2013


DIT News Society

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Recommended Citation
Third-level education has avoided major damage in Budget 2014, but for students as young people and as members of society, there is cause for concern in the Government’s plan.

For the first time in five years, the student grant has been protected from cuts. Although the Union of Students of Ireland (USI) have campaigned against its average rate of €84 per week, lower than the threshold social welfare rate, this has been labelled a “turning point” by USI president Joe O’Connor.

The Back to Education Allowance has also been maintained in the Budget, another focus in USI’s campaigning in the lead-up to Tuesday. The overall education budget will fall by around €31m in 2014, significantly less than was expected ahead of the announcement.

A €25m cut to third-level funding, which was announced for 2014 in last year’s Budget, will also be delayed until 2015.

The student contribution charge increase represented a downsise for third-level students, going up once again by €250, to €2,750 for next year. As Minister for Education Ruairí Quinn had previously announced, the charge will continue to rise by this increment, to €3,000 in 2015.

Nevertheless, student union reaction to the Budget announcement was broadly positive. In a statement on Tuesday afternoon, O’Connor said: “This budget marks a turning point. After four cuts to the maintenance grant in four consecutive budgets, the Government has accepted that struggling students and families can take no more.”

Al McConnell
Editor

An independent review into the operations of DITSU Ltd, the company underpinning DITSU, will be carried out to assess whether the company is operating in line with its articles of memorandum.

It has been revealed that a disagreement occurred at a Board meeting on the 31st July of this year, which ultimately led to the resignation of the two external board members and left DITSU in a difficult situation for the first months of this academic year.

Mr Kevin O’Driscoll, former chairperson to the Board, and Ms Antoinette Quinn, former external director on the Board, resigned from their positions in August.

In the aftermath of the board disagreement, a letter was sent by O’Driscoll to members of DIT staff and members of DITSU, who have declined to comment on its contents following legal advice.

Senior management at DIT contacted DITSU at this point, with their concern mainly on the financial side.

Al McConnell
Editor

BUDGET SPECIAL

Third-level survives

Education avoids major Budget damage, but young people targeted in cuts

Al McConnell
Editor

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Preparations and castings for a highlight of Socs year

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Class exemptions
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ITs should stay ITs
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The latest online sensation tells The Edition all about it

Great DIT reporters
Browne and Mahoney published in new collection

Existential crisis
Video games just don’t know who they are any more

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Foodie fadism
Dublin sacks the burrito and takes up the pig-pit

Coffee guide
Where best to satisfy your caffeine cravings

Get it checked out
Young people just won’t take sexual health seriously
of the the operations, although the separation of the college and the union will remain.

Dr Noel O’Connor, director of student services at DIT, said of the upcoming review: “DIT is satisfied that DITSU is taking appropriate action to ensure that it is fully compliant with its constitution in all matters of governance.”

At the board meeting on the 31st of July, a motion was put forward by DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick for a sub-committee to be set up to look into how well the organisation was serving the students, in relation to the internal matters of the company.

According to Fitzpatrick, the chairperson was unwilling to support this move, and the meeting was abandoned as, it is claimed, O’Driscoll wished to seek legal advice on the proposed sub-committee.

Fitzpatrick said of the conflict: “The situation that I walked into was one in which the students needed to take back control of their own union.”

O’Driscoll declined to comment on this account of the events, having submitted the letter, which reportedly sets out his opinion on the unsustainable working conditions on the board.

It is expected that this issue will be discussed at the first Student Council meeting this evening. The Edition will be live tweeting events at the Council from 6pm onwards.

A model fashion show

Stephanie Quilligan

One of DIT’s most highly anticipated events, the DIT Fashion show and Student Design Awards, takes place towards the end of the student calendar each year.

However, preparations have already been put in place for the show which is in its 11th year, with the Model castings taking place as early as next week.

Daniel Kelly of the Fashion Society explained the reason for this: “We hold the auditions early on in the year so as to facilitate the models and their studies as best as possible. There is a lot of training involved which helps to bond the group and to boost their confidence”.

Each year the event recognises the emerging talent students have to offer within the fashion industry in Ireland. The Student Design awards see 10 finalists from throughout the country battle it out at the fashion show.

Last year’s lucky winner, Mona Sweeney, a student designer from GMIT took home the cash prize of €2,500. The show organisers also award a male and female model of the year on the night.

In the past the lucky winners have gone on to sign with some of Ireland’s leading modelling agencies.

Model castings are to take place on Wednesday the 23rd of October at 6pm in the Aungier street courtyard for any DIT students who are interested. The Society is urging people to arrive early with a dress code of plain white t-shirt and jeans, with heels for the girls and shoes for the boys.

Potential models are required to walk for a panel of judges throughout the fashion industry in Ireland. Last year’s panel included Irish designer and television presenter Brendan Courtney. Each year the panel narrow it down to between 40 and 50 DIT students who will walk in the show.

Speaking to The Edition, Kelly said they are expecting a big turn out this year. “It is a great opportunity for anyone interested in being part of the largest student fashion show in Ireland...the show is a wonderful platform to launch a career into the world of modelling”.

They promise free pizza along with concession entry to Everleigh Gardens on the night, “so get your dancin shoes on”.

UCD votes to go smoke-free: will DIT?

Smoking bans in colleges becoming more common throughout country

Eoghan McNeill

Chief News Reporter

UCD students have voted in favour of making the Belfield campus smoke-free. The result means that the UCD Students’ Union (UCDSU) will support an initiative proposed by UCD’s Health Promotion Committee to ban smoking on college grounds.

Fifty-five percent of votes cast were in favour of making UCD smoke-free. Only 2,500 ballots of a possible 30,000+ were cast.

Despite the low turn-out, UCDSU president Michael Gallagher said in an interview with the Irish Times, “the result gave a positive indicator of students’ engagement with the democratic process. They have endorsed the proposal for a smoke-free campus. UCD students have a proud tradition of being on the cutting edge of health promotion initiatives.”

Manager of Campus Life at DIT, Brian Gormley told The Edition that DIT has “made no moves towards introducing similar measures.” He did however note that smoke-free campuses are becoming increasingly prevalent, particularly in the US. It would fall to DIT’s Health Promotion Committee to propose a smoke-free DIT.

Outside the Aungier street campus, students were divided on whether banning smoking on DIT grounds would be a positive step.

Three students who smoke said they would welcome a ban. They suggested it may deter first-year students from starting to smoke and would prevent the “social aspect” of the habit developing.

However, another smoker took a more pragmatic view, questioning: “Where would the smokers actually go, in the middle of the street?” He said that banning smoking on either campus, DIT or UCD, would have no effect on the numbers of students smoking and would be mere “arguing over where you allow people to smoke.”

The result of the UCDSU election follows the publication of Minister James O’Reilly’s “Tobacco Free Ireland”. The plan aims to reduce smoking in Ireland to less than 5% of the population by 2025, using higher tobacco taxes and measures that will “de-normalise” smoking. As Ireland, the leading anti-tobacco advocacy organisation in Ireland, has been campaigning to have other Irish universities go smoke-free.

At tonight’s meeting of the Student Council, one item for discussion will be a proposed no-smoking policy for the Grangegorman campus, with an attached issue of electronic cigarette use on the current campuses.

The Edition will be live-tweeting from the meeting from 6pm this evening.
Letting agent: ‘Landlords simply won’t trust students’

With demand for rental properties far above average, students face a losing battle against the landlords who will not take a ‘risk’ when choosing tenants

Ann-Marie Donelan

The Dublin renting market continues to be a course of great stress for students, with few affordable properties on the market, and one unnamed landlord telling The Edition that “landlords simply won’t trust students.”

Landlords have seemingly become terrified of renting to students, with over 50 percent of advertisements on sites such as Daft.ie and Rent.ie attaching the ‘no students need apply’ or ‘current employer reference essential when viewing’ lines to property ads.

There is a multitude of reasons for this new attitude that is to be seen amongst landlords. There is a negative stigma attached to renting to students and a widespread belief that they all wish to live in below-average conditions, and are likely to leave accommodation never fit to rent again.

One landlord, who would prefer not to be named, told The Edition last week that although he had quite a few properties in the Dublin area that would suit students, he would never rent to un-professionals again due to the hassle and cost that he previously came across when renting to students.

When the group moved out of the apartment, he explained, it was left in a condition that could not be described as “fit for purpose” as a rental property, without work being done.

Other landlords who have never even rented to students are also adopting this attitude, as the market shifts from tenant-friendly to primarily suiting the renter. As the supply and demand ratio is now so clearly in the landlord’s favour, there is little students can do to challenge such a policy.

Another landlord to whom The Edition spoke stated that he had not rented to students in the past, but does not plan to start now. There is a whole host of professionals seeking property in Dublin, he explained, at least there is no need to take a chance on sa group of students. He further stated that it was “his risk to rent it his property and to leave it in the hands of students would be ridiculous.”

As landlord’s flexibility and choice of tenants becomes only larger, with an estimated 8,500 people looking to rent in the city as opposed to the usual 2,500 that would be expected at this time of year, students are facing a tough battle to secure accommodation.

Since The Edition’s front page story on the ‘impossible’ house-hunt that students were facing in late September, many are still desperately searching for a place to stay permanently.

Unfortunately, however, there is very little that can be done by way of helping and protecting students, as landlords are not seen to be doing any wrong in this seemingly harsh decision-making and generalisation.

Threshold, the national housing charity, and the welfare departments of student unions, seem to be the only organisations attempting to help students stuck in this predicament.

The head of Threshold’s advisory section stated last week that although every September and October they receive student queries, this year is like no other as they are inundated with worried students seeking help.

The charity has now been forced to designate part of its website to providing advice to students on renting, lease agreements, and accommodation sharing.

The relationship between students and landlords throughout the city continues to worsen, with severe personal consequences felt by many as a result of unfair generalisations.

Tech Support at DIT

Learning Support Centre turning to technology to help students improve their study skills

Al McConnell

A new service has been launched in DIT to help students improve how they use technology as part of their studies.

Particularly geared towards students with disabilities and other challenges that affect their academic life, the Learning Support Centre has decided on a new technology-based approach to enhance students’ awareness of the Apps, websites and programmes that can make college a bit simpler.

The technology in focus includes methods for automatic essay citation, speech-to-text transfer, and personal organisation, as aids to essay writing, research and everyday life.

Geraldine McCorkell, learning support officer for Mountjoy Square and Cathal Brugha Street, told The Edition: “The focus is increasing students’ options when it comes to studying, and finding what methods work for them.”

The free assistive technology approach, she continued, is a new focus to make college simpler and more efficient for students, and to get them involved with the learning support centre.

“When students hear something is free they tend to be more attentive,” she explained. “Also, a lot of the technology is about study short-cuts. Students seem to like that too.”

Trevor Boland, assistive technology officer for northside DIT, said that the initial reaction to the new service has been very positive, with many students expressing surprise when they realise the services that are available to enhance and streamline their college work.

He said: “The focus is increasing students’ options when it comes to studying, and finding what methods work for them, so it can be different for everyone.”

The two staff members are enthusiastic about the potential of the new service – Boland’s ultimate aim is for it to become a mainstream part of DIT, that all students will know about and make use of.

Following the recently released statistics on adult literacy and numeracy, published by the OECD and the Central Statistics Office, which showed that Ireland has lower than average levels of professionals seeking property, students were facing a tough battle to secure accommodation.

The service has early success, and the signs are good, more flexibility from the college will surely follow.

See the Assistive Technology in DIT blog at: http://assistive.tcd.ie/
Students kept quiet,

Cigaretes
The price of a box of cigarettes has risen by 10c in the budget. A 50c enviromental levy has not been introduced on cigarette packs, nor has Vat been re-duced on nicotine replacement packs.

