

2014

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DIT News Society

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DIT'S **AWARD-WINNING** STUDENT NEWSPAPER, NOW IN A SMALLER FORMAT



FOND FAREWELLS 24-25

PORTLAND ROW & TEMPLE BAR
LEAVING THE CAMPUSES BEHIND



HOME AWAY FROM HOME AN END-OF-TERM ERASMUS DIARY

21

LEAD STORY

Decision to be made next week on whether Broombridge sinks or swims

Facility intended for all student organisations set to cost millions more than originally predicted

Approval must be found on how to cover funding gap of over €3million, with the Student Development Fund likely to bail out the project

Al McConnell
EDITOR

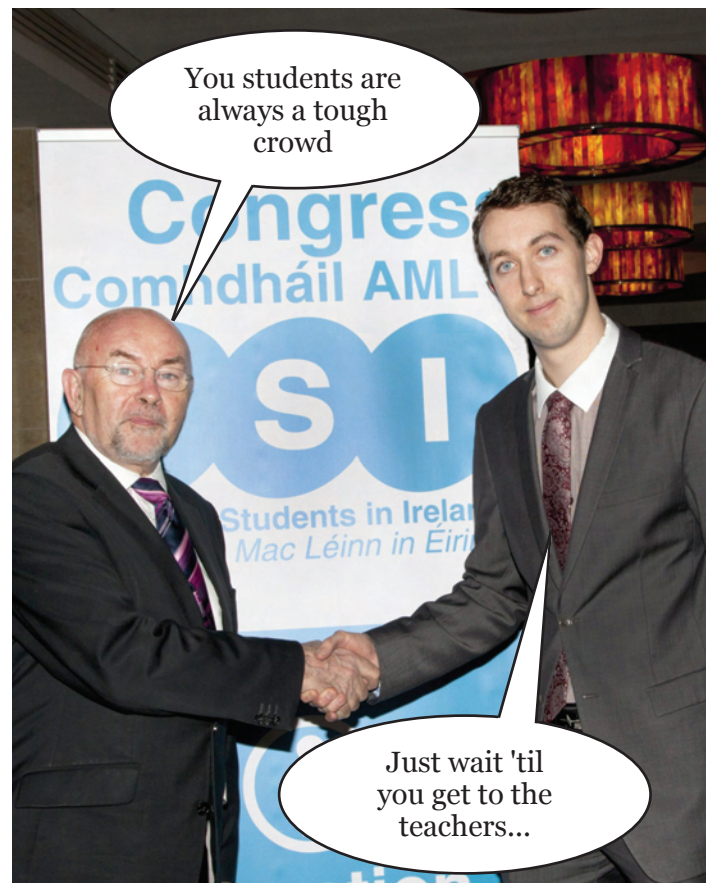
DIT looks set to return to the Student Development Fund (SDF) in order to cover a funding gap of over €3million for its proposed facility at Broombridge, Cabra.

A meeting of the Student Life Council (SLC) yesterday failed to achieve a consensus on how to proceed with the development, which looks set to cost upwards of €8million, compared to an original

expectation of around €4-4.5m in 2010, and a DIT prediction of €6.5m in March 2012.

The SLC is to meet again next week, with a decision also to be made on whether to downgrade the scope of the project in order to reduce the funding gap by €2million, leaving the SDF to cover a remaining €1.2m.

According to documents leaked to *The Edition*, reducing the scope of the project will result in "reduced quality of ancilliary facilities, appearance of facilities [of] a



NEWS INSIDE

- ACADEMIC CALENDAR IS A 'HOT MESS'
- COUNSELLING SERVICES: STATE OF PLAY
- RAG FORM IN RAG CHARITY NOMINATIONS
- 'ARTLESS TREATMENT OF THE 'DIT COLLECTION'
- BOYCOTT OF RETAIL SERVICES PLANNED

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

THROUGH THE PAGES OF THE EDITION – 10-11

IN NUMBERS

81%

The percentage of senior management in higher education who are men

€3,000

Fundit achieved in only 2 weeks by DIT short film, starring Eamon Morrissey

400

Number of shows the Comedy Crunch, in the Stag's Head, has reached

€1,070

Average monthly rent in Dublin, recorded in the last quarter of 2013

132

Number of cars destroyed in *A Good Day to Die Hard*. Cost: \$11million.

40-per-day

Number of cans that 'those lads' used to bring to Oxegen. Just in case.

\$300

Developer price of Oculus Rift headset prototype, launched in March 2013

QUOTE OF THE DAY

DIT on the Broombridge facility development:



THE OVERALL ESTIMATED COST FOR DEVELOPING THE SITE TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL HAS NOT INCREASED

THE DIGEST

NEWS

Rag form in RAG nominations

The nomination process behind selecting next year's RAG charity, which receives around €10,000 per year, went from bad to worse this month, as only one charity was put forward by the student body, prompting criticism of the Students' Unions publicity campaign.

Even worse, then, that the charity – Gorta – failed to submit forms in time, due to an "internal communications error", meaning it misses out on the windfall prize.

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NEWS

'Artless

DIT is to catalogue and survey the art works under its ownership. In light of the state of a once-valuable piece in Temple Bar, it is probably a good idea.

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NEWS

Directly militant

A boycott of campus retail services has been threatened by DITSU, if there is no SU shop at Grangegorman, living up to its 'direct militant action' statements.

▶ Page 5

NEWS

The counselling situation

Following a request from *The Edition* to outline how it will rescue a struggling counselling service, DIT has pointed to a new Head of Service and an additional counsellor (on a tendered contract).

Emergency sessions are always available, however DITSU VP for Welfare Fiachra Duffy has said counselling's situation has seen "no change", and pointed to the need for additional funding to boost "absolutely inadequate" staffing.

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NEWS

iSoc is the Best

DIT's Islamic Soc has won 'Best Overall Society' at last night's DIT awards. The Society was praised for its huge number of events and campaigns over the year.

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NEWS

Digging out digs

Apply now for next year's accommodation, as Dublin housing crisis begins to look like it could have a damaging impact on the capital's international reputation.

▶ Page 4



NEWS

A mess of a calendar

Although students are yet to receive an e-mail on the matter, DIT has told staff that next year's semester one exams will take place on both sides of the Christmas holidays, and has published a calendar online.

Five days set aside for exams in December and January received only 6% support among students in a survey last year.

Congestion of exams, an impact on retention rates, and the decision-making process have all been raised as concerns.

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OPINION

Journos and the Twitter machine

Barry Lennon on how Irish journalists are adapting to social media. A change, but not a citizen journalism revolution.

▶ Page 19

FEATURES

Crunching the numbers

Colm McGlinchey (pictured) and Danny O'Brien tell us about six years and 400 nights of the Comedy Crunch – a free show, in a sweaty basement, with some big names.



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LIFESTYLE

A harrowing tale of the chef life

Socs Award-winner, Ciarán Hyland (Best Newcomer to Student Media) on the raucous but rewarding life of the chef – "we talk pure and utter shite".

▶ Page 29

CULTURE

Festival focus for the summer

Our culture section looks back to Oxegen as a rite of passage, and forward to this summer's offerings on the festival circuit. Recession or no, the Irish will always love a muddy weekend.



▶ Pages 34-35

EDITORIAL

The last hurrah

It's been a good year for *The Edition*, and we have the paperweights to prove it. So, DIT, now it's up to you to back future editors. A change is needed.

▶ Page 11

SPORT

Edition Awards

Our sports desk picks out the stars of 2013/14, with winners awarded across five categories including Best Overall Player going to Denise Gaule of DIT senior camogie.

▶ Pages 37-39

The rising cost of Broombridge

€
4 MILLION
DECEMBER 2010

€
6.5 MILLION
MARCH 2012

€
OVER 8 MILLION
APRIL 2014

LEAD STORY

Broombridge scandal deepens as costs soar

poor standard, and further spending required at a later date." The expected approval next week will likely, however, enable the facility to be delivered by the end of 2014, although a previous guarantee of a September opening for the facility, from Head of Sport Sinéad McNulty, has now slipped to a prediction of October.

Costs spiral

The leaked document reveals an expected total cost of over €8m, and gives an explanation of the increased cost estimate: "A number of elements were added to the project... including planning condition requirements, specifics relating to the site format, proximity to neighbours etc."

DIT did not respond to a request from *The Edition* for an explanation as to why these additional costs were not anticipated.

This figure compares to an expected cost of around €4-4.5m when approval was given by student organisations in 2010 for the use of €3.725m from the Student Development Fund to purchase and develop the site.

In March 2012, the predicted cost had risen to €6.5m, according to a post published on the DIT



website.

The new estimate, which is well above €8m, is also only to cover "phase one" of the development, which will entail an all-weather GAA pitch and changing rooms.

This is understood to be a matter of concern for DIT Societies and the Student's Union, as the SDF is intended to be for facilities for all three student organisations.

The Union and Societies could potentially vote against the development at next week's SLC, but are likely to be defeated by DIT staff members and the Athletic Council.

The SDF was established in 1997, as a top-slice taken from student contribution charges each year.

It is now a controversial source of funding for projects such as Broombridge, as it may be seen as comparable to the proposals for a new student levy to pay for facilities at Grangegorman.

Lack of funding

The proposed Broombridge facility, originally intended to be a state-of-the-art Sports, Societies and Students' Union space, is located in Cabra, a half-an-hour walk from the Grangegorman campus.

DIT has outlined potential sources that could bring in €600,000, including philanthropy, another Sports Capital Grant, and the National Governing Body of Sport.

To date, however, nothing has been brought in to the project's funding other than a €900,000 grant from the Department of Education and €200,000 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

It is unlikely, therefore, that DIT will place any reliance on these sources, particularly philanthropy.

The favourable initial cost of the site – €3.3m – now seems outweighed by its subsequent problems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Smedia success

Staff from *The Edition* were happily among seven DIT winners at this year's National Student Media Awards, which took place earlier this month.

The newspaper's winners were Eoghan McNeill (Colour Writer of the Year), Amanda Connolly (Arts and Pop Culture Features Writer of the Year) and Al McConnell (Editor of the Year).

Cathal Brugha St lift is finally fixed

A lift on the Cathal Brugha St campus that has been broken for the majority of this academic year has finally been returned to working order.

Permanent repairs, however, are understood to be subject to a public tendering process as it is outside the current maintenance contract, meaning a further breakdown could see similar delays.

Conn McDuffie, College Officer for Cathal Brugha St, told *The Edition*: "The complaints kept coming in and I just had to say we are trying to fix it, but it's hard when you aren't getting much info back from DIT. It's a disgrace how long it took to fix it really."

Dempsey to run for USI

Rebecca Dempsey, current DIT-SU VP for Education, is set to run for election to the position of USI Officer for Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance in an up-coming bye-election.

On her decision to run Dempsey told *The Edition*: "There was so much discussion at [the USI] Congress on a range of issues, and because this was my second year at Congress and after going to Brussels for the European Students' Union Conference, that it made me reconsider it.

"After the amount of work that I've done this year within DIT and especially because DIT is so sporadic, I think I can apply that to a national level, and there's a lot of things I'd like to change and re-amp within USI."

Nominations remain open, and a vote will take place on the 17th of May at Queen's University.



The Broombridge site, half-an-hour's walk north of Grangegorman, pictured in 2010.

THE EDITION HAVE YOUR SAY

Al McConnell asked four students who are moving from two of DIT's smaller campuses to Grangegorman – what has been their favourite thing about their campus?

Moving from Portland Row



"Each space has its own character and with art you have to use that. Everything here from the tiles to the walls, it's sort of ours."

Garreth Carroll

Fine Art
(Fourth Year)



"The photogenic quality of it. The tiles, the walls – everything about it has that quality. I've taken about 2000 photos of this building by now."

Adrian Langtry

Fine Art
(Fourth Year)

Moving from Temple Bar



"It's such a focused photographic centre in every way – you become completely immersed in it, which makes a big difference to the course."

Roisin White

BA Photography
(Third Year)



"It's in Temple Bar, that's the best thing. It's such a relevant location for it to be surrounded by such a strong community of photography."

Daniel Siberry

BA Photography
(Third Year)

THE ACCOMMODATION CRISIS

Apply now for 2014/15 student rooms

DIT students, and prospective students who have applied through CAO, are being strongly advised to apply for next year's accommodation now, rather than wait until the summer.

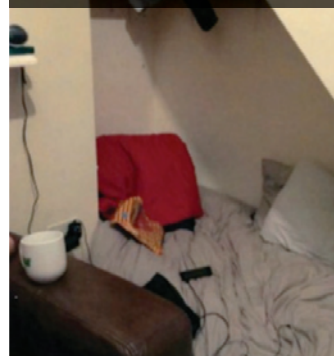
In a statement given to *The Edition*, the Institute said it is "taking several actions to increase the amount of accommodation available to DIT students, but in spite of this, there is still a belief that there will be a shortage in September and October."

Deirdre Corcoran, from the DIT Financial Aid and Accommodation Office, has also suggested that students who are moving on next year try to pass on their current accommodation to other DIT students.

DITSU VP for Welfare, Fiachra Duffy, told *The Edition*: "It's an issue that's starting to bubble. I'm getting accommodation queries already, even from sixth-year students who will be attending DIT next year."

Dublin's recent property bubble has led to an increase in average apartment rental costs of around

The infamous 'studio' apartment on Daft.ie, a bed under the stairs



ten percent in 2013, leaving the average monthly cost of a rented apartment at €1,070 for the last quarter of that year.

According to Duffy, nine-month leases in the capital will soon become "a thing of the past", and students should now be preparing for 12-month leases and longer commutes.

There have been reports of students, including within DIT, who have lived Monday-Friday in Dublin hostels throughout this entire academic year.

Dublin digs crisis making it 'unattractive' to Erasmus and international students

Al McConnell
EDITOR

DITSU VP for Welfare, Fiachra Duffy, has described Dublin as an "unattractive" destination for international students in terms of the ongoing accommodation crisis of high rent and sub-standard housing.

"The international offices in all colleges have to be acutely aware of this," he said. "While it's all well and good to push Dublin as an educational and cultural hub, the experience that students receive here, if they struggle to find accommodation and are forced to live in hostels or shoddy housing, what are they going to report back?"

The rapid spread of that feedback to students across the globe, Duffy said, will reflect badly in terms of attracting other Erasmus and international students, but will also affect the education of other students in Dublin as funding could be lost.

A spokesperson from DIT's International Office told *The Edition*: "The International office

are aware of the accommodation shortage and its impact for incoming international and Erasmus students. They have advised us of numerous issues around securing accommodation for their stay in Dublin, and we have endeavoured to aid in any way we can."

“
There is an opportunity for landlords and other developers to exploit a desperate market

In September, the former Montrose Hotel near UCD is set to re-open as student accommodation, but at a proposed entry-level price of €175 per week for one of 192 ensuite rooms.

The company behind the development, Ziggurat Student Living, plans to create over 1,000 student bed spaces in Dublin over the next five years, according to *The Irish Independent*.

According to Duffy, "it is a reflection of the current situation that there is the opportunity for landlords and other developers to exploit a desperate market."

New academic calendar is a 'hot mess'

One week of exams either side of Christmas, despite student rejection

AI McConnell
EDITOR

The publication of an academic calendar for 2014/15 with semester one exams held during the week before Christmas and one week after Christmas, plus the re-scheduling of this summer's repeat exams, has prompted criticism across the college.

This calendar structure received the poorest feedback in a student survey carried out by DITSU last semester, with only six percent of students favouring it, compared to 47 percent for holding exams either before or after the holidays.

The Union's VP for Education, Rebecca Dempsey told *The Edition*: "This calendar confuses things. It's not laid out; there's no indication of when exams will be held because it will come down to individual heads of schools, and the date or even existence of a review week is left entirely up to individual programmes."

Congestion and retention

With only five days available for exams either side of the holidays, many of the courses that have over



Rebecca Dempsey, of DITSU

five exams in first semester could see either a highly congested week of exams, or students forced to agree to sit them in both December and January.

Dempsey raised concerns on a possible impact on first year retention rates, and criticised the lateness of this decision:

"It's never going to be a smooth transition from one calendar to another, but it is really late in the year to be implementing this one."

There is also no deadline in place for when students must be informed of their exam dates.

Dempsey told *The Edition* there have been complaints from students whose August repeat exams are to be rescheduled into a fixed two-week period of exams in August, after they were given expected dates for them earlier this semester, and said the whole situation was a "hot mess" at present.

Criticism of decision

The decision to approve the calendar, taken by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT, a key decision-making body in the Institute), has also been criticised as it was made in the absence of Students' Union officers.

That absence was put under scrutiny at a recent Student Council meeting, and was defended by the Union officers who said Dempsey was on annual leave, while other officers were in the midst of RAG & SHAG fortnight.

At the Student Council meeting, held on the 10th of April, Dempsey cited an e-mail she sent to Dr Michael Mulvey, the DIT Director of Academic Affairs and Registrar, on the 31st of January, which asked that students be given a chance to provide feedback and consultation.

The Student Council then unanimously rejected the calendar on a vote.

An e-mail is yet to be sent out to students informing them of the calendar changes, but an e-mail has been sent to all DIT staff.

DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick was also strongly critical of the SLT, saying this was "another example of decisions being made with no regard for what students actually want".

DIT did not offer a comment on the calendar situation.

Academia is a 'feudal court'

Short-comings of HEA highlighted at launch of new book on gender imbalance in universities

AI McConnell
EDITOR

The gender imbalance at the higher levels of management in higher education has been brought to the fore in a new book by Professor Pat O'Connor.

'Management and Gender in Higher Education', an in-depth study of senior management in Irish universities – a level at which 81 percent of people are men – was launched earlier this month.

Speaking at the launch, O'Connor said senior management has moved from being a "collegial gentleman's club" to "a feudal court, as in Henry the Eighth but without the sex and the executions".

The author pointed to social justice and the benefits of diversity (in economic terms as well as for innovation) in highlighting the need for this gender imbalance to be addressed.

Gender not a priority

It is a positive, O'Connor said, that the Higher Education Authority (HEA) has begun publishing data on academic staff broken down by gender.

"This is actually a very big step, because it wasn't being done for eight years," said O'Connor.

However, no figures on senior management or governing authorities in terms of gender are being published by the HEA.

Tom Boland, Chief Executive of the HEA, challenged several of the book's points when speaking at the launch, but admitted:

"There is criticism of the HEA in its role of implementing legislation [that requires gender balance and equality of opportunity among students and staff] vigorously, and I have to accept the truth for much of that – it is so."

Boland partly defended the HEA's "lacklustre" pursuit of gender equality by pointing to its emphasis on institutional autonomy.

Boland also agreed that gender equality is not seen as a priority by Government, or the HEA.

Boycott of campus retail could be on the cards

Students' Union to organise boycott if there is no DITSU shop on Grangegorman campus in September

AI McConnell
EDITOR

A boycott of all retail services on DIT campuses could be organised by the Students' Union if there is no Union shop on the Grangegorman campus in September.

Negotiations continue between the Union and the Institute over whether a licence can be granted to the SU for a shop on the new campus, as well as a publicly tendered retail service.

Students would not be forced to take part in the boycott, which

would be focused on those campuses that have external retail services offered nearby.

DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick told *The Edition* this boycott would be "phase one" of the "direct militant action" that the Student Council said could take place if no shop is in place at the new campus next year.

He also described DIT's ongoing refusal to allow an SU shop as "a case, unequivocally, of [them] trying to commercially exploit students on campus."

In a statement, DIT told *The Edition*: "DIT has indicated that



Back in the news, the DITSU shop

it is willing to work in partnership with DITSU Ltd to identify a way forward. These discussions are on-going."

Fitzpatrick presented the proposal for a boycott to a recent Student Council meeting, describing it as a way of "ratcheting up the pressure, highlighting that we now have a situation where we have allowed monopolies to emerge on-site".

There is some indication from both sides that a solution may be found before summer, but it is the first limited signal after an impasse that has continued for several months.

~~NEWS~~ NOT THE PAGE 6 NEWS

...SOMEONE LEFT THE PISS LYING AROUND, SO WE TOOK IT AND PUT IT ON THIS PAGE

Broombridge project saved by Nigerian prince

Dee Zaster
BROOMBRIDGE EDITOR

A near certain disaster has been averted as DIT finds a windfall €4million coming its way from a Nigerian Prince in need of assistance in his home country.

The money comes at an ideal time for the Institute,

President Norton is on his way to Lagos with €200,000 in a briefcase

as its shambolic Broombridge development looked set, until now, to cost millions more than anticipated, drawing its funding from students as the project

lurched from crisis to crisis. DIT's Head of Sport told *The Edition*: "This is perfect timing – President Norton is on his way to Lagos as we speak with €200,000 in a briefcase. He simply has to meet the Prince, hand over the money, and within a week we'll have the €4m and Broombridge will be sorted – wonderful!"

DIT loses run of itself

Yu Ni Versity

The Institute seems to have caught itself up in the excitement of upcoming mergers

of Counselling provision as other major Universities (with the exception of in the sector). A limiting factor for the DIT Counselling Service is space, an al spaces that made in an ng provision as other major Universities (with br). A limiting factor for the DIT Counselling Se as other major Universities

and campus relocations, as "other major Universities", given to *The Edition*. Now, now DIT – you're not there yet.

Disappearance of Easter holidays sparks concern

X Ams-Looming

DIT students have begun to show serious concern for the Easter holidays, which disappeared suddenly at the start of this week.

The holidays, which were supposed to last two weeks, are widely reported to have felt more like just a few days, leaving many students unable to do as much work and self-improvement as they had planned.

"I'm a bit worried about the holidays now, I saw them as recently as Sunday but when I woke up on Monday morning they were gone and I was back to this shite," said one student.

Nowhere near two weeks

Further outrage from the student body followed, as suggestions emerged that the holidays had, in fact, been shorter than the two weeks stated by DIT.

