THE NEVER-ENDING STORY

DIT and the SU set for outside arbitration in Grangegorman shop dispute

Deadline of April 10th for agreement before non-binding external process is undertaken

Basic disagreement continues over the public tendering of shop services on new campus

Al McConnell
EDITOR

The respective presidents of DIT and the DIT Students’ Union will meet this week in an attempt to find agreement on how shop services will be organised at the new Grangegorman campus.

Proposals were sent between the Director of Student Services Dr Noel O’Connor (reflecting his personal views) and the Union over the past two weeks, with widely divergent visions evident between the parties.

The fundamental existence of the SU shops seems to remain a sticking point in the discussions.

DITSU, in its response to O’Connor’s draft paper on how retail services within DIT might be structured in future, pointed to the Student Charter and the Student Services Public Engagement Team (SPET) vision as a binding document giving it a right to pursue commercial activities. The 2004 Charter, DITSU says, must legally be upheld as it was approved by the DIT Governing Body, and points to a sentence in the document.

Continued

The Fashion Show scandal

Hundres drop out to pursue a career in modelling

‘A good sit down’

USI defends the tradition after criticism from Minister Quinn

Productive Easter

Students promise ‘absolutely definitely’ to study over Easter

Not the page 6 News

Fashion Show scandal

Hundreds drop out to pursue a career in modelling

‘A good sit down’

USI defends the tradition after criticism from Minister Quinn

Productive Easter

Students promise ‘absolutely definitely’ to study over Easter

Opinion

The facial hair fallacy

Plus sides to a bit of beard, though some abuse them

Journal.ie comments

In the aftermath of UL profile Society controversy

Easter commercialism

Why a bit of profit-grabbing can be a good thing

Lifestyle

Asperger’s in college

How a misunderstood disorder affects college life

Alternative hobbies

Insight into rock climbing, if you’re feeling hard enough

Summer style guide

Five trends to look out for in the post-Easter season

Culture

Reviews

The latest film, music and TV offerings appraised

Karaoke nights

Why Darragh Collins can’t get enough of karaoke

Inside the fashion show

From the toilets to the catwalk, the diary of a model

Sport

Recruitment drive

How sporting success brings on scholarships

Gunning for glory

DIT’s newly formed rifle club aims for inter-varsity victory

Sports Editorial

Why the GAA/Sky deal will be good for non-GAA fans
In Numbers

€7,700
Edition editor salary, €700 per issue. Applications are now open for next year - see p14

€23,188
DITSU Vice-President salary

€25,362
DITSU President salary

$1
2013 salary of Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook (ignore the $3.3bn gained in stock options)

€10
Can get you a lot of drinks at the USI Congress – see p8

2
Modelling contracts awarded at the annual DIT Fashion Show

Quote of the day
“Get off your asses and write it yourself if that’s what you want, and we’ll see what it’s like” – Minister for Education, Ruiar Quinn, discussing draft legislation with the USI at its National Congress (see p7)

NEWS
USI launches new student discounts
An online shop for refurbished laptops and the extension of United Kingdom student discount cards to Ireland, with a view to eventually reducing the fee SUs pay to be a member of the USI, were announced at the National Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland last week. President Joe O’Connor said: “These plans will finally bring the USI into the commercial market as a major player.”

NEWS
DIT to host Presidents’ Initiative debates
A series of four debates will be held on DIT’s Kevin Street campus as part of the President of Ireland’s Ethics Initiative, which aims “to place the citizen at the centre of the debate about the future of our society” and to examine the role of citizens in discussing and determining the economic, social and political choices which affect us.” The first debate takes place this Thursday, the 10th of April.

NEWS
‘Get off your asses’
Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn last week told the Union of Students in Ireland to “get off its ass” when questioned in relation to when draft legislation would be available on governance structures within third-level institutions. “Draft the legislation you want and let’s debate it...stop waiting to be spoon fed. You’ve got smart brains, you’ve got facilities of law – get off your asses and write it yourself if that’s what you want,” he told delegates at the USI Congress.

NEWS
DIT Fashion Show
Two students – Ally Treanor and Lucky Ogbonor, both from Dublin – were awarded modelling contracts following another successful Fashion Show at Vicar Street last Thursday.

NEWS
Societies Awards
Ahead of the Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) Awards, Drama Soc and Islamic Soc were given nominations to represent the Institute for Best Society and Most Improved, respectively.

NOT THE PAGE 6 NEWS
Shocker scandal!
Read all about it, The Edition brings you the news that went unnoticed over the past two weeks, with some claiming most of it never actually happened at all...

AN T-EAGRÁN
Suíbhé
deacnamaíochtaí ag an Ghaeilge i saol na mac léinn, dar le phabailbhreith de chuid An t-Eagrán le déanaí.

OPINION
Journal.ie comments
After the controversy of a pro-life Society being rejected in UL, Eoghan McNeill trolled through TheJournal.ie comments in hope of some sharp insight and comment...good luck.

LIFESTYLE
Asperger’s and college
Putting to rest some common misconceptions about this Autism Spectrum Disorder, Sinéad Farrell outlines how it can affect college life in ways you might not expect.

EDITORIAL
Days at the Ard Sesh
As an outsider looking in at the USI National Congress, its weaknesses are starkly evident. Any ‘corners turned’ will need to be followed up, with pressure building upon the Union.

CULTURE
‘The book was better’
Stuart Cornerford argues the comparison between print and projector misses the point of two separate media. Noah is avoided, though since its release many have said the book was better.

LIFESTYLE
Review: The Farm
Eimear O’Hehir returns to the uber-handy Dawson Street dinery, and is pleasantly surprised. Organic and veggie-friendly, another Leeson Street Farm is also open.

CULTURE
Engage: an exhibition by DIT Fine Art
Eoghan Regan went along to an exhibition by students in the DIT Fine Art School, as a philistine in the world. One piece, by Maria Quigley, involved spending time picketing outside public locations, holding messages written by an assortment of individuals. “GO HOME’ was one of the trickiest pieces I had done,” she told Regan. Standing outside an immigration centre Maria had stayed true to her word and had against all her own held beliefs become the medium through which people could have their say.

SPORT
DIT Rifle Club
A new sport this year is aiming to make an impact at the upcoming intervarsities.

SPORT: CRICKET SPECIAL
The rise of DIT Cricket
Success is breeding success in the third year of a college cricket club, says co-founder Murali Ragendran.

SPORT: CRICKET SPECIAL
Kevin O’Brien Interview
A cult hero of Irish sport, cricketer Kevin O’Brien speaks to Sinéad Farrell about the current state of the game. “Any time we beat a full member, it’s certainly good for the profile of the game here. Any time we play them we’re right in with a chance of winning,” he says.
Laura Harmon elected USI President
UCC alumna is first woman president in 20 years, as Union looks forward to a crucial year

Al McConnell
EDITOR

Laura Harmon has been elected President of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) at its National Council held last week.

Harmon, the current Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship, won the election on the second count after being the favourite in the run-in, and will be the first woman president of the Union since 1994.

Following the announcement, Harmon said, through a USI statement: “It is an absolute honour to be elected as USI’s next President in a race with two formidable candidates, who were the favourite in the run-in, and will be the first woman president of the Union since 1994.

Turning corners
Harmon went on to emphasise the theme of last week’s Congress by stating that the USI had “turned a corner” and that it was her intention to “assert the student voice at the forefront of social justice and social change”.

Key campaigns
Harmon will also be tasked with leading several key campaigns and policies that were endorsed last week’s Council.

A campaign for the abolition of Zero-hour Contracts (which do not guarantee any working hours per week, and can leave workers without pay at short notice) and a campaign for a ‘living wage’ will be undertaken, after motions were passed by the USI delegates.

Equal rights and representation across society and the student population will also be a strong focus in its internal affairs and those of its “constitutionally established bodies”, which was an apparent instigator in DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick’s decision to leave the Union, effective in February.

DIT has said it would not like to comment further while discussions continue, but it has stated clearly that a public tender will go out for shops services on the new campus for 2014-2017 on a three-year contract.

That idea was dismissed out of hand by the SU, as it was “anatema” to the fact the loan from DIT was paid off early, the overall situation appears to remain a barrier to the Union’s capability to defend its financial health.

Feelings are tender
DITSU also claims ongoing interference by “DIT management” in light of the announcements of the closure of the shops.

Harmon said: “As a gay person who grew up in a Gaeltacht, rural area, I know what it feels like to have to hide an intrinsic part of yourself away for fear of rejection. We need to work to eradicate the oppression that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face. Equal access to civil marriage in Ireland is a civil rights issue of our generation and students will be a leading voice in the 2015 marriage equality campaign.”

New Officer Board
Harmon’s presidency will be supported by a board that includes current DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick, who was elected Vice-President for Campaigns for 2014/2015.

Others elected were:
• Annie Hoey VP for Equality and Citizenship;
• Greg O’Donoghue as Vice-President for Welfare;
• Feidlimidh Seoighi for Irish Language;
• Martin Lynch VP for Southern Region;
• Conor Stitt VP for Borders, Midlands and West (BMW Region).

Nominees for VP Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance are to be re-opened as sole candidate Gavin Lynch-Frithall did not receive a sufficient number of votes.

This followed a poster campaign around Athlone’s Sheraton Hotel, which hosted the USI event, promoting ‘open nominations’, and a degree of negative reaction to Lynch-Frithall’s failure to appear at Congress.

A reduced-rate loan scheme for post-graduate students has been launched by Bank of Ireland in conjunction with the Union of Students in Ireland.

The loans, which will have an APR of 5.6 percent (nearly half their previous level) and the option of 12-month payment deferral, were announced at last week’s USI National Congress.

The SU sought an improved scheme following the last national budget, in which the post-graduate grant scheme was greatly reduced in its scope.

USI President Joe O’Connor told the Congress: “We have been in full agreement since the start of the year that the current arrangement for post-graduate students is unsustainable. We believe that the new scheme will put students in a stronger position.”

Dance Soc's solid intervarsities

DIT's Dance Society continued their improvement with an intervarsities score substantially higher than last year in the recent competition.

Fifteen dancers from the Institute, along with choreographer Chris Dybul, took part in the intervarsities hip-hop category, held in CIT last month.

The group was disappointed not to make the top three but a spokesperson told The Edition the high scoring was a major positive to take home.

In the past year Dance Soc have gone from strength to strength, doubling their membership and taking part in numerous events including the Christmas ball, DJ society Spin Off, and the DIT Vodafone fashion show,” she said.

DIT hauls in 18 Smedias

A range of DIT students will be up for Student Media awards tomorrow night, with 18 nominations across print, radio, broadcast and online.

The Edition has five nominations in total, while other categories in which DIT students are nominated include Radio Documentary (Shane Mulrennan’s ‘A Shot To Nothing: The Ken Doherty Story’) and four nominees for Best Film Script (‘The Title’, Ciaran Dooley; ‘So It Goes’, Marcus Campbell; ‘The Gravediggers’, Daniel J Doody; and ‘Treasure’, Eamon Murphy).

