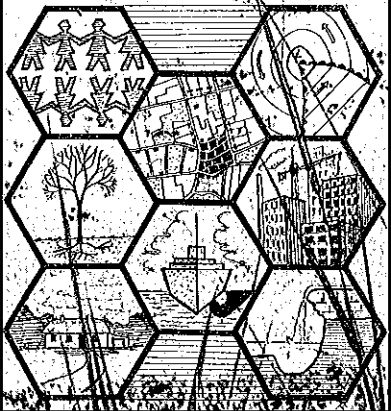


MILIEU



GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY
ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE,
MAYNOOTH
22nd Issue

milieu 75 geography society maynooth.



Milieu 1993



MILIEU 1992



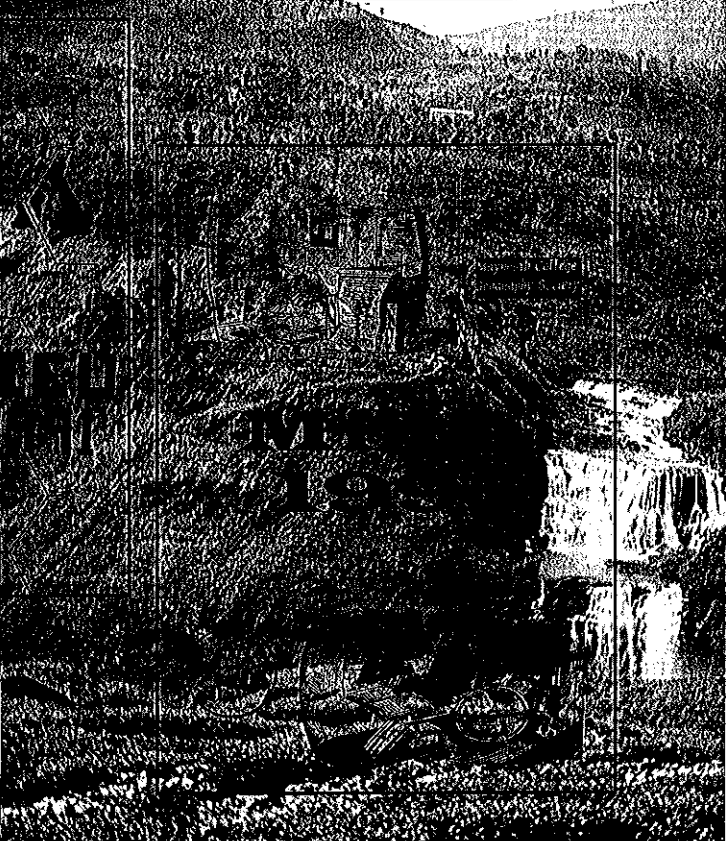
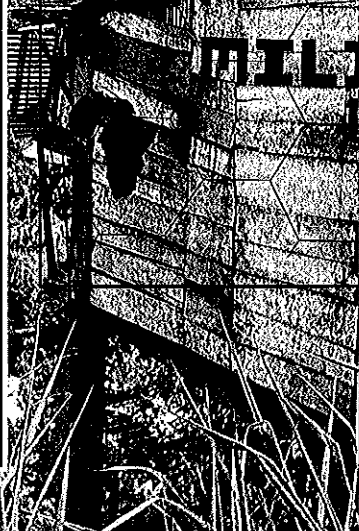
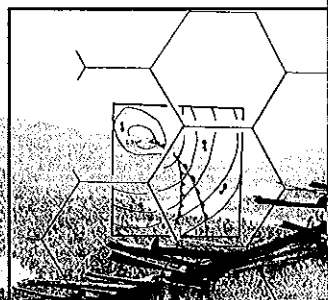
Milieu 2000

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GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY
ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAYNOOTH

21st Edition



FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NUI MAYNOOTH

To have maintained an unbroken publishing tradition over a period of a quarter of a century is an achievement of significance. For that tradition to have been established by a student magazine dependent on a new editorial committee every year is indeed a cause of wonder. The continuity of tradition exemplified by *Milieu* is a most appropriate testimony to the enduring *esprit de corps* of the Geography Department.

Significant also is the fact that many of the students who published in *Milieu* have gone on to establish careers for themselves as geography professionals in the school and university systems of not only Ireland but also throughout the world. The encouragement provided by a ready publication outlet is not to be underestimated in their career development.

The past twenty-five years has been a period of unparalleled political, social, economic, and technological change in world civilisation. Progress has in general terms represented betterment of the human condition but utopia is as remote now as it was at any time in the past. Tens of thousands still die from starvation and natural disasters every year just as they did in the 1970's. Geographers today, as in the past, have a vital role to play in furthering our understanding of a changing world in which the human condition and the natural environment continue to impact upon each other, mediated by the forces of nature and societal behaviour. For many young geographers *Milieu* provides an opportunity for fostering and expressing such an understanding.

I salute the record of an energised and enduring journal and I commend *Milieu* to a future equally bright as its illustrious past.

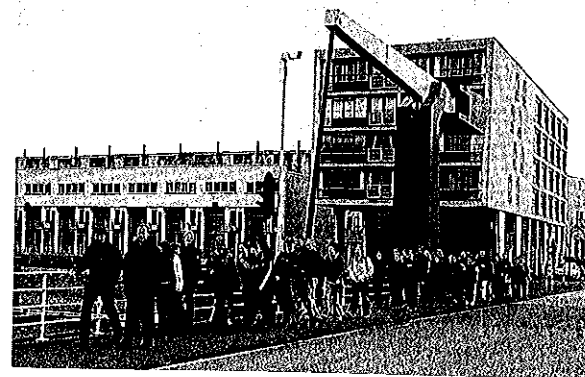
Dr W.J. Smyth, President
Professor of Geography (1978-1994)

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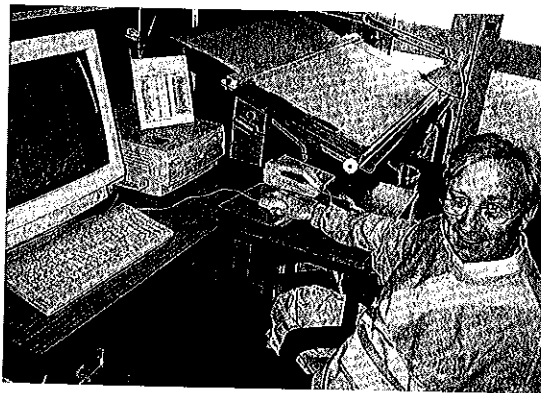
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Caroline an MA student caught working shocker!



Rotterdam 2000; on the Ho Chi Kitchin Trail...



Always knew cartographers just sat around drawing maps...



So now we know where all the missing Festive booze went!



Eurovision Jury compiles their votes...



Society Pres. Cummins always likes a little drink... or two



Hanging on the lecturer's every word...



Santa catches up with the elf who shafted his hat

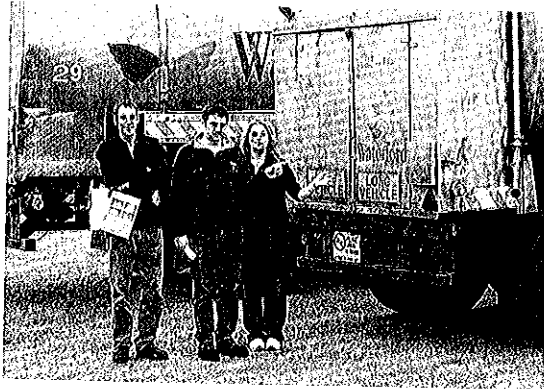
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Library



Partners in Crime... (and we mean that literally!)



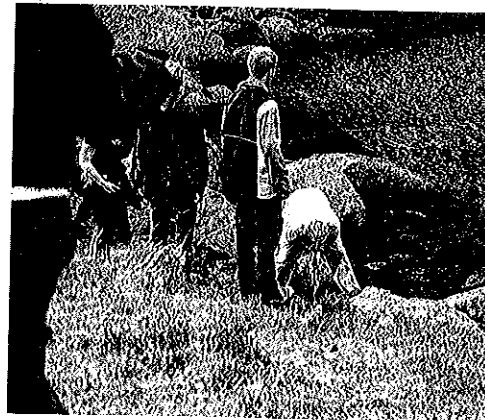
Baby, I'm ready to go!



Looking for Fran!



Fran makes good his escape! (cf. Pages 32-33)



The lemmings stand poised



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EDITORIAL

Adrian P. Kavanagh

It is with the greatest of joy that I welcome you to this special edition of *Milieu*. Not only is this the millennial edition of the magazine, but it is also the 25th anniversary edition. 'Tis nigh on a quarter of a century ago when in 1975 certain young stalwarts – well, they were then – took up pen and typewriter to put together the first ever edition of *Milieu*. Down through the ages – well during the past 25 years actually – the tradition has continued, to an extent that today we are engaged with the process of heralding the silver anniversary edition of said distinguished magazine. In this said time period, the Berlin Wall has been erased off the geopolitical map. Reaganomics and Thatcherism have come and gone, or instead mutated into different forms. We have moved from seeing “Poor” Ireland as a “geographical inevitability”, as noted by Brian Phelan in the 1992 edition of *Milieu*, to a Celtic Tiger Ireland - albeit one in which social exclusion remains a key issue to be solve.

Geography as a discipline has been subject in the same time frame to significant forces of changes, some of which were intrinsic to the discipline, others being extrinsic. The emergence of Information Technology has promised to offer new dimensions to the Geography, in offering it added power as a tool of spatial analysis. Yet it also poses certain dangers for the discipline, with cyberspace threatening, by means of the sheer immediacy of it, to render all distances in space obsolete. Postmodernity too has attacked preconceived notions of the discipline of Geography with it questioning, and indeed threatening to disintegrate, all uniform notions of space. By contrast, space as a concept has been rendered increased importance in terms of Planning and Economic Development strategies, as is apparent in the recent emphases on Regional Development policies, Area Based Strategies to combat poverty and the National Spatial Strategy as referred to in the recently published National Development Strategy.

This year's magazine offers some intriguing examples of where Geography has gone as a subject. It is incumbent on this Editor to thank all those who submitted material to *Milieu 2000* for their fine contributions. They have all helped to create the multi-faceted geographical panorama that ensues in this year's edition; one that ranges from the sublime to the sublimely ridiculous and from the human branch of the discipline to that of


the physical sciences.

Thanks are also due to all those who submitted photos for this year's magazine; that is Paddy Duffy, Karla Johns, Brendan Bartley, Margaret Mulhall and Karla Johns - as well as to “The GeoPen”. It is said that a picture speaks many words, although maybe some of those pictured would wish that said words not be said when they view some of the photos in question! Special thanks are also due to all in the Department for their assistance, with special thanks to Fran and Paddy for providing the necessary contacts with the Geography Societies of yore. Thanks also to all the Postgraduates, both Research and MA in Geographical Analysis, for their assistance, interest and opinions, but especially to Martina Roche for her creative employment of various forms of blackmail in order to get articles for this magazine. Finally thanks to you good reader for purchasing this epochal issues. I hope you enjoy it and find it one to treasure and pass down to future generations. (Sorry folks, I got a bit carried away there...)

Best Wishes to

MILIEU 2000

from the



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AUDITOR'S REPORT

Tim Cummins, 3rd Arts

The first event of the year took place on December 14th and was the lecture on *Postmodernity, Economics and Religion as Factors Explaining The Post Yugoslav Conflicts*, given by Adrian Kavanagh. This went off fairly well.

The next event was the Presentation of the *Kilcock Report*, given by Shelagh Waddington in March. The evening was a great success and a good time was had by all who attended the reception afterwards.

The next event was *Russia Through The Eyes Of A Geography Student* as presented by Olga Smakhtin on March 28th. This was also a well-attended event and was the last opportunity for Olga to attend a Geography Society meeting. A small Presentation was made and once again a great evening was had by all.

It is my hope and that of the Geography Society that the AGM for the Society will be held in the near future and that a new Committee and President will be elected. I would like to encourage as many geography students as possible to attend this event to ensure the best future for this society. I hope that whatever Society events you may have attended this year that you enjoyed them and that they will encourage you and others to attend them more frequently in the future.

As it is coming close to the end of the college year I feel it is fitting to thank the Committee for its tireless work and endeavours to promote the Geography Society. I would also like to wish the incoming Committee the best of luck and hope that they can improve and build upon what has been achieved already this year. It is my hope that future societies will retain Milieu as the main focus of their year and I hope that you will enjoy this year's edition.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO.

Jim Murphy, Enniscorthy; Editor of the first ever "Milieu" in 1975.

Having cycled five miles to secondary school in Enniscorthy for two years I was one of the first beneficiaries of Donagh O'Malley's (1968) free school buses and free education for my last three years there. Second-level schools began to grow in population. Demand for third-level places increased. Maynooth had decided to take lay students, male and female, in 1969. So the college was in the embryonic stage of a new era of growth when I arrived there as a clerical student for Ferns diocese in 1971. The national context included the 'Northern troubles' which were raging since 1969, the Irish industrial revolution (the last in Western Europe) of the previous decade, population growth for the first time since the Famine, debate on the intricacies and possibilities of joining the E.E.C., and the thought of computers which would one day lead to redundancies in Clondalkin paper mills. Ireland at last had joined the 'Western World' and it was exciting to be part of it.

Enter Paddy Duffy, a bearded (nearly) PhD student from U.C.D. to launch Geography as a new subject in Maynooth. Amid furious stroking of the wispy beard he confounded us with Welsh/Aberystwyth-led rural/historical research by Jones-Hughes (Dublin) and Evans (Belfast), and American urban writings of the prolific B.J.L. Berry until we came to love it. He built up a small Geography library in Rhetoric House and invited in visiting lecturers to make the subject even more interesting. Our search for rooms in which to listen to the Monaghan voice is legendary, as Monsignor Newman had forgotten to allocate any when charging the sprightly Duffy with the task of setting up a new department.

The following year, 1972, saw the coming of a tall, fuzzy-haired, economic prophet called (in those days) Fran Walsh. He it was who strode up and down past his lecture notes (nay, books) as he taught us about industrial location factors, bemoaned the dreaded MNC (multinational company) which had recently invaded Ireland, kept a watchful eye on the nation's newly-discovered ore bodies in Navan and elsewhere, and made regional development a mission for us all. His Canadian/Vancouver experience left him with a messianic enthusiasm for economic debate, letters to the Irish Times, protests, pamphlets, meetings and whatever else it took to make others aware of the New Ireland and the responsibilities we had for its future. We loved it.

In 1973 W.J. Smyth The First arrived straight out of Clogheen-Burncourt (Tipperary). You can take the

man out of the bog, but ... This giant of a man who had dared give up a hurling halo for academic success and political adventure (on his brother's behalf) simply could not bring himself to use the monosyllabic words of his homeland. Only Micheal McGréil (Social Psychology) could beat him for whoppers like 'socio-cultural', 'psycho-socio-cultural' and 'politico-psycho-socio-cultural'. However, his powerful voice projection, serious (Christy Moore style) intent, religious cult-like repetition and resounding new words (which simply must mean something) left us in awe of this new leader with the American 'twang'.

The Duffy-Walsh-Smyth soup was further stirred by a new (non-Catholic!) ingredient from the far North, with a Durham background and a strange name that we now associate with those expensive crisps, Pringles. Dennis' interests were far and wide. They stretched from the Shankill-Falls Divide to Eastern Europe, and computer programming. Let us remember that Maynooth's new computer (yes, one) took up a whole room in Rhetoric House, formerly Junior Library. Massive rolls of tape and punch cards were the order of the day in this room. Few would dare to tackle the monster, but the sure-footed Pringle went further, he wrote a complex programme for it. My best memory of him was in a boggy field near Blacklion in Leitrim at a time when we should have been in Strandhill, Sligo. He had driven about 15 of us through a hawthorn hedge in a hired mini-bus and landed us in this new ecosystem. He calmly shrugged and got us to push the vehicle back onto four wheels and thence to the narrow road again. The rest of the field trip was super.

Knowing that I could not handle the next four years of theology, and having been asked by my bishop to go study in Rome, I left the clerical side of Maynooth and became a naïve lay student for the H.Dip.Ed. in 1974-5. This was an amazing year for me. I enjoyed being busy but read this: I spent Monday - Friday as a temporary whole-time teacher in special education in Celbridge (9am-3pm), completed my H.Dip. Practice hours in secondary school in Clane on Monday - Wednesday (3.20 - 4pm) and on Saturday, gave tutorials in Maynooth History and Geography Departments on Thursday & Friday evenings along with Saturday, and attended H.Dip. Lectures each evening from 5-7pm, Mon-Friday. A hectic year!

It was in this context that I was asked to edit Maynooth's first Geography magazine, 'Milieu '75'. I thoroughly enjoyed it and I remember having to stay around the college during that Easter break to finish the work involved. A quick look at the articles gives a sense of the times that were in it. Paddy Corley wrote about growth centres and regional development. This

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topic is still very much in vogue today as we try to spread the effects of the Celtic Tiger throughout the country. Mary Healy wrote about poverty in Ireland, but this problem has not disappeared because the duality in our society is increasing, not decreasing. Tom Collins wrote about neo-colonialism. It is interesting to note that we have since produced a plethora of Irish business people who operate on a global scale, matching the best neo-colonisers of the day.

I wrote an article about marriage distances myself. It reminds me of the way we spoke of 'extended' and 'nuclear' families at the time. Now, as Paddy Wally says, we have the 'merged' family and this is symptomatic of major cultural change. What Paddy Duffy used to call an 'incomplete' family has taken on a whole new meaning as we begin the new millennium. Steve Shaughnessy and Sean Casey wrote about studies of Steinbeck and Patrick Kavanagh. Their writings certainly reflect American and Irish cultural landscapes for their times. Geographers are now challenged to interpret fast changing cultural landscapes. That is more difficult. Michael Ward's mention of the 'two-nation theory' is interesting in the light of the Good Friday Agreement and the present difficulties around decommissioning. It brings to mind the frightening new term of the latter part of the last millennium, 'ethnic cleansing'. Few superlatives help to describe the horrors of these flash points across the globe. May God spare us such excesses in Ireland.

I find Gerry Duffy's article on the diffusion of milking machines across Co. Monaghan very interesting in the light of the fundamental changes we have seen, from a time of underproduction of milk and other farm products throughout Europe to one of overproduction, quotas and levies. In the early 1970's we thought that 70 acres was a viable holding ('The Manscholdt Plan') and the C.A.P. (Common Agricultural Policy) was invented to shield the farmer from market forces for ever. This was not to last. We have replaced this thinking with large-scale afforestation, rationalisation and a new wave of rural-urban migration. The number of farms in Ireland has contracted greatly since 1975. The title for Gerry's article could now read 'The distribution of farms where milking machines were abandoned and the milk quotas/farms sold since 1990'. A follow-up article could read: 'Whither Irish farms?'

