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BUDGET

Contribution fee raised
Grant eligibility cut
Tax hike on alcohol
Student vox pop
Twitter reactions
Grants delayed until 2013

Supported by DIT News Soc

THE EDITION

7th December 2012 Vol 2 No 6

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Special p6,7 Austerity protests take over Dublin

Student stabbed at DIT-approved apartments

Jenny Dunne

Erasmus students living in the Herberton Student residence in Rialto are shocked and afraid after a German student, Thomas Heinrich, 22, died from stab wounds outside the residence on 1 December.

The Herberton apartments, managed by Chubb properties, are listed on the accommodation page of the DIT website as a "favourite of DIT students since 2008."

Many Erasmus students feel that DIT should no longer be promoting the apartments after Mr. Heinrich's death.

Benjamin Médiouni, 21, a DIT Manufacturing and Design Engineering student from France, said that he doesn't feel safe in Herberton, but after Mr. Heinrich's tragic death, he thinks that "you will not feel safe anywhere."

"They should no longer tell students to stay in Herberton because the area isn't that safe, you can't find a shop near unless you cross the area around Herberton, and things like what happened to Thomas can happen again," he said.

He knew Mr.Heinrich, and is worried about his own safety as a result of his death.

"Thomas was in the same flat as a friend of mine who is in the same school as me in France. And we went to some parties together," he said.

He has less than two weeks left of his Erasmus experience in Ireland, but he most likely won't be able to enjoy them. "I do not know if I will go out before leaving Ireland," he said.

Niklas Sandberg, 23, a DIT Marketing student from Finland, explained that "on Monday two Swedish Erasmus students moved to another location since they lived on the ground floor, like me. "

Speaking about the lack of safety in the ground floor flats he said, "People can come to our balcony, the balcony's railing is around 1.5 metres high. "

Although Mr. Sandberg said that overall he had felt safe in Herberton, he didn't think that it should be promoted by DIT. "I have to say that I think they shouldn't recommend Herberton for students anymore. After all, safety should come first," he said.

Xavier Ozarowski, 22, a DIT Engineering student from France, has said "To be honest I don't feel safe at all. I was told this area was bad but up to now I had not had any problems. All I can say is that I would never recommend anyone to come here – that's for sure."

He says that Herberton should no longer be endorsed by DIT because "what happened is the worst thing that could have happened."

Once he had paid for his accommodation, he had no choice but to stay in Her-

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Serious crime reports received by New York City Police in a 24 hour period. The first time in recorded history.

9
Countries who voted 'No' to upgrading Palestine's UN status to 'non-member observer state'. Included the USA, Canada, and Israel.

138
Countries who voted 'Yes', including Ireland.

20
Years since DIT Caving Club went on its first trip to Doolin Co. Clare in October 1992.

400
Separate lines of inquiry into allegations of sexual abuse following ITV's Exposure programme investigating Jimmy Savile

Plans laid out for future of higher education and DIT

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

A submission for the creation of a 'Dublin Technological University' was assessed by the Higher Education Authority, as Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn, forecasts a tight financial future for higher education.

The planned University, to be formed by merging DIT, the Institute of Technology Tallaght, and the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, would meet most of the objectives of the 2011 'National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030' (the National Strategy), and would lead to "significant rationalisation of offerings in the Greater Dublin area," according to the body.

The joint submission is intended to provide opportunities to review the programmes offered, which would involve the combination of some courses, changing the delivery of others, and the introduction of additional programmes to satisfy new requirements.

It was pointed out, however, that achieving 'University' status would be crucial for the merger to go ahead.

The publication states, "It is not clear from the submission whether the mergers would proceed in the absence of a strong likelihood of achieving Technological University status."

The National Strategy has the aim of "creating a more co-coordinated and coherent system of interconnecting, complementary higher education institutions, each with a clearly defined mission, to meet the economic and social needs of the country."

This new system, the HEA says, should cater for school leavers and returning entrants, support a diverse student population, attract top researchers, and possess more open engagement between institutions, communities and wider society, while ensuring greater efficiency in higher education.

However, the report also highlights a lack of consensus on a number of the proposed mergers.

"There is no evident intent to consolidate on the part of many of the smaller institutions. In some cases, while such a desire is manifest on the part of one institution, it is not clear that it is reciprocated by the prospective partner."

It is suggested that consolidations will need to be imposed from outside.

Bleak financial future for higher education.

In a speech made to all University and IT presidents, Minister Quinn endorsed the HEA's criteria for the establishment of a Technological University.

He also stated that some Institutes are already on a developmental path towards this end.

However, the lack of consensus among the Institutes themselves on a possible future merger was also noted.

"The final decision on applications for Technological University status will be made on academic, not on political grounds," the Minister said. "It is clear at this stage that some Institutes are not seeking to amalgamate with others and become Technological Universities."

Minister Quinn also went on to say that higher education institutions should now take "a long hard look at their future sustainability."

Alongside an increase in the student services charge, which the Minister said will be raised to €3,000 by 2015 "to relieve some of the pressure on exchequer funding," colleges will have to face a "harsh reality" in terms of cuts.

"They should also look at their place in our Higher Education system... It is imperative that all higher education institutions are actively pursuing the realisation of savings as a matter of urgency."

He also questioned the HEA's proposals regarding the consolidation of universities and ITs, saying: "I do not envisage forced mergers of any of the seven universities – we have been there before and it simply does not work.

"Nor would I envisage ITs merging with existing Universities or mirroring their provision on a smaller scale. "

The Minister did state his support for eliminating the duplication of courses at multiple colleges.

"There are areas of high cost disciplinary provision that can be strategically rationalised to improve both quality and sustainability," he said.

Other proposed changes referred to in the speech include reform of the internal governance structures of institutions, increasing transparency in academic management within institutions, and removing "out-dated rigidities" in these areas.

Special mention was also given to DIT, for its place in the top tier of higher education institutions worldwide.

Academics head eastward in hope of new students coming to Ireland

Victoria Timmermans

Sixty leading Irish academics from 16 Higher Education Institutions went to India last week trying to persuade more Indian students to come to study in Ireland.

Indeed around 200,000 Indian students attend overseas universities to study every year. The week long visit ran until 29 November and the goal was to promote Ireland as a centre for international study and a linchpin for global education and business. They want to upgrade Ireland's higher education sector in overseas markets. The Department of Education believes that building closer alliances with India is a key priority for the country.

Minister of State for Training and Skills Ciarán Cannon is leading the duty in New Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai, the country's main centres of politics, high-tech industry and commerce. In a public statement he said the mission would be providing a strong message to prospective Indian students. He asserted that coming to Ireland would be a great boost to their future career. Moreover, an Irish education is valued by international employers. "In addition to being future ambassadors for Ireland, he added, international students also help to generate jobs here. It is estimated that every 100 additional international students who come to Ireland support the creation of 15 local jobs, through spending on tuition, accommodation and other living expenses."

The majority of Indians studying in Ireland are enrolled on postgraduate programmes in engineering, pharmacy, business, accounting, computer sciences and hospitality management.

Although 1.000 Indian students are already enrolled in Irish third-level institutions, Ireland has recently decided to abolish its visa requirement in order to attract more students from India. It allows them to work in Ireland directly the year after they graduate. Universities are also introducing their own initiatives. For example, Trinity College Dublin set up a recruitment office in Delhi last month to promote the university to prospective students.

"Innovative and ambitious Irish education institutes already active in India are raising awareness of the quality and high standards of Irish education providers" said enterprise Ireland's executive director Julie Sinnamon who is accompanying Mr. Cannon on the trip.

According to her, Ireland education relationship with India, which is a priority market under the Government's Trade Strategy, is strong. They hope to open news doors to create consciousness. They want Indian students to see Ireland as a destination of choice.

Without forgetting that the Indian education sector is one of the biggest in the world, worth $100 billion last year. India also has 600 million people under the age of 24. That represents globally the largest youth population. "This significant population base, together with growing household income in India, is expected to spur tremendous growth in demand across a wide range of sectors including education services," Ms. Sinnamon ensured.

Coming to Ireland is an undeniable opportunity for Indian people but it's also a huge timeliness for Ireland itself. Indian students are highly sought after by top-class education institutions around the world.



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NEWS

Plan to renovate Dublin's cultural centrepoint



The Temple Bar in Temple Bar 2008 Photo: Cotton

Luke Holohan

Temple Bar, one of Dublin's busiest quarters, could be set to undergo a major revamp to bring it in line with some of Europe's top cultural centres.

Temple Bar Traders who are now operating under the trading name of The Temple Bar Company are in talks with Dublin City Council to oversee a rejuvenation project in the 28 acre area. Ideas for the project have been outlined in a report entitled "Temple Bar Company: Supporting the quarter," it details a number of ways to make Temple Bar a better place leading up to 2020.

Temple Bar Traders, which was set up by surrounding businesses ten years ago to assist with Temple Bar's litter problem has, over the years, contributed an estimated €4m to the up keep of the area.Now the company, whose mission statement is "to promote the arts, tourism, trade and commerce in the Temple Bar area," are hoping to boost the quarter's cultural credentials by transforming it into a civic plaza on par with areas such as the Montmartre region in Paris. "The Montmartre region is a marker, we know it's a high marker but we think it's very achievable," says Martin Harte, the companies managing director. "Our members have a desire to make Temple Bar more accessible, better, nicer. They want the area to be the best it can be, we feel it needs a little investment and hence we came up with this set of objectives."

The published 20 objectives range from ideas on street landscape to the inclusion of ethnic and night markets. One of the plans thatseem to have already gathered momentum is the redevelopment of the main Temple Bar Square which would be renamed "Dubliner's Square" after a collection of short stories set in the area by James Joyce. A statue honouring the Dublin born author and poet may also be included.

Professor Cathal O'Neill, a former professor in the UCD school of Architecture, has been brought in to give expert assistance. He has designed a new concept for the square that would see its expansion and the removal of the cobbles to create piazza style area that is more pedestrian friendly.

Martin Harte explained the idea behind it - "Temple Bar is confused at the moment, we've a lot of traffic, we've a lot of vehicles moving in and around even though it's pedestrian, we feel that if the area was all on the one level then it is more inclusive and makes people a priority as opposed to cars."

Temple Bar was last redeveloped in 1991, since then it has become known more as a popular destination for Hen and Stag parties than for its cultural identity. It has an estimated annual net turnover of over €765m with the majority of that coming from its busy nightlife. Harte emphasises that while the nightlife isvery important to Temple Bar, it is about creating comparable day time activity that appeals to everyone.

If approved, work on the rejuvenation project will begin next year and is likely to be funded by a number of organisations including The Temple Bar Company and Dublin City Council.

Culinary students reach cooking final

Laura Larkin

A final year DIT student has been named the winner of the Euro-toques Young Chef of the Year 2012 competition.

Ciarán Elliot, a BA student in the culinary arts program, was chosen from five finalists on Sunday 25 November. The competition ran from September and concluded with a day-long competition, during which finalists were subject to a skills test and a question and answer session. The announcement was made at a celebratory pop-up event in Dublin's Smock Alley Theatre.

Mr Elliot's prize includes a learning opportunity under the tutelage of chef Elena Arzak at her Basque restaurant Arzak, in Northern Spain next summer.

The young chef was also awarded a cash prize. Mr Elliot currently works as a chef in Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud on Upper Merrion St.

Speaking to The Edition Mr Elliot said he was "very happy with the result as there was stiff competition." He also commended the support he has received from lecturers in Cathal Brugha Street.

A second DIT student also made it through to the final stage of the competition. Mark Moriarty is a third year student of culinary arts in Cathal Brugha Street.

Euro-toques is a Europe wide community of chefs dedicated to preserving high standards and promoting locally sourced, high quality produce. The non-profit organisation strives promote and protect authentic culinary traditions.

The young chef of the year competition is in its 22nd year and the aim of this year's challenge was to provoke thought among entrants about what Irish cooking means today. President of Euro-toques Ireland Garoid Lynch spoke at the launch of this year's event of the importance of nurturing emerging talent in the Irish culinary industry.



The competition spanned five stages, beginning with an online application. Entrants were then asked to submit a recipe that reflected their own take on modern Irish food. A large emphasis was placed on seasonal cooking and local produce.

All finalists were required to select a preferred local producer for their main ingredient and source all other produce from within a fifty mile radius of their home or workplace.

Mr Elliot selected a Drogheda farmer as his key supplier. Brendan Guinan produces specialised vegetables and micro salads which are distributed nationwide.

European Commission calls for greater emphasis on I.T. and entrepreneurial skills

Luke Holohan

The European Commission has called on schools throughout Europe to refocus their curricula towards subjects that teach Information Technology, entrepreneurial and citizenship skills useful in the modern labour market.

The study, which was carried out by the Eurydice Network on behalf of the EU commission, surveyed a total of 31 European countries including the 27 EU member states along with Croatia, Iceland, Turkey and Norway. It comes just as the commission prepares to publish a "Rethinking Education Strategy" which will pinpoint areas where greater financial investment and time will need to be spent within education.

The report found that while European schools are providing students with the fundamental basics of literacy, mathematics, science and communication, the majority are neglecting transversal skills that prepare students for the modern workplace. There is a teaching imbalance between traditional and more modernised skills that are seen as essential in today's job market with the problem seemingly caused by the lack of assessment in these particular areas.

Only 11 European countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Finland) out of the 31 had standardised procedures within primary education to test citizenship skills 'which aim to develop critical thinking and active participation in school and society'. In addition to this, none of the countries that took part in the survey had existing assessment for IT and entrepreneurship.

Androulla Vassiliou, the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, expressed the importance of preparing young people for future employment and highlighted the commission's dedication to building up a knowledge based economy that would stimulate growth within the EU.

"Europe will only resume sustained growth by producing highly skilled and versatile people who can contribute to innovation and entrepreneurship", she said. Adding that -"It is only by equipping children and young people with the necessary skills, including transversal skills, that we will ensure that the European Union will have the means to remain competitive and to seize the opportunities of the knowledge economy"

The new Rethinking Education strategy being proposed this month by the European Commission will seek to rectify the apparent imbalance by encouraging a modernisation of education systems within the member states.

The strategy also includes a bench mark on foreign language learning, with the aim being to increase the number 15 year olds involved in learning a first foreign language from 8% to 50% by 2020.

News Bulletin

DIT 3rd in "Spacerace"

DIT is now in third place in the Irish Dropbox Spacerace, up from 11th place last month. Students at the college are now entitled to 15 gigabytes of Dropbox storage if they register using their DIT e-mail address. This will increase to 25 gigabytes if another few hundred students register.

Royal baby expected in September

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and his wife Kate, are expecting a baby, it has been announced. The baby will be the third in line to the British throne currently occupied by Queen Elizabeth. Recent changes to the law by the current government mean that the child, whether a boy or a girl, will be next in line after William himself and before him, his father Prince Charles.

William, the son of Charles and the late Princess Diana, married the former Kate Middleton in April 2011.

In a statement, the Palace said: "As the pregnancy is in its very early stages, Her Royal Highness is expected to stay in hospital for several days and will require a period of rest thereafter."

Lecturer writes book on time as soldier

DIT Lecturer Tom Clonan launched his book 'Blood, Sweat and Tears: An Irish Soldier's Story of Love and Loss' last week. The book, which has already attracted positive acclaim from all corners of the world, is a refreshingly honest and open story of his time spent in the Irish Army, in particular on a tour of duty to Lebanon in the 90s. Poet, Theo Dorgan officially launched the book at a reception in the National Library of Ireland.

Prior to his role in DIT, Clonan served as an Irish Army Officer. He served in operational units at home in Ireland and on active overseas duty in Lebanon. He commanded troops in Lebanon during the controversial and violent Israeli 'Operation Grapes of Wrath' in April 1996 and worked as an OSCE Election Monitor in Bosnia during the implementation of the Dayton Accords in 1996.

DIT launch boom into space

The DIT Telescobe experiment was successfully launched on Friday 16 November from Esrange Space Centre in Northern Sweden, from where it traveled to an altitude of just over 80 km. The DIT Space Research team reported that the Telescobe boom system was successfully deployed and data for assessing the performance of the boom during the flight has been retrieved from the experiment's computer system. According to Stephen Curran, Telescobe Team Leader, "Data analysis is ongoing, but initial results suggest that the boom system performed extremely well."

