THE EDITION INVESTIGATES
How much student money will be needed to sweep up Broombridge?

No funding strategy is in place for the Sports, Socs and SU facility, due to open in September

More money from Student Development Fund will likely be needed to top up multi-million cost claims that the facilities will be open and ready for use in September.

The site was purchased for around €2.75m plus costs in early 2011, and The Edition understands that student organisations who signed off on its purchase at that time were under the impression that the total cost would not run a great deal over €4-4.5m.

In the coming weeks a publicly tendered contract will be finalised by DIT, and the final cost for the site development will become known.

CONTINUED
**THE DIGEST**

**NEWS**

**Forwards or backwards to Grangegorman?**

Students who will be the first to move to the new campus in September have been left feeling "stressed, uncertain, and unhappy" after their questions went unanswered by DIT at recent Mountjoy Square College Forums. Issues around space and 'hot-desking' remain, while tension between DITSU and senior DIT staff was once again evident.

**3.725 million**

found in Grangegorman pubs

**€3.725 million**

Student Development Fund cash put towards Broombridge in 2010

**32**

Third-year BIMM students who were given the wrong exam

**600**

Number of students set to attend first ever Student Summit

**€4**

Cheapest pint of Guinness we found in Grangegorman pubs

**58**

Number of students to get FAI coaching badges through DIT

**50**

Years since the death of DIT alumnus Brendan Behan

**Quote of the day**

"Grangegorman was never going to give us everything we need. It's trying to fit UCD, which is over 400 acres, onto 78 acres." — Sinéad McNulty, Head of DIT Sport

**Old mess on New Bride**

Post-grads were moved out of New Bride St buildings with a view to selling. A change of mind leaves No.33 unoccupied and the rest in need of some work for those soon to move back in.

**Literally unbelievable**

True to its journalistic professionalism, The Edition reports on the stories that no one else will touch, nor know about, nor sue over...

**AN T-EAGRÁN**

#SnaG2014

Is féile bliaintiúil é Seachtain na Gaeilge, a eagraítear idir scoileanna na gnutáma, clubanna spóirt, griopai áirithe agus eagarchocht chile, in Éirinn agus thar lear.

**ERASMUS DIARY**

From a student in Dublin

"Erasmus is much more than just studying. It allows you to get to know people from the whole world in such an unbelievably short time," writes Lena Hornstein.

**Me Buddy, Muhammad**

Budget restrictions, a tight deadline, but a great time—Eleanor Walsh, director of Film and Broadcasting students' final year project, Me Buddy, Muhammad, tells all.

**That's my fetish**

A look at whether 'different is dangerous' when it comes to sex. "It's easier to sensationalise something than to admit people are happy and safe doing it." says a graduate of Bsc Applied Sciences, Me Buddy, Muhammad.

**BIIMM students shine at Button Factory**

Eoghan Regan went along to BIMM’s End of Term Gig, which featured performances from Talking Legs, Give it to Mammis, and Jordan Onubogu. He reports back on the highlights of the night and the staggering talent on display.

"Jordan Onubogu, a man who looked like he was genetically engineered in a lab to become a star, stood patiently behind the MC, sung a few bars not to his liking and then sang again. It was pretty incredible," he writes.

**Students to storm Castle**

The first ever Student Summit was launched last week by the USI and DIT-SU, an entrepreneurship and networking event for third-level students. On the 8th of April, 600 students and over 30 start-ups will ‘storm’ Dublin Castle, but without the army tank pictured here.

**Did we cause a row?**

The Edition might cause a scene sometimes, but we had no role in this one. We’ll be going to USI Congress independently, and refer one Student Councillor to Arkell v Pressdram as our reply.

**Basketball triumphs**

Senior Women’s team takes All-Ireland Division Two, and Men’s Division Three won their league.

**An Irish Olympian**

The Edition speaks to 21-year-old Conor Lynne about his recent Winter Olympics, and plans the future.
Controversial 'Christianity course' held on campus

Mass e-mail sent to students by Chaplaincy, advertising connections linked to the controversial Alpha 'introduction to Christianity' organisation

Eoghan McNeill
NEWS EDITOR

DIT Chaplaincy's role in the organisation of an 'Alpha course' on campus has been opened up for questioning after doubts emerged over the original organiser of the events, which have the overt aim of encouraging people to become Christian.

In a response given to The Edition, DIT stated that its Chaplaincy's role in the Alpha course was one of support for students who wished to organise the session, saying: “DIT students approached the Chaplain for support in promoting their event.”

However, Laura Hamilton of the Christian Union, who is the main contact given on the Alpha posters, told The Edition: “Cliff [Jeffers, Aungier St Chaplain] is the main organiser for Alpha, but he asked some of us from the Christian Union to help out.”

Jeffers sent out a mass e-mail on the 4th of March, advertising an evening of religious debate that follows the format of Alpha, a group that describes itself as providing “a practical introduction to the Christian faith”.

Alpha has been widely criticised as being deliberately obscure and confusing, with critics including Chad Hughes, a student at the City Campus, who likened the organisation to a cult.

DIT and the Chaplaincy have defended the course, telling The Edition that students will be supported in their requests for a space to discuss spiritual matters.

The e-mail has since been revealed to have breached administrative protocols, by including an attachment and identifying class list addresses, though the main issue here is the Chaplaincy's links to the course itself.

In response to questions on Alpha, and whether its courses should be open to certain clubs, and several of them have been linked in major news outlets to controversy on campus.

The Broombridge saga is likely to be poorly received by students who will be asked to vote on the introduction of a levy for facilities.

The SDU has operated as a quasi-levy, with the purpose of funding future Sports/Socs/CU facilities, since 1997, taken from capitation fees of all students since then.

With a huge proportion of what was a €10-12m fund now being directed into a facility that will, at best, only include a pitch and changing rooms for field sports teams for the foreseeable future, students might ask why additional money should be provided, and whether DIT can be trusted to put it to the best possible use.

A referendum on the levy is unlikely to take place before early 2015.

What will be on the new site?

The immediate target is an all-weather GAA pitch, which can be used by other clubs, but a curfew of 9pm looks likely due to the close proximity of housing.

It is unclear what benefit DITSU and Socs will get from the site for the foreseeable future, reflecting a site visit by Socs last year that left many representatives less than enthralled.

Internet as Gaeilge

An innovative language-learning method is set to launch an Irish version of its technology after an online campaign received significant support.

Duolingo, a free, technology-driven system, draws sentences in the language you wish to learn from across the Internet, and asks you to translate (beginning with the basics).

Stíofán Ó Connaightaigh, editor of An t-aibhreán, the Irish section of The Edition, said: “It shows there is a demand out there for Irish language courses, and hopefully the online and technological nature of it will bring in more students who want to get back Irish or make a start.”

Comms conference

The Public Relations and Public Affairs (PRPA) Soc will host the first ever PR, Event Management and Communications conference on Friday the 28th of March.

The conference aims at assisting prospective students in achieving a better understanding of the options available to them upon graduation as well as providing networking opportunities.

Journalists, PR professionals, and directors from some of the country’s leading businesses will be present, including Irish Independent News Editor Liam Collins, PR academic Ellen Gunning, and Acting Head of Market- ing of Arnots Louise Conlon.

The Conference will take place in Aungier Street’s Courtyard. Tickets will cost €35 for students and £10 for employees and can be purchased on Eventbrite.ie and in DIT SU shops.

Africac Sor soc events

DIT’s Africa Society will hold an Erasmus Culture Show this Thursday, in DIT Aungier in Aungier Street’s Courtyard.

The event will include entertainment from Wassa Wassa Iland and The Magicians as well as a fashion show, live poetry and plays.

On Saturday the 29th of March, the Africa Soc will also be involved with the Masquerade Ball, an event organised by Africa Societies from third-level colleges across the country. It will take place in the O’Callaghan Davenport Hotel, with tickets available for €20.

News Bulletin

Emigrant fees cut

Third-level fees are set to be reduced for the children of Irish emigrants, it was announced on St Patrick’s Day.

Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Education, has introduced the measure with the hope that it will benefit the children of families who emigrated outside the EU, of which they have been many in recent years.

It will mean that these individuals are now eligible for individual student fees, much higher than those for Irish and other EU students.

Broombridge Timeline

1997
– Student Development Fund set up, to pay for Sports/Societies/SU capital projects (buildings, facilities)

December 2010
– Emergency meeting is called at Cassidy’s Hotel, during heavy snow, between Sports/Socs/CU to approve Broombridge purchase using SDF
– Approval of project, with conditions a Business Plan within six months
– Student organisations reportedly under the impression that this figure will cover most of the total redevelopment costs

Early 2011
– Site is purchased by DIT

Mid-2011
– Six-month limit for a Business Plan (now to finance the site) is not met, breaking the agreement made with the student organisations

March 2012
– Business plan is produced, without a clear plan for financing the development, an essential element
– DIT estimates total cost for project to be €6.5m

2012-2014
– Site security is paid for by DIT (continuing today), but copper wiring and all other metal is stolen

February 2014
– The same draft Business Plan presented to Student Council, still with blank spaces for how the development will be funded

March 2014
– Public tenders are received, which will determine a final cost

September 2014
– Remains the target for grand opening, despite it remaining a bare site with no funding plan in place

DIT Clubs express concern over Grangegorman pitches and facilities

While the Broombridge saga continues, its importance has been escalated by criticisms from Sports clubs over the facilities that will be in place in Grangegorman itself.

The two major sports fields will be turf-based grass pitches, due to restrictions placed by the City Council, meaning they will not be available for training, and are liable to damage if over-used or in poor weather.

An all-weather pitch will be installed, however it will be smaller than the dimensions necessary for competition-level soccer, and the sharing of pitches will create problems of overlap and surface damage.

Sources within DIT Sport have described the GG facilities as “no gain” to certain clubs, and several of them are now set to continue renting external facilities in the long-term.

At a recent Athletic Council presentation, Sinéad McNulty, Head of DIT Sport, said: “Grangegorman was never going to give us everything we need. It’s trying to fit UCD, which is over 400 acres, onto 78 acres.”

Continued from p1

Funding by any means

DIT is now looking at any and every possible method of funding for the site. Sinéad McNulty, head of DIT Sport, told an Athletic Council meeting this month that everything down to buy or sponsor a brick is being considered, and asked Student Council to think of the Institute if anyone wins the Euromillions.

Government Sports Capital Grants have brought in €900,000 so far, with another request pending, but philanthropy will be a focus despite difficulties in this area for IOTs.

Once operational, the site will aim to be self-sustaining, but with an estimated annual profit of just €4,000.

Were student organisations to be asked for additional SDF money for the development, it is far from clear that this would be released. A period of negotiations, with conditions and counter-offers, would be likely.

Long-term concerns

In 2012, the DIT Socs Forum recommended that no further investment be made due to a range of issues with the site location and state of repair, and said a vast amount of money would be needed to for renovations.

Delays and robberies

With the clock ticking on a target of September 4th for the facility’s opening, a possible delay has arrived in the form of new Dublin City Council rules that an Assigned Certifier be put in place to sign off on the construction, a new layer of red tape that came into effect on the 1st of March.

A scheduled meeting of Student Life Council, at which it was expected funding would be discussed, was also postponed and has not yet been rescheduled.

Robberies have also plagued the site since its purchase. Despite DIT’s continued expenditure on security, virtually all the metal on-site, including locking systems, has been removed, reportedly by thieves.

Impact on a levy referendum

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live, industrial copper wiring, have been removed, reportedly a sophisticated theft that involved changing locks on the buildings.

Credit: DIT

News Edi-
THE EDITION
HAVE YOUR SAY

Jessica Spencer went to find out if DIT students are off anything for Lent, and if they’re sticking to it. She found this terrible shower of heathens...

No, I gave up nothing. I’m not Catholic.
Sarah Muthi
Business Computing
(First Year)

I didn’t give anything up, because I suppose I just couldn’t be bothered. Is that really bold? I guess it is.
Áine Beirne
Film & Broadcasting
(First Year)

Lent? What do you mean? I’ve never heard of that.
Simeon Vonmiller
Electrical & Control Engineering
(Third Year)

I gave up chocolate and I mostly stick to it, but sometimes I subconsciously break it. I eat chocolate and am like ‘Sh*t! I broke my lent!’ But I don’t do it purposefully.
Taz Kelleher
Film & Broadcasting with a Language
(First Year)

Nothing, I don’t really believe in that. I’m quite healthy so I’ve nothing to give up. I’m good.
Paul Flaherty
Masters in Finance

Tensions and uncertainty remain after Mountjoy Square forums

Students set to move to Grangegorman in September feel their questions are still not being answered

Al McConnell
EDITOR

Students remain in the dark on a number of issues relating to the September move, after a Mountjoy Square College Forum held on the 4th of March became more of a Q&A session with senior DIT staff.

Will Meara, DITSU VP for Events who was representing the Union at the Forum, has told The Edition: “There was a sense of a lot of animosity and confusion among students as to whether there was going to be enough space for the students and over several other issues.”

Emma O’Leary, Class Rep for first-year Fine Art, also told The Edition: “The general feeling is of dissatisfaction among students. Although DIT were attempting to answer our questions, they only managed to further upset us as they were largely unanswered, and commonly met with ‘I don’t know’.