Other nominations include two students up for the European Commission Award and Kim Comisky’s ‘The Villains’ for TV Production of the year.
THE EDITION
HAVE YOUR SAY

Liam Kennedy asked DIT students what they made of the recent GAA deal with Sky, which will see 14 matches aired exclusively on its pay-per-view channels.

If you’re going to see more games on telly then it’s a good idea. I think it’s going to raise the profile of the game in general and that can only be a good thing for the GAA.

Brian Sweeney, Business Studies

I’m kind of divided to be honest. It will reach a wider audience, but it’s a national sport and you have to have a Sky Sports package. It will definitely be less watched in Ireland. It’s a lot of money for just a few GAA matches that you could listen to on the radio.

Marian Kennedy, Clinical Measurement Science

It’s a disgrace because Irish people have to pay for a Sky Sports package. Access-wise it’s not a good idea at all. Irish people that want to watch the game won’t be able to.

Ahmed El Fridah, Business Studies

It could be a good thing to raise the profile, but I think it kind of alienates a lot of people. Everyone’s on a tighter budget and very passionate fans can’t see all the matches. I see why they would do it, but it’s not fair.

Ella Newnham, Human Resource Management

Strong support for Irish language in student life

Stíofán Ó Connachtaigh

A significant majority of DIT students think that the Irish language should be represented in student life, according to an opinion poll carried out by An t-Eagrán, the Irish Language section of The Edition.

According to the survey, 81% of people think that support of the Student Union is necessary to ensure the language rights of Irish and its speakers. 15% of respondents believed that this depended on the availability of resources, while 4% said they were indifferent to the issue.

Of those who noted English as their first language, 83% were positive towards the promotion and protection of Irish and only 3% said they had a negative attitude.

One surprising element of the results is that 46% of those who spoke Irish were not aware that every Irish citizen has the constitutional right to choose between Irish and English as his or her first official language.

When DIT students were asked what they considered to be the greatest obstacles in front of the Irish language, 72% blamed the education system, 64% blamed the lack of will in the government and civil service, while 45% blamed general public indifference.

Capitalism was mentioned as such an obstacle (21%) as was the idea that Irish is an outdated and irrelevant language (19%).

This poll was carried out online by the Irish language section of this newspaper, from the 18th to 28th of March. 212 people took part in total.

Irish language ability in DIT

7% of participants said that Irish was their choice of first language. More than 16% said that they were either studying Irish in college, or used it on a regular basis.

64% said that they would use Irish more regularly if they had the ability, while another 27% said that they would use it more often if there were more opportunities to do so.

Of those who spoke Irish, 20% said they learned it from home. The majority (91%) said any Irish they had learned was learned at school. 9% said they picked up their Irish in their locality, 32% in summer Gaeltacht courses, 4% attended community groups and 2% learned it from internet or night classes. A further 17% said that they learned it mainly on their own.

3% of the respondents said they were reared with Irish in the Gaeltacht and a further 35% attended an Irish language medium primary or secondary school.

28% of students said they intend to improve their ability in Irish in the future, while 9% said that would use Irish in their everyday lives forever.

Nationally

These figures follow trends set out on the national level, with the statistics improving year after year. According to the Census 2011, 1.77m people in the 26 counties are able to speak Irish, 41% of the population.

According to those figures, 64% of people have a good grasp of the language during the period where they leave school and enter college.

An t-Eagrán Statistics

Percentage of respondents who feel the education system is an obstacle in front of the Irish language nowadays

An t-Eagrán Statistics

Percentage of respondents who use Irish quite regularly

An t-Eagrán Statistics

Percentage of population who can speak Irish

– National Census 2011

Percentage of population who can

– An t-Eagrán Statistics

Irish

41.4%

16%

72%

81%
Fashion Show

Students win Design awards and modelling contracts at huge Vodafone/DIT event

Staff Writer

The Vodafone DIT Fashion Show was held in Vicar Street last Thursday, in aid of the Jack and Jill Foundation that provides care for brain-damaged children, and sold out the Thomas Street venue.

Two models – Ally Treanor and Lucky Ogbomor, both from Dublin – were awarded year-long contracts with 1st Option Models as a result of their participation in the show. The 1st Option agency – a partner of the show – awards these contracts to the two standout male and female models at each year’s show.

Speaking to The Edition, the show’s model coordinator, Odette Devereux said she “wasn’t surprised” that Ally and Lucky won the contracts.

“From the day of castings both of them caught my eye, and I see massive potential in both of them,” she said.

Devereux wished both the models well in their future careers, adding that “not only are they stunning, but they were a pleasure to work with.”

DITSU invited to make submission to Oireachtas

Al McConnell

DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick will make a submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection later this month, on the Heads of the Technological Universities Bill.

The submission will be made in conjunction with the students’ unions of IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown, with the three institutions set to merge under ‘DIT’ later this year.

The Bill sets out the path for the three ITs to become a Technological University (TU), as part of which the role of citizens in discussing and determining the economic, social and political choices which affect us.”

President Higgins wrote in the Irish Times last week: “I believe we now have a generational opportunity to ask probing questions about the type of society we wish to build together, and the type of public world we wish to share with one another and with future generations.”

At each of the DIT debates there will be a panel of speakers with expertise in the topic. The first debate on the 10th of April will be chaired by journalist and broadcaster Karen Coleman. Speakers will include Frank McDonald, Environment Editor Irish Times; Hubert Fitzpatrick, Construction Industry Federation; Padraic Kenna, Law Lecturer, NUIG; and Brian O’Driscoll, Society of Chartered Surveyors.

The debates will all take place in the Gleeson Theatre, Kevin Street, with tea/coffee from 6.30 pm and the debate starting at 7 pm. The events are open to staff, students and members of the public, and will be recorded in order to contribute to the findings.

Presidents’ Ethics Initiative debates to be held on campus

Al McConnell

DIT will host four debates as part of the President of Ireland’s Ethics Initiative, the second in a trio of in-depth projects that Michael D Higgins will launch in his term, following ‘Being Young and Irish’ in 2012.

The initiative, which will see over 50 events take place this year, was launched "to place the citizen at the centre of the debate about the future of our society" and to examine the
DIT Fashion Show banned as hundreds drop out to pursue career in modelling

Brendan Courting-Controversy
FASHION CORRESPONDENT

The annual DIT Fashion Show has been banned after the models involved, and many in the audience, immediately dropped out of college to pursue a career in modelling.

Following the show, organisers for next year were told they can either put on a less successful show or none at all, as the Institute aims to improve retention rates.

‘Screw this – I’m going to be a model!!’ said one excited participant as they left the stage last Thursday evening. Several others agreed and contacted the Institute immediately to communicate similar intentions. A spokesperson for DIT has since told The Edition the decision may be revised if there are guarantees that next year’s show will attempt to play down the bright lights of the modelling industry.

“All we ask is that the music or lights would fail a few times, and ideally someone would fall. I think everyone would win, most of the crowd wants that to happen anyway, and the students will be put off modelling in future,” he said.

The spokesperson went on to praise the Fashion Show organisers for bringing in Brendan Courtney as the host once again, which he said was a valiant attempt to discourage models from getting involved in the industry.

“Well, could you put up with him day-in, day-out?” he asked.

USI defends 'having a good sit down' following criticism from Minister for Education last week

‘Get-up-and-go’ attitude of thousands who have emigrated also praised

Ho Chi Quinn
YOUNG PEOPLE’S CORRESPONDENT

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) has defended the great Irish tradition of having a good sit down, following criticisms levelled against it at last week’s National Congress.

Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn, told Students’ Union Delegates at the Congress to ‘get off their asses’ at the USI National Congress last week, after he was asked to speed up the legislation process on third-level governance and students’ union autonomy.

Quinn did not take kindly to this instruction and responded with strong words for the USI and the wider student movement, but several delegates went on to defend the practice.

“I think it was a bit harsh on those of us who enjoy a good sit,” one told The Edition. “A lot can actually be achieved in a sitting position, he forgets that. Some of my best memories have been sitting down, and I do most of my work arse-in-seat.”

Off your arse, on to a plane

A USI spokesperson told The Edition, following the Congress, that many of its members have indeed been getting off their arses, and on to aeroplanes bound for Australia and Canada.

“The Minister failed to take into account how pro-active some current and former USI members have been,” he said. “Several thousand have a real get-up-and-go attitude, as in get up and go out of Ireland.”

Academic Calendar to be split into ‘settling in period’ and ‘winding down to exams’

Wendy Exams
CALENDAR EDITOR

Next year’s Academic Calendar will see each semester split into a ‘settling in period’ and ‘winding down to exams’, following widespread demand from students.

The structure was unanimously supported as the ‘most realistic’ in a survey conducted by The Edition, after discussions over the calendar continued into a 463rd month with no final decision in sight.

In the survey, students also emphasised that a ‘settling in period’ of two months was absolutely necessary to get into the swing of things, organise your desk, and buy the necessary stationary.

In addition, the two months prior to exams could not be considered a full college period as most events take place in the lead-up to Christmas and Easter.

There will now be a dedicated afternoon in November, and one in March, during which students will knockle down to their studies.

“It’s the most appropriate system,” said a DIT spokesperson, “as it won’t actually change anything.”

Bare-knuckle boxing to settle dispute over shops at new campus

External consultant takes surprising decision in effort to find agreement

R. U. Serious
SHOPS EDITOR

A nominated person from DIT and the Students’ Union will engage in a bout of bare-knuckle boxing if agreement cannot be found over whether there will be an SU shop at Grangeegorman.

In the longest-running dispute ever witnessed in a third-level institution, patience finally wore thin as the drastic measure was proposed last week.

With tension between the two organisations as high as ever, it is expected that the bout will be a particularly tasty affair.

DITSU VP for Events, Will Meara, who has jumped at the chance to organise the fight (with a small charge for tickets, of course) told The Edition: “I’ll be held in the empty warehouse at Broombridge to give it an added ‘seedy underground feeling’.

“It’s set to be the biggest event of the year – if you thought the Halloween Party was a bloodbath, just wait till you see this.”

Tiki-taka tapping
Martin Callinan and Vicente Del Bosque

Sir –

I thought the similarity between the former Garda Commissioner and current Spanish soccer coach Del Bosque would be of interest.

One an expert in passing the ball, the other expert in passing the buck. Both have problems with whistle-blowers. Yours, Minister N D Shitt

Students are 'absolutely definitely' not going to procrastinate at Easter

Ann E Excuse
EXAMS CORRESPONDENT

Students have made a collective pact to ‘100 percent definitely – no seriously’ use the Easter holidays to study, and will be going on only one night out over the two week break.

The usual promises, made each year by the student body, will this year lake on an added significance after several thousand posted their intentions on Facebook, making it a binding agreement enforceable by law.

Pub and nightclub owners expressed concern initially but have since shown faith in students’ ability to rationalise, arguing most will find a way to justify three weeks off.

“This kind of thing should not be encouraged, it could seriously damage the economy and, more importantly, people such as myself,” said the owner of a Harcourt St club.

“It’s irresponsible to put studies ahead of the services industry, but I’m confident these students will see the light and have at least 20 nights out over the break,” he continued.