In 1975-6 I became the first full-time post-graduate student of Geography in Maynooth. For two years I was kept alive by my summer job as a field assistant in the Geological Survey with Ralph Horne and Francis Synge (R.I.P.) and the £6.50 per hour which the college paid me for tutorials. My hurling forays in

Maynooth (village) and Dublin (Fr. Murphy's/Wexford Association) with Fran Walsh made those years memorable for me. I've loved Maynooth ever since and I wish you (readers) the same joy. I've been lucky to have been involved as a Social Studies tutor with your Centre for Adult & Continuing Education since 1980.

The free secondary education which I referred to at the outset has finally led to free third-level fees. However, the uptake of third level places by 'working class' and 'disadvantaged' students is so little as to be a national scandal, after that quarter of a century of enlightenment and economic growth (notwithstanding the depression of the 1980's).

Maynooth College has seen a massive decrease in clerical students. A way of life is passing rapidly. We speed ahead in a world which does not have time for philosophy, theology, spirituality, even conversation, or people. Fran Walsh asked us one time to write an essay entitled 'Geography in the year 2000'. I still remember mine. I invented a new term, 'happyography' for the study of the possible decline in people's ability to live life to the full (not just spending, consuming, using substances to change moods, etc). Note the signs of unhappiness created by individualism, affluence, lack of time, passivity, over-indulgence, etc. Note the increasing incidence of suicide in Ireland. Maybe its time for a new lecturer in N.U.I. Maynooth's Geography Department?

My thanks to the editor, Adrian Kavanagh for the invitation to write this short article. It is always a pleasure for me to remember Maynooth!

TEN YEARS AGO.

ANN KEHOE (BA student in Geography 1988-1991, MA Research Student in Geography 1991-1995, Member of Geography Society Committee 1990-91).

The GeogSoc Committee of 1990-1991 were a closely knit group who worked well together, organising talks, events namely cheese and wine receptions and organised a class photograph. We also produced an excellent issue of Milieu which set the standard and tone for future issues and were the first GgeogSoc to make a PROFIT, thanks mainly to the kind sponsorship of Church & General Insurance and the fact that one committee member had excellent contacts.

My role in the GeogSoc was as gofer...i.e. I had no official title within the committee, however, I was red wine selector for those interesting geography talks and helped with Milieu articles authoring that memorable piece on the "Spatial distribution of geography books in the John Paul II Library".

I extended my period with the Geography Dept until 1994 when I completed my MA under the direction and guidance of Dr. John Sweeney. Those days of inhabiting Room 36 Rhetoric - the 'hub' of geographic research at the time were days I fondly remember. The kettle was always on the boil with a never-ending supply of Chocolate Hob-Nobs.

During my time as a postgraduate I began working in the library, finally going on to complete my HDip in Library and Information Science in UCD in 1996. Since then I have worked as a Librarian in CERT (State Tourism Training Authority), as a researcher with the Library Council on a National Policy for Library & Information Services in Ireland and am presently librarian with Coillte Teoranta (Irish Forestry Board).

Without a doubt the time and what I learnt as an undergraduate and postgraduate in the Geography Dept., helped me and continues to help me in carrying out my duties as a librarian.

The friendships formed during the GeogSoc days of 1990-1991 continue today. We still talk about those times and events and they are good memories.

Here's to another 25 years of Milieu - Thanks for the memories. (Note: The accompanying photo is of the 3rd Year geography class of 1990/91. Ann is 2nd from the left in the fourth row.)

THOMAS MCELLISTRIM (BA Student in Geography 1989-1992.)

While pursuing my studies at Maynooth University I did my thesis in Political Geography not surprisingly and the title was *An Analysis of the Voting Patterns in the Kerry North Constituency* (for the 1989 General Election). After I finished my Geography studies at Maynooth I did my Higher Diploma in Education at Maynooth as well. When I qualified I went teaching Geography at 2nd Level for 2 years. I went as a Fianna Fail candidate in the 1997 General Election and secured 4,036 first preference votes. Then I went as a Fianna Fail

candidate for the Local Elections in 1999 and secured a seat with 1,638 first preference votes. Since I got elected to Kerry County Council I have become a member of the following Boards and Committees;

1. Partnership Trá Lí.
2. Kerry County Enterprise Board.
3. Tralee and Fenit Harbour Board.
4. Kerry Council Rural Water Committee.

I have also joined the Castleisland Network for Disabilities Group (Community Group in Castleisland town) as a councillor to facilitate them with any problems they have. An example of one motion I put down in the Council at their request was for a pedestrian crossing on the Main Street in Castleisland Town. I also was involved with the Bus for the Elderly in the Brosna area in Co. Kerry. This bus brings them to Castleisland for shopping every Friday and the bus continues on to Tralee town. Rural transport is a big problem down the country.



IVAN DEVILLY (BA Student in Geography 1989-1992, MA Research Student in Geography 1992-95.)

One of my best memories of the Geog Soc was when we had a joint Geog Soc/Outdoor Pursuits club talk by mountaineer Dermot Somers. This lecture examined Mountaineering and the Mountain Environment and spanned upland landscapes as diverse as the MacGillicuddy Reeks and the Himalaya. It had the two key elements of a great Geog Soc night, learning and socialising in an informal and friendly environment. Indeed it was on one such night that many of us were introduced to Snake Bite for the first time, though perhaps memories of that night are not so clear! The Geog

Soc also saw many great student personalities over the years...Colm McNelis, Helen Cunningham, John Joe Callaghan and Dhevika Ghosh to mention but a few. Some of us are still in touch, but I often wonder where the others are now.

During my time in Maynooth I was fortunate enough to do a Geography B.A. followed by a Masters with the Geography Department. After a year travelling and working in Australia and Asia I returned and worked with Brendan Bartley and LUTU as a researcher. One of the skills I picked up during this and my degree research was data handling and statistical analysis. I didn't know it at the time, but it was this very experience which would help me to get my current job. I started working for ACNielsen (market research) almost two years ago as a statistician and have since moved into the Data Quality Assurance section. Market Research may seem a far cry from El Nino and MacKinder's Heartland theory, but geography equipped me with the necessary educational foundation and learning techniques to successfully pursue a career in this area. As a student I sometimes wondered where a Geography degree was going to lead me, but now I realise the real advantage is in its diversity. After Graduation Day, where you go and what you do with your career is still wide open. With the Celtic Tiger waiting for you, the future is going to be a pretty exciting time!

KYRGYZSTAN

Vicki O'Donnell - Diploma in Applied Remote Sensing and G.I.S.

I can still smell the goats, the stinking pit toilets, the sweet peppers, the body odours, incessant images. It is with no effort that I am back, experiencing my first meeting with a nomadic (albeit non-practising) family. We are filled with sweet bread and mares' milk, barefoot and trying to conform to the orthodox. Zhanibek is our bus driver, our guide, our very own nomad. He is a young married man living in Bishkek with his bank-employed wife, her job made easier by the fact that this is a cash economy. Most country folk deal in comestibles, omitting the corrupt road-side border officials, whose job it is to protect us from the vice and the widespread virgin hemp swelling in the steppe.

My US dollars are stuffed in a pair of socks, no credit cards or travellers cheques allowed. We are in Koch Kor visiting Zhanibek's mother-in-law, a youthful woman with a babe-in-arms. His baby, her ward. The custom, by our rules being difficult to comprehend, is that the mother-in-law is bestowed with, and takes

charge of, the first-born child in each family. Zhanibek rarely gets to see his child; he smiles at her but hesitates to pick her up.

We are guests in her grandmother's backyard yurt, an all purpose tent made from felt and sheep hide and decorated from floor to roof with famed national carpets (shyrdak and alakiz tapestries). Zhanibek's sister-in-law, unabashed, plays an indigenous long-necked lute. This family has relinquished its hold on a meandering way of life and now the father works on a local collective farm, owned by the people and supporting many families, a throwback to Soviet times. Just like some of us, their ancestral past is parked behind their house, a caravan minus wheels.

Zhanibek's blood family, on the other hand, lives in the high mountains in their fully-functioning nomadic yurt. His childhood was spent on horseback, roaming through steppe and meadow valleys blooming with kaleidoscopic wildflowers and hunted on by eagle, lynx, bear and wolf. Nobody seems quite sure if the snow leopard still plunders the mountains of marmots, hares and Marco Polo sheep, only we, the visitors, talk of the yeti. This is National Geographic and it is real.

This is the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Kyrghizia, home to the multi-racial Kyrgyz people. An independent country which is situated in the heart of Central Asia, a region comprising the countries of the former Soviet Union and now known as the Commonwealth of Independent States or CIS. It borders Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Xinjiang in China and the colossal Kazakhstan (a country spanning both Asia and Europe).

The elevated nation's history is as old as its language is new. This area was, for a time, under the rule of Genghis Khan's second son, Chaghatai. Driving along the Tourgart Pass, a Silk Road route, spells an eerie parallelism with my Irish legacy, graffiti walls and stones spell out 1916 on the steppe mountains, the year the Kyrgyz revolted against Russian rule.

By 1918 the land was part of the Russian Federation and, by 1924, a separate Kara-Kyrgyz autonomous Oblast. Thus Kyrgyzstan was invented, given its own language, ethnic profile, history and territory. The ancestors of Kyrgyzstan may have moved south from Siberia as a consequence of Mongol supremacy, but today only 57% of the residents are ethnic Kyrgyz. Slavs and Uzbeks make up another 34%, the remaining being German, Dungan and Tatar (Turcic Russian) in origin.

After months of planning, I have arrived to join an Earthwatch expedition team of zoologists who are conducting field research on reptile and amphibian species at Lake Issuk-Kul and Tian Shan (Heavenly Mountains). The high elevation, diverse landscape

and research-dearth offer the possibility of discovering a multitude of animal anomalies. Our motley crew of 16 comprises Russian, Kyrgyz, American, Scottish, English and Irish. Enough nationalities to keep the camp fires roaring for a few weeks.

That afternoon we clamber into our appealingly hoary bus (marshrutnoe) and head northwards towards the Alatau Range in northern Tian Shan. Ninety four percent of the country is mountainous with an average elevation of 2750 metres - the highest peak, Pik Pobedy, stretches to a monumental 7439m. The distant mountains carry fresh snow and old glaciers and ambient temperatures approach 30 degrees Celsius.

Our home for the next four days is the unmapped Chat Valley on a tributary of the Chu River. After a day's travelling we arrive to the portent of an impending storm. The warm lowland air has become alarming cold and hailstones fall on us as we construct base camp. We sleep.

After sunrise we receive the first of a flow of visitors. The valley, being an important through-route for local nomads, is visible from the surrounding hills. Our initial guest has arrived to find out our intentions after spotting the new 'town' from his precipice, he wonders whether we are a friendly town or one in search of conflict.

Until now, none of us has really grasped the significance of the surrounding isolation. We have arrived in a land not too unlike the chimerical Outer Mongolia of my childhood. This Valley has witnessed the first of our many meetings with true nomadic people, for them, their first encounter with true westerners.

The following day we perch we squat we attempt communication with our friendly al kalpak (tasselled cap) adorned neighbours. We furnish them with cigarettes and they us with kymys or alcohol mares' milk. Unlike the predominantly Russian-speaking settled Kyrgyz, most nomadic people converse solely in a Kyrgyz dialect. Questions traverse three languages as we swap the eccentricities of our mundane existence. What is routine to us is curious to them and vice versa. In this relaxed atmosphere the Muslim doctrine is evident, with questions exclusively directed towards males and inquisitive glances directed towards females.

We discover, to our delight, that one of our new friends is a champion wrestler. A contest is quickly arranged and, before a wager is even decided upon, the 'Herculean' man annihilates our sedentary representative and asserts his dominance by lifting his horse in the air. Zhanibek explains that, in times past, a strong man proved his supremacy by not only lifting

up his horse but subsequently eating it in one day (the tale behind the saying perhaps?). His three children, the strong man states, are testimony to the wearying nature of child production. Nowadays he couldn't possibly manage a whole horse, but a sheep, not a problem.

With this astonishing display complete, talk, inevitably, turns to men, woman and marriage. Arranged marriages are still customary with gifts of pairs of animals being the dowry from groom's to bride's family. Two camels, two horses, two cows or two sheep are offered in various quantities depending on the suitability of the wife. Years back, the marriage would begin dowryless, with the abduction of the girl. If her family was unhappy with the match, war might ensue. Nowadays hostility is unfavourable and the groom's family bestows these gifts as gratitude to the family of the bride. She, nevertheless, is still abducted.

As dusk approaches, head spinning, and full of Kymys, I abduct the strong man's horse and gallop through the river valley with Zhanibek. For us, two people whose lives are so wholly, so absolutely alien to each other, we have found a common thread. For both of our pasts are intertwined with horses, mine through sport his through necessity, and in this strange land, and entirely devoid of a common dialect, we discover our universal language and we chat.

IRELAND'S CHANGING ROLE IN THE GLOBAL INFORMATION ECONOMY

Lucy Crean, 3rd Arts.

While the rest of Western Europe enjoyed the prosperity brought about by the Industrial Revolution of the late eighteenth century, Ireland remained part of the dependent periphery, with direct economic control coming from the then ruling Britain. Ireland in the 19th century was a country of two very different regions. The north east of Ireland, especially Belfast, was an export-oriented industrial region, with prosperous linen, engineering and shipbuilding industries. The rest of the country - due to the Free Trade Agreement after the 1800 Act of Union - experienced a process of de-industrialisation. This basically incorporated Ireland as a component of the United Kingdom as an exporter of food and agricultural products to industrial Britain (Walsh and Breathnach, 1994).

When Ireland achieved independence in 1922, over half the workforce was engaged in agriculture, with only 10% employed in manufacturing. In 1932 the government introduced a strict protectionist policy to

promote domestic industry. However after initial success, mainly in the Dublin region, the policy petered out due to a lack of capital and enterprise (Breathnach, 1998). It was then decided that the building block of economic growth should be export-orientated industrialisation, based on attracting inward investment, a policy often referred to as the 'Open Door Policy'. After a sluggish start, the flow of Foreign Investment began to take off, with an average annual growth rate of GNP being 4% for that period. However, this branch plant economy of the 1960/70's, involved low-wage, unskilled assembly work, mainly being done by young women of a naïve and docile disposition. It involved very little Research and Development and had very few linkages in the local hinterland. Ireland, therefore, remained part of the dependent periphery in the New International Division of Labour. This system was underlined by basic unequal power relations, a system in which the core capitalist countries had dominance over the dependent periphery.

When Ireland entered the EU, in 1973, there was a significant change in the amount of inward foreign investment. By 1984, some 850 foreign firms were operating in Ireland, representing a total investment of IR7.5billion and employing 80,000 workers, over one third of all manufacturing employment. The USA accounted for a staggering 40% of these firms, with these US firms being attracted by tax incentives and duty-free access to European Markets. However, during the recessionary 1980's strong output growth in the foreign sector was not accompanied by a similar growth in employment. Breathnach sees this static employment growth as being a result of increased automation in manufacturing, especially in those foreign branch plants who mainly concentrated on low-skill assembly work.

The 1990's, however, have witnessed a new era in economic development in the Republic of Ireland, to the extent that this once subordinate export platform has become the 'Celtic Tiger' of the Global Economy. Ireland has witnessed a new surge of inward investment, reflected in output growth of about 20% per annum in the foreign sector from 1991 to 1996, accompanied by a one third employment growth in foreign manufacturing and international trades services operations. In 1993, for example, Ireland with less than 2% of the EU population attracted 12% of all Foreign Direct Investment in the EU (Breathnach, 1998). Employment growth increased by 26% between 1986 and 1996. What is interesting about this is that, unlike other developed countries such as Britain and Germany, the increases occurred in the services and manufacturing sectors. Statistics suggest that there is a marked preference

among US firms to locate in Ireland. By the mid-1990's, one quarter of all US investment in the EU was directed towards Ireland. US firms constituted for 55% of all foreign manufacturing employment in 1995, in turn representing 45% of total manufacturing employment. Similarly, there has been a rapid growth in employment in "internationally traded" services, from 3,000 in 1987 to 18,400 in 1996 (Breathnach, 1998). Thus during the 1990's, Ireland's role in the Global Information Economy changed due to a huge surge in a different type of inward investment.

In attempting to account for these dramatic changes, Economic Geographers such as Murphy (1997) have viewed the role of Ireland's low corporation tax regime as being of particular importance in drawing international investment into Ireland. This low corporation tax-regime had been in place since 1981 however and so one cannot hold it as being solely responsible for the sudden surge of inward investment in the 1990's. Indeed improved infrastructural organisation and policy making, as well as the availability of a highly skilled population to implement these improvements can be seen as the main mechanisms prompting Ireland's changing role in the Global Information Economy.

A number of recent changes in the 'stock of human capital' have combined in raising Irish living standards in the past decade. Thirty years ago the population, and hence the potential workforce, was limited by low levels of education, high unemployment, recurring net emigration and the presence of a high proportion of the population in the school-going age cohorts. However, Ireland has experienced a turn around in it's stock of Human Capital in the 1990's, mainly due to the effects of the baby boom of the 1970's. The most important change in the quality of Human Capital resulted from measures introduced by the government in the 1960's to expand access to both Second and Third Level education. There was a huge rise in education levels, as a result. By the mid-1990's, over 80% of those leaving the Education system had completed Secondary education, with figures of 33% and 19% respectively for those leaving education in the 1960's and 1950's (Breathnach, 1998). 1990's Ireland, hence, has a workforce with a higher level of skills, making it a more enticing region for foreign firms to locate in. Firms were also attracted by the low level of wages demanded by the Irish workforce in comparison to the rest of Europe.

A discerning reaction on behalf of the IDA in responding to the locational behaviour of Transnational Corporations, as well as strategic policy making, are also acknowledged as being mechanisms for changing Ireland's position in position in the

Global Economy. Changes in policies emphasise technological sophistication, a more aggressive targeting of major international players in the electronics, pharmaceuticals and health-care sectors and a pursuit of new investment in international traded services (Breathnach, 1998). Moreover, the IDA can also market Ireland's improved transport and communications infrastructure, most of which was funded by the European Regional and Development Fund. Ireland today has the cheapest rates in Europe for international freephone calls, making it an attractive location for international teleservices. Due to these improvements, the IDA was therefore in a position to respond favourably to the locational demands of transnational corporations, linked to factors such as 1) Flexible Specialisation, 2) Automation, 3) Logistics, 4) Research and Development and 5) Customization and Batch Production.

Ireland's current position in the Global Information Economy differs from its previous position as a subordinate peripheral economy in the New International Division of Labour. Looking at the Software Industry as an example to demonstrate this, IDA research in the early 1980's recognised Computer Software as one of the most promising sectors in terms of employment potential. Ireland entered the software market at the right time, taking advantage of a supply-demand mismatch between the USA and Europe. In 1991 only 17% of software was produced in Europe, even it accounted for 42% of the global demand. In the USA, demand was at 40% of the global total while supply accounted for 78% of global production (Coe, 1997). Ireland offered the ideal location for US software companies who sought a pathway to European markets. The main functions of this growing Software Industry are: 1) Software Product Manufacturing, 2) Software development and 3) Data Processing.

