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Oscars

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How is everyone feeling after four weeks?

LEAN MACHINE CHALLENGE
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THE EDITION

6 March 2013 Vol 2 No 10

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Campaigners out for votes on Monday for the DITSU 2013 Elections. Watch our facebook/edition.ie for live updates on the outcome

UCD leave, DCU vote to rejoin USI

Ciarán Clark
News Editor

After more than a decade outside the USI, DCU students have voted to re-affiliate with the USI this week. This result follows Maynooth's decision to stay affiliated, with almost 87% of students voting 'Yes' to USI.

In a close vote, 768 students voted to affiliate with 642 in opposition. In May-

nooth, 1639 students voted 'Yes' to affiliation, with just 253 opposing. Trinity College also voted to affiliate with the USI last term.

Maynooth SU, which also represents St Patrick's Pontifical College and Froebel College of Education, will now remain one of USI's member organisations.

USI President John Logue said: "We are delighted to welcome DCU back into USI after more than a decade since they were

last members. This result comes after Maynooth students reaffirmed their commitment to the national union earlier today. I hope that DCU students will now play an active role in our national campaigns and join with their peers across the country in fighting to protect and striving to enhance the student experience.

It has been a strange 48 hours. The unique circumstances in UCD, with their Students' Union in financial difficulty, re-

sulted in a vote to leave USI to focus on local issues. I have no doubt we will work with UCD again in the future and, with the return of DCU and a reaffirmation of Maynooth students' support, USI can only go from strength to strength."

John McGahon of the 'NO' to USI campaign in UCD stated, "We came together with a clear vision for reform fuelled by a frustration with the lack of progress within the organisation.

On the ground over the last few weeks we have noticed that UCD students were disheartened by the complete lack of visibility of USI until a week before the election. They were disheartened by the poor performance of USI in the Gilmore 250 campaign. Finally, they were disheartened by the fact that while we cut frontline services in UCD, the USI have failed to ad-

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128

Caps Ronan O'Gara has earned in playing for Ireland

1,083

Points scored by Ronan O'Gara for Ireland

8%

Fall in sales of new cars in Feb

1.5bn Euro

Before tax losses of Bank of Ireland for 2012

63%

People who think schools should ban smartphones and social networks according to the results of a survey by the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals

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DIT Societies to have BEAST of a ball

Maeve Touhy

Ladies, get out your best formal attire. Gentlemen, tuxes at the ready!

The annual BEAST Ball is less than three weeks only. On Thursday 21 March, the societies of DIT invite students to make their way to the Crowne Plaza in Santry, where a fantastic evening's entertainment awaits!

The evening will kick off with a drinks reception at 7pm, followed by a delicious three course meal and performances from DIT's Music Ensemble Soc, followed by top band Transmitter and our very own DIT DJ Soc!

This year the BEAST will transport you back in time to the excitement and thrills of the prohibition era, a time when alcohol was banned, gangsters ruled and jazz was in full swing. There will be drink promos on the night, as well as attractions such as a shot bar, the popular Photobooth, magic tricks from the Circus and Juggling Soc and special room rates!

Great value early bird tickets will be on sale from this Thursday 7 March at a reduced price of €35, for three days only, after which tickets will cost €40. Make sure to get yours early and prepare yourself for a night not to be missed. Who doesn't like getting all dressed up for a few casuals, dinner, live music, and potentially finding your prince or princess? Sure it would be



Rebecca Stanley, Emma Fox and Aodhnait McAdam pictured at the BEAST ball last year

Photo by: BEAST Ball Society

rude not to!

This night has been a success the last few years and this year we want to make it bigger and better for the students of DIT. With the unique theme BEAST want to create

something different that has never been done before at a DIT ball to ensure a great experience for everyone.

For more information please see the Facebook event page, email us at beastball@socs.dit.ie

or contact any of the societies involved – Drama, Engineering, Nutrition, Banter, NetSoc, BioSoc, Circus and Juggling, Global Brigades, DIT DJ Soc and DIT Music Ensembles Society.

Behan spins decks for DIT at DJ final

Jarlath Moloney
Editor

The 6th Annual DJ Intersarsity Dublin Heat took place on Monday 4 March. DIT was represented by Kaytee Behan, who got through to the event after winning the DIT heat on 18 February.

"We would like everyone in DIT to come out and support Kaytee if she gets into the final! Posters are going to be thrown up everywhere all over DIT campuses so you cannot miss them," said Byrne. "Last but not least we want to say best of luck to all, over the colleges competing! There is some serious talent out there and hopefully the Spinoff will help with its recognition!"

The 6th Annual DJ Intersarsity regional heat will take place on Wednesday 13 March in the Twisted Pepper. DJs are typically given a 20-minute set to perform where they are judged on use of varying "DJ techniques, music choice and stage presence," according to DIT DJ Society PRO, Gareth Byrne. DIT DJ Society has been running since 2001.

"Everyone has their own style, but it is mainly just about the music and mixing, there's currently no points going for rap, but in the future, who knows what will

happen! Last years winner, from NUI Maynooth, used everything from hardhouse to poetry extracts in his performance."

All colleges send down one representative to the annual event, with over 15 colleges attending. Two from each heat go through to the final. The competition will be judged by a panel of well-known Irish DJs. Past judges have included Niall D'Arcy, Tu-ki and Pete Maguire, with a guest DJ usually playing after the event. "Last year we had Irish duo Two Charming Men, but for our 10th Anniversary we had Riva Starr who played in the Button Factory," said Byrne. DJ Intersarities are always a lot of fun Byrne said, with the 10-year DIT anniversary ending in a massive cake fight.

DIT has always competed in the event yet college representatives have yet to win. Despite individual wins, the event will be a lot of fun Byrne said. "Who ever would like to come can watch and listen to some great choons from different DJs from a variety of colleges with different backgrounds, styles, tastes and genres."

The Regional Heat & Final will be on the 13 March in the Twisted Pepper. Regional 7.30pm - 9.30pm, Final 10.30pm - 2.30am. Entry is €.



DJ Intersarsity final took place on Monday

Photo courtesy of: DJ Society



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Keep the debate mobile

Sigerson cup scandal

■ Sigerson winning team members pose nude with trophy

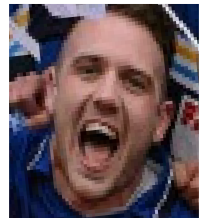
■ Photos of GAA players with Sigerson Cup go viral on Twitter

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

DIT's historic victory in the Sigerson Cup was at risk of being overshadowed by controversial photographs posted to Twitter during the post-match celebrations.

The photographs quickly went viral, and attracted attention from several online media outlets, as well as being mentioned on Joe Duffy's RTE radio show.

One image in particular, which showed one of DIT's star players posing nude and using the Sigerson trophy to cover his genitalia, attracted significant controversy and some suggestions that the DIT players had disrespected the tournament. The player in question, Alan Nestor, a fourth



■ "I would like to publicly apologise to DIT & GAA."
- Alan Nestor

year logistics student, has since apologised via his Twitter account.

He wrote: "I would like to publicly apologise to DIT & GAA. I had no intentions of disrespecting the history behind the GAA, DIT & The Sigerson Cup."



The Sigerson Cup held aloft by team captain, Colin Walshe

It remains to be seen what more will happen following the incident, with the Higher Education Authority writing to the club to request an outline of what steps the club and college will take to deal with the situation. The GAA has also been in contact with the college, as Communications Officer, Alan Milton told the Edition: "The GAA's Third Level Committee have written to DIT seeking an explanation of what happened."

However, Darragh Biddlecombe, DIT's GAA Development Officer, hopes the situation will now diffuse after Mr Nestor's apology. "The club and college

will be sending a letter to Croke Park, and we expect that to be the end of it," he said.

"Photos emerged straight after the game, when the players went in to the showers. It was a big celebration, and really a huge relief, and caught up in the middle of all that were the photos. The club would like to emphasise that there was no alcohol involved in the situation.

"As a club we're very disappointed that the images came out. It's not the image of the club we want portrayed.

"It has been covered very widely in the media. We are not for one minute condoning the picture, but it is true that managing

social media is extremely difficult in these situations. Managing students' communications through social media is a new and daunting challenge. Professional management teams at Manchester United and Queens Park Rangers have had huge problems with this."

The controversy around the images in question is particularly disappointing for the college considering the scale of the team's achievements this year. By winning the Sigerson Cup, DIT completed an historic double, also winning the Division One title. Over the season, the team also reached the final of the O'Byrne Cup, and had a ten-game winning streak.

Mr Biddlecombe said: "DIT GAA has many obstacles to overcome in terms of facilities, lighting and timetabling, and not having a centralised campus, and now we're one of only three colleges to complete a double-winning season.

"It's a massive achievement that reflects hard work over a number of years. The efforts made by past students, ex-lecturers, and a very wide group of people who all gave up their time."

"I believe when the dust settles on all this, people can still take away what a great achievement winning this year's Sigerson Cup really was." However, Biddlecombe added that Nestor may face a sanction as he is a member of the Athlete Support Programme. A disciplinary board is likely to be set up in the coming weeks.

Full match report in Sport

News Bulletin

Frozen Burger Sales Down

Frozen Burger sales have dropped by 42 per cent in the wake of the horsemeat scandal. A report carried out by the research company Kantar Worldpanel found that in recent weeks shoppers have turned their backs on the product which was at the centre of the recent food investigation. The decline in sales mirrors that in the UK, where burger sales fell 43 per cent over the same period.

A spokesperson for Kantar Worldpanel highlighted that despite the scandal- "The impact of the horsemeat issue has so far only affected what consumers put in their baskets rather than where they do their shopping".

Last month it was revealed that a number of meat products for sale in shops throughout Europe contained horse meat or horse DNA.

DIT in Super-IT AMALGAMATION

There are currently fourteen Institutes of Technology (ITs) in Ireland, which are further and higher education colleges. The College are not confined to just studies in technology, but deal with teaching and research in many disciplines, a great of which is at university level. Originally known as "Regional Technical Colleges" (RTCS) and modernised to the title of IT during the 1990s. Nearly all the Colleges were new, with the exception of Dublin IT (it was established in 1978, and recognised in legislation in 1992). Dublin IT was an amalgamation of existing colleges, many of which can trace their origins back to the 1880s.

In recent times, there are current proposals being drawn up by which groups of ITs would amalgamate, resulting in them being given the new status of Technological Universities, and losing their title of Institute. It is proposed that IT Blanchardstown and IT Tallaght will amalgamate with DIT and then together, they will proceed to apply for this new status.

Speaking to the Edition, DITSU President David Keogan said "following conversations in the HEA (Higher Education Authority), the Presidents office in DIT and the Department of Education's office, I believe that they (IT Blanchardstown, IT Tallaght and DIT) stand a very good chance of being allowed to apply for Technological University status."

Batman fights crime in England

An unknown man dressed as Batman copied the crime fighting superhero's skill when he handed over a suspect wanted for burglary in England.

CCTV footage showed a costumed figure of considerable girth bring a 27-year-old man to a police station in Bradford. But the unknown crime-fighter disappeared into the night without leaving behind any clue to his identity.

The suspect presented was arrested and charged with handling stolen goods and fraud-related offences, said West Yorkshire force.

"The person who brought the wanted man into the station was dressed in a full Batman outfit," said a spokeswoman for West Yorkshire Police. "His identity, however, remains unknown."

SHAG your way to happiness

Dáirne Black
Culture Editor

DIT's annual SHAG Week took place from February 18 till 22. The event was run in association with the USI with the aim of promoting sexual health awareness and guidance amongst students. SHAG Week was launched on the Monday in Bolton Street and was one of the four national launches run by the USI.

Monday night saw SpeedDating in Lafayette Bar on Westmoreland St. It was run in association with Drama Soc, Nutrition Soc, Banter Soc and Engineering Soc. The venue was free and there were over a hundred in attendance. DITSU VP for Welfare Glenn Fitzpatrick remarked that "when the SU and the Societies work together on campaigns, it can really give them an edge."

On Tuesday there was a Sex Empowerment workshop run with LGBT and on Wednesday there was on site activity to build up to the quiz the following night. Wednesday also saw Fitzpatrick dressed as sperm with DITSU VP for Events, Will O'Meara dressed in a giant condom suit chasing him through Cathal Brugha St canteen. Cathal Brugha also hosted the Sex and Snacks workshop. It was run by Dr Siobhán O'Higgins and dealt with bedroom tips and sex itself.

The SHAG Week quiz took place in Lafayette, formally known for the week as SHAG Central. Twenty-five teams turned up, each paying €10 per team. MC for the night was Will O'Meara, and there was



Serious about sex? SHAG Week talk at DIT Bolton St.

Photo courtesy of DITSU

tie for second place which involved some serious clothes swapping occurring.

Fitzpatrick has said he thought the week was "excellent and awesome." DIT Harlem Shake was organised on Aungier St and Bolton St by DITSU in an attempt to rally the crowd before the launch. Fitzpatrick also President David Keogan addressed the crowd and welcomed the various groups such as the Rape Crisis Centre and Think Contraception who were in attendance. VP for Welfare of the USI Denise McCarthy spoke and there was

also a Durex Comedian also.

Fitzpatrick said he wanted to make SHAG Week as tangible as possible, mentioning the internet video 'Check Yourself'. He said a video would engage students more as opposed to giving out lots of information. The video features four students as they brave the Doctor's surgery and their STD tests in a bid to show that getting checked is simple and not as daunting as students may have thought.

Fitzpatrick said the week was successful

overall, with thousands of SHAG packs being given out. He did admit however, that students aren't looking at posters anymore, particularly in the run up to election season as there are so many. He found class addresses to be the best way to engage with students and saw many students that hadn't been involved with the SU at the Quiz. He wanted to balance the seriousness of the week with craic and is proud of how it went.

It is hoped it sets the bar for next year's SHAG Week.

NEWS

No call from DIT students to leave USI

From Page 1

dress their own costs in order to pass savings on to us.

As students go through difficult times, never has there been a greater need for a radical re-focus in the student movement. Our vision is that the very change that we speak of is imminent and that ultimately, through our actions in UCD today we have made a valuable contribution to USI to convey that the biggest university in Ireland is unhappy with the organisation."

In a statement of regret on UCD's decision John Logue said, "USI now awaits notification from UCDSU of its intention to disaffiliate, which will take place one calendar year after the notification is made to USI National Council.

In the period between now and then, USI has an opportunity to prove the value and worth of the organisation and win back the wholehearted support of UCD's students."

He added, "USI is proud of its work protecting students from the worst effects of the financial crisis, its campaigns for gen-

der and marriage equality and its efforts to promote mental and sexual health. We hope that UCD students will join these campaigns again in the future, as their input has been profoundly influential over the years."

David Keogan president of DITSU shared John Logue's sentiments that it would be an opportunity for the USI to address problems that were raised by the students. DITSU have no plans to hold a similar election as the other Dublin universities after last year's constitutional referendum

retained membership in the national body. UCD hold referenda every four years specifically on membership of the USI and DCU and Maynooth made the decision this year to hold referenda on membership.

Mr Keogan stated, "DIT's constitutional referendum confirmed membership and that was to change a seven-year-old constitution. We haven't had any word from students that they want a referendum but we won't shy away from one."

Ciaran Clark

Any Summers opens its doors in Teachers' club

Colin Layde

DIT student Joleen O'Brien's play, *Any Summers* opened on Monday 25 February at the Teachers Club Theatre on Parnell Square.

The play tells the story of an Ann Summers style party, hosted by Marianna (Joan Thorpe) and attended by six women of different ages and backgrounds, each with a colourful past.

Joleen initially came up with the idea for the play at just 23 but didn't sit down to begin writing the first draft until 3 years ago. She later assembled a group of actors to read through her initial script until she was satisfied she had the final draft.

The play begins with slapstick and innuendo, as the women examine the toys including the 'Horn of the Cob'. However, the story soon develops serious undertones, when the women begin to reveal their colourful pasts. The play covers a range of issues, including infidelity, casual sex and how women often mistreat one another.

Any Summers is directed by Frank Allen and is the first play Joleen has written to be produced. However, the second year Creative and Cultural Industries (BACCI) student has been involved in theatre for many years.

Her credits include the roles of Donna



The cast of *Any Summers* strut their stuff

and Jennifer, in Frank Allen's *Methadone Actors* and *Give us a Break* respectively. Joleen also worked as an assistant stage manager for the annual pantomime at the

Tivoli Theatre for four years and the musical *Singing in the Rain* at The Olympia, before returning to college as a mature student.

