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USI go after TDs ahead of budget

Josephine Gallagher
Irish Editor

The Union of Students Ireland (USI) is planning a two part campaign against student grant cuts and the proposed increase in fees. The Union is holding a series of meetings aimed at organizing protests outside specific Oireachtas members’ offices across the country, leading up to the Budget on 4 December.

John Halligan, one of the members of the campaign, said USI is hoping to meet with Government members. “We’ve picked 32 of the most strategically important TDs in the Dáil, as far as we’re concerned, we’re lobbying these and putting all our efforts into these TDs rather than trying to lobby 166 of them and 60 senators,” said Logue.

The USI president urges all students to get involved from now up until the Budget, asking them to attend the USI meetings, take part in the protests, write letters to Oireachtas members and to tell their parents and local businesses about the campaign.

“Letters will be handed out to local businesses informing them about the amount of revenue they’ll have lost if the student contribution continues to increase and the grant continues to decrease,” said Logue.

In the first act of the campaign, USI have launched a month long series of meetings, to discuss the fees, grants and student expenses. Oireachtas members have been invited to attend the assemblies to answer questions about issues concerning student costs.

The first meeting in the Dublin region for DIT and Trinity will be held on 7 November and all students, parents and local businesses are welcome to attend. The DIT protests will take place on 20 November, with DIT targeting The Minister for Education and Kevin’s Humphrey’s office. “These are two huge tasks for DIT, especially the fact that Ruairi Quinn is the Minister for Education. Kevin Humphrey is also politically vulnerable, as he’s a Labour member and spoke out in favour of protecting education prior to the election,” said the USI President.

The Minister for Education’s press officer, Sarah Miley responded to the protests by saying “the Minister has no difficulty with people exercising their democratic rights, once it is done in a peaceful manner.”

An Independent TD for Waterford, John Halligan is one of the members targeted in this campaign. He believes that the protests should be focused on Government TDs and Ministers and not opposition members. “I’m annoyed and feel that opposition parties shouldn’t be targeted, it shouldn’t be people standing by you,” said Halligan.

The Independent TD says that he has always supported students in the past as a Councillor and TD and that the USI’s priority should be focusing on Government members.

Frank Feighan, a Fine Gael TD for Roscommon and South Leitrim is another member listed for this campaign against Education cuts. The TD was unaware of the upcoming demonstrations but said he didn’t object to students protesting outside his offices.

When asked whether he’d argue in favour of students in the Dáil he replied, “I’ll have to wait and see what the minister’s proposals are. We’re in a very difficult situation.”

The Press officer for the Minister for Education said that Ruairi Quinn is still planning to raise the registration fee to €3000 by 2015, putting more pressure on the already struggling families. The USI President John Logue believes that education has always been “the silver bullet” to getting out of any economic crisis and protecting students should be the Government’s priority.

Lecture remasters

Lecturer and researcher at DIT, Derry FitzGerald, has been included among the credits on the latest Beach Boys release.

By developing a method of digitally re-mastering mono tracks into stereo, without using the original tapes, he has produced something which has been referred to as a ‘holy grail’ of the music industry.

On the recent re-release of the Beach Boys’ classic album, ‘Smiley Smile’, the DIT staff member is credited with the audio production of a stereo version of ‘Good Vibrations’. For over fifteen years this track has been awaited by Beach Boys fans worldwide, but the possibility of hearing it seemed slim, as the original mono tracks of the song were lost several years ago.

Only now, with the use of Derry’s innovative ‘audio separation’ techniques, can the track be produced in a quality stereo version. With many other classic tracks in the same position, including many Elvis Presley recordings, the potential of the new method seems vast.

After a positive reaction from the band’s notoriously hard-to-please fan base, it is difficult to over-estimate what significance ‘audio separation’ could have on classic tracks.

The Edition discussed meeting the Beach Boys with Fitzgerald, what his work will mean for the music industry, and where he hopes to take the technology in future.

Full article page 9
Irish Universities fall further down international rankings

The regard in which Irish universities are held internationally continues to fall, according to latest studies. Recently released Times Higher Education Rankings again feature no Irish universities inside the top 100 of its list of the most prestigious third-level institutions in the world. The rankings also downgraded the standing of most Irish universities in its latest report. University College Dublin (UCD) suffered the most dramatic fall, dropping from 159th to 187th. UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, admitted he was “very disappointed” with the college’s position.

Trinity College Dublin (TCD) remains the country’s best regarded college, having risen seven places to 110th. Both UCD and TCD have fallen sharply in recent times. Six years ago both colleges were ranked inside the top 100, with Trinity in the top 50. The poor performance of Irish universities in the latest rankings will spark renewed debate over a possible merger between TCD and UCD. The merging of Ireland’s two leading colleges was recently backed by an international panel of experts in a report commissioned by the Higher Education Authority. Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn, has previously dismissed the prospect of a merger as “neither feasible or desirable.”

Irish universities are currently struggling to cope with a six per cent reduction in staff and an on-going funding crisis. Government cuts have seen staff levels at Irish colleges fall by 1,500 between 2008 and 2011. The recession has prompted record numbers of applications for third-level places, putting further strain on already under-resourced colleges. The fall in Irish universities international standing was compounded by increased investment in third-level education in emerging nations, with China, Brazil, India and Russia all investing heavily. Another feature of the rankings is the emergence of universities from the Asia-Pacific region. Colleges in Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore have risen in the rankings at the expense of more prestigious universities in the USA and UK. The Times rankings are the most comprehensive and accurate in the world, often used by international students when deciding where to study.

Minister Quinn has so far resisted pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reintroduce fees as an alternative to cuts. The Minister did increase the registration fee by €250 in last year’s budget, reneging on a pre-election commitment in the process. There is widespread speculation that next month’s budget will see a further increase in registration fees, in an effort to raise finance for the struggling sector.

DIT to become Hogwarts?

Hogwarts is to arrive at DIT in time for Rag Week - or at least that is what the rumours would have you believe.

This year’s RAG (Raise and Give) week is planned for next February, and the rumour mill is already churning out every suggestion for the theme. One particularly popular idea which has been flying around the various DIT campuses, is that the Student Union administration turns DIT into Hogwarts for a week. Now, however true this actual rumour is, let’s magic our way into that world for just a few minutes.

Every single day, thousands of students walk the halls of DIT. But imagine if you walked in on a Monday morning, and instead of seeing the usual sights, you were greeted by people wearing robes and carrying wands; perhaps even an owl or two would be flying through the corridors. Sound familiar? In 1997 JK Rowling released the world of magic to the universe and there is now a chance that for one week and one week only, DIT will become our Hogwarts.

Having talked to SU Vice President for Events, Will Ní Mhärta, who said that there are “no definite plans for RAG week”, we still don’t know if it will actually go ahead. But it seems that students in DIT are up for a week full of magic! Nicola Kirwan from first year Journalism commented that it “would be a savage week with different things going on every day.” When surveyed, 80% of students said that they would love the idea of a magical DIT.

This idea for RAG week may not go ahead but if you, the students of DIT, really want it, then only you can make it happen! Contact the Student Union on their Facebook page and suggest this idea or any others you may have! We’re all members of the Student Union so make

Grangegorman running on schedule with 1,000 students to move on campus by 2014

The Grangegorman Development Agency (GDA) lodged the first planning notice for DIT’s unified campus with Dublin City Council earlier this month.

16 buildings on the site of St. Brendan’s psychiatric hospital are to be knocked down to make way for services and campus infrastructure like footpaths, lights, benches and playing fields.

Spokesperson for the GDA, Ronan Doyle, told The Edition they hoped to have over 1,000 DIT students studying on the site by 2014. The agency will refurbish a number of protected buildings on the site to accommodate this group, which will include Fine Arts students from Mountjoy Square.

The first new buildings are due to be completed in 2017 through a public-private partnership. A Central Quad will be the first set of buildings to be completed, housing about 10,000 students from tourism, food and science departments. This means half of DIT’s students will be in Grangegorman in five years’ time.

“Things are happening now,” Mr. Doyle said. “We’re very much up and running.”

The GDA’s plans for the site became the basis of a Strategic Development Zone after approval came from An Bórd Pleanála in August.

Initial demolition work will begin early next year, but the changing rooms used by a number of DIT sports clubs are to remain place long. This should allay fears expressed by Stephen Brandon, captain of DIT Caving, which is one of Grangegorman’s largest groups, that regularly use facilities in Grangegorman.

“That’s the first I’ve heard of it,” he said, when told about the demolition notice last week. “I hope they don’t drive a bulldozer through our equipment store without telling us!”

Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn dismisses a possible merger of TCD and UCD

...
McAleese gives support for gay marriage

Cian McKiernan

Former Irish President, Mary McAleese, has declared herself in favour of gay marriage.

McAleese expressed her views in an interview with Gay Byrne on the programme, 'The Meaning of Life'. She said that she held "a very strong view that for centuries now, gay people have lived in a dark secretive world of indeterminate identity (and) status."

McAleese then went on to say that gay people are "as entitled to live their lives on their own terms, as I do as a heterosexual.

She enthusiastically stated that she was "just thrilled anyone wants to get married.

"The Irish government, President made these comments after earlier voicing her concerns about the growing number of young, gay men who take their own lives. Speaking on RTÉ Radio, McAleese explained that she believes this is due to "the whole problem of coming to terms with the fact that you are gay, when you are 14, 15 or 16, an internal conflict of absolutely appalling proportions opens up.

"They will have heard words like 'disorder', they may even have heard the word 'evil', used in relation to homosexual practice," she said.

"And when they make the discovery - and it is a discovery and not a decision - that they are gay, they are often very young, and that's when the conflict gets the most intense," she added.

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UCDSU pledge to keep the student bar serving pints

Colin Layde
Deputy News Editor

UCD bar staff have called off planned strike action after reaching an agreement with the college’s Student Club.

The staff served the college with notice of their intention to strike on September 21st, with industrial action due to commence on October 2nd. Strike action was averted after the Student Club paid the first of two redundancy packages they claim they are owed.

Joe Donnelly of the Mandate trade union which represents the workers says the industrial action will be postponed for 10 days to allow the Student Club time to settle their claim.

The second payment is due within the next 10 days. Strike action has been deferred until the second payment has been made. “We are glad that the workers have received their first overdue payment, we continue to be committed to making sure our members receive their entitlements,” he said.

The Student Bar at UCD’s Belfield campus has been closed since June after accumulating losses of over €120,000. Bar staff were made redundant and agreement was reached on a redundancy package on August 31st.

What will happen to The Student Bar, the largest of three on the Belfield campus, remains unknown.

Rachel Breslin, President of UCD Students’ Union, insists it is essential the bar is reopened. “The bar is still the best place on campus for holding concerts, faculty days and quizzes,” she said. “We as a Student Union are not willing to stand for the disappearance of that facility.”

