

JANUARY 2001

THE SLATE

FREE

DUBLIN'S TOP LISTINGS GUIDE



**ART SHOWS
LIVE MUSIC
CLUBBING
THEATRE
DRINKING
COMEDY
CINEMA**

THEY'RE GOING OFF AIR. WHAT'S HAPPENING TO

PIRATE RADIO?

GET THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 15

PAT KENNY

REVEALS THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD IN 2001

CULTS IN IRELAND

THE LOW DOWN ON THESE CRAZY BASTARDS

COWARDLY ATTACKS

ON ANYBODY WE CAN THINK OF, AS WELL AS PLENTY OF LIES AND RASH JUDGEMENTS

PLUS FULL LISTINGS FOR DUBLIN

NEW YEAR'S EVE
DID YOU GET AS MESSED UP AS
THIS LAD?



NEED A LIFT?



Tomb Raider and Lara Croft © & ™ Core Design 1996-2000



Energy Fast

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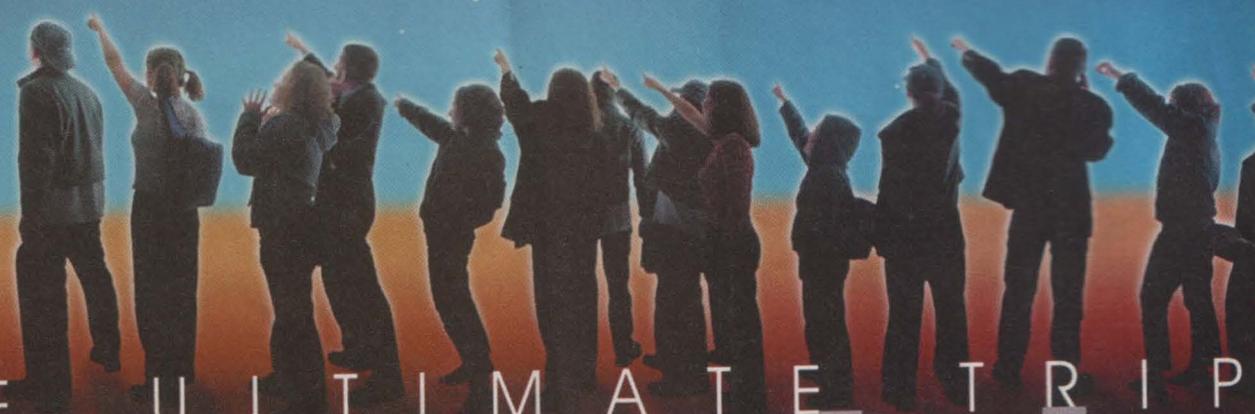
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THE BLACKHOLE

6 **FUCKED UP PEOPLE**

Photos of people getting mashed on NY's eve

8 **DAYLIGHT ROBBERY**

The most ridiculously priced clothes in Dublin

10 **ANOTHER QUIZ**

A lame attempt at making current affairs interesting

11 **TOENAIL CLIPPINGS**

Extracts from a new Irish comic magazine

FEATURES

9 **2001: THE FUTURE**

Our futurology correspondent Pat Kenny on the year 2001

12 **CULTS IN IRELAND**

We profile some people who should be locked away in the nearest loony bin

15 **PIRATE RADIO**

Jazz and Phantom FM have closed down. What is going on in Irish pirate radio?

LISTINGS

22 **CLUBBING**

32 **LIVE MUSIC**

36 **CINEMA**

40 **COMEDY**

42 **THEATRE**

44 **GALLERIES**

46 **MUSIC BARS**



Things got a bit hairy for this young lady

WELCOME TO SLATE NO. 2

AFTER THE sensational first issue of The Slate hit the streets of Dublin a month ago, we were delighted with the response we received.

All the most important and successful people in the country loved it, particularly the parts about staying on the dole, stealing from Spar and taking drugs from dying people.

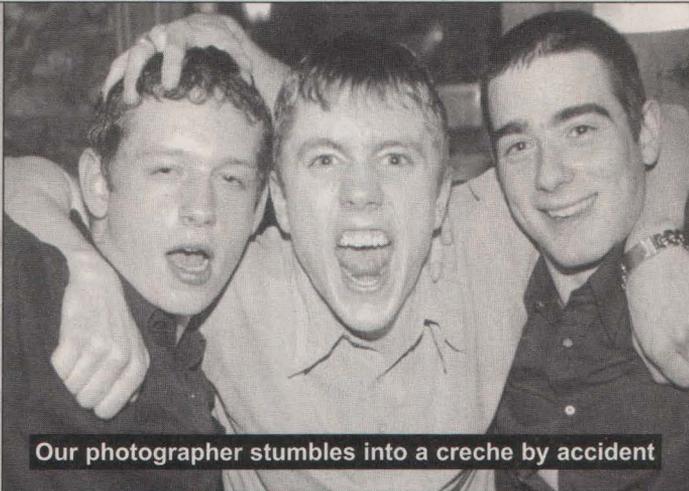
In this second issue of what is

quickly becoming the most popular magazine in the city, you will find a long - but very interesting - feature on pirate radio, a column by well known mystic Pat Kenny, and of course, 26 pages of previews and reviews from some of the most informed and intelligent critics in the land.

We hope you enjoy it and if you don't, tough shit.



I'm trying so hard to look sexy
I might just fart



Our photographer stumbles into a creche by accident

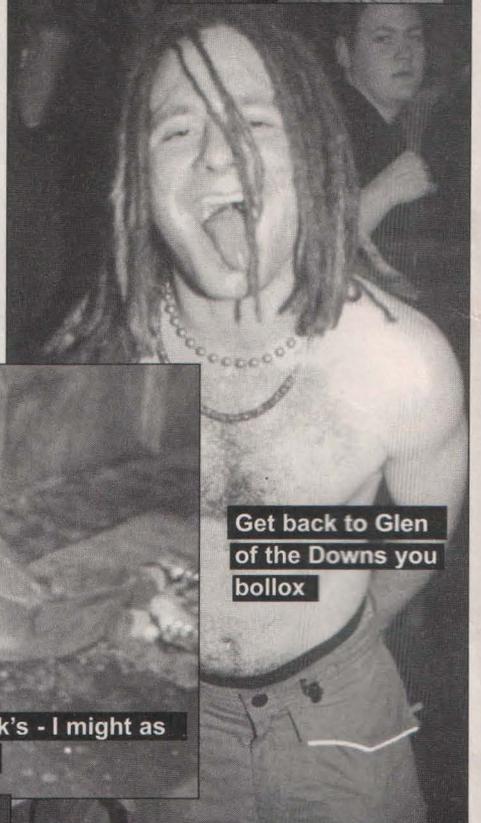


Some fat chick

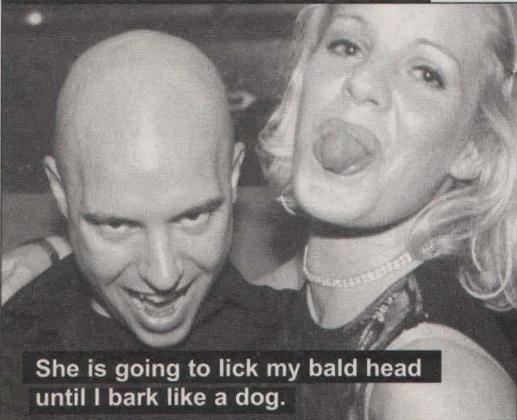
NEW YEAR'S EVE 2000



If you stayed out of the city centre on NY's
Eve, you're lucky - these are the kind of
freaks you would have met.



Get back to Glen
of the Downs you
bollox



She is going to lick my bald head
until I bark like a dog.



I didn't get into Copper Face Jack's - I might as
well try and score the pavement



Bjorn Borg has really gone to seed



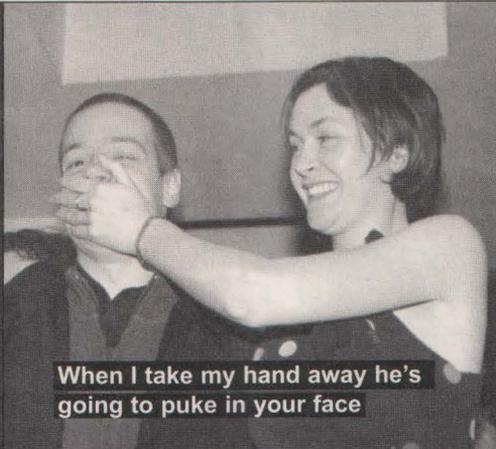
I'm on the pull



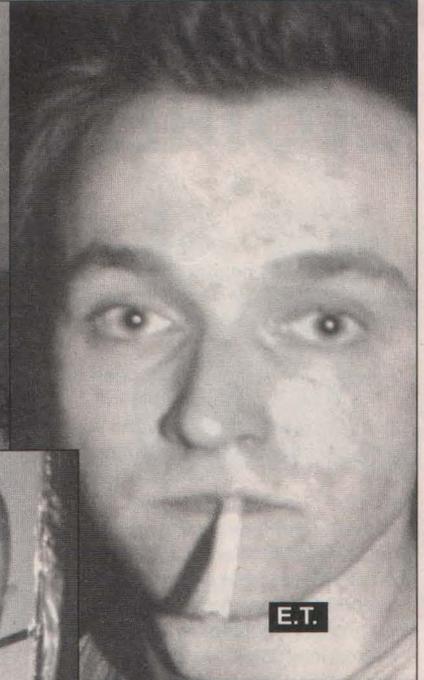
I think I'm in with a chance with
this blind bird



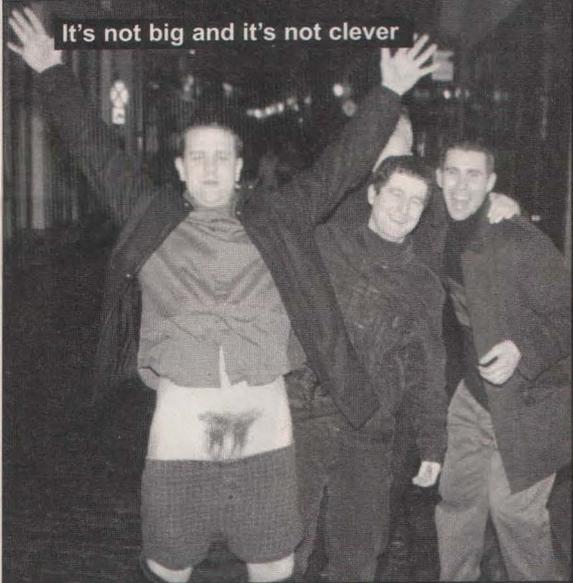
Then she unleashed her famous 'collapse like a drunk' move



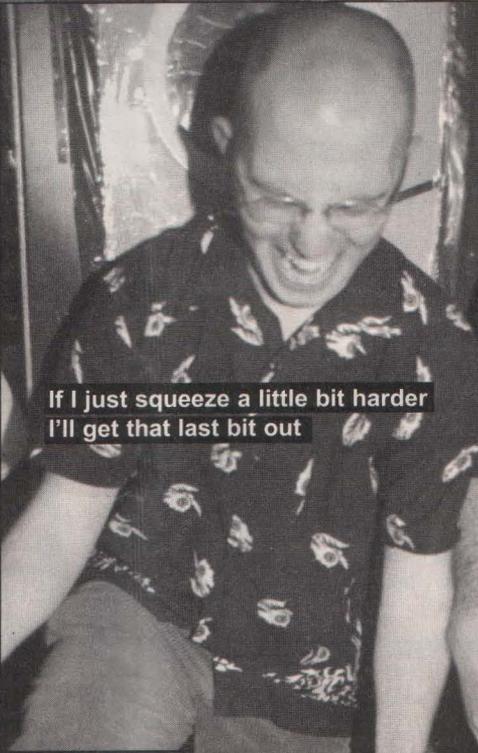
When I take my hand away he's going to puke in your face



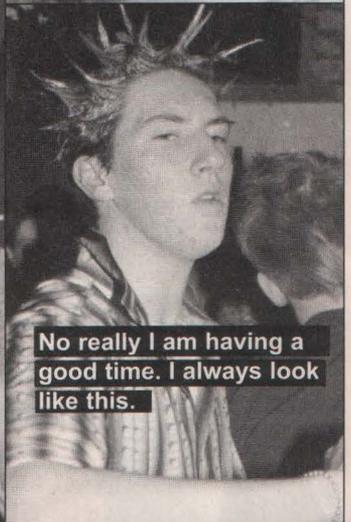
E.T.



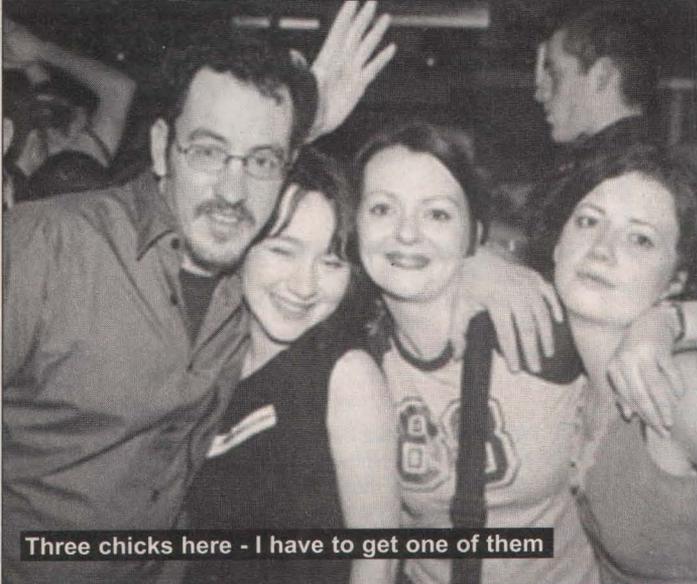
It's not big and it's not clever



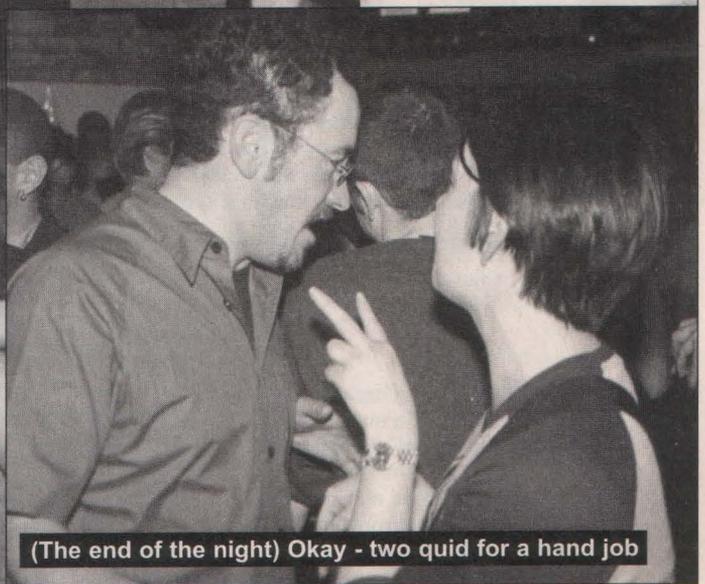
If I just squeeze a little bit harder I'll get that last bit out



No really I am having a good time. I always look like this.



Three chicks here - I have to get one of them



(The end of the night) Okay - two quid for a hand job

THE MOST EXPENSIVE CLOTHES IN DUBLIN

THANK GOD! The sales are almost over and Dublin people can get back to what we do best - spending lots of money on absolutely ridiculous clothing.

A number of readers have been on to The Slate complaining that the sales period has sent them into a deep depression. One woman had this to say about the terrible shopping slump.

"What's happened to Brown Thomas? My husband Brendan gave me his cheque book for Christmas so I popped into town last week to have a look around. Imagine my horror when I walked into BTs and saw horrendous people running around leaving their pawmarks all over the Prada."

The poor woman thought she was in

The poor have finally cleared out of BT. Time to spend some money!

Arnett's. "But when I ran outside to check, the sign still said 'Brown Thomas - only for the rich.' It just didn't add up. It was like some kind of surreal nightmare!"

Do not fear, dear readers. Not only are the sales over - but The Slate has decided to cheer up all our especially rich readers by putting together an unbeatable money-spending guide. All of these clothes are guaranteed to cost a fortune, and most of them are so horrible that you'll have to replace them after just one wear.

■ Because I'm worth it

Tired of hubby spending all his time working late at the office? Well get back at him by blowing a healthy £400 chunk of his precious lucre on this horrific lime-green and maroon combo from BTs. With a floral design that looks like it was knitted by a spastic, a grandmotherly cut and heavy felt feel, you'll never have looked and felt so fine.



■ Pregnant, but oh so fine!

Pregnancy is always a trial for the old self-esteem, but now you can ensure that your special time is as self-pitying as humanly possible by picking up these £300 floral print maternity trousers from Brown Thomas. Work yourself into a rage of petulant self-pity as you desperately try to button them around your grotesque swollen abdomen, then discard them tearfully, eat cake and do a spot of comfort shopping.

■ Polish tea-lady, moi?

Priced by Karen Millen at an audacious £80, this East Bloc-chic vinyl blouse is a must for the truly tastelessly wasteful. Its daringly abstract skin-cancer motif of sunburn pink, melanoma brown and blister-crack yellow sets it head and shoulders above the similar but more conventional styles seen on checkout girls and old tea-towels.



£150: Ideal for tickling people under the arms

■ Why drop the kids off without it?

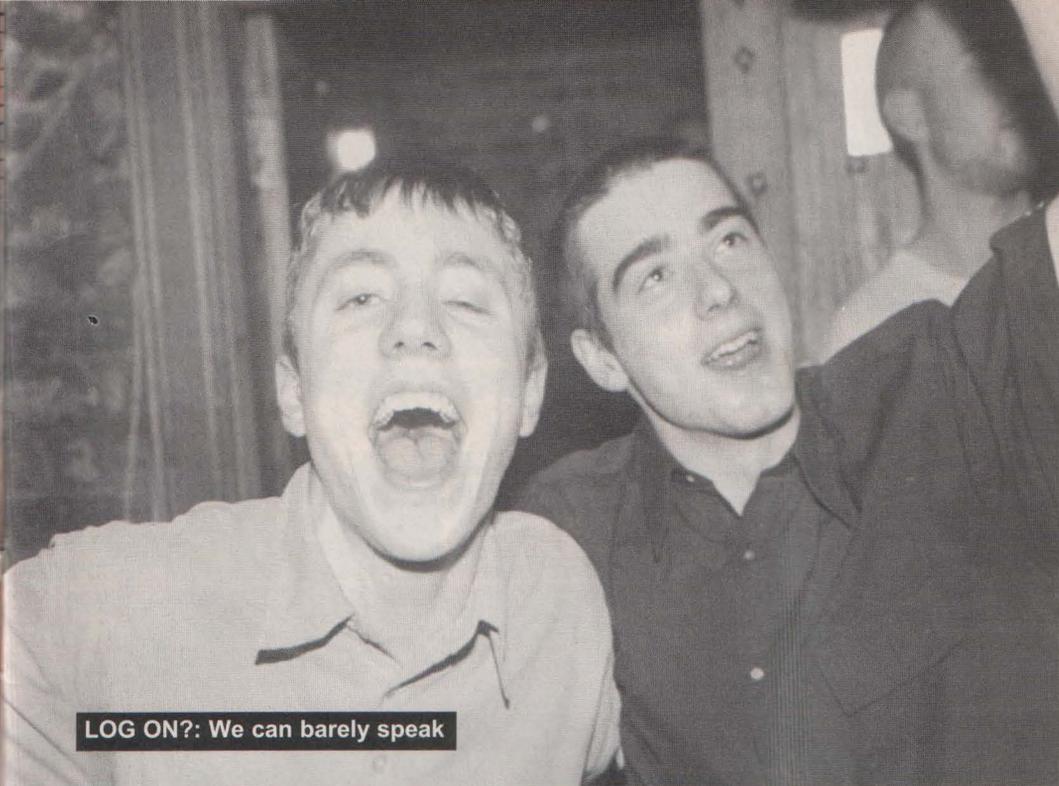
This delightful blue bead-and-plastic body tube by Karen Millen, coming in at a giddy £75, is the perfect accessory for those whose dearest desire has always been to match the new Audi's car seat. You'll be the envy of the Willow Park Parent Teacher Meeting. An ill-fitting, unflattering and deeply stupid garment - but, oh my God, absolutely irresistible at the price!



■ Di Wastrelli shoes? Why of course

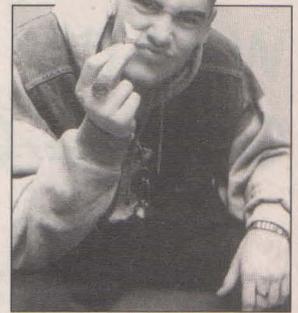
What about these delicious mottled puce stilettoes! Nothing matches the sheer sexuality that comes from fake snakeskin! They'll only 'sting' hubby for £350 - but then you'll be seeing the orthopaedic surgeon for months.





LOG ON?: We can barely speak

Shane Lynch: Pop Star of the Year



SHANE FINISHED 1999 swearing his head off at the MTV Awards and then attacking that prick Puff Daddy at the party afterwards. His good form continued into the new millennium when he told crappy English magazine Now: 'I don't give a fuck about anything'.

Things were still on the up for Shayno when he informed the same magazine that his favourite types of music were reggae and hardcore rap, but the year took a turn for the worse when he and Keith Duffy teamed up to record a cover version of Milli Vannilli's Girl You Know It's True.



