NO LOVE LOST
A TENSE VALENTINE'S DAY AHEAD IN DIT

Relationships break down between DIT, DITSU, Campus Life and DIT Societies
Student Union shop at Grangegorman issue could lead to "direct militant action" – Page 6
Student Council heavily criticises a deal between DIT and Catholic Church – Page 5
Student levy discussions postponed, Societies claim Union and Council not doing duty – Page 5

OPINION
Burroughs' foul feast
Paul Doyle argues this writer remains relevant today

Nightclub + petting zoo
Lauren O’Halleron says it’s a dangerous combination

Iona cheque from RTÉ
Joseph Conroy on the Irish homophobia debate

OLD DAYS
Kenny’s got style
Then an RTÉ broadcaster, Pat Kenny visited DIT in 1986

Aer Lingus sexism
Customers ‘preferred’ female stewards, they said

Abortion in 1983
‘A longer period of debate was sought’ – 30 years ago

LIFESTYLE
Just fussy eaters?
Selective eating disorder is becoming more recognised

Locked out of it
Opinion: Young people aren’t in the neknominations debate

They’re Lovin’ It
A late night in O’Connell Street’s McDonald’s

CULTURE
Reviews
The latest releases, praised and eviscerated, equally

Dublin’s sign writers
The hidden artistic world that’s all over the city centre

Joining the rate race
Andrew Mann talks about his time on a TV talent show

SPORT
Interview: Ali Twomey
DIT Camogie star speaks to Ryan Nugent

Camogie league final
DIT narrowly misses out, but looks forward to Purcell

One-point Sigerson win
DIT into quarters, with UUJ rematch this afternoon

The levy breaks
Debate on charge for GG facilities comes to a head

€50k top-up to student assistance
Funds given to SAF and counselling - is it enough?

Protest as Gaeilge
Major protest over State action on Irish language

TWO WHEELS ARE BETTER THAN FOUR
CYCLING IN DIT: FEATURES PAGE 15

DIRECTING
A FILM FESTIVAL
CULTURE PAGE 25

NEWS DIGEST – THE EDITION IN 5 MINUTES, ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW – P2
DITSU seeks church deconsecration

The Student Union will be asking for St Laurence’s Catholic Church at Grangegorman to be deconsecrated, following a Student Council decision. Members criticised a €500,000 deal between the college and the Church, saying that the campus should not have a religious element. DIT has defended the agreement, arguing it will not affect original plans for the space.

The levy breaks

Discussions over a proposed student charge to pay for facilities and services at Grangegorman have been further postponed by Student Council, causing a rift between the Union and DIT Societies. Although all recognise the need for funding, differences of opinion on how to organise it and whether DITSU should have acted sooner caused high tensions last week, and strong criticisms between both parties. They are expected to meet this week for further discussion.

DITSU’s in the money

Strong accounts published for the Union in a difficult financial year for students, as an external consultant heavily criticises DIT’s past treatment of the Union’s finances.

New placement guides

DIT have signed off on uniformed guidelines and best practices for student work placements, two years after the initial criteria had been proposed.

La Mórbhaile na Gaeilge

Rachaidh muintir na Gaeilge amach ar sáideanna Bhaile Atha Cliath chun agóid ar son a gceart a teanga ar an Satharn, 15 Peáthbhra ag a 2 lún.

Iona cheque from RTÉ

Joseph Conroy argues the Irish ‘mee-jah’ framing of the homophobia debate only serves to reinforce our society’s old norms.

Just fussy eaters?

Lauren O’Halloran investigates little-known ‘selective eating disorders’ – aversions based on colour, texture or memories, that are not just evident among children.

The golden arches

Gavin Lacey spent an evening (and a night) sampling the atmosphere in O’Connell Street’s McDonald’s. He found drunken debauchery, open aggression and a few displeased staff among the remnants of a Six Nation’s Saturday. Some were ‘Lovin’ It’ more than others.
**DITSU State of the Union address lays bare a broken relationship with DIT**

Speech made at Student Council and sent to DIT president levels serious criticism against college

Some staff accused of "undermining" DITSU and "demeaning" treatment of Union officers

Al McConnell  
**EDITOR**

DITSU has launched a scathing critique of the behaviour of senior DIT staff and the college hierarchy, in a ‘State of the Union’ speech given to Student Council last week.

The speech, which was also sent as a letter to the DIT president’s office, accused certain staff of demeaning and undermining behaviour, and stated that DIT has broken the Student Charter 2004 and the DIT/DITSU Procedural Agreement, which was signed only last year.

**Loss of faith in senior management**

DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick, in delivering the speech, said: “On the face of things, someone might look at DITSU this year and think everything is going pretty well [...] but regrettably I have to inform Council that the Executive and I no longer have any faith left in DIT senior management going forward.”

Throughout the address, a failure of the college to take student representatives and the role of DITSU seriously was identified as the fundamental problem.

DIT were accused of acting in “clear breach” of the Student Charter and Procedural Agreement, with numerous examples cited, while the behaviour of some staff was described as “deliberate undermining of student democracy and the role of the student in the DIT community.”

The right of DITSU to independent organisation and the way it is run is being ignored in the college, the speech stated.

The right of DITSU to independent organisation and the role of DITSU serious-

**DITSU shows strong accounts in difficult financial climate for students**

Salary cuts and high returns from operating activities show long-term recovery is on track

Al McConnell  
**EDITOR**

The DIT student union has published unexpectedly strong accounts for the year to July 2013, showing a surplus of €70,308 compared to a deficit of €172,216 in the previous year.

Cash coming in from ‘operating activities’ was particularly high, with over €80,000 in that bracket compared to less than €6,600 in the previous year.

Cuts to staff salaries have had a significant impact on the financial situation, which was referred to in DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick’s State of the Union address to Student Council last week, in reference to the poor treatment he feels the union has received from DIT in recent times.

Strong accounts come at a particularly good time for the union, with debate ongoing around whether there will be an SU shop on the Grangegorman campus.

The accounts will give the Union the ability to rebuild their relationship and continue in cooperation.

DIT has decided not to comment on the majority of the allegations until a meeting with DITSU has taken place.

On ‘Grangegormanitis’, however, a spokesperson did state: “DIT continues to focus on current students needs academically and in terms of services, and negotiates for funding for the maintenance and enhancement of current campus buildings.

It also goes without saying that the Institute must also plan carefully for the future to ensure that DIT achieves its potential for to meet the needs of future students and to build on its reputation to the benefit of its graduates.”

DITU desires to reassert its place within the college hierarchy after a controversial Council meeting.

**DITSU is likely to be one of the biggest delegations at this year’s USI conference as UCDSU opted to leave the USI last year.**

This is likely to bode well for DITSU’s five motions, which were chosen by Student Council and will be put before the Union of Students in Ireland National Conference (USI), to be held on the 31st of March.

The special motion chosen by Council calls on the USI President to raise the issue of recent price hikes to public transport fares.

Council also selected motions securing counselling services for disabled students and also funding for the Student Assistance Fund. The nationwide training is expected to give students support for guidelines for good Student Unions will also be discussed at the USI Conference.

DIT president Glenn Fitzpatrick also told the Council that he would do his best to get the remaining unselected motions (including flaws in the extension of the grangegormanitis) signed off on as early as possible.

The right of DITSU to independent organisation and the role of DITSU serious-
With SU elections coming up, Rachael O’Brien asked students’ reactions to sabbatical officer salaries:

President – €25,362
Vice-President – €23,188 (or €24,277 for a second year)

“I think it’s pretty high to be honest. I know they do a lot to help with societies throughout the college, to make college life easier but it’s not like a high paid job such as a doctor.”

Aisling Harnett
(1st Year Journalism with a Language)

“I don’t really have much of an opinion on it, but at the end of the day it’s a full time job. I have no idea what they do, but it must be a lot if they’re getting a full time salary.”

Stephen Dawson
(1st Year Accounting & Finance)

“I think that they should be paid more because they take time out of their actual career to do it, which can be seen as a positive to get experience, but I think taking time out of your career is a big deal.”

Geraldine Murphy
(4th Year Human Resources)

“I feel they do a great job and it is a fair salary. They do a fantastic job for the college in general.”

Ramat Alaya
(1st Year Film & Broadcasting)

“I think it’s a good salary for a pretty important job. I don’t think anyone would belittle the work the student union does in terms of protecting the rights of students. I think they do quite well and I wouldn’t necessarily be opposed to that much money being given to them.”

Ciaran D’Arcy
(4th Year Journalism)

Check yourself

Eoghan Regan
NEWS EDITOR

The DIT student health centre has revamped its STI screening process in an effort to increase student numbers availing of the on campus service. The new ‘asymptomatic STI screening service’ will mean students won’t be subject to an ‘intimate examination’, a change which Dr Conor Ryan hopes will, “Get more students through the door”.

The new services will also mean that students will not have to formally attend the ‘STI clinic, in the interest of student confidentiality.

Ryan explained that an increase in student attendance would no doubt see an increase in detection rates.

Students can avail of these services by attending the centre located in Aungier Street for a cost of €20 for the screen, any subsequent consultations and treatment if required.”

Al McConnell
EDITOR

A final determination on when exams will take place next year is expected to be made within the month.

The ongoing uncertainty has caused frustration in some corners, with an updated proposal from DIT emerging earlier this month.

It is understood, however, that the possibility remains of exams taking place for one week either side of the Christmas holidays, which was the least popular option among students in last semester’s DITSU survey.

That option would likely add to the rift between the union and the college, with DITSU having criticised senior management in the last week for disregarding the student voice on several issues, with specific reference to the survey.

DITSU VP for education Rebecca Dempsey is hoping to meet with Teachers’ Union of Ireland representatives this week, and is awaiting responses on the calendar issue from several DIT colleges.

External review has strong words for DIT

Al McConnell
EDITOR

An external review, commissioned by DITSU, has returned with a sharply critical analysis of DIT’s Internal Audit of the Union’s finances.

The review, carried out by an external consultant, was addressed at the recent DITSU Ltd Board meeting, and findings were relayed to last week’s Student Council.

Council representative on the Board, Graham Ó Maonaigh, outlined a number of issues that the consultant had with the Internal Audit.

The report comes at a time of high tensions between DITSU and the college, including apparent differences of opinion on the union’s finances.

Ó Maonaigh also told the Council that the consultant felt, like the union, that DIT acted in breach of the Student Charter of 2004.

Speaking as a member of the DIT-SU Ltd Board, Ó Maonaigh voiced his support and praise of the union executive, and told the Council: “It is a time for students to be united, and not to let the management of DIT divide us.”

A spokesperson for DIT told The Edition: "As a State body in receipt of public funding, there is a requirement for DIT to ensure that all areas of activity in the Institute are reviewed and audited on an on-going basis to ensure that funds are accounted for in line with internal and external policies and procedures."

“The Internal Audit function undertakes such audits and reports to the Audit Committee of Governing Body. It is not our practice to comment on its reports.”
Student Union to seek 'immediate deconsecration' of Grangegorman church

Deal between DIT and Dublin Archdiocese is strongly criticised at last week's Council meeting

Eoghan McNeill
NEWS EDITOR

DIT’s Student Council has mandated the SU to call for an immediate deconsecration of the St Laurence’s Catholic Church on the Grangegorman site.

The decision came following a deal between the Archdiocese of Dublin and DIT, which involved a €500,000 gift to the DIT Foundation, under the condition that the church be maintained as a place of worship.

Under the terms of the donation, the chaplaincy will manage the church and its use, in conjunction with a representative from the Archdiocese.

Gareth Walker-Ayres, a deputy chairperson of the Council, brought forward the motion in opposition to the maintenance of the church as a place of Catholic worship, criticising in the strongest terms both the message it may send about DIT, and the deal itself.

A church with all the iconography of Catholic Ireland cannot be used effectively as a multi-faith centre,” he said.

The church – built in 1898 – is listed as a protected structure in Dublin City’s development plan. It holds weekly services for an active congregation in the Grangegorman community.

The current plan for the church

The Grangegorman Strategic Plan – published in 2011 – deals with how DIT will develop its Grangegorman campus. It references the church’s existing congregation and concludes that it will remain a church following DIT’s development of the site.

Walker-Ayres opposed maintaining the church as a place of worship because it would “ebish a kind of association between DIT and the Roman Catholic Church”.

Apologising for “cutting across people and shouting”, he warned the presence of the historic structure on campus “will make people uncomfortable because they will see a church”.

He added: “We will have the likes of Youth Defence, the Iona Institute, all these other lobby groups basically ambushing our students on-campus”.

Immediate deconsecration

DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick echoed Ayers’ sentiments.

Although stating he is a “fully-blown atheist”, and was not in a position to speak for all students, he opined that students would not want to use the services provided by the church.

Responding to reservations voiced by a council member regarding displacing the church’s active congregation, Fitzpatrick stated: “Dublin 7 has a lot of places to go to mass.”

The Council has asked Fitzpatrick to formally raise this matter with the Grangegorman Development Agency and in such other fora as he deems necessary - with a view to having the church immediately deconsecrated and the space made available for use as set out in the Strategic Development Zone – as approved by An Bord Pleanála, and to ensure that it is made available for student use as part of the Student Union Hub, as originally planned.

A DIT spokesperson said the question of the Church on campus “seems to have been misunderstood.”

The spokesperson said as the church is a protected structure, and its use has been specified in the Strategic plan, “theonus is on DIT to manage it”.

Speaking to The Edition, Matthew Tang, public relations officer for the SU, said: “Cosplaying is the act of dressing up as a character from a film, book or video game and is popular among the nerd culture.”

The CMB Cafe will this year be raising funds for Barretstown.

Tang told The Edition: “We initially came up with the idea due to the popular maid and butler cafe trends currently in Japan, but then thought to add our own spin on the idea, by throwing some cosplaying into the mix.”

Reel Soc

Several Real Society committee members have been shortlisted for the DrinkAware awards this year, making it two years in a row for the young Soc.

It has also produced the first ever DIT graduate-run short in Irish, Usce Beanath directed by Mark Ó Coigligh and Seán Donnellan.

The Real Society has helped shoot clubs and society videos for the Drama and Fashion society and the DIT football club. Along with this the Reel Society has made some promo videos for the popular Nuts and Bolts Quiz and the clubs and society pub-crawl in December.

SU Constitutional Review to be held

DIT’s Student Council has agreed to set up a Constitutional Review Group to assess a potential new document in the coming years.

DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick brought a motion to the Council last week, citing the need for a group in light of DIT’s status of flux over Grangegorman and mergers with other ITs.

"Obviously the current Constitution has had a few teething problems, and I feel it is good practice to have a regular review of these things," he said.

"We don't want to wait another eight or 10 years for another Constitution - we may well need one in the next couple of years.”

DIT incentive for student survey participation met with criticism

Al McConnell
EDITOR

DIT Campus Life have come in for some criticism over their decision to use donations to the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) as an incentive for participation in the 2014 National Student Survey.

The college has committed to donate €100 for every fully-completed surveys, which could achieve over €10,000 in SAF top-ups.

Speaking to The Edition, DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick said: "We're big believers in the survey itself, and it's very important to get to hear student voice, but we won't be hanging the Assistance Fund over students' heads to encourage it."

"We're fully behind DIT in trying to boost participation in this and in getting the word out, but we'll be doing it a different way."

"The pilot last year was widely regarded as a failure, after it achieved very little participation among the student body, but similar projects worldwide have been successful."

"DITSU will be offering two €50 cash prizes for participants in the national survey, which opened on Monday the 10th of February and can be accessed for three weeks at www.studentsurvey.ie and there are others on a waiting list."

"DIT was given over €700,000 and could only give €25k to student assistance - nowhere near enough."

"We don't know at this point how the top-up will affect either of the services - we'll have to wait and see."

"Duffy estimated it would take at least €90,000 more to meet the demand currently upon the SAF, based conservatively on the 90 students currently on the waiting list."

"A minimum award of €1200 per applicant is currently in place, one element of the system that Duffy is calling to be reviewed."

Students should be given what they need, and if that's less than €1200 then they should be given it, which would allow more students' needs to be met."

"The whole system needs to be looked at, and likely a complete over-haul will be required," he told The Edition.

Another €29,000 arrived as a top-up from the HEA, bringing the total to €54,100 out of the estimated €90,000 burden.

A spokesperson for DIT confirmed to The Edition that the total dedicated funding to student assistance has now been brought to €81,100.

DITSU highlights €40k shortfall in funds required to meet demand on Student Assistance

Al McConnell
EDITOR

A €25,000 top-up to the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) has been described as "nowhere near enough" by DITSU VP for welfare, Fiacra Duffy.

The money has arrived from a tranche of €736,900 that was awarded to DIT by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) after a revision to the 2013 grant allocation.

There has also been a €25,000 top-up to DIT’s counselling services, also taken from this batch of money.

Speaking to The Edition, Duffy said: "It’s nowhere near enough – there are 90 students with forms in but no grant yet, and there are others on a waiting list."

"DIT was given over €700,000 and could only give €25k to student assistance - nowhere near enough."

"We don't know at this point how the top-up will affect either of the services – we'll have to wait and see."

"Duffy estimated it would take at least €90,000 more to meet the demand currently upon the SAF, based conservatively on the 90 students currently on the waiting list."

A minimum award of €1200 per applicant is currently in place, one element of the system that Duffy is calling to be reviewed."