The BACCI degree offers students both management and humanities modules, in the hope of fully preparing them for a career in the arts.

Joleen said the degree gave her a greater insight into how actors and directors may interpret her script.

"I have found some modules useful in understanding why they may not be able to read a piece of text within the same context as I have written it. I have learnt this is because when people read, listen, or watch something, they bring with them different backgrounds, gender, ethnicity, accent and culture."

She said it is difficult combining her studies with preparations for the opening of the play. "It has been hard, I'm trying to keep up with some stuff, but I won't lie my heart is in the play it's the only thing I can think about at the minute," she said.

Joleen feels the play will appeal to both men and women. She said the message *Any Summers* has is certainly universal.

"When a person is on the outside looking in, you might think someone's life is better than yours, but in reality nobody's life is perfect."

Any Summers opened on Monday and runs until Saturday the 16 March. Performances begin at 8.00 pm nightly, in the Teachers Club Theatre, 36 Parnell Square. Tickets are €12, concessions €10.

DIT launches online weightloss programme: Six weeks of diet designed by the health centre

Dairne Black
Culture Editor

The DIT student health centre have collaborated with Dieticians at the DIT School of Biological Sciences and created a programme to promote the wellbeing and health amongst students.

The result is a 6-week Weight Loss Programme which has been developed by fully qualified dieticians in DIT, who have cooperated with both the nursing and medical staff at the Student Health Centre, here in DIT. The aim of the programme is assess how effective the online process of weight loss advice is. The service is free, confidential and will be carried out online, with all DIT students eligible to participate in the programme.

Before the trial begins, the weights and measurements will be privately taken. Login details will then be given for the free

online weight management app where participants will register their user account. Once participants enter their user account for the first time, they will answer some questions and will then be provided with their personalised dietary prescription for their weight loss.

For the following six participants will be emailed a weekly progress report with the option to login again, retake their dietary assessment, as well as receiving added personalised dietary advice which will help them lose weight. The report will also explain the psychological barriers to changing the diet, and will give participants advice on how these barriers may be overcome to achieve a successful, lasting weight loss.

At the end of programme participants will have another private weigh-in, which will allow them to see the progress they have made.



Gerry's Tweeting. Everything.

Sinn Féin leader, Gerry Adams TD, has made an instant impression on the Twitter world, with a barrage of obscure and confusing posts.

Since setting up his account earlier this month, the party leader has publicly mused about getting locked out of his house, bringing his toothbrush to the Dáil, and has regularly updated the public on the daily life of his teddy bear, 'Ted'. Now a 'special advisor' to the politician, Ted has since set up his own account.



Snowie had beard trim. I didnt. Fry was great. Doing house work. Yeuk. Windows. Bathroom. Stove



'Oh what a busy morning. Oh what a beautiful day. Ive got a wonderful feeling eveythings going my way.'



Break 4 the border time again thank God. My head is splitting. Long day. Aris. Ted&Tom staying in BAC. Mehopes they dont wreck the place.xo



Soda farls, spud bread, black pud,black bacon, sausage, tomato, duck eggs. Its frying time again. pic.twitter.com/VIG-GIGXThL



Barr an lá leat.A grey day.Sinuses very subversive.Shudna ate that Yorkie bar. RG out late night.@ Cody Simpson concert.Ted still in bed.x

Erasmus defended despite budget cuts

- New EU programme, Erasmus for All, will have a budget 14% lower than planned for 2014-2020

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, has defended the future of Erasmus for All, following significant cuts to the programme's proposed budget.

"I attach great importance to my proposal for a new programme in the area of education, training, youth and sport," she said.

"The programme will offer more opportunities for mobility and more opportunities for educational and youth organisations to cooperate and learn from peers."

Ms Vassiliou also dismissed any concern that the Programme would be under-financed, following the decision that it will receive 14% less than the €9 billion originally proposed by the Commission.

The programme is part of Europe 2020, the EU's strategy for jobs and reform, and builds on the 'Lifelong Learning Programme', which ends this year. Programmes that were included under Lifelong Learning, including Leonardo da Vinci, Erasmus, Comenius and Grundtvig, will now all be incorporated under the 'Erasmus for All' scheme.

It is designed to be "simpler, more efficient, and easier to use than existing schemes," according to the Commission.

Under the European Commission's original proposals, up to five million people would have benefitted from EU grants for education and training opportunities abroad between 2014 and 2020 (nearly

twice as much as today) under what is now known as the 'Erasmus for All' Programme. It was also claimed that over two million higher education students would spend part of their education and training abroad, while one million teachers, trainers, education staff and youth workers would gain new teaching and learning methods abroad.

With a reduced budget, the European Commission's educational spokesperson, Dennis Abbott, now estimates that the number of beneficiaries will be closer to the four million mark.

Speaking to University World News, Mr Abbott stated: "It's about 14% below our proposal, which means that around 700,000 people will miss out on an experience abroad under the Erasmus for All programme in 2014-20 compared with the Commission's proposal."

"However, in the current economic climate there are still many positives for education, research and innovation – the figures agreed envisage significant increases in all our programmes compared to the current 2007-13 period."

According to the Youth Council of Ireland, Irish young people make up 1% of the total taking part in the Erasmus programme, a lower proportion than some other countries with similar populations. It is hoped that a renewed, streamlined system of studying abroad could have significant benefits for Irish students.

Ms Vassiliou stated: "The programme will ensure better value for money, better results, increased user-friendliness for ben-



■ "The programme will offer more opportunities for mobility and learning" - Ms Vassiliou

eficiaries and a more cost-effective delivery. I am very happy that the key points of the proposal have met with widespread support both within the Council and the Parliament.

"I also noticed a clear willingness among all three institutions to quickly come to an agreement on this key file. I am therefore confident that the Irish Presidency will successfully conclude the negotiations during their presidency."

"Despite an overall cut in the EU budget, the allocation for Erasmus for All will increase substantially. Of course to a lesser extent than we envisaged initially...but still, I consider this is already a major achievement given the political circumstances. In any case, it is an agreement which, in my opinion, does not call into question in any way the structure and objectives we have already proposed for Erasmus for All."

The European Parliament will take the final decision on whether the programme will go ahead. Voting is scheduled for this month.

Microsoft's Youth Spark boxes clever

- Technological training programme aims to boost youth employment

Luke Holohan
News Editor

Microsoft will invest €6million in Ireland over the course of the next three years to help tackle the country's youth unemployment problem. Taoiseach Enda Kenny announced the details of the new government partnership initiative while at the launch of the YouthSpark programme at Microsoft's Sandyford campus.

The software company's programme includes a variety of educational courses, software donations and entrepreneurial support. Aimed at 18 to 25-year-olds, YouthSpark hopes to train 10,000 young Irish people in areas such as mobile technology, cloud computing and gaming, while offering participants an opportunity to access work experience and expert advice.

At the launch, the Taoiseach stated that alleviating youth unemployment in Ireland was a priority for the government and welcomed Microsoft's commitment to investing in youth projects.

"The Government's top priority is to get Ireland working again," he said. "We are committed to addressing the issue of youth unemployment as we cannot allow a generation to become long-term unem-

10,000

Young people to be trained under new programme

ployed. The issue of youth unemployment has been prioritised in our EU presidency."

YouthSpark is a company-wide initiative designed to improve opportunities for youths around the world. It will work with governments and businesses on closing the technological divide "between those who have access, skills and opportunities to be successful and those who do not".

Microsoft Ireland managing director Cathriona Hallahan said – "Globally Microsoft is focusing on the challenge that is unemployment for youth. We've had a number of initiatives in the past but we're trying to drive a much more cohesive aligned programme around enabling youth."

Former boxer Bernard Dunne has been signed up to champion the project and will complete a mobile technology course himself over the next four months. During the launch he outlined that he was an example of someone who grew up without computer skills. His participation in YouthSpark will be documented through blogs and Twitter.

IT Sligo first to offer free online courses

Ciarán Clark
News Editor

IT Sligo has announced it is to emulate universities Harvard, Stanford and MIT in offering free online courses or Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs). It will become Ireland's first public higher education institution to offer MOOCs.

Ireland's first MOOC opens this September and will be a free, six-week online course in Lean Sigma Quality, the foremost quality process improvement approach for companies in the manufacturing and service industries.

President Professor Terri Scott, said the initiative is a natural progression for the Institute: "IT Sligo has been at the forefront of innovations in online learning so we see it as a natural progression to be forging new ground with this MOOC," she said.

"It's a very exciting development and we're delighted to be pushing the boundaries in improving access to higher education."

The course will be delivered by Dr John Donovan and Brian Coll, academics from the institute's School of Engineering & Design who lecture on the Institute's online BSc and MSc in Quality.

As is traditional with international MOOC guidelines, the course at IT Sligo will be free and it won't be accredited.

According to Brian Mulligan who is one of the Programme Managers at the Institute's Centre for Online Learning, students completing the course will benefit considerably from the experience.

"Students who complete the course will receive a certification of completion and

will have the option of progressing to our accredited online Six Sigma Green Belt course," he said, adding that the Institute's

Harvard, MIT and Stanford

American Universities already offering Massive Online Open Courses, in a model that will be emulated by IT Sligo

existing online learning platforms Moodle and Adobe Connect will be used to deliver the programme.

Mr Coll added "Just as it is now less likely for someone to purchase a complete album as opposed to a single music track, people may soon be selecting the amount of education they want from various sources, studying it in their own time at a time and location that suits them, and putting it together in a combination that meets their skills needs – just like is done on iTunes," he said.

"The online revolution is changing the world irrevocably," said Coll. "We've seen plenty of examples of what happens to sectors and organisations that have been reactive rather than proactive to the pace of change and higher education is no different."

DCU president Dr Brian MacCraith announced recently the college would soon launch its own MOOC.

Injury highlights SU frailties

- Calls for a change in SU election campaign rules, as injury results from rush to put up posters

Eoin Livingston

The way DIT student election posters are distributed could be changed in the future to stop candidates endangering themselves. Election candidates in Bolton Street received their temporary posters so that they may reserve spots for their actual campaign adverts.

As candidates for every position received their posters at the same time there was a massive rush to claim the best poster positions.

This drive to reach the best spots pushed many candidates and their respective campaign teams to become reckless and, to some extent, endanger themselves in the process.

One inevitable outcome of such recklessness involved Jeff Blake, a candidate for Bolton Street College Officer. After putting up one of his own temporary posters Mr. Blake jumped off of a pipe that his poster was attached to and hit his head on a computer desk, cutting his head. Thankfully, the injury was minor and he has since made a speedy recovery.

When asked about his fall and whether or not the temporary poster system should be changed to make it safer, Jeff replied: "No,

the system has been in place for years, accidents happen and this one only adds to the experience and the drama of campaigning and the elections as a whole."

When asked whether he would do things differently if he could do it again, Jeff said:

“Accidents happen and this one only adds to the drama of campaigning”

- Jeff Blake

"Well, I'd try to land softer this time but I wouldn't not climb up again, I've fallen many times before and I have no doubt that I'll fall many times again, it wasn't a big deal".

When asked to comment on Jeff's fall and the election's health and safety rules, both of his opponents, Dylan Haughey and Tom Healy, declined to comment.

With Jeff Blake's injury and an incident in Kevin Street, where several people were reported to be hanging over a 30 foot drop in order to hang up posters, many people have called for the Student Union to tighten their rules and guidelines on posters hanging in high places before somebody gets seriously hurt in the pursuit of votes.

Jeff Blake's head injury was of his own doing and relatively small. The Kevin Street incident, however, was much more dangerous and should provoke the Student Union into action to prevent such incidents, or incidents even worse than that from occurring.

It has been argued that taking down any posters that are in a dangerous location, or were put up dangerously, would be enough of a deterrent to stop candidates from placing themselves in needless danger for student votes.

NEWS

Big names at Longitude

■ Kraftwerk, Vampire Weekend, and Yeah Yeah Yeahs to grace the stage at Marlay Park, Dublin

Matthew Colfer

Concert organisers MCD have announced a new summer music and arts festival - Longitude 2013. The sister festival to Suffolk's Latitude Festival will be held in Marlay Park, Dublin from July 19 to 21.

In the days following the announcement speculation quickly began to mount, with talk of Kraftwerk set to be named the headline for the weekend festival. These rumours have turned out to be true with the German electronic legends Kraftwerk announced as headliners alongside indie sensations Vampire Weekend and French alternative rockers Phoenix.

Also announced to play the three day event were Foals, Villagers, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Hot Chip, Jake Bugg and Modest Mouse among others.

Along with the partial line-up announcement MCD also revealed information about tickets. Early bird tickets went on sale on Monday the 3rd March with day tickets costing €44.50 and weekend tickets priced at €129.50 including booking fee.

Full priced tickets will be on sale from Monday April 8 at 9.00am with a €10 increase in day tickets and €20 increase for weekend tickets. The day-by-day breakdown of acts will be announced shortly before this and it is expected more acts will also be announced to play the festival before this date.



Many people were quick to comment on Longitude's official Facebook page expressing their opinion of the line-up so far. Ronan O'Brien commented - "Nice..... Now all I need is €150", while Hu O'Reilly posted that it was an amazing line - up.

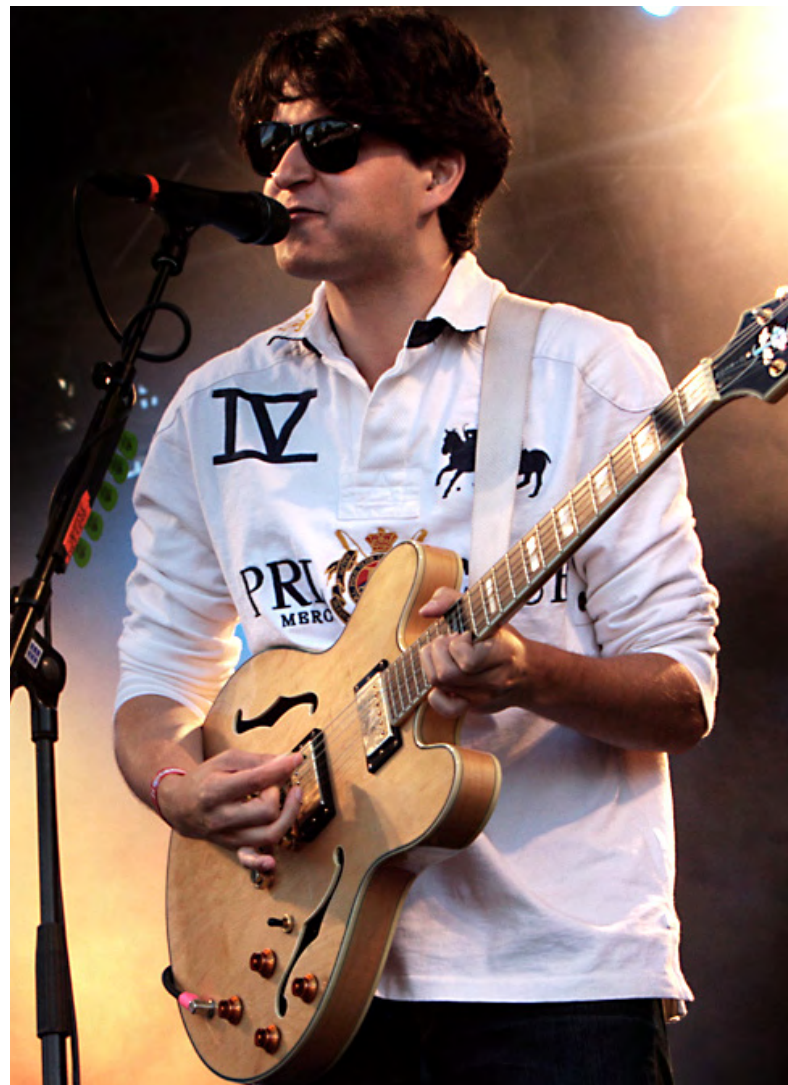
Others were quick to enquire if there would be camping facilities at the three day festival but Longitude has confirmed that it is a non - camping event.

The official tagline for the festival is "It's

more than just a music festival" but no further information has been released as to what exactly this means but many music fans are expecting big things from this new festival.