Dr. Marek Rebow said he was delighted with the success of the experiment. "We are very proud of our postgraduate researchers who could accomplish this space project and at the same time conduct their own research. Our next even more ambitious goal will be to build and launch the first Irish micro-satellite as part of QB50 consortium led by Von Karman Institute, ESA and NASA."

NEWS

Budget special

Budget 2013: Students will

Up Down

Fees hiked by €250, grants slashed



Beers, cider and spirits up 10c



Wine up €1 per 75cl



No change in cost of petrol



Presciption charges up to €1.50 per item



Child Benefit cut by €10 per month



Cigarettes up 10c per 20 box up 50c per 25g bag of tobacco

Barry Lennon

The student contribution fee will rise by €250 in 2013, it was revealed in the Budget this week, bringing college fees to €2,500 next year. The fee will increase by €250 each year for the next three years bringing the contribution to €3,000 by 2015.

The Department of Education claimed that these cutbacks would raise €18.5 million next year and €37 million in 2014. The Budget will also see a 3% reduction in the income threshold for applicants to the student grant. This will see the threshold for the maximum standard grant rate reduce from €41,110 to €39,875.

The Union of Students in Ireland claimed that 6,500 students could lose up to €750 in maintenance assistance this year, as a result of the reduction.

Ahead of the Budget, Minister for Education Ruairí Quinn had signalled rising costs and changes in grant entitlements, and had said that he was "satisfied" with the almost €90 million in education cutbacks.

Speaking after the announcement of the Budget, Minister Quinn said that he tried to be fair in his cutbacks.

"While it has been difficult to secure the level of savings required, I have sought to be as fair as I can throughout, to protect frontline education services as much as possible, and to prioritise those sectors in the education system that cater for disadvantaged and special needs students," said Minister Quinn.

"Alongside savings which I had to find, I have also secured the resources to continue our ambitious reform agenda to ensure better outcomes for all of our students."

The USI President John Logue, however, has criticised the Minister's Budget cuts.

"The Minister has punished students from lower income families by introducing stealth cuts to the maintenance grant. By cutting the income threshold by 3%, the Minister has ensured that some 6,500 students will have to get by with up to €750 less per year. For many students on the margins, this could push them off the cliff.

"This Minister has also targeted families with a steep €250 increase in fees. While the Minister warned that this increase would come, it remains a bitter blow to families who are struggling to get their children through college. Labour's betrayal of students on this front is disgraceful," he said.

The Budget has also ended the Cost of Education Allowance scheme, which granted people returning to education €300 per year to cover the books and administrative costs. Logue criticised the discontinuation of this scheme.

"The Budget has also hit people brave enough to return to education. By discontinuing the €300 Cost of Education Allowance, the Government has eliminated assistance that helped students. With its removal, the Minister has removed crucial financial assistance for people seeking to learn new skills so that they might gain employment."

Logue called on students and their parents to contact their local TDs about the cuts, stating that "the USI will now escalate its campaign to reverse these harsh and regressive measures."

Cost of living to rise sharply for all

Al McConnell, and Luke Holohan

A range of austerity measures announced in the Government's 2013 Budget are likely to have a significant impact on the cost of living for students around Ireland. The 2013 Budget, which was released by the Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan and the Minister for Public Expenditure, Brendan Howlin earlier this week, detailed an increase in excise duties on cigarettes and alcohol, a rise in student contribution charges, along with a new Local Property Tax that could impact on rental rates.

Pints of cider and beer, as well as standard measures of spirits, have jumped by 10c in the Budget strategy, with wine taking the largest increase of €1 on a 75cl bottle.

Widespread disappointment has greeted the move, along with a rush on wine-aisles across supermarkets and off-licenses on Wednesday night. The Vintners' Federation of Ireland also stated that the "unexpected announcement" was "jobs negative" and could have a damaging effect on the economy.

However, Director of Alcohol Action Ireland, Fiona Ryan, welcomed the move, saying that "it basically rolls excise duty back to 2009 levels when it was cut by 20% to counteract cross-border shopping. These currency conditions no longer exist and so neither does the justification for that excise duty cut."

The introduction of a Local Property Tax will also mean that the household charge will end a year earlier, but taxes on households' worth under the cost of €1million will increase by 0.18 percent, while properties over that value face a tax of 0.25 percent. As a result, students may have to bear increased rental rates as landlords face a rise in costs from both the new property tax and the extension of Pay-Related Social Insurance (PRSI) to unearned income, including rental income.

More pleasing for students and people around the country will be the news that one 'old reliable', petrol and diesel, escaped any budget increase. However, motor tax could rise by as much as 25% in the New Year, depending on the age of the car and its emissions output. A general increase in Motor Tax will be implemented, bringing a rise of at least 7.5% on cars registered before 2008.

Graduate employment prospects

Graduates in the next two years will now be entering a changing employment market, with both negative and positive announcements in the Budget.

Those earning around €18,000 or less will now be liable for higher taxes, involving around €5 more per week, as a result of a reduction in the PRSI tax-free allowance. For those moving into self-employment, the minimum level of annual contribution to PRSI has been raised from €253 to €500. Also of relevance for graduates entering into a labour market that currently has youth unemployment of 14.6%, is the reduction of Jobseekers' benefit duration by three months. The payment itself, however, is unchanged.

On the other side of the coin for soon-to-be graduates, will be the apparent boost to 'Small and Medium Enterprises' (SMEs) enshrined in the Budget. Minister Noonan outlined a ten-point Tax Reform Plan, which is specifically designed to boost employment in the sector.

Measures include reform of start-up relief, doubling Research and Development Credits from €100,000 to €200,000 for companies involved in that area, which will also impact Universities and Institutes of Technology, and extending the foreign earnings deduction. Three-year corporation tax relief was also announced, which will allow unused credit to be carried forward, in an effort to stimulate SMEs and create jobs. Minister Howlin's public expenditure cuts, however, outlined the reduction in the number of public service staff to 282,500 jobs by the end of 2014.

Nationwide impact

Wider impacts of the Budget will affect the everyday lives of students and their families across the board. Although high earners have been targeted in Ministers Noonan and Howlin's calculations, many critics have highlighted the heavy burden imposed on lower and middle-income families.



The Guard wasn't over worked as tame protests took place on Kildare St after the budget on Wednesday 5 December

Photo: Kevin Schley

Maternity benefit is to become taxable income, while the carer's grant will be reduced by €325 to €1,375. Child benefit will also be cut by €10, an element of the Budget that has been described as "shameful" by Seamus Healy, TD for Tipperary South. Stephen Donnelly, independent TD for Wicklow and East Carlow, has also labelled it a particularly regressive tax. Many have pointed to Labour's manifesto statement that they "will not agree to child benefit cut" in the last election.

For elderly members of the family, several measures outlined by the Ministers on Wednesday will be of particular importance. From 2014, tax relief on pension contributions will only subsidise pension schemes worth less than €60,000 per year. In addition, the reduced rate of Universal Social Charge for those over 70 years of age with an income of more than €60,000 will be discontinued from 1 January 2013. Medical Cards for the elderly have also been targeted, in a change that will mean people over 70 with a weekly income over a certain threshold will have their card replaced with GP-only entitlements.

For people of all ages, the prescription charge payable by Medical Card holders will increase by €1, to €1.50 per item. The move has been criticised by Irish Pharmacy Union President, Rory O'Donnell, who said it "could force sick people to go without medicine that they need."

DIT's Grangegorman campus was also mentioned in the Minister for Public Expenditure's speech, as he stated that preparation works on the site will get underway in 2013.

Reaction

Minister Howlin's contribution to Wednesday's announcements took several moments to begin, as heckling in the Daíl repeatedly drowned out his opening lines. At one point, he was forced to exclaim "why don't you listen to me?" in an effort to begin his speech, which outlined just under €2 million in public expenditure cuts.

On Wednesday evening, as the Budget announcements sank in throughout the Daíl, there was harsh criticism from many politicians. Luke 'Ming' Flanagan stated that he believed the Government would "plough ahead" with the proposals despite the dissent.

Sinn Feín's reaction targeted Labour's role in the Budget, with Mary Lou McDonald claiming that the party "surrendered" to Fine Gael. Further criticism came from Richard Boyd-Barrett, who spoke of a "cruel" Budget, which targeted families, children, people with disabilities, and older people.

Minister Noonan acknowledged that "it wasn't an easy Budget, and it does hit people very hard." During his announcements, he stated that "the Irish financial crisis can be summed up in one word: debt."

He was, however, positive in outlook on many occasions throughout, an optimism that has not been echoed throughout the country in reaction to the Budget.

Budget special

NEWS

pay steep price for deficit

Opinion

Dáirne Black

As Ireland felt the pinch of the cold walking to College, it was merely a taster of what was to come on Wednesday. As 2:30pm approached many gathered around television screens and radios as Minister Noonan delivered his speech. Deemed the worst budget in history, no amount of token gestures to the harder-up could hide this Budget's true nature. Everyone across society was hit, with low and middle income bearing the brunt according to many commentators. Commenting on the issue, Fine Fail Spokesman Michael McGrath went as far as to say that the "highest earners are the most protected."

For drivers, there was a note of positivity when it was announced that petrol and diesel prices would not be increased. Another positive was that there would be no cut to the dole – for anyone who is final year, this is particularly good news.

There was an increase in alcohol charges as the price of wine has gone up by one euro. No more four euro bottles. Beer and cider prices are also up by 10 cents, with the word #cider trending on twitter that evening. Spirits are also up by 10 cents. Smokers also took a hit as the price of 25 gram bags of tobacco has risen by 50 cents, while 20-boxes themselves have risen by 10 cents.

Despite recent protests pleading with the Governement, the Budget included the students. Fees will increase from their current amount by €750 to 2015, going up €250 each year, meaning that by 2015 the cost of third level education will be €3,000.

There was bad news for parents and guardians as the Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance will be reduced by €50. A severe reduction, it has to be said. Child benefit has taken a hit by €10 per month, per child. For mothers on maternity leave, the Maternity Benefit is now being treated as a taxable income, but will continue to be exempt from the Universal Social Charge. This comes into play from 1 July 2013. Also in July next year, property tax will take effect for the second half of the year.

With the superstition surrounding the incoming year, it was announced there would be 2 different car registrations introduced. The news registration tags will be 131 for first half of 2013 and 132 for the second half.

Rest assured, however, our own politicians are taking a hit. The allowance of Party Leaders is being reduced by 10 per cent. Severance payments for Ministers have been abolished, meaning that when they leave Government, their pay and benefits will be reduced. A reduction in the current expenses of politicians will also be introduced.

In 2014, the pension levy will be abolished. It was advised that those on low and middle should sort out their pensions as soon as possible.

Our very own College got a mention in the budget, as it was announced that preparation works for the Grangegorman campus were to get under way in 2013. Watch this space.

It was announced that The Department of Children would be provided with €17.4 million for development of youth detention facility at Oberstown. This is does not come as a surprise.

Vox Pop

Ciarán Clark

The Edition asks DIT students for their reaction to the Budget.

From midnight tonight, the price of a pint of beer or cider will rise by 10 cents, and a bottle of wine by €1. There is to be no reduction in social protection entitlements. The price of 20 cigarettes is to increase by 10 cents and roll your own tobacco will increase 50 cents per 25g pack. The public service is to be contracted to 282,500 people by the end of 2014. Student fees are set to rise by another €250 for the next three years. And preparation works for the Grangegorman DIT campus will begin in 2013 and car registration is to have a dual period in 2013; the first period will register cars under 131, the second, 132.

Liam Murphy, Irish business student

On the rise in alcohol prices: "As a student I'm driven to drink at home. I spent a year in Berlin and it was much cheaper, you could drink as much as you want."

On the maintaining of social protection levels: "Dole should have been reduced. People have no incentive to work."

On the rise in student contribution fees: "Has to be done. We as students don't protest enough, especially 4th years that think they're out of it."

On the maintaining of petrol prices: "I'm happy about petrol staying the same."

Kaling-Ko German business student

On the maintaining of social protection levels: "People need the money."

On the rise in student contribution fees: "It will put people out of education."

Eoghan Colgan - Irish business student

"Don't mind pints going up but wine going up is crazy. You can get it all up the North cheaper" – On the rise in alcohol prices.

"The public sector is bloated." – On the reduction of public services.

Cornell Ciobanu – Spanish student

"Good idea. It's just odd; the registration would have worked five years ago when people bought cars." – On the dual registration period in 2013.

Diane Malatsilajeve – Estonian student

"The average petrol price in the EU is €1.35. It's €1.60 in Ireland. This is not good." – On maintaining petrol prices.

Twitter Reaction

Dáirne Black looks at the Twitter reaction to Budget 2013

Nikita - Tallafornia @NikitaMurray

Bar from that poxy budget, I don't think today could possibly get any better :) :)

Niall Breslin @nbrez

I am surprised The Finance Minister has not put a tax on money homeless folk get on the street #budget2013

Constantin Gurdgiev @GTCost

Mothers, families, self-employed - hit, homeowners - hit. Developers & land speculators - escape free, farmers - get subsidies #budget13

David O'Doherty @phlaimeaux

IRISH BUDGET LEAK: They are taking 5 euro in tax off the price of VHS players and fax paper. ZERO CHANGE in tax on

Rosanna Davison @rosanna_davison

So who stocked up on a year's supply of vino this afternoon?? #Budget13

John Logue USI @john_logue

Quinn has told the 8% of students on grant affected by today's stealth changes to live on up to E750 less next year. #budget13 #disgrace

Una Mullally @UnaMullally

Bar from that poxy budget, I don't think today could possibly get any better :) :)

DITSU & volunteers put mental health petition before Government

Danielle Stephens
Sports Editor

DITSU and Mental Health Perform Ireland collected signatures last week for a petition which was presented to the Government prior to the budget. They hoped to encourage them not to drop the ball on mental health issues.

Every year the DITSU does something towards the importance of promoting student welfare.

Several weeks ago DIT organised a candle lit remembrance service to remember those who lost their lives to suicide. About 40 students and staff came together to remember students and share their stories of how having someone to talk to really got them through a rough patch.

More young people died by suicide last year than any other illness and DIT wanted to unite everyone in pushing this message to the fore.

Two days later DETECT, an organisation that aims to provide a better understanding of Psychosis, put on a one-man play in Bolton Street.

Glenn Fitzpatrick, SU vice president, was encouraged by the response to the play. He said that there were over 50 people in the room for the performance and that afterwards students were calling for a similar play to be performed on the Southside during semester two. They usually organise a string of events that run over a one or two week period, such as last year's "Feel Good Fortnight" campaign.

However, this year the SU did something different. They ran a campaign over a two-month period, from the beginning of October until the end of November. The Mind Yourself Campaign 2012 was set up by Fitzpatrick, who oversees issues to do with education and welfare in DIT.

Amy O'Callaghan, a full-time staff member in the SU did most of the background work such as organising insurance for every guest speaker who spoke during the campaign.

Fitzpatrick highlighted the work that all of the 44 volunteers did over the two months.

According to the SU Vice President, the whole campaign wouldn't have run so smoothly without the volunteers who helped out at all the events.

At the end of the campaign there was a wrap party held to celebrate the achievements of those involved in the campaign with a performance from Comedian Nick Sun.

Fitzpatrick said that spreading the campaign over a two-month period was a better use of the SU's resources as it helped accommodate the sporadic nature of DIT's campuses, making it easier to reach students and campuses that sometimes don't see the benefits of these events.



Mental Health Reform presents Minister for Mental Health, Kathleen Lynch TD, with 10,000 signatures from its petition calling on the Government not to drop the ball on mental health in Budget 2013

NEWS

Protests

Nation rallies in capital for

Budget met with loud protests

Mark Meehan

The budget for the year 2013 had been billed as one of the toughest of our recent time. With so many cuts expected to be directed against low and middle income earners and much less impact to be felt by the higher earners, a mass protest was widely expected.

On the evening of 5 December, as the budget details were being announced, the inevitable protest took place on Kildare Street, at Leinster House. From early in the afternoon, a heavy Garda presence was organised with barriers ready to keep the expected protesters at bay. With the bulk of the protesters due to arrive on a march later in the day, those who had assembled earlier made sure their presence was felt despite their small numbers. The initial protesters were representing the Corrib Gas cause.

