and committed. Those are the things that drive me".

Obviously a role model for young footballers of the West, he himself was inspired by a few local club heroes. "I always looked at those guys and wished I would be like them. I had some great influences in my life, some influential coaches."

O'Malley is doing a H-Dip in education and aims to be a secondary school teacher. Speaking about the balance between his football commitments with studies, he declared, "You have to be fit to see where you are going with both. You have to plan ahead, that's a huge part. You've got to prioritise to get the balance right and when you do sport and study work in harmony."

Many do not see UCD as a community-based club, and this has raised some controversial issues in the media. The senior hurlers were going for three in a row and lost it in the boardroom this year.

"We mainly have lads from the four corners of the country but when we merge here, we are one united club. There is no less effort being put in, the panel of players train just as hard preparing for competitions. They are legally entitled to take part and until the ruling changes, that's all we can do."

SPORT

FOR PETE'S SAKE

"As regards management, he hasn't the experience"

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Photo: Brian Sweeney

Historic comeback clinches title

UCD claimed their seventh Dublin Senior Football Championship in most dramatic fashion in a packed, floodlit Parnell Park on a clear night last Monday, with An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern present supporting his local club.

St. Vincent's produced a fantastic display of football, forcing the overwhelming favourites to dig deep in order to edge out their opponents for the silverware.

The final was a repeat of the 2002 affair, where UCD pulled out a seven-point victory, but the game was to be much closer this time around, with Shane Lennon putting over the final point in injury time.

With the Belfield team beating the holders en route to the final, and St. Vincent's giving Na Fianna a lesson in great football in their own semi final, the encounter was poised for a fascinating spectacle. The game itself could have come straight off the pages of a movie script, with Vincent's leading for almost

Adrian Collins

all the game, only to have it taken away from them in the dying moments.

UCD started brightly, pushing forward with some fine flowing moves, but failed to convert their early chances. Vincent's had their own opportunities, which they were later to rue, including a badly missed free kick from Timmy Doyle who received the wrath of those in the rafters for his failures. Remaining scoreless, the Belfield side was getting closer as they pressured Vinnie's keeper Michael Savage into some poor clearances.

UCD went ahead through James Sherry, but Vincent's pegged them back through Tomás "Mossy" Quinn, who took two well placed frees, as his side began to take control of the game.

The Marino men then got their third as UCD looked to be losing grip on the tie, with Vincent's the ones stringing together moves in the attacking part of the field.

Lennon brought them within a point before the break, but a pinpoint free from Kevin Golden restored the two-point advantage on the stroke of half-time leaving it at 0-4 to 0-2.

Vincent's were first out of the dressing rooms after the interval, and the first side out of the blocks as Patrick Gilroy notched a point for them in the opening moments of the second half.

His opposite number Sean Brady scored a great long distance free minutes later, to keep the Belfield side in the running. Billy Sheehan then found himself in the Vincent's area, but was forced too wide to make anything of it.

The Saints extended their lead through another Mossy Quinn free, but Billy Sheehan reciprocated. The game changed in the 40th minute with the introduction of Austin O'Malley for the Students, as UCD were a little more composed up front. The Mayo forward's influence alone seemed to reassure those around him.

From then on, UCD began to put together successive scores without reply from Vincent's. They pulled it back to 0-7 to 0-6, but the northsiders dug deep to put two points without reply on the board, taking it to 0-9 to 0-6.

The drama wasn't over, as UCD then instigated their own comeback. Only a great save from Savage prevented the Students scoring, as they could only manage a single point. UCD were pushing up hard and were almost caught out on the break, but some absolutely fantastic defending, dogged and desperate, forced Vincent's to hit the post.

The oddest event of the night occurred when Vincent's played two minutes with sixteen men, bringing on Niall Dunne, and no one went off in his place. Not even this could turn the tide however, as a free gave the impeccable O'Malley, a chance to level affairs. He did as asked, with only four minutes left on the clock.

The tension was palpable, and it was

Lennon again who gave UCD the crucial point that won the game. It was backs to the wall for the Students, as Paddy Navin had to throw himself on the ball in the dying moments and produce a great block to deny Vincent's the chance to grapple the game from the jaws of defeat.

UCD - S Gallagher; J McCarthy, P Navin, E O Cúiv; M Duffy, B Quill, M Dunne; M Ward, J Sherry; S Brady, S Lennon, B Sheehan; P Earls, C Rogers, C O'Dwyer. Subs: N McNamee for Earls (ht), A O'Malley for O'Dwyer (40), Earls for Rogers (50).

St. Vincent's - M Savage; W Lowry, E Brady, A Costello; P Conlon, G Brennan, R Fallon; P Gilroy, M Loftus; H Coughlan, T Diamond, D Connolly; K Golden, T Doyle, T Quinn. Subs: S Loughlin for Doyle (51); B Manning for Loftus (53); N Dunne for Golden (58).

of the **SIREN**

film books

music fashion

it's a gamble

will the blond bond
score with the critics?

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inside...

**cecelia
ahern**

**josh
ritter**

**we are
scientists**

**grandmaster
flash**



inside
November 14th

music



"Dublin is wild. I have to say that Ireland has probably one of the most active audiences on the planet"

Grandmaster Flash: Page 4

books



"All I wanted to do was write, you know, and you've got no plan of where it's going to go - it just happens"

Cecelia Ahern: Page 6

fashion



For those who equate winter with anoraks, wellies and waterproof trousers - it doesn't have to be that way.

Page 9

film



"Craig embodies this new, youthful Bond in a way Brosnan could never have done"

James Bond: Page 12



Ritter Sweet

Conor Doyle speaks to popular American singer/songwriter Josh Ritter about how he finds his inspiration, and his quite unique qualification

Are you an unhappy UCD student? Having doubts over the course you picked? Regretting your choice of electives? Are you sick of crunching numbers in Quinn? If your answer is 'yes' to any of the above then perhaps you should take a leaf out of Josh Ritter's book.

"I started out studying neuroscience," explains Ritter, "but after two years I realised I didn't actually want to be a neuroscientist. Basically I decided I was going to be a musician no matter what so I wanted to learn about a lot of other musicians. So I designed my own major, 'American History Through Narrative Folk Music,' then I got it through the administration, and because I had made the umbrella so big they allowed me to take more or less any class I wanted," he jokes.

On listening to his latest album, 'The Animal Years', one is provided with enough evidence to suggest Ritter learned a lot in college once he found the right course to study. The album wonderfully showcases the 30 year old songwriter's keen observation and fine ability for storytelling across eleven beautifully crafted songs, any one of which Bob Dylan would be proud to call his own.

Its most popular song is also the album's most political. 'Thin Blue Flame' is a ten minute poetic phantasmagoria concerning the war on terror and each side's exploitation of religion as a veil to justify their actions. Over increasingly pounding piano, bass and drums, Ritter lists off such dazzling lines as the following:

It's a Bible or a bullet they put over your heart. It's getting harder and harder to tell them apart. Days are nights and the nights are long. Beating hearts blossom into walking bombs.

And those still looking in the clear blue sky for a sign Get missiles from so high they might as well be divine.

In its execution and structure, the song is highly reminiscent of Dylan's 'A Hard Rain's A Gonna Fall,' but Ritter is quick to dismiss himself as a protest singer, preferring to see his lyrics as observations that open your mind rather than statements that attempt to make your mind up for you.

"I'm sick and tired of people with guitars and microphones telling other people what to think," he fervently exclaims. "It's so arrogant whether you're on

"I wouldn't want to hang out with anybody whose mind got changed because I sang a song - I don't think that's the purpose of music"

the right or left. It's so arrogant and it's so easy. As a songwriter, it's quite hard for me to turn a blind eye to politics because peoples' opinions are so divided in America, but you're never going to change somebody's mind with a song.