“There’s a feeling of stress, uncertainty, and unhappiness,” O’Leary continued. “Students feel like they are being kept in the dark. This has brought the quality of operation of the Grangegorman move into question in the eyes of the students affected.”

Forwards or backwards to D7?
The possibility of students ‘hot-desking’ (sharing space on a rotational basis) also remains a thorny issue that is yet to be clarified.

Two students at the Forum raised the point that with hot-desking they might only have two or three hours to work on a piece and then pack it up and put it away.

Meara has said: “As they stand they have a space where they can work on it and then leave it there for as long as they need, so they can come back to it, so they feel like the move to Grangegorman, for them, could lead to a lower student experience on the academic side.

“DIT answered as well as they could have without certain information, but I personally believe that with such a large move, a level of preparation beyond the norm would be expected.”

A degree of tension was reportedly also evident between Meara, and DIT President Brian Norton, when the SU Shop at Grangegorman issue was raised.

Class Reps of Mountjoy Square are to be given a guide of the new campus and a talk on Friday, and it is hoped their questions will then be answered.

A quare honour for Behan

The 50th anniversary of DIT alumnus Brendan Behan’s death was marked with a commemorative stamp, pictured below, earlier this month.

There is a feeling of stress, uncertainty and unhappiness – students feel like they are being kept in the dark

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**BIMM students sit exam, and are then told it's the wrong one**

**Staff Writer**

**You put your post-grads in, your post-grads out**

**Staff Writer**

**DITSU and DIT hold 'cordial' meetings, but several issues are not going away**

**Staff Writer**

Members of the DIT Students’ Union have ‘got their kit off’ in aid of this year’s elected charity Barretstown.

"The Union President Glenn Fitzpatrick told The Edition: "The calendar was done purely in the interest of raising money for the charity. I hope people don’t get offended by it, but I mean, if the fire brigade can get away with it, surely we can."

Calendars can be purchased by filling out a Google Doc registration form via DITSU, and will cost €10.

**DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick has said the meetings are 'still in train', but he feels there is an indication that slow progress is being made on a number of the Unions demands made in the State of the Union address.

'I’m getting the vibe it’s the start of a process. There’s a lot of dialogue on a lot of different fronts, but things seem like they’re starting to move,' he said.

"Negotiations are happening, and we’ll give them every opportunity," said Fitzpatrick.

Dr Noel O’Connor, Head of Student Services, has also echoed the importance of open discussion and was positive about meetings so far.

"I think the working group is working again, and we’re meeting Agendas and exploring issues. The only way forward will be dialogue on all sides,” he told The Edition.

However, the mechanism to solve any impasse on an issue, which can involve outside arbitration, may be resorted to on the issue of an SU shop at Grangegorman, with little progress being made, and the Grangegorman bar issue perhaps coming higher on the Agenda after points raised by The Edition last week.

"A lot of these things will never happen again" after third-year Songwriting students were given the wrong exam, and told to come back a week later for a repeat.

The English version of a Music Publishing exam was given, an error not immediately challenged by students as they study the jurisdiction as part of the Irish version of the course.

Class Rep Brendan McGlynn told The Edition: "Everyone was just going mad [when an e-mail was received after the exam]. There’s been a lot of admin mess-ups recently, and people have been questioning the course."

He continued to say that his year was the first on the Songwriting course, so the Institute has been finding its way.

"A lot of these things will never happen again but it’s taken mistakes in our year for them to cut their teeth.

“They have been incredibly apologetic but surely someone would have checked the exam beforehand."

Gary O’Nualláín, another student on the course, refused to resit the exam last week, and told The Edition: "I’m sick of the uncertainty surrounding every exam, assessment, and assignment we’ve had this year.

"It wasn’t petulance or teenage-esque rebellion. I did well in the exam they set. It was nothing we didn’t cover – we got UK based questions but we covered Ireland, UK, France, Germany, USA, and Japan. I didn’t think it was fair that I had to re-sit because of yet another BIMM error.

A lot of these things will never happen again but it’s taken mistakes in our year for them to cut their teeth.

**Post-graduate researchers were moved out of DIT’s New Bride Street buildings in preparation for their sale, only for that decision to be reversed**

**Al McConnell**

Post-graduate researchers were moved out of DIT’s New Bride Street buildings in preparation for their sale, only for that decision to be reversed, leaving the spaces in a poor state of repair and Number 33 unoccupied.

The Edition has learned.

With the upcoming move to Grangegorman, it was thought the buildings would be sold to raise funds, but that decision was reversed after a reappraisal of the market and the properties sale potential.

Numbers 31, 33 and 34 on New Bride Street, adjoining the Kevin St campus, are now in a poor state of repair and contain a back-log of past occupants’ property, though two of the buildings currently act as offices for researchers.

With DIT due to move out of the Kevin St campus in 2017, there will also be no refurbishment work done to the structures as it would not be financially prudent, according to DIT Buildings Officer Paul McDunphy.

**New campus priorities**

New Bride Street situation reveals a trend across DIT campuses that ensuring the best sale potential for each Institute-owned building can be reached, while it moves out of rented spaces at the earliest opportunity.

An impact has been felt by staff and students across the city, with office moves dictated by these financial concerns.

However, New Bride St is believed to be the most obvious case of such measures, according to McDunphy.

He also told The Edition a request from the college to re-occupy has been accepted and people will be put back in over the coming weeks.

Work will only be carried out on the spaces in order to make them “occupiable and habitable” for the next three years, however, with Grangegorman financial concerns taking priority.
Students being 'driven to Grangegorman' by constant talk about Grangegorman

Paddy Droom
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

Concern for students' mental health has been voiced after reports emerged that many are being 'driven to Grangegorman' (in the old-Dublin sense of the phrase, meaning to be driven mad) by the constant debate, coverage and publicity around the new campus.

Several sources within the Student Union have confirmed to The Edition that the word 'Grangegorman' has now lost all meaning, and some revealed they have begun lashing out when the topic arises in conversation.

"It's just a sound to me know," said one student, "like when you say 'bubble' over and over again...bubble...bubble...see...bubble...buh-bull..."

Grandparents of students, who remember the days when 'gone up to Grangegorman' was a local term for losing one's sanity, have been making things worse by repeating the phrase to their young relatives. Students have been advised to stay away from anyone over 60 years of age.

Facilities are in place
A spokesperson for DIT told The Edition that while the college is concerned that constant anguish around the new saviour campus might damage students' sanity, the facilities are in place to deal with any problems.

"We are very lucky in the sense that the first new building at Grange...at the new site...is actually the Phoenix Care Centre, the HSE's new mental health facility. So for those students who finally crack, we will have the very best, state-of-the-art services for them. The new campus really is the best thing since sliced bread, if not better!"

Edition implicated
The Edition has also been implicated in the detrimental effect on students' well-being, after covering a range of negative aspects of the campus relocation.

"The new site actually does have a few problems," said the paper's editor, dodging a right-hook from a passing member of staff.

The editor has since been removed from his position and relocated to the secure wing of the Phoenix Centre, after it was held that this statement clearly demonstrated a loss of touch with reality.

The Edition to hold a whip-round in aid of the Broombridge site redevelopment

Bertie Ah-Here
FUTURE STUDENT CORRESPONDENT

A whip-round is to be conducted by college newspaper The Edition in aid of the future sports/societies/SU facilities at Broombridge, with hopes high that a double-figure amount can be raised within the year.

According to the paper's editor: "DIT's taking a Tesco-esque approach to the site, and is really emphasising that every little – seriously, anything – will be a boost to the project. So we thought we would contribute what we can. Hopefully €10 or so can make a difference. It's really only for one all-warner GAA pitch; how much could that cost?"

DIT spokespersons came out in support and praise for the paper's idea, welling up slightly at the prospect of some money being found for the site.

"It's a magnificent gesture, it really is," said one senior staff member. "We have tried everything for this project – I spent last weekend on Grafton Street, cap-in-hand, but was surprised by the small amount of money I received. It's as if it's a bad time to be asking for philanthropy."

DITSU to hold all meetings in musical form next year, as Drama Soc dominates elections

Incoming VP for Education, Graham ‘Beard of Bolton St’ Higginbotham, voices anger at plans to hold all meetings in musical form next year, as Drama Soc dominates elections.

R N Twee-Great
DITSU CORRESPONDENT

Meetings of the Student Council, as well as DITSU staff's input at senior DIT meetings, will be conducted in musical form next year, according to sources within the Union.

The decision comes after Drama Society members dominated this year's DITSU elections, with incoming President Fiachra Duffy, VP Events Ciara Murnane, and VP Welfare Femi Bankole all having held senior committee roles with the Soc.

Incoming VP for Education Graham 'The Beard of Bolton Street' Higginbotham, has, however, voiced anger at the idea he will be forced to sing and dance as part of his job next year.

"It's a ridiculous decision," The Beard told The Edition. "This move is not what we need at all. What we're crying out for is a beard-driven DIT SU executive, which will establish our dominance over DIT staff at important meetings.

"So far there has been an unsatisfactory level of beard in this Union. Fiachra Duffy has come on board, but Femi Bankole is reluctant and Ciara Murnane seems to have made no effort whatsoever on the facial hair front."

Others within the Student Council were more supportive of the move, with many stating they had actually believed the whole thing was some sort of play in the first place.

"I was never sure if it was a farce, a tragedy, or a satire, but I just played along," said one Councillor.

Never seen in the same room
Jason Bateman earns €187,000 moonlighting as an Irish Senior Counsel

American actor Jason Bateman has been accused of aging 10 years and moonlighting as an Irish lawyer, under the name Michael Cush SC, as well as representing Denis O'Brien, Sean Quinn and Philip Lynch in the process.

"Heavy drinking, sexual promiscuity and gratuitous violence": Bond Ball evening entertainment announced

Agent Vodka-and-Orange
EVENTS CORRESPONDENT

A spectacular evening of entertainment has been announced for tomorrow’s ‘Bond Ball’, including all-you-can-drink vodka, the suspension of safe-sex promotions, and a personal firearm for those in appropriate attire.

"The whole night is in celebration of the style and charisma of everyone's favourite spy," said an organiser. "We felt excessive drinking, sexual deviance and a short fuse were all central aspects of the James Bond persona that we did not want to ignore."

Several students have spoken to The Edition of their eagerness to replicate Bond's on-screen drinking habits.

"First thing I'm doing when I get to the Crowne Plaza is ordering a Martini – shaken, not stirred!" said one excited first-year. "After that, I'll have about eight more, because that's what Bond would do, and if it's good enough for Bond, it's good enough for me."

Senior staff have warned against the combination of nine vodkas and a rented taxi. "The Martini has a fierce kick to it – bejaney," said one member.

The toys can be back out any time, just give me a reason DIT!

DITSU puts toys back in the pram after peace talks with senior college staff, but maintains stance on key issues
A joint strategy day between the three Governing Bodies of DIT, IT Tallaght and Blanchardstown IT was held on the 12th of March to discuss the upcoming merger between the institutions, and the ‘TU Dublin’ campaign.

It remains unclear as to when both the merger and ultimately TU status might be achieved, though it is expected that ITT and ITB will be merged into DIT in mid- to late 2015, with mid-2016 a target for the potential TU status to be obtained.

In a statement to The Edition, DIT said: "[Time scales] depend on legislation. The draft Heads of Bill for Technological Universities was issued in the last couple of months. We believe it is now at Committee stage and we await the outcome."

DIT also confirmed that it has spent no money on the project so far, which has been funded by the HEA.

Several issues do remain to be addressed within the project. The voice of students in discussions has been a thorny issue to date, with Fitzpatrick stating that a lot of the discussion at the strategy day "made students sound like items on a production line".

Fitzpatrick has told The Edition that students must be key stakeholders in any discussions, with an input on how student services and facilities will be provided in a TU, how teaching and student-staff relations will be organised, how the TU will be funded, and what kind of status a Students’ Union would have.

"We’ve had to force our way into the frame after discussions were moving ahead at such a pace that they weren’t even considering student input," said Fitzpatrick.

A student-run conference on the overall TU project is also set to take place in the coming months, and Fitzpatrick is to make a submission to the Education Committee of the Oireachtas on the TU legislation.

At the recent strategy day, concerns were also raised by staff members around the impact the merger and TU status could have for their contracts, including tenure, pensions issues and progression.

The Labour Relations Commission is to organise a consultation forum for representative bodies, according to Fitzpatrick.

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Student Summit launched by USI

Al McConnell

The Student Summit, a new entrepreneurship and networking events for third-level students, was launched last Wednesday at Dublin Castle by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI).

On the 8th of April, the event itself will involve 600 students, over 30 start-up exhibitions, speakers from Google, LinkedIn, Twitter and Think House (among others) and a range of workshops for students interested in starting their own businesses or getting involved in entrepreneurship in general.

Speaking at the launch, USI President Joe O’Connor told The Edition: "The Summit will provide students with informative learning and networking opportunity for students, who will be able to hear from fresh and innovative start-ups, as well as major Multi-Nationals, giving them the best feedback and advice available."

O’Connor also said USI is expecting tickets to go quickly, with a limited number of 600 available (due to capacity at the Print Works Conference Centre).

Will Meara, VP for Events at DITSU and co-organiser of the Summit with Guiney, told The Edition: "It’s been two months organising this event in its entirety, after the idea originally came to us from our own [Meara and USI Campaigns Officer Paddy Guiney’s] experience of how important networking was to our work this year, and when we realised that we were among the youngest people at major events such as Dub Net or Web Summit."

