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**STUDENTS & STAFF
WANTED FOR
WEIGHTLOSS CHALLENGE**

**FREE PERSONAL
TRAINING**

SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS

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THE



EDITION

23 January 2013 Vol 2 No 7

www.edition.ie



Snow on the south Dublin mountains earlier this week brought transportation to a halt and left many without power, affecting students with submissions due

Injunction granted against DIT

Michael Mulvey, Director of academic affairs and registrar at DIT, has been granted a temporary High Court injunction to prevent the college from proceeding with disciplinary action against him.

Mr. Mulvey claims that a decision taken by President Brian Norton to initiate disciplinary proceedings is unreasonable and irrational, and has sought court orders and declarations in that regard.

He claims that DIT is in breach of constitutional and natural justice, as they have failed to provide him with sufficiently precise details of the disciplinary breaches of which he has been accused, or any complaints that have been made against him.

It has also been alleged that Professor Norton has predetermined the outcome of an inquiry into Mr Mulvey's proposal in 2011 to relocate the Learning Teaching and Technology Centre (LTTTC). This proposal, made in 2011 as part of cost-saving measures, involved moving the LTTTC from Mount Street to Rathmines.

In an affidavit, Mr Mulvey said that a dispute arose over this proposed change, and disciplinary proceedings were initiated against him. He claims that this decision on the part of the college is unfair, and is prompted by the Teachers' Union of Ireland (TUI) campaign to prevent the relocation of the LTTTC. It is argued that this move by the TUI was motivated by a desire to undermine Mr Mulvey's authority in DIT.

Mr Justice Michael Peart granted the application for an injunction, and made it returnable for today.

It is understood that both parties will be available to comment after today's hearing. Follow this story on www.edition.ie

SUs feed students in crisis

Luke Holohan
News Editor

Students' Unions across the nation are providing free food boxes and vouchers to students who are struggling financially.

A large proportion of those seeking help, are believed to be people that are still awaiting grant payments from the Student Universal Support Ireland system (SUSI). SU's have taken the step after receiving unprecedented requests from students who cannot afford to feed themselves. John Logue, the President of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), highlighted the desperate situation many people are facing.

"As students return for the second term of the year, over 5,500 are still desperate for financial assistance. In order to alleviate some of the hardship caused by delayed grant payments, a significant number of Students' Unions across the country have provided food boxes for students who are coming to college hungry."

The USI also encouraged SUs throughout the country to provide any further assistance they can, in order to alleviate some of the pressures of those struggling in the wake of the student grant fiasco.

Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) has seen the greatest demand for basic assistance. Over the Christmas period 150 students were given food boxes, while a

soup kitchen is currently still running on the campus. Father Shay Casey, the AIT chaplain, described it as "one of the worst situations I've seen, I've come through some bad times of the eighties but there wasn't the problem of fees then, families are in serious personal debt. Financially, the parents are just as worse off as the students". He estimated that between twenty to thirty people are being fed each day by the soup kitchen initiative, which provides those in need with a coupon for a bowl of soup and a roll. "Unfortunately the SU and the Chaplaincy don't have the resources to pay student rents but we can provide some basic help to a lot of students on the bread-line".

DIT has brought in a similar scheme. Along with the assistance of the Chaplaincy, the SU is making food vouchers available to students who find themselves in a financially precarious situation. DITSU VP, Glenn Fitzpatrick, said there were a number of contributing factors to student poverty but that, "SUSI and the government are not doing students a whole lot of favours". "The main thing we can do at the moment is to keep fire fighting", he added.

The City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee (CDVEC), the company which is in charge of the SUSI grant system, has revealed that 5,575 students or 28% of the successful applicants are still waiting on their grant payments to be processed.

NEWS

DIT merger discussed

HEA plans to cut the number of publicly-funded third-level colleges.
P2

Tragic Deaths

Earlier this month, three members of the DIT community passed away.
P2

HMV sit in protests

Staff stage protest in Limerick store.
P3

Malala Yousafzai

DITSU awards honorary membership.
P3

Nitelink service cut

Late night buses every half-hour slashed by a third from this weekend on.
P6

Rag week

Student Union aims to raise €15,000 for Pieta House during this year's charity week.
P8

CULTURE

Shadows & Dust

Luke Holohan meets folk newcomers.
P10

Kevin McGahern

Comedian, and 'Sim Card' of Hardy Bucks, talks to the Edition.
P9

IFTA Nominations

Love/Hate and What Richard Did dominate this year's shortlist.
P11

Django Unchained

Tarantino's latest film reviewed.
P12

Jiro Dreams of Sushi

David Gleb's documentary on a man possessed by a passion for sushi.
P12

Oscar Nominations

Steven Spielberg's 'Lincoln' tops the list for this year's Academy Awards.
P11

SPORT

Out of O'Byrne Cup

DIT's footballers have many reasons to be happy despite disappointment in cup.
P15

Waterpolo tournament

DIT to compete in inter-varsities.
P16

Armstrong: confession

Colin Laye on Lance's interview
P13

NEWS

Numbers

11

People arrested in Belfast and Derry as loyalists stage protests over union flag controversy.

-7

Temperatures to dip far below freezing overnight in the north and midlands, as cold snap persists.

1000

People rescued by Royal National Lifeboat Institute last year.

50

Years of post-war reconciliation marked by French and German leaders this week.

5.8 million

Euro sought for apartment development off Baggot Street.

HEA plans third-level shake-up



Ciaran Clark
News Editor

The Higher Education Authority has announced plans to cut the number of publicly-funded third level colleges from 39 to 15.

The authority has stated the massive changes are designed to cater for demand, save money and standardise quality.

They released a document called, 'Completing the Landscape Process for Irish Higher Education' which includes the suggestion that DIT will be part of the "Dublin Alliance Institutes of Technology", following a merger with IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown.

Colleges will be required to merge or collaborate more closely with similarly

specialised institutions. DIT, IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown will continue to be allied and the possibility of applying for Technological University status will remain an option.

Ultimately there will be a reduction to 15 institutions in five regional clusters. DIT is included in a cluster with IT Tallaght, IT Blanchardstown, NUI Maynooth, Athlone IT, DCU, and several other colleges.