"I wouldn't want to hang out with anybody whose mind got changed because I sang a song - I don't think that's the purpose of music. So 'Thin Blue Flame' was more about the amount of confusion I felt in my country, rather than me trying to make

somebody think like me."

On his approach to songwriting, Ritter is quite forthcoming. "I don't have any real formula. Sometimes an idea for a lyric will just drop out of nowhere. Or maybe it could be something that I've been holding onto for a couple of years. It happens so differently every time. The really hard part is just leaving yourself open to the opportunity to get a song from anywhere.

"So I jam a lot on my guitar and on my piano and if something fits with a melody I've been thinking of, then I've kind of got the rules of the game and I can work on writing the song from there. But with 'Thin Blue Flame,' those were ideas and images I'd been collecting over a year and a half."

A recent rumour says Ritter is looking outside of music for ways to exercise his muse. "Well before being anything else I'm a writer and as time goes on, you realise you can't tour ten months out of the year forever. I want to be able to split my time between being home and being on the road.

"So I'm working on a book right now actually. It's just bits and pieces but I'm pretty excited about it." As long as he doesn't do a Madonna and start writing books for children, then Ritter's literary exploits should be something to look forward to. "Or what about her 'Sex' book?" he responds. "I could do that. I could do it better than her," he jokes.

The four albums Josh Ritter has released in his young career are without doubt exceptional and accomplished examples of American narrative folk-music, all of which suggests that he must have breezed through his final 'American History Through Narrative Folk Music' examinations with flying colours. www.myspace.com/joshritter

Rock-it-science

Eoin Murphy caught up with **We Are Scientists** at their recent gig in the Ambassador

Outside the Ambassador Theatre, scores of boisterous young **We Are Scientists** fans, adorned completely in black, all swigging from cans of one thing or another, are gathering for tonight's gig, which is another five hours away.

Inside the band's dressing room, the band's rider (food, drink and other things which bands request be in their dressing room) has already been laid out for **We Are Scientists** (sometimes abbreviated to **tWAS**).

Where one might expect a rock n' roll band's rider to consist of Jack Daniels, poppers and some clean syringes, **We Are Scientists** have a case of bottled water, peanuts and a bounty of fresh fruit. Amongst the few concessions to the rock-star lifestyle is a bottle of Merlot wine and this bottle of Merlot is an apt metaphor for the band themselves.

Merlot is a very popular red wine although connoisseurs might not be very enthusiastic about it. The lead character in Alexander Payne's brilliant wine movie "Sideways" is quite disparaging about Merlot.

Similarly, **We Are Scientists** are popular amongst music fans, even if critics might be a little indifferent to their efforts. **We Are Scientists** are at the heart of the burgeoning NME-led indie guitar music scene, and have already notched up 150,000 album sales for their debut album "With Love and Squalor" in the UK alone.

The band describes their brand of

funky-punk, choppy-guitar laden indie rock, themselves as, "rock music of the thoughtful, sometimes epic, often loud, vaguely danceable, implicitly humanist variety".

Like many American bands, **We Are Scientists** are more popular in Britain and Ireland than in their homeland. American bands as diverse as Scissor Sisters and The Strokes have struggled in America before finding fame in England, though bassist Chris Cain doesn't feel that this is a question of taste.

"It seems to me that it is easier to get big fast over here. It is very difficult to get big fast in the US; it requires a sustained effort. The primary reason you can do it over here is because there's a weekly music press that reaches everybody like the NME. The way that an article can affect a tour that you are actually on, that can't really happen in the US."

"We don't have any preset limit to how big we would like to be. We are very certain that we don't want to do anything that doesn't come from us, we don't want to get involved with a really fancy producer, just so he will make us sound radio friendly. We want to do what we like across the board, but also the website, merchandise, even the ads that the label puts out."

Cain has a vaguely bookish look and sports a memorable moustache, and, it has to be said, he sports it well. If **We Are Scientists** can be described as geek-chic, then Cain is largely responsible for this image. Cain has been pretty impressed with Irish audiences so far.



"[Irish audiences are] at the very top of the rankings, they are definitely pretty consistently amazing. We did the Bud Rising festival in spring. It was insane, fighting security guards, knocking them down. We just played Belfast two days ago and it was like the loudest audience I've ever heard in my life, singing along the whole time, knew all the lyrics."

The band's website is full of amusing ramblings and profound pronouncements of the decidedly jokey kind. The website is fresh and original and is a credit to the band but it is hard to reconcile the jokey,

whimsical content of the website with the angst, introspective lyrics of **tWAS** - It's like two different bands. This reflects the differences between the various creative forces within the band.

"Keith writes the lyrics cause he sings them. I mostly write the website. It's something that I kinda do compulsively. Writing is kind of what I've always enjoyed more than anything."

"For me, lyrics are intrinsically part of the music. They are meant to be sung, not to be read. The person writing the vocal lines should come up with the

lyrics because the pronunciation of the words and where the syllables lie is a crucial aspect to what lyrics you are going to write."

With such an abundance of talent in the band, the future of **We Are Scientists** is bright. If you can't wait for another album then fear not. A stop-gap B-sides album called 'Crap Attack' is out now.

This also includes a live DVD so there is plenty of value for money to satisfy the most hungry of fans.

For more info check out wearescientists.com



Jazz it up

John O'Flynn reports back from the Cork Jazz Festival

Every year during the October long weekend, jazz musicians, fans and journalists converge from all around Ireland to attend the Cork Jazz Festival. With many international jazz stars playing each year, this has become the most important event of the jazz calendar in Ireland, and one of the biggest festivals of its kind in the world. The attendance numbers about 40,000 visitors from all around the world, who come to see music played in Cork city's pubs, clubs, venues and hotels.

On Friday night, the festival opened with one of the most exciting new piano players around, Hiromi (www.hiromimusic.com/) who deservedly won the festival's Rising Star Award. Hiromi's style was joyful and energetic, sometimes rising out of her seat and singing. Her keyboard skills were astounding, echoing those of her mentors Oscar Peterson and Ahmad Jamal.

She was followed by tenor saxophonist Branford Marsalis (www.branfordmarsalis.com). He led a quartet of jazz stars, which included Jeff Watts on drums and Joey Calderazzo on piano, through a program of original tunes inspired by Wagner, Henry Purcell and Godzilla.

Randy Weston's trio (www.randyweston.info) were a highlight of this year's festival. Alex Blake has an astounding command of the double bass, soloing with ease and strumming the cumbersome instrument as if it were a guitar. The group's long improvisations balanced great

rhythmic communication, heavily influenced by African music.

The Mingus Dynasty Band (www.mingus-mingus.com) play the music of legendary composer and bassist Charles Mingus. This great band of very skilled players managed to capture the distinctive soulful sound of Mingus' recordings perfectly. The solos were expertly sculpted by this New York 7-piece, with George Colligan's piano and Frank Lacy's trombone playing both outstanding.

One of the most adventurous groups to play this year were Trouble Penetrator (www.myspace.com/troublepenetrator), a Dublin-based band consisting of keyboard, drums, saxophone, laptop and turntables. They drew the audience in for a very involved, experimental set of completely improvised music. This was strange, unfamiliar music that hypnotized listeners, exploring combinations of electronic textures and organic instrumental sounds, mixed with snippets of classical music and slave songs. This band embodied the spirit of improvisation, relying on their instincts and shared communication to decide in which direction to push the tune.