The localisation and manufacturing of software is becoming one of the fastest growing areas within computer services. The revenue of the top 100 companies in the world increased by 62% in the 1990-92 period (Breathnach, 1998). 15 of the top 40 software production companies have plants in Ireland. Thus Ireland is playing a crucial role in the development of the world's most important production industry.

A good example of Offshore Programming is offered by the computer services giant EDS. This company's workforce has expanded from 12 in 1990 to 250 in 1995. Due to a shortage of software engineers in Europe, the plant expanded in Ireland, so that in subsidiaries in various projects there engineers could work on research and development via the

sophisticated telecommunications system. Coe (1997) suggests that these 'systems engineering centres' are to become more common in the future.

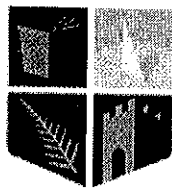
The attraction of low wages and an English speaking workforce means that Ireland is benefiting from 'offshore data processing' in the form of internationalised forms of office work. The aforementioned low rates in telephone calls and IDA rent subsidies have attracted US insurance and financial institutions to set up data facilities in Ireland. The workforce, in this form of FDI, appear to be predominantly female and constitute a type of offshore activity which is intermediate between routine data entry and the export of software (Coe, 1997).

In noting Ireland's changing position with regard the Software Industry; one must stress that these changes apply also to the healthcare, electronics and teleservices sectors. A characteristic common to all of these sectors is their rising skill levels. In 1997, 57% of the 10,300 employed in the healthcare, electronics, software and teleservices sectors were Third Level Graduates. One therefore concludes, that the most important feature of Ireland's role in the Global Information Economy is the existence of a higher skilled workforce.

Over the last twenty years, Ireland has experienced a significant transition in the types of Foreign Direct Investment it has received, the largest increase being in the Information Technology Production sector. This has been in response to the existence of a highly skilled workforce, as well as strategic planning and policy making on behalf of the IDA. However there are limitations behind the rhetoric associated with Celtic Tiger. The software industry represents a mere 1% of the total workforce. The structure of the industry is dominated by manufacturing and localisation functions, as opposed to software development. The existence of this sector promotes growth in other support services. For instance, for every 100 jobs in overseas manufacturing there were 125 jobs created indirectly (Breathnach, 1998). These indirect sectors have become highly dependent on their customers however, evoking doubts as to the innovative capacity of these firms (Coe, 1997). O' Hearn (1997) argues that Ireland's reliance on Foreign Investment alters this novelty of the Celtic Tiger, as 15% of Irish GDP consists of profits, which are removed from the country.

To conclude, Ireland has experienced a change in its role in the Global Economy, involving a higher quality of investment. However this role, although crucial to Ireland's recent economic success, remains a peripheral and over dependent one.

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Education	Master of Education (School Leadership) (<i>Bi annual</i>), H.Dip in Educational Management, H.Dip in Arts (Application of Information and Communication Technology in Education), H.Dip in Arts (Civic, Social & Political Education)
Humanities	MA in English (Narrative, Modernity, Ireland), MA in History, H.Dip in Irish History, MA in Music (Historical Studies), MA in Music (Composition), MA in Music (Performance & Musicology), H.Dip in Music Technology, MA in Philosophy, MA in Culture, Religion and Society in Modern Ireland
Modern Language	MA in French, MA in German, MA sa Nua Ghaeilge
Science and Technology	H.Dip in Applied Physics, Master of Computer Science, H.Dip in Information Technology, MA/MSc in Mathematics, MA/MSc/H.Dip in Mathematical Science, MSc/H.Dip in Software Engineering, H.Dip in Mathematics

The normal application deadline for Taught Masters and Postgraduate Diplomas is the end of July. The following courses have earlier closing dates:

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	H.Dip. in Adult & Community Education	1 May
	H.Dip in Arts (Adult Guidance and Counselling)	1 June
Applied Social Studies:	H.Dip. in Community Work	26 May
Computer Science:	H.Dip in Information Technology	30 June
Education:	Master of Education (School Leadership) (<i>Bi annual</i>)	4 May
	H.Dip. in Educational Management	4 May
	H.Dip. in Arts (Civic, Social & Political Education)	4 May
	H.Dip.in Arts (Application of Information and Communication Technology in Education)	4 May

Application packages are available from the Graduate Studies Office, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co Kildare, (postgrad.dean@may.ie or Tel. 01-7083408)

Thomas McCarthy, Dean of Research & Graduate Studies

HERMENEUTICAL EXPLORATIONS AND LANDSCAPE DYSLEXIA: ADVENTURES IN THE POST-SPATIAL, PERHAPS.

Ptolemy O'Loonessy, Scholar and Gentleman.

"Landscape is a natural scene mediated by culture. It is both represented and presented space, both a signifier and a signified, both a frame and what a frame contains, both a real place and its simulacrum, both a package and a commodity in the package" (Mitchell, 2000: 99)

Introduction

The following discourse¹ is concerned with the microcosmic landscape characteristics of NUIM as metaphor for Ireland, Europe - indeed The World (why not?). Hasn't it got a sense of place which makes a statement, it's got a population (problem) - and other manifestations of humanity like social exclusion, spatial inequality, (in)accessibility, it's even got mental (map) cases - not to mention a river, settlement patterns, rocks, soil, trees and other stuff (etc)? So don't tell me you can't learn something from this environment, this landscape, this space, this piece of the earth's surface and so on (Peet 1998; Unwin, 1992; Livingstone, 1992; Hartshorne, 1939; Sauer, 1929; Ratzel, 1882; von Humboldt, 1845).

Comics

Landscapes have come to be seen increasingly as texts - texts which can be read (and reread) as other message-laden media familiar to us, like books, movies, comics or architecture. "Landscapes may be read as texts illustrating the beliefs of the people. The shaping of the landscape is seen as expressing social ideologies, that are then perpetuated and supported through the landscape" (Crang, 1998:27). In looking at and revisiting landscape in this way, its message and meanings can change with passing time and

different readings. That is why the analogy with text is so useful: when you read *The Wind in the Willows* (Grahame, 1908) at seven or eight it meant one thing. Go back and read it now as part of the Climatology course, perhaps, and see if it means the same. Texts represent different things to different people at different times.

The landscape as text can be seen to represent a particular ideological perspective, an assertion of power perhaps, a 'way of seeing' (Berger, 1972) expressed in the artefacts (and artifice) of the space, or the layout of the landscape or townscape. Construction of landscapes is more than the planting of trees and erection of buildings. It is often more importantly a social construction in the way these objects or their spatial configuration are represented to you the reader/user/public: as, for example, a landscape of tranquility or beauty or hospitality (represented by the Tourist Board or Maynooth Accommodations Office); a safe, secure and homely place to study (Admissions Office) or a landscape for prayerful contemplation (by the Theology Faculty). These representations are expressed in the language of monuments, in iconographies of design, in architectural or visual symbolism - all reflections of particular ideologies or philosophies embedded in the landscape, and intended to be 'read' in a certain manner. "Landscape is a social and cultural product, a way of seeing projected on to land and having its own techniques and compositional forms" (Cosgrove, 1984:1).

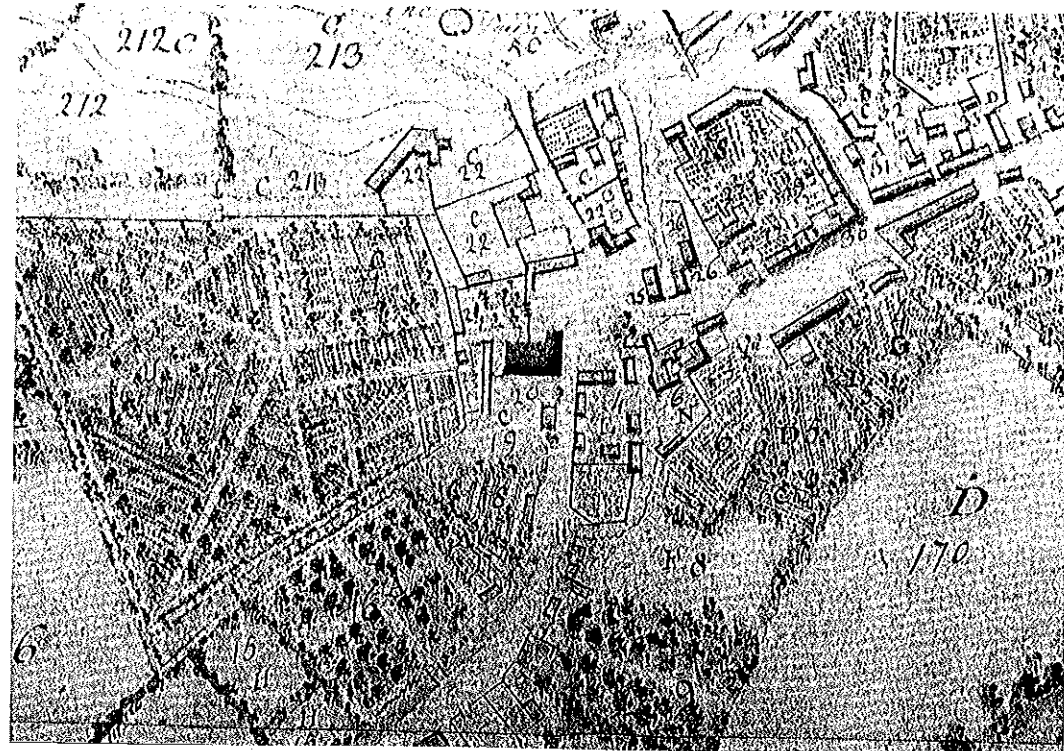
While landscapes are socially or culturally produced, their meanings are not fixed forever: when you have read this magazine your understanding of its meaning will be changed. You can never come to know it again in the same way - re-reading will further transform its meaning for you and others with whom you communicate.² The message in the medium of landscape will change with every reading and every generation. So, for instance, the past as represented in the landscape is not a fixed and immutable fact waiting to be discovered by some objective empirical scientist with a GPS

¹ In this case, snobby for discussion, essay, paper, article, dissertation and probably not "the ensemble of social practices through which the world is made meaningful to oneself and to others" (Johnston, 1994)

² This is why persistent visits to the Library are so confusing.

scanner and a questionnaire. As Graham (1997:196) points out we impose our own narratives on the past, we often contest and (re)negotiate our landscapes of memory, based on new readings of our landscapes and their meanings to us. Manipulation by powerful groups or individuals often enables one meaning to attain supremacy over another at particular times (O'Keefe 1999:10). Terms such as appropriation (or possession/ownership) are therefore significant in landscape readings. In colonial situations, for instance, it was important for the incomers to appropriate the

Fig. 1 Extract from John Roque's Map of the Manor of Maynooth, 1757. This extract shows an earlier version of today's landscape. There appears to be a classical garden arrangement where the old campus is located. Do we interpret this landscape more in terms of vegetables than promenading? It is probable that the Lime Walk is at "21".



landscape and its meaning by various devices such as monuments, flags and other symbols such as graffiti, or maps with colonial placenames, or paintings, photos, film which emphasise the fact of ownership. This can also apply to class or gender or ethnic occupation of landscapes, especially in cities. What about 'sacred' and 'secular' space in

Maynooth and how it is marked and represented in the symbolism of statuary or signage?

Experiencing landscape

The landscape, therefore, is represented in a variety of ways, which lends further scope to the textual analogy. There is the landscape that you walk through, fall over or experience physically (including the buildings, the lawns, the puddles and muck, birdsong, frying chips and occasional clinging slurrypong). This is an intensely private experience of landscape that will depend on your mood, on how long you have known the place, on which parts of it you most frequent, on your gender perhaps. Some would also suggest, your sexual orientation, your belief in God, whether you are vegan or other, what you had for breakfast and which side of the bed you got out of, and so on and forth. Or whether you are a

Geography or Sociology student - the former will, obviously, read the place with an educated eye, the latter is steeped in blind ignorance. But then education is often a dangerous thing; these are risky places.

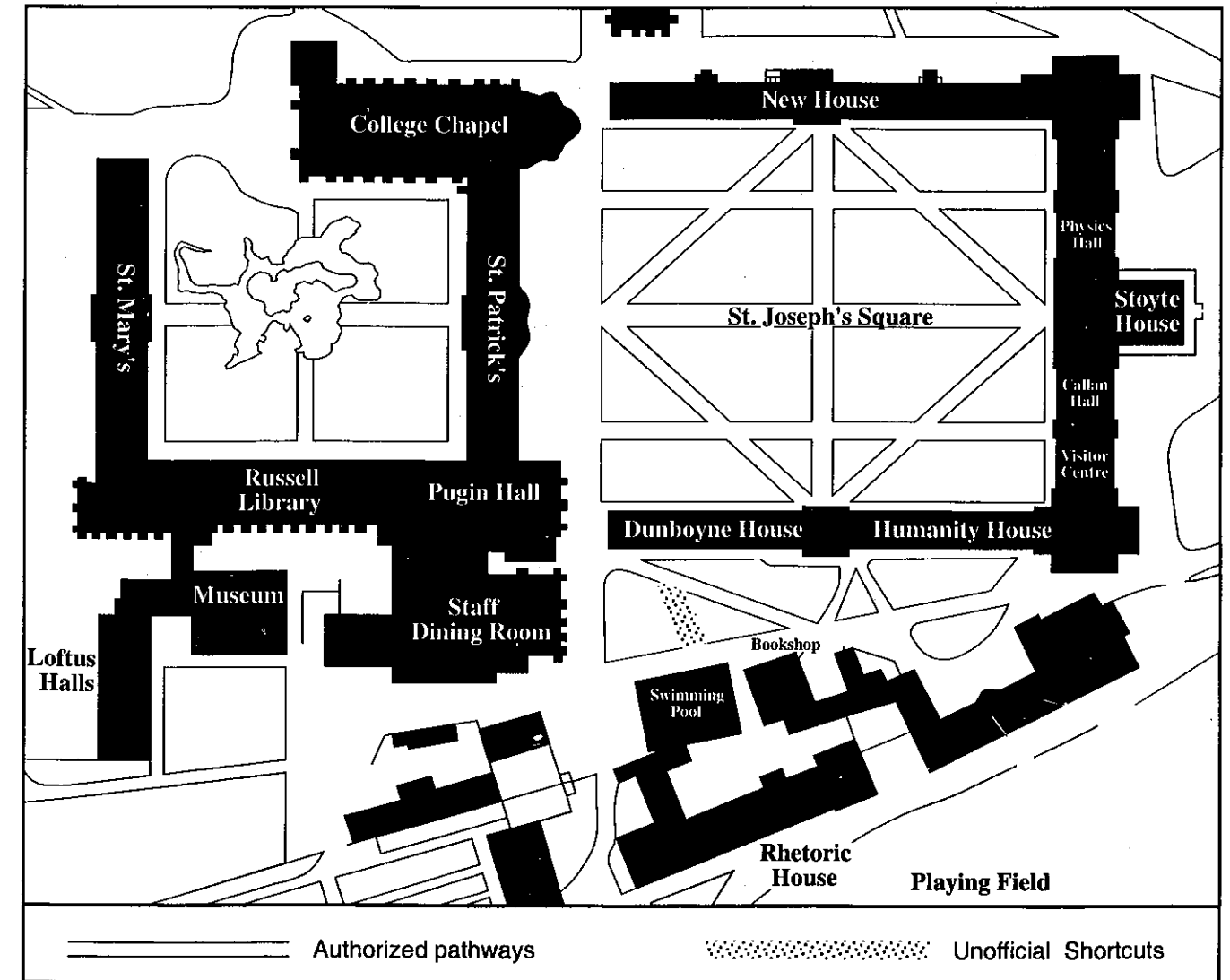
There are other representations of this physical reality of landscape - there is what might be called the

Cartographer's Story. Cosgrove (1999:2) exactly captures the spirit of such narratives which connect aptly with the atmosphere of a first year practical class: "Acts of mapping are creative, sometimes anxious, moments in coming to knowledge of the world, and the map is both the spatial embodiment of knowledge and a stimulus to further cognitive engagements". See Rocque's 1757 narrative of Maynooth hanging on the wall of Rhetoric House, or the more dispassionate rendition in the Ordnance Survey's first edition (1837, Russell Library) articulating a national standard in map design, or the local cartographer who knows the idiosyncracies of status and power and how they are to be represented (especially in response to briefs by particular actors³ in the landscape)(Keenan, 1999). There is also the painter's artistic

version, highlighting in many cases ivy-covered ruins, ancient castle and keep, or features of Stoyte House or Riverstown House which have more 'heritage' meaning today than ever before.

The photographer's interpretation will reflect her purpose or mission: full of grand gothic compositions of leaded windows and stained glass with crosses and steeples (and maybe a bishop or two and no untidy students) if aimed at the Catholic Irish-American donor market, portraying unbroken continuity with our christian past.

Fig.2 The eighteenth and nineteenth century campus, full of signs and meaningful spaces. Note the only "site of resistance" to the inherited rectangular pathways opposite the bookshop - permanently marked by highly symbolic riot-control barriers. Note the discordant but significant sacred space of the Bicentenary Garden behind the Chapel.



³ Gatekeepers, stakeholders, for example.

If the objective is to win over the young university student, it will be full of images that will be meaningful to them - the SU bar, the disco, the bus/train connection with the city, landscapes suitably filled with healthy wholesome people (many of them reappearing in the same photos again and again⁴).

And there are verbal representations: "A new entrance has been constructed on the North Campus, which has greatly enhanced the appearance of that campus, and is much more appropriate as the gateway to a modern university than the one which was used heretofore. To the right of the entrance is a limestone plinth which depicts the University Logo⁵, and the bears the title Ollscoil na hEireann, Má Nuad. To the left the name of the University is carved in large lettering in a concave curved plinth arrangement" (President's Report, 1998-99:3). Contrast the meanings incorporated in this landscape with the other limestone statement outside the Library: the Heritage Wall might be classed as 'diasporic declamatory', a gesture in stone to Irish-American benefactors. And the space through which all traffic must pass daily *en route* to the north/new/secular campus is a sort of institutional powerpoint - a rite of passage dominated by a statue of the Pope.

Rhetorical fancies

Campuscaples in general are interesting examples of landscape iconography. University environments represent statements in concrete and clay of the importance of the knowledge industry and the social significance of the purveyors of this knowledge, the academic community. Look at any university campus for the meanings encapsulated in their built and shaped environments. The campus of UL is a good example of a such a 'textual' statement: from the great carved stone at the entrance, to the extravagant monumentalism of its various

⁴ Who is she?

