
DIT News Society

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## KEY DATES

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<td>11 - 13 March</td>
<td>Voting to take place across two days this year</td>
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There have been an unprecedented number of people nominated for SU roles this year. Nominations opened on January 28, and will close on February 8 at 12pm. The only criteria to apply for a job with the union, is that you are a registered student of DIT, and are committed to a year’s work with the union.

## DITSU Election Nominations

- Unprecedented number of people in nominations
- Additional day of voting including in election schedule

### Polling Stations
Polling stations will open for DITSU elections from Monday March 11 till Wednesday March 13 this year. Each year, DITSU holds elections for new representatives for the students union, with elections for President, VP Education, VP Events and VP Welfare. The four elected Officer positions are full time, permanent 12 month jobs running from 1st July until June 30th of the following year.

### Extra Voting Day
Certain changes have been made preceding this year’s round of elections, with an extra day of voting added and the role of the Education and Welfare Officer now divided into two separate roles; VP for Education and VP for Welfare. Catering for Facilities will also be transferred from the remit of Events to the Welfare job.

Will Meara, VP for Events, said the extra day had been added to give students extra time to vote and to encourage a larger turnout. He was optimistic that turnout would be larger this year, than in previous years.

### Extra Voting Day
He also stressed, “We recommend that regardless if they think people are going to vote for them or not”. He went on to highlight the importance of student’s utilising their right to vote saying, “If you waste your vote and all of a sudden someone’s in office and you’re not happy with it, you’ve no-one to blame but yourself because you didn’t pick the person who you did want. If you don’t vote, you’ve no voice”.

### Key Dates

- **8 February**: Close of nominations
- **11 - 13 March**: Voting to take place across two days this year

### Campaign
There are also elections for six part time college officers and a postgraduate officer, whose terms run concurrently with the Institutes semesters. The DIT students’ union elections are managed by an electoral commission, as established under the DITSU Constitution (Article 22). This commission sets out regulations relating to the running of the elections. The commission is chaired independently and DIT students have representation.

There will be a “Meet the Candidates” session at local College Fora for College Officers or an evening event to include a Presidential debate during the election campaign. Here students can ask candidates about their policies and work for the students of DIT both locally and at a national level.

Glen Fitzpatrick who is running for student union president said he “wants to see a holy contested campaign”. He added that students should come to the “Meet the Candidates” session so they can question and challenge the nominees, because, “they deserve to have the right person in the job.”

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Polling will open March 11 to March 13 across all sites from 8:30am to 8:30pm. (Rathmines from 9am to 5pm). A valid form of ID must be brought along.
Mark Meehan

The Late Late Show, Ireland’s favourite and the world’s longest running chat show, has been a showcase for new musical talent for many, many years. Bands that would be considered international superstars in the present day made their television debut on it hallowed stage, including the likes of U2 and Boyzone.

Rag Charity Week

This year’s chosen charity is Pieta House, a charity that deals with suicide and self-harm. The centre opened in Lucan, Co. Dublin, in January 2006 by the founder Joan Freeman, a practicing psychologist. Pieta House offers a free service with 90% of their income generated from fundraising events. They have a heavy reliance on the encouragement and support from volunteers and friends of Pieta. Pieta House saves lives and helps those in need and crisis. The mission is to raise as much money as possible for this worthwhile cause, although the aim is €15,000.

Charity events

With events taking place both during the day and the night the week looks set to be a success. Monday sees the RAG CHAR-ITY Week come to Karnival, which has now been moved to the Lost Society. The theme is Mardi Gras with oodles of Mar-ty night; bag packing in supermarkets, and collections in Dublin city centre every year to raise money for Pieta House in whatever unique way they wish. More information can be found on www.ditsu.ie/.

Numbers

€9million

Amount cut from St James’s Hospital Budget

73,230

Attendance at rugby match between Wales and Ireland, on 2 February

34 minutes

Delay to the Super Bowl caused by a power outage

2

Number of shows scheduled in Ireland as part of Beyoncé’s ‘Mrs Carter Show’ World Tour

75%

Percentage of horse DNA found in Polish beef product, in a new controversy for the beef industry

Late Late online

Mark Meehan

The Late Late Show, Ireland’s favourite and the world’s longest running chat show, has been a showcase for new musical talent for many, many years. Bands that would be considered international superstars in the present day made their television debut on its hallowed stage, including the likes of U2 and Boy-zone. Careers have been launched, with dizzying heights being reached.

With downloading becoming ever-more popular as a medium for obtaining music of all genres, The Late Late Show is now offering the public the chance to electronically download the music which they hear on the programme.

A TV spot on The Late Late has long been lauded by Irish musicians as the ultimate showcase of their talent on a public scale. The programme can often draw viewer numbers in the hundreds of thousands. This makes it an absolute gem for any act looking to make their mark on the Irish musical scene. The new iTunes room offers a method for viewers to get the music they like from the programme with relative ease – a click of a mouse instead of the traditional trip to CD shops, which are themselves falling in number as time goes on. In the changing environment of the music industry, The Late Late Show iTunes Room could be a lifeline for many bands.

The problem for many musical acts at the outset is making their music known to au-diences which are perhaps outside of their usual circles. The Late Late Show iTunes Room, according to an article on the RTE website, “will give upcoming acts an op-portunity to promote their new single to a different audience.”

The creation of this iTunes Room shows that the Late Late Show, as venerable and long-running as it may be, is still able to adapt to the times. The chance to perform in front of a large audience remains a piv-toal opportunity for musical acts, and this new technology will ensure that they reach as far and wide as possible into the future.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) have announced that its members can now avail of a new initiative which offers affordable and refurbished laptops. Under the scheme laptops will be made available for purchase from as little as €120, with higher quality options being offered from between €200 and €250.

The initiative is being run in accordance with Rehab Recycle, a recycling company which has recently launched its ‘Promise It’ campaign. As part of the campaign, companies are being encouraged to don-ate their outdated and unused electronic equipment. In full compliance with Irish and European waste disposal, the IT equipment is properly wiped of its data and an updated Microsoft operating system is added to Laptops and PCs to bring them up to standard.

According to the USI website, equipment that is obsolete and irreparable will not be sold. Instead, parts will be re-cycled – “the stuff that’s too old to be useful is broken down for components or raw materials, but the stuff that’s worth using is professionally refurbished and tested by Rehab Recycle and sold on. For the first time ever, this stuff is now available to stu-dents, with warranties.”

The machines range from the basic; designed for web browsing, social network-ing and DVD’s, to high end processors capable of the most demanding Computer Aided Design (CAD).

Eileen Maher, sales and marketing manager for Rehab Recycle, outlined the response to the project so far – “We were astounded by the response of the USI Council, their support and desire to work with us. As part of the Rehab Team, I firmly believe that this germ of an idea will continue to grow and develop and that the relationship between Rehab Recycle and the students of Ireland will be a fruitful one for all involved.”

Electronics waste accounts for 70% of the nation’s waste stream and much of the material found in electrical hardware contains hazardous or non-degradable materials such as lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium. A lot of these elements can be extracted and used again.

For more information, log on to http://www.rebabrecycle.ie or http://www.usi.ie/.

Late Late online

Although the programme is to be broadcast as normal from the RTE studios in Dublin, the Late Late Show is available on the Internet through the Internet service Moolta.com.

The Late Late Show is Launched as Online Show

The Late Late Show is going to become an online show. The RTE1 programme will have its own iTunes Room.

Late Late Show iTunes Room could be a lifeline for up-and-coming acts – a click of a mouse instead of a traditional trip to CD shops will enable fans to download the music they hear on the show.

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Quinn publishes new further education bill

Minister Quinn last September. Existing FÁS training centres would come under the responsibility of the ETBs.

The publication of the Bill has been anticipated since September of last year, when Minister Quinn announced the plans to establish SOLAS.

Separate legislation is currently going through the Oireachtas to replace the 33 Vocational Education Committees with 16 ETBs. This legislation was intended for enactment before the end of 2012, a target Minister Quinn outlined in September.

According to the Department of Education and Skills, “certain staff will be transferred to the ETBs.” However, there is no guarantee or estimation on what proportion of FÁS staff may expect to be kept on.

The Irish Vocational Education Association has claimed that the current FÁS staff of around 800 will be reduced to approximately 200 on the ETBs.

Last September, Minister Quinn said that the State was creating further education and training as the “black sheep” of the education sector focusing instead on the primary and second-level sectors.

On the publication of the new Bill, he said: “given the problems we face with unemployment, it is more important than ever before that the Further Education and Training sector is fit-for-purpose for all learners. I believe that SOLAS will bring a much-needed focus to this part of our education system for the first time.”

“SOLAS will help to implement the Government’s Pathways to Work Strategy and will concentrate particularly on supports for the unemployed and long-term unemployed.”

Minister of State Ciarán Cannon, the Chair of the SOLAS Implementation Group has said: “It is very important to highlight that SOLAS will not simply be a re-branded FÁS.”

“We are learning from our experience of FÁS to help develop the new agency; we want SOLAS to work with ETBs and other service providers to harness what is good about our further education and training system and make it even better for users.”

The SOLAS Board will consist of 11 members, appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills, after consultation with the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, and the Minister for Social Protection.

At an Oireachtas Committee meeting in late 2011, Mr Dermot Mulligan, assistant secretary general of the SOLAS Implementation Group, told of the then-emerging proposals for reform, including the introduction of SOLAS, would be the “most significant changes in the further education sector in over 70 years.”

The proposed changes would see the FÁS training centres come under the responsibility of the ETBs.

As part of ongoing reforms in third-level education, Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn, has published the Further Education and Training Bill 2013. The Bill, published on Friday 25 January, provides for a new authority, known as SOLAS, to be established.

This new body would be responsible for the organisation and funding of third-level programmes.

Education and Training Boards (ETBs) would also be established by the Bill, which is given a remit to carry out training. The SOLAS Bill also provides for the disbanding of FÁS, whose “brand has been badly damaged in recent years,” said Minister Quinn.

