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Kosovo Uni delgates come to DIT for student services advice

Al McConnell; and Andrew Donovan

Students and members of staff from the 'University of Pristina: temporarily located in Mitrovica' visited DIT last week to learn about the operation of student clubs and societies.

In the deeply troubled region, which still bears the scars of war from 1999, these services are aiming to play an important part in providing an everyday life of relative safety and normality for the 10,000 students.

Since moving to Mitrovica in post-war Kosovo of 2001, the university has founded two sports clubs, basketball and volleyball, and two societies, the 'Technical Soc' for engineers, and 'Alpha Soc', which focuses on gaming. Although this represents a step forward for the university, there are still many barriers to progress for the students.

"It's only 13 years ago so it is still fresh in our memories," says Velimir, a member of the group. "You can always see scars, graveyards trashed, churches burned out."

"We are working in a very hard situation," says Jovo Popović, Director of Student Services. "If a single student loses their life, we consider it a defeat for the international community."

"The government decided to move us to Mitrovica until we could return home," explains Pepa Gorgieva, the Deputy Secretary-General of the university. "It's been twelve years now but if we change the name we would give up our home town."



Jovo Popović, (pictured far right) talks with the visiting delegation and The Edition's Andrew Donovan and Al McConnell at DIT's courtyard cafe.

Following the move, the number of students was reduced from 20,000 to 10,000. The university is aiming to increase its number of clubs and societies, as well as starting a student newspaper.

"We have a 'student corner' very like your students union. Up till now students didn't have an organised after-lecture life," says Tijana Bojović, Student Coordinator for Clubs and Societies. "When we arrived there was no infrastructure, no dormitories, no premises for faculty, no laboratories or classrooms," explains Pepa. "The river divides the town between Serbs and Albanians, so everything was built from scratch. We didn't have the time or opportunity to think about clubs and societies. Now that we have the necessary infrastructure, we have the space to further improve student life."

The bridge across Mitrovica's river has been closed off since the war, leaving the town divided. "We have our educational system, and they have theirs," says Pepa. "We are divided in every way."

For the university, however, the existence of these tensions is now accepted. "We would like to remain under Serbian control," says Jovo Popović. "That is why we feel we need to develop more and better than other Universities. We want to recognise Belgrade as the capital of Serbia and not be tampered with by the Republic of Kosovo. I can attest to the courage of the students and professors of the university."

"Our University is financed by the Serbian Government in Belgrade," said Pepa. "The University of Pristina, which stayed behind, operates in the Albanian language and is funded by the provisional Government of the Republic of Kosovo. The communities are very separated and students who live in the south part of Kosovo, or the central part, live in enclaves, which means that they have no connection with Albanian authorities."

Students receiving grants from the Serbian Government pay €15 a month for food and €15 a month for accommodation. Students without a grant pay between €600 and €1000 per year, depending on the course, but tuition is free with a grant.

According to Jovo Popović, "one third of students get a grant, and one third eat on campus, while around one fifth live on campus. Most students come from South Kosovo but also from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina."

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18,000
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800
Cannabis plants seized in Cork this month

€1.96 million
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£408,397.27
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TCD outrage over Chris Brown

Laura Larkin

TrinityEnts removed the original post and related threads from its page within hours of launching the competition, as a wave of comments berating the Ents office for inadvertently promoting domestic violence raised the alarm in the SU office.

The group released a statement via its Facebook page admitting that they "failed to recognise that many students would find [the competition] unacceptable," and apologised for any offence that the giveaway may have caused. A replacement prize of a Trinity ball ticket was offered instead.

Chris Brown is scheduled to play the O2 Arena in December. This will be his first Irish appearance since he assaulted his then girlfriend, Rihanna.

Entertainments officer Dave Whelan explained that his decision to use the tickets in this way was "spur of the moment and retrospectively a massive oversight." Whelan conceded that this is the first time his role as entertainments officer has interacted with what is usually the domain of SU welfare officers but said "I now realise I have to occasionally put on my welfare hat." TrinityEnts uploaded links to both the college's welfare office website and to COSC, the national office for the prevention of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Trinity's student newspaper sought the opinion of its readers in a Facebook poll; 63% of those who responded did not feel that TrinityEnts had made an ill-advised decision when they offered up the tickets. However, Whelan believes that in his capacity as an SU officer he has the responsibility to take the position of the minority into account. He told The Edition "I wasn't going to risk giving the SU a bad name".

DITSU Ents ran a similar competition on its Facebook page successfully on November 12th, with the prize of two Chris Brown tickets and €100 cash. Ents officer Will Meara claims that there was "no dispute whatsoever but had there been DITSU Ents would have taken the opinion of students into account." Meara does not recognise any conflict in using the tickets as he stated they have "a monetary value and are something that students want. That was obvious from persistent emails to find out who had won them."

DIT student is Face of Galway



Fresh from her success at the Face of Ireland competition where she won a presenter job on Sky TV, the girl with the lamplight eyes, Roisin Donnelan tells The Edition what its like being a model and how she juggles the workload while studying in DIT

Andrew Donovan
News Editor

Roisin (22) was selected as one of four wildcards for Galway proceeding to the national final in Dublin on 13 October. While not winning the competition she thanked the Face of Ireland on their Facebook page. They got back to her and offered the chance to present on Sky.

"I will be presenting a number of programmes in the new year related to music and travel. I will be travelling to London Sky Studios to see how it all works, and to get some coaching too," she says. "It's an amazing opportunity and I'm really excited. I'm still trying to get my head around it all, but I'm going to do my best, and just enjoy it."

Originally from Headford in Galway, Roisin is in second year in the BMus performance course. "DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama is small, but it's nice in a way, because everyone knows each other and we all get on very well. Our lectures are great craic, and I'm very glad to be in my second year studying there, the talent is just unbelievable! I was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland for 3 years, so I knew a few people in the Conservatory already."

Her talent as a musician and violinist has been noticed by some well known yet surprising figures. "A couple of months ago, I was asked along with my brother and sister to play for an army event, for a very special guest," she said. "They wanted us to showcase some Irish music, and bluegrass. Perfect! So we did, little did we know that the guest was the US Joint Chief of Staff General Martin E. Dempsey, the most powerful military figure in the world. I played one of my own pieces called the 'Aspiring Teabag,' and he's asked me to send him on a copy of my album when it's done! We each got presented a Medal of Appreciation."

Roisin's album will combine a mix of different styles such as classical, jazz, bluegrass and traditional Irish. Traditional Irish culture has never been seen as sexy and it strange to see a model get so passionate about "I haven't met another model who is as interested in promoting the Irish language, music and the arts as I am," she says, "but that doesn't mean there isn't one if not many! I grew up speaking Irish, playing music and I was very involved in the Arts so I was always going to promote them regardless. This year I met and talked with President Micheal D Higgins about what I was promoting and he was very supportive. As the Face of Galway 2013 I am going to keep promoting the arts all I can."

With so many good things on the horizon Roisin doesn't know where she will end up in the future "I see myself presenting on SKY, with my degree in Violin Performance, and perhaps another album on the way, fingers crossed the first one is a success, I really can't say, for instance, 6 months ago I didn't see myself getting a job presenting on SKY!

It's all thanks to Face of Ireland Ambassadorial Competition, I didn't win the competition, but the doors have opened for me in other areas! I would strongly advise any girl over 18 to apply, it really brings out your best qualities, and boosts your confidence. The world is your oyster!"



Medal presented to Roisin by US Joint Chief of Staff, General Martin E. Dempsey

WWW.EDITION.IE

Start the debate online

NEWS

Dublin lights up for Christmas festivities







Photos: Rhiagh Cleary
Photo Editor

More than 500 people came out to see the turning on of the Christmas lights on one of Ireland's busiest shopping streets last night.

Shoppers celebrated as Grafton Street's festive lights were officially switched on, marking the first of a series of events taking place around Dublin over the festive season.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Naoise Ó Muirí, will launch Dublin's biggest Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in O'Connell Street, on Sunday, 25 November at 6pm, marking the official start to Christmas in the city.



EU Erasmus funds running low

Camille Toussaint

The European Union is on the verge of running out of funds to finance the Erasmus grants for exchange students. Currently a hole of €90 million exists in the EU's Erasmus Budget for 2012. Patrizio Fiorelli, a spokesman for EU budget Commissioner Janusz Lewandowski confirmed that Erasmus was indeed one of the many programmes running out of funds.

He slammed the EU member states and the European Parliament for having settled on a €129 billion budget for 2012, this is an increase of 1.86% compared with 2011. That's far short of the 5% rise sought by the European Commission, the EU's executive. But Lewandowski claims that he had already said at the time that there won't be enough resources. "We're doing an amending budget and it's now up to the EU member states and the European Parliament to live up to their responsibilities,'' said Fiorelli.

Over the last two years, the commission has repeatedly clashed with the national governments over their attempts to limit the sum the EU spends each year.

Member states, for their part, justify the move by pointing to the painful austerity measures they are domestically implementing in response to Europe's economic crisis, which they say is reflected in EU spending.

Over the past 25 years, 2.5 million students have benefited from the Erasmus study program and some 4,000 Irish students have taken part in it. Since 1987, the program offers facilities to students to study one or two semesters in another European country.

The European Commission tried to reassure students by saying "Erasmus students who go abroad during the first semester 2012-2013 should not have problems receiving funds for their studies and placements abroad."

The future of the scholarship for the next semester and the next year on the other hand, are uncertain. The European Commission is keeping in touch regularly with the respective National Agencies to try to minimise the impact on the current shortage, but Fiorilli declined to comment on how large the change of budget will be. If the 2012 EU budget shortfall is not resolved, funds from the 2013 budget will be used to cover the difference.

The consequences for the universities would be manifest. Either they would reduce the number of places they make available for the second semester of the 2012-2013 year or reduce the grants given to the students. This would result in many students from less advantaged backgrounds being unable to participate in the programme.

On 9 November, more than 100 European personalities from the worlds of education, art, literature, economics, philosophy and sport have signed an open letter to EU Heads of State and Government in support of the Erasmus programme. The signatories come from every Member State of the EU and include former Irish rugby captain Mick Galwey, Spanish film director Pedro Almodovar, the president of FC Barcelona Sandro Rosell, the Nobel Prize winner Professor Christopher Pissarides and several Olympic champions. The letter calls for investment in education and training to be at the heart of Europe's response to the crisis.

Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, said the programme has been changing lives for 25 years.

News Bulletin

Honorary Doctorate for flood

DIT has conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Finbarr Flood, former MD of Guinness and Chair of the Labour Court. The Award was conferred in recognition of Flood's outstanding contribution to the worlds of business, sport, public service and community engagement. Mr. Flood was conferred with the award on Saturday, 17 November in front of hundreds of students and their families at DIT's Annual Graduation ceremony held in St Patrick's Cathedral.

The award of Honorary Doctorate in DIT is a rare occasion. The Award is conferred at the annual DIT graduation ceremony and recipients are introduced as standard bearers for DIT graduates starting out on their careers

Ballymun Lullaby Concert

'Ballymun Lullaby' the CD behind the documentary music film also called 'Ballymun Lullaby' featuring children from the DIT Ballymun Music Programme is now Number 1 in the iTunes Chart!

200 children from the DIT Ballymun Music Programme join forces and voices with Music Generation Cork City and RTÉ Cór na nÓg to perform Ballymun Lullaby in the National Concert Hall on 26th November with DIT Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Brophy (Principal Conductor, RTÉ Concert Orchestra) and MC: Evelyn Grant.

Two DIT Students starred in the award winning documentary, Darren Scully, now a 2nd year student on the DIT BA programme in Leisure Management, and Tara O'Brien who is in the first year of her BA in Music Performance at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama.

Media fast

A group of students from the University of Oregon took part in a study asking them to go on a 48-hour "media fast."

The Poynter journalism site reports that this included "no books, magazines, movies, newspapers, radio or Internet". The study of students' experiences on the no-media fast was carried out by the university's journalism and communication department.While forcing more human interaction among the students who were temporarily starved of other means of communication, it also made at least one feel "immensely powerless".

Teachers at the Stony Brook University in Long Island do this annually with new students in their News Literacy course. According to Dean Miller, director of the course, the reason behind the temporary blackout is to make students think about where they get their news, how they get it and "to start students on the lifetime search for reliable information."

Student loans

The Government is reported to be considering a graduate tax as a way to pay for students in third-level education.

Minister for Education Ruairí Quinn is considering a system which would see college fees effectively eliminated with the costs of college paid for by the State. Graduates would then pay back the costs over a period of around 15 years like it was a loan.

Those in favour of the current system say third-level education should remain free, but opponents say that the bill for third-level education is rising and someone has to pay.

NEWS

Over 1,000 protest out-

Abortion controversy runs through the heart of the Irish people



Dairne Black

It is a story that dominated the front pages of every newspaper in the past week, for all the wrong and tragic reason. The death of Savita Halappanavar has rocked the nation.

Halappanavar presented at University Hospital Galway a month ago complaining of backpain and was found to be miscarrying. The woman died a week later of septicaemia.

Halappanavar requested repeatedly over a three day period for her pregnancy to be terminated. This request was denied. She had been in severe pain and was in the knowledge she was miscarrying and still nothing could be done. Her request was denied on the grounds that it is not legal for medical abortions to be carried out in this country.

On Saturday 17 November candlelight vigil events took place in Dublin, Carlow, Kilkenny, Galway, Cork, and other locations, in an attempt to push for the Government to legislate on abortion following the death of Savita. It is estimated that between 10,000 and 20,000 people took part in the march in Dublin, which began at the Garden of Remembrance and made its way to Dáil, with many holding candles and placards.

United Left Alliance deputy Clare Daly chastised Taoiseach Enda Kenny for declaring he would not be rushed into a decision regarding the X case. Clare says "He sat in the Dáil for over 30 years while 150,000 Irish women were exported out of here… to maintain the hypocrisy that there are no Irish abortions."

Speaking to the Irish Times organiser Sinéad Kennedy of the Irish Choice Network, an umbrella body for pro-choice organisations, said the theme of this march is 'never again.' Never again will a woman be allowed to die."

With a second protest due to take place the day this paper comes out, it is clear that issue of the X case is far from over.





Crowds gathered outside the Dáil, on the night of Wednesday 14 November. The atmosphere was described by participants as "more like a funeral than a protest." A heavy student presence was noticable, as students from NCAD were pictured outside the Dáil (pictured directly above, holding the banner).

Photos: Andrew Donovan
News Editor

Changing times, unchanging legislation

Twenty years on from the X-case controversy, people are still taking to the streets to fight for women's rights as the death of Savita Halappanavar ignites a new generation of activists, Ciarán Clark reports

It is twenty years since the ruling by the Supreme Court on the X Case in 1992, ordering the Government to legislate on abortion. Its two years since the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Ireland had failed to implement abortion legislation. Abortion advocacy groups have expressed anger that the Government has still failed to grant women their constitutional rights.

Last month Savita Halappanavar died from complications surrounding her pregnancy. In Galway University hospital doctors, unclear on Irish law on abortion, refused to perform a termination. Lack of clear legislation was the cause, according to protesters who spontaneously collected outside Dail Eireann last Wednesday.

It is a controversial issue especially as the country was awaiting a national report expert group, chaired by Justice Séan Ryan. The report, due in July, was given an extension until September; the group submitted their report last week. Commenting on the issue Minster for Children and Youth and Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald, had said she wanted to wait until the decision on the Children's Referendum. European Affairs Minister, Lucinda Creighton, said "Ireland is not bound by EU rulings". Minister for Health James Reilly has said he would consult Fine Gael colleagues on the report before submitting it to cabinet. Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said that Minister O'Reilly had yet to read the report but would comment when he 'reflected' on the material but "would not say anything until this house was in full possession of the facts."

> **"For decades, women have been obliged to make a distressing journey to Britain or further afield to access abortion."**

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties have lodged a complaint to the Committee of European Ministers responsible for insuring the ECHR's ruling is brought in. Mark Kelly, director of TCCL, said "judgements of the ECHR against Ireland are legally binding and must be implemented in a speedy and effective way. The ICCL is calling upon the committee of ministers to remind the Government of this fact." They strongly criticised Minister Creighton's remarks saying "as Ireland approaches its Presidency of the EU it is unconscionable for the minister of state with special responsibility for European affairs to imply that the implementation of a judgement of Europe's Supreme Court is anything less than an urgent priority for the Government."

In contrast to the Republic's policies the Marie Stopes Clinic opened its doors on 18 October. With Northern Ireland having an equally contentious history of anti-abortion restrictions, it has come under criticism from pro-life campaigners.

Therese Caherty and Ailbhe Smyth, co-convenors of Feminist Open Forum, said:

"This is a day of historic importance for women throughout Ireland. For decades, women have been obliged to make a distressing journey to Britain or further afield to access abortion. Many have had to travel alone and in secret, and have had to find the funds for travel and accommodation, often with great difficulty. By giving women the option of obtaining an abortion in Belfast, the new service will help to reduce the costs, and the stress, of a journey which has had to be made by so many."

The clinic is not solely for abortion, it is a sexual health clinic with abortion being one of the many services they offer. Located in Belfast it opened amid a peaceful protest from Pro-Life campaigners and the Precious Life lobby group. While the clinic is a welcomed by pro-choice campaigners both sides of the border, Northern Ireland Attorney General, John Larkin, has called for an investigation into

NEWS

side Dáil gates





Ming blames Labour inaction

Andrew Donovan
News Editor

Luke 'Ming' Flanagan TD said there is a significant chance that Savita Halappanavar would be alive today if the Labour Party had come out and voted as promised during the election campaign.

Speaking outside the Daíl, at the vigil for Mrs Halappanavar last Wednesday, the Roscommon-Leitrim representative said "the last 24-hours proves that Archbishop McQuaid's crosier is firmly around Enda Kenny's neck, and its time that we made him realise that it will not help him politically, and will choke him eventually."

Over 1,000 people gathered outside the Dáil following the death of Mrs Halappanavar in University Hospital Galway from septicemia on 28 October. Several hundreds also held candle lit vigils in both Cork and London.