This heinous piece of music was only slightly redeemed by it's bitter slugging of Westlife. Now that he has been officially drop-kicked out of the Louis Walsh stable, it's unclear what the future holds for Shane, but it's unlikely that he'll be spending much of it with Stephen Gately after saying that he'd rather 'be shot in the head than have sex with a man.'

NIGHTLIFECAMPAIGN.COM

REGULAR READERS of The Slate will be aware that Dublin's nightclubbing laws are a shambolic disgrace. People are forced to stop dancing and go home at 2.30am - a mere two hours after the pubs stop serving.

Last month we told you about the Gaiety serving booze until 4am. Brilliant. And now we have more good news. Yes, The Slate can exclusively reveal the existence of a web campaign that's entirely devoted to staying out all night and getting completely wrecked!

It's called nightlifecampaign.com and they are trying to rally the troops for a prolonged session of annoying the fuck out of politicians until they do something about this disastrous situation.

Harnessing the web to bring all night boozing to Dublin

The campaign team introduce themselves with the cheerful sentiment that "people are pissed off everywhere" and go on to report that "your average Saturday night out is like a middle age jaunt through peukville," whatever that means. They then deal with various angles on the problem including an explanation of the bullshit laws that are making Ireland a miserable place for everyone under the age of 35.

JURRASIC PORK

BAYWATCH FILLS our children's eyes with images of naked flesh, foul mouthed rappers like Eminem fill their ears with sexually explicit lyrics, and now Denny meats have accidentally joined the crusade to ram every one of our children's orifices with pornographic material. If plans by the Irish food baron go ahead the children and students of Ireland will soon be munching on 'Jurassic Pork', dinosaur shaped

pieces of pork . Now while some people think bite size dinosaur shaped pieces of meat may be a bit of harmless fun, those in the know might mistake the porcine cutlets as edible merchandise from the porn classic 'Jurassic Pork'.

Also curious children who go to www.jurassicpork.com wanting to learn more about their favourite novelty breaded meat will learn that

a pig isn't the only dirty animal.



Denny goes porno

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?

How broing are you? If you can get six out of six in our current affairs quiz, you need a personality transplant. Answers at the bottom of the page

1. Teachers were very pissed off recently over pay deals. What did they threaten to do?

- a) Protest peacefully without any disruption to the school schedule
- b) Cancel the Junior Cert
- c) Teach children how to inject heroin
- d) Let angry orangutangs loose in classrooms

2. What is Andrea Corr apparently doing on www.maxfakes.sexphotos.org?

- a) Feeding sugar to a pony
- b) Playing the drums instead of singing
- c) Engaging in a lewd sex act with a man
- d) Eating

3. Tabloid Watch: Which of the following headlines did NOT appear in the January 5 issue of the *Weekly Sport*?

- a) 'My wife forgave me after I had sex with her sister and her mum'
- b) '6 ft snowball kills dad'
- c) 'Panto star is lesbo porn queen'
- d) 'Mum's breast implant falls out and kills tot'

4. Dublin Bus have extended the Nite link service to six days a week. Why?

- a) Uptake of the service increased dramatically over christmas
- b) The bus drivers need to practice their driving
- c) So bus drivers will have more of an excuse to run black people over

5. You are Shane Lynch. A man offers you sex. What do you say?

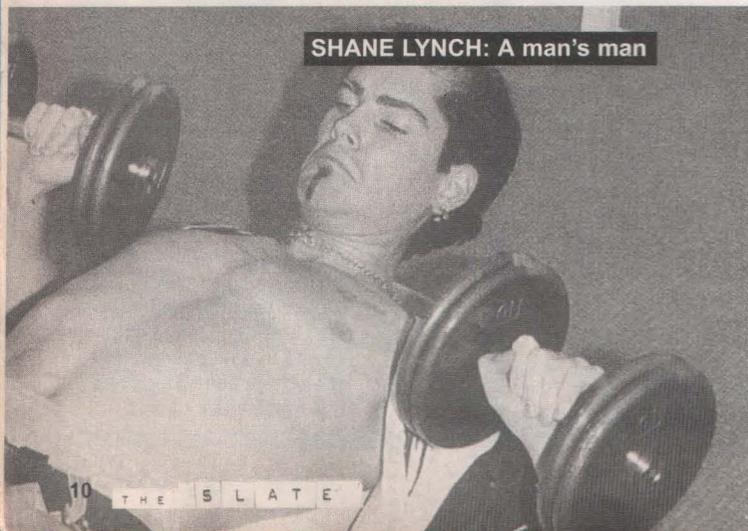
- a) Why not, I'm an open-minded kind of guy
- b) Are you in Westlife, you puff?
- c) I'd rather be shot in the head than have sex with a man
- d) My boyfriend Ronan Keating won't let me

6. Quarantine regulations in Ireland have been relaxed recently. Why is this?

- a) Animals from rabies free countries are considered safe once they have been vaccinated and tagged.
- b) John O' Donoghue thinks only protestants can get rabies
- c) So the Corrs can get in and out of the country more easily



THE CORRS ANNOUNCE A NEW VIDEO: 'What can I do to make you shag me?'



Football in BT2: It's official

BT2 have installed table football facilities in the basement of their hideously overpriced store. However, the trendy shits who shop there are too self-conscious to use them! We at The Slate are offering free tickets to Funderland to the first people who stage a rowdy tournament with flagons of cider and noisy fans.



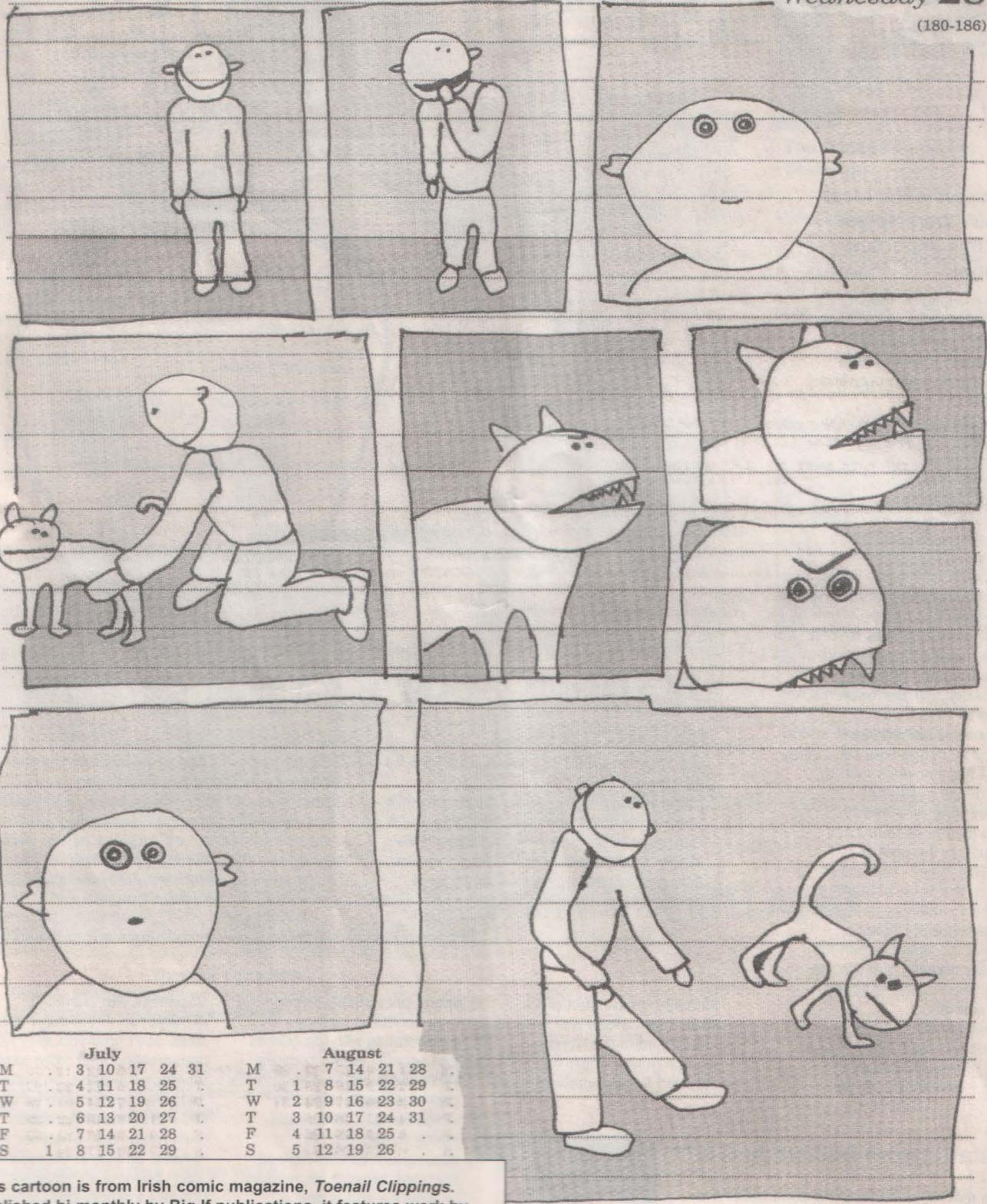
Answers: b, c, d, a, c, a, h, q, w and z.

kick the cat...

WEEK 26

Wednesday 28

(180-186)



July					August						
M	3	10	17	24	31	M	7	14	21	28	
T	4	11	18	25		T	1	8	15	22	29
W	5	12	19	26		W	2	9	16	23	30
T	6	13	20	27		T	3	10	17	24	31
F	7	14	21	28		F	4	11	18	25	
S	1	8	15	22	29	S	5	12	19	26	

This cartoon is from Irish comic magazine, *Toenail Clippings*. Published bi-monthly by Big If publications, it features work by artists such as Brendan Byrne, Stephen Weeks and Gavin Beattie, featured above. It is available in Forbidden Planet and Sub City.

THE CULT CATALOGUE

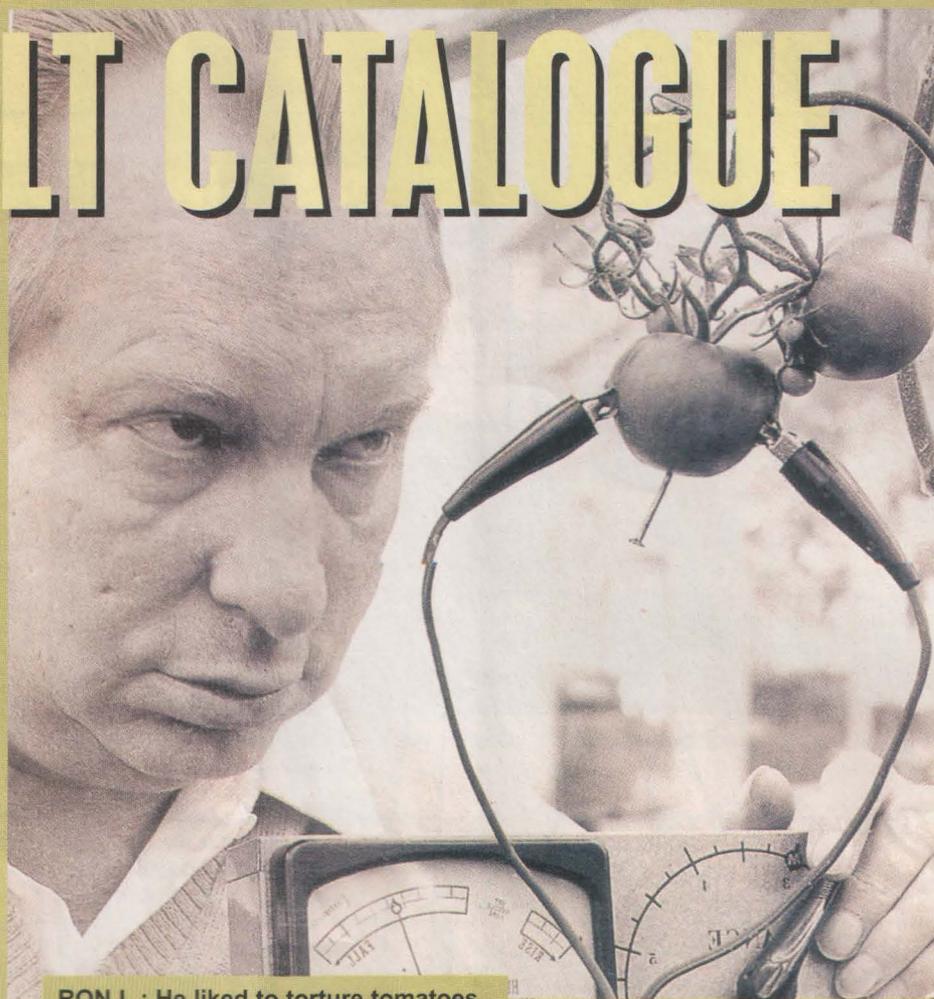
Which cult is the ideal for you? We help you make this important decision.

Like most young people in Ireland today, you are probably alienated, disaffected and disappointed. It's more than likely that you're also ugly and unpopular too.

It's clear that you need a God and it's very important to choose the right one. What better way forward than browsing the many options available in The Slate's great cult catalogue. We allow you select the right belief system for you, without actually having to go out and meet the weirdos who believe in them.

Why not start off at one of Dublin's many conveniently located Mormon churches. This is a dull, earnest religion founded in 1830 by a schizophrenic named Joe Smith, who, by the time he became the first white man to be lynched in Iowa, had managed to amass twenty-nine wives and appoint 12 of his friends to the post of 'Latter-Day Saint'. This cult is based on the Book of Mormon, which was written by Joe in consultation with Christ, describes the antics of various imaginary Israelite tribes in 6th century Mexico and is deeply uninteresting.

Next head to North Great George's St., the home in Ireland of the Unification Church - also known as the



RON L.: He liked to torture tomatoes

MADDER THAN A BASKET OF FRUIT

While strolling down Middle Abbey Street you may find yourself being offered a 'free personality test'.

Scientology depends on the axiom that people will take whatever you offer them so long as it is preceded by the word 'free'. You must not, under any circumstances ask yourself when you last paid for a personality test or even considered taking

one at a bargain basement price.

Scientology is one of those cults that is refreshingly deceitful. There's no core of inner serenity to be discovered - just pure money-making, madness and manipulation. It was founded in Los Angeles by the wide-eyed loon and science-fiction writer, Ron L. Hubbard and boasts celebrity members like John Travolta and Tom Cruise.

Surprising Fact: It's legal to throw Scientologists into the Liffey.

Moonies. At the start of his career Rev. Moon was imprisoned in the North Korean gulag, where he survived for an incredible three

years, presumably through the time-honoured methods of collaborating with the guards and secretly eating corpses. While there he learned brainwashing techniques, which came in remarkably handy throughout his subsequent career. He was liberated, brought his religion to America and is now a powerful billionaire playboy, backed by nonagenarian

Japanese war criminals. If these run-of-the-mill Dublin cults don't grab you, why not try something a bit more exotic - perhaps Sai Baba, an Indian magician with an afro as big as his merchandising industry. Just remember, whatever you decide, be true to yourself and don't become a Protestant. There's loads to choose from so drop your post-Catholic angst and start praying.

Protestants who believe in God?

It's obvious that most Protestants don't believe in God. However, when they do, they become evangelical fanatics and must be avoided at all costs.



Catholicism

A desert cult that sprang up 2000 years ago in what is still the worst place in the world. Characterised by cruelty, hypocrisy, greed and frigidity, with a bizarre pseudo-cannibalistic rite at its core.

□ **IGNORANCE:** Inspired by the teachings of 'Jesus', an ignorant peasant carpenter who preached strict stoner values, Catholicism has always thrived among the poor, ignorant and miserable.

□ **MISERY:** Catholicism remains strong throughout the African AIDS belt and the cholera country of Latin America, but thankfully is steadily on the wane.

□ **POVERTY:** Penury and humility are among the chief virtues endorsed by



MAD: King Popey

Catholicism, which explains why its decrepit King lives in a giant palace filled with priceless works of art.

PROS: The Pope

CONS: Pain, death, guilt, slavery.

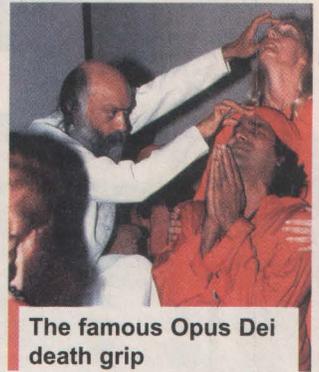
Opus Dei

ULTRA-FANATICAL and secretive Catholic cult. They live like priests and love pain. Mottos include "Blessed be pain" and "it is so beautiful to be a victim".

□ **COMMITMENT:** No need to worry anymore about annoying things like personal mail or your family. Opus Dei will take care of all that.

□ **HOBBIES:** Regular self-abuse is encouraged - usually with the 'discipline', a razor sharp whip, and the 'salcice' a piercing instrument

□ **MONEY:** They're rich as



The famous Opus Dei death grip

Midas and control everyone.

PROS: Money, power, be the Pope's friend.

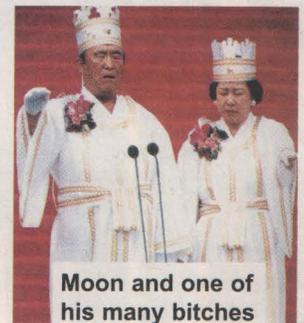
CONS: Pain, more pain, ouch.

The Moonies

Head over to North Great Georges Street to join the Unification Church, started by yet another crackpot who talked to Jesus.

□ **POWER:** They run the US Republican Party and have a midget implanted in George W. Bush's head.

□ **COMMUNISM:** Better hand in the Socialist Worker Party membership. Moon says God's a capitalist.



Moon and one of his many bitches

PROS: Mass marriage, power

CONS: Madness, no sex for 3 years after marriage.



Good clean fun

Jehovah's Witnesses

YET MORE miserable bastards who appear on your doorstep and try to persuade you not to have birthdays. Founded by yet another Yank who chatted to Jesus.

□ **NO FUN ALLOWED:** They don't celebrate Christmas or birthdays as they think that they are pagan festivals. They also tend not to have many friends.

□ **NO BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS:** They are prone to drop dead as they don't allow blood transfusions, even to their children.

□ **DON'T TRUST THEIR PREDICTIONS:** They have predicted three endings for the world in the last century alone. 1914 wasn't a bad guess but 1975 and 1977 were hopeless.

MEMBERS IN IRELAND

Moonies: 100 full-time, 1000 supporters

Mormons: 500 hundred full-time

Scientologists: 300 members

Opus Dei: 1000 members

Jehovah's Witnesses: 5000 members, hooray!

PRODUCT

RECALL



Due to the alarming number of incidents of sexual harassment of men, we have decided to withdraw batch 4379-4381. Lynx apologises to any men who have had their bottoms pinched or have experienced women making overly suggestive comments. However, if this kind of behaviour does not bother you, feel free to hold on to your can.

THE LYNX EFFECT

PIRATE RADIO



PIRATE RADIO

As the IRTC begin taking applications for a new 'special interest' radio station this year, some of Dublin's best-known pirates are closing down. What's going on?

Licensed radio in Ireland has a fine tradition of being absolutely shite. Ten years ago there was nothing to listen to except a bunch of people on RTE who were about as switched on as the gas chambers in a Holocaust museum.

But now it's great. We have a wide range of head-wrecking rubbish like Adrian Kennedy and that stupid Strawberry Alarm Clock show which you are forced to listen to no matter what taxi, Spar or grim office job you happen to find yourself in.

Who decided - back in the late 1980s - that what Dublin really needed was the blandest, shittiest radio station the world had ever heard? And who, then, was the other guy who suggested that it wouldn't work unless there was another one that was exactly the same? Wherever the responsibility lies, the end result is that Dublin has two commercial music radio stations, 98FM and FM104, both of which play variations on the one theme - background music.



PIRATE RADIO

It's no surprise, then, that the city can support a burgeoning industry in illegal radio. Jazz, Power, Phantom, Energy and a host of other FM pirates have used the blandness of their legal counterparts to provide specialised music services for growing niche markets. Instead of D4 jocks who get told what to play by a computer, the pirates rely on voluntary DJs who usually have fairly specific music interests and don't mind the fact that they might only be playing to an audience of a couple of thousand anoraks.

Restrictive licensing policies have left Dublin with fewer legal stations than most cities of similar size and, as a result, they all end up trying to appeal to as many people as possible. But now it seems that the licensing authority (the IRTC) is trying to atone for its errors by handing out more licenses. Three Dublin permits - including a specifically 'youth-orientated' one - were awarded last year, and now two of Dublin's longest-running pirates are competing for another one.

This 'special interest' license will be announced in the Spring. The winning bid will be chosen from one of five categories and Jazz FM and Phantom have both applied (in separate categories). The worry is that, even if one of Jazz or Phantom get the green light, the rest of Dublin pirate radio could be annihilated in the aftermath of all this legalisation.

The commitment involved in putting a bid like this together is huge. At Jazz, Ollie Dowling claims he has attracted investment of £800,000. Some of this capital will be spent while the bid is being put together,



Illegal activity: Simon Maher station manager at Phantom Radio

while the rest will convince the authorities that Jazz have the clout to get their act together if they are given the license.

Meanwhile, over at Phantom, Simon Maher says that they have also had to drum up a fair bit of cash to assemble their bid. "We're lucky in that we've managed to attract investors who are interested in the idea behind the station," he says. "You could end up in a situation where investors are screaming for huge profits after a few months, but we've deliberately looked for people who are interested in the music side of things."