The proposals have been agreed and officials are to consult with affected colleges before presenting the proposals to Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Education, in March.

Part of the proposal will make participation in the changes by colleges a requisite for funding.

The plans don't affect universities in general but the HEA wants increased con-

solidation of institutes of technology.

DIT and other institutes of technology across Dublin have applied for the Technological University status but in other cases around the country institutes of technology will be amalgamated with local universities.

Michael Mulvey head of academic affairs at DIT said, "This is a positive affirmation of DIT's original plans to merge with other ITs.

I would [provisionally] see it as a positive step."

Colleges around the country currently receive over €1bn a year in funding from the government. There are 170,000 students attending the 39 affected colleges and it's predicted this figure will surge dramatically in the next couple of years.

Creative arts programmes at third level colleges in Dublin will also see changes, especially after a review of the programmes operations is completed.

Teacher-training colleges will be one focus of the plan, with the intention to reduce the number from 19 to 6.

UCD and Trinity are already in talks to merge the teacher-training as part of an Institute of Education, along with Marino Institute of Education and National College of Arts and Design.

DCU, St Patrick's College, and Mater Dei Institute of Education will also be integrated to form a new Institute of Ed-

ucation.

Part of the impetus for the measures is the elimination of duplicate courses, so colleges will begin joint academic planning ventures.

Currently having courses available in multiple institutes, costs the Education department millions and in line with a policy of imposing austerity in the education sector these duplications will be scrapped.

Other reforms that will take place later and are to be announced, concern staffing levels, alterations to the academic calendar and imposition of further contributions by students.

The announcement comes days after Limerick Institute of Technology withdrew from plans to merge with other institutes to form the Munster Technological University. Mr Mulvey commented:

While I can't speak directly for the decisions of other colleges, sometimes colleges will adopt certain stances in relation to announcements like this, to protect their negotiating position.

Limerick IT may also have felt there were better opportunities elsewhere. But stances do change.

Referring to the HEA inference that funding could be dependent on college participation in the reforms he said, "It's not clear at this stage how funding will be used to incentivise colleges."

Tragic deaths: three members of DIT community

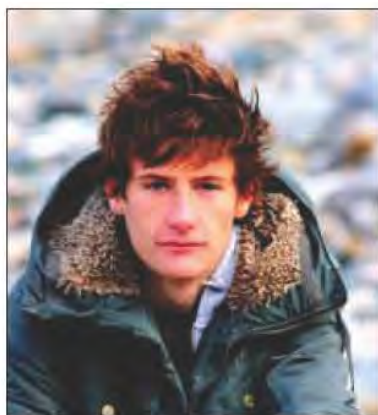
Ciaran Clark
News Editor

Earlier this month, three members of the DIT community passed away. Mikey Clancy, Irish Windsurfing champion and DIT student, Marie Gonnely member of the Careers Office team and Brendan Burkler, lecturer in the school of Media.

Mr Clancy, a 22 year old Dubliner, competed on the P.W.A (Professional Windsurfers Association) World Windsurfing Tour and had just returned to the world windsurfing stage in 2012 after being side-lined for most of 2011 by a serious ankle injury.

His father paid tribute to him on the popular surfing site afloat.ie, last week, "We will miss Mikey and remember him fondly for his sportsmanship, kindness and friendly manner. Your smile and humour lit up many a windsurfers day. May you dance on the seas of heaven as you once danced on the seas of the ocean."

Clancy had achieved many accolades and awards including, 25th Overall P.W.A World Tour, Irish Junior Champion and Irish U19 Champion. He was also an accomplished student, gaining an Elite Ath-



Mikey Clancy, pictured on the left, and competing in windsurfing on the right. Photos:



lete Scholarship to DIT for Marketing.

His dream of competing suffered a setback last year when he suffered a cartilage-destroying injury to his ankle that required painful fusion surgery and nearly a year's rehab off the scene and away from windsurfing. His comeback on the 2012 PWA tour in the KIA Cold Hawaii World Cup saw him finish 13th and awarded sailor of the day during the contest.

Mikey's father, Michael Clancy spoke to the Irish Daily Mirror about the loss of his son. He also spoke about Ireland's social problem of suicide, "It's a horrendous cultural thing that Ireland is developing, it really is. It seems to be getting worse rather than better."

He went on to add, "Whilst we are extremely heartbroken and shocked at the news we want to celebrate that he had a

good innings in a lot of aspects. He was really a warrior. He got to the very top of world windsurfing twice."

According to the Mirror report, Mikey's ashes are to be spread over several of his favourite beach spots in Ireland.

Staff member Marie Gonnely also unfortunately passed away. Marie was known to many colleagues and students through her role as a member of the DIT

Career Service team of advisors.

Marie had worked for many years at DIT and had been on a career break since the beginning of 2012. She was working with New York University in Abu Dhabi when her untimely death occurred. She was just 31 and it is thought she died of possible S.A.D.S (Sudden Adult Death Syndrome).

Regretfully a third death occurred over the Christmas period; Brendan Burkler. Mr Burkler was a lecturer at the school of Media in Aungier St. Brendan was a well-known cinematographer, film producer and director, and had taught TV and Video Production in the School of Media for the last five years.

DIT Chaplaincy is to announce details of memorial services for DIT students and staff, who wish to pay their respects for the deceased. If you would like more information contact Sister Mary Flannagan on (01) 402 3050, 087-6417309, or e-mail Mary.Flanagan@dit.ie

If anyone requires help coping or simply wants to talk, DIT counselling is available. Please contact the secretary Gabby Lynch on (01) 402 3352, text to 086 0820543 or email gabby.lynch@dit.ie to arrange an appointment.

WWW.EDITION.IE

Start the debate online

DITSU membership for Malala



Malala Yousafzai is awarded honorary membership of DITSU

Paul O'Connor

Malala Yousafzai has been made an honorary member of DITSU. DIT Student's Union President David Keogan proposed the award of Honorary Membership to the Union to Malala Yousafzai before Christmas, which was seconded by the Executive Council.