Many protestors were surprised at the numbers who showed up in Dublin. "The turnout is heartening and hopefully more people will get engaged once they have time to reflect on this," said protester Bernice Murphy.

"I'd like to see a recognition that women have the right to control their own bodies and that it would be enshrined in our legislation. I think our political class are cowardly, socially conservative in a way that no longer reflects the way of life for many young people in Ireland."

A large group of National College of Art & Design (NCAD) students showed up carrying banners. Eleanor White, a first year student, said, "this is an important issue for students, if we decide to have children in the future we should be allowed to decide what to do in case there is a medical risk. This is more than a pro-choice issue, this is an immigration issue; Ireland is being shown to the world as a backwards country."

Matthew McKenna-Barry, a fourth year Medicine student in UCD said, "It's a real tragedy. There is so much anger about this."

Many commented that the student turnout was a sign that perhaps new life has been breathed into the pro-choice campaign. "I flashback 20 years and the demonstrations around town about the X-case and the changes that we saw in society. Every 5 years we believe that we can smell change but this time I actually believe there is change, but unfortunately a woman has had to be a terrible victim for this to happen," said Ronda Donnehy.

Therese Caherty said, "It's barbaric a woman has died. if the X-case rule was implemented we wouldn't be here tonight. The number of young people here today was astonishing, particularly young women who are really, really angry about this. The mood has changed; people aren't scared to talk about abortion any more."

An estimated 12,000 people turned out on Saturday 17 October, marching from the Garden of Remembrance to the Dáil.

the legality of the clinic amid fears about existing laws in Northern Ireland.

Twelve women a day travel from the Republic to the UK seeking abortions, according to statistics published last year by the UK Department of Health. The Marie Stopes clinic is intending to cater for these women's needs. There have been two referenda in the past twenty years demanding the Government legislate on abortion where a mother's life is at risk. They face a wave of public outrage after Mrs Halappanavar's death and their failing to implement clear legislation. Pro-choice/life advocates are putting pressure on them to make clear abortion legislation that would expand on constitutional law.

On 25 November it will be the 20th anniversary of the referendum on the X Case. Twenty years ago the Irish people voted for freedom of travel and information and for mothers to have access to abortion if their life is at risk. While Irish society has changed dramatically during these past twenty years, this issue continues to cause controversy. The government's only response to the issue was to say they need to have all the facts before making a decision.

In light of the recent death of Savita Halappanavar, the imperative for decisive legislation is mounting.

Webcourses shutdown due to external factors, says DIT

Rachael O'Brien

On Sunday 11 November, a hardware failure caused the DIT email system to go into shock.

Thousands of DIT students couldn't access their email accounts, with panic setting in for students who didn't know what to do for assignments. Webcourses, the ever so reliable filing system for class notes, also stopped working.

This caused the question to be raised over student's dependency on the Webcourses system. When surveyed, 93% of DIT students said that they use Webcourses and 80% of those said they were affected by the disruption of the service. Students stated that they were not able to access online notes for in-class exams, view questions for assignments and some students weren't able to receive messages from lecturers over cancelled classes.

The IT service is the way students communicate in DIT, however no back-up exists for lecturers to contact students. According to a statement which the IT department released, "the outage was reported to DIT Information Services by our external monitoring service and on the morning of Monday 12 November IT staff worked on the problem and thankfully managed to restore services by 7.15am."

However, the service disruption to Webcourses wasn't by the fault of DIT, but an external affair. It affected other colleges in Ireland such as UCD, Trinity College and NUI Galway. It took 24 hours to repair the service but it was restored by 10am on Wednesday 14 November.

Many students in DIT were unhappy over this disruption. First year student, Luisa Fusco commented that "it was very inconvenient," and Film and Broadcasting student, Ellen Quinn said "it was an inconvenience organizing classes that we had exams in and that assignments to be assessed had difficulty being sent for grading."

New grant system failure: Previously 'eligible' DIT student has grant revoked

Andrew Donovan
News Editor

A DIT student who does not wished to be named has had their grant revoked after previously being told they were eligible.

This student told The Edition "I applied for the grant during the summer and I was told everything was fine but then I got a letter last week saying that my income for 2012 was too high so I would not receive the grant."

This student left their job in order to pursue third level education on the condition they would be in receipt of a grant.

"All the paperwork was sorted out very efficiently in September and October and I was waiting for the next step of getting the grant when I got this letter," they said.

"I went back to them seeking clarification because they say my income is too high but I'm not working anymore so I think they are calculating my projected income as if I was working for the entire year because the number they've given me isn't what I've earned in 2012."

This student has been waiting a week for clarification and is new preparing to go through the appeals process with SUSI.

"I was told before I quit my job that I was eligible to receive a grant. I was hoping to get the full grant but anything at this stage would be a great help," they said.

They have said if they don't hear back from SUSI in the next few days they will raise the matter with DIT and ask them for guidance.

Jennifer Farrelly, Head of Student Adminstration sent an email to all DIT Staff informing that "all full time students at DIT who have applied for a grant are able to register in full and are given full access to all DIT services including student cards, library access, web courses and email."

"I paid the registration fees out of my own money but there some people in my class who don't know if they can afford their fees because they haven't received the grant," they said.

If the appeals process falls through this student says they will have to consider whether their course is worth taking out a loan of €7,600 for the year.

SUSI in Numbers

7,600

Loan some DIT students must take out to cover costs while in college

48,000

The number of applicants who have not received a grant from SUSI as of yet

NEWS

Ireland next to fall in cannabis 'Domino Effect' says TD Ming

Andrew Donovann
News Editor

It's just a matter of time before we will be ordering a few hash brownies with our pancakes says Luke Ming Flanagan TD.

Mr Flanagan has been a long time campaigner for the legalisation of cannabis, most famously sending 500 cannabis joints to every politician in Leinster House.

Following the legalisation of cannabis in Colorado and Washington State with 53-54% of the vote, the Roscommon and South-Leitrim TD has reasons to be optimistic.

"I think last week was the most momentous week in the history of repealing cannabis prohibition on this planet. 10 years ago had you have asked me would cannabis be legalised in Ireland or anywhere for that matter I would have rather forlornly said no but what has happened thanks to NORML in the U.S has been a game changer. The potential I see is for British Columbia and Canada to follow suit because there is information out there that in British Columbia 14% of its GDP is reliant on selling its cannabis across the border, they are going to lose that. The Prime Minister of Mexico has said that legalisation in Washington State alone will cost the Mexican economy $1 billion."

By increasing cannabis consumption he believes less people will use and abuse alcohol in Ireland and that the state will save an enormous amount of money.

"Preliminary figures I've got from the Library and Research Department in Leinster House estimate legalisation of cannabis would be worth at least €480 million to the Irish economy every year. I think it would be worth an awful lot more because you would reduce the problems with harder drugs by separating cannabis from them through legalisation. I believe if cannabis was legalised not as many people would abuse drink and people wouldn't drink as much. I think it would be a massive boost for this country but ultimately I think it has to happen on a European wide basis because otherwise we would have a situation where everyone would just come to Ireland to smoke cannabis and some people mightn't like that and I can understand why. In Holland you can already buy it in shops, in Portugal they have de-criminalised all drugs and it is deemed to be massive success."

He has already started working on ensuring Ireland are the next domino to fall in the fight to legalise cannabis. "In April, I aim to have a private members bill in the Dáil where every member will nail their colours to the mast on this issue and at the moment I'm building a campaign trying to convince people it's the right thing to do."



Gangnam Style goes to Oxford

Louisa McGrath

South Korean pop star, Psy, addressed the students of the Oxford Union earlier this month.

The Oxford Union, which was founded in 1823, is a highly renowned debating society in Oxford University. It is well known for hosting distinguished speakers.

Psy proved to be a very popular speaker as tickets for his speech had to be allocated to Oxford Union's members using a ballot method. This method of allocating tickets is rare and only used for big events. Reportedly, balloting was not needed when Michael Jackson, Mother Teresa or John McCain spoke at the society previously.

Despite only gaining International success in the last few months, the 34-year-old addressed a packed debating chamber for his first ever English public speech.

He gave details on everything from his childhood in Gangnam, when he began dancing funnily to impress girls; to how he spent more than 30 nights inventing his world famous horse dance (he also tried a monkey dance and a kangaroo dance).

Psy described Gangnam Style's rapid success and how it took everyone, including himself, by surprise. "Honestly, I tried my best to be as ridiculous as possible," he commented.

He revealed that it was singer Robbie Williams who brought Gangnam Style into the limelight outside of Korea by putting it on his blog; after this other celebrities began tweeting the video too.

He mentioned how important it was to him that the song's lyrics were in Korean. However, his next single-which is due to be released early next year-will be half in Korean and half in English.

He is now feeling the pressure to make his next song as entertaining as Gangnam Style. "I gotta beat Gangnam Style, I gotta beat the horse dance and I gotta beat the music video. How can I beat that elevator scene?" he said.

Finally, Psy taught the audience how to be Gangnam Style. Dressed in suits, blazers, scarves and other formal attire the audience followed Psy's lead.

John Lee, the current society President introduced Psy, calling his visit the highlight of the term. Lee is also from Gangnam and went to the same high school as Psy.

"We all feel very honoured to have hosted him," said the Oxford Union. Psy said it was "like a dream" to speak there.

Emergency exits found locked in fire drill in C.Br St.

Shauna Irwin
Culture Editor

Concerns were raised about Health and Safety at DIT last week following incidents in both Cathal Brugha Street and Sackville Place Worries arose in Cathal Brugha Street when students in some parts of the building, mainly in the library, heard a fire alarm sound.

Assuming it was a fire drill, students and staff in the library attempted to exit the building through the allocated fire exits and found them to be locked. One student that was in the library at the time said: "We heard the alarm, but someone said the doors weren't opening anyway. We just went out the main door but I thought that was really bad."

The incident was later explained to The Edition by Health Officer Orlaith Waters and confirmed by the Buildings Maintenance Manager, Terry Maher.

According to Mr Maher, the alarm that sounded was a 'local buzzer' that sounds at the Porter's Desk, and was not a fire drill. The college's alarm system is designed to activate a 'double knock system', which means in order for the alarm to activate two smoke detectors need to sound. If only one sounds, the local buzzer will sound at the porter's desk. If this is not responded to within three minutes, the full alarm will sound throughout the building.

On Tuesday 6 November, a smoke detector in the kitchen was activated, which sounded the local buzzer at the Porter's desk. The recently updated version of this buzzer was 'too loud' and sounded through some parts of the building and sounded like a fire drill.

Terry Maher said "Essentially the loud local bell at the Porters desk gave the impression of a full fire alarm when in fact it was not. This was a warning that should have alerted the Porters only."

Orlaith Waters commented: "When it is a real fire drill, the fire exits will open automatically."

Terry Maher said: "I was on the third floor and I could hear a faint bell. I investigated, and found that only a single knock had occurred and so the fire alarm had not gone to full fire. The evacuation at this stage was in full flight and it would have added to the confusion had I stopped the evacuation at that late stage."

On the same day, another incident occurred at about 15.30 at Sackville Place. Power was cut for nearly 24 hours. Immediately after the power cut, students were not allowed to enter the building and classes were cancelled. "This event was totally out of the control of DIT and was an issue for the ESB," Maher said. "Myself and staff worked very close with the ESB to have this fully resolved in less than 24 hours."

Student Shopper

This issue, **Aislinn McCooey** goes in search of a good value meal



With the home of cheap student food McDonalds announcing a drop in global sales for the first time in nearly a decade it makes you wonder where students are going to buy cheap food. While many more are staying in and cooking (and I think this is an excellent idea) you can't do that all the time so I have compiled a list of places that are tasty and cheap.

The best option is to get tweet seats for somewhere. Two restaurants Crackbird and Skinflint both offer this. Tweet seats enable you to get your dinner for free (drinks are extra) and all you have to do is tweet the relevant restaurant with the date you want free food, the time you would like it at and the number of people you will be going with. (There is a limit of four/ two for Crackbird) Places understandably go fast and can't be booked until the month you want them i.e. if you want tweet seats for the 15th December you have to wait until the 1st December to book them.

While it's probably not the cheapest place to go for soup, Soup Dragon on Capel Street is one of the best. With Two different sizes of bowl and countless varieties of amazing and unusual soups (no farmhouse vegetable here!) and catering for both the weight conscious and vegetarians it is definitely a great place to stop especially as each soup comes with a piece of bread and a piece of fruit. They also do a range of bagels and breakfasts.

Burritos are also a great cheap way of filling yourself and while the usual Burritos and Blues/Boojum argument rages on a little place called Pablo picante has steadily been drumming up popularity. With a €5 student Burrito (and you get a choice of five different Burritos all with different fillings) and a wide range of salsas it can't be beaten. With two different locations across the city on Baggot St and Clarendon Market there's one wherever you are. However according to the website the student burrito is only available in the Clarendon Market location.

With the average McDonalds meal now costing upwards of €7 there are many more filling options that are the same price or less. With your DITSU Ents card (sign up for one in the SU office) or your Societies card you can get two for one Gourmet Burger Kitchen, Wagamama and Captain Americas. Meaning if you bring a friend you can get a delicious dinner for the price of a McDonald's meal.

SCIENCE

Scientific Advisor out

Andy MacDonagh

On the last Friday of October, Richard Bruton, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, announced that Professor Mark Ferguson, the Director General (DG) of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), would be taking on the role of Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) to the government, in addition to his current post.

This throwaway Friday news announcement sent only a mild shock throughout media circles, warranting limited discussion. The decision has been met with a level of criticism from the scientific community though, with the true repercussions of this move in amalgamating this previously independent position of CSA only fully understood with the benefit of hindsight.

The decision to incorporate this role into the brief of the current DG of the SFI is due to the government's on-going process of abolition in the name of efficiency. The Office of the CSA was established in 2004 to provide the government with independent, expert advice on issues related to public science policy.

The CSA's responsibilities include the provision of high-level advice on scientific issues of concern to Government across a spectrum of disciplines; providing scientific input to the development and review of the Government's Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (SSTI 2006-2013). The prevailing criticism in relation to this new system of double jobbing is the growing concern that holding both the position of DG of SFI and CSA to government will lead to numerable conflicts of interest.

Since its inception the Office of the CSA has acted as an independent body under the direction of the CSA with two members of staff seconded from Forfás, Ireland's policy advisory board for enterprise, trade, science, technology and innovation. Its purpose differs significantly from that of the objectives of SFI.

Professor James McInerney of NUI Maynooth when speaking to TheJournal.ie, aptly stated, 'We are now in a situation where the person holding the purse strings to science is giving the government advice on how it is funded', [with] 'the implementation of policy and the advice of policy invested in one individual.' With deference to the ability and character, Professor Mark Ferguson, has shown to date, since his appointment to the role of DG of SFI earlier this year, this now expanded brief mocks the initial purpose of the CSA's independent role with society.

Minister Bruton, announcing the merger of these scientific roles on said Friday, stated, 'the role of the CSA to government is an important one, particularly given the Government's stated commitment to research, development and innovation and its importance for Ireland's economic recovery. This move marks a consolidation of our resources in this area and complements the range of scientific advice that is also available within Government organisations…'. Yet how this 'important role' can be maintained in its merged form with any clear independence or transparency will likely remain a mystery.

Of greatest concern, with respect to this current announcement, could be the expectance of praise, due to the merging of positions in its altruistic attempt to pursue 'reform', streamlined functionality, and greater efficiency within the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Further reform will see the integration of Forfás in to the Department to help drive the Action Plan for Jobs agenda broadening and deepening the Department's policy development capability - another step towards non transparency, unaccountability and a significant loss of independence within the public sector arena.

It is truly remarkable with the benefit of hindsight how little foresight individuals in power with influence seem to have. What this means for the future of science policy, that which pays or that which costs, remains to be seen.

Emigrating to the 'Red Planet'

Ciarán Clark

Mars One is an organisation set up in 2011 and launched on May 31st this year, whose mission statement is to land the first humans on Mars. What's more is by all accounts they look set to achieve this goal. Still further – it's a one way trip.

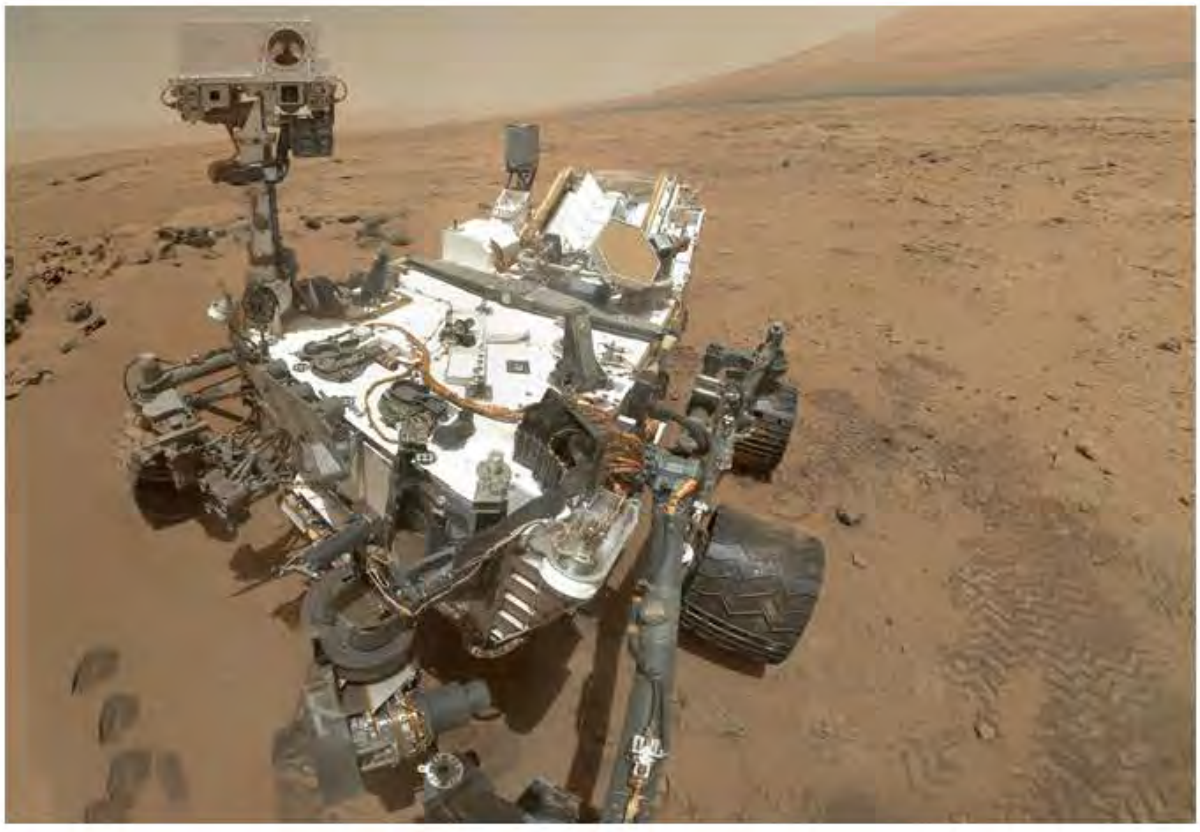
Four people are to be selected in 2013, to begin training for this historic mission which is planned for 2023. According to the Mars One team, they will land a crew in April 2023, which will be the first group of many to emigrate to the Red Planet. The organisation states "Mars One is a private, apolitical organization whose intent is to establish a colony on Mars through the integration of existing, readily available technologies from industry leaders worldwide."