Exams are now around four weeks away (sorry).

Special offers laid on for delegates at the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) National Congress, in case sobriety got in the way of political debate breaking out

Credit: Kevin Goss Ross

Is there any limit on how much we can have each?

Only €10

Union of Students in Ireland

2 Vodka’s and Energise

€10

3 Bottles of Sol/

3 Bottles of Canadian/

3 Bottles of Desperado.

€10

3 Shots Of Mickey Finns/

3 Shots of Baby Guinness

€10

3 Pints of Carlsberg get the 4th free

Of course! There’s a ten-drink minimum!

In case there’s any doubt, yes this is real – Ed.

Tuesday, or whenever, 2014

www.edition.ie
Quinn tells USI to 'get off its ass' during questioning at Congress

Minister for Education says Union should draft legislation rather than pressure for the Government to do so quicker

Al McConnell
EDITOR

Ruairí Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills, last week told the Union of Students in Ireland to ‘get of its ass’ during an address and Q&A session at the Union’s National Congress.

In response to a question from DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick – who asked for legislation on governance in Higher Education Institutions to be drafted sooner than 2015 – Quinn told the USI to “get off its ass”, “get out its legal expertise” and “confront [Government] with a reality we cannot ignore”.

Draft legislation that could clarify Students’ Union autonomy and role within third-level governance is expected later this year, with many at Congress saying it is vital for the protection of a student movement that has been weakened in recent years.

Quinn asked delegates: “How many law faculties do you have on the landscape of the USI? And if you’re not going to wait for us to get the legislation…then show us what you want; get out your legal expertise.”

“Draft the legislation you want and let’s debate that on the floor of the House – stop waiting to be spoon fed. You’ve got smart brains, you’ve got faculties of law – get off your asses and write it yourself if that’s what you want, and we’ll see what it’s like.”

USI President Joe O’Connor told The Edition: “We have passed a motion at this Congress already to put in place a White Paper around the role of students in the governance of Higher Education Institutions. The Minister has laid down a challenge and it’s one that we will absolutely be responding to.”

Disunited student movement
Quinn went on to strongly criticise the current strength of Ireland’s student movement, in which he was a prominent figure in its heyday of the 1960s.

“A disunited student movement is its own worst enemy,” he told the Congress, “and the days of student leaders playing ducks and drakes in students’ unions, courting short-term popularity at the cost everybody else, is damaging every student in this country.

“You need a united Union of Students in Ireland that has every college in the country paid up in that system and contributing.”

Quinn was a student in UCD in the mid-1960s, a college that last year voted to disaffiliate from the USI, after previously being its largest delegation and the provider of three USI presidents in a row between 2010 and 2013.

“If you don’t have it,” Quinn continued, “your voice is going to be weakened, and it is weak because some of the largest institutions are not yet back in the fold.”

O’Connor emphasised to The Edition that he disagreed to some extent based on the fact that the USI has shown it has a strong level of access to key decision making levels over the past year, and has shown strong engagement.

He said: “There’s always this volatility and vulnerability in our membership, and that’s something we’re trying to get beyond, for example in our income diversification work.”

The USI President also suggested the criticism could be taken as a statement that “if you want to strengthen the USI, then leaving in order to force certain changes you want to happen is not the way to do it”, and told The Edition the Minister and the Higher Education Authority do recognise the challenges facing the USI and the student movement.

Fitzpatrick gave a two-word statement to The Edition following Quinn’s statements, saying simply: “Challenge accepted”.

What they say about big Socs...

Staff Writer

Drama Soc has been awarded the DIT nomination for ‘Best Society’ ahead of the national Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) Awards set to take place this Thursday.

The winners were announced last week for a range of categories, with each to go on to represent the Institute at the national level.

BICS Awards, which are separate to DIT’s internal Societies Awards, also include Best Event, for which the DIT nomination has gone to the Vodafone/DIT Fashion Show, and Best New Society, which will be contested by the PRPA Society.

The Fashion Show is also up for two further categories after being nominated for Best Promotional Video and Best Publicity Campaign.

DIT Isoc (the Islamic Society) also won Most Improved for this year.

A shortlist has been created for two categories, Best Freshener and Best Individual.

Other nominations to be announced this week include Best Photo and Best Poster.

USI launch new discounts

NUS Extra to Ireland

The popular UK’s ‘NUS Extra’ card, which provides discounts across a wide range of high-street shops, is to be extended to Ireland and USI members for the 2014/15 academic year.

The move was announced at last week’s Union of Students in Ireland National Congress, as part of a wider ‘income diversification’ scheme for the Union, with a view to reducing its affiliation fees.

USI President Joe O’Connor launched the ventures, telling the Congress: “These plans will finally bring the USI into the commercial market as a major player.”

Affiliation fees have been a sticking point for the USI in recent years, with large Students’ Unions paying upwards of €70,000 per year to be a Member Organisation of the national body.

On the new link between the USI and the NUS Extra card, O’Connor told the Congress: “We don’t look at this as a profit-making venture in first couple of years. It will take time to break even.”

Ireland-specific discounts are hoped to be added ahead of the card’s launch.

Studentshop.ie

An online shop for refurbished laptops will also be launched as part of the USI’s wider cash-generation efforts.

The site, studentshop.ie, is hoped to be launched “in the summer months” after the Union recently identified suitable partners in the venture.

O’Connor told the Congress, on launching the services, that the average computer on the market was much more powerful and expensive than would suit most students.

“The certified, refurbished computer market can fill that gap,” he said.

“Machines brought into the market are professionally wiped, serviced, and reinstalled with the most appropriate software,” he said.

“In the process of refurbishment, real jobs are created for people with disabilities by organisations such as Rehab and Remploy, while perfectly functional, useful and affordable computers are rescued from going to landfill, for people who need them.”
An bhFuil Muid Ró Cháineach ar Fhoras na Gaeilge?

Teann níos idir na heagraíochtait agus a bhForas maoínithe

Coiste Caomhaileach na Strátéise 20 Bhliain

Cuirfear túis le Coiste Caomhailireach an teachtain seo, le cuir i bhfheidhmiú na Strátéise 20 Bhliain a chumadh agus a cheantuir.

Tíofradh an tionsúil do cheart daonra, tar éis do Arthair an stáitse a chur ar fáil, do chuid i bhforbairt an ghaeilge le haghaidh trí cuidiú idir na hÉorpa a bhfeicfí leis an t-áite a chuir sé isteach san forosóir. Tá an fhágáil ar fáil le linn a ndeachadh ar feadh maith, d’fhéadfadh sé a fháil d’athrú a bhí ann sa teanga.

Diafrais bás ardóithchóireachta a bhí ann, go háirithe i bhforbairt a dhaltaí ar fháil. Tá sé fosta in ann a fhorbairt a thabhairt a fhágáil. Tá an fhágáil i mbun na dtuaisceart airgead, an fhágáil is féidir liom a bhfuil an “aonraíocht” a bhí ann, ach ní bheidh aonraíocht a bhfíodhar a chur aige dírifear.

An t-eaglais is mó-áisteach a bhí ann chun a rith a rith i gceart, ach ní bhfuil sé ar bhealaí a thabhairt a fhágáil. Tá an fhágáil i gceart, ach ní bheidh aonraíocht a bhfíodhar a chur aige dírifear.

Is é an dearcadh ná nach bhfuil sa bhéarla dhánaí ar fáil le haghaidh trí cuidiú idir na hÉorpa a bhfeicfí leis an t-áite a chuir sé isteach san forosóir. Tá an fhágáil ar fáil le linn a ndeachadh ar feadh maith, d’fhéadfadh sé a fháil d’athrú a bhí ann sa teanga.

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An bhfuil Gaeilge agat? (Can you speak Irish?) 41.4%
Daonóil a úsáidtear Gaeilge taobh amuigh den rang gach lá go gcaithfeadh an Rialtais agus an Stáitchóras i bhfeidhm aici (Those who use Irish outside the classroom on a regular basis) 18.7%
Cumas Gaeilge i measc lucht 18 (18 year olds with Irish) 64%
Daonóil a úsáideann Gaeilge mar príomhtheanga scoileachach ( Those who consider Irish their first language of choice) 7%
Daonóil nach raibh a fhios acu go bhfuil an ghealbhacht acu (Those who were not aware that this Irish citizen has the constitutional right to choose either Irish or English as their first language) 46%
Daonóil a úsáideann an Ghaeilge go minic sa teachtain (Those who use Irish quite regularly) 16%
Lion daoine a d'fhéadfadh sé thaca cearta teanga go bhfuil a fhios acu (Those who who use Irish language rights) 83%
Daonóil a cheapann go minic go bhfuil a fhios acu (Those who who use Irish language rights) 81%
Daonóil a cheapann go minic faoi lúthen (Those who who use Irish language rights) 15%
Méid a freastal ar Ghaeilge (Those who attended an Irish language medium school) 35%
Daonóil a úsáideann Gaeilge amach ansa (Those who who use Irish language rights) 9%
Cad iad an príomhstaistíocht os comhaith na teanga? (What are the obstacles in front of the Irish language today?) 9%
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A new generation's facial hair obsession

EGOHAN REGAN

If I had a beard I could win respect. If I had a beard I could shave it wisely. If I had a beard I could fashion its end into a point and raise it skyward in triumphant style; a sceptre, a shield that I could weave and groom and stand before the bare faced plebs and shout “I am a man with a beard. The word ‘man’ is but a synonym for beard...” Without my beard I am nothing, without my beard is nothing!

And so the thought trailed on as I shaved my teenage whiskers, waiting in pensive anticipation of the day I could finally grow one.

My life had been dominated by heroic bearded figures; my father, various historical intellectuals, even our postman sported a bristled coat of weary grey fibres, and at 16 I was consumed with the notion of wearing my testosterone on my chin.

Imagine my surprise when here and now, in 2014 I stand bearded amidst a brier-patch of hairy twenty-somethings.

These thoughts were not the lone passions of a teenage fantasist, but rather the collective conscious-ness of a generation who, so full of hope and defiance in the face of economic destitution and general national apathy, grew their badges of masculinity as if to say: “This world will notice me as I pass swiftly through it. We will make itchy the skin of time between those two great infinities, and give it a rash it will not so hastily forget!”

More likely is the fact that they have been made fashionable by various rock and rollers, actors and ‘youtube’ stars.

Beards are ‘à la mode’, part of our generation’s fashionable stamp on time. The sixties had beards, the seventies had beards, in the eighties people discovered cocaine and as a result decided to shave constantly.

Who would have believed that now in the age of drones and superfast fibre-optic broadband we would re-visit the age old rite of passage, first worn by the cavemen as they finger painted elephants to cave walls? One could explain the hairy phenomenon in context of our current masculinity crisis.

Before a man’s masculinity could be measured in feats of heroism, misogyny or acts of violence. Basically how close you fell on the spectrum to being ‘James Bond’ was an accurate gauge of your masculinity, and he never wore a beard.