Anti-smoking lobby, ASH Ireland, and smokers’ rights group, Forest Eireann condemned the measure alike.

John Mallon of Forest Eireann said that any rise in price will “send people to the streets” for counterfeit cigarettes. This not only diverts funds from the revenue, but criminalises smokers. He said that the government are not helping Irish people lead healthier lives, but “creating a criminal problem”.

He went on to say that the measure is a simple revenue generator: “the government don’t give a shit about our health.”

Wally Young of ASH Ireland said that the organisation would support “any initiative to denominalise smoking”. He said that these initiatives are supported “with the health of the nation in mind”, not extra tax reve-nue. His organisation, although sup-portive of price hikes for cigarettes,

THE GOOD

THE BAD

Booze
Beer and spirits hit by 10 cent rise, wine up 50 cent

Dole
Jobseekers Allowance cut for under-26s

DIRT
Deposit Interest Retention Tax raised to 41 percent

THE UGLY

Elderly targeted across Budget
Telephone Allowance abolished €850 bereavement grant abolished
Prescription rates originally set at 50 cent raised to €2.50
Income threshold for over-70s medical card reduced to €900 a week for couples, €500 for individuals

THE GOOD

THE BAD

Under-5 medical cards
Free GP care for children aged five and under

Education
Student maintenance grant and Back to School Allowance remain unchanged

Mental Health
€20m injection for community mental health services

Eoghan McNeill
Chief News Reporter

Cigaretes and alcohol have once again become more expensive in the government budget, but the question of whether this approach will have med-ical benefits, or merely bring more cash into the state coffers is unclear.

Alcohol
The government has announced a 10c tax-hike on pints and spirits in pubs. The excise duty on a 75cl bottle of wine will rise by 50c.

Speaking to The Edition before the announcement, Gary Cusack – manager of Mulligans of Poolbeg Street – was hopeful that “draught wouldn’t be hit”. He said that further price-rais-es would make it increasingly hard to compete with supermarkets selling cheap lager as a loss leader.

“Growing up, drinking in a pub was part of my daily routine – now, it’s a luxury” he said. The ritual of going to a pub for the night has been replaced with buying cheap slabs of lager and showing up “half-cut at a club, only buying one drink”.

Suzanne Costello – CEO of Ac-tion Alcohol Ireland – welcomed the news. “Tackling pricing is one of the most effective ways a Government can reduce alcohol consumption and, simply put, if the price of alcohol goes up, alcohol-related harm – and the financial burden it places on the State – goes down”.

Costello did however note the weak-nesses of the measure as a means of reducing alcohol-related harm. Large multiple retailers will be able to ab-sorb the cost of excise duty increas-es by off-setting it by increasing the prices of other goods. Heavily-dis-counted alcohol will still be available to Irish consumers.

Speaking to The Edition, Conor Cullen of the same organisation ac-cepted that raising excise duties on alcohol is something of a “crude tool”. He said that setting a mini-mum floor price for alcohol would be more equitable.

The Vintners Federation of Ireland would also support a move towards minimum pricing – forming some-thing of an unlikely alliance with Ac-tion Alcohol Ireland.

“The further increase in excise of 10 cent on the pint will only serve to widen the disparity between the on trade and off trade, encouraging the misuse of cheap alcohol.”

Students kept quiet, Better than most during recession, a suggestion described as “incontro-vertable” by Irish Times political cor-respondent Stephen Collins.

Age Action, however, challenged the claims, as did Michael O’Hal-loran, co-ordinator of ICTU’s retired workers committee, who told the Irish Times “older people have had their share of cuts”.

Young people also under fire
Many also argued that young people were among the most, if not the pri-mary group, targeted in the plan.

Prominent in these arguments was the reduction in jobseeker’s allow-ance payments. For 22-24-year-olds, the payment will fall from €144 to
BUDGET 2014: How it will affect you

**Elderly**

The 2014 Budget is to greatly damage the livelihood of the elderly. Phone allowance of €9.50 per month for old age pensioners has been abolished whilst it is expected that over 35,000 elderly people are set to lose their medical cards.

In addition to this prescription rates which were originally set at 50 cent are set to rise to €2.50.

Gerard Scully of Age Action said he would be “shocked if [proposed budget cuts] proved to be true”. Mr Scully also described the removal of medical cards as “particularly savages”.

With regard to the rise in prescription Mr. Scully also saw this as a “revenue raising” move. Other concerns raised by Age Action were that older people would be isolated, and that the “sickest and poorest” people are being targeted in this budget.

- John Lillis

**Parents**

Michael Noonan’s budget 2014 was a mixed bag for parents. For mums and dads at least the budget turned out to be good news.

Noonan gave in the form of free GP care for the under 5-year-olds and ringfenced €4.5 million fund for child care.

While he also took with standing materninity benefit which will remain at €230 per week - this reduced the rate for some. This is said to save €30 million.

The Under five’s GP care scheme was welcomed largely buy also criticised for its as it was available to all regardless of income, and was seen by some as a cynical vote-winning measure.

However, Early Childhood Ireland said that they were disappointed that the figure left for childcare was not higher, and were anxious to see how the fund would be spread over the childcare sector.

- Barry Lennon

**Business**

The Government has pledged €500 million in programmes to stimulate the economy.

While many tough calls have had to be made, like the controversial axing of the bereavement grant, the budget has been positively progressive compared to the last five years.

The 9 percent VAT rate will be maintained for the hospitality industry, a move which will increase their services to Ireland. I have good reason to believe they will do this (Sounds like Michael O’Leary’s doing).”

After the budget analysis, RTE decided to continue the six-and-a-half hours of positivity by broad-casting Ireland v Kazakhstan (a risky strategy in itself).

- Barry Lennon

- Joseph Connolly

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**BUDGET OPINION**

Barry Lennon
Deputy Editor

A dreary, monotonous voice came across the airwaves. Finance Minister Michael Noonan’s voice was so boring it was difficult to concentrate on what was being said.

It was dull like his Budget.

Radio analysts examining the details of his budget said it was without the large-arse shredding cutbacks of previous years. It was to be instead “a budget of a thousand sand cuts”.

Boring the electorate into submission appeared to be his aim. Speaking on RTE Radio 1 later that evening Noonan said he thought it was a good thing that people weren’t taking an interest in the budget, as it proved it wasn’t contentious.

This curious mentality led this reporter to attempt to get inside Noonan’s mind and understand what he was saying in the Dail chamber (what is thought the minister meant appears in the brackets). Noonan began to muse... “The story of insolvent Ireland is familiar to all our people... Reckless policies were pursued by the Fianna Fail led government (Think we’re bad, remember the other crowd).”

“This continued until Ireland was no longer able to borrow on the international markets leading to the government to go to the lenders of last resort.”

He then turned to the progress his own Government made.

“The new Government immediately set about this task and renegotiated the bail-out. Among the more notable achievements was the reduction in interest on the European loans (See, we’re great).”

He made reference to the “so-called boom” (reminding again of that other crowd’s trickery) before introducing his own notable cuts.

The two finance ministers announced the shelving of the telephone allowance for the elderly (The logic being they will soon be compensated with an infinitely better service. After all they will have a direct line to God before anyone else does). The opposition had their critiques of the budget. Sinn Fein provided us with the most bizarre sound bites.

Derech Doherty started. “You cut the elderly hard. Then you take the telephone away from them so they can’t ring you up and complain.”

Mary Lou McDonald also had her input. “Your assault on basic social protections has been calculated (that was perhaps an unintended compliment to suggest the Government had some ulterior motive).”

“There were good things to come out of the budget also. Noonan said, “I want Ireland to play fair... and want Ireland to win (meaning we will be ruthless).”

“I am to reduce air travel tax to zero so to improve tourism so that airlines will increase their services to Ireland. I have good reason to believe they will do this (Sounds like Michael O’Leary’s doing).”

After the budget analysis, RTE decided to continue the six-and-a-half hours of positivity by broad-casting Ireland v Kazakhstan (a risky strategy in itself).
It’s going back to the old days when only the rich could go to college

They’re targeting the wrong people, as usual! The last job I had was paid €8.65 an hour, and I’m 52 years old, are you joking?!

I spent 24 hours looking after an 87-year-old woman, who slept in a chair and didn’t see a doctor until the next day. The Government should come and see real life

Our leaders are completely out of touch, they’re only looking after themselves, and it’s the same situation the world over

Raising the price of cigarettes is only going to boost the black market, whether fraudulent cigarettes or not paying the duty

100minds has early success

Campaign underway to help undergraduates improve their CVs while raising money for Temple Street Children’s Hospital

Luke Holohan

It has become the accepted aphorism of the job seeking student: you need experience in order to get experience. This confidence-eroding anomaly which often suppresses talent; the catch-22, which inhibits so many burgeoning young professionals from breaking into their chosen field, is a distressing reality that countless students and graduates are facing up to today. Step forward 100minds – the megaphone in which to amplify ideas.

An initiative that necessitates the use of the description ‘a charitable creative collective’, 100minds is a non-profit organisation launched to harness the talents of the country’s top undergraduates for an admirable cause.

The campaign will bring together 100 of the best and brightest innovators in a bid to raise €100,000 for Temple Street Children’s Hospital. In doing so, it also provides a platform from which they can showcase their skills to prospective employers and build important networks – a positive partnership, explains Declan Egan, the founder of the organisation.

“I wanted to create a platform for undergraduates to display their creativity whilst also giving something back to the wider community. With 100minds, I wanted to highlight to Irish undergrads that getting involved in extracurricular responsibilities is the key to getting the most out of their time in college.

Specifically by helping them gain relevant work experience for their CV, meet new individuals with different backgrounds, and also to help them stand out from the crowd when they graduate and apply for companies like PwC or Google.” In fact, the idea has snowballed as companies such as KPMG, Microsoft, LinkedIn and Deloitte have become involved.

“The role of each of these companies has come in the form of their HR departments recognising the 100minds challenge,” explains Egan. “We’ve had some incredible responses from these companies who have now really validated that being part of 100minds is an excellent opportunity to gain experience in social entrepreneurship, learn and develop new skills.”

Undergraduates are given the freedom to express their abilities however they see fit. Each undergraduate will aim to raise €1,000 and through the 100minds website participants can promote their efforts, inspire others and connect through an online profile page.

“The main criteria we look for is previous fundraising experience. However, displaying a willingness to get involved and make a difference is more than enough.”

The money will be put towards three key areas within the hospital. According to the 100minds Spend Breakdown, €60,000 will be invested in machine and equipment purchases, including a new pathology department, €27,000 on patient events and €13,000 on the hospital’s family support scheme.

So far, students from a variety of backgrounds have applied to be part of the initiative with the application deadline being October 31st. After that, successful applicants will be notified and assigned a fundraising mentor from one of the sponsor companies.

Expressing her company’s support for the idea, Lindsay Browning, Talent Acquisition Manager at LinkedIn, said “It is a fantastic opportunity to build your professional brand, collaborate with like-minded people, and ultimately to highlight your leadership, entrepreneurial and creative skills to employers in companies like LinkedIn.” To apply, log on to: www.100minds.org.
‘Protest pass’ causes rift

DITSU and DIT clash over proposed class exemptions for USI protest

Al McConnell
Editor

DIT’s refusal to allow students a class exemption to attend USI’s Your Future protest on the 1st of October has caused a dispute between DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick and the college’s decision-makers.

