CIT Graduation Pictures

Christmas Day Pictures Inside

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Welfare Advice on Accommodation

Clubs & Societies News & Features
Hey all,

Hope the exams are going well for all, I know they aren’t from where I’m sitting but I’m making empty promises to myself that that’s all going to change “tomorrow”. Oh yes, I’m going to spend a few hours in the library “tomorrow”, it hasn’t quite happened yet but I’ll live in hope, got a feeling it’s the same for a lot of people. Say a few decades of the rosary the night before each exam and hope for divine inspiration.

Christmas day went well by all accounts with some of the fun and games being recorded in the middle pages. There were performances from DJ Anthony Fleming, Ronnie Costley and Bluemoose, I must say well done to Mark and Tim for organising such a great day.

Welfare Week was also a great success, thanks to Dan ‘superman’ Keane bringing in stands from many great organisations.

In saying all this, these events are only a taste of what’s to come, with preparations for Rag Week and the Mystery Tour well underway.

The increasing demand for the NITE SHUTTLE has been met with the allocation of an extra time slot. The new times are 1.30 am, 2.00 am, 2.30 am and 3.00 am.

A special thanks to Ms Emily O’Reilly, Ombudsman and Information Commissioner, for allowing us to reproduce her speech, "Imagining the Future - An Irish Perspective", given at the annual Céifin Conference on 3rd November 2004 in this edition. Believe me it is well worth a read.

I am looking for articles for next month, so class reps, get writing and get your class to do the same. Also pictures from class parties are welcome.

Until next month,

Slán

Steph
An award made possible by the Trustees of the late Lord Pilkington has been awarded to a CIT Construction Management student, Mr Gerry O’Rourke. Gerry received the award for the most outstanding result for a project (1st in the world). The prize includes an engraved Gold Medal, a silver salver, and £500. The presentation was made to Gerry at an awards function at the Chartered Institute of Building headquarters, Ascot. Gerry’s project focused on the complete development of a cinema complex in Dungarvan in Waterford, from inception to disposal. The hypothetical project takes the student through the entire development process; a framework set to simulate real life through a problem based learning approach. The Institute for display purposes will retain a copy of Gerry’s submission. Only one gold medal is awarded annually and may not be awarded if no candidate reaches a sufficiently high standard. Gerry who is originally from Clashmore in Co Waterford is now working with MACE Limited, a Construction Management Company in the UK.

Gerry was accompanied at the awards ceremony by his Course Co-ordinator Joe Kehoe from the Department of Construction and Architecture. £300 is made available to be used for the purchase of books by the educational establishment responsible for the supervision of Gerry’s project. In addition to Gerry’s success five additional students from CIT’s Construction Management also achieved outstanding results.

John Barry and Barry O’Driscoll received Silver medals for their results in Site Management. John from Adare, Co Limerick and Barry from Mallow, Co Cork, also attended the awards ceremony on the 7th October 2004. A silver medal is the highest award awarded for success in individual examinations.

Three other students, Michael O’Connor, Claire Sheehan, and Owen Wright received Bronze medals.

Michael O’Connor, from Ballincollig, was awarded the Bronze medal in the subject Programming, Planning and Production. Claire, from Farran received her medal for her success in Site Management. The Contractual Procedures Bronze medal was awarded to Owen who hails from Killarney, Co Kerry.

All in all CIT students scooped six medals, The Gold Medal, Two Silver medals, and Three Bronze, an outstanding achievement by any standards. The students were delighted with their success and expressed thanks to their lecturers on the Chartered Institute of Building programme. One of the highlights of the academic year for the students is the overseas trip, which in 2003/2004 was to Edinburgh, to view construction projects and companies, which they felt contributed in no small measure to their medal winning abilities.

The Chartered Institute of Building Programme has only been running for two years in CIT and the results are a testimony to the dedication and commitment of all staff and students on the programme.

Mr Roger Flanagan, Vice President of the CIoB, presented the awards. Mr Flanagan spoke of the outstanding achievement of all the medal winners and said they should feel very proud as they were at the ‘top of the pile’ in terms of construction management academic success. Following the awards luncheon, the students were given a guided tour of the Institute’s headquarters, a refurbished country mansion close to Ascot in Berkshire.

On the 15th October the medal winners were invited to the Southern Branch annual dinner of CIoB (Ireland) and were presented with a Cork crystal pen and paperweight set engraved with the CIoB logo in recognition of their outstanding achievement. Master of Ceremonies for the night, Mr Micheal O’Muircheartaigh referred to the Gold medal winner as a champion amongst champions. The students received a standing ovation and were congratulated by the guests of honour, which included the Mayor of Cork, Mr Sean Martin and the Minister of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment, Mr Micheal Martin.
CITSU Welfare Week 2004 Helps to Increase Awareness of Student Welfare Issues

“...This year’s welfare week was by far one of the best CIT has ever seen, I would like to express gratitude to Daniel, Vice President Welfare, and everyone who assisted him...”

CIT Students' Union held its annual Welfare Week in mid November to raise awareness of welfare issues that effect students in their daily lives. Many groups and organisations were brought into Cork Institute of Technology to give students information on various welfare matters that may affect their lives. Such groups included Cura, Threshold, Citizens Advice, NOAMI, Life and the Blood Bank.

CITSU Vice President Welfare, Daniel Keane, stated “I would like to once again offer my sincere gratitude to everyone who helped make this week so successful. Hopefully the week will have been of benefit to students and staff of this institute”.

Daniel added, “One of the most prevalent issues students are facing this year is difficulties with accommodation, leases etc. I have compiled an article further on in this edition to highlight some of the newest legislation relating to this area. Should you require further information from any of the organisations which visited us during Welfare Week, please drop over to me in the Students’ Union prefab”.

CITSU President James Maher said “This year’s welfare week was by far one of the best CIT has ever seen, I would like to express gratitude to Daniel, Vice President Welfare, and everyone who assisted him for all their hard work in the run-up to and during Welfare Week. I would also like to thank the welfare committee for all their solid work, it is great to see such enthusiasm from fellow students and staff”.

USI Calls for Greater Investment in Research Initiatives

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) called on the Government to implement recommendations to increase the number of researchers in third-level education. According to studies, Ireland lags behind most European countries in terms of the numbers of researchers. A conference of Heads of Irish Universities was held on 11 November 2004, to look at ways to attract overseas researchers to help fulfil the target set by the Government of a 2.5% (8,000) increase by 2010.

Speaking from the conference USI Postgraduate Officer, Aoife Braiden said: “The need for investment has been highlighted by a recent report which listed only one Irish University (TCD) in the top 200 in the world. The report went on to stress that investment in a broader and deeper research culture within Irish universities is vital if we are to stay competitive in a global market”.