UCDSU are currently in discussions with the College’s Bursar, in the hope that authorities will be able to pay the outstanding debts.

Ms. Breslin acknowledges that compensating workers should come before student partying. “Students want to socialise but we also have staff who have been agreed redundancy and who haven’t had it. Who’s more important? I wouldn’t automatically say it’s the students in terms of real need,” she said.

A replacement for the Student Bar was due to be built in UCD’s new student centre which was due to open in coming weeks, but was delayed due to funding shortages.

The UCD bar at the centre of huge controversy over losses over €120,000

ACUM NGACAIL@SOC.DIT.IE
Google Shares to Recover Position After Drop

Andrew Donovan
News Editor

Following Google’s 9% share drop last week they are still struggling to recover their market position as traders continue to take their profit and sell Google stocks. Usually when a company announces its earnings per quarter it waits till Wall Street has closed so as not to affect their shares too much.

In this instance the company in charge with publishing Google’s earnings jumped the gun and released the figures before CEO Larry Page could offset the poor earnings with his statement. Page did get a word in later in the day however “I am sorry for the scramble earlier today. As our printers have said, they hit send on the release just a bit early. We had a strong quarter — I am really happy with our business. Revenue was up 45 per cent year-on-year, and, at just fourteen years old, we cleared our first $14 billion revenue quarter. Not bad for a teenag- er!” Peter Brown of the Irish Institute of Financial Trading said that this release became a trigger to the markets to start selling and taking profit. This continues the trend of big tech companies stock suffering a slump. Apple’s share has fallen by 100 since the launch of the iPhone 5. As the hype built Apple’s stock was pushed up and up until the market decided it was time to cash in their chips. It can come as a surprise that companies as powerful as Apple and Google can be subjected to the whims of the market but this is nothing new says Peter Brown. “The share price isn’t determined by the fundamentals of the company any more, it’s all speculation. Previously equity [shares] went up and down due to the fundamentals but now it comes down to technical analysis such as charting and algorithms.”

Peter Brown has been trading in the financial markets for 30 years and he advises against trading in equities. “If you buy Standard and Poor 500 futures rather than equities you can put in a stop loss so you can’t lose more than €100.

“Equity is volatile so we advise to trade the S&P, the FTSE or the DAX where the stocks are controlled. Unless you have some insider knowledge it’s very hard to trade equities, it’s almost impossible to predict what’s going to happen to the share in the future because every product fluctuates up and down constantly.

Fake Facebook groups target DIT students

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

Students have been warned to exercise caution when dealing with Facebook groups purporting to represent the Institute, DIT Students’ Union, or other groups affiliated to the college.

Several students have reported being invited to join groups, and being offered bogus wristbands that claim to guarantee entry to multiple DIT events for up to €50. DITSU says anyone using these wristbands will be refused entry to any events. If there is any doubt over a Facebook group, check with the college.

The problem is that Facebook is an open forum, so there’s very little we can do,” says DITSU’s Vice President for Events, Will Mears. “We have e-mailed a lot of the groups to try and get them to close, but ultimately it’s very difficult for us to control it. One of the things these sites try to do is build up databases on people, so we just need everyone to be careful when they are contacted by groups like this.”

First things first, DO NOT, and I repeat, DO NOT go out on Halloween night. Everything is hugely overpriced and clubs and bars are always over-crowded. Have a house party instead, or better yet, go camping. It brings the right level of spookiness and is way more affordable. Have a house party instead, or better yet, go camping. It brings the right level of spookiness and is way more affordable. If you really feel you have to go out for the holiday, go out the night before or the night after the big day itself. It’s far cheaper, there’s always a great atmosphere with plenty of people, and you can still dress up!

If you feel the need to buy sweets for the ‘trick or treaters’ (or yourself), go to the €2 shop. I know I’m always banging on about it, but you can get some unbelievable bargains for much cheaper than if you were to buy multipacks in your local Tesco or Dunnes.

Costumes are one of the most expensive things you can buy at Halloween. So find something in your wardrobe you don’t care about and nip it up, cover it in fake blood and viola – you’re Halloween ready. Alternatively, the childhood favourites of plastic bags and bed sheets are goldmines. Sheets can turn you into anything from a ghost to a Roman, while plastic bags enable you to look like a rubber bandit.

Make your own decorations; don’t bother buying expensive decorations as, chances are, they’ll either get lost when you move out at the end of the year or destroyed at one of your parties. Save on electricity and use “mood lighting”, AKA loads and loads of tea lights. You’ll look like you’re being creative and your house will have a season-appropriate atmosphere, all while saving you money.

Go bobbing for apples. Cheap, easy and great craic especially when you’ve had a few drinks.

Instead of splashing out a small fortune to go to the cinema and see the latest horror film, have a night in with a few friends and those old classics everyone has tucked away like Halloween, Hocus Pocus, and Scream.

Make your own brac, apple tart and other season-appropriate food with stuff from Aldi or Lidl, home to some great bargains that still taste really good.
Man falls 834 feet, survives

Andrew MacDonagh
Science Editor

On Sunday, October 14, Felix Baumgartner, an Austrian skydiver, plummeted from space, breaking three world records by the time his feet touched the ground. This feat was the objective of the Red Bull Stratos, a mission to the edge of space, in an attempt to transcend human limits that have existed for 50 years.

In front of a global audience, with over 7 million people watching live on the internet, Baumgartner took off, ascended 24.5 miles (an altitude of 128,000ft or 4 times as high as Mount Everest) in a stratospheric balloon, and then jumped out. As he stood outside his capsule preparing to jump from the edge of space, he said: “Sometimes you have to go really high to understand how small you are.” He landed just 44 miles from where he launched in Roswell, New Mexico.

From the moment of jump to the moment of landing 9 minutes 9 seconds passed. The success of that 9 minutes was the culmination of 7 years of hard work, both training and preparation, in which one man supported by a team composed of world-leading minds in aerospace medicine, science, engineering, pressure suit development, capsule creation and balloon fabrication overcame every challenge which faced them.

The Red Bull Stratos team included retired United States Air Force Colonel Joseph Kittinger, who held the world record for longest skydive from a height of 19 miles since 1960. Kittinger, at the age of 84, acted as capsule communicator, directing Baumgartner through his record breaking freefall from Earth’s stratosphere.

Scientific data, captured from Joe’s jump in 1960, was shared with U.S. research personnel for development of the space program.

Baumgartner and his expert team taking what they learned from Joe’s jump, more than 50 years ago, pressed forward to test human limits farther, believing the accomplishment of their mission, in daring the atmospheric limits, holds the potential to provide valuable medical and scientific research data for future pioneers.

Baumgartner, himself, is no stranger to testing human limits, having spent time in the Austrian military, where he practiced parachute jumping, including training to land on small target zones. Prior to the Red Bull Stratos project, he was renowned for his daredevil stunts, sky-diving, and BASE jumping. (Aside: BASE jumping is an activity where participants jump from fixed objects [Buildings, Antennas, Spans (bridges), Earth (cliffs)] and use a parachute to break their fall.)

Some of Baumgartner’s accomplishments to date include the World record BASE jump from the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (1,483ft) and the World record lowest BASE jump from Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (3,300ft) in 1996. First winged freefall crossing of the English Channel, Dover to Calais in 2003; the World record BASE jump from the highest bridge in the world, Millau Viaduct Bridge, France (1,250ft) in 2004; as well as the BASE jump from world’s tallest building, Taipei 101 Tower, Taipei, Taiwan (1,667ft) in 2007.

After accelerating to a top speed of 834 miles an hour, during a freefall lasting 4 minutes 19 seconds, Felix deployed his parachute, 5,300 ft above the ground. Down on bended knees, soon after landing safely on his feet, with 50 year records toppled in his wake, this marked the end of the seven year venture for Baumgartner.

A quote soon after landing belies his humanity “When you are standing on top of the world, you don’t think of records anymore, all you think is that you want to come back alive.”

This will be the end of his extreme jumping career as he has promised this will be his final jump.

Red Bull Stratos medical director Dr. Jonathan Clark, prior to mission success highlighted there desire to explore the effects of acceleration to supersonic velocity on humans. We have a great scientific team, and we’re working to compile all of the scientific data. Felix had a monitoring system which will help to break incredible new ground.

He said, “We’ll be setting new standards for aviation. Never before has anyone reached the speed of sound without being in an aircraft. Red Bull Stratos is testing new equipment and developing the procedures for inhabiting such high altitudes as well as enduring such extreme acceleration. The aim is to improve the safety for space professionals as well as potential space tourists.” After the event, he summed up the whole effort with “the world needs a hero, and today they got one.”

For more information on the mission and the science, engineering and technology behind it for its success, go to www.redbullstratos.com.

The Wind and the City

Andrew Donovan
News Editor

A micro wind turbine in the heart of the city has the potential to produce 50% of a household’s yearly power, according to Keith Sunderland of the School of Electrical Engineering Systems in DIT.

“Just one micro wind turbine placed at twice the height of your average building can produce an extraordinary amount of energy,” says Mr. Sunderland.

Two months ago a rooftop meteorological observation site was installed on top of DIT Kevin Street. It is a collaborative project between scientists in NUI Maynooth, UCD, and DIT.

Solar radiation, wind velocity and CO2 production can all be monitored by the site. 800,000 entries a day have been recorded after being only operational for two months making 10 measurements per second.

All of the instruments are electronic and are powered by a 12V battery which is rechargeable by solar power. Once in place, the instruments record by themselves and are checked for accuracy every six months. 80% of CO2 emissions are produced in cities and the Kevin Street site isn’t the first site monitoring this activity in Ireland. St. Pius X Girls School in Templeogue is twinned with the project. They will measure suburban Dublin while Kevin Street monitors urban Dublin.

All results will be made public, says Sunderland, and could be of great benefit to other scientists especially when city planners are mapping out green areas to balance CO2 emissions in future urban areas.

“People might wonder why we don’t place the turbine in a rural region where more wind is generated but with the amount of people living in cities expected to double, urban wind generation is becoming a bigger possibility,” says Mr. Sunderland.

Between now and 2050, the UN is predicting that the world’s population will increase by 2.3bn, from 7.0bn to 9.3bn. The population living in urban areas will rise by 2.8bn, passing from 3.6bn in 2011 to 6.3bn in 2050. For instance the UN anticipates that half of the population of Asia will live in urban areas by 2020, while Africa is likely to be 50% urban by 2055.

Li-COR BioSciences, the designer and manufacturer of the scientific instruments believe that the Kevin Street site could be used as a benchmark for similar sites around the world.