Speaking to The Edition after an admittedly low turn-out for the protest, Fitzpatrick said: “We were disappointed not an awful lot of flexibility was shown by the college in recognising the need for students to have their voices heard at the moment.”

The decision has, however, been defended by the college. Dr Noel O’Connor, director of student services at DIT, told The Edition: “We received the request and we were supportive of what DITSU were doing but it was a question of disruption to the semester. “To take a decision suspend classes for an afternoon for 20,000 students would have been a very significant decision, and it wasn’t felt that the proposal merited it.”

Fitzpatrick went on to say that DITSU had expected the request for class exemptions to be accepted, arguing that if students are forced to drop out of college that everyone loses out, including DIT.

“It doesn’t make any sense for DIT to stifle solidarity,” he said.

Although Fitzpatrick made it clear he did not want to pass the blame for low turnout at the YourFuture protest, he did agree that the lack of class exemptions was negative.

UCC and WIT students were reportedly granted permission to attend without being marked absent, and it is understood that this was granted without difficulty. DIT, however, does not have a precedent of this, which seems to have been the key factor.

O’Connor explained: “The fact that we haven’t done it in the past was a factor and given that the academic year had started, there was a sense that it could cause grief because there could be continuous assessments, projects and group work going on, and part-time students coming in from work, which would have been disrupted.”

In response to reaction from some corners that the disruption would have been minimal, O’Connor said resource allocation was the concern.

“People have maybe looked at it on their own individual case, but multiplied up to 20,000 students it becomes a significant issue.”

The DITSU and DIT working group will be discussing the issue at their next meeting, with both sides expressing concern about the situation that students now find themselves in, and cognisant of the fact that similar protests will occur in future.

O’Connor said: “Everyone appreciates that this is a difficult environment for students and we’re trying to do everything we can to support students and to fight for resources, but this wasn’t something that we wanted to do.”

Fitzpatrick expressed his desire to set an agreement on this issue for the future. “We’d like it to be possible that for at least one afternoon a year, students are able to attend these events without any conflict with their studies,” he said.

He also went on to say that members of the TUI, including some DIT staff, were in support of what the student unions were doing.

“People have maybe looked at it on their own individual case, but multiplied up to 20,000 students there is now a need for lecturers and students to fight for their issues together,” said Fitzpatrick. “It’s just about convincing senior management of that.”

‘Industry leaders’ say ITs should know their place

Brian Norton: criticism comes from a past generation

Eoghan Regan
News Editor

The merging of Institutes of Technology has received mixed reaction from leaders of Irish industry, who spoke out against the plan at the Global Irish Economic Forum last week.

According to Sean O’Driscoll, the CEO and chairman of Glen Dimplex: “We need to redefine the role of ITs. They should not be quasi-universities.”

The Hunt Report, published by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in 2011, recommended that Institutes of Technology such as Waterford IT and Carlow IT should be merged into larger technical universities.

Speaking to the Edition, O’Driscoll said: “We need to develop the strong disciplines and the weak disciplines in some universities need to develop the strong disciplines further.

“Industryists such as O’Driscoll believe that reform in areas of practical application would be more worthwhile than a merging of ITs, “This was not why they were set up. They were set up to fit the description of their title – to be Institutes of Technology.”

President of DIT Brian Norton would not agree, saying that the creation of these Technical Universities would be “an agenda we would buy into”. He said that the proposal would strengthen the position of DIT internationally, and better serve the Irish industries.

Much of the opposition to the Technical Universities comes from a generation which isn’t wholly aware of the challenges faced by students today, according to the DIT president.

“A new generation. We are facing reality and giving graduates a stronger set of applicable skills,” he said.

Tony Donohoe, head of education policy at Young Fine Gael (YFG), the youth wing of the Government party, has been a youth member of the party since he was 15. He says he wishes to push a referendum on Same Sex Marriage, want to meet regularly with Government ministers to push policies that help young people and to try re-build a damaged relationship amongst Students’ Unions across the country, if elected to the top job in Young Fine Gael.

“I want this job. I have never felt more ambitious for Young Fine Gael and really believe that with Fine Gael in Government, we can begin to make a serious difference to the lives of so many young people across our country.”

The election will take place on the 23rd of November in the Tower Hotel in Waterford City when YFG meet for their National Conference.
Oíche Gaelach na Mac Leinn

Tessa Pleemann

Seasaimhin Ni Ghallachóir

Leann an Samhradh, do thóghair Móinéir Móinéir Theo, fósithéiseoir Foinse, go mbeadh cróiche iomlán leis an leagan cóite den forlóntún seachtainúil, a bhí a fál leis an na haois is móra ón mhíúint Thoir In Dependent.

Bhual Foras na Gaeilge agus Móinéir Theo le linn cur i gceannas na haois is móra ón mhíúint Thoir In Dependent.


dáithí ó shin, ó thús an mionscoilteadh bhí an nós seo úrnua in aghaidh go Droichead na Life.

bhí an plean bualtaí do le go scéitheadacha agus magadh ó lucht na haois is móra ón mhíúint Thoir In Dependent.

acha ní mar mhúsaic an teideal de bharr a chabhrú leis an riachtas mar sláinitheoir do phobal na Gaeilge.

Tá a thugtar go bhfuil an sceadúga as an t-ainm Seachtain toisc gur cheartaíodh siad an eochair isteach in abhainn mar an t-ainm Seachtain toisc gur chuaigh roin aill go dtí na gleann faoi bhun.

na damhsa agus éadain allasúla i gceist leis.

ach d'fhág aithne ar an rud a tharlaíonn.

na damhsa agus éadain allasúla i gceist leis.

mín a bhi duine gan pháirtí do driochead nó ráillí. I rith na haois is móra ón mhíúint Thoir In Dependent.

bhí an fhoilsitheoir ag súil go bhfuil an t-ainm Seachtain toisc gur chuaigh roin aill go dtí na gleann faoi bhun.

I Moscó tá siad tar éis chríostualaithe a bhí ar a gcumas a shealadh. Tá a fhios ag chuile dhuine go bhfuil an t-ainm Seachtain toisc gur chuaigh roin aill go dtí na gleann faoi bhun.

ach d'fhág aithne ar an rud a tharlaíonn.

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mín a bhi duine gan pháirtí do driochead nó ráillí. I rith na haois is móra ón mhíúint Thoir In Dependent.
DITSU: Gealltanais Briste?

Is mó na hiarrachtaí go dí féidir an mbeadh fiúntas le feachas chun Oifig Gaeilge na Mac Léinn DITSU a bhunú roimh dteachraidh na bliana?

Gan a bheith díubh, is i an fhírinn imeachta na teangacha sin, bhfuil amháin dín de dheireadh an Eagarthóir Ghaeilge. Dheireadh an DITSA idir roinn na Gaeilge agus an bhfuil a fhágáil ar an bPáirc an Choláiste. Chun a fhágáil de chúis na Gaeilge arís, tá rudaí feabhsaithe agus fós i m’bunfeadhadh, a d’earr go minic.

Má shílthainn tú isteach sa choláiste ar lár an lá agus tus féin, is docha gurbh fheiceadh tú léipéid Bliain na Gaeilge teimpeall na hAthruit. Dí dhuine agus do bhfuil i bhfuil le i bhfuil étan ar an Chumhacht idir na rannóga ‘A’ Is ruaidhmi feabhsaithe agus fós i mbun feabhsú, a d’áireamar go moir.

Is fáth go bionn an dualgas Gaeilge a chur ar fáil ó fud, go bhfuil an teanga a chur ar fáil ó mbun feabhsú, a tharla go dtí seo in mbosna na dualgasí teangacha seo curtha don Ghaeilgeoir is díograsaí, ní is é an dualgas a bhíonn ar a dtugtar duit i mbun feabhsú, is é an dualgas a bhíonn ar a dtugtar duit i mbun feabhsú.

Is í an tionscal a fhágáil ar an seafad domhanda, go bhfuil na mic léinn ar a dtugtar ‘A’ i mbun Gaeilge, a thosaigh amháin díubh an díóchas den teacht ar an Ghaeilge. Níl imeachtaí eagraithe ag an Ghaeilgeoir don Ghaeilgeoir is díograsaí, ní is í an dualgas a bhíonn ar a dtugtar duit i mbun feabhsú, is é an dualgas a bhíonn ar a dtugtar duit i mbun feabhsú.

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The Greatest Opinion Article Of All Time...Ever!

Can all human life be summed up and ranked from 1 to 100? Declan Moran argues not.

In the field of popular music writing, irritating and self-satisfied as a matter of course, there might be nothing as futile as the 'Best Ever' list, or its more grandiose version, the 'Greatest of All Time' list (Of all time? All time? Is that really necessary?)

There's something very puerile, in a Jeremy Clarkson sort of way, about the need to stack and re-stack artistic effort in a hierarchy, and the inefficient process they use to calculate the pecking order is always so degrading — sorry, but I just can't stand the officiousness it takes to say that Foreigner's 'I Want To Know What Love Is' is exactly the 479th Greatest Song Of All Time...

And then there's the excruciating experience of reading the most toe-curving comments about the very best music: make it through Rolling Stone Editor David Fricke's essay on the Byrds' 'Sweetheart of the Rodeo' ('As pure as Appalachian spring water, as sweet as a chaste kiss stolen under a harvest moon, as swinging as a Kentucky barn dance just hitting the midnight hour') without tasting a little stomach acid and you're a rarer breed than I am.

There is something about lists though. During the dark decade-and-change of 1999 to 2011, Channel 4's '100 Greatest' format threatened popular culture's entire collective consciousness with the fascist seduction of the list. It seemed as though there was an inexhaustible, all-encompassing need to sum up the world in order, from the popular and the political, in comic and broadcast, the foul and the fine, and before ever there was a need to stack and re-stack something.

It seems hard to believe, in the era of Netflix, that a network could run 'The 100 Greatest TV Ads', presented by Graham Norton, and lose neither viewers nor a European Court appeal – sorry, but I just can't stand the officiousness it takes to say that Foreigner's 'I Want To Know What Love Is' is exactly the 479th Greatest Song Of All Time...

At bottom, list writing and programming is about something more than nostalgia, and indulging the need of writers and producers to wax lyrical about soporific 1970s comedies. When we make 'Greatest Ever' lists, either in the pub or because we've been bizarrely commissioned to do so by Observer Music Monthly, something important is happening.

The list of the 'Greatest Guitarists of All Time' is really an attempt to make some sense of things. History, either of wars and countries, or of pop singles and kids' TV, isn't necessarily a coherent process of cause and effect, succession of eras, and effect, succession of eras, and clear parallels. In fact, it might be an entirely artificial invention that we superimpose on chaotic events. But without it, developments around us, and a pop culture that always seems to be racing into in-comprehensibility, become so much noise. The 'Greatest Ever' list is one way of organising that into something like order. Certainly it's pompous, and some would say it's deeply conservative – where there are lists, there is canon, and where there is canon, you'll always see Springsteen, earnest ad nauseam, with everything else understood with respect to him and his headbands. But at least it's an attempt.

And within that, there may be something more tragic than the pop culture list, with its endless scope for bar-room argument and rebuttal, answers to, How many subjects can we reasonably form opinions on today? The world of 2013 is one where the news is dominated by a financial crisis with obscure roots, western power on the retreat, technology which seems like magic, and environmental disaster perpetually just around the corner. Modern life is complicated, and so filled with information and distraction that it's hard to make a stab at just what the hell is happening.

And when we think about it, has anyone been any more certain since 1945? Maybe not about the big things, no. But maybe we've been alive for 'OK Computer' or Favourite Worst Nightmare', and we know they rocked. We can be sure we know Blur from Oasis, or whether Danny Boyle comes ahead of Jack Whitehall.