Aoife added, “USI is calling on the Government, CHIU, the HEA and funding bodies to ensure further recurrent and long-term investment in postgraduate levels studies. This must include capital, financial and personnel support, with recurrent funding and strategic planning. USI is also asking that, in line with expanding research and development in Ireland, the powers given by HETAC to Institutes of Technology to award doctoral level degrees, is not rescinded, as is suggested in the OECD report.

Many of the recent economic successes in Ireland have been attributed to our outstanding quality of education, including research and development. However, the government needs to invest in all types of postgraduate qualification including humanities and social science, with a well structured and appropriately financed programme. I am wary if the proposed increases in numbers are not sufficiently planned, that it will only lead to a decrease in quality and facilities available. Minister Hanafin needs to sustain and improve schemes such as PRTLI and support funding bodies like SFI and Enterprise Ireland with a view to achieving a world class research community”.

New Google Scholar Search Service to Assist College Research

This month Google formally launched a new search service aimed at scientists and academic researchers. Google Scholar is a free beta service that allows users to search for scholarly literature like peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical report. Google claims that the new service accesses information from resources such as academic publishers, universities, professional societies and preprint repositories.

Google Principal Engineer, Anurag Acharya, announced, “Just as with Google Web Search, Google Scholar orders your search results by how relevant they are to your query, so the most useful references should appear at the top of the page. This relevance ranking takes into account the full text of each article as well as the article’s author, the publication in which the article appeared and how often it has been cited in scholarly literature. Google Scholar also automatically analyses and extracts citations and presents them as separate results, even if the documents they refer to aren’t online. This means your search results may include citations of older works and seminal articles that appear only in books or other offline publications”.

He added, “We at Google have benefited much from academic research. This is one of the ways in which we are giving back to the research community. We hope Google Scholar will help all of us stand on the shoulders of giants”.

A query for “Albert Einstein” and “relativity,” for example, pulls up 2,920 references along the left-hand side of the page, clearly identified as articles from the Web, or pointing to online material such as citations or books, which when clicked on are presented much in the same manner as a library card catalogue. In test searches, approximately 75% of the results returned were PDF documents.

Topics covered include medicine, physics, economics and computer science. Documents in the Google Scholar search index are written in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

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Every year the selection of accommodation available to the students of CIT increases but a greater choice doesn’t always mean increased value for your money. With high prices forcing most students to take houses and apartments which are not up to scratch, problems can cost students a fortune and knowing the basic facts could save you just that. When it comes to accommodation knowing exactly what your rights are tends to be a tug-of-war between tenant and landlord for who’s right and wrong. On September 1st this year a new bill called “The Private Residence Tenancy Bill” came into effect and made the first major changes to accommodation laws in Ireland for almost thirty years. The changes made give increased security and rights to students but also makes changes to the roles of a landlord and tenant. In this article, the major amendments combined with existing statutes will be discussed to show exactly where it is you stand as a tenant.

**Deposits**

As is standard with almost every letting agreement today, a deposit is required. The usual amount that is payable is four weeks’ or one month’s rent depending on how often you pay your rent. The purpose of this deposit is to protect the landlord from getting stuck with any expenses at the end of the letting term, e.g. if you break your bedroom window, the landlord should get the window replaced and give you back your deposit minus the cost replacing the window but should also include an invoice to show exactly what the costs involved were. In most agreements it is allowable for the tenant to get the repairs done themselves and these are then checked by the landlord to ensure that they are satisfactory. A deduction can also be made from your deposit if you leave early or give inadequate notice, e.g. if you leave a week early, then a week can be deducted from your deposit. Generally the landlord holds the deposit as security against you breaking the tenancy agreement. You may forfeit some or all of the deposit if you:

- Do not give adequate notice or if you leave before the end of your lease or tenancy agreement
- Cause damage to the landlord’s property over and above normal wear and tear
- Leave rent or bills unpaid.

**Leases**

Leases are the standard way of keeping control and checks on your agreement with your landlord. If you have a lease then that states all the rights and responsibilities you have as a tenant. It is very important to note that a lease can be implied even though nothing is written on paper if one of the following occurs:

- A key is handed over
- A deposit is given
- Rent is paid

In this case you as a tenant have entitlements but it also places onuses on you, which you should be aware of. The new law now states that notice periods to quit, which must be given by the landlord to the tenant, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of Tenancy</th>
<th>Notice Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>28 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 months to 1 year</td>
<td>35 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year to 2 years</td>
<td>42 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 years to 3 years</td>
<td>56 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years to 4 years</td>
<td>84 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years or more</td>
<td>112 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grounds for terminating tenancy**

- A landlord may terminate tenancy but only on the grounds specified below:
  - Where the tenant has not complied with their obligations, the tenant has been notified of the breach and has not righted the breach.
  - Where the dwelling is no longer suitable to the needs of the tenant.
  - Where the landlord is selling the property.
  - Where the landlord requires the dwelling for his own occupation or for a member of his family to occupy.
  - Where the landlord intends to substantially refurbish or renovate the dwelling and planning permission has been obtained, if necessary.
  - Where the landlord intends to change the use of the dwelling and planning permission has been obtained, if necessary.

The landlord may terminate a tenancy with seven days notice on the grounds of the tenants’ anti-social behaviour. The landlord may terminate with twenty-eight days notice where the tenant is in default. If the default is non-payment of rent, the landlord must notify the tenant in writing that the rent is owing and give them fourteen days to pay the rent prior to serving twenty-eight days notice to quit.

**A tenant surrendering a tenancy must serve their landlord with the following notice period:**

<table>
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</tbody>
</table>
Leases for fixed Periods
A formal lease or letting agreement is usually for a fixed period (e.g. a year). You cannot be asked to leave during that time unless you break one of the terms of the lease. You are entitled to formal notice of any claim that you have broken the tenancy conditions and to be given time to set things right. If you want to leave before the lease is up you could be held liable for the rent for the balance of the letting period. However, if you can arrange for another tenant to take over the rest of your lease, the landlord may agree to this. When the lease is up, the landlord may sign a new lease or agreement with you. Otherwise if the tenancy is continued on an informal basis, you may then become a weekly or monthly tenant depending on how rent is paid. Tenants should be given the original lease and the landlord keeps a copy.

Utilities & Refuse
Details of when and how payments for services are to be made must be set out in full in your rent book e.g. direct debit, bill etc. All payments made must be receipted in full in the rent book, or by written receipt. If you think that the setting is too high, check it with the ESB or the Gas Co. Landlords should not charge more than the standard rate for electricity and gas. In some areas it is the practice of the ESB not to put the electricity account in a tenant’s name unless the tenant has a lease for a minimum period of one year. If a student is required to put the ESB or GAS in their name then you may be required to pay a deposit or may only be allowed to pay by direct debit.