See live stream: http://147.252.226.200/cgi-bin/guestimage.html
The Beach Boys classic, Good Vibrations, was sadly stuck in mono until DIT lecturer, Derry FitzGerald, developed the technology to split it, finds Al McConnell

Ever since the advent of digital music production in the mid-nineties, producing a stereo version of ‘Good Vibrations’ has been something of a holy grail in the industry. DIT’s own Derry FitzGerald now seems to have discovered the answer. “It’s a dream come true,” he says, speaking about seeing his name on the credits of a Beach Boys album. On the recently re-released ‘Smiley Smile’, Derry’s version of ‘Good Vibrations’, made using his own audio separation techniques, is included among the stereo versions.

It is a significant moment in the long history of the Beach Boys; up until this point, a stereo version of ‘Good Vibrations’, at least of any real quality, was made impossible by the fact that the original mono tapes had been lost. “They’ve been looking for it for about twenty years – it’s gone. It’s the same for a lot of other classic tracks, and it means each part can’t be separated because they’re all recorded on top of one another. Basically what I do is extract out the individual instruments that are there, and then specifically position them in the stereo space, so it sounds much more like a proper stereo recording.”

Although the process is undoubtedly a technical one – Derry phrases it as “describing, in a mathematical way as possible, what music is to a computer” – his work stems from a love of music, rather than technology. “I was always in bands, aiming to make it in music. After I studied chemical engineering, I wanted to find a way to combine the music with the engineering, so I studied Masters in Music Technology at DIT, and went on to a PhD. “All this really grew out of the PhD, which was on separating drum sounds from original mono recordings. I wanted to be able to use the drums from Toto records (uncool, I know) because they had a fantastic drummer, Jeff Porcaro, who had unfortunately died.”

Two years ago, with a technique that could separate drums, instruments and vocals, Derry attempted his first stereo up-mix, and appropriately chose ‘Good Vibrations’ as the test case. “I’m a huge Beach Boys fan,” he beams, “I was always in bands, aiming to make it in music. After I studied chemical engineering, I wanted to find a way to combine the music with the engineering, so I studied Masters in Music Technology at DIT, and went on to a PhD. “All this really grew out of the PhD, which was on separating drum sounds from original mono recordings. I wanted to be able to use the drums from Toto records (uncool, I know) because they had a fantastic drummer, Jeff Porcaro, who had unfortunately died.”

Two years ago, with a technique that could separate drums, instruments and vocals, Derry attempted his first stereo up-mix, and appropriately chose ‘Good Vibrations’ as the test case. “I’m a huge Beach Boys fan,” he beams, “I took a chance then and sent it to their engineer, expecting either an ‘oh, that’s nice’, or ‘great, now please leave us alone’. But he liked it. And now here we are.”

Since then, Derry has re-mastered several other tracks for the band, including ‘Help Me, Rhonda’ and ‘I Get Around’, and has met the Beach Boys themselves backstage in Barcelona. “It was another dream come true to meet Brian Wilson, and he was great. That day was just unbelievable.”

For now, Derry is focussing on improving the quality of the technique, aiming to achieve an even clearer separation of the individual parts, which could ultimately be used to produce 5.1 Dolby sound, and even home producing, where the consumer could choose to raise or lower certain elements of tracks. “Hopefully I’ll get a chance to work with other artists, hopefully other people come knocking. I’d love to turn this into a business, given the opportunity, so I’m going to try and publicise it abroad, and get the word out in the major music industry.”

With so many classic tracks lacking a stereo version, the market seems to be there for quality audio separation. Yet only now does the reality of his achievement now seem to be sinking in. “It makes me very proud to hear people talking about it and saying they like it. It didn’t seem real until I got my hands on a physical CD and saw my name in print.”

Although there will always be a group of fans who distrust any tampering with a classic, fan reaction in this case has been very positive. One online comment sums it up: “what this guy has done is nothing short of a miracle.” At any rate, if Brian Wilson approves, you know you’ve done something good.

A day on the Geordie shore

Bill O’Cleirigh

At the departure gate in Dublin airport, several young groups are billing into yawny pints before making an early morning flight to Newcastle, a city notorious for its nightlife following the popularity of a certain reality television show. Arriving into Newcastle city centre and the perception that this is a party town was enhanced by a Newcastle university campus bustling with anticipation for the night ahead, with promo flyers bandied about in Haymarket Street as early as noon. A compact city centre and nifty metro system makes getting around the place fairly easy.

Heading down to the iconic Quayside at dusk, you are bombarded by a plethora of contemporary restaurants and gastro-pubs, such as “Pitcher and Piano”, serving contemporary food and a fantastic selection of craft ales.

A crowd begins to stream towards the majestic St. James’ Park Stadium. Bordeaux are in town for a Europa League match against the Geordies. Relentless chanting from the Gallowgate end gave a clear indication of just how proud these people are of their Geordie identity. The Toons romped to a 3-0 victory over the French. Comic gold ensued when the stewards attempted to restrain a streaker – worth a look on YouTube.

Post-match pints were had in the student suburb of Jesmond or “Sh*t*ville” as our cabby grunted. “Yuh wanna gaw te Sh*t*ville?” he threw over his shoulder. We politely agreed. Jesmond is to Newcastle what Rathmines is to Dublin, only cheaper, trendier and definitely the place to go before hitting town.

Cheap flights, good value, great nightlife, small city: Newcastle really does tick all the boxes for those who are up for a weekend away with mates.

There’s also got a great vibe to the city and you can still reap the benefits without splurging on pints.
COMMENT

Careful now! Down with that sort of thing!

Quis custodiet ippos custode? The phrase is loosely translated to “Who watches the watchmen?”

Thought to have first been uttered by the Roman poet Juvenal, it is still has relevance nearly 2,000 years later as Twitter begin to censor its users.

The first enforcement of Twitter’s censorship policy came as a shock to most users who never realised such a thing existed, when it last week removed anti-Semitic tweets in France and Germany. It also removed tweets from Chairman of the British National Party, Nick Griffin, which told people to pikeyet the house of a gay couple who sued a B&B over failing to let them stay the night. While removing offensive messages capable of inciting hatred seems a good thing, where do the offensive messages capable of inciting the recession is?

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Touted as giving complete freedom of expression, Twitter was held up as the social media’s censors stop? Is hatred good or bad? Where do the offensive messages capable of inciting the recession is displayed?

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Keeping abreast of the issues in the Google age

It’s time to get over our fascination with salacious images, and get back to pursuits with real value, says Riika Nykänen.

So, most of us heard about the topless photo scandal involving Kate Middleton. Within this lot, quite a few have also seen the famous photos, which were secretly taken in Southern France while the young royal couple was seemingly taking a “private” sun holiday.

Sure, it’s fair to say that many see the royal breasts as even more interesting than normal breasts, but still I wouldn’t necessarily call the “royal tits case” the news topic of the year.

Journalists often tend to complain about the fact that there is never enough time or resources available to allow people to stalk outside the holiday house of the royal couple, just to see enough naked royal flesh to create a huge international scandal involving, well, breasts.

But the journalists are not the only ones to blame. We often tend to complain about the stresses and strains of our busy lives, and how there is never enough time to do anything that we would actually like to do.

Yet we always have enough time to hang out on the internet, googling photos of Kate’s famous breasts, and chatting about it with our friends.

Houston, we have a problem. When did we arrive at the point that the most earth shaking, widely discussed and the most interesting news of this autumn, is about something as natural as breasts - the body part that women use to feed their babies?

Previous generations changed the world by landing on the moon, creating new art forms and inventing things such as electricity and the wheel. But what exactly are we doing now? The majority of us continue to sit on our asses in front of computers, eye blisled photos of Lady Gaga’s “shocking” weight gain or read about the “super dramatic” break up and subsequent reunion of Twilight stars Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.

Well isn’t this just great. After the royal tits became public property, the world must be anxiously waiting with impatience for the next scandal, perhaps this time involving Prince William without his pants on.

Houston, we have a problem. And the problem is us.

Recession the best thing to happen to this conuntry

Aldan Dundass says the recession is what the Irish need to get back to the basics.

The recession is here to stay ladies and gentlemen and thank God for that. The Celtic Tiger taught us that Irish people and money don’t mix. Sure, it’s easy to blame the politicians and the bankers for our crippling economic collapse but what about the real cause - ourselves? Essentially, we were narcissistic morons who thought that buying five cars without even knowing how to drive was a good idea.

I was naive when I first came to college, believing it was all the government’s fault. The truth was soon revealed to me in the shape of some my new classmates - who are an example of middle class Ireland. To make this perfectly clear, the majority of the middle classes in Ireland are arrogant and self-important people from another planet; snobs in every sense of the word. I welcome all of this bleakness; it’s about time the people of Ireland got a kick up the backside. There was never a sense of community during the boom years.

Irish people are renowned for putting others before themselves but during the Celtic Tiger people became overly materialistic.

Unquestionably, the Celtic Tiger was the worst thing to happen to Ireland since the famine. It was never going to last. People lost the run of themselves - refusing jobs that they felt were beneath them. We can still see the hang-up some people have with taking “menial jobs.” I’ll give you an example: I was at the cinema with two friends who have some definite middle class. “I’d love to work in a cinema,” I said, to which they replied: “No you wouldn’t. That’s a foreigener’s job,” a middle class product of the Celtic Tiger. I even saw one.

I’m of the belief that we’re all the same: faceless nobodies who will eventually die and be forgotten. I’m glad that I don’t have the mindset that I’m better than people around me.

I don’t believe that I should go further than anyone else in life because of my background, nor do I patronise those who work these “menial jobs.” This is how people felt during the boom though.

They had that “my life is better than your life” mentality and they’d rub it in your face. Well where are they now? Crying to Pat Kenny on the Frontline about how they can’t make their mortgage repayments, no doubt?

So how should we approach this recession? Let’s embrace it. Everybody, especially the middle classes, should re-evaluate things, get their priorities in check and not spend so frivolously in future. Luckily or unluckily for them, they won’t have to deal with that problem again; hopefully, Ireland will never experience another Celtic Tiger.

If this boom to bust carry-on has taught me anything it’s that history homes in Croatia and the latest gadget or new car are overrated and even though we are an educated generation, nobody can teach you common sense.
Mmm, donuts!
Rolling Donut, Aungier St.

Sinéad Makk

The Rolling Donut has recently opened on Aungier Street, offering mouth watering donuts, sandwiches and rolls for very reasonable prices.

After officially opening on 19 September, the café seems to be off to a good start and couldn’t have picked a better location with DIT just across the road, it attracts swarms of students each day.

A range of donuts are on offer and customers can choose from either sugar, sugar cinnamon or chocolate flavoured donuts.

Jambon, jam, muffins, scones and croissants are also available but at a more expensive price.

It costs only 70c for one donut and although they aren’t huge portions, they taste amazing and are definitely worth a try.

Bags of 6 and 12 donuts are also available for just €3.50 and €6.50 respectively.

In addition to the great tasting donuts, the staff are all very pleasant and always serve with a smile.