We're all entitled, and qualified, to hold forth on the Greatest Ever List, rubbish the editor's choices, and howl over the unforgivable snubs. 'The List', for all its pseudoneutral- itude, may be part of the need of grown-up people, who are supposed to have at least a cursory understanding of the conditions of their lives, to be authoritative about something.

It's that, or try to stomach 1001 Jihadist Groups to be Appalled by Before You Die.
King of the clangers

Andrew Donovan went to listen to a key-note speech from Enda Kenny. He wasn’t impressed.

I had entered the Emergency ward of the Mater Hospital staring at the night-time sky before being plunged into a walkway of dull, hospital lights. For a short while my grasp on time had been knocked clean out of me and the contrast between the starts and the fights made it seem like I had been stretched from night into day.

I was dazed, bloodied and requesting a cigarette. The nurses rolled me like a sausage onto the trolley as I attempted to make slurred jokes in the Automaton machine.

As reality began to sink in, and as one of the nurses deemed me capable of having a cigarette, I was off the trolley and into a small plastic chair. It seemed only fair, I was almost certain to live and the pain wasn’t too severe.

Overcoming adversity was a key pillar of the ‘All in Innovation’ conference hosted by UCYD two weeks ago for which Taoiseach Kenny gave the keynote address. Bolden was born in segregated South Carolina in 1946 at a time when African-Americans had a very limited range of options open to them. For Enda Kenny, Charles Bolden should be a role model to us all.

For an example of some of the cut ting edge technologies coming to ireland in the near future, how about the €350m Botox plant being built in westport, making it the Botox capital of the world. I have never been particularly annoyed by Enda Kenny but seeing him in the flesh in front of a majority foreign audience just made me cringe.

I fell asleep wondering what a boring existence it would be if I had to work in a hospital, in a world where no one drank.

We drunken few

Eoghan Regan recounts an evening in the emergency ward

Letters to the Editor

The Edition will be printing letters to the Editor and opinion columns submitted by students throughout the year.

Send in your thoughts and feelings; whether we agree or not, we’ll give it a fair hearing and a chance at publication.

email submissions to: opinion@edition.ie
The Edition’s Paul Doyle visited families in Cambodia who have made lives on the surface of a brutal history

Photos: David Greene

On the 17th of April, 1975, Saloth Sar – under his ‘revolutionary name’ of Pol Pot – and the Khmer Rouge stormed the city of Phnom Penh and seized control of Cambodia.

The Red Khmer were famously brutal in their determination to enforce a policy that had been conceived completely in the abstract, with absolutely no regard for its consequences and the certain loss of human life in its implementation. Everyone, including the sick, elderly, handicapped and pregnant, was forced to leave. The forced evacuation of the city that day alone killed 100,000 people. Those being marched to the fields outside of Phnom Penh were expected to aspire to be a ‘revolutionary man’, and embrace a life of hard work and toil in their new utopian communist state. Those who resisted Pol Pot’s generous offer of a new life had theirs taken from them.

Most historians agree that an astoundingly large portion of the population of Cambodia was either murdered by, or died as a result of the policies implemented by, Saloth Sar and his army of brainwashed boys from the Cambodian countryside. There is dispute, however, as to whether one, two, or three million people perished; as in many cases there are simply no records of victims’ lives left.

The worst crime that the Khmer Rouge committed against hundreds and thousands of their own people is that now it is as though they never existed at all. One of the often unspoken horrors of genocide is the deletion of people’s stories from history; not only are people killed, they’re erased.

Today, the Phnom Penh genocide museum claims to stand as a memorial not only to those who were systematically murdered at its location, but also to everyone who suffered at the hands of the Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1979. It’s a large privatized field, with signs at various dents in the ground telling visitors about the nature of the Khmer Rouge’s crimes. A pagoda full of human skulls stands as its centrepiece.

When walking around the genocide museum, strolling from landmark to landmark, listening to the audio tour (which is available in countless different languages), hearing the intricate details of the methods of murder utilized on this small patch of land (which, perhaps most unsettlingly, included a ‘baby killing tree’; I’ll leave it to your imagination), one will more than likely be greeted by a hand or two protruding through the fence that surrounds the entire field. The unpleasant reality of travelling in a very poor country such as Cambodia is that money simply cannot be given to every person that asks for it, and often these hands – which belong to nearby villagers, and actual victims of Pol Pot and the Red Khmer – are left empty. The irony that haunts the Phnom Penh genocide museum: the very people who discovered the mass graves in 1979 have been left in horrendous, poverty stricken living conditions next to the place meant to be a commemoration to their suffering.

The notion of the victims of Nazi Germany being forced to live in abject poverty next to a concentration camp – a site in which their family and friends were systematically slaughtered – is nauseating to even consider. Yet, it has happened. The names and locations are different, but it has happened, and is still happening. The clichéd saying, ‘change only the name and the story is about you’ is proven to be disconcertingly apropos in Cambodia, a country still in recovery from the shocking combination of a genocidal despot and a four-year-long monsoon of American missiles wantonly aimed at anything that moved.

There are still an estimated 20 undiscovered mass graves in the area surrounding the genocide museum, over which roughly 200 families reside. Within view, inside the museum, rambling visitors wearing large headphones will notice that the horrifying constructions which housed those waiting to be systematically murdered by the Khmer Rouge are no longer standing (This observation probably being out of a morbid curiosity to see the wooden cabins of the killing fields, which are described in such unsettling detail that one cannot help but harbour the desire to see if the real thing matches up to the capabilities of imagination). The result of this observation, is the visitor’s experience being one of wind – unblocked by buildings, or any signs of life – cooling them down as they perspire from a mixture of the summer heat and the rented audio’s intricate descriptions of the odious crimes that happened a short time ago at the very geographic location they find themselves standing.

After the fall of the Khmer Rouge, the dwellings described were destroyed by those who first encountered them, and the debris used to build many of the houses that now stand in the small village that sits uncommented next to its inhabitant’s privatized commemoration. Equipped with a translator and a recording device, we decide to pay a visit to the village. We are their first foreign visitors.

The holes in the road to the village toss us around the back of the car with ease. My head and the roof become acquainted repeatedly; to the point that becoming concussed and left unable to speak during the trip begins to near legitimacy as a concern. The houses are made of damp wood, and the dirt road is difficult to walk on without stumbling. Long before any museum was built, the first families that arrived at the killing fields in 1979 had no notion of the extent of the crimes that were committed in the area in which they were to make their homes.

“When we first came here, the smell was terrible; we thought it was a landfill.” Originally from the Takéo province, an area famous for torture under Pol Pot, Mambon is a 70-year-old woman and a survivor of the Khmer Rouge’s Cambodia. She walks slowly and has health problems, but cannot afford to see a doctor. For a woman that is quite ill and for whom medical treatment is not an option, her temperament is surprisingly robust, and she laughs as we tell her that her appearance is not indicative of her years (or what she has been through). Mambon’s family farm rice and other vegetables, keep what they need for themselves to eat, and sell the rest at a local market; this is their livelihood. It is evidently a very difficult life, but improved from existence under the Khmer Rouge.

“It was very bad working during the Khmer Rouge period,” she says.

I came to join the revolution, not to kill the Cambodian people. Look at me now. Am I a violent person? No. So, as far as my conscience and my mission were concerned, there was no problem. – Pol Pot, 1997
“Everyone had to do very long hours of manual labour, and we were all so tired because we were hardly fed at all. Once, I ate a live crab that happened to cross my path, because I was just so hungry. Many people did this. We had to be careful though, because the Khmer Rouge would beat you or kill you if you were caught.”

“Often when it rained and the fields flooded, I saw the blood of other people.”

Her home is a small one-room shack, which is house to all of the possessions she has acquired in her lifetime; her life’s wealth in a room. A large, hard-surfaced bed takes up the majority of the house. Farming tools, eating utensils and items of clothing are indifferent to prioritization; whatever can find space in between her 4 walls and roof is protected from the elements – poverty renders presentation redundant.

Although the Cambodian people are no longer at the barrel of a gun, when presented with conditions such as these, one is forced to conclude that the threat of death and starvation has not been reduced as much as most would assume after the ousting of a genocidal dictator.

“Borry and Paea’s house is observable through the fence from inside the genocide museum. They are also farmers, and are of the few in the village fortunate enough to have livestock (although quite often their animals are stolen by other villagers). Their son runs around, unaware of the area’s history, as we speak with them.

“We discovered this wasn’t a landfill when my cattle began grazing,” says Paea. “A cow’s hoof became lodged in the ground, maybe a foot down, and when we finally pulled it out, that’s when we discovered the bodies.”

As the words are leaving her mouth, patrons of the museum glance at the squalor in which this family live as they visit the allocated spots on their tour. Bonry and Paea are delighted to meet us, almost embarrassingly so, at one point even offering us food. We politely decline (insofar as one can politely decline a sincere gesture of welcoming and friendship from someone legitimately in much worse circumstances than oneself) and move on to meet other people.

The village has received no government support since it was built, and those that inhabit it live off vegetables farmed upon mass graves. Nearby, begging by the fence is an older man named Dol, who is one of the countries innumerable landmine victims. As a result of its incredibly violent history, Cambodia has more active landmines than any other country in the world. Unable to work, Dol makes his living and supports his five children by begging.

“Two of his children – far too young to ask strangers for money – ran around the vicinity of their father, playing games and laughing, blissfully unaware of their his daily routine.

“I lost my leg in the war,” Dol explains. “I can’t work, so I have to beg. I have no choice.”

Although they have been living in the same location for over 30 years, these families still do not own their land. They have no property rights. The Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), the current government of Cambodia (which is led by a man named Hun Sen, an at best shady character, who obtained his position as Prime Minister in an even shadier election) is currently in the process of evicting them so that Chinese companies can build on the land unfettered by the inconvenience of people living on it.

Within the next twelve to twenty-four months, the small village inhabited by those that discovered the unspeakably horrific killing fields will be demolished by a government that is increasingly participating in audacious and shameless acts of land theft from its own people. The location to which these people will be moved has yet to be disclosed, although the villagers have been assured that conditions will be wonderful.

Being from a country where people wince when reading about someone unable to pay a debt losing their home, the notion of people losing their homes “just because” is unpleasant to the point that I am unable to articulate it.

“It’s been said that great trauma leaves a sign on one’s face, and that people can just sort of ‘tell’ that you’ve seen some pretty awful stuff in your time – this doesn’t seem to be true in this village.

Since I had always (retrospectively, quite arrogantly and naively) thought it the case that one really could just ‘tell’ if someone had had great sadness in their life – and because the people we meet are, for the most part, very very cherky indeed – the village’s rampant smiling (and believe me, they did smile a whole lot, despite how unsettling and sad and tragic and terrible their words were) turns out to be the most upsetting and disturbing aspects of the trip.

We gather our things and leave the village in possession of an invitation to come back and visit if and when we return to Cambodia in the future. It will probably be gone, though.

When we first came here, the smell was terrible; we thought it was a landfill

Mambon (above) a survivor of Khmer Rouge rule

A family who live next to the Phnom Penn genocide museum, and Dol (below) who lost his leg in the war, and is now forced to beg for a living.

Borry and Paea’s house is observable through the fence from inside the genocide museum. They are also farmers, and are of the few in the village fortunate enough to have livestock (although quite often their animals are stolen by other villagers). Their son runs around...
Buying or selling?

Anyone buying or selling tickets? Is a sentence frequently heard outside concerts and sporting venues around the country. The people, usually men, asking such a question are known as ticket touts. They buy tickets for high profile events when they are released, and then sell them on at a profit at the gate.