According to Mr Keogan, the proposal was made in 'recognition of the work done by Malala in the pursuit of educational rights for girls in the Swat region of Pakistan...and as an acknowledgement to the work done by those committed to education access in conflict-ridden areas'.

Malala was sitting in a school bus in Mingora, a city in the Swat Valley, waiting to be brought home along with her school-mates, when a Taliban gunman boarded the bus and shot the 15 year-old in the head and neck.

Doctors in Pakistan managed to remove the bullet which had lodged in Malala's spine but she was flown to Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, which specialises in war wounds. The teenager was discharged from the hospital on Friday January 04 but will have to be readmitted for further surgery to reconstruct her cranium at the end of the month.

Malala has been a campaigner for the ed-

ucational rights of girls in the north-western district of Pakistan in the past number of years. In 2009 the young activist wrote a blog for the BBC Urdu service, detailing her life in the Swat Valley where she was banned from going to school by the Taliban.

This region of the country is a Pashtun tribal area straddling the Afghanistan border and was the centre of a counter insurgency by the Pakistani government on the Taliban in 2009. The counter insurgency was thought to have been successful but last Thursday's bombing in Mingora which claimed the lives of 22 people would suggest that the Taliban are still very much active in the region.

The long term future of that part of the world may be mired in uncertainty, but the immediate future for Malala is crystal clear. Her father, Ziauddin, has been appointed to a diplomatic post at Pakistan's consulate in Birmingham.

Considering the proximity, President Keogan would love to invite Malala and her father to DIT to accept her award; health permitting of course. President Keogan would 'prefer to hold the event in DIT so the Student Council can attend' but either way, he envisages some kind of ceremony taking place in the next month or two to honour Yousafzai's bravery.

News Bulletin

Grad wins in Las Vegas

Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) was presented this month with a gift of next-generation technology for use by its students of geomatics and spatial information, due to recent graduate David Hyland. David won the International Trimble Dimensions 2012 Student Paper Competition.

The prize for the competition was a trip to Las Vegas to participate in an international conference, and a donation of state-of-the-art equipment for his home institution.

The prize was awarded by Trimble, one of the world's largest providers of positioning technology. Mr. Anthony Mills of Trimble Navigation Europe Ltd, travelled to Dublin to make the presentation to DIT.

New Post-grad Officer

David Keogan, President of the DIT Students Union (DITSU) has announced the appointment of Hoda Akbari as the post graduate student representative for the remainder of this academic year.

Ms Akbari who was elected, last month, will now join the ten-member Students' Union Executive Council to represent the interests of the increasing number of DIT Postgraduate and Research students. Ms Akbari is a full time self-funded research student in DIT's FOCAS Institute.

Along with her role within DITSU as post-grad officer Ms Akbari will sit on a number of DIT committees including the Graduate Research School Board, the Library Committee and the Academic Quality Assurance Committee.

Top of the Apps

Recent DIT start-up, BitSmith Games, has gone to Number 1 in their first APP store after the release of their first game 'Ku: The Shroud of the Morrigan'.

Eoin Harris, Basil Lim and Ralph Croly developed the game as part of their 2012 final project on DIT's MSc in Creative Digital Media & Games.

The game overtook popular titles such as FIFA 13, Angry Birds and Minecraft for the top spot. It is also performing well on the international charts and has already broken into the US TOP 100 Charts. A full Irish language version of the game is also available.

Welcome Brazilians

DIT is planning to welcome an influx of Brazilian students as part of the Science without Borders programme.

The initiative's goal is to place over 100,000 Brazilian students in overseas higher education institutions over the next four years.

The Head of the Graduate Research School, Prof Mary McNamara, member of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Irish Education Co-operation with Brazil, joined Irish delegations to São Paulo, in November 2011, and Brasília, in July 2012, to promote Dublin Institute of Technology as a top destination for Brazilian students.

HMV staff protest

Paul O'Connor

Labour TD for Limerick City and Minister for State, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Jan O'Sullivan, met with HMV employees staging a sit in protest at stores in Limerick.

On the morning of Friday 18 January, the Minister visited store locations in Cruises Street and the Crescent Shopping Centre in a show of solidarity for the 30 or so staff seeking unpaid wages from the past month.

Tweeting on her account, Minister O'Sullivan said: "I have written to receivers (sic) & have been in touch with relevant depts. I will help the workers with any requests they have."

The sit in was precipitated by the closing down of all HMV stores in Ireland after the Irish Division of the outlet was put into receivership by the Accounting firm Deloitte on Wednesday 16 January. Chris Keena, manager of the Crescent Shopping centre store and part of the sit in, spoke of his shock at the company's closure, especially when he had "heard about it on Sky News first".

However, Chris still believes HMV 'is a

viable entity... a huge market still exists for over-the-counter purchases of games, CDs and DVDs'. Chris went on to say how "delighted" he was with the political support garnered for their plight, from the likes of Minister O'Sullivan and Fianna Fail politicians Willie O'Dea and Niall Collins.

When asked what the hopes are for the staff, Chris responded: "Our main aim is the re-opening of the stores as it is important for the High Street in Ireland and Irish artists." If the shops cannot be re-opened, Chris wants to at least see the month's wages owed, including holiday and in lieu time, paid to the staff, with potentially the Government helping on that front.

Concerned that the closing of HMV stores in Ireland would have a ripple effect on suppliers and Irish artists, Chris elucidated that "HMV has a 45 percent market share for an Irish artist's release, and with the closing of HMV, there is now a void for those sales."

HMV, a UK-based company, is still confident a buyer can come in to rescue the company, with retailer Game confirming it is among the 50 or so potential suitors.



Chris Keena, manager of HMV Limerick with Jan O'Sullivan TD for Limerick City

Exams department introduce four day window

Ciaran Clark
News Editor

New changes to the General Assessment Regulations at DIT mean students will be able to get feedback from lecturers after they receive their exam results.

After proposals from DIT Students' Union (SU), the examinations department introduced new procedures for providing feedback to students on their assessments.

The alterations were made before Christmas and students will be able to avail of the feedback measures after this year's January exam results are awarded.