"Students should be given what they need, and if that's less than €1200 then they should be given it, which would allow more students' needs to be met."

"The whole system needs to be looked at, and likely a complete over-haul will be required," he told The Edition.

Another €29,000 arrived as a top-up from the HEA, bringing the total to €54,100 out of the estimated €90,000 burden.

A spokesperson for DIT confirmed to The Edition that the total dedicated funding to student assistance has now been brought to €81,100.
Grangegorman shops controversy could lead to 'direct militant action'

Student Council tells Union to take strong action to ensure there are SU shops on new site

Al McConnell
EDITOR

"Direct militant action" may be taken to ensure there is a student union shop on the Grangegorman campus, following a Student Council decision last week.

The Council has given DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick the power to take whatever action he deems necessary, up to and including, but not requiring, such 'militant action'.

"An immediate full-scale public campaign to secure a DITSU shop in Grangegorman for September 2014" will, however, take place.

Council member Aisling Cassidy, who proposed the motion, stated that "we know students want a union shop".

Another Council member spoke against the motion:

"I agree with the principle of the motion, but the 'militant action' part might be taken the wrong way," said the speaker.

Walking euro signs

Other speakers defended the wording, highlighting that the 'direct militant action' may not take place, and pointing out that it would grab the attention of senior DIT staff.

"'Direct militant action' is almost facetious, if we're talking about not being taken seriously by the higher-ups." All other members who spoke on the motion were similarly in support of the idea, but some too had trouble with the phrasing.

"Regarding what [Fitzpatrick] has said about the DIT hierarchy not taking us seriously, I would see the phrasing in this motion as detrimental to our efforts if they were to see it as a threat.

The reality is that a president needs to have every single power possible – we need to do whatever it takes... DIT aren't listening to us."

– Council member speaks in favour of the motion

Ernst & Young Fine Gael

Dale McDermott, president of YFG, wins internship at Ernst & Young through DIT Head-to-Head competition

The final awards as part of the DIT Head-to-Head challenge in association with multinational accounting firm Ernst & Young were given out last Wednesday, with Young Fine Gael president Dale McDermott among the winners.

A summer internship for 12 weeks in the Ernst & Young head office in Dublin, plus the possibility of attending the Ernst & Young Leadership Conference in Disney World, Florida.

Dale McDermott, who was elected YFG president in December, told The Edition: "I'm delighted to have won this. I'm studying Accounting and Finance at the moment and it's certainly an area I would like to progress into, and this is a fantastic opportunity.

"I would advise any student to go for it next year, it was a fantastic experience."

John McGinley
Luxury Coach Travel

Traveling home to Donegal or Derry

Then make McGinley's Your No. 1 Choice

• Direct Express Service
• City Centre Pick-up from Parnell Square
• Free On-Board Wi-Fi
• Competitive Fares

Ernst & Young Fine Gael

Dale McDermott, president of YFG, wins internship at Ernst & Young through DIT Head-to-Head competition

The final awards as part of the DIT Head-to-Head challenge in association with multinational accounting firm Ernst & Young were given out last Wednesday, with Young Fine Gael president Dale McDermott among the winners.

A summer internship for 12 weeks in the Ernst & Young head office in Dublin, plus the possibility of attending the Ernst & Young Leadership Conference in Disney World, Florida.

Dale McDermott, who was elected YFG president in December, told The Edition: "I'm delighted to have won this. I'm studying Accounting and Finance at the moment and it's certainly an area I would like to progress into, and this is a fantastic opportunity.

"I would advise any student to go for it next year, it was a fantastic experience."

DIT recycling to be investigated

Study to be carried out by DITSU welfare, while Green Campus Committee faces criticism from Student Council

Al McConnell
EDITOR

DITSU is to investigate the recycling services across all college campuses, as part of the ongoing effort to obtain a Green Flag award for DIT.

DITSU VP for welfare, Fiachna Duffy, who will carry out the investigation, told Student Council last week: "The Green Campus Committee got in touch with me to work togeth-er on achieving the Green Flag award for DIT."

Duffy outlined that although some campuses such as Aungi-er Street have plenty of recycl- ing bins available throughout the campus, others are not in the same position.

Duffy hopes that this investi-gation will act as a small step to get the ball rolling on the way to achieving the award.

The Green Campus Commit-t ee came in for some criticism during the Council discussions.

A Councillor spoke during the discussion on the motion, stating: "My understanding is that the Green Campus Committee has actually been around for quite a while, and this seems to be the most action that they have done so far, which is funny because this is someone in a brand new sabbatical position who has only joined the commit-t ee this year."

The Committee has been in place since April of last year, and has met five times. A spokesperson for the Com-mittee could not be contacted ahead of print.

"The Edition" is published by the News Desk of Edition.ie. The views expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the News Desk or Edition.ie.

www.edition.ie

Wednesday, February 12th, 2014

News Editors: Eoghan Regan & Eoghan McNeill
news@edition.ie
**When will the student levy break?**

Tensions mount between DIT Societies and DITSU as discussions over a student charge for future facilities and services are further delayed

Barry Lennon
DEPUTY EDITOR

Athletic Council Chairman Brian McLean claims that the student services levy is being ‘buried’ after the Student Council referred a motion on the issue to its next session.

The proposed levy on future students would pay for the development of Club, Societies and Students’ Union facilities, such as football pitches, at Grangegorman and elsewhere.

The motion was voted for referral after it was amended from the ‘Levy Working Group’ to the Grangegorman facilities’ working group.

The amendment focused on the finance of facilities noting that ‘fund-raising may become available from alternative sources such as an increase in public funding. Therefore, the focus should be on the desired student facilities, not the concept of a student levy.’

DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick emphasised the need to look at facilities, not the concept of a student charge for future facilities and services.

He also stated that this year’s event would be delayed by two years because they would have missed most of the work placement season. His concern was that there was no student rep for Clubs until October.

The student levy is being ‘buried’ after the students refused to consult holistically, given there was no student rep for Clubs until October.

Brian McLean claims that the student levy as DIT does not have the funds to finance these services. ‘The (student union) executive seem to be making an effort to do nothing about the levy’ as DITSU does not have the funds to finance these services. [the returned motion] will have a knock on effect on students services as it will delay the process of developing facilities for Clubs, Societies and the Students’ Union.

‘The executive seem to be making an effort to do nothing about the levy’ in this current term of office and are not doing what they were mandated to do, he said.

Speaking at last week’s Council, Fitzpatrick also stated that he hopes ‘everything we’ve encountered with DIT senior management since the summer will go some way to explaining why the levy hasn’t moved as quickly as it might have’.

‘Broken Mandate’

McLean also claims that the president has ‘broken his mandate’ referring to a Student Council motion from April 2013 which mandated the president to consult with Clubs and Societies, SLC, the DIT.

Under the motion president would also present to Student Council the feasibility putting a referendum on the student levy to students this year.

However, president Glenn Fitzpatrick remained confident that mandate from this motion was not broken.

‘Only the Chairperson can make an official ruling but I am confident this is not the case. It was practically impossible to consult holistically, given there was no student rep for Clubs until October’

‘Furthermore, the mandate for myself was to investigate the feasibility of holding a referendum before April 2014. I reported back to Student Council on this issue on February 5th,’ he said.

**Council Sound-bites**

**You know what Council?!**
There is actually a degree of respect that should be given to someone actually making a point!

– Gareth Walker-Ayers, after being interrupted while speaking

**Are we children?**
Because that’s how they seem to see us

– Glenn Fitzpatrick, on DIT’s treatment of DITSU this year

**If you win the Euromillions, please send some of it our way**

– Dinand McNulty, head of DIT sports, on money needed for Grangegorman facilities

**‘Direct Militant action’ is almost facetious, while we’re talking about being taken seriously by DIT**

– Council member, speaking during the SU shop debate

**We cannot allow the Archdiocese to get their hands on this just because they’ve thrown a bunch of money at DIT**

– Gareth Walker-Ayers, on the Grangegorman church debate

**New work placement guidelines set up after two years of discussions**

Eoghan Regan
NEWS EDITOR

DIT have signed off on uniformed guidelines and best practices for student work placements, two years after the initial criteria had been proposed.

The guidelines for student work placement had until last week been organised independently by each school without any uniform structure.

The new guidelines were devised in 2012 in response to a review carried out by the European University Association seven years prior and include previously unenforced criteria such as; the presence of a ‘location supervisor’, the maintenance of a ‘database of placement providers’ and the ‘selection of explicit criteria’ against which placement would be provided.

Previous to the signing off on the new guidelines schools were left to their own devices to decide on how their work placement programs would be organised and assessed. As a result structures had varied greatly. Guidelines administered by the school of ‘Science and Health’ provided a detailed set of criteria spanning thirteen pages which outlined what students should expect from their placement, as well as what was expected of them.

The school of Business and Management however provided only a two page document which outlined the ‘benefits to students of placement’ as well as being categorized by brief bullet point summaries.

Speaking to The Edition, a marketing student, who wished to remain anonymous, described their experience working for a company where ‘her work went no further than “fold envelopes all day.”’

“We were only there as cheap labour […] the company already had a marketing team,” they said.

The student continued saying, “We should have told our supervisor but it would have been too late by then. The placements had been given out late and if we had gone back to college we would have missed most of the semester, we probably would have failed it if we went back that late.”

“He had used a fake name when talking to us at the start, there was a lot of weird stuff going on […] DIT could have kept more tabs on it.”

The company has since been reprimanded by the school of business.

**It’ll be GAS**

DIT’s ‘NERD’ societies (Gaming, Japanimation, Sci-Fi and NetSoc) are gearing up to their second annual GAS Convention, a collaborative event between the four.

The Convention centres around Gaming, Anime and Sci-Fi (GAS). Matthew Tang, public relations officer for Japanimation Soc, described the event as “an exciting new convenion on the Irish scene”.

He also stated that this year’s event would be “bigger and better than ever”, having returned by popular demand.

“GAS Con is meant to provide and appeal to a wide scope of the NERD culture. We have loads planned for the convention, such as panels, screenings, war games, boardgames, card games, RPGs, overnight LAN party, special events and much more,” he told The Edition.

The special guest this year will be Ian Hammore, best known for his portrayal of the Warlock Pyat Pree on the popular TV show, Game of Thrones.

GAS Con is taking place on the 1st and 2nd of March in the Camden Court Hotel Dublin.

Ticket prices are: €15 for pre-reg, €20 on the door for a weekend pass and €10 on the door for a day pass.

Pre-reg tickets can be bought online at https://gason2014.eventbrite.ie

**Ó Broin accepted as honorary DITSU member**

The first ever president of an overall DITSU organisation in 1993, Deiric Ó Broin, has been unanimously voted in as an honorary life-long member of DITSU by the Student Council.

Ó Broin was present at the recent DITSU reunion, and was one of the main speakers at the event on the 9th of February.

He told past and present union members “to have as much fun, have as many challenges, have as many rows”.

Ó Broin has worked as chair of DITSU’s electoral commission for several years but stepped down this year due to a contractual obligation.

Current DITSU president Glenn Fitzpatrick said at last week’s Council: “I genuinely can’t think of any body more deserving of the award.”

The motion to accept Ó Broin as a life member was met with unanimous support and congratulations from Council Chairperson Hugh O’Reilly, who stated: “You’re in, Deiric, you’re in.”
Siobhán Nic Uidhir
AN T-EAGRÁN
agus Gaeltachta.
ag an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta
gcéill an chóras briste.
agus a bheith mar chuid de chur i
ta, nach féidir leis fanacht sa phost
leas-cheannasaí Raidió na Gaeltach
6WiLW
deaacrachtaí nó fadhbanna a bhain
is fadhb mór í sin. Chomh maith
EKtRQQVLDGDJGHLOHiLOOHLVDQ6WiLW
FDLWKÀGKVLDG%pDUODD~ViLGQXDLUD
chursaí Gaeilgesa tír, tá dearcadh
pLVIHDEKV~µ
TG4 agus Raidió na Gaeltachta tar
roinnt chun cinn déanta sa deich
caint leis
FKRLQQH$Q6WUDLWpLV%OLDLQGRQ
seo agus é ag cur sios ar Thuaras
WUL~LUFHDQQQiFHDUWDWHDQJDD
6WitWHLRQDVJRJFRPKOtRQDtWHDUD
acht a dhéanamh ar na Roinne
DDLPVL~DUpLWHDGKJREXDQ
rud is tabhchtaí ná na fadhbanna a
maidir le cursaí Gaeilge. Is é an
feidhmeanna i gceist "maidir le ról
fhoras monatóireachta i leith com
QDG7HDQJDFKD2LÀJL~ODPDU
WKpDQGDUDDLGKPQi´0RQDWyLUH
GHLUHDGKPt)HDEKUD
Ó Cuirreáin go mbeidh sé ag éirí as
Teanga
Coimisinéir
sa  chur  i
mé  páirteach
Fógarth Soláthar
Fógarth Public Service
An Teanga Ecthóir
Rachaidh muintir na Gaeilge
lanach ar sráideanna Bhailé Atha
Claiith chun agus ar son a gcearta
teanga ar an Satharn, 15 Feabhra ag a
2 lín.
Is é an rinc, Lá Mór na Gaeilge ná
go mbeidh cothromh na féinne ar
fáil do lucht labhartha na Gaeilge
agus muintir na Gaeltachta i leith a
dteange a úsáid sa stáitse, atá mar
cheart mar thoradh agus dlúthil.
Cuireadh dlúis leis an mbréasúil
nuair a bhailíofar Gaeilgeoirí na tíre
i gcreidtear a dhéanmhar an fáil.
An deireadh ar na Gaeilge mar príomhbaile
sa tír atá le bheith mar cosaint.
An chéad dul síos...
An Réaltaí iad Gan an Ceann is Mó?

Aodán Ó Neasa

Tá muid uilig ag stiú go mór leis an Comhdhanda atá ag teacht anáis roimhe an t-aisceadadh. Bith dháis uilig a choinneadh sa Gaeilge amach is scríofaí, sin iad Ronanóil agus Lionel Messi.

Is iad an dá imreoir is fearr go mór as domhan ach an gcéadúil tó é an World Cup a bhuaigh le haghaidh comharcú Valderrama, feictear le Gerd Muller agus Franz Beckenbaeur i ndiaidh an ghearmáin, agus tá síomh faoi dhuine sa cluiche nua a d'imir fós ar an rannpháirtíocht seo.

Seánadigh an ceann is mómar fear i an státhmán de na gréasáin soisialta ar fad – Ne an nós is deanaí atá ag leathnú tras seo chaite, i gcúinsí a bhaineann leis Maráidh dhá fear óga an tseachtain Beirt  Marbh i nDiaidh 'Neknomination' a fháil.

Bríonn sé mér chaitheamh agus príomh imreoir sa foráil sin a bhfuil riamh leis an cluiche a chuir leis an cluichidh ét is mó mar gheall ar an bpeakáistíocht go bhfuil sé ar fad, a bhíonn ann an dhaonad a chuir sé ar bhealach.

Ceann is mómar mór a bhí an bás seo bainteach go deimh a thug sé an bás. Ní féidir leis an bás seo bainteach go bhfuair sé. Ní féidir leis an bás seo bainteach, ní féidir leis an bás seo bainteach.

Dúirt Seámus Ó Seoige go bhfuil sé is mómar mar gheall ar an cluichidh. Bhí sé mar chumhachtach, i Sráid Áinséir.

Fúirse taobh istiú de chuid de dhaoine a bhfuil an bás seo bainteach go bhfuair sé. Ní féidir leis an bás seo bainteach, ní féidir leis an bás seo bainteach.

Mar fhocaí a bhí an bás seo bainteach agus a bhí an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Deiseann Gaeilge san AE

Tá sé ríte go bhfuiladh thart faoi 200 post a raibh in ann nach bhfuil teacht ag teacht na Gaeilge. Dá leimhinsear ó Óstan an Rhí i mBaile Átha Cliath, is mó na deiseann a tosaigh an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Dar le seimineáir in Óstan an Rí i ndiaidh dhátheangach i gceantar Sráidbhaile Baile Átha Cliath, is mó na deiseann a tosaigh an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Consplód na hOráistí

Tá teannas forbartha idir an t-Ord Oráisteach (the Orange Order) agus an Rialtais mar gheall ar na fostaíochta a bhfuair sé an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Léiríonn Thrusáileachtaí Bhéal Feirste agus an t-Ord Oráisteach an fearr isteach i bhfeidhmiú in óranach an dtábhacht a bhaintigh tú le linn aisteachtaí do na hÉireannacha. Ní féidir leis an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Tuaisceart Dhátheangach

Cuireadh suas comhtharlú dhátheangach i geantar Sráidhbaile na Páirc i nDoire. Tá ceal de dhearcachtaí a bhaintigh le linn an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Tuigí a úsáidhgearr

Bhí an teanga a chuirtear i bhfeidhm sa cluichidh. Tá fáilte roimh chách go dtí an cluichidh féin.

Cóimhrá ‘S Craic Gach Máirt

Siobhán Óg Uí Dhubháin

Bhí cioncnóir cionóir comhrí a eagairt ag an Cumann Gaelach DIT gach seachtsaí a chuirtear chuig an teanga a chuirtear i bhfeidhm.