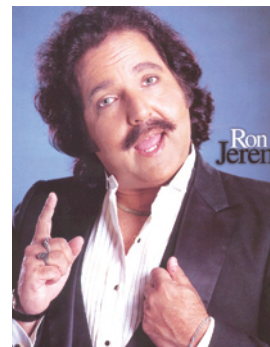
"I think that's the only explanation," a final year student told *The Edition*. "It's simply not fair so I'm going

to spend the time I had set aside for revision on these placards." Students are now offering a reward of "anything, fecking ANYTHING" for the safe return the Easter holidays before exams begin.

Look-a-likes



Ron Jeremy
Pornstar



Michael Mulvey
DIT Head of Academic Affairs and Registrar

Don't you think they look alike? No, neither do we. But they were college roommates while studying in university in the US, and remained friends afterwards.

In fact, during a visit to Dublin in 2004, Ron Jeremy was asked by Trinity's TN2 magazine whether it would be difficult to film a porno in Ireland, for religious, cultural and legal reasons.

He responded that if he had any trouble with that he would call one of his 'friends in high places' - like Michael Mulvey ("he

is now the director of arts and tourism over in DIT, I think," he said at the time.)

Of course, Dr Mulvey would never have a hand in facilitating the filming of pornography – TN2 magazine mistakenly referred to him as "a producer" in that same issue. As was confirmed by the Institute soon after that statement was made, there is absolutely no indication that this was true.

He is now, however, facilitating the scandalous affair that is the academic calendar negotiation.

DITSU makes recommendations to Oireachtas on the TU Bill



Where it says 'students', we recommend that change to 'comrades'

Mentions of 'DIT Governing Body' be altered to 'that shower upstairs'

Any reference to the DITSU CEO, be changed to 'DITSU Dear Leader'

Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection
Pre-legislative scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Technological Universities Bill
Houses of the Oireachtas

Rag form in RAG charity nominations

Gorta misses deadline and €10,000 windfall due to 'internal miscommunication'

Only one nomination given in first round as Union fails to publicise the process

AI McConnell
EDITOR

Nominations for next year's RAG charity – the official charity that receives all money raised by the DIT Students' Union throughout the year – have been re-opened after only one was nominated in the first round, who then failed to submit documentation in time to be approved as the winner.

Gorta, an Irish development charity set up in 1965 which focuses on sustainable development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, was the sole nominee in the first round.

However, a deadline set for the charity to submit documentation on its structure, purpose and funding, as part of the nominations process, was missed by the charity.

Gorta told *The Edition*: "Unfortunately, due to an

internal communications error, we missed the deadline to submit documentation to the Students' Union. Gorta sincerely regrets this but we hope to work with the DIT and its students in the future."

A spokesperson went on to say that Gorta commends the work of the Union and their support for charities, and that it was "delighted to be shortlisted" as a RAG charity.

DIT's Student Council voted to block Gorta from being nominated in the second round. DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick also said he was "disappointed" that Gorta did not contact the Union in the lead-up to the deadline.

Failure to launch

Each year, the RAG charity receives an end-of-year lump sum of around €10,000. Any DIT student can nominate a cause, but only Gorta was put forward



Gorta's error did not go down well with Student Council

this year, leaving DITSU facing criticism over its efforts to publicise the nominations process.

In previous years several nominations have typically been made, with Barretstown being selected from a list of six options last year.

DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick told *The Edition* that the Union must hold its hands up for its role in this series of failures: "When nominations opened the student councillors will have received an e-mail, and there's a good tradition of nominations coming forward, but maybe in hindsight we could have done something on social media or extended [the publicity]

beyond student councillors, which would have generated more interest. If I had a time machine that's one thing I would do."

Fitzpatrick admitted the Union was "probably a bit naive" in the first round of publicity, and that it "probably did not do enough", but he also said he was "surprised and, personally a bit disappointed" that there was only one nomination.

He also said lessons will be learned following these events. DITSU VP for Events Will Meara confirmed that wider publicity across social media will take place for the second round of nominations, which remain open today.

DITSU backing the Irish language

AI McConnell
EDITOR

The DIT Students' Union is to increase its engagement with the Irish language over the coming months, following a motion passed at the recent Student Council.

The DITSU President is to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding between the Union, an Cumann Gaelach and the DIT Irish Language Office.

Speaking at the recent Council meeting, Stiofán Ó Connachtaigh of an Cumann Gaelach and editor of *An t-Eagrán* (the Irish language section of *The Edition*), said: "When I came to college I realised that the Irish language is different to how the vast majority of the public view it, because of bad memories or bad experiences while studying.

"The language is not being taught correctly within the education system, which discourages it."

The motion also requires the President to determine whether there is a need and desire among DIT students for the establishment of a part-time DITSU Irish Language Officer, and to report back also in October.

DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick told the Student Council: "DITSU does support the Irish language but it has never really teased out how it can engage with the DIT Official Languages Act Scheme [though a motion was passed by Student Council for it to do so in 2012]," and said this measure will provide an impetus for them provide clearer measures in this regard.

The DIT Official Languages Act Scheme 2012-2015 is an institution-wide policy that aims to increase and develop the range and standard of services available in Irish to the public from DIT.

Islamic Soc named 'Best Society' in DIT awards

Rachael O'Brien
STAFF WRITER

DIT's Islamic Soc has won 'Best Overall Society' at last night's DIT Socs Awards, with its chairperson Mohammed Alfatih Elsayed winning best individual along with Hélené Duffy and Ciara Murnane.

The three individual winners also saw their Socs take home prizes, with Duffy's PRPA Soc winning 'Best Small/On-site Event' and 'Best New Society' and Murnane's Drama Soc winning 'Best Cultural/Arts Society'.

The Edition also had winners on the night, with columnist Ciarán Hyland winning 'Best Newcomer to Student Media', Siobhan McGuire among the Outstanding Contribution winners,



Members of iSoc earlier this year

and Sinéad Farrelly one of four 'Best Freshers', alongside Michael Batten, Kyrie Wilson and Cormac Dunne.

Best Northside Society went to Samba Soc, with Nutrition Soc taking the Southside award.

The DIT Fashion Show won Best

Event, along with promotional and publicity awards, to follow its success at the national Board of Irish College Society awards last month, at which it won Best Event and Best Poster.

Upon winning Best Poster at BICS, DIT Fashion Society posted on their Facebook page, thanking everyone involved, saying "A BIG BIG Thank You to all those involved in bringing it [the poster] to this level of enchanted beauty. Also to those from Speciality Print and the new WallMural.ie who printed it in such high quality!"

Other winners last night included Disney Soc as the 'Peoples' Choice', and REEL Soc and Event Soc taking Most Improved for Southside and Northside respectively.

Best Charity/Civic Society went to the Mathletes Soc.

'Artless Treatment

Institute's monitoring and care of its art collection called into question as surveys and catalogues are planned

Union says Campus Life needs a good going over

Tension with DIT as calls for a review of the body is not well-received

Staff Writer

An investigation into the operation and relevance of DIT Campus Life has been called for by DIT's Student Council after a long-running conflict between the Union and Campus Life was raised again at the Council's recent meeting.

DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick pointed to "interference with the independence of DITSU" and "growing evidence that student service delivery is not in the best interests of students and is in breach of the Student Charter".

The Institute, however, in a statement to *The Edition*, said: "The student satisfaction ratings with [Campus Life] services have increased consistently over the past few years, and DIT Campus Life are committed to continuous improvement."

It also pointed to "well-established review processes" for all services in the Institute, including an Internal Audit process under which recommendations have been made for DIT Sports and DIT Societies, to be implemented in the near future.

The statement then made reference to the SU, saying: "Unfortunately, the Students' Union aspect of the Internal Audit is still outstanding, which is a matter of concern."

It went on to defend DIT Campus Life as "the first non-academic unit to go through the Quality Review process within DIT", and highlighted that the Students' Union President was a member of a Review panel which contained both internal members and external experts. It said the recommendations of this process have been implemented.

“Unfortunately, the SU aspect of the Internal Audit is still outstanding, which is a matter of concern”
-DIT statement

Fitzpatrick told *The Edition*, on the other hand, that "just because DIT says there was a robust review of Campus Life four years ago doesn't mean there was" and "students have a right to call into question any of their services in DIT, when so much of their money is put towards them".

He said "any number of reasons could be picked out of the sky" to justify a review, and highlighted the need to look at the relationships between Sport, Societies and the Students' Union.

Al McConnell EDITOR

A lack of labelling and recording of the art work around DIT, and a once-valuable Paul Seawright photograph left all but destroyed by sunlight, has left the Institute defending its care of the 'DIT Collection'.

A catalogue of the artwork owned by DIT will be created this summer, while a survey of the condition of each piece will also be carried out.

Head of Art, Design & Printing, Kieran Corcoran, told *The Edition* that although an inventory does currently exist, it is not a proper catalogue, which will include an artist's biography, a photograph of each piece, and its provenance.

Two examples can be found in the Temple Bar building, where a piece from Paul Seawright's 'The



(Left) The damaged, once highly valuable Paul Seawright piece (Right) Anthony Haughey's work, in pride of place beside the bin

Hidden' series is hung in a location that has seen it become badly damaged by sunlight over the years.

In a cared-for condition, the photograph could be worth upwards of €5,000 according to an informal estimate from a source in the industry, as DIT did not provide *The Edition* with its provenance.

Another, from Anthony Haughey's 'Disputed Territory' series, worth approx-

imately €4,000, is placed behind bins in the Temple Bar stairwell.

In 2004, *The DIT Independent* reported that the Institute had "dumped art projects belonging to Mountjoy Square students in the summer", which was defended as the removal of a fire hazard.

The DIT Buildings Office, which oversees the Collection, did not respond to requests for comment.



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to Letterkenny					12.30pm		12.30pm
& West Donegal					3.30pm		
					4.30pm		
	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm
					7.30pm		8.30pm
Dept Dublin	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Route B	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	
to Derry							12.30pm
& Inishowen					3.30pm		
	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	
							8.30pm

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Will DIT back counselling services in need of improvement?

The Edition asks the question

DIT has outlined the measures it has taken to improve the Institute's counselling service, following a request from *The Edition* in light of the long-running challenges in this area in recent years.

The appointment of a Head of Service late last year, as well as an additional counsellor brought in on an external contract, are highlighted as contributing factors to what DIT says is a current waiting list "significantly lower than earlier in the year".

The Students' Union, however, has taken a more critical stance, with its VP for Welfare, Fiachra Duffy, telling *The Edition* "nothing has changed" in the counselling service, and that the only way to see real improvement is to bring in significantly more funding to reduce the heavy burden on "inadequate staffing numbers".

All parties emphasised that it is important for students to be aware there are always emergency appointments available from Counselling, and other services such as the Health Centre, Students' Union, Chaplaincy and Careers can identify students in crisis and liaise with Counselling to make sure they are seen. Information can also be found from Please Talk, Headstrong, SpunOut and Heads Up.

Space is currently a major issue for DIT Counselling, and the Institute has said it is working "to identify additional spaces that would be suitable for use as a Counselling room or for group counselling sessions."

A spokesperson told *The Edition*: "Progress has been made in ensuring the room provided for the Counselling Service in Grangegorman is fit for purpose. We are confident that by

September additional space will be available for use by Counselling."

Action needed

Other measures DIT says it has brought in include additional funding in January, when €25,000 was added to the budget from €736,900 given to DIT by the Higher Education Authority after a revision to the 2013 grant allocation.

This was used to bring in two additional counselling psychologists for one day per week, who have focused on screening students on the waiting list.

There are always emergency appointments available from Counselling, but the service is under huge and growing pressure in terms of providing an overall service to the student body

The counsellor brought in following a public tender was at a cost of €60,000.

The Institute also said Counselling is sourcing a software package that will assist them in triaging students on initial contact, to "streamline the process, help reduce waiting lists, and identify those at higher risk in a more timely fashion".

There are currently 13 students on the Counselling waiting list who have not been offered an appointment, and 70 students who have been offered an appointment but have not responded or have requested to re-schedule.

Duffy told *The Edition*: "Nothing has changed in DIT Counselling. In fact, I think each year we're going to be in a worse situ-



DIT Counselling can be contacted at: 01 402 3352 and 086 0820543

ation."

He explained that over recent years there has been an increase not only in the total number of students overall, but particularly in the number of students within certain demographics that have been shown to be more vulnerable and typically more in need of some form of counselling support.

"Every year, there has been an increase in mature students, those registering with a disability, those coming through the Access Scheme, so we're seeing more and more vulnerable students, but counselling remains static," he said.

Duffy described the number of counselling staff in DIT this year as "absolutely inadequate", and said that while that is no fault of the counselling service itself, the reality is that "numbers have been inadequate to deal with the flood of requests they have faced".

He went on to say that the Institute needs to bring in more of its own counsellors that will understand DIT students' issues, "rather than interns or external hours counsellors", which would allow for longer-term planning.

"With so few staff at the moment, they have been forced to fire-fight constantly," he said.

DIT's spokesperson also told *The Edition*: "Obviously, student mental health is a major and vital issue for DIT Campus Life, and for the Institute, and we will continue to work in a proactive way to identify and address the key issues and triggers."

— *Al McConnell, Editor*

DIT hosts ethics debate

Al McConnell
EDITOR

The second debate in a series of DIT-hosted events as part of President Michael D Higgins' Ethics Initiative saw panellists from the world of journalism express a cautious optimism about the industry.

Kevin O'Sullivan, Editor of the *Irish Times*, told last week's audience that people had begun to realise that good journalism costs money, and he was therefore "a bit more optimistic now than two years ago."

Minister for Communications Pat Rabbitte, opened the debate with an address, during which he defended the *Guardian* and *Washington Post* over their coverage of Edward Snowden's NSA leaks, stating: "I'm sure that few here would argue that either title showed any ethical lapse in their publishing of [those stories]."

Minister Rabbitte also announced his appreciation of *The Journal.ie*, which he said was "much more interesting than most of the stuff in the print media; it's a combination of journalism, commentary and analysis, and is of a



“
Coverage by TheJournal.ie is much more interesting from my point of view than most of the stuff in the print media

— **Minister for Communications, Pat Rabbitte**

pretty high quality."

Editor of *TheJournal.ie*, Susan Daly, said the site was now seeking to establish itself as a "trusted brand and trusted space", after moving away from the 'news aggregation' of its early days.

Seamus Dooley, Irish Secretary of the National Union of Journalists, told the audience there was a "huge democratic deficit caused by companies such as Johnston Press taking over regional and local papers, and then abandoning regional and local coverage".

He was also critical of educational institutions that encourage journalism students on placements to write for no pay.

The debate can be viewed in full on the DIT website from tomorrow.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The ban on e-cigs

DIT was given a boost recently when the HSE (Health Service Executive) banned electronic cigarettes across its campuses, which mirrored a move carried out by DIT months in advance of the national healthcare body.

The HSE carried out a report into the products over several months, coming to the conclusion that as the organisation responsible for health promotion and improvement, it could not permit them, also, like DIT, citing the similar appearance to tobacco-smoking.

The fact that the Institute managed to complete its own comparable research in a fraction of the time must be applauded.

On the other hand, the HSE did not reflect DIT's reasoning that there were "issues of embarrassment when people [using electronic cigarettes] were approached and told not to smoke on campus", as Edel Niland, DIT's Health & Safety Officer told us in November. Perhaps the HSE did not see this as such a key issue.

Now, to the issue of enforcing the DIT ban on campus...

One-liners from future President Duffy

Over the year, one of *The Edition's* favourite pastimes has been to pick through the malapropisms and classic one-liners of incoming DITSU President Fiachra Duffy:

"I'm not sure what the situation is, but I can guess there might be some concerns with letting students out around animals"

Getting two types of creature mixed up, on the health and safety concerns of a 'puppy room'.

"Are you getting enough of the D?"

Duffy's slogan from a Welfare November campaign on vitamin D...

"It's literally like being drunk – try to walk in a straight line or put a condom on wearing one of those things. Next to impossible."

On a 'beer goggles' simulation brought in for Welfare November.

Duffy tested it extensively, it seems.

"We need to make sure there's enough for DIT students to ejaculate for a solid eight days"

From *The Edition*, 29/1/2014, we'll leave you to look that one up.



The Edition ran a short-lived and swiftly-removed poster campaign on campus. Here are two that never made it out.

The Calendar

Another long-running favourite of *The Edition* staff, the controversy surrounding next year's academic calendar will not go away without a fight.

In December, a DITSU Executive Officer told the paper that discussions were "coming to a head" after more than three years of discussions.

However, as you'll find in the news pages of this issue, no solution was found.

As it stands, DIT's Senior Leadership Team has made what the Students' Union describes as "an executive decision", and next year's first semester exams will be held during one week before Christmas and one week after Christmas.

That proposed structure received a staggering six percent in a student survey carried out last semester (staggering because – who voted for it?).

There are a range of issues with the calendar, though DIT has defended its purpose as a compromise between a straight choice of before or after Christmas.

At any rate, this story won't go away soon either.



"We were looking at the stars," they claim

The Bust-Up

Was it fate or fortune that saw student organisations and DIT fall out just in time for Valentine's Day?

Whatever the reason, a range of issues came to a head on the 12th February, just in time for our NO LOVE LOST front page.

A DITSU 'State of the Union' address kicked it all off, as President Glenn Fitzpatrick stuck his head, and entire body, above the parapet, and levelled serious allegations against a selection of DIT staff.

Unsurprisingly, the Institute did not, in the spirit of Valentine's Day, choose to make love rather than war. The fall-out from the conflict continues.

At the same time, DIT Societies and Sports accused the Students' Union and Council of "failing to do their duty" when discussions around the student levy were postponed (again), and a deal made between DIT and the Catholic Church, involving the exchange of €500,000, was raised.

To cap it off, Student Council gave the Union power to take "direct militant action". Perhaps on another night that would have been the most ridiculous part – but it had a lot of competition here.

The Levy

Still no student referendum has been taken on a proposed levy to pay for student facilities at Grangegorman, and it's not likely to before early 2015.

The Edition came in for some criticism for suggesting that the ongoing Broombridge scandal – see front page – could affect any future student vote on the levy.

A huge amount of money used to pay for Broombridge has been taken from the Student Development Fund (a top-sliced amount from the student contribution charge since 1994).

It was not seen as favourable that we suggested the Fund could be seen as a 'hidden levy'.

Nor was it favourable that we suggested the mess surrounding Broombridge might prompt students to question whether an additional amount of their money, through a levy, would be put to the best use by DIT.

We certainly will never again suggest that questions could be asked of whether DIT can be trusted with students' money for proposed facilities.

Never again.

EDITORIAL

The last hurrah

AL MCCONNELL
EDITOR



It's been a good year for *The Edition*. Of course, I would say that, but now we have the paperweights to prove it – three Student Media awards, and I couldn't be happier about that.

But, the journalist is only ever as good as his next story, and the newspaper is only ever as good as its next issue.

The question now is whether DIT will back *The Edition* to continue on its upward momentum. If nothing changes, the Smedia success that the Institute so proudly proclaimed this month is by no means guaranteed in future.

I've enjoyed this job immensely. I appreciate the opportunity. Above all, I thank everyone who supported the paper – DIT included – and everyone who put such hard work into it over the year.

Unfortunately, I question whether it is sustainable, and even if it is, whether it is fair.

It is not to scoff at €7,000 to say that the work it takes to produce a solid college newspaper is worth more. Rather than focus on the amount, the fact that it is paid on a part-time, 20-hours-per-week basis requires a reappraisal.

In fact, it was tempting to produce a final issue strictly on the basis of 20 hours. I couldn't bring myself to do it. You wouldn't have been able to bring yourself to read it.

Unfortunately, there will be potential candidates who cannot go for editor next year because the pay is not enough – the parallels between low-paid internships in journalism and its impact on the industry are all too obvious.

We've shown this year that a successful newspaper is possible, and necessary; DIT, the Students' Union, and a range of other bodies won't tell students when they've made a balls of things.

So back an editor, give them reasonable pay drawn from student organisations and the Institute, and a dedicated space. Above all, back the principle of an independent student newspaper.

An Raithneach Foirfe

Pléann **Stiofán Ó Connachtaigh** an Suirbhé Domhanda 2014 a chuireann sábháilteacht le drugaí áineasa chun chinn

Tá roinnt stáite tar éis úsáid an drugaí raithneach a dhéanamh dleathach, nó an stádas mídleathach a bhaint ar a laghad.

Níl an díospóireacht sin ar bun go fóill in Éirinn, seachas spalpadh ó Ming Flannigan cúpla bliain ó shin.

Is mó an fhianaise go bhfuil lucht caitheamh an ‘tobac speisialta’ ag méadú anseo áfach. De réir dealraimh, níl fiúntas dul ina gcoinne. Ní bheidh toradh le do chuid iarrachtaí agus cén dochar atá á dhéanamh acu.

Tá Dr Adam Winstock den bharúil chéanna agus tá an Suibhé Domhanda Drugaí 2014 foilsithe aige le déanaí chun “úsáid níos sábháilte agus níos taitneamhaí as drugaí” a chur chun chinn. Níl dóchas ann é a chur faoi chois a deir sé, is fearr é a dhéanamh slán.

Ba iad alcól, tobac agus raithneach an trí druga na coitianta ar domhan, san ord sin. Is í Éireann an tír is costasaí le raithneach a cheannach, os cionn €20 le haghaidh graim singil. Ba í an Spáinn an áit is saoire san Eorap le praghas €6 ar ghraim singil.

Léiríonn an fianaise nach bhfuil mórán díobháil gearr-tearmach ag baint le úsáid ‘weed’. Bíonn fadhbanna sláinte ag 0.5% de dhaoine a úsáideann go rialta í. Téann níos mó daoine go dtí

an Aonad Éagandála de bharr MDMA (1.1%) agus alcól (2%).