As the temperature began to fall, more and more protesters arrived. The initial core were joined by more and more political groups, with the Republican presence being particularly notable. Various groups, including Sinn Fein and the 32 County Sovereignty Movement made lined up alongside representatives from the Campaigns against the Household Charge and the Communist Party.

Most of the assembled were concerned citizens, there of their own accord and without any affiliation. Confusion initially reigned as no-one was quiet certain when the protest march would arrive and when.

Christy Moore songs blared from the makeshift stage as those present began to rally. Nothing could compare with the presence of the main protest march when it turned the corner down Molesworth Street. The sheer mass of flags and placards, many of which had been seen at the 24 November protest, along with the chants of "no way, we won't pay" provided a powerful example of public unhappiness.

Word of the budget made its way around the assembled protesters through word of mouth, with many people shared moments of disbelief as they heard just how they would be affected. The increased Garda presence made it obvious that large protests were expected. As night fell, it became uncertain as to whether or not the protest would remain as peaceful as when it had begun.



Protests taking place on O'Connell St. had a range of representatives from across the country

Photos: Darragh Meehan

Protesters turn out in force to fight cuts

#24N brings capital's mainstreet to a standstill, writes **Mark Meehan**

The main street of the capital came to a standstill on 24 November, as groups and individuals from every corner of the country rallied in a protest march against austerity. With the budget for 2013 just around the corner, the government was given a powerful reminder that not all of their policies are well met by the public.

The march, which was named "24N" on Twitter, was billed beforehand as quite possibly the largest mass protest yet to be seen in the capital in recent times, was well attended by groups from across the political and social spectrum. There were men and women, young and old, from east, west, north and south. Initial estimates of the attendance were put at several thousand.

Initially, as the march began to rally at Parnell Square next to the Garden of Remembrance, the sheer scale of what was about to place became apparent. Thousands had gathered, with yet more making the trip up O'Connell Street to join them. Flags, banners, placards and leaflets were being carried about and distributed everywhere. They were of every colour – the red of socialist groups, the yellow and black of the campaigns against household and water charges, the blue of the unions, among many others.

The sound of the Garda helicopter above echoed off the buildings as the march began to make its way down towards O'Connell Street. The press corps had gathered at the Parnell Monument and music began to play – "Get Up, Stand Up" by Bob Marley. Those who knew the song began to sing along, those who didn't simply began to dance along to it.

The reporters and photographers present waited as the protest passed by. Pictures and recordings were taken as load chants of "One Solution, Revolution" and "We won't pay!" echoed around. At the front of the protest, perhaps a personification of the doom to come, was a black-robed figure on horseback, their face obscured by a white, expressionless mask. This ghostly herald led the protest on its way.

The sheer scale of the protest took many by surprise. By the time the front of the march had made its way to O'Connell Bridge, the last protesters were leaving Parnell Square. It was a vast sea of people, with brass and pipe bands playing along to the resounding, regular thud of the assembled drum corps. The unions had brought the bands with them, their banners the largest but their cheers by no means the loudest.

The streets were sealed off around the march route as it made its way down to O'Connell Bridge, and then back up towards the General Post Office, the

Garda Presence

At the protest on the 24 November, the vast number of protesters had attracted a considerable Garda presence. The echo of the helicopter circling above was a reminder that this protest was being watched.

As protests around the country and in the capital in particular have grown in number and frequency over the past few years, it has been curious to see how the police in Ireland have reacted.

The number of Gardai at a protest usually reflects the amount of trouble they expect to have from those who are present. The worry is always of the agent provocateur – a person who is there to turn a peaceful protest into something much more sinister, usually for reasons unrelated to the actual grievances of the protesters. To the credit of Irish protesters, we have mostly managed to avoid any problems in this regard.

The often heavy-handed police reaction to protests in places like Spain and Greece have prompted many Irish people to consider if such reactions are possible here. At the protest on 24 November, the Garda presence was considerable, but also distant. They had closed off roads around O'Connell Street, and walked around keeping an eye out for trouble, but their presence wasn't met with any derision by the protesters. There were no reports of altercations as the day passed off without any trouble.

The videos and news reports of police brutality often lead many people to cast our own Gardai in a similar light. Many would mistrust them, their numbers at various events being a source of discussion. Some simply confuse Garda presence for the sake of public safety as something more sinister. It is true to say, though, that while we see videos of police in other European countries beating protesters and firing tear gas into crowds, it isn't the case here. There is a greater sense here that the police are there to protect law and order, and not just to protect the state from its people.

Protests

NEWS

budget protests





GPO, where a stage was being readied for speeches. As the protesters began to rally in front of it, attention turned to one of the buildings on the opposite side of the street.

Below a burning red flare, a group of protesters had unfurled a giant banner from the roof of the building. In giant letters, the words "Shame On Labour" began to rally cheers from the assembled protesters.

As the union leaders got ready to speak, the haunting music echoing from the music group on the stage brought a strange atmosphere to the street. The tune was mournful and foreboding. Fog had descended over the street and the wind had dropped. The Irish tricolour above the GPO had stopped flying, hanging limp. For a few moments, the atmosphere was sullen.

The union leaders began to speak, a rousing speech which drew cheers from the assembled protesters. That was, though, until the President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions stood up to make his speech. Eugene McGlone began to speak, but his words were cut short by echoes of boos from the street. He was stopped from speaking by this interruption, and it was only after some intervention from other assembled figures on the stage that he was able to continue.

Pictures and recordings were taken as load chants of "One Solution, Revolution" and "We won't pay!"

It was a notably unfriendly reception, the atmosphere hostile.

As various people came up to speak, calls for a general strike began to echo around. Being that next year is the centenary of the infamous 1913 Lockout, suggestions began to be made that perhaps a massive, coordinated general strike would be a fitting way to mark this legendary time for Irish workers. These suggestions were well received.

It was clear that the policy of austerity is not universally accepted in Ireland. There was particular poignancy in the protest for any students taking part. In an age where education has been subject to cuts, this protest made it clear that students are not alone in their opposition to cuts across society. Scattered Union of Students in Ireland t-shirts through the protesters signified the presence of organised student groups, albeit in a more clandestine way than many would perhaps have liked.

The march was certainly, at least from the point of view of the larger press present, a largely union-led event. It is worthy of note, though, that the unions did not lead the march itself. They took a more modest position, marching in the middle of the procession and further back. The front they left to ordinary citizens, smaller groups. It was a microcosm of the greater feeling on the day – that the protest was indeed one of the people.

The number of people taking part initially was put at three thousand, then eight thousand, with the final tally being guessed at anywhere up to eighteen thousand protesters. From the middle of O'Connell Street, surrounded by the mobilised, angry public, it certainly felt that way.

Opinion

Dáirne Black

As Budget day draws ever closer there are fears of an increase in fees. For many students, third level education will simply not be an option if the proposed increase comes into play. As it stands, fees for most third level Colleges are nearly €3,000. For students live away from home, living expenses are high enough already, and the fees are another hefty payment on top of that. Regardless if you live at home or away from it, students simply cannot cope with a hike in fees.

In recent weeks students have stepped up their bid in an attempt to make the Government not increase the tuition fees. On Monday November 20th, students from from DIT, UCD, St Angela's College in Sligo and Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology marched from the Dún Laoghaire Institute's campus to Mr Gilmore's office in Dún Laoghaire. Although Mr. Gimore was not in office at the time of the protest, two members of his office staff were. The students presented them with a large copy of the pledge to oppose fee increases he signed alongside Minister Ruairí Quinn

The Táiniste, along with Minister Ruairí Quinn had pledged not to increase the fees, should both men make into Governement in the General Election in 2010. It is a devastating blow to students who would have voted in these men, safe in the knowledge that third level education was not out of reach. That Mr. Gilmore is a former President of the Union of Students Ireland makes the issue that much more poignant. In the past he was the one lobbying and campaigning for the rights of students, yet he, along with Minister Quinn has turned his back on students.

As well as the increase in fees, there is the lack of grants. Many students have applied and not received, there have been mixups, mess ups and a considerable amount of confusion. Many students have had to drop out of College and make change their proposed plans and the Government fail to give students the grants they applied for. Many students have been told various excuses and have been waiting months to receive the promised grants. Many may even get their grants after Christmas, at which point students will be halfway through their College years'.

As well as the recent march which took place on Saturday November 24th it seems the media have jumped on the bandwagon. 'Save Our Students' is a campaign that has been launched by the Irish Daily Mirror. The campaign attempts to highlight the plight of students and is the first one that I have seen of late. The paper are looking for students who have been affected by the SUSI grant application to contact them and have their voices heard.

With Christmas fast approaching and purse strings being pulled, the future is looking bleak for students of Ireland. If Santa does perhaps read this, maybe

Grants delayed until 2013

Ciarán Clark

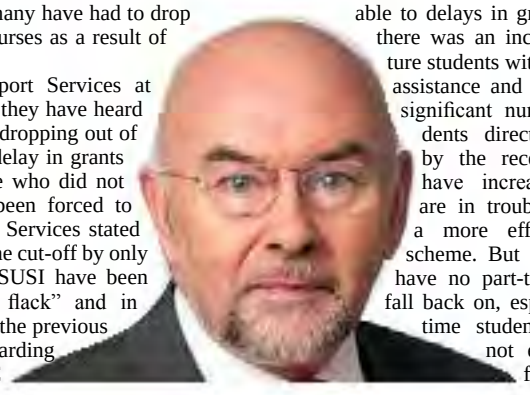
Minister for Education and Skills Ruairi Quinn has said that the backlog of applications to Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) means some students will have to wait until January for their grants to be approved.

The minister blamed previously low staffing levels at the national grants body and the sustained closure of banks over the Christmas period for the delay. He also said because some successful applicants might not have included their bank details – some students who qualify for grants might have to wait until January to receive them.

SUSI chief executive Jacinta Stewart said, "Over 65,000 applications were received by the service, a figure significantly higher than had been expected."

Mr Quinn told the Dáil there were still 21,000 applications to be processed. As of last week only 4,400 students had been paid. The Minister promised, by Christmas 33,000 more applications should be completed and 50 extra staff were drafted to deal with the crisis.

Student support groups say it has been a stress on students and families. It's been reported that many have had to drop out of their courses as a result of the problem.



Student Support Services at DIT have said they have heard of no students dropping out of DIT due to a delay in grants and only those who did not qualify have been forced to leave. Support Services stated some missed the cut-off by only €70. He said SUSI have been given "undue flack" and in comparison to the previous model for awarding grants – VEC and Co Councils – SUSI were not performing particularly badly. Support Services also maintained it has been their policy to allow students access to services once they have registered.

DIT students' union President David Keogan said DITSU is in direct contact with SUSI through the Union of Students Ireland (USI). He also said DIT SU and the USI were engaging with SUSI to ensure that grant delays would not occur in the future and they were taking a professional approach to the matter.

According to the Fees and Grants department at DIT 5,115 students had applied for a grant and just 2,232 had been awarded it. Only a quarter were grants related to SUSI at 1,611. Just 30 per cent of those 550 have been awarded. Last year was also quite poor with some students not getting their grant until March or later.

The Financial Aid services of DIT in Rathmines indicated there was a huge increase in students applying for assistance directly from DIT – a provision granted by the HEA of the EU. A staff member stated that the numbers seeking funds had doubled in recent years and that the services coffers might run out by Christmas. She said that this increase was not attributable to delays in grants but that there was an increase in mature students with no parental assistance and there were a significant number of students directly impacted by the recession "Fees have increased. People are in trouble. We need a more effective grant scheme. But also students have no part-time work to fall back on, especially part-time students, who are not even eligible for grants."

Student stabbing

From front page

berton for the semester. "I knew the area was bad but I had already paid for the semester when I learned about it; it was too late for me," he explained.

Pierre Coindreau, 21, a DIT Mechanical and Design Engineering student from France, said that he will remain living in the Herberton residence for the rest of the semester, as he doesn't know where else to go.

"I don't think that DIT should recommend that students stay in Herberton anymore, because even though it is a really nice residence, it's not a safe neighbourhood anymore and this doesn't seem to be changing," he said.

Brian Gormley, Manager of Campus Life, told the Edition that DIT is currently organising alternative accommodation for students who do not wish to stay in the Herberton Apartments.

"First of all we would like to express our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the students who were the victims of the incident that took place in Herberton on Saturday morning. We are also looking at alternative accommodation options for next semester," he said.

"We will be meeting with the management companies for the student apartments and for the complex, and asking them to provide us with a review of security arrangements. The accommodation options that are recommended by the Accommodation service are under constant review, and the review of security arrangements will feed back into that process," he continued.

According to the Chubb Properties website "security is a prime consideration at Chubb Properties. We have a full time office and a concierge on duty at the entrance desk throughout the evening and night. We do this to ensure the highest level of safety."

Jenny Dunne

Support Contacts

Counselling Service: Gabby Lynch, 01-402 3352, gabby.lynch@dit.ie or text 086-0820543

Chaplaincy: Sr Mary Flanagan, 01-4023050 or 087-6417309

Student Health Centre: 01-4023051

DITSU: Aimee O'Callaghan, 01-4024510 or aimee.ocallaghan@ditsu.ie

Other queries: email campuslife@dit.ie.

NEWS

DIT cheapest for Dublin student healthcare & aims to keep it that way

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

DIT is hopeful of maintaining its free healthcare consultations, despite financial pressure on the service. With purse strings tightening for all students, establishing a charge for GP consultation could have a significant impact on the physical and mental health of students. "There are significant pressures, but the aim is to keep the general consultation free," says Brian Gormley, head of Campus Life.

"Other colleges that have started charging have found that there's a reduction in students using the services once it is brought in. The cost of managing the money may actually out-do the intake.

"In the next couple of years there is no plan to reduce it. Every cost is being looked at, in terms of whether every service is value for money. There will be an eight percent cut to the budget next year and things will be down to the bone, but hopefully it won't impact on students."

Dr Bendan Clune, GP in DIT's health centre, emphasises the importance of maintaining free consultations, when speaking to the Edition.

"It relates to the ethos of the college. DIT has given priority to ensuring that students can access these services. That fact is under pressure; if there were healthcare monitored by accountants in terms of value for money, they would maybe put priority on ensuring that the books balance.

"I certainly know that within colleges our student services are under pressure to be self financing, more so now as academics look at their cut budget and they rationalise that third level colleges are for academic purposes more than social or health purposes, so the pressure is on to divert finances towards that area."



After a petition of over 10,000 signatures was presented to Minister for Mental Health, Kathleen Lynch TD, there has been significant discussion on generating greater awareness of the importance mental health. An important aspect of this debate will be the role of college healthcare, and the mental health of students.

"It's beneficial to have as little a fee as possible to encourage students to attend. I think part of the learning process of their education apart from the academic side of it is how to engage confidently with the health service.

"We get a lot of nervous patients coming in, particularly with psychological issues, who wouldn't attend if they had to pay 15 or 20 euro. That probably goes across the board with everything. But when someone comes in with a psychological issue, very often I would encourage them to come back next week. Now, if I see them this week for 25 euro and say come back again next week, well there's a limitation on that. Very often they need more regular support."

With the national budget now tightening the grip around students' bank accounts still further, it is hoped that healthcare will remain a priority within DIT.

"We will work as hard as we can to maintain it," says Brian Gormley. "We consider it very important."

GP Fees

DIT

Doctor Consultation	Free
Doctor Consultation	Free
Implanon (Implant contraceptive)	€25

DCU

Doctor Consultation	€10
Doctor Consultation	Free
Implanon	N/A

TCD

Doctor Consultation	Free
Doctor Consultation	Free
Implanon	€50

UCD

Doctor Consultation	€25
Doctor Consultation	€10
Implanon	€120 + €30 insertion + Consultation

Record high in college

Rachael O'Brien

On Wednesday 21 November, the 2012 Irish Times School League Tables were published and it showed that there were a record number of students going to college this year.

In 2011, the number of schools with a 100% progression rate to college was 56. This figure has more than doubled to 121 this year, meaning 17% of the 724 secondary schools in the country, are sending all of their students to college.