It has been a dream of the organisation's founder, Bas Lansdorp, for many years. "This endeavour is an incredible challenge, overwhelming at times and a bit scary," he said at the launch of the project. "But we press on. I believe the human exploration and habitation of Mars is imperative, the next giant leap for humankind." His co-founder is Arno Wielders, a leader in the field of space technology and exploration, who previously worked on the BepiColumbo mission to Mercury and was payload study manager on the study mission JUICE, to Jupiter.

"I believe mankind is destined to be a multi-planet species, to move beyond the confines of our home planet. To work with Mars One is to be a living part of this incredible undertaking."

Mars One has a dedicated team of professionals, many with backgrounds in NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA), and has also put together a prestigious group of advisors and ambassadors.

Last month they welcomed Sheikh Muszaphar, the first Malaysian astronaut and renowned global peace activist. Earlier this month they also welcomed former NASA and JAXA crew selection and health expert Norbert Kraft as Medical Director. There has been heavy online criticism stemming from social media, and also specialist websites claiming the project is a hoax, however Mars One founders are adamant the project will go ahead.



The Mars Rover explores the surface of the Red Plant. Mars One is an organisation planning to send a group of astraunauts to Mars in 2023

Mars One have detailed the proposals of the mission on their website and plan to fund the "decade-long endeavour through an interactive, reality TV style broadcast, from astronaut selection to robotic construction of the outpost; from the seven month flight through the first years on Mars." This style of broadcast will essentially take the form of Big Brother in Space with the astronauts being filmed 24/7 365 days a year. The organisers are currently seeking sponsors but have welcomed several Dutch networks including New Energy.TV to date.The feasibility of the project from a technological perspective has been widely debated but the organisation claim that they have overcome major obstacles to current capabilities by framing the expedition as a one-way trip which will reduce the need for return vehicles associated with currently unavailable technologies and far greater costs.

> **"Mankind is destined to be a multi-planet species"**

They say that all the necessary technology currently exists but only to send astronauts one-way on the seven month voyage. In order to return astronauts to Earth there would have to be a fully assembled and fuelled launch vehicle (rocket) capable of escaping the gravitational field of Mars, with ample, on-board life support systems and supplies for up to a seven months voyage.

The mission, which is among an abundance of proposals, seems to be the only currently feasible plan. As an internationally collaborative effort and one funded by the private sector and seemingly immune to political obstacles, 'Mars One', is likely to become an historic phrase, as Earth says goodbye to its future Martians.

Tech Bulletin

World's first 3D printing photo-booth

Omote 3D in Japan is to open a 3D printing photo-booth in an exhibition space called Eye of Gyre, this month. Visitors will be able to have a miniature replica, in exceptional detail, printed with state-of-the-art 3D laser technology. Users will be able to enter the booth which will take a full body scan that then takes fifteen minutes to process. They will then be able to modify the data, selecting their favourite hairstyle, texture of clothes and the details of their body using in-built software. The booths will open everyday from November 24 to January 14, excluding Jan 1.

Touch-sensitive conductive skin that can heal itself

Stanford University have developed the first synthetic material that is sensitive to touch and capable of healing itself if torn or cut. The advance has been heralded as a major breakthrough that could lead to smart prosthetics, resilient personal electronics and sensitive soft robotics. The team leading the research was headed by Professor Zhenan Bao has said "not only is our skin sensitive — sending the brain precise information about pressure and temperature — but it also heals efficiently to preserve a protective barrier against the world and is conductive. The challenge was combining these features in a single synthetic material."

Ground-breaking brain implant: listening to single neurons

The University of Michigan have developed a flexible electrode ten times smaller than any previously. The highly conductive, carbon filter thread can connect to a single neuron to detect brain signals. It will be possible to send brain-computer interface signals to prosthetic limbs, overcoming inflammation caused by larger electrodes.

Dr Takashi Kozai, leading the project said "Because these devices are so small, we can combine them with emerging optical techniques to visually observe what the cells are doing in the brain while listening to their electrical signals; this will unlock new understanding of how the brain works on the cellular and network level."

Cray unveil new super-computer XC30

Cray Inc global supercomputer innovators have just launched the company's next generation of supercomputing systems. The company say it is the most advanced, high-end performance computer system ever built. The Cray XC30 combines the new Aries interconnect, Intel Xeon processors, Cray's fully-integrated software environment, and power and cooling technologies to create a production supercomputer that is designed to scale high performance computing (HPC) workloads of more than 100 petaflops, which means it can perform 100,000 trillion calculations per second. The company have already made $100 million in contracts on the product with their global customers, since launching the product.

GAEILGE

Dearcadh mic leinn DIT faoin taithí Erasmus

Tessa Plemeann

Bíonn Erasmus mar cheann de na buaicphointe den thréimhse sa choláiste, bhuel, de thuairim dhálta iriseoireacht Casey Fitzgearld ar a laghad.

Bíonn ana-chuid deiseanna ag daltaí ollscoile, ní fiú de réir taithí oideachais is taithí oibre a fháil, ach taithí saoil san áireamh. Chaith Casey an dara seimeastar thar lear sa Ghearmáin ag déanadh staidéar i gcathair Munich.

Ag caint fá tréimhse i Munich, tá sé soiléir gur bhain an dhálta seo ana-chuid taitneamh as an gcultúr Ghearmáineach agus an mhéid a bhí déanta aici ann.

"Bhí orm féin agus an bheirt bhuachaillí cinneadh a dhéanadh an mbeidh fonn orainn an theanga a fhoghlaim sular dtosaíomar an choláiste. Rinneamar é agus bhuaileamar le a lán scoláirí Erasmus eile ann freisin. De dhesca seo bhí cairde againn sular dtosaíomar na ranganna."



Casey agus a ticéad Erasmus

Tá an iomarca tacaíocht ann ó D.I.T do dháltaí atá á éirigh Erasmus a dhéanadh de réir tacaíocht airgeadeas, is ar eile, agus mar gheall ar seo ní raibh imní ar bith ar Casey an Erasmus a dhéanadh. De réir dealraimh, tá Éireann ceann de na tíortha is chostasaí ar domhain

"Ní raibh imní orm faoi cúrsaí airgid toisc go mbeidh orm íoc as árasán i mBáile Cliath múna rachfainn go Munich, agus bhí Munich I bhfad níos saoire ná Baile Átha Claith ar aon chor. Bhí an árasán €100 níos saoire na i mBáile Átha Cliath. Chomh maith le seo bhí mé ag iarraidh dul ar Erasmus ó thosadh mé an chúrsa, so ní raibh imní orm Éireann nó mo theaghlaigh a fhágáil."

De réir ábhair staidéar i Munich, ní raibh rang ar bith eagraithe ag Casey sular d'imigh sí agus bhí sí greamaithe leis an t-aon rang a bhí fágtha; "American Beauty"; staidéar ar idéal áilleacht i Mheiriceá.

"Ní raibh ach rang amháin agam in aghaidh na seachtaine. Ní roghnaigh mé mo chuid ranganna sular d'imigh mé go Munich so ní raibh ach American Beauty fágtha." Nuair a d'fhill mé i mí Lúnasa bhí orm dul in obair i gConradh na Gaeilge chun críoch a chuir leis an tseimeastar uilig."

Déanann Casey adhmháil faoi a táithí Erasmus féin. "Ní raibh an bhéim ar an staidéar, bhí an bhéim ar an spraoi. Tá an slí bheatha i Munich fíor-dheas. Téann daoine go dtí páirceanna chun suí faoin gréine lena scíth a ligean agus comhluadar


Casey agus a chairde ar an trá le linn a Erasmus

a dhéanadh."

Fiú nach bhfuil drochfhocal le rá aici faoina Erasmus, tugann sí faoi dheara na deiseanna a chaill sí amach air. "Ní dhearna mé an iomarca taistil agus bhí sin mar aiféala agam." Molann sí do dhaoine ag dul dhá rud a dhéanadh. "Ar dtús báire, déarfainn iarracht an teanga a fhoghlaim. Tá sé deas nuair atá cumas chomhrá agat sa dteanga dhúchais. Ar an dara dul síos; taistil a dhéanadh, ar ndóigh, go háitithe má tá tú ag dul go lar na Eorpa. Tá sé comh éasca agus comh saor le taistil a dhéanadh."

"Táim fós I dteagmháil le mo chairde ó Erasmus. Tá cailín amháin ag teacht chugam tar éis an Nollaig. Ach tá cairde agam ón nGréig, an Phortaingéil, agus an Tuirc. Bhí sé éasca go leor buaileadh le chairde toisc go bhíomar uilig sa rang theanga céanna."

Aithnaíonn Casey go raibh cúpla deacrachtaí aici i leith an Erasmus, ach tá dearcadh dearfach aici de réir a chuile!

"I dócha go raibh sé deacair mo chuid Gaeilge a chaomhnú is a chosaint toisc go raibh mé ag dhéanadh iarracht an Gearmánais a fhoghlaim. Ach tagann sé ar ais chugat!

Comh maith le seo bhí sé beagánín deacair Erasmus a dhéanadh agus buachaill agam ar ais in Éirinn, go háirithe sa bhealach is go raibh seisean ar Erasmus sa chéad shemestéir. Ach bhí sé deas dul thar lear leis, agus ar aon nós níl cúig mhí ró-dheacair nuair atá tú I ngrá!"

Seoladh Bliain na Gaeilge agus ag ceiliúradh 120 bliain

Seosaimhin Ní Ghallachoir
Eagarthóir Gaeilge

A Ghaeilgeoirí bígí réidh agus ullmhaigí don bhliain seo chugainn, mar tabharfaidh 2013 cúis mhór cheiliúrtha dúinn uilig toisc gur Bliain na Gaeilge a bheidh ann.

Beidh mórchomóradh ag tarlú ar a 25 lá Samhain 2012 mar gheall ar sheoladh Bhliain na Gaeilge. Feicfidh tú céiliúrtha mór ar an lá seo mar tá sé 120 bliain ó cuireadh Conradh na Gaeilge tús le athbheochan na Gaeilge. Beidh gníomhaíochtaí spraoi ar siúl cosúil le péinteáil aghaidhe fá choinne na bpaistí, beidh bileoga eolais ar fáil faoi bhliain na Gaeilge, beidh ciorcail chomhrá ann agus feicfidh tú rinceoirí ag damhsa agus ceoltóiri ag seinnt.

Dar le Aodhán O'Dea, comhardaitheoir na mic léinn do Conradh na Gaeilge, go mbeidh sár-thús leis an bhliain i nDaingean Uí Chúis 31 Nollaig 2012. "Cuirfear pleascadh mór leis an Oíche Chinn Bhliana ar an 31lá Nollaig mar gur Oscailte Bliain na Gaeilge é," arsa Aodhán O Dea. Insan áireamh beidh ceoltóirí, cuairteoirí cáiliúla agus taispeántas thinte ealaíne ann ar bharr na céibhe ó 9:00i.n suas go dtí Oíche Chinn Bhliana.

"Beidh muid ag cuir a lán imeachtaí chun cinn an bhliain seo chugainn, ar nós Ard-Fheis Conradh na Gaeilge, ar nós Seachtain na Gaeilge, an Picnic Samhradh Comhluadar, Lá Ceiliúradh Cainte agus beidh a fhad níos mó himeachtaí ar siúl tríd an bhliain," arsa Aodhán O'Dea.

Tháinig tús le Bliain na Gaeilge nuair a bhuail grúpaí, coistí pobail agus eagraíochtaí Gaeilge le chéile chun a gcuid smaointe a chur chun cinn faoi bliain comóradh Gaeilge. Ansin d'eagraigh siad imeachtaí sóisialta trí Ghaeilge a chuir le cheile ar fud an bhliain, chun cearta an phobail a bhaint amach, an teanga Gaeilge a athbheochan agus chun saothrú ar son na teanga i ngach gné den saol.

Tá na heagraíochtaí ag obair go crua leis an phobal, chun deimhin a dhéanamh de go labhraíonn daoine Gaeilge go nádúrtha ina saol laethúil. Tugann an bhliain seo deis mhór dúinn uilig chun spotsholas a dhíriú ar thábhacht na teanga agus ar an chultúr Gaelach.

Bhí na heagraitheoirí seo ag obair le chéile ar son na cúise chun níos mó Gaeilge a chur in úsáid sa Dáil, sna scoileanna, sna Comhairlí Contae, sna h-ionaid óige agus i ngach áit ar chlár na cruinne.

Beidh roinnt imeachtaí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta ar siúl do Bhliain na Gaeilge ar fad, mar shampla spórt, damhsa, seimineáir, ceolchoirmeacha, léamha litríochta agus srl. De réir Aodhán O'Dea "go mbeidh cineal oscailte de Bliain na Gaeilge thar lear freisin sna gceantairí atá gníomhach ag caint Gaeilge mar shampla Canada, Boston agus a lán tíortha eile timpeall an domhain," arsa an comharaitheoir.

Tá eolas ar Bliain na Gaeilge uilig ar fáil ar http://gaeilge2013.ie/.

Stadas An Ghaeilge í DIT

Stiofán O'Connachtaigh

Níl easpa iarrachtaí ionadúil le feabhas a chur ar an dteanga le blianta beaga anuas, ach cén stádas poiblí a bhfuil ag an Ghaeilge i DIT?

Chuaigh "The Edition" i mbun muintir Sr, Áinséir chun an ceist seo a freagairt agus tuairimí ginearálta an gcoláiste faoin Gaeilge a haimsiú.

Gillian O' Loughlan ,céad bhliain, Staidéar Gnó

Tá mise ar son agus sílim tá tromlach freisin ach tá rudaí níos tábhachtaí ag tarlú. Níl fadhb agam seas ag caint leat as Gaeilge, sé deas má tá níos mó daoine sásta ach níl agus ag deireadh an lae is cuma liom agus cuid is mó de dhaoine.

Siobhán Nic Uidhir, tríú bhliain, Iriseoireacht

Níl mo Ghaeilge thar barr ach níl náire orm, mar is aoibhinn liom an Ghaeilge mar tá sé an-thábhachtach, mar is ár dteanga atá ann. Is aoibhinn liom go bhfuil mé ábalta dul thar lear agus mo theanga féin a bheith agam.

Daniel Connolly, dara bhliain, Bainistíochta Achmhainní Daonna

Is cur amú ama agus airgead í an Ghaeilge toisc nach labhraítear go phoiblí nó go forleathan í, ní léimfeá ar báid atá í mbun báite agus tá sí i mbun bás a fháil. Is tír Béarla muid anois caithfidh daoine é sin a ghlacadh.

Ar gnáth lá sa gcoláiste a rinne an suirbhé seo, agus de réir na freagraí, gnáth meon an mac léinn DIT a thaispeántar.

As na céadta duine, bhí cuid an-bheag sásta cómhrá a bheith acu, - n'fheadar cé mhéad acu súid a labhraíonn Gaeilge gan iriseoir ag cur brú orthu. Bhí daoine eile ró-náireach as a gcuid Gaeilge chun labhairt linn, agus cuid eile drochbhéasach, fiú ag gaire fúinn agus faoin dteanga. Ach cad is cúis leis an bhfadhb seo?

Is fíor annamh an comhartha nach bhfeictear go dhátheangach ar na campais uilig, agus tá caighdeán an Ghaeilge i measc daoine óga ag feabhsú an t-am ar fad. Le Cumann Gaelach reasúnta mór aclaí san áireamh le sin, chomh maith l'Oifeagach lán aimseartha na Gaeilge, ba chóir go mbeidh an Ghaeilge slán sabháilte i DIT.

De réir An Chumann Gaelach áfach, níl ach 1% de mhic léinn lánaimseartha fochéimí sásta le bheith í mbun an Ghaeilge, agus a hathbheochan. I gcompráid lena hollcholáistí eile, níl amhras ach go bhfuil caighdeán Gaeilge lag againn san Institiúid agus in ainneon na hiarrachtaí uilig, níl ag eirígh le pholaisí teanga an gcoláiste. Gabh ár leiscéail Aodhán O'Dea, ach tá "An Réabhlóid" i bhfad uainn i DIT.

GLUAIS/ GLOSSARY

Cheiliúrtha	Celebration
Athbeochan na Gaeilge	Revive the Irish language
Gníomhaíochtaí spraoi	Fun activities
Fá choinne	For
Craoltóirí	Broadcaster
Taispeántas thinte ealaíne	Fireworks display
Tathí	Experience
De réir dealraimh	Apparently
Adhmháil	Acknowledging
Aiféala	Regret

COLLEGE NOTICE BOARD

DIT Drama Society prepares to present two

Siobhán McGuire

The DIT's drama society will run two self-written plays this semester. One of the plays, 'The McConaughey Project' runs from Tuesday, November 27 to Thursday,

November 29. The play stars DIT students; Tessa Fleming, Oisin McCartan and Rory O'Connor.