Glenn Fitzpatrick, Vice-President of the S.U. said the measures "will foster learn-

ing through feedback.

It's a much more student friendly way of dealing with problems that arise with results."

The amendments were made, largely to deal with the rechecking, remarking and appealing of exam results.

The original regulations stated that students had three working days to have their assessment rechecked, five days to have it remarked and seven days to start an appeal process.

The new measures will mean students have a four day window after they receive their grades, to consult with the module lecturer before they decide if they want to challenge the grade.

"It will prevent unnecessary appeals by students. Sometimes students will be frustrated and start an appeal process but in some instances with the feedback, they will know where they stand," Mr Fitzpatrick said.

The welfare and education officer went on to say that lecturers will now be expected to make themselves available for feedback consultations.

The S.U. had been pushing the reform through since last year as it is a commonly supported measure in most students unions and colleges.

Barbara O'Shea former head of the school of media said, "Speaking for this school, it isn't a massive change.

Lecturers here would always have defacto given feedback, especially on courses that have continuous assessment." She added:

"We would always have encouraged students to engage with us

This change formalises the process, but it's probably the case other schools with other disciplines, where the assessment is heavily exam based, they wouldn't have been used to giving feedback."

Mr Fitzpatrick also said, "A lot of schools would have an ethos of feedback as part of their best practise guidelines.

This change was about broadening that across DIT so it would be a best practice procedure across the whole institution."

NEWS

HSE: Mental health funds cut



Minister for Mental Health Kathleen Lynch pictured receiving 10,000 signatures from Dr. Orla Barry from the Mental Health Reform.

Mark Meehan

Budgetary constraints in the Health Service Executive should not impede the investment of funding in mental health services. That's the call being put forward by Mental Health Reform, a coalition of 32 organisations across the country which is campaigning for prioritising and improving mental health care in Ireland.

The HSE's Service Plan for 2013 has committed it to an investment of €35 million in funding from Budget 2013 for mental health services. Using this funding, the health service plans to recruit 477 new staff to this sector. The HSE has

also committed itself to completing the appointment of 414 new staff from last year, a process which has been "inexcusably delayed" according to the Mental Health Reform coalition.

While the director of Mental Health Reform, Dr Orla Barry, welcomed the news that the appointment of the new staff would be fast-tracked by the HSE leadership, she also indicated her hope that the delays seen in 2012 in appointing new staff would not be repeated. She also voiced her concerns about cutbacks already planned by the health service.

"Mental health services have seen an overall decline in staffing numbers since this time last year, with a drop of over 400

staff during 2012, so the prompt appointment of all of the promised new staff is a matter of urgency. We are concerned by the announcement in the Service Plan of a planned reduction of at least 102 acute inpatient beds. Such a reduction cannot happen until adequate community services are in place"

Of major concern to Mental Health Reform is that the €35 million in funding has been made "subject to affordability". Dr Barry and the wider coalition fear that the funding could be siphoned off into other areas of the HSE, to cover deficits.

The group also hailed the increased HSE focus on "specialist mental health services for forensics, for older people and for

people with intellectual disabilities – areas that have historically been neglected", as well as the development of an information technology system for mental health and €2.5 million of funding allotted to the National Counselling Service. The mental health coalition has stated that it would like to see the counselling service extended to those on low incomes, not just those who are in possession of a medical card.

While Mental Health Reform has praised Minister for Mental Health Kathleen Lynch for her work in improving mental health services, it has also made clear to the HSE and the Government that funding for mental health services should be used as intended.

USI violence survey

Ciaran Clark
News Editor

Following the brutal stabbing of German student Thomas Heinrich, the USI aims to document students' experiences of violence through its "Say Something" campaign.

The campaign has been launched after Heinrich died from stab wounds he sustained near DIT approved accommodation in December and the stabbing of DIT student Daniel Blain which left him permanently disabled in 2010.

In light of these incidents the USI is conducting an online survey with the support of Cosc – the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. It says, "The purpose of this survey is to better understand the extent and nature of violence experienced by third level students."

They went on to say, "This survey also seeks to establish how safe or unsafe students feel in different environments. Regardless of whether or not a student has experienced any kind of violence or harassment, their responses will help us to understand and deal with issues of violence as experienced by third level students."

The Survey is reported to take roughly 15 minutes to complete and the USI were keen to endorse the survey as a diversity enterprise, encouraging all genders, sexualities and ethnicities to complete the survey. They assured that the information is private and confidential.

Laura Harmon, USI vice president for equality and citizenship said, "This is the first time that we have undertaken a study of this scale for this age group. We hope that the information we receive will be useful in ensuring that the future campaigns USI and local Students' Unions run in this area will be well informed and targeted."

Gary Heylin, Director of Cosc said, "By increasing our understanding of the extent and nature of violence experienced by third level students we can improve our actions to counter such violence and support those who have experienced it."

HSE to slash nurses salaries: INMO urges boycott of scheme

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

One thousand nursing positions have been advertised at reduced pay by the Health Service Executive, as graduates are once again targeted in money-saving measures.

The new positions will be classified differently from previous entry level positions, but unions maintain that graduates on the programme will have the full responsibilities of other regulated professionals, without any special mentoring, and on a lower salary.

Nurses who worked in HSE hospitals last year as part of their final clinical placement will also have to reapply for the jobs at which they were contracted, with the reduced rate of pay under the new scheme, which is called the Post Qualification Nursing & Midwifery Initiative.

Thousands protested in October over cuts in pay for newly qualified teachers, which, it was argued, went against the principle

of 'equal pay for equal work', and would leave entrants to the profession earning less than those ahead of them in coming years.

These sentiments have been echoed by nursing unions in the latest controversy, and unions have urged graduate nurses not to apply for the positions.

The HSE has said, however, that there has been strong interest in the new jobs.

The programme has been described as a "false start" to graduate nursing careers, aimed at bringing in "cheap labour" to replace currently employed nurses.

Although the HSE has argued that the 1,000 jobs will represent additional staff, the Irish Nurses & Midwives Organisation (INMO) maintains that the move will cause many agency and overtime workers to be shed.