Donuts aren’t the only thing on offer and there is a great range of rolls and melts throughout different shops and there is a great range of rolls and there is a great range of rolls and melts throughout different shops and there is a great range of rolls and melts throughout different shops.

In saying that, The Rolling Donut use many ingredients that you wouldn’t find in your average shop such as roast turkey and stuffing topped with brie, rocket and cranberry sauce on a toasted foccacia.

Unfortunately the café doesn’t offer a lot of sitting space and it would be nice to have somewhere to sit and enjoy your food.

DITSU ENTS cardholders can avail of different discounts from the café with offers such as a free donut with every tea or coffee.

The donut shop also does a mean chicken fillet roll, bottle of water and bag of crisps for a fair €3.80, putting it in direct competition with the nearby Stationary Shop, next door to Aungier St.

The Rolling Donut doesn’t disappoint, from great food and prices to efficient service, the café is a great addition to Aungier Street.

For most girls trying to find a good foundation can be quite difficult. With the likes of Kim Kardashian and Cheryl Cole showing us how it’s done; most girls want to know what their tips are and more importantly what products they are using. A favourite of Kim K is M.A.C’s Studio Fluid Fix. It gives combines a natural matte finish with medium-buildable coverage. It is great for on the go as it lasts for up to eight hours whilst the micronized pigments in it help you to achieve that flawless look. Retailing at €31.50, it may not be the cheapest foundation out there but if you have the money it is definitely worth the buy, it also contains an SPF 15.

A cheaper alternative of the M.A.C’s long lasting flawless foundation is Rimmel’s Lasting Finish foundation.

There’s nothing more annoying than your makeup blotching off during the day or it not being the right colour but here Rimmel have come up the answer to both to these makeup dilemmas. It claims to last an astonishing 25 hours and after having gone on for a last minute few drinks one night I can safely say it stayed on the whole night! It comes in 6 fantastic shades almost guaranteed to suit most skin types.

For just €14 it’s a handy staple for your makeup bag.

Another brand to have a huge celebrity following is MAKE UP FOREVER. Their HD Invisible Cover foundation comes in a whopping 25 shades which guarantees a perfect match for your skin type.

This oil-free foundation gives a medium to full coverage which helps flawlessly cover imperfections whilst remaining almost invisible. It’s great for pictures as it shows up well on camera but it is also wearable during the day. Possibly the brand’s most famous foundation it is easy to see why.

Getting a flawless finish on your foundation is more achievable than you think.

It is often a case of trial and error with getting a foundation you like so be sure to try them on in store in possibly before purchase, most makeup counters will offer to apply it for you once you’ve shown yourself.

THE EDITION | Wednesday October 24 2012

Wanted to achieve that celebrity glow? It all starts with finding that perfect foundation!

3 course meal for under €5

Saoirse Ivory

Not to be a buzz kill but it’s getting really cold out. If you’re one of many students who have neglected the rule to grab the nearest human and settle down for a long winter of easy coupledom, you may find yourself facing the odd lonely night in. But don’t worry; there are many ways to make your lonely nights just that little bit more special. Dine in style with this extremely cheap and cheerful three course meal!

Course 1. Potato and Leek (the homeliest of) Soup served with fresh bread.

Put some water in a pot and stick it on the hob. While you’re waiting for it to boil, slice your roll into inch-thick slices and place it on a side plate like they do in restaurants. This will add to the general ambience as well as acting as good soakage for the hot powdery mess you’re about to ingest. Add the contents of your soup sachet to the boiling water, stir well and pour into a bowl. Sit down, relax and enjoy that warm fuzzy feeling you’ve been craving so much.

Course 2. Sort of Mediterranean Pasta

Bolognais sauce and pasta is somewhat of a staple in the diets of broke students, but heres how to do it with a Mediterranean twist: Put your desired amount of pasta into a pot of boiling water with a pinch of salt for 10 minutes (or 8 if you’re feeling
crunchy). Chop your pepper whichever way your heart tells you. Mine told me tiny cubes, so thats what I did. Next take your garlic bulb, peel away its outer layers with your fingers, pull out one individual clove (or two, depending on how long you wish to stay single). Dice the clove as finely as possible and your hands will smell like garlic for the next week. Heat a drop of oil in a pan and add the chopped vegetables, stirring for 2 minutes before adding your sauce. Strain your pasta and add it into the pan. Stir well, and serve. To yourself.

Course 3. Chocolate will never leave you

You’ve worked hard-ish. Make yourself a cuppa and get stuck into that chocolate donut-y goodness.

note: All food came from Dunnes Stores some of which is the stores own brand

Ingredients

1 fresh roll - 30c
1 sachet potato + leek soup - 75c
1 bag penne pasta - 40c
1 jar bolognais sauce - €1.00
1 green pepper - 60c
1 garlic clove - 3 bulbs for €1.10
1 chocolate donut - 50c

The new shop on the block does a mean cup of Joe and selection of donuts

[Above] The main meal, [Top right] the starting ingredients and [Bottom right] the starter, all prepared by our own chef, Saoirse Ivory

www.edition.ie
Model student

Former DIT student, Shireen, talks to Victoria Kinsella about the pressures of modelling, making the move to London and coming back to DIT to help out with the Fashion Show

Shireen Mc Donagh, a former DIT Marketing student is one of Ireland’s most recognisable catwalk models, who has worked closely with wonderful designers such as Umit Kutluk and Pat White Accessories. She remains involved in the college and helps out the DIT Fashion Show as a model coordinator. She is an active fashion blogger in her website, http://noisettenoir.blogspot.ie/, where she talks about ‘Fun, Fashion, Food and Adventure’ on the streets of Dublin.

She mentions fashion guru’s such as leading hairstylist Michael Leong, but not only that, she talks about delicious tasty treats and dishes! A must subscribe blog for anyone who loves to hear about tasty treats and dishes! A must subscribe not only that, she talks about delicious leading hairstylist Michael Leong, but not only that, she talks about delicious tasty treats and dishes! A must subscribe blog for anyone who loves to hear about tasty treats and dishes! A must subscribe

But a fashion blogger in her website, http://noisettenoir.blogspot.ie/, where she mentions fashion guru’s such as leading hairstylist Michael Leong, but not only that, she talks about delicious tasty treats and dishes! A must subscribe blog for anyone who loves to hear about tasty treats and dishes! A must subscribe

How did you begin modelling?

I had been scouted when I was younger but I always hated fashion so I didn’t bother pursue it. Then a friend of mine wanted some support auditioning for a college fashion show, so I went to the casting with her. I was then scouted from the show by Morgan the Agency and a friend of mine at the time, model Roz Lipsett, gave me the push I needed to go for it.

Have you noticed a change in yourself since you began?

Yes, I’ve noticed a change. I used to be as quiet as a mouse and lacked confidence, but now I’m a lot more confident in myself. Producer, choreographer and talent agent Julian Lipsett really made me believe in myself. I really have a lot to thank him for.

Did you ever consider it as a full time career?

I never really considered it as a full time career, but what is because I had lots of hobbies and passions. That said it’s a great and highly enjoyable job that many of my friends enjoy, working at full time, and it’s a job that you can travel with, if you are good at it.

What fashion shows have you done?

I’ve done shows both here and abroad. I started working abroad on my Erasmus year to Switzerland. My favourite/most memorable shows to walk in include Helen Cody, Richard Lewis, Arnotts & Vera Wang.

What is it like behind the scenes or back stage of a fashion event?

It can be crazy back stage, but there’s a big difference between being a model or show director. At one show I had 30 seconds to change into a different outfit and get back onto the catwalk. It’s also extremely hot at some shows, so much so that at one show a dresser fainted in the middle of the show, which caused chaos backstage. That said it’s so much fun too, and you get to hang out with your friends before the show starts. As a director it’s also crazy, but coordination is key. I suppose both back stage experiences are stressful in their own way.

You helped the first time models in the DIT Fashion Show. What do you believe is vital to become a successful model in the industry?

I love working with the DIT fashion show as a mentor and choreographer. I always say to first time models that confidence is of huge importance in the industry. Even if you aren’t confident, try and fake it, and make everyone else think that you are (even if you are cringing inside). You aren’t going to sell clothes to a catwalk model, you’re a model by looking embarrassed at the floor.

Who is your fashion icon and who would you most like to work with?

I’ve lots of fashion icons for lots of different reasons. Some of them include Coco Chanel, Alexa Chung, Grace Jones, Lady Gaga and Audrey Hepburn.

Do you find there is a lot of pressure in modelling?

Yes there’s pressure in the world of modelling, but there’s pressure in every industry. You need to be at the top of your game if you want to get the big jobs, so in the case of modelling that does mean being healthy and fit.

Do you prefer being in front of the camera or on the catwalks?

I prefer the catwalk to editorial. I get much more of a buzz from it. It’s also because I love back stage at fashion shows.

Did modelling boost your confidence for work?

I currently work in advertising, and modelling definitely helps boost your self confidence, so I suppose it has helped me in this way.
The DIT style spies were out and about on our campuses again this week looking out for the trendy students of DIT. As usual there was some serious style talent lurking about.

This week we had our eyes peeled for students who had a touch of individuality to their style.
Here are four of our favourites...

Who? Lluis Coma, 24
Where? Aungier Street
Style verdict?
The erasmus students bring their european spin on current trends. This can be seen here with Llois who wears the vibrant on-trend red jeans but puts it together with a scarf, side bag and layers to add the european touch.

Who? Tara, 23
Where? Kevin Street
Style verdict?
Style is very on trend but with a touch of edge to it. For instance, her funky hightops add a little extra to an already seasonal outfit!
A classic black leather jacket sets off a pair of Jackson Pollock-esque leggings.

Who? Jonathon Crean, 20
Where? Aungier Street
Style verdict?
Jonathon's laid back style comes out in a t-shirt hoody combination and practical shoulder bag. Comfort is the main objective here, but a black and white checkered belt means the outfit will stand out at the same time.

Who? Tessa Fleming, 21
Where? Aungier Street
Style verdict?
Tessa is kitted out for Dublin weather this month, without sacrificing her unique style, by opting for a PVC mac with a colourful twist. Complementing this bright jacket is a striking blue dress, and daring lipstick.

Talk to us today 1890 788 336 www.stuff4students.ie
www.facebook.com/stuff4students
**LIFESTYLE**

The devil is in the details

Eimear Byrne has always been creative. Though a business student of Aungier Street, DIT, her real passion lies in art and colour. With her Grandfather as an artist, Eimear has always been around creativity. It was from him where she learned the art of pastel blending and smudging. As Eimear grew older, she began channelling her talents into different forms of art. It is now, with nearly 2000 YouTube subscribers, up to 1000 Facebook followers and a successful makeup blog, Eimear has found her niche of make-up and theatrical looks. Eimear’s canvas is now the face.