Tá sé ar siúl gach Máirt idir 1 – 2 i gCúinne na Gaeilge nó Cúlt an Ti (Na).}

Beirt Marbh i nDiaidh ‘Neknomination’ a fháil

Robbie Ó Cearrbháil

Maraíodh dhá fear fhéin agus ag glacadh do dhaoine eile éigean pionta alcít ó chaitheamh a chuir as a chéad aithne go dtí 2014. Bhí sé mar cheann de na gréasáin soisialta ar fad – Ne an nós is deanaí atá ag leathnú tras seo chaite, i gcúinsí a bhaineann leis Maráidh dhá fear óga an tseachtain Beirt  Marbh i nDiaidh ‘Neknomination’ a fháil.

Dúirt PríomhAire an Tionóil, Peter Robinson atá ina cheanaí sa ról an Aontachtachtaí Thuaidh (DUP), go naomtuíonn sé leis an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Bhí an cluichidh a chéadú mar gheall ar na fostaíochta a bhfuair sé an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Tá sé ráite go bhfuil an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Tuaisceart Dhátheangach

Cuireadh suas comhtharlú dhátheangach i geantar Sráidhbaile na Páirc i nDoire, agus ní máthar a bhí an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Cúitinsear a fháil mar fhocaísc ó ‘S Craic Gach Máirt

Siobhán Óg Ó Súilleabháin

Bhí cioncnóir cionóir comhrí a eagairt ag an Cumann Gaelach DIT gach seachtsaí a chuirtear chuig an teanga a chuirtear i bhfeidhm.

Tá sé ar siúl gach Máirt idir 1 – 2 i gCúinne na Gaeilge nó Cúlt an Ti (Na)

Deiseann Gaeilge san AE

Tá sé ríte go bhfuiladh thart faoi 200 post a raibh in ann nach bhfuil teacht ag teacht na Gaeilge. Dá leimhinsear ó Óstan an Rhí i mBaile Átha Cliath, is mó na deiseann a tosaigh an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Dar le seimineáir in Óstan an Rí i mBaile Átha Cliath, is mó na deiseann a tosaigh an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Consplód na hOráistí

Tá teannas forbartha idir an t-Ord Oráisteach (the Orange Order) agus an Rialtais mar gheall ar an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.


Tá sé ríte go bhfuiladh thart faoi 200 post a raibh in ann nach bhfuil teacht ag teacht na Gaeilge. Dá leimhinsear ó Óstan an Rhí i mBaile Átha Cliath, is mó na deiseann a tosaigh an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Dar le seimineáir in Óstan an Rí i mBaile Átha Cliath, is mó na deiseann a tosaigh an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

Consplód na hOráistí

Tá teannas forbartha idir an t-Ord Oráisteach (the Orange Order) agus an Rialtais mar gheall ar an bás seo bainteach go bhfuil sé ar fad.

The pains of moving house

AL MCONNELL

Moving house – they say it’s the biggest lash of most people’s lives, along with their 30th birthday. You finish off the dregs of every bottle in the house that it doesn’t make sense to bring along (a fine excuse).

But it’s also a nightmare. There are arguments over who owns what, over whether things should be thrown out or brought along, and then there’s the physical exertion, the cost, and the logistical disasters.

DIT is moving house on a massive scale. After 40 years of pining after a single campus, including at least three instances of dashed hope, it will finally have a new gaff in Dublin’s North West quarter.

So will the scale of the move multiply the scale of the headaches?

It must have been realised there would be difficulties, but in this issue we’ve seen fallout that might not have been expected.

The facilities levy, the Student Hub, Catholic Church debacle, the SU shop, and DIT’s laying bare of its broken relationship with the DIT hierarchy – all are Grangegorman-related issues.

Even the Student Assistance Fund controversy and the University Status process have strong links to the campus relocation. As DIT’s president Glenn Fitzgerald suggested at last week’s Student Council, are “the students of today being neglected in favour of the students of tomorrow”?

I’m making no judgement on that one.

But if arguments can’t be settled, relationships repaired and students reunited, then the management of the move to Grangegorman, by all involved, will be called into question. After 40 years, ill-feeling, like the dregs of half-empty bottles, could be dripped to DIT’s new gaff, and the whole thing tainted. Best empty them now – sure it’s a fine excuse.

***

It’s worth mentioning, in a moment of self-indulgence, the current position of The Edition, DIT’s student newspaper, which is completely impartial and independent in all matters over the past week.

Although no one at all has suggested otherwise, I want to stress the point, because we did, after all, supported by the News Society.

Fortunately, I feel we’ve developed a degree of positive reputation this year.

But, perhaps a useful point to come out of this whole situation, from our perspective, is the need for a discussion about a stand-alone newspaper entity.

The societies system has worked well so far, but if The Edition can continue to improve – and it has a lot of potential for the years to come – I would encourage that to be supported.

100 years since his birth, William Burroughs remains entirely relevant, writes Paul Doyle

A foul feast

‘Take a shot in front of DL. Probing for a vein in my dirty bare foot...Junkies, no shame’ – Naked Lunch.

The 5th of February marked the 100th birthday of the American writer William Seward Burroughs. An unlikely cultural icon, somehow, a heroin addict and man-slaughterer (Burroughs accidently shot his wife during a drunken game of William Tell) born in Missouri in 1918 he is still today remembered as one of the most influencial artists of the 21st century. He died in 1997.

As time passes, most literature inevitably becomes dated, passé and quaint. We laugh at and mock ‘shocking’ art of epochs past, safe in our assumption that it is in fact our generation who are pushing the envelope, that it is in fact we who have really shoved the boat out, that it is us that have taken things to an inherently new level.

The fact that Burroughs most infamous work, Naked Lunch still today shocks, grosses out, and pulses readers; immune from most arts unavoidable decline into novelty, is a testament not only to how ahead of his time he was, but also just how disgusting he could make the world seem.

A cultural icon, and father of the ‘beat’ movement, Bill Burroughs and his band of brothers were to not only leave their mark, but a gaping chasm of sex, drugs and violence in a modernist literary landscape that had grown banal, safe, and unexciting.

If you aren’t immediately familiar with Burroughs work, you’ll have encountered something that he was responsible for; he coined the terms ‘Heavy-metal’, and ‘Blade Runner’. His music with Kurt Cobain, hung out with Led Zeppelin, drank tea with Steve Bushemi, appeared in a U2 music video, and was hailed as the only writer of genius in the second half of the 20th century by Norman Mailer.

He also published a book about his love for his cats.

Lá Mór na Gaeilge

A day of protest to prompt Government action on the Irish language is long overdue, writes Stiofán Ó Connachttaigh

A clípeá thousand-strong crowd, following a delegation from DIT’s Cumann Gaeilch, is expected to march towards Leinster House on Lá Mór na Gaeilge, the 15th of Febraury, a national day of protest and celebration of the Irish Language.

The Irish language community from all across the island will gather outside The Garden of Remembrance in Parnell Square at 14:00 before approaching Dáil Éireann. There will be music from Seo Linn, Kila and Na Firthín on the day.

Lá Mór na Gaeilge is the latest in a series of protests, organised as part of the ‘Language Rights = Human Rights’ (Cearta Teanga = Cearta Daonna) campaign. The march hopes to show the Government the importance and support for the language and to demand that Irish be of equal status as English in the provision of State services, North and South.

The Language Commissioner (An Coimisinéir Teanga) Seán Ó Cúiréáin, has recently resigned from his job despite two years remaining on his contract, because of what he describes as an impossible lack of political will to implement the policies needed. The working group responsible for organising the march are demanding that these policies, recommended by the Commissioner and ignored by the Government, be implemented immediately.

By law, all public services must be available to citizens in Irish to the same standard as those provided in English. The supports of the Government for Irish have, however, been weakened greatly over the years. The Constitution, the Official Languages Act 2003, and other legislation, strategies and reports all recognise Irish as the foremost official language of the State, but consecutive governments, North and South, have been seen by many as neglecting this responsibility with disastrous consequences.

The organisers hope that Lá Mór na Gaeilge will encourage the Government to implement the policies recommended by the experts to save An Ghaeilge. If we continue as we have, they say, Irish will continue to be marginalised from daily life.

Naked Lunch is still read by outcast teens and jaded twenty-somethings all over the world today

When published in 1959, the Naked Lunch was prosecuted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, arguing that the work had absolutely no merit whatsoever and was simply pornographic. The attempt to ban the book was overturned (bans could be overturned if a work could be seen to have some kind of cultural or social merit) when Burroughs argued that passages of it had highlighted the brutality and inhumanity of capital punishment, which is true, but not at all the point of the work. It was just something he said so that it could be published. The point of Naked Lunch...is that there is no point to it.

It’s a gross-out fest, an attempt at capturing how degrading and dehumanizing and obscene life can be.

Naked Lunch is still read by outcast teens and jaded twenty-somethings all over the world today.

Needles jab people, doctors perform surgery drunk, addicts fight over hits, every bodily fluid imaginable is spilled: there is no moral at the end of the story for us to take away and learn from. Didacticism is not something present in Burroughs work; which is exactly why it is still so popular today – lessons become outdated, perspectives become outmoded, but accounts of human suffering and struggle remain forever intriguing.

Credit: via Flickr
DITSU's nightclub petting zoo was a flawed idea from the start

LAUREN O’HALLERON

“Aimals welfare would be of paramount importance.” This is what DITSU Ents Officer Will Meara told me, responding to my concern about their use of a petting zoo in the RAG/SHAG Week’s Barn Dance in dTwo nightclub, Harcourt Street on the 11th of February. Petting zoo and nightclub are two terms that should not be in a sentence together. I do not understand DITSU’s rationale behind this idea, as it not only infringes health and safety issues, which is what has stopped the presence of animals at this event, but puts two parties together that just don’t go together: animals and drunken students.

Mobile animal farms such as Mobile Farm Ireland and Wooly Ward’s Farm aim their services at children’s parties and events that would allow the owners to control how their animals are cared for. I have yet to come across a company that would simply roll up a truckload of animals for show whilst students trip over them and traumatised them with their intoxication.

One company even offers to allow volunteers to milk a cow. You could only imagine that taking place in a nightclub! Does no one remember Skippy the wallaby who was allegedly plied with alcohol at a hotel in Liffey Valley back in 2010? The poor animal was passed around like a ragdoll whilst the 150 guests danced to loud music and took photographs with him in very less-than-polite poses.

Face it, if you place an animal in an alcohol-fuelled environment, things are going to get ugly. You cannot control this situation no matter what rules you put in place.

Animal Rights Action Network’s (ARAN) Campaigns Assistant Clare Downes says the group welcomes Dublin City Council’s decision not to allow the petting zoo to be at dTwo’s Barn Dance, insisting that “such an environment would be detrimental to [the animals]’ well-being.” I do not feel animal well-being could have been a priority when this idea was concocted in what I can only imagine to be a moment of sheer madness. The laws for animals in this country would hardly be considered modern but it is good to know that even Dublin City Council can see the risks involved in this situation, regardless of whether they were thinking of the students rather than the animals.

Iona cheque from RTÉ

Joseph Conroy argues the Irish ‘meejah’ have framed the homophobia debate in a way that suits our society’s old norms

What does the word homophobia mean? This question has been bounced around the Irish media for almost a month now. Two weeks ago during a half hour long debate about ‘homophobia’ on Ireland’s rouge light chat show The Saturday Night Show ended with presenter Brendan O’Connor suggesting that the world homophobia should be dropped and not used in the debate around gay marriage.

The word is just too divisive. The word scuttles open discussion. It is a hate word – so loaded that the mere utterance of the word can threaten the good names of good men and good institutions.

What does the word homophobia mean? Who knows, who cares – its not the real issue here. To paraphrase Ronan Keating: words are only words. Public discourse on the issues of homophobia and gay marriage has been stunted – the debate has got caught up on things like the definition of homophobia rather than engaging in real debate about how the gay community are treated in Ireland.

At the core of this debate the republic is being asked to reassess what it is and what it stands for.

A starting point of this process is accepting the fact that we are living in a conservative, post-Catholic right wing state. This ethos informs everything from our constitution, our Catholic public schools and our aggressively right-wing economic policies to our passing for the Angelus at 12 and 6 o’clock everyday on our national broadcaster.

People don’t like the word homophobia because it makes them feel uneasy. During the Saturday Night Show debate a gay audience member spoke about an episode when he was set upon and attacked after walking out of The George one night. O’Connor asked him if using the word homophobia in the broader sense that Rory ‘Panti’ O’Neill had outlined on the show two weeks before devalues the word. O’Connor addressed the audience member: “What you experienced was real homophobia [as opposed to what? Fake homophobia?] – it was the dark edge of it. Does that not make you think then that talking about stuff like a little bit of discrimination at institutional level? Is calling that homophobia not really fair?”

So the institutional/institutionalised discrimination bit is grand then?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?

Can you imagine a race debate in which using the word ‘racist’ would be considered a faux pas?
**ERASMUS DIARIES**

**Home comforts hard to come by**

Five weeks, 250 hours and 37 nervous breakdowns down – a few more of each to come, I expect

---

**DARRAGH MOWLDs**

**PARIS, France –** Throughout my daily musings I think who will play me in the biopic about my Erasmus, I think Ryan Gosling would be ideal, if a little old but I am open to suggestions. I’ve always thought there was something slightly questionable about France as a country and I have worked it out; you can never trust people who give a table a gender. The only things that need a gender are animals, cars and countries, other than that you are just a weirdo.

Anyway, digress. I’d like to tell you what happened in the past few weeks of college but I don’t know myself, something about Tunisia and a headline may or may not have been mentioned, other than that, clueless. My greatest academic achievement so far, making my own Sudoku (although I’d love to say it was my own invention). Throughout my daily musings I think that the day I have been dreading since my arrival is becoming increasingly imminent, the fear I feel for it is unparalleled. I’ve considered coming home to avoid it, what day is it…...

---

**COLIN LAYDE**

**UTRECHT, Netherlands –** I arrived in Utrecht a couple of days before my induction at the city’s University of Applied Sciences, flying into Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport before making the short train journey on to my new home city.

I was joined on the plane to the Netherlands by my classmates Aidan and Laura, with Johnny flying in the following day. Aidan and I booked into a cheap hotel for a few nights as our accommodation would not be ready until the 1st of February. After sampling some ‘white widow’ in the cabin was a bit chilly or something. When mid journey the driver informs you that that train no expect a warning either, you can be very ability to speak English make much…. Another change since the last report is that I am now “sans crutch-es”. I’m effectively back to full fitness other than a bit of stiffness in the morning. I have been hopping about the place quite nicely. My long awaited return to the glory of 5-a-side football was a little too late for the transfer window, something which I’ve heard David Moyes is devastated about.

Anyways, must dash, going to make myself a Croque-monsieur, or a ham and cheese toastie for those of you of a non-pretentious disposition.

---

**Living the high life in Utrecht**

Off the plane, straight to the coffee shops

---

ARSEMS DIARY

**</noscript></noscript><noscript>**

PARIS, France –

Throughout my daily musings I think who will play me in the biopic about my Erasmus, I think Ryan Gosling would be ideal, if a little old but I am open to suggestions. I’ve always thought there was something slightly questionable about France as a country and I have worked it out; you can never trust people who give a table a gender. The only things that need a gender are animals, cars and countries, other than that you are just a weirdo.

Anyway, digress. I’d like to tell you what happened in the past few weeks of college but I don’t know myself, something about Tunisia and a headline may or may not have been mentioned, other than that, clueless. My greatest academic achievement so far, making my own Sudoku (although I’d love to say it was my own invention). Throughout my daily musings I think that the day I have been dreading since my arrival is becoming increasingly imminent, the fear I feel for it is unparalleled. I’ve considered coming home to avoid it, what day is it…...

---

UTRECHT, Netherlands –

I arrived in Utrecht a couple of days before my induction at the city’s University of Applied Sciences, flying into Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport before making the short train journey on to my new home city.

I was joined on the plane to the Netherlands by my classmates Aidan and Laura, with Johnny flying in the following day. Aidan and I booked into a cheap hotel for a few nights as our accommodation would not be ready until the 1st of February. After dropping off our bags, we set off on a walk around the city, but we quickly ended up in one of the coffee shops dotted around the city centre.

After sampling some ‘white widow’ we found ourselves sitting catatonically in silence staring at a wall as the other patrons chatted happily amongst themselves. By the time we left it was 9.00pm or 10.00pm and the temperature was minus two. We quickly got lost and but for a nice Dutch couple who Googled the hotel’s location on their smart phones we would probably still be looking for it.

The induction day was fine – we were offered a sample of Dutch cuisine and shown around the college’s campus which is situated in an industrial estate on the city’s outskirts. The campus is ultra-modern, complete with neon lighting, study pods and most importantly a bar.

My course itself is being conducted entirely through English and much of the content overlaps with modules I have already undertaken in DIT. Although I am discovering the delights of data analysis and statistics for the first time, which is about as much craic as it sounds.

The Dutch students have been extremely welcoming and having a few familiar faces around has made settling in easy. Utrecht is the largest university town in the Netherlands with students accounting for 70,000 of the 300,000 population.

The city is beautiful with the grand canal running through its centre and the Dom cathedral dominating the skyline. The Dom is the largest church tower in the Netherlands and stands at the spot where the city originated nearly 2,000 years ago.

On Tuesday we decided to sample the local nightlife and headed to Club Poema, which we were reliably informed was the best club in town, serving until 6am in the morning (the latter true, at least). I queued for 45 minutes to get in and made my way downstairs to what turned out to be no more than a dingy hall with awful dance music and watered down beer.