This figure reflects the current situation in the country and was expected by many. The tightening jobs market means that having a college degree has become a necessity whilst job hunting, where during the Celtic Tiger, it was just an advantage.

The School League Table was established 11 years ago and this year shows the highest ever number of students progressing to third level education. It also shows that girls' and co-ed schools tend to perform better than boys' schools. However this gap is set to close due to the design of the new Junior Cert curriculum.

This jump in numbers also meant that CAO points soared and will continue to do so next year. The demand for course places continues to grow as colleges are turning away more and more people.

In September 2012, DIT opened its doors to 3,700 new students and this figure is expected to increase next year. Yet it is not all doom and gloom. This record number of students entering college means that in three or four years' time, the country will have record numbers of qualified people seeking jobs. It is hopeful by this time that the recession will be over and many jobs will have been created.

Europe awared Nobel Peace Prize

Camille Toussaint

This year the European Union and its 500 million people were awarded this Nobel Peace prize for turning Europe from a continent of wars into a continent of peace.

To raise awareness among young people, The European Union launched a drawing and writing contest, with the four winners being invited to the 2012 Nobel Peace prize ceremony. This one will take place on 10 and 11 December 2012 in Oslo, Norway.

This contest, organised in partnership with the European Youth Forum, proposed to young people from 8 to 24 years old to submit their creation until the 25 November. The theme of the contest is "what does peace in Europe mean for you?" A way for young people te express how they see the EU, and to remind everyone its role in the peace in Europe.

The European Youth Forum considered all the 5397 entries: 1173 drawings in group 8-12, 1870 texts in group 13-17 and 2354 texts in group 18-24. The Forum selected 16 entries, which were submitted on Facebook and subject to vote by the public until 2 December.

Everybody could go on the Facebook page "Peace Europe Future" and vote for their favourite entry.

One winner will be chosen by the results of the vote on Facebook, and three other winners will be chosen by a jury.

This Nobel Peace prize ceremoney will be chaired by Jean Van Hamme, famous Belgian novelist and comic book writer,. Van Hamme is responsible for creating legendary heroes "Thorgal", "Largo Winch" and the mysterious "XIII."

The four winners will be anounced on the week of the 3 December, and will have the possibility to attend the ceremony, to see personalities such as Jennifer Hudson and Seal perfoming live, and probably much more.



Student Shopper

This issue, Aislinn McCooey looks at how to tackle the shopping behemoth of Christmas on a budget



So it's the most wonderful time of year again or for many the most expensive, but it doesn't have to be and I am here to show you how you can be festive for less.

Make Christmas presents don't buy them. And "I'm not artistic" is not an excuse. There are countless videos, tutorials and instructions on how to make many different kinds of homemade presents to suit everyone including soaps, lip balms and cookies and chocolates.

Do the same with Christmas decorations. Your home will look way nicer than if you decorate it with mass produced decorations that everyone and their granny has in their homes and you'll get a great sense of satisfaction when somebody asks you where you bought that beautiful tree topper and you can see their look of disbelief when you say you made it.

If you have a large group of friends or a big family then secret Santa is definitely the answer. It means you can set a price limit on the present you buy (or better yet insist on homemade) and nobody feels hard done by because everything is of the same value. Also don't worry about feeling cheap by suggesting it most people are strapped for cash and would welcome the suggestion (they're just too afraid to suggest it themselves)

While little twinkly Christmas lights and singing Santas and snowmen may make your miserable student house seem more festive bear in mind the extra electricity these will use and the effect it will have on your electricity bill.

Do your food shopping for the holiday season in Aldi or Lidl most of the stuff tastes pretty much the same or better in some cases and its way cheaper.

Avoid buying tins and tins of Quality Street, roses, celebrations etc. They cost a fortune and often lie sitting in the house for weeks after the event uneaten and unwanted. Do yourself a favour and limit yourself to buying one tin of your favourites (you're bound to get some as presents anyway) your wallet and your waistline will thank you for it.

GAEILGE

Comhghairdeas mór do Íte Ní Chionnaith a bhuaigh an duais Dreas Cainte



Íte Ní Choinnaith ag fáil an duais Dreas Cainte ag an Oireachtas

Seosaimhin Ní Ghallachoir
Eagarthóir Gaeilge

Bhuaigh Íte Ní Chionnaith, léachtóir ó DIT, duais labhairt phoiblí ag an Oireachtas 2012.

Ar an 22 Samhain 2012 tháinig an léachtóir sa chéad áit den comórtais Dreas Cainte ag Oireachtas na Gaeilge i Leitir Ceannainn, Dun na nGall. Labhair Íte faoin abhár thromchúiseach. "Tá saol na tuaithe faoi bhagairt ag rialacha na hEorpa." Seo é an ceathrú uair a bhuaigh Íte an duais cainte seo. Ach dúirt sí go raibh na rialacha athraithe an bhliain seo agus go raibh an comórtas níos doiligh go háirithe.

"Níl agat ach cuig noiméad, chun phiocadh do abhár amach as hata agus labhairt faoin ceann a bhfuair tú agus ní raibh agat ach cuig noiméad chun smaoineamh cad atá agat le rá," arsa Íte Ní Chionnaith.

Roimhe seo bhí uair ag na hiomraitheoirí na Dreas Cainte chun an abhár a phiocadh go fánach amach as hata. Ansin bhí acu a gcuid smaointe agus a priomhphointí a fhorbairt faoi cheann uair an chloig ach anois níl acu ach 5 noiméad chun ullmhú. Dúirt Íte go raibh spéis mhór aici sna cursaí pholaitíochta agus cursaí eacnamaíochta agus gur baineann sí an-taitneamh as na comórtais chainte seo.

Anois tá Íte Ní Chionaith ag obair san Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Baile Átha Cliath mar léachtóir i Scoil na Meáin ar feadh 33 bliain, ó nuair a thosaigh sí i 1979. "Tá mé anseo 33 bliain ag déanamh mó dhícheall na mic léinn a spreagadh ó thaobh na Gaeilge de agus ag déanamh mó dhícheall chun seansaní praiticiúil a thabhairt as Gaeilge dóibh," arsa Íte.

Spreagann an léachtóir na mic léinn chun cláracha raidió agus gearrscannáin a dhéanamh as Gaeilge agus bhuaigh sí lear de na gearrscannáin duaiseanna i gComórtais Scannánaíochta an Oireachtas do mhic léinn 3ú leibhéal.

Taobh amuigh den rang, ba í an chéad bean huachtarán de Conradh na Gaeilge i beagnach céad bhliain agus d'obair sí mar Tánaiste an t-eagraíocht i gcomhar dhá bhliain roimhe sin.

Bhí baint mhór aici san fheachtas ceadúnas teilifíse na Gaeilge, chun craoladh níos mó cláranna Gaeilge ar RTÉ agus ansin chun staisiún Gaeilge a bhunú. Throid Íte ar son na cúise agus sheas sí a fhód nuair a chuaigh sí i bpríosún toisc nach raibh sí sasta an ceadúnas teilifís a cheannach mar nach raibh go leor cláranna Gaeilge ar an teilifís.

"Bhí mé sasta é a dhéanamh agus bhí áthas orm go raibh an deis agam dul i bpríosún chun mó phointe a dhéanamh agus d'ardaigh sé an cheist go raibh cursaí Gaeilge ar an teilifís go dona agus go raibh gá teilifís na Gaeilge a bheith ann," arsa Íte Ní Chionnaith.

Is é seo an bhliain deireanach ina mbeidh Íte mar léachtóir i DIT. Tá sí ag glacadh scor luath chun a n-arid a dhíriú níos mó ar litríocht Gaeilge agus chun ghné eile éagsúla a fhiosrú lena shaol.

An drama conspóideach An Triail

Aidan Dundass

Tá puipéadóirí craiceáilte ar ais leis an dráma cáiliúil ó Máiréad Ní Ghráda "An Triail", atá ar siúl san amharclann Axis i Baile Munna. Tá an dráma dírithe go háirithe ar scoláirí atá ag déanamh an Ardteist.

Nuair a tháinig an dráma seo amach an chéad lá a riamh bhí sé an conspóindeach mar gheall ar na téamaí a bhí i lár an phlota. I gcroí lár an scéal bhí bean a fuair torrach agus gan í a bheith postadh. Freisin bhí sí cairdiúil le striapach agus bhí ról dearfach ag an striapach sa scéal.

Rinne an comhlacht léiriúcháin Fibin an-jab an saol in iathair na tire sna 1960í a chruthú don lucht féachana. Déanann Fibin iarracht an difríocht idir an saol i 1964 agus an saol atá inniu ann, a chuir in iúl do na daoine atá ag breathnú ar an dráma.

Baineann Fibin an-úsáid as na puipéadí sa dráma seo. Úsáideann siad iad go healaíontaí agus go go heifeachtaí freisin i rith an scéal. Tá dhá puipéad mór ar bharr an stáitse agus an ról atá acu ná scéalaí, an fáth a bhfuil siad ann ná le haghaidh an scéal a léirigh don lucht féachana.

Bhí na haistéoirí an-mhaith sa dráma seo "An Triail", go mór mór an aisteoir a rinne an páirt don phríomh-carachtar, Máire. Rinne sí an-jab agus dá mbeadh Caitlín Maude fós beo bheadh sí an-bródúil aisti mar gheall thug sí taispeántais den scoth mar Mháire.

Is iad an reiligiún agus an deacracht a bhí ag mná ag an am sin na príomh téamaí sa dráma seo. Is dráma dorcha atá ann ach ag an am ceanna ach tá sé an-suimiúil. Tá sé dírithe isteach ar na mhic léinn atá ag déanamh an Ardteist agus deanann Fibin an-jab scéal atá sach chasta a dhéanamh suimiúil do na mhic léinn.

Is dráma an-mhaith é "An Triail" caitheadh mé a rá agus má tá suim agat sa drámaíocht Gaeilge bí cinnte go fheicfeadh tú an dráma seo mar tá mé cinnte go mbainfeadh tú taitneamh as.



An príomhcharactar Máire as an drama An Triail

Lá Eolais Conradh na Gaeilge

Stiofán O'Connachtaigh

Bhí moltaí an t-aos óg in Éirinn agus struchtúr don 'Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge' faoi chaibidil ag lá eolais Conradh na Gaeilge agus Ghuth na Gaeltachta ar an gCéadaoin seo chaite.

Fáiltíodh chuile baill Pairliminte chun páirt a ghlacadh san ollchomhdháil, a bhí suite in Óstán Buswell, agus é mar sprioc aige deis a sholáthair dóibh a gcuid moltái agus ceisteanna teanga a phlé.

Tháinig an smaoineamh chun tosaigh i ndhiaidh seimineár comhairliúchán Uachtaránachta, 'An Oíge agus an tÉireannachas', nuair a leiríodh an tacaíocht a bhí ag daoine óga na hÉireann don Ghaeilge.

Ba hiad múineadh na Gaeilge agus deiseanna sóisialta leis an Ghaeilge a úsáid mar cheann dena phríomh tosaíochtaí an tseimineár.

"Léiríonn na torthaí go gcuireann daoine óga Éireannacha an-luach ar an nGaeilge" arsa Julian De Spáinn, Ard Rúnaí Chonradh na Gaeilge. Tá súil aige go gcuirfeadh an lá eolais seo an luach sin in úil do cruthaitheoirí polasaithe na tíre amach anseo.

Dúradh ag na heagraí gurbh é aidhm an lá ná beartas teanga a chur chun cinn mar abhár faoi leith i mbéal an tOireachtais agus béim a leagadh ar an easpa dílseacht atá ag muintir Teach Laighin maidir leis an Straitéis.

D'eirigh go maith leis an lá, agus táthar ag tuar gur labhair breis is 80 Teachtaí Dála agus Seanadairí le hionadaí óna dreamanna gníomhaígh éagsúla.

Chuirtear na pholaiteóirí i mbun comhairle le hionadatihe óna dáilcheantair éagsúla b'acu féin i dtaca le cúrsái reatha Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta.

Ba é Mícheál Mac Ruairí ón gCumann Gaelach DIT mar cheann dena hionadaithe seo, ach shíl sé gur bheag an fíor suim macánta a bhí ag na pholaiteóirí a bhí i láthair. "Ní raibh siad ag éisteacht le ghuth na mic léinn agus chuirtear muid ar an imeall cé gurbh as muide, daoine óga ,a tháinig an smaoineamh ar an chéad dul síos"

Ní raibh dearcadh chomh dúiltach ag Peadar de Blúit, Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge san Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn áfach. Bhí seisean den thuarim gur bheag rogha anois atá acu súid leis an gcumhacht seachas aithne a chur ar an éileamh le ábhar an teanga a chur í bhfeidhm go práinneach.

Is e seo an ceathrú bhliain as a chéile go bhfuil Lá Eolais eagraithe ag Conradh na Gaeilge agus Guth na Gaeltachta le Teachtaí Dála agus Seanadóirí i dTeach Laighean a chur ar an eolas maidir le cúrsaí Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta.

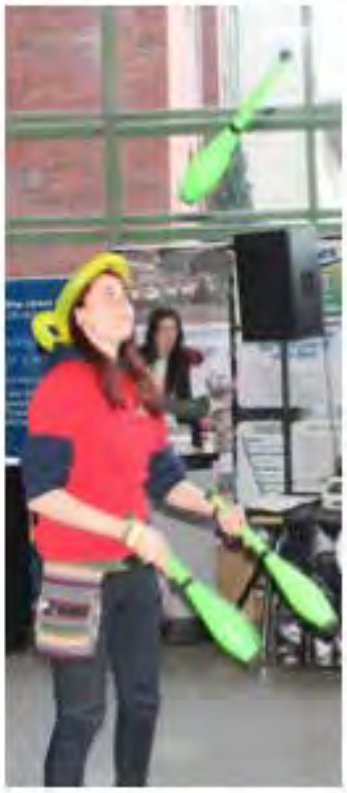
GLUAIS/ GLOSSARY

Tromchúiseach	Serious
Faoi bhagairt	Under threat
Iomraitheoirí	Contestants/ players
Go fánach	At random
Spreag	Encourage
Feachtas	Campaign
Troid ar son na cúise	To fight for the cause
Dearfach	Positive
Comhlacht léiriúcháin	Production company
Ealaíontaí	Skilfully/artistically

NOTICE BOARD

DIT opens for success





Rachael O'Brien
Photos and words

On Friday 30 November and Saturday 1 December, DIT held its Open Days in the Aungier Street Campus.

The Open Days were a huge success with many prospective students visiting DIT over the two days to research their choice of course. Many DIT students got involved, from talking about their course to potential students to showcasing their many talents and societies.

As students entered through the main doors, they were greeted by the Circus and Juggling Society and the sound of the DJ Society entertaining the masses. From there, they could visit the many subject specific exhibition stands on the ground floor to talk to lecturers and current students about particular courses.

There were many talks being held over the two days for prospective students to learn what exactly the courses in DIT were like and what was involved. Tours of the library were also being offered along with general tours of the college and the Media Department.

For pure entertainment value, the DIT mascot, Duck Norris, was on hand to have a dance with the students or to high five every single person who walked through the main doors. At one stage he even danced to the ever-so-popular, Gangnam Style, much to the surprise of many people.

With DIT currently housing approximately 20,000 students, after the success of the Open Days this year, it is hoped that many new students will be entering the doors of the many DIT campuses next September.





Clockwise from above:

- Duck Norris going Gangnam Style for the Open Day
- Chemical and Pharmeceutical Science Caitriona Loghnane and Aaron O' Brien
- Computer Science Susan McKeever, James Hendricken, Jason Hassett and Eoin Farrell
- Juggling Society Rebecca Brannigan
- BIMM Aoife Fitzpatrick and Clara Byrne
- DJ Soc entertaining the future student pouplace of Ireland

Circus and Juggling Soc first trip of year

DIT Circus and Juggling embarked on their first trip of the year last week on the 23-25 November 2012 to the Tralee Circus Festival now the National Circus festival of Ireland.