After the reduction, entry rate salaries for nurses will drop from €26,400 to around €22,000.

Comparisons have been drawn with USA and UK rates, with some nursing unions

maintaining that a nurse graduate in London can earn the equivalent of €30,000, and equivalent jobs in America offering over double the new Irish pay rates.

The latest Government cuts in the teaching profession have already reduced the starting salary of at least 3,000 teachers from around €41,000 in 2009, to €32,000 at present.

Current students will now be concerned about their prospects of working in the public sector, with Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, suggesting that public sector workers will have to "work longer, and more cleverly, and in different, smart ways."

It is now understood that negotiations between union representatives and Government will include the possibility of money-saving changes to overtime, expenses, and allowances to be considered. The Croke Part Agreement's guarantee of preventing pay cuts until 2014 remains off the negotiation table.





LOSE WEIGHT

MEN & WOMEN

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NEWS

Nitelink service slashed by a third



Dublin Bus Nitelink services operating in the city have been slashed by one-third. They company have released the revised timetable.

Stephen Bourke
Chief Sub Editor

Dublin Bus will no longer run half-hourly Nitelink services as cuts go into effect this weekend.

Although all eighteen of the current routes will remain active, fourteen of these will now run less frequently with the majority operating on an hourly basis.

Only the very busiest routes will run more than five buses a night. The routes affected are 7n, 25n, 39n, 41n, 42n, 46n, 66n, 69n and 77n.

Timetables for the other nine Nitelink routes are unaffected. For the most part, Dublin Bus has curtailed services on the most frequent routes, bringing them closer to the levels of quieter routes.

The company announced the timetable change last Friday. "The timetables have been revised to meet the existing level of customer demand," wrote a spokesperson to social media users.

The biggest cuts are to the 7n and the 25n, which previously ran nine buses a night leaving the city centre every half hour between midnight and 4am.

From now just four buses a night will run, departing on the hour. The 39n remains the most frequent route, but sees its services cut from nine a night to just six.

"This is going to force me to use taxis because the times might not suit me when I need a bus home," said Katie O'Callaghan, a DIT student and 41n passenger. "This would discourage me from going into town and spending money there."

Aungier Street man Cormac O'Connor gave up taking the Nitelink years ago. "They're too expensive," he said. "I'm usually with mates when leaving. It ends up being quicker and cheaper to get a taxi."

"The whole only stopping at one point and then not letting people on after that is just stupid," he added. "In Germany there are essentially 24 hours of buses".

Rebecca Kelly of Bolton Street says the service is too inconsistent to be worth waiting for as it is. "I normally just gallop home to Donnybrook from town," she told The Edition.

"There should be a bus every hour of every day," she added, "Like there is in London."

"The reduction in services comes just two weeks after Dublin Bus announced a hike in cash fares from €5.00 to €5.70 – with the fare remaining at €5 for Leap card users.

These price amendments for all cash fares and prepaid tickets are in line with Dublin Bus increases since the new year.

Irish actor set to star in new Transformers film

Colm McGlinchey

Irish actor Jack Reynor has been cast in the lead role in the next Transformers film. Director Michael Bay announced the news via his website.

20 year old Reynor will join Mark Wahlberg in a planned sequel trilogy to the original films. The first instalment is set to be released in 2014. Bay announced via his website that he had 'spotted him in a great little Irish movie 'What Richard Did'. This kid is the real deal."

Reynor received critical acclaim for his starring role in Lenny Abrahamson's 'What Richard Did' playing a wealthy teenager who accidentally kills another youngster. The film was released in the UK last week and has been met with further praise from critics. Reynor will next be seen in 'The Delivery Man' alongside

Vince Vaughn.

Reynor was born in the United States and raised in Co. Wicklow. From 2004 to 2010 he attended Belvedere College in Dublin and performed in several stage productions. During this time he also appeared in several short films before being cast in 2012's 'Dollhouse' and 'What Richard Did'.

Reynor had to contend with tough competition for the Transformers role, managing to edge out former 'Home and Away' actor Brenton Thwaites and 'Taken 2' star Luke Grimes.

In the new Transformers film, Reynor is set to play a racing car driver who becomes involved with Mark Wahlberg's daughter.

The role of the daughter is yet to be cast, although, several actresses have auditioned for the role including another former 'Home and Away' cast member, Isabel

la Cornish, and English model Gabriella Wilde.

The first Transformers film was released in 2007 and made stars out of the relatively unknown Shia LeBeouf and Megan Fox. Despite being panned by critics the three films were box office hits.

Bay has told fans the new film is not a reboot, and explains his reasoning behind having a new cast. 'This movie takes place exactly 4 years after the war in Chicago. The story makes a very natural transition, and reason as to why we have a whole new cast.' In an interview with TMZ 'The movie's going to continue four years from the attack on Chicago, which was in the last movie'.

It is expected that production on *Transformers 4* will begin in spring 2013 and will be released by Paramount on June 27, 2014.



Lincoln star up for the Gathering

Colm McGlinchey

Daniel Day-Lewis has offered his support at the European premier of his new film 'Lincoln' the actor offered his support to the tourism initiative.

On Sunday the Oscar nominated actor took to the red carpet at the Savoy cinema Dublin along with director Steven Spielberg and actress Sally Field. The premier, in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation, was also attended by a number of Irish celebrities, including boxer Katy Taylor and director Jim Sheridan.

Speaking of The Gathering Day-Lewis, who resides in Wicklow, said "I would like to offer my support and encouragement for the Gathering this year. What better moment than this for all those with Irish roots and connections throughout the world, to visit and revisit Ireland."

At the premier Spielberg commented on his love of Ireland, where he filmed 'Saving Private Ryan', saying "I'm very close to Ireland. Making Ryan here was such a wonderful experience we started coming back just for ourselves."

The Gathering has previously received criticism from Irish actor Gabriel Byrne,

who described the initiative as "a scam". Byrne had served as ambassador for culture for two years but stepped down as he was "disillusioned and disappointed with this Government who go on about their love for culture for arts and actually really don't give a toss about it."