For all the details and to keep up to date with all the information regarding Latitude 2013 check out their website:

www.longitude.ie/ or Facebook account: www.facebook.com/pages/Longitude-Festival



German superstars Kraftwerk (whose MOMA artwork is pictured left) and Vampire Weekend (above) are on the inaugural line-up for Longitude. Photos: MOMA and NRK P3 via Flickr

The Joinery's fund:it effort to stay open

■ Cuts to Arts Council budget takes toll on 'DIY Art Spaces'

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

One of Dublin's most prominent 'DIY art spaces' has turned to fund:it, a money-raising website, in attempt to stay open. The Joinery, which has been open since 2008 in Stoneybatter, Dublin, is seeking to raise €16,000 in order to prevent its closure.

The space has been open since 2008, but has operated on a tight budget throughout its existence. Miranda Driscoll, co-founder of The Joinery, told the Edition: "We don't get any regular funding from the Arts Council, so we've been operating through sporadic funding.

"We get a little bit for the work spaces, a little from Dublin City Council, and we try to generate as much as we can ourselves and to be self-sufficient, but we only get occasional project awards from the Arts Council. Overall our funding situation is very precarious, and every year we need some sort of lump sum for programming."

Programme funding, which has, in the past, been provided by the Arts Council, has dried up in the current economic cli-



The Joinery will face closure if it doesn't reach its target on Fund:it.

mate of austerity, forcing The Joinery's organisers to look elsewhere for finance.

"The Arts funding has been slashed, and that's really why we haven't got the award. We haven't got any from the Arts Council since 2011; this is the main reason for us going on fund:it.

"It's always very tight, everyone works voluntarily and no one gets paid by The Joinery, so it is a very low shoestring budget, but this is the first time that we'll been forced to close if we don't raise a certain amount of money.

On the group's fund:it page, its founders, Miranda Driscoll and Feargal Ward, explain how the space has become "a place that many exceptional musicians and artists now view as a second home." Its eclectic mix of artistic mediums has, Miranda says, set it apart from other 'DIY spaces' in the greater Dublin area.

"We do visual arts, exhibitions, performances, talks, music - mostly events based, and all sorts of creative projects. There are quite a few artist led spaces in Dublin, but The Joinery is kind of unique in that we do both music and visual art, and also that we are in a small neighbourhood which gives a strong community feel to what we do."

The initial response through posting on fund:it has been positive, Miranda explains.

"We're over 25% of the way now, which is good so far, and we have another four weeks to go."

The Joinery puts on an average of 70 events each year. At the time of writing, the group's fund:it page has raised €5,950, over one third of their target.

Deadline for donations is Sunday 24 March.

Five year suspended sentence for 'cannabis bartering system'

■ Cork man pays builders with two grams of cannabis per hour

Luke Holohan
News Editor

John McFadden, of Trafraska, Baltimore, County Cork, has been given a five year suspended sentence for operating a cannabis barter system to pay off builders. Gardai were tipped off to the operation, and located significant amounts of the drug at two separate properties owned by Mr McFadden.

The 57-year-old cattle farmer was found to have been in possession of €33,000 worth of cannabis herb in plastic bags and tubs hidden throughout the two properties. Gardai had only obtained a warrant to search his home in Trafraska but were later alerted to a further property at Clogher Dunmanway after he was arrested on May 8, 2011.

During his trial, the court heard McFadden, who is originally from London, had paid workmen two grams of cannabis per hour in return for building a house on his 50-acre cattle farm. The defence argued that the large drug haul had not been for financial gain but for supply, and that the accused was also a heavy user of cannabis, using about one gram per day of the drug.

In passing his judgement, Judge Patrick J. Moran took into account McFadden's

€33,000

Value of cannabis found in possession of 57-year-old cattle farmer, at two properties

co-operation with Gardai throughout the investigation.

"I suspect you would not have been charged with the Dunmanway offence but for the fact you volunteered the information," he said. "It seems to be a novel way in dealing drugs."

Testimonials from neighbours and friends, who described McFadden as of good character, hardworking and honest, were also read to the court in what was described as an exceptional case.

Judge Moran imposed a five-year suspended sentence and warned McFadden that such a serious offence usually carried a weighty jail term.

"The legislature requires a judge by law to impose a sentence of not less than 10 years unless there are exceptional circumstances. I don't believe this is a case requiring such a sentence". The defending barrister was also asked to advise his client "to stay with his cattle and forget about cannabis".

Who loves Paris in the springtime?

Erasmus diary



A Parisian exchange can be challenging, as Amy Lewis discovers

We arrived in Paris only to discover that the Parisians had failed to prepare for two girls on Erasmus. The lack of escalators in the Metro stations may seem like something trivial but when you arrive in a strange city, with your life in two heavy cases, it is what turns a smooth arrival into two days of physical pain. Some advice for anybody coming here on Erasmus: pack as light as possible. Failing that (which you most definitely will), make sure that you draw attention to your suitcase struggle. You may be lucky like me and find people willing to carry your case up and down steps. You may be unlucky and find people to carry your case up and down steps... and out of the metro station never to be seen again.

The accommodation here isn't home

but I never expected it to be. It isn't luxurious, but I haven't come across any cockroaches or dead bodies in the wardrobe. One thing that it is, is small. I live in a one bed "studio". For those who haven't lived abroad, this is a posh word for a bed, desk, kitchen and bathroom within 16 square metres. The place is so miniscule that I managed to do all of my unpacking by spinning around the room on my computer chair. I am the only one on my floor with a balcony which doubles as a fire escape and so I await the evening where I am greeted by a stampede of panicked students who proceed to leap off my balcony.

My life here means no more Mammy dinners. There are two paths that a hungry student can take: spend the weekly budget on alcohol and live on noodles, or experiment a bit and discover that what you cook is actually edible. Seeing as wine in France is as cheap as €1.60 a bottle (if anyone knows of cheaper, please let me know), I'm able to have the best of both worlds. I've found that I actually quite like to cook and have learned how to make some decent dishes. I have also learned how to call Pizza Hut en francais.

Now on to the reason that I was sent here: to learn. Before coming to Paris, I was warned that my course was going to be tough, that we were going to be "thrown in at the deep end". In reality, I felt like I was thrown into the Atlantic Ocean, in winter, surrounded by sharks who want to rip me apart piece by piece. The classes were terrifying. When I had chosen my subjects in Dublin, the idea of doing TV class in French didn't seem so bad. But, when it came round to it, it really was SO BAD.

Week two didn't begin much better. We were expected to go to Palais



Above: Amy's first assignment was to report from France's highest court, Palais de Justice. Right: Amy Lewis (L) thinks about her Erasmus with fellow DIT students Miroslava Sobcakova and Andrew Donovan. Below: Lack of escalators and heavy cases make the Metro a difficult ride



Photos: Andrew and Annemarie via Flickr (Above), Barry Lennon (Right), Nedsolo via Flickr (Below)

Parisian French we have learned

'Je suis avuegle avec mes oreilles'

I am blind with my ears - An inventive way to say 'I do not understand' in French. Phrase courtesy of Louise Byrne on Erasmus in Paris.

'Un awful Bollus'

Buffon - Derives from our native 'bollix.' A term best used to express your dissatisfaction for a garcon who has knock all of the freshly baked pain au chocolats out of your hands.

'Un Talkie-walkie'

A Walkie Talkie - The French love stealing English words such as le weekend, le standing ovation and tee shirt. In this instance the theft is cleverly disguised using word reversal.



de Justice, sit in on several trials and write an article about one in

French. One of the few phrases that I did understand was "...X mois en prison." Whether the accused got 6 months or 2 years, I began to think to myself: who's

got the sweeter deal, the guy getting thrown in a cell or me stuck in college here?

It's not easy to go into a place every day at 8.30am, spend the day feeling like an idiot, sit in on classes that may

as well be in Swahili and return home at 7.30pm. Try to repeat this routine for five days straight and it's no wonder that, in the space of several days, I turned from a morning person into somebody who can't drag themselves out of bed. I seriously considered leaving when things became overwhelming. I had my escape plan sorted. Unfortunately, it fell to pieces when my friend reminded me that we are in fact, stuck here.

Midway through my third week and things are beginning to improve. Whether reading over my assignment, singing "Les Lacs de Connemara", inviting me to "soirees" or informing me that a phrase that I've have been using for the past

3 weeks has sexual connotations, I've found that many of my classmates are willing to help me out. I still miss home and find the classes challenging. But I'm beginning to discover the magic that Paris has to offer, aside from croissants and Disneyland. Seeing the Eiffel Tower in the snow, dragging my unfit self up the hill in Montmartre, drinking aforementioned cheap wine at the end of a long week and meeting some amazing journalists - all are experiences that will make this trip worthwhile. Thanks to these, and an emergency delivery of Barry's Tea last weekend, I know I'm going to survive the next 4 months and remember it for all of the right reasons.

Lost in mistranslation: Using your second language

It can be best not to understand lectures as Barry Lennon learns on Erasmus



With most of our classmates leaving for home at weekends, the boredom of an empty residency has often forced me into the company of the town drunk.

My first encounter with him in a local bar still resonates with me eight weeks

later.

Whilst using myself as a prop to stand up he could only slur one phrase in English, "French is wery, wery, wery difficult for ze English speaker."

He repeated this at least a dozen times before we decided to leave. However, the truth of his slurred words were not as easy to ditch as he was.

His headache the next Monday morning was matched only by mine which was in the form of a three hour lecture on the economic models of journalism in French.

The first half hour of such theoretical lectures (of which there are many) can be understood. After that, concentration inevitably dips.

Regularly, a necessary word or explanation is missed and you can find yourself looking at a slideshow of naked people of dubious gender without any

“
you can find yourself looking at nudes with no idea how the lecture came to this point
”

understanding as to how the lecture came this point.

During such lectures concerned classmates often ask, "do you follow zis?" (Spoken in French but translated into accented English for mild comic effect).

To which I would like to honestly respond but fail to have the necessary French, "If you mean understand that I am in lecture theatre in Northern France, yes but not much else."

Thankfully classmates regularly help with work that proves too linguistically challenging. In group projects it means you can legitimately do nothing - playing little more than an observational role.

The Erasmus student gets away with murder.

My lack of fluency in French also affects my ability in other areas such as time keeping - a task that requires no language

skills and a myth I wish to promote.

Arriving half an hour late the lecturer greets me with a smile. However, if our French colleagues do the same they are subjected to a rigorous inquiry.

Conversations that include more than three of our French colleagues at lunch can prove just as difficult as three hours of the french sociology of organisations.

However, a lack of fluency in French does not leave me excommunicated when comparing myself to 'les geeks.'

Their social incompetency is as undesirable to my French colleagues as the smell coming of les geeks' pasta, lardons and cheese the french equivalent of the chicken fillet roll for an Irish student.

Thus proving that the 'wery, wery' difficult language is not always essential in getting on with colleagues.

GAEILGE

Caillúint ollmhór do phobal na Gaeilge de bharr bás Gaelscéal



(Ar clé) An t-eagrán deirneach de Gaelscéal

(Ar dheis) Íte Ní Chionnaith, léactóir i DIT, ag iompair eagrán de Gaelscéal, a luann críoch le maoiniú FnaG



Grianghraf: Seosaimhín Ní Ghallachóir

Seosaimhín Ní Ghallachóir Eagarthóir Gaeilge

D'fhoilsíú an t-eagrán deirneach de Gaelscéal an tseachtain seo caite, toisc gur cuireadh Foras na Gaeilge críoch le maoiniú an nuachtáin.

Tháinig an chéad cóip de Gaelscéal ar an saol ar a 26 Márta 2010 agus bhí cúig duine fostaithe go lánaimeartha agus duine amháin go páirtaimseartha ar an phaipear.

Ach ar 25 Eanáir 2013 d'fhogair Foras na Gaeilge go bhfuil siad chun deireadh a chur le maoiniú an nuachtáin Gaelscéal, mar gheall ar an easpa t-éileamh den leagan clóite.

Thóg an t-eagraíocht an cinneadh seo de bharr nach raibh a dhóthain cóipeanna cheannaithe sna siopaí nach mar a bhí ar dhíol in aghaidh na seachtaine, tuairim is 1,314 cóip.

"Caithfidh muid admháil gur is 1,300 ar aghaidh na seachtaine, tá sin ag cosnú

suas le €6 gach coip don cáiníocóir," arsa Feirde Mac an Fhailigh, Príomhfheidhmeannach Foras na Gaeilge, ar an clár Seacht lá ar TG4.

Deirtear go mbeidh ábhair nuachta le fáil ar an líne ar feadh seachtain ach i ndiaidh tamaill cuireadh deireadh leis an suíomh idirlíon Gaelscéal fosta.

Dúirt Fheirde Mac an Fhailigh, Príomhfheidhmeannach Foras na Gaeilge, ag Cruinniú de Choiste na Róinne Cultúir Ealaíon agus Foillíochta, nach mbeidh sé ag cuir

nuachtán ar bith eile "as an áireamh".

Chuir ionadaithe ón SDLP, Sinn Féin agus an DUP ceisteanna ar Mac an Fhailigh ag an cruinniú faoin cinneadh críoch a chur le maoiniú Gaelscéal.

D'inis Mac an Fhailigh dona TDs go raibh nuachtán clóite de dhíth ar stadán an teanga Gaeilge i 2009, an fáth gur tháinig Gaelscéal ar an tsaoil.

Léirigh Dominic Ó Broilcháin a chuid tuairimí, "táimid den bharúil go bhfuil rachairt ann do sheirbhís nuachta. Bhíodh

sin ar líne nó mar nuachtán clóite, nó ina mheascán den dá rud".

Thug Feirde Mac an Fhailigh omós agus ard-mholadh d'fhoireann agus d'fhoilsitheoirí Gaelscéal ag an cruinniú fosta agus thug sé faoi deara an méid obair a thóg siad uilig ar fud na bliantaí.

"Le bheith féarálte do Thorann na dTonn agus an fhoireann chuir siad a seacht ndícheall," arsa Mac an Fhailigh, Príomhfheidhmeannach Foras na Gaeilge.

Ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge

Stiofán Ó Connachtaigh

Seoladh Seachtain na Gaeilge 2013 ar an Luan, an 4ú Márta, i dTeach an Ard Mhéara, Sráid Dásain, Báile Átha Cliath Is é Seachtain na Gaeilge an fhéile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge is mó in Éirinn agus thar lear, ar siúil ó 4-17 Márta i mbliana.

Ritear go bliantúil i mí an Mhárta an fhéile, chun úsáid na Gaeilge agus an chultúr Gaelach a chur chun cinn, go forleathan ar an oileán agus níos faide amuigh uainn. Bunaíodh an fhéile ag Conradh na Gaeilge sa bhliain 1902, agus ó neart go neart a fheabhsaigh sí le blianta beaga anuas.

Is é spríoc an fhéile ná deis a sholáthair d'achann duine spraoi a bheith acu leis an nGaeilge, ag thógáil san áireamh achán aoisghrúpa, idir chainteoirí dúchais, fhoghlaimseoirí agus lucht an chúpla focail.

Comhardaíonn oifig SnaG, atá lunnaithe ar Sr Fhrecair i mBaile Átha Cliath, im-

eachtaí go háitiúla, go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta le linn an coicís ceiliúrtha. Cláraítear thart ar míle imeachtaí i mbliana leis an oifig, atá eagraithe ag eagrais éagsúla cheoil, spóirt, agus chultúrtha, chomh maith le scoileanna, leabharlanna agus údarás aitiúla.

Arsa Brenda Ní Ghairbhí, Bainisteoir nua Sheachtain na Gaeilge, "Tá an ceiliúradh ag dul ó neart go neart gach bliain agus bhí breis agus 800 imeacht cláraithe do Sheachtain na Gaeilge d'fhéile na bliana seo caite, agus iad á reáchtáil ní hamháin i ngach contae in Éirinn, ach in áiteanna chomh fada i gcéin leis an Astráil, Ceanada agus na Stáit Aontaithe".

Gach bliain úsáidtear ambasadóirí cáiliúla ag Seachtain na Gaeilge chun fómhá úrnu den Ghaeilge a chur in iúl ar dhaoine, agus chun réig a fháil leis an drochsmál, seanfhaiseanta a bhaineann leí. Is iad Paddy Barnes, an dornálaí Oilimpea-

cha; Evanne Ní Chuilinn, láithreoir spóirt RTE, agus Róisín Ní Thomáin, láithreoir TG4, an triúr mór le rá a bhéas i mbun an feachtas i mbliana.