There is no law which outlaws the re-selling of tickets, but people suspected of selling tickets at concert and sporting venues can be arrested and prosecuted, according to a member of An Garda Síochána.

Furthermore, concert promoters MCD state in their terms and conditions of sale that “tickets may not be resold for more than face value”. Ticketmaster also have a similar rule in their terms and conditions: “If this ticket is re-sold or transferred for profit or commercial gain by anyone other than the romoter, venue management, Ticketmaster or one of their authorised sub-agents, it will become voidable and the holder may be refused entry to or ejected from the venue.”

There has been no proof which links ticket touting to organised crime, although the connection is often made. Most ticket touts appear to operate on their own events; you’ll more often than not see a tout operating alone, not engaging with others in any way, and they don’t even tout in the same general area which may suggest some organisation or perhaps an ‘etiquette’ of sorts. Some touts operate using online resources such as eBay, Gumtree and Done Deal, as well as other sites.

The website www.needaticket.ie can be found extorting music fans in the same way individual touts do outside concert venues. On the 2nd of May, the website was offering standing tickets for Fleetwood Mac’s sold out concert in The O2, Dublin, which took place recently, at a price of €214.50, €60 above face value. When contacted about their website, their telephone went to voicemail.

However, their website states: “We specialise in obtaining exclusive and ‘impossible-to-get’ tickets for sold-out shows, concerts and sporting events. Please note that you are often purchasing tickets above face value. This price includes charges reflecting our costs and efforts in obtaining your premium seats.”

At the opposite end of the spectrum, www.toutless.com allows individuals to buy and sell tickets at face value as well as swap tickets for events. The site encourages people to report anyone asking or offering above face value for a ticket.

With ticket touts operating relatively freely at events as well as online, concert promoters have made efforts to combat them. Promoters MCD failed to reply adequately to an email, only stating: “Your email has been forwarded onto the relevant persons here in MCD and hopefully they will be in touch soon.”

However, an online search revealed that in 2003, when Eminem headlined two nights at Punchestown racecourse, the promoter attempted to combat ticket touts by releasing an extra 1,500 tickets for each show. In an article in Hot Press from the 19th of January, 2007, relating to ticket touting a spokesperson for MCD said: “We are not the legislators. Our hands are tied and thus yet again we call on the Government to urgently introduce legislation to end ticket touting once and for all.”

Labour Party backbencher Tommy Broughton raised the issue during Parliamentary Questions in Dáil Éireann in late November 2011, to which Fine Gael’s Minister for Enterprise Richard Bruton replied: “Effective enforcement of these terms and conditions would go a long way towards stopping the resale of event tickets at the exorbitant prices referred to…The online nature of these activities means that a legislative prohibition in one jurisdiction may simply lead such businesses to relocate elsewhere.”

Liam Murphy (20), a third year Product Design student in DIT, purchased a ticket for the sold-out Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All concert in Dublin’s Olympia Theatre for €60 out of €40 because he was wearing jeans.

The online nature of these activities means that a legislative prohibition in one jurisdiction may simply lead such businesses to relocate elsewhere.

Our hands are tied and thus again we call on the Government to urgently introduce legislation from a tout outside the venue on the night of the gig in April 2012. He said of his experience: “I knew straight away the guy was a tout as soon I heard him shouting out ‘tickets for sale’. I tried to haggle with him but he was pretty hard set on charging me €60 for a ticket that had a face value of €40 because there were a lot of people looking for tickets. I was kind of unsure, constantly thinking ‘I hope this guy isn’t a tout’.”

He said of his experience: “I knew straight away the guy was a tout as soon I heard him shouting out ‘tickets for sale’. I tried to haggle with him but he was pretty hard set on charging me €60 for a ticket that had a face value of €40 because there were a lot of people looking for tickets. I was kind of unsure, constantly thinking ‘I hope this guy is legit’. It was a print-out ticket so I was wearier because if it was a fake then I would have been €60 out of pocket and wouldn’t get into the concert”. Fortunately for Liam, the ticket was real and he was able to get in to the concert.

Matthew Colfer looks at the morally dubious act of ‘ticket touting’ and hears about the experiences of some students, who just want to get into the gig.
Spirit-fuelled slaughter

‘One punch deaths’ continue to shatter families, but is our judiciary adequately dealing with the country’s disfunctional relationship with alcohol? **Hannah Popham** asks the question

This time three months ago, I had the misfortune to hear in grisly detail how a well-known journalist came to encounter a 21-year-old stranger who would ultimately end his life. Eugene Moloney was walking home through Camden Street when he became involved in a seemingly harmless verbal exchange on the packed pavement outside Palace Nightclub.

Although his assailant Gary Burch claimed he was not a big drinker, he admitted that he “had had a lot to drink that night”. Like many young men on a night out, he had begun his night drinking beer and almost inevitably moved on to shots as the night went on.

In the minutes that followed, Moloney suffered just one singular blow to the neck so severe that the post mortem revealed a tear in his artery. Within forty minutes, he was pronounced dead at St James’ Hospital. However, these were not the details that most shocked me while sitting in the Court of Criminal Justice that afternoon. What shook me to the core was that the man sitting mere feet away from me in the defendant’s box was considerably younger than me, having only turned 21 a month before he ended the life of a complete stranger.

His moment of madness after a few too many drinks had become a lit candle between two families crying behind me. Another shiver went down my spine when Judge Mary Ellen Ring paused during Burch’s sentencing to detail how assault under the influence of alcohol or drugs has become the number one type of case to come before the courts. These types of attacks are now more common than ever, involving alcohol-fuelled violence before the courts. The fatal attack on 18-year-old Brian Murphy, fresh out of secondary school, lasted all of 30 seconds. The full details of the moment which threw at least four families’ lives into upheaval are not, and probably never will be, known.

The case at the time was treated as unique, in the unfortunate way that it was one of the rare occurrences of middle-class manslaughter so it seemingly warranted more attention from the press. Like the Moloney case, the perpetrators of the violence had not come into any trouble with the law before, and it is difficult to imagine either night ending in death without the overbearing presence of alcohol.

During the course of the trial, it emerged that during that June night, Club Anabel’s had a series of spirits promotions. This may seem insignificant, but essentially it meant that similar to Gary Burch, the group involved in this fatality spent the night consuming shots as their drink of choice. When the four young men involved were found guilty not of manslaughter but violent disorder following seven gruelling weeks at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court, the counsel for one of the accused, Andrew Frame, declared: “People who have huge amounts of drink make significant mistakes.”

The barrister of another defendant, Dermot Laide, also admitted: “What happened in this case has happened before. I dare say it will happen again. God forbid it would happen to my children, it could happen to your children.”

Indeed, Judge Mary Ellen Ring, who delivered the sentencing for the Moloney case, suggested this was a huge societal problem, detailing how each weekend brought new cases of alcohol-fuelled violence before the Irish court system. According to research conducted by the Health Research Board for Alcohol Action Ireland, an estimated 88 deaths a month are directly attributable to alcohol. Even worse, one in four men aged 15 to 39 in Ireland can be blamed on alcohol consumption.

Although Irish research on the subject is limited, American investigation into the issue is startling. According to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), alcohol is a factor in around 40% of all convicted murder cases.

Based on victim reports, the NCADD also estimate that alcohol consumption by the offender has been a significant factor in 37 percent of rapes and sexual assaults, and 27 percent of aggravated assaults. Research from the UK has been equally worrying. The Faculty of Public Health there has established that in England and Wales alone, alcohol has been attributed to around 1.2 million incidents of violence-almost half of all violent crimes.

This particular research also highlighted that half of all alcohol-related violence in those two countries is perpetrated in and around pubs and clubs, and that binge drinkers are three times more likely to be involved than regular drinkers.

This deepening issue of post-drinking street violence was said by the Faculty of Public Health to be exacerbated by “irresponsible drinks promotions, insufficient transport services, poor street lighting and inappropriately targeted police resources”.

Despite the fact that legally, intoxication is not a defence nor a mitigating factor, an Irish report published in March found that judges in manslaughter cases tend to be more lenient if drugs or alcohol are involved.

Looking specifically at manslaughter cases between 2007 and 2012, the Irish Sentencing Information System found that of the 42 cases analysed, 80 percent were handed sentences of nine years or less. The report also draws particular attention to a “rather lenient” three years sentence a man received for pushing a woman to the ground and stamping on her head.

On average, manslaughter cases involving alcohol or drugs culminated in a six-year suspended sentence. Is this a sufficient deterrent for fatal post-nightclub attacks?

Just like the cases which are generated by the issue, the solution is not simple. Gardai have begun a policy of monitoring CCTV cameras during Friday and Saturday nights from a surveillance van in the city centre. This is obviously both time-consuming and as not all violence happens within sight of a security camera, not entirely efficient in relation to the high level of resources it requires.

As the Arthur’s Day debate has illustrated, it is obvious that there is a pressing need to question our relationship to alcohol consumption in this country. If the calibre of a night out was not measured in shots and behaviour was not so altered by the haze of alcohol, many Irish lives may not have been shattered by a minute of unwarranted, irreversible violence.
The unmistakable Geordie Shore trend appears to be everywhere we look these days - fake tan, big hair and lots of cleavage (for both boys and girls). Jay Garder from Geordie Shore has his own fake tan brand (‘man tan’) which he has dubbed ‘Jay-Tan’.

“We have male and female products and I’m going to do a lot of unisex stuff as well,” said Jay.

Is it safe to say gender lines have been blurred as a result? The Geordie Shore craze is definitely an extreme example of how men’s fashion has evolved but have they taken it too far?

The stereotypical ‘don’t care’ attitude is becoming a thing of the past as men have become increasingly more conscious of how they look.

Though men’s fashion may always tail behind women’s fashion, the last few years have seen an explosion in menswear on the scene ranging from designer to high street. Jack Wills’ menswear department proved bigger than womenswear when they first opened in Dublin.

H&M re-introduced their menswear range with the David Beckham Bodyswear collection and just this year, Isabel Marant introduced a menswear collection for the fast-fashion retailer. BT2 have also brought in contemporary brands, such as Penguin, in order to cater to every style preference.

Earlier this year, the Guardian newspaper reported sales of men’s tailored clothing in Britain jumping 26 per cent in 12 months. According to analysts at the market research firm Euromonitor International, the United States menswear market grew by just 1.4 per cent against a significantly higher 5.3 per cent in menswear in 2011. To meet the demand in June 2012, British and American designers have launched menswear ranges.

The recent demise of the burrito’s hip status does signal that our episodic foodie culture has struck again. Believe me, our Mexican friend has packed up his tortillas and made way for an American pit maestro. Take a dander down Georges Street or Wellington Quay and you will encounter Dublin’s latest food craze - the BBQ. Here you will witness how our capital city has firmly endorsed the American ethos: “slap a pork butt on the smoker and fuh-gedda-boud-id”.

The two places to experience this new craze are Bison Bar (Wellington Quay) and the recently opened Pitts Bros’ (Georges Street). Both sport a similar mantra of ‘when it’s gone, it’s gone’.

This adds an air of exclusivity, tapping into our innate desire to exploit something finite. This is a clever and effective fuelling of fad culture fire.

The dark horse. You may have walked past it hundreds of times before realising that it is possibly home to Dublin’s best coffee. There is a coffee for everyone, and chances are they sell it here.
Sexual health screening: time you got yours?

Hannah Popham investigates young people’s uncomfortable relationship with STI screening, and hears about some experiences

When a friend of mine checked himself in for an STI test at a Dublin college health service, he was met with a fairly demeaning response. Although he was there for no other reason than to confirm he was STI-free, the nurse that day immediately asked him, “Did your girlfriend make you get this done?”