Day-Lewis, who has been nominated for an Oscar for his performance as President Lincoln, commented on those returning to Ireland as part of the Gathering, that "by answering that whisper in the blood and returning to the source, they shall also be investing in the future of this uniquely magnificent country."



Lincoln star and director, Daniel Day-Lewis and Steven Spielberg

Foreign Office report

Andrew Donovan and Barry Lennon report on Erasmus from France

Establishing the Edition's French connection

Erasmus diary



First impressions of French Erasmus from our Foreign Correspondent

At a December editorial meeting, this reporter was asked where he might see himself in ten years' time. "In the arms of a beautiful woman," I responded.

The editorial team doubted that this vision would come true, as they thought I lacked the necessary finesse to attract such a woman.

Over the past months, my obnoxious out-of-tune singing and shite talking had become unbearable even for the most jaded of the Edition's hacks.

Feeling that my etiquette must improve, the editorial team decided to send me to France on an Erasmus to replace my uncouth habits with French sophistication.

The Breton town of Lannion was chosen for my grand refinement. However, on arrival I realised the town was located far from the style and sophistication more readily associated with Paris.

Lannion is rural, very rural. While the town centre has plenty of pretty ancient



Above: French students welcome the Irish to Lannion. Right: After 45 laps of the town, Lennon and Donovan found there was nothing going on.

“
A one horse town. And it seems the horse has even left
 ”

stone walled French buildings, it is still a one horse town. And it seems that the horse has even left.

Surprised by the town's isolation, Andrew (who makes up the other half of the Edition's foreign desk) and myself were already looking for escape routes on the day in France; studying the train timetables that lead to Paris.

However, this quietness did not last long as we moved on to campus residency and began lectures the next day.

With a university campus about the size of a large secondary school in a rural area, on the edge of town, it was inevitable that the arrival of the two Irish would make a big impact (last year's students from DIT are still regarded as celebrities).

Our arrival was made bigger by the fact that Andrew and I are the whole of the Erasmus community.

After a morning of administration and meeting professors, we were introduced to our first year journalism class.

No sooner had we entered the classroom, had the class organised a social calendar for the week, offering invitations to football matches and parties. We were never of so much interest to so many, despite our language difficulties.

My head still spins from the initial impact of the language barrier that day. Small talk becomes twice as difficult when fluency is an issue, but finding common ground in football helps conversation.

Thierry Henry's handball incident which ended Ireland's world cup qualification hopes is a popular slag with us.

Surprisingly the League of Ireland is also better known than I thought. One of my new French colleagues had heard of my own team Bray Wanderers. I asked how he knew of the Wanderers, and he said "I know zem from playing FIFA. I know all ze crap teams like zis."

The college is located 4km away from the town centre and it is linked to it by dual-carriageway that was not meant for

pedestrians.

Many of our new colleagues drive and some of them give us a lift into a bar in town to celebrate the arrival of the Irish students on their first full 'school' day. They sat and drank chocolat, while myself and Andrew preferred a pint after the whirlwind of a first day.

This is just one of the many cultural differences this reporter has observed that should lead to his refinement.

French students sound more sophisticated when they are going to a house party or as the call 'une soirée.' However it is much the same as an Irish session, except with a higher wine to beer ratio.

The style of dress of new colleagues also appears more sophisticated. Scarfs are not just to keep your neck warm. They remain on during class, giving an air of supreme French sophistication.

Following this French lead I should be refined and in the arms of a beautiful woman within ten years' time.

French we've learned

'On reste là'

We'll leave it there so - A common colloquial phrase used by the French here. Coincidentally, it is often used (in English) by RTE's Bill O'Herlihy.

'Baguette magique'

Magic wand - sounds as if the French are mocking themselves when it came to finding a word for a magic wand. Discovered this week in our photoshop class

'Lyons Tea? C'est comme Harp. C'est shite!'

Lyons Tea? It's like Harp. It's shite! - One of our new French colleagues has picked up on some of our Irish idiosyncracies. Including the word, 'shite.' And the preferred brands of tea and lager in Ireland.

'Pas de messing'

Cop yourself on - what the teacher says to an unruly class. Derived from *Messiné* meaning to 'act the maggot.'

Edition opens new foreign office in northern France

Barry Lennon
 Foreign Correspondent

The Edition has become the first Irish student newspaper to run a foreign office since Trinity News' ill fated trip to the Falklands Islands.

Former News Editor Andrew Donovan and former Deputy Editor Barry Lennon are running the office from their digs while on Erasmus in the Northern French town of Lannion.

While it could be viewed as opportunistic to use reporters studying on Erasmus, Editor Jarlath Moloney quashed this as-

sumption by explaining that the decision to open the office was part of a long term plan to develop the paper.

"The Edition is a world class newspaper and as such we need a closer reaction to European developments," Moloney said.

"The Edition is very proud to be opening its first foreign correspondents desk and we're looking forward to getting a new level of coverage from France and the EU."

Although located almost 800km from the nearest central European institution in Brussels, Lennon spoke of how the paper hopes to develop in the future.

"It's a step by step approach. Next year we hope to move the office 100km closer to Brussels and repeat this process every year until we have an office in Brussels itself," he said.

During his foreign posting, Lennon will write a 'Hunter S Thomson' style diary account of his Erasmus experiences of the Breton town.

Contributions from other journalists on Erasmus are also expected to appear in the new foreign desk section known as the foreign office report, as well as other features on Erasmus life and European affairs.

NEWS

Oxford LGBT to protest Assange speech

Colm McGlinchey

Oxford students are to demonstrate against Julian Assange's speech at the University's award ceremony which celebrates prominent whistle-blowers today.

Students are to protest at the Sam Adams Awards, against a speech via video link made by Wikileaks founder and whistle-blower Assange, who is wanted in Sweden on allegations of rape.

Past awards winners have included Assange himself in 2010 and FBI whistle-blower Sibel Edmonds in 2004.

Vice President of the Oxford students union told reporters that the protests 'hope to support survivors of rape and sexual assault'. Mr Assange, an Australian national, has been taking refuge at the Ecuadorian embassy in London for the past six months in order to avoid extradition to Sweden for questioning on rape allegations.