"The Student Summit will provide educational and networking opportunities that haven’t been available to students up to now — Will Meara, DITSU"

The Summit will provide educational and networking opportunities that haven’t been available to students up to now — Will Meara, DITSU

DIT's going Green

Staff Writer

The DIT Green Campus Committee have launched the schedule for Green Week, to take place from the 31st of March until the 3rd of April.

Filipa Ferraz, one of the coordinators of the Green Week, told The Edition: "We have designed the Green Week schedule to show people in DIT how they can make a real difference, and live in a more sustainable manner."

The Week will include a series of roadshows that will visit each of the main campus locations.

Among other things, planned activities include workshops on upcycling, a bike-powered smoothie maker, and a ‘BiKe to College’ Day, with incentives for participants.

A panel will also discuss the Green credentials of Grange-gorman, while former Lord Mayor Andrew Montague will give a talk on the Dublin Bike scheme.

The Roadshows will be focusing on DIT Mountjoy Square, DIT Temple Bar and DIT Portland Row to help students and staff plan their new commute to Grangegorman in September.

Ciarán Cuffe, Chairperson of the DIT Green Campus Committee, said: “The Green Week comes on top of the work that has been done to capture the data on the resources we use in DIT – water, waste, energy and transport. With all this work, we’re well on our way to getting the Green Flag for DIT."

The Green Week Roadshow will be in Bolton St first, on March 31st, then Kevin St on April 1st, before moving on to Aungier St, Temple Bar and Portland Row on April 2nd, and finishing up in Cathal Brugha St and Mountjoy Square on April 3rd.

DIT to draft response to Apprentice Review

Staff Writer

A sub-group of the Academic Council has been set up to draft a DIT response to the National Review on Apprenticeships.

Tom Corrigan has told The Edition: "On a first look it seems like around 20 percent of the DIT submission prior to the report was included."

The report will require significant discussion with all the stakeholders before an effective structure can be implemented, according to Corrigan, but it has created a platform to develop an operational plan to implement its recommendations.

Although the Review contains little substance on Government commitments to apprenticeships, Corrigan feels it presents many challenges and opportunities for providers like DIT.
EAGARTHÓR

Ionadaíocht I Saol Na Mac Léin - De Díthh

Is ceart bunreachtúil do shocharánaigh a rogha idir Gaeilge agus Béarla a úsáid mar chéad teanga, ach an aithnítear an pobal mionlach sa gnáth saol?

Ghlac an t-Uachtarán go raibh dea-dháireachtáil Gaeilge a bhí i gceist, ach, Bóthar na bhFál, Béal Feirste ag díreach i lár seachadan na Gaeilge. Córas Ghaeilge ó hUiginn, a chineálta de Gaeilge a bhí a bheith ina gnáthshaol dúinn, dírigh sé go raibh mbeadh an Ghaeilge mar gné den chosaint agus a shábháil, ach go mbeadh an Ghaeilge mar gné den gnáthshaol dúinn. Dúirt sé go raibh aithnítear an gné den aithnítear a cheapadh ar an Ghaeilge ar a athair, ní bheidh athartha nach aithnítear a cheapadh ar an Ghaeilge.

Tá tuairimí éagsúla faoin ról a dírigh sé go raibh mbeadh an Ghaeilge mar gné den aithnítear a cheapadh ar an Ghaeilge.

“Not to learn Irish is to miss the opportunity of understanding what life in this country has meant, and could mean in a better future.” – Séamus Heaney.

Is é an láithreach laethúil campaithe atá de dhíth láithreach, chun dóbh síúd a bhfuil ag teacht isteach le mo an úr a spreagadh.

Ghách an t-Uachtarán go raibh dea-dháireachtáil Gaeilge a bhí i gceist, ach, Bóthar na bhFál, Béal Feirste ag díreach i lár seachadan na Gaeilge. Córas Ghaeilge ó hUiginn, a chineálta de Gaeilge a bhí a bheith ina gnáthshaol dúinn, dírigh sé go raibh mbeadh an Ghaeilge mar gné den chosaint agus a shábháil, ach go mbeadh an Ghaeilge mar gné den gnáthshaol dúinn. Dúirt sé go raibh aithnítear an gné den aithnítear a cheapadh ar an Ghaeilge ar a athair, ní bheidh athartha nach aithnítear a cheapadh ar an Ghaeilge.

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Tá gach aon dealrathú grúpaí a chinntiú faoi mhíniúntacht eile an Ghaeilge. Bhí 10,000 gaeilgeoirí agus 30,000 páirteach idir scoileanna, fáil do ghrúpaí pobail Gaeilge ar fud na tíre. An t-átharadh tagann ón fhéile "Is slí iontach é Rith 2014 Bhaile Átha Cliath agus ambasadóir Laighin agus Chúige Uladh.

Stiofán Ó Connaidh
Eagarthóir Ghaeilge

Bhíodh na Gaeil ar gheith ar son na Gaeilge mar a dteitear san amhráin, an fhéile "Is slí iontach é Rith 2014 chun tacaíocht fiscíúil a léiriú don Ghaeilge ar bhóithre agus sráideanna na tíre". D'éirigh go hiontachtach an rith Sanaimhín Ní Ghallachóir a chur ar fáil do ghníomhachtaí i gceannas na deacrachtaí a thionchar ar an Rith a Fhorest.

An t-aonad mar deireadh do Bhaile Átha Cliath agus ambasadóir Laighin agus Chúige Uladh.
Raic Agus Céiliúradh Teanga I Rith #SnaG2014
The Good Old Days

How times have (not) changed: hacking scandals reign supreme

Student Union magazine took a satirical look at the phone-hacking scandals of 1983, and went for some choice headlines...

**Ceolchoirm i Sr Chathal Brugha**

The rumours centred around a starting offer from Phil Flood that if the Art & Design's School budget was $500,000, then the Art & Design's School budget was $500,000. The money available, he said, was to be made available to the art school, and was confirmed to be available.

John Creagh then gave a copy of the tape to Pat O'Neill, Head of the School of Business and Management, who confirmed that he, too, had been offered money by Phil Flood during a previous attempt to expand the School of Business and Management by taking over Marlborough Street - the street, that is, not just the College Building.

It is now known that John and Pat made the College Principal, Tom Madden, aware of the existence of the tape, and of another allegation included in the tape, that there was a secret plot high up in the School of Business and Management to ensure the continued expansion of the College by over-throwing Tom Madden and making Phil Flood College President.

It is generally accepted at this stage that a decision was made to “tapp” the private phones of Phil Flood, V.E.C. Chief Sinead O’Reilly, and some Parnell Press reporters, as well as the phones of some of the College staff, and the College was to be decided to be expanded by the phonographic Journalists Bruce Hannigan and Geraldine Kennedy, because of indications that they were ‘anti-Catholic’.

When this was discovered by Parnell Press, an amazing battle was fought by the minister for education, Sean O’Deherty, that if he accepted responsibility for these tapes, diverting the attention of the nationalist media from the phone scandal within the College, that Tom Madden would destroy some photographs he had taken during an after-hours drinking session in a public house in County Roscommon.

With Sean O’Deherty accepting the responsibility for the tapes, a major scandal occurred within the Parnell Press parliamentary party, with lots of silly and false accusations and counter-accusations, all designed to draw the attention of the nationalist media from the phone scandal within the College of Marketing and Design...

**THE BUGGERY**

We are now in a position to not only reveal that College porters were used to tap all calls into and out of the College in an attempt to discover exactly what was happening, but also to publish exclusively the actual transcripts of the “bugged” calls, beginning with a call to the office of Phil Flood by T.E.C. Chief Liam Arron.

**OVERSTORY**

Two DIT porters posed for the Parnell Press front page photo

The LEADERSHIP CRISIS

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Two DIT porters posed for the Parnell Press front page photo
EDITORIAL

Excuse me, did we cause a row?

AL MCKCENLL EDITOR

The Edition inadvertently caused a bit of a spat in recent weeks. Unlike the other scenes we cause, though, we barely had a role in this one at all. Ahead of this week's Student Council, a motion was published on the DITSU website, put forward by Deputy Chairperson of the Council, Gareth Walker-Ayers. It was in relation to the possibility of the paper being offered one of DITSU's Observer spots for the upcoming UI National Congress.

The motion proposed that DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick, as chief spokesperson for the union, prepare a full report on all developments relevant to DIT students from UI National Congress, to be published no less than five working days after the conclusion.

It continued: “The President, in choosing a representative from a third party publication [The Edition, I presume – Ed.] to attend UI National Congress as an observer, to ensure in writing that the full report on UI National Congress be printed in the following issue of said publication, unedited and unabridged.”

Ahead of this motion being published, and without prior knowledge of it, we had already organised to attend UI National Congress as an independent member of the Press, outside DITSU's delegation. It was simply a matter of preference (Observer spots work well for other college papers, but they have an established practice of it).

The Edition is a newspaper supported by a DIT Society – but it is of course independent of Societies, Clubs and the Union. As such, we don't publish anything unedited and unabridged, least of all from these three bodies.

I believe most people would take that for granted, but if this motion were to reflect how Student Council perceives the paper, it raises questions about how independent the Council wants us to be. I do feel, however, that it doesn't, and that most Council members understood in advance that if we had been an Observer, it would have been in an independent capacity.

Regardless, that fire has been put out, and any further rows over this issue are purely internal to DITSU and Council. So it's all worked out in the end. DITSU will be there with a full delegation and two Observers. We will be there independently. And we won't be told to print whatever DITSU tells us. We all live happily ever after.

* On that motion in particular, for our response I refer you to the reply given in Arkell v Pressum 1971

SERIES

Letters from a Successful DIT Graduate

Professor Fiona Lyng, a graduate of the BSc in Applied Sciences (Physics and Chemistry),

Looking back, I think that my undergraduate course really developed my critical thinking ability and this has proven to be essential in my line of work as a research scientist.

Although I did go on to complete a PhD after the degree, the initial training in critical thinking was developed at undergraduate level by our lecturers looking for understanding rather than rote learning as we did at secondary school.

In those days, we had six hours of practical classes each week and all these hours of labs with hands on experiments, rather than just demonstrations, also developed my laboratory skills.

I was well used to a range of instruments and this was key to my later research work using both microscopes and spectrometers.

If I had my time over again, I would like to have undertaken a work placement during my undergraduate degree as I think this is really important to expose students to the world of work whether in research or industry.

I would also have tried to look for at least one summer job or internship in a lab instead of the waiting jobs that I did. Although these were fun and an education in themselves, I know now from interviewing graduates for research positions that having some

Find what you enjoy doing and build your career around that – you're going to be working for a long time, so you may as well be happy

The Internet, according to the Sindo

JOSEPH CONROY

“FROM THE BEDROOM TO THE BALLOT BOX THEY KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING – THE WAR ON PRIVACY – FUTURESHOCK”. So screamed the lead headline of the Sunday Independent this weekend.

Who is ‘they’ here? Spooks in Washington? The phone companies? The Internet? They (they being the Sunday Independent) promised a special investigation inside.

The investigation reads like a guide to the Internet for people who have never used the Internet – or read anything about it in the last 12 months.

Brendan O'Connor leads up the investigation with a frankly bizarre spin on the whole idea that children have no concept of privacy anymore – it’s as if their minds are hooked to a data collection machine mining all their conscious and unconscious thoughts and posting them somewhere online – “I think [the unconscious mind] is a cesspool whose impulses need to be subject to the civilising influence of the conscious mind before they are fit for human consumption”. Deep.

If anything, what we post on the internet is the height of conscious thought – we live and post under the gaze of our online connections as we construct a hyperconscious digital version of ourselves.

Elsewhere, Eilis O’Hanlon doesn’t like the idea of her kids giving her WiFi password to their friends when they are in their house: “It feels wrong. Like someone sneaked in and rifled through the cupboards” – she seems to have some confused ideas about how WiFi works...

There’s another piece about revenge porn and slut shaming, which includes tiresome references to SlaneGirl, O2Girl and Munster3SomeGirl.

Other groundbreaking findings include government departments monitoring public opinion and following key commentators via the microblogging site Twitter.

Next thing they’ll be reading papers and listening to the radio too. #BigBrothersWatching.

Writing about the internet demonstrates how out of touch the paper is with the ebbs and flows of modern life. Recent stories like the Homophobia controversy and GSOC/Garda whistleblowers have highlighted the growing gulf in the Irish media.

There are those who are at the races (Rabble, Broadsheet) those who are struggling to keep up with what is going on (the broadsheets and RTE) and those who are caught somewhere in the middle (TheJournal.ie).

They are right, there is a war on privacy going on – but it’s not being reported on here.
On the road to recovery, or the road to nowhere?

Robert Nielsen questions the country's 'recovery'

The Government has been celebrating Ireland’s recent exit from the Troika bailout and have proclaimed that Ireland is now on the road to recovery.

The Taoiseach addressed the nation to celebrate the regaining of Ireland’s economic sovereignty. But are we out of the woods yet? Is Ireland facing a new dawn that leaves the nightmare of the recession behind, or is it only a mirage of false hope while we are still stuck in the mud?