The Society took more than forty new members on the trip as well as some members from the Samba Society. The Festival involved shows from amazing world famous circus performers, some being The Lords Of Strut, Franzini Bros, Mattress Circus, and Anna Spaghetti. There was a parade, workshops and even a rave in the ladies toilets. It was a fun week end for all, where everyone learned something new. DIT Circus and Juggling Society is a circus and Juggling Society who have weekly workshops on Wednesdays 6-9pm in Mount carmel beside bolton street, the workshops include juggling, hoop, poi, uni cycle, tight rope and much more. DIT Circus and Juggling will be having a "DIT Juggle" around the campus of DIT for the Societies Christmas Appeal from the 10 December where we will teach everyone how to juggle, make ballons and much more. Lord of Strut will also be joining us for our Christmas appeal to make sure we bring the spirt of juggling and christmas to everyone.



DIT Juggling Soc on their first annual trip to The Tralee Circus Festival

DIT Symphony Orchestra & DIT Wind Ensemble recruiting.

DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama is holding open auditions for DIT students and staff in November for vacant positions. A great opportunity to get involved in DIT and to perform live on stage at the National Concert Hall and DIT Gleeson Theatre.

An advanced level of musical skill is required. All instruments welcome.

For audition details please contact: DIT Music Ensembles Society on facebook
Email: Ensembles@dit.ie

EngSoc launch Trebuchet

As part of the Xmas Appeal DIT EngSoc had the long awaited launch of their Trebuchet! A Trebuchet is a siege engine used in the middle ages. It fired everything from rocks to wasp hives to bring down battlements and force people from villages.

EngSoc have designed and built a slightly more modern but to full-scale version of a Trebuchet which was fired Wednesday 5 December in Grangegorman. There were mince pies and mulled wine and everyone had a good time! For more info on the trebuchet go to www.facebook.com/DITengsoc.

DIT Societies Christmas Appeal

7 Dec – Juggling Soc Christmas Caroling Bolton Street

8 Dec - Juggling Soc Christmas Caroling Cathal Brugha Street

10 Dec - Sign Soc Coffee morning Aungier Street

11 Dec – SciFi Soc The Nightmare Before Christmas

11 Dec – Movie Night, Meeting House Square, Temple Bar

11 Dec – Poker Soc Charity Tournament, Bodkins Bar

11 Dec – ESN & Global Brigades Christmas Dinner, Aungier Street 5-8pm Courtyard Restaurant

12 Dec – Guitar Soc Xmas Factor Bolton Street

13 Dec - Sign Soc Coffee morning Kevin Street

13 Dec – Music Ensemble Christmas Bake Sale Rathmines

14 Dec – Gig Soc Busk

14 Dec – ISOC Film Frenzy



COMMENT

David McWilliams savages Ireland's economic policies

Government should rule logically, while students should do what they love. David McWilliams talks to **Victoria Kinsella.**



David McWilliams addresses questions to the panel at NICVA's Centre for Economic Empowerment in November 2011. Photo: NICVA via Flickr

David McWilliams, renowned broadcaster, economist, and writer, accurately predicted the current crash which is now dominating the lives of students. Many laughed off his predictions, including then-Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, who, in 2007, stated that people who are warning the country of such fateful crashes should 'commit suicide'.

David also writes for the Irish Independent and the Sunday Business Post. He has also launched a number of books, his first being 'The Pope's Children', which was one of the best-selling Irish non-fiction book ever published.

He has now launched a book on 27 October 2012 called 'The Good Room', which details the life of a character called Olivia Vickers, who has found herself to be in negative equity, with a large mortgage; troubles that a lot of people now find themselves in. He uses this book to show people who may not have a degree in economics, that it is not about reams of figures such as GDP, inflation, or the current account, but it is the business of real people's lives.

As students, it is important to know that the current atmosphere of uncertainty, after economic bust, is not permanent.

"We just need good, clever economical polices," he says.

David tells me that periods of boom and bust are only natural. He tells me that the recession has happened just like a teenager falls in love.

"We know that at the start of any relationship there is an intense love, when both parties can't do any wrong, and neither one of them has a fault. The same goes with the housing market; buying houses for over one million euro was seen to be completely normal, because we were blindly in love with the Celtic Tiger. Then, when both the relationship and the house are worth nothing, we become completely depressed."

We need vision, and people to realise how Ireland can avoid this teenage love affair so we can fall in love again, but with stability and sense. We must also realise that economics is not rational; we are all individuals but whether we like it or not, we follow what our neighbours do. None of us like to be seen as different.

"We need a wise government to see the logic of human nature, to stand back and not be trapped in lustful love."

David was not particularly in favour of Ireland joining the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), because he says culture has a huge part to play in economics. Ireland, as a nation, spent money on its 'ideal dreams' to make itself feel good, in the same way that individuals often do. This was at a cost. Though the EMU is meant to act like a family, the Germans are not like our granny who wouldn't look for money back. With the punt, we didn't have this problem because Germany didn't like lending their money to countries which had different exchange rates, and where there was always risk of a drop in the value of money. This is why David comes up with the view that we should leave the EMU.

"Initially we will feel the draught, but in the long run we will benefit hugely. We are not doing this because we are bullied and ruled as if we are in the middle age; they have all the savings and assets, and leaving the euro will benefit the young more than the ruling middle class.

Size does matter. According to David, we are very lucky to have the "messers" in Spain, Portugal and Greece, who have been caught talking in the classroom.

> **"We were blindly in love with the Celtic Tiger"**



Otherwise we would have been sent to the other side of the room, and not been spoken to again.

So which situation do we see ourselves in? In every classroom we have the swots, the messers and the rest. Due to the fact that we are considered to be messers already, we can be a gang with the messers, or we can try to be a swot (which we are clearly not). The messers will also abandon us as we betrayed them by going against them and trying to be a swot. David humorously adds that Ireland is too worried about the leaving cert points, and about getting the extra 25 percent in honours maths, to see the bigger picture of how this irrational structure does not work, because we have been caught out talking in the class. His solution is to follow in Iceland's path, and not pay the banks.

"This kind of method is capitalist. We do this all the time in horse racing; we bet on the horse, and if it doesn't win we can't go back to Paddy Power and demand our money back. We just lose it and hope that next time we bet on the winning horse."

We know that German banks bet on Irish banks, but this was then lent to Irish developers who spent it all on houses. When these prices collapsed, everyone lost. So the Germans should lose too.

Talking broadly, we now notice that global power is shifting. Although the US is the traditional leader, China now has a role to play, as well as other booming countries such as Brazil. David sees danger there, that there should be one global power, in a hegemonic structure. If we were to look at history, not only small wars but world wars have occurred because of a shift in power. We as a country are better working with the US because we are not a communist country.

Ireland can look at themselves like the Venusians, who started the banking system in Italy. Back in the middle ages they played everybody against each other, even the Pope, the Spanish and the Romanians. They were not tied down to one alliance, and to see any future in Ireland that's what we should aim for – having good relations with the EU, good relations with the UK and the US, but without over-dependence on either. This is what he talks about in his book the 'Popes Children'.

Emigration is an option to young people, but it is very hard to come back. If David was 20 years old today, he would encourage all people to do what they want to do.

"Do what you love," he says. Our parents can advise us and have vision for us, but it is essentially our own life.

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COMMENT

#Winetax is a genuine reason to whine

The big talking point from this year's budget among Ireland's tweeting classes is the #Winetax. Nothing else in the Budget seems to come as much of a surprise, does it? We knew there would be a fees hike no matter what watered-down protest the USI put up. Lots of acronyms would go up and down and sideways and the average working stiff or idle student would be that little bit less comfortable on December 6th. The #Winetax is a shock.

A lover of the finer things in life is the Irish Student; a lover, but not always a haver. We put up with cheap scotch and Polish lager because we don't have very much money and want to spend it on socialising, or partying, or any other of a dozen euphamisms we use to make it sound like we're not just drinking.

From this paradigm comes Offienomics, a school of economic thought which can be summed up as follows: "Will I get the four cans of Warka for a fiver, or the six-pack of Bav for seven quid?" I will be applying this formulation and about the same level of intellectual rigour to figuring out what the #Winetax will cost the average student.

The Benedictine nectar is, at 14.8% volume, almost as strong as a wine can get without being considered a fortified wine in Ireland. Whiskey quaffers will have to swallow rise of 10c per unit, or about €2.80 more for a bottle of spirits. Pint drinkers will have the most left in their wallets at the end of the night as the duty on beer and cider will rise by just five cent per unit.

Of course, excise duties are a regressive tax. The student choking down Glen's and Coke in a Rathmines bedsit pays the same

They can take our free fees, but they'll never take our Buckfast! Oh wait, they can and did, writes Stephen Bourke

duty as the rehabilitated property developer sipping a Skyy martini.

The average Irish person drank a drop under twelve litres of pure alcohol in 2011, according to figures released by the Department of Health earlier this year. That translates to 1,197 standard drinks. Depending on your drinking habits you can expect to pay between €60 and €120 in extra duties alone next year – less if you like pints; more for wines and spirits.

If you kept it to the recommended limits, yiz mad yokes, you would pay somewhere between €50 and €100 more. However, data from researchers at UL suggests some of you madsers are binging as much as four times weekly, which is making up for the teetotallers in the national averages. Sesh legends will pay more.

Supermarkets use booze as a loss leader to draw in custom, and this year they will likely do the same. They can afford to undercut pubs and off-licences is because they get their money back on food. Even if you chain yourself to your desk every weekend, you're still paying for an alcohol duty hike with your groceries. Sure you may as well grab the cans you've already started paying for. Drink responsibly, or at least don't blame me afterwards.

Warhol's still on pop art warpath, 50 years after his breakthrough

Izzy O'Hara re-examines the pop culture obsession with Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol is most famous for being associated with the Pop art movement that came to America in the late 1950s. He took the art world by storm with his famous Campbell's soup cans paintings and his silkscreen paintings and prints of celebrities like Muhammad Ali and Marilyn Monroe. As is the case with many famous people, the value of their work goes up after death and Warhol was no exception. Twenty five years after his death the 'Warhol effect' seems to still be everywhere.

Some critics still wonder what the hype was about the enigmatic artist. Was he just a sell out who recycled existing images? In reality, his transformation of mass produced objects and images into 'Art' made this new art into a lifestyle.

He had an exceptional vision of modern life and transformed art as we know it. In 2006, the film Factory Girl was released. It gave people an insight into how and why Mr. Warhol is considered to be so revolutionary in the art world. It's based on Warhol's relationship with socialite, Edie Sedgwick, and their life in the infamous Factory; where most of his famous works were created. Although it didn't do so well in the box office it gained a lot of attention and hype; highlighting the continuing interest in Warhol.

Back in the sixties, it became cool to have a Warhol print not simply because it was aesthetically pleasing; rather when buying a print of his you were buying into the Warhol brand of 'cool', cash, celebrity and the American Dream. Could the same be said for Warhol collectors today? In 2008 the record was broken for the highest paid Warhol painting, when an anonymous buyer purchased the Eight Elvises (1963) print, for a record breaking $100 million dollars. It would appear that the incentive for owning one of his works hasn't changed much.

This year seemed to be the year of remembering Warhol. It is the 50th anniversary of a 1962 Pop Art exhibition held in New York which put Warhol on the map. The works he exhibited created such a buzz around him and the rest is history. Back in April a US- based confectionary company announced an agreement with The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, to create a new line of limited-edition chocolate bars. They feature the cult artist and his famous quotes. Renowned for his sweet tooth, Warhol is quoted as once saying "all I ever really want is sugar", so it seems the collaboartion was a perfect fit. Or was it just a clever marketing ploy, using Warhol's image to make money? Possibly; either way one thing is for sure people will buy into it. Most recently in August, Nars cosmetics announced they are paying tribute to Warhol by launching a Limited Edition holiday collection inspired by the image-driven world of the Pop Art era.

Aside from his international success as an artist, his biggest accomplishment to date is what he did for art. Along with the silk-screen paintings, Warhol's other prints, featuring coca-cola bottles as well as other emblems of consumer culture, were so successful largely because they were both relatable to the upper and lower classes. He made it accessible in a way that had never been done.

Before Warhol who could have imagined a print of a soup can selling for millions? This question raises the point that if we can only take one thing form Andy Warhol's art 50 years on, let it be that one should never underestimate the power of creativity.



A print of Blondie lead singer, Debbie Harry by artist Andy Warhol. This year marks the 50th annivesary of New York's Pop Art exhibition which put Warhol on the map

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LIFESTYLE

Steph's style



An avant garde bag for that faux pas look



The Mason Margiela silk for €99

Fashion faux pas? Personally, I don't believe in them and never have. The term is about as redundant as a dole queue on a Tuesday morning.

As a cognisant individual I reserve the right to wear my mother's old tablecloth as a cape and pass it off as an avant garde fashion statement, highlighting the trappings of domesticity, if I so please. As the party season inches ever closer, a frenzied shopping rush beckons where women of all shapes and sizes lament the fact that they will never look good in this season's piece du jour, the much applauded laser cut out dress or leather hot pants.

They say that if you can't beat them, join them. In this case I disagree. If you can't beat them, get a bigger stick and an even bigger coat.

A perfect example of fashions more eccentric side is this Meadham Kirchoff coat which at €5732 is the equivalent of flying five dairy cows to Africa first class and almost curing world hunger. Still, it is a fantastic piece of eye candy, and we predict many a high street rip off come 2013.

This Mason Margiela silk trump d'oeil dress is understated and fabulous. Think New York spinster, with a dry martini in hand and a turban a la 70's Streisand. €99 at www.handm.com

Finish the look in Club Tropicana style these Jeffery Campbell fruit bowl high heels, available at www.office.co.uk at €130

Faux Pas is a term that does not exist in style's says **Stephanie Costello**. She shows off in style a new look which ignores the term



Meadham Kirchoff outside the budget of most students at €5,732



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LIFESTYLE

Vintage Style at Moody Blue

Ruth Dempsey is a 21-year-old fashion student, with a keen eye for vintage style. **Keelin Riley** hears about how her online store, Moody Blue Vintage, is her brand new baby.



With fashion these days changing faster than a chameleon changing its colours, it is reassuring to see there are still some old souls out there, who appreciate a more classic, sophisticated style. Moody Blue Vintage is all about beautiful, genuine vintage clothing at a price that won't break the bank.

All products are hand-picked, and although Ruth will not reveal her sources for her products (magicians don't reveal their secrets after all), we are assured they are all high-quality merchandise. Ruth started her brainchild just three months ago, and is already seeing results. Ruth is proof that, even with the difficult times we face now, if you want it enough, you can do it.

Q When did your interest in fashion begin, and in particular how did it begin?

A My interest in fashion has been there as long as I can remember, I have always known fashion is the field I have wanted to go into. As for vintage fashion, it too has always something I have had an interest in. I had always admired the clothes my grandmother wore and am a lover of all things vintage, including film and photography. I recently finished a fashion course this year and that has definitely helped me along the way to starting this adventure.



Q How did you get started with your online store? Is it something you have wanted to do for a while?

A I had been thinking about opening an online vintage shop for just under a year before I decided to act on it. I knew it was a big risk to take so I had to have a big push from loved ones around me to get things started. I had always noticed there was a niche market for vintage clothes at an affordable price. Once I had the motivation and stock to start up, it was not a very lengthy process setting up the shop, the website I run through, Etsy, makes it easy and straightforward. The longest part of setting things up was gathering stock for the first collection.

Q Would you like to share with the Edition where you get your clothes for your collection?

A I don't really want to answer this one so I don't give away my secrets haha. However, if someone is looking for something in particular, like a particular dress or a coat, if I am contacted about it I can try and source it for them. I also run giveaways on certain days through our Facebook page, so keep an eye out!

> **"Every era had its own quirkiness and originality, which I love."**

Photos: Sean Cahill



Q Who, what, and when inspires your sense of fashion?

A I am very inspired by 1920's, 1940's and 1950's fashion, as well as Victorian era fashion. I have studied every decade of fashion and know them all inside out. Every era had its own quirkiness and originality, which I love. In terms of designers, my favourites would include Versace, Chanel, Miu Miu and Marc Jacobs. All very different designers but all very outstanding and original in what they do.

Q In your opinion, what is the difference between buying from the high street and buying vintage?