A landlord is not entitled to disconnect the power or water supply. Local authority service charges for bin collection etc. are payable by the tenant as the “occupier” of the premises rather than the landlord. Make sure you are not billed for arrears for previous tenants or for charges due from other people living in the house. It is possible for the local authority to waive charges for refuse if there are students resident in the house. Call to the Students’ Union prefab (p42) to pick up waiver forms. Return the completed forms with a photocopy of the ID card of every student living in the house to Room 101, City Hall.

Minimum Standards
Your landlord must, by law, ensure that your house or apartment complies with certain minimum standards (e.g. free from damp, in good structural repair, hot and cold water, adequate means of heating and ventilation, appliances in good working order, electrical wiring, gas, pipes in good repair). If your house or apartment does not comply with these standards, report it.

Privacy
As a tenant you are entitled to quiet and peaceful enjoyment of your home. Your landlord is only allowed enter with your permission. If the landlord needs to carry out repairs or inspect the premises, it should be by prior arrangement with you. If the property is put up for sale or a room is for let, ask the landlord to agree viewing times with you. If your landlord repeatedly enters your flat without your permission contact Daniel Keane Vice President Welfare for advice.

CIT End of Term Party Madness
ALL DECEMBER!

We would like to wish the students and staff of CIT a Happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Best of Luck with your Christmas Exams and we hope to see you all in the New Year for more Party Madness!

Bishopstown’s Original & Best Student Bar
CIT Students’ Union President

I hope the exams are going well and you all enjoyed Christmas day. The New Year will bring with it many decisions about the future of the Union and you will be asked to decide on many matters. There is a revised constitution proposed, which I believe would strengthen how we do our work and ensure that officers can not abuse their positions.

Also you may be asked if we should rejoin the national organisation USI. I have to say, my own thoughts are not of a positive nature and the cost of rejoining would be so high as to restrict future activities as well to make officers less available as we would be attending events off-campus for a good proportion of the year.

I would like to explain why and how another decision was made in relation to the 10k walk. This is an annual project in the form of a charity event in aid of Chernobyl, run by a private company. This year we were informed that a number of colleges had pulled out of the event. After we investigated the matter we found the company in question had not submitted accounts on time or up to date to the CRO.

We, as an executive, decided that there was a risk to the money, which you the students would raise in good faith and following consultation with Union Council (on which all the class reps sit) it was agreed not to participate in the event this year. The Union Council believed it would be a bad idea to risk participation and that another charity event should be organised in its stead. We are currently working on that, anyone with ideas or who just wants to get involved should contact Jamie in the prefab.

Good luck with the exams and have a happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

James

CIT Students’ Union Vice President Education

Here comes Christmas rushing in faster than the speed of sound, pretty soon it’ll be Christmas day for real. No doubt you’ll be kicking back and relaxing, or partying your hearts out, while relegating the strains of college to the nether regions of your brain for at least two weeks. Unfortunately before that there are the Christmas assessments to finish, even though some have the luxury of being finished as you read this, others are in the middle of them or still waiting to start them.

Last month CITSU had it’s own take on Christmas Day, which I am sure you all enjoyed as you usually do. DJ Anthony Fleming played some great games with a Christmassy twist to them. Afterwards the great Blue Moose rocked the atrium.

I’ll let you all try and remember the night-time events yourself! (I might be the Education Officer but I can’t educate you on what you do while under the influence). Speaking of which don’t forget to check out the Standard Drinks Quiz under the fun section.

I’ll keep it short and sweet this month as I don’t want to keep you from that all important study, class or lab you are currently contemplating skipping at this moment. Have a great Christmas and as usual call in if you need anything be it help, advice or just a chat.

So with that I say “Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night”.

Jamie

CIT Students’ Union Vice President Welfare

With a successful Welfare Week over and in excess of twenty prominent welfare service providers taking part, all that’s left to do now is to thank those organisations who took part and those students who came to visit the stands. Accommodation problems still tend to form the bulk of my workload and I’ve put some of the most important information you need to know in an article further on in this issue for your information.

Mental Health and Awareness will be my major focus for 2005, as I hope to increase understanding around the Institute about mental health, as it is an issue, which affects an ever increasing number of students. Through a series of talks and information sessions I hope to combat the stigma which goes hand in hand with this illness. Look out for more information in the next edition of Explicit.

That’s me for another month so I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all at the far side of the exams in the New Year.

All the best and Merry Christmas,

Daniel
Hope I find you all well and not nursing any hangovers like I have to deal with or stressing too much over exams because you went out last night and left the study behind.

So Christmas is upon us again for another year. Make sure you find the right person under the mistletoe. Don’t forget those essential presents and to enjoy yourselves. Christmas day was yet again a huge success, so whether naughty or nice I hope Santa delivered what you wanted!

Plans for the mystery tour have unfortunately been put off until January so don’t forget to keep some loose change around for then. There was a pool competition run recently in the games room. This was a success and well done to everyone who took part, there are plans to run more events like this during the year. More new board games have been purchased in case a group of you need to fill a few hours some day. Thanks to everyone who has helped me with ideas and plenty more are needed so get in contact with me.

Thursday nights in Club Renaissance are still going strong with people spilling in for the various theme nights and promotions. Plans have been laid for some new nights to give you an unforgettable experience. Also don’t forget the Night Shuttle when leaving the pubs and clubs to take you home for just €1.

Have one for me,
Mark.

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Maths Retention Initiative
Free of charge for students

**Maths for First Years**
- Thursdays
- Time: 5-6pm
- Room: D245

**Maths for Mature Students**
- Tuesdays
- Time: 1-2pm
- Room: E6

**Statistics**
- Thursdays
- Time: 1-2pm
- Room: B229

Classes started during October.
The Maths Retention Initiative is a joint initiative organised by the Maths Dept. and the Educational Opportunities Dept. Please note change of dates.
Merry Christmas from all at MacB’s Pub

Book your Xmas class party now in the SU office or online at www.citsu.ie

End of Term Party Fun over Xmas
For many years now homosexuality has existed in this world of ours in many shapes and forms, from the ancient saunas of Greece to the public bathrooms of Houston Station, from Teletubbies to Tarzan, from Madonna to Britney and from Boy George to Todd Grimshaw. It's all around us like constipation but only a few of us give a crap about it.

Being a gay man in CIT is like a clown at a funeral service, you wonder, "what the hell am I doing here?", but thanks to modern civilization and Telly Bingo we have become accepted into society and the clown is allowed to juggle his...ahem... balls again.

Of course you will always get the severely mentally challenged yobs who find it essential to voice their ranting and ravings on Patrick Street in the middle of the night, just to make them feel better about themselves with such timeless comments as "look at him he's a queer, backs against the walls", or one of my personal all time favourites "Keep away from me you faggot". Newsflash guys, those remarks were cool in the nineties but now it's the naughties ('00) and trust me nobody cares.