However, Poema aside, Utrecht has a great nightlife with bars dotted all around the city serving virtually all night. The Dutch are extremely helpful, polite and tall, the tallest nation in the world we were informed during our induction. I stand an imposing 5’7’’ and have developed a Napoleon complex along with crick in my neck over the course of the first week. Overall I have really enjoyed my first week in the Netherlands and am convinced I made the right choice in coming to Utrecht on Erasmus.
Magazine miscellany

Dapper gent

Pat Kenny spoke to DIT students in December 1986, reported here in February of the following year.

Then an RTE broadcaster, Kenny appeared suited and booted, seemingly sporting a pair of shades indoors...which was the style at the time.

Pat Kenny gives talk to COMAD students

RTE broadcaster Pat Kenny gave a lecture to the Communications Society of the College of Marketing and Design in Trinity College on December 21st.

He outlined his own career and talked of job prospects for young people in RTÉ. Over 250 students attended the talk, which was broadcasted by RTÉ News, RTÉ and the COMAD Students' Union.

Further debate planned by the Society include one on Section 31 of the Broadcasting Acts and the role of the media in the days of mass marketing. Speakers for this talk will include Jim Allan, Mark Cregan and BP Fallon.

Following the government’s 1983 decision to "seek a longer period of debate" on abortion, student union welfare officer Carolyn O'Doherty looked at how the issue had developed since 1981.

Perhaps the ‘longer period’ had not been envisaged as reaching 30 years.

A ‘longer period of debate’ ▼

THE CASE FOR

The Dublin Well-Women centre, the Rape crisis centre, the Irish pregnancy counselling centre, and the women’s right to choose group are several bodies who support the anti-amendment campaign. The said groups also campaign for abortion and run referral centres. They oppose the amendment because it would not allow abortion in cases of rape, incest, or if the birth would endanger the women’s health. It is obvious that all members of the anti-amendment campaign believe in abortion and are therefore pro-life. The child of rape or incest has committed no crime, and therefore her right to life cannot be set aside.

These groups also claim that the amendment could impede possible further legislation on abortion. The amendment will stay until a majority of Irish people desire to remove it. This is the essence of democracy. The amendment will not interfere with contraception, since this prevents life not kills it.

The anti-amendment campaign groups also claim that the amendment is not pluralist, but the principle of pluralism cannot be used to kill the living, but unborn child.

(Irish Student Pro-life Campaign.)

THE CASE AGAINST

There are tragic cases where, because of the law on abortion, a pregnant woman in danger of losing her life cannot be treated or does not. Breast cancer, one of the most common types of cancer in women requires radiation treatment, which results in a badly malformed foetus. But in Ireland such a pregnancy cannot legally be terminated, so the treatment has to wait. This delay can end with the death of the woman.

A woman who becomes pregnant as a result of rape is not entitled to an abortion, despite the fact that the pregnancy can only make intolerable an already traumatic experience.

There is also the proposed misuse of the constitution, i.e. the constitution of Ireland is the property of all Irish, not any one section.

If the F.L.A.C. really wanted to end abortion, surely they’d be looking for the reasons and trying to get rid of them. Is the life of a woman more important than a fertilised egg? Does the physical & mental health of a rape victim matter? Should the views of one religion be written into the constitution? Will the amendment prevent unwanted preg-nancies? Can we afford this hypocrisy?

In 1977, Aer Lingus was pressured into a change of policy on the hiring of female ‘air hostesses’. The Employment Equality Agency decided its preference for hiring women, defended in part because customers seemed to ‘prefer’ them, was deliberately discriminatory against men. DIT’s magazine Parnell Press printed the following article.

In 1977, the Employment Equality Agency initiated a formal investigation into the use of recruitment advertisements by Aer Lingus.

They found that advertisements published in the national newspapers on 5th and 9th of October “indicated an intention to discriminate” against men applying for the job of steward. This contravened the principles of the Equality Employment Act, 1977, and on 15th January 1978 Aer lingus was forced to advertise for “Air hostesses and stewards”.

Prior to the investigation Aer lingus had argued to the agency that it was exempt from the Act because the duties of air hostess involved “personal services”. At a meeting on 21st October 1977 between representatives of the company and the chairperson of the Agency, Mrs Sylvia Meenan, who had first drawn attention to the possible illegality of the advertisement, Aer lingus stated its defence:

* the policy to employ girls had been in operation for years

LOOK OUT, ITS THE EEA

Case Study: the 1977 EEA investigation into Aer Lingus recruitment ads

* inflight personal services could be done more effectively by women and there was a marked customer preference on the American line
* the intake of males would necessitate a re-organisation of the appropriate buildings.

Despite requests from the agency to desist from discriminating, Aer Lingus proceeded with the recruitment of women to the advertised posts. The ensuing investigation resulted in the forced change of policy. On 19th of June 1978 Aer lingus told the agency that 76 of 1,510 female applicants were offered employment as a result of the January 1978 advertisement. Another advertisement in May resulted in 12 of 1,200 male applicants being offered employment with an additional 5 males and 41 females being placed on reserve panels for possible future employment.

Satisfied with the evident changes in policy, the agency concluded the investigation.
Atheism and Ireland: a match made in heaven

In Part Two of The Edition’s interview with former DIT student union president Michael Nugent, we turn to issues of atheism in Ireland, religion in our schools, and his role as chairperson of Atheist Ireland.

Al McConnell reports

When Ruairí Quinn, recently suggested that schools could use the time spent on teaching religion to give more time to core subjects, he was met with an angry response from more than a small minority.

The Association of Catholic Priests labelled the Minister for Education’s suggestion an attempt to “undermine religion” that may be “interpreted as a threat”, and one that would not reassure “the large number of Catholic parents who have a right to the religious education of their children”. These Catholic Priests must be stunned, then, by some of the suggestions from Atheist Ireland, and its chairperson, a former DIT student union president, Michael Nugent.

Religion and education

Atheist Ireland is currently focusing on the education system as one of its main issues, including the fact that around 90 percent of schools are run by the Catholic Church and, as Nugent puts it, the “Catholic ethos permeates the curriculum, so you can’t even opt out of it, because you can’t tell where it is located”.

“Lawful oversubscription criteria”, as it is referred to in the Draft Scheme of an Education (Admission to Schools) Bill 2013, would allow for schools with an objective of promoting certain religious values to prefer or reject certain students based on their religious denomination (following section 7(3)(c) of the Equal Status Act 2000), if it is necessary “to maintain the ethos of the school”.

This has been widely criticised, not least by Nugent.

“What this says is that if your school is a Catholic school, you can give places to Catholics first, and the remaining places to other pupils, if there are any left,” he says.

“You could live next door to a Catholic school, but someone from 10 miles away could get in before you because they can produce a baptismal certificate.”

The issue is not limited to a Catholic ethos; Nugent, in fact, would say punties can be even worse as they are trying to protect a minority ethos.

Fundamentally, however, Nugent argues the State should not be funding this.

“If someone wants to set up their own schools in this way, I have no problem with that, but the State shouldn’t be contributing to it. It’s sectarianism, it’s religious apartheid.”

The idea that the majority in an area hold more or better rights than others doesn’t hold any weight with Nugent, nor with many others.

“If you were sick and went to a hospital, he points out, “they wouldn’t say ‘Yeah I can see that you’re sick but we had to treat all the Catholic people first’. Or the police wouldn’t say ‘Sorry we had to deal with all the Catholic crime victims first’.

“They’re so desensitised to it that they don’t realise that there are human rights issues involved.”

Atheism and Human Rights

Human rights issues around atheism are another main focus for Atheist Ireland – they provide something tangible, a set of rules to focus on, and ink-on-paper facts that can be pointed out. But, as Nugent says, it’s not always that simple in Ireland.

“We focus a lot of our campaigning on the fact that Ireland has signed up to several human rights treaties with the UN, in which Ireland as a state has agreed to protect very basic rights such as freedom of conscience, freedom from discrimination being the law, the rights of the child and private and family life. And a lot of these are breached by the way the State allows the Catholic Church to interfere both in the legislative process and in the running of educational institutions.

“What seems to be missed is that there is no reason to breach these rights. To many of most atheists and non-religious people to simply ignore the Church and get on with their lives, including baptising children in order to gain entry to certain schools.

“This adds to the discrimination against atheists who do have a sense of conscience and integrity and who don’t want to swear something they don’t believe in.”

“This is the irony in Ireland – you have to swear these things to be President or a judge or a member of the Council of State, and the amount of people who have said to us: ‘Well you don’t have to mean that bit, just say it’. But if you don’t have to mean that bit, then you don’t have to mean any of it. You could just ignore your duties and say ‘Ah well, I didn’t mean that bit’.

A secular State, proper

With all this taken into account, must being chairperson of Atheist Ireland not feel like banging your head against a brick wall?

“Well, no,” says Nugent. “The tide of history is going in one direction. If you look at any set of statistics over the decades, throughout the world people are becoming more secular, and countries are becoming more secular.

“And Atheist Ireland’s ultimate goal is indeed “a proper secular state.”

“We would be just as opposed to a state that promotes atheism as we are to a state that promotes religion,” he says. “I’m optimistic that a genuinely secular state will happen eventually.”

The big problem, though, may be political reluctance to change.

[“Politicians] don’t understand it. It doesn’t mean that in a patronising way, but when we have these discussions with them, we genuinely feel they think that if they banish religion, that’s going to make us feel that the Church can have a sense of conscience and integrity, in the way they see religious people as having. I think they don’t understand human rights, or democracy.”

But globally and in Ireland, Nugent is hopeful. As a final thought on religion, he relays to me an analogy mentioned by philosopher Peter Millican at a recent Oxford debate:

“If you go to a restaurant and you get a main course of inedible gruel – the worst food you’ve ever faced – you’re hardly likely to say ‘Well this is terrible, but I am absolutely certain that the desert will be lovely.’

“That’s what religion does,” says Nugent. “It convinces people in a disbelieving restaurant that the desert is going to be brilliant.”
Two wheels are better than four

Barry Lennon investigates the cycling facilities in DIT, and cycles from Bray to Aungier street for the cause

The New Year’s resolution of this reporter was to avoid getting fatter, without a battle. It was decided that exercise was the best way to achieve this goal.

The demanding lifestyle of an Edition journalist and a limited budget made it difficult to find time or money for gym membership.

However a cheap way was thought of to keep fit: cycling.

This reporter would join the 11 percent of DIT students who cycle to college – according to the college’s 2012 Transport Survey (due to take place again this year).

The biannual survey also discovered that a higher percentage of staff than students choose to cycle to DIT.

It was thought this was because students are more likely to live in walking distance from college while lecturers and other staff are more likely to cycle by buying discounted bicycles under the Bike to Work scheme.

Students have failed to keep up with lecturers’ pace since DIT signed the Smarter Travel Charter encouraging staff and students to ditch the car in favour of bikes as well as walking and public transport.

DIT proposed its own internal version of the Dublin Bike scheme in 2009, which came under Smarter Travel, attempting to tap into the then 5% of students who travelled between different campuses every day.

Four of the 18 original bicycles remain of DIT’s bike share scheme which had refurbished ‘dead bikes’ found abandoned in college car parks for students to borrow.

However, a lack of funding ensured that most of the bikes could not be serviced and the system could not be maintained properly.

Since DIT’s scheme started, it also became easier for students who would otherwise use the scheme, to opt for the successful Dublin Bikes instead.

Dublin Bike stations are close to all campuses, apart from the new campus site at Grangegorman.

Students and staff will have to walk to North King Street where a station is to be developed under the current wave of expansion.

Providing secure bicycle parking was another measure DIT used to encourage to students to get on their bikes.

In 2010 the college announced that grants had been secured to install secure, covered bike parking at a number of DIT sites and it’s believed there will be secure parking for 500 bikes at Grangegorman.

However, secure bike areas in themselves do not stop thefts on campus as has been learned at Bolton Street, with thieves climbing over the bike compound’s fence at night or slipping in behind cyclists who have legitimately swiped it into, to rob.

The Cycling Club President David Swift believes that the location of Bolton Street’s bike lock up, which can be seen from the Street, has contributed to robberies.

“I hear many stories of bikes being stolen or attempted robberies in the gate bike area. I feel that if the college could provide an indoor bike shelter the number of stolen bikes will decrease as they’d be out of sight.”

Other sites have been provided with more secure bike compounds as manager for Campus Life Brian Gormley points out.

“The compound at Bolton Street has improved the situation significantly, but unfortunately theft still occurs on occasions. In DIT Mountjoy Square, students can now bring their bikes into secure parking at the rear of the building.”

The enclosed bike areas have helped security, but with 4,000 bikes in Dublin stolen in 2012 this is a crime that proves hard to tackle.

DIT has encouraged students by providing showers on all major campuses; with showers on Aungier Street (although students are directed to nearby recently refurbished showers at Kevin Street), Bolton Street, Rathmines, Mountjoy Square and Cathal Brugha Street.

Feeling satisfied with DIT’s facilities this reporter decided to mount his bike.

Cycling to college

There are many reasons to sweat when cycling to college: poor road surfaces, sharing lanes with buses, the weather, and being overtaken by the Lycra-clad older gentlemen who have all the natural wind resistance of a fridge.

And after sweating for 20 km, this cyclist was going to sink out a few lecture theatres if he wasn’t showered or even hosed down.

Having locked the bike up securely in Aungier Street’s underground car park, he was directed to Kevin Street for showering facilities.

There is a choice of two recently refurbished showering facilities at the campus: within in the main building and the gym. Opting for the gym it was noticed that it was open to cyclists at certain hours free of charge.

However, the future of this arrangement was put in doubt by the receptionist who laughed: “Well this is the arrangement for the meantime... When the water charges come in things may be different.”

On yer bike: Why cycle in Dublin?

MONEY

Save money on bus, Luas or Dart fares by using your pedal power

ENVIRONMENT

Avoid carbon emissions and help to contribute to DIT’s bid for a green flag

CELEBRITIES DO IT

Emulate the grace and style of RTÉ anchorman Bryan Dobson on two wheels

STYLE

A great excuse to flaunt your latest Lycra wear

Draft: Edition
Academia is still a man's world

Though improvements have been made in some employment sectors, third-level education remains a bastion of old-fashioned gender values.

Al McConnell investigates

"Change is possible." Before we start the conversation proper, those are the three words with which Professor Pat O’Connor sets the tone.

“It’s a very important point to make,” she said. Not surprisingly so. After decades during which gender imbalances in employment circles have been on the agenda, the male/female split among staff in third level institutions remains fairly grim reading for equality campaigners across the country.

O’Connor, professor of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Limerick (UL), is one of the few who have been examining this topic over previous years.

The fact that “change is possible” can’t be taken for granted in this area; in fact, many need convincing.

“Often where it gets bogged down is the idea that women are the problem,” says O’Connor. “They have children, or they don’t want the responsibility, and there’s nothing too much we can do – that gets organisations off the hook and lets everyone relax.”

UL, however, has shown that this isn’t the case.

Until 1997, the university had never had a woman at full professoriate level. By 2012, 34 percent were women.

In only 15 years, the institution went from zero to almost double the national average (19 percent in 2012, according to the Higher Education Authority) and the EU average (20 percent, according to the ‘She Figures 2013’).

But, as O’Connor explains, the turnaround was particularly driven by a simple awareness and understanding of gender issues, filtering down from the top level, beginning with Ed Walsh, a UL president who, in the 1990s, endorsed the gender issue and embraced the fact that an increase was needed in the number of women at professoriate level.

These striking statistics, explains O’Connor, shows that change is possible, particularly when compared to NUI Galway, which, in 2012, had 12 percent women at professoriate level.

“As far as I know, women have continued to have babies, and there can’t be a biological reason for any difference between Limerick and NUIG – women don’t change across 60 miles.”

This isn’t an Irish problem – striking gender imbalances within the upper levels of staff in higher education have been recorded worldwide for many years – but it is certainly a problem in Ireland.

Among senior academic staff, 81 percent in universities are men, and 71 percent in Institutes of Technology (IoTs), according to the 2012 Higher Education Authority (HEA) statistics.

There has also never been a woman at presidential level (or the equivalent top rank) in any Irish university.

Across all staff, however, the gender balance is around 50-50. It is when we look at individual departments, the types of employment within the institutions, and as we move up the hierarchy (both academic and non-academic) that skews occur.

In O’Connor’s upcoming book on management and gender in higher education, to be published in May by Manchester University Press, Ireland’s situation is uniquely put in the spotlight.

Looking at senior management – presidential, vice-presidential and dean level – across the seven Irish universities, O’Connor found that men who have worked outside the Irish academic system were much more likely to be interested in gender equality, to be accepting of it, and to think that gender equality was useful, than those who had only worked within the Irish system.

Getting away from existing, entrenched attitudes seems to have proved crucial in developing an improved perspective. Surely this paints Ireland in a particularly negative light?

“Well, there has never been a woman president or head of a public university in Ireland, for example, but across the EU this rate is only 10 percent, and in Australia it’s 18 percent,” explains O’Connor.

“So the world is a bit bad – but I can never see why we should be as bad as the worst, rather than as good as the best.”

As Paul Smith, equality officer at Dublin City University, told The Edition, “champions at senior level are very important, but for improvements to be made there must be collective responsibility for improving it.”

Individual institutions, the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the State in the form of the Department for Education and Skills, all have a responsibility to work towards improvements in this area, though they have not always lived up to it.