Deputy Editor

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Deputy Editor
Homophobic attack alleged

Ciarán Clark
News Editor

Spar Ireland has said they are investigating a report of an incident of homophobia at their Dame St store last week. Spar stated they were aware of the allegations, saying they “note the many concerned comments in relation to an alleged incident in a SPAR store on Dame Street”. Both Spar’s Facebook and Twitter pages were bombarded with impassioned comments hours after the incident, abhorring the reported attack.

(Richard Lawlor) stated via Facebook, that he was abused by a security guard because of his sexuality. He posted that while at the store he and his partner were told by security personnel to ‘take it back into the George, you faggots’, after kissing while queuing for food. The George is a gay bar located two doors from the Spar on Georges Street.

During the incident, Mr Lawlor, reported that his partner replied “if we were a straight couple who kissed would you have asked us to leave and go back to Coppert?" Mr Lawlor also reported the incident turned violent posting, “I then dragged Emmett towards the deli and the security guard followed and again told us to get out of the shop ‘you faggots’. Emmett then pushed him away in retaliation after which two lads pinned him to the ground and were practically strangling him, he now has cuts all over his face and is some amount of pain.”

It has not been confirmed who was responsible for the reported assault. However Spar has announced they are currently working with the store owner, the Gardaí and the private security company to “establish the facts of the alleged incident” and “it is important that we all respect the requirement for due process as the allegations are investigated.”

Distancing the company from the Dame Street store they also announced the store “is independently owned and operated.” Spar added, "Spar Ireland prides itself on respect for all regardless of gender, nationality, colour, creed, or sexual orientation and abhors any action that contravenes that.”

New bullying and mental health plans launched

- Homophobic bullying to be tackled in new twelve-point Action Plan
- Mental health issues given higher priority after recent tragedies

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

New guidelines aiming to prevent bullying in primary and secondary schools were revealed last week, in an ‘Action Plan on Bullying’. Twelve actions are included in the guidelines, which were launched by Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn, and Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald on Tuesday 29 January.

Updated guidelines aim to provide information for all members of the school community, including boards of management, parents, parents’ associations and students, on how to address mental health issues. Key measures include: Developing a safe and caring environment, building positive teacher-student and student-student relationships, actively involving young people and parents in implementing policies, ensuring promotion of mental health is carried out by all staff, and encouraging student participation in extra-curricular activities.

The guidelines are divided into three sections: ‘School support for all’, providing a whole-school approach to mental health and suicide prevention; ‘School Support for some’, focusing on early intervention; and ‘School Support for a few’, which outlines how schools can support young people with more complex needs.

Vodafone to renew sponsorship of DIT’s annual fashion show

Diarmuid Ó Muiri
Vodafone will continue to sponsor the annual DIT Fashion Show. The sponsorship was confirmed amid speculation due to Vodafone’s previous contract with the event coming to a close. DIT Fashion Show Chairperson, Gordon Geraghty said: “The sponsorship is confirmed, we have a new contract.”

When asked about the financial details of the contract Mr Geraghty couldn’t comment. “I can’t say, it’s in the terms of the contract” said Mr Geraghty. “We’re planning on having the Fashion Show on the 17th of April... and it might be two nights. Maybe” added Mr Geraghty.

The DIT Fashion Show is one of the biggest events in the DIT calendar. Model castings for the DIT Fashion Show 2013 took place on Wednesday 28th November 2012. Castings were held from 5:30pm in Java City in DIT Aungier Street.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the show. Models were chosen by our celebrity panel of judges. The panel included Brendan Courtney, stylist and TV presenter; Anne Morgan, managing director of Distinct Model Management; stylist Maria Fusco and model Shireen McDonagh.

Possibility of a two-night show

Prize money at this year’s show

The 2012 Fashion Show theme ‘End of the World, Dawn of a New Era’ was based on the Mayan prediction of the Apocalypse in 2012. The show itself has won numerous awards including DIT Society Awards and National awards such as DIT’s Best Event in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 and the National BIC’s award for Best Event in 2004. The prize for winning the show last year was €2,000 and a trophy.

www.edition.ie

THE EDITION   Wednesday February 6 2013
Erasmus student scammed

Fake account on accommodation website used to defraud DIT student on his way from France

Amy Nora Fitzgibbon

An Erasmus student has been scammed on the internet in relation to accommodation. Before his arrival into Dublin, Paul DuFour, a French environmental science student in DIT, answered a notice on the website Easyroommate.com for a flat-share in Dublin 1, posted by what is now presumed to be a fictitious individual.

They corresponded by e-mail after which this person sent DuFour a copy of her ID and a contract. She then asked him to secure his place in the flat by sending the deposit and first month’s rent, a total of €1000, to her via Western Union. Suspicions of this arrangement, DuFour asked if he could speak to the individual’s parents. He was given a number of a woman who seemed very nice and who said that DuFour need send over only half the money before he arrived into Dublin and then pay the rest directly.

After sending the first €500, DuFour was informed that the person’s lawyer had said yes to another potential flatmate, and that if he really wanted the room he would have to send over the remaining €500. So DuFour spoke to a woman who said that he could pay the remaining half once he arrived into Dublin. But after speaking to the Easyroommate ‘account holder’ on Skype, he was told that her mother had changed her mind again and he would have to pay the remaining €500 immediately. At this stage, Paul DuFour asked for his money back, but never heard from the individual again.

According to Paul, two other French girls were scammed in this way prior to their arrival in Dublin. DuFour posted on the DIT Erasmus Face book page on 21 January saying that he still had no accommodation for his arrival into Dublin on 23 January as he had been scammed on the internet. DIT’s Erasmus coordinator, Casimina Mulhall, responded to his Facebook post on 28 January asking him to come into the office, but Paul did not do so as he had sorted his accommodation dilemma at that stage. “As long as I’ve been working here, I’ve never heard of a student being scammed in relation to their accommodation in this way before,” said Ms. Mulhall.

The accommodation page on the DIT website advises incoming Erasmus students not to hand over any money for accommodation until their arrival into Dublin so that they can see what is being offered. The page offers a list of hotels suitable for short-term accommodation for this purpose. It also recommends suitable long-term accommodation options that DIT has block-booked with external providers. These include Griffith Hall of Residence on the South Circular Road and Marino Student Accommodation on Griffith Avenue.

After the death of a DIT Erasmus student due to stab wounds in December of last year outside accommodation previously recommended by DIT, Herberton Residence in Dublin 8, this accommodation option is no longer listed on the DIT website.

The contact details for the DIT Financial Aid and Accommodation Services are also provided on the page in order to help incoming Erasmus students with any questions or difficulties they might have in relation to finding accommodation in Dublin.

Are we just numbers?

Pedro Garcés Satué

There is no doubt that technology plays an essential role in our daily lives. Would we be able to live without our mobile phones or the Internet? Could we do without them for even one day? The use of smart phones and similar devices has increased over the past few years therefore changing the way we communicate with family and friends. How has technology affected society?

Apart from the massive impact that technology is having in society, there is a recent concern about a “big brother” element, that is to say, the fact that data is being collected about the public and people’s movements, essentially watching people without their knowledge.

Whether we are worried or not by this phenomenon, lecturer at NUI Maynooth, Rob Kitchin, is aiming to conduct a further survey on the issue in the coming months. Mr Kitchin, who has been recently granted funding by the European Council that will allow him and a few colleagues to carry out the research, has stated that once the survey is done, he expects to come up with a “detailed understanding of how the city and its citizens are translated into software and data, and how does software reshape the city.”

Vox-Pop

“It is a big distraction”. “I spend a lot of time on Facebook or Twitter all day rather than communicating with my family. I think this is the biggest change of all. I don’t like all my information being filtered through by one person or provider like when you use Google”.

24-year-old coffee shop employee Karen

“If you have nothing to hide then there’s no harm”.

22-year-old student, Michaela

New EU ranking for universities to increase fairness

Luke Holohan

A new university ranking system has been launched in Dublin as part of the Irish EU presidency. The latest system, known as Multirank, is a departure from the traditional method of ranking universities which has tended to focus primarily on research performance.

As part of the new system five areas will be taken into account when assessing a university’s academic credentials, they are: reputation for research, quality of teaching and learning, international orientation, success in knowledge transfer, and contribution to regional growth. Specific subject areas will also be rated with business studies, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and physics the named areas so far. This list of disciplines will be gradually expanded as the system grows.

U - Multirank is expected to be the global system for university rankings with over 500 universities ready to sign up to take part. The change is aimed at making sure that universities around the globe are judged on a wider set of criteria, ones that reflect the needs of all stakeholders such as students, business, teaching staff and governments.

Speaking at the launch in Dublin Castle, Minister for Education and Skill Róisín Quinn said, “Quality and equity are at the heart of the key themes of the education dimension to Ireland’s Presidency of the EU and the new U - Multirank is an excellent example of this. We are strongly committed to helping to build the new EU ranking system and I would urge higher education institutions across Europe and beyond to seize the opportunity to become involved.”

In recent months, the European Commission has taken a more active stance in educational policies and initiatives. Andoulla Vassiliou, the European Commissioner for Education, Multi-culturalism and Youth, recently spoke of the advantages that the new system will bring.

“The new ranking system will allow universities to compare themselves in a more transparent and useful way.”

Six Irish third level education institutes have signed up to U - Multirank, including Dublin Institute of Technology and University College Dublin. The first list of university rankings will be released in early 2014.
**EU-organised workshop for media students**

Matthew Colfey

The European Parliament Information Office in Dublin is organising a Communication Workshop and Communication Challenge for students.

The Communication Workshop will take place in the European Parliament Information Office situated at 43 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 on 22 March, 2013. A Member of the European Parliament (MEP), working journalists and a European Commission spokesperson will address the participants at the workshop.

The workshop is a great opportunity for students with an interest in communications, journalism and politics to talk to professional journalists and MEPs.

Places are allocated on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. Students can register for the workshop by sending their details in an email to eucommunicationchallenge@gmail.com.

The Communication Competition requires students to submit a written article, television clip or radio clip on an offered theme of their selection. The themes will be posted on the competition’s Facebook page which can be found at https://www.facebook.com/pages/EU-Communication-Challenge/584766326820740.

The competition is open to all students, including those who do not attend the Communication Workshop. The competition is challenging students to communicate the EU in an interesting and informative manner.