The Government has undergone a period of rejoicing and self-congratulation since the exiting of the bailout. However, has anything really changed? Before the bailout, the Fianna Fáil government cut spending and raised taxes. Once the Troika arrived, the Fine Gael-Labour government was “forced” to cut spending and raise taxes, and after it leaves, the Government will continue to cut spending and raise taxes. No matter who is in charge, austerity is the only policy that will be implemented.

The Government claims the recession is over and the only way is up. They paint a picture of an Ireland which has been bruised and battered but has weather the storm. Slowly but surely, things can only get better.

A cynical would argue that things couldn’t get worse. Like a man who has fallen off a cliff and hit the bottom, Ireland is no longer falling, but it is still stuck in the gorge. Economic growth has been weak with a quarter of growth being matched by a quarter of decline. It’s two steps forward, one step backwards.

The government claims it is on target to reduce the deficit to less than 3 percent of GDP (in line with EU targets) by 2015. Some ministers even speak hopefully of having closed to gap sufficiently to allow room for tax cuts. Perhaps the government will meet its target, but it has a history of missing them.

The target was initially 2013, then it was pushed to 2014, now it is 2015, but the OECD has warned that the Government will miss this target too and 2016 will probably be the new target. The Government has become overly pre-occupied with meeting its targets, ignoring that fact that even once the target is met, the Irish economy will still be in a dire state.

Ireland is like a house that is still standing but its foundations are weakened.

We could be stuck with permanently high unemployment and thousands emigrating. Even if the budget finally balances the economy could remain weak for years. It could be 2020 before the economy can be said to have fully recovered. This could be a lost decade where our resources are wasted as people and machinery are left idle like unneeded ghost estates. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but it remains to be seen whether it is the exit or an oncoming train.
Culture defines us. We learned our culture from our family, friends, teachers and our whole society and surrounding.

It is something which will never abandon us because we are connected with it for our whole lifetime. However, that doesn’t mean that we are enchanted by our culture. I like the image of culture-glasses which we are wearing and which we cannot take off.

Everybody sees the world through these culture-glasses. That’s why some things seem to be very weird when you get in contact with a new culture. You should keep in mind that you are wearing these glasses. Culture was and is always in a permanent state of change. It can never be wrong to broaden your horizons.

At that moment I knew I had made a rookie mistake – the most I could hope for now is that I’d have a decent story to tell.

A late night cycling tour of Utrecht

AIDAN DUNNASS

UTRECHT, The Netherlands – When I set off on my Erasmus to the Netherlands, I was quite certain that my time would be evenly divided between hash cafes and prostitutes, but to my surprise the Dutch weren’t what I had ignorantly pegged them as.

For a country in which it is legal to smoke cannabis, have sex with a ‘professional’ and legally kill yourself if you wish, it’s strange that such craziness isn’t reflected in their people. Trying to start a conversation with a Dutch person will remind most

people of Entertaining Father Stone. You’d feel like telling them to try smiling once and a while. This isn’t meant to come across as xenophobic, but it is a reflection of the experiences I have had so far in these parts.

I arrived here in late January thinking I had my accommodation sorted, I was to live eight miles outside Amsterdam knowing that those two weed-filled bombs in my digestive system were about to go off at any moment. And then it hit me. The drowsiness, the giggles, and the Matrix like reactions.

I then had the genius idea to leave the crowd I was with and head home. Of course I will do sightseeing and explore other cultures is essential. Exploring other cultures is important for now is that I’d have a decent story to tell.

A new culture can enrich your life

Erasmus student Lena Hornstein shares her thoughts on travelling to Dublin

DUBLIN, Ireland – “Enjoy your holiday and have fun!” The last words of my friends and family. I sighed, I told them like thousand times, that it is NOT a vacation trip. Maybe they just don’t believe me that I am really going to study in Dublin.

Of course I will do sightseeing and maybe I will go to some pubs but the main reason why I want to go to Dublin is to study. When I was in Germany I always argued like that. It is good for my studies and helpful for my English skills and so on.

However, the more I think about it the more I am changing my Erasmus is only for-studying-theory. I am changing my Erasmus is on the other hand... The more I think about it the more I think it is NOT a vacation trip. Of course I will do sightseeing and be pulling into Utrecht, for the challenge of cycling the rest of the way home.

At that moment I knew I had made a rookie mistake – the most I could hope for now is that I’d have a decent story to tell.

Troubles in Northern Ireland. Fine, if you want to hear about The Troubles in Northern Ireland, Fine, if you want to talk about The Troubles that’s no problem...you might want to take a seat though because this may take a while!
Who wants to be a millionaire?

The video games industry seems to be arguing gay protagonists would be bad for business – with cash up for grabs, that idea can’t survive much longer, writes Amanda Connolly

Have you ever found yourself pondering the sexuality of Nathan Drake in Uncharted, or Ezio Audito da Firenze in Assassin’s Creed?

No? This isn’t surprising. For so long now the orientation of protagonists in AAA Games has been on auto-select.

It came as a surprise to most when Metroid star Samus Aran revealed herself as a fully-fledged woman underneath her suit of power armor. Nintendo went outside the box with this ‘bait-and-switch’ type reveal, but AAA game developers don’t appear to be following suit just yet and it begs the question, why?

Recently you may have seen the future surrounding the comments of Ubisoft lead writer, Lucien Soulban (an openly gay man himself) who voiced his opinions on the matter saying: “So when are we going to see that idea can’t survive much longer, for business – with cash up for grabs, arguing gay protagonists would be bad for business?"

If big AAA games companies like Ubisoft decide upon their characters orientations and whatnot based on cold hard market research, that doesn’t really disqualify bringing homosexual characters to the fore.

Selling games with gay protagonists may be a cause for concern in the games industry, and perhaps this is why the few gay characters that have been slowly introduced still remain on the outskirts of the narrative.

“We’ll definitely see more gay characters on the periphery, it just won’t be obvious,” continued Soulban.

“I think it’s happening quietly. Look at the choices offered in Mass Effect 2 & 3, or Fable 3, or Dragon Age 2 or Skyrim, the gay characters in Borderlands 2 who mention it without much fanfare, etc.”

Videogames have stopped ‘announcing’ gay characters. They’re introducing them without much fanfare in an effort to say ‘Yeah, it’s there and pretty normal’. Call it: We’re here, we’re queer, and we’re busy working.”

Satellite of Power Armor? If you've been thinking of publishing your work, now's the time to get involved
FEATURES

On the lash at the new campus

With 1,200 students arriving at Grangegorman this September, and another 10,000 in 2017, Al McConnell and Barry Lennon sampled the current pub scene and a had few ales in the area.

Grange Inn looks closed, lads. Where was the second one on the list?” asked the taxi driver.

“Well go on to Hanlon’s then and walk down.”

“Hanlon’s, North Circular. Where the man was shot in the face?”

“Er...yeah.”

So, our wandering pub crawl started in John J Hanlon’s on the North Circular Road (a Dublin landmark in the right sense, to be fair to it).

We were embarking on a Grand Tour of the bars surrounding what is going to be DIT’s new home.

In the first place, we had in mind a pub ‘guide’ for the new campus. But, as we toddled down Prussia Street, sampling the black stuff and the atmosphere in each bar on the way, the idea that this guide would remain relevant beyond 2017 started to fade. 20,000 students will be arriving in these parts, the equivalent of many an Irish town – the place will be transformed, and in a lot of these local bars, there is an air of the ‘calm before the storm’.

There was a different storm raging in Hanlon’s, as the Cheltenham Races came to a close on its final day, and us arriving at in 5:30pm.

In the best possible way, the place was manic; the Top Tipster tournament was coming to a head, and it had been high-stakes stakes since about 1am.

(That’s what we gathered from: “How you yourselves lads? – Not too bad, not too bad... and yourself? – Still... – Ah right, yeah? – 1am...? 1am...?”)

We had a good seat and a good Guinness here, and we got a tip on the horses – a few quid each way on Fleet Captain said our expert, an aul man in the jacks.

It’s a local bar in the best and only sense of the term. As was Hyne’s, only a few feet from what will be DIT Grangegorman’s main entrance, and the Clarke’s City Arms, where we remembered to check our racing tip (an each way winner that paid for a pint).

Kavanagh’s also ticked the box of local institution, and was probably the highest rated by those we spoke to during the day.

The Guinness was good in all of them, and there was a bit of craic to be had in chatting at the bar.

We were kindly offered a few sandwiches from a birthday party beside us in Hyne’s – and we took a couple each, though Barry first asked which ones were which:

“I’m not giving you a fucking menu here, just fucking take one,” he was told, and rightly so.

The years post-2008 haven’t been any more kind to this area than the rest of Dublin, and that goes for the pubs.

Hanlon’s sold for over €4.6m in 2005 – it’s currently seeking a buyer, after failing to find one towards the end of 2013, with an asking price of €1m.

The Grange Inn has been closed for around 9 months, after reportedly suffering from the recession more than most in its more secluded, side-street location. It’ll be a prime spot when there are 20,000 people of drinking age and with a taste for the stuff (for the most part) just around the corner.

We ordered and told the bartender we were DIT students having a look around the local bars. “Have you ever seen Charlie Haughey in bed with Margaret Thatcher,” he said, possibly the least likely response available.

What happens to the Grange will tell a lot about the area in general.

On the other side of this potential Renaissance of Grangegorman pubs is the change that might come with a financial turnaround.

Most of the plans for any of the bars we visited didn’t seem to go beyond ‘Ah – a few deals’ or ‘Probably some cheap shots’.

“You’d want to be unlucky not to get some kind of share of 20,000 students,” said Mick, a bartender in Hyne’s, who’s been working in the area for a lot of years.

Mick makes an excellent point – you would want to be very unlucky. But it’s certainly a possibility. One thing we found on the day was that students will have options on their new campus, with or without a student bar for a few years.

And when there are options, someone could lose out, just as many bars near DIT sites in town have done.

On, some could light not to lose their character: “This place will never change” was our catchphrase of the day. Very few of the regulars we met had much time for the idea of their bar going down the ‘student’ road.

Some won’t change – quite a few of the bars around here have been in place, unaltered, for many decades. What’s another 20,000 students going to do?

The only place to stand out – and it did, like a sore thumb – was Mulligan’s Grocers of Stoneybatter.

All our talk of ‘local institutions’ went out the window as the smell of gastro-pub fine dining hit us through the front doors. We made our way to the bar stools, through a sea of aproned waiters, an endless number of couples on dates, and some large holiday groups.

“Guinness! Oh ho ho no – no we do craft beer here,” we were told at the bar.

We got a Brú Dubh, described by our bartender as ‘the most like Guinness’. It’s not bad, by any means, but overly sweet and chocolatey.

The place was jammed, mostly with people out for dinner, and we chalked it off our list – it’s not really a place to have just a pint or two.

Before we knew it we were back to the locals – a two-second toddler next door to The Glimmer Man, and the atmosphere we had abandoned in Mulligan’s.

We ordered, and told the bartender we were DIT students who hadn’t been in before, and were looking around the local bars with so many students set to arrive.

“Have you ever seen Charlie Haughey in bed with Margaret Thatcher?” he answered, possibly the least likely response available.

This set the tone for the place, and he showed us a full-size, cast-iron bed suspended from the ceiling, with life-sized papier-mâché models of the two of them together.

“This place will get some students in yeh,” said one of the regulars, a passionate Bohemians fan (like everyone else here).

“I don’t know why you went to Mulligan’s though – they’ll give ye a chocolate beer in there.”

We stayed for two here and made it our last stop. Barry had started singing and it was time to wrap things up.

Students are spot on for choice around here for a good pint and a chat in a local bar. When demand turns to drink deals and dance music, it will be interesting viewing to see if any of these D7 institutions step up to take the crown and the coin as a ‘student bar’.

But it could be painful viewing for its regulars. As Mick told us, “You’d want to be unlucky not to get some kind of a share of 20,000 students’... even if you really wanted to.

Two new students bar on new campus could descend into another 'SU Shop scandal'

Al McConnell
EDITOR

Early indications are that a similar conflict as has occurred over the Grangegorman Shop could quickly develop when discussions begin in earnest over the management and operation of the campus bar, The Edition can reveal.

Though the bar issue is farther off than that of the shop (which has a target of September 2014 for opening), DIT has indicated in response to our questioning that the likelihood is a DIT-owned bar or another public tender process, only with “significant input from the SU and other student organisations”.

The Institute pointed to the four management proposals from the Holohan Report (2011, on student facilities): Direct Management by DIT, Landmark Company by Guarantee (DIT Campus Company), and Commercial Management License or Joint Venture (both a tender situation).

No reference was made to a student-owned bar, which has been poorly received by DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick, who told The Edition: “There is a need for a Student Bar as part of the total student experience [...] This should be under the aegis of the Student Union who would employ an appropriate professional staff as well as ensuring necessary governance structures are in place.”

Fitzpatrick went on to say that this is “what students want” and “it is simply a question of whether DIT listen to students at all, or only hear what they want to hear.”

Another funding crisis

Though the student bar remains part of the plans for the new campus, its construction could be some way off if a clear source of funding, such as a student levy, cannot be found.

The bar is part of the Grangegorman ‘Masterplan’, under a student hub which will include other facilities and spaces that were identified as priorities in consultation with students.