⁵ "The logo has been developed to express all aspects of the University, past, present and future....The yew twig and castle refer to the medieval origins of Maynooth... The sundial, a feature at the front of Stoyte House, is a symbol of history, time and enlightenment. The symbol of the open book represents academic learning" (President's Report 1997-8:3)

buildings reflecting a determination to project itself as a successful ally of corporate enterprise. UCD is another comparatively new campus with big modernist statements of concrete dominance from the sixties and seventies. Older campuses of course exhibit layered meanings from different eras with different priorities. Look at the ideological context of TCD. Colonial? Imperial? Expressions of Protestant ascendancy in its Oxbridge echoes of classical facades and great cobbled squares behind double doors opened/closed to the City street.

What is Maynooth saying to us? Watch this space next time you're rushing to a tutorial in Rhetoric. Here all round us is a text awaiting deconstruction. What we need is to understand its language, its accents, its terminologies, its grammar. What *does* it all mean? There are obviously a series of phases in the story of this place each with a distinctive iconography reflecting spatial and design statements of power and symbolism. Meehan (1949:23) summarised it well up to the early 20th century: "The buildings in which this organism gradually took shape...have themselves a tale to tell. Taken in chronological order they make a chapter in Irish history, the significance of which is little realised by many people who chance to see them...the history which lies between the half-fearful beginnings of the Penal Days and the self-confident achievement of the twentieth century...The ruined Geraldine castle at the gates is a fairly obvious symbol of what was originally lost, and the Spire at the west end of the College a symbol of what was eventually regained. If you walk between the two, you witness a century of effort". This is a very particular nationalist Catholic triumphalist reading of the local landscape. When you walk over the bridge today you enter another world/time/place with different meanings. In a general sense, we could talk of an early medieval landscape muddle, which was proto-collegial in the sense that the Fitzgeralds, earls of Kildare, established a college in the environs of the castle in 1426. But it was overwhelmed by the political disorder of the 16th century, a process reflected in the amorphous shapelessness of the place as

captured in Rocque's map of two centuries later (Fig.1). An ascendancy phase of neo-classical grandeur followed from 1730s with the introduction of avenues and parterres and triangular space representing a new world of order and regimentation: 'the rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate'. The embryonic campuscape first appears in 1795 as the Irish alternative to Jacobin chaos (in Paris), in a Burkean refuge of pastoral beauty and royal munificence (Burke, 1756).

The Royal College of St Patrick expresses another version of power - seminarian authoritarianism, where the formation of its students took place in a landscape of incarceration and deprivation, according to Thackeray's perception of it (1842:234): "At the Quaker town of Moate...[the coach] was filled by four Maynoothians, whose vacation was just at an end. One of them, a freshman... told him with a rather long face of the dismal discipline of his college. They are not allowed to quit the gates; they are expelled if they read a newspaper; and they begin term with a 'retreat' of a week I must say the young fellows drank plenty of whisky on the road to prepare them for their year's abstinence; and when at length arrived in the miserable village of Maynooth, determined not to go into college that night, but to devote the evening to 'a lark'"⁶. The same witness characterised the campus as containing "ruin so needless, filth so disgusting, such a look of lazy squalor, no Englishman who has not seen can conceive" (quoted in Corish, 1995:106). But what would you expect from an English reading of the place? He was probably a Protestant to boot.⁷ Apart from Puginesque elegance and spires, the nationalist and jansenist triumphant was also symbolised in St Patrick's bust, hurling pitches, lavatories which were siberian in scale and temperature, and the iconography of the ball alley - a configuration of masculine spaces carefully designated by Juniority/Seniority and diocesan identities. 1966 was the beginning of the Invasion of Gentiles, the eclipse of the soutane as a symbol to be replaced by blue jeans and long hair, nuns and women. This had inevitable impacts on the

⁶ ie The Roost

⁷ Ouch!

landscape and interpretations thereof. Apart from the need to modify and re-furbish (womens loos, staff offices and lecture spaces), there was a territorial incompatibility between the disorderly undisciplined hordes (comparisons with barbarian invasions are valid) and the inherited lines in the seminarian landscape. There was a momentary theological backlash in the insertion of some nostalgic iconography in the landscape architecture: Our Lady of the Angels (statue) and the Bicentenary Garden, full of biblical symbolism, both appeared in the nineties (Fig 2).

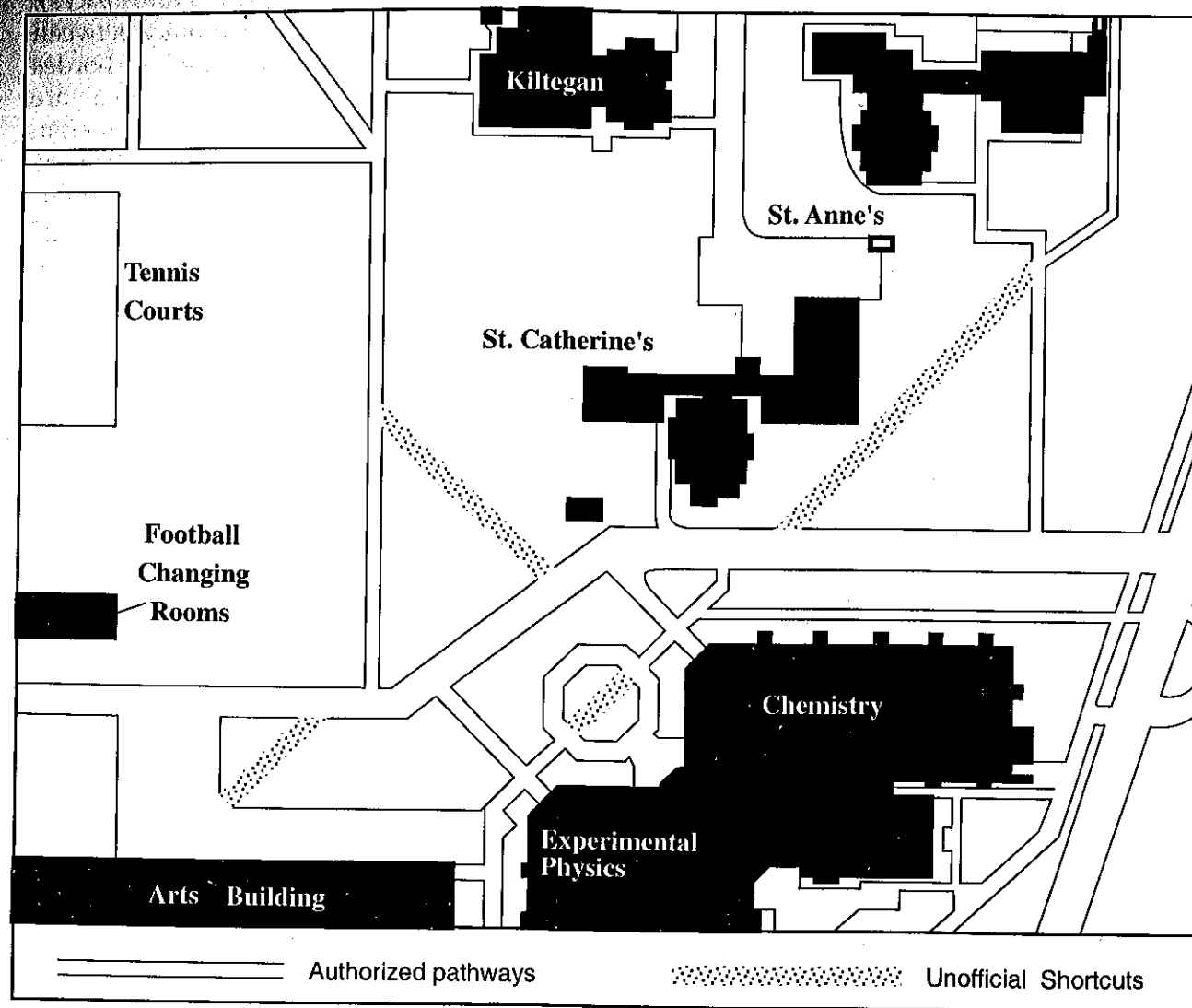
From the 1970s, concrete expansionism began with the highly symbolic footbridge and the magnificent simplicity of the Arts Building, and continues in the cottage neo-pastiche of the north campus. More recently, there is a hymn to heritage in the cobblelocked pavements and neo-victorian lampstandards of the Town, not to mention postmodern fragmentations in the sexualised spatiality of the town square, the showy impracticality of the cycle ways and, for the disabled 'other', the obstacle course of the Main Street.⁸

Moralities of landscape?

The fundamental lesson in the language of landscape of course is understanding its grammar: "space is negotiated by understanding what its components 'mean'" (O'Keefe, 1999:10). Just as we learn to communicate with words which we come to understand from an early age, so too we learn to understand the elements of landscape: buildings are usually entered through doors (windows are used in emergencies or for illicit purposes normally); and we move through the landscape on roads, tracks or paths; unless we are farmers or gardeners we keep off the grass. The grammar of grass triangles and rectilinear pathways in Maynooth is a legacy of earlier times and more leisurely spaces. Embedded in the landscape by a process of geographical inertia and authoritarian determination, they obviously have meanings which need to be renegotiated. A product of the era of the *flaneur*, perhaps, on a leisurely stroll across campus parklands, on retreat and in

⁸ B Bartley and R Kitchin, personal correspondence.

Fig. 3 A rapidly evolving landscape: note the mismatch between pathways and evolving mobility patterns. Can you suggest any further shortcuts?



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contemplative mood, walkers had time to make interesting (and roundabout) traverses. But more importantly these layouts represented a morality of landscape expressed in a culture of 'formation', an imposition of a hierarchical church: walking the straight and narrow (and never the hypoteneuse) was just as important as reading about it in the Library. This was a sort of tyranny of travel in triangular space.

With invasion of gentiles came social disorder and potential chaos. But the owners of space (bishops) or the principal leaseholders (NUIM), have an ideological need to impose their will on the landscape and by extension, its occupants, in terms of a continuing language of triangles and rectangles and other geometrical flights of fancy.

Apart from the natural tendency towards rebellion in earlier generations of non-conformist gentiles, there is also instinctual predisposition to rational movement through space (ie in straight lines), further motivated by the exigencies of time (tables) and the need to maximise time distances. This might be a valid interpretation of the muddy marks of haste in shortcuts illustrated in Fig 3.

Of course another reading of the lines in the landscape here would be a more positivistic interpretation based on the incremental evolution of the landscape. Many of the tracks laid down mark earlier axes of movement, which have been overtaken and rendered redundant by subsequent modifications to the landscape. The earliest paths such as The Graph and the Lime Walk are reflections of an 18th century fashion for tree-lined promenades in avenue and boulevard. Indeed they hark back to the neo-classicism of Le Notre's Versailles (Fig 1). St Joseph's Square may echo such a model. Later when new additions were made, there was often a mismatch between old pathways and new land-uses. When the hostels were first established in the North Campus, east-west lines connected with the newly established Arts Block. These are increasingly incompatible with new mobility tracks as illustrated in Fig. 3. See, for example, the

Social Science Building in St Anne's.⁹ There is also of course a latent conservative classicalism evident in recent new octagonalisations - the legacy of squares and rectangles is embedded in our western psyche. Designs of power and control to impose an order on nature - and to nurture discipline in its inhabitants? Believe it or not. You decide.

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⁹ Who was she - an eminent sociologist? (aren't they all?) or a sainted anthropologist (a contradiction in terms surely), but it illustrates the inertia involved in naming the landscape.

WORD SEARCH 2000

The GeoPen

Interested in Geography? Know everything that needs to be known about the Department in NUI Maynooth? Then you better try this, shockingly easy, Word Search. All you have to do is search through the grid below for the names of certain eminent Geographers who have either graced the Department with their presence in the past, or who actually continue to do so today, including both lecturers and postgraduates. Their names are provided below. To make things slightly harder, so as to give you a cognitive challenge, two of the present day staff's names are not included with the other names below. But they can be found in the Word Search! So do the Word Search, identify the two 'hidden' staff names, send it to the Milieu Staff at 21 Top Rhetoric, and you can be in the running to win a handsome cash prize. The prize is open to all and sundry, so get cracking. (Photocopy this page if you don't want to destroy your mint copy of MILIEU 2000...stop laughing please...) Closing date for entries is **Friday 12th May 2000.**

K	R	O	B	R	E	A	T	H	N	A	C	H	L	A	W
I	N	I	F	F	I	R	Y	T	R	E	F	F	A	L	W
E	M	D	R	A	W	A	D	Y	O	H	T	Y	M	S	A
G	R	I	F	N	Y	E	F	L	L	O	S	B	I	G	D
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R	T	Y	U	S	N	I	U	D	L	L	E	P	C	T	I
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N	N	N	S	G	E	C	H	I	N	N	W	O	R	C	T
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D	L	F	A	Y	K	O	L	M	Q	U	I	N	L	A	N
D	H	F	W	E	L	T	G	N	I	R	P	A	N	E	E
A	G	I	R	K	P	L	C	D	E	V	I	L	L	Y	L
W	U	R	A	O	P	R	I	N	G	L	G	S	F	T	L
M	O	G	Y	W	C	A	I	W	K	I	T	F	C	L	U
C	C	O	O	E	P	H	A	N	B	E	U	G	I	L	C
I	E	N	I	S	C	C	E	S	G	D	A	C	T	I	K
N	I	H	C	T	I	K	L	Y	E	L	S	N	S	G	L
T	O	O	E	N	I	S	I	L	C	K	E	Y	E	O	L
Y	M	U	R	P	H	Y	M	M	E	N	A	L	E	H	W
R	L	H	C	R	W	L	E	Y	E	N	E	E	W	S	M
E	R	K	A	V	H	G	U	H	C	M	F	F	I	R	G

The Names to be found in the Wordsearch are:
 BARTLEY, BREATHNACH, COUGHLAN, CULLEN, CHARLTON, DALY, DEVILLY,
 DUFFY, FAGAN, FEALY, GILL, GRIFFIN, KEENAN, KITCHIN, LAFFERTY, MCHUGH,
 MCINTYRE, MCNEILIS, MURPHY, PRINGLE, QUINLAN, ROCHE, RYAN, SMYTH,
 SWEENEY, WADDINGTON, WALSH, WARD, WHELAN.

The Missing Staff Members are: 1., 2.

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In keeping with the nostalgic theme of this year's "Milieu" we are reprinting here one of the pearls of the original magazine; the article Sex In Geography. This was penned by one of the foremost Manchester United supporting Maynooth Geographers of that era, who may be familiar to some of our readers. A number of features in this article may be alien to those of our readers who were naught but a twinkle in the milkman's eye at the time this article was penned. The "undergraduate dissertation" referred to in this article, also known as the B.A. Honours Thesis, was a key part of the final year of an Honours Geography student's B.A. Programme. Like Burnley and Stoke City's then tenure in old First Division, this has long gone the way of all flesh and has been replaced by the much-beloved 3rd Year Project. The alleged author denies any recollection of having written this article and, indeed, now only has a very hazy memory of the subject matter.

SEX IN GEOGRAPHY

Dennis. G. Pringle, Staff

Every Spring dark primeval forces exert a profound influence upon a certain section of the student population. Before long these students find themselves facing an overpowering need, a need which must eventually be answered to relieve the pent up emotions. I refer, of course, to the need of Second Year Honours students to decide upon a topic for their undergraduate dissertations. This is undoubtedly an important decision for many and consequently there is no shortage of advice from those who have previously undergone this particular form of torture. The best piece of advice that may perhaps be offered is to choose a topic of particular personal interest, even though the geographical aspects may not immediately be apparent. Most things in life, whether they be clachans or public houses, have spatial aspects which are worthy of investigation. To illustrate my point, I will review just some of the ways in which sex has been treated in geography.

Space does not permit me to define the term 'sex' in detail, but the subject is extensively dealt with in the literature¹. I will assume therefore that the reader is already familiar with the more important points².

In geography, sex is usually the concern of population geographers, particularly when it results in births. The world's population is continually increasing with the result that there is a growing fear that we will eventually wipe ourselves out as a

species because of overpopulation. This type of gloomy forecast is by no means new³, but it is continually receiving more attention as the graph of the world's population rapidly disappears off the top of the page. Sex, however, is not solely to blame. While it is true that births do not occur without sex⁴, the world's population increase has been paralleled by a decrease in the world's birth rate. In other words, fewer people are being born, but even fewer are dying. The reason for the decline in the death rate is the rapid diffusion of modern medical technology. In the western world population growth has been controlled by a decline in the birth rate often using artificial contraceptives, but in the underdeveloped countries the birth rate has been slow to respond to the change in the death rate. These are often the countries that can least afford an increase in population, and under such conditions the moral arguments in favour of (artificial) contraceptives must surely outweigh the religious and philosophical arguments against their use. These arguments apply not only to the Third World, but also to much smaller deprived areas nearer to home. In fact, for some readers, they are home. Demographers and professional geographers also take a professional interest in sex in the form of sex ratios (i.e. the number of males in relation to the number of females). This might be expected to be

¹ For example: Burton R. and Arbuthnot F.F. (translators), *The Kama Sutra of Vatsyayana*, Panther, 1974.

² These are sometimes referred to as 'erogenous zones'.

³ For example; Malthus, T.R.(1798), *An Essay on Population*. Reprinted in Everyman Press, 1960.

⁴ One important exception has been documented: St. Luke, *The Gospel According to St. Luke*, Chapter 1, verse 26 onwards. Reprinted in *The Holy Bible*.

1:1, but in the Irish Republic there are only 991 females for every 1000 males⁵. When one examines these ratios in more detail it is found that the only parts of Ireland with an excess of females are the larger urban centres (i.e. Dublin CB, Cork CB, Limerick CB, Waterford CB, the Borough of Dun Laoighaire and County Dublin). Presumably this is due to migration from rural areas, which retain a higher proportion of males because of employment in agriculture, to urban areas which offer more female employment (e.g. in offices, retail establishments, and higher manufacturing). The resulting sexual imbalance directly affects the marriage chances of the sexual majority. By moving to a city a spinster statistically reduces her chances of finding a husband, although paradoxically she also has more opportunity of meeting 'Mr. Right'. As for men, possibly one of the places to avoid at all costs is County Leitrim where there are only 857 females for every 1000 males.

Sex ratios provide an illuminating illustration of some statistical problems associated with devising indicators. At least three types of sex ratios have been used by demographers. These are calculated as follows:

(1) Sex Ratio 1 = $\frac{M}{F} \times 100$

(2) Sex Ratio 2 = $\frac{M - F}{M + F} \times 100$

(3) Sex Ratio 3 = $\frac{M}{M + F} \times 100$

where M is the number of males, and F is the number of females. In the ideal situation where the number of males and females are equal, the three ratios would have values of 100, 0, and 50 respectively. In other words, all three express the same condition differently. This in itself causes no problems, but one might assume that all three indices are equally useful whereas there is a fundamental deficiency with the first ratio. Females alone are used in the denominator, consequently the first ratio has a range of possible values from 0 to ∞ . The means of type 1 ratios calculated for a number of areas, therefore, will almost certainly be above 100, suggesting a female predominance. For example, consider two areas with equal population which are 75 per cent male, and 75 per cent female respectively. The values of sex ratio 1 will be 300

⁵ Central Statistics Office (1973), *Census of Population of Ireland*, Volume 1, Table 3.

and 33, giving a mean value of 166, suggesting that overall there are 5 males for every 3 females, instead of only 3. Consequently this ratio would give a completely misleading result, which would be further intensified if used in a product-moment correlation. The second and third ratios are, therefore, much more preferable.