Now in the great future of the 21st century we have slowly begun to edge out those traits as gauges of a man’s musicality while yet figuring out how else to display it. Before it had been so simple, shoot the ethnically exotic boss, save the blonde dame, dismiss her until she was clawing at your leg and round off the evening by drinking hard liquor after having thrown the last ‘badguy’ off a train.

At some stage however we began to realise that this particular version of masculinity wasn’t exactly feasible, given the harmful effect it has on women, on children, puppies and — though I’m not wholly certain — it could have something to do with widening the hole in the ozone layer.

Beards have become this generation’s innocuous answer to this crisis. We are once again hunter gatherers, well actually more like bar hoppers navigating the earth with google maps, but at least we have adopted their style, without the implied vio-lence or the sexism.

That said, it would be very naïve to believe we have totally escaped our long-held notions of what it means to be a man.

Dan Blizerian, a modern day playboy poker playing multi-millionaire and former navy seal, has some million plus followers on Instagram account, he is an intellectual, he emulates the intellectual endeavours of Karl Marx, or Einstein, or even Harley Morenstein (Epic Meal Time) rather than feebly scrambling their whiskers together in the uncertain hope of becoming a ‘Blizerian’?

Just as women and girls everywhere are constantly bludgeoned with idealistic images of flawless skin tones and inhuman perfection, so too are men with fantasies of violence and sexual conquest. A fantasy which most of us ‘bottom feeders’ (I include myself in this analogy) can never hope to fulfil.

Beards are the great leveller. There is no need to attach to them the false-hoods of the Blizerian lifestyle, they are in and of themselves, and have always been the most basic physical embodiment of one’s masculinity. They should be worn with a sense of pride which stems from the basic human need to define oneself as a citizen of our gender, not in the futile and ultimately damaging belief that a beard will get you money, women or success.
**Enlightening and uncovering it's TheJournal.ie comments section**

In the aftermath of the pro-life club rejection, Eoghan McNeill searched through the site for some insight into the story.

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**Why commercialism is good for Easter**

**Liam Kennedy**
STAFF WRITER

Over the Easter break you’ll probably hear lots of people complaining that the holiday has lost its meaning and has become yet another victim of consumerism and commercialism, but is this aspect a positive thing for these occasions?

The origins of Easter as we know it date back to the time of Christ and the story of his resurrection, but nowadays we celebrate it as a day when we enjoy eating chocolate eggs.

Easter is an example of commercialism at its most prominent, but there are many reasons why this is not necessarily a bad thing.

By this stage the shop displays have been up for months and people are beginning to get into the mood for celebration. It doesn’t matter if the big companies are attempting to capitalise on another holiday and turn our festive cheer into their profits, nobody is forcing you to buy anything and it’s still completely up to you how you’re going to spend the occasion.

There’s no denying that the bright colours on show would cheer up even the grumpiest soul, and the build-up (even if it is too long) creates a real sense of anticipation and excitement and gives us something to look forward to.

After all aren’t celebrations meant to be about fun and enjoyment? One of the main complaints you’re likely to hear is that the religious significance of the occasion will be forgotten amidst the annual commercial push to get consumers to buy all sorts of seasonal treats and merchandise.

You can treat it as a religious day if you want and if someone is usually religious they are sure to view Easter as an important day for their faith, but the reality is that lots of people care more about chocolate eggs than they do about who Jesus was and what he did.

There is also an argument that more and more people (especially youngsters) are aware of the religious aspect because of the way we celebrate Easter today and due to its commercial nature.

Easter might be a bit gimmicky, but if it was a boring holiday then fewer people would be interested in it. As it is, you could go into any classroom in the country and the children would be able to tell you all about Jesus and the story behind it. They look forward to Easter because it means lots of chocolate and time off school, and as a result they become more familiar with the religious side of things.

As well as that, Easter week is bound to be one of the busiest weeks of the year in terms of church attendance. Celebration days which are purely religious don’t attract the same sort of attention and excitement. Anyone who says they have ever been genuinely excited about St Brigid’s Day, for example, is lying plain and simple.

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Tuesday, April 8th, 2014

www.edition.ie
Living with Asperger's in college

Sinéad Farrelly on widespread misconceptions of this Autism Spectrum Disorder, and what it is really like

Starting out at college is a tricky time for all people, no matter what your personality is like. However, when you have Asperger’s syndrome as well, it does make it more difficult.

I am a first year journalism student in DIT and can say that, without a doubt, my Asperger’s has made this transition trickier for me in comparison to most of my classmates.

Asperger’s syndrome, a developmental disorder, is an ASD (autism spectrum disorder). It impacts mainly on a person’s ability to communicate and socialize, as well as many other things.

One key issue I have found surrounding Asperger’s is a lack of knowledge on what it is and how it affects people. Many people have a set idea of what autism is and do not realize that Asperger’s is slightly different and that it can change a lot between each individual person.

Mark Haddon, author of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time once said “There is no right type of Asperger’s. People with Asperger’s are as varied as Norwegians and trombone players.” I find this to be extremely true, I have met many other people who also have Asperger’s and no one person has the exact same characteristics of the condition.

I am lucky enough to have a very mild form of Asperger’s and therefore most people I meet cannot tell at first that I even have it. In one way this degree of mildness can be a double edged sword. As I previously mentioned, there is often lack of knowledge about the different forms of Asperger’s and autism that people can have, and once people see that I can hold a conversation they assume that I do not have any social impediments.

One crucial way in which my Asperger’s affects me is with my communication with people, mainly the fact that I do not understand sarcasm or irony. This has affected me hugely in college as it causes me to become offended rather easily when I misinterpret jokes made by my course mates. I also cannot lie well and am, at times, bluntly honest, I will often blurt things out before realising what I have said.

As opposed to many people with an ASD who find it difficult to communicate, I communicate too well and find it difficult to know when to stop talking. I have found that this can sometimes annoy people as they find me to be too ‘intense’.

All of these grouped together affected me hugely in school as I always found it very difficult to make meaningful, lasting friendships. However, I have found that in college people are much more understanding and accepting once I explain to them the particularities of my Asperger’s and have made many good friends both through my course and extra-curricular activities.

This does not mean that it is easy for me to forge good relationships with people, I am very conscious of the ways that my thinking is different to other people and I over-think and over-analyse many of my words and actions. I also look very deeply into the words and actions of others around me and can often misinterpret a harmless comment to mean that somebody is annoyed with me. This also affects me in a large way work-wise in college. Constructive criticism comments from well meaning lecturers have played on my mind for weeks and because of this I have many assessments which I was convinced I failed (I passed them all in the end).

My academic college life is also affected around assessments and exams; having Asperger’s means that I work very well around routine, dates and deadlines. In short, I like to know what to do and when to do it. Being in college suits me hugely because of this.

Having a structured day with classes and knowing when to have to have everything submitted by means that I can easily plan ahead and see what I need to get done.

One way in which I, and every other person in DIT, are very lucky is that the college have excellent disability and counselling support services. Here I have been able to access counselling where I am able to talk through issues and worries that I encounter in a private and confidential manner.

I think that the main issue surrounding any ASD is the lack of knowledge that a lot of people have about them. Many people watch The Big Bang Theory and see how Sheldon acts and assume that we are all the same. However in my experience, once you explain to people how you are affected by it and let them know the way in which your mind works, it need not be an issue in your daily life. It does make things more difficult, but I would not ever say that I am ashamed to be an ‘aspie’, nor would I wish it away in the morning.
Inside Prelude Arts: a student-run creative space

Hannah Popham chatted to Luke O’Rourke, Chairperson of Prelude Arts, about the inspiration behind the project

After seeing the lack of opportunity the recession brought many graduates and business owners, DIT students Luke O’Rourke and Terrence O’Neill decided to take matters into their own hands. They joined forces with friends Stephen Stratton and Simon Byrne to form Wicklow Social Enterprise-whose first success is a creative zone in Bray, county Wicklow, catering for artists, musicians and coffee-drinkers alike.

“We came up with the idea for Wicklow Social Enterprise Ltd. after myself and Stephen Stratton attended a cooperative and social enterprise conference in UCD in 2012. We wanted to do something for the community and help create some employment, especially for young people who are still finding it immense hard to find employment” said Luke, who is currently doing a Masters in Accounting in DIT.

The company’s main aim is to reinvest in the local community and social enterprises and their vision is to create sustainable opportunities: supporting, representing, operating and setting up social enterprises.

Their first project is Prelude Arts, a hybrid gallery, work studio, exhibition, music venue and coffee dock in Bray, county Wicklow, something Luke is particularly passionate about: “I’m really excited about this! The purpose is to give arts, crafts and musical people up and running with space to work, sell and engage with the community. So far we have a great response from artists and consumers! We help add the business expertise to the arts community.”

However, like most student startups, the team encountered their fair share of challenges along the way: “The biggest challenge for us was and is funding, which will come as no surprise! Banks basically don’t want to know about new startups especially when you have very little personal funds. We expected this but it’s still a major problem for us. We have had support from some local people though, we even had someone do a sponsored run for us which was a great help! Other than that we have held fundraising gigs and completed the work ourselves.”

Located on the Albert Walk in Bray, Prelude Arts is a host to a variety of events, varying from bodhrán lessons to gigs from the popular local folk and soul band the Cujo Family.

“We’re about giving people opportunities! So if you show us you have passion and can produce something of quality we’ll help you achieve it. We’re very diverse though just last night we had a Native American Shama hold a spiritual meeting which attracted about 50 people. We also have Bodhrán Lessons by Ronan O Snodaigh from the band Kila on Tuesday nights which has also been a massive success. There are also a number of photo and painting exhibitions planned for the next few months too.”

O’Rourke sees that this is just the beginning as the space will soon be extended to include a coffee dock: “The future is very bright for Wicklow Social Enterprise. In the immediate future we’re looking forward to getting the coffee dock up and running and taking two people off the dole.”

He sees Wicklow Social Enterprise as an important source of hope for young people and those looking to share their passion with a helping business hand: “It gives them hope, encouragement, inspiration and support. Setting up a business is tough even if you know everything about it. Having an organisation to help give you advice, which has experienced what it’s like is a major support to those who seek our help.”

ALTERNATIVE HOBBIES

Rock Climbing

Looking for some new highs in your spare time? DIT’s Mountaineering Club might be for you, writes Sinéad Farrelly

Starting college brings about many new opportunities for every student. One of these new opportunities is the chance to pick up a new sport or hobby. When I started in DIT in September I decided to join the mountaineering club and try my hand at rock climbing.

I have never been a fan of heights and had never practiced rock climbing before so this was certainly going to be a challenge for me but I have not looked back since I first got on the wall.

Contrary to what most people think, rock climbing is not purely about how fast you can get to the top of the wall, or who climbs the fastest. There is a lot of technique and skill involved and it is a great mental, as well as physical, workout.

Every route that you climb is different and therefore there can also be multiple ways to climb it, this is what makes climbing such an interesting sport. A shorter person will climb a route in a completely different fashion to a taller person, yet they both reach the top of the wall.