It is easy to spot the divas in CIT, they are screaming so loud that it's deafening, always with a bunch of girls, wearing designer clothes with all the matching accessories, and if they start to conduct an invisible orchestra...

The “gay scene” (god I hate that phrase) is very difficult to explain. In many ways it's like a church, we have our idol who we give thanks to and praise and I know that somehow Britney can hear each and every one of our prayers. Our bible, Spartacus, which foretells of wondrous places for our afterlife, our priests who teach us the value and meaning of being gay and then get put down for three years for indecent exposure and our altar boys who I can't discuss for legal reasons and of course us, the sheep who every week flock together and celebrate our religion.

Of course we welcome other communities into our church from time to time, our straight lady friends who are legally termed “fag hags” have a VIP card and bring both happiness and free cosmetics into our lives. And then of course there is the “oh so very straight” boys who look like they are caught in the headlights of a pink mini and tend to stay near the walls for safety.

We are undoubtedly the most judgemental group of people ever to have been put on this planet. Unless you wear the tightest, smallest clothes, have spent 100s of euro on cosmetics and spent four hours on your hair, you are nothing. The best chance you have pulling tonight is with the old creepy guy in the corner who keeps scratching himself and licking his lips looking at you. One must look like a god to be even considered. This is the harsh reality for us gay people but boy do we love it.

Hopefully I have given you some insight into what it's like for us gay men in CIT. Trying to categorise a gay man is like trying to get R. Kelly out of the playground, it's never going to happen. Sure most people think gay men are drama queens and that we over exaggerate ourselves, but you will be surprised at who is, after all it could be your best friend...
CIT Christmas Day Celebration 2004 - Party Pics in CIT, The Outpost, & Redz

Who’s been Naughty & Who’s Been Nice...
To get your class party photos in expliCIT:

- Hand them into the Main SU Office (C143) in an envelope with details of your class, the event in the photo and contact details to return the photos.
- You can also email them to expliCIT@citsu.ie but please ensure that each photo is high resolution (300dpi) and that the shot is up close and good!
- Finally, BEWARE of the expliCIT photographers at the Official CITSU Events!
Cork Institute of Technology

Student Graduations

2004

Vicky Lane pictured with Philip O’Reilly and Triplets Daniel, Cian and Adam O’Reilly
Photos taken by Barry O’Sullivan & Philip O’Reilly
Many thanks for inviting me here today to address you on the rather daunting theme of ‘Imagining the Future’. I am particularly pleased to be in the company of such respected and hopefully, influential, fellow speakers and I would at this point like to congratulate Céifín on the very valuable work its founders and others have done since its inception.

When I began to put my thoughts together on this topic, I imagined myself not in the future, but rather in the past, let’s say twenty years ago, the year 1984 which I think many us here today will think of as not so very long ago when most of us were well into our adult lives.

So imagine if I or someone like me had been asked to speak to you then, asked to imagine what this country might dream of being like in the year 2004. I think I might have said something along the following lines.

Imagine an Ireland where few if any of its young people felt forced to emigrate. Imagine an Ireland where immigrants instead came to our shores, seeking our permission to live here, to work and to raise their families. Imagine an Ireland of almost full employment with mainly poorer foreign workers doing the harder, messier, lower paid work, the sort of work WE used to do in Britain and America. Imagine an Ireland where the majority owned a TV set, and a stereo system, and a fridge, and a microwave and a car and central heating and double glazed windows and a mobile phone and enough money for a family holiday AND a spring break.

Imagine an Ireland where an unhappy couple or one unhappy part of a couple was allowed a dignified exit from that marriage through no-fault divorce. Imagine an Ireland where the stigma of single parenthood had largely disappeared. Imagine an Ireland with a woman President, or better still, two women Presidents. Imagine a powerful, female, Tanaiste. Imagine a brace of female Supreme Court judges, imagine a female Minister for Agriculture, a female Ombudsman, a female Secretary General of a Government Department, a female Assistant Commissioner of the Garda Síochána, a female editor of the Irish Times with letters that begin ‘Dear Madam’. Imagine an Ireland where the all-pervasive power and might of the Roman Catholic Church had withered.

Imagine schools and hospitals run almost exclusively by lay people, imagine Martin McGuinness as Minister of Education for homes and industrial schools into apartment complexes and car parks and stray bits the transformation of once great convents and seminaries and mother and baby w提示。Imagine schools and hospitals run almost exclusively by lay people, imagine Top Shop and Marks and Spencer's and Zara and Dorothy Perkins and Next and Tescos and Sunday shopping and 24 hour, 7 day shopping. Imagine waiting lists for Hermes bags and eye creams. Imagine a second fashion floor in Brown Thomas. Imagine the Kildare by pass, and the Drogheda by pass, and the Athlone bypass and the restoration of tram lines in Dublin, and bus lanes and dirt cheap air travel and great big cars with DVDs on the ceiling and windows that go up and down when you tell them to. Imagine the ending of the plastic bag epidemic. Imagine smoke free airports and bus terminals and shops and offices. Imagine ladies and gentlemen smoke free pubs. In Ireland.

Imagine all of that and imagine what you, the audience, would have said in response. You would have said, Emily; that would be paradise. So, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to paradise.

Here we are, twenty years later, in the paradise we might have imagined at Céifín 1984 and I ask myself; why are we still whingeing? Why after that gargantuan transformation of public and private life in a direction that many of the country’s most thoughtful and concerned citizens wished for, is there still an enormous disquiet about the nature of our Irish society and the sort of people we have become?

Let us assume that it was God we had entreated for all those things leaving aside perhaps those things concerned with the Church. How would God react now, in the face of that huge, Santa sack of gifts to us, to the fact that we’re still not happy? What you wish for and the poison that can seep through answered prayers. That is part of the reason. It is also bound up with the fundamental law of physics that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction or perhaps more appropriately unexpected reaction. Another reason is that perhaps the tyranny of poverty and oppression, albeit relative in Ireland’s case, has been supplanted by the modern, cutting edge tyranny of wealth and freedom. A fourth reason has to do with our still faulty understanding of human nature.

Many of us – if we have any developed sensibility recoil at the vulgar fest that is much of modern Ireland – the rampant, unrestrained drunkenness, the brutal, random violence that infects the smallest of our townlands and villages, the incontinent use of foul language with no thought to place or company, the obscene parading of obscene wealth, the debasement of our civic life, the growing disdain of the wealthy towards the poor, the fracturing of our community life, the God like status given to celebrities and the all too often replaced somewhere down the line with a venomous desire to attack and destroy those who were on pedestals the week before, the creation of “reality” TV, more destructive in its cynical filleting of the worth and wonder of the human soul than anything George Orwell could have imagined.
But it wasn't meant to be like this we will protest. Divorce was meant to be for the deeply unhappy, not the mildly bored; drunkenness was supposed to be practised by the down and out and the marginalised, not the boys and girls with cars and careers and more prospects than their granny could shake a stick at.