Eimear is a self-taught makeup artist. With an ever-growing loyal YouTube following it’s hard to believe she started out just over a year ago. Eimear often posted pictures of funky seasonal makeup looks but never had the confidence to take it further. In February of last year Eimear entered one of her Halloween looks into ‘The True Beauty 2011’ To Eimear’s surprise, her entry won first place and this was the exact motivator Eimear needed to take herself to the next level.

With that, she started her YouTube makeup tutorials. “I’m so glad I plucked up the courage to do the tutorials. I’ve only had positive feedback so far and I’ve met some lovely people and I just thoroughly enjoy doing them! To be honest I don’t know what I did before them now,” says Eimear.

With Halloween fast approaching, the Edition got in contact with Eimear to bring us through some of her favourite easy to do Halloween looks. “Anyone can do my Halloween looks,” she explains. “My step-by-step tutorials are quick and easy and allow you to create the makeup look yourself with ease. You won’t realise how simple the makeup look is until you try it for yourself!”

Eimear goes on to describe one of her easiest yet most popular Halloween looks, the ‘Burnt Face’ look. “I like my ‘Burnt Face’ look because you can create it using household items. This look simply consists of toilet roll and fake blood (or red food dye). To start off, simply stick some tissue paper to your face using spirit gum (£3.99, Art n’ Hobby). Add as many layers as you like. Once the tissue is applied, distort it using a tweezers to give the appearance of detached skin. Now you can add your fake blood.

This is the great thing about Eimear’s looks, straightforward and on a budget! No one ever wants to spend a fortune on a costume they’re only going to wear once. She stresses that one does not need the exact same products she uses to recreate looks. For instance, Eimear uses setting powder for all her looks concerning face paint, but gives the alternative of talcum powder, for those who do not wish to invest in a setting powder.

Another Halloween look of Eimear’s that got a great response online was her Zebra costume, produced simply by using black and white face paint and a little bit of creativity. “I painted my face with white then added some triangular shapes and jagged lines to create the zebra stripes. For the hair, I pinned and clipped it until I fashioned a Mohawk to imitate a main.” She clarifies that it’s “paying attention to the little things like hair and small details that will really pull your entire makeup look together.”

**Day in the Life...**

Niamh Sharkey has got a number of achievements under her belt since graduating from DIT in 1994 with a degree in Visual Communications. She has written ten successful children’s books including The Giant Turnip, and Tales of Wisdom and Wonder, and has written ten successful children’s books. She has won the Mother Goose award, which has been translated into over 20 languages worldwide.

She has the Woman's Goose award, the Bisto Book of the Year Award, and last May President Michael D Higgins awarded her with the Laureate na nÓg.

Currently, Disney Animation and Brown Bag Illustrations have decided to turn her book I’m a Happy Hugglewug, into a 52 episode animation series coming out next spring in over 150 countries.

The Edition catches up with Niamh to try and trace her path to success back to her humble student beginnings:

**Sara Dalton**

Sara: So Niamh, did you always know you wanted to write children’s books?

Niamh: I always loved books when I was little, and even when I was in college I used to sit on the floor in Easons and read all the picture books. But truthfully in first and second year in college I didn’t know what I wanted to do. I loved so many different elements of the course. I was very torn between doing fine art and graphic design so I always played around with that. After time it grew clearer though and I think illustration is a middle ground for me.

Niamh: My biggest inspiration would have to have been my classmates. We always encouraged each other and drove each other on.

Sara: Do you know what former classmates are doing now?

Niamh: I keep in touch with a lot of the people I went to college with. Some have set up their own graphic design companies, a lot of them are in illustration and some have moved abroad to places like America.

Sara: Could you describe what you do on a day to day basis?

Niamh: Right now I’m working on one of my books being made into an animation series with Brown Bag Films and Disney Junior which I’m really excited about. I work closely with the director and writer bringing it to life. It’s all being made right here in Ireland which I think is amazing.

A lot of my work as an illustrator is on paper so I have had to become a lot more computer literate for this project. You really have to be able to adapt in the media.

Sara: Is there any advice you would give to current students of DIT?

Niamh: I went for what I was most passionate about and I think that was key. My driving force in college was illustration and I didn’t let anything get me down. I used to walk around the streets of Dublin with my portfolio in hand and I was turned away many times. Persistence is most important, talent is something as well, but keep your vision of what you dreams are.
CULTURE

Tricks of the Trad

Niamh O’Donoghue pleads for the youth of Ireland to put down the bottle and pick up the Bodhrán

Culture is your personal identification of where you come from and how you differ yourself to everyone else. It is the soul that provides spirit and life to communities—both here at home and internationally.

Our culture should be something we can all stand up and be proud of. Sadly, many see our Irish culture as a pint of Guinness down in the local, and not the beautiful language we have, the complexity of our dancing and the power of our music. The Irish are only famous for their drinking they say? Those who believe this are very mistaken.

Now we might not be up there in the music charts with Rihanna but our musical roots are ones that need to be nurtured to continue the life-span to this timeless skill. When you think of traditional Irish music, you think of elderly men in a dark shadowy corner of a Smokey pub, right? To the untrained ear, traditional music can be nothing but a load of high pitched sounds that is usually followed by a ceilí in the gealtacht. Yet this is certainly not the most popular. I spoke with fiddle teacher, Siobhán Ni Mhaolagáin from the Paidi Bán o Brian branch located on the Navan road. I asked her about her thoughts on the ‘trad’ scene in Dublin and its impact on young people. She responded, “The trad scene in Dublin is a very vibrant one and it is continually growing from strength to strength. There are now so many talented young musicians with such a love and a passion for Irish traditional music that it can only continue to grow, reaching wider audiences and future generations”.

They say you can’t teach an old dog new tricks, but it is never too late to pick up an instrument and discover your own hidden talents. There are plenty of pubs around the city that offer exhilarating music sessions every weekend, such as the Cobblestone, located in Smithfield. So lads and lasses, I urge you to experience our beautiful culture, so we can pass down the beauty of it all to future generations. If we are to have pride in our culture we must work to preserve our unique heritage.

Books

Rowling returns with muggle troubles book

The Casual Vacancy - J.K. Rowling

Darragh Mowlds
Deputy Sports Editor

I have no issue with admitting that I am a massive fan of Harry Potter. When I first heard that J.K. Rowling was releasing her first “book for adults”, I was a bit concerned. I feared that she wouldn’t live up to the hype surrounding her. The Casual Vacancy is by no means an heir to Harry Potter in any sense but there are comparisons to be made between the two stories.

What we know about Rowling is that she writes about teenagers extremely well. Unlike the innocent ones in Harry Potter, these teens get up to mischief even the Weasley twins wouldn’t be involved in.

The subject matters dealt with in The Casual Vacancy are a lot more serious than the issues faced in the world of Hogwarts. Drugs, Bullying, self-harm and class snobbery are all found in this book.

While this book is based on the personal relationships between neighbours in a small rural English town, it really is so much more.

The destruction of innocence perceived or otherwise, is crucial to the story. The way innocence is dealt with through two of the main characters, Krystal Weedon and her younger brother Robbie is nothing short of brilliant.

Countless reviewers have thrown five stars at this book but I just can’t bring myself to do it. For much of this book I just didn’t enjoy it. There are too many characters and most of them are hard to relate to, let alone like them. It is well written and an easy read but it is not the “religious experience” so many other reviewers have experienced.

Despite this, the ending of this book is incredible. If, like me, you don’t enjoy much of this book I beg of you to read on. It will be worth it I assure you.

Rowling will always be known as the author of Harry Potter but this new book, though not perfect, shows that there is an awful lot more to her. Perhaps the best praise I can bestow on it is that you would never be able to tell that she wrote it. That’s not being flippant, she was a children’s writer that adults enjoyed. This is certainly not one for bedtime stories.

Though the excitement surrounding any future books may not be the same, Rowling as well and truly left behind Harry Potter.

The inner child

A Blink on the Screen
Terry Pratchett

Aaron Hennessys

Terry Pratchett’s new book A Blink on the Screen: Collected Shorter Fiction is, as the title suggests, a collection of short stories stretching back as far as the prolific writer’s childhood.

It begins when he was thirteen, to be precise, and continues up until 2010. The collection includes stories from his hugely successful Discworld series. The stories are accompanied with the writer’s brief thoughts and comments so as to lend insight and context.

It is hardly surprising to learn the stories are well written, considering Pratchett’s skill as a writer. They are thought provoking and complex and also funny though and often in a dark way—attributes which allowed him become one of the world’s most highly regarded writers.

The stories are of course, fantastic, in true Pratchett fashion. He writes of gnomes, alternate worlds, hell and the devil, death and disco and virtual reality to name but a few.

A particular story that stands out for me is ‘Twenty Pence, With Envelope and Seasonal Greeting’. This is, in a sense a Christmas horror story or, as Pratchett describes it, “a kind of Victorian horror story”. Written in a style that can only be called Dickensian, he tells of innocent travellers who become trapped within a row of Christmas cards which have come to life. It is also interesting to watch the writer develop and emerge as the Terry Pratchett we have come to love and admired today.

The writing becomes tighter and more complex both in form and context as the book, which is structured chronologically, progresses. Due to the revelation in 2007 that Pratchett was suffering from early-onset Alzheimer’s, one cannot help but wonder if this book is a memoir of sorts. Has he come to realise his days as a professional writer are almost over; a saddening thought.

Whatever the reasoning, I am glad this collection was published and that we are all allowed an insight into such a brilliant mind.
Halloween has arrived in Dublin, and those who want to delve into the world of the weird and wonderful have plenty of activities to choose from. Dublin's Halloween Festival is set to light the city ablaze with its fantastical events.

If you want a gruesome and gore filled start to your Halloween celebrations, the IFI Horrorthon will kick off on the 25 October. The showings will last for 5 days and will house over 30 films from the horror genre. The event will be attended by renowned horror queen, Danielle Harris, who has directed and starred in countless horror flicks – most notably Halloween 4.

There will also be a series of walks organised by Hidden Dublin Walks. Among these is the Hellfire Club, the Gravedigger Walk, the Halloween Black Tale and the Haunted History Tour. The Halloween Hellfire Excursion started operating on Monday 22 October and will continue until Halloween night. A storyteller will bring to life the spooky legends of famous landmarks around Dublin. The tour will end up at the foot of the Dublin Mountains at the Hellfire Club where the real story is told. The tour lasts two hours and will leave visitors with hairs standing on the back of their necks.

Halloween goers can paint the town black with the Halloween Black Tale walk at the Guinness Brewery. The trippers can follow John Brien on his way to work at the brewery. The backdrop to this trip is the bleak Dublin of 1911 when poverty blackened the city.

The Gravedigger Ghost Tour special is another tour for those interested in Dublin’s morose past. The tour bases itself around a plague stricken Dublin. The creepily customised bus also creates a 4D experience for those aboard.