Fuzzy Logic (www.fuzzylogicensemble.com) are a twelve member Irish ensemble who play composer and organist Dylan Rynhart's unique, meticulously arranged music. Rynhart brought along a set of four spinning speakers, which

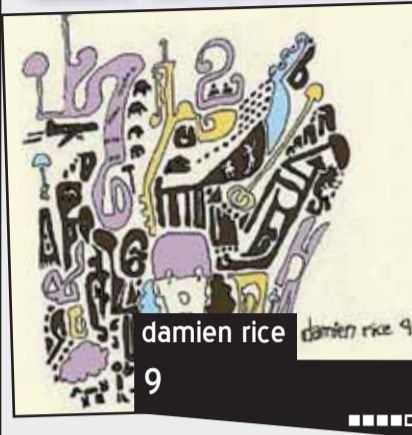
he built to allow him to bounce the sounds of the band around the room. This is a fine ensemble of experienced young players, Cathal Roche's soprano saxophone and Sue Brady's voice shone throughout the short set they played, particularly on the beautiful 'In Case You Forget'.

Greg Felton's trio of bass, drums and guitar was another excellent Irish gig. In a small, disused room of the Everyman Theatre filled with couches and cushions, the audience sat listening attentively to a repertoire mostly written by the band members. Felton is a fine, forward-thinking musician and his intricate piano playing is a delight to listen to.

Though there were many great names playing in large concert venues, the best atmosphere at the festival was to be found in the Metropole Hotel, where live bands like the Shape Jazz Orchestra, the Company and the David Gazarov Trio entertained all afternoon and night. An impromptu session allowed musicians from around the country to play together, which made for a great informal jam. There were players of all ages and experience, amateurs and professionals. At 5 in the morning, in a hot, cramped hotel ballroom, this is when the spirit of the jazz festival truly came into shape.

If you want to check out next year's festival: www.corkjazzfestival.com

aural examinations



damien rice 9

the fence, do not expect the latest effort to convert you. '9' continues where 'O' left off, with the familiar themes of love won, love lost and the pain and ecstasy that results.

Every emotion is laid out and displayed with shocking and brutal honesty, where Rice tosses his heart not only on his sleeve but also on just about everything that's visible. Luckily, practice in this case makes for a more varied album.

The ever-popular 'Blowers Daughter' gets a follow up on 'Elephant', and Rice puts on his forlorn face with 'Accidental Babies'.

The imaginatively titled 'Me My Yolk and I' sees him crank up the volume with excellent results. It's like a musical version of Cillit Bang, designed to clear all known grimes and stains otherwise known as David Gray fans. Rice even gets all radio friendly at one point on 'Rootless tree', that is until the anthemic chorus consisting of multiple cries of 'Fuck You'.

It's a mellower affair from there on in, and closes with the rather appropriate addition of fifteen minutes of Tibetan Singing Bowl warbling. Naturally.

Simon Ward

Nothing really comes easy to Damien Rice. Four whole years have passed since his first effort, 'O', whose stamina in the upper echelons of the Irish album chart would be envied by even the most hardened of marathon runners.

Enter the similarly simplistically titled 'album 9', featuring a number of songs that have been around longer than 'O' itself.

Indeed Rice has had the innate ability to divide opinion that even George Bush would be a little jealous of. If you fall on the negative side of



chequerboard dictaphone showreels

Chequerboard is the alias of Irish graphic artist John Lambert. This EP is his 2nd recorded output after his debut album "Gothica" from 2002.

'Dictaphone Showreels' opens to a busy collage of clockwork and bell sounds which slowly fade away, making space for a gentle guitar which loses the listener in a pattern of densely-laced melodies. Similarly in 'Architecture', Lambert builds a beautifully romantic piece, adding one sample at a time to the mix until the result is an entire orchestra of classical guitars.

His career as a graphic artist has gifted him with a fascinating ability to paint images with sound. In 'Sun Through Rails', he transports the listener to a cartoon version of the Australian outback, populated by mechanical bush animals and a drone that sounds somewhere between a didgeridoo and a double-bass.

What makes Lambert's music so refreshing to listen to is his ability to celebrate the beauty of everyday noises. He gently guides the listener in, drawing their attention to an innocuous sound and celebrating it, as in 'Indian Ink', where he uses as a background the recording of a gently burning fire.

Armed only with his acoustic guitar and a laptop, he has composed a record of starkly beautiful music. This CD is a great collection of delicate acoustic guitar pieces, gently flavoured with glitchy electronics and found sounds. www.chequerboard.net

John O'Flynn



oasis stop the clocks

This is an uncontroversial selection of songs from the Oasis back catalogue.

It won't excite or interest hardcore fans because it is likely that not only will they have all 18 songs already but will also have many versions whether live or acoustic of each.

You can't really fault the inclusion of any song as they are all gems: however there are some notable absentee's. Both 'Be Here Now' and the fantastic come back album 'The Heathen Chemistry' fail to get a look in.

This is even more surprising when you consider the latter is arguably one of their best albums.

Having said that however, the sequence of songs is well chosen and is a set list which would please any fan. The first disc contains such monumental tunes as 'Rock and Roll Star', (opening track) 'The Importance of being Idle' and 'Cigarettes and Alcohol'.

There are also some rather shrewd inclusions namely 'Talk Tonight' and 'Definitely Maybe's' 'Slide Away'.

This formula is continued on the second disc with anthems such as 'Supersonic', 'Don't Look Back in Anger' and 'Champagne Supernova' mixed with some acoustic songs, the most notably magnificent 'Half the World Away'.

It would appear that the track list for this compilation was chosen with the single buying Oasis fan in mind.

Thence the question arises: does a single buying fan exist? Possibly not. Although real fans may enjoy the album, there isn't enough here to convince them to part with their money. In short a good selection of songs but destined to be a commercial failure.

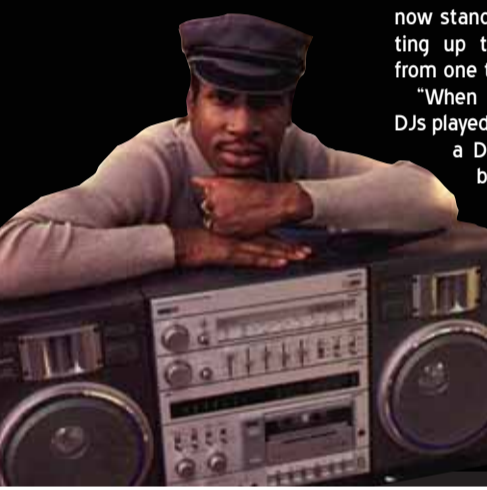
Morgan Sheehy

He's no

Hugh Fowler speaks to legendary hip-hop DJ Grandmaster Flash about inventing the template for DJing as its known today, the origins of hip-hop, and why he loves Ireland so much

Grandmaster Flash is one of the most influential figures ever in the history of hip-hop. Starting out in the late 70s playing at free bloc parties, his groundbreaking scratching and cutting techniques essentially created the aesthetic of DJing as an art form. With a career spanning over thirty years, the grandmaster has been through highs and lows and has traveled all around the world performing on the wheels of steel, though he seems genuinely excited about his upcoming trip to Dublin.

"Dublin is wild. I have to say that



Ireland has probably one of the most active audiences on the planet. Once they get going, they get going. I'm going in. I'm gonna just give it to 'em, and I'm sure they're gonna give it back to me. The crowd is just so incredible in terms of dancing, feedback, hands in the air, screaming, yelling - just positive pandemonium all night. I love it."

To paraphrase Beck, DJing is 'Where it's at', and Grandmaster Flash is more responsible than anyone else for establishing the formula of two turntables and a microphone. As well as being credited as the first person to scratch records, he pioneered the now standard techniques of DJs cutting up tracks and quickly mixing from one tune to the other.

"When I was coming up, the way DJs played songs, I noticed that when a DJ played a song from the beginning to the end, in the middle where the drummer played alone, or the least band members played, the audience would get so excited. But the strangest thing was that that part was always so short, and that use to really piss me off.

"There had to be a way to take those few seconds of joy and expand on it in some kind of way. That's when I came up with the concept of the cutting.