Cuireann oifig Sheachtain na Gaeilge gach tacaíocht ar fáil do rannphairtíthe san fhéile agus is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh leo ag 'eolas@sna.ie' nó +353 (0)1 4757401, nó ar an suíomh gréasáin 'www.sna.ie'.

Tig leat aip SnaG 2013 a íoslódáil don iPhone/Android fosta, chun imeachtaí in aice leatsa a haimsigh, nó feabhas a chur ar do chuid Gaeilge gach lá le 'Frása an Lae'.

Reáchtáladh Seachtain na Gaeilge na bliana seo i dteannta le ceiliúradh Bliain na Gaeilge, féile bhliana ina bhfuil imeachtaí éagsúla a n-eagrú ar fud na hOileán chun an pobal a spreagadh lena gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid go rialta.

"Bígy Linn- Let's Celebrate Our Language"



Róisín Ní Thomáin, Paddy Barnes & Evanne Ní Chuilinn mar ambasadóirí Sheachtain na Gaeilge

SCIENCE

Science Bulletin

Woman of Courage sues over fracking

Amy Fitzgibbon talks to Jessica Ernst about the potential dangers of fracking in Ireland, ahead of a series of talks in Ireland and the UK

Jessica Ernst, Canadian biologist and environmental consultant, will be giving a series of presentations around England, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland from 2 March to 11 March on the potential impact of hydraulic fracturing.

The award-winning environmental consultant to the oil and gas industry is currently suing one of the world's largest natural gas producers EnCana, the Alberta government, and the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) for unlawful activities and negligence in relation to the practice of hydraulic fracturing or fracking throughout central Alberta, Western Canada.

Ms Ernst, who recently received a Woman of Courage award from UNANIMA International, alleges that EnCana "broke multiple laws and regulations and contaminated a shallow aquifer" (underground water), that supplies drinking water to her local community in Alberta, with natural gas and toxic industry-related chemicals.

The report claims that Alberta Environment, responsible for protecting the environment and for regulating the management and protection of water, and the ERCB, responsible for regulating all aspects of the oil and gas industry, "failed to follow the investigation and enforcement processes that they had established and publicised."

Hydraulic fracturing or fracking is a process by which gallons of water, sand and chemicals are injected deep into the earth in order to break up shale rock and release natural gas, a fossil fuel.

Ms Ernst said, "Both industry and government have repeatedly tried to bog down the lawsuit with a variety of tactics including the withholding of freedom of information requests as well as an order to draft and submit a shorter statement of claim. I have been waging this battle since 2005."

In the most recent statement published on their website, Encana said it has "always firmly believed that Ms Ernst's claims are not supported by the facts and her lawsuit is without merit."

The statement continued, "Stimulation when applied to coalbed methane (CBM, the gas extracted by Encana) is different from what might be called traditional



"Both industry and government have repeatedly tried to bog down the lawsuit" - Jessica Ernst

fracturing. In CBM stimulation, we pump nitrogen into a coal zone. Nitrogen is inert and safe – in fact 78% of the air we breathe is composed of nitrogen."

Minister for Natural Resources Fergus O'Dowd announced in January that fracking will not be authorised in Ireland until in-depth research has been done into its potential effects on the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency are to commission and fund three separate pieces of research to determine if damage will be caused by the process in this country.

In January the EPA launched a public consultation on the draft terms of reference for research into fracking and interested parties have until 8 March to submit written comments on their areas of interest. The EPA hopes to have the final report ready by 2015.

Tamboran Resources and Enegi Oil, whose initial onshore licences expired last month, have recently applied for explora-

tion licences in Ireland. Exploration licences will give the companies exclusive rights to search for petroleum in their chosen areas. Tamboran Resources is hoping to explore North Leitrim while Enegi Oil is hoping to find gas in the Clare Basin.

According to Jim Whelan of the Petroleum Affairs Division, "the applications from the companies for exploration licences have yet to be fully assessed and the government is unlikely to make a decision on them soon."

He continued, "Even if the companies do secure exploration licences before the EPA report is finished they will still have to apply for a separate permit and conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before they have permission to drill."

Independent volunteer-run organisation, Good Energy Alliances Ireland (GEAI), is worried that neither Minister O'Dowd nor Minister Pat Rabbitte will give a commitment that no exploration licences for on-shore unconventional gas will be given out until the EPA report is completed and considered.

Director of GEAI, Aedin McLoughlin, said, "One of the terms of the Exploration Licence is that the Minister shall grant licences for commercial development once the companies can confirm a commercial source of gas. And if the companies secure exploration licences and permission to drill they can search for a source of gas. And then, if the EPA report shows there is no danger from fracking they will be able to frack to confirm the quantity of gas."

She continued, "Of course, if the EPA report concludes that fracking is bad for use, the situation changes. But the way the Terms of Reference in the report are worded at the moment, it looks like any conclusion could be reached. That is why we are looking for a Health Impact Assessment to be included in the research study which would indicate without doubt whether there are any real risks to public health from fracking."

Ms Ernst will be in The Gresham Hotel at from 11-4 pm on 10 March, NUI Maynooth at 1pm on 11 March and in the Smock Alley Theatre in Temple Bar from 7-9 pm also on 11 March.

Spidey-Sense suit a reality

A researcher at the University of Illinois, Chicago has made a suit which allows the wearers to sense imminent dangers. The "SpiderSense" suit contains robotic arms with microphones that can send out and receive ultrasonic reflections to detect nearby objects. The arms then put pressure on the wearer to let them know from where the object is approaching.

Victor Mateevitsi, a PhD graduate student and the university, tested the suit on students on campus. The participants were blindfolded and given cardboard throwing stars to throw at oncoming attackers. "Ninety five per cent of the time they were able to sense someone approaching and throw the star at them," Mateevitsi said.

It is hoped the SpiderSense suit will help visually impaired people to find their way more easily.

Happy Tweeting

People who tweet about themselves are less likely to be followed than those who tweet about news according to research done by the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

The keys to gaining followers, they found, were to tweet positive messages, write clearly and retweet interesting tidbits of news.

It was previously thought that following celebrities and getting them to follow you back were key to upping your followers but now it seems it is what you tweet rather than who you follow.

The level of engagement is also a factor as those who mention, reply to or favourite their followers are more successful than those who don't.

Drone surveillance

Drones: the remote controlled flying device used by the US government to monitor and kill targets abroad will soon be put to civilian use.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have said that drones will shortly be licensed for law enforcement and commercial surveillance work.

Seattle's police force was forced to abandon its drone programme last month, following anger from residents. Meanwhile, Virginia has imposed a two-year moratorium on the use of drones by police and at least 13 other states are now debating over similar anti-drone legislation.

Psychic rats first step to insect killer drones

The world's first brain-to-brain connection has given rats the power to communicate by thought alone. Two rats were able to communicate with each other while completing a task pressing levers.

"Many people thought it could never happen," says Miguel Nicolelis at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Although monkeys have been able to control robots with their mind using brain-to-machine interfaces, work by Nicolelis's team has, for the first time, demonstrated a direct interface between two brains – with the rats able to share both motor and sensory information.

Christopher James at the University of Warwick, UK, who works on brain-to-machine interfaces for prostheses, says the work is a "wake-up call" for people who haven't caught up with recent advances in brain research.

US child is first functional cure for HIV

Jarlath Moloney
Editor

Doctors are reporting that a child born with HIV has been functionally cured of the disease. The child's mother came into a rural Mississippi emergency room already in labour and unaware she was infected with HIV, meaning the child was too late to receive prenatal preventative treatment for HIV.

The clinic did not have the proper liquid form of treatment for newborns with the disease and the child was taken to the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

There the baby was treated by Dr. Hannah B. Gay, an associate professor of pediatrics who administered the heavy dose of three forms of HIV treatment. Newborns that have been infected from their mother in the womb are normally given a low dose of the treatments, but Dr Gay administered an unusually strong dose to the child, as it had not received any prenatal treatment.

The breakthrough was only realised when the mother stopped going for regular doctor check ups on the child and stopping all drug treatment when the virus appeared to have been contained. But after returned five months later, Dr. Gay was expecting

the child to have huge amounts of live HIV in its system. Amazingly, the child was still clear of the disease.

The breakthrough is thought to have come about by preventing the virus from setting up reservoirs which release virus whenever the active strain in the patient has been wiped out. It is the existence of these reservoirs that prevent other long-term sufferers of AIDS from ever coming off anti-retroviral drugs.

This aggressive treatment is thought to have worked as it eradicated most of the active HIV in the child before it had a chance of setting up the CD4 T-Cell res-

ervoirs. It creates a new potential way of treating thousands of children across the world. 1,200 children in Ireland and the UK are living with HIV they received either while in the womb or while being breastfed. In Africa, the number of children 14 and under that are thought to have HIV stands at 387,00.

The Mississippi baby will be only the second person ever "cured" of HIV infection, the first being Timothy Brown, also known as the Berlin Patient. Brown was a middle-aged leukaemia patient who received a bone marrow transplant from a donor genetically resistant to HIV.

LEAN MACHINE CHALLENGE

Four weeks done and feeling fine

Danielle Stephens to the Challengers to see how they are feeling after 4 weeks of LMC

It's nearly half way through the Lean Machine Challenge and the girls taking part are starting to notice a difference. Obviously, the weight loss is quite a big part of their challenge, but it's also important to ask how they are feeling about their experiences.

Now is the perfect time to ask how the girls feel they are getting on and what toll the competition is taking on them. Both Niamh and Dáirne have noticed changes in their appearance, with Dáirne feeling she is fitter and stronger since starting LMC. On top of that, the Dub said that she has noticed psychological changes. "I'm more focused in college and I have more energy. I'm probably a bit happier in myself as well," she said.

Erin has noticed her stamina is getting

and she doesn't feel she did as good as previous weeks. However, she is staying positive, constantly reminding herself of how far she has come and that she still has time. Erin finds that keeping a schedule is harder than she first thought. "I was away on holidays for a week, and had friends visiting for another, and so keeping focused at the same time was a bit tough. But that's life right? Not everything fits into a schedule all the time, you just figure it out," she explains.

Sarah summed up her ups and downs perfectly. "Ups would be the post-workout feeling, where you know how hard you just pushed yourself and you're kind of proud of that. Downs would be mid-workout, when your emotions are running high because you're physically drained".

gym". She too felt little guilt and chose just to move on and not dwell on it.

Niamh has the completely opposite view and is quite positive about how she has handled her diet. "I have actually enjoyed this; I can go to TGI Fridays and have steak without feeling guilty because I know that steak has protein and carbs are the enemy. It is also making me consider my portion sizes better," she said proudly.

Both Dáirne and Sarah have noticed their social life suffer a little bit since starting the challenge. Sarah's friends, who are also on an exchange programme, tend to go out a lot and Sarah has to always say no. Dáirne has also admitted that she has had to take a step back from her friends. She joked that this isn't for any other reason but for how tired she is. "It's funny, by like 10:30 p.m. every night I'm wrecked and I just want to fall into bed. 1 a.m. is late for me". Erin continues to go out, but has dubbed herself the "designated babysitter" in order to keep herself from giving in.

Niamh's problems lie with her busy college schedule. It's hard to balance the two strict regimes without them sometimes clashing. "My course is highly demanding with a lot of deadlines. I have learnt that doing LMC is somewhat of a break from software engineering, so I actually look forward to getting up early and to late night training for that matter," she explained.

Despite the pitfalls, the women aren't regretting taking on the challenge. Even at this early stage, the women were unanimous in thinking that the LMC was a worthwhile competition. When asked if she was happy with taking part in the challenge, Niamh said "Yes 100% I don't regret it at all; it has been good for me in more ways than just healthy living".

Dáirne said that as knacker as some of the training can be, going to the gym is the perfect way to vent your anger. "You can take out your stress and frustration on the machines." Erin didn't hesitate, she feels much better since she has started the challenge.

Even though Sarah agrees with the others, she admits that she finds the challenge very hard a lot of the time.



Erin, Niamh, Dáirne and Sarah strengthening their upper body with some press-ups

better, after four weeks of training. Sarah hasn't actually seen any difference yet herself. However, she said that other people have been quick to make comments about how well she is looking.

After four weeks of intense training and a change in diet for most of the girls, it's only natural that they experience some ups and downs. Soreness and feeling tired were mentioned quite a bit as a big "down". Dáirne admitted that the last group session cracked her a little bit

So far, the challengers have been very good when it comes to alcohol. None of them have yet to indulge, with only one glass of wine being mentioned. Food seems to be a little trickier and chocolate is the main suspect. Sarah felt sick last week and had a small packet of Cadbury's chocolate buttons. In the end she didn't feel guilty because it was only a small packet. Dáirne had two squares of chocolate and a bit of cookie after "an awful day of college combined with the



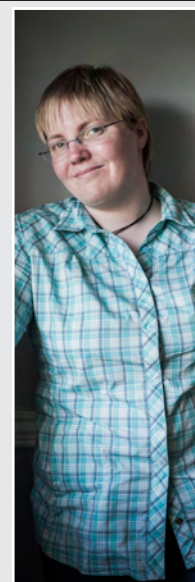
The Challengers



Name:
Dáirne Black
Age:
23
Course:
MA
Journalism
From:
Blackrock

Starting Weight:
171.lbs

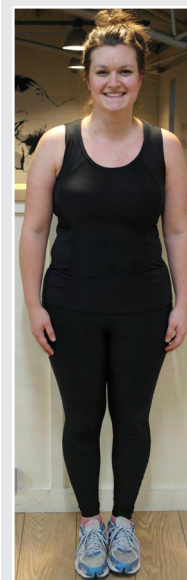
Current Weight:
164.2lbs



Name:
Niamh Foley
Age:
25
Course:
MSc
Software Engineering
From:
Dublin

Starting Weight:
c168lbs

Current Weight:
172.8lbs



Name:
Sarah Tandy
Age:
22
Course:
2nd year
Accounting-
From:
Australia

Starting Weight:
187.6lbs

Current Weight:
184.4lbs



Name:
Erin Bingham
Age:
25
Course:
Final year,
Marketing
From:
Toronto,
Canada

Starting-Weight:
130.6lbs

Current Weight:
130.2lbs

Exercises of the week

Cardio

(L) The Challengers are pushed to the limit on the spinning bikes



(R) Alternating between the rowing machines and steppers is a great way to get a whole body cardio workout



LEAN MACHINE CHALLENGE

Training: Week Four



Photos: Jarlath Moloney

(Above) As Andy is off for two weeks, Kane chief trainer when the Challengers were put through a full session of body weight exercises above. Exercises included the likes of squats, lunges and press ups

(Right) The RAW Condition walls are covered in murals like this one as well as inspirational slogans such as "Tough times don't last, tough people do," and "Greatest isn't a trait, it's a habit."



Healthy body Healthy mind

Darragh Mowlds looks at how working on your body can help build your mind

They say a healthy body makes a healthy mind, how true is this statement? As the girls entered week 5, we caught up with two of the Lean Machine Challengers, Sarah and Dáirne, to find out the other benefits of their healthy eating and exercise plan.

All the hard work is starting to pay off for them and their positivity for the challenge has yet to diminish.

What the girls have learned through doing the Lean Machine Challenge is that exercise and healthy eating does much more for you than just help with weight loss. The confidence it builds along with the feel good factor is intoxicating. The competitors have found that their general levels of happiness have improved and their levels of concentration have also been helped.

Both Dáirne and Sarah agree that the challenge is helping their concentration levels. "I have found that post-exercise I have better energy levels which in turn helps with concentration," Sarah said. Dáirne agreed, saying: "It definitely does [help concentration], you're always thinking ahead and of what you've got to do next. It helps you get your head into College mode because you know you can switch it off later when you train."

When it comes to confidence levels, the girls have found that it's the results they are getting that are boosting them.

"Exercise helps build confidence. It's a month in and I never thought I could do half of what I've done to be honest," Dáirne said.

It's a gradual process but when you reach milestones, the challengers have found that it is incredibly rewarding. "The weight loss has given me such confidence and belief, and made me more positive," explained Dáirne.