Ba é na Stáit Aontaithe an áit leis an méid is lú fadhbanna sláintiúla (0.2%). Seans go mbaineann sin leis an úsáid íseal as an mheascán idir tobac agus raithneach ansin (7%) i gcompráid leis an úsáid forleathan in Éirinn (os cionn 80%).

Léiríonn an suirbhé go bhfuil daoine ag lorg cineáil raithneacha gan na droch éifeachtaí ar nós díobháil chumhne, paraóia, míchompóird sóisialta agus tuirse. B’fhearr leo níos mó dos na dea-éifeachtaí ar nós gaire, feabhsú mothúcháin, agus faoiseamh, le blas níos íon.

Tagann an dá saghas éifeacht ón THC, ach is iad na cineáil le neart ard THC a fheictear den chuid is mó san Eorap. Íslíonn na droch éifeachtaí de réir mar a ardaíonn an méid CBD. Mar sin, tá an Suirbhé Damhanda Drugaí dóchasach gur féidir an ‘raithneach foirfe’ a bhaint amach, atá níos sábháilte agus níos taitneamhaí.

“Is é an raithneach fíorfe ná cineál le níos lú THC ach le níos mó CBD. Le gaimeoireacht agus luibheolaíocht ag feabhsú timpeal an domhain, táim cinnte gur féidir bogadh i dtreo sin” a deir Dr Adam Winstock.



Is í Éireann an tír is costasaí le raithneach a cheannach, os cionn €20 le haghaidh graim singil

Ba é seo an suirbhé is mó den tsóirt seo riamh agus freagraíodh é ag 78,800 in Éirinn, sna Stáit Aontaithe, sa Bhreatain, in Alban, san Eilvéis, sa Nua Shéalainn, san Ísiltír, san Ungáir, sa Fhrainc, sa Danmhairg, sa Bheilg, san Astráil, sa Spáinn agus sa Phortaingéil.

Ní ghabhann lucht an suirbhé leithscéal as an réimse caol de dhaoine a thóg páirt, b’in an sprioc. Ní taighde ar son an argóint ‘dleathach nó mídleachtach’ a bhí i gceist. Aithníonn siad go bhfuil an nós seo mar chuid den saol anois agus glacann siad leis chun sábháilteacht a chur chun chinn. Bealach úr le smaoineamh faoi.

Féidearachtaí neamhsrianta i scannánaíocht in Éirinn

Cormac Ó Duinn

Scannánaíocht. Is focail é seo nach baineann mórán daoine leis an tír seo, ach tá fáthanna ann gurb é seo mar atá.

Le linn an Dara Cogadh Domhanda chuir Éamonn de Valera cinsireacht ar na meáin go léir, scannánaíocht san áireamh.

Mar sin rinneadh an rialtas cinneadh ar ceard a bhí ceadaithe sna pictiúrlanna poiblí, agus mar thoradh de seo bhí srian ar rudaí cosúil le cursaí reiligiúnda, gnéas agus foréigean... go simplí ní ligeadh aon rud conspóideach a

chraoladh.

Mhair an nós seo suas go dt na hochtáidí, nuair a fhuair siad réidh le cinsireacht, ach ag an bpointe seo bhíomar mar scannánóirí na mílte míle taobh thiar de na tíortha eile, agus ní rabhamar in ann a bheith in iomaíocht le Hollywood in aon chor. Ach b’in é an pointe a thosaigh an tionscal beag seo ag athrú, agus thréimhse tábhachtach a bhí ann.

I rith na hócaidí, thosaigh com-

hlachtaí Meireacánacha ag siútaíl a gcuid scannáin in Éirinn, ag baint lán buntáiste as an tírdhreach dchreidte atá againn. B’fhéidir na dhá ceann is cáiliúla ná "Saving Private Ryan" agus "Braveheart".

Ní scannáin Éireannacha a bhí iontu, ach tugadh go leor taithí do dhaoine in Éirinn a bhí ag obair sa tionscal, agus bhí sé ag teastáil. Sa lá atá inniu táimid tar éis teacht raon fada ó laethanta an chinsireachta.

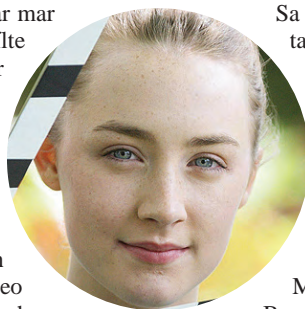
Tá go leor aisteoirí ón oileáin beag seo cáiliúil ar fud an domhain. Brendan Gleeson, Colm Meaney, Gabriel Byrne, Liam Neeson, Colin Farrell, Cillian Murphy, Pierce Brosnan, Saoire Ronan; tá

na hainmeacha seo cloiste ar fud an domhain, rud craiceáilte nuair a smaonaíonn tú faoi.

Chomh maith le daoine den scoth ag obair i ngach gné den phróiseas, tá stiúirtheoirí cosúil le Neil Jordan, Jim Sheridan agus Lenny Abrahamson amach ansin.

Tá go leor talún sa tír seo ar an dá taobh den ceamara, ach tá rud amhán ina mbealach... easpa maoinú.

An fadhb ná go noibríonn tromlach na daoine seo thar sáille mar níl go leor deiseanna acu anseo. Le na cláranna teilifíse ‘Penny Dreadful’, ‘Viking’ agus ‘Game of Thrones’ ó thuaidh, dearfainn sa nua aois seo le teilifíse cinematach agus féidreachtáí neamhsrianta, tá todhchaí geall os comhair scannánaíocht in Éirinn. Tá súil agam ar aon nós.



Fearg an Phobail i mBéal Feirste

Tuairisceoir Nuachta

Tháinig thart faoi 8,000 duine amach ag éileamh “Cearta, Cothramas agus Cóir” ar an ‘Lá Dearg’ i mBéal Feirste, ar an Satharn 12 Aibreán.

Thosaigh an mórshuíl i gCultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiach ar Bhóthar na bhFál agus faoi 3pm bhí lucht na hagóide ag tabhairt aghaidh ar Chearnóg Theach an Chustaim i lár na cathrach.

Ba hiad na héilimh ar Thíonól Thuaisceart Éireann:

- Acht Gaeilge cuimsitheach ceart-bhunaithe
- Córas Gaeloideachais Cuimsitheach
- Acmhainní cuí d’fhorbairt Phobal na Gaeilge

Dar le Julian de Spáinn, Ard-Rúnaí Chonradh na Gaeilge, tá sé in am na bacanna ós comhair cearta an phobail a scriosadh agus deiseanna a sholáthar do dhaoine gur mhaith leo an Ghaeilge a roghnú.

“Is léiriú é an slua ollmhór spleodrach den frustrachas agus crá chroí phobal na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge”, a deir sé.



Agus é ag caint i ndiaidh An Lá Dearg, dúirt duine den lucht eagraithe, Conchur Ó Muidigh “Níl anseo ach tús agus beimid ag iarraidh tacaíocht pobail arís amach anseo.

“Beidh muid ag gníomhú le tacaíocht rialtais agus polaitíochta a fháil sna seachtainí agus sna míonna atá amach romhainn le go gcomhlíonann siad a ndualgais i leith na Gaeilge de le dispeansáid nua a fhorbairt do Phobal na Gaeilge” a deir sé.

Dar le tuairisc de chuid Coiste Eorpach do Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh, tá cos á chur ar an Ghaeilge ó thuaidh mar maireann dearcadh naimhdeach i Stormont.

Leanann an Lá Dearg i mBéal Feirste an leirsiú ‘Slán le Seán’ i gConamara agus ‘Lá Mór na Gaeilge’ i mBaile Átha Cliath, tar éis do Sheán Ó Cuireáin eirigh as Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga mar thoradh ar “chur i gcéill” an stáit ó dheas i leith na Gaeilge.

Comhairle na Mac Léinn

Tuairisceoir Nuachta

D’eirigh le Uachtarán Aontas na Mac Léinn (DITSU), Glen Mac Ghiolla Phádraig, beartas comhoibriú a mholadh go rathúil ag cruinniú Chomhairle na Mac Léinn i Sr Áinséir, 10 Aibreán.

Mar aon leis an rún sin, moladh gan vóta ar bith ina choinne, go bhfiosrófaí féidearachtaí oifig Ghaeilge na mac léinn a bhunú feasta.

Dúirt an Uachtarán, “Is léiriú é seo den rann-pháirtíocht atá á thógáil ag an Aontas chun dualgais teanga mar seo a chomhlíonadh”

Is é DITSU an aontas is mó in Éirinn gan ma-

casamhail ionadaíochta. Anois, áfach, beidh orthu beartas scríofa a leagadh amach, in éineacht leis an Cumann, faoin dóigh gur féidir tacú leis an teanga amach anseo.

“Céim eile bainte amach ag Aontas na Mac Léinn ó thaobh cearta agus tacaíocht don Ghaeilge sa choláiste” arsa cuntas Twitter an Cumann Gaelach.

Bhí plé déanta le os cionn bliain ar an cheist seo, ach go háirithe mar gheall ar Scéim na dTeangacha Oifigiúla ITBÁC 2012-2015, a bheartaíodh idir Oifig na Gaeilge agus scaifí éagsúla san Insititiúid.

Thug an coiste DITSU tacaíocht don dá rún agus arsa Fiachra Ó Dubhtaigh, “Is chun chinn iontach é agus táim ag súil go mór le polasaí a scríobh chun an teanga a chur ar ais san Aontas.”

€37,000 tiomsaithe ar son Phádraig Schaler

Tuairisceoir Nuachta

D’eirigh le ‘Snámh Phádraig’ beagnach €37,000 a thiomsú ar son ghaeilgeoir óg gortaithe as Baile Átha Cliath, Pádraig Schaler, ón deireadh seachtaine 11-12 Aibreán go dtí anois.

Ghlac 50 duine óga páirt sa snámh ó Bhaile Brigín, Co Átha Cliath, timpeall an 17 gcon-tae in Éirinn ina bhfuil cósta iontu. Thosaigh an grúpa ag snámh ar mhaidin Shatharn agus thasteal siad timpeall na tíre go dtí an Cladach Bhré, Co Chill Mhantáin.

Arsa Aodhán Ó Deá, eagraí an tsnáma: “Léiríodh tacaíocht thar na beirte don imeacht fud fad na tíre, bhí atmaisféar ar leith ann agus

baineadh díol fir as character agus spiorad Phádraig leis an imeacht seo.”

Fágadh Pádraig, 23 bliain d’aois, i gcóma tar éis timpiste roth-aíochta in Cape Cod, Massachusetts nuair a bhí sé ar thuras J1 i rith an tsamhraidh seo chaite.

Tar éis dó dhá sheachtain a chaitheamh in aonad dianchúraim sna Stáit Aontaithe, d’fhill sé ar ais go hÉirinn. Cúpla mí ina dhiaidh sin, bhog a chlann chun na Gearmáine, áit ina bhfuil sé faoi láthair ag fáil an chúram chuí nach bhfuil ar fáil dó anseo.

Tá Pádraig ina iar-reachtair ar an Chumann Gaelach i gColáiste na Tríonóide agus bhain sé bunchéim amach ann.

Is féidir airgead a dheonú don chiste speisialta curtha ar bun le tabhairt faoi na costais éagsúla a bhaineann le cúram Phádraig ag www.bit.ly/donatepadraig.



MAR FHOCAIL SCÓR

Fáiltíonn an nuachtán seo scéalta de chineál ar bith (cur chuig gaeilge@edition.ie iad), chomh maith le iarratais don ról eagarthóireacht (cur chuig editor@edition.ie é).

AGM, 7.30 Sr Áinséir, 1 Bealtaine

Cuireann an Cumann Gaelach DIT fáilte roimh gach éinne go dtí Cruinniú Chinn Bliana (AGM) ar an 1 Bealtaine, sa seomra Courtyard taobh le Java i Sr Áinséir.

Beidh smaointe don bhliain seo chugainn á bplé agus toghchán do na hoifigí choiste seala-dach. Lean ort má tá moltaí agat nó suim agat a bheith páirteach, nó fiú jab a glacadh.

Pizza agus céilí i gClub Chonradh na Gaeilge tar éis

Tá Cathaoirleach, Clisteoir, Rúnaí agus Oifigeach Cumarsáid Poiblí (PRO) á lorg chun an Cumann a eagrú i rith an tsamhraidh.

‘Tuairisc.ie’, suíomh nuachtáin úr

Soláthróidh ‘tuairisc.ie’ nuacht idirlíne beo 24 uair sa lá as Gaeilge ó mí Lúnasa, a deir Foras na Gaeilge.

Glactar go bhfuil gá le nuacht clóite go fóill áfach, chun an tseirbhís a sholáthar don phobal uilig.

“Cad faoi m’athair, a cheannaigh gach cóip de gach nuachtán Gaeilge” a deir Páidí Ó Lionaird agus é ag ceistiú an eagarthóir Seán Tadhg Ó Gairbhí le déanaí. “Conas a dhéanfar freastal ar an ghlúin sin?”

Dar le Ó Garibhí, ba chóir nuachtán crua a bheith ann ach ní hé sin an jab atá leagtha amach dó.

Bronnadh Gradam Shíoladóir na Teanga

Bhronn Bord na Gaeilge UCD Gradam Shíoladóir na Teanga ar Liam Ó Maolaodha de bharr a chuid sathaoir mar Stiúrthóir ar Oireachtas na Gaeilge agus mar Bhainisteoir ar Choláiste na bhFiann.

Dar le Ó Maolaodha féin “Thug mo shaol oibre deiseanna dom síol na teanga a chur, síol na hathbheochana, síol an chultúir agus na hoidhreachta, agus cuireann sé ríméad i gcónaí orm aon uair a bhfeicim toradh ar sin”.

EAGARFHOCAIL

STIOFÁN
Ó CONNACHTAIGH
EAGARTHÓR GHAELIGE



Níl sé de nós ag an sliocht nuachta seo dul i bhfad ó ábhar na Gaeilge, faoin dóigh mar atá ag eirigh leis an teanga sa lá atá inniú ann. Bíonn cúrsaí eile á bplé againn fosta, cinnte, ach cúrsaí teanga den fhorhmhór.

An iomarca, b'fhéidir? Léiríodh dom seans go bhfuil an iomarca tar éis scríbhneoir An t-Eagrán, Tessa Fleming, argóint a dhéanamh liom agus muidne i measc lucht óg na hiriseoireachta, ag duaiseanna na meáin do mhic léinn.

Ag an bheár le spórt eachtranach ar an teilifís taobh thiar dúinn, bhí muid sáite i gcath tréan fada gan buatóir. Ní bhfuair mé deis mo chuid argóintí a críochnú faraor, í féin ach an oiread. Críochnóidh mé anseo iad agus cuirim fáilte roimh do fhreagra amárach a Thessa!

Uaireanta tagann dlús le

feachtas teanga, nó bíonn chun chinn (nó ganntanas de) sa chóras poilitiúla, nó bíonn cearta teanga na Gaeilge faoi chois, nó i mbun éileamh. Uaireanta, mar sin, go simplí bíonn gá le nós mó béime a chur ar chúrsaí teanga.

Is nuachtán é seo, cén dóigh eile leis an díospóireacht teanga sin a choimeád sa glúin nua seo atá muid mar chuid de?

Tóg sa chás an suirbhé a rinne muid an tseachtain seo chaite. Leath leathanach idir íomhá agus scríbhneoireacht faoin méid eolais a fhuair muid faoi úsáid na Gaeilge sa choláiste. Bhí alt faoi maoiniú na seirbhísí (argóint eile idir Tessa is mé féin an oíche sin).

Dhá scéal nuachta faoi scéim teanga do scoláirí agus agóid an Lá Dearg i mBéal Feirste. Scríobhadh píosaí beaga faoi seirbhís nuachta úr de chuid Foras na Gaeilge agus bronnadh duaiseanna an chomórtais tríú leibhéal Glór na nGael.

Tá an teanga ag forbairt i measc mic léinn na tíre seo de réir a chéile agus tá sé tábhachtach go bhfuil ábhair scríbhneoireachta ar fáil faoin méid atá ag tarlú.

Níl sé i gceist a bheith sáite i ndíospóireacht teanga amháin áfach, mar ní leathan na foinse nuachta atá ar fáil do lucht léitheoireachta na Gaeilge. Deireadh le Gaelscéal, na hirísí, Gaelport.ie, ní fairsing an soláthar ábhair léitheoireachta inniú.

Tá i bhfad níos mó ag tarlú sa domhan mór, agus i bhfad níos mó ábhair le plé a bhfuil suim ag daoine iontu agus a bhfuil tábhacht leo.

*

Seo eagrán deireanach na bliana acadúil 2013/2014. Tá *An t-Eagrán* le bheith ann don chéad bliain eile, chun an díospóireacht teanga a choimeád beo agus plé a dhéanamh ar an saol mór fosta... Eagarthóir agus scríbhneoirí á lorg!

Cur ar aghaidh bhur gcuid scéalta mar beidh siad foilsithe, gan amhras. Is cuma an t-ábhar.

Má tá suim agat píosa tuairim a léiriú nó scéal nuacht a thuairiscíú, nó rud ar bith, fiú fada as an gnáth, seol go dtí gaeilge@edition.ie é.

Déan teagmháil le editor@edition.ie chun do shuim a léiriú sa jab eagarthóireacha.

Tagann *An t-Eagrán* amach mar aon le *The Edition*, nuachtán neamhleáach na mac léinn in ITBÁC (DIT). Go raibh maith agat as a bheith ag léamh le linn na bliana. Scaip an scéal

“
Tá an teanga ag
forbairt i measc mic
léinn na tíre seo de
réir a chéile agus
tá sé tábhachtach
go bhfuil ábhair
scríbhneoireachta
ar fáil faoin méid atá
ag tarlú

Gluais

Cruinniú Chinn Bliana
AGM

Toghchán Election

Nuachtán Idirlíne

Online Newspaper

Glúin Generation

Gradam Award

Díospóireacht Debate

in Aineoin Despite

An Iomarca Too Much

Eachrannach Foreign

Feachtas Campaign

Cearta Teanga

Language Rights

Maoiniú Finance

Urraíocht Sponsorship

Forbairt Development

Raithneach Marijuana
Dleathach/Mídleathach

Legal/Illegal

Díobháil Gearr-

Tearmach

Short Term Harm

Gaimeoireacht

Herbology

Luibheolaíocht Botany

Sábháilteacht Safety

Ag Éileamh Demanding

Agóid Protest

Bacanna Obstacles

Tacaíocht Support

Dualgais Duty

Teangacha Réigiúnda

agus **Mionlaigh** Regional

and Minority Languages

Frustrachas Frustration

Snámh Phádraig Swim

For Pádraig

Timpiste Rothaíochta

Bike Accident

Cúram Care

Beartas Comhoibriú

Cooperation Policy

Féidearachtaí

Possibilities

Ionadaíocht

Representation

Scéim na dTeangacha

Oifigiúla ITBÁC Official

Languages Scheme DIT

Macasamhail The Likes

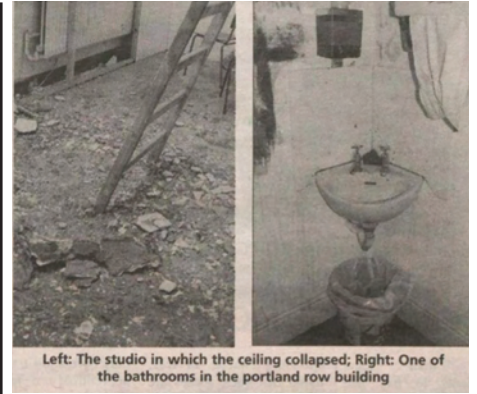
Big wheels turn slowly

In this edition of Good Old Days, we turned to then DIT newspaper, the *DIT Independent* for some inspiration

29th February 2002



▲ As reported by Aisling Cassidy, then Senator Joe Costello criticised Fianna Fáil, in 2002, for failing to back DIT's bid to move to Grangeegorman (for the previous five years). An interdepartmental committee had recommended DIT get the campus, and, as Costello stated, "DIT had promised they would be good neighbours" - what more did they need?!



Left: The studio in which the ceiling collapsed; Right: One of the bathrooms in the portland row building

▲ 29th February 2002

Students at DIT Portland Row were living in scandalous luxury in 2002 as ceilings collapsed on them and bathrooms leaked from above. Well, at least they didn't have central heating

The Portland Row Campus of DIT will undergo a further inspection by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) following the submission by the DIT Buildings Office of a safety statement to the HSA.

The inspection is on foot of an improvement notice which was served on the college in September of last year following a visit by a HSA inspector. DIT was then given three months by the HSA to compile a safety statement for the building, the notice for which expired on the 16th December. The Institute was served with the improvement notice by the HSA after the authority noted a lack of a safety plan and a lack of maintenance in the Portland Row building.

DIT may look abroad For future students

By Dermot Keyes

THE most senior education official in the state has predicted that DIT and fellow third level institutes will have to intensify recruiting activities in Asia and beyond as the indigenous Irish student population begins to drop.

Speaking during a presentation made to the Dail Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on January 15, John Dennehy, secretary general of the Department of Education and Science said the Government was encouraging third level bodies to further develop overseas links to allow for this eventuality.

Were such measures to be intensified, Mr Dennehy said such moves would be most welcome by his Department.

As several third level

centres were already actively recruiting from the Far East, "this will become more of a feature in coming years," Mr Dennehy told the assembled Deputies. Students from non-EU countries pay full economic rates to attend courses in Ireland, he said and that points requirements on certain courses would ease in coming years due to the drop in population.

He stresses that the Government will continue to encourage as many students to enter third level education. Mr Dennehy was replying to concerns raised by Deputy Ned O'Keefe, who believes that regional third level centres may lose several existing courses due to a lack of numbers.