A There is a big difference between buying vintage and buying high street. High street is usually mass-made produce designed for "fast fashion" which is set to trends and current events. The quality is usually quite inferior. Whereas, buying vintage you are paying for the originality and vintage are usually one off pieces that are unique and quirky. Vintage quality is usually quite good, hence it lasting so long.

Q What are you ideas and plans for the future with your love for Vintage?

A In the future, I would love to open a shop. So if I was to win the lotto, I would buy a premises straight away! But working online has its perks also, it is very easy to deal with the money side of things, and it allows me to work from home and pack orders and be a lot more creative. Who knows what will come of the shop in the future, but it shows no sign of slowing down yet. I have only been open since August and there has not been a week since that I haven't received orders, some from as far away as America, Australia, and Thailand. Every customer I've had I've gotten to deal with on a personal level and it is the most enjoyable experience I've ever had, I'm so glad I took the initiative to set it up!

Find 'Moody Blue Vintage' at: www.etsy.com/shop/MoodyBlueVintage

LIFESTYLE

New look pub

Rathmines Inn

Sorcha McManigan

The Rathmines Inn is back in business under new ownership, looking chic, elegant and with an exotic beer menu, great grub and a bit of banter.

The pub is located in Rathmines only a 10 minute walk from Aungier Street and Kevin Street. They had Irish model Nadia Forde in to pull one pint or two and show off the new décor.

A private party of 300 guests were the lucky customers to get a sneak preview of the pub last Thursday and is open to the general public from 30 November. The pub has a cosy and warm atmosphere with a stylish spacious interior.

They serve affordable, gourmet style food from 10.30 with fresh homemade pastries and proper barista coffee and lunch from 12, all cooked to order which is handy if you're limited on time. In the evening, the meals can rival any restaurant and they serve right up until 9. It has the advantage of being able to source all their food locally.

The pub serves unusual craft and foreign beers, so if you're feeling adventurous or a bit of a beer connoisseur – this is the place to go. "They're price conscious so they will always have a value offer for students with rotating food and drink promotions. Check them out on Facebook and twitter for current progress and upcoming specials." And girls – they have cocktails!

The service is fast and you're greeted at the door. The beer garden is roomy and has the potential to be a great spot during the summer. Their current aim is to get on their feet and to build a good reputation.

For the next couple of days they're giving out free cookies, so make sure you don't miss out and try it out.



Nadia Forde visited the Rathmines Inn at the end of November to publicise the pub's new look after its extensive redesign

Where's me jumper this Christmas?

Stephanie Quilligan
Lifestyle Editor

The festive season is well and truly upon us and what better way to celebrate than throwing on the cheesiest Christmas jumper you can possibly find and heading to a pub... or twelve.

Made famous by Colin Firth's character Mark Darcy in the 'Bridget Jones' films, the Christmas Jumper has taken the fashion world by storm with celebs like Harry Styles, Justin Bieber, the Saturdays and even Barack Obama following the trend.

Ryan Tubridy showed his continuing support for the craze on Friday nights Toy Show. Unlike other years Tubs let his listeners decided what cheesy creation he would wear. There was a selection of jumpers modelled by the radio presenter on his facebook page and fans could vote on which jumper they wanted to see him wear for the show.

Since he began the tradition in 2010 Funky Christmas Jumpers have taken on the task of styling the Late Late show presenter each year. Due to the phenomenon of the Christmas Jumper last year and the huge demand they've had, Funky Christmas Jumpers have also decided to open a shop on South William Street for the festive period.

The shop has a large selection of unique jumpers catering for both young and old and the owners have guaranteed that each design is 100% original.

If the jumpers at Funky don't tickle your fancy fear not because there are a wide range of shops across the city that cater for our Christmas jumper needs.



Christmas Jumpers at the Georges Arcade, Geansai Nollaig, a chain at 9 Crow Street Vintage shop, Deadly Christmas Jumpers located at 18 South Anne Street and Christmas Jumper King on Wicklow Street all promise style at affordable pricing.

However most Christmas jumpers start at €39 and for the struggling student scraping together the change for a Chicken Fillet roll, €39 can be quite steep. But not to worry Penney's have lovely creations of their own that are sure to get you by the season and promise not to break the bank.

Day in the Life...

Izzy O'Hara

Recent DIT graduate of Design Engineering, Paul Conroy on moving to China

Q What have you been up to since leaving college?

A I moved to Shanghai a few months ago after graduating and I am currently studying Chinese Mandarin in Fudan University. I have landed myself a job which I'll start next summer in August 2013, after my studies.

Q Is your job related to your degree?

Qualifying as a Manufacturing and Design Engineer, learning Chinese is extremely relevant to my career and will be hugely beneficial in the future. After completing the years study, I will take up a project management position in Season Group in the South of China (www.seasongroup.com). In essence project management encompasses a large number of different professions from engineering, to sourcing, customer support etc. I believe the position will be related to my degree but will also train me in different qualities.

Q Sounds great! How are you finding life in China?

A Well living in China is quite a big change as you can imagine. It is a very interesting place to say the least. I do enjoy living over here and meeting so many different people, but it takes some getting used to! The food is also quite an experience. There are some very nice dishes that I would eat all the time, however, some can be rather strange. I am quite a picky person when it comes to food, so China has definitely changed my eating habits, otherwise I would starve!

Q What is a typical day like?

A Now that I am studying Chinese in university, I still get to enjoy a 'student lifestyle' instead of the '9-5' that I may have been doing if I got a job after graduating. Each week I have 20 hours of lecture time which includes writing, reading, listening and speaking classes. However, there is a huge emphasis on after hour study as the course is extremely intensive.

In full swing, the class can go through over 60 new characters a week, and it is up to the student to be able to write, read and understand each of the characters day by day. On the other hand, being in such an international environment, there is constantly something going on and there are events being organized by various student groups, so there is always something to do. The lifestyle in China is extremely different to Western cultures.

Q Hopes for the future?

A To be honest I enjoy being able to not plan too far ahead. I have been given an amazing opportunity to learn Chinese and then I will go to work with a company in the South of China when I finish the course. I am happy to see where life takes me and hope that it will bring me to good places. I love to travel, so hopefully that will be part of my life in the next few years.



Paul Conroy (far left) a recent night out with some friends whom he resides with at the international student dorms in Fundan University

LIFESTYLE

Dodgy moustaches: Movember spawns a monster

Graham O'Hara Tlooks at the dodgy mustaches which abound this time of year in aid of Movember

As someone who has done Movember for three consecutive years now, there is one important thing I have learned from my time doing it: When you have a moustache, people will touch your face. Without asking.

There were many moustaches around DIT campus's for the month of November. The reason for this was to raise awareness for men's health, mainly prostate cancer. This event is called 'Movember'. The roots of Movember can be a traced back to a pub conversation in Adelaide, Australia. A group of friends wanted to all grow moustaches for a month. They wanted to choose a month that began with 'M' but March was too far away so they chose 'Movember' instead. The charity they were supporting at the time was the RSPCA. In 2004, another well intentioned group were inspired by this and founded the Movember Foundation charity.

Since the first Movember, participation has grown exponentially. In the last 8 years, over €215 million has been raised worldwide with a registered global participation of 1.9 million 'Mo Bros' and 'Mo Sistas'. 'Mo Sistas' can do their part too by encouraging their male counterparts in their moustache growing endeavours. Last year alone, €92.4 million was raised worldwide by over 854,000 participants. In Ireland, Movember has teamed up the Irish Cancer Society as their beneficiary. The ICS uses these funds to focus specifically on prostate cancer. According to their website, one in eight men Irish men have a chance of developing prostate cancer, with Ireland having one of the highest rates in Europe. The funding received from Movember goes into research grants that are focussed on cancer therapy.

The charity itself has always approached the month with a tongue in cheek attitude and even on their website they list 'Fun' as one of their values. Members are encouraged to be creative with their attempts.

Typically, the most parodied style of moustache is "The Connoisseur", the look most applicable to detectives that carries the recognisable twirl at the end, traditionally propped up with regular applications of ear wax .The name 'Tom Selleck' was thrown around a lot too during the month. Selleck is best known for his role as Thomas Magnum in Magnum P.I. and his fantastic moustache. However, most DIT students were sporting moustaches more like 'The Wisp', a thin and well-trimmed moustache that exceeds no more than a few millimetres. The wisp is synonymous with distinction and sophistication; however, in the case of the young student population of DIT, it was probably more the case of 'it was the only one I could do.' The Movember foundation also organises galas and events towards the end of November to bring all the Mo Bros and Mo Sistas together so they can compare styles and tips.

> **"the most parodied style of moustache is "The Connoisseur", the look most detectives carry"**

The profile of the charity month has also been raised by many sports stars getting in on the act. Ex-English international footballer Michael Owen grew a handlebar moustache for the month which received quite a lot of attention on twitter and the internet alike. Leinster rugby, led by Jamie Heaslip also did their bit for the charity, raising over €10,000 in the month. Many other rugby stars were sporting hairy upper lips, including All Black back row Riche McCaw.

DIT was well represented during the month. The Banter Soc raised €593 in total with Patrick Maher and Max Federov tied as leaders at €115 raised each. However, donations are also raised on an individual basis. Murrough Connellan, a DIT masters student who is studying Business and Entrepreneurship had raised over €200 by the end of November and told me he was going to do one last push to maximise his donations.

With the continuing success of Movember, other charities have attempted to copy the format for their own special months. Once such example is 'Fanuary'. Their tag line is "During Fanuary each year, girls (and boys!) grow, shave, shape and colour their short and curlies all in the name of fighting cancer." (They're not referring to a perm a la Lionel Richie). The charity is in aid of Women's health and cancer research. It is yet to be seen if Fanuary will take off like Movember has done as checking the progress may prove to be a little more difficult.



Murrough Connellan raised €200 for the charity



Neil Hanratty says the mo is great with the ladies



Enda Cunningham decided he is going to go forward into December with his Mo

Photos: Graham O'Hara



Not so Little Museum

Izzy O'Hara

Last year on September 14th 2011 (Dublin's Culture night), saw The Little Museum of Dublin open for business. Based in St Stephen's Green, it is the only museum dedicated to the history of the city since the closure of the Civic museum in 2002.

The museum chronicles the social, cultural and political history of Dublin city in the 20th century. Director of The Little Museum, Trevor White, who is also founding publisher of The Dubliner magazine, set up a non-profit company which invited members of the public to lend and donate items to help showcase an authentic impression of Dublin.

Based at 15 St. Stephens green, it inhabits two rooms of a Georgian house. It is an intimate and unusual setting for a museum; making it a contemporary new edition to the culture of Ireland's capital city. The two rooms are separated into political and social history. The exhibits are displayed in chronological order. The first room, pictured above, introduces the history of Irish politics and touches on events such as the 1916 rising. Most Irish people would have studied these events in school so this room would possibly be of more interest to tourists, as it is new to them. None the less it is still very interesting.

The cosy setting having a fire place and big chairs to sit and read, makes going to a museum a new experience altogether. The second room contains stories and facts not written about it books so this can be enjoyed by both Irish natives and visitors. Stories such as the origin of the famous 'Sudocrem' which we learn was developed by a pharmacist in 1931 in Stoneybatter.

Also on display are some of the works of Irish artist Jim Fitzpatrick, his most famous work being the wildly circulated image of Argentine revolutionary, Che Guevara.

It's not just for foreign tourists; Irish people are sure to find out a few interesting facts they didn't know about our capital city. If you have an hour to spare one afternoon its worth your while paying it a visit.

The entrance fee is €5 for adults and just €3 for students.



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CULTURE

Movies

Charm makes up for shortfalls in David Russell's new offering

Silver Linings Playbook

Colm McGlinchey

With The Fighter (2010), director David Russell proved he was the master of family dynamics.

Moving the family home a few miles south to Philadelphia, the director keeps this at the core of his new film, applying a rom-com approach in place of boxing. Silver Linings Playbook is an extremely likeable film with some great performances, but the fluidity of storytelling Russell showed in The Fighter is absent, leaving us with a very friendly but clunky film.

Middle-aged Pat (Bradley Cooper) is living back with his parents after a stint in a mental health facility. A violent outburst after learning of his wife's unfaithfulness has left him in a mess, medicated and disillusioned as to his chances of getting his marriage back in order. An encounter with Tiffany (Jennifer Lawrence), a recent widow channelling her depression through promiscuousness, allows Pat a chance to show his wife that he is a changed man. Tiffany needs something in return, much to the dismay of Pat's Dad (Robert DeNiro), whose Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and gambling addiction forces him into an outburst every time Pat misses a football game.

Silver Linings Playbook pulls all the usual rom-com clichés, has some very cheesy lines, and exists in a sometimes simplified world, but there's no denying it is a lot of fun to watch. The mental health spin on the formula offers something fresh, but it offers no real insight into the conditions, and in the end the film does rely on everything a decent rom-com needs to work. Luckily, the cast are great, particularly Lawrence, who stands firmly alongside Cooper despite his senior age. DeNiro is also fantastic, and it is a relief to see the man finally get involved with a good film. The cast work together brilliantly and it is a testament to their performances that the film gets away with some terrible dialogue in the romantic scenes.

Russell keeps things moving nicely but never exceptionally, especially at the start. Fortunately, by the time the end comes around, you will be firmly on side with this film and rooting for its characters, something cinema needs more of these days.

Silver Linings Playbook can be seen in cinemas now.



Tiffany (Jennifer Lawrence) and Pat (Bradley Cooper)

A long-expected journey: Hobbit release

Preview - The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Colm McGlinchey

11 years after we first visited Middle Earth in the cinema, Peter Jackson is taking us back. The story of The Hobbit may precede the Lord of the Rings but the technology behind it is as modern as they come, so modern in fact that not all cinemas will be able to show the film as intended.

Film is currently shot at 24 frames per second (fps), meaning every second 24 separate images are flashing before your eyes to give the illusion of movement. Pause a DVD at an action part and you'll see the motion blur. Our eyes think we see something move from A to B, when in fact we see them move from A to C, with B being removed in a micro second. It's indistinguishable to the eye but does create issues when filming. Sets are lit brightly to allow for the light lost in between each frame, and too much movement can create too much blur. Peter Jackson has decided this isn't good enough, and for The Hobbit he's doubled the frame rate to 48 ps.

What does this mean for The Hobbit? Well, action should be greatly improved, with less motion blur and greater distinguishability between elements and dark scenes can use less light to give a more natural appearance. The fluidity of movement in everything should be better, but your eyes might not be too happy about it.



Martin Freeman (Bilbo Baggins) and Peter Jackson (Director) on the set of the latest J.R.R Tolkein film adaptation.

Your eyes have been watching 24fps film all its life, the nuances of blur and light it ignores and your brain fills in the gaps with what you need to know. You may think film looks like real life, but it doesn't. Think of the difference between a pre and post instagram photograph. Your eyes have been watching instagram photographs all their life, with 48fps they will now be seeing things a bit more realistically. Details that film makers could get away with before like the depth of a set or detail in armour will now be vulnerable.

So far this has had mixed results with The Hobbit, with some viewers praising its use in action scenes with movement, but complaining of an artificial feel to slower scenes with less movement. Some viewers have even complained of the increased frame rate creating a nauseating affect.

To see The Hobbit at 48fps, so far only the Odeon cinemas at the Point Village and Blanchardstown in Dublin have confirmed it will be offering screenings at 48fps. This is indicated on the screening by HFR (high frame rate). All other cinemas without the technology will be limited to screening the film at the standard rate.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey goes on general release Friday 14 December.

CULTURE

Drama Soc excels with Rom-Com play

The McConaghey Project



Kevin Donnellan, Oisin McCartain, Tessa Fleming and Rory O'Connor



Oisin McCartain and Rory O'Connor

Dáirne Black

The McConaughey Project is part of the DIT Drama Soc Festival. Running from the 27 November up until December it encompasses not only The McConaughey Project but also, Glory Glory and the One Act Festival.

The plot line is simple: Graham is trying to find the girl of his dreams, or failing that, the ride. With best friend Alan in tow, and Alan's long suffering on-again/off-again girlfriend Kim, they set about trying to achieve this by taking inspiration from popular Hollywood Rom-Coms. Think Failure to Launch, Notting Hill, and Fool's Gold.