Brian Gormley, Manager of Campus Life, has confirmed: “Student Life Committee had identified the proposed levy as the primary source. Proposals for the student levy remain unclear, and it is likely that a referendum on the levy will not take place until early 2015.”

www.edition.ie

Tuesday, March 25th, 2014
Dubh. Bring a date, don’t bring your mates.

‘Sorry guys, our machine’s gone a bit wonkies, prohibitive (other than for tourists and dates). This place will be irrelevant to students looking to see how the bars will react to stu just it – we’re essentially on a student pub crawl.

Here was a shock to the system. After a string of Tuesday, March 25th, 2014

G

GUINNESS: €4

Bearing in mind that we were here around 5:30pm on the final day of Cheltenham, ours wasn’t the typical experience of Hanlon’s. We pretty much had to wait until we left to really discuss the place, due to the volume, but it was a great spot all round.

Between some colourful chat from those at the bar (and across the bar), a bit of craic around the Top Tipster competition, and a winning tip on the horses from ‘an aul man in the jacks’, we’d drop in here again for a pint any time.

Drinks are relatively cheap and it stays open late, this one will be worth a wander up from campus every so often.

For those students at Grangegorman in September, it’s a good option to have nearby.

THE GLIMMER MAN

Stoneybatter

Guinness: €4.20

“Have you ever seen Charlie Haughey in bed with Margaret Thatcher?” asked the bartender. “No, and I’m not sure I’d want to.”

But show us he did, a cast iron double bed, suspended from the ceiling, with life-sized papier-mâché models of the two of them.

On top of its strong political air (as you’d guess from the name) the place is a big soccer bar. If you’re not a Bohemians fan when you enter, you’ll be tapping the mirrored crest on the arch (like everyone else) by the time you leave.

Our pick of the bars, this place will likely be a favourite for students. It’s big, dark, there are plenty of cheap pints, and the bicycles and thousands of assorted coasters hug all over the place complete its look. Hopefully it won’t change.

THE GRANGE INN

Closed, for now

Guinness: ?

It’s not open at the moment, but there’s little chance it will still be closed when the students arrive. Situated within spitting distance of Grangegorman’s East entrances, it has reportedly been closed for around nine months, after an extended period of poor business.

According to the online reviews, and anecdotally throughout our Grand Tour, this place used to be a great little bar. Recession took a heavier toll in its slightly more secluded, side-street location.

20,000 students, most of them with a penchant for a scoop, will transform the wider Grangegorman area. Many of these bars might change, but the Grange’s fortunes, for whoever owns it, could be the most striking example of all.
The decline of hip-hop: betraying its beginnings

The East Coast/West Coast feud was the beginning of the end for hip-hop as any kind of social movement for poor African Americans, writes Paul Doyle

Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete? Proving nature's laws wrong, it learned to walk without having feet. Funny, it seems to by keeping it's dreams; it learned to breathe fresh air. Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else even cared

Poem by a young Tupac Shakur

The nature and dynamic of the free-verse utilized in much hip-hop allows for issues to be discussed in a fashion that Dylan and Young could have only imagined. Straight outta Compton, crazy motherfucker Ice Cube, from the gang called Niggas Wit Attitudes. When I’m called off, I got a sawed-off, squeeze the trigger and bodies are hauled off, you too boy if you fuck with me, the police are gonna have to come and get me. Facing institutionalised racism in the U.S courts, a notoriously corrupt and racist police force, and a prison system so openly influenced by monetary interest that it has been deemed by many intellectuals as ‘the new Jim Crow’ due to its seemingly unrelenting quest to have as many impoverished African-American males incarcerated as possible, in many parts of the land of the free and the home of the brave, it seems that if you don’t have white skin, you don’t have any chance of escaping the abject poverty you find yourself surrounded by.

Drug use, criminal violence, and severe poverty ravage the forgotten American ghettos that will ossify the lyrical content of hip-hop monolith of (what was to be named by media as) ‘gangsta’ rap, and its subsidiaries. Now branded dangerous, and thus, sexy, by popular media, gangsta rap grows exponentially in popularity and cultural influence throughout the late 80s and early 90s. All seemingly well and good for a legit grassroots movement, however, serious problems begin to emerge with commercialization: what was a small, insular movement has garnered a very sudden mass appeal, and much of the references (which do, at the very least allude to the promotion of violent behaviour) are now directed at a large, unfamiliar audience instead of a small community of knowing fans. Conversely, the potential for hip-hop to contribute to a movement promoting meaningful African-American mobilization and self-actualisation begins to itself become subverted at this point, with many emerging record labels realizing that large amounts of money can be made promoting the violent image of hip-hop at this point primarily portrayed only some of the media. While some artists continue addressing serious social issues faced by African-Americans, many others, in pursuit of the wealth they have witnessed their contemporaries acquire so quickly, begin to adhere to the formulaic: lyrics are quickly restricted to primarily discussing money, violence and bitches.

And so, hip-hop as a movement gradually begins to become polluted by the excesses of the very system it initially had so much potential to unsettle. Riding hip-hop’s wave of success, two major record labels emerge: New York based Bad Boy Records, and California based Death Row Records. Among their artists are Tupac Shakur and Christopher Wallace, two of the 20th century’s most popular and influential recording artists. Tupac Shakur (2Pac) was born in 1971 to radical African-American lineage, with virtually every member of his family heavily involved with the Black Panthers. His youth is spent reading socialist literature, poetry, and on other artistic pursuits. Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete? Proving nature's laws wrong, it learned to walk without having feet. Funny, it seems to by keeping it's dreams; it learned to breathe fresh air. Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else even cared

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~ Poem by a young Tupac Shakur
in front of that called the police on me when I was just tryin’ to make some money to feed my daughters. 2Pac and Wallace represent a sort of Yin and Yang of hip-hop. Shakur the indisputably authentic – constant in his attempt illustrate all his authenticity. The implications of the promotion of the excesses of hip-hop culture (hyper-materialism, violence and misogyny) are compartmentalized by most in the industry until 1994, when 2Pac is shot five times while standing in the lobby of a New York recording studio. Miraculously surviving five bullet wounds, including two to the skull, Shakur accuses Sean ‘Puff Daddy’ Combs and Wallace of having prior knowledge of the attack. It’s strongly suspected by most involved in the industry that they did; however it is never proven.

Ever ambitious in his quest for being deemed by his peers as authentic, Biggie, releases ‘Who Shot Ya?’ shortly thereafter. The song is interpreted by most in the industry as a taunt of 2Pac; at the very least, even if Wallace were to be exculpated, the timing was in indisputably poor taste.

Who shot ya? Separate the weak from the obstacle. Hard to creep them Brooklyn streets. It’s on nigga, fuck all that bickering beef, I can hear sweat trickling down your cheek. Your heartbeat sounds like Sasquatch feet. A very public dispute ensues, and is promoted by mainstream media, as well as both artists record labels, who are happy to make money by any means.

Now, seemingly unstoppable – and equipped with the 2Pac and Biggie feud as a means of promoting it’s inherent danger and sexiness – hip-hop continues to grow in popularity and cultural influence toward the mid 90’s. Songs drastically change in lyrical content, with the vague threats and lyrical depictions of violence toward pretend victims now seeming comparably innocuous to the real, living, breathing actual victims of actual violence. As the genre becomes more and more lucrative, in a sort of hedonistic, last days capitalism, it’s a deliberate collision. Hip-hop threats are once again (greatly, but not entirely) reduced once more to just do it. Punk sold out. Grunge became a commodity. Popular art and capitalism inevitably intersect, resulting in the ugly, bastard child of whatever the movement initially was.

What’s fascinating about hip-hop, and particularly the artists involved in East x West feud in the 90’s, is that, in a sort of hedonistic, last days of Rome kind of way, not only did they anticipated the subversion of their art form by capitalism, they welcomed it. Hip-hop, distinct from other forms of music, does not represent an intersection of art and capitalism, it’s a deliberate collusion.

This, I think, accounts for much of the content we see in mainstream media today, as well as many African-American intellectuals disillusionment with it. Figuratively and literally thousands of miles away from any semblance of the ‘hood’, you may ask, who are you to talk about any of this?

I was introduced to rap music in, my bourgeois south Dublin primary school, which had a thriving community of 10, 11, and 12 year olds, all of whom loved and lived by hyper-masculine, materialistic, violently misogynistic hip-hop music: blunts, bitches and C-Bees.

Baggy clothes, foul language, and an obsession with material things, many of my fellow classmates (including me) were enthralled by the glorification the excesses of hip-hop culture. We knew nothing of the subservient quality of hip-hop ignored by popular media, only of its excesses.

So I write these words as someone who, in youth, was a fan of rap music for the worst reasons possible, and who mourns the fact that popular media (as well as the industry) so glorifies the worst facets of hip-hop music and culture, allowing for bashings of mediocrity, misogyny and materialism to thrive, portraying an image which many feel actively harms African-Americans.

Enter Lil Wayne. Enter Drake. Enter the 2Pac and Biggie feud.

Crunk Ain’t Dead: Lil Jon, a symbol of what hip-hop has become in the modern era

City, 1995: The 2Pac (who is, following an obsession with 16th century political treatise The Prince, now referring to himself as Makaveli), Wallace and Combs dispute has now escalated to the status of ‘East Coast v West Coast’ feud, with various rappers choosing sides, and is at its peak. Rappers from both sides of the divide fill a standing room only Big Apple auditorium. Everyone is boozed when accepting awards. Shakur, having just been released from prison, has just signed with Death Row records. There are legitimate fears of a violent confrontation.

Not satisfied with the egregious and saleable (for the reason it has tension in the room, Suge Knight, head Death Row records, takes to the stage and openly insults Sean ‘Puff Daddy’ Combs, head of Bad Boy records. Short-lived in subversive potential, inflighting in popular hip-hop has now begun destroying greatly curtailing the morale of artists involved. Still not satisfied, 2Pac escalates the feud further, releasing Hit ‘Em Up, in which he openly threatens to kill anyone associated with Bad Boy Records. Bad Boys murdered on wax and kill, fuck with me and get your caps peeled. Gambles, at this point, hip-hop is commercially more successful than ever, but many of its most popular artists are now legitimately beginning to fear for their lives. Appealing and sexy to passersby, but bitter and increasingly repulsive to those responsible for it, the once financially promising ‘East Coast v West Coast’ beef is now a rotten piece of fruit.

Both sides continue in their unrelenting irregularity toward the other, until the feud reaches a sort of critical mass, leaving both 2Pac and Biggie murdered within six months of each other. By 1997, after losing two of their most important and influential artists, Bad Boy and Death Row eventually agree to put a stop to the conflict, and the real, actual, living and breathing targets of hip-hop threats are once again (greatly, but not entirely) reduced once more to the status of fictitious characters. Violence in hip-hop music remains, however, it never again the same scary, nosebleed heights of the mid 90’s.

Enter contemporary rappers. Not for sale’ says the spurious banner behind the megalomaniac Kanye West as he performs on Saturday Night Live. Perpetual in his quest to align himself with large corporations, he stands in a Louis Vuitton tracksuit, draped in designer clothes, wondering why he has been left wanton by commentators questioning his authenticity. The Luis Vuitton Don is perplexed that some people just don’t understand why the world would be a better place if he was the head of his own billion dollar company. He has fully invested in the ideas promulgated due to the commercialization of hip-hop in the 90’s. Lil Jon’s glistening grilz blind everyone in his victory. High, drunk, and encrusted with jewels, African-American intellectuals accuse him of perpetuating the notion of the most viable means of self-actualization for poor, marginalized victims of state-capitalism is try and accumulate as much wealth as possible, as fast as possible, by any means necessary. WAT.

I need a Winn Dixie grocery bag full of money right now to the VIP section. You got Young Mula in the house it’s a amazing baby.

All artistic movements are inevitably engulfed, consumed and subverted by capitalism. Simply put, if something, anything, is popular, large companies will want to use it to make a profit. This results in an embellishment of particular aspects of said movement, which in turn results in the corruption and eventual decline of the movement itself. From Brit-Pop to Trip-Hop, nothing gets out looking as it once did.

The irreverence and irony that once distinguished things like post-modernist literature as exciting and authentic in the second half of the 20th century are now common themes in advertising campaigns for multi-nationals. Burger King wants us to break the rules. Nike wants us to just do it. Punk sold out. Grunge became a commodity. Popular art and capitalism inevitably intersect, resulting in the ugly, bastard child of whatever the movement initially was.

What’s fascinating about hip-hop, and particularly the artists involved in East x West feud in the 90’s, is that, in a sort of hedonistic, last days of Rome kind of way, not only did they anticipated the subversion of their art form by capitalism, they welcomed it. Hip-hop, distinct from other forms of music, does not represent an intersection of art and capitalism, it’s a deliberate collusion.

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Enter Lil Wayne. Enter Drake. Enter the 2Pac and Biggie feud. Enter Makaveli.
Is different dangerous?

Ann-Marie Donelan takes an investigative look into the changing conventions and ideologies Irish people have in relation to sexual fetishes

“Chains and whips excite me,” proclaimed Barbadian Superstar Rihanna in her 2011 single “S&M”.

To accompany the lyrics to this highly controversial song was an equally explicit video which depicted the singer in various tied up positions, donning an array of costumes and taking on the role of a dominatrix master with a host of people at her sexual disposal.