Oxford student Simone Webb, who is president of the University's LGBTQ society, took to twitter to tell students the protests are 'about challenging society's treatment of rape allegations, and the way they are minimised and ignored.' Webb also tweeted 'I do not think that someone who is actively fleeing rape allegations should have been offered this privilege.'

Assange's mother, Christine Assange, took to twitter to defend her son, calling Webb and other protestors 'a gang of rabid, irrational frenzied feminists'.

She also encouraged Oxford students who did support Assange to arrange a counter protest, tweeting 'Not only a man's reputation is at stake but his life and liberty and the greater cause of global freedoms.'

Thomas Finger, who is to receive the Sam Adams Award this year, also expressed concern with Assange's involvement stating 'I am appalled by the theft



Julian Assange pictured in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. Mr Assange has promised to release more than one million documents in 2013 through Wikileaks. Mr Assange has been in the Embassy for more than six months as of last December.

and distribution of US government documents because it violates the law, personal obligations, and professional ethics.'

The Oxford Union has invited protestors to attend the Q&A with Mr Assange to

voice their issues. A spokesperson for the union said 'Mr Assange is clearly a figure who generates controversy for reasons ranging from the charges made against him in Sweden, to the perceived

recklessness of some Wikileaks activities. We would therefore encourage those who disagree with him, or with any of our other speakers, to participate in the Q&A session.'

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Rag week 2013



Colm McGlinchey

DITSU predicts largest turnout ever for this year's RAG charity week. The event aims to raise €15,000 for suicide and self-harm charity Pieta House.

RAG (Raising and Giving) week kicks off Monday February 11 with both day and night events. Tickets for events can be purchased from the Students Union office. As well as the events organised, participants are also encouraged to raise money in whatever way they like.

Night time events include a Mardi Gras themed night at the Lost Society, a paint party at The Big Tree and a DIT talent show at The Pint. RAG week will also host a Valentines Ball, the cheapest formal ball in DIT history with tickets at €15.

Day-time events include a Sky Dive, a Northside V Southside football match, and a Sticker Run, in which contestants purchase stickers for €1 from the Students Union and the funniest photo showing the sticker wins a prize.

Anybody looking to get involved can contact their local Students Union.

87 dead in twin Uni blasts



YouTube grab of the chaos at Aleppo University

Colm McGlinchey

Twin blasts at a Syrian University has killed 87 people. The explosions happened during the first day of exams at Aleppo University.

Activists blamed President Assad's regime for the blasts, while state media blamed rebels. The death toll is expected to rise with over 150 wounded and human remains still being recovered from the site. Syria has been engaged in a 22 month conflict between current President Bashar al-Assad's regime and the rebel Free Syrian Army.

The explosions happened on Tuesday 15 January as students sat their exams

at Aleppo University in the North of the country. The commercial capital Aleppo is under government control and has been subject to violent clashes with rebels since last summer.

The cause of the blasts has not been confirmed, with state television blaming ground-to-air missiles launched by rebels, and rebels blaming air strikes carried out by the government.

President Assad, who has rejected calls by world leaders to stand down, called for damaged parts of the University to be rebuilt immediately.

Universities across Syria closed on Wednesday 16 January to mark a day of mourning for victims of the blast.



DON'T MISS OUT
on a single bit of student life.

Kevin McGahern, a Hardy Buck

Luke Holohan talks to former Hardy Buck, Kevin McGahern, on his new movie career.

On my way to meet Kevin McGahern, better known as Sim Card from The Hardy Bucks and one quarter of the fictional indie political rock consortium "Slave Baby", I begin to wonder whether he'll turn up in character. He's chosen Grogans as the location for our interview, and while I'm not complaining in the least; as I pass by Fade Street and the "trinkets" of Georges Street arcade, I start to think that it's possible I'll also be met by Vinnie Redbreast and the lads. Or even The Viper.

As any reasonable person would expect, he turns up as himself and alone. To be honest I'm not sure why I imagined anything else. Anyway, we settle down over a pint of Guinness and begin to discuss McGahern's burgeoning and diverse career in comedy, his upcoming show, as well as his somewhat unconventional relationship with hecklers. Unfortunately, I was unable to pry any further information out of him regarding the new Hardy Bucks film. Except for the fact that the show was getting the Hollywood treatment, something akin to "The Hangover" I guess.

McGahern, who is originally from Cavan, began stand-up back in 2009 after becoming familiar with the comedy circuit through friend and comedian, Robbie Bonham. "My interest was kind of encouraged by him. I'd go to some of his gigs and at this time, I guess I'd no idea what I wanted to do. I'd go to these gigs and see him up on stage, and I was like - 'yeah, I wouldn't mind doing this, it seems interesting, he seems happy and gets paid for making people laugh'".

Despite this, it wasn't until he got a job in the International Bar, a Dublin venue which is known for live comedy gigs, that McGahern was actually inspired to begin performing himself. "I was working in the International Bar and was watching guys on stage and I thought - 'fuck this, this looks easy'". Even though he jokes about it, all the evidence seems to suggest that

comedy does come quite easily to him.

After his first performance, which he describes as a "poor man's Dylan Moran" impression, he was highlighted as the outstanding performer on the night by the audience of the Ha'Penny Bridge Inn. Subsequently he has gone on to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival as well as in various venues throughout the country.

Speaking about his first ever stage performance, "That night I had a song at the end which I had written in Robbie's house. I didn't know how to play the chords though, so I recorded my own voice on a tape making the chord sounds. I just looked like a crazy, lonely man and that's what people liked the most. I just started doing more of that then."

McGahern has since landed a part in the highly popular television series "The Hardy Bucks", as well as roles in the upcoming feature films "No Party for Billy Burns" and "Flat Lake". He has also featured in sketches for the RTE magazine show called "Republic of Telly".

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the part of Sim Card came about after a chance meeting with Chris Tordoff (The Viper). "Yeah, I got chatting after one of my gigs, turned out we lived near enough to one another in Ranelagh, ended up hanging out and watching videos. He just said to call down to the guys. I knew if I just gave myself a funny name then there would be more of a chance of getting something out of it."

