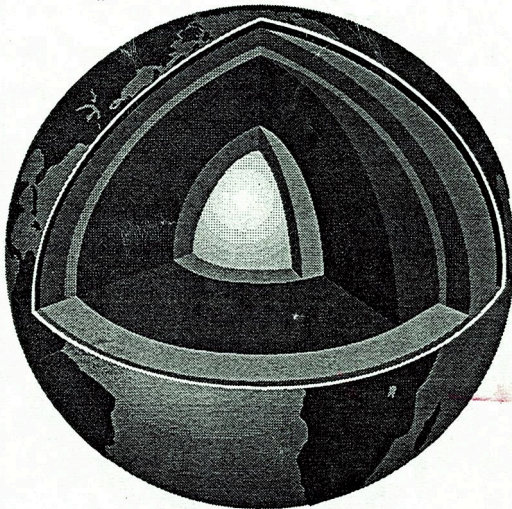


Journey To The Centre Of The Earth

Millionaire Eccentric Colin Newman In The News Again

Boston and Perth. Although these two cities are both blessed with IONA offices, they are quite literally world's apart. For Boston and Perth are almost exactly diametrically opposed on the earth's surface. Get a globe and try this for yourself, it's true. This exciting discovery has led **Colin Newman** on yet another crusade - to link the two offices 'as the crow flies' - through the earth's core!

Colin explains; "I suppose really it's not 'as the crow flies', it's 'as the worm, or mole, burrows'. But anyway, that's the plan". This latest scheme will involve digging a tunnel direct from Boston to Perth through which sales staff can quickly and easily pass in search of a new lead. "In fact", Colin explains, "they could probably just jump down the hole, and let simple harmonic motion do the work for them. They would come to rest just beneath the Australian surface. Obviously we would build a bar for them to grab onto, and stairs up to the top".



The Centre Of The Earth

It all seems beautifully simple, but there are problems in the pipeline, quite literally! Speaking through his Mormon spokesman, Chris Horn told I-contact "temperatures at the centre of the world are quite hot. A salesperson travelling through this heat runs a risk of emerging all hot and sweaty for a key meeting, and no-one wants that. My plan to relaunch the 'Spruce Goose' is an infinitely preferable solution to our global travel problems".

Colin, however, is unimpressed with these arguments. "We can have a little hatch in the office in Boston, which we can drop down to get to Perth. At the moment the only thing going through the floor is the share price and that's hardly good for company morale". Plans for a second tunnel linking Dublin and San Francisco have not been ruled out, although company engineers are concerned about the possible confusion arising from **Paul Donnelly's** head being in Dublin whilst his feet occupy the San Francisco office.



Colin Newman, Yesterday

Naturally enough, the plan has met with some traditional stiff opposition from the usual suspects. **Sean Baker**, always first in the queue to scoff at the plans of his erratic colleague, described the scheme as "possibly the most stupid idea I've ever heard of. How on earth does Colin propose to carry out the digging - it will take years". We put this to Colin, who told us that his "tungsten carbide drills" would do the trick nicely.

Meanwhile, life in Boston and Perth goes on. In Perth the kangaroos are skipping over the barbie, someone is probably throwing a shrimp on it, and they're all playing cricket in the sun. Over in Boston everyone is dressing up in green, growing orange beards and affecting a ludicrous accent (except for **Paul Lowry** for whom it comes naturally), shouting "OIM OIRISH" and talking about the "auld sod"... That's what they do over there you know...

Boston Exclusive!

Mosca and O'Crowley Nabbed in International Prostitution Ring

by Ima Hack

Early this morning, IONA employees Steve Mosca and Ross O'Crowley were arrested by INTERPOL, accused of no less than running an international prostitution ring. Officials say the pair had upwards of 30 "professionals", whose "services" they sold worldwide. Known as the "Professional Services Group", these men and women are said by senior sources to be "living out an object-based nightmare that never ends".

Mosca and O'Crowley staunchly defend their innocence. "The kinds of services that we sell are not illegal! The fine men and women in our organization provided valuable services to our customers", Mosca told I-contact. O'Crowley, once dubbed 'CORBA crazy', is visibly upset by the charge and vehemently denies any wrongdoing.