The song and video alike offer one a snapshot into a world of unconventional sexual preferences and ideology as she reveals that it “feels so good being bad, there’s no way I’m turning back”, and suggests that although she “may be bad” she is “perfectly good at it.”

The singer appears to almost find the need to justify and explain her sexual desires, which are seen to be abnormal, that she has “been yearning for” by pointing out that she’s “good” at what she does. But why is it that going against the norm, in something as personal as one’s sexual relationships and encounters, requires an apology?

Is there anybody who conducts a ‘normal’ sex life?

Does such a thing exist in modern society as people move more and more away from mainstream ideology and behaviour?

Is it possible anymore to define somebody as a ‘fetishist’ or has ‘sexual fetishes’ become normality as it gets more and more popular?

Does everyone have a fetish? Do they even exist?

Dr Ogi Ogas and Dr Sai Gaddam recently argued on the psychology blog: psychologytoday.com that the term should be disregarded and one “does not suffer from atypical or deviant fetishes but rather possesses a range of typical sexual interests that can mostly be predicted from the natural operation of healthy sexual mechanisms in the brain.”

Although this is a dramatic take on the issue, calls such as this highlight society’s changing attitude toward sexual tendencies that push the boundaries of ‘normality’ and ‘break the rules’.

Sexual desires and tendencies are in the spotlight at the moment with the upcoming release of the screen adaptation of E.L. James’ novel Fifty Shades of Gray, which, upon its release, completely redraw the boundaries of ‘normal’ sexual behaviour as people, particularly women, were encouraged to openly discuss experimenting and their encounters with erotic behaviour.

However, it is not always with encouragement and enthusiasm that fetishes, particularly in Ireland, are documented with television shows such as Paul Connolly’s ‘Ireland’s Secret Sex Lives’, suggesting the fetish scene is a seedy and dangerous one taken part in by crazed individuals.

Reports such as that of the murder of Elaine O’Hara, who was an active member of a fetish website prior to her death, also degrade the industry with headlines such as ‘Elaine and the fatal attraction of sexual fetish’ and ‘Gardai Search for Elaine’s Sea Beast’.

As the sex industry in Ireland grows and grows in a more unconventional direction, the risks and dangers associated with it are a topic to be investigated. Should an ‘abnormal’ sex life warrant alarm bells? Is this world a dangerous or a misunderstood one?

Just a stone’s throw away from DIT’s Aungier Street campus, ‘Good Vibrations’ adult store’s window display invites customers not to be shy and to come in for what they promote as ‘adult pleasure’. Looking around the store, its shelves offer an array of different ‘toys’ and objects all with the purpose of bringing an extra stimulant or added ‘kick’ to a sexual experience in different ways. The diversity of the objects on offer, some of which require the use of ones imagination to determine their exact purpose, was as striking as the displays of manikins dressed in leather and PVC ensembles.

Upon asking shop assistant Paul some information upon sexual fetishism today and how they can possibly be affected by society he was helpful but referred me to speak with his colleague, Barry, who he described as an ‘expert’ upon the issue.

As the expert shows me their collection of products on offer to those who enjoy a more erotic sex life, I ask him his opinion of the industry and how it’s developing:

“It’s growing big time, we always have couples coming in as well as people on their own stopping in on the way home from work. It’s an extremely mixed clientele, made up of everyone and anyone from 18-year-olds right up to guys who can barely walk anymore, and old women.”

As I ask more about the clientele of the store who particularly enjoy unconventional bedroom activities, the conversation quickly moves to the bad name fetishes and fetishists often receive with the store worker eager to defend the community who part take:

“A lot of it is just a stereotype. You see shows like CSI and that kind of stuff and it’s always the serial killer who ties up his partner but that’s just dramatized and exaggerated. Me personally and the people I know who partake in fetishes are the most well-adjusted, happy people. There will be exceptions, you will get the odd head-case but that happens with everything.”

He continues to discuss the documented dangers associated with fetishism:

“Anyone who I’ve encountered who is the more extreme end of it knows exactly what they’re doing with most of them having attended first aid courses. I used to run a class on rope suspension, where you tie somebody up and hang them in the air, but I do not recommend this unless you’re good with anatomy.

“Educating people is important and there are a lot of resources out there to teach you, we’re running monthly workshops now to educate people how to do stuff properly and safely.

“We’re getting a bad name because of the media attention, but it is an industry that is growing positively as opposed to negatively, getting safer and safer. It’s easier to sensationalise something than to admit people are happy and safe doing it.”

So it would seem a broad range of sexual interests and ideas are to be seen amongst people in the Dublin area alone.

Quite undeserved though, these preferences and tendencies are ridiculed and branded as dangerous as well as abnormal. With defining a fetish or fetishist becoming more and more difficult, as people’s interests broaden and change further, shifting away from the recognised and accepted ‘normality’, it is certainly clear that fetishism is increasing, becoming more and more common and accepted with people’s attitudes toward sexual behaviours and conventionality ever changing.

As this world becomes more and more exposed and welcomed it appears resources to determine safety measures are met are available, eliminating the high risks often associated with it.
Tales from the field: 'The worst date I've ever been on'

Hannah Popham discusses bad blind dates, date etiquette and brings us a compilation of the worst experiences these students have ever had on a first date.

Let's face it, whether you have the confidence of Kanye West or the awkwardness of a misplaced lettuce leaf, dates are all about the best of times.

Just thirty seconds of watching Channel 4’s First Dates will depict exactly that in all its cringe-worthy glory. They project you to a place where you are painfully aware of just about everything surrounding you; how close should I sit from them? Should I sit here and listen to them drone on about their cheating ex? Would it be rude to check Tumblr?

And most importantly: would it be acceptable to order some form of deep-fried cheese or are we not at that stage yet?

There is literally so much that can make a date awkward, unpleasant and leave you staring into your drink wondering whether you should try to give up on your sexual orientation altogether. I’m trying to think of my worst date, and all I can think of is a blur of elements that still make me cringe: walking around town on a blind date and trying and failing to get into four different restaurants before he told me he “was glad that I wasn’t gross”, a first date on a beach in torrential rain, or the time a well-meaning date spent €10 on a coke for me before having to embarrassingly explain that I’m allergic.

The dating world is a dark, dangerous and sometimes fun(ny) place, as all these unfortunate students once found out:

Aoife*: By far the worst date I was ever on was when a guy I was on a date in Italy with casually mentioned to me that he was wanted for drug dealing charges, had a kid in Italy from a one-night stand and the phone he had been using to text me was stolen. He was dropping me home when the police pulled him over so needlessly to say I just left the minute I could!

Becca*: The worst was probably when I was doing a fitness challenge, and the guy sat there eating greasy food and went for like three smokes outside. I sat there with water, he knew I was on a diet so eating junk and smoking was really unattractive. He kept saying I was being awkward with him. I got all dolled up thinking we were going to a restaurant and he just brought me to a student bar, it was so embarrassing!

Cathy*: Well, I went on a first date with a lovely guy who took me to see Taken 2 and for the entire movie, during every fight scene, he kept punching my arm in time to what was going on. The couple beside us spent the movie in fits of laughter, especially when I threatened to walk out of the cinema. He then proceeded to call me a lesbian really loudly and said that I was afraid of male physical contact. Embarrassing for me, hilarious for everyone else in the place.

Luke*: I went on a date with a European student who was staying in Ireland for a few months. We went to Bewley’s Café on Grafton Street in high summer, got a couple of hot chocolates and sat on the balcony in the sun, with a busker playing guitar underneath us. The environment was literally perfect for a great date...Until I realised that I was downwind of her. This sounds terrible but she actually smelled horrible... It eventually became too much and I told her I had to leave. I escaped, then bought a few cans of Carlsberg and went drinking with my friends. I never saw her after that.

*Names changed to save their dates any further embarrassment.

Remember Paddy's Day? Yes? Jaysus, fair play

I t's that one day of the year where we honestly believe we live in the best country of all the land and that we do in fact rule the world. Of course we also drink with the excitement of all these newfound thoughts and this new strong sense of patriotism that we just can’t shake for the day.

I’m sure many of you experienced at least one random starting of our national anthem. Where all involved held their pint or can (depending on your funds for the day) up high in the air and joined together in spilling drink accidentally over one another. But none of us were sober enough to care if it spilled on us, as long as that anthem got finished (even if it meant making up some of the lines). That alone made us feel like we had to literally be the best Irish citizens that lived. I mean singing while holding a can; it can be difficult, especially when you’re trying to eat a battered sausage and chips alongside doing the rest.

Being over 18 though can be overrated on the day of our mate Patrick. Looking back on our teenage years, where all you needed was your trusty nuggin and a forest or field where you could hide from both the Gardai and the parents. It was great; the Gardai never arrested anyone as they didn’t have the time. At most they’d take your drink, only some of it as you had the rest stashed in a bush. You’d have to be in early though so you’d head to the chippie to help sober you up (standard).

Us girls often had perfume and covered ourselves in it to cover the smell of spilt drink on our clothes and the smell of cigarettes, yet the over-pow- ering smell gave us headaches and our parents then used that as proof that we had been drinking, complete fail really.

The most common memory is everyone dressed in green, I mean everyone. Everywhere you turn there are shamrocks, faces plastered with the Euro shop face paint and at least one in ten are dressed as a leprechaun.

The next day all we want is to crawl into a deep dark hole where the colour green will never be seen again; as it triggers all the memories of the day before which make you cringe. You remember telling every foreigner that you’re Irish, as if they weren’t aware of this already. You remember chanting at every possible moment and making mates with anyone who joined you. Some of us wish to leave the memories behind and some of us have no memories. But really we love that our full-blown alcoholic tendencies can be justified for that one day and purely to celebrate a man who banished non-existent snakes from the country.
Bison Bar
Wellington Quay

Eimear O’Hehir

With the Irish summer being – well, as unpredictable as an Irish summer, all those barbecues can be but a dream. So when you dream of some barbecued ribs or a nice bit of brisket, head down to Bison Bar. Bison Bar is located on Wellington Quay (beside The Workmans).

From the outside the bar doesn’t catch your eye, proven by the fact that I’ve passed this place nearly every day for years and have never given it much thought. Upon entering the restaurant it was like walking onto the set of a western film. A saloon style bar with various different types of whiskeys – one hundred and sixty to be precise – and tequilas behind the bar greet you. Weaving through the ground floor you pass various different memorabilia from the western era. As a finishing touch and something that is truly unique, some of the seats are actual horse saddles on tack room wooden stands!

Plastic cutlery and condiments are in little buckets on the table. Be ready to climb through windows to get from section to section of the restaurant, which adds a whole new dimension to the place. The menu is condensed down to five mains and a handful of desserts and sides. Every meat served in Bison is smoked on site, which makes this restaurant special.

We had the pulled pork and chips with burnt end beans for €7.95 and the brisket with chips, also €7.95, was delicious. Meat was beautifully smoked and moist. Presentation was very simple, silver trays with individual bowls of the sides on the side. To finish, we had the peach cobbler, which as far as cobblers go, is the real deal. The bar part of the restaurant is nothing fancy, but I suppose it’s not intended to be, as it makes you feel as though you’re out in the wild west.

Drinks are similarly priced compared to other restaurants and bars. This being a whiskey bar you should definitely treat yourself to one of the many special whiskies they have, but be prepared to spend a little more. The staff here are hands-down the most friendliest and pleasant I have ever come across in any restaurant in Dublin, so full marks to them. However, as great as this place may be, it is not recommended for vegetarians, as there is no veggie option on the menu and the Bison head on the wall may be a bit daunting!

All in all though a really nice place if you’re looking for something different and want to step away from all the Italian joints and coffee shops that span the length and breadth of the Quays and spill into Temple Bar.

So when you log onto Facebook and seeing half of your mates doing a J1 makes you miss last summer in Boston or New York, go to Bison Bar, as this is cooking from the United States at it’s very best. I’d be happy to return here.

Hummus ata tú

Two DIT Cathal Brugha St students have started their own hummus company, Sonas Hummus.

Eimear O’Hehir reports

In the good old days everybody knew the Celtic Tiger personally and we all had a mandatory tub of hummus in our fridges. Well when the tiger died, hummus fell out of popularity and we went back to choosing between mashed or roast spuds.

However, under our noses chefs were making masterpieces out of the humble chickpea and hummus made a comeback!

Now more than ever before, we are more aware of what we’re eating and where it’s from, with many wanting to choose organic and Irish at the right price, it can be difficult to find a product out there that matches all these requirements.

Sonas Hummus is a brand new company founded by Sarah McNally and Caitlin Coleman, a talented duo from DIT Cathal Brugha Street.

The pair are both in their final year of Culinary Entrepreneurship. Their company is unique in the sense that they use seasonal, organic ingredients that are locally sourced.

“All of our hummus flavours change with the Irish season,” said Sarah, whose love of using seasonal and organic products flourished when she spent several months in The River Cottage last year, a restaurant where the ethos for using seasonal and organic products is world renowned.

Caitlin spent some time travelling and “tasting all sorts of fruit and vegetables native to those countries.”

Both wanted to start a business for themselves “because we’re fed up of working for other people”, and with their experience and aspirations in the culinary world, this was perfect for them.

At the moment they are producing six flavours each season: “All our vegetables are sourced from McNally’s Family Farm in North County Dublin and all of our chickpeas are sourced from an organic Irish supplier.” Two of their most popular flavours at the moment include roasted carrot and ginger, and their hugely successful wild garlic and black kale with lemon.