Rock climbing is also a very social sport; if you want to climb you need somebody to belay for you (belaying is the process of securing and safeguarding a climber by using a rope to hold the climber’s weight if they fall). This way, you never climb alone and develop trusting relationships very quickly.

Climbers are also always full of encouragement for other climbers as they understand fully the fears associated with the sport as well as the euphoria of finishing a route you were stuck on.

When climbing you are only really in competition with yourself and so you can set your own goals. This helps to develop a huge sense of personal achievement and confidence when you finally finish that difficult route.

As far as exercise is concerned, rock climbing is definitely one of the more enjoyable forms. Rock climbing increases your strength, balance and flexibility while improving your risk-assessment and problem solving skills. When you climb you work out muscles from all over your body yet there is no counting of push ups or any other repetitive actions.

Rock climbing is also a great stress reliever: when you climb you have to focus on the wall and the problem in front of you. Climbing is a great way to clear your mind and forget about that assessment you did not get a great mark on.

Despite having only been participating in the sport for the last six months I have improved hugely and have met some very interesting people. I have been able to travel across Ireland and participate in an intervarsity competition and meet people from other colleges.

I have learned to appreciate the true beauty of hand moisturiser and how to properly wash chalk out of all items of clothing. However, above all I have found an improved sense of self-confidence and a brand new set of skills that I never thought I would have.
The Farm
Dawson Street

Eimear O’Hehir

The Farm restaurant is located on Dawson Street and there’s another recently opened on Leeson Street. The idea behind the restaurants is that they use the freshest ingredients and as much organic produce as they can. The restaurant has several high profile awards, including the Bridgestone award and several Georgina Campbell recommendations.

Having been here a few years ago and leaving disappointed, I was very apprehensive to return here again, but thought I’d give it a second chance. Decor is elegant and organic but with a sparkle and shine that can only be obtained through excellent staff and high standards. We’ve probably all seen the (V) symbol – for those who don’t know, this means it’s suitable for vegetarians. What I love about The Farm is their use of these symbols, but not just for vegetarians, on their menus you’ll see half the alphabet, with letters representing if the dish is high in omega or high in protein. I’ve never seen a restaurant in Dublin do this before and it shows the care they put into the selection of their ingredients.

We started by ordering the spicy free range Irish chicken wings with a blue cheese dip (€8.25) and the Asian green salad (€6.95), you can actually order this with chicken or salmon as a main too. Salad was refreshing with lots of flavours in it. Chicken wings were perfectly spiced and the blue cheese dip worked perfectly with them. For mains we ordered the grilled organic Irish salmon with a pistachio and lemon crust (€15.95), with hand cut chips (€4.25). Salmon was really good and light but filling. We also ordered the risotto gratin that came with a mixed leaf salad (€13.95), the portion was huge and all the cheese in the risotto made it overly creamy and difficult to finish. The Farm’s wine list boasts a good variety, we ordered a glass of the Barton and Guestier organic sauvignon blanc (€6.20) and an Italian pinot grigio (€7.20). We had no room for desserts with such generous portions, but I have no doubt they would be delicious.

Now we all know that there are evenings where we don’t want to cook and we don’t want to change to go out for dinner, the only thing we want to do is order a take away, which seems like a great idea at the time, until you’ve eaten half of it and feel the guilt over consuming a brown bag full of grease.

What’s great about The Farm is that it’s as healthy as the food in the restaurant. Overall, I had a really enjoyable time here, it had definitely improved since the last time I was here and that was nice to see.

Would I return here? I probably would, its stylish restaurant and uber healthy menu combination is something that is quite difficult to find in the city centre.

Could you be the next Rebekah Brooks?

If so, please do not apply for the position of editor-in-chief at The Edition 2014/2015

Applications are now open. Send an expression of interest to editor@edition.ie by the 9th of May. Cover Letter, CV and interviews will be required at a later date.
Summer Fashion Guide 2014

There are five key trends that have graced the runways, hit the high street and cannot be ignored this summer. With a bit of a stretch in the evenings, and summer only around the corner, it is impossible to avoid the shops as the new stock floods in; it’s time to consider your summer wardrobe.

By Lilah Gaafar

1. Pastels are everywhere. For those of us not blessed with the legs of a Victoria’s Secret model, a pastel pink pant suit may not be the answer, but not to worry, there is plenty to choose from, as pastel everything, from shoes to accessories dominate the high street this summer.

2. The ‘boyfriend jean’ is back. Just when we thought skinny jeans ruled the world, the ripped and baggy ‘boyfriend jean’ graces us with its presence. A classic, and not to mention much more comfortable than skinny jeans, ‘boyfriend jeans’ are perfect choice for the summer months with sandals, or even heels.

3. There is nothing quite as timeless as a crisp white shirt. In conjunction with the classic white shirt, comes the contrast collar and the stripe shirt this spring/summer. Although Alexander Wang does a great job, H & M along with the usual suspects have of course mimicked the runway and given us great knock offs for a fraction of the price.

4. Nothing is more wearable than a pair of sneakers. This summer sees the introduction of ‘skaters’. From snakeskin to cheetah or basic black, these wearable slip-ons are the essential casual footwear this summer as Steve Madden and Topshop steer the trend.

5. Last but not least, comes the tropical print. Particularly striking in a shift dress or a full skirt this summer, the bold print is unavoidable. If you find yourself wearing a shirt that resembles that of something a Columbian drug lord might wear, fear not, you are on the right track. These bold exotic prints have come straight off the runway and into our reach, as they can be found in all the leading high street names.
This film adaptation of John Banville’s book by the same name, is irritatingly compelling and ultimately lacklustre in a really intriguingly enjoyable kind of way… that probably doesn’t make sense right now, but by the end of the film you’ll understand, or at least begin to understand – much like the plot of the film, which starts off slow but builds to a very pleasing climax.

Initially it’s somewhat up and down – getting lost in its own narrative at times, with no clear intention of where the story’s heading. Once we become invested in the characters they begin to reveal the humanity of the story which is a very emotional recounting of the glory of past life experiences, and the harrowing reality of the progression of life for our main character, Max Morden. Beautiful warm and cold colour grades serve to separate the cheerful, innocent flashbacks from the much bleaker present day narrative. Every image and colour is used effectively to add to the story, and coupled with engaging performances from every actor present, this makes for a seamless viewing experience that’s unique and enjoyable – although somewhat slow in its pacing at times. Where the film really struggles is in its efforts to manage the various narrative strands and how they play with each other. Unfortunately, it fails to uphold each strand all the time – sometimes leaving you wishing that the next flashback could come sooner, rather than later.

Simplicity is at the foundation of any creation, and it’s from there you build on the layers to develop the project – The Sea skipped a few levels and tried to accomplish too much in its narrative at times, and while ultimately a simple, very well made film, it loses focus and dips too often to maintain the fantastic tone it sets for itself.

Noah

Directed by Darren Aronofsky

Liam Kennedy

Grade: C

Noah will pleasantly surprise a lot of people who were sceptical about the biblical tale being turned into a film, but it does suffer from a number of faults in its first half.

Darren Aronofsky’s biblical epic benefits from impressive visuals and a brilliant cast, but most of its failings lie in the film’s opening scenes which are too often dull and slow-moving.

The film takes a while to get going, but seems to spark to life just before its midpoint. This part of the movie lifts the overall narrative and helps to quicken the pace and therefore add a sense of excitement which are lacking in the earlier scenes. The middle scenes are the most spectacular. Aronofsky creates a brutal, ferocious atmosphere and makes it impossible for the viewers to look away.

The character of Noah is brought to life by Russell Crowe who brings a necessary intensity to the role. Another reliable performance from Crowe means that the title character is tough and ruthless, but ultimately sympathetic and relatable.

The supporting cast, featuring Jennifer Connelly and Emma Watson, is also impressive. As well as this, the arrival of Ray Winstone coincides with an increase in action and drama.

The plotline is limited due to its source material, but the longer the film goes the more interesting it gets. Intriguing developments create tensions between key characters and present the audience with difficult moral decisions.

The film’s closing scenes contain some truly affecting moments which carry a real emotional impact, making up for the uninspiring opening scenes.

A few unrealistic visuals and the occasional strange characters and scenarios aside, Noah has plenty to offer and succeeds in keeping its audience guessing and not being too predictable.

Dark Souls II

Directed by Stephen Brown

Stuart Comerford

Grade: B-

The first time I fell off a cliff while playing Dark Souls II, I was notified that I had gained the achievement “Welcome to Dark Souls”. Death, therefore, is the order of the day in this punishing sequel to the notoriously difficult Dark Souls (available in, I kid you not, a “Prepare To Die” edition).

A game for purists, the original pit you against colossal enemies with no real training to speak of, letting you die and die again in lieu of lessons. The second installment has some basic stabilising wheels in the form of a tutorial, but don’t let the softer intro fool you. You will be crushed, pommeled and roasted alive by all variety of men and beasts, but ruthless difficulty doesn’t have to mean unfairness.

Where Dark Souls II really gets you is that every enemy is beatable, and when you die it will be your own fault. The combat system is precise and based on impeccable timing, requiring you pick your moments carefully, with huge consequences for even the simplest mistake.

But the rewards for your perseverance are rich indeed. Stunning environments and a complex levelling system mean that the game manages to keep you gripped throughout its often savage difficulty spikes, and the sense of achievement you feel after defeating someone who killed you ten times before makes it all worth it.

So for the masochists among you who don’t mind having your free time wrested from you, it really doesn’t get much better than Dark Souls II. Just don’t blame me when you’ve lost 20 hours from your week and that urgent essay is now 2 days overdue.

Mad Men

Season Seven Preview

Directed by Joseph Conroy

Grade: We’ll see

Y’all remember Mad Men? Post-Sopranos, pre-Breaking Bad – loads of lads swinging on cheeky bottles of whiskey/vodka, making up slogans and saying things to their secretaries that you just wouldn’t get away with nowadays.

The first series of Mad Men was one of the most critically acclaimed series in the history of television – the style, the cinematography, the writing were all top notch.

This momentum kept going through the first three series, but on the eve of the seventh series apathy has started to set in.

It’s lost its way a bit, the menace and intrigue have died out. We’ve travelled from the slick 50s to the gaudy 70s.

It’s still watchable but most of the wow-factor is gone. This is the final series and there could still be a sting in the tail/tale.

It’s honestly kind of hard to remember what exactly is happening any more and to separate what happened in Series Five from what happened in Series Six.

Jon Hamm and Christina Hendricks are still box office and it will be interesting to see how, and if, the show’s loose ends will be tied up over the last 14 episodes.
The book was better

Stuart Comerford argues the ‘paper versus projector’ comparison misses the differences between two separate media

‘The book was better’ – you’re lying if you say somebody hasn’t said that to you at some point in your life; nowadays it’s practically a crime if you express your love for the likes of Game of Thrones or The Hunger Games, if you’ve never laid hands on one of the books.

This theme of source material being held in a higher regard than the film produced from it has become somewhat of a trend that people gleefully flock to like a herd of sheep – but why?

Are we so narrow-minded that in all our efforts to embrace the imagination-provoking, open-mindedness of reading, that we reject another person’s vision of how the book spoke to them?