As well as getting all of this money together, the pirates are risking their credibility by closing down while the application is being decided on. One of the IRTC requirements is that illegal stations have stopped broadcasting three weeks before they give in their applications. This is often seen as a ruse to lure pirates into damaging themselves by applying for licenses that they are never going to get.

Of the two, Jazz will approach the bid in a more optimistic frame of mind. When the youth license was given out last year, another 'special interest' category was up for

WHAT'S OUT THERE...

THERE ARE plenty of pirates out there. Some of them you'll probably never hear, and a fair few are just not worth bothering with because all they do is play pre-programmed CDs all day. We've picked out a selection of the stations that are noteworthy for some reason or other.

POWER FM 97.2FM Well-organised dance station with 72 DJs. They play top quality music that ranges from techno through drum and bass, hip-hop, reggae, house and a number of other sounds.

NOVA DANCE 94.7FM For some reason these guys use the same jingles as 80s pop pirate Radio Nova.

Here's a short guide to the rest of the pirate radio stations out there...

But if it's T'Pau or Johnny Logan you're after, you won't find it on this reasonably commercial club music station.

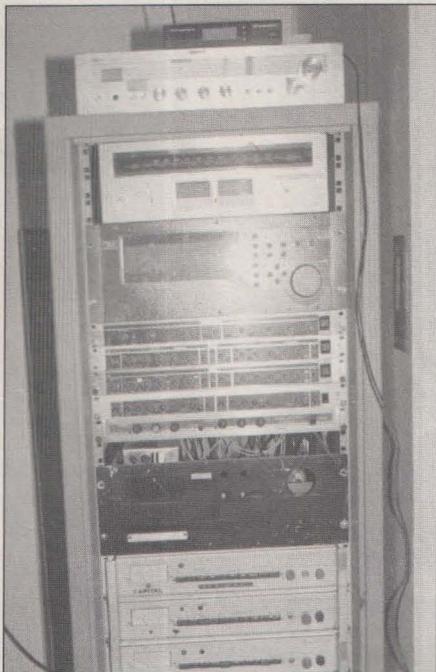
KIC FM 98.8. It may appal you, but there is actually a country music pirate station out there. Yes, KIC stands for Keep It Country and that's exactly what they do.

HOT RADIO 99.1/99.4 A 'serious' dance music station that has only



been around since the summer but already seems to be fairly popular.

ENERGY 94 FM This is a professionally run pirate that plays commercial dance music. It rose from the ashes of Pulse - a major pirate which shut down in 1999 convinced that it would be awarded a license.



grabs. Phantom was one of a handful of applicants for the position and would have been fairly confident of success.

Imagine their rage when the IRTC turned around and said that nobody was getting the license. And imagine Jazz FM's glee when Michael O'Keefe, Chief Executive of the IRTC issued a statement saying that they were 'surprised' that Jazz hadn't gone for the license. To make matters worse for Phantom, the tight-lipped bastards in the IRTC refused to give them any reason for the rejection.

But neither station has any guarantee of success. A number of powerful bids are expected from the other categories - most notably a Country Music station and a Religious radio bid. Failure, in the eyes of Jazz FM boss Ollie Dowling, would be disastrous.

He predicts that there will be a huge purge of illegal radio in Dublin once Spin FM - the new youth station - comes on air. "Between their bid and various legal wranglings, Spin will have spent £4 million getting their station on air," he says. "There's no way that they are going to sit back and watch their audience share being eaten into by a bunch of illegal stations.

"These guys have political contacts and the government will be under huge pressure to shut the pirates down." By all accounts, locating an illegal station and confiscating its transmitter is child's play for the authorities with the technology they now have. "I can't see Jazz FM surviving as a pirate if we don't get the license."

Others in the business have said that these threats are regularly trotted out in an attempt to scare pirates off the air. Many are indifferent - they live in constant danger of being shut down anyway, so another threat doesn't make a huge difference.

WHY GO STRAIGHT?

If it will stop you turning into an annoying prick like Chris Barry, then why not just stay illegal?

The people who set up pirate radio stations are a diverse bunch. At one end of the spectrum you'll find the music anorak in a garden shed who's friends have forced him to start a station so that he'll stop boring them to death with his blather. Then there's the more serious side of things - heavies and drug dealers who want to publicise dance clubs where they can offload large amounts of their pills.

No matter who you are, though, if you're in pirate radio, your whole enterprise is in danger of going up in smoke overnight. The longer a pirate survives, the more its owners are likely to be spending money on improving the various different elements of it. But one tap on the door and you could be saying goodbye to several grand's worth of equipment and, if they really want to fuck you over, up to £10,000 in fines.

Going straight has the definite appeal that you can keep buying obscure little gizmos to make your sound as good as possible - safe in the knowledge that some official bastard isn't going to swipe it all



Barry: Useless as all fuck

because you had an accidental outbreak of swearing live on air.

The other major advantage of being legal is that you can make money from advertising. Some pirates do take ads at the moment, but they tend to make a fairly limited amount of money out of it. They can also make money by running music events, but this too is limited enough.

BEST OF THE EIGHTIES

The golden age of the pirates is now a distant memory

Radio anoraks love to lean back in their souvenir DJ chairs and dream of the 80s, that glory era when Irish pirate radio was actually a multi-million pound business. Most normal people can dimly remember names like Radio Nova, Q102 and Sunshine 101 - hugely popular super-pirates who made enough money to support full-time staffs of 20-25. Back then illegal stations brazenly took



These brands were once national icons

advertising money from state-owned companies and had gigantic banners draped across the front of their studios. In recent times, it's been more a case of untraceable pre-paid mobile phones and outlandish pseudonyms as pirates grapple with their illegality. The glory

era finally came to an end, though, in 1989, when the State shut down all the major pirates and installed the great commercial stations we now have.

For more info on this period and anything else to do with Irish pirate radio, check out www.radiowaves.fm.

Welcome to the future



Famous RTE presenter and general all round celebrity PAT KENNY speaks exclusively to The Slate about what he feels is going to be big in the year 2001

HELLO, AND welcome to my preview of the year 2001. Many of you will be used to reading hyperbolic predictions about how the human race will progress in future years, or ridiculous horoscopes aimed at the kind of grannies who still pine after Gay Byrne.

However, I can guarantee you that the events you read about in

these pages will actually come true - no, honestly. This is because as well as being one of the most intelligent and handsome men in Ireland, I also have the ability to SEE INTO THE FUTURE. I do not reveal my psychic nature to the public very often, so pay close attention. Read on to find out what the year 2001 will be like...

AMAZING: Mystic Pat gazing into the future

GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLES

AS USUAL, there will be a large amount of bickering, bitching and backstabbing among our TDs over the coming year. However, this will lead to some interesting cabinet reshuffles and deals. For instance, Jackie Healy Rae will refuse to support Bertie unless he is made high king of Kerry. All will go well until Healy-Rae and his fellow Kerry men are filmed by RTE in ceremonial goat skin dresses, worshipping the sun. Elsewhere, minister for Justice John O' Donoghue



will lose his job by attempting to make it obligatory for all refugees to recite a decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge before they're allowed in to Ireland.

PARALYMPICS TO BE HELD ANNUALLY

FOLLOWING THE huge uproar that followed ME Synon's stupid column in The Sunday Independent, the Paralympics are to be held every year in Ireland with extra-patronising and extensive coverage from RTE. Myself and Marion Finucane will be hired as commentators to ensure the participants feel suitably different in inferior to real humans. The games will feature ME Synon herself carrying the Olympic torch in

a wheelchair at the opening ceremony, and she will do ten laps of the Central Remedial Clinic in Clontarf afterwards to prove she is really sorry for what she said.



TRAFFIC LIGHT TICKERS TO BE REMOVED

Dangerous, so they are!



TICKERS ON traffic lights are to be removed, due to large numbers of culchies thinking they only have 3 seconds left to cross the road and getting killed.



A NEW JAMES BOND WILL BE ANNOUNCED

THERE ARE rumours abounding as to who will play the new James Bond, now that everybody has realised that Pierce Brosnan would be better employed as a plasterer's assistant rather than as the world's most dashing and attractive spy. Names as diverse as Robbie Williams and Tupac Shakur have been mentioned, with Posh Spice even throwing David Beckham's hat into the ring. Eventually though, after

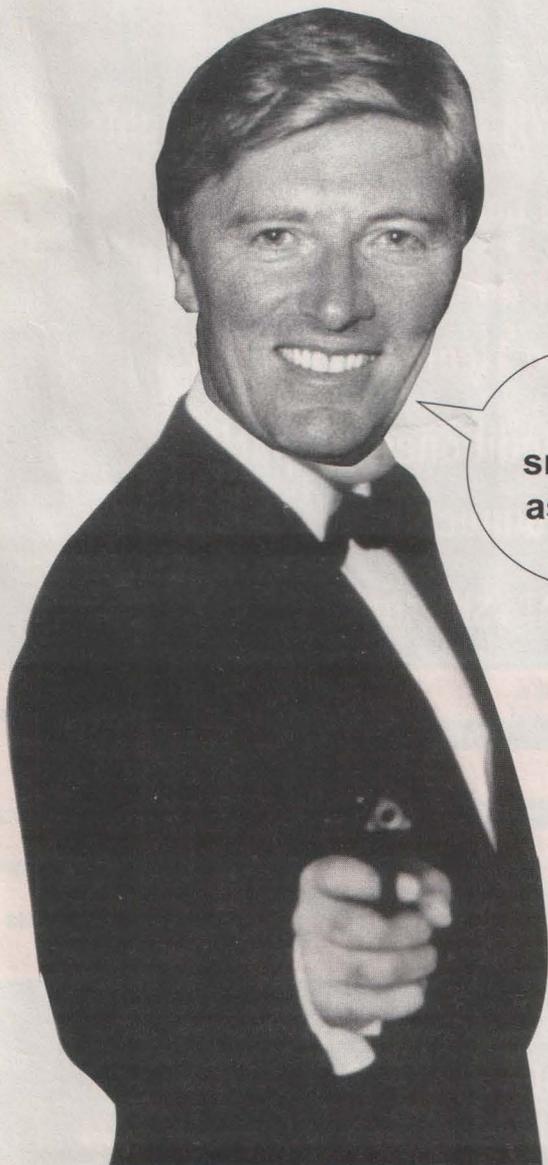
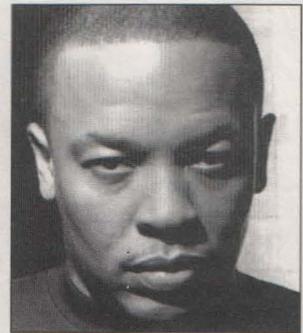


much deliberation, it will be decided by a panel of experts that a man of exceptional talent and sexual prowess is required...me, of course. The film will be called 'Old Finger', and is expected to be the largest grossing film of all time.

HIP HOP GIGS IN CROKE PARK

YES, YES, yes. It may be hard to believe, but Croke Park is to be sold, and it will be used exclusively for hardcore hip hop gigs. Rednecks will be incensed by the hallowed turf of Ireland's most loved Gaelic games park being danced upon by black people week after week, and large scale race riots will rage for centuries. The upside of this is that Dublin will become the hip hop capital of the world, with Dr Dre buying The Mansion House to live in, and Shane

Lynch and Keith Duffy both being shot in drive-by shootings.



I am smooth as fuck

CELEBRITY WEDDINGS TO BE BANNED

EVERY ONE got really pissed off with celebrity weddings this year, even the editors of Hello! And OK! Magazine. We had Catherine Zeta Jones marrying the ugliest, oldest man alive* Madonna having a 'private' wedding which involved telling every magazine and newspaper in both hemispheres where it was on, and Brad Pitt and whatshername (who are obviously brother and sister) releasing the single most



annoying press photograph ever, featuring Pitt grinning like a ventriloquist's dummy. The result of these excessive Hollywood clone weddings is that the even the pope himself has decided that such marriages are a bad idea, and they are all to be annulled.

* After me

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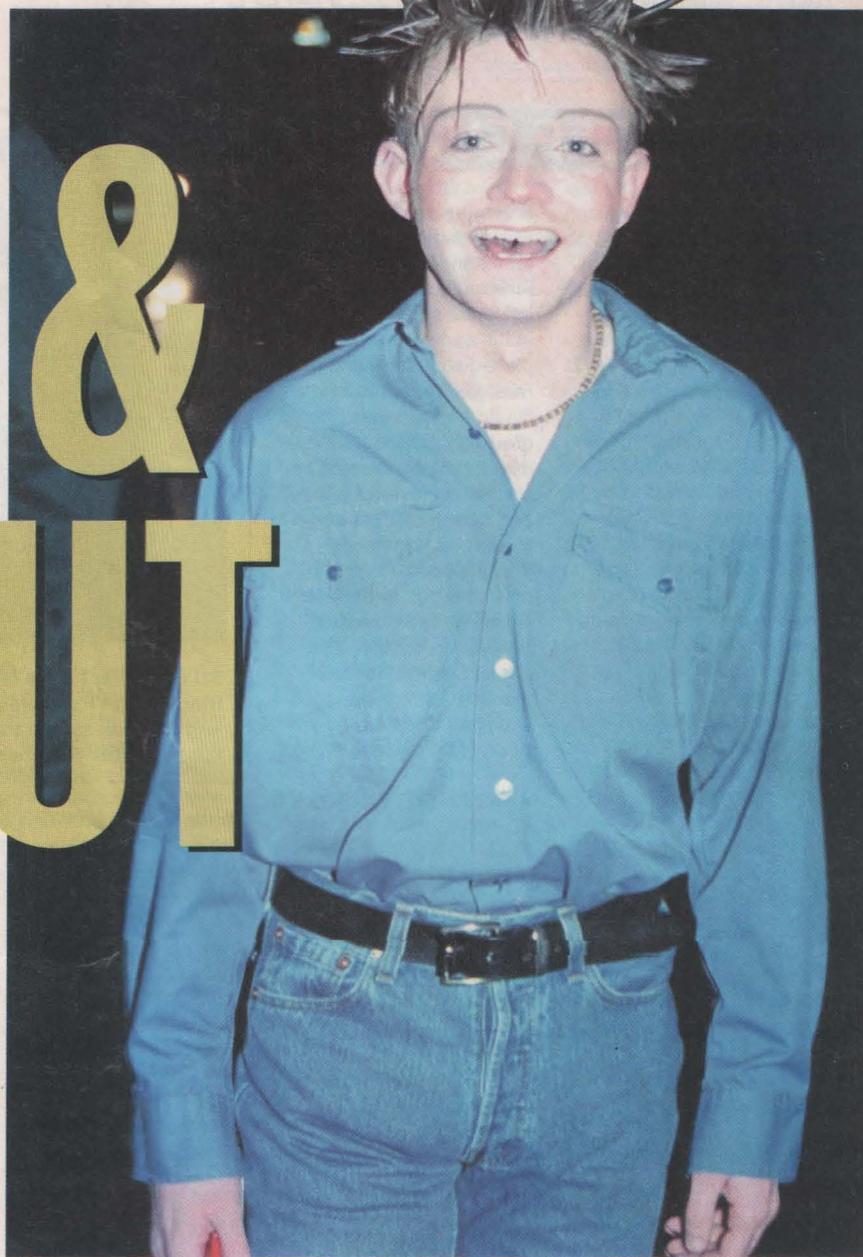
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OUT & ABOUT



Welcome to our fully comprehensive listings guide. Every quality event in the city is included – if it's not here, it's shit.

22 CLUBBING

DJ Bone, Billy Nasty, Etienne de Crecy and tons more. Time to get fucked.

32 LIVE MUSIC

Our team of failed musicians spout their bitter opinions on this month's live acts.

36 CINEMA

Confirmation if you needed it that Tom Hanks is shit, and some other reviews too.

40 COMEDY

We insult French and Saunders, brownnose Apres Match and more besides.

42 THEATRE

All the city's stage activity including unfunny Aussies and shitty pantos.

40 GALLERIES

Two pages of fantastic gallery reviews. Not that any of you shits will read them.

46 MUSIC BARS

Places you can get shitfaced without being charged extra for listening to music.

Attention All Promoters

If you want your event listed in The Slate, please get onto us by ringing 01-6640007 or mailing us at theslate@iol.ie

ONCE OFF EVENTS

■ UNDERMINE

TB MUSIC CENTRE
11 JAN, 7.30 ETBC

Dublin based foursome that includes guitarists, a vocalist, decks and on-stage dancers if you're very lucky. The result is a deranged techno/rock hybrid for the weird and wired. With Gav, the vocalist and lyricist, a devoted fan of happy hardcore and good pop tunes, the experience of seeing them live should be a fiver very wisely spent.

■ JAMES HOLROYD

MONO
12 JAN £10/12

Since he played the Temple Bar Music Centre last year, James Holroyd has been dashing around the world DJing with the likes of the Chemical Brothers and a raft of other famous people. His destination list includes Brazil, Argentina, and Japan, but now he's back in Dublin as part of Bugged Out's monthly residency at Mono. The Bugged Out crew have lost a bit of credibility since moving to Cream, but they should still be well capable of putting on a decent house night.

■ CHRIS SIMMONDS

ISAAC BUTT
13 JAN £10

Grew up in the West Indies before moving to

Britain as an 11-year-old where he hooked up with an extended family of funk musicians. This influence stuck with him in his early 20s when he played soul, funk and rare grooves on his Time Radio show. Simmonds gradually started developing an interest in house music and - after an unsuccessful attempt to start his own label - finally made a breakthrough in Canada. Since then, Simmonds has set up another label, Cross Section Records, this time with massive success. Should be a great night's house.

■ NUKLEUZ: BK AND ED REAL

TEMPLE THEATRE
13 JAN £12.50

It's the cold mid-winter and it won't be made any warmer by this pair of prats. BK (Ben Keen) is the chief producer at Nukleuz records and apparently works seven days a week to make sure that the world is filled with awful hard house records. To make matters worse he started DJing last year and now, according to Nukleuz propaganda, he has "quickly become a contender for DJ of the year". It's a pity that a good venue like the Temple Theatre is regularly wasted on music like this.

■ LUKE SOLOMON

ISAAC BUTT
20 JAN £10

Luke Solomon has most recently been recording as Freaks with Justin Harris, but past credits include founding the Classic Recordings label alongside Derrick Carter and starting the infamous



BUY A ticket to see Mark B and Blade in the Pod (only six quid) and you can spend the gig getting spent on free Guinness. If you're

not a fan of the black stuff, though, you'll end up drinking water, as stout is the only thing on sale. See review (opposite) for more details.

Space night in London's Bar Rumba with Kenny Hawkes. This guy knows his house music and he knows how to get a crowd going. Combine this track record with the intimacy of the Isaac Butt and you know it should be a good one.

■ JON PLEASSED WIMMIN

RED BOX
20 JAN £10

Jon of the Pleasured has been quiet enough lately, rarely seen in the full drag that was de rigueur for donkey's years. A veteran of the London house scene, he's always been more about the cheese than the quality, although he is not as rubbish as some of his more famous contemporaries. Had a residency at the famed Checkpoint Charlie in Reading and the Gardening Club in London for ages. Now plays at the glammer clubs in the UK - Money Penny's, Chuff Chuff and all that nonsense.

■ ETIENNE DE CRECY

TB MUSIC CENTRE
26 JAN £8

This DJ has been on top of the game since long before Daft Punk and Air made people realise that there was more to French music than Vanessa Paradis. Best known for his 'Superdiscount' album, he has also collaborated with Zdar from Cassius under the 'Motorbass' moniker. His albums are a mixture of house and two-step with a jazzy funky feel - it remains to be seen if he plays something similar on the night. Johnny Moy and Redsetaz support. One thing to be aware of is that there seems to be a bit of confusion over the date of this show. Call Influx (670 3771) or the Temple Bar Music Centre (670 9202) before you plan your weekend.

■ CARI LEKEBUSCH

RED BOX
26 JAN £10

Influx brings this Stockholm-based producer and DJ of

hard-edged techno to town. Now 28, he has been collecting records since he was eight and making music from his late teens, going solo with his Hybrid label at the end of the 90s. He favours sounds like Claude Young and Jeff Mills, so expect an evening of hard, minimalist techno.

■ COLIN DALE

MONO
26 JAN £8

UK techno don Colin Dale started his career in a London bank. He was removed from this miserable existence by Tim Westwood, who found him DJing in 1980s soul clubs and introduced him to the world of dance music. Soon enough, Dale had a job on Kiss FM (still a well-respected pirate at that stage) and his show, Abstrakt Dance, quickly developed a loyal audience. Dale stuck with Kiss even after they went legal, and only left recently to set up an internet radio station called Groovetech.



A DECK

■ **MARK B AND BLADE**
THE POD
27 JAN, 7.30 PM £6

The idea of Mark B and Blade playing in the PoD may seem a little bit strange, but the duo on the front lines of British underground hip-hop should put up a good show to set the standards for 2001. In the proverbial game for eons, the Londoners released their first album together in October - the well-received 'The Unknown' on Source Records' hip-hop division, Wordplay. With Mark B on production duties, Blade, who is originally from Armenia, lays the rhymes with the air of a fanatic. The product is honest, uncompromising yet accessible music. British hip-hop is setting high standards these days and it is nice to see names apart from (the albeit excellent) Roots Manuva being recognised - which, it is to be assumed, playing in the PoD entails. The gig should be a good one, and an interesting start to a few months of hip-hop at the Pod.

■ **JAZZY M**
POD
27 JAN £8

Jazzy M is generally regarded as a key figure in the early development of house music. He helped launch the new sound mid-80s London via Jackin' Zone, his LWR pirate radio show. Jazzy (aka Michael Schiniou) is also notable for pressing the first 1,000 copies of the first 'real' Orbital track, Chime, on his label Oh-Zone. Jazzy's latest track - the terribly-named but still good Jazzyin the Way You Know - suggests that his set should be well worth a visit.