Fianna Fáil's Ned O'Keefe, who voiced his concerns for the future of several third level courses in regional third level bodies as student numbers begin to drop

▲ 29th February 2002

Nostradamus or Captain Obvious?

On the 15th of January 2002, John Dennehy, Secretary General of the then Department of Education and Science predicted that third-level institutions should seek to boost its international student numbers. He was on the money.

Of course, the current accommodation crisis in the city could change things (see page 4)

DIT must end University 'Obsession'

By Aisling Casey

DIT should stop its obsession with becoming another university and concentrate instead on developing its own strengths, according to former a former president of the Dublin City University (DCU) Dr Danny O'Hare.

Speaking about the issue, Dr O'Hare said many people in institutes of technology were obsessed with getting university status.

He said, "There is no reason why, given the right conditions, universities and institutes of technology should not be recognised equally as centres of excellence".

He added that ITs and universities should not be competing with each other but rather offering distinguished services in their own distinctive fields.

However, President of DIT, Dr Brendan Goldsmith, refers to this as precisely the same argument Dr O'Hare used when seeking university des-

ignation for the then National Institute of Higher Education in Dublin (NIHE).

He added, "It is also interesting to note that NIHE raised only very minor amounts of money from private donations whereas DCU has been the recipient of generous benefaction. Further evidence, if any is needed, of the importance in an Irish context of the name university."

In 1998, DIT applied for university status but was rejected by the Higher Education Authority. However, the executive was told that DIT could be established as a university if and when a range of conditions were met.

These include improvements in physical facilities, an improved research capacity, an increase in the proportion of academic staff with higher degrees and that DIT must ensure an effective system of monitoring standards.



Dr Brendan Goldsmith said, "Dr O'Hare seems to believe that a common name implies a common nature"

Dr O'Hare compared the Irish situation with the American Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He said although MIT was an institute of technology, nobody would argue that it was not on the same level as universities such as Yale or

Harvard.

Commenting on this, Dr Brendan Goldsmith said, "Dr O'Hare seems to believe that a common name implies a common nature; thus he speaks of MIT as if it were an institute of technology, in the Irish sense of that name."

He added, "MIT's website (www.mit.edu) describes it as a mass education, privately endowed research university."

In effect MIT is an elite, research-led university, whereas DIT's mission is to be a mass education, research-informed comprehensive university. For DIT to aspire to be an MIT would be a serious mission drift and in effect would be imitating universities in precisely the way that Dr O'Hare (correctly) says is so undesirable."

In conclusion, Dr Goldsmith said that he would agree with Dr O'Hare on one point. "DIT and universities could be equal but different if

the correct level of autonomy was present. But this raises another issue: why would the full provisions of the University Act 1996 not be applied to DIT and if that happened what would be the logic of denying DIT the title university?" he said.

Speaking on the future of DIT, Dr O'Hare said, "I do not believe that their best future would be in becoming another university in the Dublin area. Rather I see their future as being the leader of a new and rejuvenated national network of institutes of technology."

"It is not the best course for the institutes themselves, nor for the people who work in them, nor for the people they immediately serve, nor for the wider national community that the IT sector itself serves", he added.

DITSU President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick disagreed with the attitude of the former DCU president. She

said, "I do believe that DIT should keep pushing for university status. I know that this is difficult given that we are in an area of the country surrounded by universities but we are a step up from the other ITs in the country and a step behind the universities".

However, further attempts to gain university status will not be looked on likely for the states largest third level college, following scathing criticism in May of DITs bad management and poor internal communications.

As a member of the governing body of DIT, Marguerite commented on the findings of the public accounts committee saying, "We should be confident that the governing body of DIT is currently addressing the problem outlined by the committee".

▲ 30th November 2001

Well, this looks familiar. In February 2014, Dr Greg Foley, a lecturer in DCU for 25 years, likened the current 'Technological University' processes to "rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic".

The badgers of Harcourt Street

Jordan Belfort will fit right in at an event organised by collegetimes.ie and Janmark Ltd, exemplars of misogyny and ignorance, writes **Paul Doyle**

"No matter what happened in your past, you are not your past, you are the resources and capabilities you glean from it, and that is the basis for all change" – Jordan Belfort, *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

Dedicated in their race to the bottom, and obviously taking this turn of phrase to heart, collegetimes.ie – the website responsible for pieces such as 'One Night Stand Guide- For Him', an article which encouraged men to deliberately get women drunk so that they can be easily taken advantage of – has invited convicted conman, crook, and all around great guy Jordan Belfort to speak, apparently motivationally, at an event in Dublin.

In possession of a lengthy rap sheet of misogyny and crass, unadulterated ignorance, collegetimes.ie is owned by Jamarck Ltd., the company who can also proudly claim ownership of Midnight promotions. Equally as egalitarian, Midnight promotions last year masterminded a campaign encouraging young women to post pictures of their cleavage on facebook, which, if rated high enough, would allow them free entry into a nightclub. The page, after a lengthy bout of public outrage, was removed.

Prior to titgate, Midnight ran an event offering women in a nightclub in Rathmines a free drink if they surrendered their underwear at the bar.

Jamarck Ltd. are not their past; they are the resources and capabilities they have gleaned from it.

Even if you've rolled your eyes at many critiques of popular culture in the recent past – you couldn't care less how or where Miley dances, you're ambivalent to Robin Thicke's dubious lyrics, you think that shows like *My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding* are just fine – if you visit Jordan Belfort's facebook page, you'll find something genuinely, stomach churningly distressing about the number of people who think this guy is some kind of role model.

"J.B is simply my idol and example of life."

"Jordan, you have made me want to take up a career in finances."

"I hope you're getting loose this weekend JB. The reason we love you is because you're a smart guy who worked in a conservative industry and got loose on drugs and bitches. You didn't sell out and become a 1950's faggocrat drinking moccacrappacappucinlattes..."

Promoting the values such as avarice, greed and power-hun-

“
No better place
for him than an
event organised by
Janmark Ltd; the
ultimate lad's lad
in a room filled with
laddish lads

ger; as a role model, *The Wolf of Wall Street* is in practice more of an Atticus Finch for UniLads than the exemplar of reinvention and positive change he portrays himself as.

Despite his rhetoric about bonding with and caring about the people he worked with, Belfort ratted out his friends so that he could avoid a lengthy prison sentence – the moral epiphany in which he realized the error of his ways coinciding with the first offer of a reduced sentence in exchange for testifying against others from his bizarre stockbro-

kers-cum-frat house.

While serving the little time he was given, he penned 'The Wolf of Wall Street', which reads not so much a confession as a 'look at all the cool stuff I did and totally got away with'.

If you've seen the film, or read the book, you'll know that Belfort is not in possession of even a semblance of a problem with theft. This being the case, no ethical issues arose when I downloaded his memoir illegally.

I am not my past; I am the resources and capabilities I gleaned from it.

These resources gleaned compile to form a seemingly unending list of affirmations of Belfort's complete and utter scumbaggery; tributaries leading to basin of bastardry and feigned remorse. No better place for him then, than an event organized by Janmark Ltd; the ultimate lad's lad in a room filled with laddish lads.

Open a newspaper and read about crime. See the vitriol and venom spouted about social problems in some of the country's forgotten areas. Look at the comments under articles. *Scum. Lock them up and throw away the key. Animals.*

We scoff at heroin addicts stealing handbags from high-street shops, yet flock to see a man that literally stole hundreds of millions of dollars from the public because he's in a suit and he's a legend and he did loads of cocaine and Leo DiCaprio played him an absolutely class film.

And so young, aspiring entrepreneurs will flock to the RDS to hear Belfort's sermon. He'll tell stories of his new found morality. He'll tell people how to make the perfect sale. He'll smile and collect the 50 or so euro from each patron.

Belfort has yet to repay all of the money that he owes his victims, and most likely never will. Meanwhile, he is living in a mansion in one of the most expensive parts of the United States.

Belfort's victims had no idea that they were handing over their savings to someone planning on ruining them. They had no idea he was a criminal; he was charismatic, charming, and successful. The irony of his new found

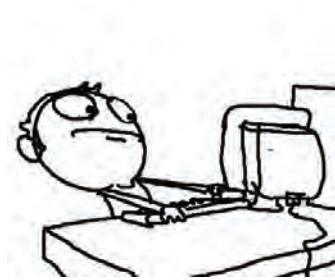
career and College Times sponsored visit is that now, many of the people

Belfort takes his money from are not only aware of what his list of crimes is, but are in awe of it.



The man himself, Jordan Belfort (also known as The Wolf of Wall Street) will speak at the RDS following an invitation from collegetimes.ie

THE PORNOGRAPHY DEBATE



In defence of porn

By Eoghan Regan

Guilt. Shame. A small bead of sweat drops from your forehead and onto the keys, "What have I just been watching?" you think as you scramble to close the window. A window into a part of yourself that you would not so hastily promulgate.

Pornography, you have been watching pornography. A phenomenon which is clinically described as being the 'Printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate sexual excitement.'

A fair, if not somewhat subdued description of what porn is: 'a sexual stimulant'.

Now, where one complication may arise is from what exactly a person is stimulated by. It could be a rather conventional 'bad dialogue, bad lighting, fake tits and muscly dude' scenario, or it could be a 'three midgets and a funnel' type of thing.

But neither, I would hypothesise are sexual deviations created by viewing porn. The broad sexual spectrum on which we all sit is the driving force behind all porn. Some more hard-core elements of the porn matrix are created to meet demand. It is consumer-driven.

Nowhere in the world is there a director investing thousands of dollars of seed capital into a video where a woman surprises an amputee with a sexy pizza, because he thought "people will eventually run out of Sasha Grey videos and then they will HAVE to jack off to this (maniacal laugh ensues)". This porn exists because people want it.

Also, the false image of sex that porn conveys, is not as insidious as people would let on. It is exactly that, 'a false image' and should be understood as such. To say that it

gives people a false image of what sex is, is the same as claiming that RAMBO is a handbook for all junior scout campers.

Porn is an exaggeration of our sexualities, and if it were viewed by *compos mentis* adults (as is its explicitly intended audience), there would be no outrage. Those who are frantically scribbling notes as the screen shakes in the throes of badly acted orgasms should either seek help, or wait until they are an adult.

It could even be said that if sex were not treated with such disdain by a society which paradoxically shuns it while simultaneously running a camera up Miley Cyrus's shorts, our young people may be able to themselves separate fantasy from reality. Parents, educate your children.

As regard the industry and the poor souls who wind up in a career which, let's be honest, is not known for its pension support – the porn industry which we understand from 'Pornhub' or 'Redtube' is not the only form of porn out there.

A separate industry exists of self-produced consenting porn, which, should you choose to boycott 'Big Business Porn' might leave you with less of a stale taste in your mouth.

People will continue to view, consume and create porn so long as our biological imperative to reproduce comes into conflict with our 21st century inability to communicate with the other sex.

Everyone masturbates, and if they don't they should, just keep it in context of what you're viewing: one actor and another actor (possibly several other actors) doing what you wish you were doing yourself.

The case against

By Saoirse Ivory

Those of you who know me will be expecting this article to decry pornography for its blatant objectification of women, and I'm not one to disappoint, so let's just get that out of the way first.

The porn industry, as I see it, is just one of the many mechanisms that contributes to society's dehumanisation of women. There is a popular Family Guy skit in which a man is in a hotel room giving a scantily clad woman a wad of cash, when the cops burst presumably to arrest them for engaging in prostitution. The man points out the camera in the room and declares that if they're filming it, it's technically porn and therefore it's "okay".

This particular skit is funny because it's true. Most people recognise that lines between prostitution and pornography are blurred, and yet one is considered morally unacceptable by society, and the other is just a business (if a bit more risqué).

Prostitution is detrimental to women for reasons too complex to describe here, but the crux of it is this: the commodification of a body, any body, is bad news for the unfortunate person who occupies it.

Most women (and it is mostly women, at least in Ireland) who enter prostitution do so only in times of utter desperation, or by coercion.

When a woman sells her body she is relinquishing control over what is in many cases the only thing she has left. Through paying for the use of another person's body, the buyer is facilitating the dehumanisation of that person.

The degradation inherent in the act of prostitution is just as present in pornography, except that it is concealed by a cheesy narrative, a

mellow soundtrack and soft lighting. Strip this away and you have nothing but than a woman selling her body.

But wait, what about the elephant-sized penis in the room? Doesn't that belong to a man? Isn't he being objectified and degraded too? I'm glad you asked.

The penis in the porno is a tool. It's detached from the male body and used to manipulate the female body. So yes, in that sense, men are also objectified. The problem is that the overwhelming majority of porn is geared towards a straight male audience, so the woman's body is always the focal point, while the male is simply a supporting role.

But, when it comes to the male role in pornography, this is far from the biggest problem.

A frankly ridiculous amount of what is offered on mainstream pornography websites goes something like this: an older man, a 'teen' girl, and the former's exertion of control over the latter. But even this somewhat crude description of a popular porno plot is laughably naive once you scratch beneath the surface of the ever-growing beast that is internet porn. It didn't take much digging to uncover a terrifying amount of rape-fantasy enactment videos.

These are only a few of the problems with porn, and are each worth addressing on their own terms, but it should not be forgotten that porn is not self-sufficient.

For all it's faults, it is a business that exists because there is a demand for it. So perhaps the spotlight need not be shone on porn itself, but rather the way in which society educates its youth about sexuality and gender roles.

SERIES Letters from a Successful DIT Graduate

Darek Fortas completed his BA in Photography in 2011 and has since been awarded and shortlisted in numerous national and international art awards

It has been nearly three years since I graduated from DIT.

The Photography BA (Hons) I completed has a very good mix of theory and practice. Both of these aspects complement each other at the later stages of the programme.

You need to have a solid underlying foundation to make work that is stimulating and engaging. Good research skills and application of theory are crucial in order for the final product to achieve that.

The ability to talk publicly about your practice is extremely important. I talk to myself a lot when preparing for talks, whether on the bus or on the street. It works very well but people around you can get frightened from time to time!

What I found very important as a part of my degree

was funding application preparation, as it eventually allowed me to sustain a practice as a professional artist.

If I could turn back time I would have created a college society that promotes a multidisciplinary approach to art making, one that gathers students from different fine art programs within DIT.

It would have created dialogue between different modes of practice and to organised events that promote the excellence of fine art at DIT.

Somehow I feel DIT (both students and staff) should work more on publicising the outcomes of the fine art programs to the outside world (not only Grad Shows). There is stuff of very high merit created within DIT all the time.

Assuming you study what

you are passionate about – why would you study anything else? – you should always try to push the boundaries forward, even at the expense of failing. The sooner you start to take risks, the better your ability to manage them will be.

Risks that are successful foster innovation, while functioning only within your comfort zone makes your obsolete in the longer term. Again, don't be afraid of failing. Learning how to cope with failure, or refusal, is what makes people successful long term. I would rather have a mas-

“
I would create a society that gathers together students from different fine art programmes in DIT



Darek Fortas, DIT graduate and award-winning photographer

sive failure, while being in the process of working towards something, than not doing anything.

Don't study for grades, but to develop yourself. Try to tailor your degree, so that it suits how would you like to develop yourself. There's a massive difference between being programmed and getting educated. Also, remember that what goes around comes around – don't expect anything to happen if you don't work hard for it.

To sum up: take the risks, always aim higher and self-initiate.

A long-term plan for your career, with a combination

of perseverance, ambition, talent, the ability to take risks and good energy management are the key components in any field of study.

There's no universal definition of success, so make sure to create your own. When you achieve something, hold the level and aim for more.

As a fresh graduate, or a current student, you need to start working on developing your network – don't be afraid to get in touch with tutors after your finish your program.

Most importantly, life is not a rehearsal, so enjoy every single day!



Sarah Sabour-Pickett graduated with a BSc in Optometry in DIT Kevin Street in 2007. Since then she has worked as an Optometrist and has recently completed a PhD

Nearly seven years on from graduation – what would I have wanted to know back in DIT?

While in college:

ATTEND THE LECTURES (yes, there are many!) and seek to understand little by little each day. Don't be afraid to ask questions, if not of your lecturers, then of your friends/colleagues. Discover and learn together.

WORK AT A STEADY PACE throughout the year rather than cramming at the end. If you have the opportunity to get some experience in a practice while in college, or over the summer, take it.

PAUSE AND LOOK BACK at how much you have learnt, when stress is high and it all seems too much.

PAY ATTENTION TO EACH TOPIC, even though

not everything you learn will be used in your day job. I've realised that we are not just being asked to be Optometrists who can carry out a few tests – we have to be capable and versatile individuals, able to meet challenges, overcome obstacles, work through things we don't necessarily like. It is all about maturing and extending our capacities.

When it comes to entering the working world:

BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF. Just because you're a graduate, don't feel you are expected to know everything. Even after many years, I know I don't know it all – never will! All of life is a learning process. Anyway, ongoing experience in the field will always teach you more skills, and each day you will potentially be learning something new.

WHEN DEALING WITH PATIENTS, see them as if they were your own mother/father/sibling and treat them with the same sincere level of consideration and care.

NEVER SAY NEVER. I swore I would never go back to study but within two years I had itchy feet. I certainly never imagined I could do a PhD. But, as with everything else one might face in life – college or otherwise – patiently, little-by-little, day-by-day, it is astonishing what can be achieved.

ENJOY THE FEW YEARS – they will be over before you know it. You will meet such a great range of interesting people, and youth is a time that affords you opportunities unlike any other time in life. This is your time and you will look back on it with great affection knowing the wonderful fruits it brought you.

Getting a handle on the Twitter machine

Irish journalists have come to use Twitter to break news and find sources, but it has not led to a citizen journalism revolution. **Barry Lennon** investigates the Irish field

Before last night's game kicked off an appeal was made over the stadium's loudspeaker: "Ladies and gentleman, one final notice. If anyone wishes to write a match report for tomorrow's *Irish Independent*, please tweet it at Indo Sport and the editor will run it in the morning's paper. Thank you."

Okay, that never happened. Although some may have to resort to this if they wish to source 50 percent of their content from users, as Johnston Press wish to do by 2020.

Most journalists in Ireland or elsewhere source very small amounts (nowhere near 50 percent) of 'user generated content' via social media sites like Twitter. *The Guardian* calls this 'open journalism,' where "new technologies allows readers to be enlisted like an army of reporters" tweeting tip-offs at *Guardian* journalists.

This is not a new idea. The tip-off has simply moved on to Twitter, as Irish journalists analogue with an old example, "Twitter is a virtual pub where instead of getting tip-offs from random blokes you don't know, it's a Twitter user."

News lines, sourced like this, still need to be verified from the "virtual pub" before using them in a newspaper that readers are willing to pay for.

Some tips prove useful, some additional, some wrong and then some are as follows: "Alan Shatter is a shape shifting reptile person." No different from before.

Twitter cannot facilitate such '50 percent of user generated content', and it's debatable if these tip-offs or 'open journalism' is anything different. It seems an exercise in rebranding.

However, Twitter has increased the number of sources. This can be seen in national media coverage of local events such as local elections or provincial matches.

Previously the national media

relied on one local correspondent or a county board if reporting provincial matches.

If the match was marred by violence resulting in some players heading to the bench and others to hospital, a local journalist may feel reluctant to reveal details which might paint a local community in a bad light, fearing loss of his or her sources and readers.

With Twitter, journalists can rely on a number of sources tweeting from the event (players, fans and other journalists) making reports of a controversial event harder to suppress.

Change in culture

Twitter has undoubtedly helped speed the pace of breaking news in Ireland, much to the disgruntlement of some senior journalists, who are being told that they should tweet by the boss.

Coincidentally, these established journalist have the most influence on Twitter. Thanks to their experience, they often amass thousands of followers before they ever tweet.

Other older hacks fear the evolution that Twitter is part of. Some believe that its introduction is part of a wider cultural and competitive change in journalism



Vincent Browne's 'Twitter Machine' label seems to stick

which has degraded some newspaper content.

One journalist at the *Irish Times* complained that content was being "directly influenced by Twitter," with features like the "top 10 socks of the week" being printed ahead of "issues important to Irish society".

The same senior journalist said his younger colleagues are obsessed with remaining competitive as opposed to appealing to their traditional market.

Whatever the cause, readers are turning away with the *Irish Times*' circulation down 7.1 percent last year.

Tweeting is serious business

Social media is used to attract readers to news websites, with Twitter especially useful in targeting niche groups. A popular soccer writer can target the soccer audience directly by tweeting links to their exclusives, as their followers are mostly to be football fans.

The Irish Independent have adopted this targeted approach most vigorously, expecting their reporters to feed its official Twitter account, @independent_ie, and break news first.

This is serious business as one *Indo* journalist tells me, "People think Twitter is a bit of a hobby. That's alright, but the boss isn't paying you to have a bit of craic."

Although, this same respondent admitted that he used his own account to tweet pictures of his dogs showing the curious mix of personal and private life on the social network.

Despite this mix, Irish journalists agreed that Twitter proved an essential professional tool. The question was not whether it would remain. It was what might replace it?

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“
One journalist at the *Irish Times* told me content was being directly influenced by Twitter, with features like "top 10 socks of the week" being printed ahead of "issues important to Irish society"

ERASMUS DIARIES

Going Dutch on drug laws

COLIN LAYDE



UTRECHT, Netherlands –

I have had the last week off college and I used the time to finally make the half hour journey to Amsterdam with a couple of friends.

As you'd expect the Dutch capital is incredibly busy, with cars, trams and bicycles all travelling with reckless abandon along the city's roads. We strolled around for the day and clambered up the 'I am Amsterdam' sign for a photo opportunity like quintessential tourists, before sitting down in a tulip garden and enjoying the sun.