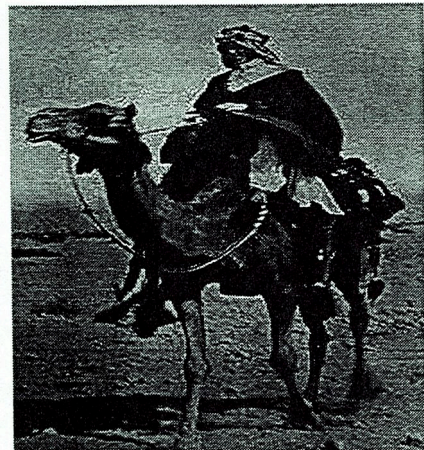
This reporter is not so sure. Starting with their email addresses (*pimp1* and *pimp2@iona.com*), these men reek of sleaze and bawdiness. Speaking with one current "professional" who insisted on anonymity but bears a remarkable resemblance to Sean O'Sullivan, this reporter learned the sordid details of the group's tawdry adventures around the globe. Unfortunately, we must exercise some discretion and refrain from repeating the details; after all this is a family magazine. But suffice it to say, these shocking stories would curl the toes of even the most seasoned adventurer.

These 'professionals' were sold by Mosca and O'Crowley to the highest bidder, and "massaged orbs", "tweaked buffers" and "fixed dangling pointers". They educated their customers on the best way to "distribute their objects". They were also subject to the customers' every little whim. "We had to do anything the customer wanted" said another anonymous professional (whose email address is kmccabe, and who goes by the alias 'pretty boy'). "This came straight from the top of the organization, too. I can't even remember the number of times I've had to bend over backwards in order to satisfy the customer. There were many mornings when I woke up not knowing where I was or what I had done the day before. Of course, that always happens after a night at Toner's".

Needless to say, I-contact hopes that the two monstrous perpetrators of this sick, perverted "service" are put away for a long, long time. Then perhaps, the men and women who were so brutally exploited can begin to slowly put their lives back together. "I've had my first good night's sleep in 5 years" remarked one professional. "I used to wake up in a cold sweat, shaking with fright from an awful nightmare. Steve and Ross called me, on a conference call, and put me on a 6-month assignment in Gary, Indiana, integrating Orbix 2.0 and Orbix Talk 1.0. But now I can rest easily, knowing that this depraved, wicked pair are safely behind bars." This reporter concurs. The world is a better, safer place now.

Terence Of Arabia... ...The Diaries

Thursday, April 24th, the desert. Confound these strange people! They remain unimpressed by my efforts to make Orbix more user friendly, and are instead demanding more weaponry with which to fight the Turks. Do they not realise that with Orbix weapons of mass destruction beyond their imagination can be built? I shall renew my efforts to convince the Bedouin of my position. *(to be continued)*



Election Fever Grips IONA

i-contact Writes Easy Copy

It's the best reason to waste company time since the cigarette and www.nasdaq.com were invented! Yes, all over the company literally dozens of people are visiting the BBC's election web site at www.bbc.co.uk/election97. And with elections over in Ireland set to follow, the company is set to go **ballot bananas** and **polls potty**, possibly leading to an outbreak of "**marginal madness**". We shall see.

We decided, for want of anything better to do, to **pretend** that IONA Technologies was having an election for the post of CEO. We know that's not likely to happen, but hey, it's a bit of fun. Let's take an **imaginary** look at the manifestos that **don't actually exist** from the candidates who **aren't actually running**. Then make up your mind and send in your **pretend** vote to iconcontact@iona.com. It's easy and fun, but remember, it's not real.

Gary Noone.

Gary is known for his determined approach to punctual shipping. As such his campaign slogan might be something like "**tough on time and tough on the causes of time**". Due to his lack of any educational qualifications whatsoever Gary is likely to play up his "honest Gary" side and canvass for votes in Toners. **Craig Ryan** is an early certainty to back Gary Noone. "Ee's me besht mate", Craig told I-contact,

Annrai O'Toole

Annrai puts constitutional issues at the top of the agenda. "In the future", says Annrai, "we will no longer be citizens, or even subjects. **We will instead be objects**. More specifically happy civilised objects talking pleasantly to each other over the network". O'Toole is likely to run a high profile campaign involving champagne receptions, expensive meals for key supporters, and legions of spin doctors telling the media his jokes are funny. "I am a funny man", Annrai told I-contact.

Pierce Coyle

Pierce has Europe at the heart of his manifesto. "I'm a firm believer in stronger links between IONA and continental Europe", Pierce told us. "Tell the truth we haven't got much choice ever since the Germans got wind of a **Single European ORB** dominated by Ireland". Proposing the creation of a EurOrb, Pierce is convinced he is the man to take on the faceless Brussels bureaucrats and win. With a background in sales, Pierce will run an effective campaign using all the database technology available to him. Given that that consists of Lotus Notes, he's on a loser from the start.

The Reception Party

Bringing some much needed glamour to the campaign, the Reception Party hopes to bring some power back to the hard working masses who keep the company ticking over. From now on, spokespeople say, leading executives will have to make their own cross-town travel plans. "Read my lips", says Sally Ann, "**no more taxis**".