The play concerns Graham's (McCartan) efforts to 'find the love of his

life' or at least get the ride. He's helped by his friend Alan (O'Connor) and Alan's sometime girlfriend Kim (Fleming) as they try to take inspiration from a selection of Hollywood rom-coms.

Kevin Donnellan, director of the play spoke about what inspired him to write the play, "Ireland's a great country, but I took a straw poll recently and no one I knew could remember the last time they had a first kiss when they were sober. Which is really sad, and really Irish. But the American culture of - you know - chatting to people you like when sober, asking people out on dates; it just doesn't sit right."

Kevin is currently rehearsing with cast members every week to prepare for the show.

"The cast is great," enthused Kevin. "Tessa has studied acting and has a such a strong

stage presence. Oisin was great in a few different DIT Drama

productions last year and he has to carry the play as Graham. Rory

is new to the society, but he has a lovely accent, and, bless him,

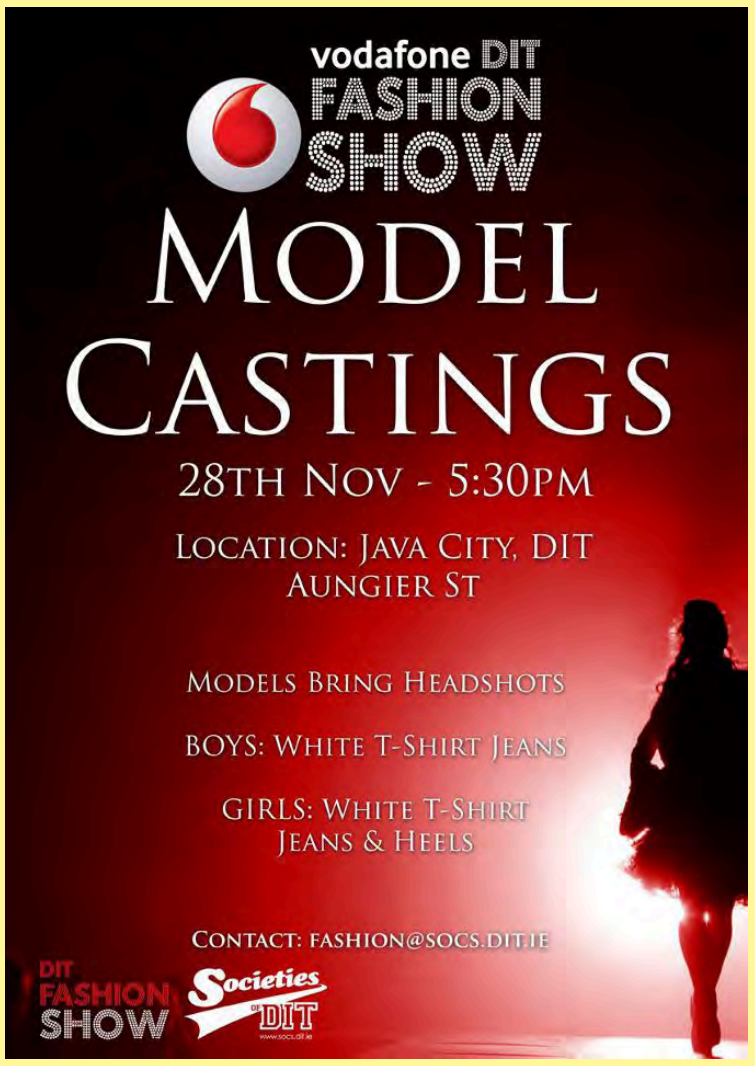
he's great at learning his lines," he adds.

Kevin, a final year Journalism student, summarised the play "So it's about a lad trying to do things a bit different. But he's an idiot, hopefully a likable idiot, so it doesn't really go too great. It's as much about friendship as romance though."

Tickets are five euro and doors open at 7.15pm each night in the Black

Box Theatre, Aungier Street.

Model Castings for DIT Fashion Show '13



Model castings for the DIT Fashion Show 2013 will take place this Wednesday 21 November. Castings will be held in Java city in DIT Aungier Street. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the show and the model castings are the kick off to what is sure to be a great show.

Models will be chosen by our panel of judges. The panel includes Brendan Courtney, stylist and TV presenter; Anne Morgan, managing director of Distinct Model Management; stylist Maria Fusco and model Shireen McDonagh. Principal sponsors of the show, Vodafone and Spin1038 will be there joined by scouts from various modelling agencies. The Spin 1038 Zoo Crew will be broadcasting live from the castings with 'The Spinis' also in attendance. Students looking to be cast in the show should bring headshots with them and wear white t-shirts and jeans, with any female models also wearing heels.

The DIT Fashion Show provides the perfect opportunity for students to become involved in one of DIT's highest profile events. With food and drinks being served on the night followed by the ultimate after-party this is an event not to be missed!

Dublin summit to address future of transatlantic cyber security

Leaders from government, industry and academia will convene Nov. 27-28 at Dublin's Griffith College Conference Centre for the Transatlantic Cyber Security Summit. Co-sponsored by the Georgia Tech Research Institute, Georgia Tech Ireland and the Office of Naval Research, the free, two-day event will focus on three priorities and challenges that will have the most significant impact on the future of transatlantic cyber security:

1. Thwarting Cyber Crime
2. International Collaboration & Information Sharing
3. Building the Cyber Workforce

The Summit's format will include keynote presentations, moderated open discussions and technical deep dives. Unlike other events that merely focus on the high-level issues of the international cyber security space, this conference offers the opportunity to learn from subject matter experts who are directly engaged in the battle against advanced persistent cyber threats.

Keynote speakers include…
The Hon. John G. Grimes, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration, Chief Information Officer, Department of Defense;
Mr. Alex Vandurme, Chief Engineer, NATO Computer Incident Response Capability;
Lord John Reid of Cardowan, The Chertoff Group;
Dr. Robert J. Elder, USAF Lt General (Ret.), Research Professor, George Mason University;
Mr. Joe Weiss, Applied Control Solutions; and
Dr. Jack Callahan, Associate Director InfoDom, Office of Naval Research Global.

For further information or to register online, please visit: www.gtri.gatech.edu/gtireland.

DIT student volunteering starts Christmas drive

Eoin Harmon

The DIT Student Volunteering programme held its 2012 meeting to encourage students to spend their free time for good causes in the Christmas season.

Conducted by the Volunteering Chairperson Cassie Delaney, she informed those in attendance about volunteering opportunities like soup kitchen runs and a Christmas appeal.

With a strong turnout for the meeting and more interested parties hoping to be included, the Volunteering programme has reasons to be hopeful and productive this academic year.

That's according to Chairperson Delaney herself, who told the Edition "we try to run consistent events but the majority of our action takes place during the two week annual Christmas Appeal."

With preparation well underway, the plan is laid out by Delaney. "This year some of our big events include a launch party on 29 November, a Christmas Market from 3-6 December, a Choral Service in Grangegorman and an outdoor screening of 'Home Alone' in Meeting House Square on 11 December."

The work of the Volunteering Programme often coincides with other DIT Societies. "Societies play a vital role in helping raise funds for various charities throughout the year. They also come up with fantastic ideas for fundraisers which we help them develop and put into action," she said.

However, despite the great turnout on 6 November, the Programme has to expand its outreach. Delaney said that "I personally am very interested in increasing the online awareness of volunteering through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. It can be difficult to encourage students with hectic schedules to participate so we also try do some 'once off' events so people don't feel like they have to commit."

GET YOUR CLUBS, SOCS, OR EVENT NEWS HERE

E-MAIL DeputyEd@Edition.ie

COMMENT

Famous billionaires have vintage sour grapes

While half of the Americans are now joyfully celebrating the fact that Obama continues in the White House for four more years, the other half of the American population is bitterly disappointed after the result.

While most of the adults with common sense seem to understand the name of the game, which is that you can´t always win, there are also people who handle the loss of Mitt Romney, well let´s say, a tad less elegant.

US Apprentice boss and billionaire Donald Trump, 66, (also infamous for his very bad toupee) seems to be most shocked about the situation. After Romney´s lost, Trump started quickly to share his disappointment over Obama`s victory with a series of aggressive messages in Twitter.

"Let's fight like hell and stop this great and disgusting injustice! This election is a total sham and a travesty. We are not a democracy! Our nation is a once great nation divided," he said.

Donald Trump and Silvio Berlusconi don't deserve a second thought, according to Riika Nykänen.

Trump also released a video in internet, where he says Obama is the least transparent president in history, and he is ready to offer $5m to charity if President Barack Obama releases his college and passport records.

But of course, money men must support each other when the road gets rocky, right? Could it be that Romney, also quite a wealthy man with his around 200 million dollar assets, just happens to be Mr. Trump´s buddy from the golf club?

At the same time there is also another very angry billionaire making waves on the other side of the globe. Several weeks ago Italy´s former prime minister, media mogul and billionaire Silvio Berlusconi was sentenced to one year in jail for tax-fraud with his Mediaset television empire. Before this Berlusconi has been accused of underaged prostitution, corruption and mafia connections. Despite numerous legal battles during the past 18 years he´s been in politics, Berlusconi has always managed to avoid prison as a senior citizen.

Now the angry ex-prime minister is cursing the Italian court system claiming that he is actually an innocent man and a victim of a manhunt, while hiding from the awkward media attention at the Kenyan ranch of his billionaire friend Flavio Briatore. Yes, sure Silvio. We all believe you are an innocent man like pigs can fly.

Trust me, I know that money makes the world go round. Money makes Mr. Trump to think that he has the right to define democracy and political justice. Money makes Mr. Berlusconi to think that he is above the law.

But no matter how much money makes the world go round, there are always some things that just can´t be bought. Trump couldn´t manage to buy the U.S president he wanted.

He also still didn´t manage to buy himself a decent hair style after all these years. Berlusconi instead managed to buy himself the work as a prime minister, and he managed to buy himself out of trouble several times.

Trump and Berlusconi should join together, and they should be locked inside a Big brother -style mansion, starring a new reality TV-program called Billionaires Behaving badly. This would be more suitable arena for people like these two very old, very bitter, and very rich men who apparently have a lot to say, but who seem to have totally lost their common sense.

Survey: "Do you use jam on a weekly basis?"

If Dublin was hit by a nuke, obliterating all traces of DIT's information network, I'm confident the survey mails would keep coming. "Hey guys, we're working on our final year project to develop an iodine-enriched energy bar to fight off radiation sickness and it'd really help us out if you'd fill out our survey!"

To be honest, if the scenario of Temple Bar getting the Enola Gay treatment was real, and some Cathal Brugha Street Nutraceutical boffins had a solution in the works for the effects of the fallout, I still wouldn't bother with the survey.

Since this time last year, my DIT email inbox has been clogged with fifty or sixty communiqués begging me to complete surveys. "Steve," I hear you say, "that's not even two a week!"

Wrong. They come in bursts around assignment time. They ambush you in pestering groups. They disappear in the holidays and return with a vengeance at term time. They're annoying as hell.

This all came to a head last Friday as a bunch of grizzled fourth years hijacked a survey email sent out by some poor second year trying to develop a mobile banking app (you can tell the year of enrolment by looking at the second and third characters of a student number).

Stephen Bourke combats annoying DIT survey e-mails

The original email was classic survey spam; a shouty all-caps subject line with four superfluous exclamation marks; "Hi All" as the salutation, and the "we would really appreciate two minutes of your life" pitch. As usual, the tone is more an expectant instruction rather than a humble researcher's request.

"Nuts to that," I said from my seat in the Aungier Street library to nobody in particular. An hour later, the reply came. "HOW ABOUT NO SCOTTY!!"

"Every joke," wrote George Orwell, "is a tiny revolution." And so this one was. In the middle of a brief storm of Austin Powers clips and image macros, one confused soul wrote "Is this a joke? why would you ask people to complete a survey and then do this? I'm reporting spam."

Bless. This should be the response to every absurd survey put through the system – a spam report. Writing this column prompted me to take a look back through my ignored emails. "Do you use jam on a weekly basis?" asked one. "How much did you spend during the last 3 months for cosmetics?" asked another (there was an option to reply with >€500).

The other problem with spamming us with quiz after quiz is that academics who genuinely need to target the DIT student community get buried. Postgraduate researchers need to submit their research proposals to DIT's Research Ethics committee before casting their surveys into the ether. Somehow, this procedure is simply bypassed by undergrads looking for a quick dataset to spruce up a project. After a few weeks, I usually give up reading my DIT emails and just skim them for lecturers' names and ignore everything that says "survey." The worst part is that serious researchers usually have an actual incentive to participate which I'm missing out on.

Let's be frank here, most of the web surveys you get via DIT webmail have no good reason to be there. They will produce poor statistics from a poorly-filtered and badly-chosen sample group. A person bored enough to actually fill out a survey for want of a more engaging activity could as easily pop in silly data, or just select random buttons. How much junk data is going into DIT students' project work?

Here's what you should do instead. Print out a stack of copies of the same survey you would have lashed onto SurveyMonkey. Get out from under your duvet and ask your mum the questions. Evaluate her answers, and adjust your questions if there were any problems. Congratulations! You just did a pilot study.

Next, print out a stack of revised surveys, grab a clipboard, and knock in to your next-door neighbour. Ask the questions. Repeat for your entire street.

So, I don't want to see another web survey in my inbox between now and July unless you have prizes or free stuff or whatever. Until then, I encourage the derailment of any such threads with image macros, YouTube videos and general piss-takery. I also invite anyone annoyed to join me in submitting silly data into surveys for the hell of it. As long as I'm getting spammed, I may as well be getting a few laughs.

The Great Gay Milk Crisis in Eastern Eurpoe

The stereotypical Russian image – a post-Soviet Union and forever emerging economy, with a dominant influence over its Eastern European neighbours, right? Combine this with a lingering communist society and a cunningly rigged presidential election and the topic of gay rights and anti-homosexuality propaganda bans shouldn't come as a surprise.

It seems Eastern European states are going back to the Middle Ages. From proposed gay gag rules in Ukraine to preserve national security, to gay milk (yes I said gay milk) in Russia, detrimental setbacks are occurring in the struggle for equality, not only on a European level but as a global representation. It begs the question; if these countries were part of the European Union would this drivel of "threats to national security" and "anti-homosexual propaganda bans" be tolerated? The St. Petersburg law which prevents the "propaganda of sodomy, lesbianism, bisexualism and transgenderism" is under the guise of protecting children's morality and shielding their minds from what Russians elude to as some form gay pollution. The ludicrous St Petersburg Governor Gregory Poltavchenko signed the bill into law in March of this year and created a ripple effect across neighbouring countries while fuelling the animosities of anti-homosexuality activists.

The trend for anti-gay gagging laws in Eastern Europe is toxic, writes Heather Harte.

Once the first gay gag rule was passed in St. Petersburg, more followed across Russia with another proposed at the national level. Just like the disease that Russian extremists portray homosexuality as, the idea spread. A similar act in Ukraine which aims to outlaw pro-homosexual propaganda and positive depictions of gay people has united support from the major political parties in the Ukrainian Parliament, and awaits final approval. Other laws which include comparable initiatives are proposed in Hungary, Moldova and Lithuania.

Returning to the bizarre gay milk notion; the relentless hysteria over an offending rainbow branded milk carton seems in part to do with how PepsiCo as a company has taken steps to promote gay equality, but it is also symptomatic of a greater, and relatively swift, shift toward religious zealotry that has infested Russian politics. The original milk company called Wimm-Bill-Dann was bought out by Pepsi in 2010 for $3.8 million.

Pepsi are now under scrutiny for using harmless and cheerful rainbows on their milk cartons which promote the "vice" of being gay, according to Russia's People's Council. The council has involved state prosecutors who are nonsensically accusing Pepsi of deliberately orchestrating this big campaign that finances and promotes homosexuality to children. Really? I mean, I'm sure Pepsi have more pressing matters like bettering Coca Cola in the markets rather than brainwashing kids with gay milk.

The St. Petersburg ban has been used so far to take a variety of law suits against everyone from punk group "Pussy Patrol" to Madonna.

Europe and the U.N. need to take the reins and eradicate this backward behaviour which is trending among the former USSR countries. Yes Russia officially decriminalized homosexuality in 1993, but it seems their religious orthodoxy, with its veins creeping through much of Russia's political terrain, would like to criminalize LGBT identity once again so that even the slightest inference of gay life becomes reason for protest and court action.

When there's a sudden threat of attack from gay milk, you know it's time to get worried.

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COMMENT

Mayhem, death and Damascus nightclubs

Journalism lecturer Tom Clonan talks to **Al McConnell** about his dark experiences in the Lebanon and the release of his new book, *Blood, Sweat and Tears*



Lieutenant Tom Clonan, pictured left, with his father, Eugene (Garda, retired) and brother Lieutenant (Navy) Eugene, in August 1996

Tom Clonan, retired from the Irish Army, Irish Times security analyst and lecturer at DIT, has released his first book, Blood, Sweat and Tears, a personal memoir of going to the Middle East as a young officer in the mid 1990s.

"It is a dark story of mayhem, death and nightclubs in Damascus and Jerusalem," says Tom, "but primarily it is about loss of innocence and loss of ideals."

Tom served in the Lebanon in the 1990s, including a seven-month stint in the Southern region of the country. During that time, an Israeli offensive known as Operation Grapes of Wrath, a punitive attack on civilians in South Lebanon, was orchestrated by the then Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, and carried out by the Israeli military.

"We patrolled night, after night, after night, in areas where hundreds of men, women and children had been massacred. Three months were spent taking bodies out of the ground.