Books and films are entirely different mediums, and individually they deserve more respect than to be compared to each other in what is an incredibly unfair comparison. While all films start out in written form (the screenplay), books aren’t written with the intention of being translated into a visual medium such as cinema or television.

Books are designed to let the reader experience them in whatever imaginative visual way they like, films are a bit more cut and everything is already laid out for you to absorb, perhaps, more easily.

When adapting a book into a film, it can only be expressed as the director’s interpretation of the book; so will obviously never appeal to all original fans.

But, there are many cases where such a great visual storyteller is attached to turning a book into a film, that it surpasses the book in all possible ways.

David Fincher’s take on Fight Club, Stanley Kubrick’s take on The Shining and Alfonso Cuaron’s take on Children of Men are all shining lights in the vast world of successful film adaptations.

This just goes to show, that while we may be accustomed to liking our own form of interpretation, sometimes other people do a far better job at it than we do.

That principle can even extend as far as the author; there are many accounts of filmmakers who hugely altered the source material for the better, as is the case with the film adaptation of Stephen King’s novella The Mist.

However, the argument doesn’t have to be as black and white as that, The Lord of the Rings trilogy stands as a perfect example of how it can coexist as an equally incredible masterpiece in both mediums.

Let’s face it; some people just don’t enjoy reading, and others prefer not to be spoon-fed someone else’s vision.

Studios purchase the film rights to a book so they can take whatever liberties they want to make a profitable film – not a true-to-the-book adaptation.

So it’s really not worth your time having both mediums in the same conversation.

The karaoke life for me

I love karaoke. In my hometown of Tralee there is very little to do for those who aren’t children or pensioners. Since arriving in Dublin to study my Masters, Wednesday nights in Captain America’s has been a Godsend for me.

When I walk into the bar, it’s as if I’m entering another world: a world where there’s no law against cursing or saying shocking things. It’s where I go to let off steam and have a good energy to simply downing naggins in a house or chancing women on a dance floor.

Karaoke is a release. It is a platform for anyone to perform (almost) any song.

Be it that ninety’s jam that everyone loves, a hard hitting piece of classic rock or that hidden gem of a song that everyone has forgotten – karaoke has something for everyone.

I have witnessed some classics of course but along with that I have witnessed some catastrophic failures; one being my own.

I had built up something of a streak of form for the bones of three weeks and was quite satisfied with my specialised genre of upbeat boy band classics, but on one particular week I chose to go outside my comfort zone.

The song was “Boyfriend” by ninety’s megastars ‘N Sync. The track is R’n’B-style pop with a significant amount of talking or half-arsed rapping.

I had no problem singing but in this song my thick Kerry accent didn’t sound quite as smooth as Justin Timberlake’s LA enunciation. It was a failure.

Luckily, I managed to somewhat redeem myself with a reasonably slick version of Justin Timberlake’s hit ‘Senorita’. The ending of the song in particular is a pure party piece, and though it requires a bit of talking, it was not as hard to pull off as muttering, “Would you be my girlfriend? You know I like you right, but would you be my girlfriend?” I know, Cringe.

The perfect recipe for an earth-shaking karaoke number is a song that everyone knows, but everyone has forgotten.

I have seen some magnificent performances from friends of mine this year, from Nelly to All Saints but the one which will live with my memories forever was my friend, a regular Edition contributor, Gav Lacey’s rendition of “Year 3000” by Busted.

Simply singing the song alone would have been enough but he brought soul, energy and charisma to the track, you genuinely thought that he may have actually been to the year 3000. He also added in some cheeky lyrics, for example in the breakdown when he sang, “I took a trip to the motherf**kin’ year 3000. This song had gone multi-platinum Everybody bought our seventh album, seventh album, seventh albummmmmmmmmmmmmm, yeah!” He had the whole crowd on their feet for the blockbuster final chorus. It was by far the best karaoke performance I have ever seen.

My friends and I have been in attendance at the Captain America’s karaoke Wednesdays so much at this stage that we are unsure whether the organizers love us or hate us, either way we’ll be there every time. I would recommend anyone to go to Karaoke at least once. It is a wonderful opportunity to raise your self belief and confidence by getting up on stage and belting out a song in front of a crowd of people. It’s an alternative way to spend a night out, and undoubtedly an untapped resource in Dublin among students. Karaoke nights are a winner for me.

Cringe.

Like all great stories, it started with an encounter in the men’s toilets. I was taking a break from writing my thesis proposal, had washed my hands and was leaving the facilities when I was approached by a young man.

“Eii… sorry if this is a bit weird,” he began, ominously. “Would you be up for being in the DIT Fashion Show?” he asked. Sure why not, I thought. I’d be the first to admit I’m not averse to a bit of attention.

I went with him to meet the show’s committee and signed up. I had my first rehearsal a week later. Around the same time, my class were given an assignment. An assignment to cover any topic across three platforms of our choice. I joined a group with Joseph Conroy – the editor of this culture section – and Stephen Mooney.

We threw ideas around – covering the youth wings of political parties in Ireland, following emerging bands in Dublin – but never settled on one.

On a night out we came up with the idea of a documentary on the journey to the fashion show. Joseph thought we could do a job on it “halfway between America’s Next Top Model and Fade Street,” as he put it.

The boys joined me at the next rehearsal. We began taking models and committee members aside and holding interviews. We soon found a few ‘characters’ among the crew.

Ted and Lucky – two models – particularly stood out. They made a fine double team, like Ant and Dec, only likeable. If we were having a slow day filming, we could always just put the two of them on camera and see what happened.

We followed the models and organisers for six weeks, catching rehearsals, promotional work, photo shoots, the choosing of clothes, and the mandatory spray tans. Mandatorily spray tans from which I was not exempt. They’re absolutely no craic.

The six weeks culminated with the show itself, which took place at Vicar Street. We now find ourselves with something close to 1,500 videos, of which we now have to try and fashion into a documentary. I shouldn’t have written that – actually hate puns. Halfway between America’s Next Top Model and Fade Street – I’d be happy enough with that.
Stream Wars

They’ve said the music industry has been dying for as long as it’s been around. Culture editor Joseph Conroy looks at music streaming and asks whether the sky is really falling, or are the big boys crying wolf again?

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When future music needs look back to now, Thom Yorke’s statement that Spotify is “the last desperate fart of a dying corpse” will probably come to define this era of music consumption as the world moves away from legal and illegal downloads and embraces streaming.

A disgruntled Yorke pulled his solo album The Eraser and his Atoms for Peace material from Spotify and Radiohead’s self-released In Rainbows has never been available on the service.

If you take a second to look at the quote, it actually says more about the rest of the music industry than it does about Spotify. Spotify might be the dying fart – but the music industry is the corpse and killing or ignoring this service isn’t the way to bring it back to life.

Former Talking Head Mr David Byrne has been writing about music for some time. His last piece in the Guardian was titled ‘The internet will suck all creative content out of the world’ and was shared over 66,000 times on Facebook.

A click onto his own personal blog will bring you to his most recent entry. ‘How will the wolf survive? Can musicians make a living in the streaming era?’

We are now at the tail end of a massive cultural shift that has been taking place since Napster launched. Among his scattered musings on the future state of music, Byrne wonders whether music streaming services like Spotify are anything more than a legal version of Napster or Pirate Bay.

Byrne is not wrong. The mission statement of Spotify has never been to save Universal or Sony or Warner, nor to translate a 200-word write-up in Q into bread in a young artist’s toaster.

What Spotify set out to do was create a music platform that was better than what their fellow Swedes had built with the Pirate Bay.

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Last year, Spotify updated the area of their website that gives information to artists about using Spotify and stated that the platform was ‘built from the ground up to combat piracy’ – but combating piracy and re-empowering artists are different things.

Writing in his ‘alternative Queen’s speech’ column in the NME last Christmas, Jonny Marr said he couldn’t think of “anything more opposed to punk rock than Spotify” (on the other hand, alt Queen’s speeches in the NME are totally punk rock).

Punk rock was all about anarchy (or something like that) right? Spotify is a product of the anarchic world that we’ve created online.

Spotify isn’t the driving force here, it’s the product of this time and it’s not just a music problem – it’s an everything problem.

Young teenagers have come and are coming of age in the great era of free content. Free music, films, TV, sport streams, newspapers, books, magazines and more. The music industry has spent the best part of 15 years dealing with the realities and implications of this shift.

This is basically the third day of Woodstock, everyone knows that there are no barriers stopping you walking in for free, but these guys are all sitting down trying to figure out how they can still make some money.

Economies of free

Last year’s biggest selling CD in the US was Justin Timberlake’s The 20/20 Experience shifting 2.4 million CD’s – this is the same number of physical sales that ‘N Sync’s No Strings Attached sold in its first week in 2000 (the highest ever first week sales for a CD).

While vinyl sales rocket, they are still a niche market that only make up 1 percent of all music sales.

So physical is dead – and now downloads are on the way out too. While the growth of legal downloads have been declining for some time, 2013 was the first year that they actually fell since the iTunes store went live ten years ago.

Music piracy is also reported to be falling. Some attribute this decline to the growth of services like Spotify. As smart devices continue to develop and become cheaper, and the cost of internet access falls while the quality rises, it makes sense that people will switch to streaming services.

Sweden is one of the countries that has gone the furthest down this path.

There, total music revenues grew by 12 percent in 2012 and a further 5 percent in 2013.

Digital (downloads and streams) makes up 75 percent of the revenue and streaming accounts for 94 percent of this number. Over 70 percent of the total revenue in music came from Spotify alone.

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While there is money to be made in streaming, these amounts are tiny when compared to the money to be made elsewhere.

This means that if you own the rights to Lady Gaga or Michael Jackson’s music they Spotify is a good thing – massive amounts of streams can make you money.

However, if you are a young, talented musician, then this is bad news.

The money you can get from streams is tiny when compared to downloads and physical sales.

But, all young musicians are already aware of this reality before they make an EP or record.

Conversely, these musicians are the ones who can benefit the most from the technological shifts that have brought us to where we are.

They can record for a fraction of the cost of their predecessors and distribute their music online for next to nothing. This side of the technological shift is perhaps best represented in the 2011 documentary PressPausePlay.

The film’s primary thesis is that the internet and new technologies offer artists new creative opportunities that outweigh all the negative coverage we are used to hearing around the future of the creative industries (you can watch the doc’ for free on YouTube or Vimeo).

Staying on top

While Spotify has clearly become the streaming service of choice in the West, it’s unclear how long it can stay there. The world’s biggest companies have been holding their cards close to their chest for some time now.

Both Apple and Google are rumoured to be close to showing their hands, perhaps as soon as this summer (although I doubt that).

They both have massive advantages over other companies. Google have ubiquity, and more specifically they have YouTube – beyond question the world’s largest repository of streamable music.

While Google have launched their Google Music service, it is believed that YouTube Music is on the way and that it has the potential to blow Deezer and Spotify out of the water.

Apple have been sitting back. They launched a Pandora-style iTunes Radio service but not a full blown iTunes streaming platform.