The Boston Tea Party / Perth Independence Movement

The BTP / PIM have a common goal in seeking fully independent status for both IONA Technologies Inc. and IONA Technologies Pty. Party activist **Steve Deame** explains the position: "we are tired of having our affairs run by a well-meaning but out of touch bureaucracy in Dublin". Perth-based spokesman **David Glance** expands on the issue: "why should we hand over all the receipts from Orbix/Smalltalk and OrbixTalk over to the finance department in Dublin? An independent IONA Technologies Pty. will be able to keep these revenues for inward investment". **Speaking through a Mormon spokesman**, Chris Horn told David "you're welcome".

News In Brief.....News In Brief.....News In Brief.....News In Brief.....News In Br

Oz Office Up In Flames

Perth marketing whizz-kid **Diana Waring Smith** is doing a great job of lighting up the OZ office. Armed with no more than a couple of slices of bread and the trusty IONA standard issue toaster, Diana managed to summon the finest among Perth's fire fighters to Ashton Chambers early Monday morning, accompanied of course by the usual bell-clanging, sirens and commotions that said fire fighters are wont to create. Diana's burnt toast had the occupants of the building shivering on the sidewalk while fire-fighters scoured the building for small flash fires and incendiary devices. All they found was bread and 'vegemite'.

i-contact asked well known Australian personality **Rolf Harris** for his comments on the matter. However he was busy and suggested we try **Paul Hogan** instead. "He's a fair dinkum fella", Rolf said.

Battle Of The Bands, Perth Style

The Alternative Tea Bags and Death rivalry continues....

Death metal legend Neil 'Death' Avery was in trouble again last week when he was caught feeling another man's muffin. Defending the fact that he just wanted to 'test if it was hot', this has nonetheless spiralled into a PR nightmare. The incident has caused much internal friction within his band - Death. Fellow band member **John 'Death' Smith - with-a-y**, "We try to focus more on the satanic side of music. We have lost a lot of face with Death feeling another man's hot muffin. It's just not us. I mean where does this fit with chewing bats head off, ritual sacrifices and the likes?"

Andrew Lee, lead singer from long-standing rival band, **The Alternative Tea Bags**, is delighted with this negative publicity. "People will realise now that Death are not really the men they think there are. We have long known that Death were all image and no substance".

The Tea Bags concentrate more on the music and the inspiration rather than publicity. Lee can often be seen injecting **Ceylon broken orange pekoe tea** while smearing a screen saver of himself into new and wonderful shapes. "This is the future of rock and roll", proclaimed the tea tripping tee-totaller.

Lee refused to comment on allegations that the Tea Bag's web-site <http://www.rewd.org> was a front for the Heaven's Gate Cult, although the title to their latest song, "Gonna shave my head, shed my 'vehicle' and hop on a passing comet" would suggest otherwise.

New Staff

Overpaid, over-educated, and over here...

Paul Taylor	PD
Thomas Weisse	PD
Hilary Hughes	Documentation
Mary O'Grady	PS

Killian Mallin	HR
David Czerniak	Telemarketing
Mary Casserley	Telemarketing
Joshua Petrig (Perth)	PD

Orbix Enterprise Taking Off

Conor "Two Beer Queer" Halpin's dream of Orbix on the Starship Enterprise came one step closer to reality this month. Finally the product is fully integrated with the COBOL language and CICS and IMS technologies. **Commander William Riker** told I-contact "these were critical features required in Orbix if we were to pacify the **Cardassians** and outrun the **Romulans** in battle situations. I'd like to thank Conor for having faith in the product, and of course Gary Noone for continuing his good work, even if he doesn't even know what MVS stands for.

Conor "Two Beer Queer" Halpin told I-contact: "I am ecstatic that this project is finally 'off the ground'. I now intend to focus on my other ambitions, namely a round of golf in **under 130 strokes** and smooth creamy pints going round 24 hours a day".



Well, what a momentous month it's been. First that rather splendid bash in the canteen to celebrate the release of **Orbix 2.2**, and not only that, but a free clock, with battery. Suggestions from Gary Noone that the batteries might prove 'leaky' met with a stern response from Barry Morris. "No they won't", he said.

Meanwhile lonely engineers made the best of a bad situation by attaching calling cards to Orbix **helium balloons**, and setting them adrift on the wind. "I'm lonely, please call" was a typical message. Apparently **Martin Chapman** has now lined up a blind date with a girl from Estonia who found the card in her back garden.