Sarah has found that the challenge has given her increased energy levels, and with that a better general attitude thanks to the chemical endorphins exercise releases that give a feel good factor. Dáirne added: "I notice it definitely, and

“
I have better energy levels which in turn helps with concentration

with the healthy eating, you're more alert and awake". She went on to say, the more you exercise, the more weight you lose and the happier you feel as a result. It's this pattern that drives her.

Despite all the hard work and sacrifice, both girls are still very positive about the whole challenge and as it continues and the results keep coming in, the increased happiness looks set to continue. Let the good times roll.

Dynamic Stretching key to avoiding injury

Jarlath Moloney talks to LMC trainer Kane Kearns about keeping injury free and have the Challengers had any niggles yet

Jumping straight into press-ups, dumbbell curls or a weighted squat is a sure-fire way to get injured.

Despite exercises being designed to help you get fitter and stronger, if you don't warm-up, injury may not be lurking far away. LMC trainer Kane Kearns believes a good warm-up and warm-down should be a part of any proper training session if you want to avoid injury. After all, getting injured lifting a big weight can keep you out of the gym for a few days for a small muscle twinge, to a few months for a serious injury.

"Start the session with 5-10 minutes on the cross trainer to warm up the arms and legs. Then what you should be doing is called 'Dynamic Stretching'," Kane says. Dynamic stretches consist of stretching out a particular muscle group in one move, holding it for 8-10 seconds twice. Kane also recommends hitting every muscle group in this way before starting off and stretching out the "back, chest, legs and arms regardless of whether it's just a chest or leg day."

However, once training is over don't head straight for the shower without doing another 5-10 minutes on the treadmill Kane says. If you fail to adequately warm down afterwards that over-exerted muscle from training can take an extra day or two to relax.

Luckily, the Challengers haven't had any problems with injury yet as they hit the cross trainer everyday prior to training. "We do 5-10 minutes on the cross trainer to get the blood flowing," Dáirne said, with Niamh adding that "Once you get the blood flowing, you're good to go."

“
There's a difference between forcing someone to do something they aren't able to do and people who don't want to do something

Get the cardio up and that warms us up. We're not doing a sport that requires us to do a lot of stretching like Tae Kwon Do or something."

Audible in the gym foyer are the shouts of people in the martial arts class upstairs, with the occasional loud thump as someone hits the canvas. "Ya, we do some stretching afterwards," said Sarah.

However if someone is very sore or picks up an injury, Kane recommends they see a doctor or physiotherapist. "If people feel sick or dizzy we don't push them," he added. But, he said, some people let their mind do the deciding if their body is up to an exercise or not.

"There's a difference between forcing someone to do something they aren't able to do and people who don't want to do something," he said. "A lot of people don't want to do burpees but it's a of huge benefit. One of the benefits of personal

training, or training a group is that some people need to be pushed: "As a personal trainer, you can tell of someone is genuinely sore or if they are moaning," he said. "But you

can always tell of someone is moaning," he said with a smile.



NEWS ANALYSIS

European horsemeat, Brazilian beef, Irish label

Horsemeat is not the only thing to look out for in the meat aisle, as Irish imports of foreign meat come from as far afield as Namibia and South America.

Jarlath Moloney reports



Basashi, raw horse meat, is a delicacy in Towada, Japan.

Photo: Richard W.M. Jones

Horsemeat in our burgers isn't all Irish consumers have to be concerned about. Purchasers of Irish meat products across Europe may also be unwittingly eating meat from South America and Africa, whose lower agricultural and regulatory standards leave Irish farmers on an unlevel playing field. Meat merchandisers such as Denny and Galtee, both owned by Kerry Foods, use foreign pig meats to supplement their Irish products.

While Kerry Foods was unwilling to disclose which nations it imports from, it defended the use of non-EU meat in its products. "Our policy is to source as much of our pig meat requirement as possible from Irish suppliers," said a spokesperson for the group. "Kerry Foods is therefore the biggest purchaser of Irish pork every week, but we cannot guarantee on a 52-week per year basis that all pig meat used across the product range is Irish due to market demand fluctuations."

Bord Bia, established in 1994, is one company which seeks to guarantee a product's Irish origin through the presence of its Quality Marks. Some of the company's stamps, such as the Origin-Ireland label, will only be applied to products where the meat was grown and processed in the Republic of Ireland. However, only some of Galtee's sliced ham products contain this guarantee.

The Bord Bia stamp on packets of sliced ham, and the name Galtee, originating from the mountain range in Munster, can give consumers the impression they are buying Irish meat. However, on closer inspection, the only Irish link on packets

of Galtee rashers is the factory address in Shillelagh, Wicklow and an EU meat provider stamp.

The question remains though, where does this meat come from? From March 2011 to February 2012, Ireland imported €15 million worth of meat from outside the EU. This figure stands at over a third of the €330 million exported which the EU exports.

The EU sanctions 18 "third countries" for importation into the EU, but their use in Irish produce has been questioned. Some of these nations, including Namibia, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico, have been criticised for lower standards, traceability and regulations. Despite these criticisms, the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation went on trade visits to several third countries last year, including Brazil, USA, Canada and South Africa. However, the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) has had an active campaign against the 2011 Mercosur bilateral Trade Deal, which allows the importation of meat from certain South American nations.

The young farmer's group, Macra na Feirme has also opposed the misleading sale of foreign meat in Europe. Alan Jagoe, Macra President, condemned the misleading labelling of foreign meats on Irish shelves. "Country of origin labelling of beef is mandatory," he said. "However consumers are often confused by labelling of processed meat products, where products sourced from outside the EU and processed in Europe can appear to the consumer as European or Irish product."

The reputation of Irish branded food is not all that is at risk from foreign meat.

Importation of low cost beef from South America is also damaging the dry stock trade here. Simon Coveney, Minister for Food, Agriculture and the Marine, has no worries about the potential hazard foreign meat may present, instead placing his faith in the EU's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO). The FVO is tasked with assessing third countries and insuring they conform to EU standards on meat importation and lists any potential concerns these nations' meat may present.

“we cannot guarantee on a 52-week per year basis that all pig meat used across the product range is Irish

“Safeguard measures limiting or banning the export of animal products from third countries, or regions of countries, may be implemented where, for example, the conditions of an animal disease outbreak could seriously affect production and trade in animal products in the EU or where there is risk to human health,” Minister Coveney said in reply to a Parliamentary question last year. “These measures continue until the risk has been removed. Examples of this are the restrictions permitting only treated poultry meat products from certain Asian countries because of high pathogenic Asian influenza risks.”

Despite EU assurances, many groups are still concerned about third countries' animal treatment and meat quality. Questions have also been asked about environmentally unsustainable farming conditions in South America which contradict EU policy on climate change.

Minister Robert Troy, of Longford-Westmeath, brought up the issue of third countries' standards in a Dáil Debate. “The beef quota sought by Mercosur countries would certainly target the market for high value fresh and frozen beef. It would undermine Ireland's beef industry and it is not acceptable,” he said. “In April 2011 the Russian authorities took a decision to ban Brazilian beef from 27 plants following a two week inspection. This once again puts a question mark over production standards in Brazil. According to John Bryan of the IFA, these damning findings confirm the evidence of the lack of standards in Brazil.”

Minister Troy also went on to say that

the EU must reconsider importing meat from certain third countries and should put an end to the “sell-out” of agriculture in favour of trade opportunities in these nations. These sentiments are echoed by Macra na Feirme, who want to see the interests of Irish consumers put ahead of EU trade priorities.

“The importance of food security and safe quality food for Europe cannot be overlooked,” Macra President Jagoe said. “Importing food from regions of the world that are often involved in unsustainable production practices and operating to lower standards, and subsequent lower costs, is totally undermining European farmers and hoodwinking Irish and European consumers.”

Due to unspecified country of origin on so many meat products, Bord Bia points consumers to its “Just Ask!” awareness campaign. The awareness campaign tells people to “look for information on where the food (particularly meat) on their plate comes from.” Bord Bia also encourages consumers to question their meats' origin when dining out or buying from their local butcher.

Despite all the import of foreign meat this figure is expected to grow after a government trade visit to China last year. However, with South American meat finding its way into Irish shopping baskets, it has to be wondered will Chinese consumers be picking up Brazilian rashers when Irish brands make the trip. It also has to be wondered how much of the rashers, burgers and other meat products (not contaminated with horsemeat) has even been grown in the EU.



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

Steph's Style

Stephanie Quilligan looks at Spring fashions out this March



Multi-coloured Aztec top

River Island
€20



Playsuit
Topshop
€1



Hand Bag
Asos
€46.75



Green Skinny Jeans

River Island
€50

Spring is usual about peeling off the layers and embracing the warmer temperatures but with the unpredictability of Irish weather you never know when the next down pour will strike. So here at the edition we have found some key pieces from the High Street which will inject some much needed colour into a dull winter wardrobe while keeping things practical at the same time. Team these items with some of your winter essentials for a cosy yet bright spring season.



Sweatshirt
H&M
€39.95



Pink Blazer
H&M
€19.95

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LIFESTYLE

Out & About



Rasheed, The Edition Style Guru sees how his German past is influencing trends in Aungier Street

• Guten tag fashion disciples! People routinely ask me -
 • “Rasheed how did you get to be so stylish?” to which I usually
 • reply – “Step off you dowdy cruton.” This time however I
 • had a change of heart. Instead of thrashing the unfashionable
 • goon with my rhythm stick, I decided to impart my slick and
 • trendy past. So listen close. The reason I’m so profoundly
 • stylish is that I grew up on the banks of the river Spree in
 • Berlin. With a circus clown for a father and a professional
 • trend setter for a mother, I’ve been exposed to the ways of the
 • bohemian new age traveller from an early age. As a little
 • johnny rooster I’d hang out with the likes of David Bowie,
 • playing the pan flute under the stars and weaving bowler hats
 • from moss. Also you don’t go trout fishing with Frank Zappa
 • without picking up fashion tips.



Who?
Amy McCreavy

Studying?
Business Computing

What?
Sweater – Top Shop
Jacket – Pull and Bear
Bag – Schuh

Style?

“I don’t have one.” - A very modest fashionista, tell us your style secrets!



Who?
Aoife Kavanagh

Studying?
Fashion Buying and Management student

What?
Shoes – River Island
Scarf – River Island
Jacket – Asos

Style?

“Casual and comfortable”. Comfort is important; my socks are made of clouds.



Who?
Ziggy Zeidan

Studying?
Masters in Digital Media

What?
Shoes – Size
Pants – Zara
Jacket – River Island

Style?

“Casual”. Ziggy, great eye for style.



Who?
Keith Murray

Studying?
Retail and services management

What?
Trousers – Topman
Jacket – Shaws
Shoes – Barratts
T – shirt – A mystery

Style?

Unknown – Could not compute. Too fashionable!

Girls win gold and wear it

Fiona Hyland

We know who won what, we've heard the speeches, and we know that if we were ever to host Come Dine With Me, Seth McFarlane would definitely be on the top of the list for a dinner guest, but who wore what?

Starting the ball rolling, everyone's favourite: worst dressed. And the award goes to, Kristin Stewart, who wore a full length, feather detail ivory dress, which washed out her pale skin.

Kristen's look has sparked some controversy in the land of show-biz, and has made, gossip guru Perez Hilton's worst dressed list, while hollywoodlife.com referred to the look as a "slam dunk" for Kristen, claiming she got it "so right".

The Twilight actress, who carried a pair of crutches on the red carpet, told Anne Hathaway "I'm an idiot" explaining how she stepped in glass earlier that week.

Catherine Zeta-Jones, shined in a gown by Zuhair Muraad Couture, however it over-powered the star's glowing skin tone.

Not far behind, was Les Misérables Oscar winner, Anne Hathaway, who wore a blush pink Prada gown which "leaves little to the imagination" according to E! Entertainment online.

Hathaway has since made apologies for her choice of dress, although not for obvious reasons. The Prada number, which she chose just two hours before the awards ceremony, was originally

supposed to be a Valentino dress, whom she had a longstanding relationship with according to E! Entertainment.

While Hathaway's co-star Amanda Seyfried, 27, who made her debut on Mean Girls, rocked the red carpet with an Alexander McQueen gown. The train on the gown was perfectly fitting for an Oscar performance, while the halter neck and classy up-do completed the timeless look.

However the award for best dressed, has to go the stunning two-time Oscar winner, Jennifer Lawrence, who wore a fairytale-like ivory Dior Haute Couture ball gown. While it has been described by hollywoodlife.com as "a wedding dress", it made her look more like a princess than a bride-to-be. She made Perez Hilton and E! Entertainment's, best-dressed list.

The Silver Lining's star had a bitter-sweet Oscar's experience, while falling on the stage steps, this perhaps could have been avoided if she chose not to wear those five-and-a-half inch Brian Atwood heels! Unsurprisingly, "Fashion Police" host Giuliana Rancic, got it oh so right, with a "subtle, yet intricately designed dressed" according to fashion website silverchips.com.

Other stars who rocked the red carpet include Jenifer Aniston, who wore Valentino, Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner, who both turned up in Gucci, Amy Adams in Oscar De La Renta and Halle Berry in a custom made Versace gown.



Anne Hathaway pictured right in her Prada gown picking up her Best Supporting Actress Oscar for Les Misérables



Jennifer Lawrence wears a Dior Haute Couture ball gown picking up her Best Actress Oscar for Silver Linings Playbook

New York Fashion Week 2013

Lifestyle Editor

It was a rockin' 60s mod versus 90s grunge vibe at the Chloe Sevigny show which kicked off AW13 in New York. The collection looked like it had come straight out of Sevigny's own enviable wardrobe with bold 60s designs including A-line skirts and swing coats, mohair sweaters, gingham and lace baby-doll dresses and PVC skirts and jackets were top of the hit list.

Alexander Wang soon followed with his always downtown-cool aesthetic edge as leather and wool looks in charcoal, black and navy took to the runway. Models, including Liberty Ross stepped out to the theme tune of 'Rocky 3' in sporty-chic separates and outerwear that played on a boxing theme. Wang sent out frightening hoods and killer fur boxing gloves – a chic-tough vision that only Wang, the undisputed downtown NYC fashion star, could deliver.

Going back to their roots this season, Rodarte's Mulleavy sisters took inspiration from early 80s Santa Cruz, California – the sleepy surfer town they grew up in. Picture dramatic tie-dyed floor-sweeping gowns, crystal studded knit sweater-and-skirt combos, and tough leather biker jackets lending a punk-rocker edge. Majorly cool model Chloe Norgaard turned heads with striking neon hair she'd dyed herself pre-show to match her outfit.

Other Highlights of the week included 70s glamour on the Marc Jacobs runway, A\$AP Rocky closing the Hood By Air show and Thom Browne's monochromatic dark-romance collection which featured splashes of colour from models eerily clutching red roses and a male model tied down to a white metal bed frame with crimson ribbons.

Chloë Sevigny looks over her OC collection which opened up this years Autumn Winter show in New York.



In the past three years, London Fashion Week has become an unmissable stop off in the month long events around the world and not just because of the monstrous amounts of celebrities that are drawn to the shows.

Sister by SIBLING kicked off the shows on Saturday morning with a collection that generated a ridiculous but rather amusing story on MailOnline.co.uk about how fashion on the catwalk is only there to sell perfume.

Saturday evening, Rihanna paid London

a visit to show her new collection for River Island. It was an exciting succession of denim cut-offs and tight floor-length dresses.

Topshop Unique's displayed a more mature, city-chic vibe for their autumn winter 2013 collection- imagine Clueless meets power dressing- as knee length patent skater skirts are teamed with cashmere cropped jumpers, under floor length trench coats, and pointed leather ankle boots.

Louise Gray was another British

designer whose collection has a huge hit. Louise Gray is a Scottish fashion school grad who LOVES prints. This season, despite that familiar seizure-inducing riot of colours, Gray actually toned it down a bit. Shapes were softer, with shifts and shirts becoming the focus, instead of the built up jackets, cardigans and tops of last season. In the more eccentric shows of Vivienne Westwood, Matthew Williamson and Holly Fulton to the sharp and snappy collections of Jonathan Saunders and Paul Smith. At Gucci, Frida Giannini



Model Chloe Norgaard turned heads at Rodarte's show with her hair dyed neon green to match her outfit.

treated the audience to a walk on the dark side with a vampy collection that saw figure hugging dresses and pencil skirts celebrate curves. Karl Lagerfeld created a buzz with a Fendi collection that was fur, fur and more fur. Issuing the bold statement 'Fendi is fur! Fur is Fendi!', the runway was flooded with mink and fox in natural tones with pops of pink, orange and electric blue. Fur adorned everything from the quirky cartoon clutch bags to sunglasses as models strutted down the catwalk to Prodigy's Firestarter.