The winning prize is a trip to Brussels to attend a media seminar for journalists later in the year.

All work must be submitted by email to EPDublin@ep.europa.eu or by posting a hard copy to ‘EU Communication Challenge, European Parliament Information Office in Ireland, 43 Molesworth St, Dublin 2’ by 30 April, 2013.

If you are interested in taking part in either the Communication Workshop or Competition or want to find out more info you can contact the event organisers by sending them an email at eucommunicationschallenge@gmail.com. You can also visit their Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/pages/EU-Communication-Challenge/584766326820740, or Twitter page at https://twitter.com/EUChallengeIRL.

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**Petition launched to protect outspoken priest**

Graham O’Hara

A petition has been posted online to prevent an Irish Catholic Priest from being excommunicated from the Church by authorities in the Vatican. Father Tony Flannery, who is also a religious writer from Co. Galway, has been at the centre of much controversy for the past few years due to his progressive views on Church reform in his monthly article for Reality Magazine.

In a letter from members of the Vatican, he has been asked to sign a vow of silence and to retract his views concerning such topics as women priests, contraception, and also his opinion that “it is more likely than sometime after Jesus, a select and privileged group within the community who had arrogated power and authority to themselves, interpreted the occasion of the last supper in a manner that suited their own agenda.”

Flannery was placed on suspension following these comments, and the petition is also looking to have him returned to priestly ministry.

The petition itself is hosted on the website of the Association of Catholic Priests, which describes itself as “a forum, and a voice to reflect, discuss and comment on issues affecting the Irish Church and society today.” Flannery is the founder of the association, and was asked by members of the Vatican in their letter to step down as the leader of the group.

According to Flannery, “this campaign is being orchestrated by a secretive body that refuses to meet me. Surely I should at least be allowed to explain my views to my accusers.”

The Association of Catholic Priests in Ireland has said: “We believe that such an approach, in its individual focus on Father Flannery and inevitably by implication on the members of the Association, is an extremely ill-advised intervention in the present pastoral context in Ireland.”

There is now a fear in the Association that this attempt to silence Father Flannery will lead tension between the Irish Church and Rome.

Flannery has vehemently stated that he will not be silenced, and that he will not sign an agreement as he would go against everything he believes in.

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**SU Update: Council season**

- **Timeline for relocation to Grangegorman proposed, including development of central and east quads**
- **DIT Student Council to bring five motions to USI Congress, including ‘highlighting eating disorders’ and ‘equal marriage rights’**

Ciarán Clark

News Editor

DITSU met with technical advisors last week on the January 26/27, to discuss future plans for Grangegorman. All Grangegorman stakeholders were present and this was the first time all stakeholders were able to meet with the technical advisors a company called HKTT.

President Brian Norton was present with members of the Campus Planning team and he delivered a speech outlining the timeline for developments at DIT’s future campus, including plans for the central quad and the east quad which will house the Science and Health, Engineering, and Arts and Tourism Colleges. In his speech he said that the dates on the timeline must be fixed and if the campus is to open in 2017.

There will be three months given for stakeholder input and engagement with the developers. The SU raised the issue of student consultation on how the developments will evolve. On the subject of student facilities and the student hub David Koegan, said consultation was on-going and the SU actually just in limbo at the moment.” He said student consultation on how the development proceeds is important.

Mr Keogan, describing the SU as primarily a lobby group, said that since the “Fed-up, Stand-up” campaign there had been a different ethos among students’ unions nationally. Instead of having a one day strike or day of action, SUs were favouring localised action plans.

Each students’ union would organise on-site, partaking in actions such as lobbying local TDs to highlight student issues.

Brian Norton: the Grangegorman timeline must be fixed in 2017

Brian Norton, the SU President David Koegan and students dropping out, says “There have been two million hits on the USI website and USI media engagement has gone up 500 per cent. €3 million was also added to the coffers of the student assistance fund. It was decided that rather than sticking with two month campaigns, the national campaign would have a twelve month active plan that focussed on information and solutions. A member of the USI is to attend the upcoming student council meeting to outline specific plans for the campaign for the next year.”

Mr Koegan also said: “The focus of the campaign is information; informing students what the USI does, informing the absconded officers and up-skilling them, informing politicians and parties that they can’t attack education.

“it’s about informing the wider public that it’s not just a student problem, businesses are affected. Not only will they not get qualified graduates but if you look at the towns of Athlone, Galway, Dundalk and Tralee, the towns are dead until students are there. Their main business is actual- ly their students. Something like €33 million will be taken out of the Cork economy due to budget cuts on stu- dents and students dropping out.

“The campaign is about informing and lobbying”. He went on to mention the charitable and voluntary work done by students and said the prevailing image of students is someone who’s on a degree, that’s only three hours a week, sitting there in their jocks with a pot noodle

— David Keogan

“Why here in Ireland today.”

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DITSU motions for USI

- **Highlighting eating disorders**
- **Equal marriage rights**
- **Work placements**
- **Student rights and entitlements**
- **Alternatives to Student Assistance Funds**

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DIT Student Council

There was a meeting of the student council on January 30, at which DITSU discussed and decided on five motions that DIT would bring to the USI congress in March. The USI congress is to be held from March 25 to 28, in Ballinasloe. DIT: SU will be sending 17 delegates and 2 observers.

The SU decided the five motions they would bring forward would be, ‘Highlighting eating disorders’, ‘equal marriage rights’, ‘work placements’, ‘student rights and entitlements’ and ‘alternatives to student assistance fund’.

Mr Keogan said the work placements motion was a particularly good initiative given the current economic climate.

The students’ union will bring these motions to the national USI congress in March.

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Brian Norton: the Grangegorman timeline must be fixed, for maybe be in 2017

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Father Tony Flannery faces excommunication

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The image of students is some- one on three hours a week, sitting around in their jocks eating pot noodle - David Keogan
The Great Escape: Leaving Lannion for the big smoke

**Erasmus diary**

The Erasmus adventure continues with Andrew Donovan

Entering the bar it becomes apparent that there is a girl the image of Scarlett Johansson standing a few feet away. It's definitely not her but it is a topic of conversation in either French or English and one that's difficult to pass up when conversation rarely goes beyond 'ca va' with the natives. She and her friend are speaking English, jackpot! A few pleasantries later and we have gotten to the crux of the matter; she laughs and gestures to her boyfriend (sigh) who agrees. Scarlett is actually called Pauline and is in fact French. The reason she was speaking English is her friend, Marianne, from Boston.

Marianne is au-pairing for a French family, two boys aged five and six, "an age where they like to test people's boundaries," she says. Pauline, her boyfriend and her two other friends study in the École des transmissions where a job in the telecommunications department of the French Ministry of Defence awaits them when they graduate. The communications department of the French Ministry of Defence is actually called Pauline and is in fact English, jackpot! A few pleasantries later and we have gotten to the crux of the matter; she lifts eyes from the screen of the phone she holds and shrugs later and the avuncular gentleman order the kind that are set on fire by the barman. A dash of lighter fluid and a puff of flame later and the lads are cheering, "allez les shots". A few minutes later and they are at it again, this time drinking what looks like flaming Baileys. The bald ringleader of the lads invites the old French to join them, a few Gallic cheers, a bit like us in fact. Youth culture is almost entirely American here, songs, films, television programmes, the only thing they've inherited is their sport.

French students who are all packed up in the car back home as soon as class is over. Myself and Lennon stayed in a hostel only 10 minutes' walk from the action in Rennes. When it comes to the action in Rennes, there is only one place to look; the rue de la soif aka the thirsty street named for the large number of bars combined into a small space. It is like a smaller less drunken temple bar and is the most life we have found in France so far.

Bars spill into bars and no one is holding a pint. They don't drink pints they drink half-pints or cocktails mainly, not even a glimpse of red wine! That's old France, new France is drunk and shouty and ... a bit like us in fact. Youth culture is almost entirely American here, songs, films, television programmes, the only thing they've inherited is their sport.

In one bar we see a nice example of the two sides of France. At the corner of the bar is a group of parents maybe even grandparents some of them, sipping their red wine and acting generally nondescript. Twelve men, on a stag by the state for activities, we decide to engage in the old French to join them, a few Gallic cheers later and the avuncular gentleman in the corner has swapped his red wine for Baileys, all to the sound of Green Day and Leona Lewis playing in the background. As three Irishmen look on the barman was from Kilkenny!

Our day consists of going to a café and for the deselection tool in photoshop which seems to advertise Apple products... Alternatively translates as 'apple D.'

"Ah c'est lui même" A common greeting to one of our French colleagues, often used to express surprise after encountering one another in the local boulangerie.

"les jacques" The jacks (colloquial)/WC = A French colloquial term for the toilets in Lannion. Example of use: ou est les jacques? - 'where's the jacks?'

"Allez les shots, Allez les shots" Go the shots, go the shots - A French sporting chant, that has been adapted for use after the consumption of a considerable number of libations.

"il pleut comme une vache qui pisse" It rains heavily - A well used phrase in Brittany where it tends to rains more often than not. Translates directly as 'it rains like a cow that pisces.'

"Bonne homme" Good man - A term of endearment used for someone who acts fairly or generously i.e. someone who cycles home on his bicycle with wine and cheese for all the lads.

"Pomme D'Command D - The Mac shortcut for the deselection tool in photoshop which seems to advertise Apple products... Alternatively translates as 'apple D.'

"Chercher la scoop" Finding the scoop - Used by French journalists chasing stories.

A walkabout in Rennes: the view from the afternoon

**A school with an uncanny resemblance to the Lycee Emile Zola (right).**
Titim gear ná postanna Gaeltachtaí

Na h-íondaithfeachtaí an Ghaeilge roghnaithe

Forbarth do scileann Gaeilge saoir i aisce

GAEILGE
Connecting over Facebook isn’t all it’s cracked up to be

Although it might make some things easier, Facebook isn’t a great hope for relationship woes, says the Edition’s Amy-Nora Fitzgibbon

As the launch of Facebook’s newest feature, Graph Search, is announced, I thought I’d take this opportunity to write about fate and missed connections in relation to the popular social networking site. Is Facebook making us lose the romance of serendipity? Or, in other words, if one tends to believe in signs we get from the Universe, pushing us towards one person or the other, as in the film ‘Serendipity’, is Facebook therefore the absolute enemy of fate?