Further lessons on using statistics can be gained from another sex-related indicator; the illegitimacy rates. In Belfast it was found that the areas with the highest levels of illegitimacy are predominantly Protestant⁶. This does not necessarily imply that Catholics have a higher standard of sexual morality. Catholics, for example, may be less inclined to declare a child as illegitimate to the hospital authorities. There would also be more social pressure on a Catholic girl 'in trouble' (and also more opportunity) to stay with relatives in Britain, than upon her Protestant counterpart. Consequently, a bias may be introduced into the survey because girls migrating elsewhere for childbirth would not be recorded in the data collected from Belfast hospitals. Care is obviously required in interpreting the figures.

Having allowed for the problems associated with the source of the data on illegitimacy, further problems arise over how the problem should be conceptualised.

Illegitimacy as a social indicator might be criticised on the grounds that it applies middle class cultural values to a predominantly working class population. Illegitimacy is not just a moral problem, it is also a major social problem. The social problem of illegitimacy occurs after the birth of the child, not before. An illegitimate child usually faces life with a distinct disadvantage compared with other children. If he/she is not adopted he/she is often brought up by only one parent or in a strained family environment.

The lack of a 'normal' family background need not make the child a deviant, but his/her chances of making a success out of life are considerably reduced. The illegitimacy rate therefore is a more useful indicator of social deprivation than might at first appear.

The objective of this essay is not to review all of the ways in which geographers have managed to include sex in their research, but to show that it is

⁶ Boal F.W., Doherty, P. and Pringle D.G.(1974), *The Spatial Distribution of Some Social Problems in the Belfast Urban Area*, Northern Ireland Community Relations Commission.

possible to include such a taboo subject under a respectable guise. In the future geographers will presumably look at prostitution⁷, pornography etc. more openly, but at present the subject has to be approached in a devious manner in order to maintain academic responsibility. The same approach could be used for any subject. Thus even if your special interest in life happens to be Manchester United or cauliflowers, a little ingenuity should suggest a respectable geographical research topic to include your own particular speciality. No matter what you decide to investigate, however, it is imperative that you should attempt to see beyond the obvious explanation. In this respect it is hoped that some of the interpretations provided in this essay will stimulate (or antagonise) the reader to be more discriminating in his/her interpretation of 'facts'.

POSTSCRIPT

Whilst most of what I wrote 25 years ago now makes me cringe, the most striking feature from the article relates to the perceived public attitudes towards illegitimacy. It may be difficult to believe today, but illegitimacy carried a massive social stigma 25 years ago. The percentage of children born to unmarried mothers was then less than 5 per cent; today more than half of all mothers under the age of 25 are unmarried. This might be interpreted by some people as indicative of moral decline, but it should be noted that the total number of children born to young mothers (married or otherwise) has declined significantly. This may in part reflect more efficient use of contraceptives - the very mention of which was taboo 25 years ago - but it also suggests that many of the married mothers of 25 years ago only got married after they became pregnant. I suspect one of the major changes is that we now live in a more open and honest era.

DGP, March 2000.

⁷ See, for example, Symanski R.(1974), "Prostitution in Nevada", *Annals of Association of American Geographers*, Vol.64, No.3, pp.357-377.

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Dennis shows Denise the way...



Yet another "horny" Geographer!

THE SPATIAL SCIENCE OF INTOXICATION

Gabhain Mac An Bhaird, MA in Geographical Analysis.

Ah Geography, the subject used by all of the people all of the time. We all know that Geography is about space and spatial relations, but have we ever thought of what this really means? The concept of spatial relations may seem a bit abstract to some people but the relation between two or more objects in space is something that effects everyone everyday. This is especially true when out drinking. We all have our own personal space, that area around you that you don't like people violating. Also, out of respect you don't violate other peoples' personal space. Your own personal space tends to decrease while everyone else's personal space tends to increase when you are out drinking and this is related to drunkenness. Ever notice how people tend to avoid you if you've had a bit too much to drink? How there seems to be an exclusion zone around you when going to the toilet?

The size of this zone and therefore your position in space relative to everyone else is directly related to the amount of alcohol consumed. Alcohol consumption determines your geography, your position in space relative to everyone else.

Here is a description of the different levels of drunkenness and how this will determine your position in space relative to everyone else.

One - Relaxed

To most drinkers the first pint, or whatever, disappears almost unnoticed and will have little or no effect on speech/co-ordination space-relation, personal space etc. Conversation will be of the polite, perfunctory variety e.g. Soaps, schooldays, sport and the price of net curtains, etc. Some beer-mat flicking will be in evidence, as the ice hasn't quite melted yet. This is potentially a good time for the politically incorrect amongst you to tell a bad taste or sexist joke, such as a classic like "Did you hear the one about the one-eyed Latvian and the chicken?"

Two - Merry

With the taste of that naughty little intoxicant in your mouth, the second drink is invariably downed at a much faster rate than the first with everyone anticipating the revelry to come and peoples' personal space will be shrinking. Conversation will have picked up probably now touching on sports, soaps, schooldays - what else is there? Oh yeah -and in non-specific detail, sex. It's time to consider your first visit to the toilet, get a round of drinks on your way back.

This is a good time to go to buy drinks. The bar will be easily accessible and if not everyone has shown up yet, you will get away with a smaller round, enough said.

Three - Tipsy

Inhibitions start to break down as the alcohol puts to bed the spoilsport part of the brain that controls reasonable behaviour. The urge to consume copious amounts of salted bar-snacks will begin about now and last right up until the first wave of nausea strikes. Personal space is at a minimum and even the small stools seat at least two people. Conversation still on soaps and sports - however, the sex talk becomes more specific and of a "I'd give..." nature. Still a weight off your mind, you will have forgotten all about the price of net curtains. Could be a good time for the first belching contest of the evening, Lads in particular go a bundle on this type of competition.

Four - Half-Cut

Voices are without doubt getting louder and the same jokes are now much, much funnier than they seemed earlier. The incessant repetition of some dodgy comedian's redundant catchphrase will also never fail to get laughs... very poor. Personal space has almost disappeared and the small stools can now accommodate a friendly basketball team. Hands on top of your pint, as anything else is an open invitation to get to have a bar snack thrown in it. The conversation now turns from the idle fantasy of 'partners you wished you'd had' to graphic detail of the 'partners you've had'. Hand/eye co-ordination is now on the difficult side, boys take care not to catch anything in your zip fly. Some girls will be working up to the first of the evening's "nobody likes me - everybody hates me" tears in the toilet crises.

Five - Drunk

Definitely the best part of the evening, everything is funny and everybody loves each other, this is what social drinking is all about. Personal space is non-existent and this allows pub owners to pack their premises to capacity reducing your chances of getting to bar to a minimum. It's all downhill from now on, as those deep dark primeval urges - such as the need to eat the flesh of a dead animal or more commonly to procreate, take over - and man is driven to satiate these ancient desires come what may.

Six to Seven - Rat-arsed

Anything you say from now on you will regret in the morning, that's if anybody else can remember what you were talking about, but mark my words, there's always one who will. Conversation will now be on a one-to-one basis, as nobody possesses the necessary social skills to interact with anybody but the person

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND THE SHRINKING WORLD

Karina Johns, 3rd Arts

Introduction

The world is in a continuous flux of change primarily because of the advances in technology and Information Technology. We have evolved from a period when travel was time consuming, expensive and frustrating to a period where travel has become cheap, quick and easily accessible. It is because of these advances that we have created a global network. In this article I will show this, as well as displaying positive and negative effects of this change from an Irish context.

Today Ireland has one of the best performing economies in the industrialised world, with there being a rise in the Irish standard of living from 65% of the E.U. average in 1987 to 90% of the E.U. average in 1997 (Department of Foreign Affairs, 1997). This unprecedented strong rate of growth is attributable to a range of factors, which include an expanding well-qualified labour force, buoyant exports in the high-technology sector and considerable growth in domestic demand.

The Irish Government has recognised that science and technology are central to economic and social development. Hence it is a cornerstone of Government policy to ensure that there is an adequate flow of well-educated graduates, diploma holders and people with third level educational certificates in science and other related disciplines. Total Government spending on science and technology amounted to £498 million in 1993 (Department of Foreign Affairs, 1997). The main area of expenditure here was on the education and training, through formal courses, of scientists, engineers and technicians, followed by expenditure on technical services in the Health sector. In the manufacturing industry sector, there was a major injection of expenditure under the "Science and Technology for Industrial Development" Programme of the Department of Enterprise and Expenditure.

Advances in Transport

All of the advances in science and technology have contributed to a sense that distances are shrinking. Up to the 19th century communications technology and transport were based on elements such as wind power and the use of animals. During the 19th century there was considerable global change and one's sense of distance shrunk rapidly, spurred by revolutions in the fields of communications technology and transport. Changes made to the dominant forms of transport brought about a continuing shrinkage of space.

nearest them. The personal space of that less drunk will have grown proportionately to your level of drunkenness. A circular exclusion zone will accompany you wherever you move and only those as "hammered" as yourself will enter this zone. Thoughts return to the flesh of the opposite sex, will they ever go away? Some people expound the theory that you always tell the truth when you're drunk, but I am more the opinion you always say whatever is necessary to end up in the pantyhose/y-fronts of the person you've got the most chance to do so with. Vomiting is now a distinct possibility, a clandestine tactical chuck at this stage of the evening is advisable as a public one later could ruin any chance of a meaningful sexual encounter and will also leave room for a curry....or two...

Eight to Ten - S***-faced (alternatively W***ered)

It is now that time of the evening when your fellow drinkers undergo massive mood changes. Some people get aggressive when they've had one over eight, particularly those whose drink you've just "hoovered". Others get maudlin, teary and start to question the purpose of their existence on this planet. Hey, if only they'd realise that there isn't one and that having fun down the pub with friends is as close as it gets. Me? I know it's hard to imagine but I find I get even wittier, even more charming and better looking at this stage in the proceedings. Unfortunately, nobody else seems to notice - p***heads!

Ten to Fifteen - Esperanto

For some reason you will find yourself totally fluent in Esperanto, however, nobody shares your bilingual talent. It is also quite possible that you'll fall over at any minute. What the hey, don't worry about it, if ever there was a time to fall arse over tit, this is it - it won't hurt in the slightest and if you've got any friends left in the morning you can proudly show off your beer wounds. The exclusion zone has grown to equal the precise distance of any possible projectile vomit. By now your carnal wants will be replaced by the overwhelming desire to sleep in your own bed - if you don't live nearby, the pavement will look ever so tempting, particularly to back-sufferers as its orthopaedic qualities are well known.

Fifteen Plus - Clinically Dead

You'll feel like you've been eaten by a wolf and spewed out over a cliff - but don't you worry about it, what better place to sleep off your hangover and try desperately to remember what you did the night before, than at college.

Never again till the next time...

The Irish road network offers an example of how technological developments have led to a diminishing in our concept of space. At present the Irish network of public roads, comprising of national, regional and local roads, extends for 92,300km. This network serves the transport needs and requirements of both large urban areas and remote rural communities, thus providing a "global village" as well as contributing to a shrinking world. In Ireland at present, there are 26km of road per 1000 population and this compares favourably with the parallel figures for our European neighbours. It is roughly twice the ratio found in Belgium, France and Denmark and over three times as much as in the Netherlands, Italy or Spain (Dept. of Foreign Affairs, 1997). Of course Ireland's low population density probably accounts for a good deal of this.

Shipping has made similar advances to those made by road transport. Techniques in shipping and cargo handling have changed dramatically in recent years, while ports have developed their facilities accordingly. For example, the construction of load on/load off facilities in ports has brought about many advantages, especially in savings made on both time and labour. Of course, while there has been considerable decreases in journey times for ship passengers, the ship has long been replaced by aviation as the fastest form of international travel. Air travel clearly shows how technology is shrinking the world, with international airlines providing rapid access from Ireland to Europe, America and other parts of the globe. Today it only takes approximately 6 hours flying time to travel from Ireland to New York, in comparison to the weeks of hazardous and tedious travel conditions endured by past generations in embarking on a similar journey.

Communications Technology and the Internet

Communications proved difficult until the advances of the 19th century, as in the preceding centuries the only networks available were the same as those for transport, with the exception of the carrier pigeon! Communication however became quicker and easier with the advances of the 19th century, which were linked to the onset of the Industrial Revolution. This initiated a series of innovations, which percolated into the fields of transport and communications technology. During the 20th century further advances in communications further added to the growing sense of a shrinking world. Now, at the beginning of the 20th century, Telelearning, Teleworking, Teleshopping and Teleteaching all appear to have a major role to play for society in the future, while some of these advances are indeed already in progress. These advances are linked to what I see as the greatest success of the 20th Century; the Internet. This

innovation can provide access to virtually anything within seconds.

A lucid example of the Internet's effects on a global scale can be seen in how it has created a demand for tourism in a rapidly shrinking world (as well as tourist demand having increased exponentially in the past few decades due to the aforementioned advances in transportation). The Internet has revolutionised the "New Age of Travel, providing you with the potential to make enquiries on a broad range of information, as well as offering the possibility of bypassing travel agents, thus saving costs on your holiday by bypassing the "middle man". Moreover, the customer will be in a more relaxed and comfortable situation and hence there is a greater possibility that they will spend money. However, the potential loss of employment in travel agencies and the merchandising sector is one disadvantage that such a scenario offers. Tourism in Ireland today is one of the fastest growing sectors in the economy with the number of foreign tourists having increased from 2.3 million in 1988 to just over 5 million in 1997, while revenue from foreign tourists has increased from £841m in 1988 to £2,015m in 1997 (Dept. of Foreign Affairs, 1997). The reasons for such an increase in tourism are accounted for by advances in transport accompanied by increased speeds, as well as the introduction of cheap, package holidays.

However, while acknowledging the many advantages that information technology offers for economic and social advancement, either through tourism or other business and leisure services, it must be remembered that there are a number of disadvantages associated with this sector also. First of all, there is an increased dilution of cultures which is being provoked by tourism and other forms of cultural globalisation, such as the increasing percolation of the global media. The Internet may also promote the pooling and easy accessing of negative ideas and images, as there is no control over what is put on the Internet. Finally American dominance of the information technology sector may lead to forms of cultural globalisation that provoke a loss of nationalist feeling and identity. (Although this may also provoke a greater clinging to such nationalist expressions as a reaction to the more negative regional effects of economic globalisation.)

Conclusion

To conclude, advances in technology have contributed to the illusion of the world as being a shrinking space. There has been a move from "carrier pigeons and horses" to the more advanced forms of communications and transport outlined in this article, such as the evolving automobile and aviation sectors and the development of the World Wide Web. All of these have promoted the greater development of the

global economy as distance has declined as an issue and transactions can be done at speeds today that would have seemed impossible not so long ago. However these advances have come with certain disadvantages and we must remember that:

"We did not weave the web of life,
we are merely a strand in it,
whatever we do to the web,
we do to ourselves".

(Anonymous Poet)

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THE NEW MANAGERIALISM: CHANGING GOVERNANCE DYNAMICS IN DUBLIN CITY

Kasey Treadwell Shine, PhD Research.

The rise of globalisation and of super-national regions such as the European Union (EU) has put tremendous pressures on national governments. These trends have contributed to an increasingly competitive international arena whereby traditionally constituted, 'bureaucratic' governments are being forced to adopt new and flexible political, administrative, and participatory arrangements in an effort to both manage change and promote competitive advantage within their areas of jurisdiction. These changes in government often include new managerial practices and new forms of partnerships (which include a range of options, such as public-private partnerships, quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (QUANGOs), and more recently, tri-partite public-private-community partnerships). In short, there has been a phase shift from 'government' to 'governance', from 'who governs' to 'who has the capacity to govern' (and why they have that capacity) (Hall and Hubbard, 1998).

At the same time, the diminishing importance of national boundaries in the current era of globalisation and super-regional formations has shifted the focus from nations to cities as engines of economic

prosperity. Thus, Irish (and British) urban centres are scrambling with their European counterparts for a place in the newly emerging European City hierarchy emanating from the consolidation of the EU super-region (Bartley, n.d.). Within Ireland, Dublin City has been the focus of intense activity to promote its status as a European (or even world) city. Irish national government and the local authority for Dublin City (Dublin Corporation) have adopted adventurous entrepreneurial practices and intense regeneration policies designed to modernise or 're-image' Dublin, with a view towards boosting their competitive advantage and obtain a high ranking in the new urban order.

These new competitive practices have been facilitated by (and facilitate) new forms of governance. Dublin Corporation has been at the forefront of both entrepreneurial and governance changes as it struggles to position itself as the best agency to promote the competitive advantage of Dublin, in particular through urban regeneration strategies. In other words, the Corporation is adopting an *adaptive entrepreneurial* approach. It is attempting to become more like a competitive business whose 'product' is a revived, regenerated Dublin even as more inclusive and accountable forms of governance are adopted, in part to facilitate this change (Bartley, Creamer and Treadwell, 1999).

This article focuses upon the new managerial techniques that are at the heart of *adaptive entrepreneurial* changes and of changing governance dynamics within the Corporation. This new managerialism is closely linked to the introduction of new urban regeneration strategies in Dublin in the mid-1980s. This article also examines the potential consequences of these changes for Dublin City into the future, especially in light of the most recent urban regeneration strategy, the Integrated Area Plan (IAP) approach.

Dublin City, 1960s to the mid-1980s

Why did urban regeneration strategies introduced in the mid-1980s have such profound impacts upon the Corporation? The answer is rooted in the development of Dublin City from the start of the push for urbanisation and modernisation within Ireland, and the role of the Corporation in this process. Before the 1960s, formal macro-economic policies and associated physical planning strategies for urban centres in Ireland did not exist. In 1963, a new town planning system administered by local authorities was introduced and was expected to direct burgeoning industrialisation and urban development, in the absence of more formal urban policy.