We feigned being cultured and visited the Dutch national museum of art the Rijksmuseum which houses one of the most valuable collections in the world.

If Ireland is renowned for its contribution to the canon of literature through Joyce, Wilde and Beckett, the Dutch are equally revered for their contribution to art. The Rijksmuseum houses works by Dutch masters including Vermeer, Van Gogh and Rembrandt.

Irish national museums have long been free of an entry charge, something which we often take for granted. Visitors to the National Gallery can view masterpieces by Vermeer and Caravaggio free of charge. Entry to the Rijksmuseum is €15 but well worth it, with the architecture of the recently renovated building impressing almost as much as the canvas on the walls. The main building was reopened by Queen Beatrix in April last year following a ten-year €375 million renovation.

We also visited the Amsterdam Arena, the stadium on the outskirts of the city and is famous internation-

ally as the home of Dutch football club Ajax.

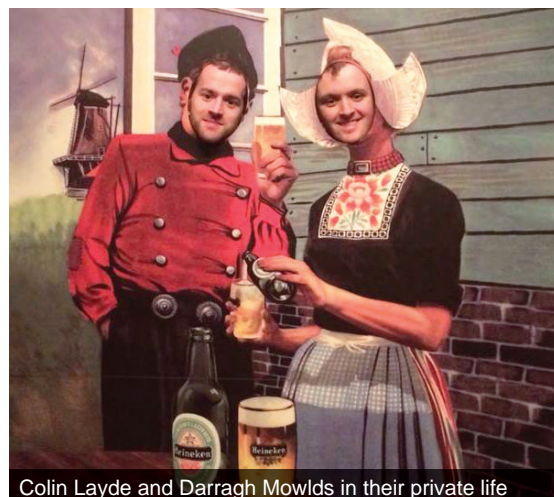
Besides art and football, another thing the Dutch are known for is their policy towards recreational drugs. The Dutch system differentiates between 'soft' and 'hard' drugs with authorities adopting a non-enforcement policy toward cannabis.

'Coffee shops' and possession of cannabis are illegal in the Netherlands, but the policy of non-enforcement is so entrenched that Dutch courts have been known to rule against the state when it seeks individual prosecutions.

There are more than half a dozen coffee shops in Utrecht, with Andersen in

“

Living over here has made me realise the absolute folly of our criminalisation of cannabis



Colin Layde and Darragh Mowlds in their private life

the city centre probably being the most prominent.

Astonishingly, the Culture Boat shop (an actual boat) is permanently docked opposite Utrecht's prison and, features a rooftop terrace enabling patrons to enjoy the sun while off their face.

In Ireland, the street value of cannabis is said to be €50 for between two and three grams. The coffee shops in Utrecht charge between €40 and €50 for five grams depending on the weed, with the shops also offering pre-rolled joints for between €2.50 and €3.50.

Living over here has made me realise the absolute folly of our own criminalisation of cannabis, with public resources being wasted attempting to eradicate the use of a drug enjoyed recreationally by tens of thousands of people who live otherwise productive and lawful lives.

The money would be much better spent improving public services or providing treatment for users of hard drugs – notably, the Dutch enjoy the best healthcare system in the world, along with excellent public transport and education systems.

Lessons learned from a semester in the Paris pressure-cooker

DARRAGH MOWLDS



PARIS, France –

Since this is the last *Edition* I suppose this Erasmus Diary should be a time for reflection or some such thing.

It's been a while since my last Erasmus diary so, major talking points since then include trips to fellow Erasmus goers, basking in the Parisian sunshine, my 21st, still waiting to have my first conversation with a classmate, and being told off for wearing shorts on a hot day in this perplexing town.

I'll start with the latter. In a country known for being colourful, you would imagine knee-length shorts would be greeted with a stereotypical shrug. Not here in IPJ, the

place where fun goes to die.

I was told off by the head of the school, and asked to not wear shorts in the college again. The reason, as far as I can glean, is one of the following: they take themselves far too seriously, or they are incredibly jealous of my legs – or both.

My aforementioned birthday was a bizarre and yet brilliant experience. Plans to go home had been scuppered by the prison-camp hours, but I'm glad.

I visited Disneyland with my room-mates and let me tell you, spending your 21st giddily running around in Disneyland is just as fun as it sounds.

A few pints and pizzas later and I thought my birthday weekend was over. It wasn't until the next Friday that a surprise visit from one of my best friends at home capped off an incredible birthday.

Erasmus has given me a base for travel, which has been great. Belgium and Holland have both been visited by bus and fun-filled frolicking ensued.

It was great to get away from the

pressure cooker that is *Gay Paris*, and to enjoy some new places. Noticeably, I wasn't asked for a passport once in all of my journeys, nor were my bags checked despite one of my journeys being from Amsterdam to Paris with every other passenger being... let's call them hippies.

Things I have learned in my travels: don't ever try to drive in Paris, jokes are few and far between in Holland (but the people are indescribably nice), mocking depressed French rugby fans will not go down well and, finally, despite how much we slag it, there is something inherently wonderful about being Irish.

This isn't just nostalgic patriotism, but it's something I will appreciate more from now on.

See all you beautiful people when I touch back down in Dublin, good luck to everyone in their exams.

“

Despite how much we slag it, there is something inherently wonderful about being Irish, something I now appreciate more



Costello, our woman in Brussels, on the set of 'Les Cordes Sensibles', a film by Longford-native Don Duncan.

Credit: Les Cordes Sensibles

Feeling at home away from home

STEPHANIE COSTELLO



BRUSSELS, Belgium –

I'm sitting here, eating a homemade orange cake covered in maple syrup at an unreasonable time of night. The culprits responsible for this forbidden spongy delight are two of my room-mates who, in part, make up the jolliest gathering of people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting.

We are living in our very own living, breathing organism – a five-bedroom duplex, overlooking the gay district of Brussels. It's a place where brothers, sisters, lovers, and friends are made.

This week I met the mother of one of my room-mates. It was a calming experience, in a house that is not adverse to a party. The smell of his mother's home cooking was a refreshing change from overloaded ashtrays and stale beer can juice. On a Saturday, she treated us to a Moroccan delicacy of couscous served in the wooden, planet-shaped bowl.

In the same vein, this got me thinking about home comforts and at what point a foreign city becomes a home. It's important when travelling to find your secret moments of solitude. For me, it's the walk home from Flagey in the

evening, as the sun is setting, with a samosa in my right hand.

Another of my little joys is the music of Brussels. I suppress a churlish giggle when I hear Dido played in the metro station at morning rush hour, as if people need more of an excuse to throw themselves in front of a train.

Or when Stevie Wonder and Radiohead pour out of the sound system while I queue in my local supermarket.

At the same time it is still possible to hear the guttural sounds of Belgium's underbelly from my balcony. The centre is a quarter of Brussels that has its own idiosyncrasies.

“
It's important when travelling to find your secret moments of solitude. For me, it's the walk home, as the sun is setting, with a samosa in my right hand

The atmosphere here at four in the morning for women can be displacing. It's common to get whispered at in the subway and whistled at in the street.

This is simply normal for women here and is wonderfully illustrated in student filmmaker Sophie Peeters documentary entitled 'Femme De La Rue'. She walked the streets with a hidden camera in her bag to highlight the prevalence and predatory nature of sexism and cat-calling that riddles this city.

As luck would have it, I experienced another slice of home when given the opportunity to work as a stylist on a Belgian short film by student filmmaker and Longford native Don Duncan. For two weeks the team travelled around different locations in the city shooting 'Les Cordes Sensibles'.

The story, in a nutshell, is about an older prostitute with a heart of gold [this phrase is definitely getting ticked off the list of things I've always wanted to write in an article], who falls in love with a puppet maker. The highlight of my job was dressing a bunch of affable, lovely women all over the age of 50 as trashtastic working women.

In an ultimately futile attempt at procrastination from finishing this article I decided to pop out to the shop to buy some phone credit. I had just woken up and therefore didn't pay too much attention to brushing my hair or getting properly dressed. Alas, I left my city centre apartment without my keys and with no roommates at home I found myself locked out in a dif-

ferent country.

When locked out in Dublin, I have my security mechanisms. I can sit in the local coffee shop or just return home to my mum and dad's. But here, in the most tourist-dense quarter of Brussels, looking like an unkempt tramp in bright blue and green palm tree leggings, and approaching three-day-old unwashed hair, I couldn't really bring myself to sit in any of the tourist spots.

So, I sucked it up and did what I had to do. I called my roommate in college who doesn't speak any English and attempted to find my way to her around the city through French. I navigated my way past the Mannekin Pis and throngs of Asian tourists following a man with a yellow flag. I ignored the glares and ultimately found my destination.

This little escapade helped me tick yet another box in my home comforts bucket list and made me feel a little more rooted in a city as opposed to an eternal visitor.

To finish, I should probably harp on about the merits of Erasmus and how it is helping to define our generation as a well-travelled, open minded group of people. I should also touch on how the programme is in a sense eroding nationalist sentiments amongst people in my own age bracket.

Alas, I can't really speak for my generation, only me. After nearly four months living abroad and alone in Belgium I am coming to terms with what side my bread is buttered on. I have but one nugget of wisdom – home is where the crisp sandwiches are.

Brussels Guide:

Where to drink – Bonnefoi is another mecca of the city centre where the bartenders are just as crazy as the punters. Plus it stays open until 6am every night, if you should need a distraction from the approaching day.

Visit – Les Marolles flea market on Place Jeu de Balle, open every day.

Drink – Mint tea from one of the many Moroccan Cafes all over Brussels.

Watch – The trailer for *Femme De La Rue*, which is yet to be released in its entirety, at stopstree-tharassment.org.

FEATURES



Oculus causes a rift

Selling out or stepping up? **Amanda Connolly** enlightens the debate on whether Facebook has ripped the heart from one of the most exciting tech start-ups in recent years

Once upon a time, Palmer Luckey was slumped in his garage dismantling head-mounted displays he had collected from around the world in an attempt to understand how they worked. Rendering these as “sorry” examples he set out to build a better, affordable version.

With a name not far removed from a Grimm Brothers Fairytale, Palmer firmly took his place as the protagonist in this tale when earlier this year Facebook acquired his creation for two billion dollars in stock and cash.

Luckey was homeschooled as a child and went on to take college classes in his teens, during which he was drawn to science fiction and, in particular, virtual reality. Describing himself as an “electronics enthusiast and maker” he never formally studied technology or engineering, instead opting to enroll in California State University Long Beach, with aspirations to pursue a career in journalism.

His interest in the virtual world only grew when in college Palmer became enthralled by the futuristic visions of “The Lawnmower Man”, “Snow Crash” and “The Matrix”. Having dismantled countless head-mounted displays in his garage, Luckey decided to make affordable virtual reality a commercial reality.

With no formal engineering training or experience he dropped out of college to work on his own project. Very quickly this idea quickly became an “obsession”, the kind of almost hazardous gamble needed to set the plot.

Palmer and his project were put on the map when he loaned John Carmack, the creator of Doom 3 and a pioneer of 3D in games, a prototype in June of 2012. Carmack took a virtual reality enabled version of Doom 3 to a games conference in LA. His demo captivated the entire audience. Two months later Palmer launched his kickstarter campaign to develop his prototype further and it had raised over one million dollars in less than two days.

More money followed (over ninety million dollars in venture-capital funding to date), allowing Luckey to hire Carmack and to begin work on a high-definition version of the headset, called Oculus Rift.

In March of 2013, the prototype of Oculus Rift went on sale targeting developers at \$300. As of yet there is no consumer version available, something that raised questions surrounding Facebook’s acquisition valuation. Enthusiasts are designing games for the prototype and are opening a new world of possibilities and ideas every time. A YouTube clip of a ninety year old grandmother trying the headset out for

the first time has now been viewed over two million times.

Sony has released their own rival virtual reality headset codenamed Project Morpheus with their President, Shuhei Yoshida, thanking the Oculus Rift team at their announcement.

Mark Zuckerberg announcing that Facebook had agreed to acquire Oculus in order to “build the next major computing platform that will come after mobile,” must have seemed like Palmer Luckey’s fairy tale was complete.

But is it really? Is this too early in the story for a plot twist? Zuckerberg’s enthusiasm for Oculus Rift seems to be genuine – “People who try it say it’s different from anything they’ve ever experienced in their lives,” he wrote in his post announcing the deal. Zuckerberg’s vision is that “immersive virtual and augmented reality will become a part of people’s everyday life,” and described a future in which people will be able to “enjoy a court-side seat at a game, study in a classroom of students and teachers all over the world, or consult with a doctor face to face – just by putting on goggles in your home.”

“
An air of betrayal wafted through the video-game world when the Facebook acquisition was announced, seeing it as a shelving of indie game developers’ opportunities with Oculus

This wholesome vision of futuristic home entertainment has its roots in Luckey’s garage, where the protective goggles lay strewn with soldering irons, and unapologetic head-mounted displays spilled their wire guts onto his workbench.

Oculus Rift is an opportunity for every amateur, garage developer to build brash, experimental software, and it is tied to the layman backers on Kickstarter.

For these real people, Facebook’s corporate ethos is in direct contrast to what they viewed

as Palmer Luckey’s vision. Markus Persson, the somewhat outspoken creator of Minecraft wrote, on his blog Notch.net: “I did not chip in ten grand to seed a first investment round to build value for a Facebook acquisition.”

None of the Kickstarter contributors will benefit financially from the acquisition. Persson also tweeted that he would cease work on the Oculus version of Minecraft that was in development.

An air of betrayal wafted through the video-game world when the acquisition was announced, seeing it as a shelving of indie game developers’ opportunities with Oculus. Andy Baio, one of the creators of Kickstarter tweeted: “I can palpably feel the oxygen sucked out of the room.”

Persson continued: “Facebook is not a game tech company... Facebook has a history of caring about building user numbers, and nothing but building user numbers. People have made games for Facebook platforms before, and while it worked great for a while, they were stuck in a very unfortunate position when Facebook eventually changed the platform to better fit the social experience they were trying to build.”

You can argue for both sides in this dispute, given that the social network gives Oculus an already curated entry point into the mainstream market with one of the world’s most successful direct-marketing companies.

But there are costs involved in this ‘adoption’, even besides from the enthusiast community’s disappointment. Big corporate companies often have a stultifying effect on the agile start-ups they acquire, no matter how much they intend to remain hands-off. Given Zuckerberg’s sweeping statements about virtual reality soon replacing mobile, it does seem hard to believe that they will remain only supportive onlookers in the Oculus team’s process.

Palmer Luckey was aware of the concern in his story, and took to Reddit to put them at bay: “We are not going to track you, flash ads at you, or do anything invasive,” he wrote. This may not, however, be Luckey’s choice; Zuckerberg had already suggested otherwise. When he was asked how Facebook intends to make Oculus profitable, Zuckerberg said that the company would first focus on getting it into as many hands as possible to create “a network where people communicate and buy virtual goods,” adding: “There might be advertising in the world.”

A sigh of apprehension was breathed and the dragon went back to sleep.

Credit: Al McConnell



Danny O'Brien (left) and Colm McGlinchey, the comedians behind the Comedy Crunch in the Stag's Head

Captains of The Crunch

Al McConnell met the comedians behind the Comedy Crunch, a Dublin comedy night with a difference

After nearly three hours of close-quarter comedy in the tightly packed basement of The Stag's Head, the seemingly outrageous claim from Comedy Crunch co-host Danny O'Brien becomes entirely believable.

With a laugh of almost disbelief, he explains this free comedy night "in a sweaty basement in the centre of Dublin" is, and has been for over a year, Tripadvisor's second highest rated 'thing to do' in the capital.

The Comedy Crunch, a free night of stand-up comedy every Sunday and Monday, apparently strikes a chord with reviewers more than the Book of Kells, the National Museum, the Botanic Gardens and 258 other attractions.

That says a lot either about the typical Tripadvisor user's cultural taste, or the Crunch itself, but considering the stream

of punters hovering around the entrance three hours earlier, as he and Crunch founder Colm McGlinchey set up for the night, I'd wager it's the latter.

The Crunch is, in a lot of ways, a 'comedian's comedy night' – not a comment on the content of its performers, but on its origins and approach.

There's no hefty admission fee, for one thing; the audience is there free of charge and is asked for donations at the end. For another thing, the Crunch was organised by McGlinchey and a few other comedians who, in 2008, were keen to get extra stage time.

"We were starting to get more and more big gigs in Ireland and the UK and we needed some extra practice," he told me while setting out candles on the tables, and sound-checking the stage.

Originally a monthly Crunch,

its name epitomising the year of 'credit crunch' collapse, the nights soon became weekly (when O'Brien joined as an organiser), then eventually twice-weekly, and even up to three shows during the summer, when comedians preview their Edinburgh Fringe Festival sets. "About three years after we started in the Shebeen Chic, its owner had a dispute with the landlord over rent and the venue ceased to be," says McGlinchey. "We were on the ball though, and moved that week to the Stag's Head, without missing a show. As soon as we had our first show here we were overwhelmed with how fantastic the room was for comedy. We've been here ever since."

“
The day after a rugby match the place is packed with people who were covering for everyone who was off enjoying the game

After reaching its 400th show in late February, the Crunch has grown to the point of attracting capacity crowds every night (the host's nightly photo of the crowd, taken from the stage, gives an impression of just how full the little basement becomes). It can boast as regulars Neil Delamere, Fred Cooke, Foil Arms & Hog, and PJ Gallagher.

On the night I'm in attendance, O'Brien is on as host with little sets that punctuate each main act's time on stage.

Aidan Greene was first up, one of what must be an elite group of stammering stand-ups (and I thought it took guts to do comedy in the first place).

Emma Doran, a relative newcomer to the circuit, followed him with a sharp set in absolute dead-pan.

Before Chris Kent took to the stage for a longer headline set, Sean Nolan kept the dead-pan theme going with a dark stream of one-liners. You'll remember him as the RTÉ Two New Comedy Award winner from last summer – if you don't remember him, he's worth looking up.

McGlinchey and O'Brien have created a monster in the Crunch. It has a momentum behind it that sets it firmly as a stalwart of Sunday and Monday nights in Dublin, which is no mean feat for the traditionally quiet nights in the city.

"On a Monday night we have a Saturday night atmosphere," says McGlinchey. "There's an idea that Sundays and Mondays are weekend left-overs, but Dublin's full of people who do shift work."

"The day after a rugby match the place is packed with people who were covering for everyone that was off enjoying the game. We're proof there's a market for Sunday and Monday nights."

The donations can be hit-and-miss, however, as O'Brien explained: "Usually you'd think we Irish people are too shy or embarrassed not to tip, but sometimes you just get a bad night."

Fortunately, says McGlinchey, there's usually a few "older Americans" in, who "tip loads".

Good donations or bad, the Crunch is McGlinchey and O'Brien's thing. They have built it up from a little night for the weekend left-overs, to what it is today. Judging from the crowd's reaction tonight, it looks likely to be around for a long time.

FEATURES

Leaving 'home sweet home' behind

Editor **Al McConnell** visited two of DIT's smaller campuses, which will be vacated as students move to Grangegorman this September

PORTLAND ROW

For those readers who have felt a pang of sadness at leaving the slightly run-down, little-bit-shambolic student flat they once thought they hated, there will be an affinity with those who are moving out of Portland Row this summer.

The Victorian building, situated at the junction of the North Circular Road and Summerhill, has been DIT's most chaotic homestead. With the Institute renting the ground floor, its habit of allowing in the elements when they aren't welcome has been a particular challenge.

Kieran Corcoran, Head of the School of Art, Design & Printing, showed an immediate sense of relief that DIT is exiting the building, when asked how long he personally had been around Portland Row.

"Oh...too long. It's an old building, there are leaks and so on. That kind of thing is hard to overcome, and it really has absorbed a lot of energy, and absorbed a lot of money as well. Even now, I reckon you would get through probably one or two more winters and you'll be back to a lot of the same problems there were eight years ago [when DIT was forced to spend after a long series of maintenance issues]."

In 2001, DIT was forced to carry out an investigation into the condition of the building following an inspection by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), which highlighted a lack of maintenance.

A year later, the *DIT Independent* reported a ceiling collapse in a Portland Row studio, which followed soon after second-floor toilets were found to be leaking into DIT spaces.

Even in 2008, when models refused to take part in a life drawing class without central heating, many of the same problems seemed to remain.

Add it all up, and it might be difficult



Credit: Al McConnell

DIT's Portland Row campus, which has a history as riddled with crises as the building is riddled with leaks

to see why anyone would have put up with Portland Row for so long.

Romance, character, or charm – whichever it is that draws fond memories of the troubled tenancies we have as students – are, however, a part of Portland Row.

There are the stories you can tell showing someone new (like myself on this occasion) around the building.

It's mentioned in James Joyce's *Ulysses*, for example:

"Father Conmee smelt incense on his right hand as he walked. Saint Joseph's church, Portland row. For aged and virtuous females. Father Conmee raised his hat to the Blessed Sacrament. Virtuous: but occasionally they were also badtempered."

Corcoran even admits some aspects of the building he will miss.

"There's a lot of individual little quirky spaces – cubby holes and cupboards dotted around the place – because it was originally a convent. There's a morgue, for example, now used as part of someone's studio."

Aside from its quirky, impractical charm, Corcoran also points out that it has been the ideal setting for End of Year Shows and an annual barbeque in the courtyard area.

In fact, he says, many of the Erasmus students who spend a semester here end up being big fans of the place (and some even ask to spend another semester there).

"A lot of the other European art colleges would be in brand new colleges

Ceiling cave-ins, constant leaks and a lack of heating have made the historic Portland Row a favourite of the DIT Buildings Office

that can be a bit soulless. There's a lot of character in this place."

I took a risk to find out whether this might be the superficial impression of a one-semester interloper, and asked a group of students whether as previous description I had heard of the place was appropriate – "It's a shit-hole, but it's our shit-hole."