■ **LISA LASHES**
TEMPLE THEATRE
27 JAN £12.50

Lisa was recently busted in New Zealand for possession of drugs. Unfortunately they let her go and she will soon be at large in Ireland armed with a bunch of her annoying records. The Temple Theatre presumably have to pay a lot of cash to attract such a big name DJ, but they would probably get similar results if they called the builders in and hooked a mike up to their drills. The Slate advises anyone with music taste to stay indoors until this woman has left the country.

■ **DERRICK CARTER/ DEADLY AVENGER**
MONO
2 FEB £8

Derrick Carter has been around longer than you'd dare imagine possible. One of the original members of the Chicago house scene, Carter pays tribute to his origins in his sets, but is never constrained by them. Those lucky enough to catch this rare appearance will be treated to a diverse but very tight mix of house, techno, disco and whatever else the master decides to pull out of his hat.

Deadly Avenger (downstairs on the same night) is a fully signed-up member of J. Saul Kane's DC Recordings. Damon Braddock by day, Avenger has been producing music since 1994. He performed as Sem before adopting his current guise and his interests in electro featured prominently in the early stages. A hip-hop leaning is more evident now, but a truckload of influences

should be detectable at his Mono appearance. Expect to see him weld big beat, funk, downtempo and old-school breaks together with a liberal amount of scratching on top.

■ **BILLY NASTY**
RED BOX
2 FEB £10

It's yet another Dublin gig for Billy Nasty, but few will be complaining - unless they want to grumble about the venue. Billy sent the crowd home happy the last time he played the Red Box (in November) and he has since done a stormer at the Influx New Year's Eve party. Having started out as a trance-oriented DJ, Nasty is now firmly in the techno camp, and has a techno label - Tortured Records - to prove it. His recent addition of an electro-driven imprint,

Electric, to his range of concerns mean that his constantly evolving show is now in one of its most interesting phases - and worth a repeat visit.

■ **DJ BONE**
SWITCH
3 FEB £8

Don't miss the visit of this fucking rapid Detroit techno head. DJ Bone has been involved in the Motor City scene since back in the 1980s and is still well capable of producing the goods. Bone started off playing in his home town at The Shelter. Since then he's had a residency at Detroit's infamous Club Motor, played in clubs all over the world and started up his own label, Subject: Detroit. His style is seen by many as the way US techno is heading and this was recognised when he

picked up the Best Electronic DJ Award at the Detroit Music Awards last year. Expect high quality blending, scratching, spinning, and possibly even some three-deck action.

■ **MAD PROFESSOR**
TB MUSIC CENTRE
4 FEB £6

Neil Fraser liked electronics as a child in Guyana, and he kept up the habit when he moved to London and began producing reggae as Mad Professor, pioneering the use of newer studio technology in dub and bridging a gap between old and new techniques. Recent years has seen Lee Perry added to a dazzling range of collaborators, and he can currently be heard remixing the Sofa Surfers on their 'Constructions' LP.

NEW RECORD SHOP FOR TEMPLE BAR

London crowd Carbon have come over here to 'launch' breakbeat in Dublin.

Good news for anyone that's pissed off with the pitifully small collection of independent record shops in Dublin at the moment. A new store - Carbon - has opened its doors in the uber-expensive Urban Outfitters shop on Temple Bar Square.

Specialising in breakbeat, techno/electro, deep house and tech-house, the record shop is a fairly snazzy affair, with lots of metallic design and futuristic looking listening posts. The staff includes former Bassbin man Graham O'Sullivan. It's Carbon's CD collection that really set it apart from other independent stores around town. The vinyl stock is not yet what you would call spectacularly good, but almost all of the CD supply would rank in the 'very interesting' bracket.

"We treat our CD customers in the same way we would a DJ who comes in looking for vinyl," says Matthew Prall, who worked in the London



CARBON: Trendy fucking metal

Carbon before being sent over to set up the Temple Bar shop. "If they find something they like, we'll recommend some other similar ones to listen to. People come in thinking it's like HMV. They don't realise that they can actually listen to CDs before deciding whether or not they want to buy them."

THURSDAY

■ KITCHEN BODYROCK £4

If you are disillusioned with regimented techno or drum and bass sets, then Bodyrock is for you. The £4 cover charge is reasonable and Influx, the promoters stress a more open-minded attitude towards DJ sets. Expect the unexpected from Michael Jackson to Laurent Garnier.

■ MONO REVOLVER £5/6

Fairly run of the mill night that starts off slowly. The music is fine, but not inspiring. The crowd, when it arrives, is up for a good time and clearly enjoys the venue. Although numbers are a little lacking this is still a reasonable night.

■ POD ROTATION £4/5/7

Resident DJ Femi Fem lays on RnB, Hip-Hop and Soul for a night of bumping, grinding, and plenty of drinking. Not as crowded as some other nights in the Pod - this is more a club in the incubation period. Live MCs are employed to get the crowd going in a new departure for the old railway station.

■ RED BOX REVOLVER £4/5

Student night with big crowds, cheap beer and hence lots of drunk students. Bouncers are

strict concerning the ID's so unless yours carries a college crest, sling your hook somewhere else. Resident DJ Al Gibbs plies the crowd with studenty house music and keeps things moving nicely.

■ RI-RA FUNK OFF £5

This is one of the more musically consistent nights that Rira put on, with DJs downstairs and Aran McMahon upstairs. As is usual for the Dame Court club, the music is eclectic and beat orientated. It is packed on Thursdays but there's plenty of room up in the Globe for the tired dancer to collapse in.

■ SUGAR CLUB THE SOFAS £7

A disappointing night. Most of the males are decades older than the women and the band are pretty old too, three baldies out of five never being good news. They play Saxophone-led rock and rarely rouse the oldsters from their stupor.

■ SWITCH PHUTUREGROOVE £6

You'd probably expect to find this kind of music upstairs in Ri-Ra - rather than in the murky basement at Switch. But Mark Dixon and Billy Scurry's quality jazz-driven deep house goes down a treat with the small, enthusiastic crowd and this night is well worth checking out.

■ TB MUSIC CENTRE SCREAMADELICA £4/5

Screamadelica is probably the most



EXPERIENCE: DJs Mek and Mayhem show off their tricks.

STUDENT SCRATCH FIENDS

As far as special interest nights go, they don't get much more special than the RSR semi-finals. But if you're into DJing (or music in general) then a trip to the Isaac Butt for the February final is well-advised.

On top of the varied student talent on offer, a bunch of guest DJs played at the gigs, often throwing up some unexpected moments. Up-and-coming hip-hop hero Mayhem was guest DJ for Trinity/UCD night, and the anoraks were practically creaming themselves when he was joined on stage by Mek, another major figure in the Dublin hip-hop scene. They grabbed a deck each and were soon performing with a mystery MC. What followed was the kind of freestyle hip-hop action that punters rarely get to see in Dublin. That situation may change soon, if

Last month saw Dublin's top college DJs battle it out in the RSR semi-finals. Like a true anorak, The Slate was there to report on what went on.

the evidence of this competition is anything to go by, with two hip-hop DJs making it through to February's final. UCD's Tu-Ki saw off some stiff competition to win his way through, but the bookies' favourite at this stage must be Ballyfermot student Splyce, who produced an incredible display to knock out last year's champion, Kormac.

As well as mixing Eric Clapton's Sunshine of Your Love into a hip-hop beat, Splyce produced an excellent double copy re-working of Billie Jean. Don't miss him in the final.

deranged indie dance night in the city. It's full of people who maintain that Primal Scream are the best dance music band around, has DJs who can't mix but don't care and sees insane levels of drunkenness. Nonetheless it's Dublin's biggest indie night and - if you're the kind of person who bought Ian Brown's last album, you'll probably be happy here.

■ VELVET

TONGUE N' CHEEK £5/4

Four words can sum up this night - a pound a pint. There's a merry atmosphere about the place, possibly because everyone is so pissed, the bar staff are ready for a laugh and the bouncers are surprisingly friendly. There's not much to Velvet and better nights can be had. But if you're broke, why not?

■ WHELAN'S PHANTASM £5

Indie Pirate Radio Station Phantom FM promote this night, which started out at the Temple Bar Music Centre. If dancing around drunk to guitar music at the end of the night means you're having a good time then this night is for you. The crowd tend to be fairly young and the set list is a little predictable.

Cartoonists needed. Mail theslate@iol.ie or ph. 664 0007

FRIDAY

■ **FRAZER'S**
D: FUSE £5/4

Friday nights sees the bunker in Frazer's (formerly McGrath's) hosting an alternative techno night, which provides an interesting departure from the city's better-known clubs. Resident DJs Derek F and DJ Eric provide the sounds and guests include Mig, Paul Holland, Gedge and Jonathan Hussey.

■ **GAIETY**
SALSA PALACE £7/6

This is the club that famously opens until 4am. You'll find five bars over three floors, Latin, jazz and disco music and a larger than average helping of 30-year-olds - all sharing sweaty embraces. Lots of energy though and, by Dublin standards, a great place to drink your life away.

■ **HQ**
SOUL CLINIC £8/9

You'll find that this night has a similar music policy to many in Ri-Ra, with soul, hip-hop and funk forming the backbone of the sound. As with many eclectic nights, the DJs sometimes mix and match the tracks with little regard for the dance floor. But if they get it right a good night is on the cards.

■ **ISAAC BUTT**
THE LAB IS DEAD

Friday night's at Isaac's is now in a state of limbo with The Lab having come to the end of its run. There is talk of a Power FM-driven crew taking over a slot there pretty soon. They'll

probably be joined by three other promoters who will take one Friday a month each.

■ **KITCHEN**
DIODE/RESOLUTION £10

Friday in the Kitchen alternates between a drum 'n' bass night and a techno feast - both of which regularly attract top quality DJs from around the world. Check the once-off listings a few pages back for more details on what's coming up.

■ **MONO**
MOTION £8

In terms of guest DJs, this is Mono's flagship night. Regular local performers include Dean Sherry, Warren Kiernan and Paddy Sheridan. The foreign guests can sometimes be a bit cheesy, but are often well worth checking out. Check the once-off listings a few pages back for more details on what's coming up.

■ **POD**
HAM £6/8

While very few gay nights in Dublin match the heady atmosphere of Europe's leading queer clubs, Ham makes a good attempt. Door policy involves keeping the straights out so unless you're gay stay away. Inside Hugh Scully and Shay Hannon provide excellent house music that keeps a tightly thronged dancefloor bumping away until the small hours.

■ **RED BOX**
DEVOTION £10/12

The Red Barn hosts a

variety of (usually quite good) visiting DJs on Friday nights. The music policy will range freely from techno through to hard house or trance, so check our once-off listings for more details on what guests are coming up.

■ **RI-RA**
FUNKSHUN £6

Mainstream clubbers move back into Rira as the weekend kicks off with Funkshun. This leads to a fairly packed dancefloor but the music is good enough to make up for that. Carlito plays 70s and 80s funk downstairs, while Dave Cleary puts an eclectic mix together upstairs in the Globe.

■ **SUGAR CLUB**
SHABOOM £10

With 70s funk and 80s go-go music on Friday nights, this is a place of style for over 25s, who are easily seduced by the Sugar Club's 'intimate' ambience. The dance floor is at the bottom of 'this theatre-like club and may be a little intimidating for some. Depending on what you're after, though, this should be a good laugh.

■ **SWITCH**
REFUGE £8

This is Dublin's premier drum 'n' bass night, with residents Naphta, Rohan, and MC Wuzza all chipping in to keep things moving. The atmosphere is charged, with everyone taking themselves very seriously, despite the fact that they are all dancing as if they have one leg shorter than the other. Nonetheless, this is one of the best club nights in Dublin, and is highly recommended whether you like drum and bass or not.

■ **TEMPLE BAR MC**
MAGIC BUS £6/5

If you think that Acid Jazz is music for androgynous 60s throwback types then be warned: Eddie Pillar of Acid Jazz records is behind this night. However, the corduroy sound is not the only one you'll hear, with the usual concoction of hip hop, soul and beats all being mixed in. Keep an eye on our once-offs section for upcoming guest DJs.

■ **TEMPLE THEATRE**
THE RHYTHM CORPORATION £8/6

If you are into serious bump and grind RnB, then this is the night for you. Practically half of Dublin's black population turns up to listen to FM104 man Tony Dixon and international guest DJs like Trevor Nelson, Simon Schoolboy Phillips and Diggz. Slobbering males will probably enjoy the night even if they just go along to have a gawk at the hordes of women who dance around with their tits hanging out. Disgraceful.

■ **VELVET**
SUNSHINE £6/8

A fairly commercial dance night aimed at the good-time Saturday nightclub crowd. The DJs manage to keep the boozy crowd moving, giving them just what they are looking for. Not for hardcore clubbers but good all the same.

■ **THE SHELTER @ VICAR STREET**
VELURE £7/6

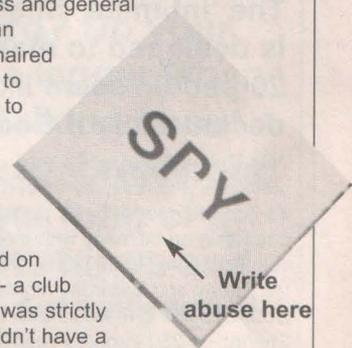
The Velure crew helped do up this new venue (see panel on p.26) and they moved their weekend clubs in there last month. Not surprisingly, they've held on to the successful mix of upbeat disco and latin music that has served them so well down the years. Plenty of effort goes into the lighting and sound, making this a grand place to shake a leg in. Arrive before 12 and you can dance for free 'til 3am.

■ **WHELAN'S**
INDIE NIGHT £6

See Saturday listings.

POD BOY GETS NEW PUB

Fair fucks to Pod boss and general man-about-town, John Reynolds. The long-haired playboy has decided to move into what used to be one of the most dangerous night spots in Dublin. Reynolds' exclusive new bar, Spy, is coincidentally situated on the site of Grouchos - a club where wearing a top was strictly banned, and if you didn't have a tattoo you were given one on the way in. Grouchos bit the dust in the mid-90s along with a number of other less plush dance clubs. Sides, the System and the Olympic Ballroom were amongst the victims of the drug-driven purge. Reynolds' own clubs - Pod and the Red Box - survived to make him his millions.



SATURDAY

■ **GAIETY**
THE SOUL STAGE £7/8

A fun night of Jazz, cabaret and soul in the Gaiety Theatre. Unlike your usual bar/dance floor/ 1 DJ, the Gaiety offers far more dance spaces, more DJ's, a cinema, plenty of bars, and differing sounds for the curious punter to explore, i.e. you get your money's worth entertainment-wise. In a remarkable new departure for Dublin, you can also stay drinking here until almost 4am.

■ **HQ**
FLAVOUR £10

HQ's interesting visual ideas and great floor space are its strengths. Door policy for Saturday's 'Garage' extravaganza barely exists. The crowd takes a while to arrive, but when it gets there, badly dressed students mix freely with garage diehards and a good

atmosphere prevails. £10 is a bit steep, but the masterful garage set justifies every penny.

■ **ISAAC BUTT**
STEREO £8/10

Scott MacNaughton and Anthony Mooney from Power FM play top notch house and garage at this ever-improving night. At the moment, Stereo is Isaac's only weekly club. It's attracting high quality guest DJs (see our once-off preview section) which should guarantee them the kind of crowds that Isaac's needs.

■ **KITCHEN**
FEVER £10/12

The Kitchen continues to support quality Irish music, and Fever on a Saturday is no exception. The only problem is that getting in can be a pain in the arse, but it is the same almost everywhere on a Saturday night. If you do make it,

progressive house is the order of the day, with resident DJ Podge and guests.

■ **MONO**
ROTATE £8/12

Resident DJs Paddy Sheridan and Raymond Franklyn play cheesy house to a tightly packed dancefloor. The odd international guest can spice things up a bit and there certainly are good nights to be had, but all in all this is an unspectacular one.

■ **POD**
MODERN ART £8

It's Saturday night at the POD so make an effort if you want to pass the hallowed portals and mingle with the drunken c-list celebs and ugly models. Resident Robbie Butler and his guests (check our once-offs guide) play thumping deep house, perfect for the time and place. Three

thumbs up.

■ **RIRA**
SWIRL £8

Saturday at Rira brings in a rake of yuppie-ish, well-dressed types who queue shivering in their expensive small clothes - so if you look like a bum or an Eskimo, there's not much point trying to get in. The music is good inside. Aoife Ni Canna plays US garage and house downstairs while the Globe remains open upstairs to cater to the alcoholics.

■ **SUGAR CLUB**
SALSA NIGHT £10

As with all salsa nights the crowd here tends towards the thirty-somethings, but the pacey live music ensures that a good time is had by all. The Sugar Club has limited dance space and the floor can get a little crowded when things get heated, but there's plenty of seating to let you rest and the sweat dry a little.

■ **SWITCH**
MODEL 1 £8

D1 records provide this excellent weekly dose of underground Dublin techno. The DJs - Eamonn Doyle, Alan Carburry, James Walshe, Mark Dixon and regular guests - supply full on, up-for-it techno. Add a large crowd of complete nutters, £2 a bottle of Asahi, a relaxed door policy, and you get an authentic weekend atmosphere. Most importantly the dancefloor is packed till the early hours. A great place to spend your Saturday night.

■ **TEMPLE THEATRE**
SP@CE £12.50

The DJ lineup varies from week to week at this northside venue. Big international names play mostly commercial house to a very enthusiastic crowd. The atmosphere is almost overwhelming as Dublin's clubbers go fucking mental. Big prices go with the big names and this won't appeal to many.

■ **VELVET**
GORGEIOUS £10

This is one of the city's best-established glam nights. Glam is not everyone's cup of tea and the horde of tarty-looking secretaries and hairdressers can be a bit irritating. The music can be good, though, and the energy levels of the crowd remain high throughout the long night's dancing.

■ **VICAR ST**
VELURE £6/7

See Friday's review above

■ **WHELAN'S**
INDIE £7

Irish Times DJ Kevin Courtney places heavy emphasis on the eighties here, rolling out old favourites like New Order and the Pixies. As a result, the crowd is older, wear desert boots and are obviously gagging for somebody to share their mortgage with. Quite an enjoyable club, though, and perfect for the kind of person who likes to stumble around to Fool's Gold after twelve beers. A lot depends on the gig of the night, as a fair few stragglers stay on after it.

NEW VENUE AT VICAR ST.

The 'intimate' Shelter is designed to make 20 people seem like a decent crowd. Good.

With Dublin full of fat greedy publicans and noisy oversized bars, it's good to see Vicar St. putting the emphasis on intimacy with their new venue. Velure Productions, who run the Friday and Saturday nights at the club, chipped in to help build The Shelter - a 250 capacity room off the main Vicar St. venue.

The new place got an unexpected airing on New Year's Eve when the Frames/David Kitt gig was relocated there at the last minute after another ticket disaster at the RDS. Reports back were good, with the only



YOUNG: Half the average age of The Shelter in fact.

complaint being that the Four of Us were on the main stage as 2001 was rung in.

The music policy at The Shelter looks like it will be interesting - with anything from techno to trad on offer.

SUNDAY

■ EAMON DORAN'S PLAYAZ BALL £6

Apart from the Chinese Karaoke night in Frazer's, the Playaz Ball is probably Dublin's only immigrant-run club. There are a lot of homeboy-looking characters putting in some slick moves on the floor - a welcome change from the posturing Dublin fucks who make complete fools out of themselves by trying to pretend they are black. The music is fairly uninspiring and badly mixed hip hop/rnb and UK Garage, but the talent is top of the range.

■ HQ FRESH 'N' FUNKY £6

Resident DJs Tony Dixon and Stevie G play mainstream soul and rnb here, with guests from the various Fresh 'n' Funky clubs in London making regular appearances. HQ is an odd venue, but there is an ample mezzanine for those not inclined to getting on down. Make note of the Ben Sherman shirt element in the crowd.

■ KITCHEN URBAN £5

Brian Chamberlain, the founding father of Power FM, DJs at this new night. He certainly knows his stuff and provides a

series of excellent tunes. US house and garage is the order of the day. As a new night it has had some teething problems but should come through as a quality club.

■ POD VIBE £5

The booze in the Chocolate Bar beforehand is pretty cheap (cocktails: £2.50 & pints: £1.80) and can get you good and messy before you ever get to the dance floor. When you do start bopping the music is rnb, UK Garage and Street Soul mixed by resident DJs Frank Jez and Kal.

■ RIRA BASS MONKEY £5

Sunday night is usually the realm of the all-weekend-long clubber. Thus a less full-on evening is what you may need if you're wrecked. Rira's on Sundays is one such option - you'll get good hip hop, soul and funk. The only problem is that the DJs sometimes mix it up too much to let the dance floor build momentum.

■ SWITCH CENTRAL £5

This is possibly Dublin's best Sunday night clubbing experience - and even gives some of the big Friday and Saturday clubs a run for their money. Sean Scully and Bubbles play top notch house downstairs while upstairs there's a laid-back mix that can include anything from rnb to deep house. The crowd enjoys itself and the music stays pumping until late with little let-up in the pace. Highly recommended.

WHERE THE HELL AM I?

Who knows? But it's Sunday morning and the party is well over. Here's our guide to surviving the day with a mashed potato for a brain.

"What the fuck happened to Saturday?" you ask the two strangers you've just woken up with. As far as you know yesterday was Friday, so why is everyone talking about Sunday brunch?