For example, I met someone at an event recently and despite my best attempts to avoid giving him my number and email address, the man in question succeeded in getting both pieces of information off me. He then e-mailed me twice after the party asking to meet up. The first time I managed to evade him with some excuse. The second time made me worry if and when I met him again he would be very affronted. So I replied and agreed to go on a date. It so happened that the event where I’d met him happened to be on Facebook. It so happened that the sound-bites heard before, including one contention that many students have all these static ‘friends’ some of whom we fantasise about in such a way. Yet just because they have added us does not necessarily mean anything in terms of future romantic possibilities. But people spend hours imagining such things.

In any case, this man eventually realised I was not interested and after not replying to a message he sent me, he proceeded to ignore me and yet kept me as a friend on Facebook. This worries me that he is still in fact holding out that one day I might come rushing back to him, telling him I want to be his wife and spend the rest of my life with him.

I worry for his sake as knowing some people who are subject to these sort of fantastical imaginings via Facebook, (though not for as long or as seriously!) I feel there is an element of danger to this aspect of the popular social network. If we are supposed to be with certain people, we will get signs from the Universe. It may be something as simple as always seeing a certain person around campus on college and getting the same significant look from them. Or it may be as wondrous and unlikely as the twists of fate that occurred to the characters of Sarah and John in ‘Serendipity’. Yet there is always an element of gentle match-making on the part of the Universe. This is very different from the forced nature of Facebook, which can often lead to wishful thinking and hopelessly unfulfilled expectations.

Although Facebook can help to start the conversation, if it’s not meant to be, obsessively checking their profile won’t help matters. If you’re meant to be with someone, that person will be with you. No wishful thinking or obsessive Facebook profile checking required.

No end in sight for SUSI debacle

Mark Meehan says the first months of second semester could be make or break for students in Ireland

The SUSI grants debacle has continued into the fifth month of the academic year. As 2012 has turned to 2013, several thousand students across the country still await word on whether or not they will receive a grant. For those who have received confirmation but no cash, the pressure is on to make every penny count.

In what could be seen as a damning indictment of the failure of the SUSI grants system, the situation of students going hungry from lack of money has become a reality. In Athlone Institute of Technology, a soup kitchen has been set up. In other Student Unions around the country, free food boxes have become a lifeline for students in need.

The president of the Union of Students in Ireland, John Logue, went on national TV opposite a representative of SUSI recently, to discuss the delays. The debate, which was closely followed by students across the country via social media, brought forth many of the sound-bites heard before, including one contention that many students had not returned the forms as requested.

With the next semester of the academic year about to begin across the country, it is a very real possibility that students may begin dropping out of their courses. While third-level institutions across the country have been very accommodating in helping out students in need, with extensions to registration deadlines, the financial pressures outside of the actual college environment will inevitably reach a critical point.

Rent costs are becoming a major issue for many students across the country, as Student Unions cannot pay these costs in their entirety. For many students, the short-lived life away from home may come to a very swift and abrupt end when what little funding they have eventually runs out.

With several thousand students still awaiting their financial assistance from the State this late into the academic year, questions about the framework and the very concept of SUSI will undoubtedly be raised as the year goes on. It remains to be seen if any changes will be made to the organisation before the start of the next academic year in September 2013, and if it also remains to be seen if calls for an independent student grant appeals system, such as put forward by Finneas Fáil’s, Seán Fleming, late last year, will be answered.

Minister for Education Ruari Quinn is likely to feel the heat from this debacle for some time, with his party already in hot water with students over commitments made not to raise fees. Though he made an apology in Dáil Éireann for the situation, it cannot change the situation that, for many students, irreparable damage has been done to their third-level education.

As it stands now, January might be the make or break month for students all across Ireland, as they wait for financial assistance or word of confirmation, with there being a possibility that the latter may never arrive.
Challengers prepare for glory

Jarlath Moloney talks to the four potential Lean Machines as their journey begins

On a cold wet Monday in February, Erin Bingham and Dáirne Black arrived at RAW Condition Gym, to be joined later by Sarah Tandy and Niamh Foley the next day; all unsure what to expect of the 12-week fitness program that lies ahead of them. Though the women come from different backgrounds and countries (Erin comes from Canada and Sarah is here on Erasmus from Australia), they are all united in common goals. “I’ll feel healthier, fitter, look better and get more confidence,” said Dáirne, with similar thoughts uttered by the other women. “I want to gain more confidence, to be happier and healthier,” said Sarah.

However, they’re aware that the competition will be a tough challenge, but that great results are possible by the end of the 12 weeks. “I hope to achieve a greater level of fitness and strength from taking part in the Lean Machine challenge, and of course a healthier lifestyle,” Niamh said.

They will also have to make sacrifices if they want to win the Challenge. Though they will meet with Kane or Andy four times a week, they have gym membership allowing them to go every day. The RAW trainers have also laid out dietary guidelines, but say it’s up to the contestants to stick to it. “We’re giving them guidelines to stick to, but it’s up to them,” said Andy. “If they want to win, they’ll have to put the work in.” The bottom line is that lifestyle changes will have to be made: alcohol, cigarettes, nights out and bad foods will all be out the window. For some of the women, this isn’t a problem (“I never smoke so it’s not an issue”), but the real problem will be giving up on nights out and drinking.

Though Dáirne and Niamh may have had enough of Irish nights out, Sarah and Erin will have to avoid snacking and gym membership, provided by RAW Condition gym, the person who makes the biggest health and fitness improvements will receive a free year gym membership. The winner will ultimately be decided by Lynch’s expert assessment. For more information go to our Facebook (edition.ie) and Twitter (edition_ie) for weekly updates, and visit our website (www.edition.ie) for our weekly video log on Friday.

Exercise of the week

As part of their training regime, RAW trainer Andy demonstrates some explosive squat jumps for the Challengers:

Ollie’s explosive squat
Training: Day One

Danielle Stephens talks to the two trainers who’ll be pushing the women to their limits in the Lean Machine Challenge, to see what motivates them.

Personal Trainer 1:
Name: Kane Kearns
Age: 24
Unlike Andy, Kane grew up just around the corner from the gym, on Charlemont Street. Before RAW moved into the building, he remembers the gym being called Fitness Doc.
The young Dub didn’t know what area he wanted to go into as a career and was working as a facilities manager for a business in the City Centre, but the job never really interested him. He had to wait for his membership to Ben Dunne gym to run out before he could join RAW. Once there, he trained nearly every day, meeting with the different trainers and asking questions about the different training techniques.
While training, Kane had many conversations with Anthony, one of the owners of RAW. After a couple of weeks, Anthony brought Kane aside and asked if he would be interested in working in the gym. “I love interacting with people and seeing them progress. It’s great when you see people who can barely do one push-up and then four weeks later you watch them do ten or twenty.”
One of his proudest achievements with a client is with Eric Russell, a man who weighed 35st when he first came into the gym. At the beginning, the Dublin man wasn’t even able to walk up two steps, but over 12 months, he managed to lose 15st and was able to run in the Dublin City marathon.
In this instance, and in regards to the girls who are participating in the Lean Mean Challenge, Kane believes that the key is self-discipline. “The trainers won’t fail at training the contestants or giving them advice. It’s up to the girls to stick to the plan outside of training and keep up with their regimes.”

Personal Trainer 2:
Name: Andy Hickey
Age: 24
Andy has always wanted to be involved with sports or anything related to personal training. From athletics to martial arts or GAA to soccer the RAW trainer was always interested in playing sport competitively. For a time he played for F.C. Carlow, a third division side who played in the Eircom League of Ireland.
He did a course in personal training in the National Training Centre last year and after that he set about looking for work. Eventually, the work never surfaced for the Kilkenny man and he decided to get in touch with RAW, looking for the possibility to gain some work experience.
However, after just two weeks in the gym Andy was offered a job.
When asked about the Lean Machine Challenge, Andy said that as well as being a great opportunity for the girls who are taking part, it’s a great boost for the relationship between the gym and DIT.
“ ”The challenge will promote the idea of getting fit and coming to RAW for students in DIT.
He hopes that by the end of it, each participant will have achieved what they set out to do and that reading about their experiences will motivate others to start training.

The Trainers

Name: Erin Bingham
Age: 25
Course: Final year, Marketing
From: Toronto, Canada
Weight: 130.6lbs

Photos: Jarlath Moloney
Editor
(Top-Clockwise)
Kane and Andy introduce Erin and Dáirne to some floor exercise.
Kane gets ready to demonstrate squats.
Erin and Dáirne have their first pre-training meeting with Andy and Kane.
The Challengers get to grips with deadlifts.
The Edition Style Guru gives his insight on what we’re wearing this February

First of all we have to apologise for going AWOL during the month of January. January is an unforgiving month and as a result the Lifestyle team elected to stay in, drink ethical almond milk cocktails and listen to Amish electro dream beats. I fear I’ve said too much. Anyway as the winds of January subside we decided to throw on our galoshes, our customized Edition bowler hats and brave the day, all in the name of fashion of course. A special thanks to all the people who gave us an insight into their sphere of style and originality, you’re all beautiful human beings. To the people who didn’t, thanks for nothing and you’re not invited to our Hall & Oates themed birthday party, so there.

Who? Clara Bardon
Where? 1st Year Business student, Aungier Street, part-time model, full-time fashionista
What?
Green Parka Jacket – Miss Selfridge
T-Shirt – Vero Moda
Blue Leather Knowledge boots – Aldo
Blue Jeans – River Island
Why?
“I have a casual style. Actually I kind of have summer festival look today.”
A summer festival look in February? A stylish but dangerous lady.

Who? Stephanie Costello
Where? 2nd year Journalism student
What?
Green Hunting Jacket – Charity Shop
Blue Trousers – American Apparel
Shoes – Santa Claus
Scarf – Thai market
Bag – Padraig Sweeney designer
Why?
“Post-coital homelessness. I get a lot of my stuff from charity shops and refuse bins.” Can’t argue with that.