"My thinking was that if I take the climactic part of all these different records from all these different genres, if I connect the pop with the rock and the jazz and the blues, and just played the hyped parts of all these records one behind the other, all the time to the beat, I could have the crowd really losing their mind."

At first, Grandmaster Flash's techniques were so innovative that, instead of dancing, crowds would simply stand mesmerized. This forced him into using MCs to keep the crowd going. Nowadays however, his sets are simply a one-man show, with Flash (as he refers to himself) educating the crowd through his unique experience of DJing over the last three decades.

"I think now because I've got 32 years worth of knowledge in my brain, I have a story to tell. And I think it would be completely impossible for someone else to tell my story. It'd be an interpretation of what I really want to say.

"The best way to get it said is for me to say it, so when I DJ, I play and



kai big band projections

18 months ago, young Dublin saxophonist Nick Roth gathered together a fourteen-strong ensemble of his fellow musicians, including saxophones, brass, strings and rhythm section. This double CD is the end result of this ambitious project, a live recording of the band playing their members' original jazz compositions.

The variety of different angles explored by the 8 com-

posers makes for intriguing listening. Roth's own piece 'Innehølder' is an adventure through different moods, opening with fluttering saxophones and a melancholy piano melody, slowly building into a brash groove and lively trombone solo. Guitarist Matthew Jacobsen's 'The 10 Paramis' explores electronic and instrumental textures, providing a thrilling performance which verges on orchestrated chaos.

This contrasts with the laid-back Brazilian vibes of Bill Blackmore's 'I Can't Think' or Matt Berrill's dramatic, uplifting 'Bad Baking'. On Sean Carpio's 'Platform', the roles are reversed, with the focus on the drums, backed by layered melodies.

The Kai Big Band's music can be demanding to listen to, and it is a credit to this group of young musicians to hear complex contemporary music this pleasing and dynamic.

Many of them have played together in different projects and this shared experience brings a great cooperation and understanding between the members. The written parts are tightly played throughout and the players support each other, leaving soloists comfortably free to explore.

The result is a fascinating album of modern music, and certainly one of the most important releases in many years for Irish jazz.

John O'Flynn



messiah j & the expert now this i have to hear

'Now this I have to hear' is Dublin based hip-hop duo Messiah J and The Expert's sophomore release and it's a pretty damn good one. This is by no means your ordinary, contemporary hip-hop album filled with heavy,

simple drum beats and violent content.

Rather, it is more made in the same vein of Kanye West's music- clever rhymes with, most importantly, good music to back them up.

There are some excellent songs on the album especially the title track 'Something Outta Nothing' which is an eclectic and inspired mix of jazz and rap topped off by a hauntingly beautiful chorus.

The lyrical content of the album, provided by Messiah J, is on par with anything on either side of the Atlantic. On some of the tracks he ascends to a whole other level of storytelling, like the heart-wrenching story in 'VIP'.

The way he shows how hard it is to come across inspiration in '7 cups of coffee and a slice of apple strudel' is almost worth the sticker price alone. As good as some of the tracks are on this album, there is a lot of filler songs that seem like that they were thrown in just to make numbers, but even they are better than a lot of music out now.

Amro Hussein

Flash in the pan

I stop and I check with the crowd, and I talk about history. Then I play and I stop and I play and so on. I don't just DJ through the whole thing, it's sort of like a set where I speak and I play."

Having been involved in hip-hop from its earliest beginnings, he possesses a distinct perspective on the genre and its origins, and this is reflected in his dynamic eclectic sets, where he seamlessly blends the old with the new.

"When you talk about hip-hop, from its

very inception, it's all music. When I was coming up and buying records I was buying some rock records and some jazz records and some funk records and some blues records. Hip-hop is everything, everything we could get our hands on that had a funky beat. [Of today's hip-hop] I like so many: Black eyed Peas, Jay Z, Mary J Blige, I listen to it all. I'm still in search of the perfect beat."

Grandmaster Flash plays in tripod on November 24th

www.grandmasterflash.com

Gig Watch From 14th November

Thu Nov 16	Humanzi, Channel One Justice, Dancepig*	UCD Astra Hall UCD Student Bar
Fri Nov 17	Phil Hartnoll/Long Range John Digweed	Point Crawdaddy
Fri & Sat	Paul Weller	Olympia
Fri/Sat/Sun	Bruce Springsteen	Point
Sat Nov 18	The Flaming Lips DJ Food Stasis Djs	Vicar St TBMC Crawdaddy
Tue Nov 21	Christina Aguilera	Point
Wed Nov 22	Tool	Point
Thu Nov 23	Mundy	Olympia
Fri Nov 24	Grandmaster Flash Republic Of Loose	Tripod Olympia
Sat Nov 25	Basement Jaxx Undertones	Point Tripod
Mon Nov 27	Gomez	Ambassador
Thu Nov 30	The Killers* Deetron	Point Wax
Fri Dec 1	Bell X1	Point
Sun Dec 3	Fionn Regan	Whelans
Tue Dec 5	The Game	Point
Wed Dec 6	The Zutons	Olympia
Dec 5/6/7	Rodrigo Y Gabriela	Vicar st
Thu Dec 7	A Guy Called Gerald	Wax
Fri Dec 8	David Kitt	Vicar St
Sat Dec 9	Director Paul Daley	Ambassador Crawdaddy
Sun Dec 10	Tenacious D Madness	RDS Point
Sun/Mon	The Kooks	Ambassador
Mon Dec 11	Josh Ritter	Olympia
Mon/Wed	Damien Dempsey	Vicar St
Dec21-Jan 7	Christy Moore*	Vicar St
Thu Dec 28	Fabio	TBMC
Fri Dec 29	Dave Clarke*	Tripod

myspace artist of the fortnight

CocoRosie

www.myspace.com/cocorosie

Like most genuinely interesting musicians, CocoRosie are of an indeterminate generic designation. Listening to them is simply the best way to understand this statement. Songs that are beautiful and haunting - a paradoxically organic montage of found styles - seem to seep through the speakers and at once commandeer the atmosphere for means both evocative and compelling.

This is an enigmatic sister-duo musical group, carelessly flirting with styles and sounds belonging to hip-hop, free-style, lo-fi electronica, down-tempo acoustic, gospel, nature and lounge music, to name but a few.

It is in the endearingly tinny 'By Your Side' that CocoRosie are at their most immediately accessible and entrancing. Recordings of birds chirping and sparse piano chords are eventually accompanied with a slow, steady hip-hop beat and an impossibly high pitched backing vocal singing 'I'll always be by your side'; all crackling as though piped through a bashed up old transistor radio.

An irresistibly soulful female voice begins to sing, professing in a tuneful croon an undying devotion to even the most mundane of everyday monogamous existence, just to be with her lover. Never has the feminist project been set back for a more beautiful reason.

If this feature, although brief, was in any way successful in conveying the intriguing mixture of old and new, of emotion and style to be found in the music of CocoRosie, it will stimulate you to visit these pages and sample it for yourself. If it doesn't, don't hold real innovators to blame for someone else's linguistic shortcomings and make that cyber-trip anyway.

Ronan Dempsey



PS, I'm going pla

Alexa Byrne speaks to Cecelia Ahern about becoming a writer, stepping out of her shadow, and her new book, 'A Place called here'

"Where do all the odd socks go?" asks a twenty-five year old Cecelia Ahern. Intriguingly, she explains that it was this conundrum that led her to write her latest novel, 'A Place Called Here'.

Sandy Shortt is fixated on finding missing objects and missing people ever since her childhood nemesis, the class bully Jenny-May, went missing twenty years previously.

Sandy refuses to believe that anything from a sock to a person can simply disappear and dedicates her life to tracking them all down.