Hearing this story immediately set off a few warning bells in my head. Why would a college nurse assume that only a person in a relationship would care about their sexual health? Are single people not subject to a higher risk of STIs? Should a person only care about the possibility of infecting a partner if they have an emotional attachment to them? And most importantly, are men who are sexually active incapable of making their own decisions?

There remains a huge stigma around sexual health screening in this country, even within the medical profession.

There was an equally insulting experience, at the same college health service, for a female patient: “I stopped bothering getting tested in Ireland after not one, but two instances of untreated infection. This is an infection that is estimated by Dublin Health Screening Clinic to affect one in 20 women aged 20, and which almost 6,000 people in Ireland contracted in 2009 alone.

The official reasons given in the survey may illuminate part of the problem, but seem limited. Over half (56 percent) said they remained untested because they are in a committed relationship. Unfortunately this assumes that prior to the relationship, both they and their partner had never put themselves at the risk of infection. Most worryingly, one third gave the explanation that they are simply not concerned about sexual health, and 23 percent said they only practice safe sex so have no need for one. These may seem like somewhat logical reasons, but I personally have been berated by a nurse for making the simple assumption that a partner and I (who had both been tested) had never cheated. Unfortunately, when the impact of a long-ignored sexually transmitted infection can be as serious as future infertility, medical staff may never assume anything but the worst.

I fear that another element of not getting tested is the social stigma even among friends. Another individual, who also does not wish to be named and who regularly gets tested, said: “What I found odd is that whenever I told people I get tested they would take it weirdly, as if it meant I had something, or was symptomatic. It was a deterrent for a while.”

Others expressed fear of the procedure itself, making allusions to the male urethral swab, which is only done if a patient is experiencing symptoms. Fortunately, if you are a male with no symptoms, all your test will involve is a blood and urine test. For women, who are statistically more likely to get a test (35 percent rather than 24 percent of men), the standard a-symptomatic test will involve a cervical swab and examination, and a blood test.

Another male, who waited a year after having unprotected sex to get tested, was pleasantly surprised by how easy the procedure was: “I really wanted to avoid it (and had no symptoms) but when I did go and get my test… I came up clean for not only what I thought I might have but for everything. Not only that, but the whole testing process made me feel more confident in getting checked out regularly.”

Luckily, getting tested when you are in college is extremely cheap (between €10 and €20 depending on the college), but many of my friends who have graduated said that it can now cost over €100 to get one at their family GP.

Although St James Hospital offers a free clinic on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, a few people I spoke to expressed frustration in their ticketing system, in which appointments are dispersed at 8am, a difficult process to get into if you are living outside the city.

If you do wish to get tested, STI screening for all DIT students is located at the Student Health Centre on Aungier Street, and caters for straight, gay, lesbian and transgender students. Appointments are to be made in person and cost €20.

Skeletons in your closet, now available online

Lilah Gaafer

Social media these days comes with an unwritten responsibility that young students must take on board.

The do’s and don’ts surrounding social networking sites and higher education as it increases student engagement with campus organisations and allows for supportive social ties which can turn benefit one’s psychological well-being.

A LinkedIn profile is also an extremely useful social networking site from which all college students can benefit. It is a digital CV that allows you to network with classmates, colleagues and organisations for which you may like in the future.

The problem with social media is rooted in the lack of face-to-face contact on most sites, users effortlessly posting and re-posting photos, threats or videos, with little or no regard for the subject of the material.

Cautionary tales

“KPMG girl” and “Slane girl” are recent examples of victims. Images and videos travel rapidly, soon grabbing the attention of public media and in turn tarnishing the subject’s name as well as that of their family.

Cyberbullying is a negative phenomenon haunting parents and students today, especially in light of the two young girls in the north of Ireland who took their own lives earlier this year as a result of the practice. Bullying unfortunately resurfaces in colleges and the workplace.

It is crucial to think twice before posting or re-posting something that may harm your future or someone else’s.

More and more employers these days simply type the name of their interviewee into Google in order to get an insight into this person, immediately judging them by their Twitter, Facebook or Instagram profile.

Just as the misuse of social networking sites can jeopardise your chances with a future employer, if used correctly, social media sites are wonderful ways to stay connected to friends and family and help students to network with their future employer.

It is crucial that students keep in mind that the internet lasts forever.
Howr’ya Hozier

The Edition’s Joseph Conroy meets Irish music’s newest viral sensation

As I meet Andrew ‘Hozier’ Byrne in a quiet hotel bar two weeks after Take Me to Church was uploaded to YouTube, the video is still clocking up a few hundred views every hour and a few thousand views every day. It’s been watched over 260,000 times and is on its way to the 300,000 mark.

This week 15 senior artists & repertoire (A&R) reps are in Ireland from record labels around the world (most of them under the Universal Music umbrella) to talk to Hozier and his label Rubyworks about working with the Wicklow man.

So what is the man in the middle of all of this thinking? “Surreal but cool” is how he describes the past few weeks.

I wasn’t the taste-makers or any slick PR machine that made this video blow up; just a great song, a great video and a little help from an anonymous Facebook friend.

Hozier tells us about discovering the video was going viral:

“It was 2am, I got home from doing something and somebody from Australia sent me a message on Facebook saying your video is going mad on Reddit [...] It was about a day or 16 hours after it had been put on YouTube.

“Somebody who knows me put it on Reddit – somebody called Atheist blocker 101 or something - saying my friend just released this video and it went to the front page of Reddit videos and the views were coming in at 10,000 every hour. So that was a massive tipping point. It was just some friend of mine who hasn’t come forward yet; somebody who knows me on Facebook posted it on Reddit. I’m grateful that they did that. I’ll buy them a pint!”

Soon it was spreading across all social media platforms and the young musician was getting shout-outs from the likes of Stephen Fry and Perez Hilton.

While the video deals specifically with the recent anti-gay laws introduced in Russia, that was not what the song was originally about.

“The song wasn’t written specifically with the idea of sexual orientation. It wasn’t written specifically about what was going on in Russia. The video gives it a totally different and legitimate dimension. The song can legitimately be read that way: ‘The song’s about sexuality, it’s a love song’.

The video was produced by Brendan Canty’s Cork-based Feel Good Lost crew who have had an ever-increasing presence on the Irish and international music scenes, making videos for the likes of Mtnoths, Jape, Panda Bear and Aluna George, as well as managing Cork duo Young Wonder.

Andrew speaks about process of the video coming together: “A lot of the visual imagery was in the original treatment. There was some stuff I suggested bringing in, like the elements of sexuality and what is going on in Russia at the moment. The narrative was tailored a little bit differently. It just worked out that from what their ideas were we had a great opportunity to make the video that we made”.

Take Me to Church’s viral success might make Hozier look like an overnight sensation, but there’s a lot more to this story than that.

Andrew talks about being immersed in blues music for as long as he can remember. “I was raised on blues from a young age. My dad was a musician when I was a kid and the only music I would have listen to as a young child was rhythm and blues. Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Howlin’ Wolf. And then, as I got older I discovered soul music and introduced myself to jazz and delta blues.”

I’m close to musically illiterate too, it’s all just been feel – everything. It’s no reflection on the producers that I worked with; it’s just that I wanted it to be something else but I was never able to articulate it up until this EP”.

The guts of the EP were recorded alone in his family home. The drums and some overdubs were added later working with Rob Kirwan, who has produced the likes of P J Harvey, Bell X1, Soulwax and Editors.

So what does the future hold for Hozier?

“I think we might go for another EP early next year, so in November I’ll be in the studio again. Up until then anytime I have I’ll be writing at home doing exactly as I did with this EP, hopefully, so we’ll be doing another EP and be taking our time. I’m in no rush to launch head on into an album at the moment. I think we’ll see how it goes.”

In the meantime, there’s the matter of sold-out shows across Ireland, possible UK gigs and some trips to mainland Europe. You can be pretty sure Andrew is going to be a pretty busy guy.
DIT’s Jersey boys

Conor Campbell speaks to Harry Browne and Donald Mahoney about the honour of publication in John Horgan’s new book, Great Irish Reportage

The recent release of Great Irish Reportage, published by Penguin Ireland and edited by John Horgan, will be of interest to DIT students not just for its remarkable content but also because two of its contributors are affiliated with the college. Donald Mahoney graduated from his masters in journalism here in 2006, while Harry Browne has been lecturing in journalism at DIT since 2002 (and in fact taught Donald).

I interviewed both contributors and the editor separately to see what they thought of the recent publication and Irish journalism itself.

Asked whether there is anything unique about Irish journalism, all three were hesitant to assign too much importance to nationality as an indicator of journalistic excellence. John Horgan remarked that “Good Irish reportage is no better than good British or American reportage.”

When asked about the journalism training offered in Dublin, however, both Harry and Donald were quick to stress its importance. Having studied at DCU under John Horgan, Harry explained that while their tutors were there as “inspiration and guidance”, it was the peer group of fellow students that really made journalism courses at DIT and DCU excel.

That, coupled with what Donald termed the opportunity afforded by his course to “grasp of the culture and history of Irish journalism”, has allowed Dublin, and DIT in this case, to produce excellent journalists and two fascinating articles in a book full of them.

Both Donald and Harry grew up in New Jersey. I asked Donald how his international background affected his article on Irish football fans travelling to Poland: “In terms of creating unique long-form journalism, it helps to have a perspective that is both inside and outside of a particular milieu.”

In my own particular story, I’d spend enough time in Ireland to speak the language of the contemporary Irish football fan. But I was detached enough to provide a somewhat different perspective to what you might have seen in the rest of the Irish media.

This does not translate bluntly into the article and Donald’s piece has a subtlety that, according to John Horgan, encourages the reader to view events in a different way than they had before. Donald is “seducing the reader into the writer’s view of things...he is somebody who can really write.”

Harry Browne’s American background had an effect on the subject of his piece, if not how he went about researching it: “I don’t think [my background] made much of a difference in terms of this particular article but I think probably the reason that I have been drawn to immigration stuff has to do with being an immigrant myself, and to do with the fact that although I am as much an immigrant here in many ways as any African asylum seeker, the society doesn’t regard me in the same way.”

Certainly John thought the subject matter of Harry’s work was remarkable, as the mainstream press have “shied away” from immigration as a subject, even recently.

At the same time, Harry’s “innate style” and “keen eye for the significant detail” means the article “tells a story, clearly, and in a manner which invites the reader to trust the authenticity of the narrative” without ever preaching to its audience.

Students here should be encouraged, therefore, that nestled in between the likes of Conor Cruise O’Brien and Brian O’Nolan sit the work of Harry Browne and Donald Mahoney, two remarkably talented affiliates of DIT.

Is it a game? Is it a film? No, it’s B:TS

Beyond: Two Souls has an existential crisis

Jack O’Higgins

The release of Beyond: Two Souls, Quantic Dream’s cinematic action adventure epic has raised interesting discussion in the gaming community this week.

The consensus is that despite offering an interesting story and wonderful performances from Hollywood A-Listers Ellen Page and Willem Dafoe, the actually gameplay - the bread and butter of any video game - is sidelined. B:TS’ cinematic style leaves players little more than a spectator while the game’s narrative unfolds around them.

Narrative is a funny thing in video games. Some gamers would place it below nice glass particle effects in terms of what is important for an enjoyable game. After all, do we want to watch some pretty CGI cut scenes or do we actually want to, ‘y’know, play the friggin’ game?