The Haunted History Tour is one to delight those interested in Irish folklore. The stories tell the supernatural tales of Dublin.

Of all the ghoulish happenings the most alluring of all is the annual Samhain Halloween Parade. An event for all ages, the parade will ensue at 7pm on All Hallows Eve itself and will include a display of dancers, samba performers, monsters, ghosts, goblins and witches. Spectators can dust the cobwebs off their costumes and join in the spooky action if they fly down to Parnell Square and walk among the rest of the ghouls. The parade will continue from Parnell Square, down O’Connell Street, onto Westmoreland Street and then over to Temple Bar where...
Dublin City Council have finally given the late Dublin author, Bram Stoker, the recognition he deserves with the Bram Stoker Festival: My Name Is Dracula, running from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 October.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, speaking at the festival launch said, “For the first time ever, Dubliners and tourists alike can enjoy a weekend of spine-chilling adventures by taking a tour of Dublin’s gothic past. This three-day festival includes film, exhibitions, plays, literature and performance and I invite Dubliners to celebrate Bram Stoker and his legacy of Dracula.

The festival begins with The Anatomy of Fear. This is an event with American crime writer, Patricia Cornwell, who will talk about how, in many ways, the serial killer has replaced the vampire in modern days. The event will be introduced by State Pathologist Professor Marie Cassidy, and will be held in the Edmund Burke Theatre, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin at 7.30pm.

Also, running all weekend, is The Life of Bram Stoker 1847-1912 Exhibition held in The Little Museum, 15 St. Stephen’s Green. Bram’s great-grand-nephew, Dacre Stoker, described this as “the single most important collection of material related to Bram that has ever been put on public display”.

St. Ann’s: The Church in the Heart of the City, is where Bram was married, and they will have a bust of the writer and his marriage certificate on central display all weekend for the festival. It is well worth a visit if you find yourself near Dawson street with time on your hands.

Trinity College Dublin are also hosting an event called Blood Red Ink in The Conference Room, Long Room Hub. It runs on Saturday and Sunday and is a focused writing workshop with double Children’s Books award winner Celine Kiernan. Perfect for those intent on honing their writing skills.

What seems like an unmissable listing is Gothic Tales From the Crypt. This a reading of vampire and horror stories by renowned actors Owen Roe and Donna Dent, but what is intriguing is that they are read from the 12th century crypt of Christ Church Cathedral, Saturday 27 3-3.30pm.

A lighter event may be Batty Habits and Spooky Story-Making at the Smock Alley Theatre, Lower Exchange Street, Dublin 8. This is an interactive workshop for kids aged between 8 and 11 years. There will also be a seminar in the relationship between bats and vampires. This is on Saturday 27 at 11am.

In the same venue is Nightmare At Smock Alley, where authors Oisin McGann, Will Hill and Derek Landy will be tell spooky stories. The evening will be hosted by RTE Elev8’s Diana Bunici who is expected to find out what scares the three authors. It all begins at 5pm on Saturday 27.

Back in the Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin, on Sunday 28 October is Fatal Attraction: What is it With Vampires. Moderated by Edel Coffey, expert panellists Anna Carey, Will Hill and Celine Kiernan discuss the prevalence of vampirism in popular culture and the underlying messages of love and sexuality, dominance and submission.

Again in the Long Room Hub, on Sunday 4pm we have What Lies Beneath: Dracula and its Legacy. Dr. Jarlath Kilcullen, Paul Murray, Ruth Dudley Edwards and Senator David Norris discuss the effect of Stokers legacy on literature.

The festival runs from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 October.

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**CULTURE**

Frankenweenie

Run Time 87 mins

Conor McMahon

Tim Burton’s latest stop-motion feature Frankenweenie echoes quirky motifs from his most beloved pictures. It reinstates Burton as the weird genius of Goth. Filmed in black and white and rendered in 3D, Frankenweenie is a humorous, dark and visually impressive animation.

Fans of Tim Burton have long awaited the feature length version of the film. The short version was released at the beginning of his career in 1984 and was a live action film. This time, Burton tells the Frankenweenie story in his trademark gothic animation style.

The film’s central character is Victor Frankenweinie (Charlie Tahan), an aspiring scientist who loves his dog Sparky. They live in the strange, fictional town of New Holland.

Victor is a bright, creative and carefree boy. Sparky is his loyal and innocent companion. Together, they are an unstoppable duo.

But one day, during a game of baseball, Sparky chases a fly ball and unintentionally runs in front of a speeding car. He is killed, and Victor is devastated.

Mr Ryzkuski (Martin Landau) is an influential and misunderstood science teacher. He inspires Victor to bring his best friend back to life by harnessing the power of electricity from one of thunder storms that frequently hit New Holland.

Victor’s experiment is a success, but he must hide his hewn-sewn creation because the people of the town “won’t understand”.

But Victor’s fellow students – particularly the meddling Edgar (Atticus Shaffer of The Middle) – eventually learn about Sparky. Their interference has monstrous consequences.

Frankenweenie is an excellent film, full of Tim Burton’s odd humour and unique, dark visuals. Presenting the picture in 3D was a questionable decision. Some scenes were made a little clunky and awkward visually.

Nevertheless, artsy fans and children alike will enjoy this eccentric homage to Mary Shelley’s classic novel Frankenstein. Lovers of Burton’s cult classic The Nightmare Before Christmas will enjoy this film. Burton clearly draws on his earlier work.

Catherine O’Hara, Christopher Lee and Winona Ryder also provide voices in Frankenweenie. Danny Elfman (who scored the soundtrack for Burton’s other films such as Corpse Bride, The Nightmare Before Christmas and Pee-wee’s Big Adventure) composed the music for Frankenweenie.
CULTURE

Crossfire Hurricane celebrates 50 years of The Rolling Stones

Luke Carry

In 2005 British Filmmaker Rupert Murray filmed the events of his friend Doug Bruce’s life following a bout of amnesia. In one of those film’s (Unknown White Male) most memorable scenes, Bruce enters a room in a panic with the claim that “everybody HAS to hear this band I just found.” That band was The Rolling Stones. The Rolling Stones are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year; Doug Bruce only discovered their sound 43 years after it had been born. His reaction shows why The Rolling Stones have been given the title of best Rock and Roll band of all time.

The Stones have been a part of popular culture for the past 50 years, with the band rarely evading the headlines. To celebrate that feat comes the release of Brett Morgens “Crossfire Hurricane,” an all access look at 50 years at the top. Whether you’re a new comer or a veteran rocker, who has followed the bands entire 50 years, Crossfire Hurricane is a documentary that really is fit for any fan. It features never before seen footage and acts as an all-access pass to the crossfire hurricane that is The Rolling Stones. Morgens has created a great piece of film which provides us with an insight into what it is like to be part of one of the world’s biggest bands.

The task of Morgens, to fit such a story to screen that is in itself larger than life, is somewhat eased by the ego and charisma of the men in question. Morgens did however have to deal with the fact that his camera would not be turned on to the ageing rockers. Instead, the picture is entirely pieced together from archive footage of the band and there was 50 years of film to choose from. Interviews with Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and their fellow Stones are the only new pieces of information in the documentary. For diehard fans it’s hard not to feel like you’ve seen all this before. Morgens piece regurgitates many previous Stones documentaries, like Scorsese’s “Shine a Light”, the Mayhew’s brothers ‘Gimme Shelter’ and Peter Whitehead’s “Charlie is my darling”. It’s clear these previous films have played a role in Crossfire’s development. As can be expected from any piece, trying to fit 50 years into a two and half hour almonion is no easy task. A lot is lost and while it may suit some fans that the focus here stays on the first twenty years, it’s just not quite the unique 50 year retrospect promised in the opening credits.

Drugs busts are recalled for the count less time and other familiar band stories are relayed; however the production itself has enough interesting elements to hold the seasoned fan. To the newcomers, the film acts as a “Why the Stones are cool, For Dummies” guidebook. Good fun and great music make “Crossfire Hurricane” a must for anyone who’s ever heard the strum of a guitar.

Halcyon fails to hit heights

Ellie Goulding - Halcyon

Dáirine Black

Ellie Goulding’s second album ‘Hal cyon’ hit the shops this month and as promised, it features a big change in musical direction.

The catchy pop hooks of 2010’s ‘Lights’ are nowhere in sight and this album is more like a collection of emotions in mu sical form.

Goulding’s experimental electronic edge is still there but this time around it seems the emphasis is on the story, rather than on the music behind it.

The album is a slow-starter. Subdued opening tracks ‘Don’t Say a Word’, ‘My Blood’ and the single ‘Anything Can Happen’ showing Goulding’s new-found maturity. These songs are a bit dull in comparison to the fast-paced singles of her first album, and it’s not hard to lose interest while listening.

The injection of energy in stand-out track ‘Figure 8’ is much needed. Goulding has been in a relationship with Skrillex since last year, and his influence is really obvious on this Dubstep-infused offering.

Goulding has also admitted to being a big fan of Florence + The Machine, and it’s easy to hear their influence in many of the album’s songs, especially on ‘My Blood’. Errie choirs and harp passages here and there are either a rip-off or a tribute to the band.

Goulding must be respected for her courage in being experimental, but there are songs on the album where the electro element feels a bit over-done. Even on the sweeter, simpler songs where she doesn’t rely completely on effects (“I Know You Care”) her voice is auto-tuned to death. Goulding became a superstar with her version of Elton John’s ‘Your Song’, which was beautiful for its organic simplicity. Maybe she should stick to what she does best?

The album is riddled with anti-climactic moments. You’re left waiting for a beat to drop or a change in dynamic that never happens. Most songs have repetitive lyrics that should have been scrapped in the experimental stage.

Goulding has grown up since ‘Lights’. Perhaps she’s trying too hard to show that she’s moving on and she doesn’t want to be associated with her sombre sophomore album. Whatever it is, it’s not working and is definitely a step down from her debut.

The Strypes rock the Blues

Interview - The Strypes

Peter O’Hanlon

They have topped the charts, gigged across Europe, headlined festivals, negotiated with world renowned record labels and they are yet to sit their Leaving Cert.

The ‘boyhood friends to international phenomena’ is an age old cliché in the music industry, but rarely is such rock star status afforded to those with an average age of just 16. This is, however, certainly how life appears to be headed for Peter O’Hanlon and the awesome foursome which makes up the blues rock ensemble The Strypes.

Remarkably mature for their age, the quartet from Co Cavan have already reached heights only dreamt of by most in the industry.

Their debut EP ‘Young, Gifted and Blue’ achieved number one in iTunes, while single ‘You Can’t Judge a Book by Looking at the Cover’ went on to amass critical and public acclaim.

This success afforded them national radio airtime as well as rave reviews from NME, Hot Press and The Irish Times. But how is it The Strypes seem to be succeeding, at such a young age, where so many before them have failed?