Who? Jarlath Finnegan
Where? 3rd Year Film and Broadcasting student
What?
Brown Jacket – London vintage shop
Black Skinny Jeans – Urban Outfitters
Shoes – Topman
Why? ‘Just put something funny’. Hmm, we’d probably describe Jarlath’s style as something akin to a dapper gentleman fox hunter from the 1920’s.

Who? Jayne Gavin
Where? 1st Year Business student, Aungier Street, part-time model and catwalk strutter
What?
Black Jumper – River Island
Grey Knitted Uggs – Topshop
Black Trousers – Unknown
Scarf – a mysterious French boutique
Why? “For college, I generally dress in a stylish but casual way.”
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Diets in 2013: horse burgers, blood tests, raw meat and Cheryl Cole

Victoria Kinsella

Coming up to the end of January, most likely some of you have already binged yourselves on any crap food there is out there because of this horrible weather, poverty and post-Christmas exams; the lousy cherry on top of the January Blues.

So is there much point to New Year’s resolutions of eating right and healthy for the summer which just seems too far to make an effort now?

In my opinion diets don’t work, unless you are Anne Hathaway starving herself for Les Misérables, for which she is given large amounts of money for.

But for the ordinary student we should know that we do need to eat and keep our energy.

However, after hearing that horse is now a staple ingredient in our beef burgers it got me thinking into what exactly is a ‘good diet’.

They say that 70% of healthy living is a good diet, the rest is exercise. So the phrase, ‘you are what you eat’ is slightly true.

Anyway, the purpose of this article was to look at various new diets out there, I saw one recently called the ‘Blood Type Diet’, it’s a new one that was made famous by Cheryl Cole, but it consists of booking a doctor to find out what your exact blood type is.

Advocated by Peter D’Adamo, a naturopathic physician (not a doctor) he suggests that eating for your blood type would not only have weight loss effects but that it will also contribute to your overall health.

So for example if you are blood type O, it suggests that they need a lot of protein from animals so should avoid red meat.

Blood type O people should know that Gluten is not your friend so avoid wheat products as much as possible! Blood type A, cannot deal with meat products so should be avoided. Blood type B, dairy is the route for you. And finally AB, which is less than 5% of the population, should combine the best and the worst of the A and B worlds.

The ‘Raw Food Diet’, is an interesting one because it originates from the belief that the healthiest foods are the foods that have not been cooked.

It comes from the idea that when cooking the food you kill enzymes which helps the stomach to digest the food and absorb the nutrients. Many people who decide on this kind of diet are already Vegan lovers.

The people who follow this diet believe in many health benefits such as increased energy, clearer skin, weight loss and reduced risk of disease.

However, with eliminating a huge amount of food from your diet these people who choose this diet do have side effects which are a lack of nutritional deficiencies, such as vitamin B12, iron, zinc, and omega-3 fatty acids.

Many people have heard of a high protein diet or the low carb diet that bodybuilders use to increase muscle growth after working out.

However, for the ordinary student this can also help losing weight because protein leaves us feeling fuller for longer. Also the high protein diet eliminates body water which of course leaves the body looking slimmer.

Furthermore, because the body is not dependent on carbohydrates for energy it begins to deplete those stores of fat by clinging to the belly, thighs and hips.

It’s important to realise that eating protein will not solve your problem; exercise is vital too.

So my fellow students just a small glimpse of diets to get you having the perfect beach body by summer 2013, and also to remain healthy and live longer!

Fad diets don’t work, but eating clean and training mean will keep you lean.

Check out gyms in the local area such as Raw on South Richmond St. or Educogym just off Bolton street. Also talking to your doctor can help. wLosing weight, gaining muscle or being comfortable within your own skin is difficult, but with just a few changes every day you will be surprised how much you yourself can change.

Irish stylist tipped as ‘next Alexa Chung’

Stephanie Quilligan
Lifestyle Editor

Dublin based stylist and fashion blogger Angela Scanlon is set for big things in 2013 after being tipped as one to watch by Vogue.co.uk.

The 28-year-old, who can often be seen on ‘Xposé’ and ‘Off the Rails’ has a huge future ahead of her after the website claimed she is tipped to take the crown from well-known television presenter and style icon Alexa Chung.

Responding to making the coveted list, Angela said “I couldn’t believe it when I heard. Even to be considered is amazing.”

The stylist has a busy few months ahead of her as she is set to present the London Fashion week in the coming weeks, she is already the face of Yahoo’s fashion channel and has several other high-profile projects in the pipeline.

She takes it all in her stride however, telling the Daily Mail ‘I take it with a pinch of salt’.

If Alexa Chung’s career is anything to go by then this Irish beauty has a very bright future ahead of her.

For more information about Angela and to visit her blog go to www.angelascanlon.com
Stephanie Quilligan looks at some great finds on the high street for February 2013

Pokka dot dress
Topshop
€53
Pokka dots are huge on the high street this season and so too is monochrome. What better way to mix the two trends than with this dress.

Blue Suede Heels
Topshop
€75
Chunky heels are an essential part of every girls wardrobe. They can turn even the simplest of outfits into something spectacular. These from Topshop are available in a ray of different shades.

Backpack
Asos.com
€60.68
This funky floral backpack brings in many of Spring/Summers trends for this season whilst also playing a practical role in a student’s life.

Daisy Shorts
Miss Selfridge
€53
Weather you choose to wear these daisy embroidered shorts day or night they are destined to be noticed. Team with a bright top for the perfect spring attire.

Kaki Jacket
River Island
€75
The off duty army look is a big trend this season and is ideal for casual dressing as the weather gets warmer.

Casual Ankle Boot
River Island
€60
The ankle boot has become a statement piece in college goer’s wardrobes. These, from River Island are perfect for spring and are also available in black.

Neon Jumper
Topshop
€50
The high street is full of bright colour at the moment the inspiration of which is the remerging of College students to Ibiza. What better way to show your Ibiza spirit in Irish weather than with this neon jumper from Topshop.

Paisley Print Trouser
Zara
€39.95
These pastel trousers are perfect for the unpredictable spring weather in Ireland. The colour will brighten up any outfit while it will keep you warm at the same time. Teamed with a tangerine heel they can take you from day to night.

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Daisy Shorts
Miss Selfridge
€53
Weather you choose to wear these daisy embroidered shorts day or night they are destined to be noticed. Team with a bright top for the perfect spring attire.
Dublin native, Eimear Quinn won the Eurovision in 1996 representing Ireland. MAJ student in DIT, Pedro Garcés Satué met up with her to have a chat about life after the Eurovision.

Is it difficult for you to combine being a singer and a mum?

It’s a lot of juggling, really, to get cover when I’m working but I just love being at home with my children as well, so at the same time it’s very useful for me that I haven’t got a rigid job. It’s a very flexible job and I get to enjoy as much time as I can while my children are very small.

Do you think a haunting voice like yours is a gift you were born with or is something you have acquired over time?

I think it’s a combination. As a singer it’s something you need to be born with because you are the instrument. Yes, definitely, it is a gift in my life for sure, but you’re also the instrument, so then it’s up to you as to how much practice you want to do with that instrument, to develop it as an instrument, if you see what I mean, so the instrument will be there for you but if you want to develop it then you can obviously put as much work into it as possible to make it into the best instrument it can be.

Apart from singing, do you play any instruments?

I play piano, not very well, but I play the piano reasonably. I play sometimes in my concerts.

How did performing for Queen Elizabeth II feel?

Amazing, really incredible experience, for the whole country was very taken by her visit, by the presence she had, a very humble, quiet, dignified presence and that certainly came across in her attendance at the conference that night... It was an honour for me to be chosen as one of the performers. It was a fantastic experience.

Which country surprised you the most when you performed?

That surprised me the most? Oh gosh, let me think. You always have different surprises in different places. Australia surprised me because I didn’t realise or I never thought about how it would be in the Southern Hemisphere. The night sky was completely different and I found that it was a big surprise. And when I was much younger I travelled to sing in Russia in the early 90s in Moscow and I found that very different culturally. It was an unusual experience.

And did you find some differences in terms of the audience?

Yes, when I met Russian people anonymously, they were very private and quite closed, but when I was introduced to them they were really open and warm, so they have like two personas.

Which performance moved you the most?

Yes, I think possibly performing for the Queen, it was definitely one of the most special, for sure. And performing in 2008 in Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin, it was a Christmas concert, and it was just a convergence of a lot of factors, probably the most special concert that I’ve put on myself. It was a very special, moving night.

You are the last Irish winner in Eurovision so far. How was your experience there in 1996?

Oh it was phenomenal, you know. I was very young, it was very long time ago. It was an amazing experience and one that I will always remember, but I suppose I see it very much now as a one experience in a whole range of experiences and it feels like a long time ago.

Would you say the Eurovision changed your life?

Yes, oh definitely. Performing in the Eurovision changed the trajectory that my life was going on. I was very much into classical music, pretty much exclusively at the time, I sang very little music that wasn’t classical. It then opened up the possibility to perform other types of music, sing other types of music. It fundamentally changed the way I looked at the possibility of the way I was singing, the way I was performing and my career.

Would you ever consider representing Ireland in the Eurovision again?

No, I wouldn’t consider it for a moment. I think it’s a combination. As a singer you think this is the future of music, sing other types of music. It fundamentally changed the way I looked at the possibility of the way I was singing, the way I was performing and my career.

You’ve also performed with the Dublin Laptop Orchestra. Do you think this is the future of any orchestra?

The Laptop Orchestra is a certain ensemble on its own and its collaboration with the RTE National Symphonic Orchestra was the first time that a laptop orchestra had worked with a symphonic orchestra, so that was really interesting. And I think the Laptop Orchestra as a genre probably can only go from strength to strength because it’s an interesting one and electro-acoustic music, digital music is growing stronger all the time.

In the genre, the laptops and the electronic devices simply manipulate the sounds but they are played just as an instrument. They are played like an electronic instrument in a live situation, just as one plays the trumpet or the violin, so it’s challenging from a performance point of view.