In her job, running a missing persons agency, she meets Jack Ruttle who is searching for his brother Donal. Jack, like Sandy, refuses to accept that a person can just vanish. Unlike the rest of his family, he won't give up on Donal and enlists Sandy's help to find him.

However, Sandy then goes missing herself and accidentally stumbles upon the place where all the lost things end up. Jack becomes as determined to find her as she attempts to escape the 'place called here'.

Throughout the novel, we are given the backstory of Sandy's life and her complex and painful relationship with

her therapist, as well as the mystery surrounding Jack's brother's disappearance. Although Ahern's books have been described as 'fairytales', she avoids the clichéd 'everything will be fine' approach in a number of unexpected plot developments.

While each of Ahern's books have very

Sandy's basically a woman who's wandered off the wrong path, has lost herself and has to rediscover herself before she can find her way home again and that's really the basic meaning."

different concepts, the writing style and the feel-good message is consistent. It is safe to say that if you enjoyed her previous novels, you will enjoy this.

"It started off as being a really playful idea, that theory, you know, where do all the missing things go? There's that old story, that there's a place where everything goes when it's missing, but obviously then I realised that people go missing too so [the novel] became a lot darker and more serious," explains Ahern.

"The character of Sandy," she continues, "grew from that idea, somebody who's been searching for missing people all her life and then finds herself going missing as well. I'm quite literal with my metaphors. Sandy's basically a woman who's wandered off the wrong path, has lost herself and has to rediscover her-

self before she can find her way home again and that's really the basic meaning."

When asked how she came up with the character of Sandy, Ahern says "I'm not one of those authors that if I meet somebody I think, 'oh, I have to put that person in a book.' I mean, in life,

everybody is a sponge: you're just kind of absorbing everything around you.

"I'm sure the characters are coming from somewhere, but I've never met somebody or been in a situation where I've thought 'I have to write this.' I think it just kind of works its way into my work by itself. I very much love to create something that's not in my life. I always want it to be a whole new world in my head."

At only 25 years of age, Cecelia Ahern is enjoying extraordinary success. Her first book, 'PS I Love You' earned her a two-book deal worth one million euro when she was 21. It reached number one in Ireland, UK, USA, Germany and Holland, and remained at number one in Ireland for nineteen weeks. All her subsequent novels have also been bestsellers.

Ahern is apparently shocked by her success: "You have no idea when you start. All I wanted to do was write, you know, and you've got no plan of where it's going to go - it just happens. I hoped it would do well but I never knew it would be so phenomenally successful. It's fantastic."

She didn't anticipate becoming a writer, originally completing a degree in journalism and media communications. "I always loved writing but I never thought about doing it as a career. It was always just a hobby, something I really enjoyed doing. It was only when I finished college, got the idea for 'PS I Love You' and started writing that I thought maybe I should show my



Onscreen: Hugh Jackman stars in 'If you could see me now', while Hilary Swank leads in 'PS, I love you'.



work to someone.

"But even when I studied journalism, I never really thought about writing novels as a career. I thought about other kinds of writing but not novels. I wanted to do film production-by the end of my degree I'd applied to do a masters so that's what I would have been doing if I hadn't written the book."

Two of Ahern's books, 'PS I Love You' and 'If You Could See Me Now' are being made into films. 'If You Could See Me Now' is being turned into a Disney musical starring Hugh Jackman. 'PS I Love You' was optioned by Warner Bros and will be released in 2007. It stars Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler as the main characters Holly and Gerry.

Ahern is thrilled. "I'm really excited. The cast were over a few weeks ago, filming in Wicklow and Dublin and now they're in New York. I was able to go on set when they were here and I'll



be going over to New York again next week to watch it all - it's really really exciting."

Although Ahern herself was not involved in writing the script (this was done by writer-director Richard LaGravenese), she is very happy at the way it turned out. "They've altered it, it's not set in Ireland, it's set in New York but they do travel over here.

"There's a few characters gone, there's a new character in, but I think the whole spirit of the book is exactly the same, which is the most important thing. Richard LaGravenese did a fantastic job. I was holding my breath reading it, hoping it wouldn't be hugely altered but he really just did a fantastic job."

There has been an inevitable backlash to Ahern's success. When 'PS I Love You'



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came out, she was inundated with criticism. Many people said the only reason she was receiving so much publicity was because she is An Taoiseach's daughter. "At the very beginning I have to say I didn't read an awful lot because I was quite crazy, there was all sorts of things being flung."

She is more philosophical about negative feedback now. "Of course you pay attention. I do read reviews. I can take what people are saying and I think I know, I actually agree with that point or I disagree with that point and maybe take some things on board."

It's just interesting because it's someone else's opinion. Someone will say it's the worst thing they've ever read, and you let it get to you, and then you meet somebody else and they say it's the best book they've ever read. You can't take either; you just have to go by what you personally feel. It's the same with everything else in life - if you're going to make decisions based on what everyone around you say, you'll be lost.

She thinks it's important to go by your own instincts. I love to hear all kinds of feedback, positive and negative, because when you're writing a book and it's important to be read, that's the whole point."

She says she will never be short of readers for her novels - she has avid fans all over the world. Does she consider her fans' reactions when sitting down to write a new book? "No. Of course I know there are people out there reading but when you're writing it's a very personal thing, trying to appeal to myself."

She hasn't been jumping from genre to genre or anything like that but I always want them to be different. I don't want to be writing the same thing each time. I want it to interest myself first and foremost and I can judge it myself. I'm the barometer, if I'm pleasing myself and I'm really happy with it then I think people will enjoy it.

"I'm not afraid to change direction and try new things. I don't want to write things that I think are just specifically popular right now. I want to just go with the flow and do what I feel is right at the moment."

She says she does have some advice for aspiring young authors who wish to emulate her success. "Have your own style. Don't think what a lot of people are trying to do is recreate something that's popular at the moment and I always try and do it different. Have your own voice. And, most importantly, try and have as many different readers as possible because that's what you need to get the feedback from people."

Also, an agent is important. Have people reading it and eventually an agent if you want to have it published, because when it comes to trying to send it out to publishing companies and having the right people reading your work, your agent will know who is the best person to see it and what kind of editor will connect with your work. All those things are important so that the business side is left up to other people because basically, all I want to do is write."





Less is more

Cathy Buckmaster examines the statistics of binge drinking and the ways in which excessive alcohol consumption damages health

With the recent statistics that show that Irish people have the highest consumption of alcohol in the EU, its time for us to become aware of the risks involved with binge drinking and the danger it poses - to ourselves and to others.

According to a recent survey, 86% of Irish people believe they lead healthy lifestyles, compared with an EU average of only 80%.

But how does this belief tally with other facts? Against the backdrop of a fast-growing economy, Ireland has experienced the highest growth in alcohol consumption in Europe and in the last six years alone, consumption of spirits has increased by over 50%. Irish adults now drink the equivalent of over 14 litres of pure alcohol every year.

The level of alcohol-related accidents is known to increase with the rate of alcohol consumption and our attitude towards drinking is in danger of damaging our nation's health.

Numerous studies have linked binge drinking to serious health and social problems including depression, suicide, sexual health issues, marital problems, street violence and absenteeism from work and college.

Another worrying statistic is that a quarter of those attending hospital Accident and Emergency departments

have an alcohol-related injury or illness, while thirteen percent admitted are in a state of clinical intoxication.

Even more perturbing were the figures showing that 26% of male and 11% of female admissions to psychiatric services are for alcohol-related conditions.

In addition, there are devastating consequences when alcohol is combined with driving. 21% of men and eight percent of women admitted to having driven after at least two drinks. This is shocking considering that alcohol intake is a factor in over a third of all fatal road accidents in Ireland. The road death toll was 310 as of November 1st.

Many college students, especially in their first year, can feel pressured to spend as much time in the student bar as they do in lectures. It

has been shown that even as alcohol can act as a stimulant at the time, it also functions as a depressant in the aftermath of a hangover.