As part of this new planning regime, local authorities in Dublin pursued a development strategy that

permitted a low-density, low-rise suburban expansion at the expense of the inner city centre. This strategy persisted until the mid-1980s when serious concerns were expressed about the decline of the inner city and the ever-widening commuter belts that were resulting from the relocation of residents and industry to the urban fringe (Bartley, n.d.). In the ensuing debate, proposals were put forward to 'save' Dublin, in particular the inner city. Thus a new strategy, focusing on the regeneration of Dublin, was developed by national government and became the dominant trend in the urban (re)development of Dublin (continuing to this day). The first of what would become four models of this urban regeneration strategy took the example of other urban regeneration projects in the UK and the USA (and especially the London Docklands project) to establish an Urban Development Corporation (UDC), the Custom House Docks Development Authority (CHDDA). The CHDDA was a QUANGO, with the specific mandate of carrying out the physical and economic regeneration of the redundant Custom House Docks Area (CHDA). To facilitate this mandate, the CHDDA was established as an independent planning authority, thus suborning local government planning authority (in this case Dublin Corporation). The Corporation had to be consulted for all projects within the CHDA, but it was effectively excluded from any real involvement in one of the biggest urban renewal projects in Dublin this century.

Re-positioning Local Government in the 1990s

The establishment of the CHDDA marks the first steps towards changing government dynamics and *adaptive entrepreneurialism* within Dublin. As a QUANGO, neither local nor central government had direct control of the CHDDA (although the CHDDA was in part responsible to central government). As an independent planning authority, the CHDDA could direct and fast track development that fit its mandate for the CHDA. However, criticisms soon emerged about a) the lack of trickle-down effects for local communities affected by the regeneration of the CHDA; and b) the lack of democratic accountability inherent within the structure of the CHDDA. This made it nearly impossible for local residents and even politicians to act on the criticisms of the CHDA project. As a result, subsequent urban regeneration models within Dublin City have taken greater account of these problems and incorporate moves towards seemingly more accountable, participative and inclusive forms of governance even as more competitive entrepreneurial practices are also being promoted. The fourth and most recent urban regeneration model, the Integrated Area Plan (IAP) approach, incorporates targeted, competitive and area-

based initiatives for urban regeneration as well as partnerships that involve all actors (stakeholders) in the area.

In the 1990s, Dublin Corporation has responded to its exclusion from the CHDA project and from the CHDDA by instigating self-conscious changes to ensure it would never again be left out of urban regeneration projects in Dublin. The Corporation is attempting to re-position itself as the most competitive and democratically accountable agency to promote urban regeneration in Dublin. The IAP approach reflects just how far the Corporation has come since the first, UDC model of urban regeneration. The Corporation has a central role in the designation and adoption of each IAP within Dublin and is responsible for the planning and execution of each plan (in consultation with all local actors in the area).

The New Managerialism: Dublin Corporation as a Business

Dublin Corporation has adopted new managerial techniques as the primary means of re-positioning itself as the best agency to carry out urban regeneration in Dublin. Such techniques incorporate moves to make the Corporation more of a business and less like the traditional 'bureaucratic' local government institution. Business buzz words such as 'transparency', 'efficiency', 'effectiveness', 'competitiveness', and value for money pepper the language of many of the Corporation's official documents as well as the discourse of its staff (as gleaned from interviews with Corporation officials) (Bartley, Creamer and Treadwell, 1999). Changing governance dynamics (for example, the rise of partnerships, the melding of local development and local government structures, and a new targeted, area-based focus for service delivery) are a part of these changes and facilitate still further entrepreneurial changes.

The Corporation's new managerial techniques involve the dismantling of its internal hierarchical structure. A new structure will incorporate a 'management' tier that will co-ordinate all activities and a new area-based 'operational' tier that will execute policies and deliver services on a local area basis throughout Dublin City (cf. *Modernising Dublin Corporation* Sept. 1998). These practices are combined with a strong awareness that as a business the Corporation must be a more accountable and accessible organisation (as are reflected in moves towards new forms of governance). Officials now argue their 'customers' (no longer a paternalistic 'client' but not yet a 'consumer' of services) must get the best possible service, and must be an active part of that service (Bartley, Creamer and Treadwell 1999). However, serious doubts remain whether these

changes actually mean the Corporation is striving towards more accountable and inclusive forms of governance even as it adopts entrepreneurial practices, or whether the inclusion of 'customers' is superficial and in fact facilitates competitive advantage and urban development at the expense of local concerns.

The origin of change is one reason doubts remain about the direction of change within the Corporation. Corporation officials maintain that changes are originating from within Ireland or that they are *adaptations* from other models (especially American ones), observed and modified to fit the Irish situation (Bartley, Creamer and Treadwell 1999). As such the pro-active stance of the Corporation and its ability to initiate, direct, and manage change seems to ensure that it can achieve its objectives of inclusiveness and accountability on its own terms. However, external influences of change – especially from Australia/New Zealand and indirectly from America – can be clearly and directly linked to the changes in the Corporation. In particular, the Corporation's new managerial techniques can be traced back to a Department of the Taoiseach Report on Strategic Management initiatives. This report drew heavily upon neo-liberalist management changes in New Zealand's government to make similar recommendations for the Irish national government (see *Delivering Better Local Government*, May 1996). The changes in New Zealand can be further traced back to new management theories introduced in the USA in the 1980s, which theories are now being discounted there. While some Corporation officials were aware of the *Delivering Better Government* report, few could trace the link from that report back to New Zealand or to the USA. The management techniques now being adopted in Ireland are very similar to techniques now being discounted in the USA. Thus there remains serious questions as to whether the Corporation is merely responding to change (and hence not pro-actively initiating change on its own terms) or whether it is in fact directing change as its officials claim.

Conclusion

The delicate balance of *adaptive entrepreneurialism* requires a pro-active, long-term and strongly directed – yet, crucially, truly inclusive and participative – 'vision' of what is needed for Dublin, if promoting competitive advantage and democratic accountability are to co-exist. The Corporation seems to be asserting that it is accomplishing these changes, that it is moving towards a pro-active, business-like approach that nevertheless includes all stakeholders, even (and especially) at decision-making level (as seen in the establishment of the new County Development

Boards). Yet, external influences for change are being incorporated with little awareness of the origin of change. There are potentially serious effects of ever more competitive and targeted urban regeneration schemes as the primary means of promoting competitive advantage in Dublin (for example, increased social polarisation is a growing concern in regenerated areas). Thus close attention must be paid to how and why adaptive entrepreneurial changes that facilitate this competition are introduced. If they are not carefully identified and examined they could have potentially disastrous effects, especially for more inclusive and participative governance dynamics in a 're-imagined' Dublin City. Time will tell whether a truly sustainable, entrepreneurial, and *participative* Irish city has in fact emerged.

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PLACENAMES

Two tourists were driving through Wales. As they were approaching Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlilllantysiliogogoch they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town's name. They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch. As they stood at the counter, one tourist asked the blonde employee, "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are... very slowly?" The blonde girl leaned over the counter and said, "Burrrrrrrr...Gerrrrrrr...Kiiiiing."

The Accidental Tourist

FUTURE STORMS

Pleuntje Jellema, Dutch Socrates student

Inspired immensely by the sea
Or maybe just pretending to be
Daydreaming, romancing in the physical world
Lucky, lucky, lucky me

Money and goods, images and people
Diseases and drugs, guns and more trouble
Crossing the borders
We're getting the best
Lucky in the West

What about the rest?

History is still being made
Geography matters less each day
Seeing more of super stars
Than of our next door neighbours

Money and goods, images and people
Diseases and drugs, guns and more trouble
Is the windmill in position?
Are we ready for the storm?
Will we spin into the future?
Or will it all break and fall?

DUNGARVAN OBSERVER

5th January, 2025

MAYNOOTH STUDENTS DUN, NOT BY GARVAN, BUT BY FRAN AND SHELAGH!

On the weekend of October 8th to the 10th, of last year (2024), a group of 18 past students of the Department of Geography at NUI, Maynooth travelled to Dungarvan for a reunion (25years on). This was to catch up on old times and revisit the county town for which they had once proposed suggestions for the revamping and general environmental improvement of the town.

Travelling down, everyone was in jovial form, catching up on days gone by... finding out who was married, who was divorced, who was gay etc. One of the esteemed male members of the group, Mr. G. Ward (now a gate keeper at Dublin Zoo) stepped forward and read aloud the article that was once written by Prionnsias Breathnach (former Lecturer) and published in the Dungarvan Observer back in the year 2000. This brought back to many what Dungarvan once looked like all those years ago. Then Purcell, who had recently received a voice job, squeaked up from the back in a rather feminine tone "God, I wonder what its like now?" and then O'Connor quickly pounced in and "jokingly" replied "Yeah, they probably stole all our ideas, the b*****s"!



THEN.... As they arrived in Dungarvan, to their amazement, the town had been reconstructed and revamped to match exactly the set of proposals they had given, all those years ago. As Breathnach had written "as they only had one day to do this study, it was necessarily rather superficial". It was these so-called 'superficial plans', that, had to their astonishment become reality. The past students had felt in some way robbed and deceived, and so they have launched a case against Breathnach, Waddington and the Council. They have rightfully lashed

out at Waterford County Council, calling them 'crooks and thieves' and are demanding repayments and compensation for their input of ideas.

THE SQUARE.

Referring back to the report, the Square had been enhanced and made pedestrian friendly. The group had proposed to "install paving on either side of the central thoroughfare with trees, attractive lighting and a civic feature such as a statue, monument or sculpture". To their awe, all the features that had been suggested were now present, with a huge statue of Graham Gooch in the centre as hurling was no longer the principal sport in the town as Dungarvan was now the home of cricket. As the group drew closer to the statue they read the marble plaque which read, "Opened by Prionnsias Breathnach in 2015...before he fled the country". Wolfe Tone Road was made one way, which has, in reality solved the traffic problem in the town, thanks to the genius of the students.

GLANBIA SITE!

On the Glanbia site, there was massive shopping centre similar to that of the Liffey Valley in Leixlip, built back in the time of yore, otherwise known as 1999. Also present was a huge car park, which alleviated the traffic problem as had been suggested by the students in the previous century. The site also had direct link with the by pass which also helped in the regulating of traffic and compensated for the loss of car parking space in the Square. There was also a leisure club with a 50m swimming pool (first in Ireland), a residential site, an industrial site with 10 industries, with 9 dealing in computer software and one on hurling in sliotar manufacture, as the sport is rapidly declining in existence. Glanbia also possess its own research and development centre and has all the traits of being the first Silicon Valley to reach the British Isles.

LEGAL!

The case, to date has reached the high courts, however it has been suspended due to the absence of Breathnach and Waddington who are prime figures in the case and are requested to give evidence. When asked on the whereabouts of Mr. Breathnach, it was reported that he was 'living it up' in his 5-storey apartment in Palm Beach, Florida, with 5 'fornicating females' and his 9 cats! Efforts to contact the culprit have been unsuccessful. Waddington was last reported to be have been seen on the Jerry Springer show in March 2007,



speaking out as a lead member of an anonymous cult. This was after she took leave of absence in June 2003. One past student by the name of Grassick stated sternly that "they would not let the case lie until they get their just desserts and reap the benefits of what is truly theirs". Another named Staunton piped up and howled "We traveled to Dungaravn, we tramped the dilapidated streets, we revamped the Glanbia site, we injected life into the Square, we solved the traffic problem ---- NOT PRIONNSIAS OR SHELAGH! I mean could they be any more deceiving. We were the *masters* behind it all and we want our royalties." She then sublimated her fury by hammering a couple of innocent Waterford hurlers into a bloody pulp. The next hearing was scheduled for the July 31st 2025. However this too has been suspended as the majority of the past student class have not submitted their theses of 2000 and so the deadline has been extended. Some say this is due to the effect of the whole case. Others report that they are just not that academic! ---- Hey Dennis?

by Prof. Margaret Mulhall M.Skive & Dr. Rachel O'Connor Ph.Doss

EL NINO: A GLOBAL WEATHER PHENOMENON

Terence Doughan, First Arts.

In the context of weather and climate, the name El Nino refers to the warm ocean current that appears along the pacific coast of South America each year around December. In Spanish, El Nino means "the boy", a reference to the Christ child, because it occurs around Christmas time. Through close Observations made by geographers it is now known, that El Nino is the result of a Pacific Ocean oriented cycle that lasts from three to five years.

In the equatorial Pacific Ocean, the wind usually blows from the east to the west, dragging the surface water along in currents. The earth's rotation produces what is known as the Coriolis effect where the eastward-flowing water is deflected to the north in the Northern Hemisphere and to the south in the Southern Hemisphere. This creates a surface divergence along the equator that is filled by cold, nutrient-rich water moving up from the ocean floor, a process called upwelling which forms a cold water layer in the eastern pacific. As the warmer surface water is moved Westward by wind, a zone in the water column called the thermocline shows a sudden change in temperature with depth, separating the surface water from the colder water, which rises in the east and falls in the west. The easterly wind converges over the resulting warm water in the western Pacific, picking up large amounts of moisture, which ascends through the atmosphere by a process known as deep convection. Dry air subsides above the cold water layer and forms the walker circulation along the equator.

The El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), occurs primarily through the interaction between the winds in the atmosphere and the sea surface in the Pacific ocean. In an El Nino year the easterly wind weakens and the equatorial upwelling is suppressed. The most influential factor for this is that cumulus clouds, produced by the warm surface waters of the Pacific, move eastwards along the pacific altering the surface winds and weakening the prevailing east- to-west trade winds. The thermocline "flattens" and warm water surges eastward.

The easterly wind retreats and the westerly wind pushes the convection process to the East of the International Date Line. This displacement of the convection causes a change in traditional rainfall patterns and the release of large amounts of latent heat into the atmosphere. The subsequent energy propagates within the atmosphere, affecting the

weather patterns and disrupting the normal rhythm of life across the Pacific Ocean. The phenomenon occurred in 1988 where North America suffered an exceptionally dry summer while India experienced severe wet weather with the arrival of the monsoons. The phenomenon occurs as a result of the interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere. The ability to accurately predict El Nino would be of great benefit because steps could be taken to lessen the effects of devastation to many countries around the world.

THE INCORPORATION OF SUSTAINABLE CONCEPTS INTO IRISH TOURISM POLICY

Kevin A. Griffin, Staff.

Introduction

As an economic activity, tourism has considerable potential as a tool for regeneration, and it is because of this economic aspect that agencies involved in development (rural, urban, etc.) have taken an interest in the area of tourism development. Once promoted as a clean and harmless economic activity free from detrimental environmental impacts, in recent years this benign view of tourism has been increasingly questioned. Studies of various factors such as: the physical impact of walkers, litter and vehicles; the economic contribution of tourism in real terms; and the socio-economic impacts of tourism, have led to a more questioning attitude. Objective discussions of tourism and its impacts are well documented, and from these have evolved the concept of sustainable tourism.

In practical terms 'sustainable tourism' is a difficult concept to define, but, there are a number of indicators, which may be used to highlight characteristics of sustainable tourism. These include indices such as: size and pace of development; intensity of resource usage; type of tourist attracted; location; style of management and; integration with the community.

The Growth of Tourism and the Need for Sustainability

In 1978, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) claimed that tourism was one of the fastest growing economic sectors and had become an important component in the economic structure of a large number of countries (OECD, 1980). This report showed that international tourist

arrivals increased from 25 million in 1950 to 240 million persons per year in 1977.

Since then, growth has steadily continued, so that the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) estimated that annual world-wide tourist arrivals had reached 500 million in 1993 (European Commission, 1994). They estimate the domestic figures to be 10 times that number. Lane & Bramwell (in 1994) estimated that by the year 2000, tourism would be the world's largest single industry.

Owen, in 1992, claimed that tourism had become 'the largest single trade in the [EU]' (pg. 359). Since then there has been an annual world-wide growth rate of five to six percent per annum, and it was estimated that tourism would become the largest employer by the turn of the century (Johnson, 1999). Throughout the 1990s, the actual expansion of the industry was greater than the 4% predicted global growth rate, which was a main premise for planning in Irish tourism (Government of Ireland, 1993).

With regard to revenue, tourism is estimated to contribute approximately 5.5% of the European Union's GNP. In Spain and France the relative importance of tourism for GNP is approximately double the European average, and Greece, Portugal, and Ireland are also above average.

Academic Awareness of Tourism

Despite the economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts of tourism, it is only within recent years that scholars have begun to examine the richness and variety of this [tourism] phenomenon . . . a major industry that is destined to endure, providing personal satisfaction as well as global economic and social benefits . . . an activity [which] has been an integral part of human behaviour throughout history, taking on many forms as appropriate to a particular time and place (Smith, 1992: 197).

It is only in recent years there has been an increased awareness of the growing importance of tourism at local, regional and national levels. In 1989 Smith stated that it was only in the previous decade that tourism had come to be recognised as a 'formal specialisation' (Smith, 1989: 2). Jafari in 1992 stated that recognition of tourism as a topic for investigation among research and scholarly communities is on the rise with fields such as anthropology, economics, geography, marketing, psychology and sociology turning their attention to this socio-economic force or phenomenon.

Sustainable Tourism - The Theory

As stated, tourism was once promoted as a clean and harmless economic activity. Since the 70s this benign view of tourism has been increasingly questioned.

Discussions of the downside of tourism are well documented, and from these the tourism industry has been one of the prime movers in responding to measures such as 'Agenda 21' with the concept of sustainable tourism being foremost in tourism literature.

As much of the Tourism industry is dependent on the quality of the natural environment, degradation of these resources will inevitably mean a decline in the industry. Thus, it is in its own self-interest that tourism is in a central position in the sustainability debate. Unique natural habitats (such as the Burren), fragile archaeological features (i.e. the Skelligs) and walking trails ('the Wicklow Way'), are but a few of the environments at risk from the absence of, or poor quality of management. Risks from tourism are not only environmental. The economic, social and cultural stability of a tourism area can be at risk from outsiders seeking short-term gains or from powerful outside cultures.

Sustainability embraces more than just quality of environment and the use of resources. True awareness of sustainability must also include broader concepts such as equality of opportunity and access to decision making. Thus:

The whole tourism industry must be sustainable rather than just relying on 'eco-tourism' and other such environmentally friendly activities to ensure sustainability (Grant et al 1996).

Increased Tourism Pressure

There are a number of reasons why now more than ever, proponents of tourism development must consider sustainable management. As already mentioned, far larger numbers are now involved in tourism, this being accentuated by the following factors:

- Visitors can now penetrate any (and all) regions. This is facilitated by long haul flights, hire cars, and four wheel drive vehicles, together with encouragement from the media to visit the 'undiscovered'. The spread of car ownership and the international availability of car hire allows exploration by visitors beyond the once constraining factors of railway and other fixed means of transport.
- Tourism has developed away from spectacularly scenic areas into countryside of all types. In doing so tourism has broken away from large specialised resorts into small towns and villages. Agencies involved in rural development have responded to this by taking an interest in tourism, - mainly because of the potential which tourism has as a tool for economic regeneration.
- Tension exists between the forces seeking to fossilise and conserve the countryside and those

encouraging diversification to reverse rural decline (Lane and Bramwell, 1994).