There is something to be said for a game that uses it’s narrative to make gamers feel involved and emotionally invested in the game they are playing. Sure, the likes of Super Mario and Pac-Man never needed a story, but all we need do is glance at the likes of Portal, Bioshock and Batman: Arkham Asylum to understand that a good story, told well, can add an emotional and cerebral intensity to games that few other media can achieve.

There is a problem with the narrative devices game developers are using. The key thing in video games is not the plot, it’s the story. The plot outlines key events and points of narrative. The story describes the personal journey under taken by the protagonist within the plot.

Many directors and writers commit the cardinal sin of any video game, they dilute games as an immersive experience. It ignores the greatest advantage video games have as a medium, the immersive qualities and the placing of consumer as the subject, with control and a higher emotional investment in the piece than a someone passively watching a film or TV show.

In video games plot must play second fiddle to story, which arrises through gameplay. To do otherwise ignores the wonderful narrative advantages this medium has to offer.

DOCUMENTARIES

FOR A LAZY SUNDAY

Joseph Conroy
Culture Editor

The Power of Nightmares

Three part series by Adam Curtis for the BBC. Part one charts Sayyid Qutb’s time in the US and the growth of a new school of Islamic thought based around the rejection of western capitalism. Part two covers the birth of Neo-Conservatism in the US and the rise of new Islamic states. Part three looks at the post-9/11 world, framed in the historical narrative Curtis has laid out - challenging a lot of our casual presumptions about Islam and the War on Terror.

Detropia

A beautifully shot look at Detroit as the automobile industry withdraws and the city is left facing ruin. The film takes us through some of the city’s grandest abandoned buildings, inside the autoworker’s unions, raucous town meetings and the city’s new art scene.

Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of Toynbee Tiles

In the late 80’s tiles carrying cryptic messages began to show up embeded in roads all over the US. Most carried the message ‘Toynbee Idea – In Movie ‘2001 - Resurrect Dead – On planet Jupiter’ . The documentary focuses on the quest of a few likeable odd-balls to try and find out where the tiles come from and what they mean.
The last singleton in Coppers) actually does the song a massive injustice. It’s a powerful track, Miley’s brick-by-brick delivery on the verse is so perfectly balanced with the metaphorical and literal ‘Wrecking Ball’ of a chorus. ‘We Can’t Stop’ is the confession of a 21st century Dancing Queen. A mid-tempo expose on youth, drugs and care-free attitudes as she expresses ‘re-member only God can judge ya, forget the haters cause somebody loves ya’. The irony is Miley really cares about having this care-free attitude...

Things heat up when we get to the tracks ‘FU’ and ‘Drive’, before the laid back guitar work of ‘gettight’ gives us a reminder of the Miley Cyrus of old (if you ignore the obvi- ous fellatio metaphors). The filthiest song on the album however is ‘Love/Money/Party’. This track exemplifies the new Miley, or at least, the Miley that Miley Cyrus wants people to think of as The New Miley. It turns out to be a thrilling work. If you listened to this song on a bus you would expect an extended stripper pole to appear and the tranny sitting across from you to tear off her hand-knitted sweater while someone pours Hennessey on her. Miley Cyrus may be currently filling column inches for her antics at award shows and on social media but with an album as well constructed and entertaining as ‘Bangerz’ she should just sit back, put in her grills, sip on some Dom Pérignon and let the music do the twerking, I mean, talking.

The record follows a basic A side B side structure. Side A being the introspective one, B the party one. Both halves do what they do incredibly well.

### Danny Brown

**Old**

_Gavin Lacey_

**Grade: B**

The album is an onslaught from start to finish. Most songs don’t reach the three minute mark. Everything is full on. Danny Brown’s been name checking Radiohead’s Kid A in the run up to the release of this record. Listening to the first half of the album you can hear where he’s coming from. The production sparse but clinical as Danny takes a long hard look in the mirror. The first really interesting track is 25 Bucks - a collaboration with Purity Ring. The run up to the turn around is where Old really takes off. The string of songs Torture/Lonely/Lonely Clean Up/Red to Go really see the album hit it’s flow. The last two alone are enough to justify the hype surrounding this record.

Side B sees trap, dub and trashy grime take over. These are party anthems written by a guy who’s saying he doesn’t want to party anymore - but he’s doing it anyway, and going big, despite his protests.

### Albert Hammond Jr

**A JH**

_Stephen Mooney_

**Grade: B+**

Five years after his last solo effort Coma Te Llanna? Albert Hammond Jr. better known as the guitarist of indie sensations The Strokes, has returned with a new solo EP named AJOH on Julian Casablancas’ record label, Cult Records. The unmistakable Strokes sound that first stormed the airwaves a decade ago is there for all to hear in the final four songs, most notably with his jaw dropping guitar solo in “Rude Cus-tomer” and that unique scrapy sound in ‘Carnal Cruise’ and ‘Cooker Ship’. There is a superb sense of nostal-gia as memories of screaming out “LAAAST NIIIIGHT” come to mind and time again. However, it is the first song ‘St Justice’ that leaves the most lasting impression.

St Justice is not consistent with the rest of the EP. Instead, Hammond has put together a catchy, if not gentle melody, echoing shades of 80’s pop. It will drive you to the repeat button.

With The Strokes moving away from the original sound that made them such a worldwide success, much of this EP feels like a welcome return, albeit with Hammond alone at the helm. He plays all the instruments bar the drums. The only issue is that at a mere 15 minutes in length, it leaves you wanting more. In line with the title of their debut album you find yourself asking the question, Is This It? With Hammond in this kind of form, let’s hope not!
The sport is snookered

With the world of snooker in a state of chaos, Colin Layde talks to a player who made the best of it when the going was good.

Sixteen years on from his triumph in the 1997 World Championships, snooker player Ken Doherty remains one of the country’s most recognisable sportsmen. Doherty began playing snooker as an eight-year-old, when he received a miniature table from Santa for Christmas, before taking up the game proper at the now demolished snooker club, Jason’s of Ranelagh. It was the mercurial Northern Irishman Alex Higgins who inspired the young Doherty, who dreamed of emulating his hero and winning at the Crucible.

“Alex Higgins is the reason I took up snooker, I remember seeing him on television when I was a kid, he was different from all the other players, he was so charismatic and he was Irish too,” said Doherty.

Doherty excelled at the game, winning the second national tournament he entered, when at 13 he claimed the Under 16 Irish Championships. His amateur career culminated in the Dubliner capturing the World Amateur Championship in 1989; he remains the only player to have been crowned world champion as both an amateur and professional. After leaving school, Doherty travelled to Britain to compete.

“In Ireland I was a big fish in a small pond, over in the UK I was the small fish. When I went over and I was winning tournaments as an amateur, I thought to myself I can really make a go of this.”

The Ranelagh native has since gone on to enjoy a glittering career in the game, winning over £3 million in prize money. The highlight of his career, however, was winning the 1997 world title, when he defeated seven-time champion Stephen Hendry, to become Ireland’s snooker world champions.

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I’ve known him since he was 10 or 11, and he has thrown his life away wrongdoings, at the 2008 Malta Cup. The Dubliner is at a loss to explain Lee’s decision.

“When I began my career you would have one or two handy matches in a tournament before you had to play a really good player. Nowadays, your first match is really tough; the standard has improved right down the rankings.”

Recent years have seen the game, traditionally dominated by players from Ireland and the United Kingdom, become more international; China now hosts five of the eleven annual ranking tournaments, China’s Ding Junhui, Hong Kong’s Marco Fu and Australian former world champion Nathan Robertson are now among the best players in the world.

Barry Hearn’s takeover of the World Professional Snooker Billiards Association (WPSBA) has seen dramatic changes to the game, with the introduction of a new ranking system and tournaments played over a shorter format. The changes drew criticism from some players concerned about the increased demands to keep up with the game’s traditions. For his part, Doherty believes that Hearn’s changes have had an undoubtedly positive effect on the sport.

“The changes were definitely necessary. Three or four years ago, we had six ranking tournaments and we now have 11 and more than 20 tournaments in total. This means there is much more opportunity for lower ranked players to compete and make a living.”

Although now 44 years old, Doherty continues to compete with players in their 20s, and says he will continue to play as long as he is enjoying it. He is currently ranked 31 in the world and even compiled his first competitive 147 maximum break at last year’s Paul Hunter Classic. He is combining playing with a flourishing career in the media, providing commentary and analyses on BBC’s snooker coverage, as well as presenting a radio sport’s show on Dublin’s Sunshine FM.

“If I wasn’t doing the commentary I’d be sitting at home on the couch watching. I enjoy working for the BBC, it’s good craic and it doesn’t seem like work at all. There is no substitute to playing but the commentary is the next best thing.”

The past few weeks has seen the sport be the subject of lurid headlines, as a result of Stephen Lee’s 12-year ban for match fixing. The sport’s governing body found the former world No. 5 had conspired to lose frames and matches in return for payment from a betting syndicate. The WSA described the case as “the worst case of corruption” it had ever seen. One of the matches investigated involved Doherty, who was completely exonerated of any wrongdoing.

“I don’t know why he did it, it just baffles me. He is after throwing away his career. I have known him since he was 10 or 11, and he has thrown his life away and it’s very, very sad. For the sake of a few quid, he has thrown away not just his career but the chance of financial security for himself and his family.”

Not for the first time, world champion Ronnie O’Sullivan drew the ire of his fellow professionals when he claimed on Twitter in the wake of Lee’s suspension that match fixing was rife in snooker. Although O’Sullivan has since retracted his comments, his statements cast a dark shadow over a sport already on its knees in the wake of the WPSBA’s ban of Lee.

“Ronnie is an idiot, he comes across with some crap at times and he is notorious for it. I don’t think his brain engages when he speaks. He was totally out of order and he has done just as much damage as Stephen Lee. Those comments have gone around the world and there is no foundation in his claims.”
Boxing world champs

Simon Maguire

The male amateur boxing world championships will commence in Almaty, Kazakhstan with 576 boxers entered, representing 116 countries from around the globe. Taking place at the Italian Park in Almaty, Palace of Culture & Sports from 11th October, these championships will be organised under new rules where no headguards will be worn and the “10 Point Must” scoring system will be in operation.

Ireland, as expected, is sending an experienced team to the games, including Olympic medalists Paddy Barnes and Michael Conlon. Conlon will be moving up to bantamweight, replacing John Joe Nevin who appears destined for the professional ranks.

European Champion Joe Ward will be looking to stamp his authority on the world stage after being controversially eliminated in the Olympic qualifiers in Turkey in 2012, via controversial decision.

Since the inception of the world championships in Cuba in 1974, Ireland has won 7 bronze medals and sits 41st on the medal table.

Another European Champion and recent recipient of a Sky Sports scholarship, Jason Quigley, will also look to cement his name on the world stage. Georgian coach Zaur Antia has given the Irish squad valuable information on the fighting style developed in the former soviet bloc.

“He’s shown us the insights into Eastern European boxing, the style and everything like that.” said Quigley recently.

The Irish squad will look to build on the success of the High Performance Unit in recent years and further add to the legacy of Irish boxing over the coming weeks.

Win over UCD after five years

DIT 1-17 – 1-16 UCD in freshers’ hurling

Liam Kennedy

DIT beat UCD by one point in freshers hurling to pick up a win in the first Division One game of the season. The game was close throughout, but a last minute point from Aaron Nugent won the game, and the result means that they have beaten UCD in freshers hurling for the first time in five years.

The match started at a ferocious pace with both sides showing great energy and determination in the early stages. The game was competitive from the very first whistle and the action moved quickly from end to end. Every time one side scored a point the other responded with a point of their own. Early point-scorers for DIT included Michael Kenny, David Burke and Shane Butler.