Word on the web is that iTunes have built their streaming service and it’s ready to go, but the company are still in talks with ‘The Labels’ to iron out the details.

Apart from their design team and brand loyalty, Apple’s real advantage is that they already have your credit card details if you use any Apple products or services.

Imagine the scenario that after it launches you download a track or album and you get a message saying that for around the same amount it costs to buy a handful of tracks you can get access to stream the whole store, both online and offline, across all your internet-enabled devices.

That move could be the final death knell for the period of mass purchasing of music, online or offline.
Engage: an exhibition

Eoghan Regan visited a DIT exhibition as a babe in the universe of Fine Art

F ew know about DIT’s Fine Art school in Portland Row, and neither did I until I walked like a lost child into the White Lady Art Gallery, where students of the college had taken over a small space in the back of the room.

Invited by Niamh Murphy, an artist whose work was also on display, I trundled down to the Gallery along the quays to check out the evening’s proceedings. It would be important to note at this point that I am no Art expert. I very much appreciate, but only in the same way that a child appreciates the stars; I lack any ability to understand the cosmos, but I have a fantastic time looking at them. ‘Engage’ was, if you can imagine, such a thing – a large Andromeda of concepts displayed on six white walls. Some had worked in the medium of paint, others with visual media and watercolour.

Leonard Traynor’s was the first piece which wrangled my gaze, most notably because it didn’t look (to me at least) to be a piece of art. A small screen with headphones attached displayed a grainy YouTube clip of four Russian teenagers playing the Beatles classic: She loves You. It was, in my opinion, one of the trickiest pieces I had done.” Standing outside an immigration centre Maria had stayed true to her word and had, against all her own held beliefs, become the medium through which people could have their say.

“GO HOME” was one of the trickiest pieces I had done. Standing outside an immigration centre Maria had stayed true to her word and had, against all her own held beliefs, become the medium through which people could have their say.

Does it signify the beauty of feminine domesticity, are you trying to contrast the dull occasions of normal life with the beauty of others? – No, they were always in the gallery, we couldn’t move them.

“GO HOME” was one of the trickiest pieces I had done.” Standing outside an immigration centre Maria had stayed true to her word and had, against all her own held beliefs, become the medium through which people could have their say.

“I am trying to normalise the idea of picketing,” Maria had turned herself into a piece of moving, unbiased art. It was, in my opinion, one of the cleverest pieces I had ever seen. Beyond respecting the concept I respected more the sheer cojones she had displayed, not only giving people she did not agree with a voice, but she physically had ‘stood’ for whatever messages she displayed.

G emma Fitzpatrick’s piece was by far the most visually stunning, a symmetrical collage of triangular shapes interlocking with dazzling colour. Each colour had been coded with a message of normality and domesticity beside it. An avant-garde pie chart separating the differing aspects of her life, each triangle chaotically placed on top of another with paradoxically careful symmetry. I had no need to call the artist for help on this display, not because I believed I had wholly understood the piece but rather because my own interpretation had satisfied me enough. The eye thirsts for symmetry and colour, adding another layer of complexity to the piece.

The most interesting sight of the evening was the crowd, an eclectic mix of young and old, artists and posers, personalities so large that they consumed the air of the room and made it impossible to look beyond their padded shoulders and velvet suit jackets. I wrote only three notes during my hour and a half glimpse into their world, the final being: “These people are more stunning than paintings... the art would be nothing without them.”
The Recruitment Drive

DIT Sport guru Darragh Biddlecombe and John O’Carroll talk to William O'Toole about the college's rich sporting history and the scholarship system that breeds tomorrow's stars.

DIT has a long and successful history when it comes to sport and they have a particularly strong history when it comes to GAA.

Teams in the DIT colours have competed at the very highest level in the GAA and they have had plenty of success.

One of the areas that the GAA club in DIT have been most successful in is encouraging the very best players to come to the Institute. Players like Kerry’s Darren O’Sullivan, Dublin’s Kevin McManamon, and Mayo’s Aidan O’Shea have all come to the college on an elite scholarship programme.

The GAA club is always trying to get the best players to come to DIT, and I had a chat with Darragh Biddlecombe about what it takes to get a scholarship and what the club does to find players.

“We would talk to minor teams in Leinster, in and around the commuter belt and the feeder counties that come to Dublin obviously, Wicklow Wexford and Meath, counties like that.

“We would be looking for footballers, hurlers, camogie players and ladies footballers. We would give the clubs prospectuses and explain to them what courses are on offer at the college.”

To get a scholarship at elite level, there are strict criteria that must be met but first of all players must secure their place in DIT on merit. Obviously they must sit the leaving cert and get the required number of points for the course they want to do at the college.

“They would then apply for a scholarship and the deadline for first round offers is the end of May. We would then call them in for an interview, usually toward the end of the summer or the beginning of September, to find out if they are still interested. We then make a shortlist and call them in for trials and we would whittle it down from there.

“One thing we have found is that because we have no facilities on campus, it can be difficult for players travelling long distances for training and stuff but we give them a lot of support.”

DIT offers sports programmes for all levels but to get a place at elite level, players have to be playing at a high level. “Realistically to be considered you have to be playing at minor level, borderline inter-county level before you start in first year.”

The college usually offers 33 GAA scholarships per year and they would be spread out between football, hurling and camogie.

“It varies from year to year, one year you could have a talented crop of footballers, the next you could have a talented crop of hurlers so it depends really.”

When a player gets accepted on the programme they get a maximum of €3,500 to cover fees but they also get financial assistance for travel costs as well as equipment and sports attire.

As well as that they also get access to an Athlete Development Programme which offers them Personal Performance Management; Mental Fitness for a College Athlete; Nutrition; and Strength and Conditioning training. They also get free access to the DIT FitGo Club.

The programme had been a success for the GAA club and that point is proven by the fact that the teams in the college are competing at such a high level.

At senior level the footballers are playing top flight Sigerson Cup, the hurlers are playing top flight Fitzgibbon Cup. The Camogie team is also playing top flight while the ladies footballers are in the second tier.

The success starts at fresher level though and the challenge is to transform it to senior level.

“The Freshers won the football, the hurlers were beaten by the eventual winners UCD and in camogie we won the freshers title. That is a high standard in itself but the big challenge is transforming it to senior level.”

DIT also offers scholarships for soccer but elite scholarships wouldn’t be as high as they would be in the GAA. This is because players playing at that level in soccer will probably be in England by the time they are ready to start college.

John O’Carroll who oversees the soccer in DIT explained it to me: “To get an elite scholarship for GAA you need to be playing at a high level even bordering on inter-county standard. With the soccer we find the best players have usually gone to England by the time they reach the age to go to college.

“We still get a fairly high level of players into the college though, we would have the odd league of Ireland player, lads who play underage for Ireland. Some would be playing Leinster senior league or in the AUL. Recruitment for the soccer is more or less the same as it would be for the GAA: ‘I’d go around to the schools and see if anyone is interested. I would also go to FAS courses where lads would be doing access courses to get into DIT. We usually get players of a high standard there.

“I’d approach people at open days and see if they are interested in playing. You might get word of a player coming into first year who is of a decent standard and you would go and talk with him.”

The soccer team also won the league last year and John feels that helps get good players interested. “Success breeds success. When we have won stuff in the past we have got lads who have come to us inquiring about playing soccer for DIT.”

“There definitely isn’t as many elite players playing soccer in DIT as there would be playing other sports like GAA but we have still produced good players and teams.”

Other famous athletes who have passed through DIT on scholarships include David Gillick (2005, 2007 European Champion 400m), Darren O’Neill (Irish Olympic Boxer, London 2012), and Sara Glynn (World University Championships Gold medal winner – Equestrian).
Gunning for glory at the intervarsities

Rifle club founder Barry Burke speaks to Harry Hatton about the efforts to expand a sport that is very much under the radar

T he DIT Rifle Club will be competing in a clay pigeon shooting intervarsity in north Dublin this Saturday, April 12.

The competition will commence at 10.30am and will take place at Balheary Shooting Grounds, which is close to Swords. The intervarsity will go on for approximately three hours. The one day event will see DIT pit- ted against hosts DCU and Trinity College. UCD were also asked to take part but never responded to DCU’s invitation.

No other third level institution in Ireland has an established rifle club at the moment. DIT will have “12 at most” travelling to Balheary, according to DIT student and Rifle Club founder Barry Burke.

“T o get an actual range, it could take up to four years of passing legislation” – Barry Burke, founder of DIT’s Rifle Club

Burke. The distance between the shooter and the clay is usually between 20 and 30 metres, but this depends on what station the shooter is at.

Burke’s club don’t have their own rifles or shotguns. Instead, the fire-arms have to be rented from established gun clubs.

“We have to pay a fee for the ammunition as well and targets. DIT subsidises some of that.”

The club use 12 gauge shotgun cartridges which are filled with small pellets that are made of metal lead. The pellets emerge from the cartridge in a spread. Burke and his fellow members have been unable to partake in any practice sessions at any of the six DIT campuses.

“With clay pigeon shooting you need an off campus location. You can’t really do it on the campus which forces the club to go outside and use external facilities,” said Burke, who is from Tallaght in south Dublin.

The club have been forced to practice clay and rifle shooting outside Dublin. It took 40 minutes for club members to get down to Wicklow for a session.

Acquiring a shooting range is not a straightforward process. “To get an actual range it could take up to four years of passing legislation. Rifle clubs would have to be approved by the Garda,” informed the club founder.

There is a lot of work involved so that’s why we haven’t got fire-arms and that’s why we haven’t got a range.

A licence is needed to own a shooting range but is not needed to actually use a shotgun or a rifle.

At the Clubs and Socs week back at the start of the college year, Burke did not have a large poster like other sports clubs but still managed to attract people to join his club.

“Our advertisement wasn’t the best but we pulled in about 40 members at the intervarsity event this Saturday.”

The DIT Rifle Club founder is expecting a rise in membership for next year. “There is a lot of interest so we would expect over 100 members next year.”

To get involved in the club contact Harry Burke (087-6181717) or email rifle.dit@gmail.com.

The deal will affect those who are not engaged in the GAA community, such as myself, the most

Many within the GAA have been mouned the lack of people who attend games regularly and don’t take an interest in the sport but this may actually change, and now we novices can talk about how London continue to grow as a force in the game.

People who have had no previous inter- est in the sport will now sit at home, take in the important games via Sky, then stroll down to the pub and talk about what the genius of Mr Cluxton.

If Stephen Cluxton walked by me on the street dawned a dark green jersey and caressing a GAA ball under his arm, I would pass him by not knowing that he was Dublin’s star man between the sticks.

Like many, my stock and trade is the premier league. I will regularly tune in to see Aston Villa play Stoke on a Sunday evening rather than watch Meath play in Páirc Tailteann, a stone’s throw away from my bedroom window.

Maybe this will change thanks to the new mega deal that SKY and the GAA have struck up.

A lot of the discussion over TV3 being trumped by SKY has been very in- teresive. Does this mean the GAA will be lining their pockets? Will the game go pro? Will attendances rise?