Development must be sympathetic to all these factors

Principles of Sustainable Tourism

'Sustainable tourism' is a difficult concept to define in practical terms. It is not possible to do so solely by holiday type. There are however a number of indicators, which may be used to highlight characteristics of sustainable tourism: Intensity of use; location; style of management; integration with the community and other factors all play important parts. The following are a number of the 'key principles' of sustainable tourism development:

- Tourism should be developed at a pace and scale which respects the character of the area;
- Rather than 'mass tourism' - a high quality, value for money experience should be provided. i.e. quality not quantity;
- Tourism is a powerful economic activity, which brings tangible benefits to the host community and the visitor. Tourism however is not a cure-all and must form part of a balanced economy;
- Development should take cognisance of the host population, providing for local business and community participation in decision making, ownership, employment and general economic progress;
- Tourism offers a positive way of introducing investment employment and enterprise to the countryside. Long term economic benefit to the community as a whole should be sought rather than short term gain for a minority;
- Short-term considerations should not be adopted to the detriment of long-term ones. The environment is a main selling point in tourism, great care must therefore be taken in maintaining it. It must be remembered however that physical and cultural environments have intrinsic values, which surpass their values as purely tourism assets. The enjoyment of future generations must be accounted for (Owen *et al* 1993:464).

In the light of this literature on sustainability, and the theoretical awareness of sustainable principles, the question must be asked - how sustainable has Irish tourism development been, and what are the indications regarding its future? Does practical planning for tourism in an Irish context, meet the theory, or are theory and practice two disparate entities?

Irish Tourism Trends

Internationally, despite recent trends, the primary factors in the choice of a holiday destination are still 'the friction of distance and the lure of the sun' (Pollard, 1989: 301). Because of this, Ireland is at an immediate and considerable disadvantage. The

constraints of 'the most fickle of European climates' and the lack of 'cross border traffic' (Pollard, 1989: 301) are formidable obstacles to the exploitation of Mediterranean-style mass tourism. Despite this, however, Irish tourism has been a modest but 'conspicuous growth industry in much of the post-war period' (Brunt, 1988: 114).

In a number of articles, Gillmor (Gillmor, 1985, 1994(a) & 1994(b)) has outlined in detail the trends of Irish tourism from the 1960s to recent times.

Up to the early 1980s these trends can be summarised as follows:

- Growth both in numbers and revenue in the early 1960s;
- From 1969-72 numbers fell by one quarter and revenue also declined mainly due to terrorist violence;
- In the 1970s there was gradual recovery and growth;
- During the early 1980s global recession affected the industry, with both numbers and revenue falling. Therefore, from 1969 to 1984, while numbers had risen modestly, the actual revenue earned per visitor declined. Another significantly alarming fact was the loss of Ireland's international share of tourism. Deegan and Dineen (1993) have shown that over this period (1969-1984), Ireland's share of world arrivals fell from 1.98% to 0.75% and its share of European arrivals fell from 2.74% to 1.17% (Hannigan, K. 1995).

In the late 1980s this negative trend in Irish tourism was reversed with a rapid growth in visitor numbers and an increase in external revenue in real terms. In the latter years of the 1980s the real annual growth rate was as high as 9% which exceeded the world average by about one half (Gillmor, 1994 (b)). This upturn of Irish tourism in the late 1980s had its origins in a number of external and internal factors.

These include:

- changing tastes which have resulted in tourists turning away from sun holidays;
- global economic boom in the late 1980s;
- growing global demand for tourism;
- increased numbers of return visits by recent Irish emigrants of the mid 1980s and;
- low levels of inflation in the time period.

Between 1988 and 1999, tourist numbers to Ireland more than doubled (the number of overseas visitors to Ireland excluding visitors from Northern Ireland, rising from 2.4 million to 5.5 million). In the same period, revenue spent by overseas tourists rose from £593.8m to £1,704.2m (Bord Failte, 1999). This growth has arrested the 'almost continuous stagnation over the first six years of the 1980s' and truly reflects the improvements in the competitiveness and quality

of the product being offered in Irish tourism (Economist Intelligence Unit, 1991: 28). A number of Programmes for the development of the Irish economy have had a strong bearing on this growth of tourism. The following sections deal with various aspects of these programmes, focusing on the issue of sustainability in the planning process.

First Operational Programme, 1989-93

Meldon, in her investigation of EU Structural Funds in Ireland (particularly the First Operational Programme, 1989-93) found that the operation of the funds was incompatible with the concept of sustainable development. In examining the Operational Programme for Tourism she found that the overriding objective was job creation, with little emphasis on conserving / enhancing the natural and cultural environment which forms the very resource on which the industry depends.

Specific problems she identified were:

- **Inadequate monitoring** of the environmental impact of developments once they have got under way.
- **Absence of co-operation** and linkages between state agencies (national and local) - Particular problem in Ireland because of centralised nature of bureaucracy and lack of co-ordination between different branches.
- **State Developments were outside the normal planning machinery** of the state (this problem has subsequently resolved).
- Despite EU environmental concerns it is administratively quite **difficult to stop the flow of funds** to projects which have previously been sanctioned but which subsequently turn out to be damaging to the environment (Meldon, ?)

Second Operational Programme, 1994-1999

Despite critiques of the first Operational Programme which called for a more sustainable approach, the primary goal of the Second Operational Programme for Tourism was:

to maximise Ireland's tourism potential, thereby increasing tourism revenue and tourism employment.

The 'Key Targets' were to increase:

- Foreign Exchange Earnings
 - Achieve £2,250 million per year by 1999
- Employment Creation
 - Create 35,000 jobs
- Extension of tourism Season
 - Achieve 75% of tourists outside July-Aug (Then 70%)

It is in the secondary goals that the concept of sustainable development appears. These are to:

- Expand develop and market tourism in accordance with identified market demand, having full regard for the need to conserve and protect the natural heritage.

- Improve quality of service through training
- Improve value for money (Government of Ireland, 1994).

Most of the Programme targets have been reached (see the following table), but yet again, despite the lip-service paid to sustainability, the official evaluations of this Programme, would appear to be focusing on economic indicators, with the official documentation reminding us that:

Tourism one of fastest growing sectors in the economy (Bord Failte, 1999)

Achievements of Second Operational Programme for Tourism 1993-1999			
	1993	1999 Target	1999 Forecast
Foreign Exchange Earnings (£m)	1,367	2,250	2,450
Tourism Job Equivalents ('000)	94	123	133
Seasonality (% Tourist Numbers per Seasonal category)			
Peak (Jul./Aug.)	30	25	27
May / Jun / Sept	30	34	30
Off Peak	40	41	43

Source: Government of Ireland, 1999

Looking to the future - National Development Plan 2000-2006

While previous plans were designed to draw down EU Structural and Cohesion Funds, the 1999 Plan, is primarily seen as an assessment of the development needs of Ireland, which builds on present strengths (Government of Ireland, 1999). Perhaps the more central position of sustainability might lead to the undertaking of this Plan in a more enlightened manner.

The objectives of the Plan are given as:

- Continuing sustainable national economic and employment growth
- Consolidating and improving Ireland's international competitiveness
- Fostering balanced Regional Development
- Promoting Social Inclusion

In this Plan tourism forms an important element. Due to the structure of the Operational Programmes within the plan, the relative importance of the tourism industry is more difficult to ascertain. For example the plan has a strong 'regional' element, where tourism acts as an important tool for:

- Facilitating spatially balanced economic growth
- Promoting rural development
- Promoting social inclusion

It is envisaged that it will help rural communities by:

- Providing employment and
- Providing alternatives to agriculture

In other areas of the National Development Plan, a new language is appearing to support these sustainable ideals: Employment policies are being 'attuned' to the needs of the labour market, with tourism promoting 'equal opportunity' in employment. Not only this, but the North-South integration of tourism is seen as a means of fostering co-operation and cross-border initiatives (Government of Ireland, 1999).

Conclusion

What we see when we examine Irish tourism policy documents, since 1989, is a gradual acceptance of the principles of sustainable tourism. A slow movement towards a socially aware means of development, which accounts for the broad range of social, cultural environmental and economic impacts of tourism. Is it too much to accept the ideas of Fennell who proposes, that the sustainable debate is:

creating the impetus for structural change within society, one that ventures away from a strictly socio-economic focus to one where development 'meets the goals of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (Fennell, 1999:13, citing World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987: 43).

i.e. are we heading towards an approach to tourism which is truly sustainable? To answer this question, we must wait and see what the future holds.

Note:

A number of the journal articles used in the production of this paper may be found on the Sciencedirect website, which is currently available to the Library at:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

(Select *Group-wide* Login and then select the *Journals* link)

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RELIGION AS A FACTOR IN THE POST-YUGOSLAV CONFLICTS.

Adrian Kavanagh, PhD Research.

Introductory Remarks

In trying to account for the outbreak of different conflicts across the globe, one of the factors that often figures prominently is that of religion. For a number of different religions, warfare has been intrinsically linked with them from their very foundations. Down through history, religious motivations for entering into a conflict have included:

- a desire to control a site or territory that holds special religious significance for your nation or ethnic group,
- a desire to convert a region to your own religion by "forced conversion",
- an effort to avoid assimilation into another religion by resisting a conquering army of another faith, or else by engaging in a war of liberation against occupiers of another religion.

Often conflicts, deemed to be mainly religious in cause, were shown, on closer examination, to be mainly economic, territorial or political in origin (Callaghan, 1992, 9). Such a tendency still holds today, even though it would be thought that religion, as a factor, would have declined in a secularised postmodern society. Many analysts, however, have noted that secularisation appears to be mainly a factor impacting, to varying degrees, on only North America and Western Europe, and some have spoken of a 'desecularisation' occurring in the more peripheral parts of the globe. Moreover, in times of crisis, change and indeed conflict, religion has often been seen as "returning to the fore", as was the case with the Former Yugoslavia. While, in general, it could be claimed that neither faith nor theology lead to war, one must note that religion is by no means a secondary factor in many unstable situations leading to conflict situations (Riccardi, 1997, 72-73). Häring (1997, 94) admits that religion can lead to violence – albeit only when it is associated with other factors – and that such outbreaks of violence are further fuelled when religions are misused and misdirected, either by extrinsic or intrinsic forces.

Religious Conflict in the Former Yugoslavia

The former Yugoslavia was the meeting place of three of the world's major religious traditions: Islam (Bosnians, Albanians and those in the Sandzak region), Orthodoxy (Serbs, Macedonians and Montenegrins), and Catholicism (Croats, Slovenes and Hungarians). Crnonbrnja (1996, 19) illustrates the

complex religious geography of the former Yugoslavia in the following comment:

"Generally speaking, the farther north and west one goes in what was Yugoslavia, the more solidly the population is Catholic. Conversely, the further east and south one goes, the more solidly the population is Orthodox. The central part of the country – Bosnia and Herzegovina – is where the three religions meet and mingle, where it is not unusual to see the churches, mosques, and religious shrines of all three next to each other."

Huntington (1993, 22), hypothesised, in the wake of the Cold War and the ideological conflicts associated with it, that most future conflicts would occur along fault-lines between civilisations. Within civilisations and on their borders, he saw coming wars as being fought between discrete cultural and ethnic groups (Volf, 1997, 32). He conceives the most significant fault-line in this regard as being that which separates Protestant or Catholic Western Europe from Orthodox and Islamic Eastern Europe, a historical fault line has bisected Europe for almost 1,500 years, ever since the partitioning of the Roman Empire between two Emperors; one based in Rome and the other in Constantinople. He noted that this line separates Slovenia and Croatia from the rest of Europe, although he omits the fact that this line also passes directly through Bosnia-Herzegovina (Geller and Singer, 1998, 105). Adapting his arguments, we can view the fault-lines separating the different religious traditions of Yugoslavia as being one of the interlinking set of factors that sparked off the conflicts there. Moreover, as religion has a role to play in differentiating between different civilisations or cultures, it is likely that religion should prove a key factor to consider in studying causal scenarios for potential political conflict, in the light of Huntington's hypothesis.

The Post-Yugoslav conflicts can hence be placed in the context of being another example of the wars that have arose, either directly or indirectly, in the wake of the schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions in 1054. It is salient to note here the claims of Lieven (1999, 549) that there is an increasing sense of the Orthodox world becoming culturally and economically peripheral to the core regions of the global economy and civilisation. He claims that the current NATO action against Serbia placed in such a context will breed alienation and anti-Western activities in the Orthodox countries, hence deepening the split between them and the more prosperous Catholic and Protestant parts of Europe.

Religion and Ethnic Identity in the Former Yugoslavia

Many commentators have portrayed the main cause of the Yugoslav conflicts as being ethnic-based nationalism, although often this can be to discount more important factors such as economics and politics. Distinct religious histories, related myths, symbols and sacred sites are factors that can help to build up ethnic solidarity among a group, although this sense of cultural distinctiveness that is created can also have led to the isolating of those outside that religious sphere. In the former Yugoslavia religion was employed as a means of engineering a sharper sense of ethnic identity, thus intensifying the different ethnic groups' sense of separateness and adding fuel to the forces sparking off the conflicts. Riccardi (1997, 76) argues that with the decline in ideology in the wake of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, religion was once again allowed to become the prime element of national identity for the different Yugoslav national groups. It is hardly coincidental, considering religion's ability to evoke differences between people, which all the conflicts in the Former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, apart from the internal conflict amongst the Bosnian Muslims in the Bihac Pocket in 1994-95, were between nations of different religions. It is useful to focus on how religion had a role in enhancing the different ethnic groups' identities.

Serbia: Of all the sides in the Yugoslav conflicts, the Orthodox Serbs probably have the strongest sense of connection to their religion. After the defeat of the Serbian Empire at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, the main vehicle for preserving the Serbian people's sense of identity, while under Turkish authority, was the Orthodox clergy. The other means was mythic poetry. The most famous example of this was *The Mountain Wreath* - written by Njegos, an Orthodox Bishop - which glorified the notion of national conflict. The strong link between the Orthodox faith and Serb identity has seen Serb Orthodoxy as being very tied to nationalism, as Judah (1997, 64-65) illustrates with the following encounter between the Bishop of London and a Serbian Bishop, Duhitch in the early twentieth century:

"'You are very fortunate', said the Bishop of London, 'in your people. I am told they are very devout.'

'Yes' said Mr. Duhitch. 'In Serbia we do not trust too much to God. We prayed God five centuries to free us from the Turks, and finally took guns and did it ourselves!'"

Croatia: The Croats have historically perceived themselves as Catholicism's last bastion; a fortress against competing waves of Islam and Orthodoxy

respectively. The Catholic Church has been seen as an important part of Croat identity, especially during the Titoist period where it was the sole voice opposing Communist repression within Croatia. Silber and Little (1996, 83) noted a swelling of interest in the Catholic church in parallel to the resurgence of nationalism in Croatia in the late 1980s. They viewed this as linked to the Croats' desire to assert their cultural distinctiveness from the Serbs, as opposed to a significant growth in faith. The fact that the most Catholic of all the Croats - those in Western Herzegovina - also proved to be the most nationalistic would seem to uphold this point. Elements in the Catholic Church in Croatia were accused of being too supportive of the Tadjman-led HDZ government. Some probably feared a return to power of former Communists, which was as it transpires to a certain degree valid as the Social Democrats, the successors to the old Croatian Communist party, are a key element in the new coalition government ruling Croatia in the wake of the January 2000 elections.

Bosnia: The other ethnic groups involved in the conflicts tended to be more secular in their outlook, although it is interesting to note that as the conflicts progressed that their religious senses increased. The once secularised Bosnian Muslim underwent a process of reislamisation due to their experience of the conflict - a shift that Vrcan (1995, 66) viewed in terms of there being an increasing rigidity of the Islamic dimensions of the Bosnian state. However it is unlikely that the Bosnian Islamic community will become a fundamentalist one.

Religion and Propaganda in the Former Yugoslavia

Religion during conflicts can also be used as a means of intensifying loyalty to the cause involved. Religious imagery, language, or authority are often utilised to "dehumanise" the foe, so as to increase the citizenry's commitment to the conflict. Often the real causes of a conflict can be masked by resorting to such means to such an extent that it becomes seen as a Holy War or *jihad* in the eyes of your people or the international community. Religion was employed in the recent Yugoslav conflicts to demonise one's military opponents, as well as to draw support from those of a similar religious grouping. In Eastern Bosnia, the Serb leadership encouraged the people to take part in the conflict against the Bosnian Muslims by warning of the alleged (and unfounded) Muslim plans to launch a *jihad* against them. Such warnings were engineered by the Milosevic regime in Belgrade and its unscrupulous allies in the Bosnian Serb leadership, as well as through the machinations of the Serb media. The influence of the Serb media was

most apparent in the broadcasts of Radio Television Belgrade and their continuous warnings of a fundamentalist jihad in the months leading up to the outbreak of hostilities in Bosnia, which had the effect of creating, as Malcolm (1994, 237) terms it, a "psychology of terror" amongst the ordinary Bosnian Serb population. This drove them to believing that the threats "were real" and that they "had to defend themselves against their Muslim neighbours".

Sacred Space and the Post Yugoslav conflicts

The notion of "sacred space" is another contribution that religion has made towards a geographical understanding of the causes of the conflicts in the Former Yugoslavia. The prime example of this lies in the Serbs perceptions of Kosovo. For them, Kosovo is sacred ground, perceived as being the *cradle of their civilisation*; having the same importance that Jerusalem has for the Jews. Moreover, the seat of the Serb Orthodox patriarchy is located there (in Pec), while there are also a number of important medieval monasteries located in the province. The "sacredness" of Kosovo largely arises out of the myths built up around the Battle of Kosovo Polje in 1389. The Serbs look on as this as a heroic defeat; one that was to spell the end of the medieval Serb Empire and result in centuries of Turkish rule. This battle has been commemorated by the Serbs ever since as a tragic and heroic event (Klemenic, 1998, 52) and hence has proven the key constituent of a Serb perception of history as a centuries long "martyrology of the Serbian people" (Vrcan, 1995, 65). This has fed into a fortress mentality and resulted in the development of certain isolationist tendencies amongst the Serbs, as were apparent in the past few years. A good description of what this myth has entailed for the Serbs, and how it links into certain conflict causing scenarios, is offered by Klemencic (1998, 52) who states that:

"The 'Kosovo myth' has been a critical part of the Serbian collective psyche and historical consciousness. It represents a collection of quasi-historical and poetic reminiscences about the Serbian medieval state and fighting against the Ottoman Empire. The myth concerns struggle against the odds, and is rehashed every time the Serbs go to war."