Your new friends are no help in explaining the situation and, when you go to the jacks, they do a runner on you. "Where am I?" you think.

"Mulhuddart," says someone, before booting you out of his house.

The best bet in a situation like this is to get back to the civilized world as quickly as possible - even if it means taking a lift on a tractor. Once in town, try and find someone in a similar state to yourself and then consider the following options:

■ JAZZ IN GUBU

You may well hate jazz, but if you're near dead with a two-day hangover, you'll appreciate the mellow surroundings in Gubu. A comfy lounge atmosphere is enhanced by the pool table downstairs. Definitely a good place to hide for the afternoon.

■ VELVET BLUEBERRY £6

The tequila shots here are just £1.50, so you may end your night staggering down Harcourt Street shouting at the mammoth cop shop across the road. The crowd is generally pissed and makes every effort to have a good time. The rnb tunes are, at times, a little unimaginative, though some good numbers and nice combinations are strung together.

■ WHELAN'S INDIE NIGHT £7 See Saturday's review.



BOLTHOLE: Gubu does the job

■ THE ZOO

This is the place to go if you are embarrassed by your stupidity after two days of brain poisoning. Find a comfortable place to sit and spend the day chatting with an Orangutan.

■ CENTRAL AT SWITCH

If you are a complete masochist without a job you may want to go out and ruin yourself again in the evening. Central in Switch is where to do it. Hugh Scully and Bubbles play top notch house music and the atmosphere is as good as most Friday or Saturday clubs.

Are you a total dance music nerd? Do your friends do a legger when you start talking about techno, house, breakbeat, or any other form of dj noise? Write for us and people will actually want to hear what you're on about. If you're interested, send an email to: theslate@iol.ie



STRUGGLING

REGULAR CLUBBING

MONDAY

■ EAMON DORAN'S MELTING POT £4

This is Dublin's longest-running and most meandering hip-hop night. You'll hear some good tracks and resident DJ Splyce will occasionally showcase some of his fairly incredible deck skills. The overall impression, though, is of a bunch of mates messing around with their decks in a living

room. Most of the DJs pay little attention to what's going on in the crowd, but there are usually enough enthusiasts there to ensure a decent night.

■ KITCHEN DA SMOOVE £5

As well as having the stupidest name on the club scene, Da Smoove also weighs in with some confused DJs who seem

to have missed out on the whole idea of mixing. It has to be said that Mayhem plays every second week and he certainly doesn't fall into this category, but a lot of the other music tends to be a wayward, clumsy combination of hip-hop, rnb and anything else that the DJs can lay their panicky hands on.

■ MONO TONY DIXON FREE

Tony Dixon plays a good RnB set. As with most Monday club nights, the numbers can be lacking

and the dancefloor sometimes empty, but the crowd get into it and by the end of the night a Tuesday morning headache is likely.

■ RI-RA STRICTLY HANDBAG £5

This night is for girls looking for a bit of flirty dancefloor shenanigans, and anyone who goes out for a quick one after work and ends up being persuaded to go dancing. The music is 70s and 80s. You may regret dancing to 'Get into the Groove' by Madonna the

following morning, but you'll probably have had a good night.

■ SWITCH FREEDOM £5

This is one of Dublin's few gay nights and the bouncers make it clear on the way in. "Are you sure you know what's going on here, bud?" It lacks the pink boa approach of many other gay nights (a quality that some people may find appealing). The DJ's play a house set, shifting up a gear on busy nights to play hard house or trance.

INJECTION OF
CRANBERRY
ENERGY

SILVER SPEED

TOP TEN RECORDS

Here's a list of the best-selling vinyl from two of Dublin's independent record shops



BIG BROTHER RECORDS

1. **Thievery Corporation** - Mirror Conspiracy 2LP (4AD Records)
2. **Plantetary Assault Systems** - Vol. 1-5 12" (Peacefrog Records)
3. **Boards of Canada** - A Beautiful Place 12" (Warp Records)
4. **Cymande** - Cymande LP (Janus Records reissue)
5. **Underworld** - Dark & Long 12" (JBO reissue)
6. **V/A** - Stand Up & be Counted vol. 2 2LP (Harmless Records)
7. **Plaid** - Trainer 3LP (Warp Records)
8. **David Mancuso** - The Loft vol. 2 4LP (Nuphonic Records)
9. **Ian Pooley** - Since Then 2LP (V2 Records)
10. **V/A** - The Ground Floor CD (Frontendsynthetics Records)

16b Fade St., Dublin 2. ph: 6666666
www.bigbrotherrecords.com

ABBEY DISCS

1. **Mauro Picotto** - Komodo (Nukleuz / VC recordings)
2. **Smokin Bert Cooper** - Keepin' Warm (Tidy Trax Recordings)
3. **Haitras** - Space Invader (Defected Recordings)
4. **Santos** - Camels (incentive records)
5. **Vicious Circles** - Vicious Circles (Platipus Records)
6. **Paul Van Dyk** - We are Alive (Deviant Records)
7. **Peace Division** - Feel My Drums (Fojo Records)
8. **Raff da Gaff** - Roll Da Bass (Abbey Dance Records)
9. **Fergie and BK** - Hoovers and Horns (Nukleuz)
10. **Saints and Sinners** - Pushing too Hard (Bedrock Records)

Unit 3, 21 Lower Liffey St., Dublin 1
ph: 873 3733

MONDAY
freedom
RESIDENTS
KAREN

TUESDAY
damage
RESIDENTS
JOE MACDONALD
MARK WILLIAMS

WEDNESDAY
RESIDENTS
DEAN SHERRY
& GUESTS

THURSDAY
PHUTUREGROOVE
RESIDENTS
NELY SCURRY
MARK O'BRIEN

FRIDAY
BASSBIN
RESIDENTS
SEAN NAPHTA
MC WIZZA

SATURDAY
RESIDENTS
CAROLAN DOYLE
ALAN CANNERY
BOB BOLAND

SUNDAY
central
RESIDENTS
SEAN SCULLY
DUBBLIN
STEF HOFFMAN
MR MOTO

switch >

23 EUSTACE ST. TEMPLE BAR.
dublin 2.

THE SLATE

Are you a right little bitch or a bitter funny bastard? Then you should be writing for this magazine. Ring up now and give us a hand. Thanks.

theslate@iol.ie

01 664 0007

REGULAR CLUBBING

TUESDAY

■ KITCHEN Genius £5

The blueprint for a successful midweek club. Genius has managed that rarest of achievements, a weekend club atmosphere on a Tuesday night. You'll find a packed dance floor, packed bar, packed everywhere - and vodka and Red Bull on sale for

£2. The crowd are mainly students with the odd smattering of mavericks in danger of a swift p-45 on a hungover Wednesday morning.

■ RI-RA bump 'n' hussle £5

Fionn Davenport plays hip-hop, soul and funk to an enthusiastic midweek crowd. Rira has never been on the cutting edge

of the Dublin dance scene but its formula works well and is well liked by the young crowd who make sure they have a good time.

■ SWITCH Damage £5

Switch hosts two of the best techno nights in town and Damage is one of them. Joe McGrath promotes the night in association with the excellent Power FM. Straight-up, no-holds barred techno is what to expect; previous guests

include Kev X and Mark Williams of Billy Nasty's Tortured Records. The only drawback is that Damage is on Tuesday, the quietest night in town. Definitely good though.

■ TEMPLE BAR MC salsa villa £5/6

The civil servants and nurses turn up in force for Dr. Rumba's salsa lessons followed by a hot dance night. Dr Rumba, who runs the club, puts his heart and ass into it, DJing with energy and then yanking women on

to the dancefloor. Don't dance too close to him, or he'll make you look like a drugged-up Sumo wrestler. All in all, plenty of fun if you're into salsa.



OH NO: My eyes are glued shut

IN A RUSH?

Here is a brief summary of Dublin's regular club nights.

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
PARNELL MOONEY'S Firehouse Skank £3/4 KITCHEN Blue £6 MONO Bliss £5/6 POD Glory £4 RIRA Tongue 'n' Groove £5 SUGAR CLUB Luck be a Lady £7 SWITCH Funk'd Up £5 TB MUSIC CENTRE Hit and Run £3/4	ISAAC BUTT Frequency £5 KITCHEN Bodyrock £4 MONO Revolver £5/6 POD Rotation £4/5/7 RED BOX Revolver £4/5 RIRA Funk Off £5 SUGAR CLUB The Sofas £7 SWITCH Phuture Groove £6 TB MUSIC CENTRE Scream- adelica £4/5 VELVET Tongue n' Cheek £5/4 WHELAN'S Phantasm £5	FRAZER'S D:Fuse £5/4 GAITY Salsa Palace £7/6 HQ Soul Clinic £8/9 KITCHEN Resolution/ Diode £10 MONO Motion £8 POD Ham £6/8 RED BOX: Devotion £10/12 RIRA Funkshun £6 SWITCH Refuge £8 TEMPLE BAR MC Magic Bus £6/5 TEMPLE THEATRE Rhythm Corporation £8/6 THE SHELTER Velure £7/6 WHELAN'S Indie Night £6	GAITY Soul Stage £7/8 HQ Flavour £10 ISAAC BUTT Stereo £8/10 KITCHEN Fever £10/12 MONO Rotate £8/12 POD Modern Art £8 RIRA Swirl £8 SUGAR CLUB Salsa Night £10 SWITCH Model 1 £8 TEMPLE THEATRE Sp@ce £12.50 VELVET Gorgeous £10 VICAR ST Velure £6/7 WHELAN'S Indie £7	EAMON DORAN'S Playaz Ball £6 HQ Fresh 'n' Funky £6 KITCHEN Urban £5 POD Vibe £5 RIRA Bass Monkey £5 SWITCH Central £5 VELVET Blueberry £6 WHELAN'S Indie night £7	KITCHEN Da Smoove £5 MONO Tony Dixon £/free RIRA Strictly Handbag £5 SWITCH Freedom £5	KITCHEN Genius £5 RIRA Bump 'n' Hussle £5 SWITCH Damage £5 TEMPLE BAR MC Salsa Villa £5/6

WEDNESDAY

■ PARNELL MOONEY'S FIREHOUSE SKANK £3/4

Dublin's only reggae night is well worth a trek to the top of O'Connell St.. A string of quality guest DJs and MCs have helped the Skank add to its gang of regular customers in recent months, and the throbbing bass is now complemented by an enthusiastic midweek crowd. Music is heavy, rootsy dub with a smattering of ragga to vary the beat. Strongly recommended.

■ KITCHEN BLUE £6

Following Tuesday's techno mayhem, Wednesday in The Kitchen is an understated affair. Jazzy, mellow house is laid on by Shay Hannon, Hugh Scully and guests. The vibe is get into the groove rather than lost in music, so anyone can look like a dancefloor mover with a half shake of their ass.

■ MONO BLISS £5/6

One of the most successful student nights in Dublin. Full of first-years getting shit-faced on dangerous booze promos while Nova FM's Conor G plays his best cheesy trance. Anyone who has been over the legal age for more than a year would probably think this is shite but everyone there seems to enjoy themselves.

■ POD GLORY £4

Wednesday is possibly the only night when the POD doesn't try to make

students feel as welcome as syphilis. If you can stand the pretentious idiots waving their BMW keyrings while they dance, you will be rewarded by a real DJ with actual DJing skills - very rare for a student night. Shooting fish in a barrel, you may think, on a night with cheap Vodka and Red Bull. Student ladies free before midnight.

■ RIRA TONGUE 'N' GROOVE £5

If 'eclectic mix' is Rira's mantra, then Donal Dineen must be god of the club and Wednesday night the hour of worship. The soft-spoken Today FM star headlines with a Latin and Salsa mix, throwing in a bit of hip-hop and soul to keep it varied. It's fairly acceptable stuff, but if you keep going back the set might start sounding familiar.

■ SUGAR CLUB LUCK BE A LADY £7

A Casino night that's more Monopoly than Monte Carlo. The theme is cheesy fifties - roulette, swinging music and James Bond. It doesn't quite come off though; the chips aren't for real and staff outnumber punters for most of the evening. The live music starts when the Monopoly stops and things pick up.

■ SWITCH FUNK'D UP £5

New underground night devoted to banging tech house. Promoters Dean Sherry and Barry Dempsey have been playing quality nights for

CLUBBING ON THE WEB



CLUBBING.COM: Stylish but wrong

HOW A bunch of people from somewhere in Boggerville managed to get this domain name is very hard to understand. But they did, and as a result someone has put a fair bit of cash into the operation. One of the first things you see when you open the homepage is a piece of text inviting you to have 'an exclusive preview of the latest Smirnoff ad'. Fucking wow! Hold me back.

They say that their "ultimate aim is to be a one stop shop for all things clubbing related," but they are a long way off reaching this mark. Although the graphics are impressive, the site is littered with basic factual errors which

several years, but this is their first Dublin residency in a while. Should do well enough to attract a decent crowd of reckless midweek clubbers.

■ TEMPLE BAR MC HIT AND RUN £3/4

Sick of the typical student night out? Then the Temple Bar Music Centre is for you. The place is chilled out for the most part and nothing will get you stressed - unless you try to get a drink at the bar. The music is definitely miles away from the usual shite that students are bombarded with.



CLUBIE.COM: All over the place but useful

In this month's clubbing web-watch, we have a look at two Irish-based sites.

undermine its credibility. A more down-to-earth, but far less flashy clubbing website is clubie.com. It's design is absolutely appalling, but it tends to have fairly good, if sometimes erratic listings. Last month, for example, it had a comprehensive guide to the month's clubbing. This time around, though, it looks like everybody went on a mad one for Christmas and they only have one Dublin event listed for the whole of January.

Don't miss the next issue of Dublin's free-est listings guide. The Slate hits the streets on the first Wednesday of every month. Make sure you get a copy before they're all gone.

January is a quiet month, and this year it is no different. Big names are far and few between, and generally of the shit boy band variety when they do appear. However, there are a couple of top quality, if low profile gigs on in Dublin that are definitely worth seeing.

TOP GIG

■ **DACIANOS / SCHROEDER'S CAT:**
THE SHELTER
10 JAN, 8PM

£6

This gig is definitely one of the more interesting this month - the headlining act comprises of a vocalist, a cellist and a pianist, and should suit this new Dublin venue well. Support comes in the form of a 33 minute instrumental track by Schroeder's Cat, recorded specially for the night. Get there early.

■ **WHIRLYGIG:**

WHELANS
10 JAN, 8PM

£7

Trad-punk in excelsius from the well travelled Whirlygig, who are currently plugging their well received and excellently titled 'In Bed with Whirlygig' album.

■ **ONE HALF MONK:**

WHELANS
11 JAN, 8PM

£6

More ham-fisted stabs at electro prog-pop as Ireland's answer to Depeche Mode (or so they think) continue their campaign for global dominance. The support band, Stoa, are one of the better bands around, and should be headlining.

BONNY PRINCE BILLY

The king of American lo-fi is to treat his nerdish fans to a double date in Vicar St.

A musician of many guises, Will Oldham is touring to promote his latest *Bonny Billy LP*, 'Ease Down the Road'. The man who once wrote "If I could Fuck a Mountain / Lord I would Fuck a Mountain / And I'd do it with a Woman in the Valley" has been a stalwart of American lo-fi rock for many years, and has become one of its most respected and praised figures. His previous incarnation, *The Palace Brothers*, were responsible for some of the most touching music of this genre. Along with him comes *Papa M*, the vehicle for David Pajo, proclaimed by the more verbose as 'godfather of post-rock'. Pajo has been involved with some of the most well known alternative bands in America, *Slint* and *The For Carnation* among others. However, he is not noted as a



BONNY BILLY: The Old-ham will be putting on a great show

crowd pleaser, and his last visit to these shores proved disappointing. Nonetheless, Oldham is very good live, and

this should prove to be one of the best gigs of the month.

*The Shelter, 8pm, 20 Jan, £12
Vicar St, 8pm 21 Jan, £12*

■ **ELY / THE KEDS:**

WHELANS
12 JAN, 8PM

£6

Although a relatively new band, Ely have

developed an good following largely due to their impressive showmanship and top class guitar based songs. The Keds are a punk-pop band from Drogheda - fair play to them.

■ **THE GLOBAL FUNK ORCHESTRA:** OLYMPIA,

12, 26 JAN, 2, 9 FEB,
11.15PM £8.50

Formed from the debris of excellent Dublin funk band *Tabularasa*, the GFO has wowed audiences recently with their note perfect renditions of funk and soul classics. Their residency in the Olympia is testament to the reputation they have

gained. Featuring full brass and string sections, the ensemble's performances are billed more as events than mere gigs. While some feel cheated by bands who play other people's songs all the time, this is still a must see for anybody who likes good live music.

■ **STAND:**

WHELANS
13 JAN, 8PM

£7

First gig in three months for the Irish guitar band, whose star seems to be on the rise. They're off to the US soon, where they are reportedly making serious inroads into the alternative music scene.

■ **THE MAGNETIC FIELDS:** HQ

14 JAN, 7.30PM £16.50

Stephen Merritt has had a busy year - his band released their sixth studio album, the sprawling, 3-cd epic '69 Love Songs' which elicited as much critical praise as it did astonishment. It approaches three hours in length, and was surprisingly consistent for its proportions - occasional low points being balanced with regular displays of songwriting excellence. He also managed to record an album with one of his side projects, *The 6ths*. Expect to hear electronic, as well as guitar based music.

IN A RUSH?

Here is a quick guide to some of the better gigs on this month.

Schroeder's Cat	The Shelter	10 Jan
Global Funk Orchestra	Olympia	See right
The Magnetic Fields	HQ	14 Jan
Andy Williams	The Point	17 Jan
Bonny Billy	Shelter/Vicar St	20/21 Jan
The Divine Comedy	TBMC	22 Jan
Mark B & Blade	Red Box	27 Jan
Ryan Adams	Vicar St.	27 Jan
David Johansen	Whelans	31 Jan
Mad Professor	TBMC	4 Feb
Frank Black	Vicar St	9 Feb

■ **MONTANA PETE:**
WHELANS
14 JAN, 8PM £6

This London based band formed in 1994 and two years later recorded an E.P with producer Harvey Birrell (Big Black, Die Cheerleader) at Southern Studios in London, which won many plaudits and is now available through Po-Homo Records. Their influences are punky, and include Wire and Fugazi. A few years on the London live circuit have earned them favourable reviews in the likes of NME.

■ **SHELF LIFE:**
WHELANS
16 JAN, 8PM £6

Being a young Irish guitar band and giving yourself such a name may be tempting fate in the land that has broken a thousand similar outfits, but Shelf Life are certainly giving it a go by getting plenty of gigs around town. The fact that they are playing Whelan's is at least an indication that they have a degree of talent and are worth checking out.

■ **ANDY WILLIAMS:**
THE POINT
17 JAN, £25/35

Since the phenomenon known as lounge music has made its resurgence

in the shape of coffee-table compilations, Andy Williams has become hot property. His rendition of 'Music to Watch Girls By', spearheaded the assault, while Sammy Davis Jr and Dean Martin could only look on enviously (from heaven, of course). Williams' fame also rests on his theme to 'Breakfast at Tiffanies' and 'Moonriver' - coincidentally the name of his theatre in Missouri where he allegedly plays two concerts a day, six days a week, nine months a year. He may be no Sinatra, but he is still well up there in the crooner stakes and should put on a good performance. However the outrageous price of tickets, barn like venue and smell of old people may put you off.

■ **A SILVER MOUNT ZION:** WHELANS
17 JAN, 8PM £10

A side project to the critics' favourite Godspeed You Black Emperor, A Silver Mount Zion displays the more spacey, orchestral side of the main band, with more than a fair share of influence from composer Philip Glass. The gig will probably be worth going to, but tenner bets says they'll use candles onstage - every band that uses reverb nowadays has candles.

■ **NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST:** WHELANS
18 JAN, 8PM £5/4

After releasing their well received, if not very original 'The Sociables Prefer Pop Music' earlier this year, this Dublin based band can expect a modest turn out at their gig in Whelans, despite their particularly shit name. They have their roots in the world of US underground rock and bear resemblances to the likes of Sebadoh, Pavement, and the Pixies.

■ **DAVID KITT:**
POD
20 JAN, 7.30 PM

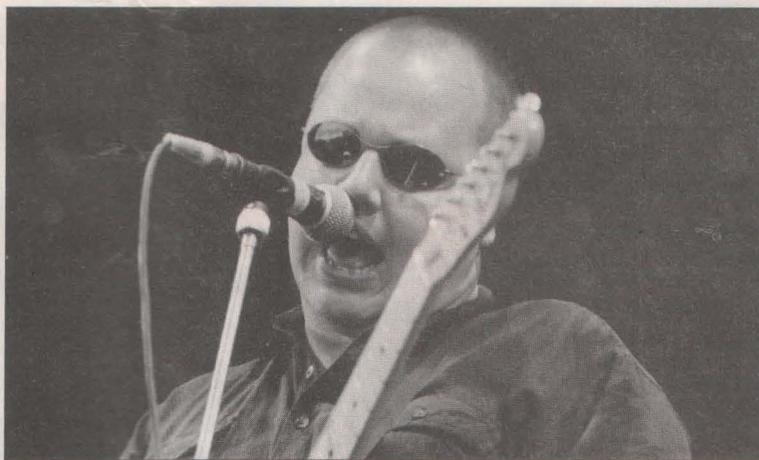
Following the success of his 'Small Moments' album and large amount of press attention it's release garnered him, folky Dave Kitt continues to play regularly on the Dublin circuit. His live shows are low key, to say the least, with some finding them a tad boring. However, if you liked the album, you'll probably enjoy the show. Support comes from Leila (DJ set) and Paul O' Reilly.