Sonas Hummus is already gathering a large following and is starting to pop up in various parts of the city. If you’re interested in trying out some Sonas Hummus, you can check out their Facebook and Twitter page.

To place an order, you can contact the girls directly by email: sonashummus@gmail.com.

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#NoMakeUpSelfie and its online reaction

The online reaction to the cancer research 'make-up free' campaign has highlighted a constant pressure upon women

HANNAH POMPAM
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Yesterday the media was buzzing with startling reports that over €200,000 has been raised for the Irish cancer society following a viral trend of women posting 'no-make-up selfies'. Cynicism aside, any cancer awareness or raising money for those afflicted with it, has to be respected, whether debatably narcissistic or not.

I was delighted to see dozens of fresh-faced female friends of mine looking just as beautiful as they are the way I am used to seeing them. Whether their actions are self-obsessive or not, when the end result is so beneficial, is not an issue I’m particularly interested in debating. However, I do think that the no-make-up has caused something else to surface its ugly head: I have watched in horror-struck awe as multiple men I have a lot of respect for have taken to their social media profiles to mock these women’s appearances.

One posted on his Facebook profile making note of how the whole thing this viral phenomenon had taught him was “how badly some of you girls need make-up”. I was too shocked to even point out how destructive his comments were for any of his female friends reading it, myself included.

Another two of my male friends posted pictures of dogs, hash-tagging “no make-up selfie”. A sociology lecturer of mine once pointed out how jokes can often be a form of social control within society, and that idea is depicted in all of its stifling clarity here.

During a conversation with a male friend of mine last week, about the drawbacks of same-sex schooling, I found myself embarrassed to admit I would literally never leave the house without make-up. “That must be horrible!” he had said in disbelief. To be honest, it is. Seeing that it’s not only individual girls’ insecurity that is causing some young women just like me to feel like this really irks me to my core. I tried to explain to him in the cruelest terms I could how much it gets under women’s skin to always look good: I admitted that whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, there is a constant suffocating pressure on women “not to ever be the least attractive girl in the room”, or at the very least to be “as hot” as the women around you.

That sounds crude and insulting to women, but it is a concept hard not to acknowledge from an early age. If your friends are wearing short skirts to a teen disco and you choose to wear jeans, absolute power to you.

But I’d be lying if at the back of your mind you didn’t feel slightly self-conscious for dressing less sexually than they were.

Even the other day when I walked into my boyfriend’s kitchen to be greeted by his little sister who was wearing flawless make-up and a gorgeous dress on her way to Beyonce, I immediately felt like a gremlin standing there in my hoodie and jeans.

It sickens me that instead of feeling happy that women around me are looking so stunning, instead I wonder how I compare and immediately feel inadequate. I’m happy to say that I am one of the few lucky women who doesn’t generally feel negatively about my appearance, so I can only imagine what situations like these are like for women who don’t happen to feel that way about themselves.

I have seen every woman I know look absolutely beautiful at one point or another, and I know that it can be a matter of the right outfit, make-up or even smile that does this.

Why then are so many men on my newsfeed mocking these women who are prepared to take a deep breath and show the world what they look like beneath the make-up they choose to mask their barely noticeable flaws with?

Both men and women need to realise that in a society where we often put beauty above far more important attributes, it is hard enough to feel good about yourself without external negative commentary. Some days we’re going to look like Beyonce, some days we won’t – get over it.

HANNAH POMPAM
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Oscar Pistorius has led an extraordinary and fascinating life, but how exactly did he go from being a young double-amputee, to an international sporting icon and now a murder suspect?

The South African sprint runner is currently in the news in the midst of his murder trial in Pretoria, South Africa and, along with his legal team; he is trying to prove that the killing of girlfriend and model Reeva Steenkamp was accidental and not pre-meditated.

Pistorius had been hailed as an inspirational figure up until Valentine’s Day last year when he fatally shot Steenkamp. He says that he mistook her for an intruder in his home and it will be decided in court whether or not he is found guilty of murder.

Almost everybody is aware of the ongoing trial and most people are somewhat familiar with his sporting career and achievements, but the personal aspects behind the Paralympian’s story had been less well-known or talked about prior to the trial.

Pistorius was born in Johannesburg in 1986 with fibular hemimelia (absence of the fibula) and as a result had to have both of his legs amputated below the knee at the age of 11-months-old. Despite this, the South African was active in various sports throughout his time at school.

Coach Ampie Louw introduced Oscar Pistorius to running in 2004, during his rehabilitation from an injury he picked up from playing rugby at school. The pair have worked together ever since.

The world first took notice of the man who is often called the ‘Blade Runner’ in 2004 at the Summer Paralympics in Athens. The South African was taking part in two events and took home a bronze medal for the 100 metre race before claiming gold for his victory in the 200 metre race.

The Paralympic athlete stepped up his game for the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing and finished the games with gold medals in each of the three events in which he had competed. Throughout his career Pistorius has broken many world records, including his own previous records, and has also had great success at world championships and the Paralympic World Cup.

At London 2012 he became the first amputee sprinter to compete at the Olympic Games. In addition, he was very impressive at the London 2012 Paralympics.

‘The fastest man on no legs’ won two gold medals in London and also left with a silver medal after coming second in the 200 metre race.

Pistorius will be hoping to put this past year behind him and get back to focusing on his sporting career as soon as possible.

He was once quoted in an interview as saying, “You’re not disabled by the disabilities you have; you are able by the abilities you have”.

Lifestyle: Hannah Pompam

Staff Writer: Liam Kennedy

Oscar Pistorius was at the beginning of his trial, charged with the murder of Reeva Steenkamp.

Credit: Discovery Channel

www.edition.ie
There’s always a moment of apprehension when a ‘gritty’, male-dominated British drama hits our screens. Are we going to get the real deal or some shallow, sub-Danny Dyer pap? Thankfully, Starred Up falls into the former category; while it may contain a sufficient amount of brutal violence and brutal men calling each other “fucking cahsnts”, an intelligent script and committed cast allow Starred Up to soar above any empty macho posturing.

Following teenager Eric Love as he’s ‘starred up’ (prematurely upgraded from a Young Offenders’ Institution to an Adult Prison), the film tells a thoughtful, uncompromising tale. Eric, as played by Skins-alumnus Jack O’Connell, is a brutish young man with a sociopathic disregard for his actions. That the film never takes the easy route of redeeming him is to be commended. Like Rupert Friend’s Charlie in国资，we are often left guessing at straws as we attempt to find something redeemable in Eric, something that suggests potential salvation from his current path of self-destruction.

It’s testament to O’Connell’s wonderful performance that despite Eric’s constant hostility and violence, we can occasionally glimpse his bruised humanity underneath.

Matters are further complicated by the presence of Eric’s estranged father and fellow-prisoner, Neville (Ben Mendelsohn), who attempts to reconnect with his son and guide him towards a shorter sentence.

Familial bonds add tension to an already volatile situation and soon, Eric is under fire from prison kingpins and aggrieved guards. Praise must go to director David Mackenzie, who deftly handles proceedings; the brutality never threatens to overwhelm the central relationship between Eric and his father.

Conversely, every moment of tenderness is hard-earned, never seeming to engulf the grim reality the characters find themselves in.

Starred Up is a complex film that discards the usual clichés of the prison genre. Morally ambiguous, there’s no anti-hero to root for, no meteoric rise within the prison ranks, no daring escape.

Instead, we are given a much more moving, subtle story of a father and son attempting to reconnect and rebuild their lives in the bleakest of surroundings. Danny Dyer need not apply.

It must be frustrating to peak so early in your career. But even worse, is not knowing you’ve peaked so early and proceeding to buy into your own myth.

Not only is it frustrating, it is dangerous. Dangerous because it allows music so mind-numbingly bad to be created that it insults all that went before it.

It creates a Godzilla like monster that steps on and destroys pillars of musical excellence that went before, leaving a wasteland of crotchets and quavers in the process.

Supermodel, Foster the People’s second album, is exactly what the album title describes. It is false, superficial, glossy, lacking in any kind of substance and feeling.

Investing time on this record is so soul-sucking that any listener would almost need to conjure a patronous spell to keep themselves in tact. After listening to this album I had to make a ham and cheese toastie to make myself feel something. It actually wasn’t even that tasty, but at least it did something for me. The cheese was medium mature red cheddar that my Aunt gave to my Da and I think that was the problem, it was slightly too strong and totally overpowering the ham but it wouldn’t stop me from eating it again.

Even though it had its flaws it had some sort of personality, I could see why some people would eat this cheese. Supermodel is the exact opposite. I can’t see why people would like it, there’s nothing to it, it’s not smooth and creamy with a rich well-rounded flavour. It’s boring and bland. Like having Holy Communion for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

And the Academy Award went to... Twenty Feet From Stardom. They say we are living in the golden age of the documentary, you’d expect a film that pipped the likes of The Act of Killing and Netflix’s controversial The Square to be something pretty special, but Twenty Feet From Stardom just never feels that special.

Sure, its good – but it’s no first hand account of a flailing revolution and it doesn’t have any surreal genocide re-enactments.

For those of us who were hooked by the real life memoir-adaptation of Piper Kerman, a successful, white, middle-class New Yorker sent to a federal prison, it is hard to speculate what lies in store for its second season.

When the charming Netflix prison drama finished up its first season, it left many of its storyline untied. Piper had begun a passionate affair with her ex-girlfriend whose naming her was the very reason for her lock up, and was waging a war against religious freak Pensatucky which culminated in a particularly violent scene. Daya was pregnant with prison guard Bennett’s baby and the detestable Pornstache had been suspended for having sex with her in an attempt to protect Bennett.

After months of waiting and speculation, Netflix have finally announced their season two air date on June 6th, 2014, with a very short teaser for fans to unravel.

The teaser leaves a lot untold, with only the suggestion that Pornstache may find his way back in to further corrupt Litchfield Correctional.

Creator Jenji Kohan also let slip that That 70’s Show star Laura Prepon will be in it, “not the whole season, but you’ll see her for most of it.” Cryptic.
Multiculturalism and innocence through a camera lens

Me Buddy, Muhammad is a film about the friendship between a young Irish boy and a young Muslim boy. Director Eleanor Walsh writes about the project experience so far

From its conception as a script to its completion as a film, the process involved in the making of a DIT Film and Broadcasting Final year film is a whirlwind of chaos and creativity. Starting pre-production with a tight time frame, a non-existent budget and limited resources is daunting.

This project is the climax of our four-year college experience, with over 30 percent of our final degree grade resting on the success of the film.

With that said, the enthusiasm for the project among our crew, lecturers and peers is the foundation on which the success of the project has been built thus far.

Making a film is never easy, especially without a budget or executive producer pumping money into your project, but every year DIT Film students create short film pieces that compete in film festivals worldwide from Sydney to LA.

The funding process for our project follows the ‘Do It Yourself’ model employed by previous graduates of the course. The use of online funding platforms, such as Sponsum.com and Fundit is typically the first step in gathering contributions from friends, family and connections worldwide.

After that, sourcing investment from organisations and business that may have interest in the project is explored. With little or no money coming from DIT, our crew members contribute personally to the budget, something that has, in recent years, become increasingly difficult.

With Me Buddy, Muhammad, a target of €3,000 was set on our online funding campaign. The money gathered from this generally isn’t released until principal photography is finished so often a lot of bargaining, calling in favours and personal contributions fund the pre-production budget and finance the days of principle photography.

The budget consists of equipment hire, catering services, location hire, art department, wardrobe, transport and much more. It is a testament to our producer, Louise Byrne, who has managed to work miracles with our modest budget to keep the film on track.

The essential skill needed to succeed, it seems, is resourcefulness. From casting to art department, making professional connections and not being afraid to ask for help has been essential.

We have been lucky with our casting this far and will be working with Siraj Zaidi, Head of Bollywood Ireland, and a cast of talented children.

As the director of Me Buddy, Muhammad, the words “never work with children or animals” have come to mind frequently, but with the support and guidance of industry professionals, such as Kathleen Warner Yeates and Paddy Breathnach, the daunting challenge of working with 30-plus children on the film has become an exciting challenge.

The process involved in making a film goes far beyond the physical act of shooting. Once Me Buddy, Muhammad wraps, there will be a month of post-production editing and sound in the studios here in DIT.

From there, Louise and I will be working on the marketing package for the film and planning its entry onto the festival circuit.

With the support of organisations such as the South Inner City Community Development Association, the Dublin Multicultural Resource Centre and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Oisin Quinn, we are excited and fully confident in the potential of Me Buddy, Muhammad.

The processes described above are no doubt stressful and challenging, but when you have a dedicated crew and a passion for the message contained in your project anything is possible.

For more info check out Facebook.com/MebuddyMuhammad

Log off or cop on

EOGHAN MCNEILL

I was in Croke Park with my brother and sister to watch Donegal beat Cork in the 2012 All-Ireland semi-final. Half of Donegal was in Dublin. On our way to Drumcondra, we’d meet cars with DL registrations who’d give you a salute for wearing green and gold. Colm McFadden, the temperamental corner-forward from Creeslough, had an on-day and inspired Donegal to a win. It was a great day.