More cars were supposed to help people get around, not force them to sit in line through the full two hours of a drive time programme at motorway exits, motorways which, incidentally were ALSO supposed to help people get around. By passes were supposed to relieve bottle necks not shuffle them forward to the next un by passed town. Portlaoise was never meant to be a West Dublin suburb.

Sunday shopping was supposed to be a convenience for the harassed worker, not a new religion. We still haven't worked out exactly what we thought 24-hour shopping was supposed to do, but still can't get over that vaguely depressed feeling we experience whenever we think of shops with lights on at 3.00 am and more particularly, of the people who have to work there.

And yes, I suppose we did seek to curb the power of the Church but that didn't mean we wanted to empty the churches themselves, or reduce seminaries and convents to advertising foder for the property sections. And while the nuns had their problems, it would be nice if the odd one were still around to lecture us about the evils of the micro mini and the bared and nailed midriff, or to knock the odd hospital consultant into shape with the menacing flutter of a wimple. And while we greatly welcome the challenge of choosing from a choice of 179 assorted types of coffee in the morning, we didn't mean to for Bewley's to go.

But let me make something clear at this point. This is not a middle-aged lament for the good old days. Or perhaps I should say it's not JUST a middle aged lament for the good old days. I may well think that Dublin's Financial Services Centre is over endowed on the tall skinny latte front, but it is still a hell of an improvement on what was there before, the poverty laced slums that were the Sheriff Street tenement buildings.

Irish women's lives have also been transformed immeasurably over the last twenty years; our children have opportunities unimaginable two decades ago; luxuries denied to all but the wealthy are now available to the masses; good political choices have been made that have broken the poverty cycles of many, many families; the stultifying csh of the Catholic church has been removed and we at least can see ourselves in our new spiritual nakedness and use occasions such as this to ponder what we have become and what we want to become.

And what we have become, it seems to me, are participants at what we would have called in my teenage years, a free house, but this time on a massive scale. Released from the handucfts of mass religious obedience, we are Dionsyian in our revelry, in our testing of what we call freedom. Hence the staggering drink consumption, the child of the handcuffs of mass religious obedience, we are Dionysian in our revelry, in our

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There is a story about a devoted fisherman, in love with the sport, who went to sleep with the sadness, in a way, which makes happiness complete.

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I ask the question: who or what is the real us? Were we real when we were modest in our habits, and daily communicants, and mass attendees, and self effacing contributors to charity, and energetic participants in voluntary work or are we real now as we either indulge in, or look enviously upon, the phenomena I have just described.

Is not the speed at which we have jetisoned so much of our religious practice in particular suggestive of a society that was not so much spiritual as spineless, cowed by the power of the Church, observing what we observed out of fear rather than faith? The challenge in the short to medium term, I would humbly suggest, is how to take and accept this newly secular society and inject it with a value system that takes from the handcuffs of mass religious obedience, we are Dionysian in our revelry, in our

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So what, towards the end are Mortimer's values they are despite his fame, despite the memories of his stellar career as barrister and author, despite his wealth, despite all those material things, it is the simple joy of his garden, of his children and of his grandchildren, of ritual, that resonate in the final chapters of his book as of his life. In his book, Mortimer also takes us through many of his own epiphanies, life lessons that guided him through the melancholic, but ultimately fulfilled state in which he now exists.

All of us have those epiphanies; the trick is to recognise and to use them. The national trick is to pray for a national epiphany that will kick start us into a view of life and how it should be lived that doesn't start in the car park of Liffey Valley and end in the inner mall of Blanchardstown.

I have had a number of those epiphanies, not all of which I have acted on but some of which I would like to share. I had an epiphany when I caught myself and two of my
I had an epiphany when, in the busyness of my work life last month, I failed to notice a little piece of paper in the window of my little daughter’s classroom announcing the Junior Infants Halloween hat competition thus ensuring that she went to school on the appointed day with a hastily wrapped piece of newspaper around her head while the children of the more engaged mothers outdid Philip Treacy with their millinery.

Ella, God bless her, didn’t even notice, and she walked around on the hat parade like the late Queen Mother at Ascot. I never would have risen to the three foot tall Cat in the Hat structure hat one mother produced, but I had still missed out on the pleasure that will never be repeated of getting down on the floor with my Junior Infant child and imagining and attempting to make a wonderful hat. My lesson learnt.

But those are personal stories. What are the epiphanies we should imagine here today for this country, and how do we do it this side of our dotage, before hanging, so to speak, concentrates our minds.

It would be good if we recognised the new religions of sex and drink and shopping for what they are and tiptoed back to the churches. It may not even be necessary to believe, it may be sufficient just to remind ourselves of some of the universal truths about charity and decency and how to live a good life, all of which are contained in the teachings of the major religions. It would be good to regain our sense of the magic of ritual, of the year marked by rites and rituals, not the seamless, joyless blending of undifferentiated weekdays. It would be nice to get the summer over before the Christmas displays begin.

It would be good to insert ourselves into the lives of our community, reawaken our sense of belonging, of being caught up in something stronger than your own individual self.

But those are personal stories. What are the epiphanies we should imagine here today for this country, and how do we do it this side of our dotage, before hanging, so to speak, concentrates our minds.

It would be good to discipline our children by disciplining ourselves, to realise the risks of jaded appetites, of needs too quickly and too elaborately met, of lives made too cynical, too aware through the imposition of distorted adult views of what constitutes happiness, to realise also that the new impoverished are not those without the DVDs and the latest Play Stations and mobiles and the private cinemas and the cut down Fendi bags but those perhaps, who have them and who have got them without the slightest personal effort, every wish and expectation delivered upon without striving, without time to dream, without that peculiar joy known as delayed gratification.

So why do we even bother discussing it? Why not sit back and wait for tides to turn, stop banging our heads against the brick walls of smugness, complacency and mas- sive self-satisfaction that are all around us? The answer lies in what I have struggled to explore a bit over the last twenty minutes—our humanity, the belief that sometimes people want to do better, be better, and thinks of people other than themselves. The deeply, heartfelt hope that our children will have better lives, and in the context of this shiny new wealthy Ireland, that that better life has to do not with the accumulation of stuff, but with an awareness of the true meaning of a rich life, of a life where the pleasures of love, of companionship, of reading, of art, of sharing one’s gifts, of seeking to attain ever higher understanding of the mysteries, beauties and even ugliness that surround us, are really all that matter.