In the Higher Education System Performance Framework 2014-2016, a range of ‘key performance indicators’ (terminology largely brought in from the business world) has been established to measure the progress of Ireland’s third-level education.

The HEA has then used this as a framework for performance ‘compacts’ with higher education institutions, and a range of headings were sent out at the end of last year.

Gender, however, has been omitted as an indicator of progress by the HEA, the body responsible for policy direction in higher education.

As O’Connor sees it, this has “in effect said to third-level institutions that they can continue as male-dominated, masculinist organisations, and we won’t worry”.

The HEA has admitted, in response to a letter O’Connor sent to the Irish Times earlier this year, that its collection of statistics on gender and third-level staff are inadequate, and it will be working towards improving this.

It has also said, in a statement to The Edition: “Irish HEIs [higher education institutions] have been actively engaging with the HEA to develop a framework for the promotion of greater gender equality in academia. Key approaches are being developed and will be funded by the HEA. This has the full support of the Minister for Education and Skills and he expects to see concerted action by HEIs in this regard during 2014.”

In the 1990s, O’Connor points out, the HEA was notably concerned with gender equality, and this is a welcome return to that focus, under pressure from Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

However, the body is now making up for lost time. Between 2004 and 2012, the HEA did not collect data on the gender balance of higher education staff, and, instead, repeated the 2004 statistics in its reports.

In 2002, it also closed the Access and Equality in Higher Education unit, based in Cork since 1989, and O’Connor has argued that responsibility for gender within the HEA has never been reallocated.
The HEA has also not been submitting ‘She Figures’, European-wide statistics on the involvement of women in third-level education, leaving Ireland effectively absent from swathes of previous reports.

O’Connor has emphasised that there are many currently working within the HEA who have an awareness and an appreciation for the gender issue, as there were in the 1990s. But, the absence of gender performance indicators from the compacts between the universities and the HEA is not satisfactory.

The good news is that change seems to be gathering pace across the Irish third level.

As O’Connor says: “Even if some are not as committed as one would wish towards the social justice issues surrounding gender, then research funding might be a little thing they would take into account.”

It seems money could be the key to opening up gender equality across third-level staffing.

Three European-funded projects are currently ongoing in Irish universities. Female Empowerment in Science and Technology in Academia (FESTA) is currently based in UL; the INTEGER project is currently developing gender action plans to create ‘sustainable structural transformation’ in Trinity; and ‘Genovate’ is a UCC-based project promoting gender equality in research and innovation. The success of these projects, and the optimism they have created throughout higher education, are largely down to the gender issue being pragmatically transformed from a social concern into an economic concern.

“The OECD has realised that, although in the past education increased economic growth, it is no longer clear that educating only men will achieve this,” says O’Connor. “But, it is clear that women’s education is related to employment and economic growth, so the EU and OECD are now adamant that gender equality is crucial.”

Money, rather than social justice, may therefore be seen as more effective in turning heads.

Professor Eileen Drew, director of WiSER (The Centre for Women in Science and Engineering Research, which runs the INTEGER project), is optimistic about the potential these projects have opened up.

“We’re now working towards something we hope will become a reality and soon extend not only across Irish universities but to IoTs as well – Athena Swan.”

The Athena Swan charter is the most ambitious measure to follow on from the strides made in gender balances as a result of the shift to a research-focused university. It is a long-term plan, with the idea that any improvements made in the area aren’t simply du jour, but become established and embedded within third-level education.

And the HEA is backing it, with the first tranche of money expected to become available in April for data gathering and preparation, before applications for awards are made in November.

“Getting this award is becoming increasingly important,” Drew told The Edition. “In the UK, the Medical Council has said it will only consider applications for research funding from institutions that have Athena Swan or equivalent, as has the Scottish Research Council, and other Research Councils are looking at it.

“The Irish Research Council has also said it would welcome Athena Swan’s extension to Ireland, and that when in place it will likely become a requirement of each proposal. There’s a big carrot there.”

However, O’Connor highlights the fact that Athena Swan awards only focus on science, engineering and technology: “Women at professoriate level are so under-represented in those areas that they can ‘safely’ be encouraged,” she said.

“Therefore, this initiative, although welcome, will not change the hierarchical academic and managerial male dominance in Irish universities.”

Gender equality will also be prominent in Horizon 2020, the next framework for EU money allocated to research. Applications, under the new system, will all require a gendered consideration of both their research teams and the content itself.

The progress backed by these projects could finally change the culture within the higher echelons of third-level institutions.

A lack of support for career breaks, which has traditionally damaged women’s research opportunities and therefore professorial appointments, has been specifically targeted, as has the endemic ‘maleness’ of higher education’s decision-making groups and their appointments, an organisational culture O’Connor has described as “homo-social and conformist”.

It remains to be seen whether the IoT sector will embrace this new approach. The Institutes of Technology Ireland (IOTI), for example, has not yet engaged with Athena Swan, although an opportunity will be created if the universities have success with it this year.

“The expectation we have voiced to the HEA,” says Drew, “is that the seven universities are going to give it their best this year, and then the ITs will have the opportunity to come online board next year, with the benefit of having more preparation time and the experiences of the universities to draw upon.

“If we were to have, within two years, all third-level institutions with an Athena Swan award, it really would be a very powerful marketing tool, internationally.”

Serious questions remain, however, over whether this will have an impact on changing their gender profile.

At this point, what is certain is that institutions can no longer ignore the gender imbalance in their staffing. Not only are three sets of recommendations available on how they can address the issue (a 2012 European Commission report, a 2012 League of European Research Universities report and recommendations from the Irish Higher Education Equality Network – so there is no longer the option of passing the buck) but improving the gender balance will be crucial to each institution’s future.

As O’Connor points out: “It is a lot handier if you have a management team who are all like clones of yourself – it will be a lot easier to run things, to get agreement. But do you really want to do that, or do you want to create a forward-looking institution that is innovative in research and in teaching? If you just want jobs for the boys, then diversity is a load of hot air and you don’t need it.

“But, universities can no longer assume that they are the only places generating knowledge, and if they want to stay ahead of IoTs and other bodies in the future, they have to get on board with this.”

The same will go for the IoTs – the universities have made the first steps in this area, and if the IoTs are to keep up, they will need to start moving soon.

Including gender profiles in their compacts with the HEA, O’Connor argues, could give them a head-start.
Aoife Moran looks at the forgotten Irish soldiers of World War One, in the year of its 100th anniversary.

Take a moment to think of all the brave Irish soldiers who fought in World War One. Now think to yourself, do I really see much appreciation and acknowledgment towards these valiant heroes of history in our society today? The answer is no, plain and simple. In 1918, out of the 50,000, 39,000 Irish men died in the Great War of 1914-1918. These courageous men have simply been forgotten and have been written out of history itself. So many lives lost, yet, so little recognition.

Heroic souls of the forgotten Irish Soldiers of WW1 who gallantly put their lives at risk, ought to be fully acknowledged again, coming up to the 100th Anniversary of WW1 in 2014. Despite the countless years of ignoring these heroes, our society should salute these men and give them the appreciation that they truly and rightfully deserve.

Due to the fact that the 1916 Easter Rising had taken place during the war, these Irish heroes have been forgotten in history. Whilst the men who fought and died in the 1916 rebellion were seen as heroes, the men who fought in WW1 were and still are, forgotten. Irish men, as young as fourteen years of age, had their precious lives taken away from them and they are now merely a part of history that barely anyone chooses to remember.

They are solely ghosts of the historic battlefield. Ireland and its people should be more conscious of this and should be more aware of the Great War’s events. “These Irish soldiers were shamefully removed from history after the Civil War as they were frowned upon and were not seen as heroes in any way”, said retired soldier and Historian, Donal Buckley, who works for Military Heritage Tours. He also expressed his genuine disappointment in the Irish nation for forgetting these men. He believes that, “if we make a change and really contribute lots of articles and programmes to these men in the next few months, we can continue to appreciate these men in future. They have the right to be remembered.”

We cannot ignore the fact that they fought alongside the British army and most of them were brutally killed. We cannot ignore the numerous amounts of forgotten names and we cannot ignore that our nation, at the time encouraged all of these men to sacrifice their lives and then, coldly proceeded in allowing society to erase their whole existence from this world after the Civil War.

They felt it was their duty to fight alongside Britain on the battlefield to support the rise of small nations. When they arrived back from the war to a mainly Nationalist nation, they felt as though they had been stabbed in the back when they heard about the rebellion of 1916. The dead soldiers of Ireland should have the right to be remembered.

As representatives of the people, the Government should acknowledge these men more, and encourage the people of Ireland not to forget them.

The dead soldiers of Ireland should be more conscious of this and really contribute lots of articles and programmes to these men in the next few months, we can continue to appreciate these men in future. They have the right to be remembered.

We cannot ignore that our nation, at the time encouraged all of these men to sacrifice their lives and then, coldly proceeded in allowing society to erase their whole existence from this world after the Civil War.

They felt it was their duty to fight alongside Britain on the battlefield to support the rise of small nations. When they arrived back from the war to a mainly Nationalist nation, they felt as though they had been stabbed in the back when they heard about the rebellion of 1916. The dead soldiers of Ireland should.
For your information

John McAuliffe meets Ronnie Breen and examines the relevance and current set-up of Irish Freedom of Information

The Irish culture consciousness, as it emerges from the mire of the EU bailout, has undergone what one could call a ‘reawakening’ of interest in the affairs of the powerful, a heightened sense of distrust that perks our ears.

Never before have we been so concerned with the goings-on behind government walls, and, as a result, our ability to access government information has taken on a renewed importance.

“Government should be afraid of its people”, to paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, and there-in lies our liberty. Oddly enough, however, striking fear into the heart of government is no more difficult that simply knowing what they are up to.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOI) as a result, is a key tool in maintaining that liberty. I spoke to Ronnie Breen, the newly appointed Freedom of Information Officer in order to understand how this mechanism of liberty operates.

The Act, which allows citizens to access government information, removes a veil of secrecy which stands between the Irish Government and its people.

We spoke about the aim of the Act, which Breen described as being to “better inform citizens of how our country operates, and to allow citizens to scrutinise any decisions made by the government on their behalf”.

The Act also informs citizens about how their taxes are spent and to allow them to participate in decision-making processes.

“A record will be given to a member of the public unless the appropriate Government Department or Agency has a valid reason not to give it,” Breen added.

He described to me the strengths of the office, noting a large staff base as one of its key attributes – “I am over a large section with 20 staff working with me.”

Breen has only been in the job for six weeks, but counts his previous experience within the civil service, having worked in the area for nearly thirty years. He described for me the process involved in making FOI requests, after I had insisted on making it known to anyone reading how they could involve themselves in this key part of Government transparency.

The Process

“First you must apply to the FOI officer, which, in the case of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, is me. You then must pay a small fee of €15 and set out in writing what information you are looking for. The person is entitled to a response in four weeks. If the citizen feels the response is not satisfactory, they have a right to appeal to a more senior officer in the Department. If the requestor is still not happy, they can appeal to the Information Commissioner, a post that was established in 1997 under the FOI act, and whose Office is in Lee son Street, Dublin 2.

If he or she is not happy with the Commissioner’s decision, an appeal can be lodged to the High Court on a point of law.

“It is very technical work and I have to be familiar with legislation to tackle it,” Breen added.

The process is often slowed and in some cases stalled indeﬁnitely by bureaucracy. Breen described to me cases in which oﬃcials from the head of the department had denied requests based on ‘possible damage to competitiveness’. He then recalled however, a number of years ago, a case where a junior minister leaked information on the budget of that year before the agreed deadline for announcement. He was sacked because of it.

That was the only time something like this happened because there are a clear set of rules. Cases are always put to the information commissioner if the person is unhappy with how the record searching has been conducted, who then has a ﬁnal ruling unless person takes it further legally.”

I asked if we were engaging with the process, to gauge how involved the Irish people are with their government.

“Well, there are up to 100 requests a year (roughly two a week on average). Appeals have to be acknowledged and clariﬁed with the person about what exactly they are looking for. I have to contact the appropriate Unit within the Department to enquire if they can get the documents made available and then I have to put the records in a format for the person to access (i.e. the internet or a hard copy).

“There is a lot of search work involved. It is €15 for every two hours on some large searches because of abuses of the act in the past.”

In his opinion, the fee of €15 is fair considering the work that is put into finding some government documents. It’s also fair because in the past, people have tried to exploit the system by asking for many ﬁles at once, and this “might tie up a whole section, therefore I think the €15 charge is very fair.”

When asked if he thinks Ireland’s political culture is too ‘closed’ to the public, he believed that the government should release as much information as possible to the public, unless it is deemed inappropriate. These “inappropriate” cases would include matters that could damage security of the government or struggling companies in the country. He also said “it would be very difficult to run the country if possible future decisions are made public. The government needs some protection in the deliberative process.”

He also made the point that some information should definitely be made available to the public. He noted the recent controversy that surrounded Irish Water recently. €50 million was spent on consultants alone by the water company and Breen believes that information like this should be available to the public to see. He agreed saying that student newspapers should have a preferential rate of charge instead of €15 because that can add up to quite a lot if multiple requests are made:

“Students should have a preferential rate if they want to do some research about a certain government issue.”

It was clear to me, however, that it was not simply students who would be concerned with the affairs of government. The FOI act gives journalists a good portion on their information – Gavin Sheridan’s thestory.ie is a perfect example.

There was a recent example of such controversy when a junior Minister, who is alleged to have had the bathroom in his office renovated at a cost of almost €100,000 was investigated. One of the Sunday newspapers pursued this story for many weeks. Before 1997, newspapers would not have been able to get access to such information.

Finally, Breen explained the new Freedom of Information Bill 2013 will provide that fees for internal review – an appeal against the decision taken by a Department – will be reduced from €75 to €30. The Fee for appeal to the Information Commissioner will be reduced from €150 to €50 also. Brendan Howlin, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, had proposed to introduce an amendment to the Bill which would have seen the standard fee of €15 increased by €15 for each separate FOI request. However, this was withdrawn in November, and the matter is still under consideration.
Fussy eaters, or something more serious?

Lauren O’Halleron investigates 'selective eating disorder', a little-known and under-acknowledged condition

Your friend invites you over for dinner, or perhaps your other half finally wants you to meet their parents at a fancy Chinese restaurant. No big deal, right? You desperately Google the restaurant you’re going to, or try to work out what your friend will serve for dinner, and hope that it’s something you like, or at least something you can stomach. You fear hating everything and leaving your dinner untouched. Won’t your hosts be offended? They will assume you don’t like their cooking, or they wasted money on you in the restaurant. Why did you agree to dinner in the first place?

This may immediately be perceived as a fussy eater, you are basically choosing not to eat. However, take an individual who cannot bring themselves to eat certain types of food even though they are starving. Can that really be classed as fussy eating also?

Selective Eating Disorder (SED) is a term coined to describe individuals with an avoidance of certain foods based on their colour, smell and/or texture. It is also referred to as picky eating or food neophobia (Strochlic, 2012). When you hear the term eating disorder, your first thoughts might be Anorexia or Bulimia, both of which are triggered by an individual’s self-image and food choices are influenced by calorie content (Reel, 2013).

SED is an under-researched phenomenon that has led to wrongful assumptions by health professionals. One such assumption is that it only occurs in children. This could be due to the fact that children are more than likely to be treated because they are dependent on their parent/guardian who would be monitoring their child’s eating habits. An adult, on the other hand, may never seek help for their limited diet.

Fussy eating can start in childhood, which, if not treated properly, can lead to future dietary and health problems in adulthood. According to Sarah Keogh, a Nutritionist for the Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute, “There’s a very short window for [children] to get used to different flavours and textures. I think it’s between 6 months and 16 months that if children aren’t exposed to enough textures and flavours they start to refuse them.”

In some cases entire food groups can be avoided, e.g. vegetables. Leaving out a food group means the body is not getting its necessary intake of particular nutrients. Also, the food preferences of someone with SED may not necessarily be healthy. According to Reel (2013), adult selective eaters identified French fries and bacon as their chosen meals.

The lack of research not only leaves the prevalence of the disorder unknown, but it makes treating it a challenge. Felix Economakis, a chartered psychologist and clinical hypnotist from London, has treated approximately 300 people for SED in his clinic. He says he has experienced it in two forms: a phobic form and a sensory processing disorder (SPD). The phobic form, the more common of the two, occurs like most phobias: from a traumatic experience in childhood that creates avoidance of a certain food, e.g. choking on a particular food, or associating a food with an underlying stomach bug.

“Once in my 20s I drank too much red wine and threw up a few times. I couldn’t even look at red wine for over a year. Now imagine being very little and having intolerance or [an] allergy to dairy or certain proteins, wheat, gluten or whatever, and getting repeated cramps when eating such foods. It’s no wonder the system will go into over-drive and refuse all potentially painful new foods.” Such a phobia, he insists, can be treated in a one- to two-hour treatment session in his clinic using a mixture of therapies based on systemic therapy, Gestalt therapy, neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) and hypnosis.

SPD, on the other hand, is rare, and results from a sensory processing problem. Felix has encountered difficulty trying to treat ‘pure’ SPD in one session. “However, it should also be pointed out that I haven’t had the chance to see if I can change SPD over several sessions using hypnosis to change the focus of attention, stimulation or sensitivity.”