DIT then pulled ahead when Martin Og Shay scored his side’s only goal of the game, finding the net after following in a shot by Aaron Nugent which was saved brilliantly by the keeper. However, the goal seemed to spark some life into UCD and before long they completely turned the game around. A re-energised UCD fought back and picked up several points in quick succession to take a lead into the half time.

DIT were leading with 12 points to DIT’s goal and five points.

DIT manager Derek Brennan attempted to rally his players at the break, and it seemed to do the trick as they responded with a terrific second-half.

DIT’s first goal of the second half came from Shane Butler. UCD managed to prevent DIT scoring from another goal during a scramble near the box, but they couldn’t stop Butler from firing over the bar when the ball was passed out to him.

Joe Kelly added another point moments later as DIT began to close the gap, before three points in quick succession from Aaron Nugent swung the match back into DIT’s favour. Despite the momentum being on DIT’s side, the game was still extremely close and both sides continued to have chances.

A great block from John Murray denied an almost certain goal for UCD. However, UCD finally got the goal their earlier dominance had deserved as the game entered the final minutes.

DIT pushed forward in search of a winner and could nearly add a second goal when Dave Kennedy hit the ball just beyond the far post from a tight angle.

The wide didn’t matter in the end though, as with only seconds remaining a free from Aaron Nugent put DIT ahead, and they managed to see out the game for an impressive victory.

DIT’s Shane Butler believes that his side deserved the win. “We were that little bit better,” he said. “I think we probably knew each other more and things went right for us on the day.”

His teammate Michael Kenny gave his thoughts on why the team won: “The wind had a big effect in the second half. Also, the subs came in and played well.”

Next up for Brennan’s men is DCU and he is hoping to keep up the momentum in the coming weeks: “Hopefully, we can push on now with some more wins after a great start to the season.”

All-stars all round in GAA

Ryan Nugent

The GAA/GPA All-Star award nominations were announced recently and provided yet another reason for the DIT GAA Club to be proud, with a number of former alumni nominated for the prestigious accolade.

Following their impressive Sigerson Cup Final victory over UCC in Athlone in April, the college players were yet again recognised for their performance.

Aidan O’Shea was also included in the Sunday Game’s Team of the Year, with Walshe featuring at corner back and O’Shea in midfield.

O’Shea, whose stellar performances were a major reason for the success of both DIT and Mayo during their respective 2013 campaigns, missed out on a nomination for the GAA/GPA Player of the Year award, something the college’s GAA Development Officer, Darragh Biddlecombe was surprised about.

“Aidan was head and shoulders above the rest in the Sigerson last year and really pulled games out of the fire when we weren’t playing so well earlier in the season. His performance for Mayo against Donegal was phenomenal, so I’m surprised he didn’t feature in the final three,” said Biddlecombe.

DIT soccer aiming to build on last year’s success

Piers Moyles

Last year was a very fruitful one for DIT soccer, with the team winning the All-Ireland College and University Premier League title.

John O’Carroll has been Soccer Development Officer at DIT for five years and he believes that the squad can go further and build on last year’s success.

“Obviously students have graduated and we’ve lost six students from last year,” he said, “including three of the starting eleven, but we hope we’ve got a few good players and we’ve got a couple of guys that have moved up from the second team so I think that we’re still very strong this year.”

Former players have gone on to play for League of Ireland teams and one student has even attained a scholarship to the US. John believes that DIT’s reputation as an outfit to be feared is growing: “I think our reputation is growing. We definitely got a good profile for winning the league last year.”

John O’Carroll, DIT’s soccer development officer

“There are four different teams involved in DIT Soccer and Mr O’Carroll explained why that can prove difficult at times.

“You’re juggling so many different teams it’s very hard to get to see so many players so some can slip through the net. There are 89 players who are playing with a club that we haven’t seen so we will still be running trials when the season starts,” he said.

A player with a high profile at DIT is Paul Malone, who played at the World University games during the summer. John believes he will be one to watch during what will hopefully be another silverware-riddled season for DIT.
DIT graduate and Ireland star Seana Cooke talks to Piers Moyles about her pride in playing for Ireland, and the possibility of being forced to represent Great Britain.

Seana Cooke is one of Ireland’s most successful footballers. She has played for Arsenal, St Francis, Raheny Utd as well as featuring for Ireland including at last summer’s World University Games. It all started for Seana when she was only 4. “I had been playing in schools final and Liam Brady was giving the awards out. Afterwards he approached my school teacher asking if I ever thought about going to Arsenal. So I went over on a trial. The trials were supposed to last four hours but after playing for 15 minutes Vic (Vic Akers, former Arsenal ladies manager) had said to me that he wanted me to sign.”

Despite being offered the opportunity to sign there and then, Seana and her family took a refreshingly mature decision. “Vik and my father spoke and they decided I should finish my education in Ireland and then come back over so I went back over to Arsenal when I finished my leaving cert.”

She says that it is an experience that she’ll never forget “It was incredible. I wouldn’t change it for anything it was the best experience ever. There are not many girls in the world who can say they played in a World University Games. The girls that made my debut out in Cyprus against Northern Ireland. The girls that were offering me a masters. It’s something you can’t be a competitive series with Ireland. This means that all the players must be on their toes to injury. This will obviously be a huge advantage for the Dublin colleges team and the Australian panel. The team included 5 DIT players. Brian Menton, Ciaran Redmond, Ross Sheridan, Bernard Allen and Gary O’Hare all made the final panel.”

Michael Murphy, Donegal’s All Ireland winning captain will captain Ireland in the upcoming International Rules series this month. The first test of the series will be held in Breffni Park in Cavan on October 19th and the biggest game of the series will be played in Croke Park on October 26th.

Prior to the main series, there was a warm-up game between the Dublin colleges team and the Australian panel. The team included 5 DIT players. Brian Menton, Ciaran Redmond, Ross Sheridan, Bernard Allen and Gary O’Hare all made the final panel.

“Shields to face Aussies”

DIT student Michael Shields has been named in the final 29 man panel to play against Australia in the upcoming International Rules series this month. DIT student Michael Shields has been named in the final 29 man panel to play against Australia in the upcoming International Rules series this month.

Michael Murphy, Donegal’s All Ireland winning captain will captain Ireland in the upcoming International Rules series tests against Australia. Dublin stars Bernard Brogan and Stephen Cluxton will both miss the match due to injury. This will obviously be a huge disadvantage for the Dublin captain after he had previously captained the International Rules side to victory in 2011. This series will be the first time that Australia has fielded a team made up exclusively of ‘indigenous players’. This means that all the players must come from aboriginal descent. This means that they are only selecting from 11% of the total players available. Despite this, it is still expected to be a competitive series with Ireland manager Paul Earley hoping that Ireland can repeat the performance of the 2011 series, which the Irish won 2-0.
Hard work begins now to defend our Sigerson

Ross Sheridan says living up to last year will require ‘big names’ to step forward

Ryan Nugent
Sports Editor

Dublin Institute of Technology’s Senior GAA panel have begun their preparations to retain the Sigerson Cup, although in contrast to last season the underdogs tag will not work in their favour this year. The football team reached the pinnacle of college GAA in Ireland by winning both the Sigerson Cup and the Ryan Cup Division one league, a feat that hadn’t been achieved at this level since 1978, while it was also the first time DIT had ever won the Sigerson Cup. The Institute of Technology’s only defeat of the season came in the O’Byrne Cup when they were narrowly beaten by Kildare. Therefore an unusual favourites tag may be bestowed on them for the coming season.

DIT were huge outsiders in their semi-final v DCU, but proved much too strong. And an underdogs tale regarding one individual came to the fore, when Planning and Environmental Management student and newly appointed DIT GAA chairman, Ross Sheridan, forced his way into the newly appointed DIT GAA chairman, Ross Sheridan, forced his way into the Sigerson Cup team, without any underage or Senior inter-county experience previous.

“Basically I played with the juniors the year before last and was on the Sigerson panel and then last season, I played a bit of junior then intermediate and moved onto the Sigerson team. “It was surreal getting lumped in with all of these county teams and DIT has a bit of a reputation for getting all of these big names. We had Darran O’Sullivan last season; we’ve got him this season too, and it was something else playing with him, because he’s won it all”, said Sheridan. And with the majority of players that made up the Senior DIT panel, playing county football at some level, it would ordinarily make Sheridan’s case for a place more difficult. That wasn’t the case.

“Seán Fox, Des Newton and Billy O’Loughlin were great from the start of the season. They made it clear that it was the efforts and performances that you put in with DIT that mattered, not your reputation or who else you played for, and I suppose that worked in my favour. Despite always having a high calibre of players, DIT had never quite got over the line to win the 101-year old trophy, but Sheridan feels that the missing ingredients were found last season.

“We’ve come close before and have had a lot of talented players in the past, so I think we had the right blend last season of skill and then the workhorse who’ll put their body on the line for the team. We also had that bit of luck needed,” continued Sheridan.

The body on-the-line attitude mentioned seems to have come to fruition thanks to a couple of team-bonding trips, including a night in Tipperary which according to Sheridan, put everyone on a level playing field after “taking the piss out of each other.”

The squad banter culminated in the dressing room after their Sigerson Cup victory, drawing a lot of unwanted commentary from the media: “We were all out of the showers and Alan Nestor was holding the cup in a funny position to say the least. It was over publicised, with the media saying it was disrespecting the cup, but that was never the case. It was just a bit of banter,” explained Sheridan.

So, as we come into the cold, wet winter months, it takes character, desire and commitment to continue to attend training, but the rewards of early spring-time will see DIT’s charges keep on pushing: “You dread training in the likes of November, December, but it’s all worth when come February, you’re winning medals, like last year. Ultimately, the Sigerson weekend is where you want to be.”

DIT teams forced to pitch up

Matthew Colfer

DIT’s Sigerson Cup winning side, as well as around 15 other DIT GAA teams, have to travel to various grounds throughout Dublin to play their ‘home’ matches and conduct training.

The playing pitches at the college’s future campus, Grangegorman, have been declared “off-limits” during construction work.

Last year, Grangegorman hosted a third of the GAA club’s home games. With these pitches now being redeveloped, each team must concede home advantage, regardless of the fixtures rota.

“It’s not an ideal situation, but for as long as I can remember, we haven’t had proper home facilities”, said Head of DIT Sport, Sinéad McNulty. "With the redevelopment of the Grangegorman pitches planned in advance, McNulty expected the college’s other new sports facilities in Broombridge, Cabra to be available for the 2013/14 season. “We hoped it would be ready by now, but as these things do, planning was drawn out and we don’t expect it to be in use until next year. The facilities we will eventually have will be far superior to anything we’ve ever had before. “We’re doing our absolute best to provide facilities, but there’s no club in the city that is willing to take on 16 teams”, continued McNulty, explaining why different teams train at different locations across the city.

The men’s senior hurling and football and the women’s camogie teams have to travel to Parnell’s GAA Club’s facilities in Coolock in order to train. DIT’s GAA Development Officer, Hugh Biddlecombe, said: “We were tight enough for facilities and now we have to go elsewhere to look for some.”

While the sports office in the college is doing everything it can to provide training facilities for the teams, the students are paying for the use of these facilities through their capitation fees.

The Fresher’s football team and ladies football team have even further to travel, to St. Margaret’s GAA Club in North County Dublin.

“The Fresher’s hurlers are training wherever we can get a pitch,” Biddlecombe added; the team trained in Thomas Davis GAA Club in Tallaght recently. However, McNulty quashed the idea that an absence or lack of home pitches would have an effect on the teams, pointing out the tremendous success of last season, with many games being played away from Grangegorman.