It’s challenging in many ways, performance-wise, it’s challenging acoustically, intellectually, so it’s a very interesting genre.

What’s your opinion on “The Gathering”?

I don’t have a strong opinion either way, but one thing that I do feel strongly about is that anything that is progressive and positive in a gloomy, downbeat environment has to be welcomed because it is very easy to knock things, it’s very easy to say ‘oh that’s a stupid idea’ particularly when people are feeling low and depressed about everything so what I would say to people who knock the idea is, ’ok, you come up with an idea, and let’s see if we can all get behind it, you know.’

I think if people come up with a progressive idea, even if some people may think it’s tacky or whatever, that’s their view, it’s an idea, it’s working, it’s gathering momentum, it’s bringing people here, it’s bringing positive focus, it’s giving people an opportunity to celebrate and feel good about themselves. I can’t see too much that’s bad about that.
International Film Festival brings the A-list to Dublin

- Gala opening to include screening of ‘Broken’, starring Cillian Murphy
- Controversial documentary on abuse of power within the Catholic Church among the films on show

Paul O’Connor

From February 14 to 24, The Jameson Dublin International Film Festival will celebrate its 10th year by welcoming film luminaries such as Tim Roth, Joss Whedon and Frank Langella to showcase their most recent work.

Over 130 films will be screened at the festival which will encompass venues such as Cineworld, the Irish Film Institute, Filmbase, The Light House and The Savoy. According to the Festival Director Grainne Humphries, “ticket sales are great, and the programme has been well received.” Personal favourites of the Director for this year’s programme would include “the diversity of Korean films (such as Sang-ho Yeon’s animated piece ‘The King of Pigs’ and mystery thriller ‘Helpless’) in the programme… and the wonderful documentaries we selected this year.”

One such wonderful documentary would surely include the new work from Oscar winner Alex Gibney, Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God, which is showing at The Light House cinema on February 15 at 18:00. Examining the first known protest of sexual abuse at St. John’s school for the deaf in Milwaukee by Father Lawrence Murphy, the documentary goes on to chart the abuse of power in the Catholic Church; from the Vatican to countries such as the U.S. and Ireland.

The documentary is controversial also in its depiction of Pope Benedict and his predecessor as both pontiffs appear to have been aware of such widespread abuse and yet did not act. The festival also offers audiences the opportunity to quiz the mind of Gibney, with the director performing a master class on previous works such as the 2008 Academy Award winning documentary Taxi to the Dark Side at the Light House cinema on February 14 at 14:00.

The gala opening will be the screening of Rufus Norris’ Broken at the Savoy at 19:30, which will be attended by the film’s stars Tim Roth and Cillian Murphy. Tim Roth is the winner of this year’s Volta award which will be presented to him by Murphy at the festival’s opener.

The other two winners of the Volta award, which honours outstanding career achievement, are Danny DeVito and Catinca Gavras; previous recipients include Martin Sheen, Daniel Day-Lewis and Al Pacino. The festival itself operates much like other across the globe such as the Sundance Film Festival, in that most of the films are seeking distribution. Even though the Dublin International Film Festival does not have a market element, Ms Humphries maintains that “there have been films which have been picked up for distribution as a direct result of the festival screening.”

The fact that a great deal of these films will not be screened in Ireland again should offer a unique incentive for audiences in this country. Audience members can also participate during the ten-day event by voting for the ‘Audience Award’; the fantastic silat martial arts film The Raid was last year’s winner.

Classic Screenings

Older films are also celebrated as the Jameson Cult Film Club will feature LA Confidential, with Volta award recipient Danny DeVito in attendance. Stanley Kubrick’s 1956 classic noir thriller The Killing will be screened at The Light House cinema at 13:30 on February 23 with the Festival’s ‘Surprise Film’ showing at the Savoy at 17:00 the following day.

Other highlights include the Wachowski brothers’ ambitious Cloud Atlas on February 16. Themes such as post-apocalyptic life, reincarnation and love are examined as the film’s characters and their struggles are mapped out throughout the centuries. Cineworld will be showing Arbitrage at 20:40 on February 19 which stars recent Golden Globe nominee Richard Gere in a story of duplicity and bloody consequenc- es in the murky world of hedge fund trading.

The festival will close in the Church Restaurant, Bar & Venue at 21:30 on February 24 where audience members will be given the chance to mingle with the makers behind some of the work viewed in the previous ten days.

For more information, go to http://www.jdiff.com/ You can also call +353 1 662 4266 for information, or +353 1 687 7974 for tickets.

Retrospective programme continues: ‘Groundhog Day’

Paul O’Connor

The Lighthouse Cinema Smithfield continued its retrospective in February by screening ‘Groundhog Day’ on February 02 and the Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn rom-com ‘Roman Holiday’ for Valentine’s Day.

According to Gavin Feitknecht, marketing assistant for The Lighthouse cinema, “there is a new cultural phenomenon of audiences wishing to see old films at the cinema.” Mr Feitknecht described demand for their Tarantino retrospective, as “massive”, with “a new-found appreciation among audiences for viewing these older films on the older 35 mm reel.

On February 02 The Lighthouse screened ‘Groundhog Day’, a nod to the annual day the Pennsylvania rodent turns sleepother on the last six weeks of winter. Demand for the film was so high that the cinema put on a second showing of the classic comedy the following day, thus fully embracing the film’s mythos of Groundhog Day repeating itself.

The film’s screening was also a promotional stunt for Bill Murray’s new film ‘Hye Park on Hudson’. Murray garnered his fourth Golden Globe nomination last January for his portrayal of former US President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

This strategy of promoting new films with screenings of work from yesteryear was also employed by The Lighthouse late last year when Paul Thomas Anderson’s body of work was showcased to herald his latest offering, The Master.

‘Groundhog Day’ is a fascinating and hilarious treatise on how a person would react to living the same day over and over. It is believed to be loosely based on Friedrich Nietzsche’s ‘The Gay Science’ in which the famous German philosopher muses on reliving the same life over and over.

This concept forms the basis for the director of Harold Ramis’ classic comedy where Bill Murray’s character must contend with Groundhog Day ad infinitum. The fact that midway through the film Murray’s character deals with the issue by proclaiming himself a god adds credence to the Nietzsche link.

“What, if some day or night a demon were to steal after you into your loneliness and say to you: ‘This life as you now live it and have lived it, you will have to live once more and innumerable times more!’ Would you not throw yourself down and gnash your teeth and curse the god and never have I heard anything more divine?’
Séamus steals the Trad show

Luke Holohan News Editor & Al McConnell Deputy Editor

When he shuffled on stage to join the rest of Téada, glass of whiskey in hand, Séamus Begley undoubtedly pushed the group’s average age up a few years. But, if there’s a 70 odd-year-old out there who is sufficiently young at heart to join in the hooley, Begley is the man.

Téada have just returned from a tour of North America, and were holding nothing back on their return to the homeland. Supported by intermittent appearances from an Irish dancer, the group brought energy to the night and had the crowd at their mercy from the start.

One of the most praiseworthy aspects of Tradfest has been its support of young musicians, providing many with opportunities to play in some remarkable venues. Tonight was no exception, with Trad for Tomorrow winners Tracnú opening the night, followed by Perfect Friction.

The latter group kept the audience’s attention thanks to the powerful vocals of Rebecca Winckworth, and an eclectic mix of genres in their half-hour set. A highlight for this act was a performance of Snotties Delight, an original composition by one of the group’s members (Lotie) whose birthday was announced to the crowd as she took up the Uilleann pipes for the piece. The seven piece ensemble, made up of four sisters, even brought a Gaelic touch to the Counting Crows.

Perfect Friction were followed by well-known singer Aoife Scott, whose more sombre melodies offered a change of pace for the evening.

Her performance of self-composed “Beloved Rose” showed why she has shared stage with musical royalty such as U2 and Bob Dylan.

Without a doubt, however, the night was stolen by the now world-renowned Téada, and their recently added, West Kerry-born accordionist and singer, Séamus. For the first few songs, the crowd was treated to the rampaging tunes of the Téada originals, before Begley made his way on stage to join in. There was great applause as he did so; many in the audience (which was made up predominantly of individuals from a similar generation as Séamus himself) will have followed his career for many years.

Seamus gives the crowd a brief Irish lesson, to help them sing along and his joy at being back on more familiar shores is clear for all to see.

On this particular night the Kerry man is in his element, and, were it not for the intermittent, fast and traditional polkas you could be forgiven for thinking Begley was an accomplished comedian. His stories of America are reminiscent to tales you’d hear from a distant but entertaining uncle. A great night was had by all at the Button Factory, certainly the definition of a hooley.

Look out for Téada’s recent collaborations with African-American group, The Ebony Hillbillies.

Above: Séamus Bégley, the most recent member of Téada, pictured here regaling the Button Factory audience with his inimitable wit. Téada headlined the Tradfest event. Below: Téada are accompanied by sean-nós dancers throughout their set. Photo: Edition Staff
‘Take Me Out’: an inside perspective on the show

Dairne Black
Cultural Editor

Rhianna once sang ‘We found love in a hopeless place’ and while I’m undecided as to where this hopeless place is, I was attempting to find it on Take Me Out. For those unfamiliar with the show, a poor nervous fella comes out and attempts to impress 30 single girls, the girls decide whether they like him by leaving their light on or turning it off as he tries to woo them through three rounds. Master of ceremonies is 98FM’s John and former DIT student, Ray Foley. Simple premise, amusing show.

The application process was simple enough, some form filling and an interview. Incidentally enough I nearly didn’t go for an interview because I was seeing a guy at the time and naively thought it would work. When I didn’t, I figured I may as well see what happened with Take Me Out.

I went to meet the producers I feeling underdressed. The girls around me were heavily made up with fake-tan, dresses and heels. I was in skinny jeans and top, why would they want that? I felt more plain—Jane they Sassy-Suzy? I played the waiting game and then got the call to say I was in. Uh oh. what had I let myself in for? It all felt surreal and didn’t hit me until I was out at the Helix on a frosty January morning.