The play is directed by final year Journalism student Kevin Donnellan who said he was 'nervous but happy' with how things had gone for the play so far. Actors Oisin McCartain, as our unlucky-in-love hero Graham, Rory O'Connor, portraying his dopey,spaced out best friend Alan, and Tessa Fleming as the outspoken, ever-helpful Kim, all agreed that the play had been a lot of fun. The characters have likeability, appeal, and are relatable. The play gets its name from devilishly handsome actor Matthew Mc Conaughey.

The story is told extremely well and there's a refreshingly raw honesty to the piece, as we see our hero attempt to connect with the opposite sex.

Despite his failings, it merely seems to add character to what appears to be a lonely youth. Filled with humour and wit, the audience were kept laughing from the opening scene until the curtain came down. There was a great atmosphere in the packed-out theatre.

The play is very accessible to students, and struck a chord in that the theme of being 'unlucky-in-love' is something most of us have experienced.

While the theme is something that has been portrayed in Rom-Coms and chick flicks, The McConaughey Project takes it from a different and unique angle. While our hero doesn't get the girl in the end, he does make friends with his best friend's girl, and realises that while he may not have got the girl, he did make a friend, and that in itself is worth something.

Cast and crew should be proud; The McConaughey Project was superb play and even taught us ladies one of the most important things in life – some men secretly want to be the little spoon.

Toy Show time again

Dáirne Black

Oh the Toy Show. The one night of the year where Ireland's biggest tv presenter wears a festive jumper and we all tweet and Facebook about it. The Toy Show is like the Irish Times, an institution, and if it changes, we all go crazy.

Tubridy's Christmas jumper did not disappoint. He had chosen a green little elf tunic. Moss green, with a belt. Oh it was fetching. Pennies have them in stock with a wide range for both guys and girls.

The theme of the show this year was Shrek with the studio transformed into a swamp. If you ask me, it's an improvement, keep it that way all year round.

Tubridy began the toy demonstrations by having a sword fight with four-year-old Lucas from Dublin. Lucas had the upper hand. Tubridy then went on to compare the child to the monkey he was playing with and laughs were had when Lucas firmly decided he did not like the monkey. A tug of war ensued with a long soft pillow type thing with Tubridy winning. Tubridy also succeeded in chasing another child off the stage by shouting "eat the cake". That's not scary whatsoever....

There was appearance by Ireland's favourite twins, Jedward, as they showed us around Florida. They made the joke of Ryan...Rhino...Ryan...Rhino.

Another highlight was when of the children had an uncontrollable laughing fit. Tubbers was getting stressed as he did his best to have 'straight face' competition. "Mary, we're on TV", I say, gwan Mary, have a giggle at RTE's expense, the rest of us are. A classic line came from a child when in typical Tubridy style, he didn't know how to work a toy, to which the child sighed "oh god Ryan".

There was six-year-old Omar that wanted to become a Palaeontologist. Ryan jokingly asked if he had made any of the toys to which the child replied "Em, actually, my Uncle did".

Sean Meehan was the little dote on the tractor with the farmers cap. When he started speaking the cúpla focal our hearts melted. Ryan asked him if there was any craic to which he replied, "Níl". Pause as the entire country melts further and Sean earns himself a place in the coveted Toy Show Hall of Fame. The token boy-band was X-Factor's (recently eliminated) Union J, who have since been eliminated. The band held teddies and gushed about much they "loved Dublin".

There were children singing and rapping in various genres, including classical, and we saw Tubridy in a tutu (we also saw him slip out of it - but let's leave that one under wraps).

The highlight of the night was saved until the closing sequence. There was a choir and the cast of Shrek came out again, singing that a certain red man was coming to town.

Tubridy made an appearance, singing and dancing, and looked as jolly as Father Christmas himself. Another Toy Show has come and gone. Another year where we will spend Christmas liking all the memes and groups that has been created. Tubridy you can relax, it was awesome.



Tubridy with little Sean Meehan on his way to the farm

Tulisa's album debut

'The Female Boss' - Tulisa

Dáirne Black

'Like A Female Boss' is the debut album from N-Dubz star turned X-Factor judge Tulisa Contostavlos. The recently released album is comprised of twenty tracks with the final four being acoustic versions of songs on the album, with the exception of 'Titanium' by David Guetta featuring Sia. At a time in pop music where women like Rhianna, Emile Sande, and Lady Gaga dominate the charts, it a brave move bringing out an album so close to Christmas.

The album begins with a short spoken intro from the lady herself, and concludes with an outro of similar style. A bit dramatic, and slightly needless. The album is doesn't differ much between the songs, they all have more or less the same sound and there isn't much variation. The song 'British Swag' proves highly amusing, particularly when Ms. Contostavlos utters the stand-out line 'I know you love my accent darlin'. Not a question, a statement. I'll leave it up to you whether you loved her accent or not.

Without question the best song on the album is the debut song 'Young'. A summery pop tune that went straight to number 1 in the UK charts when it was released in April. The song out-sold Cheryl Cole's catchy 'Call My Name', and it appeared to have set the standard for what was to come. The follow up to this, 'Live It Up', was mediocre and a little disappointing, going in at number 11 in the UK charts, narrowly missing out on the top ten. The album has an urban edge to it, mixed with rap and pop vocals, although the latter is never as strong as when she sang 'Young'.



Tulisa Contostavlos on the mic

While many of the tunes are catchy and they do blend together, the album itself isn't overally memorable. The track 'Live Your Life' would do well in the clubs; it's in the same style as 'Young' and is one of the few strong tracks on there.

The album is full of confidence, attitude, and, dare I say it, 'swag'. She is a force to be reckoned with.

The acoustic tracks at the end of the album prove that Tulisa can actually sing and that her own voice is lovely without the rap and the urban edge she adds to it. She has a decent voice but I don't think this album shows off her vocal abilities.

Overall, the album was mediocre; nothing overally amazing but not the worst thing to come out of pop music either.

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SPORT

Elaine hits basketball heights

Alison O'Hanlon

Elaine Caffrey is a DIT graduate and Super League basketball player with Meteors Basketball Club, which unfortunately has seven losses and only two wins so far this season.

Elaine will graduate from a Masters in Public Relations this February, in which she focused much of her studies on Sports PR, and now works with Basketball Ireland. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing, Innovation and Technology from Dublin City University.

While in DIT, Caffrey played with the Varsity team and received a full sports scholarship while she was studying here and was also the DIT Women's Basketball Club chairperson.

Elaine has been playing Nivea Super League since she was 17, when she played with Tolka Rovers until the age of 22.

"I started playing with Tolka Rovers when I was four years of age right up until I was 22," she explains.

"Unfortunately our Super League team withdrew from the league so I played one more year with Tolka Rovers in the Division One Dublin league and then moved to Meteors last year to play Super League with them. This is my second season playing with Meteors."

Caffrey has also had the honour of representing her country at U-16, U-17 and U-18. While on the U-18 Irish national team Elaine competed in the European Championships in Romania in July 2008 and the team ranked 8thin Europe. She was also a member of countless Dublin teams.

Her commitment to reach this standard came from an early age, but this girl is anything but a one trick pony.

"Like most kids, I was pretty much involved in all kinds of sports and activities from a very young age and had at least one hobby for everyday of the week! I did everything from swimming and singing to piano and soccer.

"I was actually a ballerina for almost 12 years too! However, my parents were heavily involved in Tolka Rovers, Mam with basketball and Dad with soccer so over the years as the other hobbies dropped off I always stuck with basketball."

Elaine now works for the national basketball association, Basketball Ireland, where she is the Media, Corporate and Public Relations Officer. Her role includes writing press releases, game reviews and previews for the National papers each week for all the national basketball competitions.

Elaine is also responsible for communicating Basketball Ireland's objectives across all media outlets from radio and social media website like Facebook and Twitter to printed press around the country.

On a corporate level, Elaine works with the partners of Basketball Ireland ensuring that their sponsors are happy with the progression of the sport in Ireland as they continue to support their goals. She also organises specialised events in the basketball calendar such as the Annual Gala and the National Cup.

"Basically, no day is ever the same but my main objective is to think of interesting and creative promotional opportunities for the sport in order to gain more media coverage."

Elaine said one of the best things about playing basketball and working with Basketball Ireland is how great the basketball community in Ireland are.

"The great thing about the basketball community is how close knit all of the teams are," she said.

"Even though it is played in every county around the country there is always a welcoming smile greeting you when you enter a gym."

Youngsters prove Hook wrong

Darragh Mowlds
Deputy Sports Editor

After Ireland ended a six game losing streak with an impressive 46-24 victory against Argentina, Irish players and fans are looking towards this year's Six Nations.

Before Ireland's game against Argentina, George Hook described the current Irish side as one of the worst teams in recent years. Naturally, to continue Hook's impressive record of never calling a rugby game correctly, Ireland went on to beat the Pumas convincingly.

We have to remember something, George Hook's expertise stems from his time as the rugby manager of the USA. That's a bit like being the London Hurling manager.

I, like almost everyone else, have given Johnny Sexton plenty of abuse for his inability to kick a ball when he puts on a green jersey. He is a picture of cool for Leinster but he's never been able to take that into the Irish side He put two fingers up to many of his critics in the Argentinian game where he was nothing short of fantastic.

Stand in captain Jamie Heaslip put in reasonably good performances during the Autumn International series, despite getting a stupid yellow card against South Africa. Conflicting rumours are now circulating about Heaslip.

On one hand he is being tipped as a potential Lions Series captain, on the other it is rumoured that he will be dropped by Declan Kidney. While I'd never drop him in a million years, I'm not sure he has the experience or the form to be made Lions captain.



Despite predictions of doom and gloom from George Hook, Ireland's young guns stepped up against Argentina . Photo: M+MD via Flickr

One of the younger players that got an opportunity to shine in the Autumn International series was Munster utility-back Simon Zebo. Will he keep Rob Kearney out of the team?

Based on the evidence we've seen, Kearney has nothing to worry about for now.

Zebo was pedestrian at times and will be lucky to have a place on the bench for the Six Nations.

Thankfully, for Kidney's sake, several of our big players will be back in time for the Six Nations. Rob Kearney, O'Driscoll, Best, Ferris and maybe even Paul O'Connell will be back in time for the Six Nations campaign.

Declan Kidney is known for being loyal to players but there is a point when he has to show certain players the door. Gordon D'Arcy has been a loyal and excellent servant to the Irish cause. However, much like Donncha O'Callaghan, he needs to know when to walk away.

The brightest gem in the group of young players breaking through is undoubtedly Craig Gilroy, he stepped into the international set up in style with an outstanding performance against Argentina.

He has to be given a start in the opening game against Wales in the Millennium Stadium.

Another player who has thrown his hat into the ring is Connacht's Mike McCarthy. At the ripe old age of 30, he's not exactly a long term answer. His man of the match performance against Argentina means that Kidney has a tough choice to make in the second row.

What are our prospects for the upcoming Six Nations? Reigning Champions Wales are hitting bad form at the ideal team from an Irish perspective. To contrast that, France are coming in on the back of three impressive wins including a 33-6 mauling of Australia.

The only other potential challenger is England who are improving under manager Stuart Lancaster. Yet, a disheartening one point loss to South Africa may mean England are coming to the tournament lacking confidence.

I will agree with the lovable Mr Hook on one point, I don't think Ireland will win the Six Nations; I can see us coming second. Honestly, even home advantage won't save us against a brilliant French side.

Johnny Maher lives up to the hype - good!

Opinion

Aidan Dundass

A lot has been made of Johnny Maher's miss-use of the hurl in the Galway Final a few weeks ago but why? That's the way the GAA has always been.

The culture of the GAA has always been physical, bordering on assault. Anyone who has played the sport even at an underage level can tell you that.

The soccer fans however, have a different take on the event. I've even heard a few people say that he should be banned for life, that something like that would never be tolerated in the Premier League.

This is typical of the modern day soccer fan as their sport has become virtually a non-contact sport. Tommy Smith, Billy Bremner and Ron 'Chopper' Harris wouldn't last two minutes on a pitch in the modern game due to how physically they played.

GAA though still have the old-school mentality of having to prove that you're a bigger man than your opponent. English soccer doesn't have this due to all of the foreign players who have come into the game. Cristiano Ronaldo and Didier Drogba hardly grew up in a culture where being a man's man was essential for social survival.

Soccer used to be a tough game. However, towards the turn of the millennium it became apparent that players like Roy Keane and Dennis Wise were part of a dying breed of footballers who didn't mind getting into a fight during a match.

Is English soccer better now because it has been cleaned up in recent years? I don't think so. For me it has lost some of its charm. It no longer has the tougher edge that separated it from soccer on the continent.

The fact that the sport isn't that physical anymore could be a reason why it hasn't taken off in the USA or Australia very well because they are both countries where the qualities of being a 'proper' man are still valued.

The GAA still has those values due to the fact that it is primarily Irish people who play it and foreigners are hardly going to be enticed to play an amateur sport.

I remember from my underage experience playing the game that I would be afraid to stay on the ground if I got tackled because I was afraid I'd be ridiculed for being soft.

The Irish mentality does come from a male bravado but you also have got to remember that a large number of these GAA players come from small narrow minded towns and villages and they would be considered a "pansy" if they stayed down feigning injury. So it could be argued that the mentality comes from being homophobic as well as trying to act tough.

The fights in GAA also draw in crowds so why mess with a winning formula? I know they should be sent off and everything but I think that should be it.

No long term bans, no fines, just a suspension is needed. Sports like ice hockey condone violence and fights as they know that's what the fans want to see. In a way, the same could be said about GAA fans with the Johnny Maher video going viral on the internet. GAA is a man's game and long may that continue.

SPORT

Who next for the P45?

Time to 'bed in' to management is no more, says James Hopper



How much time is too much time? How long should a manager be allowed to bed in? As football fans can attest to, there is no such thing as time anymore in football.

No matter how successful or short a period that a manager has been at a club, the only thing that matters is what is happening right this second. Your club could be constantly tagged with a certain style of play that the manager must stick to at all costs. Chelsea are a perfect example of a club where winning is not enough.

Fresh from his Champions League success in Munich, Roberto Di Matteo faced an agonising wait to see if he would be kept on as Chelsea manager over the summer.

The possible arrival of Pep Guardiola was the source of the Italian's uncertainty, as owner Roman Abramovich looked to change the culture of the club. Having remained at the helm, Di Matteo would only last until late November as he was bizarrely replaced by Rafael Benitez.

West Ham are another side constantly referred to as a team that 'play on the floor,' despite their recent status as a yoyo club. Manager Sam Allardyce was brought in to take The Hammers back to the top flight at the first time of asking.

He succeeded. He has guided them to their best start to a league season in over fifteen years, but there is a tendency to suggest his stay at the club is a short term one. Once the results stop masking the way in which his side approaches the game, fans will baying for his departure as a matter of urgency.

There are cases when reputation over steps reality. Arsène Wenger, Arsenal's most successful manager in the history of the club, has failed to win a trophy in the past eight seasons.

Why is it that previous success is judged to be a good enough reason to put up with consistent failure?

Yes, change might not bring an improvement, but the Frenchman hardly warrants a job for life just because he is a club legend.

Rivals Tottenham Hotspur are on the opposite end of the scale, as their new manager André Villas Boas has endured immense pressure ever since his arrival. It goes without saying that AVB failed spectacularly in his short stint at Stamford Bridge, but the Portuguese has not been allowed to start afresh without constant reminders of his past failings.

For some chairmen, the want of a 'bigger' name is the only reason behind their thinking of changing manager. Newly promoted sides Reading and Southampton have both endured tough starts in the Premier League.

However, both are led by capable managers who have surpassed expectations at their respective clubs, but there continues to be uncertainty around their positions. Wealthy owners believe a blank cheque will bring far greater success than they ever could.

It is anybody's guess who will be handed their P45 next, but there promises to be many more managerial casualties.

Formula1 Season Review

Eoin Livingston

The 2012 season ended in spectacular style in Sâo Paolo, Brazil. The race was one of the most dramatic of the season with accidents putting Lewis Hamilton and many others out of the race.

In the end, Jenson Button won the race, but the focus was on Sebastian Vettel's incredible climb to 6th place after dropping to last following a crash in the opening lap. This climb led Vettel to take the championship from Fernando Alonso by just three points.