"I found myself in a village called Quana – there were almost 200 murdered there. Then within 72 hours I was walking down Grafton Street. I buried that experience. My father, who was a Guard, told me not to talk about it. "You'll do yourself no favours", he said."

For several years, those experiences went unexpressed, until a second round of life experiences, as Tom says, allowed him to begin to make sense of that time.

"In 2003 I had to bury my daughter. It was like a bolt of lightning – I found that placing that tiny white coffin in the ground brought back some experiences. I had been pulling bodies out of the ground for 3 months in South Lebanon, and those memories began to revisit me.

"I dreamed that I was back in the Lebanon and there were kids around, looking at me."

After almost twenty years of carrying these memories, writing Blood, Sweat and Tears, offered a chance for an honest expression of that time, something not often heard from members of the Irish Army.

"The writing process was like an exorcism", says Tom. "I found it therapeutic and helpful in coming to terms with what life has thrown at me, and what life throws at everyone really.

> **"The writing process was like an exorcism"**

"I always kept a pretty detailed diary, but I also had the unit history from my time there, which is given to every officer. It's a full and detailed account of every operational history, but the official army one. Then I had some letters; I was writing letters home every day or every other day, and two years ago, when my Dad passed away, I found that he had kept them. Reading over those, it was striking just how innocent and naïve I had been at the time."

As Tom's first book of this length, there is a certain trepidation surrounding its first few weeks of publicity, exacerbated by the personal nature of the content.

"I am quite nervous about the feedback, it's a book of very personal experiences. This is uncharted territory for me."

It also remains unclear just how the army will react to the book's publication. Although the Irish Army have been present in the Lebanon for nearly 40 years, it is not often discussed publicly.

"The Army didn't encourage talking about it, and the media didn't talk about it, surprisingly, even though there have been over 40,000 individual tours of duty there. There's an extraordinary connection between the two countries; every family will have a connection through a father, a mother, a sibling or a cousin, who came under fire in that country. But we don't talk about it. Part of the motivation for the book was to redress that balance.

"There were some sensitivities around privacy; there were many harrowing experiences and people gave so much of themselves in those circumstances, so names have been changed to make sure people can't be identified. That was difficult from a writing point of view. Some people in the Army will probably be dissappointed that they're not mentioned, but I can be sure they would also go nuts if they were.

"I have no idea what the Army will make of it. Most forces are used to this kind of book, there's a literary tradition in many countries of soldiers writing about their experiences, but strangely the Irish, for a literary nation, do not do that."

Blood, Sweat and Tears looks set to offer a unique, honest perspective of a dark time in one soldier's career, and life. "It'll make you laugh and it'll make you cry," says Tom. "Life comes knocking at everyone's door sooner or later. My experiences in the Lebanon caught up with me through dealing with the loss of a daughter, of my parents and of a sister. The book deals with that; loss and coming to terms with loss. You only get one chance and you have to make the most of the 30,000 odd days that are handed to you."

Tom's new book, Blood, Sweat and Tears is available in shops now.

The poverty of the post grad

Dáirne Black

The steps of DIT are packed with students. Oh lord, here we go again I thought. Giving myself a pep talk I walked through the olive green doors and hastily tried to find my classroom. God this place was huge. Was there a map? A tour guide perhaps? Ooh or even better a mobile app! I looked at the time, nearly late but not quite. Don't let me be late. Not today. After racing around, I eventually got sorted and come 2pm I stood sheepishly outside room 1004 with the other students. MA class of 2012/2013 I'm Dáirne, I'm 23 and I'm terrified.

The term post-graduate course was an alien term to me for a long time. We had many a career talk in College about what we wanted to do when we completed our Undergraduate Degree. Teaching was force-fed down my throat my throat. I politely declined. Many didn't however. I studied Early&Modern Irish in Trinity. Please don't hate me, I genuinely couldn't imagine being anywhere other than DIT. They paid me to say that. I majored in Modern Irish and out of a class of about 15, at least half or more have gone into teaching. They are currently doing the H. Dip course and training to become secondary school teachers. The rest have taken a year out or are working. Out of the many students I knew who studied ARTS degrees very few have gone on to do Post-Graduate courses. In conversation with a friend recently she remarked that it was rare for ARTs students to continue on following completion of their Undergraduate degree. The question puzzles me. It seems like a natural progression to go on and do another year. Add another string to your bow if you will. Yet, what are these underlying factors that may be stopping many students from continuing on in second level education?

Money, money, money. Without question, one of the biggest challenges facing post-graduate students is the financial cost of another degree. For many students they will still be paying off their Undergraduate loan and they do not need nor want the added pressure and expense of a second loan. Understandably so. Pressure is put on parents' aswell. I know with my own parents, they simply did not have a spare €7,600 so a trip to the bank manager was paid. Thank you Mr. Bank Manager. The cost of a post-graduate course can range from €5,000 to even €20,000. That isn't even taking into account the cost of living in Dublin, if you're living out of home, and the cost of commute. What you were paying steadily over the course of four years is suddenly snowballing towards you. There's alot of unhappiness at the moment as students wait for education grants that should been given months ago. For many this has proved difficult as College starts as they have delayed fee payments and feel uncertain about their future.

Many students, having studied for four years will leave for pastures new and head off travelling. Some will seek out new lives in countries like Canada or Australia, surrogate homes to the Irish these days. Others who are lucky enough to get jobs here will enter the working world of 9-5s, salaries, suits and pencil skirts.

In the Science field, all hope is not lost. All my friends who studied science at second level have gone on to do MAs and PhDs. The difference between Science and ARTs is amazing. So is the level of respect I think. Many seem to turn their nose up at an ARTs degree and hold more respect and prestige for Science.

In all second level institutions, the number of students studying post-graduate courses has dramatically decreased. Dwindling numbers is causing concern for Colleges and many courses have been abandoned in years due to the lack of students applying to them. Yet, that also prevents any student who did want to do the course from doing it, so not only are lack of numbers preventing courses being put on the syllabus/curriculum, they are also preventing students doing the course.

Nearly three months into my Post-Grad course and I have no regrets. Although the numbers are small, it means more attention from lecturers and after paying €7,600 no one can deny that that's a bad thing

COMMENT

Should we all be utilizing Social Media to get ahead in the evolving job market?

Izzy O'Hara looks at the benefits and potential pitfalls of using social media when entering the jobs market

These days going to college and getting a degree unfortunately aren't enough to land you your dream job. It is the extra things you have on your CV that will make you stand out and therefore more memorable. "Do you what you're passionate about!"- We have all heard these words of wisdom being doled out to us at one stage or another. The truth is, even by following this mantra- competition is fierce and self-promotion will be your tool to help you stand out.

What makes YOU different? In 2012 Social media is now one of the most powerful sources for media updates through sites such as Twitter and Facebook. The significance the internet had in the Obama campaign back in 2008 proved just how valuable a resource it can be, particularly in the area of self- promotion. Another example of this is Justin Bieber, who got his big break via the Youtube videos his Mother had posted of him singing back in 2007.



There are many ways you can promote yourself (for free) online. You may want to start a blog about photography for example; you can then share this blog on your Facebook page, tweet about it and rave about it on Pinterest. These are all different platforms you can use to share your work, make new contacts and possibly lead to business ventures being formed. If nothing else- these different networks will add to your list of interests for your CV (and yes there should be a list!), helping you to stand out.

LinkedIn- The social networking website geared primarily towards the job market and perhaps the most useful tool- LinkedIn. It is laid out in the style of an online CV: Your academic experience, employment history, interests and accolades all presented in such a way that shows off your best assets to potential employers- you then build connections and add people who can give a good reference or recommendation. It also gives you a chance to check out the competition, what their qualifications are and how you can add to yours.

Increasingly employers are looking for potential candidates via LinkedIn, meaning you could be called to interview for a job you hadn't even applied for based on your interests and experience they had been searching for. Happy days! Not only can you search for jobs on this site you can also use your LinkedIn account to upload your CV onto different websites. Another primary function of LinkedIn is that it helps you to network with people for jobs all over the world.

Remember, potential employers or even your current boss may go searching for your Facebook, Twitter, Youtube page so be sure to not have anything online that you wouldn't want your Dad seeing. Do your online profiles project your best image? If not, consider better ways to present yourself online. Also you need not have graduated college to be concerned about the job market; it's always good to be thinking towards the future and what you can add to your list of skills along the way. LinkedIn has roughly 200,000 college students signing up every month which has in turn encouraged companies to recruit internship and entry- level positions. Don't miss any opportunities: take advantage of the social media resources at your fingertips and start connecting!

Children's Referendum not a fair test of Saturday voting, despite YES vote

Barry Lennon

Saturday voting was not given a 'fair test' in the Children's referendum, both DITSU President David Keogan and Government opposition have said.

The reaction comes after Government announcements that Saturday voting would be reviewed following a low turnout nationwide, with only 33.5 percent of 3.1m eligible voters casting a ballot.

Keogan believed that the referendum was not an appropriate judge of Saturday voting, a change wanted by student leaders to encourage more students to vote.

"While the Children's referendum and the issues it raised were very important it was not a fair test of Saturday voting... I think it was a complicated issue. Students may have thought that it was going to pass, thinking 'who is against children,' or just didn't know about it," he said.

Sinn Féin Spokesman on education Jonathan O'Brien agreed that Saturday voting was not given a 'fair test' and added that a general election would have been a more suitable test for Saturday voting.

"If I was to be a conspiracy theorist, if the government knew that there was to be a low enough turnout, it might dismiss the prospect of Saturday voting," said O'Brien.

"We (Sinn Féin) will certainly be raising this issue with the Government. Saturday voting would not only make it easier for students but also people who have to work away from the home.

"Ultimately the objective is to get as many people out to vote as possible. Other methods can adopted. This is not my personal opinion but I don't see why voting has to be restricted to one day. We could have early voting," said O'Brien.

When asked whether Saturday voting had any effect on student participation in the referendum, Keogan said that he did not know but it made it easier for him.

"The fact it was on a Saturday I got to vote. If it was mid-week I wouldn't have been able to. I was working up until eight o'clock every evening so I wouldn't be able to go down to Cavan to vote," he said.

Keogan was critical of the hours polling stations were open which had been reduced to save €600,000.

"Starting at nine and finishing at ten in the evening was too short. It should have started around seven and finished around say eleven. In talking to students I found a lot who couldn't vote because they had part time work," he said.



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Mathematicians and scientists riot over Student Math Learning Centre closure until 2013

Pencils and rulers broken ■ Solutions to problems not shown ■ Bernouille's Theorems scoffed at

Stephanie Costello
Spurious Editor

Mathemagicians and Matharexics alike have cause for celebration following the news that the Student Math Learning Centre is to reopen in 2013. The service, which provided free tuition to all creeds in DIT, enjoyed huge success over the years but closed early last year much to the chagrined consternation of its devoted followers.

On the streets and behind the veil of anonymity provided by "the Internet," students and stereotypes were voicing their anger at the closure. A second year Business and Marketing student from Aungier Street, who wishes to keep her identity secret, told The Edition how much it has helped her, on the condition that we don't tell her friends.

"Ya, like the programme was totes useful. When I decided to, like, study business, no one told me I would have to look at numbers all day. That's just #gross."

The service, which prided itself on being non judgmental and confidential saw a huge response to its 24 hour help line last year as Kevin Byrne, a first year Bolton Street Student can attest: "Despite numerous attempts at mating, I began to get really depressed with mathematics and the helpline really gave me a push in the right direction. Once I realized that pi is in fact not the way to a ladies heart, I decided to quit my degree and take up juggling full time. I could never have done this with the help of the SMLC."

A Candle light vigil held over two days on the Aungier Street campus last September, in aid of the center, enjoyed a turnout of almost twelve and onlookers were treated to a heart warming rendition of some of math's most loved songs including 'Its hip to be square' and ' 2+2=5' by Radiohead. A flash mob, in conjunction with the Banter Society saw dozens of students interpretive dance their way through Pythagoras' theorem outside President Brian Norton's office. Which, The Edition can report, was in perfect algorythm.

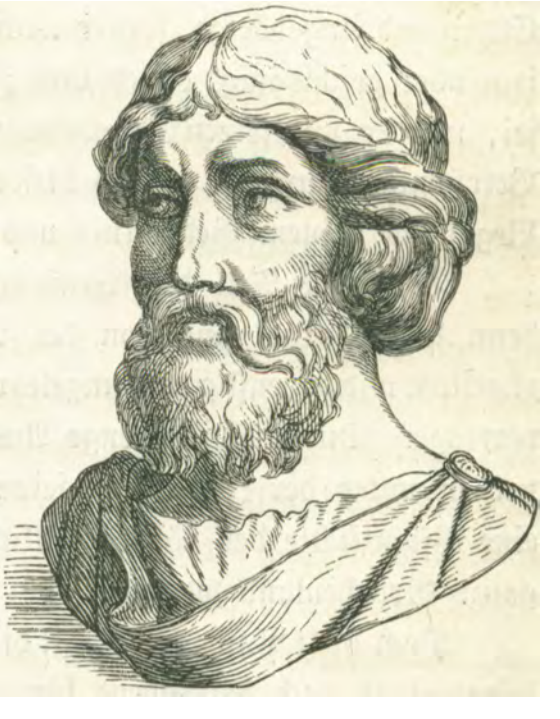
The Chief wizard in charge of the school of Mathemagics, Mr. Venn is quoted as being 'delighted by this outcome and support we have received! Mathemagicians are a dying breed and we must do our utmost to protect our beloved trade. Enough with the hypothexcuses, maths for all!"

The Student Math Learning Centre website, which is currently out of service, had an inspirational message of its own from the late great Albert Einstein, "Do not worry about your difficulties in mathematics," it reads. "I can assure you, mine are still greater," a poignant reminder that no matter how hard you try, you will never be as advanced nor will you ever have a mo' quite like Albert's.

In the last meeting that took place between DIT aficionados and the mathemagicians, we have learned that the service is considering branching out to include 'Math rock - a theory and its principles' a 12-week course aiming to target musicians and potentially raise the street credibility of the SLMC.

In the meantime, an interim service is being offered as a stop gap measure throughout three DIT campuses including Kevin Street, Bolton Street and Aungier Street and is being run on a first come first served basis.

If you would like to get more involved, or follow the SMLC progress log on to Twitter using # 'aprotractorisnotjust-



Pythagoras would not be best pleased with this turn of events, I can tell you that for definite !

Jam & basket weaving "to innovate Ireland out of downward spiral!!!!!" economists say

Preservative to converse the nation! ■ Spread the word!! ■ Students hopefully won't get jarred!!!!!

Luke Holohan
Dubious Editor

A new course is set to be added to the DIT undergraduate programme in time for next year.

Although not yet making it into the prospectus, a very very very high ranking DIT staff member (47) has assured The Edition that Jam Innovation and Basket Weaving Arts (DT000) will be added to the list of courses for the undergraduate programme 2013/14. When pressed on what the course would entail the shadowy figure told this reporter, 'On the course students will be expected to develop expertise in jam production and basket technology. Lecturers will cover a range of disciplines including – Jareography, Basket Chemistry I, Old Mother Hubbard's Larder studies as well as the Ethics of Fruit Pressing. We're hoping upon completion that students will be ready to spread out into the world and find suitable employment in the preservative or weaving sector.' Sounds like a load of chutney if you ask me.

The course which is a 48 month programme is thought to have a CAO points requirement of around 14 but DIT officials expect that number to rise considerably. Students looking to apply are warned that places are to be allocated on a first come first served basis, so it's wise to start filling out those CAO forms before all the places are scone. Also if our source is to be believed and he is, only applicants with higher level English will be considered. Apparently studies (we haven't bothered to check) reveal that interest in such craft courses are on the rise in Ireland, with Trinity College rumoured to be considering reintroducing Thatched Cottage and Cricket Ball Stitching Studies.

Goose Berry (23), an American Erasmus student we found skulking around the halls, was overjoyed with the idea. 'Yeehaw' was his reaction... or something to that affect. Another DIT student Terence (19), who declined to give his second name, had a more practical view on the matter. 'What's not to like about jam and baskets?' he said. We at the Edition couldn't agree more. With Ireland still well and truly in the economic mire that is this recession, we believe that more jam making and basket weaving university degrees can only be a good thing. When the bankers have eaten all our money and our homes have been repossessed, it's the jam makers and basket weavers that we'll run to for sugary sustenance and shelter (Wattle and Daub and all that).



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YOUR INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

LIFESTYLE

Japanese style tapas

Yamamori Izakaya , Georges St.

Phelim Connolly

Yamamori Izakaya is the newest addition to the Yamamori group restaurants. Located on South Great Georges Street right across the road from the original Yamamori Noodles branch it certainly seemed strange to say the least that they opened another branch so close on the same street. However this new outlet is anything but similar and altogether very surprising.

Firstly the concept is great. Japanese tapas dishes served family style on communal sharing tables. The idea behind this is simple; to attract the punters in with quick cheap bites with the expectation to later empty their wallets on accompanied drinks. It's quick, fun and very unirish. Japanese ornaments litter the walls and I love the big red hanging lanterns. It reminds me of being back in Japan. The place feels young and adolescent. The music is blasting and place is full of hipper kids going about their business. No uniforms required, attractive Asian waitresses buzz around in energetic yet efficient order.

The highlight is a super cheap set menu €5 for € 25 and it simply too hard to beat. Dishes include the omnipresent Asian staples like chicken wings, spring rolls and calamari. However of far more interest were the super succulent pork ribs, tasty ebi gyoza dumplings and the piece d'resistance of the whole place the Izakaya burger. Now Asian restaurants don't usually do burger and I wasn't expecting much of anything. But wow was I wrong.



Pork and beef burger at Yamamori - "out of this world"

This burger of pork and beef was just out of this world. It was tasty, meaty, well seasoned and altogether delicious; the key was the steamed dumpling style bun. It meant the burger was filling without that stuffy bloating feeling you get after eating a normal doughy bun. The spicy mayo added a nice touch of spice. Another plus was the Japanese pickles and daikon on the side (no greasy fries here) which although strange at first, gave the dish a nice balance of sour to spice flavour. It was really good and priced at €5 I got to say this was probably the best burger I ever had in Dublin. Otherwise we ordered the chilli squid which tasted like a bowl of salt and still wasn't great the second time round either. So the place can be hit and miss too.