■ **THE SCREAMING ORPHANS:**
WHELANS
20 JAN, 8PM £7.50

The Diver sisters are a slightly angrier, Donegal equivalent of the Corrs. After supporting Sinead O Connor on her 1997 world tour, and playing in Slane this year, their reputation among those who like crap music is growing steadily. They've recently been signed by Warner, and have had Manic Street Preachers producer Mike Hedges do their debut album.

TOP
GIG

FRANK BLACK



BLACK AT LAST: Frank will be weighing in at Vicar St.

Closely following The Stone Roses, the Pixies are the latest band to be subject to reunion rumours. Their talented guitarist Joey Santiago has appeared on a couple of Frank Black's solo tracks since the band's parting eight years ago, and has also contributed to Black's forthcoming album 'Dog in the Sand'. Meanwhile, there have been several suggestions, some from Black himself, that Santiago may well be making an appearance on this tour, a fact which will doubtless have old fans foaming at the mouth.

In the eighties and nineties, the Pixies were among the most

The legendary ex-Pixie performs with his band, The Catholics.

influential and important rock bands in the States, paving the way for a generation of bands. Frank Black's output since the marvellous 'Teenager of the Year' in 1994 has been patchy, and the two albums he has recorded so far with the Catholics have been quite disappointing. However, the prospect of his first Irish appearance in five years should ensure a packed house.

Vicar St., 9 Feb, £16.50

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■ **DUPED: WHELANS**
21 JAN, 8PM £5

Formerly known as Fourteen, this band may have changed their name in accordance with the audience's feelings when considerably less than fourteen members walked on stage. Happily that's where the disappointment would have ended because the band's jazz and rock 'n roll combination works well, particularly in a live situation.

■ **DIVINE COMEDY:**
T B MUSIC CENTRE
22 JAN, 8PM £17

The foppish Neil Hannon is back to play a few Irish gigs to warm fans up for

his new single, due out in February. The Bishop's son has of late been working on his latest album, which is as yet untitled. An entirely acoustic affair, it features Radiohead collaborator Nigel Godrich on production, and should appeal to those who prefer the less bombastic side of The Divine Comedy. Live, Mr Hannon can be an uppity little shite, his temperamental nature sometimes taking from the quality of his performance. However, few can deny Hannon's melodic gift and shrewd pop intelligence, so this gig should be worth going to see, if only to get a preview of what he'll do next.

■ **PURPLE OCEAN:**
WHELANS
22 JAN, 8PM £5

With a band-name brimming with sexual frustration, and billed as having, "an attraction that tweaks the emotion of the hardest audiences", the odds are hardly stacked in Purple Ocean's favour. But they're largely unknown as yet and have a debut single set for release very soon. Worth checking if you've a spare fiver.

■ **NEIL CASAL:**
THE SHELTER
23 JAN, 8PM £7

On the plus side, this American has been compared to Warren

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Ticketmaster: 4569569

Zevon, Townes Van Zandt and Gram Parsons, but on the minus he cites Paul Bowles and Garcia Marquez in interviews. There are many good acts of Casal's kind around at the moment - Iris DeMent, Joe Pernice, Handsome Family to name a few - and for this reason he should be worth seeing if you're into that kind of thing.

■ **WEIRD MUSIC CLUB:**
WHELANS
23 JAN, 8PM £5

This is a monthly club held in various locations around Dublin which offers an opportunity for unsigned musicians to play. Appearing this month are the Kehoe brothers, Weird, the organisers of the event, The Velvet Cave, a four piece Kildare-based band who play acoustic Nick Cave and Velvet Underground covers. The final act in tonight's show is Maurice Brennan and Caitriona McGuinness, an up and coming singer songwriting duo.

■ **REYNOLDS / HIRAMEKA HI-FI:**
WHELANS
25 JAN, 8PM £5

This gig sees two young English bands make their Irish debut tonight. Hiramaka Hi-Fi, from Colchester, were caught up in 1998's NME-led 'Bratpop' craze. Their sound evokes comparison with noisy American alternative outfits such as Sonic Youth and Fugazi. Reynolds, on the other hand, are a more laid back affair. Having recently released their debut album, 'Field Recordings' and lost a founding member in the shape of vocalist Matt Tagney, they have embraced the change with a batch of new, instrumental songs.

SHIT GIG

AVOID THIS LIKE SYPHILLIS...

West Life et al in the Point. It may be a charity event, but we are going to have a cheap go at it anyway.

NOT IF the money raised could find a cure for cancer would it be worth paying to have the reputation of these manufactured vermin enhanced. This is a truly evil gig - it's charitable goal masking the other objective of the affair - to make these arseholes look good and shift more units for their rich record companies.

When it was announced, very few things could have made matters worse than having all the most talentless musicians in the world in the same venue on the same night. Unfortunately, one of them did: Tickets for this pre-pubescent extravaganza sold out in ten minutes.

The Slate can do little more than complain bitterly about these fuckers, and hope that some child



We're cunts but we still make loads of money. Hooray!

somewhere will lose his or her innocence by reading all this bad language. The three unsuccessful shits from Boyzone (Keith, Shane & Steve) will be appearing with highly successful shits Westlife. Also appearing to do some live miming are that dog Louise, the

irritatingly omnipresent Samantha Mumba and the unbearable Billie Piper. Other over-managed, over-paid twats include Mel C, Atomic Kitten, Girl Thing and Reel. They all deserve a nasty death.

The Point, 27 Jan

JERRY DAMMERS AND THE SOUL JAZZ DJS:
THE SHELTER
26 JAN, 8PM £10

Jerry Dammers, the man who founded the influential Two Tone record label, is appearing in Dublin for what should be a very popular gig. Dammers, along with his band The Specials, paved the way for the wave of Ska bands that swept the UK during the eighties. Also playing on the night are the Soul Jazz Records DJs, the label responsible for the hugely popular latin/funk/soul compilations '100% Dynamite'.

■ GLEN HANSARD
WHELANS
26 / 27 JAN, 8PM £8.50

The Frames man takes a break from work on his new album to play a solo gig. Hansard's one man shows lack a lot of the pretension that has dogged his band, and features more unexpected guests than 'Noel's House Party'. Expect the cream of Dublin's singer-songwriter fraternity to lend a hand and a rendition of 'Coffee to Go', the best 'Man O'War' piss take ever.

■ MARK B AND BLADE:
POD
27 JAN, 7.30PM £6

One of England's leading hip hop acts make a live appearance in Dublin. See p23 for full preview.

■ RYAN ADAMS:
THE SHELTER
27 JAN, 8PM £12.50

Whiskeytown is a band that formed in North Carolina in the mid 90s, who were darlings of the

American alternative country rock scene, producing such treasures as 'Stranger's Almanac' in 1997. More recently, their frontman, Ryan Adams (cue hilarious name-comparisons) has gone solo, with a new album called 'Heartbreaker'. The new intimate venue at Vicar St should be an ideal forum for Adams' plaintive ventures in booze-soaked melancholia - perfect for curing that Christmas hangover.

■ THE SUBTONICS:
WHELANS
28 JAN, 8PM £10

This Dublin five-piece release their debut single 'Halftime Holidays' at the gig, and already have their 'Two Fingers to the World' album recorded. Clearly a band not short on bravado, the Subtonics should be admired for their continual insistence on trying to sabotage industry award ceremonies. At the MTV awards last year, they hired a barge and played a gig while floating outside the Point. Expect them to be at their best on this important night for their careers.

■ DAVID JOHANSEN:
WHELANS
30 JAN, 8PM £16.50

The New York Dolls were one of the forerunners of punk in the 70s. Their unique blend of rock and roll, r&b and shiny glam costumes earned them a loyal fanbase, and had them named by Morrissey as his favourite band. When they split in 1978, their lead singer David Johansen went solo, sometimes under the name of Buster Poindexter. He released an eponymous album

earlier this year, and his range now covers everything from blues and r&b to roots and latin music. Whether his change in direction from the Dolls will entice his old Irish fans out of their punk hangovers remains to be seen.

■ DAMIEN RICE:
WHELANS,
31 JAN 8PM

Rice takes a break from recording his debut album to showcase some new material. The album is due out later this year and a major bout of plugging should follow.

■ MAD PROFESSOR:
TB MUSIC CENTRE
4 FEB, 10.30PM

Top dub producer. See p23 for full preview.



■ DIDO:
VICAR ST
5 FEB, 8PM £15

Irish people made Eminem the Christmas No. 1, and bought more copies per capita of his Marshall Mathers LP than any other country in the world. It is then probably safe to say that there will be a certain amount of interest in the British Dido Armstrong, who's song 'Thank You' provided the musical backdrop for the Detroit rapper's 'Stan'. This gig, however, will be more for Beth Orton fans than Wu-Tang Clansmen, as her music is of the soft, folk variety.

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The Point: East link Bridge, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8363633.

Red Box: Harcourt St., D2. Tel: 01 4780166 www.pod.ie

Temple Bar Music Centre: Curved St., Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6709202

Vicar St: 58 - 59 Thomas St., Dublin 8. Tel: 01 4545533. www.aikenpromotions.ie

Whelans: 25, Wexford St., Dublin 2. Tel: 01 4780766

■ AMEN:
TB MUSIC CENTRE
7 FEB, 7.30PM £12.50

This group's new album is called 'We Have Come for Your Parents'. What, they don't want 19 year old groupies in hot pants

like every other band in the world? Their music is described as a combination of hardcore attitude, gothic self-hatred and nihilistic death metal grind, just what you need to cheer you up on a cold winter evening.

All the cinema of the month ahead, from the highs of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* to the lows of *Charlie's Angels* and *Little Nicky*. All in all definitely not a great month for cinema.

■ **UNDER SUSPICION:**

RELEASED JAN 12 IN ALL MAJOR CINEMAS

A Hollywood movie with Morgan Freeman as a disillusioned Cop and Gene Hackman as a similarly pessimistic Tax Attorney with four divorces between them, usually throws up several bottles of liquor, some murders, a beautiful woman and a revelation or two: in other words another rehash of a tired idea. But at least partly because it is set in Puerto Rico, such expectations are disappointed by this stylish Stephen Hopkins thriller. However, it is a remake of a French movie called *Garde a vue*, and offers a study in the contrast of styles between Europe and Hollywood. The former implies a great deal of what the latter explicitly includes in some clever flashback scenes. Obviously the director has lifted a leaf out of Soderbergh's book with his use of greased frames and of different types of film to create a jarring effect. The use of mirrors to keep the questioner and questioned in the frame simultaneously is also interesting. Themes of jealousy and rivalry are explored but not in a conventional manner, as is apparent when considering that the theme used is child sex. This is dealt with in a way the various films of *Lolita* could not. Better than most.

FILM OF THE MONTH

Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* is hotter than hotshit.

Taiwanese director Ang Lee's latest offering is a martial arts movie with a beautiful, almost operatic elegance that will astound audiences; not least Jackie Chan fans.

Lee, whose previous film credits include *Sense and Sensibility*, the underrated *Ride With The Devil* and *The Ice Storm*, sets this epic adventure in early nineteenth century China, though it has a curiously timeless feel about it. The story centres around the theft of an ancient sword and focuses on the relationships of four different warriors, featuring excellent performances from Michelle Yeoh, Zhang Ziki and star of Hong Kong cinema Chow Yun Fat. The numerous combat scenes are literally breathtaking and are choreographed by Yuen Wo Ping, who recently worked on *The Matrix*. The film, which straddles fantasy and reality, and often has a dream-like feel, succeeds in addressing themes familiar to Lee's movies - loyalty and integrity, as well as the pursuit of love. Sure it is in Chinese and is occasionally a little bewildering but the sweep and energy of the film is such that you hardly notice. The



Set her loose on *Charlie's Angels* and see their heads roll

performances of the leads are nuanced and complete, as convincing in action as in emotion and the Chinese setting is spectacularly rendered. Critics all over the world have been making

noises about this film receiving a best picture nomination at the Oscars - it would be thoroughly deserved. It needs to be seen to be believed.

Now showing at the IFC

■ **UNBREAKABLE:**

NOW SHOWING IN ALL MAJOR CINEMAS

"There is a sole survivor, and he is miraculously unharmed." With those words, crippled comic

book collector Elijah Price (Samuel Jackson) convinces an average-joe security guard called David Dunn (Bruce Willis) that he is invincible, superhero-style, because Dunn crawled out from a massive train accident without a scratch. Shyamalan, director of *The Sixth Sense*, uses the utmost subtlety to present this puzzling and appealing idea: slow, crafted camera shots; slow, deliberate conversations; and, unfortunately, boring plot

development. He repeats the confrontational scene between Dunne and Price a handful of times, thus driving his good idea into the ground instead of following it through. It doesn't matter that we don't get to see Dunne deflect bullets; this is a psychological film, not an action movie. But it sucks that we don't get to see Dunn really grappling with the reality of being "unbreakable." Subplots feel tacked-on for use when the main story gets bogged down.

■ **MEET THE PARENTS:**

NOW SHOWING IN ALL MAJOR CINEMAS

This single idea, set-piece bears all the hallmarks of the Farrelly Brothers and it is a real surprise to learn they had nothing to do with it. It is typical of their puerile, humour and lack of narrative structure. Ben Stiller utterly fails to engage sympathy in his contest with the father of his girlfriend, whose permission he needs in order to marry her.

Cinema contact details

Classic: 492 3699
IFC: 679 3477
IMC (Dun L): 280 7777
Ormonde: 278 0000
Santry: 842 8844
Savoy: 874 6000

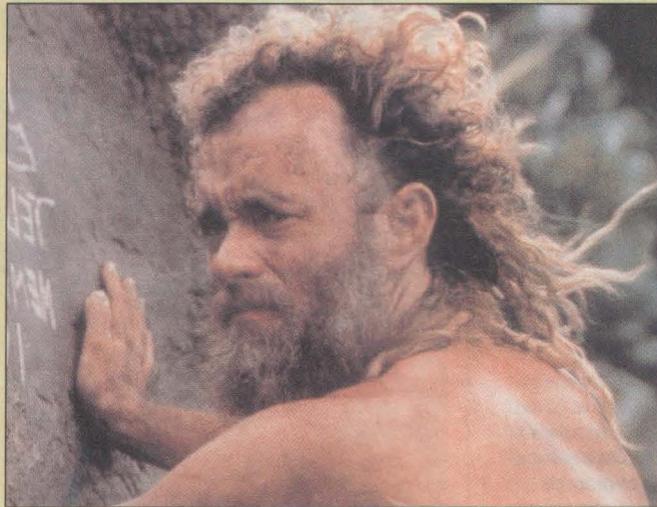
Screen: 672 5500
Star Century: 605 5700
UCI (BI): 1850 525 354
UCI (Coolock): 848 5122
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THROW THE CAST-AWAY

Hanks is stuck on a desert island - it's too good to be true.

If Forrest Gump failed to convince you that life is like a box of chocolates, well then Castaway should do the trick. Throughout this circular yarn about the triumph of the human spirit (or the US corporate middle manager spirit) one is lead to believe that existence is predicated on the making of a number of minor decisions. Hanks gets out of the car and as a result ends up on an island for four years.

What was also revelatory was the amount of product placements it is possible to use in a movie set almost entirely on an uninhabited pacific island. Even on desert islands, it appears, we need the reassuring allure of the brand.



Two and a half hours with this guy? No t-Hanks

As per usual in big budget Hollywood-land, the crash and storm scenes are slick and convincing and some of the island activity is a little diverting.

However, this piece of schmaltz is over long, with Hanks being given far too much time to flesh out what is a relatively simple lead character. The meditations on time and fate are facile and tiresome, and

seem designed to allow Hanks display his grandstanding, ponderous talents. This tale is only remarkable for the degree of its sentimental triteness and the amount of time endured watching Hank's ugly mug. The only thing missing is an American flag. Hanks for the Oscar.

Opens Jan 12 - major cinemas

Top Ten Video Rentals

1. **Mission: Impossible-2** - Total Rubbish
2. **The Perfect Storm** - Good special effects
3. **Big Momma's House** - Unfunny crap
4. **Stir of Echoes** - Rather scary stuff indeed
5. **Deuce Bigalow, Male Gigolo** - Shit sandwich
6. **The Whole Nine Yards** - Yank football
7. **Eye of the Killer** - Fucking crap thriller
8. **Frequency** - Sentimental nonsense
9. **Gangster No.1** - Yet More Brit knackers
10. **The Ninth Gate** - Polanski and Johnny Depp

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Admittedly some of the gags are very funny but mostly they are moronic and predictable. Furthermore De Niro is unconvincing as the ex-CIA cum control freak father. Why, at this point in his career, he has decided to enter the fray of fatuous adolescent humour does not become clear until the credits reveal that his company, Tribeca, produced the film. It is indeed rare enough that you see a film where every performance flops but this is definitely one of them. The ending reminded me of something my elephant did. The five minute scene where Woody Allen meets Diane Keaton's parents in Annie Hall is infinitely better. Do not touch.

■ **THE FAMILY MAN:**
NOW SHOWING IN ALL MAJOR CINEMAS

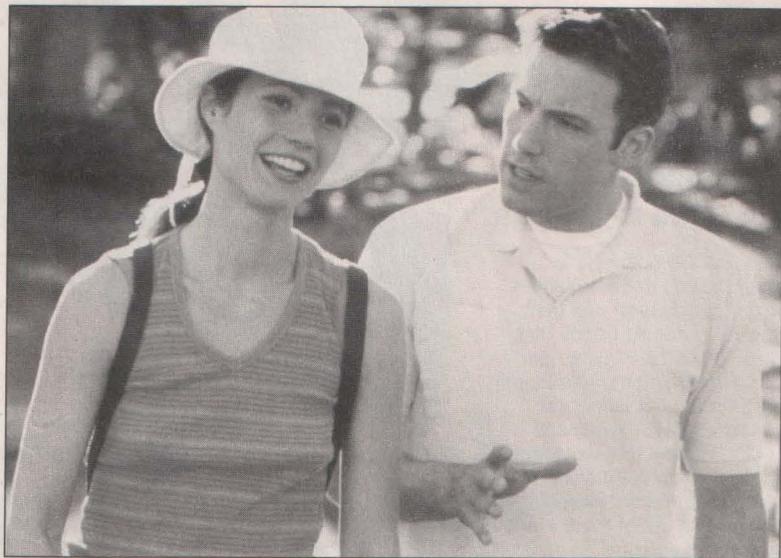
Along with The Grinch, The Family Man was the only Christmas-oriented movie to appear this holiday season, which will have guaranteed it some measure of success. So is it just blatant exploitation of a sentimental, bleary-eyed public? The short answer is yes, though this doesn't necessarily make it a terrible film. The Family Man is basically a reworking of It's A Wonderful Life, with Nicolas Cage playing Jack Campbell, a high-finance yuppie. On Christmas Eve, an angel visits him and shows him what his life would have been like had he married his college sweetheart. Thus, Cage is thrown headlong into an alien world of suburbs, in-laws, precocious children and tire manufacture; only to discover, lo and behold,

that it beats sex, drugs and rock and roll (or Mozart, the yuppie equivalent). The movie contains some quite funny scenes and Cage gives a decent performance. As for the inevitable sentimentality - it's toned down enough so that you won't leave the cinema gagging.

■ **LITTLE NICKY:**
RELEASED 19 JAN

Having Adam Sandler play one of Satan's sons will surely prove to be one of the more inspired casting decisions of the year, as few men walking the earth could claim to be more evil. Unlikely ever to attract the interest of Mensa, Sandler is also the epitome of everything that stinks in Hollywood. He started his career as a pretty bad comedian on Saturday Night Live, basing his act mainly on fart noises and tit jokes. He made his name playing loveable morons (method acting at its finest) in Billy Madison and Happy Gilmore, and has since become one of the most overpaid sub-humans in the film industry. In Little Nicky, he plays the good son of the devil (Harvey Keitel) who must go to earth to stop his two evil brothers from taking over, along with some help from his talking dog sidekick. A pretty appalling premise to begin with, the script seems to have been written overnight in a bar, with little continuity, credibility or coherence. It might be said in the film's defence that it features some mildly amusing cameos from the likes of Rodney Dangerfield, Quentin Tarantino and Ozzy Osbourne. However, if you are going to avoid one film this month this may well be it.

THE MONTH AHEAD



Bounce: Moments later Affleck bites Paltrow's head off

Set to be released on the 19th of January, **Quills** is loosely based on the life of the Marquis De Sade. Incarcerated in an asylum, the nympho noble De Sade becomes involved with a priest battling with celibacy, a buxom wench and a cruel doctor. **Requiem For A Dream** the latest effort by the director of **Pi**, opens at the IFC on the 19th of Jan also. It's seems a fairly typical tale of the perils of drug addiction. **Vertical Limit** is out on the same day. It tries to make mountaineering both sexy and exciting. While its trailer suggests at least a degree of excitement and some fairly cool stunts, it is by all accounts shit. **Pay it Forward** which stars the weird looking kid from the

All the other movies coming up in January

Sixth Sense appears at the end of the month and has won a lot of praise. It's based in Las Vegas and follows trailer-trash lives. **Traffic**, the new Steven Soderbergh film will appear towards the end of the month and promises much. It's based in and around the drugs trade on the Mexican-American border. **Bounce** with Ben Affleck and Gwyneth Paltrow looks a singularly sentimental and dire chick-flick. **Almost Famous** directed by Cameron Crowe is about the Seventies rock scene and appears at the very end of January. **Goya in Bordeaux** will be at the IFC.