The show was filmed over a week with between 2 and 3 episodes done each day. Backstage was a frenzy of excitement, Red Bull and fake tan. As the saying goes, if you can’t taste the hairpray, you don’t have enough in. I’m not hugely girly, I don’t religiously don fake tan and can have enough in. I’m not hugely girly, I don’t religiously don fake tan and can happily stroll around with no makeup(I wonder why I’m still single). This was me embracing my inner-girl, and I must admit, it was fun. It was nice getting dolled up and chatting with the other girls about the annoyance of being single. We were all in the same boat, looking for ‘love’. I had a few wobbly moments, where my legs had felt like jelly and my stomach resembled a bouncing-castle. As my friends screamed it was a bit of craic, fun and an easy feat let me tell you.

Watching the show back was nerve-wracking. Sitting on my friends couch, glass of wine in hand, I was glued to the screen as my younger-ish former self made her TV debut. The girl appeared, confident and secure, and walked down the runway like she owned it. I was proud of my past-self; considering my legs had felt like jelly and my stomach resembled a bouncing-castle. As my friends screamed and played the TakeMeOut drinking game... drink whenever I was on camera I relaxed. The worst was over and what I had considered to be the ‘worst’ turned out to be the best. There’s no better remedy than having a good giggle at yourself on tv, odd as that may sound.

It’s been a year since I filmed the show and while many things have changed, one thing remains, I’m still single. Whether I’m still looking for Mr. Right remains, I figure he’s hiding under a rock, but I don’t know if I have time to unperturb every one. (Too busy with the Edition!) Many people have asked me why I decided to take part in Take Me Out, it’s the million dollar question really. Why would I do that to myself? Being frank, I never contemplated the fact that I would get chosen to be part of the programme. I figured I was too normal and not crazy or out-there enough. How wrong was I? It was a bit of craic, fun and an experience. I stayed true to myself on the show. I glanced it up for the cameras and said a few questionable comments, but all in good fun. Take Me Out was an awesome experience and took me out of my comfort zone for a while. It was exciting, intriguing and amazingly memorable. Did I get taken out? You’ll have to tune in and see...

Above: Dairne Black mentally preparing in the pre-show rehearsals, before appearing on the latest series of Take Me Out. Below: Dairne in action on the show, speaking to host Ray Foley (a former DIT student), Watch the rest of the series to see how Dairne gets on in her search for a date to ‘Shifters’ nightclub.

TV Guidance: what to watch

The Edition’s Rachel O’Brien looks at the latest TV offerings

Deception

Deception first aired on TV3 on 7 January and in all honesty I didn’t like it at first. However, it’s beginning to grow on me, a little bit. The show is set in a small, exclusive housing estate in the suburbs of Galway, and the drama kicked off when a murder victim was found in one of the show-houses up for sale.

The programme revolves around six families but so far all viewers have seen is teenager Emma throwing away a chance to study medicine in college. When her boyfriend Troy threatening a school bully with a gun and elderly man, Larry pretending to go missing so his wife could claim the insurance.

The cast is relatively unknown, apart from Leigh Arnold who is best known

for her role in Irish medical drama, The Clinic. The Foxtax native plays Caitriona French, rich wife of scrum half Jack French. All in all, Deception is a typical Irish drama and will most likely fizzle out within a season or two. For now it airs Monday nights on TV3 at 10pm.

Verdict: 2/5

Catfish

Something which is a lot less serious and a lot more light-hearted is Catfish. The TV Show aired on MTV on January 21 and has proved very popular with viewers. For people who have yet to watch this hilarious show, a Catfish is someone who creates a fake profile online and pretends to be someone they are not by using someone else’s pictures and information.

Presenter Nev Schulman, who has previously been tricked by a Catfish, receives emails from people who are in contact with someone, and in love with them, but have never actually met them. He flies out to where they live, does background checks and sets up a meeting between one pair. MTV have aired four episodes and so far two girls have been ‘catfished’ by other girls who were out for revenge. Two other girls met their real guys, who turned out to be similar to their profiles but had some important differences.

This programme is interesting to watch, but can these people claim to be in love with someone they haven’t even met yet? In some cases the only form of contact has been text messaging, which is arguably a precarious basis for love. Nev appears to be the helpful guy, having been through the situation himself, he understands and empathises with the other participants.

This is definitely a programme that is worth a watch and has already been renewed for a second season. To watch Catfish: The TV Show tune into MTV on Monday nights at 10pm or Tuesday nights at 11pm.

Verdict: 4/5

Verdict: 2/5
Italy may upset Six Nations predictions after form defying result against France

**SPORTING HISTORY**

Liam Kennedy

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**6 February**

1958 – The Munich air disaster took place. This was the incident when the aircraft carrying the Manchester United soccer team crashed at the Munich-Riem Airport. This resulted in the deaths of 23 of the 25 players on board, including seven Manchester United players.


**7 February**

1949 – Former Baseball player Joe DiMaggio (New York Yankees) becomes the first player of the sport to earn $100,000 per year.

**8 February**

1998 – The first female Ice Hockey game at the Olympics takes place with Finland beating Sweden 6-0.

**9 February**

1900 – Dwight Davis established a new tennis trophy which would later be called the Davis Cup.

10 February

1989 – To gain deregulation, the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) admits, in a New Jersey Court, that pro wrestling is an exhibition rather than a sport.

**11 February**

2013 – Former Tottenham and Real Madrid midfielder Rafael van der Vaart celebrates his 30th birthday.

**12 February**

2003 – Legendary Spanish forward Raul becomes his country’s all-time top scorer when he struck twice in a friendly against Germany. His record has since been overtaken by David Villa.

13 February

1993 – Ukrainian Sergei Bubka pole vaults an indoor record height of 6.14m. His record has since been overhauled by Ziggy Badziak and Johnny Gregson.

14 February

2010 – Atlético Madrid defeated Barcelona 2-1 in what turned out to be the only league defeat that season. Former Manchester United striker Diego Forlan got on the scoresheet that day.

**15 February**

1913 – Ireland get their first victory over England in an international soccer match, winning 2-1.

16 February

2013 – American tennis great John McEnroe turns 54 years old.

**17 February**

1892 – The first Test Cricket match at Sydney Cricket Ground was played. This ground is still used today.

**18 February**

1882 – This date marks Ireland’s first ever international soccer match but also their biggest ever defeat. They lost to England 13-0.

2013 – Former Man U defender and current Sky Sports pundit Gary Neville celebrates his 38th birthday.

**19 February**

2006 – The FAI relegated Shelbourne FC to the Irish second tier despite the club actually winning the Premier League in the previous season. This was as a consequence of their poor financial position.

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**Darragh Mowlds**

**Sports Editor**

Most of the teams in this year’s Six Nations are going through or have just completed a huge period of transition in their side.

**Ireland**

Ireland are experimenting with youth this year, a gamble which could make or break Declan Kidney’s reign as Irish Coach. A stunning opening day performance in Cardiff gave his side confidence going into the English game. After seeing France fall at the hands of Italy, Irish fans can be forgiven for daring to dream. I hesitate to predict that they’ll win the tournament, home ties against France and England could prove vital.

**England**

In reality they have a wonderful team that on their day could take on pretty much anyone in world rugby, as was seen in their astonishing victory over New Zealand during the Autumn Internationals. But as always they are their own worst enemies, and this massively hyped team could crack under the pressure. So far so good for Stuart Lancaster’s side with an impressive victory over Scotland, however, tougher tests lie ahead.

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Grim future sans Sexton

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So Leinster have been knocked out of the Heineken Cup, O’Driscoll could be competing in his final season and Sexton is upping sticks for a big move money to Racing Metro. Naturally, this means the end of the world as we know it and that Leinster will never compete again. Of course, back in reality, it doesn’t mean anything of the sort.

I’ll start off with Sexton. His departure has left pundits running around with their hands in the air proclaiming the demise of Irish rugby. Am I the only one that isn’t sad to see him go? He is remarkably inconsistent in front of the posts. I know it’s not his only role but primarily a number 10 should be a great kicker. Moments of brilliance and the odd great game aren’t good enough. Give it a few years he will go from Judas Iscariot to the Prodigal son, mark my words.

Next to BOD, harshly stripped of the Irish captaincy by a dejected Declan Kidney, Drico came back from injury and showed exactly what his side were missing in the late 14/15. Leinster will cause serious problems, let alone the leadership qualities that they possess as more senior members of the squad. Looking towards the future, they need to invest in their squad. Their long time centre partnership of D’Arcy and O’Driscoll will come to an inevitable end in the near future, something which head coach Joe Schmidt has been planning for. Does Leinster already have the answer to Sexton’s departure sitting on the bench? Ian Madigan has patiently sat on the fringes of the side since he signed professionally in 2009. Maybe it’s time for the 23 year old understudy to shine.

Leinster has been poor this year at times and wall-punchingly frustrating at others. But are they finished? You’d swear they lost every game in the championship by fifty points by the way some people are going on. They lost out on the last weekend, just. Had Munster lost they’d be in the knock out stages and probably challenging for the title. Let’s not buy canned goods and hide just yet.

Their players and coaches will be riled up by the disappointment this year and don’t be surprised if the “goys” of Leinster tear the Heineken Cup field apart this time next year. Throughout the early stages of this campaign, the team was plagued with injuries to O’Driscoll, Fitzgerald and Kearney amongst others. Take three of the best players out of any side and it will cause serious problems, let alone the leadership qualities that they possess as more senior members of the squad. Looking towards the future, they need to invest in their squad. Their long time centre partnership of D’Arcy and O’Driscoll will come to an inevitable end in the near future, something which head coach Joe Schmidt has been planning for. Does Leinster already have the answer to Sexton’s departure sitting on the bench? Ian Madigan has patiently sat on the fringes of the side since he signed professionally in 2009. Maybe it’s time for the 23 year old understudy to shine.

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**Grainne McCoy**

***THE EDITION***

Wednesday February 6 2013

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Transfer Deadline Day brings about some bizarre behaviour

From Odenwingie to Balotelli, Cathal Kearney looks at the moves and non-moves of transfer day

As Big Ben struck 11 o’clock last Thursday night the transfer window slammed shut, with many feeling a bit let down by the drama compared to previous years.