All of which are very valid but everyone is sick to death of how the game go pro? Will attendances rise? Will the trospective; Does this mean the GAA...
CRICKET SPECIAL

Bowling Átha Cliath

Murali Rajendran, co-founder of DIT’s Cricket Club, speaks to Piers Moyles about the sport’s rising popularity both inside the college and across the country.

“Dedication, teamwork and enjoyment”, those are the three main attributes needed to become a cricket star, according to chairperson of the DIT Cricket Club, Murali Rajendran.

Founded in 2010 by Murali and team captain Rahul Balachandran, the setting up of the club coincides with the recent rise of the sport’s profile in Ireland and the club has come a long way since then.

“I’ve been the chairman this year and last year and before that we didn’t actually have a committee. We just got together, said these things needed to be done and just did whatever we could to keep the club up and running.”

Mirroring the rise of cricket in the country, the DIT Cricket Club rose from humble beginnings with interest continuously increasing along the way.

“When we had the club set up we had 10 or so lads that were very keen on the sport and with the revival of Irish cricket after the 2007 World Cup, the interest just grew bigger and bigger. With the addition of students coming into college in recent years who perform very well in the inter-provincial series, it’s given us a boost in terms of developing the club as well.”

With the club going from strength to strength, they had their first scholar two years ago. Adrian D’Arcy.

“Adrian has represented Ireland under-19’s and two years ago he represented the Ireland university’s cricket team and he played against the likes of Scotland. In terms of his talent and ability he did very well to go on and secure himself a good name within Irish cricket,” said Murali.

With talent emerging from within the college, the club is not only expanding in numbers but it is starting to reap rewards on the field.

“We only stick to 50 overs cricket and indoors cricket which is when each team has 12 overs and there are one or two tweaks with the rules.

“This year we’ve had one intervarsity up in Belfast for the indoor tournament. Unfortunately we were very unlucky in the semi-final losing to NUI Galway by just one run.”

Murali took the defeat to heart, grimacing as he relived the “nail biting” downfall.

“We only needed two to win from the final over but unfortunately we lost our last wicket. We got so close but we just couldn’t do it.”

However, his furrowed brow was completely out of character as Murali smiled and laughed throughout, as he told of the cricket club’s growth and success with his passion for the game emanating from his joyful mannerisms.

“We’ve been consistently performing as far as the other colleges are concerned. This is DIT’s third consecutive semi-final in all intervarsity tournaments and we’re just looking to develop that from here on.

“With more talented players coming in we’re looking to improve the club and the more people coming in the future it’s only going to give credit to the club and we’re going to push ourselves from there.”

And as the club’s journey continues to unravel, expanding exponentially along the way, it is also doing its bit to help cricket grow within other colleges and universities.

“This year we’re trying to host a T20 tournament between colleges. That’s due to take place within the next three weeks and we haven’t been booked out completely, we’re still looking for a couple more colleges to show an interest but so far the likes of DCU, UCD and Griffith college have shown a great interest.”

With the tournament being a 20-Over competition, this should raise the profile and help it gain more attention.

“The thing with T20 is it’s short and sweet. When people are trying to watch a match they don’t want to be sitting there for eight hours during the day. T20 is very entertaining and it gives people more of an interest to watch the that format rather than the One-Day or the Test.”

Despite hailing from India where you can see cricket being played in the streets up and down the country – much like a slotted being pounded against a wall is a common site in these parts – Murali’s involvement in the game has only been a fresh development.

“I’ve been going on about cricket ever since I was about seven,” he said, and given the enthusiasm and conviction with which he speaks, I imagine many other people have sat up and taken notice of Murali “going on” about his love for the game.

He continued: “But, up until I actually got to Ireland I wasn’t really involved in cricket a lot. My real interest for cricket really heightened when I joined Merrion Cricket Club back about seven or eight years ago.

After listening to Murali chat about perhaps the most traditional of all sports, it’s not hard to imagine him as a dedicated, inclusive cricket star with a constant smile on his face at the crest in the near future.

This is DIT’s third consecutive semi-final in all intervarsity tournaments, and we’re just looking to develop that from here on.

– Murali Rajendran, DIT Cricket Club Chairperson
O'Brien bullish after World Cup exit

Irish cricket all-rounder Kevin O’Brien, most famed for his quick fire 113 runs against England in 2011, spoke with Sinéad Farrelly following Ireland’s early exit from the ICC World Twenty20

Ireland had a disappointing finish to the world cup as they lost a close game against The Netherlands on the final day of the group stages and missed out on qualification for the main stage of the tournament.

On their early exit, O’Brien said, “I think for two and a half games we played quite well, it was I suppose the third game with a victory but you want to give the credit to Holland for the way they batted.

“I know we didn’t bowl as well as we could have which was disappointing but we can’t dwell on it too much, we just have to take the positives from the tournament and move on, but I suppose if you look at the whole of the winter since January our main objective was to qualify for the super ten and we didn’t get that.”

Those positives that he speaks of include a win over full member nation Zimbabwe and also a win from earlier in the winter against The West Indies in Jamaica. It is these wins that help to boost the profile and stature of cricket for associate nations such as Ireland and help to build their case for test cricket.

Kevin points out that Ireland no longer need their ‘minnows’ tag as they now are “in with a chance” of beating these full member sides;

“Any time that we play them we are right in with a chance of winning every game.

“Those two wins were extra special, especially the game with the West Indies, beating them in their own back garden in Jamaica so that was extra pleasing.”

However, as seen with the recent Netherlands’ loss to Sri Lanka, when the Dutch were bowled out for 39 runs, associate cricket can also have its bad days. The Dutch captain Peter Borren publicly apologised to the other associate teams after this loss and Kevin agrees that defeats like this can damage associate cricket.

“I think they do [damage as-sociate cricket]. I suppose when you look at cricket and especially T20, every team is capable of not performing to their best, but to be bowled out for a low score such as 39 it just makes it that little bit more difficult for the associate world. Yes, test teams can get bowled out for low scores but it just looks even worse when its associate teams getting bowled out for such a low target.”

It is worth noting, however, that The Netherlands did bounce back with a strong win over England later in the world cup.

The next time Ireland play an international match are the two ODIs (one day internationals) that they have against Sri Lanka in Clontarf, Dublin, on May 6th and 8th.

Kevin says that before they turn their focus to these games, the players are taking a mental and physical break from the game.

“I’m taking a couple of weeks off away from cricket and just trying to get away from the game. It has been a long winter for me and all of the guys; we’ve been on the go since December so I think a little break will be good for all of us as players and as a squad. We’ll readress the Sri Lanka games come mid-April when we meet up and start training again over here.”

He continued on to say that for him personally, there is not too big a mental change when switching between the different formats of the game.

“Individually and personally I’ll just approach the games the same way I do to try and play the exact same way when I’m batting and when I’m bowling, so for me shifting between the different forms is a lot less stressful for me than it might be for other players.”

Sri Lanka defeated India on Sunday night to win the Twenty Twenty World Cup and they have also named a formidable side to play in Clontarf next month including international stars such as Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene and Lasith Malinga and so Ireland are set to have a tough match on their hands.

However, with Irish cricket continuing to develop in a positive fashion and taking wins over full members such as The West Indies, they may yet pull off another surprise victory in front of a home crowd.
New Athletic Council voted in at tough time for DIT sport

Absence of women running for Council positions highlights need for improved equality

Ryan Nugent
SPORTS EDITOR

DIT’s clubs and societies have voted in their new figures for the Athletics Council, with no female representation for the coming 2014/15 academic calendar.

The new committee are coming in at a time of controversy and change at the college, with Grangegorman, the possible vote on the levy and problems with funding for the Broombridge sports facilities set to take up the majority of the Council’s time.

Brian McClean, head of the DIT Snooker and Pool Club, retained his position as Chairperson of the Athletic Council unopposed, with Murali Rajendran of the DIT Cricket society comfortably winning the vote for position of the Council’s new secretary.

The voting in of the general committee was passed through without any fuss as Myles Redmond, David Swift and Rajendran were appointed by their fellow society members.

However, due to Rajendran taking up the secretarial position later on in the meeting, a by-election is set to be held to fill the third place on the committee.

Head of Sport at DIT, Sinéad McNulty, was disappointed with the absence of any female candidates running and encouraged the club representatives to rectify this.

“It’s a little bit one sided. I’d ask any female members here to think about going for a position in future because we’d like to promote equality here.

We’ve a lot of women involved in sports so it’d be good to get some representation,” said McNulty.

Rajendran spoke of his plans for the coming year, however was coy on the sensitive subject of Broombridge.

“We had a lot of issues relating to communication between clubs. I’m hoping to improve the interaction between clubs. I want the clubs to get their voices heard. I want to give them the confidence,” said Rajendran.

“I can’t say much about the funding for Broombridge, but with regards to all new projects there’s always going to be obstacles in the way. We are trying to get contingency plans in place, but it is going to be tough ask,” he said.

Chairperson, Mclean is expecting it to be a big year in the history of DIT as the push for the Levy is set to gain momentum.

“The big issue is getting a vote on the Levy proposal. We want it brought to the students in the first semester and then a campaign and hopefully a yes vote. It’s going to be the biggest thing in DIT Sports over the next few years because without the Levy, facilities will be pretty low end,” said Mclean.

“At the moment the real issue is with the student council. They’re slowing it down and DITSU are slowing it down a lot in their arguments over the shop at Grangegorman.

“It’s hard to say how fast or slow it’s going to be going through (the Levy),” said Mclean.

There’s an all-male feel to DIT’s 2014/15 Athletic’s Council

I can’t say much about the funding for Broombridge… We are trying to get contingency plans in place but it is going to be a tough ask
– Murali Rajendran, incoming Athletic Council Secretary

We didn’t bowl as well as we could have, but we can’t dwell on it too much, we just have to take the positives from the tournament and move on
– Kevin O’Brien, Ireland Cricketer

High hopes for DIT rowing in Easter intervarsities

Sinéad Farrelly
SPORTS REPORTER

Over the college’s Easter break this year, the DIT rowing club will be participating in the annual rowing intervarsities championships.

This year’s competition is being held in the national rowing centre in Farran in Cork and will be beginning on the 10th of April.

In the University competition the men’s teams will be competing to win the Wylie Challenge Cup, while their female counterparts will compete to win the Bank of Ireland Cup.

DIT will be sending a total of four teams to the event to compete.

These teams are currently training four days a week at their base in the commercial rowing club in Islandbridge.

In his first year of captaincy, DIT rowing club captain Gavin Comolly is optimistic about the chances of the college as a whole, particularly with regard to the inter and senior teams.

“Our novices won’t perform the best in the competition, but the inter will hopefully perform well.” He said.

“There’s going to be two other teams, there’s going to be a senior Dublin and an inter Dublin and they should both individually do very well. After that then they are going to combine and perform as a quad and we hope that they will do very well as well.”

A first course in watersports, organised by the rowing club and DIT is currently ongoing, another one of the sports training initiatives undertaken by the societies, after the successful FAI badges courses which was organised by the DIT Soccer Club.

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