■ **ACCELERATOR:**
NOW SHOWING

This low budget take on the car chase movie, follows the antics of rival teenage gangs from Belfast and Dublin. Two adversaries challenge each other to a race to settle the matter of who has the biggest willy. It gets off to a great start, with plenty of snappy dialogue and entertaining performances from a mostly young and

unknown cast. The film changes tone as things predictably go wrong for the characters and the Commitments suddenly metamorphoses into Bonny and Clyde. It's a shame as this is the kind of Irish film you want to work.

■ **COYOTE UGLY:**
NOW SHOWING AT MOST CINEMAS

A restless New Jersey

songwriter has had enough of the small time and wants to make it big. She goes to the Big Apple and bites off more than she can chew, realising at the late age of 20-something that it's not that easy in NYC. In other words she's an idiot. Stage fright stops her getting her songs heard so she gets a job in a bar called 'Coyote Ugly'. It's a swinging joint with lots of loutish lads and chicks on the bar. It

looks like the bar will eat her alive. However she beats her stage fright and gets on the bar and sings along with the jukebox as a fight rages. Amazingly the fight stops as the angry men turn to watch her get her thang on. Slowly but surely her confidence grows. She falls in love with some very nice looking Ozzie lad, but they have a fight and are almost back together again when she sees him with a chick. He's innocent of course but she gets the wrong impression and makes like a banana. Her Dad is a comic over-protective fatso who works in a tollbooth on a bridge and whines about his dead wife. In the glorious finale make ups come left, right and centre and surprise, surprise her personal success arrives as she releases a hyped cd. Basically they all fuck off and abandon her and then when fame strikes or looks like it might, they all run back and start sweating like a paedophile in Toys 'R' Us.

■ **THE GRINCH:**
NOW SHOWING AT ALL MAJOR CINEMAS

You know the story already. Whoville is celebrating its biggest Christmas in a thousand years and the Grinch, ridiculed as a child, wants to ruin it. Then a little girl shows the big bad ugly thing that he does have a caring heart and everybody lives happily ever after. While you can't fault the production of this film with its amazing sets and brilliant Seussian mix of characters set in a world with slightly different laws of nature, the sum total is less than mediocre. Jim

Carey, as the Grinch, does his usual thing, pulling lots of faces and gesticulating in a stupid and annoying fashion. Ron Howard, Hollywood's favourite low-brow director, fails entirely to spread the film's appeal or to do justice to the original. Indeed even the kids in the cinema became a bit restless and some of the cute-kid-singing sequences are bowel-movement bad. Dr Seuss, the originator of the Grinch, would be more than a little disappointed with this adaptation that is mostly a vehicle for Carey and Howard to enhance their own reputations, at the expense of bastardising what is a great comic character.

■ **CHARLIE'S ANGELS:**
NOW SHOWING AT ALL MAJOR CINEMAS

Some will say that this film is tongue-in-cheek and fun. They are wrong as it is in fact shit. In the initial sequence we see a large, burly black man parachute from a plane, holding a would-be bomber. He disposes of the bomb in mid-air and lands in a moving motorboat. He then rips off his face to reveal that he is Lucy Liu. Gosh that's clever. Maybe they are going for a comic book effect but many of the plot twists are simply ridiculous. The plot, as far as there is one, revolves around corporate espionage in the world of IT. The girls must complete a series of feats for their boss, the mysterious Charlie. But who are the real baddies? How very clever to combine a contemporary theme with this retro shit! The girls are savvy, sassy and like to kick

ass. We see them combine work with play, ever on the look out for some nice male hind. They tantalise their prey with brazen control of their own sexuality and then unleash all manner of kung fu hell. We even see Cameron Diaz conduct a conversation with a hot boy on her mobile phone while she kicks the bad guy's ass. How very girl power! Drew Barrymore is a poor match for her better-looking partners and if Diaz's smile grows any broader the top half of her head will fall off. Charlie's Angels fails miserably both as an action movie and as a comedy. As a 'playful romp' it is insulting and manipulative.

■ **BRING IT ON:**
NOW SHOWING AT SOME CINEMAS

Latest in an ever growing list of odious teen high school comedies, this movie is based around the theft of a cheerleading routine by a middle-class troupe from a working class school. If that sort of plot line is not enough to deter you, you may enjoy the strange racist undertones of this repulsive movie.

■ **BLESS THE CHILD:**
NOW SHOWING AT SOME CINEMAS

A little child manifests extraordinary powers and soon has Beezelbub and all his henchman hot on her tail. Only Kim Basinger can save humanity in this fairly derivative tale that fails to scare or rouse interest. Rufus Sewell puts in a good performance as a satanist who wants to harness the child's powers.

■ **TITUS:**
NOW SHOWING AT THE SCREEN

This brilliant adaptation of Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus has a number of wonderful performances and relishes all the meaty gore of the original. Anthony Hopkins is excellent as Titus, deranged and woe-weary and though the plot is extremely complicated, based around revenge and the clash between duty and family loyalty, the themes are explored with great energy. The director delivers a lavishly stylish set combining fascistic and Roman imagery. Some of the scenes, particularly those which involve Titus' mutilated daughter are extremely moving. See it on the big screen.

■ **THE GTH DAY:**
NOW SHOWING AT ALL MAJOR CINEMAS

Arnie Schwarzenegger vehicle based on cloning in a future world. Arnie has now starred in a number of poorly-conceived, big budget sci-fi films. Let us hope he returns to the peak of his career with another performance of the quality of Kindergarten Cop.

■ **SMALL TIME CROOKS:**
NOW SHOWING AT THE SCREEN

The latest Woody Allen is one of his lightest. Unusually for Woody, he plays a total moron, Ray, but the comedy is based around the usual New York pretensions and snobbishness. A caper designed to deliver illegal wealth accidentally brings legitimate riches.

■ **MEMENTO:**
NOW SHOWING AT THE SCREEN

This brilliantly constructed thriller runs backwards beginning with a body and delivering only a mystery, proving one of the most original and thought-provoking films of the last year. Christopher Nolan's direction is faultless and Guy Pearce is brilliant as the hapless protagonist whose loss of all but short-term memory makes him prey to deception.

■ **BILLY ELLIOT:**
NOW SHOWING AT SOME CINEMAS

Cutesy tale of a boy with a talent for ballet dancing in a macho social environment. Despite the sentimentality the film has much real charm and deserves its great popularity.

■ **102 DALMATIANS:**
NOW SHOWING AT ALL MAJOR CINEMAS

It's funny to see how low Depardieu's career has slipped. In this shitty near remake of the slightly charming 101 Dalmatians he plays a designer eager for doggy pelt. When released from prison, it seems Cruella has reformed. Just in case you're wondering. She hasn't.

■ **WHAT LIES BENEATH:**
NOW SHOWING AT SOME CINEMAS

Fairly useful thriller/horror in which perfect Yankie couple Ford and Pfeiffer get spooked in their pretty house. Has the neighbour killed his wife? Is the supernatural involved?

Yes, the pantos are still in town so not much is going on in Theatreland. However, there are a few gems that will repay the night off from the pub. There's also plenty going on for children.

■ **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**
NEW THEATRE £5/10
8PM MON-SAT UNTIL 10 FEB

Chekov's celebrated last play begins in a crumbling Russian noble house in 1903 as the owner, Madame Raevskaya, returns from Paris. Lopakhin, a nouveau-riche of lowly birth, proposes a scheme to forestall the imminent sale of her debt-crippled estate. However, the scheme would involve the destruction of the estate's famous cherry orchard. The aristos and serfs alike struggle to come to terms with the changed world in which they find themselves. Chekov catches with great precision and intelligence, the decay and turmoil of his day in a play that seems impossibly prescient in the light of 1917.

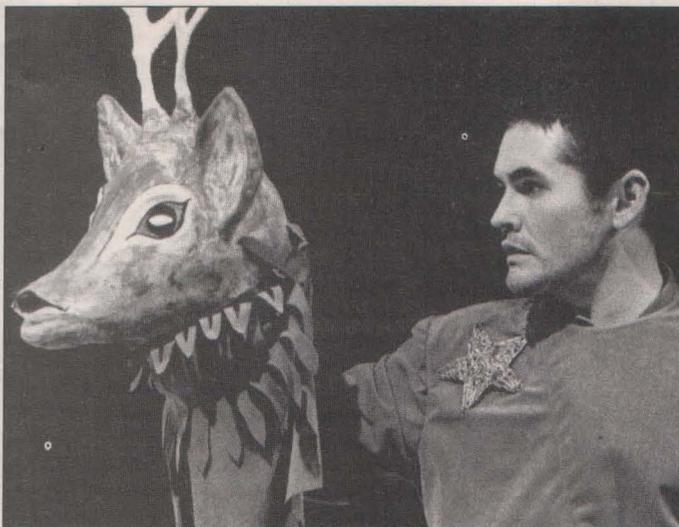
The Dublin Theatre Co. makes a fair effort to bring off the impossible. Chekov's work demands a sense of delapidated grandeur but the atmosphere you get at this miniscule venue is more like the sitting room of a two-up two-down in Drumcondra. At times the actors practically have to push past each other to move around the stage. The director makes a fair stab at utilising his space effectively but fights a

CHARMING CHILD'S PLAY AT PROJECT

The Star Child and Other Stories

THE PROJECT 8PM £5/10
MON-SAT UNTIL 21 JAN

This faithful production of three of Wilde's enjoyably sentimental fairy tales is well worth a look. Mary Elizabeth Burke-Kennedy's adaptation uses one simple but clever device to weave the dramatised stories into a coherent single narrative that stretches over about eighty minutes. The winter setting is timely and, given that the season plays an important role in each tale, is also pertinent. The set is very simple but surprisingly effective and Trevor Knight's originally composed music adds a delicate touch. Through each of *The Star Child*, *The Happy Prince* and *The Selfish Giant* the actors have multiple roles, some as animal, some as child and some using attractive puppets. The



They couldn't afford the front half of the panto-deer.

atmosphere of the tales is evoked with great subtlety in each section. The only serious reservation is that while this is essentially a production for children and as such is excellent, there were few

present, perhaps because of the eight o'clock starting time. However, the tenderness of the stories themselves is not lost in the transfer to stage resulting in a successful and moving play.

losing battle. Furthermore, as with many small productions, the quality of the acting is highly variable. The portrayal of Lopakhin is excellent and Ross Flannery does well as Leonid. However, some of the other actors are truly woeful with each of the Raevskaya daughters competing fiercely to be the more irritating. Nevertheless, *The Cherry*

Orchard is a truly wonderful play worthwhile for its script alone. For all the limitations of this particular production, it is well worth a visit.

■ **CERTIFIED MALE**
THE TIVOLI 8PM £17.50
MON-SAT UNTIL 27 JAN

Numerous 'Skippy' references suggested that this ill-conceived Australian play was not only poorly written but also in need of further rewriting for Irish audiences. The premise is that all men fall into specific categories and isn't it so funny that it's all so true. It's also funny that the Tivoli allowed this rubbish onto their normally reliable books. The writers, Rankin and Nicholas, seemed to think they could use lots of pop psychology if they

kept on pointing out so knowingly that this is what they're doing. All four protagonists work hard for a firm owned by the central character, who has decided to take the other three away prior to some 'restructuring'. The surprise is that there's no surprise, and the restructuring is of the emotional variety. It would have been preferable if they had brought in lawyers and actually restructured the firm on stage. It could only have been more entertaining. Instead, the guy who's afraid of commitment falls in love, the asshole guy tries to be less of an asshole, and the nerdy workaholic decides to give more time to his kids. Is this in any way interesting? No. Although most people seemed to have a great time, it is startling that

this enthusiasm weathered some truly awful singing that had all the swarthinness of Tom Jones and the emotion of Celine Dion. Clearly these guys think that they are funny, and confidence is an important element in successful comedy, but this Australian guff was more jarring than amusing in its simplistic, ham-fisted wit. All round a thoroughly hateful experience and for the sum total of £17.50 a total rip-off to boot.

■ **THE MATCHMAKER**
HQ 7PM £7.50/10/16
MON-SAT UNTIL 10 FEB

For much of his career John B Keane was viewed along the lines of a 4th division team; staple fodder for amateur theatre, who only

VENUE CONTACT DETAILS

Abbey and Peacock: Lr. Abbey St., D1, 878 7222
Andrew's Lane: Andrew's Lane, D2, 679 5720
Bewley's Cafe Theatre: Grafton St, D2, 086 8784001
Chinese State Cricus: Booterstown, 087 994 0994
Crypt: Dublin Castle, D2, 671 3387
Gate: Cavendish Row, D1, 874 4045
Gaiety: South King St, D2, 677 1717
HQ: Middle Abbey St, D2, 878 3345
New Theatre: 43 east Essex Street, 670 3361
Olympia: 72 Dame St, D2, 677 7744
Project: 39 East Essex Street, 1850 260027
Tivoli: 135-138 Francis St, D8, 454 4472

occasionally appeared in the Premier League of major theatres. This all changed with Ben Barnes, Eblana Theatre and Gemini Productions who recognised the quality and depth of his work exemplified in 'The Field' and 'Big Maggie'. This production at HQ marks the 40th anniversary of Gemini productions and is testament to their lasting relationship with the writer who they helped to promote as a major force in Irish theatre. Unfortunately the 'Matchmaker' is more reminiscent of that fictional 4th division team, lacking the subtlety and finish of other works. The matchmaker, Dicky Mick Dicky O'Connor, peddles his services for the lonely nationwide and the play is structured around a series of letters between Dicky, his Americanised sister, and a litany of satisfied and dissatisfied customers. To their credit Anne Manahan and Des Keogh give good performances and slip from one character to another with ease and confidence. But the overall result is that Keane's occasional wit is drowned in the sometimes overplayed bawdiness and jaded characterisation of both the play and the production. On another level this play marks the vast gulf between Keane's rural folksy Ireland and contemporary realities which have left his perspective seeming fossilised and redundant. In the light of this some of his plays appear as history lessons. HQ is certainly an unusual venue for theatre but is more pleasant than many of the conventional viewing spaces in the city.

■ **ALONE WE STAND**
ANDREW'S LANE £12/15
MON-SAT UNTIL 3 FEB
8PM

If you think that rugby and theatre don't mix you are right. However, this play does have some considerable charm and humour and proves an exception to that general rule. It is based around the victory of Munster over the All Blacks in 1978, a

feat that has already established its own mythology. A number of different characters, from the locals to the players and coaches give their angle on the event. The actors slip seamlessly in and out of the many characters with great skill. Throughout an interesting portrait of the social fabric of Munster is constructed. The action starts off in the present day with the

writer's rememberings of the glorious time and then passes through the preparations of the two teams and the experiences of the fans, and the match itself. Some of the funniest moments come when the actors impersonate the respective teams and attempt to imitate the goings on of the match. Jim Breen's play has won a number of awards and justly so. It is infused with

real passion and humour as well as a near-tangible nostalgia and pride for the great occasion. The writing is consistently good, tightly-woven and witty so that even if the background drama of the match doesn't interest you, you'll find plenty to laugh at. This new production at Andrew's Lane is similar to that which played in Cork last year to enthusiastic crowds.

OH NO, IT'S BEDLAM IN BOOTERSTOWN!

The Chinese State Circus hits town

MON/TUE NO SHOW, WED-FRI
5/8PM, SAT/SUN, 2/5/8PM
UNTIL SUN 21 JAN £8-20

Don't come to the Chinese State Circus expecting the usual freak parade or the inventive cruelty to animals we all love so well. Rather, a crack squad of teenage gymnasts engage in a series of bizarre feats of athleticism and precision.

Whoever designed these acts is one warped individual. It starts off conventionally enough with the boys clad in fetching luminous tights leaping through all manner of hoops and some little fellow launching himself about 400 feet in the air. Thereafter, things get much, much odder. One girl flips an entire dinner party from her foot to her head whilst riding a nine-foot high monocycle and another swings about the shop on a trapeze keeping what looks like a Fisher Price chemistry set balanced on a cane held in her mouth. A clear pattern soon emerges - begin with the ludicrously difficult and then make it fifty seven times more complicated. A troupe of hat jugglers is all very well, but combine that with coordinated back flips and skipping and you have a reign of madness.

As the night went on the performers started to get the complicated manoeuvres a little



What is going on? What are they doing to each other?

wrong. The looks of consternation on their faces and the glare of the circling trainer suggested that this was highly unusual. Nonetheless, watching a 12 year old girl being catapulted from a seesaw onto a pyramid of fellow pre-pubescent is only amusing once. When attempted for the fifth time, the momentum of the show ebbs more than a little.

The speed and agility of the men

definitely went down better than the very Chinese daintiness of the ladies. At the close the performers looked a little crestfallen and the audience seemed unsure of themselves. Nonetheless, even on a bad night, this remains a fascinating experience, an entire solar system away from the same old shit.

Runs until 21st Jan

■ **MOLIERE'S TARTUFFE**
THE ABBEY £5/10/17.50
MON-SAT UNTIL 3 FEB

When a charismatic beggar-turned-prophet called Tartuffe finds favour with Oscar Purcell, a gregarious south Dublin politician, the pseudo-religious character wastes no time in infiltrating the family ranks and working his way to the top of the household. Purcell's children and servants watch in disbelief as their small-minded and big-mouthed padre proves increasingly gullible, and as he blows off their attempts to expose Tartuffe as a charlatan. It's pretty simple stuff, really, and the first half of Declan Hughes' adaptation of the 300-year-old Molière play occasionally drones on a bit while each character's situation is explained in full. But the beautiful set and live music, played by a string ensemble on stage, help to keep the momentum rolling, until all hell breaks loose in the fast-paced second half. The adaptation remains impressively true to Molière's verse, with Tartuffe speaking in graceful rhyme and little adaptation of the original plot. A handful of farcical plot elements - a stolen briefcase containing salubrious details of a land development deal, or civil servants pledging undying loyalty to "our Taoiseach" - brings the play close to slapstick. Such timely updatings seem heavy-handed and over-the-top, without being oh so relevant that they merit inclusion. However, it proves surprisingly funny most of the time, based just on the strength of the actors and script and the quality of the Abbey's production.

■ **OLIVER TWIST**
THE GATE £5/10/17.50
MON-SAT UNTIL 3 FEB

To describe the Gate's production of Oliver Twist as entertainment for all the family may be seen as a backhanded compliment. However, it is the strength of this production that it can be enjoyed on many different levels. The play opens suddenly, thunder and lightning startling an unforewarned audience. This sets the tone for a dramatic interpretation of an undeniably heartwarming tale. Alan Stanford does an excellent job of chronicling the life and times of orphan Oliver who is played by Oliver Darmody. Sadly Darmody disappoints as an understated Oliver and is hardly that plucky urchin imagined in the book. The star performer is Fiona O'Shaughnesy who plays the part with the heart, Nancy. Others fail instantly by comparison, though Iain Mitchell's opportunistic Mr Bumble manages to set himself apart. Stanford deserves credit for keeping sentiments at bay, resisting the temptation to slip into panto mode and for the clever use of the entire theatre.

■ **THE HUNT FOR RED WILLIE**
PEACOCK MON-SAT 8PM
UNTIL 13 JAN £8/10

A Donegal landowner, Harry McMullen, dies of a heart attack while pursuing the notorious Red Willie. The fiendish Captain LeBlanc sees this as an opportunity to win the hand of the dead man's daughter, Bessy. Bessy's lover, the dashing Fardy McHugh, aka Red Willie, finds himself a murder

What's on for the chisellers?

GET THE little snot-noses away from the Playstation for a change and drag them along to the theatre. **Aladdin** runs at the **Gaiety** until late Jan but is both pretty painful for all concered and less educational than the average episode of Teletubbies. At least **Cinderella** at the **Olympia** has all the joys of Dustin and Soky but beware of the



spectre of Twink. **Beauty and the Beast** at **St. Anthony's Theatre** is a good show. **The Star Child** at the **Project** is low on guns 'n' ammo but is nonetheless a charming production. **Oliver Twist** at the **Gate** is hard to beat at the more grimmer end of the spectrum.

suspect. Hilarity abounds and justice wins out. Ha bloody ha. Enthusiastic performances fail to save this production from buckling under the weight of its own innuendo. There's plenty of rushing about the stage amidst the preposterous plot developments leading to a sense of confusion and incoherence. Moreover, the script is simply not that funny. Laden with Irish literary references and double-

entendres, it is only a little redeemed by the lightness of the stage design. Strictly for farce-o-philes

■ **BAD SUNDAY**
BEWLEY'S CAFE
THEATRE £7 (INC.
LUNCH)
STARTS 10 JAN
MON-SAT UNTIL 10 FEB

The plays at this venue are definitely some of the best value in town. They are often more than a

little entertaining and lunch is thrown in for the paltry sum of £7. This production by the Little Sisters of Tragedy has all the hallmarks of a good one. It was said to be top notch at the Dublin Fringe Festival when it played in the International Bar and has a good cast and director. It concerns a Dublin family's outing. So rather than queuing for the overpriced sausages downstairs check out this show.

IT'S THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL THEATRE SYMPOSIUM, HOORAY!

It's Pan Pan-tastic at the Beckett Theatre

IF IT'S fun, non-conventional theatre that you are after, then the goings-on at the Samuel Beckett Theatre et al. should be right up your street. The Pan Pan Theatre Co. convenes a variety of innovative acts and classes from some of the most interesting Irish and international companies. The performances are generally once-offs and while free at lunch time do cost for the evening shows. Highlights include the performances of "Yes Yes Yes", **Mr. H.** and **Say Nothing** by the UK's Ridiculusmus company (8/11 Jan, 6pm, at Sam Beck, £5/9 each), **Standoffish** by Pan Pan themselves (12 Jan, 8.30pm, Sam Beck, £5/9) **Camera Echo** by the Il Pudore Bene in Vista company (13 Jan, Sam Beck, 8.30pm, £5/9). There is also an array



Standoffish chilling in the hood

of very interesting looking workgroups and discussions on just about every aspect of theatre and dance. Don't forget your rotten fruit for Sile De Valera's opening speech.