“I think at the start the age thing definitely stood out for people and got us noticed” suggests Peter. “Now I think people are starting to take us seriously as musicians in our own right, not just as talented kids”

From humble beginnings the guys have risen from garage band to golden boys of the industry, boasting such fans as Sir Elton John, Glen Hansard and Jonathon Ross. “Myself, Eavan and Josh started jamming together in primary school, then Ross came along as a vocalist” Peter tells the Edition. “Eventually we progressed onto small gigs then things started happening.”

It was their appearance on The Late Late Show in April of this year which showed to the nation that “with them the future of Irish music is safe” in the words of show host Ryan Tubridy.

“We got a few gigs in the Gonzo in Cavan Town and got into a few places like Sweeney’s on Dame St, the 229 Club, the Blues Kitchen and other big venues in England.

Our first proper festival at the Flat Lake in Clones went down a storm, and more recently we’ve done the likes of Westport, Knock Introitock, Sea Sessions in Bundorran and the Electric Picnic”

Specialising in original Rock ‘n Roll influenced by the early Stones, The Beatles and The Who, they remind us that true musicianship still exists in an industry dominated by the mainstream and auto-tuned pop stars.

The band owe confidence and their stage presence is unrivalled by even the most seasoned of performers. They are, so put it simply, ‘cool’.

“It kind of just happened really fast, we had to take it in our stride. The proficiency of the lads in the band is a huge plus and the support we got from the schools and families is brilliant. Everyone is whole heartedly behind us which is a great help.”

Their fiery brand of blues, distinct sound and stage presence, together with a tartle neck or two thrown in for effect, garnered them the interest of the world biggest record labels.

“It’s all hush hush at the moment” says Ross. “There are some things going on and hopefully that will materialise in the future. For now we’re just happy to play away and see where that takes us.”

Wherever the four mods do end up, it is clear that Peter O’Hanlon and The Strypes may just be the next big thing and indeed the future of Irish music.”
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Olympic success boosts DIT Boxing

Cathal Kearney

In what was ultimately a successful and thoroughly enjoyable Olympics, there can be no doubt that memories of the successful Irish boxers will remain engrained in our minds for years to come.

Never before had a female Irish boxer battled her way through opponents and adversity to claim gold. Brav native, Katie Taylor made history in doing just that. Her sporting aspirations and success, not to mention her involvement in soccer with the women’s national team, has inspired both the young and old.

In addition, John-Joe Nevin claimed silver in the men’s bantam-weight whilst Michael Conlon and Paddy Barnes won bronze medals in the fly and light-fly-heavyweight divisions respectively.

Team captain Darren O’Neill and Wexford native Adam Nolan narrowly missed out, but their efforts deserve much praise. Guided by the tactical nous of trainer Billy Walsh and under the training of the High Performance Unit, the success of the boxers looks set to extend to 2016, where they’ll look to KO in Rio.

So in the aftermath of such a successful summer for Irish boxing, has it inspired the DIT students to join in and make a fist of it?

According to President of DIT Boxing Adam Bruton, the answer quite simply is yes.

“Since we’ve started back training last month, we’ve seen our numbers increase without a doubt. We’ve had more girls joining up this time too and that’s good as it brings balance and encourages other to join.”

Adam, who is acting as president of the club for the first time, is quite enthusiastic and is hopeful the interest will continue to remain strong.

“I’ve been a member of this club for a few years now and the attendance increases year on year. Many of our members like to use the boxing club as a means of boosting their aerobic and cardiovascular levels.”

However, Adam is quick to point out that the club is for everyone and not exclusive for those with boxing ambitions.

“Here at DIT Boxing we are always open to new members. There are no limits and no standards in place; we cater for everyone.

“Sessions are good and everyone just enjoys keeping themselves fit and active. Members have the freedom to work at their own pace and can pick their own sparring partners to suit their size and ability. We believe in having banter!”

Members meet up twice a week; Mondays from 8:30pm in Gleeson Hall (Kevin St.), and Thursdays from 7-9pm in Larkin College (Cathal Brugha St.).

DIT Boxers have started into a new season with renewed vigour, and has seen attendance boosted, following a successful Olympics in boxing.

Upcoming events for the club include the Intervarsity Competition 2012/2013, where they will square off with other college boxing clubs.

On top of that, an event is planned for 15 November where members will compete in the ring. The DJ Society will provide the music on the night and there’s free admission into a nightclub afterwards.

Unconfirmed rumours suggest an appearance by Katie Taylor’s father and trainer Billy Walsh may also be in the offing. Tickets will be available in the Students’ Union.

Ultimate Frisbee over-achieves in Edinburgh

Aidan Kelly

DIT’s very own Ultimate Frisbee club entered tournaments in both Edinburgh and Cork to mixed success.

The team was fronted by Aidan Kelly as he acted as one of the team’s two designated experienced players and captain for the weekend.

It was a successful tournament, as they managed to improve on last year’s position by finishing 13th out of 32 teams. During the weekend DIT played an extremely intense and close game with eventual winners, Trinity, which showcased the two Irish college’s talents.

“It was great to see the team improve over the course of the weekend,” said captain, Aidan Kelly.

Third-year Sean Carroll picked up the beginner’s MVP of the weekend.

In the first tournament of the new season, down in Cork, DIT Ultimate also finished 13th (out of 16). It wasn’t the weekend that captain Daragh King had planned, but a strong second day had many positives.

DIT’s Ultimate Frisbee team lined out in a competitive tournament in Scotland’s capital city.

No alcohol at sports events a possibility

Niamh Foran

The Cabinet will discuss the proposal to ban alcohol sponsorship of sporting events in the coming weeks.

The plans were originally published by former junior health Minister Roisin Shortall in March. She proposed to have alcohol sponsorship of sporting events banned in the sport by the year 2020 and the renewal of current sponsorship deals was prohibited immediately.


It outlined a number of ways to deal with the growing misuse of alcohol in Ireland.

An immediate cap has also been placed on the amount of money alcohol companies can spend on sporting events.

There are already some provisions of alcohol sponsorship in existence. There is a ban on alcohol sponsorship of any event where 25% or more of the audience is under 18 years of age.

Any sporting competition where the participants are under 18 years of age is also prohibited from having alcohol sponsorships.

There is even a ban on using alcohol sponsorship in a sport that involves participants are under 18 years of age is also prohibited from having alcohol sponsorships.

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DIT’s Ultimate Frisbee team lined out in a competitive tournament in Scotland’s capital city.

Out with the old, in with les blues

Chelsea’s old guard have been shown the way forward by new young talent, writes James Hopper.

In light of last season’s dismal domestic showing, many pundits suggested that the best “The Blues” could look forward to was a top four finish.

However, with the way in which they have brushed opponents aside so far this season, anything but the title will seem like an underachievement.

“The master behind all of this? Roberto Di Matteo. The man who was once sacked by West Brom was given the reigns to one of Europe’s power houses midway through last season.

Far from being daunted by the challenge, the Italian would go on to seal quite an outstanding achievement. He not only won the FA Cup but also the prize the club had yearned and coveted most, the Champions League.

Chelsea have begun this season in the manner that saw Manchester City destroy all before them at the beginning of their title winning campaign.

Di Matteo will hope they have set a precedent that rivals will not be able to reach. With their only challengers seemingly the Manchester duo, the West London club should have cause for optimism that their barren spell of league titles will be at an end come May.

Their new found style has been crucial this season in making people believe that Chelsea are back. 4-3-3 has been kind to the “pensioners” in the recent past, most impressively under José Mourinho.

However, their new 4-2-3-1 system, deemed by many as too open, has been too much for opposition to handle.

The summer arrivals of Eden Hazard, Oscar and not to mention the yet to be seen Marko Marin due to injury, has transformed the way in which Chelsea play.

Oscar has probably been the surprise package of Chelsea’s season, making his impact at such an astonishing rate that it is safe to have taken even the Chelsea staff by surprise.

The Premier League is no longer a scary place for slight playmakers like Oscar, who in years gone by would have been dismissed as lightweight by scouts in England.

The now cliché of Chelsea’s “Old Guard” is being dismantled at the rate which was Di Matteo’s predecessor, Andre Villas Boas.

Didier Drogba has left and Frank Lampard has been reduced to a substitute role. As well as that, Ashley Cole and John Terry’s contracts will not be renewed.

These players once ran the Chelsea dressing room, now they are being eased out slowly, thanks to ruthless owner Roman Abramovich.

For all the success that Chelsea have enjoyed in the recent past, they have never been truly entertaining. They’ve been efficient yes but marvellous at no.

During the summer when Chelsea’s managerial position was still unclear, Abramovich was buying players in a manner that resembled a teenager playing Football Manager.

Pep Guardiola was the man Abramovich wanted; in the end he settled for Di Matteo. What he didn’t expect was the drastic change of style that Di Matteo would implement.

This accidental pairing could really be the start of another era of dominance both domestically and in Europe.
Trapattoni gets backing

Darragh Mowlds

Despite an embarrassing 6-1 defeat to Germany and our World Cup qualification looking increasingly unlikely, the FAI has given manager Giovanni Trapattoni their full backing.

We must ask ourselves why we continue to allow our national team to be made a fool of on the international stage.

Why did Ireland lose 6-1? Why is Darren O’Dea allowed on the pitch? Why does Trapattoni refuse to play Darron Gibson along with countless other talented players? Most importantly though, why is Trapattoni still in the job?

It’s a more complicated question than you might think. One answer may be that the FAI might not be able to afford to cancel Trapattoni’s contract. We all waited with bated breath last week when the FAI called an emergency meeting regarding the manager’s future. The result... he has their full backing.

What? How badly would Germany have had to beat us for them to sack him? Cowards! Maybe the problem doesn’t lie with Trapattoni. John Delaney is a large part of the problem; he is a plague on all our lives, footballing-wise at least.

Trapattoni was hailed as a genius after he managed to get our misguided band of players to the Euros. Our qualification pulled the wool over the FAI’s eyes and, in their infinite wisdom, they handed him a new two-year-deal. This is the deal we as a nation are wondering: how do we get out of it?

Trapattoni has an amazing record as a manager; arguably one of the best in football history but that’s the key word - history. It can also be said that Liverpool used to be a world force in football, Nottingham Forest too. But times have moved on and when it comes to Trap Ireland needs to move with the times.

His persistence with the players who got him to the Euros is flayed. Shane Long plays week in week out for West Brom in the Premier League – easily enough to justify him starting for the Irish team. Instead, he’s been shunted for a “has been”.

While Keane is our most successful striker ever, his time has passed with the manager’s. He was missing for the German game and wouldn’t have made the blindest bit of difference.

The argument for McClean to start and solve all the team’s problems is flawed as well. While he may still turn out to be the Irish Messi, he’s still one player and not a miracle worker.