CULTURE

Lawrence falls, Oscars soar



From left, Grant Heslov, Ben Affleck and George Clooney posing with their Oscars on 24 February

Fiona Hyland

It came as no surprise that The 85th Annual Academy Award's ceremony had its fair share of well-deserved winners, world class performances, extravagant dresses, and of course Jennifer Lawrence falling on her face! The Oscars 2013 certainly didn't disappoint.

Family Guy creator, Seth McFarlane, hosted this year's ceremony. While we expected the opening of The Oscars to be extravagant and outrageous, what we didn't expect was the length, which was almost twenty minutes long.

However producers of the show weren't altogether happy with his gags about fe-

male nudity, domestic violence and Jews in Hollywood. McFarlane, 39, has since confirmed on Twitter, there is "no way" he will be returning to host The Oscars again.

Breaking with tradition, this year, the award ceremony took on a theme of celebrating music and film.

Ben Affleck's, *Argo* won the best picture award, beating off stiff competition such as *Les Misérables*, *Lincoln* and *Django Unchained*.

In Affleck's acceptance speech he gushed "It doesn't matter how you get knocked down in life, all that matters, is that you get up."

Not one brow was raised, nor one jaw dropped when the best leading male actor award was given to Daniel Day Lewis for

his performance in *Lincoln*.

Jennifer Lawrence, 22, took home her second Oscar. She won the Oscar for best leading female in *Silver Linings*, however not before planting her face on the steps of the stage as she went to collect her trophy.

Her acceptance speech was heartfelt, witty and melted the hearts of everyone watching, while her little tumble was soon forgotten about. Unfortunately, she had to apologise earlier in the week for forgetting to thank movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and director David O Russell, "In the whirlwind of last night, I was remiss to thank two incredibly important people to this film and in my life."

Supporting male actor went to Christoph

Waltz for his performance in *Django Unchained*, while Anne Hathaway took the Oscar for supporting female role, as Fantine in *Les Misérables*, who delivered an emotional speech.

It's been a whirlwind year for Adele, with the birth of her baby boy, her Grammy award for pop solo performance, not to mention her stunning performance of *Skyfall* at the Oscars last Sunday night. The song took home the award for best original song.

The show ended with a duet of Seth McFarlane and Kerstin Chenoweth, in a hilarious dedication to "the losers". It's fair to say The Oscars 2013 was just as glamorous, overt and extravagant as ever before.

TV Guide: What to watch this week

Niamh Geoghegan and Matthew Colfer

Revenge

What has happened to *Revenge*? The first season of the US drama won over viewers and critics alike with its cleverly handled tale of Emily Thorne's mission to clear her father's name and destroy the Graysons – a corrupt billionaire family who framed her father with laundering money for a terrorist group. However this series, it seems the show has truly lost the run of itself.

For those who have not watched *Revenge* before, the concept is (well was) simple. Each episode focused on Emily's attempts to ruin the lives of those involved in the conspiracy against her father one by one.

Unfortunately, this compelling formula has disappeared. There is the introduction of James Bond wannabe Aiden Mathis

(*Hollyoaks*' and *Holby City* actor Barry Sloane) as Emily's new love interest and co-conspirator. Couple this, alongside the arrival of Emily's mentally disturbed mother Kara, and things begin to get very confusing.

While the first season at times seemed improbable, its simple and effective concept made for interesting viewing. Unfortunately this season has been transformed into a maze of truly far-fetched subplots. I can accept that Victoria Grayson, the ice queen with the stellar smile, was inevitably going to return from the dead. She was too important a character to kill off that easily. Let's face it, who else could Emily try out death-stare? However, the miraculous survival of heavily pregnant Amanda (along with her unborn baby) after falling from the landing of Grayson manor seemed a bit ludicrous.

This season lags lazily behind the first. There is no longer a sense of progression to Emily's plans; her goal seems more distant than ever. Worse still, all this has happened in the first nine episodes. There are still 13 more to go. Let the mind begin to frazzle. (RTÉ2, Tuesdays at 9.50pm)

The Big Bang Theory

When *The Big Bang Theory* first hit Irish screens it got a rapturous reception from the general public. Now in its sixth season it is one of the main pre-watershed programmes on RTÉ Two (Thursdays at 7pm).

There has been a noticeable change in the four main characters over the previous five seasons. Sheldon (Jim Parsons) has come from his shell to be involved in a relationship of sorts with Amy Farrah Fowler (Mayim Bialik). Leonard, played by Johnny Galecki (*In Time*), and Penny

(Kaley Cuoco, *8 Simple Rules For Dating My Teenage Daughter*) have been in and out of a relationship with jealousy often rearing its ugly head.

The supposed 'lady's man' of the group Howard (Simon Helberg) has even settled down with Bernadette (Melissa Rauch) after spending a few months in space with a NASA project. Poor Raj (Kunal Nayyar) is still looking for love and cannot conquer his inability to talk to females without the help of alcohol.

One thing that certainly remained unchanged since season one is the quick wit which gives viewers at least one chuckle every minute.

Just a quarter of the way through season six now and no end in sight for the show in the near future there are hopefully plenty more laughs to come from the four self-proclaimed 'nerds'. Bazinga!

TwitFeed

Dáirne Black looks at the Twitter goings on around DIT

Glenn Fitzpatrick
@ditsu_education



Congrats to @ditgaa, #sigersoncup Champions 2013!

Donal Skehan
@donalskehan



Great morning spent in Temple Street Children's Hospital for the Great Irish Bake launching later this month...

Trailer Park Boys
@trailerparkboys



Why's it so friggin' cold out? Frig. I can't wait till it gets warmer out so we can start growing weed again. I've got cabin fever. -Ricky

Neil Patrick Harris
@ActuallyNPH



Today is International Sword Swallowers Day. I'm sure there are lots of jokes there, but figured the legit carnies deserve a shout out.

Jonah Hill
@JonahHill



Today was a really hard day and I called my mom and she made me feel better. Everyone call their mom and tell them they love them.

Reviews

CULTURE

Head in the clouds

Victoria Tiernan

Cloud Atlas
Run Time: 172 mins

Jim Broadbent's opening narration of *Cloud Atlas* implores you to "Extend your patience for just a moment and you will find there is method in this madness." An innocent enough appeal, but be aware, such a moment lasts 172 minutes in this case.

There are many cases where adapting a film from a novel can be successful, however, it is difficult to determine if David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* truly did transfer successfully onto the big screen.

Directed by Andy and Lana Wachowski (*The Matrix*) and Tom Tykwer (*Run Lola Run*), this epic picture holds no regard for notions of time nor space as it meanders from the 19th to the mid-20th century before flinging us into 22nd century Seoul. Each location is as sumptuous as the next and each director deliberately stamps their own style upon them. 19th century England truthfully reflects the social anxieties and peculiarity of the time, while scenes from Korea visibly expose the involvement of the *Matrix* directors.

Cloud Atlas swims between these different locations, where actors portray different characters in each story, coinciding with the director's insistence that everything is connected. The overall effect is enjoyable; the film manages to retain all the positive characteristics of a novel.

Academy award winning actors Halle Berry (*Monster's Ball*) and Tom Hanks (*Forrest Gump*) in the far future section of *Cloud Atlas*

Just as you sink your teeth into one story you are flung back to a former, providing consistent exhilaration and suspense.

The most thrilling aspect of the film is its ability to perform as a novel. Proficiently introducing and developing an expansive range of characters is no mean feat. The accomplished cast includes Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Jim Broadbent, Hugo Weaving, Doona Bae, and Ben Whishaw,

and is only blemished by the inclusion of Hugh Grant. These characters are all connected, be it in an obscure manner or not, branded by fate by a comet shaped birthmark. Consistently intertwined, these actors often appear supporting each other's roles; the most amusing example being perhaps Halle Berry garbed in a moustache.

With such a layered project, it could

only be expected that opinions about *Cloud Atlas* would polarise. What began as an ambitious project to adapt this 2004 novel may have proved too large, too elaborate, even for these talented directors. Presenting just as many good points as bad, the only way to solve the mystery of *Cloud Atlas* is to invest the time and witness it unravel for yourself.



Quality gameplay means no Crysis for shoppers

Eoin Livingston

Crysis 3
Platform: Xbox 360, PS3 & PC

Crysis 3 is the latest addition to Crytek's award winning *Crysis* franchise and sets itself up to be bigger and better than all the rest.

You play Prophet, a super soldier powered by a highly advanced nanosuit which allows you to turn invisible, be nearly invulnerable and possess super strength. You use the suit's powers to help you fight CELL - an evil mega-corporation who have effectively dominated the world through their alien generator - and the Ceph, an alien race bent on the extermination of the human race in the rotting shell of New York.

Before we delve into the story or the gameplay, a special mention must be made of the graphics. The *Crysis* franchise, and pretty much all of Crytek's games, have continuously raised the bar for game's visuals but *Crysis 3*'s are truly a thing to behold. The overgrown nature of New York's desolation is breathtaking to say the least but coupled with the realistic terrain deformation and the character's animations create an experience that can only be found in *Crysis 3*.

Crysis 3 is not just a makeover of the previous two games, far from it; in fact, the gameplay takes a dramatic shift into a hunting game, similar to the *Batman* games. This is caused in no small part thanks to the introduction of the Predator Bow, a compound bow that can be fired while invisible and is effectively a one hit kill. The very fact that it is a bow immediately inspires feelings of being a hunter, not a superman that really help improve the gameplay by giving it focus, something that was sorely lacking in the franchise. This lack of focus is also improved by the introduction of RPG elements to the franchise. These elements are integrated nicely into the game, improving the game and making sense within the story and the world. Add to that the expansive levels filled with surprisingly clever AI and you have a game that not only stands apart from its predecessors but a game that stands on its own as an enjoyable experience.

The only disappointing aspect of the game is the story. The story is forgettable and the characters aren't anything to write home about and while the story has some very bright moments, they are few and far between. However the story isn't bad enough to make the game bad, it just tarnishes an otherwise amazing game.

Much Ado About Whedon's new film?

Greg Synnott

Much Ado About Nothing
Run Time: 107 mins

With his latest release screening in Dublin thanks to Jameson and their film festival and with the director himself in attendance, an excellently portrayed, classic comedy drama with a modern black and white twist is not what I was expecting ahead of me.

Joss Whedon is the man behind some of the most creative and influential shows of our generation. A bold statement maybe, particularly if you're asking yourself who Joss Whedon is. The man behind such short lived epics as *Dollhouse* and *Firefly*, and the long running *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, probably best known now as the director of *The Cabin in the Woods* and *The Avengers*.

Now he's taken hold of a classic and made the first great contemporary Shakespeare since Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet*.

The concept is not so incongruous: Whedon is one of the few blockbuster film-makers who also has his own semi-rep acting company, out of which he utilises his small name regulars to create a fairly sizable cast made up of Nathan Fillion (*Malcolm Reynolds* of *Firefly*), Alexis Denisof (*Wesley* from *Buffy*), Amy Acker (*Fred* on *Angel*), Fran Kranz (*Topher* in *Dollhouse*), Clark Gregg (*Agent Coulson* in *The Avengers*), and Sean Maher (*Simon* on *Firefly*) as the villain, Don John.

For those unfamiliar with Shakespeare and those that have not touched upon it since their days in school, fear not, for you shall not be played the fool. Whedon's modern retelling of the classic comedy drama, or in this case, maybe dramatic comedy, pulls you in and picks

Tom Lenk and Whedon -regular, Nathan Fillion in the new film from *The Avengers* director

up pace after its first jarring, out of place lines.

Innovations in the context such as the use of smartphones rarely feel gimmicky. With much of the humour being portrayed in the background acting and many of Shakespeare's lines still holding as much wit and comedic effect in a screening as they would have on a stage. There's a smoky jazz soundtrack, big on bass, sounding for all the world like an extended *Seinfeld* sting, which helps keep

things perky.

Nathan Fillion himself steals the show as an oafish cop 'Dogberry' whose declaration of being called an "ass" will have one laughing for extended periods of time.

The script has aged, the characters, however, feel fresh and the retelling is so modern that one does not feel as if they are being dragged through an English class they had not signed up for. Whedon's key is simplicity, with a keen ear for comedy, a no-nonsense approach

to ditching the gags that don't work, and a deft hand for slapstick with an eagerness to use it.

Whedon's portrayal is of a high calibre, and one that will have many flocking to relive Shakespeare once again.

The film was a smashing success at the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival, albeit, this may be down to the tremendous amount of *Firefly* fanatics in attendance to get a closer look at their messiah.

CULTURE

What's on in Dublin?

Dáirne Black
Culture Editor

Lá Féile Pádraig Shona daoibh! Happy Saint Patricks everyone, a special edition of Whats On In Dublin this week as we celebrate Saint Patricks Day.

Irishfest runs from March 13 till 18 at Georges Dock at the IFSC. Originally known as the Irish Craft Beer Festival, it celebrates Ireland's finest craft beer, traditional live-music and artisan food. Over 20,000 are expected at the festival. The aim is to create a St. Patricks day experience where consumers can try some new food, learn about the culture and be entertained with the best that Ireland has to offer. The festival is free during the day (excluding weekends/holidays) and €5 after 5pm.

No Saint Patricks festival would be complete without the annual funfair. From the Big Wheel for those who dare to brave the dizzy heights to the bumper cars for those who want something on the ground, there's a ride there for everyone. The funfair will light up the city with its carousels and fairground rides, guaranteed to bring a smile to any age. Prices vary depending on the ride and locations are as follows:

Where: Merrion Square West
Date: Thursday 14th March - Monday 18th March
Time: Thursday - Sunday 11:00 - 23:00, Monday 11:00 - 21:00

Where: Wolfe Tone Park
Date: Friday 15th March - Monday 18th March
Time: 11:00 - 20:00

Where: Custom House Quay
Date: Saturday 16th March - Monday 17th March
Time: Saturday and Sunday 10:00 - 22:00, Monday 10:00 - 20:00

As part of the festivities Dublin will go green for the duration of the festival. Many iconic buildings will be illuminated in green and fly the Irish flag to celebrate our National holiday. The Guinness Store House, The Mansion House, The Convention Centre and Dublinia are just some of the famous buildings taking part.

The Trad Stage takes place on Thursday March 14 at Meeting House Square between 7:30pm and 9pm. Some of Ireland's most recognised names in traditional Irish music come together for a special live show. The Trad Stage will feature the band Guidewires, Liam Ó Maonlaí, one of Ireland's best Sean Nós (traditional Irish) singers on piano, tin whistle, bodhrán and vocals; and Tríona Ní Dhomhnaill, traditional Irish singer, pianist and composer.

Parade & Céilí

Get your dancing shoes on, it's ceili time! The Saint Patricks Festival Ceili takes place on Friday March 15 between 4:30 and 7:30pm at Saint Stephens Green. Expert callers, dancers and musicians will lead you along the way. You will learn the dances, enjoy live traditional music and soak up the atmosphere on the streets of Dublin. Even if you have two left feet, dance the evening away and enjoy the jigs and reels.

No Saint Patricks Festival would be complete without the annual parade on Sunday March 17. As part of The Gathering this year, over 8,000 people are being invited to march in the parade. Throughout the parade they will pass many famous landmarks.

Enemies at the Gate

Greg Synnott

Enemies gig
Whelans 23 February

Enemies played Whelans to kick off their European tour, with both Croupier and Spies opening the show.

What little I saw of Croupier that night was, as always, phenomenal, choosing tonight to end on a new track from what we hope to be a forthcoming album instead of their staple track 'Creo Beast'. Europe should welcome them with open arms, their energy, as usual, sucking in the crowd and creating a dance craze that sweeps through their audience. It's this kind of energy that will see 2013 be a big year for Croupier, or so we hope.

Enemies set out to play this show with

the intention of showing off new material from their forthcoming album, which has a confirmed release date of May 10 and an album launch on May 17 (write those dates down!). Much loved tracks like 'Indian Summer' and 'Robert Reid' were interspersed with new songs 'Executive Cut' and 'Unit Shifter'. With more vocals than we're used to seeing from Enemies, and even an apparent special guest appearance from The Cast Of Cheers own lead singer on this album, the band have show that their classic and beautiful math rock sound only gets better when layered with vocal harmonies.