The Izakaya is opened less than a year and still has things to improve. But the place is a fresh alternative in Dublin city. The place feels young and adolescent and like a rebellious youth doesn't seem at all intimated and by its neighbours and close relatives.

Food: 4/5

Burger, burger, burger and maybe the pork ribs as well.

Value: 4/5

The place feels more expensive than it actually is, So great for a date or casual dinner with friends. Beers specials are 4euro Mon- Thursday.

Health: 3/5

Lots of deep fried options available but if you choose wisely it is possible to do it well. salad and the different gyoza's.

Topman thieves?

Stephanie Quilligan
Lifestyle Editor

Topman found itself in a spot of trouble recently after graphic designer Kate Moross took to twitter to accuse the leading retailer of stealing her design.

She took to twitter to complain about the brands "theft of my tribal pattern" which she even has tattooed on her arm, and urged her followers to retweet her claim.



Kate Moross - Tribal Print February 2011

The tweet showed side by side images of the two products highlighting in colour the aspects of her design she believed to be directly copied and received over 1500 retweets form twitter users.

A Topman spokesperson responded to the claims tweeting "Topman takes very seriously the protection of its own intellectual property rights and accordingly respects the rights of others. We take great care to investigate any allegations of infringement rigorously. This matter has now been resolved with Ms. Moross to the mutual satisfaction of both parties"



Kate Moross - Tribal Print February 2011

This is not the first time the Arcadia Group who own Topman have been in trouble over claims about their clothing. Last year they received large numbers of complaints after they printed misogynistic comments on their t-shirts.

One particular t-shirt read "Nice new girlfriend, what breed is she?" The company were forced to remove the products after a huge backlash on social media site twitter.

However, the Arcadia Group are not the only high street Company to be in the spotlight over copyright this year. H&M came under fire in February after US-based artist Tori LaConsay claimed the brand copied her "you look nice today" slogan which features on some of the brands home ware. LaConsay claimed she had previously painted the slogan on a billboard in her hometown.

Romantic Ireland, not yet dead and gone it's in the grave

Sara Dalton

"Romantic Ireland's dead and gone" Yeats wrote wistfully in September 1913. Of course, he was referring to the lack of brave fenians fighting to free the country from Britain's grasp, but today, nearly one hundred years on, the infamous quote could be read in a different way.

Romantic Ireland of November 2012 is not awash with couples competing playfully in bowling alleys or eating coyly in restaurants together. It seems that these days Cupid's territory of choice is in the Irish nightclub, and his arrow is flung with the dangerous vigour of alcohol.

On Harcourt St at 12am last Saturday night hundreds of people in their twenties queued up outside spots like Copper Face Jacks, Krystal and The Palace. In true Dublin fashion, the girls were clad in as little clothing as legally possible despite the temperature being near freezing. "I can't actually feel the cold," laughed 22 year old Ciara Mulvane queuing for The Palace nightclub in hot pants and a vest top. "That is probably because of all those Jaeger shots we had before we left though" she added.

Ciara revealed that her night would feel incomplete if she didn't get 'approached by a few lads' throughout the night. "I'd take it as an insult if no one came up to me, I'd actually have to go to the bathroom and put on some more make up" she admitted.



Photo courtesy of David Wise via Flickr

"I've never actually been asked on a date in the traditional way," Ciara said. "The usual way I meet someone is on the dance floor or in the smoking area. If I think a guy is nice, I'll give him my number, I can't think of any other way to meet someone".

Ciara's friend Aoife Boyle agreed. "I don't know what it is about the Irish" she said. "We need drink to give us confidence or something.

"Italian and Spanish guys have no problem approaching women they think are attractive. Although come to think of it, me and my girlfriends think that's creepy. Maybe it's because we're not used to the forwardness or it might have something to do with the stereotype that the Irish can't accept a compliment."

Emily Lang is a twenty year old from New York who came to live in Dublin for the summer. "I just can't get over the cultural differences here", she said. "In America if you like a girl, you let her know. You let everyone know.

"My ex-boyfriend asked me on our first date at a house party," Emily continued. "He got on one knee in front of everyone and asked me out. I loved it! But every Irish girl I tell that story to laugh and say that they would have cringed if it happened to them, but then they give out about being single. I just don't get it."

Shane Ryan, a 22 year old Australian who moved to Ireland a year ago said he saw differences here too. "It is kind of sad. Every week you meet a new girl in a club. In Australia guys are more committed. You date a girl for longer and try and get to know the real them".

"It's time for girls to break the trend and ask guys out themselves, or perhaps we will have to accept our romantic future."

> **"it's time for girls to break the trend and ask guys out themselves or we'll have to accept our romantic future"**

LIFESTYLE

J1 Canada

Starting book that J1 summer in Canada? Then look no further than these handy tips from Saoirse Ivory

Preparation

Organising a working holiday to Canada can be a bitch, but it is absolutely worth the stress. Get in there early with your visa application – International Experience Canada usually begin accepting applications in January - and everything should go smoothly. It is possible to save yourself a few hundred euro by cutting out the middle man (agents like Go4Less and USIT) and applying directly to International Experience Canada, but I wouldn't recommend it. The application process is complicated and if you mess it up you may risk losing your visa. If you do choose to go through an agent, I would recommend Go4Less over USIT, the reason being that USIT charge a fair amount more than Go4Less for basically the same service (guidance with your application). If you can live without the plush red leather sofas in USIT's Dublin office, book with Go4Less. They can talk you through the application process step by step up to until you get your acceptance letter. The agency will also help you book flights.

Working

Most of us know the emotional turmoil of job-seeking in Ireland all too well, but it's a completely different story in Vancouver. Given that the Canadian economy is still experiencing a boom, looking for work in its cities is a much less painful experience, but that doesn't mean it's easy by any means. Exploitation, particularly of young students on a summer bender, does happen and you need to watch your back. I experienced both ends of the spectrum in terms of work. Right off the bat, I was delighted to get a job working on a till in a franchise of a well-known retailer. Unfortunately, my employers made my life difficult and after two weeks of ridiculous accusations of petty theft and arguments over the length of my breaks, I quit. Oh, and to rub salt in the wound, my delightful boss refused me my last paycheque. Thankfully, I soon got a much better job as a waitress in a beautiful new patisserie on Hamilton Street in central Vancouver. Canada has a healthy tipping culture, so if you can get yourself a serving job you won't ever be short of cash. If you take only piece of advice from this article, let it be this: embrace Craigslist. www.vancouver.craigslist.ca. Unlike many job-seeking websites in Ireland, the jobs section of Craigslist lets you apply directly to employers without any pre-emptive screening, and you will get a personal response a lot of the time. I found my waitressing job here. Use it.

Living

My friends and I were unorganised about finding accommodation for the summer and wound up renting a house near Marpole in south Vancouver. The location wasn't ideal but the city's public transport services are fantastic so it was never really a problem. If you're heading over with a small group you might prefer renting a room in a fraternity house in the University of British Columbia, where you'll never have to walk far to find a party, but there are some disadvantages to this too. Many of the people I spoke to who were renting there felt like they were cut off from the rest of the city, and found themselves not ever needing to leave the fraternity village. But then again, the infamous Wreck Beach is only a few minutes from the village. If you decide fraternity life isn't for you, Kitsilano is a gorgeous neighbourhood which is adjacent to both the coastline and downtown. Yaletown and Gastown are both great for getting downtown but the rent will make your eyes water. If you poke around on Craigslist and find somewhere close enough to

Things not to miss:

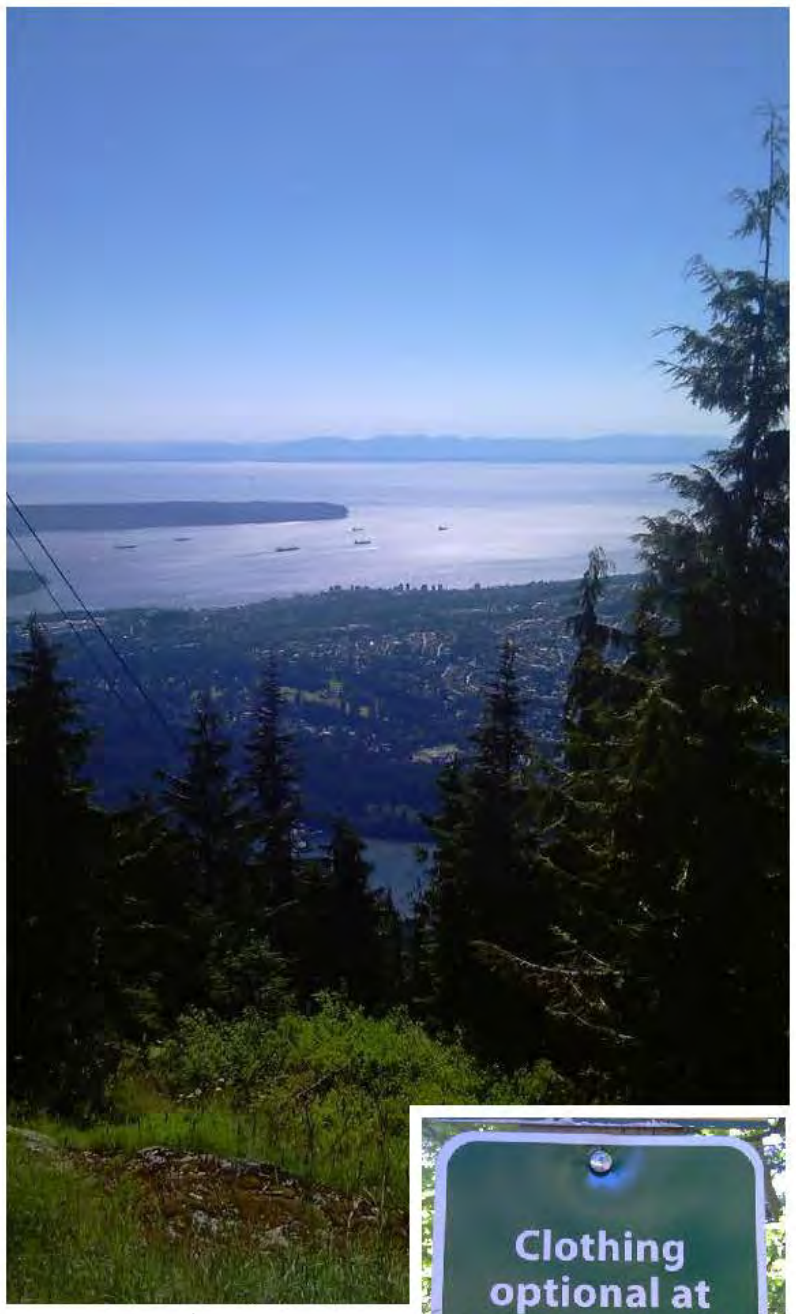
1. WRECK BEACH
If you can work your way through the metropolis that is the UBC campus, and down the 474-odd steps that wind down through a forest to the shore, this place is utopia. It's seclusion is what makes it so appealing, and once you adjust to the optional clothing policy, you will feel like you're an extra in 'The Beach'.

2. CANADA DAY
On the 1st of July every year, Canada celebrates its national day in an eerily similar manner to our own Paddy's Day celebrations (maybe with fewer street brawls). If there's ever a day to be a shameless tourist, this is it: get your face painted with maple leaves at Canada Place, hit up Cannabis Day outside the Vancouver Art Gallery and shout out as many Canadian stereotypes as you can muster.

3. The Grouse Grind
Some call it a rite of passage, some call it a suicide mission, but if you're in any way inclined to enjoy the natural beauty of British Columbia, it's a must. Colloquially referred to as "mother-nature's stairmaster", this 2.9km vertical hike will test your willpower something fierce. Get to the top however, and you'll soon see why you persevered.

4. Colt 45 Beer
$8 per six pack, 8% proof. They say it's target market is Irish students and the homeless.

5. Whistler
Put some wages aside for a weekend away from the city in the resort town of Whistler. It takes 2 hours 30 minutes on the Greyhound bus, and once there you can bungee jump, go rafting, swim the lakes or just enjoy the amazing nightlife. Just watch out for bears!



Above: Thew view of Vancouver Bay

Right: Typical signs at Canadian beaches

Perks of being a student

Using her student card, **Victoria Kinsella** discovers the range of discounts available, in the trendiest of shops

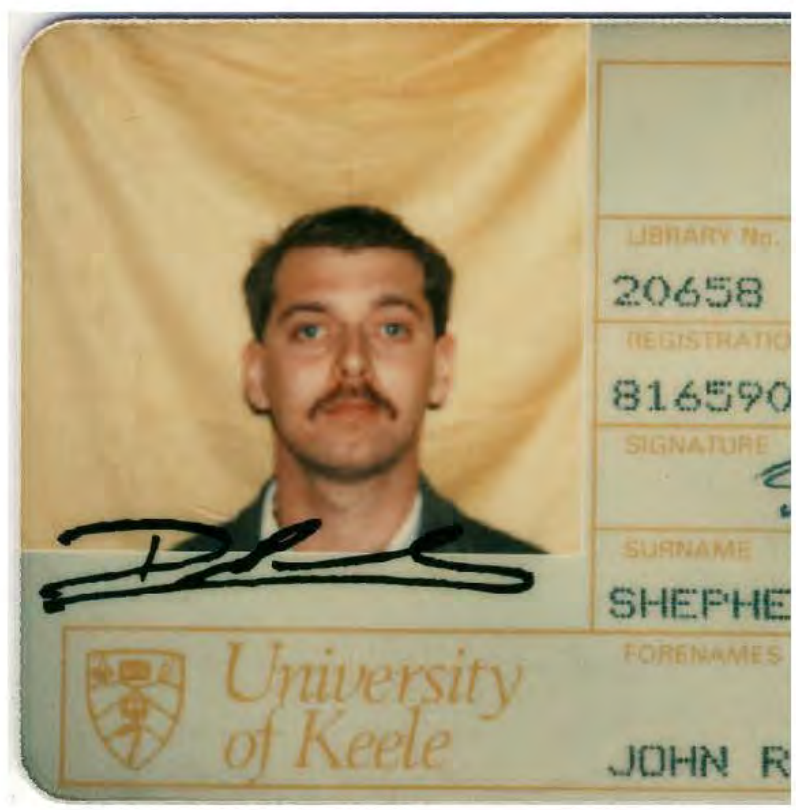
Whether you're a mature student, a fresher or someone who has returned for another year of being a student, we can all agree that things are expensive and it's time to cut back. However, one thing that we all have that could help us all spend a little is our magical card, our student card.

Yes people, this card not only allows us access into the student library or to take out the occasional book it also allows us to have a small, but important discount in the coolest and trendiest stores! Many shops don't advertise enough how we can get up to 20% off. Recently both Oasis and TopShop had this special offer for a limited time only to us students. But don't be disappointed, these shops still offer a discount all year round. There are various shops including New Look, Top Man, Warehouse, H&M, Dorothy Perkins, Miss Selfridge, French Connection, Lifestyle Sport, Urban Outfitters, Ralph Lauren, Banana Republic all offering discounts with this magical card, wait for it, all year round! A fashionista student's dream!

But whether you're not into fashion or your simply saving the pennies for something bigger you can get a load of discounts in food stores such as discount of 10% in Pizza Hut and Domino's. Also, check out student discounts for electrical appliances such as 8% discount off all Apple products!

Also, if you're taking the girlfriend out or you're simply going out with friends check out the offers at your local cinema. Most cinemas have Student Tuesday where a ticket could cost you less than €4.50! Now that's what I call a 'good done deal'. Plus you're all sorted for transport. There are huge discounts on monthly and weekly tickets for all types of Dublin transport such as the Luas, Dart or Dublin Bus.

But students don't expect to get a discount if you have forgotten your student card. Retailers or shops won't believe you're a student unless you have that magical card, rather you will simply be an average person paying the full amount. You must bring your card along with you to be able to get a reduction in price! Also, don't be sad, but not all shops out there offer student discounts but because you rarely see it advertised make sure you go out there and ask 'Do you do a student discount?' This will make sure you are doing what most of us are, cutting back!



CULTURE

Gaming

Halo 4 fires, despite Bungie loss

Eoin Livingston

The Halo franchise has now become one of the most revered and popular franchises within the gaming industry. It is no surprise then, that the worldwide release of Halo 4 on 6 November was a highly anticipated event.

What is initially stricking in this game is its emphasis on plot, and the Master Chief as a character.

343 have really worked hard to transform the Master Chief from the faceless, emotionless husk of previous games into an actual character, with depth and emotions. To accomplish this, there were several noticeable changes.

There is a much greater emphasis on cut-scenes and interactive cinematics to develop the Master Chief's character. Halo 4 also places a greater importance on allowing the player to become immersed in the character of the Master Chief.

343 employ subtle methods to achieve this goal: one of which being that the Master Chief is referred to by many characters as "John", his actual name; another being that they changed the interface to make the player feel as if they are actually the Master Chief.

On the gameplay side of things, Halo 4 seems to be a lot more enjoyable, for a variety of reasons. The most apparent change is the way that they have redone the firepower and accuracy on the weapons at the Master Chief's disposal.



Halo pits users against an all new enemy, the Forerunner, on another space installation a long time from now, Far far away.

Halo 4's combat also feels a lot more visceral and tactical, aided by faster enemies and much more realistic sound effects.

The addition of the Prometheans as enemies greatly changes the dynamic of the gameplay; the 'Knights' are much tougher than your standard elite enemies, and the 'Crawlers', who swarm you in packs, really increase the tempo of play.

343's greatest accomplishment, however, is that the game, throughout its 5 hour lifespan, is never boring.

The gameplay is broken up often enough with cinematic missions that are a lot of fun and serve to shake up the standard "point and shoot" style of play, with vehicle sections and interactive cinematic sequences.