In the context of what John Pilger may talk about, many of these problems of our age, may seem like so much trivia, the aesthetically unpleasant downside of a vulgar, deca- dent western lifestyle, the pious handwringing of those who also benefit from that decadence. But how we as a people, how we treat each other, and particularly how we treat our most vulnerable, informs our relationships with other cultures, other countries. It can inform issues of foreign policy, of international aid, and every area where we interact particularly with countries that cry out for our help.

Self absorption, the relentless pursuit of the material, hardens our hearts, closes us off to those who need to share our gifts. It can happen on a personal level, it can happen on a national scale. But equally those small personal epiphanies can also begin to impact nationally, and we should be as conscious of the trickle up effect as the trickle down, of the impact of mass individual actions, mass individual decisions to re engage, to re discover the spiritual, re discover the other and examine and take on board the truth of what makes us fully human.

Last night, my hat wearing Junior Infant daughter was chanting the chorus of a little song that may sound mawkish in this grown up adult setting but has a resonance nonetheless. She sang, “And in this world of darkness, we all can shine a light, you in your small corner and I in mine.”

I am loath to imagine concrete things for the next twenty years. The supermarkets are already full to bursting. Let me imagine instead the creation of a new discourse, where a sale place is created to talk again about values, about the spiritual, where the political class summons the courage to shift its focus even slightly away from the purely economic and focuses instead on what else that really matters, what the people they serve need for a full and generous minded life quite apart from tax breaks, toll roads, and airline terminals. Let us imagine the spirit of Céifin as the dominant one, let us imagine nothing less than the decentralisation of the national soul from Dublin to Ennis.

www.ceifin.com
CIT’s Men’s Hockey team participated in the Intervarsity Tournament staged in UCC on the 26th, 27th and 28th October, with the team giving a great account of themselves.

CIT were the first Institute of Technology to play in this tournament having applied for entry for many years. We were entered as guests into pool B with Trinity, University of Limerick, Royal College of Surgeons and University of Ulster. Due to our participation as guests we were not be allowed to progress beyond the pool stages of the tournament. However, at the actual tournament all the Universities took a vote at their AGM, with a unanimous vote to allow all colleges to enter the competition in the future. This represents a great achievement for CIT, as the Universities were using CIT as a benchmark to assess the level of college’s hockey.

On Tuesday morning we decided to go as a team to watch Trinity play University of Ulster. The pace and movement of the game surprised everyone watching, while a very strong UU side boasting four senior Internationals and five more U21 Internationals went on to beat Trinity 3-2. Our tournament began at 1.00 pm against Trinity.

CIT (5) V’s Trinity (4) The game began at a great pace with Trinity hitting us very early with 2 goals to race into the lead, Trinity having already played a game were more up to match pace. However, we fought back strongly to go 2-1 down at half time, with Philip O’Driscoll getting a goal from a penalty corner. After half time CIT were the team out of the blocks quicker and Richie Arnopp levelled the match with a fine individual effort. CIT then took the lead for the first time when John Hobbs scored from a penalty corner, only for Trinity to fire back within two minutes of the restart. Richie Arnopp scored again from play to give CIT the lead again only for Trinity to peg us back three minutes from full time.

However CIT pressed forward and were rewarded for their efforts one minute from time when, Tim O’Donovan scored the winner. This goal was memorable for Tim, as he had only taken up the sport five weeks prior to the Tournament. He had only taken up the sport five weeks prior to the Tournament. So CIT opened their tournament with a great 5-4 victory against a Trinity side who were Intervarsity Champions in 2003.

CIT (4) V’s University of Limerick (1) CIT followed up their fine performance against Trinity with a good win against the UL team, with goals coming from Philip O’Driscoll and John Hobbs from penalty corners and goals from play from Stephen Parker and Andrew Grey. All the squad were used in this game and coach Denis Pritchard was very pleased with the days work.

CIT (7) V’s Royal College of Surgeons (0) CIT began their second day of the tournament with a fine display of finishing against the Royal College of Surgeons. In terrible weather conditions, CIT had a 3 goal lead at half time with 2 goals from John Hobbs from penalty corners and an Andrew Grey goal. John Hobbs completed his hat trick early in the second half and the scoring was completed by Robert Hobbs with 2 fine individual goals and a neat Stephen Parker finish. CIT were now looking forward to their biggest test of the tournament against University of Ulster.

CIT (2) V’s University of Ulster (5) CIT suffered their only defeat of the tournament against the very strong UU team. UU took a 2 goal lead with a goal from Chris Barnes from a penalty corner and Captain Ian McKeown scoring from open play. However, CIT battling hard got their reward when John Hobbs scored from a penalty corner. With the half time score 2-1, CIT were in with a chance, but the quality of UU shine through in the second half and CIT’s legs really gave way under immense pressure from UU as the game finished 5-2 in favour of the Ulster side. Andrew Grey getting CIT’s second goal and Eugene McGee (player of the tournament) scoring twice for UU and Ian McKeown getting his second of the contest.

However, the tournament was a great success for CIT who secured their participation in next year’s tournament - if CIT were officially competing in this year’s tournament we would have finished 2nd in our group and gone on to play UCC in the semi-final. However, Trinity took this place and beat UCC 4-0 to go on to play UU in the final were they went down 5-1 to the Ulster side. We look forward to next year’s Intervarsity tournament and the rest of our Colleges fixtures this season.

Special thanks and credit must go to Dennis Pritchard for his invaluable work with the team and also the contribution of Freda Davoren, the physio of the team for the tournament. Freda made sure we were all able to go out onto the pitch after working her magic. Thanks and special mention must also to the Sports Office - to Eithne, Miriam and Louise who’s work and organisation helped the team to concentrate just on the hockey. Thanks also to Paudie and Irene for their time and patience when organising gear and first aid etc for the team and also Keith Ricken for his help and advice in the run up to the tournament. A final thanks to the Squad for all their hard work and dedication during the tournament, the squad was as follows: Billy Lynch (GK), Rob Hobbs, Tom O Callaghan, John Hobbs (Capt), Phil O Driscoll, Sean Nicholson (V-Capt), Richie Arnopp, Colin Tanner, Stephen Parker, Derry Delaney, Andrew Gray, Tim O Donovan, Tim O Leary, Con McCweeney, John Sullivan, James Statham (GK) John Hobbs Captain CIT Hockey Club

CIT Hockey Team
Intervarsity Success

“...CIT were the first Institute of Technology to play in this tournament having applied for entry for many years...”
The first outing of the Entrepreneurial Society of 2004 kicked off in style with a trip to the Kinsale Brewery. After the relatively short 45mins drive down to the picturesque village of Kinsale, everyone had a thirst for some “local historical information”, so we started the tour as soon as we arrived.