It is possible for SED and SPD to be confused with each other. “Many people I have successfully treated who made remarks about texture or smell at the start of the session assumed they had the SPD version.” Felix continues, insisting that an individual’s perception is influenced by fear. “Once the underlying fear was removed, their perception was ‘uncontaminated’ by fear and they could assess food more objectively and problems with texture and taste simply cleared up.”

To make matters even more complicated, it is often misdiagnosed by health professionals who have never heard of it. “SED often gets overlooked and misdiagnosed by doctors and therapists, as they confuse one with the other. Sometimes they diagnose SED/SPD/autism when it is extreme fussy eating and other times they diagnose fussy eating/SPD/autism when it is SED.”

Physical long-term problems of selective eaters may include low energy, lethargy, irritable mood swings, poorer concentration, more frequent colds/coughs, sleeping issues, over/underweight, etc. However, the social and emotional problems can also cause great distress; these include exclusion, sadness, guilt, self-esteem issues, self-consciousness, shame, problems keeping relationships, etc.

Felix feels that more research is needed based on the feedback he has received: “Most UK and US doctors and health professionals are clueless and recommend unhelpful approaches such as starving. They do not realise the difference between SED and fussy eating.”

In Ireland, it is a challenge to find a nutritionist or a dietician who has treated SED. Sarah Keogh admits that she has never treated an individual who has been officially diagnosed with this disorder, but has treated individuals who were classed (usually by the individuals themselves) as fussy eaters.

“You would occasionally have an adult come in to be helped with their fussy eating and it’s almost always the feel of the food, whether it’s the texture, that it’s crunchy, or it’s difficult.”

As of May 2013, SED has been recognised by the fifth edition of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V), however, it is now called Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID). A diagnosis of this disorder is made if an individual does not show signs of ‘traditional’ eating disorders, such as anorexia or bulimia, but experiences significant disturbances with eating and food (eatingdisorder.org, 2013).

Whether or not this acknowledgement by the manual will create better awareness of SED, among health professionals and/or health professionals, remains to be seen.
Green 19
Camden Street

Eimear O’Hehir

As students we don’t typically eat out a lot, but when we do we want something relatively cheap and enjoyable. Enter Green 19.

The restaurant, situated on Camden Street Lower, has won the Bridgestone Award for the past four years running, but don’t let this make you think it’s a fancy-schmancy kind of place with classical music that you’ve probably never heard of playing in the background.

Being in the city centre, its relaxed vibe and quirky decor make it ideal for just popping in on your lunch break between classes, wearing a hoodie and your tatty old Cons. They also have a balcony that would be perfect for enjoying one of their smoothies (€4) during the summer.

It transforms from a cafe/bar serving breakfast and lunch into a chic restaurant at night, making it perfect to start your night out with the girls. It has an extensive list of perfectly made cocktails (€9 – but so worth it) or if you’re out with the lads try their selection of craft beers (€5.50). The staff here are instantly welcoming, friendly and helpful; you feel content here from the start – and that’s before you’ve even seen the menu.

The menu is extensive enough that it caters for a variety of tastes and requirements, dishes include the likes of mushroom and pumpkin gnocchi, braised lamb shank and Mexican burritos. We skipped the starters and went straight into the mains, most of which are around €10, and are quality at that price.

We ordered the chicken supreme with seasonal vegetable and crushed baby potatoes (€10) and a chickpea burger with a tzatziki sauce (€10), which were prompt to arrive. The chicken was perfectly cooked and full of flavour. Their home brewed lemonade (€3.50) went down perfectly with this.

Half way through our mains we saw another diner a few tables down from us scream with delight as her dessert was presented to her, and after asking our waitress what she had ordered our mind was quickly made up.

Dessert was an apple and berry crumble with ice cream (€5), the likes of which would have Mary Berry licking her plate clean. With the rain pouring down outside the only sensible thing to do was order hot chocolate. Now, this was by far the best part of the meal. Green 19 make a Valrhona hot chocolate (€3), an absolute dream for any chocolate-lovers out there being a rich and luxurious hot chocolate that you would struggle to find, in even the most fancy hotels and restaurants in Ireland.

It’s easy to understand why you have to make reservations for dinner here during the weekends. The service is friendly and flawless, and you’re spoiled for choice. The food is everything good food should be: honest, fuss-free and delicious. Check it out, it’s definitely a new favourite of mine.

Operation Transformation: Diary entry, week three

RACHAEL O’BRIEN

So it’s a few weeks into Operation Transformation and I’m beginning to find it pretty tough.

For the first few weeks, while it was difficult to cut out the junk food and exercise more, it didn’t feel impossible. This last week has been hard because I’m craving chocolate and coke a lot more and with this weather it was even harder to get out and exercise.

I will admit I did let these excuses get to me by having lazy days and treating myself a little too much. For the first few weeks, while it was difficult to cut out the junk food and exercise more, it didn’t feel impossible. This last week has been hard because I’m craving chocolate and coke a lot more and with this weather it was even harder to get out and exercise.

I will admit I did let these excuses get to me by having lazy days and treating myself a little too much.

I'm in work. Being a waitress means you're on your feet all the time and you could be in work till after midnight. To help me get through shifts, I used to drink fizzy drinks and snack on deserts and bread. I’m trying to change that by just drinking water and munching on fruit.

Last weekend, there was a lot of platter food left over (something which is very rare), and everyone was allowed to help themselves. I did resist by having grapes and strawberries when I was on my break, but it was hard.

I’ve had weeks where I’ve lost weight but I did have a week where I didn’t, something I wasn’t happy about but I kind of saw coming. I know that only I can work harder, but I also know that it’s not the end of the world if I don’t lose weight every week. All I know is that I have to be careful of what I eat and do more exercise, and eventually I’ll become more confident in myself.

I will admit I did let these excuses get to me by having lazy days.

“...”

Information and advice on what matters to you.

Ireland's Youth Website
@SpunOut /f/SpunOut.ie
Young people are locked out of the neknominations debate

Lifestyle Editor: Hannah Popham

Wednesday, February 12th, 2014

Take Five: Men's grooming products

By Hannah Popham

Lifestyle Editor

The Moisturiser
L’Oréal Men Expert Hydra-Energetic Anti-Fatigue. A little bit pricey, this moisturiser is said to be easily absorbed and provides a refreshing and clean-feeling start to your day of inevitable manliness. It contains Vitamin C and Magnesium to keep the girls swooning over your lovely soft skin all day. Boots (€12.49)

The Shampoo
Toni and Guy Deep Clean Shampoo. Quite decently priced, this shampoo is an essential for those who use a lot of hair products as it is renowned for removing hair gels and clay and replenishing your hair. It cleanses your scalp to remove build up and grease, because you don’t wanna be that guy. Boots (€7.79)

The Face-Wash
Garnier Pure Anti-Blackhead Deep Pore Wash. Only adding an extra ten seconds or so to your showering regime, this wash contains salicylic acid and purifying zinc to remove those pesky dead skin cells and keep you looking spot-free and handsome. It’s less than a price of a pint too. Boots (€3.53)

The Hair Product
Vo5 Extreme Style Matt Clay. I have heard that finding the perfect hair product can be a never-ending quest for some guys, but this matt clay is said to last longer than most and be easy to mould without making your hair hard. Sure it even smells nice too, you’ll be flying. Boots (€5.89)

The Deoderant
L’Oréal Men Expert Invincible 96H Non-Stop Deodorant. Even though I would question the idea of any man not showering for 96 hours, this deodorant is said to go above and beyond most scientific principles. Very handy if you catch yourself too busy partying to go home. Boots (€7.21)

We have allowed a culture of ‘We know best’ to flourish within Irish society, a culture in which the people affected by certain issues are the people who are not listened to. I am not writing this with a solution to the ‘Neknominations’ craze, or the problems that young people in Ireland face with alcohol, but I do think the way these issues are approached can be changed.

As Marilyn Manson responded when he was asked what would be have said to the children at Columbine after the tragedy that happened there: ’I wouldn’t say a single word to them. I would listen to what they had to say… and that’s what no one did.’ This is what happened on Vincent Browne on Monday night.

It is very easy for media organisations like The Mirror, The Sun, RTÉ and TV3 to slam ‘Neknominations’ and vilify Irish drinking culture, especially amongst younger people, but these organisations always neglect their own responsibility when it comes to these issues. When it comes to these organisations, it is always the case of pointing the finger of responsibility at somebody else and never turning the finger of blame upon themselves. For instance, right now they are slamming drinking culture in Ireland, but what do they do when one of the world’s biggest political AND cultural icons in Barack Obama comes to Ireland? Give him a pint of Guinness and put him on the front page?

L hope that TV3, it’s great for them to have a discussion on ‘Neknominations’ and the problems that young people in Ireland have with alcohol, but is it ever discussed on the station, that they are the one who broadcasts ‘Tallafornia’? A show that is aimed directly at young people and involves people going to clubs with the sole intention of getting absolutely smashed all for the sake of cheap Friday night entertainment?

That is not a direct shot at Vincent Browne, a man whom I greatly respect; it is a shot at the hypocritical nature of media in Ireland.

This hypocritical nature of Irish media and politics is rife and it is always the same people who are under-represented. Young people are not listened to in these scenarios because politicians do not fear them like they do older groups. Politicians feel like they can walk all over young people because they think younger people are not bothered to vote. That is why younger people are the main victims of ridiculous ideas such as JobBridge and are targeted by acts of ageism, such as dole cuts for under 25’s. Politicians simply do not care – but they should. There is a changing tide in young people’s view of politics. Young people are involved now more than ever, and with the Internet, are clued in more than ever and are ready for change. The voiceless will be heard.
McDonald's: Are we really lovin' it?

Gavin Lacey sampled the atmosphere at McDonald's, late on a Saturday night

Fights, drinks, broken high heels, superhero underwear and sparkly dresses that are stained in a bright hue of red, not of blood, but of ketchup. This isn’t Saint Vincent’s hospital; it’s McDonald’s on O’Connell Street on a Saturday night.

A bittersweet taste permeates the greasy stench of fans lingering on after the Ireland vs. Australia rugby match, and it isn’t the sweet and sour dip spilled all over one of the black countertops that is causing this reek.

Children have their upper torsos and wind battered faces wrapped in thick woolly scarves that exude the vibrant greens and whites of the Irish rugby team as they impatiently wait for their happy meals, while an elderly man in a faded green jersey sits across the dark countered table.

He rests on one of the rigid topped stools, gradually leaning forward to wait for his happy meal, while an Irish rugby team as they impatiently follow a chorus of high pitched cackling.

The tiny packets of salt become the next source of entertainment as the gathering rip open and pour out every white rectangle packet that intrudes their eye lines. They simulate snorting the stroked up lines only to be rudely interrupted once more by security. “Do ya want a line?” one inquisitively probes; but this act of generosity is politely declined and is responded with a gracious invitation to leave the premises. They reluctantly oblige, not without one last rebellious, as one threatens “I’ll leave before I burn the place down.”

One McDonald’s employee details how he is used to this kind of behaviour on a regular basis. “Personally, I find it quite uncomfortable because they are guaranteed to think they are hilarious if they are young all the way up to about late 30’s or 40’s, and the fact that they are in a place where most people aren’t drunk on a normal basis means they really get to be funny and indulge in hypothetically try to emphasize how they are ‘OH MY GOD I’m so drunk and having the funniest time’.”

What happens throughout the rest of the night is a series of drunken debauchery under the moniker ‘controlled chaos’.

A chaos that is only controlled by the efficiency and tolerance of every member of staff, without their due diligence a frenzy could commence at any moment.

A man with patched grey hair, donning an all black outfit lays drunkenly motionless in the corner of the restaurant. Attempts from the bouncers to lift his limp body go in vain as his lifeless frame refuses to budge. With no other choice, they leave him with his head slumped against the hard topped counter in the hope that he will wake up of his own accord. While security are busy trying to work out his next utterance of eloquence, his lifeless frame refuses to budge. With no other choice, they leave him with his head slumped against the hard topped counter in the hope that he will wake up of his own accord. While security are busy trying to work out his next utterance of eloquence, his lifeless frame refuses to budge. With no other choice, they leave him with his head slumped against the hard topped counter in the hope that he will wake up of his own accord. While security are busy trying to work out his next utterance of eloquence, his lifeless frame refuses to budge. With no other choice, they leave him with his head slumped against the hard topped counter in the hope that he will wake up of his own accord. While security are busy trying to work out his next utterance of eloquence, his lifeless frame refuses to budge. With no other choice, they leave him with his head slumped against the hard topped counter in the hope that he will wake up of his own accord. While security are busy trying to work out his next utterance of eloquence, his lifeless frame refuses to budge. With no other choice, they leave him with his head slumped against the hard topped counter in the hope that he will wake up of his own accord. While security are busy trying to work out his next utterance of eloquence, his lifeless frame refuses to budge. With no other choice, they leave him with his head slumped against the hard topped counter in the hope that he will wake up of his own accord. While security are busy trying to work out his next utterance of eloquence, his lifeless frame refuses to budge.

The night ahead. One proclaims his desire for a little vodka before he goes out; not the typical kind of spirit that tribes normally wish to summon in the middle of a ritual, but in this environment, it is perfectly normal.

The bouncer in his thick black cotton jumper of authority walks over abruptly and gently asks the rascuous males to calm down, knowing that an aggressive approach would be returned with an equally aggressive response. The pack momentarily oblige as the stocky security guard cautiously turns 180 degrees and paces away slowly. Approximating a soldier in a duel, he knows he will have to turn around and face his opponent anytime soon, and he’s right.

The fleeting truce is broken as one of them shouts out at him “Nice arse!” followed by a chorus of high pitched cackling.

This act of aggression and intimidation is a regular feature of a night at work for McDonald’s employees. “Dealing with the sheer amount of drunks who come through at night can be unbearable, as a majority of young people in Dublin are massive dickheads anyway without drink, and well then they get drunk, and they don’t get any less dickheadish.”

As the crowds becomes less frequent and the menu boards graciously flip from the main menu to the breakfast menu to reflect the dawn of a new day the ambulances still occasionally whizz by outside. The flashing blue lights highlight the half opened boxes, the discarded brown paper bags and the drains filling up from the streams of wasted coke. The vision resembles a rave at the end of the world.

This apocalyptic scene is reflective of the culture of alcohol in Ireland. A culture of consumption that induces a kind of zombification amongst the members of the public, a culture that ensures individuality is wiped out and replaced with a uniformed army of stumblers who only have one concern in mind – where the next drunken ‘Eurosaver’ meal is coming from.
There are a few things I learned from watching Dallas Buyer Club. They include: the evils of the pharmaceutical industry, the ability of Matthew McConahey to seriously act and the possibility that Jared Leto may be a woman trapped in a man’s body. For those who are aware of the heart-breaking documentary How to Survive a Plague (which chronicles the fight for proper pharmaceutical drug research during the 1980’s AIDS epidemic), Dallas Buyers Club is only a brief account of the anguish the gay community was crying out for in a decade of homophobia. Although it is McConahey’s resiliant cowboy masculinity and Leto’s damaged femininity which acts as a metaphor for the culture of acceptance the gay community was craving out for in a decade of homophobia, although it is McConahey’s acting which seems to have left both critics and audiences laying wreaths at his newly formed alter, for me it was the deliciacy with which Leto approached the role of a drug abusing transvestite which made the film both fragile and defiant – a performance laden with subtle stares and fluid feminine gestures.

Dallas Buyers Club is a film for any viewer worth his salt, exposing historical social injustice while presenting grade ‘A’ acting to boot.

What happens when you take three of the hottest young actors (Zac Efron, Michael B. Jordan, and Miles Teller), and have them play somewhat regular twenty-something guys? You get that awkward 94 minute movie, which is easily condensed into an incredibly entertaining three-minute trailer. Like many modern comedies, That Awkward Moment falls into the trap of an unfortunate case of advertising ruining the enjoyment of the movie. That’s not to say it’s a bad movie – it definitely has a few redeemable qualities that make it a passable movie-going experience.

The story is perhaps one of the most predictable you’re going to see this year, but that doesn’t completely derail its light charm and sporadic comedic moments. It’s very much an “actors’ movie” – by which I mean, if you’re not a fan of the actors: you’re not likely to find much enjoyment in this.

Miss-marketed as a raunchy comedy, it struggles to find a balance between “Rom” and “Com”. But the comedy surely lies in the lack of believability that these three attractive, successful characters could be this awkwardly unfortunate, and then suddenly find a magical fix to make everything better.

Take the story as it is, and just accept it as this poor, predictable, witty, less piece of writing, and you’re left with three lovally warm characters, a few genuinely laugh-out-loud moments, and a reasonably nice look at some fun young romantic scenes unfolding on screen – but when Zac Efron and Michael B. Jordan sharing break-up ice cream and Scotch on the sofa together is the most romantic scene, you know your movie has a few problems.

It’s a passable RomCom, but worth a miss to save you that awkward moment when you waste €10 on a ticket.

This game could simply be called Don’t Die, but then so could most games. The difference here is when you do inevitably perish, you experience ‘permadeath’, a rather iron-ic term that could only exist in the world of video games. The gimmick is that you won’t be respawning in this world I’m afraid (I’m talking about the video game of course...), and if you die, you lose. But pacing is slow and its hard to care about any of the charac ters. The film is marooned between a light comedy and semi-serious WWII drama - never really working as either.