After a night of excessive drinking, 9am lectures and assignments are the last thing anyone feels like doing. Binge drinking will affect a college student's progress in their courses and most likely increase their failure rate.

This newspaper reported on comments made by Student Union Welfare Officer Barry Colfer a fortnight ago regarding the lack of a clear alcohol policy



in UCD. He described the situation as "lamentable".

Memories of embarrassing comments or behaviour can be the least of someone's worries after a blurry night out. A third of sexually active teenagers say that alcohol was a factor in their engaging in sex.

Sexually transmitted infections have increased by 165% in the last decade, and with this in mind, it might be wise to reconsider our attitudes towards alcohol. It impairs our judgment and makes it harder to make contraception a priority.

However, it is not just binge drinking among adults that is a cause for concern for national health. There has

been a 370% increase in intoxication in public places by underage drinkers since 1998.

Peer pressure is a huge influence on teenagers and fear of being excluded

may lead them to participate in unhealthy behaviour. 19% of boys and 14.5% of girls, aged twelve - fourteen, have already been drunk.

In recent years, levels of alcohol consumption among women have increased to meet the male level. According to statistics by Eurostat, half of Irish women aged fifteen to 24 are regular drinkers, compared with the EU average of only 19%.

In accordance with the 'Less is More' promotional campaign launched by the Government in 2001, The Little Book of Women and Alcohol was released. The booklet targets women between the ages of eighteen - 35 and aims to increase understanding of the effects alcohol has on their bodies and encourages women to examine their own drinking habits.

Containing a drink diary, to keep note of drinking behaviour and tips on coping with hangovers, it has been distributed to WellWoman Centres, Social, Community and Family Affairs Local Offices and to the Union of Students in Ireland Office.

Alcohol consumption can be part of a healthy lifestyle and there are ways to take pleasure in its effects while still enjoying the ability to be able to stand up.

Here are some guidelines:

- Always eat before you drink
- Keep your drink within your sight at all times
- Pace yourself and take your time
- Drink water between drinks to minimise dehydration
- Try not to mix or double your drinks
- Learn how to say no to another one

It's important to examine your own behaviour concerning alcohol and to make the necessary changes if you feel that you're lacking control. There are many organisations established to help people to improve their lifestyles but the first stop for UCD students should be the Student Health Service on 01 7163133 / 3143.

For a more anonymous service, you can ring Niteline, a volunteer phone counselling service on 1800 793 793.

Cold is hot

A good coat is an essential weapon for wintertime, **Caitrina Cody** looks at how to go about choosing the right one

Winter is here again and most of us will be sporting a scarf by now, if not a hat and gloves. This season is all about staying warm and looking good at the same time.

For those who equate winter with anoraks, wellies and waterproof trousers - it doesn't have to be that way.



In fact, from the perspective of the haute couture designers, winter is the ideal season in which to showcase beautiful new designs, with an emphasis on texture and fabric that the summer season lacks.

In summer, anything goes. We all shop at Penney's for cheap and cheerful t-shirts and shorts that we know won't outlast the year. But it doesn't matter because summer fashion is frivolous.

Winter however is different. For things like coats and trousers, cut and fabric are important, which is why it's a good idea to try and save up and buy something a bit over your usual budget.

If you want something that will really keep out the cold and compliment your figure, some time and effort must be spent on researching your ideal coat.

This is also an area where an over-reliance on fashion may not be wise because investing in a tulip shaped coat in metallic shades might be something you regret come next year.

A better tactic instead is to decide what type of coat you really like and that you think will stand the test of time and not look completely outdated by next year.

This way you can afford to spend a bit more on a coat because you should be able to wear it for a few years, depending on how well you take care of it of course.

You should consider length and style, from belted trench coats to tweed and plaid. A patterned and colourful coat might catch your eye this winter but will you be bored of it next year?

The masculine style is all the rage this season so there will be a plethora of trench coats and military style long coats but don't be pressured by trends - the masculine look can be hard to carry off for shorter people. A better option might be a soft tweed coat - team these with wide belts to emphasise the waist.

Oasis has a range of coats in store that are affordable and classic in style. Their dogtooth trench coat is very current yet subtle enough to withstand the changing trends and while its priced at £123, you can be sure that it will be worth it.

Next is stocking a range of beautiful jackets and coats all for under the £80 mark. For unusual coats in beautiful colours: visit Monsoon where they have a collection in bright red wool, chocolate brown tweed and much more.

But don't forget, what's a brand new coat without the right scarf and gloves? Penneys has a huge range of very affordable scarves and gloves, enough for every day of the week.

Hats are very important this season and Penneys is stocking some gorgeous Aran knit style hats in soft greys.

H and M likewise is a great source of inexpensive accessories but one thing to remember: if your coat is



very colourful or patterned, stick to plain, one-colour accessories in order to offset your coat, not complicate it. If your coat is monochrome you can afford to go wild with multi-colours, polka dot, leopard-skin and anything else you can think of.

Second-hand stores are a great source for affordable, unique coats and often you will find pieces that are extremely well made and durable. Just remember to air them out first to get rid of the smell of mothballs.

Whatever kind of coat takes your fancy this winter, from plaid to leather to fake fur, make the most of it and enjoy your chance to cover up.

IN

Eco-friendly Shoes

Worn Again shoes are a new footwear line made from recycled textiles. With 900,000 tonnes of textile waste produced every year in the UK, it's time to start putting it to some use. They look good too.

Hair straightening machines

Soon to be available in clubs, bars and gyms around the UK, these machines will rescue you from a bad hair day and tame your frizz on the go. Bring them to Ireland!

Pope Benedict XVI

From his new Prada loafers to his Gucci shades, this Pope gets it right when it comes to fashion, if not political correctness.

Karl Lagerfeld

The German designer's obsession with ultra-thin models continues and according to him, 'French women are too fat.' How profound.

Sandals with Socks

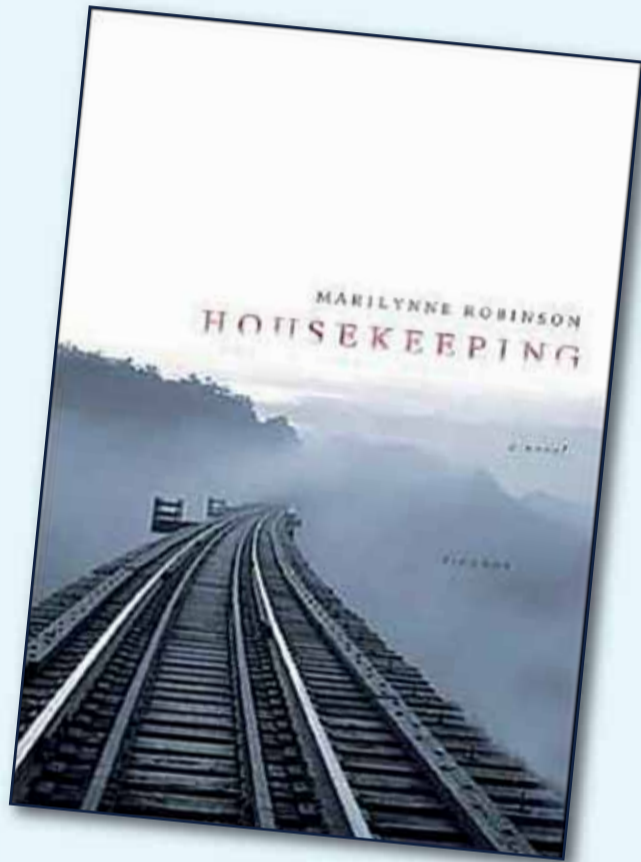
Apparently a trend that is catching on in the UK. For more information on how to avoid this trend and spot the culprits, visit www.sandaland-soxer.co.uk.