It seems that Kevin McGahern, whether intentionally or not, inspires comedy. So much so, that the spoof Youtube documentary - "The man who fell on the ice", which was created by him and a group of his friends, was made after they realised that the back of McGahern's head was similar to that of the man who fell on the SixOne news. The Youtube clip has so far received 400,000 hits with the likes of news presenter Brian Dobson and Satirist Charlie Brooker singling it out for personal praise. "That clip's my Citizen Kane; I'm most proud of Brian Dobson

Kevin in his role in up-coming film 'No Party for Billy Burns'.



“**If you dress like a gobshite it kind of gives you licence to act like one.**”

liking it really”.

His role in "No Party for Billy Burns" and the idea for the film itself was inspired after he suggested that a group of his friends dress up as cowboys for a festival. "I suggested that we all dress up as cowboys and go a bit crazy. If you dress like a gobshite it kind of gives you a bit of a licence to act like one. So, in the end anyway, I was the only one who dressed up as this cowboy and I had to embrace it; pulled guns on cops and stuff like that. This all seemingly inspired Padraig Conaty to write this film."

By now a group of boisterous Americans have begun to put the recording of this interview in jeopardy. They've enquired about a painting behind us, which to the untrained eye, looks more like a badly plastered wall than art. Anyway, before I've been drowned out, I get to hear about the Cavan native's interesting experiences with hecklers. "I punched a guy in the International once, less than a year ago actually", he calmly mentions.

"Well let me explain, it sounds bad. I was really hung-over from Buckfast the night before and this guy in a suit and tie was in the front row. Now he hadn't said anything all night, but then just at the punch line of my last joke he shouts something indistinguishable". "Anyway I leave the stage. Then later on, in the horrors of Buckfast, staring at a drop of

condensation on the wall, wondering about the futility of life, this guy comes over and gives me a little slap in the face. You know, just letting me know he can take me. Anyway as soon as he does this, I give him a sort of Buckfast reaction".

Kevin McGahern will be performing his show "2 Grown Men", his longest set yet, at The Stags Head on the February 5. Entrance is free into the Dame Lane venue with the fun set to kick off at 8.30pm. Also performing on the night will be TedFest champion, Edwin Sammon, as well as support from David Reilly and Conor O'Toole. Before leaving, he said that the punching of audience members was a rare enough occurrence, so don't let that put you off. Comedians are generally very docile characters, that is, until you antagonise one in the grips of a Buckfast hangover I suppose. Besides, the suited man lived to tell the tale, so it is probably worth the risk heading to the Stags Head if only to see what madness ensues.

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Cup**
p15

**Paul McGinley Ryder
Cup captain for 2014**
p14

**NFL SuperBowl
teams decided**
p15

Clancy, "warrior" windsurfer

Jarlath Moloney
Editor

Mikey Clancy, who has died aged 22, will be sorely missed in DIT where he was an elite athlete and heavily involved with the Surfing Club. The Dollymount native will be well remembered for his prolific career in windsurfing where he was world ranked in the Professional Windsurfers' Association (PWA).

The news of his death was especially tragic as he was just returning from injury that kept him from competing in most of 2011. In 2012 he attained a year best of 13th in Denmark last October at the Cold Hawaii Classic.

Called Mikey from an early age, to distinguish him from his father, Michael, the third year marketing student began windsurfing at 13. Initially he wasn't taken with the sport and got a letter from his father to get him out of the event at a kids' multi-activity camp in Malahide. However, after persevering for a year and growing in size and strength, Clancy found a new love.

By 2009 Clancy had turned professional but that December he suffered a cartilage destroying injury to his ankle. He then had to undergo painful ankle fusing surgery forcing him to relearn how to windsurf, after undergoing a year's rehab away from the sport. However, Clancy once again persevered was on course to be ranked in the top 10 in the world and said to The Edition in November that he was finally back to top form. His dedicated comeback in 2011 and 2012 saw him nominated in Outsider Magazine's Most Inspirational Person Category. Speaking to the Irish Daily Mirror, his father Michael said "He was really a warrior. He got to the very top of world windsurfing twice, once before the injury and once after the injury."

Clancy had a career marked with heights



Mike Clancy

that included 25th Overall PWA world ranking, Irish Junior Champion and Irish U19 Champion. He listed his favourite move as the Taka and his favourite board and sail combo as 75 Fanatic Quad and 4.2 North HERO.

Clancy was involved with the Surfing Club in DIT where his presence will be sorely missed. "He was very passionate about his sport and always had a smile on his face," DIT Sports Officer Niamh O'Callaghan said. "A pleasure to work

with and always grateful of the support he received."

Mikey is survived by his father Michael, mother Bernie and 18 month younger brother Sean. The Edition sends its condolences to all Mikey's friends and

families. If anyone requires help coping or simply wants to talk, DIT counselling service is available. Please contact the secretary Gabby Lynch on (01) 402 3352, text to 086 0820543 or email gabby.lynych@dit.ie to arrange an appointment.

DIT has high hopes for water polo inter-varsities

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

DIT will be sending two teams to the 2013 inter-varsities water polo, in Magherafelt, County Derry, this weekend. Coach Darren Joyce has said that the women's team is very hopeful that

they can defend their title this year.

The college delegation will have ten participants on each team, with three Irish internationals in the women's group. Last year, when DIT's women lifted the inter-varsities trophy, there were five internationals in the squad, but Darren Joyce has said that the standard of the team remains

exceptionally high.

Hopes are also high in the men's draw. "We have one senior international on the team, and a couple of junior internationals. It's certainly a good team, we're very hopeful of going and doing well. There's every reason to be optimistic."

A high rate of turnover of players is al-

ways a problem in college sports, for no team more so, than water polo. In recent years, however, Darren has found that the Athlete Support Programme has been a huge help to the club.

"I think a lot of athletes didn't actually know that they would be able to avail of the programme," he says. "There are in-

ternational-standard athletes who weren't aware that they could get a scholarship for swimming and water polo, but now that it has become more widely known, DIT is able to attract a lot more of them. It certainly helps that we have a good team here as well."