Fronted by Cathal, one of the founders of the brewery and a self-confessed “tour guide disbeliever”, the tour began down in the distillery room where all the magic happens. Two enormous brass containers, with stainless steel insides are the pinnacle points in this whole process. This company is a family run business and tries to keep all the ingredients local – the barley and malt are from local farmers and the water is from a local source. Even the waste left over from the barley and malt is given back to the farmers and used as fertiliser, so it’s a completely environmentally friendly operation! Cathal, his father and his uncle set up the brewery from scratch after Cathal became fascinated by the micro-breweries on a trip to America and decided it would be a perfect marketing concept to bring back to Ireland. With financial backing from his dad and his Uncle’s experience in brewing, the venture kicked off in 2000 with the opening of the Kinsale brewery.

With the ingredients being pumped in and out of these distillers, the whole process takes around two years, and we were very eager to experience the finished product, therefore, after a quick tour we headed upstairs.

And so began the sampling. The company mainly focuses on three types of beer – Kinsale Larger, Kinsale Stout and a Wheat beer and we felt it our duty to test these products, many times, with it taking some of us a whole yard of beer to fully appreciate the truly fine refreshment! On the return journey the bus resonated with a resounding rendition of “Arann na bhFiann”.

After our very informative two and a half hour visit to Kinsale (I’d definitely recommend it, make sure you ask for Cathal, tell him CIT sent you – he’ll remember), it was off to Clancy’s bar on Marlboro St in the city to finish the night off – at the “after party”. Thursday night is student night in Clancy’s Bar and its called “The 4 Elements of Hip Hop” The night unites the 4 elements of hip hop, DJing, Breakdancing, Rapping and Graffiti art under one roof.

Members of the CIT break dancing society, Ross and Co were there to entertain us with their unbelievable skills. DJ’s John Barry and CIT DJ society president Alan Kennedy provided the pumping tunes and up and coming MC – GMC- who’s single was released last month – was there to bring something special to the night with his crowd pleasing talents. All in all it was a great night and everyone really enjoyed it – even the “yard Boys” lasted till late-ish in the night.

So that was it, the first Entrepreneurial society bash was a complete success, with the Kinsale Brewery being the ideal setting. The next venture of the society will be “The Capital Idea Challenge” with €500 to be won in prizes.

CIT Entrepreneurial Society – Benefits Of Membership
• Networking Opportunities with students from other departments.
• Up to date information on competitions organised by CIT and national bodies, via text alerts and emails.
• Notification of social events organised by the society.
• Invitations to seminars where you will learn from the successes and failures of other innovative people.
• Assistance in setting up meetings with the Enterprise Boards, if you have a business idea and want to take it further.
• Membership of the society is an excellent addition to your CV.

Melissa Blanchfield

CIT Orienteering Club

Orienteering is a competitive form of sport centred around map reading and land navigation. The sport permits people of all ages, degrees of fitness and skill, a chance to participate. The sport permits people to go at their own pace around the course, on their own or in groups. The sport involves a huge mental element; the orienteer must be able to make decisions on the best route to take around the course.

Orienteering provides the suspense and excitement of a treasure hunt. The object of orienteering is to locate control points by using a map to navigate through the woods. The courses may be as short as 1.5km and as long as 6km.

There are a wide variety of orienteering events that the CIT orienteering club participate in. The main event takes place every Sunday in woods around Cork City. Night orienteering with the aid of a torch or head-lamp is also another popular event that the club will be participating in over the course of the winter.

The club has been very successful at Intervarsity level, winning many of the events. The club hosted the Intervarsity competition in 2002, which was a huge success.

If anyone is interested in attending the events, please see the Sports Notice Board and the What’s On leaflet for more information.

Diane Cashman
Club Chairperson
The Guild, Gaming and Anime Societies with CIT Tae Kwon Do Club bring you:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martial Arts Demo</td>
<td>CIT Tae Know Do</td>
<td>Atria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consoles</td>
<td>Guild Gaming Soc</td>
<td>Atria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film</td>
<td>CIT Anime Soc</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
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Please contact CIT Societies Office for more information 021 4326740

CIT Mature Students’ Society

“...Fun, fun, fun...Bowling...”

Thanks to everyone who turned up for the bowling night in the Mardyke. It was a fantastic night. All, even those who had never bowled before, had great craic! We had a few strikes and a few spares and a lot of misses. However, fun prevailed. We are going out for Christmas on 18th December. Mulled wine reception, four course meal, spot prizes, D.J. and late bar at the Shandon Quality Hotel. For more information contact me at maturesoc@cit.ie Hope to see you all there for another great night.

Olivia Carroll
Chairperson

CIT DJ SOCIETY

It has been a very successful term for the society thanks to the enthusiasm and co-operation of all involved. Society members were introduced to production classes in Reason 2.5, the industry standard production package. WORK IT, a weekly night run by CIT DJ Society kicked off on Thursday 11th November in The Phoenix Bar, Union Quay with members Kenny Hanlon and Kevin Foley playing techno and house respectively, joined by members Paul Crowley, John Kennedy, Mark Dineen and Annabel Cooney in rotation.

A new DJ Workshop night has started in Weller’s Bar on Tuesdays which will provide a good insight into all aspects of DJ-ing and is open to everyone. Thanks extended to Gavin Payne and Stevie G of Red FM for their assistance with workshops.

The society welcomes all students to join, regardless of experience. For more information please contact citdjsoc@hotmail.com

CARRY OUT SPECIALS

- Any Small Pizza - €8.00
- Any Medium Pizza - €11.00
- Any Large Pizza - €14.00

LUNCH SPECIALS

Pizza with 2 Toppings & Can - €5.50

WORLD’S LEADING DELIVERY COMPANY

MEAL DEAL FOR ONE*
Any Personal Pizza, Garlic Pizza Bread or Potato Wedges & 1 Can of Drink
ONLY €8.00

MEAL DEAL FOR TWO*
Any Small Pizza, Garlic Pizza Bread or Potato Wedges & 2 Cans of Drink
ONLY €13.00

MEAL DEAL FOR THREE*
Any Medium Pizza, 2 Garlic Pizza Bread or 2 Potato Wedges & 3 Cans of Drink
ONLY €17.00

MEAL DEAL FOR FOUR*
Any Large Pizza, 2 Garlic Pizza Bread or 2 Potato Wedges & 1.25l Btl. of Drink
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Kim’s Cookery Corner

This month’s recipe – Pork Pitta Pockets
Another high-speed recipe idea for a busy lifestyle – ready in 10 minutes

0.5 lb of lean pork, cut into thin strips [Tesco Tender select pork €1.71]
1 pepper

Spicy Marinade:
1 tables. Curry paste [Sharwoods mild curry paste 260g €2.57]
1 tables. Oil
Salt and black pepper

To Serve:
Mixed salad leaves [Round lettuce €0.59]
Olive oil and lemon juice [loose lemons €0.32]
2 pitta bread, toasted [Country Kitchen round w/ml Pitta €1.39]
Greek-style yoghurt or mayonnaise (optional)

To Cook:
• Mix the curry paste, oil and seasoning. Pour it over the pork and mix well.
• Cook for 5-6 minutes in a hot pan. Then add the peppers and cook for another minute or two.
• Toss the lettuce leaves in some olive oil and lemon juice.
• Pile into the pitta bread. Top with pork strips and peppers.
• Serve with some Greek style yoghurt or mayonnaise (optional).