"That's pretty much it," they said.

Those positive sides to the building, for Corcoran and DIT at any rate, are too heavily out-weighted by the negatives for a nostalgic extension of Portland Row rent.

"It means I'm moving into a building that I can at least be responsible for, because DIT owns it," he said. "If someone says to me the roof is leaking here – well, I'm not the landlord... At Grangegorman we'll be on our own site, dealing with our own people. And if it doesn't work out it's our own fault."

The combination of art, photography and the full range of design courses in one building is also an aspect many of the lecturers hope will prove collaborative and creative benefits for each individual course.

As Corcoran said, it would take a lot of time and money to keep this place going. Walking through its old doorways, over Victorian tiles they won't find in September, however, a little nostalgia would be allowed for students who have spent years battling the elements and keeping an eye on that creaking ceiling above them.

TEMPLE BAR

If Portland Row was the campus that DIT was forever adapting to, the Temple Bar building is perhaps the exact opposite. Designed and built specifically for the Institute's photography course, this site was bespoke where Portland Row was splitting at the seams.

It would be difficult to imagine, for that reason, any other DIT course being based in Temple Bar. The narrow building rises five stories out of the cobbled streets, housing a network of dark corridors, extra-thick doors and electric light – a photographer's dream, in terms of the benefits created for dark-room development (it will be interesting to see who moves in after).

The photography course has been based here for nearly two decades and the building is, in many ways, a cornerstone of 'Temple Bar' as we now know it.

Ann Curran, Programme Chair of the BA Photography, explains how it was designed originally as part of a "holistic approach to Temple Bar in relation to photography and film".

"It's no coincidence," she says, "that the DIT Photography programme is situated over the National Photographic Archive, across the way from the Gallery of Photography and beside the Irish Film Institute."

This pictorial hub, with the four spaces edging Meeting House Square, was one of the first steps towards creating what is now Dublin's cultural quarter.

Daniel Siberry and Roisin White, two third-year BA Photography students, are currently in the midst of a project curating the building, which will exhibit through photos, video and text the life of the building so far.

"Looking back to when this building opened," Siberry tells me, "it was when Temple Bar was being sectioned off and zoned as a tourism/cultural quarter, when before it had been something completely different – there was even a plan for an enormous bus depot in Temple Bar at one point, which puts the whole area in perspective."

Looking at changes within the building over the years, as part of their project, also reveals an insight into how photography itself has transformed, as White explains:

"Seeing how the course developed with technology has been interesting," she says. "There's a locker room and computer lab upstairs, for example, which used to be colour printing and colour processing dark rooms – everything used to be film."

Of course, those quirks of the building that exist because of its bespoke



The DIT Temple Bar building under construction



The finished product, tailor-made for DIT's BA photography

DIT's Temple Bar building was designed and built specifically for the photography course

creation remain. Siberry also wonders how the next occupant will adapt:

"It's strange that a building designed specifically for photography is going to be handed on to people in an office who presumably won't know why there's only one tiny window in this room," he says, showing me the one small, square aperture to the outside world, right in the middle of one wall – the room was designed as a camera obscura.

It's these little features of DIT Temple Bar that will be missed when its occupants move to Grangegorman, by students and staff alike.

As her favourite aspect of the building, White emphasises that "it's such a focused photographic centre in every way – there are just no distractions

“ It's strange that a building designed specifically for photography is going to be handed on to people in an office

from photography in the building so you become completely immersed in it, which makes a big difference to the course."

For Curran, too, the dedicated dark room spaces have been a favourite: "There are other parts of this building you might think don't work quite as well – it was designed for quite a small programme so it's had issues with student numbers, for example – but those quiet darkroom spaces, dedicated for working in, have been a big plus."

Although there will be darkrooms at Grangegorman, with analogue photographic techniques still a key part of the education, there won't be as many.

As with every aspect of Grangegorman, Photography's move has been a long time in the offing. Before it started to pick up pace around two years ago, Curran explains, there were still doubts over whether it was going to happen, "with the country still in deep, deep recession".

An earlier date for the Grangegorman move, which was said to be 2011 in the mid-2000s, had already been missed.

But, in the last year the process has accelerated, and Curran is expecting the "frantic" nature of things at present to continue over the summer.

Like other courses, there will be unique benefits to bringing an isolated programme to a larger student community.

Curran points to the positives that could be drawn from collaboration with other disciplines, and for students' creativity in being surrounded by other artistic stimulation.

There will also, however, be links to maintain with Meeting House Square. The photography graduate exhibition will continue to take place in the National Archive and Gallery of Photography, a huge boost in exposure for the students' work.

Internships in the National Photographic Archive, and a new one in the Gallery of Photography will also continue, though the more direct formal and informal links might be lessened by moving away from their close neighbours.

Of course, some aspects of this central location will be missed less, such as Curran's least favourite aspect of the current site, "what you encounter on Monday morning outside the door".

We must all hope there won't be similar downsides to Grangegorman.

Overall, the new campus offers new potential for the photography students. Things will be gained, and things will be lost, as is the case at Portland Row. It seems to be certain that this building will be missed, though. DIT Photography, after all, has truly made it its home.

TAKE FIVE

The best bars in Dublin

**HANNAH
POPHAM**
LIFESTYLE EDITOR



Cassidy's Bar

27 Westmoreland Street

As this year's winner of the City Bar of the Year, Cassidy's provides the perfect student haven nestled halfway down past the bustling traffic of Westmoreland Street. With the odd mix of roaring fires, graffiti-encrusted walls you're encouraged to contribute to, board games and Clint Eastwood films, it's the ideal place for a cosy night in with all your friends.

Check out the downstairs lounge which offers foosball tables and a notoriously crowd-pleasing soundtrack and grab a pitcher of Blue Moon and a couple of couches with the crew.



Cassidy's Bar

Against the Grain

11 Wexford Street

Another one for beer lovers, Against the Grain offers a huge selection of craft beers, some of which may only be on offer for a limited time. One of the few student-friendly bars that does good food too, it's a great place to stop off for tasty bites at the start of a night out.

The staff are also said to be hugely knowledgeable and more than capable of pointing you in the direction of your ideal beer.



Against The Grain

4 Dame Lane

Although its downstairs section consists of a series of high leather booths facing a bar, its converted attic style loft upstairs makes for a unique laid back vibe on a Friday or Saturday night. With pretty decent DJs, a well-stocked bar and fashionably low tables and couches, the upstairs of 4 Dame Lane is as close as you're going to get to a New York party near Temple Bar for the older students amongst us.



4 Dame Lane

P. Mac's

Stephens Street

As the brain-child of those responsible for the best-friend's sitting room vibe of Cassidy's, P-Mac's is like its older sister, offering the same variety of craft beers and free crisps and sweets. With its mismatched furniture and low lighting, it's just as cosy and an equally comfy place to grab a drink after a long day's lectures. Beards and thick-rimmed glasses seem optional, but are probably encouraged.



Capitol Dublin

Lower Stephen's Street

If you've a taste for cocktails but the bank account of a philosophy graduate, Capitol on a weeknight is the place to be. Located conveniently between Aungier Street and the top of Dame Street, Capitol is within walking distance of most DIT campuses.

Choose from their pretty extensive range of cocktails which you can get your paws on two of for only €6 every weekday from five to eight. As it also tends to be a stop off for the nine to five set so it's a great place to pop into after lectures to meet your grown-up employed adult type friends, sip of a chilled mojito and lovingly make fun of seeing them in office attire.



Capitol's cocktails

Thin to Fit

Is health the new black?

Society's attention has turned from pokey ribs and razor cheekbones to washboard abs and biceps to kill, writes **Erin Lindsay**

The recent health craze sweeping over much of Western society has been interesting to watch, as blogs about fitness and diet are constantly multiplying and the number of joggers and gym enthusiasts has followed suit. The problem with such an abundance of information available to us today is that it's hard to see what's accurate and what isn't.

From cleanses to detoxes, and 'clean eating' to strength training, what is actually healthy and what could be doing us more harm than good? On the other hand, are these fitness fads really just that – fads – or could it finally be the beginning of society seeing sense?

Fitness and health is all the rage in the media. In magazines, newspapers and online it's hard not to come across a picture of some healthy food or the much-loved status about the daily gym session. Has it actually become fashionable to be fit?

Co-owner and editor of SnappedUp.ie Stephanie O'Quigley is the writer of the Diet and Fitness section of the popular Irish blog, and thinks of it in terms of trends:

"If you look back on media fashion trends in the last few years, in 2004, 2005, around that time, it was the skinny trend. It could possibly go back to that but I really don't think so, how can we go back after learning what we know now? Fitness is the new version of sexy, the new look to aspire to nowadays in the media."

Many people look to role models in the media for their appearance goals. A few years ago, that may have been the Nicole Richie for being thin, but now O'Quigley thinks it's definitely all about the healthy girl for inspiration.

However, fitness is no easy feat without knowledge on nutrition and diet. One of the most common disadvantaging routes people take nowadays is all exercise and no diet.

We may be progressing by looking for health instead of pure weight loss, but detox diets and even turning to a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle have become more and more popular for health enthusiasts. How beneficial are these routes?

Dr Kate Younger, lecturer of Nutrition and Physiology at Dublin Institute of Technology, says it can be more dangerous than people realise.

"People taking on these lifestyles need to be highly educated on what they're doing but the problem is that many people begin them randomly, without doing any research, and end up becoming deficient in certain nutrients. This can cause long term damage to their bodies."

And it turns out that those detox kits you



keep seeing may not be so great either. Younger thinks they're really just a money-making tool: "There are 50 different types of detoxes, the only ones that really have any benefit are things like putting a lot of liquid through your body after an over-consumption of alcohol, or giving up coffee; I would be sceptical at commercialising the idea of detoxing."

Educating yourself on your health is something that all of our experts agree is lacking in the public today, but is something that is extremely important. Younger attributes the bombardment of different messages as an effort to glamourize healthy eating, when actually, it's a pretty standard subject.

O'Quigley says: "I just think you really owe it to yourself to research things properly, there are two sides to everything on the internet and you can't trust everything you see straight away, you need to make sure to know what's

right."

South Dublin personal trainer Keith Ryan was asked if he thinks people are being fed too much false information from the internet and media: "100 percent yes. Every day on the internet there is something new. People need to take a realistic approach to eating and training. For a complete beginner to go on and be told to do a low carb diet and tons of cardio to lose weight is setting themselves up for failure with all this bad information."

For example, protein powders are constantly being marketed to men and women to bulk their muscle and improve their physique. But as it turns out, what builds up muscle is muscle training (surprise, surprise). Amino acid powders, Younger tells us, actually don't do anything for muscle growth, and the same as commercial detoxes, are mainly used as money makers.

We all know that exercise affects mindset – it has been found to do everything from treat depression to improve memory, and the release of endorphins in the brain while exercising makes us feel better and improves our mood.

Ryan says that he's hopeful for fitness nowadays, as he sees more and more people enjoying working out and feeling good about themselves in the process. But how does food come into it?

Younger points to "certain pharmacological effects on the chemistry in your brain that come with certain food types; for example obviously eating chocolate makes us feel good. Foods high in fibre benefits our digestive system and makes us feel physically better as well."

It doesn't stop there – there are hundreds of foods that have shown to have positive effects on the brain. Blueberries have been found to help protect against degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia, Vitamin E found in nuts and seeds can help with cognitive decline as we age, the choline found in egg yolk improves memory.

So this whole health thing is no fad. The interest in it is (hopefully) here to stay and it's growing every day as a new lifestyle choice for people.

The best tips for fitness and health, however, remain the same for all three experts: a permanent exercise routine that suits you, and a long-term improvement in diet.

There is no quick fix for lifelong health, and fad diets and week-long exercise bursts won't give you the results you want for life.

As Younger says, it's not very exciting – but it works. Your body will thank you much

“
There are 50 different types of detoxes... I would be sceptical at commercialising the idea of detoxing

Style guide for the festival season

Lilah Gaafar looks to Coachella for inspiration on the essentials

Forget the music, if to take one thing from Coachella 2014, let it be the fashion.

With week two of Coachella come and gone, we are nothing but ready and rearing for the Irish festival scene this summer. With a festival at every corner, summer in Ireland doesn't present the worst place to be. Although we don't lie under the glorious Californian sun, there's no harm in getting a bit of fashion inspiration from the celebrity filled festival.

Vanessa Hudgens undoubtedly stole the show for the second year in a row, as she sets the score for festival fashion. Kendall and Kyle Jenner made their

debut this year, sporting show-stopping looks, and Millie Mackintosh crossed the pond to give some of L.A.'s finest a run for their money. So who wore what best? But more importantly, how can we get the look.

Capes, kimonos and mid calf-length dresses were everywhere this year. Although coats and macs prove the more sensible and probably necessary Irish festival get up, when the sun comes out, a flowing cape or kimono can make any outfit pop.

It's the perfect piece to jazz up the plainest of outfits, leaving you somewhere between bare arms and a duffle coat as the sun goes up and down and tempera-



Vanessa Hudgens

tures drop. In all different colors and patterns, it's the perfect cover up and Forever 21 have an impressive array in and around twenty euro.

The 'in-case-it-rains' bare essentials ready to throw on at any second cannot be ignored and although Coachella is in the middle of the desert, we have to prepare for the likelihood of a 'couple of showers' here on our green

isle.

Wellies definitely complete any festival look regardless of the weather, they just happen to be water proof, always a plus. A hooded see-through, rainproof poncho is the perfect protective armor you'll need, still displaying your colorful outfit, ponchos and wellies from Dunnes Stores to designer, they're a must.

Coachella fashion 2014 definitely did the 90's proud. If any occasion to re-visit dungarees, crop tops, scrunches' and cut-offs, it's definitely a festival and Coachella 2014 was no exception, as the majority of the

A-list attendees incorporated the throwback-90's look into their outfits, and there is no reason we can't do the same. Graphic t-shirts and vintage cut-offs prove the perfect 90's duo, unmissable in the high street at the moment.

The one thing that is



Millie Mackintosh

undeniable from Coachella 2014 fashion, and that is anything goes- something that doesn't need translation into the Irish festival scene. So whether it's crazy floral prints or questionable head accessories, there is much to be inspired from Coachella fashion 2014, and much to live up to at Life, Longitude and Electric Picnic, to name a but a few of the big festival names to look forward this summer.

Operation Transformation: The final diary

RACHAEL O'BRIEN



What a journey it's been!

My Operation Transformation journey is over. No more weekly weigh-ins or eating healthily or burning calories on the treadmill.

Wait a second... there's something wrong with that... I didn't just sign up for this for eight weeks. Technically it's over in college but that doesn't mean I'm done.

I've gotten into a habit of weighing myself each week and it's going to stay that way. I'm still going to try and eat healthy and exercise regularly.

I know not to binge on chocolate and fizzy drinks

all day every day. I've seen what that can do. But I've also seen what eating the right foods can do.

Since the beginning of January I've lost over half a stone. I was aware of that figure, but didn't quite realise what I had achieved until I went to a 21st with a group of friends I hadn't seen in a while. Most of them commented on how different I looked and how much weight I've lost. This was such a massive confidence boost for me because you don't really realise how much it means to you until someone says it out loud.

Now I will admit I have binged a little bit since finishing up with the college programme last week. I had my first McDonald's meal in three months and I

will say it was damm good!

But I know not to make it a regular thing. The weather is making it easier to exercise as well but with more college work building up every day, finding

“ I didn't quite realise what I had achieved until I went to a 21st with a group of friends I hadn't seen in a while

free time is kind of hard.

A lot has happened over the last few months, including a lot of decisions I've made. One big one I made this week was to take part in a 5km walk in May.

It's called Darkness Into Light, starts at 4am and is in the Phoenix Park. It's in aid of Pieta House, a

charity which helps young adults deal with self-harm and suicide.

It's a bit of shameless plug but I need everyone's support and sponsorship. You can sponsor me at www.mycharity.ie/event/darkness_into_light_rachael or give me sponsorship in person!



Oh, the chef life

**CIARÁN
HYLAND**
COLUMNIST



"Doctors, hairdressers and chefs will always have work in this world," a rather charismatic Dublin taxi man told me last month. As with most taxi journeys, a few pints in the hours previous had made the conversation that little bit more sufferable, relevant and amusing.

Nevertheless, the conversation encouraged a new-found appreciation for my occupation as a chef. It is that time of year; the hiatus from lecture-life looms and the travelling bug has claimed yet another generation of victims. This taxi driver, of enviable wit and personality, made me realise that I was lucky to be of a profession which can be packed up and easily taken to any foreign land.

"To be a chef you need to have either an alcohol problem or a mental disorder. Having both makes it a little more bearable," I told him, when asked about my decision to enter the kitchen as a young man.

A fascinating microcosm of a world obsessed with hierarchy, ego, success and reputation, the professional kitchen is a far cry from what is often depicted in mainstream media. Social constructs and norms are thrown out the window. It is a cut-throat world inhabited by many aspirational, ruthless and success-driven individuals.

Firmly built on a hierarchal structure, success is measured upon how quickly you ascend the job ladder. It is a ruthlessly competitive spirit that fuels modern chef culture. Chefs thrive on obtaining distinction. Everyone craves superiority, a phenomenon which spawns an ever changing and constantly innovative industry.

Despite my relatively short

tenure in the kitchen, I can safely say that chefs gradually acquire a collection of immutable principles throughout their travels. One example is to refrain from excessively complaining.

I informed my taxi driver friend of the antics of chef Marco Pierre White. He once ran his pairing knife up the back of a young chefs jacket in response to his complaint about heat. The young man was naked from the waist up in a bustling and swelteringly hot kitchen, leaving him unsettlingly vulnerable to fraying tempers and flying frying pans. I imagine the young man in question was scarred for life, both physically and mentally.

Another reality is that there is always, without a gram of doubt, something to do in a kitchen. A friend once told me of when, in response to him asking for something to do, his head chef handed him a bag of garlic the size of a potato sack.

He instructed my friend to peel and devein every single clove. His hands have never been the same – an homage to garlics true acrid acidity. "There is always something to do around here young lad," his senior shouted, though I've cleaned up that sen-

“ I remember a barber of mine comparing a night out with chefs to socialising with a pack of hyperactive children who you'd swear were never let out of the house



Muppets' famous character 'The Swedish Chef' – an archetypal lunatic

tence a bit.

I have also learned that working as a chef can be a physically degrading occupation. Severe weight loss, cuts, burns and a spinal complication are inevitable.

Words such as "break" are not found in the typical chef's vocabulary. Cups of cold coffee litter kitchens across the country, signalling a futile attempt at simultaneous nourishment and productivity. We often joke at work about being stopped in the street and offered both a cheese sandwich and a bed for the night; an ode to our inherited pale gauntness.

I remember one day there was an epiphany of sorts at work, a collective realisation that life in the kitchen was perhaps not the most educating and mind-broadening environment in which to become immersed.

"We don't talk about politics, we don't talk about world issues; we talk pure and utter shite," a senior chef remarked. It was an environment breeding ignorance he claimed, quite pessimistically.

The world could be coming to end outside for all we know, and there we would be, knives in hand, ridiculing the validity of Katie Price's cleavage in a camp German accent.

Now, I can hear the sunbaked Magaluf and Ibiza frequenters wince at the thought of such an endeavour this summer. 'Why subject yourself to the woes of kitchen life?' they wonder.

Despite all the aforementioned,

kitchen experience can prove uniquely enjoyable, formative and rewarding. A genuine passion for food and cooking puts any sacrifices in their place. There is a buzz about kitchens that chefs long for and would feel incomplete without. Time flies in a kitchen. It is a job suited to those who crave constant occupation and abhor boredom.

Kitchen life does also reveal an enviable work ethic. The effort expended by those who reach Michelin stardom is quite remarkable. If you knew how much blood, sweat and tears went into preparing such a meal, you probably wouldn't want to eat it.

Despite all this talk of hard work, chefs do actually know how to enjoy themselves when occasionally unshackled. I remember a barber of mine comparing a night out with chefs to socialising with a pack of hyperactive children, who you'd swear were never let out of the house.

It's fair to say the alcohol-propelled conversation that night made me appreciate my occupation more. Another young generation have indeed fallen ill with the travelling bug. For me there can only be one cure; that is to just get up, pack the bags and go.

For many, this is unfortunately not financially feasible. However, as my taxi man friend proclaimed, chef life encourages travel while supplementing its high cost. As Andy Dufresne said, "it's a wonderful pet to have".

Innocence is bliss

Lifestyle editor **Hannah Popham** investigates the sexualisation of young children, a growing problem in society

Monday night is going to be a busy night for my imaginary daughters, aged 12 and 14. When I contacted Arlene Caffrey, who runs the Irish Pole Dance Academy, her one reservation was not their age but that the term had already started.

Her only fear in fact was that, having missed three weeks of classes, my young daughters may fall behind the rest of the class. Perhaps I could send them to a private lesson for €60 to allow them to catch up? Perhaps not, Arlene.

Children at Risk in Ireland (CARI) last year reported a 70 percent increase since 2011 in calls to report sexualised behaviour in children, and aligned the blame with increasingly easy access to pornography.

“As more children are exposed not only to soft-core pornography, but also to explicit, deviant sexual material, they are receiving extremely dangerous messages. Pornography encourages sexual expression without any responsibility.”

However, in a society in which pre-teens are allowed into pole-dancing classes, is pornography all that is to blame?

I asked a few of the parents I interviewed if they would let their non-imaginary daughters to start pole-dancing classes:

“Absolutely no chance. At minimum she would definitely have to be 18, preferably 21. Ideally, I’d prefer if it never happened,” said Michael Crowley, the father of a sixteen year old girl.