The headline-grabber of the day was 37 year-old David Beckham, who joined French giants Paris St Germain on a five-month deal. Many were quick to point out the obvious financial and marketing benefit to both Beckham and PSG, and it therefore came as a pleasant surprise when he announced he would waive his salary and have it paid to a children’s charity in Paris.

The most bizarre tale on transfer deadline day had to be that of Nigeria striker Peter Odemwingie, who took it upon himself to drive to London and force through a move to Queens Park Rangers from West Brom. He said his goodbyes before travelling to London, where he was refused entry into QPR’s training ground for talks, as he had not been granted permission to leave by West Brom. As the deadline passed Odemwingie returned to his club red-faced and without the move he so desired.

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From Odenwingie to Balotelli, the moves and non-moves of transfer day

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This myth that cup football has some sort of magic where the underdog can conquer all against the odds like David vs Goliath has resurfaced recently due to Bradford City making the Capital One Cup final. I’ll admit that is a surprise when you consider the clubs involved. It is a reminder of how much importance the FA Cup once had.

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Europol finds match fixing in 300 games

Danielle Stephens
Sports Editor

The European police agency has revealed that they are investigating 380 suspicious cases of match-fixing.

While the majority of incidences are said to have occurred in Asia, Africa and Central America, some of the incidences supposedly took place in European qualifiers and UEFA Champions League matches. The FA will be focusing on the fact that Europol found that one such match took place in England.

The football policing agency found that a total of 425 match officials, club officials, players, and serious criminals, from more than 15 countries, are suspected of being involved in attempts to fix more than 300 professional football matches.

Rob Wainwright, the chief executive of Europol revealed that there was around £7m paid in betting profits and £1.27m paid in bribes to players and officials.

Europol revealed that there was around 380 professional football matches involved. It added that the organisation has a “zero-tolerance policy towards match-fixing activity on a scale we have not seen before.”

Although England isn’t a country under particular scrutiny, Wainwright said that there was a match played in the country in the last three or four years, which is currently going through judicial proceedings.

The FA have come out and said that they don’t know of any match that took place in England which was involved in any match-fixing probe.

A spokesperson for the FA explained that they along with the Premier League, Football League and Conference, “monitor markets for the top seven leagues and three major cup competitions in England and take matters of integrity in football extremely seriously.”

Since Europol released their findings, UEFA, Europe’s football governing body has said that they will work with the various authorities and make sure that the necessary steps are taken to punish those involved. It added that the organisation has a “zero-tolerance policy towards match-fixing in our sport.”

Italy, a country synonymous with the problem of match-fixing, is featured heavily in European football. Back in December of last year, Napoli players, Paolo Cannavaro and Gianluca Grava were handed six-month bans for failing to report match-fixing. The goal-keeper, Matteo Gianello has been banned for 39 months for admitting an attempt to fix Napoli’s top-flight meeting with Sampdoria in 2010.

The Italian Football Federation has been kept busy over the past decade with cases of match-fixing in the Italian leagues. The FIGC wide-ranging investigation into match-fixing, known as ‘Calciomercato’ was suspended from the game for four months for failing to reporting knowledge of match-fixing during his time in charge of Siena.

Now, the focus is on Europol’s latest findings and whether or not they can finally put a stop to the mounting level of corruption in football.

SnowSports ski trip

Leah Louise King

DIT SnowSports Society went on their annual ski trip this January, and it was said to be their best one yet.

“Each year I think the trip gets better and better, and this year was no different” said SnowSports Society vice president Eoin Daniel.

115 students travelled to Tignes, which is in France’s northern Alps, on 19 January, for seven days of skiing.

They included the four DIT SnowSports committee members, President Alex Browne, Vice President Eoin Daniel, Gavin Davies and Adam McGuigan, and who organised the trip through ski organisation Ski Alpine.

During the day everyone went skiing or snowboarding in groups, or to lessons, and by night, they were all in outrageous costumes for the mad nights out.

Some themes included a ‘no pants’ night, where everyone went out in nothing on their bottom half but underwear, in minus temperatures, and a heroes and villains theme, where people dressed in costumes from Batman characters, to unusual heroes in the form of the cast of Shrek.

“The ski trip was serious craic”, said DIT student Mo Ryan, who had one particular memory of the trip, his friends shaving off parts of his hair, leaving him with an unusual haircut for the week.

The most memorable moments of the trip for most of the students were the après-ski and also skiing to La Folie Douce, a mountain-side bar where everyone sang and danced on tables during the day, before skiing home to Tignes.

“It was hands down one of the best weeks of my life”, said Aungier Street student Alex Collins.

“Evan McIntyre falling over a ramp in the banana in pyjamas costume was the funniest memory of the trip in my opinion.”

Alex Browne said, “The DIT SnowSports Society trip is probably the best sporting and social scene available to students who wish to get involved and meet other likeminded students from other campuses, courses and age groups.”

The feedback we have gotten from the trip has been amazing so far,” said Eoin Daniel.

“The great thing is that you can come by yourself or with a friend, and you’re guaranteed to have a great time either way.”

For the most part, making new friends and having the craic on the slopes and at night made the trip one to remember.

The Irish impress in the Special Olympics World Winter Games in South Korea

Danielle Stephens
Sports Editor

Ireland’s medal tally reached double digits on Sunday and continued to rise during the final two days of the Special Olympics World Winter Games.

Fourteen athletes from Ireland flew to South Korea, where the games took place, on Friday 25 January.

The Irish team had high hopes for the games and expected great performances in both the Alpine Skiing and the Floorball events, in which they had athletes competing.

On the first full day of the games last Saturday, the team racked up an impressive five medals in the Super G skiing event. One bronze, three silvers and a gold won by Rosalind Connolly made for a great introduction to the games.

Speaking after Saturday’s wins, Matt English, Special Olympics Ireland chief executive spoke of how thrilled he was for the Irish athletes, despite disruptions the previous day.

“There was such disappointment yesterday when competition had to be called off because of the bad weather conditions but it’s clear from today’s performances that this disruption didn’t affect the athletes in any way.”

Sunday saw the Irish team take on the Giant Slalom event, another contingent of the skiing competition. Between them, the athletes clocked up a further four medals, building on Saturday’s triumphs.

Stuart Brierden from Bray Co. Wicklow picked up a gold medal in the novice competition and Gary Burton from Sallynoggin, Dublin won gold in the Intermediate level competition.

Ireland also excelled at the Floorball event last week, where they won a bronze medal.

This was the first time for Ireland to be represented in floorball at a World level competition event.

The team managed to come back from a half-time score of 5-1 to score four second-half goals against a stunned Austrian team.

The match saw them claim the Olympic medal was less taxing, as they beat the host nation South Korea 11-1. Head Floorball coach Paul O’Callaghan said after the game that “On a personal level, I am delighted and incredibly proud to be part of the first Irish floorball team at a World level Games.”

Between both the skiing and the floorball events, Ireland have had an extremely successful World Winter Olympic games. They will exhibit this when they bring their medals home in the next week.
Power fails, 49ers surge but Ravens hold on

Jack Maher

In an event renowned for its gripping finishes and spectacular halftime shows, it was the lights at the Superdome that stole the show.

Prior to this, Jacoby Jones had seemed to put his side out of sight with a 108 yard kick-off return to begin the second half. However, a power outage soon after delayed the game by 30 minutes and momentum completely flipped afterwards as the 49ers offence surged back into the game.

The first Super Bowl to take place at the Superdome since Hurricane Katrina, this game had so many subplots leading up to it and the power outage only added to this. It was also the first time brothers faced off against each other in coaching roles at a Super Bowl and it was the elder, John Harbaugh and Ravens coach, who came out on top.

Another subplot to the game was the retirement of Ravens legend Ray Lewis who, after claiming his first Super Bowl all of 12 years ago, achieved the dream-ending, going out at the top. The game itself lived up to the cliché of a game of two halves as Ravens stormed into the lead only to be reeled back in the second half.

In a dominant first half, Ravens’ quarterback and the game’s MVP, Joe Flacco, threw three touchdowns including a 56 yard pass to Jacoby Jones who would go on to make an even bigger statement later on. San Francisco’s offence on the other hand only managed a pair of field goals and also turned the ball over twice. The 21-6 deficit at halftime meant the 49ers were up against it as they would have to break the Super Bowl record for largest comeback which stands at 10 points.

The Ravens, who declined possession in the first half, received the second half kick-off and got a massive boost when Jacoby Jones returned David Akers kick 108 yards for a touchdown tying an NFL record.

After the lights came back and with the opposition seemingly out of sight, San Francisco managed to explode for 17 points in just over four minutes courtesy of touchdowns by Michael Crabtree and Frank Gore, and another David Akers field goal.

With only a five point lead the Ravens offence had to come up big and they duly obliged putting up a field goal meaning 49ers would require a two point conversion to tie.

After illustrating what he can do with his hands, San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick showed how dangerous he was with his legs, running in from 15 yards out for his side’s next touchdown. However, the Ravens still held on to a two-point lead as Kaepennick couldn’t complete the two point conversion.

On their final drive the Ravens scored another field goal meaning 49ers would need a touchdown to win with just over two minutes on the clock. However, the Ravens defence held strong turning the ball over on downs allowing the offence to run out the clock.

Ultimate Frisbee team suffer due to weather

Aidan Kelly

DIT’s Ultimate Frisbee team have finished in seventh place in the Uni-League. The event featured a total of ten colleges from across the country and was played in Waterford under dramatically adverse conditions. Wind, rain and hail all fell during the course of the day. DIT, who sent a developmental team featuring just three first teamers were seeded in seventh going into the day kept their position after losing to UCD and UL before beating hosts WIT. In the final, Trinity managed to outshine favourites UCC and now have the right to head over to the UK to compete in UK Outdoor Nationals later in the year.

Next up for our college’s team is the Siege of Limerick at the end of February. Last year DIT’s second team managed to win the spoon (lowest) division.

DIT’s Uni-League squad: Daragh King (c), Aidan Kelly, Niamh Meighan, Tom Healy, Annelies Hell, Cathal Mac Reamoinn, Tadhg Poole, Peter Mahon, Matthew Colfer, Peter Fish and Kunle Agbaje.