Diamond Covered Cars

On everyone's Christmas list this year - buy me a Mercedes SL and cover it in diamonds. Actually spotted in an overseas autoshow.

OUT

Eerie Excellence or Weird Wonder



'Housekeeping' was Marilynne Robinson's debut novel. It came out twenty-three years before her only other novel, the critically acclaimed Gilead (2004). Although her books deal with very different subjects they have in common a kind of slow, languorous prose, rich in atmosphere and imagery.

'Housekeeping' is the story of two orphaned sisters, Ruthie and Lucille, stuck in the small town of Fingerbone, a town that breathes a cold, eerie loneliness. It is a strange, empty world in which men are absent and women are teetering on the verge of insanity.

From the moment that their grandfather decided to come to Fingerbone, and built the irregular, crooked house on a hill, things started to go wrong. The lake claimed him in a gruesome accident with a train, and later Helen, the girls' mother, takes her own life by driving into it. Yet the water is smooth and still, and divulges nothing. Those who are left behind are likewise left blank; empty, aching and lonely.

Thus abandoned by their mother, the girls are left with their grandmother. She is a woman struck by grief and loneliness, acutely aware the loss of her husband and daughters. With her, Ruthie and Lucille live a quiet, uneventful life, and upon her death are transferred into the care of two elderly relatives.

Then the girls' aunt Sylvie shows up. At first she seems a godsend, a rational creature that can usher the girls into adulthood. But as the story progresses, Sylvie's eccentricity becomes more and more apparent. She likes to eat dinner in the dark; she collects empty tin cans and piles of newspapers, and allows little heaps of leaves to gather in every corner.

Parallel to the gradual revealing of Sylvie's true character is the realisation that Ruthie is not normal either. She and Lucille drift apart, with Ruthie skipping school to stay with Sylvie, and Lucille moving in with a teacher, dressing and acting like all the other kids at school. Ruthie doesn't mind. She understands Lucille, in a passive way. It leaves her and Sylvie free to do as they like.

The brilliance of 'Housekeeping' is that the descent into disorder and madness is so subtle; the reader hardly sees it coming. Suddenly the family's idiosyncrasies start to make sense, as Fingerbone becomes more and more stifling, until the lake seems ready to swell up and swallow the whole town. All that's left for Sylvie and Ruthie to do is escape, and break the hold that Fingerbone has over them.

'Housekeeping' is a hauntingly atmospheric novel, and very realistic despite what may seem like rather obvious symbolism and imagery. It stays with the reader for some time after it has been put away, leaving a disturbing, uneven mixture of isolation and detachment behind.

Hannah Kousbroek

No one

Orla Kenny examines the phenomenon of school shootings that has gripped our generation and explores a book by Lionel Shriver to see if it holds the answers

The concept of school massacres is one that is unfortunately familiar to us. Although thankfully non-existent in Ireland, school shootings are hideously prevalent in the United States.

In the past decade, too many small American towns that should have remained quietly unheard of have become household names worldwide, having been rocked by a school atrocity.

Faced by this new wave of youthful violence, it was only a matter of time before books were written on the subject. Exploring societal causes, asking just what drives young students to mercilessly murder their peers and examining the impact these shootings have on a community.

One such book is Lionel Shriver's fictional novel 'We Need To Talk About Kevin'. First published in 2003, it was written in the wake of the Columbine High School Massacre. It was a tragedy that would claim the lives of thirteen innocent people including those of the two disturbed shooters. This was the highest death toll in an incident of its kind. Unfortunately, nearly four years on, this book is as topical and relevant as ever.

In the book, Shriver presents us with the story of Eva, mother of Kevin Khatch-



adourian who, just before he turns sixteen, lures seven of his fellow pupils to the school gym. He then kills them along with one of his teachers and a cafeteria worker.

Taking the form of a series of letters

that Eva writes to her estranged husband Franklin, the narrative is mainly retrospective, detailing the turbulent journey that this family has made.

A terrible journey from the time Eva and Franklin decide to have baby up to

Welcome to



Few stories can match that of Tom Crean. It is the story of the only Irishman to take part in the early attempts to reach the South Pole, a story of immense suffering and endurance.

He was one of the few who lived to tell the tale. A tale that is well told in the current play, Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer, running at Andrews Lane theatre until December 2nd.

Based quite stringently on Michael Smith's defining book on Crean, 'Unsung Hero', this production both written and performed by freelance actor Aidan Dooley strays none-too-much from fact. Yet, it is highly entertaining, not least due to it being somewhat interactive. This is maybe how Dooley and his show have won so many accolades and awards. Storytelling at its best.

Born in Annascaul in 1877, Crean joined the Royal Navy aged just fifteen. The minimum age then was sixteen. He lied, and it is this audacity that very much comes to the fore in Dooley's portrayal. In 1910, he served under Captain Robert F. Scott on an expedition to the pole.

Dooley tells of the hardship of

traversing the pole. The weight each man had to drag in temperatures of minus 40, was equal to a little more their own body weight. On this first expedition with Scott on the 'Discovery', he had travelled to the last 170 miles before being turned home by his Captain.

The method was to start off with as many as 22, set up a camp and leave five men - with food for five there, continue with seventeen - and food for seventeen - and maintain this recycling until five are left with just enough supplies for five to finish the journey. Crean on his first expedition got down to the last eight before being told he was one of the three to return to base camp.

Dooley reckons this journey from base camp to where he stopped, and back, was the same as walking from Dublin to Moscow, dragging another man behind you. Such was the endurance of these astonishing men.

The performance is littered with brilliantly told factual anecdotes. One such example: on this return leg to base camp, the captain and orienteer lost his way ending up at a very sharp 50 de-

is born evil



final few pages when Kevin commits mass murder, ripping the household apart. The chapters are also dotted with descriptions of Eva's present day visits to Claverack prison where Kevin is being held.

Through her letters, Eva firstly introduces us to what her life was like before she had Kevin. A successful business-woman who set up her own travel guide company, she is cynical of American culture and loathes the countries 'suburban white picket fenced dream'.

In spite of her better judgment, she agrees to have a baby, not wishing to deny her husband the opportunity to be a father. Yet, before Kevin is even born, she experiences feelings of resentment towards him. Once born, she is suspicious of his every action, believing that his every move to be calculated.

In her eyes, what would normally be viewed as normal childhood misdemeanors, take on inflated menace. When he pulls her hair, he means to hurt her. When he damages a neighbour's bike, he means for the boy to be injured. When he destroys Eva's prized maps, it is out of deliberate malice and not thoughtless creativity.

As he grows up, his actions seem to become more sinister. Eva believes he is involved in an incident, which causes his sister to lose an eye, and that he has falsely accused a teacher of sexual as-



Shriver: Raises important issues

sault. It seems that Kevin has massive intelligence but is bored by the world, uninterested in material trappings and only amused by perverse acts of cruelty.

Despairing of her son's behaviour, Eva's isolation is compounded by the fact that her husband can't seem to see Kevin's true nature. Franklin views Kevin as a regular teenage boy, struggling with difficult issues. But for Eva, Kevin's life is a series of increasingly malevolent acts that culminate in his killing spree.

'We Need To Talk About Kevin' was

awarded the prestigious Orange Prize for Fiction and it's not hard to understand why. It is a powerful and interesting novel that raises a number of significant issues. Like the American public who question the motives of killers, Eva is constantly questioning the spitefulness and hatred that drove her son to mass murder.

Like Eva, many would like to believe that these killers are born with a natural inclination towards evil, born without compassion or enthusiasm for life. However, this novel can't be read without admitting that Eva is an unreliable narrator, her perspective skewed and coloured by her son's crime and her natural resentment of a son whose birth curbed her business career.