The general atmosphere was that of familiarity - friends watching friends play music - with a lot of general chit chat taking place between songs, most of which ended in a sudden stop, the band

themselves admitting this was the secret to their songwriting.

The breakdowns in the set are tantalising; the highlights came in waves with the crowd clearly falling over themselves to hear Enemies live again. Selling out Whelans, the band have shown that since first debuting with a six-track EP, they have come a long way from being those four guys from Greystones who played some math rock.

What was shown off tonight from the forthcoming album was more than promising, and has potential to blow the guys fanbase up to another level with a much more approachable sound whilst keeping their aesthetically classic, catchy riffs and upbeat sound in the mix. Here's to May 10th.



Photo: Greg Synnott

Corner Boy are DIT's All Stars

Fresh from their win at the DIT All Stars during RAG Charity Week, lead singer of Corner Boy Michael D'Arcy chats to Craig Reynolds about the bands rise

Tell me a little bit about the band. How did you guys get together?

Corner Boy originally started as a solo act, I was playing gigs in North America and writing my own material. I came back to Ireland and found a bit of interest in the songs I was writing. I went about recruiting some of the best musicians in Wexford; luckily enough these were some of my best friends. We started practicing and gelled immediately.

Your debut EP 'Morning, Morning', was just released. Could you tell me a little bit about it?

The central theme of the record is travelling. Most of the songs were written and recorded while on my student exchange from DIT last year. Three of them were recorded in Canada where I was living, the other two were written in America where I was working. It deals with a lot of different themes; love and loss, new experiences which is the central core ideal of what a lot of the songs are about. The energy of the music was kind of borne from the energy of playing live in venues across North America, playing these different venues I learned fast I needed to up the tempo of the music for the live setting.

Do you have a favorite song from the EP?

In a live setting it's Sunlight; my favorite-recorded song is probably 'Morning, Morning'. Most of it was written in my final days before moving back to Ireland, it's slightly about the realisation of living somewhere else and experiencing new things. Then about coming back to a place you've left, feeling you've grown in personality, it's me waking up once I'm home and feeling a sense of emptiness/loss of a spark when you're not out on the road meeting new people.

How would you describe your sound for someone who had never heard your music before?

It's quite a mix between the modern folk scene of the likes of Mumford & Sons and the Lumineers, but we heavily include instruments from the Irish scene: Fiddle etc. The music is a product of what we grew up with, rural Wexford, we were all in trad groups when we were younger. Incorporating that into modern folk sound and a fresh look of how trad Irish music can be brought up to date in a modern



Corner Boy Lead singer, Michael D'Arcy on guitar with Cian McGovern on Keyboard

sense.

What's the scene like at the moment in Ireland for new bands, is it difficult to attract an audience?

It is, Ireland being the culture it is. We're social people, we like to sing and play instruments. It seems there's nearly a band for every street corner but I see it as a healthy thing, not in terms of competition, it's just a great environment for creativity. In the larger towns and cities, it's strong and getting stronger as the internet is giving more exposure to newer bands.

How have you used the internet?

A lot of friends are living around the world now; the CD is available online on our website for people to download so people from around the world have easy access to our music.

Who are a few of your favorite artists to listen to?

There's a broad mix, we take influence from numerous genres, everything from folk to dance. The way things are structured, songwriters should be open to all types. My favorite bands would be Irish acts, trad music being a big impact

on me, songwriters like Christy Moore, plank city, Dubliners, and more well known like Arcade Fire, and newer acts like of Monsters and Men, Lumineers and lesser well known like Poke le Farge and Stray Birds.

Does the perfect song exist?

I think people take different things from different songs and listen to songs based on different moods, experiences, what's going on in their lives at the time. There are perfect songs for setting for people personally but it's quite hard to judge.

Where did the name 'Corner Boy' come from?

Believe or not, my own name Michael D'Arcy is one of our most famous politicians so I couldn't start gigging around Wexford with his name, so stepped away from putting myself on a pedestal so decided to use a pseudonym. I didn't feel obliged to write under Michael, I could become my own character in a sense. The name itself came from when I came home to a welcome home party; I still didn't have a name. A friend reminded me that in secondary school my English teacher

who didn't think I was good at creative writing/poetry, so for about a year I was known as corner boy. I thought it was interesting, that lack of creativity compared to what I'm doing now. It's almost an act of defiance against my younger self.

How would you define success for yourselves as a band?

So long as the music has an effect on people. If I can get an emotional response from people, it's almost the best response a song writer can get. You can get money etc. but if the songs have longevity and are listened to in years to come, that's the ultimate mark of respect.

What should people who come out to your show expect?

The nature of Corner Boy is that we consider ourselves a live band. We have energy, crowd involvement; we step away from mics and play in the audience. We enjoy connecting with the crowd. We want to leave a personal message with people. Leave something in memory; bring a bit of fun to what people see.

Heffernan no longer loving Angels instead

Ray Heffernan opens up to Izzy O'Hara about his new album, living in Italy, Angels and Robbie Williams

After sorting out a time and means of contact I finally had Ray Heffernan on the phone. His band Ray Heffernan and The Grand Canal band have a new album out.

I was immediately struck by how down to earth and relaxed Ray was. He began by telling me his band, who are comprised of five Italian men and himself, formed spontaneously back in 2010. Since he moved to Italy in 2006, his Italian is impeccable. Language barrier aside, I wondered are there many differences between having a mix of Irish and Italian men in the band; "Our contrasting backgrounds bring something different to the table. The Italians really know how to build a powerful chorus and to some extent the Irish are known as the 'poets of Europe', so it's a good mix. We work well together and the other guys in the band are top dog musicians."

From Yeats to Joyce, Ireland has undoubtedly produced many literary greats. Irish literature seems to have influenced Ray's music career in several ways. His album, *New Dress Worn* was inspired by the last two lines of a poem by Patrick Kavanagh called *Canal Bank Walk*. "Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against his poems on the Leaving Certificate syllabus," Heffernan jokes, "but it is Kavanagh's older less main stream poetry that I am drawn to." Despite having lived abroad for most of his adult life, it is apparent he still has a strong sense of his Irish identity. "When you move away from home, you feel even more Irish in ways," he said.

His latest single, *Stardust* is based on the tragic fire that occurred on 14 February 1981 in the 'Stardust' nightclub in Artane on the Northside of Dublin, where 81 people lost their lives. Heffernan was young at the time of the fire but growing up as a boy he would often hear of the famed nightclub as it was one of his parents' regular haunts. So it was something that hit close to home. "I wanted to make *Stardust* in part a love song, as it was Valentine's night and people were out looking to find love. I wanted to capture that love and lost love in the song."

Heffernan has received a hugely positive reaction to his latest single. Even before knowing the background to the single, I was struck by how emotive the song was. He told me of a touching moment when he received an email from a woman



Ray Heffernan (inset) co-wrote the famous Robbie Williams (below) hit, *Angels* with the Take That star in 1996

whose sister died in the fire. She got in touch with him to say how much the song meant to her and how it was a nice tribute to the tragic event. Unlike Christy Moore's song about the Stardust fire "They never came home", Heffernan's tribute is without blame or anger and is reflected in the lyrics. He doesn't have a bad word to say about Christy though; which reinforced my impression of him as a genuine soul who is just passionate about the music.

Growing up in Dublin, Heffernan always had a passion for music. His work as an occupational and music therapist, working with adults and children with autism, led him to France after he finished school. He had been living there for five years when on one night on a visit back to Dublin, he happened upon an ex-boy band star in The Globe pub on George's St. His name was Robbie Williams. It was 1996 and he had recently split with Take That,

“
I was young and naive, they offered me a cheque for £7,500 for the rights to the song
”

but Heffernan having lived abroad for the past couple of years wasn't aware of who the star was. After a night of drinking and bonding over their common interest in music, he showed Williams a song he'd been working on.

Their collaboration that night went on to become the hugely successful hit "Angels". "I was young and naive; they offered me a cheque for £7,500 for the rights to the song and I assumed it would just be another song for the album. So I was happy enough." Nobody could have predicted the success the song would go on to achieve. I asked Ray if he had seen the interviews of Guy Chambers and Williams taking credit for the song. After seeing the interview of Chambers on YouTube myself, I wondered if it was part of the contract he signed that he was to let them take full credit. "I don't pay attention to that stuff anymore; I'm not sure what Guy says about it to be honest. I'll

admit I was angry for a long time about it but life moves on and I never could have known what was to come."

"I take it you and Robbie don't talk anymore so?" I said, asking the obvious. At this point it felt less like a routine interview and more like a friendly conversation. It was nice to see he hadn't lost the open, friendly 'Irish' way. "No, towards the end we only communicated through lawyers. We had a short-lived friendship but it was an intense one. If people co-write a song they should be credited equally. So I feel his depiction of me was unfair."

Since then, Ray Heffernan has been named "the songwriter's writer," having helped the careers of artists such as Wallis Bird and Declan O'Rourke. His life has moved on but before we moved on to discussing the bands upcoming gig, I had to ask him if there was any truth to the stories about Robbie trying to bed the Irish musician. "Everything I said was true. He was confused about his sexuality at the time and I mentioned it to a journalist friend of mine and it was printed." After Robbie referring to him as a "Quasi-stalker" in his biography, *Feel*, a future collaboration between the two is looking unlikely.

Ray Heffernan and The Grand Canal band will be performing at The Unitarian Church Saturday 10 March. Tickets €10.



SPORT

Make or break for QPR

Chances are slim, but 'Arry may just pull it off, says James Hopper



Ten games. Seventeen points. That's what Harry Redknapp believes will be good enough to keep his rock bottom Queens Park Rangers in the Premier League. If 'Arry can pull this one off, he and his side will deserve a right knees up (and not the kind that his squad held in Dubai under secrecy).

Since his arrival in late November, reporters have been fed the line that he honestly believes he can keep them from falling into the Championship. Of course a new manager is going to be positive when they arrive into a club, they are hardly going to say that they are doomed or have no chance. However, with only ten games left before another Premier League season is consigned to the record books, Redknapp's men stand a fighting chance of keeping their top flight status.

After enjoying an unbeaten first four league games, along with the club's first win of the season against Fulham, things took a turn for the worse. Three successive defeats against Newcastle, West Brom and Liverpool left the West-London club eight points off safety as Redknapp's experimental attacking approach failed spectacularly.

January was the key month to Rangers' season, with the chance to reinforce and the fact they would go unbeaten. Victory at the home of European champions Chelsea gave Redknapp something he couldn't buy, loan or haggle for - belief. Three consecutive draws followed against Tottenham, West Ham and reigning champions Manchester City. It would be the club's most productive month to date.

Then came the reinforcements. Chris Samba arrived to replace the outgoing Ryan Nelsen, who at the time was the side's outstanding defender. Although yet to show the authority of what his previous spell at Blackburn Rovers brought, the Congolese has undoubted quality. Tottenham duo Jermaine Jenas and Andros Townsend also joined as Spurs chairman Daniel Levy lent a helping hand to the manager he sacked in the summer. But the most important signing Redknapp would make was the acquisition of Marseille forward Loic Remy. Along with scoring on his debut, the French star has averaged a goal every 1.6 games, a statistic that could prove telling come the end of the season.

Queens Park Rangers must manoeuvre their way through what looks like a favourable run-in. Out of the ten remaining games, six of the teams currently occupy the league's bottom half. Three points will be targeted in home ties against Sunderland, Wigan, Stoke and Newcastle while away trips to Aston Villa and Reading pose the most likely chance of accumulating points on the road. Although unlikely, should they win all six of these games Redknapp will have reached his target with a point to spare.

Ahead of their trip to Southampton last weekend, Redknapp would be celebrating his sixty-sixth birthday. The Rangers boss said that even if his wife flew in his favourite singer Tony Bennett, he wouldn't show up unless his side won. Not that Harry would have to worry about that as his side collected three points. Who knows, maybe he arrived 'Just in Time'.

Pressure of pro sport can take a heavy toll

Pistorious tragedy is latest in a long line of incidents, say Ryan Nugent and Kevin O'Mahony

It is the dream profession for many of us, yet the life of a sports star creates serious problems for some in their private lives, as they struggle to cope with the pressures to perform and previously unnoticeable mental fragilities become more prominent. The world of professional sports has been marred too often by stars at the peak of their game going off the rails.

This subject was catapulted back into the foreground in February of this year, as Paralympic Champion Oscar Pistorious was charged with the murder of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

This isn't the first time Pistorious has been charged in relation to violence. In 2009, he was charged with assault after slamming a door on the hand of a woman. The South African is one of a number of sports men who've had major off-field issues.

Chris Benoit is another example of sports stars committing violent acts. The shocking double murder-suicide case of the professional wrestler caused international notoriety in 2007 when he murdered his wife and son before hanging himself.

Dr Robert Cantu, chief of neurosurgery at Emerson Hospital in Concord, Massachusetts, claimed that the level of brain damage Benoit had can cause dementia, depression and irrational behaviour. Ultimately, at the time that Benoit killed himself, he had the brain of a man over 80 years old, with severe Alzheimer's disease, according to Cantu.

For current World Snooker Champion Ronnie O'Sullivan, success has been a bitter pill. His father, Ronnie O'Sullivan Sen-

ior, was sentenced to life in prison for murder when his son was just 16. His mother was also given a one-year sentence for tax evasion in 1996.

The decorated player has been battling with substance abuse and clinical depression for many years, a factor which led to his decision to withdraw from competition in November. However, O'Sullivan stated in late February that he would return and defend his world title at the Crucible in April 2013.

23 years ago, the world was at the feet of Paul Gascoigne. He was the catalyst



Ronnie O'Sullivan, who has been away from the sport since November. Photo: Jamie J Gray via Flickr

“The expectations are enormous; sometimes people cannot handle it”

- Dr Barry Cripps

Comment: Cycling's long road back

Piers Moyles

Mention doping and the first thing that springs to mind is cycling. The two have become synonymous with each other.

However, the sport now begins its long road to recovery which starts with perhaps its second most prestigious race – the Giro d'Italia.

This year's race may not be of note to Irish cycling fans, but in 2014 this may be a different case as the tour comes to these shores.

The route will take the participants through the cities of Belfast, Armagh and Dublin, and will be held over three stages from the 10-12 May. The ques-

tions is, why has the sport's hierarchy decided to do this, and will it have any sort of impact on cycling in Ireland, or is it a fruitless endeavour for the fallen sport?

It would appear at first glance that the decision is motivated by financial need, with suggestions that both Ireland and Northern Ireland could earn upwards of €45 million.

Cycling as a whole would also benefit financially, mainly through television rights as the race will be broadcast in over 160 countries and have a global audience of 775 million.

Michele Acquarone, Head of RCS Sport, said the decision was taken because “we always try to put our fans in the middle of our strategy.” He went on to say: “we love

to bring the atmosphere and life of the Giro d'Italia to a foreign country so the fans can have the experience for a couple of days.”

It's up to the fans to determine the sincerity of Mr Acquarone's comments – at this point it's almost difficult to trust anyone connected with the sport.

Previous Giro d'Italia winner Stephen Roche also hopes that the cross-border race will have an impact on fans.

“I hope cycling can get its act together and develop the kids in cycling,” he says.

“The Tour de France came here and went and have you seen any difference? I hope some ways of developing cycling can come on the back of it and maybe sponsors may come on board for a new

weeks ago, where he faces two months of solitary rehabilitation.

His life is always in danger because he is an alcoholic. “Maybe no-one can save him”, said his agent Terry Baker.

“Stress-related illnesses are extremely common in professional sports. The expectations are enormous and sometimes people cannot handle it,” according to Dr Barry Cripps, chairman of the sports and exercise division of the British Psychological Society. This is a situation of which no devout sports follower would ever feel envious.

tour of Ireland.”

If the Tour de France, which visited Ireland back in 1998, had no impact on cycling in the country, then why would things be different this time around? That's not to say that expanding the tour is a bad idea, but it's going to take a lot more than trekking the sport across the globe for it to have a major impact.

Perhaps the most likely Irish winner is Nicolas Roche, and the fact that most people will be scratching their heads at the mention of his name just goes to show how popular cycling is in this country.

The Giro d'Italia 2014 will begin on May 10, in Belfast.