Houtart (1997,6) also refers to the notion of "sacred space". He views the religious aspects of the Post Yugoslav conflicts as showing how fidelity to one's own religious traditions led to a desire for the

¹ Actually the battle ended technically in a draw and an autonomous Serb state continued, although weakened, until 1459

reconquest of territory thought necessary to the very existence of the group's specific religious character. He also mentions the involvement of European geopolitics in the conflict in this regard. The desire of the Vatican and the European Catholic powers that there would be a belt of Catholic countries from the Baltic to the Adriatic, which would act as a bulwark against both Communism and Orthodoxy, is noted by him. The over hasty recognition of Slovenia and Croatia by the Vatican, Germany and Austria is hence readily explicable in such a context. (While Germany's majority religion is Lutheranism, most of the German political elite's support base at that time came from Bavaria and the Rhineland, areas which are Catholic.)

Final Notes

Two other religious aspects demand attention. One is the common practice during the post-Yugoslav conflicts for the vanquished side's religious buildings (such as Mosques and Churches) to be destroyed by the conquering armies. This was partly in order to undermine their sense of identity and encourage them to leave the area, thus constituting a "voluntary" form of ethnic cleansing. It also had the effect of acting to wipe away all physical traces of that ethnic group ever having been in that territory. Finally it is interesting to note that the most loyal foreign allies of the different combatants usually were of the same religion as them. The Croats were supported mainly by Germany, Austria and the Vatican, those who were most sympathetic towards the Serbian cause were Russia and Greece, while support for the Bosnian Muslims was mainly rooted in the Islamic world.

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IRISH POSTGRADUATE TRAINING CONSORTIUM

Ann Coughlan, Postgraduate Research

The inaugural Irish Postgraduate Training Consortium took place in Bellinter House, Navan, between 28th and 30th January. Many thanks are due to all staff who participated in the event, including Rob Kitchin and Paddy Duffy of NUI Maynooth. Special thanks are due to Gerry Kearns (Cambridge) and Danny McCarroll (Swansea) for their very interesting lectures on operationalising theory and on constructing hypotheses, respectively, as well as to Paddy, Stephen Royle (Queens University Belfast), and Mick Healy (Mary Immaculate College, Limerick) for chairing sessions, sharing ideas and offering advice.



Very special thanks are due to Rob Kitchin (Maynooth) and Denis Linehan (Cork) for seeing the idea of the IPTC through to its realisation (no mean feat!). I think that everybody will agree that they gave generously of their time and energy throughout the weekend to ensure that everybody benefited.

It is hoped to encourage further support for the IPTC. The more Postgrads and Staff who attend, the more successful the event will be. All Postgrads (and especially those in the earlier stages of their research) should be encouraged to attend.

Thanks again to Rob and Denis for getting the IPTC up and running - it's up to us all now to ensure its survival.

FUNNIES

The Accidental Tourist

Cloning

A rich Kerry Agricultural Geographer decided to have himself cloned. After a long and expensive development process a clone was created and specially matured. Unsurprisingly, it turned out to be an exact physical duplicate of the man. Mentally, however, something went wrong, and all the clone could do was spew forth the most vile language and filthy profanities (unlike the nice polite Kerry man of course).

After a couple of weeks of putting up with this torrent and trying to find out if the clone could respond or be somehow healed or repaired, the Kerry man decided to cut his losses. He took the clone up into the mountains (of assorted slates, shales and old red-sandstone), went to the edge of a steep cliff and pushed the clone over the edge.

A policeman, called Fealy, popped out from behind a tree - as they do in Kerry - and said, "I'm afraid you're under arrest Sir. I'm going to have to ask you to come with me". The Kerry man sighed, "Look, officer, it isn't what it looks like. I didn't murder anyone; that wasn't a real person". The officer shook his head. "I didn't say anything about murder, Sir...I'm arresting you for making an obscene clone fall."

Answer to Prayer

The *Milieu* Editor was hunting for deer in the forest when he stumbled across a big, mean-looking, hungry bear. He took off like an arrow, running for his life. The bear chased him. When the Editor came to a cliff, with nothing beneath but rocks, he prayed to God: "Dear Lord. Please give this bear some religion." Suddenly there was darkness and lightning, The bear came to an abrupt stop, looked up to heaven and said: "Thank you for the food I'm about to receive...Amen".

The Physical Geographer

A successful physical geographer (now you know this is fictitious) parked his brand-new Porsche in front of the office, ready to show it off to his department. As he got out, a truck came along, too close, and completely tore off the driver's door. The physical geographer immediately grabbed his mobile phone, dialled 999, and it wasn't more than 5 minutes before a Garda pulled up.

Before the Garda had a chance to ask any questions, the physical geographer started screaming hysterically. His car, which he had just picked up the day before, was now completely ruined and would never be the same, no matter how the body shop tried

to make it new again - it's depreciation and devaluation would never recover.

After the physical geographer finally wound down from his rant, the Garda shook his head in disgust and disbelief. "I can't believe how materialistic you physical geographers are," he said. "You are so focused on your possessions that you don't notice anything else." "Och, how can you say such a thing?" asked the physical geographer arrogantly. The Garda replied, "Didn't you know that your left arm is missing from the elbow down? It must have been torn off when the truck hit you."

"Damn!!!!!!!" screamed the physical geographer. "Where's my Rolex?"

MY GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Shelagh Waddington, Staff

The 'trippers' [my husband and I] left Maynooth by taxi on the day after term ended in December 1999. The other members of the household were experiencing rural tourism - the cats had gone to Carbury to stay at a cattery in the countryside. My first observation was that it was dark at 5.30 a.m. in December (and quite cold). We flew via Heathrow (where we collected the oldest member of our group [my Mother]) to Bangkok. It is also dark in Bangkok at 5.30 a.m. - is this some sort of regular occurrence? We took careful observations of the climate - it was much warmer than Maynooth. Once we had carried out a recognition test - i.e. claimed out baggage we then did a brief survey of tourist accommodation in the city [we checked into our hotel]. After a period spent reviewing our learning experience so far [we went to sleep] we carried another survey of tourist facilities [we went looking for the coffee shop to get lunch]. Refreshed, we began the serious part of the visit - a map exercise [we went to look around part of the city]. We found [located] lots of temples and various palaces and other impressive buildings. As part of our cultural geography studies we researched the reason why the citizens were apparently obsessed with displaying pictures of the King. He appeared in formal dress, casual dress, uniform, visiting the country, with his family, etc., etc. He had recently celebrated his 72nd birthday and 12th cycle. This was not related to exercise, but in Thailand every 6th year is regarded as an important one, so 6 x 12 was regarded as particularly auspicious [who says geographers can't do maths!]. After an evening meal eaten outside on a terrace beside the river, Mammy proposed some further cultural geography - a survey of the nightlife. We felt that somebody had to uphold the proud standards of Maynooth - so we went for a walk. After almost being run down during a survey of

traffic patterns [crossing the street], we decided to return to our hotel for a quiet night.

On the following day we carried out some more cultural and tourism geography field work - visiting temples, canals and seeing a wide variety of sights. We also did some practical hydrology as we went on boats on the river and canals. The wash from larger boats rocked us, but fortunately we avoided testing the water quality - we weren't overturned.

After our stop over in Bangkok, the field trip moved on to Australia. Yet again, we received confirmation that it is dark at 6.00 a.m., but the temperature was much higher than in Maynooth!. Our first task was a recognition exercise - it was about 12 years since we had seen our relatives and we had to find them in a very crowded arrivals area in an airport where passenger announcements are not made. Fortunately, we were successful and went on to study the geography of suburban Sydney [we went to the home of our relatives] and then had a period of reflection on our learning to date [more sleep]. I wanted to do a survey of the shopping facilities in Sydney before Christmas, but was persuaded to enjoy some alternative fieldwork instead. On Christmas Eve we drove to a nearby suburb and observed (?) geography. All the residents in one street had decorated their houses and gardens with lights, Santas, reindeer, etc. At one house a carol concert was taking place and at another Santa sat outside in a 'Grotto'. We were told that Santa was the most miserable old grouch for the rest of the year but he loved Christmas. Everybody was having a great time and what was strangest to the party, was the possibility of being outside on Christmas Eve wearing a tee shirt, without being regarded as crazy.

On Christmas Day a cultural myth was exploded - not all Australians eat hot turkey and Christmas pudding on the beach. Actually it rained at lunchtime and we couldn't even sit out in the garden - so we felt really at home! On St. Stephen's Day we did some coastal geomorphology - we went to Sydney harbour and went out on a Pilot Boat to watch the start of the Sydney-Hobart yacht race. We observed that there was sand on the beaches and waves on the sea. We also noted a particular feature of the Watson's Bay area - the Gap - not the clothes shop but high cliffs which are Sydney's prime suicide spot [is this an important factor on coastal deposition?].

Our next geographical topic was a specialised form of field study. We were interested in special types of agricultural enterprise, and so we went to visit the vineyards in the Hunter Valley. Purely in the interests of determining how soil type and climate conditions affect crops we tested a number of wines. This is an

area of study which I feel should be developed further in the future by the group.

On New Year's Eve we again decided to carry out some coastal research and spent more time at Watson's Bay - the alternative was a traffic survey from the centre of a traffic jam if we had decided to go to the Harbour later in the day. In the evening we found out that it gets dark in Australia [more geography]. The climatology study group observed that there is also wind (especially noticeable if you are on a boat) and that it becomes colder after dark. At midnight the Sydneysiders decided to carry out their own climate experiments - there were a large number of rockets fired off to explore the atmosphere and we all toasted their successful flight. Afterwards we spent a long time looking in detail at some areas of Sydney - as we waited in the traffic jams to get back to the house.

During the rest of the field trip, the party explored the urban geography of Sydney - I got to go shopping! We studied patterns of emigration - met some Maynooth graduates by chance in a department store and generally researched the geography of an Australian city and its surroundings before returning home to discover that it was still dark in the early morning. The big disappointment of the trip was that I never really did confirm that bath water swirls in the opposite direction in the Southern Hemisphere - our bedroom had a shower! Other wise it was a wonderful field trip and one which I would recommend to any aspiring geographer - perhaps next year's long field trip!

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AMSTERDAM FIELDTRIP THROUGH BRENDAN BARTLEY'S EYES

Mar 3rd, 09.30hrs: All students manage to arrive on time at the airport...seem like a real quiet bunch...should have no problems.

Mar 4th, 08.30hrs: Breakfast at the WHY Boulevard Hotel...bread and cheese! Not my idea of a breakfast...as bad and all as Marie is, she'd make better!!!

12.00hrs: I am starving!!!

20.30hrs: Damn, we only had a two hour discussion!

Mar 6th, 11.00hrs: I feel terrible...I lied...I told the lady at the Museum the Gang were under 17!

13.00hrs: I lied again.

Mar 8th, 09.00hrs: Rob told me I missed nothing in O'Reillys last night...however, I don't believe him, he's having trouble remembering it!!!

10.00hrs: Missed out on the Heineken Brewery...I don't mind...but lads upstairs aren't impressed...

00.30hrs: Rob still not home!!!

Mar 9th, 07.30hrs: Trying to get Rob up.

13.00hrs: Had a nice meal...can't find Rob.

17.00hrs: On the way back to Amsterdam...where is Rob?

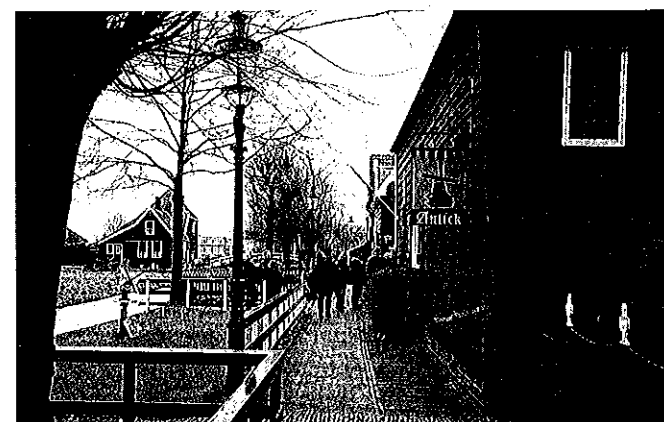
18.30hrs: No feedback tonight...WHY???

Mar 10th, The return to "maynood". Glad to be home!!! To round it off, one final joke...here goes...WHY did the Chicken cross the road??? We have to ask the question, what was the chicken doing at the edge of the road...WHY but WHY did he want to cross the road...

Maura Murphy, Clare Hayes, Joanne Young



Like Napoleon, Rob surveys all he has conquered...



"Shafting" some antiques out the back door...

MORE FROM AMSTERDAM...

"We found that the (Ajax) Stadium was not only historically informative but geographically the stadium is spatially compact." B.Flood, S.King, C.McMorow, D.Kelly

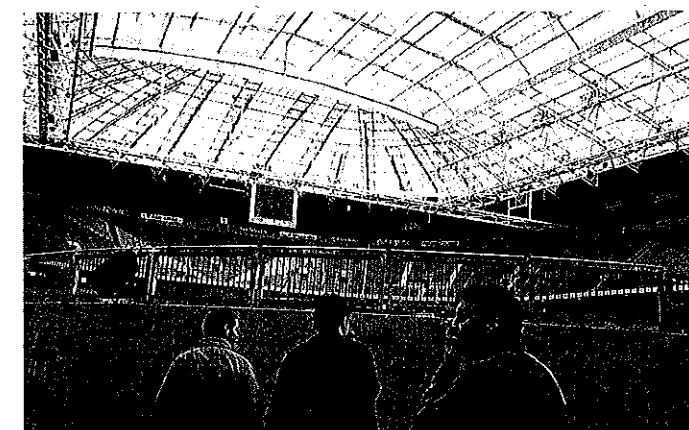
"On the trip itself we found ourselves getting to bed at 3am and having to get up then at 8am to a traditional Dutch breakfast of a choice between bread and ham or bread and cheese. It begs the question; What do the Dutch get in jail?" Adrian Ormsby

"I don't exactly know the difference between Pilsner and Lager, but Rob tried to enlighten us on this phenomenon. Firstly, the tap system in Holland is different. I don't know exactly how but it causes more carbon dioxide in the pints than is normally seen in Maynooth..." Paul Gannon

"The difference in cultural and geographical planning was very visible in comparison to Dublin. The weather was somewhat changeable however, it was predominated by overcast skyline and intermittent precipitation. Which had an effect on our ability to function properly (suppose the drink and the lack of sleep did not help either). C. Cullen, R. Halligan and E. Coady

"On the trip we were told to ask "Why?", yet the answer to why this country is so strange I shall never know. However that leads on to the question of why do I consider it strange, or is it the way the rest of us are living that is strange? I won't expand on that a sit would develop into an endless circle of "WHY?"s Róisín Stenning

"We learn to think in a geographical sense and to ask ourselves a number of key questions: 1. Why?, 2. What is this here for?, 3. Where are we going? Padraig Seery



Ajax Stadium brings one poor soul to tears....



Students without alcohol! Something must be wrong!

DESPERATELY SEEKING HOLLAND

Brian Conway, 2nd Arts.

This is a reflection on my wanderings and thoughts on Tuesday 7th of March. So be afraid...be very afraid. Well the day began with a choice of going to Ajax or staying around the Centrum and shopping and doing whatever. So I decided to explore Amsterdam. My objective was clear and noble; to find the real Holland. I left for this expedition with a Snickers Bar and a Walkman. Dave Matthews would be the soundtrack to success. So I left the hotel at 9.30...ish. Real Holland here I come, I thought. I had had enough of the touristy Amsterdam. The sights of clogs and that strange, strange blue and white delph was enough to drive me mad.

So I set off to the centre of the Centrum. At the end of the row of houses, on which our hotel was, is a building with many faces carved into it. But not a single eye on that building contained an iris. Why is that? So I turn onto the Main Street. McDonalds, KFC and other universally American fast food joints un down the street. Nope, this is not the real Holland, my brain profoundly proclaims. Borrowing from a great thinker I threaten to stab my brain with a Q-Tip if it says something so stupid again. So undeterred I continue my ramble up the street, hoping that I will leave the tourist madness behind. As I walk, I look at the restaurants: there are Chinese, Italian, Mexican and ethnic foods from the Middle East. Where is the Dutch food? Italian tourists must like Italian food while away. This probably must be the same of every nationality. So this street is catering (bad joke) for the tourist market. I turn the corner and am confronted with a big palace, a royal palace. So I attempt to cross the road, to take a look. A piercing Ring. Ring hits me. It can only mean one thing, a bike. Or, as I come to think of them, silent death on two wheels. As we know the trams ere silent death on more than two wheels. I love that infrastructure.

Then I decide to wander into the great unknown. Away from the Centrum. To where the true, real Holland must lie. My imagination casts me into the role of a great explorer. I'm doing the equivalent of finding a Western route to the Spice Islands. Going where the signs say "Here lie monsters". I hope the signs say here live the Dutch. So I boldly strike away from the familiar souvenir shops. As I walk, the shops actually get useful. There are actually hardware shops and supermarkets. A sprinkling of music and book shops. Things people would actually need and use. Real Holland? The street signs start to fade from English to Dutch. The number of buzzers on front doors increases, as do the number of satellite dishes.

Excellent, a residential area with houses, only a few restaurants and no English. Okay it's time to admit that I'm lost and don't speak Dutch. The road signs don't even say Centrum anymore! So I turn and look for a lovely souvenir. I wouldn't even mind seeing the Centraal Station even though it has an extra "a". Then a bizarre thought hits me. It's bad enough being dyslexic in English but Dutch uses so many vowels, and the words are so long, that it would be much harder. Now I am no longer an explorer but someone who is sold into slavery if I don't find my way back. I love my imagination, it could paralyse me with fear. When in doubt, act! Advice from a long-forgotten teacher comes flooding back to me. I walk for a time, then my peripheral vision catches a glimpse of red on a shop front. Logic screams "Multinational!" to me. It's a HMV. I'm safe once more, back in homogenous culturally paralysed pseudo-America. So I buy a CD to celebrate the fact that I have not been sold into slavery.

But I was looking in the wrong place to find the real Holland. It was looking at the commercial to try to find the cultural. We discovered great representations of Holland in the Rijkmuseum and in the Zeiderzee museum. The Culture is the people and the short length of time there only gave us limited exposure. So we only got a glimpse of Dutch culture.

8 SAYINGS YOU NEVER SEE ON THOSE OFFICE INSPIRATIONAL POSTERS - QUIZ. (*Accidental Tourist*)
These are written for an office environment (nice Geographical reference there), but can you match the suitable member(s) of department, or student(s) in your class in each case? They have a particular relevance for Third Years who carried out Group Project work. First prize is a used Teabag, to be claimed from the Editor. Note: only entries written on a £5 note will be accepted - no closing date.

- Rome did not create a great empire by having meetings, but by killing all who opposed them.
- If you can stay calm, while all around you is chaos...then you probably haven't completely understood the seriousness of the situation.
- Doing a job RIGHT the first time gets the job done. Doing the job WRONG fourteen times gives you job security. (or perpetual Postgrad life)
- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- TEAMWORK...means never having to take all the blame yourself.
- The beatings will continue until morale improves.
- Hang in there, retirement is only thirty years away!
- A snooze button is a poor substitute for no alarm clock at all.

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