As a regional sales manager of Irish Distillers Limited, Michael has been exposed to what he sees as another big player in the sexualisation of children – easy access to alcohol. “Unfortunately there’s no problem getting drink. Garages sell about 13-15 percent of all



From left to right: questionable boots and heeled trainers sold in childrens size 10 by Littlewoods Ireland; high-heels available from other retailers also in childrens size 10 (for ages from 5-6).

Pole dancing classes and waxing is readily available for children as young as 11 in Ireland

alcohol sold in Ireland. If you go into any garage in Ireland you will get wine from every region in the world and a selection of vodkas.

“I’ve phoned gardaí when I see kids go in to someone behind the counter who hasn’t been trained or doesn’t care that the customer is clearly under age and they just lash out the cases of alcohol. I’ve confronted security men in petrol stations and they’ve said: ‘I’m not here to be a moral judge’.”

While Michael places MTV and the explosion of the ‘Geordie Shore generation’ high on the rank of influences in sexualisation of pre-teens and children, his daughter Aoibhín feels they have impacted her peers in a different way.

“I think before the media created a lot more pressure on girls, now it is more on boys,” she says. “I know at least 10 boys of 15 or 16 years of age who go to tanning beds and wax their eyebrows. There’s a lot of pressure on guys from an early age to work out and have a six pack. My friend who’s only 15 is on creatine just purely so that he will look good.”

Strangely enough, when I began strawling through the selection of underwear available to Irish kids it was the underwear for young boys that seemed far more sexualised than the horror of lacy thongs I feared were on sale for young girls.

The girls’ underwear section of Marks and Spencer, Littlewoods Ireland and Dunnes Stores left little reason for concern other than the occasional moulded bra. However, on Marks and Spencer’s boys’ underwear section, I

came across tight, black, Calvin Klein style ‘Autograph’ boxers for boys as young as six.

This would by no means be the first time Marks and Spencer have run into trouble for offering sexualised clothing products to kids. In 2010 they publicly apologised for ‘incorrectly labelling’ a lace top for six year olds as a bra. When I contacted them about their ‘Autograph’ children’s boxers, they had the following to say:

“We are totally committed to ensuring our clothing offer is age appropriate. We have signed up to the Retail Ireland Childrenswear Guidelines, which we

“
I’ve phoned gardaí when I see kids go in to someone behind the counter who hasn’t been trained or doesn’t care that the customer is clearly under age

subscribe for all our kidswear products. We also continue to be proud supporters of the Mumsnet 'Let Girls Be Girls' campaign."

According to Mumsnet, the retailers who sign up to this campaign agree "not to sell products which exploit, emphasise or play upon 'children's sexuality'."

It is evident from their website that one clothing company in particular had ignored their pleas, and it came as no surprise that they were not among the companies who had agreed to the campaign, started in 2010.

At the time of writing this, Littlewoods Ireland stocks an array of sexualised items for little girls.

These included, but were certainly not limited to boots with heels of at least two inches in a children's size ten and tight-fitting short body-con style dresses and heart-entwined jumpers idolising boy-band One Direction for girls as young as five. Although I contacted the company with links to the items concerned for comment, they have yet to respond.

One teenager I spoke to seemed particularly affected by the sexualisation of clothing from a young age. Emily, who is now sixteen, gave way to pressure at age eleven to wear make-up, and finds it increasingly difficult to find clothing that is not sexual.

As few of the high street clothing companies have a section for teenagers, she says that they are presented with fashion intended for women who have already reached sexual maturity.

"It's increasingly difficult to get clothes that don't show cleavage or shorts that don't show half your bum. I remember going shopping for summer clothes with my friends and all we could find were skin-tight high-waisted shorts that left little to be desired and

tops that displayed a lot more than I felt comfortable in."

Emily sees the pressure to dress sexually as an impact of celebrity culture in which looking good is everything – a world in which girls her age on the X-Factor are told they must be 'the full package'.

"Especially as a teenage girl, you are bombarded with sensational images of scantily-clad celebrities, people who teenagers look up to and aspire to be. You want to dress how they dress; wear make-up like they do; own sky-high heels and wear incredibly short dresses because it's a lifestyle shown to be normal."

I have just one more treat planned for the youngest of my imaginary daughters, aged 12. Just around the corner from Grafton Street is Urban Wax, a company which openly accept girls as young as 11 for underarm, leg and bikini waxing.

Despite my initial reservations that she may be too young for her probably scarce body hair to be encased in hot wax and painfully ripped from her skin, the team reassured me:

"I understand your concerns regarding waxing for your young daughter but it is completely safe. We would always recommend waxing over any other form of hair removal for young girls deciding to remove it."

Their 'Little Lady Classic Bikini' is only €20; a bargain.

In a society in which it is possible for a 12-year-old to get a bikini wax, attend pole-dancing lessons and to easily find heels in her size from Irish companies, is it possible for our kids not to feel some sort of pressure to become sexualised from an early age?

Should we be allowing boys as young as six to wear the same tight, black boxers worn by male models four times

“
Especially as a teenage girl, you are bombarded with sensational images of scantily-clad celebrities, people who teenagers look up to and aspire to be

their age?

Should we be ignoring the fact that young teenagers are able to access both tanning beds and alcohol long before they turn the legal age of 18?

Dr. Trish Mylan, an Irish psychotherapist who worked for 13 years as Singapore's Principal Programme Officer for Child Welfare isn't so sure:

"We as adults look through a certain lens based on our development and relationship to and with sex, i.e. we would see sex there – but does the child or young person see that? I can't see that they do. They are being exploited commercially, but exploited sexually? No, probably not."

That being said, the prospect of a child who waxes, pole-dances and wears sexually suggestive clothing at 12 still remains extremely unnerving.

Little-woods Ireland has not signed up to the 'Let Girls Be Girls' pledge, organised by Mumsnet

Information and advice on what matters to you.

SPUNOUT.ie

Ireland's Youth Website

@SpunOut

/SpunOut.ie



FILM



Locke

Director:
Steven Knight

Grade: **B+**

Stuart Comerford
STAFF WRITER

Locke may very well be one of the most unique films released this year. It's about as minimalistic as a story can get – it's a man in a car, driving down the motorway, talking on his phone to his family and co-workers.

As unappealing as that concept might sound, casting Tom Hardy as the main character, and only character who appears on screen, was undoubtedly the smartest decision made in making this movie.

He delivers an incredible performance that extends beyond the words he speaks and deep into his psyche. Every emotion or physical expression he exudes draws you in deeper, making for an incredibly immersive experience with fully realised characters.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of *Locke* is not what happens on screen, but what you feel happening off-screen. During

all of the phone conversations that occur throughout the journey, it becomes increasingly easy to imagine the world happening outside of the car – visualising the home where his family is watching the football match, or the office and construction site where his co-worker is; it's a stroke of genius from writer, Steven Knight.

There are some major flaws, though. While the cinematography is beautiful, the editing leaves a lot to be desired and some of the shots can be distracting – leaving you wishing the camera would linger for longer on Hardy's performance instead of jumping around the car to different angles.

While the script is brilliant and suspenseful, it oversells itself and its metaphors to seemingly appeal to "slower audiences" – causing it to be annoyingly in-your-face, far too often.

However, in this case, the pros absolutely out-weigh the cons, and *Locke* is definitely a film that should not be missed.

MUSIC



From Eden EP

Artist: Hozier

Grade: **A-**

Gavin Lacey
STAFF WRITER

From Eden EP is the second EP from Wicklow's Andrew Hozier Byrne. The EP initiates with the hauntingly uplifting 'From Eden'.

If you were to ballroom dance with the love of your life on a ship that was in the process of sinking to the bottom of the ocean, this would be the track to have on in the background.

There's something magical about it, but something so tragic about it at the same time. A truly gorgeous song.

Atmosphere and ambiance really kick in with the second track 'Work Song' and by the time the third track on the EP, 'Arsonist's Lullabye', commences it becomes glaringly obvious that Hozier has quite the capability to create stunning ambiance in his songs.

The production on the tracks allow Hozier's voice to bellow like he is exorcising his inner demons

on the altar of a desolated church, while the apparitions of haunted sufferers provide the gorgeous backing vocals.

The EP finishes with a live version of 'To be Alone'. Soul-

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If this is only a small taster of what Hozier has to offer, then the future is extraordinarily bright for him

ful, teasing and mournful, it is a blues-inspired song that ends the EP on a tantalising note. If this is only a small taster of what Hozier has to offer, then the future is extraordinarily bright for him. Make no mistake about it – the chap is deadly.

MUSIC

So it goes

Artist: Ratking

Grade: **A**



Joseph Conroy
CULTURE EDITOR

On 'Protein' track 9 of this 11 song collection, Ratking warn us to not call this a "90s revival record, they'd prefer to call it a tribal revival".

They also start the record with a spoken word sample discussing the current state of hip hop, warning those who long for the old days of Big and Pac that the genre's moved on: "You just got to look at the root and where it

comes from, the average rapper right now is "a whole different generation [...] if your life experience is different then that's gonna come out differently.

"The average 25, 24, 23-year-old rapper, totally different from Biggie and Pac, so you can't really compare the two, you got no point of reference really, just gotta stick with the now, so it goes".

So it Goes is right back to the raw roots of New York hip hop. While their contemporaries, whom they warn us not to place them next to

are aping Biggie and DJ Premier Ratking, are playing a different game. *So it Goes* taps into the wild experimentation that made hip hop such an exciting genre to be given with. The group cut their

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So it Goes is right back to the raw roots of New York hip hop

teeth playing gigs sharing bills with hardcore punk bands and that ethos runs through the record.

If Phil Spector made a wall of sound then Ratking's in-house producer Sporting Life is trying to create a whole sonic city here. *So it Goes* is to New York what Fly-Lo's Los Angeles was to L.A.

The sound blends dense vocal samples and scattered instrumentations over trappy hi-hats and stiff bass-snare beats – think Public Enemy's Bomb Squad meets Wu-Tang, via DJ Shadow – but with more of a punk edge and the odd dash of techno, reggae and calypso.

The rhymes come from Wiki and Hak, two 20 year-old New York natives. Wiki takes the lead, his flow varies from frenetic to feckless. The record touches old themes of gentrification, young love and police brutality. Ratking seem conscious that they're not re-inventing the game – they're just moving the story along.

The rebirth of action



Credit: The Raid 2 promotion

The Raid franchise is reinvigorating an action genre in the doldrums

Gimmickry and tricks could be on the way out, as the action film genre goes through a reawakening, writes **Stuart Comerford**

The *Raid 2* (2014) is currently being hailed as one of the greatest action films ever made, and after the startling success of its predecessor it's not surprising the amount of attention this film franchise is getting.

There's nothing incredibly original that is causing it to be such a success – it's just a very welcome deviation from the factory-like production of sloppy and mediocre action films that has been plaguing the movie industry for the past decade. Year after year Hollywood has been churning out the same style of action film, emphasising explosions, CGI, choppy editing, and shaky camera effects to mask the fact that the filmmakers in charge have no idea what they're doing, and have a desperate need to make everything look "more exciting".

One of the main problems in Hollywood is that there's now too much money involved. *Die Hard* (1988) was made for \$22m; the fifth instalment of the franchise: *A Good Day to Die Hard* (2013), cost a total of about \$100m, and had a single scene, destroying

132 cars, and costing \$11m to do.

Sure, everybody likes to see explosions, but it's pointless when it's not servicing the experience. The average movie goer can't put a scene like that into perspective, so they don't have the ability to connect with the scale of it – the average movie goer has probably never seen a single car explosion in person.

However, the excitement gained from watching Harrison Ford jump from a moving horse onto a moving tank in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989) can be understood, because everybody has experienced movement in their life and can put the stunt into perspective. There's no trickery involved, it's a real stunt that can be seen in a single shot.

“Alex Cross reached an all-time low, where barely anything happening was actually visible”

Audiences now understand more about the movie making process than ever; they understand “camera trickery” when something like a hand-to-hand fight is occurring on-screen.

A movie like *Ong-Bak* (2003)

resonates with audiences because it shows people being punched and kicked in long takes, where the only explanation is that they're actually hitting each other. Foreign cinema has been the staple for action for a long time because they've never had Hollywood-style budgets to make everything look convincing, what they have is actors who are trained stuntmen and fighters, so what you see is real.

CGI removing the use of practical effects is really pushing the “suspension of disbelief” to its limits. Respecting your audience and doing something to invoke that wonderful sense of “realising the impossible” is what makes cinema so brilliant.

The shaky camera effect popularised by *Saving Private Ryan* (1998) as a stylistic feature was quickly adopted across all of Hollywood and replicated by mediocre filmmakers until the results had become so lacklustre across the board that it soon became the standard level of acceptable quality, but that level keeps dropping.

Alex Cross (2012) reached an all-time low, where barely anything happening was actually visible. A common complaint from audiences about action sequences in general is: “I can't see what's going on”. Editors now have the blame for poorly designed action sequences, when it should be the director to blame for being unable to shoot a scene properly.

Spielberg, Cameron, Scott... names familiar to almost any action fan, because of such iconic films like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981), *Terminator 2* (1991), and *Gladiator* (2000). Films that did action right using the exact same method and style – even though they existed in separate decades.

The awareness of 21st Century audiences, and the internet as a distribution platform is causing Hollywood to crack. Now, widely-available foreign films like *The Raid* are giving audiences that believable, exciting action that has basically been left in the 90s in Hollywood. Audiences' reactions are being heard, and this is pushing for the rebirth of action cinema within this decade.

LOST CLASSIC

Hamlet 2 2008



Joseph Conroy
CULTURE EDITOR

Steve Coogan plays a teacher who has a breakdown and writes a politically charged, sexually explicit sequel to Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (or as Coogan's character Dana Marschz refers to it '*Hamlet 1*') and has his students perform it against protests from the school and his pupils' parents.

Coogan's is a disillusioned, self-absorbed failed actor who has found himself in Tucson, Arizona teaching drama to disinterested teenagers. Think *I'm Alan Partridge* meets a weird *Mean Girls / Dead Poets Society* mash-up.

“Little Miss Sunshine went on to be a huge success, nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars. *Hamlet 2* didn't.”

The film premiered at Sundance in '08 and sparked an all-night bidding war over the distribution rights. It sold for \$10 million, just shy of the \$10.5 million Sundance record that *Little Miss Sunshine* set in '06. *Little Miss Sunshine* went on to be a huge success and was nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars; *Hamlet 2* didn't.

The film was a flop. It reportedly grossed around half of the money that was invested into it. It never even made it to cinemas in Ireland or the UK and most passive Coogan/Partridge fans have never even heard of it.

Thus it's become a lost classic, sitting there waiting to be found deep in the depths of your Netflix.

THE FESTIVAL PAGES

Sex, drugs and passing showers

A once-proud 'Oxegener', **Eoghan Regan** recounts tales from long weekends at the festival – an Irish rite of passage

Opening up the stiff tent zipper, hands cold and wet from clawing heat into my body through the long muddy night, a vista of chaos was all I could see.

Like an Apache raid, tents around me were blazing, the cries of empty crisp packets left behind plumed into the Kildare sky and I saw the warriors of blue camp run screaming towards one another.

"I'm never coming back here again," I said to myself as I stuffed my dirt-encrusted possessions into a bag, like a spy leaving a hotel room. But I did come back, for two consecutive years. To Oxegen, the greatest session known to a 17-year-old. It was a sort of masochistic ritual, a cross filled with cans carried through a field, where, for three nights we would self-flagellate with sharp vodka and occasionally wander into a tent where someone may or may not be playing music.

Now, it is true to say that each person's Oxegen experience is totally different. Some arrive as avid fans of all acts on show, a pamphlet program swinging about their neck like a badge of respect. Others are there simply for the social aspect – well, as social as striking up a conversation with a guy who is pissing on your tent can be. I, was a mix of the two.

Oxygeners

One's first insight into the Oxegen 'crowd' begins with the bus. Leaving from Parnell Street, an old double decker would ferry the souls across the river Styx and here you could identify which camp people would fall into.

Some older, cooler couples sported rain ponchos, lawn chairs and 'in-case-of-emergency' pancake makers. These were the experts. Professionals in their field, whichever one they had carefully chosen to stay in.

Then there were the drinkers; three or four lads decked out in floral shorts, old football jerseys as if they believed they were attending a match, and a small industrial forklift full of cheap Lidl cans. 120 cans, you would hear them shout: "40-a-day, just to be safe."

Then there were the unprepared, the over-dressed, the loners, the stoners, the computer programmers. A wild array of Irish life that only at Oxegen would ever merge.



The wild 'Oxegener', pictured here in its natural habitat

Camping

Tent pegs. Confusion. Frustration. Accepting defeat and opening the first warm can.

Watching as the one competent member of your party assembles the crude contraption, while the rest look on in awe.

Choosing where to set up your tent is an art. Some diligent campers would triangulate their resting space using a specific and methodical list of criteria; proximity to the toilets, distance from desired stages, escape routes and, like a upper class hangover, the pedigree of your neighbours.

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Then there were the drinkers; three or four lads decked out in floral shorts and old football shirts, with a small industrial forklift full of Lidl cans: "40-a-day, just to be safe"

My own inexperience had left us dropping anchor only 10 feet from the amusements, which would only cease for two hours of the day. The rest would be drowned in haunting remixes of old eighties pop songs. I still seize in fear some nights, the ghastly 'tilter whirl' spinning around my brain. I can almost smell the beer-soaked sleeping bag that I used to shield my ears.

Music

The whole reason you came, or at least the whole reason you tell people you're going. Apart from last year's move towards a dance-orientated crowd that brought us the newspaper headline 'Five teens injured in overnight slashing assault', Oxegen still pulled in the thousands because it had good bands, putting on good shows.

Nine inch Nails and Rage Against the Machine for the black nail painters and general 'rockers', while Kings of Leon, the Script and Coldplay catered for the 'musical populists' and the 'generally boring'. There was something for everyone to enjoy.

Watching a drunken Oxegener fighting against his body's urge to shut down and mouthing lyrics like a satanic incantation as Katy Perry's 'I Kissed a Girl' boomed through the afternoon air, was personal favourite moment of mine. He, in a lot of ways, summed up the Oxegen ethos for me. Here for the music, but the session comes first.

If you could navigate the minefield of the camp-site, manage not to walk through small communities of lads with republican slogans spray-painted to their tents you would be in for a treat when you reached the arena.

Campers and non-campers were easily distinguishable. Non-campers and day-trippers were full of energy and sunshine, floral wreaths on the girls and designer wellies, buying burgers and chatting about the next act. Camper zombies waded through them, neither alive nor dead, screaming internally 'YOU'RE HAVING FUN'. But it was the kind of fun you derive from a survival mission – it tested your mettle.

For all the pain and cold and fear and disgust, the squatting bush girls, and comatose 'lads', Oxegen will forever be remembered by all who ever set foot on its cold ground. No amount of therapy could ever rid you of it.

Through the lower troughs of 'the recession', pundits looked at each coming summer of festivals and outdoor concerts wondering when something was going to give. While there have been winners and losers over the years, Irish concert goers have proved to be resilient folk and continued to shell out and show up year after year.

The biggest change in the summer live music landscape has been the downfall of Oxegen, the festival that once touted itself as 'the best festival in Europe'. After a few years of confused lineups, a year off and an attempted rebirth as a dance festival, promoters MCD have announced that the festival will not go ahead this year and all indications suggest that it will never return.

It's a pity that the next generation of young Irish music fans will never get to go through this rite of passage. Oxegen's sister festival 'T in the Park' continues in Scotland and has the same kind of catch-all rock/pop/alt lineup that Oxegen had back in its prime. Arctic Monkeys, Biffy Clyro, The Pixies, Elbow and Disclosure lead the sprawling lineup this year.

For all its problems, some of my all-time favorite sets are ones I saw when I was 17 or 18 on rainy Saturdays and Sundays in PuncHESTOWN – Daft Punk on their Alive Tour, Arcade Fire touring Neon Bible and James Brown performing 6 months before he died all spring to mind.

Another vivid memory is looking down over one of the fields while queuing for a bus on the Monday morning, watching the sun break over the still burning campsite. Even that sight had its own anarchic charm.

Electric Picnic is back for its eleventh summer. Each coming

Culture Editor Joseph Conroy on the persistence of Irish music festivals



Credit: Tim Simpson, via Flickr

Festival Nation

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A vivid memory of Oxegen is looking down over one of the fields while queuing for a bus, watching the sun break over the still burning campsite

Picnic is traditionally touted as the one where the charm will finally die. That myth was effectively debunked last year. While courtroom battles rumbled on over ownership

of the festival and a new younger post-Oxegen generation came to join the party, the festival still managed to retain its charm.

Last year's sell-out was probably helped by booking an act as big as Arctic Monkeys as one of the headliners and the additional focus they put on electronic music, but the real takeaway was the price drop. Cheaper tickets and loyalty schemes that offered significantly cheaper tickets to festival veterans were introduced and led to the festival's first post-Tiger 35,000 ticket sellout.

Many would-be festival goers ended up missing out as the sell-out came as somewhat of a shock. The previous year only sold 22,000 weekend tickets and an extra 6,000 day tickets.

They've stuck to the same formula this year.

The initial lineup has more of a traditional Electric Picnic look to it, and headliners OutKast tanked at their first comeback show at Coachella, but you can still expect the festival to draw another massive crowd this summer.

The Oxegen-sized hole in the festival circuit has been partially filled by Longitude in Marlay Park. Last year was the first year of this new offering from MCD and promptly sold out (helped in part by some spectacular sunshine).

The lineup is pretty much the same kind of stuff that would have been on the main stage or second stage of Oxegen back in its day.

While Longitude came away as the big winner in many ways last year, I have to say that in spite of the quality line-up I didn't really enjoy the event and would be cautious about going back. Given its suburban Dublin location, the festival attracts a young crowd and music almost seemed to be a secondary attraction last year.