343 should be praised for creating such a fantastic game, which lives up to the inevitable hype surrounding such a popular franchise.

To successfully continue the Halo yarn after the creator's departure is no small feat for the new studio, and so to make Halo 4 into what is arguably the best game in the franchise's history, is a truly staggering accomplishment.

Book Review

Twelfth instalment gives Ross a new lease of life

The Shelbourne Ultimatum

Ross O'Carroll-Kelly

Darragh Mowlds

The Shelbourne Ultimatum is the twelfth book in the Ross O'Carroll Kelly series. The plight of Ireland can be quantified following the life of Ross O'Carroll Kelly. The fictional character, created by author Paul Howard, is the stereotypical South Dublin rugger bugger. Those times have come and gone but Ross is still here.

The book opens with Ross awaking from a coma after being shot as a result of his past indiscretions. He makes Jack Nicholson look like a monk and it has come back to haunt him.

I've followed the series from the start and it had started to become a bit stale, but loike, this latest offering has totes brought life back to the series.

This book plunges us into a post Celtic Tiger apocalyptic Ireland and Ross's attempts to live in a world where everything is very not loike, ok? Bargain shops and Cash for Gold ads are rife and this poor unfortunate D4 has to deal with it.



Ross O'Carroll-Kelly is getting it tough

While it isn't his best book by any means, Paul Howard has to be lauded for the fact that this series is still going. Putting out a book like this is a brave call though, a lot of people are struggling even harder Ross so maybe some people are not ready to laugh about it yet.

Saying that, the book is extremely witty and intelligently written but is it the right time?

Probably not.

The Northside-fearing, Dube-wearing, overgrown boy-wonder is back in all his glory, and while it isn't a life changing read, it certainly cheered me up on a rainy day.

What about the future? Who knows? I don't know how long Howard can sustain this character. For now he has revived the series but it needs to take another step up if he wants to keep his loyal fan base happy.

The book was a bestseller, just like the rest of the series but that sort of success may not be sustainable in an Ireland that is much more burger and chips than champagne sorbet. Much like the character himself, these books need to loike OMG totally grow up.

'The Shelbourne Ultimatum' is available now, priced at €9.99 in Eason's.

Comedy

Fred Cooked

Danielle Stephens

The fact that we were allowed to bring our drinks into the show should have been my first clue. For 45 minutes the audience sat there in an awkward silence as a man from Kells tried to be funny.

I should point out that there were only eleven in the audience for Fred Cooke, but the comedian can't use the excuse that it was a "tough crowd"; he got extremely lucky with a group of four who were sitting directly in front of him.

His attempt to interact and converse with the two couples screamed of someone clutching at straws. Yet somehow, perhaps because they were put on the spot, he managed to make them laugh.

The other seven of us found the reactions of the group funnier than the comedian himself. Cooke comes from Meath, a county in the habit of producing acclaimed comedians, such as Tommy Tiernan and Dylan Moran.



I always felt like he was trying to emulate his fellow Meath men, particularly Tiernan, but he fell a long way short of this. He was unnatural and unsure of his own content, and that's putting it nicely.

Half-way through the set he tells the story of a friend who was performing at the Edinburgh Comedy festival. Disaster struck when this friend realised that he had no content for the show.

At this point I started to wonder if this was a 'friend' at all, or Cooke's subtle way of telling us that he hadn't prepared for the show.

The whole set was disjointed. Some of his skits were promising in the beginning, but they would fizzle out before ever reaching their comedic peak. One such skit was his contest with the audience through song. To be honest, his singing was easier to listen to than his jokes.

Even with the use of a guitar he never got it going. It, along with the rest of his content, fell flat.

CULTURE

Music

End of an era for Richter Collective

Greg Synnott
Deputy Cultural Editor

Guitars down, amps off, show's over. Back in June the Richter Collective announced it was closing its doors and any fan of music within the country let out a sigh of despair. A forefront of the independent music scene, the closure of the Richter Collective marks the end of an era for some and the chance of a new start for others.

The label played host to some of Ireland's greatest and fastest growing acts in recent years. Striking for many reasons, in particular when you look at the fact that it is but four years old, and in that short time they set themselves apart, picking the best acts from the Irish indie scene and developing and establishing them, marketing them to keen listeners of great music.

But a love of great music alone won't pay the bills. The label themselves noted in their final farewell on their website, "it's become increasingly difficult to apply new ideas within the constructs of a 'traditional label' model and our label still falls within that remit." Even the big name labels are struggling to compete for profits these days, so it's a wonder that smaller independent labels aren't shutting up shop sooner.

But the Richter Collective was a notable member of the industry for its phenomenal roster of acts: BATS, Squarehead, Enemies, Jogging, Hands Up Who Want To Die, Adebisi Shank, And So I Watch You From Afar, Not Squares, The Redneck Manifesto, Worrier, The Vinny Club and The Continuous Battle of Order.

With acts like And So I Watch You From Afar and Adebisi Shank recently touring worldwide, whilst being co-signed to the Richter Collectives sister label Sargent House, their standing in the independent music scene continues to grow along with other acts like Jogging and Bats who have just released their latest albums to copious amounts of praise.

What will happen to the remaining acts is still unclear, but the most likely scenario is one that is still centred around them putting out records and playing shows. The end of the Richter Collective just leaves room for someone else to attempt to fill the void.

On Saturday 24th of November, the Richter Collective will finish up with one final bash in The Button Factory. The line up is already a force to be reckoned with, with a lot of the Collective's lineup coming in to play a set. A fond farewell with the likes of The Redneck Manifesto, Not Squares, BATS, Enemies, Squarehead, The Continuous Battle Of Order and a DJ set from And So I Watch You From Afar.

Bon voyage, Iver

Bon Iver



Bon Iver finish their tour at Dublin's O2 Arena

Shauna Irwin
Cultural Editor

Bon Iver made an emotional farewell on the last dates of their tour in Dublin's own O2 Arena last week.

Lead singer Justin Vernon told the audience "This is the last time we get to show the thing we worked so hard to create."

Through the emotion and sheer brilliance of the band, what is known as Dublin's biggest performance venue boiled down to the most intimate gig Bon Iver devotees could have hoped for.

The bittersweet night started with a performance from The Staves – a three piece folk rock band who joined Bon Iver on their recent tours.

The trio of sisters released their debut album the day of the performance and jokingly added "We would like to thank Bon Iver for playing at the debut of our album."

Although fantastic, no supporting band could have outshone the main act.

Everything singer-songwriter Justin Vernon poured into his songs was brought to life in the most imaginative, endearing way possible with the help of his orchestral collective.

The ensemble opened with the classical 'Perth', bringing crashing echoing rhythms to kick off the show.

'Skinny Love' was the song most revered by the crowd, and the band showed emotion at hearing the crowd echo their song chanted back to them. The intensity grew further into the show, as Vernon said "The O2 is a big deal for us; we are going to enjoy the sh** out of it." Every string strummed, and every drum beaten echoed this sentiment. They played like it was their last performance, and it was, at least for while.



The average bear

Eatenbybears & Croupier

Connie Keane

Last Thursday night called for a celebration as Belfast four-piece Eatenbybears launched their new single 'Your Pet Is Dead' at The Twisted Pepper with support from Wicklow band Croupier.

The promise of free live music drew in a substantial crowd and the dark room at the back of Twisted Pepper was packed by the end of the show. Kicking off proceedings, Croupier eagerly showed off their tight gang vocals, catchy guitar hooks, and infectious drumming. The melodic five-piece oozed passion, with enthusiastic expressions plastered to their faces almost the entire time. They gave the crowd just enough of a chance to breathe before suddenly shouting at them again.

Eatenbybears were next up, bringing their thick, epic sound to the stage from the get-go. Performances of their new single 'Your Pet Is Dead', along with older tunes like 'Vanderhoof', left everyone in the room with something to enjoy. Their use of violin gave their sound a unique twist, while the strong rhythm held it all together.

The band seemed completely comfortable, and were happy to join in on a spontaneous outburst of Happy Birthday. Polished and effortless, they grabbed back the attention of the attention-deficient crowd with ease. An uplifting performance of summer jam 'Simple As Hell' inspired some enthusiastic dancing from the audience; cue flailing arms to the feel-good melody.

Matt Corby at Whelan's

Greg Synnott
Deputy Cultural Editor

Stepping into Whelan's that evening, I was met by an overwhelming number of Australians intermingling in the packed out and sweaty crowd that was to be Matt Corby's audience, all attempting, unsuccessfully mind you, their own renditions of his most popular song 'Brother'.

Whelan's was sold out, and to no surprise as Corby's reputation appears to precede him. He had the audience, now it was time to see if the "most beautiful man alive" was also worth of such previous comparisons as Jeff Buckley at the sprightly age of twenty two.

Slow Skies took the stage as the crowd continued to exchange conversation among themselves, and unperturbed by this Karen Sheridan persevered and proved her own piercing vocals and charming stage presence were enough to win the crowd over before ending her first song. A set that was mixed with old and new material, this looks to be Slow Skies last Dublin show before they go off to record and release some new material.

Soon followed by Bear's Den, provoking Mumford and Sons comparisons from audience members -- if for no other reason than having a banjo on stage. Playing upon Slow Skies' already rousing set, Bear's Den had no issues keep the crowd entertained with their popular folk based melodies and vocal harmonies with intermittent stories of recording their debut EP in middle of nowhere Wales. What happens in Wales, stays in Wales, except of their EP of course.

The man of the evening Matt Corby took to the stage late into the night, as the crowd clamoured forward as if to breath in every essence of his being. Joking aside, Corby's talent is obvious from the beginning, with a voice that justifiably matches the comparisons he receives with Jeff Buckley, soaring on the high notes whilst being able to bring it down to a husky gravelly sound when hitting the low.

Corby's opening tracks, particularly that of 'Big Eyes' played solo, brought a hushed silence into Whelan's like I've never seen. He was joined by his full band for the second track which the audience continued to listen to in silence.

Corby remained fairly silent throughout shouts of approval after the third track, concentrating hard on playing, whilst systematically shhing the audience for being too loud.

'Brother' predictably caused the biggest audience response, with many trying and failing to mimic the unique vocal yelping that punctuates the son, much to the amusement of the band themselves. Introducing us to a new track and his much-loved cover of The Black Keys 'Lonely Boy', the set was well rounded and if not somewhat lacking towards the end.

Corby's attitude towards the crowd did little to help this reviewers opinion of the man himself but I wasn't there for him, I was there for the music and that's where Corby and his band shine and will continue to shine, even if he feels the need to disengage from the crowd when not sharing sob stories of past loves that influenced his music.



Matt Corby left a Whelan's crowd wanting more, an emotional performance.
Photo: Sarah Buckely

Film and Theatre

CULTURE

MASTER & COMMANDER

The Master

Director: PT Anderson

Paul O'Connor

5 time Oscar nominee Paul Thomas Anderson writes and directs his first film since 2007's There Will Be Blood.

A wait of five long years for a piece of work by the genius writer/director Anderson is an agonising one, eclipsed only by the despair that his latest offering is merely good- not the usual magnificent. It is hard to put a finger on why the film fails to emerge from the shadows -- almost as difficult as trying figure out how Johnny Greenwood's discordant and staccato soundtrack jingles instead of jars.

The answer for The Master's failure to resonate may be steeped in this paradox. When the discordant melody was tuned up early on for There Will Be Blood, it was to inform us of the main character's primal drive and instinct, as when he abandons his child for the erupting derrick's black gold.

The scene was infused with chaos and the music drove the psychotic desire of the lead character on, ever deeper into obsession and eventual loneliness. The same style of music again is used early on in The Master, but the main character's action at sea is less intense, less informing and ultimately less interesting. Despite the impressive performance of Joaquin Phoenix's Freddie Quell, whose physical mannerisms are a fascinating study unto themselves, it is really Philip Seymour Hoffman's performance as Lancaster Dodd that stands out and transcends the physical plane.

It is almost perverse to be more interested in the disintegration, albeit subtle and insidious, of the flim-flam artist Dodd, but it is far more fascinating than that of the dissolute Quell. Hoffman's character is essentially supposed to be a cipher, having no discernible history or clear motives, Inscrutability is key to his success as a con man, and indeed, he is acting every time he addresses his followers and interacts with his family.

His family actually offer the perfect environment of trust and empathy to master the dark arts of brinksmanship and sophistry. This shallowness of character leads to a dazzling performance of flamboyant charm from Hoffman, as he shows us he can be whoever he wants to be. When this façade cracks the film comes to life. Who but Paul Thomas Anderson could lasso a dragon and make it roll over (you'll have to see the film to get it).



Joaquin Phoenix reads his pay cheque, regretting he didn't opt for a cut of the Master's profits

PICTURE OF DORIAN

Dorian Gray

Diarmaid Murray

Oscar Wilde's classic story of youth, sin, morality, vanity and narcissism is regarded as one of the one of the great pieces of gothic fiction in literary history. The story of the man who gains everlasting youth and beauty at the expense of his soul has reverberated through history as Wilde's darkest parable.

In this adaptation, writer and director Neil Bartlett has taken a somewhat radical approach in regards to the appearance of the stage. He has stripped everything back to the brick of the theatre walls (literally) and uses only minimalist props throughout.

This ethic of 'less is more' gives the audience a sense that they are witnessing a play within a play. The inclusion of microphones towards the periphery of the stage (used by the characters for soliloquy's and monologues) further adds to this effect.



Neil Bartlett's version of the classic Oscar Wilde book

Making his professional debut, Tom Canton plays the role of Dorian. When we are first introduced to our protagonist he is suitably innocent, naïve and pure. This all changes however when his portrait is unveiled to him (about 15 to 20 minutes in), which, for me, was too rapid a transformation.

We only see an innocent Dorian for the guts of half a scene, far too short a time period to give full impact to his corruption at the hands of the brilliant Lord Henry Wotton (played by Jasper Britton).

Friend to both Dorian and Lord Henry, the artist Basil Hallward (the extremely talented Frank McCusker) fills the role as the only real source of morality for Dorian; he is Dorian's conscience.

As the play continues and the protagonist's sins become more and more decadent and begin to consume him, Basil too is corrupted by Dorian, with dire consequences for them both.

There is one set for the entirety of the play, the props are minimal and the same set of about 20 extras are used throughout the play as the story advances through the years.

For the most part the play is a faithful adaptation, but with a radical approach to this classic story of the modern day Gothic Narcissus. Bartlett forces the audience to use their imagination in viewing the play. There are drawbacks to this method, but overall a very powerful impact is achieved.

In short, go and see it. Especially if you haven't read the book, or seen an adaptation in theatre or on TV or film, it's a necessity, and tickets are only €20. You won't be disappointed.

WANT TO WRITE ABOUT MOVIES, MUSIC OR CULTURE?

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SPORT

DIT to host East Cost Surf

Danielle Stephens
Sports Editor

DIT are hosting the first ever East Coast Surf Intervarsities. It will be held in Tramore Co. Waterford on the 24th and 25th of November.

The first ever Irish National Surfing Championships were held in Tramore in 1967, so it's fitting that the first East Coast Surf tournament be held there also.

The college has secured sponsorship from Billabong, Monster Energy and Quiver Surf boards. DIT hopes to have 20 people competing over the two days.

Beginners can take lessons in surfing while down there.

There will also be night-time events, including the "Surfer Bros and Hawaiian Hoes" themed party on the Friday night and the Monster Energy party on the Saturday.



Shane Mulligan, DIT Surf Club Captain.

Marty keeps up sailing



Marty O'Leary, DIT graduate, out on the open ocean, and trying to balance work and sailing without falling overboard.

Danielle Stephens
Sports Editor

Since starting his new job in January of this year, Marty O'Leary has had to cut down on the amount of time he spends sailing. However, the former engineering student continues to sail in his spare time, and has also moved into the world of coaching.

O'Leary graduated from DIT in 2010, after studying engineering in Bolton Street and also getting his master's degree in Energy Management in Kevin Street. He now works for Ericsson, a telecommunications provider in Clonskeagh.

The full-time job hasn't stopped the 22-year-old from keeping up his sport. Two months after he left DIT, he was sent to Crete with the DIT Sailing Club to compete in the University World Championships. DIT came fourth in the overall standings.

This was the second time that O'Leary had sailed in the World Championships for the institute. In January 2009 DIT sent the team to Perth, Australia to compete against other teams from all around the world.

O'Leary acknowledges that DIT was instrumental in getting the team to Australia. He was a recipient of a sailing scholarship during his time at the college.

This meant that he was given a financial bursary twice a year and DIT supplemented his travel expenses for competitions such as those in Greece or Australia.

On top of competing in various competitions, O'Leary also started coaching teams. In September 2010 he travelled to Tanzania, where he set up a sailing school along with a diving and kite-surfing school. He started the schools with three other men and spent six months living there, developing and training people interested in these sports.

Marty also coached the UCD sailing team that went on to win the Student Yachting Championships at the end of last month.

The new season won't start up again until the end of February or the start of March next year. According to O'Leary this is the time that people take to organise their sailing calendars for the upcoming year.

Marty will for now, be able to put all of his effort into his day job, while waiting for the sailing season to come around again.

Windsurfing takes priority for Clancy

Danielle Stephens
Sports Editor

Windsurfing isn't considered to be a mainstream sport in Ireland. However, for one DIT student that didn't matter. In fact, Mikey Clancy gave up the more popular sports, such as Soccer and Rugby, to try his hand at windsurfing.

A week and a half ago, Clancy competed in the second part of the Irish Windsurfing Championships. He was unable to take part in the first part because it coincided with the World Championships, which he also participated in.

The second event of the Irish Championships took place in Brandon Bay, Kerry on Saturday the 10 November. Clancy had an impressive performance, finishing in second place. The finals had to be re-run three times and although he was better in the first to runs, he just fell short in the last race.

Just before competing in the Irish tournament, Clancy was windsurfing with the world's elite in Denmark for the PWA Cold Hawaii World Championships.

He came ninth in the competition, beating one of the top five windsurfers in the world this year. The 22-year-old put some of his success down to the weather in Denmark.