A Standard Irish Drink

In recent times more and more attention has been turned to alcohol and the effect it is having on Irish Society. As usual the leaders of this great nation of ours have decided on the usual “fix it quick” solution by cutting back on this thing, banning another thing or taking away something else. More and more each day this country is turning into a so called “Nanny State”. Would not a better choice be to educate people about alcohol because, we as a society, have not matured in line with the growth of our economy?

If asked, most people would not know what a standard drink is. In Ireland a standard drink is ten grams of alcohol. This amount is normally contained in a half pint of beer, a small glass of wine, a glass of sherry or a single measure (shot) of spirits.

A more accurate way of calculating units is: The percentage alcohol by volume (% abv) of any drink equals the number of units in one litre of that drink for example: Beer at six % abv has six units of alcohol in one litre. Therefore, if you drink half a litre of that beer then you have had three units.

Here is a simple quiz to see how much you know about alcohol. Answers are on the right hand side of this page. No cheating.

1 Alcohol is a stimulant and keeps people alert?
   (a) TRUE
   (b) FALSE

2 In Ireland a standard drink is - 5 grams, 10 grams or 14 grams of alcohol?
   (a) 5 grams
   (b) 10 grams
   (c) 14 grams

3 How many units of alcohol are in the following drinks:
   1 glass of wine (125ml-12% vol)
   1 pint of beer (568ml - 4.3%)
   1 pint of cider (568ml-6%/B%)
   1 Alco pop bottle (e.g.: Smirnoff ice)
   1 single measure of spirit (35.5ml - 40%)

4 What is the current recommended maximum weekly alcohol limit in units for women?

5 What is the current recommended maximum weekly alcohol limit in units for men?

6 Alcohol has the same effect on women as men of similar weight?
   (a) TRUE
   (b) FALSE

7 How long does it take the liver to breakdown / metabolise a single unit of alcohol?
   (a) 60 mins
   (b) 90 mins
   (c) 120 mins

8. Which of the following is an effective way of sobering up?
   (a) Drinking strong black coffee
   (b) Fresh air
   (c) Taking a cold shower
   (d) Hair of the dog
   (e) All of the above
   (f) None of the above

9. Even small amounts of alcohol can damage your health?
   (a) TRUE
   (b) FALSE

More information on alcohol may be obtained from the CIT Doctor or CITSU Welfare Office.
The Complete Stone Roses
@ The Vault, Sunday 14th November 2004

The Stone Roses were undeniably one of the defining British guitar bands of the late 80s and early 90s. Hailing from Manchester, the core of the band comprised Ian Brown (vocals), John Squire (guitar), Alan ‘Ren’ Wren (drums), and Gary ‘Mani’ Mounfield (bass guitar). Alongside The Happy Mondays, and The Charlatans they were at the forefront of the infamous ‘Madchester’ music scene of the late 80s.

The Stone Roses fused 60s psychedelic rock with contemporary baggy beats to create something new and vibrant. Somehow four skinny working class lads from a council estate in Manchester, dressed in impossibly large T-shirts and jeans, looked and sounded like the coolest thing ever. I could go on about the songs, their 5 year intermission, their dramatic break-up but the truth is I can’t be arsed, and in any case if you haven’t heard The Stone Roses by now then you really are hanging around with the wrong crowd.

Tribute band The Complete Stone Roses have been around for the best part of 6 years now, and despite going through a number of different line-ups in that time the band have gained prominence and even received a glowing endorsement from former Roses bass player Mani, who along with appearing as a warm up DJ for the band has been known to, on occasion, saunter on stage, pick up the bass guitar and play She Bangs The Drums to the amazement of both the band and the crowd. Going to see a tribute band is always something of a strange experience, they play the songs that you know and love and yet at the end of the day they’re not your idols, merely fans like you and the rest of the crowd. But considering this is the only way in which I’ll get to see Roses’ songs performed live I figure it’s best to just suspend my disbelief and launch myself fully into the spirit of the gig.

Ambling onto the stage in a typically leisurely Stone Roses fashion The Complete Stone Roses kick the night off with I Wanna Be Adored to a volcanic eruption of applause from the crowd. After bursting my lungs to choruses of Elephant Stone and Sugar Spun Sister, Shoot You Down gives me time to catch my breath before I’m thrown right back in at the deep end with a blistering rendition of She Bangs The Drums, which sends the crowd into a sing-a-long frenzy, at times almost drowning out Ian Brown’s vocals. Waterfall brings yet more cheers of delight from a ecstatic crowd with everyone bopping up and down in unison. Made Of Stone is another well polished offering served to perfection and with that the band disappears off for a cigarette break.

The band returns after a fifteen minute interval and run through versions of In My Mersey Paradise, and Sally Cinnamon, the crowd are appreciative but we can sense that the end is approaching and so we’re all waiting for the hits. The band doesn’t disappoint and soon the familiar opening to I Am The Resurrection, possibly the best known (and most loved) Stone Roses’ song of all, fills the venue. The crowd goes delirious and in the midst of the mayhem I have a pint glass smashed off my head, how very rock&roll! I pick myself up, dust myself off and launch myself back into the mini mosh pit, which has formed just in front of the stage. On and on goes the music, and for twenty glorious minutes I feel as if I’ve been transported back to 1989 and Manchester’s infamous Hacienda club – though perhaps that’s as much due to the blow to the head as much as anything. Finally the music ends and the band walks off stage much to the crowd’s bemusement, we’re left thinking ‘what about Fool’s Gold and This Is The One?’

Chants of “Roses, Roses” and “One More Tune” begin to emanate from the crowd, the noise growing louder with each passing minute. At one point it seems as if that really was the end of the gig but eventually the band returns to a rapturous reception. Requests are shouted up from the crowd and we wait with baited breath to see what they’ll play next… soon the recognisable opening chords to Love Spreads can be heard echoing around The Vault (most people would recognise Love Spreads as the title music to The Last Word on Today FM, Stone Roses fans know it as the best song off the band’s ill fated second album). The atmosphere is far less chaotic than Resurrection but the crowd are enthusiastic nonetheless, singing along ardentely throughout. The song finishes, the band walks off stage and the lights go up, it’s time to go home.

As I leave The Vault and begin walking up Douglas Street all I can hear is the joyous singing of Stone Roses fans “Have you seen her, have you heard…’ It’s been a great night, the gig was pure class like and, in short, The Complete Stone Roses are a must see.
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