Tactically, it’s not always clear what Trap is trying to do. Simon Cox is a striker. Even Wikipedia knows this. He has never and will never be a winger. And nothing says the game is over like seeing Paul Green warming up.

Trapattoni rode in on a wave of applause. It was hailed as a stroke of genius by the FAI. To be honest, I would have fired him long before the FAI. His refusal to play football is maddening. Kicking it long to Robbie Keane makes as much sense as giving Tallafornia a second season.

Ireland’s 4-1 victory over the Faroe Islands should not have been enough to save him. A victory over a team comprised of a butcher, a baker and a candlestick maker is not something to write home about. I’m not sure what is more embarrassing, letting six goals in against Germany, or one against the Faroes.

Trap is here to stay – for now. What will it take to rid us of him? Maybe the FAI could start a whip round in the local pubs? I’m sure there would be a lot of donations.

Canoe crowds

Charlotte Farrell

After having a great year last year, the construction to the sports facilities in Kevin St. did hinder the club’s training but it didn’t stop them.

The club had record numbers join this year. Their first trip of the year was on Sunday 7th October out at Dollymount beach, Clontarf. Praying to the kayaking gods helped as the rain stayed at bay and the sun came out, as well as 30 new members.

The highlight of the kayaking was to see everyone try to go from sitting in the kayak to lying stomach down on top of the kayak and trying to paddle. It’s harder than it sounds. Trust me.

The day ended with members jumping from the bridge into the sea. For some older members a helping hand was given in leaving the bridge. The height of the bridge was approx. 4.5 meters, depending on sea level. This leaves plenty of time to scream on the way down as some people found out.

The club’s first weekend trip is happening on the 26th of October on the river Boyne. If you want to get involved this year check out DIT Canoe Club on Facebook and YouTube. You can also get down to the pool in Kevin St. Monday’s and Wednesday’s when the shiny new sports

Heineken Cup Round-up

Charlotte Farrell

Dan Parks restarts play with a drop kick

Jack Maher

Despite mixed results in Round One, Irish sides went into the second weekend of the Heineken Cup with ambitions still intact.

Ulster Pool 4

Following a bonus point victory in Round One, Ulster were able to build on a good start with a solid victory over the Glasgow Warriors. They beat the Scottish side 19-8.

Despite the win, Ulster will be disappointed after losing their captain, Johann Muller, who is expected to be out for up to eight weeks.

Northampton Saints weren’t able to capitalise on their opening day win, losing 21-16 to a resilient Castres side.

Connacht Pool 3

Following a victory against new boys Zebre in the opening weekend, Connacht weren’t as lucky in Round Two, falling to English Champions Harlequins.

The Irish side were unable to repeat the unexpected performance from last week which saw them beat Harlequins and subsequently knock them out of the tournament.

Although qualifying from the pool seems beyond them, Connacht, backed by a strong home crowd will be confident of taking something from their remaining home fixture against Biarritz.

Leinster Pool 5

After a nervy victory in Round One, Leinster improved their form during an away-day to against Scarlets. This is the second defeat for the Welsh team who are now unlikely to progress further.

Leinster will be pleased with result after their last encounter with Scarlets resulted in an unexpected defeat for the European Champions.

Despite the win, Leinster still lie two points behind Clermont. However, both sides are expected to comfortably reach the knock-out stages.

Next Fixtures:

Connacht v Biarritz (7 December)
Northampton v Ulster (7 December)
Munster v Scarlets (8 December)
ASM Clermont Auvergne v Leinster (9 December)

Sporting History

Liam Kennedy

24th October

- On this day in 1887 the world’s first soccer club, Sheffield FC, was founded.
- Manchester United and England striker Wayne Rooney was born 27 years ago.

25th October

- Five years ago today marks Martin O’Neill’s last game as Spurs manager. He went into that game knowing he was sacked and surprisingly his team lost 2-1 to their opponents Getafe.
- Everton and Ireland midfielder Darron Gibson celebrates his 25th birthday.

26th October

- On this day in 1863, the Football Association was formed in England. As a result soccer rules were standardized and rugby started as a separate game.

27th October

- In 1944, construction began for Real Madrid’s world-famous stadium the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu.

28th October

- Former Manchester United, Newcastle and Leeds player Alan Smith was born 32 years ago.

29th October

- In 1960, Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) wins in his first professional fight.

30th October


- Former world cup winner Diego Maradona was born on this day in 1960 and retired from soccer on the exact same date in 1997.

31st October

- In 2002, Madagascar side Stade Olympique de Carthage (SOC) made a world record 149 own goals in a match against rivals AS Adema. This was done as a protest after they had lost the championship due to a controversial penalty decision in the previous game. The final score (149-0) is recognised as the highest ever in a soccer match.

- Former Ireland and Manchester United defender Denis Irwin turns 47 today.

1st November

- In 1887 – Celtic FC is founded.

2nd November

- 1997 - In soccer, the USA earn their only ever point against Mexico in Mexico. Up until then they had never even drawn there.

3rd November

- Arsenal’s second highest ever goal-scorer Ian Wright was born 49 years ago. He scored a total of 185 goals for the Gunners.

4th November

- 1961 – Former Northern Ireland player and manager Nigel Worthington was born on this day.
- 1972 - Former Real Madrid and Portugal star Luis Figo was born.

5th November

- In 2004, George Foreman becomes the oldest ever heavyweight boxing champion aged 45.

6th November

- 1887 – Celtic FC is founded.
- 1940 – Former Ireland player and long-time RTE pundit John Giles is born today.
DIT Hockey Team finally through to intervarsities

DIT Hockey Team are finally going to the Intervarsities. The three-day tournament will take place over the bank holiday weekend from 27 to 30 of October.

The University College of Cork will host this year’s games, which will hopefully see DIT prove their efforts over the last five years weren’t for nothing.

Ian Walker is one of four DIT players who are also part of the national hockey squad. The Irish goalkeeper is looking forward to the games and believes that the institute have a strong enough team to do really well.

In previous years the club found it hard to recruit players because there wasn’t a hugely competitive tournament to take part in. However, Walker explains that “more hockey players are coming out of the woodwork recently and trying to get onto the squad for the Intervarsities.”

Walker explains that the issues came from the people on the board for the Intervarsities. Before this year, universities were the sole participants of the Intervarsity games with institutes of technology being refused entry into the tournament. Every year for five years, they sent letters to the board asking to be allowed participate. It wasn’t until two years ago that there was a breakthrough.

This came when Carlow Institute of Technology were allowed to play in the games while DIT were still refused. This sparked uproar in the DIT camp.

Before this year, universities were the sole participants of the Intervarsity games with institutes of technology being refused entry. DIT was consistent in how it tried to gain entry into the tournament. Every year for five years, they sent letters to the board asking to be allowed participate. It wasn’t until two years ago that there was a breakthrough.

This came when Carlow Institute of Technology were allowed to play in the games while DIT were still refused.

This sparked uproar in the DIT camp. Players, including Ian Walker, and sports officers sent in letters to the board calling the situation a joke.

According to the board, CIT were allowed to participate but were not permitted to win it. If the institute were to make it to the final they would have to throw the game.

Eventually, with protests mounting, one of the members of the board stepped down. Now letters were reaching someone who actually cared and DIT could compete in the tournament. This year will see 12 teams compete in the Intervarsities instead of just seven or eight. With all 16 of the DIT squad playing in either the first or second divisions, Walker is confident that they will do really well during the tournament that starts next Sunday.

Ian Walker is one of DIT’s sports scholar recipients. He also won the award for CIT All Star at the DIT Sports Awards Night last year. The Irish hockey squad will travel to Argentina at the end of November to play in the Champions Challenge One, an international field hockey tournament.

After being promoted to the league two years ago, Ireland are hoping to do well enough to get into the Champions Trophy, the highest ranked international hockey league.

For now though, the computing student is looking forward to competing with DIT in the Intervarsity games.

Armstrong stripped of seven yellow jerseys

Colin Layde dissects the fall from grace of cycling heavy weight, Lance Armstrong

Lance Armstrong’s fall from grace continues at the speed of a Pyrenees decent as the fallout from the United States Anti-Doping Agency’s (USADA) decision to publish its report on the cyclist shows no sign of abating.

On Monday Armstrong was stripped of his 7 Tour de France titles by cycling’s governing body. The International Cycling Union (UCI) accepted USADA’s findings and banned the American for life, “Lance Armstrong has no place in cycling. He deserves to be forgotten” said UCI President Pat Quaid. The President acknowledged Armstrong’s exposure had led to the sport facing the greatest crisis in its history.

USADA’s report brands the Texan a “serial cheat” who used performance enhancing drugs throughout his career. Armstrong doped prior to his cancer diagnosis, during his 7 Tour de France victories and in his 2009 comeback. The report accuses Armstrong of “instigating and partaking in the most sophisticated doping programme that sport has ever seen”. The cyclist was not merely a helpless pawn but actively encouraged his teammates to cheat. It represents a staggering fall for a man who was idolised by millions and an inspiration to those battling cancer.

The report’s publication has seen sponsors desert the disgraced cyclist, sportswear giant Nike, bicycle manufacturer Trek and Budweiser breweyer Anheuser-Busch have all severed ties with Armstrong.

Nike ended its 16 year association with the cyclist last Wednesday, in a statement the company said that, “due to the seemingly insurmountable evidence that Armstrong participated in doping, we have terminated his contract”.

In an advertisement for the company, Armstrong addressed the suspicions of doping that had long surrounded him, “What am I on? I’m on my bike busting my ass six hours a day, what are you on?”

Unfortunately for Lance he was also on EPO, steroids, testosterone and undergoing blood transfusions.

Armstrong has also been forced to step down from his role as Chairman of Livestrong, the foundation he established to provide support for individuals affected by cancer and their families. The foundation has raised tens of millions of dollars through the sale of yellow wristbands inspired by the Tour’s maillot jaune. Whether it is possible for the public to separate Armstrong the altruist from Armstrong the drugs cheat remains to be seen.

USADA only published its findings after the cyclist declined to contest the allegations made against him, saying he had grown “weary” of the constant accusations of doping levelled at him. It is scarcely believable that a man who beat terminal cancer, scaled the Alps and the Pyrenees, as if they were merely hills, would give up and throw away all he has achieved if the accusations weren’t true.

Eleven of Armstrong’s former US Postal teammates have now confessed to doping and stated their team leader also participated, including George Hincapie a man Armstrong once described as his “best friend”.

Armstrong was not alone in his flagrant disregard of the rules and ethos of the sport. All of the riders who finished second to him in the Tour between 1999 and 2005 have previously been implicated in doping.

USADA’s dossier of evidence has exposed the cancer at the core of cycling, perhaps doing irreversible damage to the sport’s image. The onus is now on Lance Armstrong to end his charade and confess. Doing so will draw a line under the most sordid period in cycling’s history and may help to save the sport he professes to love.