Cloney, Damon, Bannett, Murray, Balaban, Goodman, Dujardin and Bonville all share the silver-screen. Cloney hangs on the periphery of the piece - chiming in occasionally with ponderous speeches about art and freedom. The basic message of the film is that America and art are good - Nazis and Soviets are bad. Given the amount of big names involved in the film they all end up feeling like they are on the periphery of the piece. Damon is okay - but essentially playing the same character he always plays. Bill Murray and Bob Balaban have some good comedic chemistry.

But pacing is slow and its hard to care about any of the charac ters. The film is marooned between a light comedy and semi-serious WWII drama - never really working as either.

'Overdone' and most of the first half of the album is also more than passable. The album wobblies toward the end when ‘Feelin’ and ‘Come To’ fall flat as they try to push the electronic experimentation. The closer and title track begins slowly - it eventually almost kicks off but never really does.

The space that was once occupied by indie bands in the musical landscape has been increasingly eroded by crossovers with hip hop and electronic music. There has been a power void that ‘the industry’ has tried to fill with Bombay Bicycle Club - pushing them like a Kasabian for 16-20 year olds who are too cool for Kasabian. This isn’t a ‘bad album’ - but its hard to greet it with much more than a shoulder shrug.

Some of it works – mostly – but it still sounds like the album is striving to be either an arena or club filler. It comes closer to the former than the latter but achieves neither.

'Carry Me' and 'Home By Now' stand above everything else, the latter is particularly impressive. The opener

The space that was once occupied by indie bands in the musical landscape has been increasingly eroded by crossovers with hip hop and electronic music. There has been a power void that ‘the industry’ has tried to fill with Bombay Bicycle Club - pushing them like a Kasabian for 16-20 year olds who are too cool for Kasabian. This isn’t a ‘bad album’ - but its hard to greet it with much more than a shoulder shrug.

The Wicklow man is making good on the promise he made to The Edition last September to have a new EP out early in 2014. Its a crisp Van Morrison-esque number and the title track of said EP which is due out next month.

Ballad Beck-ery taken from his forthcoming Morning Phase LP, out Feb 21st. Not sure what Beck’s been up to for the last while but this sounds good, ambling – wide-eyed. Looking forward to the album now.

This game could simply be called Don’t Die, but then so could most games. The difference here is when you do inevitably perish, you experience ‘permadeath’, a rather iron-ic term that could only exist in the world of video games. The gimmick is that you won’t be respawning in this world I’m afraid (I’m talking about the video game of course...), and if you die, you lose. But pacing is slow and its hard to care about any of the charac ters. The film is marooned between a light comedy and semi-serious WWII drama - never really working as either.

Not that there’s any shortage of things to actively kill you: giant red hornets, colossal one-eyed ostrich monsters and the occasional tentacle will gladly push you off your mortal coil if you’re not shuffling fast enough.

But the finality of death puts an exciting spin on an otherwise tired formula of foraging and crafting, and the funky visuals might just keep you entertained longer than other Minecraft-esque games. Plus, any game where you can shave your beard and keep the hair in a wooden chest is a winner in my book.

The space that was once occupied by indie bands in the musical landscape has been increasingly eroded by crossovers with hip hop and electronic music. There has been a power void that ‘the industry’ has tried to fill with Bombay Bicycle Club - pushing them like a Kasabian for 16-20 year olds who are too cool for Kasabian. This isn’t a ‘bad album’ - but its hard to greet it with much more than a shoulder shrug.
Film festival is ready for action

Culture Editor Joseph Conroy meets Gráinne Humphreys, director of this year’s Jameson Dublin International Film Festival

Speaking to Gráinne Humphreys it is immediately clear how passionate she is about cinema – what is happening in cinema, Irish cinema and how it is changing and the Dublin International Film Festival and how it too is changing.

While work scouting out new titles to bring to the festival begins in March each year, organising the festival does not run to a calendar. The organisers can spend up to 5 or 6 years choosing filmmakers, trying to bring them to Dublin.

Festival director Gráinne Humphreys estimates that the team watch between 1,100 and 1,200 films every year. This involves going up to 15 film festivals a year taking in 50 to 60 films at each one. The festival also receives 600+ submissions from filmmakers from Ireland and all over the world.

Gráinne believes that it is important that the festival spreads its net wide to allow the team to take in everything that is happening in cinema in a given year so that they can offer Dubliners an eclectic festival program.

“We hope that the festival will be a celebration of the body of work produced in a given year rather than focusing on individual titles,” she said.

Most festivals that they go to fit into a certain niche. Cannes for art house, Toronto for big titles, San Sebastian for Spanish films, but open submissions mean that the festival’s organisers can end up watching absolutely anything:

“You are literally sent absolutely everything from something shot on someone’s camera phone to some huge Bollywood song and dance marathon that lasts 4 hours and everything in between.”

Sheclassifies part of her job remit as watching a lot of awful films so that nobody else has to.

Director’s picks from off the beaten track:

- **The Reunion:** “It’s a Swedish film and it’s a very, very clever film by a first time director called Anna Oddel. It’s about a woman who was rejected from her high school reunion and she went off and took revenge in a really interesting way.” Light House Cinema Feb 20th.

- **Tracks:** “Tracks is a film by John Curran about a female adventurer who travels across the Australian desert with three camels and a dog and it’s brilliantly shot – it looks fantastic.” Savoy Feb 16th.

- **No Limbs No Limits:** “A really powerful Irish documentary by Steven O’Riordan.” Savoy Feb 15th.

- **Twenty Feet From Stardom:** “A documentary about backing singers who sing behind the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Sting and The Rolling Stones: “It’s a really joyous film and I think it will have everyone clapping and singing on their way home.” Savoy Feb 23rd.

The culmination of one year’s worth of filming San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge, The Bridge centres around the life and death of California’s iconic bridge, the second highest suicide spot in the world. Disturbing and compelling in equal measure, the film uses a series of interviews with family members and tourists to illuminate the social phenomena.

Blackfish (2013)

This controversial documentary illuminates how SeaWorld have constantly put profit before the care of their killer whales, resulting in the unnecessary death of three trainers.

By interviewing witnesses, past employees and whale experts, the film highlights the danger of keeping wild animals in captivity.


The film tells the incredible story of Susan Tom, who adopted eleven children abandoned by their own family, many of whom have terminal diseases or disabilities. The film focuses on the heart-breaking story of her son Joe who grapples with cystic fibrosis to show how close a family can be regardless of the adversity they face.

YouTube
**The Incredibles**
**Director: Brad Bird**

Jack O'Higgins  
**STAFF WRITER**

"The Incredibles a lost classic? Really? No doubt you're thinking some variation of this, perhaps as you sit by the fireplace, a glass of fine Scotch in hand, waiting to be educated on the more obscure side of cinema. Yet allow me to elucidate, dear reader, and soon all will become clear.

It's true that The Incredibles has enjoyed both critical and commercial success, yet there is one final praise that needs to be awarded; namely, that the film represents the apex of Pixar and by extension, the modern family film. Bold words in a world that has Toy Story and Finding Nemo, yet not inconceivable. Pixar has always created films that catered to young and old alike, but under the direction of Brad Bird (an ex-Simpsons staffer), this tricky balancing act was perfected. Superhero satire, family drama and Nietzsche-ian strength and capabilities to grab the attention of passers-by who in this modern times than The Incredibles.

**LOST CLASSIC**

Spin 103.8’s Zoo Crew presenter talks jeeps, sweets and beats with The Edition’s Rachael O’Brien

Dara Quilty is best known as one half of the presenters of Spin 103.8’s The Zoo Crew. He has previously worked in RTÉ and 98FM, and was also a member of the band Fox Avenue for three years. I talked with Dara on his career in radio, his love for music and what’s coming up in his life.

**How did you first get into radio?**

After secondary school, I started driving jeeps for 98FM because I got my driving licence when I was 17. I wanted to have a jeep and 98FM had jeeps and I used to drive around giving out free sweets and from there I worked my way up.

**Was radio something you always wanted to do?**

My interest only came from handling out the free sweets actually. It was also music that led me to it, playing instruments when I was in primary school. Anything in the studio sparked the interest in it.

**How did being a member of Fox Avenue happen?**

That started around the same time radio did. It was something I put together because that’s what I wanted to do alongside radio. Radio allows you to do music so when I formed the band I was able to work in radio as well. I met Sean in secondary school through a friend and Patrick was in my class in college.

**How did your presenting in RTÉ come about?**

From getting a job in the radio I was in the right place at the right time. I was very young when I started doing radio. I was only 18 and by the time I was 20 I got a full time job in Spin 103.8. Someone in RTÉ heard the show I was on and they were putting together TwoTube and they wanted a young person to present it.

**Are your two passions of broadcasting and music equal in your mind?**

I love music but radio is a more stable thing in my life. I have to pay bills and music takes time to make. I would love to make more money from music but I also love broadcasting. I love them both equally. For now music is something I want to make a career of.

**What was it like going from presenting a show on your own to co-hosting with Brian Maher?**

Absolutely fine because you could swear that we have known each other for years. We only met in Spin, and presenting The Zoo Crew is so much craic. Working with someone that is a mate of yours makes it so much better. The show is 100% controlled by us so it’s brilliant.

**What does the future hold for Dara Quilty?**

Doing a job that makes me happy. Hopefully I’ll be doing loads of new music next year.

---

**Dublin's hidden world of sign-writing**

**AMANDA CONNOLLY**

**Gentlemen of Letters** premiered in December 2013 at The Sugar Club. This labour of love is brought to us by Taller Stories and Toe Jam with titles by Gianni. The sixteen minute documentary examines the rich history of hand painted signs in Ireland.

Street Artist Maser is joined by the likes of Colm O’Connor, artist and graphic designer James Earley, and Kevin Freeney Jr, son of well-known sign writer Kevin Freeney, on film discussing all aspects of the job.

Filmmaker Colin Brady wrote: We released a documentary film about Dublin’s relationship, history and influence connected with hand painted signs called **Gentlemen of Letters**. Although it’s not as common now, the city was once rich with beautiful hand lettered signs crafted by old school sign writers like Kevin Freeney… It’s true. Dublin was once flooded with beautifully crafted signs, where as now it is almost a niche business and a visual pleasure to see this craft work above a business door.

Walking through cities as recently as the 1980’s storefronts, bar signs, billboards and even some street signs were meticulously hand crafted and painted. Like many skilled trades, the industry of sign painting was almost overran by the advancement in technologies promising to produce large scale signs for half the price and time. Albeit a good thing for some, this proliferation of mass manufactured dye-cut lettering and signs has brought with it a lack of individuality and feeling of sameness on our streets.

Street artist Maser is keen to recognise the skill as an art form stating that like all art there are two main concerns on the job for the sign writer - getting the message across and the aesthetics or beauty of the piece.

He tells us of how his own work was influenced by sign writers and the work of Kevin Freeney in particular. Similar to signs, works of street artists must possess the same visual strength and capabilities to grab the attention of passers-by who in this day and age are flooded with visual stimuli on a regular basis. They have 2-3 seconds to catch your eye and that’s it.

The good-natured, well researched content of this documentary will give you a new found appreciation for the craft and dedication of the painters behind the signs we all too often pass by. Stop. Look. Appreciate.
Joining the talent show rat race

Andrew Mann speaks candidly to Darragh Collins about his positive experience in the harsh world of TV talent shows

A change is upon us and last year was certainly a moment of clarity for music fans around the world. No longer are artists evaluated on talent, sales or great music. These days the visual appears to have surpassed the sound.

In 1963 the Beatles song, ‘She Loves You’ sold 1,300,000 copies making it the biggest selling single of its decade. The video was simple: the four members performing with different camera angles capturing them as they did so. The Beatles were the biggest artists of their generation, the reason being that they possessed musical talent. Nowadays the prerequisite for success is rather different.

Last year, the world watched as Miley Cyrus performed her single ‘We Can’t Stop’ alongside Robin Thicke at the MTV Video Music Awards. It was a performance in which the actions certainly spoke louder than the words; one which epitomised the state of the music industry. The young singer indulged in some very non-Hannah Montana gyrating during her number, which included scantily clad dancers and Cyrus grabbing Thicke’s crotch. It was a desperate attempt at creating a point of controversy, and it succeeded with great measure.

One had to wonder what would come next for the ex-child star, eagerly attempting to shed her wholesome persona. Two weeks later, the video for Cyrus’ latest single ‘Wrecking Ball’ was launched. Upon its release, it received mixed reviews from critics, who were ambivalent towards its lyrical content and overall production. It was deemed an average track and wasn’t expected to flourish by any means, seemingly exemplified by its debuting at 50 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100. It later became Cyrus’ first number-one single in the United States after the release of a controversial music video.

The video shows Cyrus wearing nothing but dark red boots on top of a wrecking ball and licking a sledgehammer. It provoked controversy, with many feeling that it was a distasteful ploy to herald the emergence of Miley’s adult image.

But for what? Indeed it was a money spinner, but a 21-year-old girl had also become a poster girl for degradation. They say no publicity is bad publicity, but in the case of Miley Cyrus you could disagree. Many people took to the internet to create crude images of the popstar - making a mockery of her physical and mental state.

It is interesting that it took these measures to create a top single. The popular show the X Factor has also been central to much criticism. A show in which many acts prevail due to their physical appearance, rather than their talent. Again it’s all about the money.

The Irish equivalent is the Voice of Ireland. A very similar program in the sense that it is a talent show, however, it contains one significant difference, musical ability is the core criterion on which contestants are judged. Auditions are conducted through blind auditions, where performers are selected based purely on the quality of their voice.

This year’s winner Sam Biley has already achieved a number-one single. However one must ponder as to what state she will find herself in a year’s time. What measures might she have to adopt for future success?

Andrew Mann is a performer that competed for the crown last year. A contestant unlike many others: no sob story and no balls**it, he had years of genuine success prior to this appearance. Which begs the question, why would he audition for the show in the first place?

“I liked the format,” he said, speaking to The Edition, “I had been gigging for years and wanted a new challenge. My mates encouraged me a lot after the first series and in time I decided that it might be worth a try. I did my research on the blind auditions and I wanted all four judges to turn around for me, which thankfully they did. I decided to perform ‘Payphone’ by Maroon 5. I wasn’t really sold on the song to begin with but as I listened to the lyrics I realised that it’s actually a brilliant love song. I decided to do it, but I wanted to do it in an original way and it worked for me. I’ll never forget walking out to the Helix on the first night seeing all those people looking at me, and imagining all of the others watching at home. Remember thinking to myself: ‘is this where you wanna be?’”

As a songwriter by nature, Andrew found it difficult to sometimes maintain his individuality.

“I wanted to perform an original song, but they wouldn’t let me.”

He offered me wonderful support throughout the campaign and the day before the show he would always provide me with excellent input on how to improve my performance.”

Many acts, no matter how talented, struggle in the aftermath of these shows. That said, Andrew struck while the iron was hot. He adopted a different approach to that of the typical TV talent show graduate - the type that usually falls victim to the next flavour of the month.

“You just have to keep your head up and get busy. It was very much get back to plan A when I was eliminat-
ed. I had been working on an album during the show, so when it ended I was able to come out with my single ‘Middle of the Dance Floor’ fairly quickly, which was a top 10 in the Irish charts. Life can be difficult after these shows because support is extremely hard to come by. The radios refused to play some of the past winners’ songs, which is a disgrace, it’s extremely difficult now more than ever.”

As for the X-Factor, Andrew’s opinion was fairly blunt: “It’s a soap opera; it’s all about making as much money as you can.”

Clearly Mann won’t rest on his laurels. A Eurosong entry beckons and he will perform the single written by Cormac Battle titled ‘Be Mine’ on the Late Late Show.

“The Voice offered me wonderful exposure, and I have grown as an artist because of it. I am extremely excited about the Eurosong entry. I recorded the track over in the UK where Def Leppard had recorded a lot of their stuff. Joe Elliott even came in on one day which was an amazing experience.”

“It’s a rocking track and I think the people at home will appreciate the diversity. I can’t wait and I hope that I can be victorious and represent Ireland at the Eurovision.”

The Voice of Ireland does seem to have a genuine interest in its contestants, however it is the forces outside of the show that fail to build on this support. Therefore the message is clear: the winning format seems to be act fast and stay relevant. It’s a rat race and in order to be the best you have to keep up. One thing is for sure, Andrew Mann has no intention of slowing down.

You can catch Andrew on the Late Late show on the 28th of February.
The Freshers football team overcame University College Cork (UCC) by four points in the quarter-final of the A championship in Artane on Thursday, February 6th.

“They came up here today as league champions. Last time we played them was in the league playoff and they beat us by 20 points” said DIT manager Thomas Burke following the victory over UCC.

DIT were two points in front at half-time (0-9 to 1-4), a winning margin which was doubled by the end of the game.

DIT’s sixteen point final tally came from the six starting forwards. Corner-forward Sean Daly was the top-scorer with 0-6 (three frees).

DIT full-forward Ruairí Ó Coileáin and UCC’s number 11 exchanged scores which was doubled by the end of the game. Daly continued with points from Shauna O’Connor (two) and an impressive free outside the 45 metre line taking part. But on Friday in the western region of Krasnodar Krai, the spotlight belonged to Russia, and they held it most impressively, wasting no time to proudly display their achievements.