This year's driver's championship was undoubtedly the most entertaining thing this season, especially in the opening seven races. There were seven different winners, completely throwing the driver's championship into the air.

This excitement was calmed when Alonso and Vettel emerged as the leading title contenders.

This season was also littered with controversy. In the final race alone Ferrari broke a seal on Felipe Massa's gearbox to drop him five places, moving Alonso up the grid from the dirty left side to the clean right.

There was even issue with Vettel's amazing climb to victory, with Ferrari claiming that Vettel overtook Jean-Eric Vergne in a yellow-flag zone. The claim, that could've cost him his record beating third championship in a row, has now been rejected by the FIA. Undoubtedly the greatest controversy, however, was uncovered at the Canadian Grand Prix. While examining Red Bull's car, officials found a device that allowed the driver to alter the car's ride height on a whim.

This device is highly illegal as it gives the driver a huge advantage when it comes to cornering. However, Red Bull claimed that the device was never used and nobody could prove otherwise so the device was removed and no punishment was given.

The conclusion of the season brought with it the end of Michael Schumacher's career in Formula One. Schumacher is a seven-time World Champion and is widely regarded as one of the greatest Formula One drivers of all time.

He holds many of Formula One's driver records, including most championships won, most races won in a single season and, in 2002, he became the only driver in Formula One history to finish in the top three in every race of a season.

However his departure was sorely needed. His dramatic return to Formula One was lacklustre at best, finishing 13th with not a single win to his name.



Sebastian Vettel, newly crowned Formula 1 champion, and Michael Schumacher, veteran of over 308 races and seven-time champion.



Time to strike a pose mid-lap for DIT's star karting drivers.

DIT in pole position

Stephen Noone

DIT Karting Club have hit the ground running so far in the opening two rounds of this year's CUSAI Intervarsities, with six of our drivers in the top 16 spots in the league. The DIT A Team are also at the top of the team's table on 117 points.

Currently DCU A are our greatest threat, idling behind us on 93 points. Graham Higginbotham, a two time league winner, currently holds the most individual driver's points. With only two rounds to go, his eyes are set on a third title.

Wednesday November 7th saw the first round of this year's racing take place in Whiteriver, Co. Louth. Anticipation hung heavy before the start of the event as drivers psyched themselves up for the long day that followed.

With seven lap heats every race was garnished with great scraps and fights down the field as each driver fought to be the first across the line.

Conditions throughout the day rapidly deteriorated as the rain swept in and the track for the most part was plunged into darkness. This didn't stop our A team drivers from occupying four of the top 10 places at the end of the night.

Karl O'Sullivan was third, James Newe finished fifth and Graham Higginbotham ended up seventh after a first lap incident in the final. Guy Foster was the last of our scoring drivers in ninth position. After the first round, DIT held first place on 65 points with DCU A close behind on 63.

The second round of the league kicked off on Wednesday 21 November in Watergrasshill, Cork. The racing was again gripping throughout the day, with heats coming down to the wire and battles regularly occurring over the extent of the track.

Statistically, Cork has been one the team's weakest events in recent years, so all of the drivers were eager to come away with points and stay at the top of the league. That was exactly what they did.

Over the course of the day five drivers ended up in the points positions; Graham Higginbotham finished 4th after a questionable nudge while holding position into one of the corners.

Myles Redmond finished 7th, Peter Campbell 9th, James Dalton 10th and Guy Foster 13th.

Sitting comfortably at the top of the table, DIT Karting just has to keep its eyes on the track and the tyres warm for round three on February 13 in Nutts Corner.

Karate trip gives freshers a taste

Ciarán Boyle

The Karate Fresher's trip took place from the 16 to 18 November in Galway. For many of the Freshers, it was their first taste of Karate competition and a great preparation for the Karate Intervarsities in February.

The Connor Cup is a hotly contested event. With points for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each event counting towards the overall result, the competition is fierce.

In the Ladies Senior Kata, the Ladies Captain Jenny Forster proved too strong for the opposition from TCD, taking the Gold and securing the Connor Cup for DIT for the 4th consecutive year.

As always, TCD and RCSI provided us with the toughest competition, bringing strong well-drilled teams. TCD put the first points on the scoreboard with Tara Shawe taking Gold in the Junior Ladies Kata so the pressure was on to get some points back.

Cormac Chisholm and Bion Fakorede were first to score points for DIT with 2nd and 3rd places respectively in a packed Men's Junior Kata. This year we had a particularly strong Men's team at Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels.

Cormac Chisholm followed up his success in the Kata with a win in the Men's Junior Kumite Final against Aziz Mirdad from RCSI, while Bion Fakorede collected another Bronze for us in this event.

In the Intermediate, Kata DIT got both 1st and 2nd places with fine performances from Louie Dela Pena and Ciaran Boyle. Ciarán also added points to our ever growing tally with a solid 3rd place in the Men's Intermediate Kumite. Focus on the Saturday morning was on training and preparation for the Connor Cup, which is traditionally held on the Sunday.

Saturday morning's class in Shantalla Community Centre under Sensei John Ryan of the Shotokan Institute of Ireland stressed the importance of evasion and body positioning.

The afternoon's class, on the beach at Silver Strand, continued this theme. The training finished with kata (forms) practice in the sea. Everyone had braved the cold of the Atlantic; it never seems to get any warmer.

Next event in the Shotokan karate season is gradings later in the month.



From left to right, Senpai Stewart Flood (instructor), Sean Hartnell, Cormac Chisholm, Louie Anthony Dela Peña, Bion Fakorede, Ciarán Boyle (club captain), Jennifer Forster, and Sensei Malachy Dunne (Head Instructor).

SPORT

DIT graduate Sinéad Goldrick named in the GAA All-star team

Danielle Stephens
Sports Editor

Sinéad Goldrick was named as an All Star last month, the only Dublin player to receive the honour.

Back in July of this year, Goldrick was announced as the Croke Park Hotel's Player of the Year. This was the first time that the award, in association with the Independent, was presented.

When asked how she felt when presented with the award, she was quick to credit her teammates for helping with her success. "I was on the Dublin team who won the Leinster final, so I think it [the award] had a lot to do with the team that I was on."

Goldrick was part of the Dublin squad that beat Meath 2-13 to 1-13 in the final in July to be crowned winners of the Leinster Football Championships 2012. The match, which took place in Croke Park, was one of the highlights of the DIT student's football career.

She started playing GAA when she was eight-years-old. She played with her local club, Foxrock-Cabinteely. Even though she started playing while in primary school, it wasn't until she started secondary school that the sport developed into something more serious for her.

The 21-year-old believes that her school had a lot of influence on her participation in the sport. She also played basketball but ended up focusing on football.



Sinéad Goldrick celebrating one of her many football successes. While studying a Masters at DIT, the college won the Lynch Shield and the Division 3 League

Goldrick went to Coláiste Íosagáin in Dublin which is an Irish speaking school.

They put a lot of emphasis on the importance of playing Irish sports and this encouraged Goldrick to play football at senior level.

She started playing with the Dublin Women's Senior Football squad when she was 17 before she had left secondary school. The team have been unlucky the last two years, falling short of winning the finals of the All-Ireland Championships both years.

Ironically, when Dublin did win the All-Ireland back in 2010, Goldrick was away in Thailand and couldn't join the squad. She played with them during of the league of that year but just missed out in playing in the final.

As well as playing for Dublin, Goldrick was on the DIT Ladies Football team last year. She spent a year in Aungier Street studying to get a master's degree in Marketing. While in the college, she received a sports scholarship award. She was also a member of a panel at an open forum on athlete preparation, performance, and lifestyle.

During her time at DIT, the college won the Lynch Shield and the Division 3 League. The Dubliner really enjoyed her time at DIT. She liked meeting new people from all of the different counties and getting the chance to play with new people.

She also praised the support that DIT gave to her and the team during the term year. She said that GAA sports, both men's and women's, is advertised well around the campuses and a big emphasis is put on the importance of the GAA teams. The marketing graduate went on to say, "I'm not in DIT this year, but I can still see on Twitter that they have the men and the women involved in it [advertising]."

Funnily enough, when discussing her biggest highlight since she started playing football, she didn't mention her career with Dublin or with DIT. She picked the moment that she won the Club Championships with Foxrock-Cabinteely back in 2007.

The newly-named All Star is currently doing an internship in Pembroke Promotions. She wants to go on and work in sports marketing or sports sponsorship.

Of course, with training scheduled to start back soon, she also hopes to win the All-Ireland Championships with the Dublin Ladies Football team.

NFL Round-Up: Kansas City Chiefs win

Jack Maher looks at week 13 of the NFL and the tragedy surrounding Kansas City

Week 13 and football was put on the back-burner following the tragic events involving the Kansas City Chiefs earlier in the week.

Despite this all games including the Chiefs' went ahead as a number of teams had the chance to take their divisional titles.

In difficult circumstances the Chiefs overcame the events of the week to claim an emotional win over Carolina 27-21.

Patriots took the AFC East title for ninth time in 10 years after 23-16 win over rivals Miami. Last year's AFC champions can now focus on the coveted top seeding in their conference as they seek to continue a six game winning streak.

In their first season under Peyton Manning the Broncos took AFC West to also advance to the playoffs with a 9-3 record after a 31-23 win over Tampa Bay.

Steelers claimed a massive win over rivals Baltimore courtesy of a last gasp field goal which in turn ended Baltimore's 16-game streak at home.

With Ben Roethlisberger due to return next week the Steelers 7-5 look to be in with a good shout of making the playoffs.

Despite this the Bengals also remain in the hunt in AFC North keeping alive a four game winning streak after overcoming San Diego 20-13 to go 7-5 for the season tied with Pittsburgh.

Atlanta took NFC south after a 23-13 win over rivals the Saints. Despite throwing for over 340 yards the Falcons finally broke Drew Brees' streak of 54 games with a passing touchdown.

Moving 11-1 for the season Atlanta now look destined for top seeding in the playoffs on the other-hand New Orleans 5-7 look like their dreams of playing a home Superbowl look distant as a poor start has finally caught up on them.

Rookie sensation Andrew Luck ensured the Colts still have a slight chance of taking AFC South after a last gasp game winning drive against the Lions in a 35 33 win.

Although unlikely to catch division rivals Texans 11-1, the 8-4 Colts are firmly in control of the AFC wild-card race.

49ers were stunned by their struggling divisional rivals the Rams in a 13-16 overtime loss, despite San Francisco remain in control of NFC West with a 8-3-1 record..

Russell Wilson's TD pass to Sidney Rice who was knocked out upon crossing the line allowed Seattle to claim a massive overtime scalp on the road against the Bears with a 23-17 win, to move 7-5 for the season.

The Seahawks can now harbour realistic hopes of making the playoffs as they are prime position in the NFC wild-card race.

Green Bay defeated divisional rivals the Vikings 23-14, moving 8-4 and level on top of NFC North with the Bears.

In a game decided by Minnesota turnovers, the Packer's running game which has often been lacking this season allowed them to take advantage.

In other results the Texans defeated the Titans 24-10, Buffalo overcame Jacksonville 34-18, the Cardinals fell 6-7 to the Jets, Cleveland defeated Oakland 20-17.



Kansas City Chiefs overcame tragic circumstances to win. Photo credit: Matt Britt via Flickr

Sporting History

Liam Kennedy

5th December

-2012 – Northern Ireland and West Bromwich Albion defender Gareth McAuley turns 33-years-old.

6th December

-2012 – Former cricketer, current A League of Their Own panellist and now professional boxer Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff turns 35.

7th December

-1963 – Instant replay is used for a televised sporting event for the first time during a broadcast of an Army-Navy American football game.

-2012 – Chelsea captain John Terry turns 32.

8th December

-1988 – New York Knicks set NBA record after scoring 11 3-point field goals in a single game. This was, at the time, the most ever scored in one game by a team.

-2012 – Boxer Amir Khan turns 26.

9th December

-2012 – American tennis player Mardy Fish turns 31.

10th December

-1995 – Australian cricketer Ricky Ponting makes 96 runs on his Test Cricket debut versus Sri Lanka.

-1968 – "Smokin'" Joe Frazier beats Oscar Bonavena in 15 rounds to win the heavyweight title in boxing.

11th December

-1951 – Baseball legend Joe DiMaggio announced his retirement from the sport at a press conference.

-1981 – Muhammad Ali's 61st and final fight took place. He lost to Jamaican boxer Trevor Berbick.

12th December

-2001 – The world's greatest goal-scorer dies aged 88. He was former Slavia Prague forward Josef "Pepi" Bican who scored a career total of 1460 goals which has yet to be overtaken.

13th December

-2008 – Barcelona won their first Clásico for almost three years, beating rivals Real Madrid. This match signalled the beginning of the Catalan side's dominance in recent years.

-2009 – Arsenal beat Liverpool 2-1 at Anfield in the Barclays Premier League with Andrey Arshavin scoring the winner.

14th December

-1915 – Jack Johnson becomes the first black world heavyweight champion in boxing.

-2012 – Former Liverpool and Man U striker Michael Owen turns 33.

15th December

-2012 – Liverpool defender Martin Škrtel turns 28.

-1891 – Basketball invented.

16th December

-2012 – Former Chelsea captain Dennis Wise turns 46-years-old.

17th December

-2012 – Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, often referred to as the 'best pound-for-pound fighter in the world', celebrates his 34th birthday.

18th December

-1932 – The first ever NFL play-off game takes place. The final score was Chicago Bears 9 Portsmouth Spartans 0.







THE EDITION

SPORT

Connor Cup karate competition p22

Sineád Goldrick on GAA All Star Team p23

Elaine Caffrey, Super League Basketball player interviwed p21

Karting Club p22

DIT win Ryan Cup



All photos courtesy of DIT Sports and Recreations office

Darragh Biddlecombe
GAA Development Officer

DIT Senior Footballers claimed the Irish Daily Mail Division 1 League title last Thursday evening in Mayobridge defeating a gallant St. Mary's Belfast.

They beat them by just one point after the match was forced into extra time. (DIT 1-16 St.Marys 1-15). Extra time was needed after a goal late on in the game, which came from Supply Chain & Logistics student Darren Reilly.

While deep into added time in extra time a point from Construction Economics student David Givney won the game for DIT.

This is DIT's second Division 1 League title ever at this level. Their first came only two years ago in 2010. En route to this year's final DIT defeated, Maynooth, DCU, UCD, Athlone IT and Queens.

After this thrilling encounter with St. Marys the team are now preparing for the O'Byrne Cup and Sigerson cup competitions, taking place in the New Year.

In the O'Byrne Cup DIT have drawn Wexford on Sunday 6 January in Wexford,

Kildare on Wednesday 9 January in Newbridge, and then Carlow IT on Sunday J13 aunary in Carlow IT. The draw for the Sigerson Cup, which begins in February, will take place in Croke Park on Wednesday 12 December.

Men place 5th and women 8th in Maynooth Road Relays

Simon Munro

On Saturday 17 November a small contingent of DIT athletes travelled to Maynooth to participate in the first major event of the athletic season, the Maynooth Road Relays hosted by NUIM.

Unlike typical relay races, where contestants run around 100 or 400 metres of a tartan track, this race involves running around a 1 mile circuit on the grounds of NUIM. The format for both races is in the form of a medley. For the men it is 1, 2, 3, 2 and 1 miles and for the women it's 1,2,2 and 1 miles.

This year the DIT men's team came in at a very respectable 5th place (44:10) behind Waterford IT, Trinity, DCU, and eventual winners UCD (41:09).

The women didn't do as well as the men this year round, when they ran home in a time of 38:06 to give them an 8th place finish behind trinity, UCC and DCU (32:32). The women's team was comprised of Sinéad and Niamh Denny, Katia Bee and Claire Earls. The men's team was made up of Billy Crosbie, Aindriú Jenkinson, Liam Brady, Conor Dooney and Sean Keany.

The team even had an extra runner to create one fifth of a multi-college relay team. The extra person was David Doran who said his time of 17.49 minutes for the three mile was a new Personal Best, even though the team didn't finish in the best of positions.

After the race, the participants went back to the Maynooth SU for food and to witness the Award Ceremony.