"Other windsurfers are used to hotter climates with a consistent wind to work with," he explained.

The stormy conditions during the Championships weren't far off those in Ireland, so he was able to handle the rough sea and miserable weather. Clancy hated the sport to begin with. He started windsurfing at the age of 13, while taking part in a kid's multi-activity camp out in Malahide estuary. He was too small and he wasn't strong enough to lift up the sail on his board. In the end, he asked his dad to write him a note excusing him from lessons.

However, after a year he grew and he was strong enough to handle the weight of the windsurf board. Due to his new love for the water sport, he decided to stop training for other sports and to focus on windsurfing.

Originally, Clancy thought that his sport's career would be the most important thing in his life and that he needed to spend little time on his education. He was doing a two-year course in DIT in 2009, the same year he turned professional.

In December of that year, the student was forced to change his plan after suffering a bad injury.

Surgeons had to fuse his leg bone to the heel of his foot after the impact of a jump destroyed the cartilage in his left ankle. He was subsequently left with no joint movement in this ankle and he had to learn how to windsurf again, over a period of eight months. According to Clancy, he is finally back to top form this year, nearly three years after the accident.

While recovering from his injury, the north-sider decided to continue on with third-level education. He is currently in his third year of marketing in DIT Aungier Street. In the future he hopes to find a way to merge both his marketing skills and his talent on the waves. One of his options could be to work in a windsurfing company after he graduates. However, he admits that he would choose to windsurf if he was given the chance.

"If I could get paid just to windsurf, I would just windsurf," he explains.

Mikey Clancy is one of DIT's sports scholarship winners. He appreciates the support that the institute give him from covering his gym membership in Kevin Street to providing him with specialised trainers.

The windsurfing club in the college is very small with only three members but DIT continues to sponsor the young windsurfer in all competitions.

For now, Clancy needs to try and get as much practice in as possible before the end of the year, when the Irish Sea gets too cold. As he puts it himself, "at that stage it's more about surviving than practising."

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SPORT

GAA Roundup

GAA in brief

Past GAA players' annual celebration

DIT GAA club celebrated all its past players and mentors at a function in Croke Park on Saturday November 10th. A wide variety of players from Camogie, Hurling, Ladies Football and past Gaelic Footballers were in attendance. Along with College President Prof Brian Norton, Campus life manager Brian Gormley, DIT Head of Sport Sinead Mc Nulty and DIT Hurling club President and former DIT Lecturer Ann Murphy.

The night was hosted by DIT's very own Fiona Egan and Billy O'Loughlin. A roaming mic went around the room and recalled stories of old matches and famous scores long into the wee hours. Special thanks to the organising crew of Mary Mc Elroy, Fiona Egan, Billy O'Loughlin, Willie Lyons and Jody Moran.

DIT reach camogie final for first time



DIT Captain Meggan O'Reilly (L)

DIT Camogie for the first time in its history have entered a second team this year in the third level leagues. The DIT Intermediate team compete in Division 3 of the league. Captained by Meggan O Reilly the team have reached the Division 3 league final. Wins over Froebel and Marino set up a semi final clash with Trinity College. After an emphatic win over Trinity College 5-07 to 1-04 at the St. Anne's GAA club Bohernabreena DIT now face the winners of UUC and Limerick IT's first teams on the week beginning 26th November. Best for DIT were Meggan O Reilly from Wexford, Sallyann O Brien from St. Maurs, Jessie Cummins from St Vincents and Nicole Mc Donagh from Celbridge and Kassie Mc Evoy from Erins Isle.

DIT GAA sign new sponsorship deal with First Ireland

First Ireland Insurance and Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) have announced a new sponsorship deal for the College's GAA club. Football Club Chairman and 2012 All Ireland Mayo Football Finalist, Aidan O'Shea is thrilled with the deal. He remarked "This is great news for us that First Ireland has decided to come on board as our club sponsor. We realise that in the times in which we live, that sponsorship is hard to come by and therefore we are very appreciative of First Ireland's agreement to come on board. I hope that it will be a beneficial partnership this year and in the years to come." Also present at the launch were Senior Inter county players Darran O'Sullivan of Kerry, and Dublin's Liam Rushe.

Dearbhla Brennan, a DIT graduate working in First Ireland who is delighted to see a synergy between her new employers and her place of academia.

FOOTBALL

Penalty puts DIT into Div 1 final



DIT seniors' last minute victory

The DIT Senior Gaelic Football team recorded a single point victory over Athlone IT in a rain swept St. Margarets in north county Dublin last Tuesday night.

The conditions were wet and windy, but despite this DIT created numerous scoring opportunities. However they struggled to convert them, shooting nine wides in the first half. David Givney and Aidan O Shea dominated clean possession in midfield, but Athlone IT's Ger Egan --won countless breaking balls for the midlanders. DIT forward Conor Walsh was judged very harshly for over carrying after he was clean through on goal, while another excellent save from Athlone IT denied another DIT forward Harry Dawson from close range. The second half started and Athlone began to get on top. With points from AIT's Paul Coffey and Garycastle full forward James Dolan. Killian Clarke was also fighting a strong rearguard action for Athlone. However DIT managed to break forward in the closing stages and a point from Ciaran Reddin left three between the sides going into the last three minutes. A long ball into DIT full forward Tomás O Connor, resulted in a penalty. DIT's Harry Dawson dispatched the penalty to tie the game up, before adding the winning score a minute from normal time from the resultant kick out.

DIT now face into a Semi final against Queens or UCC today.

Seniors into Div 1 league Qtr final & O Byrne Cup

The DIT Senior Footballers have qualified for the Div 1 league Qtr finals. Following victories over NUI Maynooth, DCU and UCD the seniors now face Athlone IT out in St. Margarets. The draw for the O'Byrne cup has also taken place. A new format this year sees DIT in a group with Wexford, Kildare and Carlow IT, with the top team progressing. Three games over eight days, sees DIT play Wexford on Sunday November 6th, Kildare on Wednesday November 9th, and Carlow IT on Sunday 13th. All games are away ties for the College. While the draw for the coveted Sigerson cup comes out in December, with the First round usually set for the last week in January. All support very much welcome.

Juniors into quarter Final

Fielding two junior league teams this year one south based and one north side based has seen over sixty players tog out for the college junior teams over the past two months. The two teams managed by DIT lecturers Eoghan O Grady and Dermot Kehilly have played ten games combined. The Nth side Bolton Street based team have qualified for the League qtr finals playing either UCD or RCSI. While both teams combine for the Junior Championship which begins at the end of November.

Fresher B's into league semi final

The DIT Fresher footballers recorded a comfortable victory over NUIG in Mullingar last Wednesday, winning 3-17 to 1-04. Vinnie Whelan's team now travel to Sligo IT

HURLING

Hobbs leads seniors to semis



Seniors sidenow play Carlow following their victory over NUIG

DIT	2-15
NUIG	2-11

The DIT Senior Hurlers progressed to the Division 1 League Semi Finals after defeating NUIG 2-15 to 2-11 in Mullingar. Trailing by six points going into the last ten minutes the game looked like it was slipping away from DIT. However a fightback led by sub Jack Hobbs changed the dynamic in the game.

NUIG took an early lead with scores from Galway Seniors Niall Burke and Joe Cooney. After the introduction of sub Jack Hobbs who scored a point from close in at corner forward that began the DIT revival.

Meanwhile, the draw for the intercounty Walsh cup has also been made, which pitts DIT against Wexford on Sunday January 20th in Wexford. The draw for the Fitzgibbon cup which takes place the last week in January is due to take place in Croke Park in December.

DIT Junior Hurlers bow out in Division 3 league Quarter Final.

Under the watchfull eye of Derek Brennan the DIT Junior Hurlers opened their league campaign against a strong Marino team. DIT's juniors couldn't live with some of the Senior County hurlers on the Marino team lost 1-15 to 0-07. A much improved performance in the second game saw them defeat Blanchardstown IT 2-26 to 0-05. This opened up a quarter final game against IT Tallaght underlights in Ballymun.

SPORT

DIT hits their targets

Aaron Doyle

The DIT Archery team took home four awards and finished second overall in the Intervarsity League event which took place in DCU on Saturday two weeks ago.

The team had ten archers competing in four different categories and were determined to do well in the competition.

The highest score from the team came from John Smith in the Advanced Compound Category where he scored 554 Points out of a possible 600. This was enough to give him first place in the compound category and to give DIT second place in the team compound competition. The team prize could be considered ironic as he was DIT's only compound archer.

The Advanced Recurve Archers were also putting up big scores in the tournament. David Kennefick was the highest scorer for DIT with 530 points in his round. Chris Murray scored 502 points.

James Byrne was the final team scorer with 481 points. Barry Brophy did score 499 points but he was a guest pick so his total didn't contribute to the team's final score.

The three intermediate Recurve archers, Adam Garton, Jeff Blake and Orlaith O'Neill, also performed admirably after scoring 431, 403 and 346 points respectively.



Youcheng Pan aiming at his target, taking part in a successful archery competition for DIT as part of the Intervarsity League.

The Beginners acquitted themselves well in their first competition. Youcheng Pan had one of the performances of the day by scoring 520 points in his round. This was enough to get him first place in his category and he has been upgraded to intermediate level for the next tournament. Even though he only came in as a last minute replacement,

Darragh Power also performed well, scoring 250 points from his 60 arrows.

All the team's scores also got DIT second place in the Recurve team category.

The team's coach, Martin Cunningham, was impressed by the team's efforts.

"If we were going on past rules we would have broken the DIT record," he said.

The team has two competitions coming up in Dundalk IT followed by a competition in Carlow IT a week later.

Premier League 'twitterati'

Modern footballers' incessant desire for self-promotion ,and sponsorship demands, mean the age of media regulation is over for players, says Colin Layde





Rio Ferdinand and Ryan Giggs have both had rnu-ins with Twitter-culture in recent years.

When Ryan Giggs exploded into the public consciousness at Manchester United in the early nineties, he was shielded from the glare of the media by the club. United boss Sir Alex Ferguson ensured media engagements with the precocious winger were heavily regulated. It is impossible to imagine a similar situation occurring today such are modern player's apparently incessant desire for self-promotion, allied to the increased demands of sponsors, media and supporters.

It was on Twitter that Giggs was identified as the Premiership player who had an affair with reality television personality Imogen Thomas. The Weshman's attempts to conceal his identity extended to taking out a privacy injunction which banned traditional media outlets from naming the footballer. The injunction was rendered futile by Twitter, with over 75,000 users of the site naming Giggs as the player in question.

Twitters emergence has given media and supporters unprecedented access to the thoughts of prominent footballers. Provocation is something players who use the site have come to expect. The site gives fans unrivalled access to their idols, it also gives opposition supporters increased opportunity to provoke and abuse. Previously the provocation footballers are forced to endure was confined to that stemming from the terraces. With the notable exception of a karate kicking Frenchman, players dealt with the vitriol with admirable restraint.

Ireland winger James McClean has had to endure a torrent of abuse on the site over his decision to declare for the Republic. The Sunderland player was forced to close his Twitter account after receiving sectarian death threats. Angry Northern Irish supporters took to the site to voice their anger at the Derry born player's decision. The 23-year old received tweets threatening to "make sure he got shot" when he returned to Northern Ireland and branding him a "dirty little fenian bastard". McClean subsequently reopened his account against the wishes of Sunderland manager Martin O'Neill. But the winger again closed his account after publicly criticising Irish mangager Giovanni Trapatonni on the site. McLean had tweeted that Trapatonni's decision to leave him on the bench for a World Cup qualifier against Kazakhstan was a "joke".

Twitter has certainly given us a greater insight into the thoughts of professional footballers. Chelsea captain John Terry's criminal trial and FA hearing on charges of racially abusing Q.P.R. defender Anton Ferdinand attracted much comment from players involved. First Rio Ferdinand retweeted a message branding Chelsea left back Ashley Cole a "choc ice" over the player's evidence in support of his club captain during his trial. Cole then branded the FA a "bunch of t**ts" after the association accused him of giving dishonest evidence at Terry's hearing. Both Ferdinand and Cole were subsequently fined by the FA for their tweets.

In the surreal world of modern football, players can now gain notoriety for their exploits on Twitter rather than the pitch. Take Arsenal's Emmanuel Frimpong, the midfielder has made just fifteen first team appearances yet he boasts over 500,000 followers on the social networking site. Such has been his success that the 20-year-old now has his own 'Dench' clothing line. Frimpong recently fell foul of the Football Association (FA) following an anti-Semitic tweet made towards a Spurs fan. Admittedly the Arsenal man had been provoked with the supporter tweeting that he hoped the midfielder broke his legs in the upcoming North London derby. Frimpong responded by calling the Spurs supporter "Yid scum". The term is often used by Tottenham supporters themselves, in pride at the clubs Jewish links. However, there is currently a campaign fronted by comedian and Jewish Spur David Badiel aimed at stamping out its use at the club. The player subsequently received a £6,000 fine from the FA for the anti-Semitic nature of the tweet.

Footballer's use of Twitter is just another symptom of the sport's fusion with the culture of celebrity. The game has come to resemble a form of light entertainment rather than a sport, like professional wrestling but with more histrionics.

The seemingly endless stream of live televised football and blanket media coverage all leaves me a little cold. Memories of watching games on Ceefax and 'looking away now' because you didn't want to know the scores live long in the memory. When news channels were reserved for reporting on South American earthquakes, rather than hamstring tears, transfers could occur at any time in the season and players remained enigmas.

"When the seagulls follow the trawler, it's because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea".

Sporting History

Liam Kennedy

21st November

- 2011 – Spanish World Cup winner, Jesus Navas, turns 27 years old.

22nd November

- 1986 - 20-year-old Mike Tyson KOs Trevor Berbick to become the youngest heavyweight champion in history.

- 2012 - On-form Everton midfielder, Marouane Fellaini turns 25..

23rd November

- 1988 - Ice-hockey legend, Wayne Gretzky, scores his six-hundredth NHL goal.

24th November

- 1955 - Former England cricketer and current Sky Sports commentator, Ian Botham, was born.

25th November

- 1914 - Former baseball great, Joe DiMaggio, was born.

- 2005 - Man Utd and Northern Ireland hero George Best dies of multiple of organ failure.

26th November

- 1995 - In American football, Miami Dolphins Quarterback Dan Marino throws his 343rd touchdown.

27th November

- 2012 - West Ham United midfielder Matty Taylor turns 31.

28th November

- 1939 - James Naismith, creator of basketball, dies aged 78.

29th November

- 2012 - Man Utd veteran, Ryan Giggs, turns 39 years old.

- 1934 - Chicago Bears beat Detroit, in the first NFL game broadcast nationally in America.

30th November

- 1872 - The first international soccer match took place in Glasgow, as Scotland and England drew 0-0.

1st December

- 1891 - The game of basketball is created.

2nd December

- 1907 - English Professional Football Players' Association is formed.

3rd December

- 2012 - Spain's all-time goalscorer, David Villa, turns 31 years old.

4th December

- 1977 - Cincinnati beats Kansas City 27-7 in NFL's five-thousandth game.





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Handball Intervarsities



All photos courtesy of DIT Sports and Recreations office

Emmet O'Neill
Handball Club

After a solid run at the traditional Handball intervarsities last month, DIT's Handball club is to send two teams to the small court team contest in Wexford next weekend.

Four players from went to Kilkenny to play in the Intervarsity 60x30 All-Ireland Championships last month, three of them bringing home medals in. Neil McEnaney, Emmet O'Neill, Ciaran McCarthy, & Adam Matthews are all second-year Leisure Management students at DIT Cathal Brugha Street.

Three out of the four lads came away from the tournament with All-Ireland medals. Neil McEnaney reached the B final and played UCC's Fergal Lawlor on Sunday 28th in Talbot Inch. The match was very close, but in the end Lawlor won 21-11 to 21-18.

Emmet O'Neill reached the final in the contender category. He was set to play his clubmate Ciarán McCarthy in the final. The two Leisure Management students went head to head in the Mulinavat ball alley on the Sunday. In the end, Emmet O'Neill was the victor, beating McCarthy 21-6 21-4.

DIT also competed in the C teams contest, losing out to UCC. Waterford IT kept their winning streak going with a victory over in the A division.

Croke Park will issue All-Ireland medals to Emmet O'Neill, Neil McEnaney, & Ciaran McCarthy at the end of November at the competition this weekend. Waterford IT won

The Intervarsity 40x20 All-Ireland Championship takes place on the weekend of November 23rd, and DIT Handball club will send two teams of four to represent the college.

Handball training is in the Croke Park handball Club between 7:00pm – 10:00pm on Mondays and Wednesday every week, and beginners are always welcome.

Women's basketball team compete in intervarsities

Darragh Mowlds
Deputy Sports Editor

The Freshman's Women's basketball team will be competing in the annual Freshman Intervarsity this weekend in the Carlow Institute of Technology.

It is the first time in three years that DIT has entered a team in the competition. All of Ireland's Institutes of Technologies will be present at the competition.

There are only 13 players in total for the women's teams in DIT. Eight of these players are for the freshman team so it is clear that there isn't a huge interest in women's basketball in DIT, something which the college is trying to change with their scholarship scheme.

In contrast to the lack of interest in women's basketball, the men's teams had to hold trials because there were too many people trying to get onto the DIT teams.

Two of the current team Aoife Hollingsworth and Aisling McSweeney are both currently enrolled at the Institute on a sports scholarship. The scholarships are awarded to students who excel in their respective sports.

Aoife and Aisling are both in their first year of Leisure Management at the Cathal Brugha Street campus. According to the girls, this is the only sporting course in DIT.

"The main sporting courses are in UCD and DCU," explains Aoife. "So therefore the elite players are more likely to opt for those colleges."

"The sports department give their full support to the women teams in their competitions".

However, Aisling believes that "there is more emphasis put on the men's team from DIT".

Both girls play for clubs outside college beside their commitments for the college teams. Aisling said she finds it difficult to balance her sporting commitments with her studies: "I have training for my club team on the same nights as the college team and that doesn't even include matches."