End Of Quarter

No doubt you've all seen the end of quarter results. Highly impressive and just one of the reasons for a **wizard party** in Foleys on Friday. Who knows, perhaps another clock isn't out of the question. A few more of them and we can go down Moore street and make back the money we lost on the shares (nb this is a joke)



Meanwhile IONA keeps on growing. **John Cullinane**, famous Irish-American software and business guru has joined the board as a sort of non-executive advisory type. Now that we're a public company it's a good idea to have these sorts on board. **Wise heads** and all that...

Marketing And Sales

You may have noticed that IONA has made the brave decision to begin selling directly to **Continental Europe**. In fact this was not so much achieving greatness as **having greatness thrust upon us**. The natives are restless, as they say. Anyway, Pierce Coyle is heading up a European office in **Wiesbaden**, soon to move to Frankfurt. Frankfurt is excitingly labelled "**Finanace capital of Germany**", so it must be a really happening place... Our European mission is being bolstered by Europe's first CORBA seminar series - visiting London, Paris, Frankfurt, Stockholm, Madrid. The series is already underway and is reportedly a great success. "It's a great success", said **Brian Comaskey** yesterday.

Orbigrams

In addition to the seminars, marketing and various sales folk have been attending Object World in Earls Court, London. It's like The Boat Show without boats, but with objects instead.

James Byrne

Another addition to the young Ionians. James Byrne, stalwart of the Customer Engineering team, is now the proud father of a "baby boy". He seems to be undecided as to name yet. Apparently **Sean Baker** has told him it "has to be something to do with Object Technology, like the computers used to be".

Boffin Wins Top Award

Andrew Condon, famous IONA boffin and enthusiastic supporter of the Professional Services "Get Funky" campaign, has received the prestigious "Special Recognition Award", signed by no less than **Ron Trout**, **Jim Maloney**, and others. Andrew is singled out for praise due to his "outstanding efforts in architecting, designing and prototyping the release "A" PDM integration approach." Exciting stuff I'm sure we can all agree.

Zippers Fly The Flag

The IONA Zippers are back on the warpath. Having spent the winter being too soft to play in the cold evenings, our heroic representatives on the football field have already started their summer campaign with an impressive 0-0 draw with the mighty IBM (Oldbrook).



The Zippers In Action. Possibly

“This is a huge boost for the company”, said Zippers manager Gerry Carr. “We can build on this platform to become a leading force in international football. **Unlike Man United.**”. The match, played at Three Rock Rovers before a passionate crowd of two (Sean O’Sullivan and Mike Reidy), was a barnstorming affair, with events reaching boiling point as Dermot “the lip” Sreenan was sin-binned for abusing the ref. “It was a cracking game and a great atmosphere”, said Sean, “just like Lansdowne Road but with less people and a smaller pitch”.

Always on the look out for ways to waste space, here we present the current **Dublin Software League Table**: Note that only one game has actually been played so we have yet to assume our rightful position at the top.

(you’ll have to move your eyes to the top right of the page to see this table)

Team Played Won Drew Lost Diff Points

FMS	1	1	0	0	3	3
Corel	1	1	0	0	1	3
JBA	1	1	0	0	1	3
AutoD.	1	0	1	0	0	1
Continuum1	0	1	0	0	0	1
IBM 1	1	0	1	0	0	1
IONA	1	0	1	0	0	1
IBM 2	1	0	0	1	-1	0
QV2	1	0	0	1	-1	0
AIG	1	0	0	1	-3	0
IBM 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
ITG	0	0	0	0	0	0

Real neat that isn’t it? Still haven’t quite mastered those tables...still never mind.

Softball Madness

Meanwhile, football is no longer the only sport on the IONA calendar. Not only is karting firmly back on the agenda, but Craig Ryan’s famous softball team “Fuzzy Ducks”, are busy practising out at DCU. Softball is a kind of baseball for people who have difficulty hitting, throwing and catching a normal size ball and so instead use a sort of leather melon (oo-er). I suppose if this sort of thing tickles your fancy then you should get in touch with Mr. Ryan himself. You’ll find him valiantly propping up the bar in Toners most nights...

Stop Press...Stop Press...Stop Press...S

The IONA Zippers have consolidated their fine start to the season with a THRILLING 1-0 victory over IBM Blanchardstown. Man of the match Simon Walsh, whose bullet like header settled the score with Big Blue, was delighted with the result. “I’m delighted with the result”, he told us.

The Zippers injury crisis continues, however, with Dave O’Riordan out for several months and anchor-man Mick Lynch still recovering from his latest visit to Copper Face Jacks. “I was really drunk”, he told us. “After my second pint of Linden Village I slipped on an ice cube and hurt my elbow. It’s really sore.”