DIT Cricket hits it for six

- Indoor Cricket team reaches semi finals of Inter-varsities
- Murali Rajendran called up to Irish Universities Indoor Cricket Team

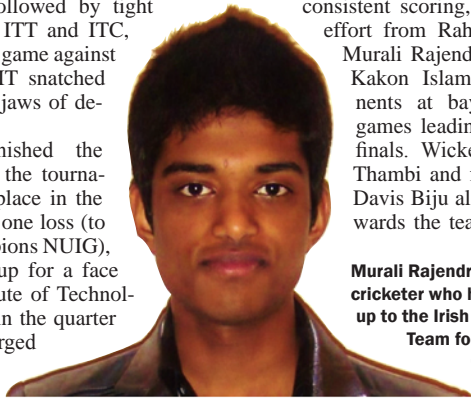
Murali Rajendran

The DIT Cricket Team have established themselves well, reaching the semi finals of the Indoor Cricket Intervarsities which took place in NUIG on Jan and Feb 1.

The team was placed in a well-balanced and competitive Group A along with other colleges such as Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG), Dublin University Mens (DU), Institute of Technology Tallaght (ITT) and Institute of Technology Carlow (ITC).

The team fought their way through some tough matches, emerging victorious against RCSI, followed by tight victories against ITT and ITC, and a memorable game against DU in which DIT snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

The team finished the league stages of the tournament in second place in the group, with only one loss (to the former champions NUIG), which set them up for a face off against Institute of Technology Sligo (ITS) in the quarter final. DIT emerged victorious after a hard-fought



Murali Rajendran, DIT star cricketer who has been called up to the Irish Universities Team for Indoor Cricket

battle against Sligo, sealing a place in the semi-finals alongside NUIG, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) and ITC. DIT was then scheduled for a re-match against NUIG in the first semi final.

After the loss to NUIG in the group stages, DIT were determined not to go down once again to the west-coast team. This determination, however, was to no avail, as the NUIG side proved too strong to break through on the day. None the less, it was a splendid effort from the team to reach the semi final stage of the tournament.

There were commendable performances from each of the team members throughout the tournament. Kakon Islam and Asif Ali topped the batting charts for DIT with consistent scoring, and a combined effort from Rahul Balachandran, Murali Rajendran, Asif Ali and Kakon Islam kept the opponents at bay during critical games leading up to the semi finals. Wicket Keeper Nithin Thambi and fellow team mate Davis Biju also contributed towards the team's success with



DIT's Indoor Cricket team had a successful tournament at NUI Galway, reaching the semi-finals and putting in some memorable performances.

some match winning scores and fielding.

The team would like to thank Sports Officer, Herbert McClelland, for his continued support of sport in the college. With the Outdoor Intervarsities just around the corner, the team is training very hard and is keen to build on a very successful indoor tournament.

Any disappointment at exiting the indoor tournament in the semis was, however, balanced by the excellent news that DIT student, Murali Rajendran, has been

selected as a squad member of the Irish Universities Team in Indoor cricket. Upon his selection, he becomes the first student to represent DIT in the Irish Universities team for Indoor Cricket. It is also significant that Murali is the only student to be chosen for the squad from all of Leinster, with the majority of the squad members being selected from NUIG and one from GMIT. The Irish Universities team will participate in European Student Indoor Cricket Tournament, on February 16.

DIT Squad :

Rahul Balachandran
Murali Rajendran
Asif Ali
Kakon Islam
Nithin Thambi
Davis Biju
Bebin Babu
Dennis George
Rahul Kumar

DIT karting champs

Stephen Noone

The fourth and final round of the CUSAI Karting Intervarsity events took place in Pallas Karting, Co. Galway on February 27. Coming into the event, DIT 'A' led the championship by 50 points over CIT 'A', and 70 points ahead of the 2011-2012 winners DCU 'A'. Everything was to play for on the day as DIT 'A' had to hold their lead over the Cork team, who would be eager to take any advantage they could on track in order to unseat DIT from their leading place in the championship.

The individual driver's championship was also on the line as Graham Higginbotham, who had won the previous two years, held a narrow lead of only 13 points over CIT's Kevin O'Connell. Graham, who had won all three events throughout the year, started off watchful of other competing drivers, but soon found his rhythm after taking three pole positions closely shadowed by other DIT drivers.

Racing throughout the day was tight and it was a spectacle to watch as DIT battled through every corner, each time one step closer to the trophy that had eluded them the past three years.

Although CIT put up a brave fight, DIT dominated the day with at least one driver taking the one of the top three spots in every race.

DIT truly showed their dominance as the final grid layout showed six of the eight drivers coming from DIT teams. DIT 'A' raced to their fourth successive team win



DIT 'A' karters were crowned Team Champions last week, after another successful round.

and were crowned the new Karting Team Champions after winning all three previous rounds of the competition. CIT 'A' followed close behind in second place with DCU 'A', the 2011-2012 winners, finishing in third place.

DIT 'A' continued their success in the Individual Championship with Graham Higginbotham winning the round and the overall title. Second place went to DIT 'A' team captain James Dalton, with Kevin O'Connell of CIT 'A' finishing in overall third place.

The DIT Karting Club will return to Galway next weekend for the 10th anniversary of the John Hanrahan Memorial Cup. John, a prominent member in the founding of the club and an avid racer unfortunately

passed away while doing what he loved in Mondello in 2003. Since then, to honor his memory the club travels to Galway every year to compete for the cup alongside John's friends. The cup is then presented to the winner by John's parents following the racing and a night out in Galway city ensues. This year promises to have many of the old faces from the karting club over the years.

A big congratulations to DIT 'A' team and especially Graham Higginbotham who remarkably placed first in every race in the final round in Galway, and thanks go to all the drivers who took time off this year to make trips to the intervarsity events. There would not be teams to send without their dedication.

Eircom League: 2013 Preview

Ryan Nugent

As the English Premier League approaches its last couple of months of fixtures and with no summer tournaments to look forward to, Irish football fanatics need look no further than their own domestic league to supply them with their weekly football fix.

The Irish version of Friday Night Lights is back, this Friday, March 8, and it promises to be an even more competitive and entertaining campaign than last year. The Airtricity League of Ireland title is currently with Sligo Rovers in the West after a season in which both St Patricks Athletic and Drogheda United huffed and puffed but couldn't quite make a serious title challenge.

All eyes will be on the champions from the off, having lost star men Mark Quigley and Jason McGuinness to title rivals, Shamrock Rovers. The 'Bit O'Red' have made three signings during the transfer window, including Anthony Elding from Grimsby Town.

St Pats, who were commended for their slick possession football last season, lacked a prolific goal-scorer to complete the jigsaw needed to take the title home to Inchicore. Unfortunately for fans of the club, they still haven't acquired that elusive predator, and with the loss of midfield maestro James Chambers and Player of the Year nominee, Seán

O'Connor, to their Tallaght neighbours, new signings Killian Brennan and Shane McFaul have big boots to fill.

Shamrock Rovers look set to ensure that last season's disappointing fourth placed finish won't be repeated, as they've cherry-picked some of the league's best players, with Karl Sheppard returning on loan from Reading to aid a strike force that is without goal Machine, Gary Twigg, who has moved to Portlaoine FC. However their best signing may be the appointment of former St Pat's assistant Trevor Croly, whose attractive style of football looks set to reinvigorate the underachievers of last season.

Pressure will be put on the big three teams from the likes of Drogheda, who finished second last season and an even stronger Cork City side, who've capitalised on a solid first season back in the top flight by making some astute signings, including Daryl Kavanagh from Shamrock Rovers. Bray, UCD and Dundalk may be the season's strugglers.

The standard of footballers are no match to that of England or Spain, but the football being played by the likes of St Pat's, Rovers, Sligo and Drogheda indicates that €10 to go to Richmond Park or Tallaght Stadium is great value. The Leo Burdocks at Shelbourne's Tolka Park makes that well worth a visit too. St Pat's host Drogheda in the pick of the first round fixtures.

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Above: DIT's Eoin Murray, Paul Maguire, Billy O'Loughlin and Shane O'Connor celebrate after winning the Cup. Below: DIT's Gary O'Hare raises his hands aloft after defeating DCU in the semis.

DIT's historic double completed

Darragh Biddlecombe
DIT GAA Development Officer

The DIT Senior Football team defeated UCC 3-09 to 0-08 points on Saturday 23 February in Athlone IT, to claim the college's first ever Sigerson Cup title in one hundred and one years of the competition. DIT proved to be worthy champions, playing a brand of exciting attacking football, combined with a miserly defence which didn't concede a solitary goal throughout the competition.

This historic success came on the back of a successful Div 1 league campaign, which now sees the college complete a historic league and championship double that hasn't been achieved by any team at this level since 1978. Indeed, the only defeat the team incurred this year was at the hands of Kildare, by four points, in the O'Byrne Cup.

The lack of tradition didn't seem to phase DIT going into the final, as UCC were in search of their 22nd title.

"My main concern for the team was that the lads would remain focussed after defeating the former champions, DCU, in the semi final," said DIT's GAA Development Officer, Darragh Biddlecombe. "But, Aidan O'Shea and Captain Colin Walshe were excellent all weekend in keeping the guys grounded and focussed.

"These lads who are now in final year have soldiered together as freshers, when they won an All-Ireland title, but they also had the heartbreak of two years ago losing out to UL in the Sigerson after comfortably

winning the league. All this was stored up and ensured nothing was going to be taken for granted."

Aidan O'Shea on the pitch had a colossal Sigerson, pulling out man-of-the-match performances in earlier rounds against NUIG and Maynooth, with a toss up for man-of-the-match between himself and full back Bryan Menton who kept Michael Murphy scoreless from play in the semi final against DCU.

O'Shea's commitment to the cause has been complete. A former DIT club chairman, he was central both literally and figuratively. "I've won all I can in college," said the Logistics student, "but this is a sweet one seeing as we probably beat the three most consistent teams in the tournament over the last three years in UCC, DCU and Maynooth. We did it the hard way. Hopefully it won't be another hundred years before the next title comes."

Darragh Biddlecombe said, after the final: "This is a great achievement for the club and the college. It should be enjoyed and celebrated not just by the team, but all who have soldiered in the past for years for DIT GAA, without whose contribution we would not be here today. Everyone both academic and externally who have helped and supported the club throughout the years. Also for all the other clubs and sport in the college I hope it will give us all a lift for the future."

The DIT Panel

Robert Lambert - Kevin O'Brien - Bryan Menton - Gary O'Hare - Ross Sheridan -



Nick Devereaux - Aidan O'Shea - David Givney - Martin Reilly - Mark Collins - Ciaran Reddin - Darran O'Sullivan - Thomas O'Connor - Jason Doherty - Conor Martin - Colm Fahy - Conor Walsh - Alan Nestor - Jeremy Mahon - Barry Carr - John McGrath - Eoin Murray - Oisín McGinty - Johnny Gallagher - Darren O'Reilly - Shane O'Connor - Harry Dawson - Comrac Gordon - Paul Maguire - Conor Cronin - Pierce Maxwell - Pierce O'Connor - McDarragh Fitzpatrick - Ross Hazley - Marcus Fitzmaurice - Sean George - Brian Sankey

The Senior Management Team

Manager: Sean Fox
Selectors: Billy O'Loughlin (Grad MSc Strategic Management), Tony Lambe
Coaches: Des Newton, Ciaran Stone, Alan O'Mara
Stats: Ian O'Connell (Grad Bsc Logistics & Supply Chain)
Kit: Noel Dunne (Bolton Street)
Medic: Dr. Pat Duggan, Roy Brennan
GAA Development Officer: Darragh Biddlecombe

DIT success in competitive taekwondo debut

Brendan Dwyer

Six DIT representatives journeyed to Cork Institute of Technology with nearly 100 students from 11 colleges. It was a big arena for their competitive debut.

There were 16 male competitors gunning for gold in the patterns section, ready to show their power and technique in the Korean art. With four of these competitors from DIT, they were up against each other as well as NUIG, UCC, UL and CIT. There were some exceptional performers in this section. However, it was DIT's Uinseann Ó Faodhagáin who clinched the Silver

medal, a mere 3 points away from gold. With only four weeks of practice, DIT Taekwondo's newest club member, Lenka Turoňová, came fourth in the female patterns section, a single point from stealing the bronze medal.

Sparring next, and with nerves of steel everyone put on an exceptional performance. With two heavy weights [+81kg], both Ali Aydin and Uinseann Ó Faodhagáin gave it their all. Ali gave a decent first fight against a yellow belt, taking an early 3-2 lead against UCC, but conceded a quick consecutive two points in the last 20 seconds. Uinseann defended well against a

6'4" NUIG giant for his fight, however NUIG appeared to win 3-2, until they were deducted a point for low kicks, and it went to extra time. NUIG won out by a single point.

Of our three middle weights [+71kg], Glen Seery came a very close three points to four against Usama Ali took an early lead against UCC, but a controversial two-point kick to the head allowed UCC to win the fight.

Sahand Afshar conceded an early two points against a UCC kickboxer, but came back in flying form to draw 3-3, and go in to sudden death. In the final 30 seconds,

Sahand threw a fast side kick that scored the winning point in the last 10 seconds, and brought him to the semi-finals. Squaring off against the kickboxer who knocked Usama Ali out in the first round, Sahand lost 1-2 to UCC. It was a tense fight, but he did the whole club proud by bringing home the bronze medal.

For six beginning club members to debut in the inter-varsities, and bring home bronze and silver medals for sparring and technique, it was an incredible start to the year, and hopefully the start of an annual tradition. Next stop, NUI Galway opens on March 9.

Sporting History

Liam Kennedy

6th March

-1902 - Real Madrid CF forms. It has since become one of the biggest clubs in the world, winning a record 32 La Liga titles and 9 UEFA Champions League titles.
-2013 - Retired American basketball player Shaquille O'Neal (LA Lakers, Boston Celtics) turns 41 years old.

7th March

-2010 - Everton thrash Hull City by five goals to one at Goodison Park in the Premier League, with Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta bagging two goals.

8th March

-1999 - New York Yankees baseball legend Joe DiMaggio dies, aged 84.

9th March

-2007 - Construction on the new Wembley Stadium was finally completed, almost a year after it had been scheduled to be finished, and it was handed over to the FA.

10th March

-1905 - Current UEFA Champions League holders Chelsea FC are founded.
-2013 - Former Barcelona and Inter Milan striker Samuel Eto'o celebrates his 32nd birthday.

11th March

-1917 - In the first NHL Championship game ever played, Toronto Arenas beat Montreal Canadiens 7-3.
-1986 - The NFL adopts an instant-replay system which allows coaches to challenge any disputable decisions made by the referee.

12th March

-1881 - Andrew Watson becomes the first black international soccer player and captain, skipping the Scotland national side, on his debut, to a 6-1 victory over England in a friendly match.

13th March

-2004 - Arsenal beat Blackburn Rovers 2-0 at Highbury with goals from Thierry Henry and Robert Pirès. This game was part of their historic unbeaten season.

14th March

-2013 - Former Chelsea player Nicolas Anelka turns 34.

15th March

-1877 - The first official Test Cricket series begins. It was between Australia and England, and took place in Melbourne.

16th March

-1872 - The First FA Cup final takes place between Wanderers and Royal Engineers, with the former winning it 1-0.

17th March

-2013 - Everton midfielder Steven Pienaar turns 31 years old.

18th March

-2010 - Fulham produced one of the greatest comebacks in European history to knock Juventus out of the Europa League. After losing the first leg 3-1 in Turin, the Cottagers went down 1-0 early in the second leg before they began a remarkable fightback.

19th March

-2008 - Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice for Manchester United against Bolton to take his overall tally for the season to 33, surpassing George Best's club record in the process.

-2013 - Manchester City defender and former Arsenal 'Invincible' Kolo Touré celebrates his 32nd birthday.

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DIT makes history in Sigerson

College wins Sigerson Cup for first time in one hundred and one years of competition



Team captain Colin Walshe lifts the Sigerson Cup after DIT's historic win on Saturday 23 February. On the way to winning the final, DIT overcame UCC, DCU and Maynooth, the three most consistent teams in the Sigerson Cup over the last three years. Lifting the trophy completes an historic season in which the team also won the Division One title, and came within three points of winning the O'Byrne Cup. The league and championship double has not been completed by any team at this level since 1978.

Read the full match report on Page 23, and news story on the aftermath of victory on Page 3.