She seems to suggest a certain inevitability about Kevin's actions that is difficult to accept, and so we are forced to examine what other possible causes there are for school shootings, besides inherent evil. Could a parent's emotional detachment press a teenager into going on a rampage, or is the lack of support offered to disillusioned students at school to blame?

How much responsibility should other people shoulder when a student sees red? Though it's difficult, while reading this book, to suppress the desire to take the easy way out and believe that Kevin is simply an evil sociopath.

Shriver cleverly forces us to accept that prescribing to this view may be a bit too convenient.

However, she equally refrains from placing blame on any source, be it parents, schools or society as a whole. The truly brilliant thing about this book is that while Shriver raises important issues in relation to school shootings, she

never attempts to shower us with definitive answers.

In all, this is a gripping novel. We are carried along with this little family, experiencing the tragedy of a school shooting from the other side of the fence, all the while filled with a sense of dismay. Highly recommended, it should be read.



my playground

Frank Clune lifts the lid on Tom Crean, a great Irishman who, although best remembered in a Guinness ad, is deserving of so much more

gree ravine covered in mist. Once realised, the orienteer - Evans - knew the mistake had been made three days ago.

With supplies measured out properly, these three days back and three days forward would become six days lost. And so the decision by the bold Crean was made that they slide on their sleds down the ravine - possibly to a shear drop to death, possibly to smash against a wall of ice or hopefully to slide to a halt among the mist.

Luckily, the latter turned out to be the result. Such is an example of the aforementioned audacity of Crean that is portrayed by Dooley. The five who left for the pole perished, and out of respect for the captain, Crean made sure to go back and find them. It is often said that Scott would have made it had Crean been taken.

Upon returning home, Crean and William Lashley were honoured for going back to get their captain a journey again from here to Moscow.

For the period of 1914 - 1916

Crean served under Sir Ernest

Shackleton on the fittingly named 'Endurance'. Shackleton had heard of Crean's exploits and had devised a new plan to get to the pole - via South America. Untold hardship awaited them.

Firstly, their boat got stuck in ice for eight months during which they had to kill and eat leopard seals and penguins. Then they got stranded on Elephant Island. Crean was one of the few sent on a lifeboat to paddle for months to reach South Georgia to get help.

They would have to paddle 24 hours a day in rotation and such was the distance, a mistake in orienteering by as little as half a degree would mean death for all. These are a few of the tasks met and overcome by these tenacious men.

Crean returned to Ireland, mentally and physically drained because of what he'd seen and experienced and opened a pub with his wife in Annascaul, called The South Pole Inn. Later he got another letter from Shackleton asking him to go again. This time he refused.

In the end, Shackleton never returned. Dooley concludes with a supposed happy ending. Crean is seen as a man who had seen it all and more, and who retired to his living dream - that of owning a pub with his family. Yet, inherently there lies a twist.

The drama opens with "Tom Crean, do any of ye know that name? Probably not since I didn't keep a diary". There is pain in that, as Crean was never recognised in his own country or worldwide.

Copies of Scott and Shackleton's diaries are on display worldwide, nothing of Crean. He outlived all of his contemporaries and came back when even his captains didn't, but had to live a life of anonymity in his homeland as he returned from the hated Royal Navy to the nationalist South West during the War of Independence.

This is the tragedy that surrounds Tom Crean and one that is amazingly demonstrated by Dooley. This is a masterpiece, a truly fitting live tribute to the unsung hero.



Shaken not stirred

Barra Ó Fianail reviews the latest James Bond movie, 'Casino Royale', and declares that it is worthy of following in the giant footsteps that lie before it



'Casino Royale' is the first Bond film since 1989's Licence to Kill to actually use any elements of Ian Fleming's stories. Fleming is the man who gave metaphorical birth to our beloved secret agent.

The first book in the series, originally published in 1953, actually shares the title of this latest film. In that first book, we see a much colder Bond than we have come to know, certainly the camper, cheesy Bond films.

We get an insight into Bond's

thoughts. We see that beneath his chauvinistic yet charming exterior, are genuine feelings on the inferiority of women which might have alienated some of 007's more liberal fans.

However, at least Bond was human. He could be wrong sometimes, he made the odd mistake. It wasn't the one 'bold stroke' after another, that some have argued made a lot of the films unfortunately predictable. In his very first outing, Bond showed that he could remain human, but still be the absolute cheese.

In this way, 'Casino Royale' may well be Bond's renaissance. He gets tortured. No slipping through the enemy's fingers just before they can do any real damage to him. No more 'Mr you can't hurt me so why bother trying'. He actually gets tortured.

To be fair, he did get tortured to various degrees in earlier films as well, most notably, Pierce Brosnan wasn't treated very nicely at all by the North Koreans in 2002's 'Die Another Day'.

Remember though, that was Bond's last outing, and now Daniel Craig gets his fetters roughed. This is definite progress people. If you're going to have relations with Halle Berry or Eva Green, you should have to work for it.

The rebirth is made ever more literal in that this is portrayed as Bond's maiden voyage as a 00 agent. The loyalty to Fleming's book also extends to the nitty gritty of the plot. In Fleming's book, Bond was charged with beating a French agent at Baccarat, the modern version has simply changed the game to Texas Holdem.

Joy of joys though, Bond has been made human again. If you're a Bond fan, you'll like it because it



The Bonds: (Clockwise from top left) Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Pierce Brosnan, George Lazenby and Timothy Dalton (centre).

lacks nothing in terms of the action and adventure we have come to love. This movie goes into the Guinness book of world records for most car roll-overs in a movie scene, with seven. What makes it a watershed however, is that Bond has a psyche that is not infallible. This could lead us to somewhere beautiful.

Also, just as Fleming's debut was immersed in the Cold War environment of his time, this film is based firmly in the days of the Bush-Blair 'war on terror', with references to 9/11 that you can't help but think earlier Bonds might have shied away from.

Now for the characters,

which by the way, is another unique element of this film. It seems to centre on the people involved rather than a rigid set out series of events.

This makes the film a genuine film which can stand on its own legs rather than being the continuation of series. In a cinematic sense this is a positive, but some of the hardcore fans may not want any initiative, just more of the same, which this is not.

Firstly, Craig is mag-

nificent. For those of us who mourned the loss of Brosnan, a great Bond who seemed to be harshly treated, we must desist. At 38, Craig embodies this new, youthful Bond in a way that Brosnan could never have done. Most obviously because of his age but perhaps most importantly because he was already firmly cast in that old, while undoubtedly excellent, Bond mould.

So, the villain. The dastardly 'Le Chiffre' is played by Mads Mikkelsen,

who is all the rage in his native Denmark apparently. Not the usual 'im-just-completely-nuts' kind of villain. This guy just doesn't give a damn

about anything other than hard cash, he's more amoral than evil. Is that worse?

As for the love interest, Eva Green plays Vesper Lynd who's undoubtedly hot, but at the same time probably won't be ranked among the top Bond girls when the series finishes. She's no Jane Seymour, of 1973's 'Live and Let Die' and 'Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman' fame.

The film is also littered with real quality actors in the smaller roles. Most notably Jeffrey Wright as Felix Leiter, a CIA agent. Of course, Judi Dench is back as M, in perhaps her most involved role yet, certainly since 'The World Is Not Enough'. The cast overall, is perhaps the most impressive of all the Bonds.

The Caribbean home which Fleming retired to was known as 'Goldeneye', from which we got the name of Bonds 1995 adventure and Brosnan's first crack of the whip. It is strange that it was that film, when Bond jumped into a diving plane and flew it to safety, that he had what could have been his lowest moment, whereas this movie could be his finest hour. Although to be fair, apart from that ridiculous incident, which just crossed the line, Goldeneye was a pretty good movie. All is all, Bonds 21st is a quality gig.

"Daniel Craig is magnificent. At 38, Craig embodies this new, youthful Bond in a way that Brosnan could never have done"