The world’s largest country has attempted to steer public opinion away from its suspect human rights record, the subject has reared its head far more often than not. In the months leading up to the games, remarkable stories emerged such as Russia’s deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak, claiming that gay people were to consider themselves safe at the Sochi Olympics as long as they stay away from children. On top of stories like this were reports of shambolic transport, unfinished hotels and stray dogs being poisoned around the city.

It almost felt as if Russia didn’t care about its global reputation. However on Friday evening as the opening ceremony began, the opposite appeared to be true. The sheer grandiose nature of the ceremony was a sight to behold, highlighting precisely just how these games are proving the most expensive in history. Viewers were treated to an impressive show, as thousands of professional dancers and volunteers moved through the history of Russia while massive stage set-pieces moved around them, all set to the classical orchestral tones of some of Russia’s greatest composers.

Estimated to cost around $12 billion, that figure has ballooned to a whopping $51 billion, surpassing the Beijing Olympics as the most expensive games in history. This figure also totally dwarfs the cost of the last Winter Olympics in Vancouver, which came in at around $2 billion. This massive cost overrun has also come under scrutiny as allegations of corruption within the federation have emerged.

Once the pomposity and spectacle was over thought, viewers were then treated to some sobering words by the International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach, who spoke about how the athletes were the best ambassadors for their countries, calling on world leaders to follow their example when conducting international relations on a political level. He then went on to speak about how discrimination of all kinds would not be tolerated, and that all athletes were “welcome, no matter where you come from or your background… it’s possible even as competitors to live together and to live in harmony with tolerance and without any form of discrimination for whatever reason”. These words sent out a strong message to the host nation, whose Olympic preparations have been marred by human and gay rights scandals. During Bach’s speech, the camera continued to cut between the podium and Russian President Vladimir Putin who kept a stone-wall disposition during this segment.

And what of Ireland’s hopes? Ireland has never won a medal at the Winter Olympics, but this year there are high hopes for the team competing in Sochi. The mostly Irish medal contenders are snowboarder Seamus O’Connor and skeleton competitor Sean Green. As one of the most exciting young talents in the snowboarding world, O’Connor is perhaps Ireland’s strongest winter sports competitor. The sixteen year old hails from San Diego, but has Irish roots – his grandparents come from Drogheda and Dublin. He started snowboarding at just four years of age and was snapped up by Nike in 2011. He is also one of the youngest competitors at this year’s Games. His qualification for the half-pipe event takes place on Tuesday, 11th Feb, while Greenwood’s skeleton qualification is scheduled for Friday, 14th Feb.

So as the world has its eyes fixed closely on Sochi for the next couple of weeks, the sense that Russia wants to reveal itself as a new, cosmopolitan and contemporary society is palpable. So far success rates on this front has been low. But all is not lost for the former communist nation. The best they can hope for now is for the sports stars to shine and make global news for their achievements, rather than the dealings of the controversial host nation.

The winners controlled most of the play and proved to be more clinical than their opponents when it came to shooting. Sisters Ailbhe and Aine O’Connor top-scored for DIT with totals of 16 and 14 points respectively. It was DIT who got off to the better start, going on the attack from the very first throw in. They took an early lead through Ailbhe O’Connor who found the hoop from the first attack of the game.

Her sister Aine then added another two points and this early dominance continued with points from Shauna Kavanagh and Lorna MacNamee. Blanchardstown made effective use of their timeouts in the first two quarters and as a result managed to produce a brief fight back. However, DIT responded strongly and put the game beyond doubt soon after. They headed into the halftime break with a 34-14 lead.

The leaders widened the gap between them and their opponents soon after the restart with scores from Kavanagh, MacNamee and Aine O’Connor.

For the rest of the game, DIT were dominant and took advantages of most of their shooting opportunities and free-throws and this proved to be the main difference between the two sides. DIT’s Aoife Hollingsworth was pleased with the performance of her side and she said they made it look like a practice game in the end.

DIT will now turn their attention to next week’s game against RCSI which they are expected to win comfortably.
As we’re sat in an old, empty art gallery on Cathal Brugha Street, one of DIT’s many different campuses, Ali Twomey, a fresher Events Management student seems a little daunted as to what this interview will entail.

“What are we going to be talking about?” and “I might not know what to say, she tells me. Yet if anyone should be daunted it’s me. It’s not as if she’s just any random DIT student, she’s a multiple Dubstar winner and has been part of the Dublin Senior Camogie set-up since she was sixteen – a fresher at DIT, yet Ali’s been playing senior inter-county camogie three years already. Astonishing, if you ask me. But this process isn’t about asking me. It’s all about Ali and the success of the DIT Senior camogie side that have taken the country by storm this season, and after an unfortunate league final defeat versus UL (the first time they’ve ever been in a division one final), they got set to push on again this weekend in an attempt at Purcell Cup glory.

If you recall the unveiling of Dublin GAA’s new jersey, the young woman to Dublin footballer, Philly McMan-Non’s right is none other than Ali.

“The chairman was like, ‘what you doing Wednesday? Wanna get your picture taken?’ , so I didn’t know what to expect. When I went there were loads of people to meet, loads of people to do interviews with FM104 and everything. I nearly died, ” she laughs.

Her involvement in the photo-shoots is an indicator of her standing in the game, but the 19-year-old is far too modest to admit this. However, two words she does mention a lot are “work hard”.

“In January I basically don’t have a life with so much going on. I wouldn’t be drinking anyway, because of Purcell but you can’t really go out at all. I’m training pretty much every night of the week.”

“We went to Carragh for a boot camp with the club on the 1st of February and it was like a blizzard that day!” Ali exclaimed. Fortunately, unlike some of DIT’s sports teams this season, the camo- gie squad have not had to venture as far as the Carragh for home games or training, an area which Ali is full of praise for:

“The college have been really good in getting us pitches, which is great because you notice sometimes that the lads teams get priority but that hasn’t happened.”

“There’s always more interest how the lads are doing but the college always post up info about our match- es, so if people want to come out and support us it’s up to them,” said Ali.

Going into the Purcell weekend, there is an air of determination as opposed to cockiness amongst this sen- ior camogie team, which includes an incredible 11 freshmen, even after two extremely convincing victories in the tournament so far.

“We want to be confident, but not cocky. There’s really good teams in the other group that we haven’t played yet, so we know if we have one bad game we could be gone.”

“If we don’t win Purcell it’d be dev- astating. From day one that’s what we were aiming for, the league was always a bonus, it was preparation for Purcell.

“We didn’t really think we’d do anything in the league and it was only when we reached the semi’s we thought maybe we had a chance,” she says, conveying the modesty of the group of players involved.

An All-Ireland club winner at under-age level with Lucan Sarsfields, Ali knows how to win big games and if the determination of this 19-year old is mirrored by her team-mates, an histor- ic weekend is on the cards.

A

Thursday, February 12th, 2014

again this weekend in an attempt at

The college has a large

...and Clare prospects Conor Cleary and David Reidy. “The NUIG game was a massive result for us”, he said, “it puts us in the position of topping the group which will give us home advantage”.

DCU are the next team in the cross- hairs, but Ryan believes they will be just as good an opposition as their western counterparts. “We know we have a job to do against DCU, we played them earlier in the league and they put it up to us, so we will have to at our best if we want to top the group” he said. “We’re treating every game as a must win, we know they have few big names like Richie Hogan but we will have a game plan and if we stick to it we will come out on top” he revealed.

The college has a large squad to choose from, with several players playing at county level while some also including Limerick’s Kevin Downes and Clare prospects Conor Cleary and David Reidy. “The NUIG game was a massive result for us”, he said, “it puts us in the position of topping the group which will give us home advantage”.

DCU are the next team in the cross- hairs, but Ryan believes they will be just as good an opposition as their western counterparts. “We know we have a job to do against DCU, we played them earlier in the league and they put it up to us, so we will have to at our best if we want to top the group” he said. “We’re treating every game as a must win, we know they have few big names like Richie Hogan but we will have a game plan and if we stick to it we will come out on top” he revealed.

The college has a large squad to choose from, with several players playing at county level while some also

continued to shoot more wides and were unlucky to not be in the lead by more.

Ciarán Kilkenny scored two more points for St Pats just as David Burke raised DIT’s green flag for the third time. This was quickly followed by another DIT point from Michael Kenny. St Pats made a full push but the DIT backs kept them out DIT scored another point just before the full time whistle with the full score standing at DIT 3-15 St Pats’ 1-12.

DIT coach Kevin Whelan was pleased with the team’s perfor- mance; “I thought it was a very good performance by all the lads. I knew before the game when we were going through the warm up that we were looking good and I’m really pleased...

We thought that Ciarán Kilken- ny would be the one to keep an eye on but Seán McLelland did a great job of mark- ing him and couldn’t have done any better”.
DIT have announced that a brand new sports facility near the Grangeor-man (GG) campus is set to be open for use for the 2014 academic year, in Broombridge, Cabra.

Plans were originally put in place in 2010 with the site being taken over in 2011. However, amid consultation in 2012, the facilities were expected to be ready in September 2013 – in time for this season’s GAA and soccer fixtures.

This was delayed due to the time taken in developing a business plan, while also needing more time to clean up the dilapidated grounds on which the pitches are to be built.

DIT also had cause for a rethink after it was discovered that rates would only be payable on the site, something the college had not expected in the original plans.

“We’ve spent €309,900 already and that doesn’t take into account the fee paid for the actual site, which I’m not permitted to disclose,” said McNulty.

This has been spent on architect plans of the site, condition and contamination surveys, new fencing around the site, site security and monitoring.

“We expect a 24 percent increase in students over the next 15 years and we need the facilities added to the ones in progress as quickly as possible,” said McNulty.

“We’ve had 25 full skips of rubbish picked up,” explained Sinead McNulty, head of DIT sport.

The college have received a grant of €200,000, but are still in need of more investment.

“We expect a 24 percent increase in students over the next 15 years and we are already well behind DCU, UL and UCC (facilities wise),” McNulty concluded.

Ryan Nugent
SPORTS EDITOR
DIT edges through first Sigerson challenge, to face UUJ in quarters

Nerve-wracking finish to first Sigerson match as a one-point win is earned against St Marys

Sinéad Farrelly
SPORTS REPORTER

With a storm battering the country it seemed unlikely that DIT’s opening Sigerson cup match against St Marys Belfast would go ahead, however the pitch passed inspection and DIT won their place in the quarter-finals.

In the opening ten minutes DIT proved to be the stronger team with their first score coming in quickly from half-forward Shane O’Connor. As DIT held the possession Conor Grimes punched the ball into the goal to further push DIT’s early lead.

It was a close start with both teams looking strong and St Mary’s were unlucky to not have scored more as they shot a number of wides, but they soon got their first scores with points from Conor Clarke and Michael Hynes along with another point for DIT from full-back Kevin O’Brien.

Both sides scored again with points from James Duffy for St Mary’s and Peter Acheson for DIT.

St Mary’s played well in the midfield and it paid off when they won a kick out and Aidan McGarry and Brendan Hassan both scored points to reduce the gap to 1 point.

Two more points for the Belfast side from Aidan Forker and Michael Murray put them into the lead.

Both teams scored another point each to keep the St Mary’s lead to one point heading into half time with DIT on 1-04 and St Marys on 0-08.

St Mary’s started the second half strong and they were awarded a free and Niall Morgan scored a point as they got the first score from the half.

However it didn’t take DIT long to reply and Thomas O’Connor scored a point. As St Marys are about to take a kick out, Daniel McBride elbowed DIT’s Kevin O’Brien and St Marys were reduced to fourteen men when McBride got sent off.

Both teams added another point with scores from Aidan Forker and Karl O’Connell.

The scores were brought level again by a point from DIT captain Bryan Menton and they kept this momentum going with a goal from substitute Conor Madden as he makes an impact straight away. DIT’s dominance of the second half continued with another point from Achehon.

St Mary’s had their green flag raised for the first time this game to bring the gap back to just one point. But DIT didn’t rest as O’Brien and Madden each scored another point. However, this was followed up with two more points for St Marys and the game was very close as full time ticked closer and closer.

Again a substitute took control and Bernard Dey scored for DIT to put them two points ahead.

Another point from St Mary’s kept the game tense towards the end but the full-time whistle was blown just moments later and the final score was DIT 2-11 St Marys 1-13.

Speaking after the game, DIT coach Billy O'Loughlin was pleased to get the win and is looking forward to the rest of the championship; “We didn’t play up to our potential, but it’s nice to get a one point win in the end, they fought all the way. All the lads wanted to do was play Jordanstown again. We said if we win today, cause Marys are very strong, that we’d go a long way to winning it out and hopefully we’ll be able to do that and win back to back.”

DIT’s Shane O’Connor in action against St Mary’s in the Sigerson Cup

DIT cricket puts in a good showing at Intervarsities

Murali Rajendran
SPORTS REPORTER

The DIT cricket team have established themselves well this year, reaching the semi-finals of the Indoor Cricket Intervarsities which took place in University Of Ulster, Jordanstown, in late January.

The team fought their way through some tough matches throughout the competition, starting their campaign on the first day with a 84 run victory over DKIT and continued their form with a 25-run victory over ITC. Day two started with a disappointing loss to UCC, tasting defeat by 5 wickets. With the last spot in the quarter-final up for grabs, DIT needed a victory over the local favourites QUIB, and they did just that, securing their place in the quarter-finals with a superb five-wicket victory.

The team finished their campaign on day two finishing third place in Group C, despite only losing one game in the league stages, which set them up for a face off against local rivals, National College of Ireland (NCI). NCI batted first, scoring 93/2 from their 10 overs and DIT chased down the target of 94 runs with 4 wickets in hand and two balls to spare.

DIT emerged victorious by 4 wickets after a hard-fought battle against NCI, sealing a place in the semi-finals against National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG).

NUIG batted first, scoring 107/5 in their 10 overs. DIT’s chase was dented in the second ball of the innings, as the first wicket fell to an outstanding fielding effort from NUIG, and the rollercoaster chase continued, leaving DIT to chase 36 runs in just 22 balls.

The target proved just that little bit too much, as NUIG snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, getting past the finish line by just 1 run.

Farzad Ramay and Murali Rajendra

Murali’s batting efforts for DIT with consistent scoring. Both Farzad (130 runs) and Murali (95 runs) secured their places in the top 10 batsmen of the tournament, ending up in 2nd and 7th positions respectively. Rahal Balachandran secured second position in the top 10 bowlers of the tournament with 12 wickets.

DIT’s Shane O’Connor in action against St Mary’s in the Sigerson Cup

Money, money money: in a rich club’s world

PIERS MOYLES
SPORTS EDITOR

At the end of the 2002-2003 season, Chelsea finished fourth in the premier league 16 points behind champions Manchester United, while Manchester City finished 9th which represented a degree of success. This was right before Roman Abramovich turned up outside Kings Road and changed the landscape of English football forever.

Abramovich paved the way for the likes of Sheikh Mansour and Nasser Al-Khelaifi to come into football and buy their way to the top of the game. ‘Financial doping’ as Arsene Wenger coined it, but are the white knights of UEFA, led by Michel Platini going to reshape the landscape once again by waving Financial Fair Play in the faces of oligarchs and uber rich Qatari Sheikhis and business men.

FFP on a base level is designed to stop clubs spending more than they earn. So if PSG earn €100million through various revenue streams they then can’t spend €200million on the world’s best players.

However, clubs are allowed to make a loss if they are spending their hard earned cash on developing their clubs such as investing in youth development.

Which all sounds very noble indeed but will it actually be enforced? FFP looks to be riddled with loopholes which clubs are pre-emptively exploiting.

PSG are fifth in the 2013 Deloitte football money league which in itself is outstanding as the French champions don’t have a high global following. So how can they be so high up on the list, spend millions and not worry about FFP?

64 percent of PSG’s €398.8million revenue is commercial which is significantly higher than anyone else on the list. They create this commercial revenue by agreeing sponsorship deals with Qatari companies which are owned by their owner.

That means when UEFA look at PSG’s books the money which is being pumped into the club by Al-Khelaifi will all be under the tidy heading of “commercial revenue”. That is a tactic that Manchester City is also utilising.

The idea of Financial Fair Play indicates what these clubs are doing is unfair and although many people agree with the idea nobody has faith that UEFA will challenge the people who help line their own pockets. The football landscape will be shaped by one thing and one thing only, money.
hey you

are you

Fit2Go?

Whether you are interested in a leisurely swim or a more strenuous workout, on your own or with friends, our fitness facilities at the Fit2Go Club provide the perfect setting. We provide indoor fitness facilities on campus at two locations, one south-side and one north-side:

**Fit2Go Club @ DIT Kevin Street**
- ‘State of the Art’ Gymnasium with an extensive variety of exercise and fitness equipment.
- 18 Metre four lane pool ranging from 0.75m to 2m in depth.
- Elite Free Weights Area.
- Ample Studio Space for wide variety of fitness classes, Spin, Rebounding, Kettlebells, TRX Training, Power Circuits and much more.

**Fit2Go Club @ DIT Bolton Street**
- Fully equipped gym with high tec exercise and fitness equipment.
- Whether you want to tone up, lose weight, improve your fitness levels the Fit2Go Club Team will provide fitness instruction and programme planning just for YOU.

For more information on...
Fit2Go Club including fitness/swim class timetables, opening hours, membership packages etc:

[www.fit2goclub.ie](http://www.fit2goclub.ie)  [facebook.com/fit2goclub](http://facebook.com/fit2goclub)