I stood in a tiny crowd who bothered to watch hometown boys Villagers play near the top of the bill last year, while the rest of the punters were off getting drinks or ice-creams or soaking up the sun. Even the headliners Vampire Weekend and Kraftwerk struggled to keep the audience's attention.

Elsewhere niche festivals have been making massive strides and are continuing to grow. Life and Body & Soul are the pick of the bunch, offering lineups that are a cut above the rest of the smaller players.

Essential Gig Kanye West Dublin / Marlay Park / July 2nd

While I was hoping for an indoor show next winter to get the full effect of Kanye's audacious Yeezus stage show I guess a summer gig in Marlay Park will have to do. The US shows have been somewhere between experimental theatre, some biblical incarnation of cirque du soleil and an arena

hip hop show.

Personally I want 'Ye in full-on messiah mode. While the outdoor version will probably be a bit different from the arena shows Kanye doesn't seem like he's doing anything by halves these days.

When you ignore all the soundbites and bullshit he's a once in

a generation performer and this is his first solo tour in 5 years. Kanye already cancelled his Australia tour this summer to continue work on his next album. He has a track record of road testing new tunes so Dublin might get a sneak-peak at some new material.



OPINION

Taking Libertines with what defines 'REAL music'

EOGHAN
MCNEILL
COLUMNIST

About seven or eight years ago, I was walking down Camden Street in the early hours of the morning. I was wearing a Run DMC t-shirt.

A young fella approached me, complimented the t-shirt, and asked me was I a fan of The Libertines. I told him I was.

He was delighted. He rolled up his t-shirt sleeve and showed me his tattoo: "libertine" in a rough scrawl; a passable copy of the tattoo worn by Carl Barat on the cover of the band's eponymous album.

Jesus.

It was the stupidest tattoo I've ever seen. At the time, I thought the lad it was emblazoned across must have been one of the stupidest people I'd ever met.

I didn't want to rain on the boy's parade though. He was out on the town, trying to enjoy himself. I complimented the tattoo – "Fair play, man; you must love The Libertines" – and went on my way, all the while thinking: "What a terribly stupid boy."

Now, with the benefit of hindsight, I can take the positives from my chance encounter with the stupid boy with the stupid tattoo. It may have been a stupid tattoo, yes, but it was a stupid tattoo of a truly great band.

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I'm reluctant to engage in this kind of chat. I mean, I'm 26. I lived through nu-metal; I bought the Fred Durst cap.

In the years after that meeting, I've never come across somebody with a band tattoo.

Would the 2014-equivalent of that stupid boy have a Bastille tattoo on his arm? A band known for their "quirky" covers of TLC and Miley Cyrus covers. Boyce Avenue with (slightly) cooler haircuts.

An Alt-J tattoo? I've nothing really against Alt-J, probably because they're such a nothing, nothing band. Two of their members wear cool, thick-rimmed glasses. Fair play to them.

If you look at a YouTube video of any song more than a year old, you'll more than likely see a comment that reads something like: "Yeah! This is what REAL music sounds like! Why can't people write songs like this anymore!?"

I'm reluctant to engage in this kind of chat. I mean, I'm 26. I lived through nu-metal; I bought the Fred Durst cap.

I'm sensible enough to understand that everyone forgets about



Credit: XPress

the Limp Bizkits of their generation, and idealise the first "proper" bands they discovered.

Feck it, though. There hasn't been a band even nearly like The Libertines since their disbandment in 2004.

No lead singer who has penned lines like: "Now I'm reversing down a lonely street, cheap hotel where I can meet the past. Pay it off and keep it sweet."

No band to inspire stupid boys to get stupid tattoos.

The Libertines have recently announced they're reforming this summer. Maybe I'll happen across some stupid tattoos next year.

DIT short film to star Eamon Morrissey and Moone Boy lead, David Rawle

AI McConnell
EDITOR

A short film entitled *I've Been A Sweeper*, produced as the graduation film for DIT's Film & Broadcasting BA, brought some big names on to its cast list when it filmed last month.

Eamon Morrissey, well-known in Irish film and television for his roles in *Halls Pictorial Weekly*, *Eat the Peach* and *Father Ted*, will star as the elusive sweeper character in the film.

Alongside Morrissey, David Rawle, who starred as the eponymous David Moone in *Moone Boy*, has been drafted in to play the sweeper as a young man.

Ciarán Dooley, director of *I've*

Been A Sweeper, said of working with Morrissey: "It was great, he brought a subtle gravitas to the character which lifted it from the script and became his own."

Dooley also had high praise for the 13-year-old Rawle, who he described as a "very positive person" who brought energy to both his performance and the set.

"It really was wonderful working with David," he said.

I've Been A Sweeper follows the world's only professional floor sweeper on his last day of work, as he reminisces about his regret-free life of travelling the world while sweeping the floors of Dublin's iconic pubs at dawn.

Filming has now wrapped on *Sweeper*, taking place in several pubs and other Dublin locations,



Credit: I've Been A Sweeper

before moving on to the production stage

Fundit success story

Although the crew contributed financially to their graduate project, *Sweeper* was also hugely successful on the crowd-funding platform Fundit.ie.

In only two weeks, the film had raised its target of €3,000.

Producer Mark Holland said:

"Without Fundit.ie and the people who supported us there, we would never have been able to make this film – the response to

our pitch was really overwhelming.

"We shot for six beautiful days in early March around Dublin and couldn't have asked for nicer locations, crew or cast," said Holland.

With the final 12-minute short set to be completed at the end of this academic year, it will be one to watch at film festivals both in Ireland and internationally.

Similar DIT graduate films have been screened and won awards in LA, Bangkok, Australia and New York over the course's 40-year history.

OVERALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Denise Gaule – Senior Camogie

Ryan Nugent
SPORTS EDITOR

Although as a whole, DIT may have been the bridesmaid and rarely the bride when it came to silverware this season, positives can certainly be taken from the sullen devastation that sets in after defeat.

And this was exactly what came from the college's Senior Camogie campaign, where unprecedented steps in the right direction have given DIT the basis for future success. The camogie side were defeated narrowly in both the division one league final and the Purcell Cup to University of Limerick and UCC respectively.

However, if they intend on going one step further in both and perhaps winning the most prestigious of them all, the Ashbourne Cup in the near future, manager Stephen Hoary and his youthful bunch will have to do it without sensational forward, Denise Gaule, who is a masters student, so will be finished with DIT in September.

Gaule has been chosen by *The Edition's* sports desk as our overall Player of the Year. A prestigious accolade no doubt, yet the Kilkenny star seemed embarrassed at it, while also pointing out immediately that individual awards are a distant second to winning tournaments and trophies with your team.

"It's nice to win these individual awards but it's disappointing not to have won anything as a team because that's what matters. The season didn't really end the way we wanted it to, because we'd been doing so well up until the finals," admitted Gaule.

The way the fixture list worked out, DIT had both the League final and the Purcell Cup final in the same week, meaning it was doubly disappointing for a team, who had 11 freshers including Gaule, in their starting line-up.

"It was great to get to the finals with such a young team, but not a whole lot went wrong. They just got off to a much better start than us in the Purcell final, it was 1-5



Gaule in action for DIT during a successful year for college camogie

to 0-00 in the first 10 minutes," said Gaule.

DIT went on to lose the game by four points, highlighting how tight the game was after the early onslaught.

Defeat was certainly not what Gaule had been used to during her postgraduate degree in WIT, where they famously won four Ashbourne Cups in succession.

"I don't think there's much difference in standard between the WIT team I played with and our DIT team, possibly experience and I think we were very lucky at WIT in the sense that we had a quality player in every position. Although we had a fantastic team spirit this season because we knew we had a good chance and everyone put it in from the beginning," conveyed Gaule.

An inter-county camogie player for Kilkenny, Gaule has high expectations for this season, with Kilkenny hoping to banish last year's All-Ireland final defeat from memory, starting with a victory in the league final

this weekend. They, alongside the Kilkenny hurlers will want to bring home the big trophies to the hurling obsessed marble county.

"Yeah we're pretty obsessed with hurling down here. If you go into town, you see a lot of lads with hurls just pucking about.

Growing up, I'd always go for a few pucks too, outside the house or whatever," said Gaule, insisting that it's bred into you if you're from Kilkenny.

"I'd say 50 per cent of the people in Kilkenny play hurling. Although to be fair, it's not as if they have football or anything to concentrate on," said Gaule.

However, although there is no waning in popularity for camogie or hurling, to play for the county, you need to have both desire and commitment, with the camogie side training three nights a week.

"It was grand when we were up in Dublin for college, because there were 10 or 12 of us on the panel that were living up in Dublin as well as some of the coaches, so we had training once a week in UCD," said Gaule.

EDITORIAL

It's not just Moyes that should head for the door

RYAN NUGENT
SPORTS EDITOR



As 'the Chosen One' sped out the back entrance of Manchester United's Carrington training complex, the stories of dressing room unrest – or dressing room petulance – has come out almost as quickly.

Was Moyes simply not up to the task, or did the players never give him a chance? There was certainly a mixture of both emanating from both Carrington and Old Trafford, with nobody at the club coming out of the situation in a positive light.

We've heard from unnamed sources within the club, and Leighton Baines too, that Moyes put too much emphasis on stopping the opposition rather than concentrating on his own team's attacking strengths, something which he may have been able to get away with at Everton, but not when you're taking over the 20-time champions of England.

Moyes also used the word "try" so frequently in interviews that it became a running joke on social media.

A Manchester United manager has got to be more certain. Ferguson, for example had a 'try and stop me' tone instead, when talking about his club's chances. He didn't want to 'make it difficult' for opponents, he wanted to pulverise them.

However, the behaviour of some of the United players was nothing less than deplorable. Take Ferdinand for one and his not so subtle references to the managerial sack race, asking his twitter followers 'who's next for the sack?' when his manager was already ageing 10 years under the pressure. This is only a minor example.

Let me make this clear, there are a number of Manchester United footballers that should be ushered out the back door of Carrington too. Big reputation or not.

SPORTS

Sports Editors: Ryan Nugent & Piers Moyles sports@edition.ie

MEN'S FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Bryan Menton

Piers Moyles
SPORTS EDITOR

Standing at 6'3, built like an outhouse and armed with a firm handshake, Bryan Menton has a presence oozing with confidence and authority which is one of the attributes that meant he was named *The Edition's* football player of the year.

"It's been a long four years but unfortunately that's me done now for college. It's the big bad world for me now", said Menton as a smile etched its way from one corner of his mouth to another.

After establishing himself as DIT's first choice full back, college football is coming to an end for the Meath man and he's still coming to terms with those days approaching their cli-

max.

"I'm only a senior footballer now so it's only the county team and the club team now. I don't have any Under-21 or college football left so that's tough but at least I got to win the Sigerson Cup here" Menton said.

There was a tinge of regret as Bryan spoke about the Sigerson and the sides' failed attempt to retain the prestigious accolade of being the premier side in college football.

“

I gave everything for the team and a lot of the other players did too

"I think it was realistic for us to retain it. We always took it one game at a time but there was always belief that we could win it again. We had most of our defence from the year we won it before, we were only missing a few players and we had a good team spirit this year. We were just unfortunate not to get over the line. If we had of won that game, [against Jordanstown in the quarter-final] I think we would have went on and won it" he asserted.

The success of last year means that Bryan and his teammates have left a legacy behind, "If you're a footballer and you see that DIT won the Sigerson you're going to want to come to that college." He proudly exclaimed.

Despite the team not being able to reach the heights that they did last year, Menton looks back on his final year with DIT as one where he himself performed well,



Credit: Stuart Comerford

Menton has now come to the end of his DIT career

"I've established the full back position for DIT in the last three years. I think whatever job I've been given I've done well and I've put everything in for the team. I was captain for the team this year as well. I gave everything I had and a lot of the players did too."

Bryan may not be DIT's number three anymore but football will still be a huge part of his daily routine when he completes his degree, and he went on to say, "I've been playing Gaelic

since I was four years of age. It's my fifth year in the Meath senior team and I'll just keep continuing until I'm dropped"

When Bryan Menton steps out of Bolton Street as a student for the final time, he'll no doubt be tightly clutching his special copy of *The Edition* where he was named player of the year, alongside his diploma, if that has not been discarded and replaced by the multi-award winning publication.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Claire King

Sinéad Farrelly
SPORTS REPORTER

Sinéad Farrelly:
How do you feel looking back on the league that DIT ladies competed in in the first semester?

Claire King:

We were really really hopeful like we had a really good management this year with Pat Strich and Lisa helping out and we were really hopeful.

We had won one match and we lost the rest but the league is difficult to get players out to play for because it is played in the run up to exams and assessments so we were then hoping to try and get more out together to play for the championship and the cup in the second semester.

It was really good experience, really good training and a great core group of girls it was just hard to get the rest of the girls out.

SF: In the championship you qualified, but unfortunately could not repeat last year's Lynch cup final, was that disappointing?

CK: No we didn't qualify for the finals and that was disappointing but I was there last year and we got to the Lynch cup final and that was a brilliant experience so at least we got to have that last year.

Next year is my last year so I'd be hoping that we could go for the cup and get the weekend away.

SF: DIT ladies football do not have a large panel of

players to choose from, why do you think that is?

CK: The biggest issue I think is that in DIT we don't have a core pitch that we use for all training and home matches, we haven't got a pitch in town. This is especially difficult for training, nearly every time there's a different place for training.

It's understandable that people can't go because you have to stay late from college, get a bus from town to training, back to town and then go home again.

If you don't drive it's very very hard, I would be out of home from 9 am until sometimes about 11 pm so it is a really big commitment and you really have to love football to do it. Maybe when we get Grangeorman together it'll be better then.

SF: You recently injured your cruciate ligament



Credit: GAApics

The DIT star, King, now faces a long-term injury lay-off

and this will keep you out of the Dublin senior team for this year's championship, will it affect you playing for DIT next year?

CK: There's no chance I'll be able to play the inter county championship with Dublin this year and it's a pity because this is my first year playing with senior Dublin and so I'm just really disappointed, but I'm

just going to keep going to the gym and swimming and try to keep up my fitness for next year.

I also don't think I'll be back for the league with college next year so I'm just going to have to concentrate on the cup because I won't be back fully until January time which is a real pity because it will be my last year with the college to have to miss the league.

HURLER OF THE YEAR

Kieran Bergin

Harry Hatton
STAFF WRITER

In a season that had more frustration than elation, it can be hard for DIT senior hurler Kieran Bergin to look back with fondness at 2014.

Bergin was captain of the Fitzgibbon Cup team that were defeated by eventual champions Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) in the quarter-final back in February.

The game was played in Parnells GAA Club in Coolock and WIT won by seven points after extra time.

"They got the goal from the very first puck of the ball in extra time. It was very, very hard for us to get back," admitted Bergin.

The Tipperary man was

not happy with the referee in the lead up to that crucial goal.

"From where I was standing the referee threw in the ball and I'm not being biased now he told the boys to push back to midfield and he turned around and threw it and our guy was turned facing the other way.

"He should have waited everyone was ready and he didn't."

If DIT were more economical in their shooting in normal time, the captain would have no reason to slate the referee.

"We were driving awful wides and we missed two penalties. We could have won the game by five or six [points]."

On the bright side, Bergin has one last chance at the Fitzgibbon. He will be starting the final year of



Bergin was brought back to hurling by DIT's Joe Fortune

his Environmental Health course in September.

But if you thought that Bergin is in his early twenties, you were wrong. He spent his early twenties living in America and only came back to Ireland around two years ago. He's now 28.

"I had two years done in Environmental Health before I left [for America]. I was about seven years over there, New York for five years, California for two."

Bergin did an interview

upon his return to Ireland and was allowed to return to second year of his course. "I just said I'd go back and finish the course."

Bergin is making a big effort to ensure fresh inter-county faces will hurl in the blue of DIT next season.

"I've been working on trying to recruit lads down this side [in Munster] because we're always going to get the Dublin hurlers.

"Cathal Barrett, he's on the [Tipperary] senior team,

he's joining next year."

Bergin owes a huge debt of gratitude to the DIT senior hurling boss, Joe Fortune, for resurrecting his college career.

"I was actually going to not play college hurling 18 months ago. Joe rang me and defiantly 20 minutes on the phone persuaded me to go to a game that evening.

"If he hadn't persuaded me that day on the phone I would have gave it up because I was in with the Tipp footballers at the time and I was going to concentrate on football."

Bergin's renaissance under Fortune led to a call up to the Tipperary senior team. He is in his second season with the Premier County hurlers.

"[I'm] trying to take every opportunity I can and win a few All-Ireland medals before I hang up the boots."

The student's first assignment on the road to All-Ireland glory is a Munster Championship semi-final against Limerick in Semple Stadium on June 1.

SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Paul Malone

William O'Toole
STAFF WRITER

When *The Edition's* sports desk sat down to discuss who among many candidates would be chosen for each of our sports, many names were thrown into the hat. None, however, were voiced with such conviction as Paul Malone.

We actually wondered whether he would want to speak to us again, after interviewing him earlier in the year. But he simply had to be chosen. And as you'll see from the first question onwards, Malone is quite the modest individual, while his winning mentality says a lot about the reasons he's playing at such a good level.

Paul has had a great career to date and during a

seven-year spell playing League Of Ireland he has the distinction of being the most capped player in the history of Wexford Youths. This season, as previously mentioned in *The Edition*, he also represented Ireland in the World University Games in Russia

William O'Toole:
How do you feel about being selected as the soccer player of the year?

Paul Malone:
I'd be very happy about that to be honest with you. I don't think personally I had that great a season so I'll take it (he laughs).

WOT: What was your highlight this season with DIT?

PM: Ah to be honest I don't

think there was a highlight. We had a very disappointing year as a team. We had done so well last year and we were expecting more. The previous season had been so good so it was frustrating but that the way the game goes. Personally I was disappointed with my own form.

WOT: What was your own highlight of the season?

PM: Without question playing for and captaining the Irish men's team at the World University games in Russia, that was special. It was a great experience playing for the national team. we won 5 out of 5 and I'll never forget that experience.

WOT: What does next year hold for you at DIT?

PM: I haven't decided if I will be back at DIT or not



Paul Malone grapples at the World University Games

yet. That's a decision I'll make over the summer. If I do go back then id be hoping that the team can bounce back from this season. I'd love to win the cup.

WOT: How did the football go for you other than with DIT?

PM: Well I was doing my thesis so I took a step back from soccer. I'd being playing league of Ireland for 7

years. Mainly with Wexford Youth's but I was with Bray as well. I couldn't commit to training. I want to get back at it now so I'll wait till the summer transfer window and see what clubs are available.

I am training with Home Farm at the moment and that is an option. I wouldn't rule out a move back to Wexford. I'll just have to wait and see what the summer brings.

THE EDITION Sport

Inside: Edition Sports Awards

- Overall Player of the Year
- Women's Footballer of the Year
- Men's Footballer of the Year
- Soccer Player of the Year
- Hurler of the Year



Credit: WakeDock

DIT wins big at wakeboard intervarsities

Kite and Wake Club bring home four prizes from competition held on Liffey

Piers Moyles
SPORTS EDITOR

In an attempt to conquer all sports great and small, DIT Kite and Wake club took part in their first intervarsities this month and it was a fruitful endeavour.

DIT did well in a number of categories with the college placing 1st and 2nd in the men's rookie category, 2nd in men's intermediate and 3rd in the men's advanced.

Chairperson of the Kite and Wake club Ryan O'Hare was pleased with how the event unfolded and said, "The overall event

was a huge success and has really helped to define wakeboarding in Ireland, not to mention it laid down some strong foundations for next year."

There was stern compe-

“The overall event was a huge success and has really helped to define wakeboarding in Ireland

tion provided by 30 participants of varying levels from all across the country but there was a nice contrast between the formal nature of the event and the relaxing atmosphere.

O'Hare then gave an outline of the events that took place during the day in an attempt to provide a feel of the proceedings, "The day started out with registration at 9am and then straight onto the practise runs which ran on until 1:30pm, where the riders could warm up and prep for their heats."

He went on to say, "At 2pm we began with the rookie heats, from there on to intermediates which was divided into men's and women's and then advanced. This was a straight knock out where riders had only a few short minutes to demonstrate their skills or else an allowance of 3 falls which would conclude their set."

The contestants who finished top of their category went on to compete against each other in their chosen

Geoffrey Duffy on the Liffey, taking part in the Student Wake Challenge

discipline in an attempt to be top of the podium when it came to the prize giving section of the event which took place just after 5pm.

Ryan finished off by giving a big thank you to all those who were involved in the occasion, "A thanks to our hosts Wakedock and the (IWWF) Irish wakeboard and water-ski federation for their provision on judges and ongoing support."

The club is relatively new and it's good to see the college excel in another sport which augurs well for future competitions and a barbeque or two as well of course.

DIT cricket reaches semi-finals in national tournament

Sinéad Farrelly
SPORTS REPORTER

DIT's cricket club recently hosted a Twenty20 intervarsity tournament, in conjunction with the National College of Ireland (NCI), at the Wesley College in Dublin with a total of six colleges participating in the event.

In the group stages of the competition DIT lost to DCU by 51 runs, but then came back strongly to beat NCI by 69 runs, earning them a place in the semi final.

On the morning of the second day of the tournament DIT played IT Blanchardstown in the semi final, however, they lost, and IT Blanchardstown went on to play Griffith College in the final.

This was the first Twenty20 tournament that DIT have hosted and Cricket Club chairman Murali Rajendran was very happy with the end result, citing that the recent run of good weather helped it to go ahead more easily.

"It was a pretty good experience hosting the competition. It was the first time DIT has organised this sort of a tournament, it was very stressful at the start but the competition has gone very smoothly across today and yesterday." He said.

"The weather has also helped as well we did not have interruptions in play too often over the two days".