Symposium runs from 8-13 Jan

COMEDY

There's some good stuff in comedy this month. A new weekly comedy night starts at HQ and the boys of Apres Match can be found nightly at Vicar Street.

THE HA'PENNY INN
WELLINGTON QUAY
01-677 0616

■ **BATTLE OF THE AXE**
TUESDAY 9PM £3.50

Turn up at 9 to get a seat though it doesn't get going until 9.30. This is not a pure comedy night as any act can get a spot on stage. This means that standards vary greatly. The set up isn't great so the singing acts have difficulty capturing the attention of a highly vocal audience and the comedy acts can at times be embarrassingly bad. The good side is cheap booze means you can forget about the shit acts and concentrate on the few bright sparks. Without a top MC it could crash and burn.

RIP-OFF ALERT: FRENCH AND SAUNDERS



Irritating Brit comedienne French and Saunders are due to appear at the Point from the 7-10th February. For a mere £28.50 - £32.50 you can enjoy their middle of the road humour, honed on some of Britain's blandest sitcoms, in the intimate surroundings of Ireland's largest barn. From your distant seat you may just about be able to make out fatso French but don't count on seeing skinny little Saunders.

■ **HA'PENNY LAUGH
IMPROV COMEDY**
TUESDAY 9PM £3.50

A good improv night at this well-liked venue. The audience participates with great gusto and the comics often produce some really funny stuff.

THE INTERNATIONAL
WICKLOW STREET
01-677 9250

■ **COMEDY IMPROV**
MONDAY 9PM £4/5

This comedy improvisation night in Dublin's best small comedy venue is well worth the admission charge. Its quality is no secret though and seats can be hard to come by.

■ **COMEDY CELLAR**
WEDNESDAY 9PM
£4/5

This, the longest running comedy show in the city is definitely one of the best. It has launched big comedians in the past and is sure to do so in the future. There is some excellent interaction with the audience, dealing with topics from Skippy the bush kangaroo to wanking in socks. The weekly open mike spot for up and coming comedians allows some excellent new talent to be seen while the headline is reserved for one of the old masters. At £5 it's a bargain considering that you'll have to pay £50 to see some of these guys once they go big. This should be a Mecca for all Dublin's comedy lovers.

■ **INTERNATIONAL
COMEDY CLUB**
THURSDAY 9PM £4/5

Another good though crowded night at this

APRÉS MATCH PLAY VICAR STREET



The Kilkeny boys are a funny lot. Pretty funny-looking too.

Après Match have been at it now for four years and have developed a great act that has stretched far beyond the sportsroom caricatures where it started.

This 'Candlelit Ambivalence' show at Vicar Street promises much. The venue is probably the best for larger comic acts in the city and there is likely to be a full house. Last August they played a sell out series of gigs at the same venue and although they have raised the price to a fierce £15.50 it still looks worth the money.

Their impressions are often bizarre

Four weeks of Candlelit Ambivalence

and may bear little relationship to the actual personality impersonated. However, recent satirical takes on the likes of U2 have been inspired, demonstrating that the lads are still able to pull effective satire out of the hat despite their sojourn at deadening RTE. Make sure you see this act live at least once.

Après Match appear at Vicar Street for 4 weeks from January 8th

venue. Good comperes keep the humour fast and furious and the audience enjoy themselves greatly.

HQ SUNDAY COMEDY
MIDDLE ABBEY STREET
01-878 3345

THE FURTHER TEDS
21ST JAN £8.50

Comedians who featured on the celebrated TV series.

ARNOLD BROWN
28TH JAN £10

Veteran Brit comedian who was around in the 1980s and won a Perrier award when most of us were infants.

THE KEVIN GLDEAS
4TH FEB £8.50

Night of comedy and song from this entertaining crew w. special guest.

MURPHY'S LAUGHTER
LOUNGE
EDEN QUAY 01-878
3345

■ 11-13 JAN £12

Steve Gribben, Danny Bhouy and Rocky Lee all perform with Des Bishop as the comp.

■ 18-20 JAN £12

Ian Doppinger, Brendan Dempsey and Donal Merton. Should be pretty good especially with

excellent Eddy Bannon as the compere.

■ 25-27 JAN £15
CHANNEL 4'S WHOSE
LINE IS IT ANYWAY?

Pompous Oxbridge types arrive in town to display their ample wit in lots of contrived fun. Shows that unfunny TV is even worse live. Expensive as hell too. There's a lot better elsewhere.

VICAR STREET
THOMAS STREET
01-454 5533

■ 19TH JAN £12.50
ROSS NOBLE

This up and coming Geordie comedian should provide a good night's entertainment.

It's not a good month for the galleries. Most are still trying to flog their wares, putting on group shows. However, on the bright side, the Turner's are out again and they're looking as good as ever.

■ **RIVANE NEUESCWANDER**
DOUGLAS HYDE GAL
TO 27 JAN

The visual impact of Neuenschwander's art works on a slow fuse, and initially you may find yourself sceptical when confronted with large aluminium basins containing olive oil, water and insect wings, or 'letters' of rice paper eaten away by slugs. Subtle beauty is probably an appropriate way to describe the artist's work, which focuses on the extraordinary use of everyday organic material. A glass of water and an egg are the main 'ingredients' for one piece which seems to show how reality can appear from different points of view. 'Inventory of Small Deaths' relates to the intriguing video installation of a large bubble floating across a tropical landscape. The bubble changes shape but never bursts and the viewer becomes hypnotised, suspended, waiting for a climax which is never reached.

■ **CHRISTOPHER BANAHAN: POIGNANT DISTANCE**
HALLWARD GALLERY
TO 25 JAN

In examining some of

THAT'S NOT TOO NICE

Underexposed will shock at the Gallery of Photography

'Underexposed' is a powerful exhibition and not for the faint hearted. Images of brutality, torture, war, genocide, cannibalism, and any other atrocity you can think of, are presented alongside political photographs of government conspiracies, censorship and propaganda. These are the kind of photographs that were manipulated, suppressed, or simply banned from public viewing, and were only released decades after the event. Three such pictures, taken after the funeral of the Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989, reveal crowds of Iranian men near hysteria, as they drag the body out of its coffin, and begin tearing at the shroud and corpse, each attempting to secure a souvenir of their religious leader. The 'authorities' apparently attempted to destroy any photographs of this desecration, but somehow these three managed to escape the censors. Another chilling photograph depicts a group of inadequately



How much is that shoulder in the window? Cannibals in the Volga region. Photo: Slava Katamidze/Hulton Getty Coll

protected 'clean - up' workers at the Chernobyl nuclear plant a week after the devastating explosion in 1986. The photograph becomes more poignant as we are told that the

men, barely covered by flimsy clothing and headgear, their hands completely bare, are ignorant of their fatal chore.

Underexposed shows until 3 Feb

Banahan's painting you think of reconstructed relics or rediscovered Roman paintings. Eyes stare from the richly textured paintings and meet the gaze blankly.

Layers seem to disintegrate and decay to reveal other richer levels. This all seems to suggest a fascination with deteriorating images. In other works a series of images like decrepit postcards appear in rows. Check out this unusual collection at this one of Dublin's smaller gallery.

■ **VOICES FROM LIFE**
CITY ARTS CENTRE
TO 31 JAN

A collection of photographs taken by young people in Northern Ireland, Palestine and Israel many of which are

very powerful and beautiful, evoking personal experience in these regions with great directness

■ **ANTHONY GREENE: PICTORIAL SCULPTURES FOR A NEW MILLENIUM**
ERIN ROOM, DUBLIN CASTLE
TO 22 JAN

A series of sculptures on religious themes in the overwhelming setting of Dublin Castle. Some are quite impressive. It's also a very good opportunity to go and check out the Erin room and the Royal Chapel.

■ **BREON O'CASEY MAKING**
RHA TO 21 JAN

A combination of many methods and media with O'Casey's primitive style unifying sculpture, jewellery, painting, printing, weaving and book illustration. Favourite motifs include birds and fish

■ **TOM MOLLOY: BALCOMME**
RUBION GALLERY
TO 27 JAN

New work from this artist from Waterford whose landscapes have won much praise and deserve a visit.

Gallery contact details

Cross Gallery, Francis Street, D8. 4938978
Hugh Lane, Parnell Sq. D1, 8741903
IMMA, Kilmainham, D8. 6129900
Kerlin, Anne's Lane, D2. 6709093
Hallward, Merrion Sq, D2, 6621482
RHA Gallagher, Ely Place, D2. 6612558
Taylor Gallery, Kildare St, D2. 6766055
National Gallery, Merrion Sq, D2, 661 5133
Douglas Hyde, Trinity College, D2. 6681116
Kevin Kavanagh, Grt. Strand St, D2. 8740064
G. of Photography, Temple Bar, D2. 6714654
Rubicon, St Stephen's Green, D2. 7608055

■ **JOHN BYRNE: BORDER ITSELF**

TEMPLE BAR GALLERY AND STUDIOS
18 JAN - 11 FEB

The joker who set up the Border Interpretation Centre is bringing his games to Temple Bar later this month. We are promised chunks of the actual border with Northern Ireland in glass cases. Now, we will no doubt be told that this will cause us to consider the reality of political space and the arbitrariness of geographical division. Perhaps we will even be told that this show demythologises the border and undermines sectarian separation. In reality a lot of chins will be stroked, Byrne will be applauded as very clever and little else will occur. Conceptual shows such as this tend to have short term appeal. After a single exclamation of 'isn't that clever!' we all go home dissatisfied. Worth stopping into for a peak but don't make a trip for it.

■ **GROUP SHOW: CROSS SECTION**

GREEN ON RED GALLERY
TO 27 JAN

A show which includes works from all of the gallery's artists. Other events include the premiere of Clare Langan's new film in early Feb and a theatrical performance during the upcoming 4th Dublin Theatre Symposium.

■ **SIOBHAN HAPASKA**

KERLIN GALLERY
13 JAN - 10 FEB

Exhibition of new works from this talented sculptor in this, one of the city's best gallery spaces.

■ **SMALL**

PAUL KANE GALLERY
12 JAN - 3 FEB

An exhibition of small works by gallery and invited artist. Like most of the shows in this small space this show should be interesting.



Colin Martin's "Bather". Martin exhibits at the Kevin Kavanagh Gallery from 11-27 Jan. This is the young Dubliner's first exhibition of paintings and looks a good one.

■ **SIMON MCWILLIAMS**

SOLOMON GALLERY
18 JAN - 2 FEB

Large-scale paintings by this talented young painter. Most are of substantial, grandiose objects such as oil rigs, football stadiums and New York tower blocks. They have a dramatic and powerful effect accentuated by the substantial size of the

canvases. The artist evokes the bulk and texture of the objects depicted with great skill. The genteel and well-mannered surroundings of the Solomon should prove an interesting place to view them.

■ **GROUP SHOW**

CROSS GALLERY
TO END JAN

A show featuring many of the best works of this small gallery's artists. Merits the stroll up to Francis Street.

■ **MIXED GROUP EXHIBITION**

DAVIS GALLERY
UNTIL FEB

Works by all of this gallery's artists including Gerald Davis.

TURNER ON SHOW

IT'S JANUARY again so it's time to take the Turners out to play at the National Gallery.

The Gallery's collection consists of 35 small watercolours, 31 of which were left to the gallery in 1900 upon the death of the collector Charles Vaughan. Vaughan feared the damaging effect of the light on the paintings and thus made it a condition of the bequest that the paintings only be exhibited during the month of January when the light is weak. Hence you have a mere four weeks to enjoy these superb works. Thankfully, as Vaughan also dictated that admission should be free, you may survey at your leisure.

Now, a series of small

His celebrated watercolours come out of hibernation

watercolours, mostly of Italian and Alpine landscapes, may not sound like a whole lot of fun but these subtle and delicate works by one of the nineteenth century's most magnificent painters, reward every viewing.

It would be foolish to maintain that they are a match for the artist's more celebrated larger canvases but they do retain a more intimate charm.

Turner made frequent trips to and from the continent and learnt many of his skills abroad. He frequently depicted scenes of travel and movement and



It sure isn't quite as striking as the cannibals opposite

was fascinated with the new technologies of his day.

A series of lectures will also be held at the gallery during the month ahead but the best

advice is to head for the paintings and ignore the volumes of waffle.

Turner shows until 31 Jan

MUSIC BARS

Trad Bars

■ THE CHANCERY INN:

1 INNS QY, D1

The Chancery Inn is an unpretentious, cosy little pub. A good group of musicians gather here for informal sessions on Thursday nights, but be warned - the football takes priority during the rest of the week. With plenty of room and cheap drinks, this is a refreshing change of scene from the posturing of Temple Bar.

■ CHIEF O'NEILL'S:

SMITHFIELD VILLAGE

Flagship of the Smithfield renovation project and without doubt the most improbable trad venue in town. The bar area is cavernous and ludicrously lit, drinks are insanely expensive and the strangely excellent live music is mutely applauded by a nonplussed crowd of well-to-do muppets. You'll find huge pictures of Joyce, Yeats, etc. hanging here just to remind you what culture you are experiencing.

■ THE COBBLESTONE:

SMITHFIELD VILLAGE

Probably Dublin's best small venue for traditional music, The Cobblestone is a friendly unpretentious reminder of how good a pub can be when it sticks to its guns. With different musicians every night, the sessions vary from informal strumming to sean nos singing and some of the best pipers you are likely to hear. The bar has a good variety of beers, including the local Dublin Brewing Company selections. The crowd is a mixture of locals, students, trad aficionados and the odd stray Swede. The only drawback is the layout of the bar, which leaves the musicians somewhat isolated at one end, whilst most of the seating is too far away for the music to carry.



■ THE HARCOURT:

HARCOURT ST. D2

Live music all week, but unfortunately it's of varying quality. While some nights you'll see the best of local musicians in the Harcourt, more often it's noisy sing-a-long country/folk for pissed-up thirty-somethings. With plenty of seating, and good amplification, this is an excellent venue if you know who you are going to see beforehand, but not if you're just passing through on the off-chance of hearing some good music.

■ M. HUGHES:

CHANCERY ST, D1

Good sessions feature every night here in the snug. You can enjoy pipes on Friday, and set dancing on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The dancing is great to watch but makes access to the toilets a risky business unless you're willing to twirl your way through the shifting couples. Cheap drinks and fine music mean that any plans for an early departure soon evaporate.

■ KNIGHTSBRIDGE:

BACHELOR'S WALK, D1

This bar feels like a hotel lobby, with candlelit tables, eagle-eyed bouncers and waitress service. The music is the kind of trad you'd hear on an Aer Lingus flight, with the 'bonus' of Irish dancing at 10.10pm most

nights (5-8pm on Saturdays and 12.30pm onwards on Sundays). Theme-Dublin at its worst.

■ THE NORSEMAN:

TEMPLE BAR, D1

This is probably the least touristy of Temple Bar's trad pubs. You'll find highly professional performances of traditional music upstairs on Friday and Saturday nights and less formal sessions downstairs on Sundays. It gets packed so you're better off getting in early. However, beware football nights, when trying to hear the music can be almost impossible.

■ THE TEMPLE BAR:

47 TEMPLE BAR, D2

Boasting a 'passive amplification' sound system (meaning that you can hear yourself think), The Temple Bar is a pleasant, if touristy, old-fashioned pub. The music is a mixture of decent reels 'n' jigs and ballads, with 'singalong' on Sunday nights. Music starts at 3.30pm from Monday to Thursday, and at 1pm Friday to Sunday - presumably to cater for the wandering tourist market. Pints are expensive, as you'd expect in Temple Bar. The amplification, while not obtrusive, is of good quality, which means that you don't have to crowd around the musicians to hear them. The best of the touristy city centre sessions.

Day by day

The following is a quick-reference guide to Dublin's pub sessions

Mondays-Wednesday

M. Hughes - Set dancing (Mon and Wed.)
Knightsbridge
Chief O'Neill's
The Temple Bar (from 3.30pm)
The Harcourt
Cobblestone

Thursday

M. Hughes - Set dancing
The Chancery Inn
Knightsbridge
Chief O'Neill's
The Temple Bar (from 3.30pm)
The Harcourt
Cobblestone

Friday

M. Hughes - pipes
Chief O'Neill's
The Temple Bar (from 1pm)
The Harcourt
Cobblestone
Norseman (upstairs)

Saturday

M. Hughes
The Norseman
Knightsbridge (5-8pm)
Chief O'Neill's
The Temple Bar (from 1pm)
The Harcourt
Cobblestone

Sunday

M. Hughes
The Norseman
Knightsbridge (from 12.30pm)
The Harcourt
Chief O'Neill's
The Temple Bar (from 1pm)
Cobblestone

Attention Pub Owners

If you feel that your venue should be listed here or if you want to update or correct any of the information above, please contact us at theslate@iol.ie or on 01 664 0007.

DJ Bars

■ THE CAPITAL: AUNGIER ST., D2

Trendy bar on George's St. that tends to be packed to the rafters on weekend nights but is worth stopping into during the week for the music and the German beer on tap. Resident DJ Barry Warner bangs out a consistent mix of RnB from Wednesday through to Saturday. Earlier on in the week, there's some more educated music on offer from the likes of beat merchants the Redettaz and their recently adopted mate Pat McMellow.

■ GUBU: CAPEL ST., D1

The décor here is a bizarre cross between some kind of elegant bar and an amusement arcade. Maybe the confusion is something to do with its Northside location, but the formula works. A top-class jacks and a pool table downstairs help things a lot. Gubu's music policy is still in its early stages, with a fairly laid back approach in evidence. Jazz on Sunday evenings may be a cliché, but for many people it's just about as much as they can handle after a weekend on the absolute piss.

■ HANDEL'S: FISHAMBLE ST., D2

Handel's of Fishamble St. is one of the more clubber-orientated bars in Dublin. The space is big and high-ceilinged, and at the weekend tends to be filled with people who have had shite-all sleep. This makes for a good atmosphere, and the frequent booze offers only add to this. The music policy is very good and well-varied, with some of the best DJs around having residencies. These include Killian Murphy of Big Brother Records (Thursday), drum and bass DJ Rohan (Sunday) among others.



THE REDSETTAZ: Regular bar DJs around Dublin

■ THE MODERN GREEN BAR: WEXFORD ST., D2

Recently revamped by the Velure crew, the Modern Green Bar is now a great place for a few pints - whether you're getting ready for a messy night out or just looking to hear some good music for free. There's a wide selection of obscure foreign beers and a food menu that will leave you full without kicking the shite out of your wallet.

The relaxed surroundings give DJs a chance to experiment with stuff that they mightn't play in a pressurised dancefloor situation. The music policy is varied but good, with Velure laying on their own DJs as well as the Strictly Handbag crew from Rira's.

■ VIVA: STH. WILLIAM ST., D2

Flash bar with late opening all week long and a big glass front so that you can see how cool everyone inside is. Fair play, though, they lay on their share

of free music, with a policy that ranges between funky house and a night that features 'everything from Burt Bacharach to Burt Bacharach and back'. Viva also serves food, offering an Italian-based menu that includes the odd Asian dish. Every new pub that opens up in Dublin these days seems to be allowed stay open until all hours of the morning and Viva is no different, serving punters until 1.30 during the week and 2am on Fri and Sat.

■ MONO: WEXFORD ST., D2

The downstairs bar in Mono has been given a very expensive makeover in recent times and the results are definitely worth checking out. Barely clothed students turn the place into a seething fleshfest in midweek. If, for whatever reason, that's not to your taste, then check out some of the other, more laid-back evenings when quality music makes Mono a very pleasant place to hang out.

Day by day

Mondays

Capital - Doghouse with Redsettaz (hiphop / beats)
Handels - Rocky Delgato (mix)
Modern Green Bar - Strictly Handbag with Murt / Aidan Kelly
Mono - Tony Dixon (r'n'b)
Viva - Vegas

Tuesday

Capital - Pat McMellow
Handel's - The K-Kollective latin & funk
Modern Green Bar - Lektricks with Jimmy Behan & Brian Bradley
Mono - Mike Molloy (mix)

Wednesday

Capital - Barry Warner
Globe - Live music
Handel's - Simon Milligan (hip hop)
Modern Green Bar - Time & Space with Stephen Murray & Fergus Murphy
Mono - Mike Molloy (mix)

Thursday

Capital - Barry Warner
Handel's - Killian Murphy (Big Brother Records)
Modern Green Bar - The Redsettaz
Mono - Ronan O (house)
Viva - New York Lounge

Friday

Capital - Barry Warner
Handel's - Eoin McCaffrey (deep house)
Modern Green Bar - Stephen Hughes/Killian (rhythm & Soul)
Mono - Conor G (trance)
Viva - Fishtank

Saturday

Capital - Barry Warner
Handel's - Dara (techno-ish)
Modern Green Bar - Freestyle (Guest DJs)
Mono - Ronan O (house)
Viva - This way up

Sunday

Capital - The Sofas, DJ Mark D (mix) / Barry Warner (r'n'b)
The Globe, jazz (afternoon)
Gubu - jazz (afternoon)
Handels - Sudamento (world beats)
Modern Green Bar - Fionn Davenport (soul)
Mono - Underground Alliance
Viva - Bump