Towards the end of the match, I overheard a conversation between two Donegal fans behind me. Leaving the stadium before the final whistle, one said angrily to the other: “I can’t believe what I just had to endure. 30 men chasing a ball around pitch. How awful, how meaningless, how lacking in depth! Art is dead”. The other agreed, asking: “Why couldn’t the GAA have run something more interesting, like a Banksy exhibition? I bloody love those stencils he uses”.

That didn’t actually happen. If you buy a ticket to a football match in Croke Park, you can be reasonably sure of what to expect on match day: a game of football. No one expects to see anything of any greater significance, and most enjoy their day out.

Some Facebook users seem to expect a lot from the platform. Reaction to the current #onemakeupselfie campaign, and before that #neknomination, would indicate that some users expect Facebook to fulfil not only their social networking needs, but also their cultural needs.

Apparently posting, #nomakeupselfies – selfies that are raising money for cancer charities – take up valuable space in users’ Newsfeeds. Space that could be used for things that aren’t superfluous, that aren’t mere exercises in vanity. Things with depth, of cultural significance. So the argument goes.

Here’s an idea: if you want to enjoy something you consider to be of more consequence than a picture contributing to a cancer charity, why not like, read a book? They’re great. Some of them are really long and tell stories things about human nature and the world we live in. Unfortunately, there aren’t any books on Facebook, so you’ll probably have to log off.

Some people would rather see art than neknomination videos. If you’re one of these people, instead of trying to “occupy Facebook with art” – as per the campaign – you could visit the National Gallery. It’s free, and there are quite a few paintings inside. Again, you would probably have to log off.

You wouldn’t go to a party, stand in the middle of the room and scream at your friends: “For Christ’s sake, you’re all so bloody inane! Why can’t you say something clever?! Why can’t we talk about the arts?!”. No, if you felt that strongly about it, you would probably leave.

If your Facebook friends’ interests are so frightfully lowbrow and insipid, you’ll probably have to log off.

‘Do You Feel Loved?’ and ‘Mofó’ continue in a similar vein, combining dance beats with exhilarating work by Clayton and The Edge, their iconic rock sound transformed into an electro-dance she-nanigans. ‘The Playboy Mansion’ offers a biting critique of celebri- ty culture, ‘Please’ reflects on The Troubles, and then there’s ‘Wake Up Dead Man’. A hauntingly honest song about questioning faith, it reminds us that Bono really is a great lyricist when he’s not annoying the shit out of everyone.

Largely ignored by the band since, ‘Girlfriend’ is a lost classic of U2’s. It’s a song about the arts, which the Edge labels as “an over-indulged rock band imploding”.

Yet it offers some of U2’s most thrilling music, and it remains the last record on which they sound like the biggest band in the world (All That You Can’t Leave Behind acts like an apology for Pop’s radical sound and the less said about their last two efforts, the better).

One only needs to listen to opening track ‘Discothèque’ to appreciate Pop’s craft. Hazy guitars mesh with Bono’s woozy voice and Adam Clayton’s trickling bass before Larry Mullen’s drums put some shape on the beast, allowing The Edge to whip out a cracker of a riff. The result is intoxicating, funky, irresistible. Track one and the rhythm’s already got you.

Hello everyone. I feel there’s something I need to confess. Now, I’ve never outright lied, but to quote Ellen Page’s recent “Hey I’m gay!” speech, I’m tired of lying by omission. Here it goes: I’m not a U2 fan.

Released in 1997, Pop was dismissed by most; the combination of electronics, samples and Warhol-esque album art seemed to suggest an over-indulged rock band imploding.

But it offers some of U2’s most thrilling music, and it remains the last record on which they sound like the biggest band in the world (All That You Can’t Leave Behind acts like an apology for Pop’s radical sound and the less said about their last two efforts, the better).

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‘Do You Feel Loved?’ and ‘Mofó’ continue in a similar vein, combining dance beats with exhilarating work by Clayton and The Edge, their iconic rock sound transformed into an elec- tric groove. ‘Staring At The Sun’ and ‘You Can’t Leave Behind’ are more typical U2 numbers, with added flavour coming from electronic blips and son- ic beeps.

Yet Pop’s not all electro-dance she-nanigans. ‘The Playboy Mansion’ offers a biting critique of celebri- ty culture, ‘Please’ reflects on The Troubles, and then there’s ‘Wake Up Dead Man’. A hauntingly honest song about questioning faith, it reminds us that Bono really is a great lyricist when he’s not annoying the shit out of everyone.

Largely ignored by the band since, Pop is that most tragic of lost classics: one lost to its creators. Judging by the tepid response to their most recent output, perhaps it’s time they redis- covered it.
I t would be foolish to assume that a college dedicated to the relentless pursuit of musical stardom would put on a bad show, wouldn’t it? Yes, yes it would. But I did. Foolishly. 

I would guess my formative years spent attending amateur college gigs, is where such foolishness and general apathy towards Irish bands began to manifest. I was so damn disillusioned with the state of Irish music I had totally forgotten that real ‘I say real’ (existence debate aside) musicians still existed in Dublin.

Plural noun ‘The’ bands and shrill mic feedback had coloured my perception of what live music in Dublin had become. I would see a youthful face with dilated star-shaped pupils like a strange anamorphic Elton John, holding a sticker covered telecaster and reach for my most deafening earmuffs.

The kind that provided much needed audio asphyxiation. Disorientating yes, but still preferable to a hearing a deafening earmuffs.

Telecaster and reach for my most intense stage of the Button Factory, which I pictured myself traveling between epochs, a musical ‘Phileas Fogg’ dropping my balloon whenever my ears picked up a virtuoso tune. A cover of Purple Rain here, a catchy soul original there; it was as if I had been given Gabrielle’s iPod and had spent a blissful purgatory on shuffle.

You wouldn’t have wanted to be on the judges panel for this year’s DIT Gig Soc Battle Of The Bands. Admittedly, complimentary alcohol is nothing to laugh at, but with a line-up as strong as this year’s, the judges were faced with a decision that made Sophie’s Choice child’s play by comparison.

The master of ceremonies this year was yours truly and despite not copying ‘dai bomb’, I think that overall, it was a success. I am now positioning myself as a professional MC, available for gigs, charity events and children’s beauty pageants.

The opening act of the night was The Journals. Channeling the likes of Editors and Joy Division, they combined slick guitar lines with stirring melodies to great effect. Check out their self-titled EP online; you’re in for a treat.

Next up were Alpheidae, the black (metal) sheep of the night. An ear for strong melodies and a ferocious metal sound your grandparents wouldn’t approve of – a thrilling set.

They were followed by my personal favourite of the night; runners-up Aztec Jackal. Simply put, Aztec Jackal are enormous fun. Soft-spoken and polite in conversation, frontman Steven McCann and Little Rose received rave reviews for their set.

By the time ‘Leo’ (surely the best original of the competition) increased tempo towards its climax, you’re either completely enthralled or dead inside.

For stark contrast, two-piece acoustic pop group Meg and Albha followed the funk rock octet. Opening with a spirited cover of ‘You Can’t Hurry Love’, the duo won over the crowd with their delicate harmonies and great stage presence.

Finally, Amberly took to the stage and demonstrated why they were deserved first place winners of the competition. Earlier in conversation, they revealed that nine months had been spent rehearsing before they started gigging, and it showed; their set was amazingly tight, full of compelling originals and dynamic shifts that would make The Prides proud.

Their polished blues rock allowed them to win a place within the judges hearts and walk away with that coveted first prize.

One such memorable cover was performed by Give It to Mammals – a note-for-note rendition of Beyoncé’s ‘Green Light’.

Jordan Onubogu, a man who looked like he was genetically engineered in a lab to become a star, stood patiently behind the MC, sang a few bars not to his liking and then sang again. It was pretty incredible.

Considering that the ‘Mama’s’ had jammed with Beyoncé’s backing band when she played here two weeks ago, it was not a major surprise that they happened to be brilliant.

All that said it was a gig after all, and ‘when the music’s over’ they turned out the lights and were all sent, leather jackets and hip haircuts, to the Workman’s club.

Regressing back into their student-selves the former performers of the evening were drinking and fumbling over conversation as all students do.

How strange they all looked, acting as if they were normal human beings. I suppose stars don’t really lose the run of themselves until you’ve given them a tour bus. BIMM roadshow tour anyone?

BIMM students perform at the recent End of Term Gig; (Left) Daniel Shiel

Out with a bang: BIMM’s End of Term GIG at the Button Factory

Eoghan Regan went to one of BIMM’s biggest gigs for the first time, and was blown away by the talent on show.

Battle of the Bands winners for 2014 – Amberly

Spoilt for choice: Gig Soc Battle of the Bands held on same night as BIMM
No horror show at the Little Shop of Horrors

**Aisling Gill**

Little Shop of Horrors was the latest musical put on by DIT Drama Soc in the O’Reilly theatre in Belvedere College and as clichéd as it sounds, it did not disappoint.

The show, directed by Mairead Donohoe, was unrelentingly amusing. With its witty one liners and catchy songs, you couldn’t help but laugh at the theatre in good form.

The majority of the action takes place in Mr Mushnik’s (James Joyce) flower shop on skid row where the young Seymour (Graham Fleming) discovers a strange plant that feeds on human blood. Seymour names the plant Audrey II (Matthew Manning) after his the women he loves, Audrey (Kate McKeown).

Director Donohoe certainly chose the right cast, as all performed well. Fleming stood out with his excellent acting and American accent which was didn’t let him down throughout, and his duet with Manning’s Audrey II was energetic and fun.

Their voices complemented one another, and although Manning could not be seen he certainly made an impact.

McKeown was outstanding throughout the show. Her solo was breath taking, demanding attention from all within ear shot. Her final scene was again a noteworthy moment, during which she again demonstrated complete control over her vocals.

Audrey’s and Seymour’s phone scene together was perfectly timed and highly comical; both had great chemistry on stage and worked extremely well together.

One thing I cannot fail to mention is the set and design of Audrey II. The plant’s design, by Cian O’Siorain, Jeff Blake and Olek Lelievre, was seriously impressive.

The plant was the centre piece throughout majority of the show and it was clearly well constructed, as it managed to eat a couple of people and remain functioning and entertaining afterwards, without fail.

It’s quite difficult to find anything to fault in the show – it truly was excellent. There were some issues with the microphones, resulting in the audience not quite picking up a couple of one-liners, but it was a minor fault, rather than an error.

Again a minor technical fault came when the door lock fell off during the show, though it was purely comical and the actors were extremely professional in holding the door closed from then on, managing to incorporate it with the comedic tone of the performance.

The casting was perfect, the set design was effective, along with great lighting and a fantastic orchestra.

An excellent production

**Grade: A+**

Drama festival

**Doubt: A Parable**

**Director: Jack Lynskey**

**Al McConnell**

Grade: B

M y first element of doubt around this play began long before the first scene, as I walked down to The New Theatre for the opening night of the Drama Society’s festival. When Doubt: A Parable, a 2004 play by John Patrick Shanley, was adapted for the big screen, all four of the main actors were nominated for Oscars. The play itself had already won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It was an ambitious choice; could a student performance do it justice?

Fortunately, the only thing ‘studen- ty’ about this performance was the group behind my seat whispering and stifling laughter throughout (perhaps the toddler who kicks the back of your seat on a Ryanair flight, but 100lbs bigger and after having a few ‘snacky’ cans - "Oh Jesus" - it’s ‘overloving’ - were the first words I heard as the lights went down).

The cast in Doubt, like the set, is sparse; four in total, one of whom (Mrs Muller, played here by Emma Mulfundi) has only one scene, powerful though it is. It’s driven by verbal back-and-forths and is full of tension and emotion, making it particularly demanding.

Oisin McCarron, as Father Flynn, around whom the doubt in this story revolves, showed the necessary range to deliver a priestly sermon, take on the ice-cold Sister Aloysius (Aisling Gill) in fact exchanges, and find the appropriate comedic note when necessary (and there are quite a few comedic moments, for a play about a priest facing allegations of child abuse).

Crosso, however, was the standout performer of the first half, immediately showing the authority, intimidation and harshness required as Sister Aloysius, the nun-to-end-all-nuns, who leads a campaign of rumour and speculation around Father Flynn.

McCarron and Jen O’Dwyer, the latter as Sister James, perhaps required a little more time than Crosson to settle into their performance, but once there, both were impressive. O’Dwyer played the role extremely well – impressionable, passionate and troubled as the meek Sister caught under the influence of Aloysius, but with moments of careful timing in both humorous and serious moments.

McCarron also settled into his role more than dominated it, but arguably stole the show in the second half, as the plot developed and each character’s doubts about Father Flynn’s relationship with a 12-year-old pupil drove the story forward.

Mulfundi’s portrayal of Mrs Muller also left a strong impression on the dark, bruising second half of Doubt, despite only having a few minutes to do so. Handbag clutched in both hands, and with clear and sensitive delivery of some poignant lines, Mulfundi was ideal in the role.

The writers of Father Ted have often said one can take the most mundane events, but dress the charac- ters as priests and things just become inherently funny. In this play, you can see just what they mean. McCarron as a basketball-coaching priest (complete with black shirt and collar, but formal shoes and black shorts – Priests?) drew close to the biggest laugh of the night.

The only major flaw came at the end of one crucial scene. Crosson’s Aloysi- sues hammers three heavy blows to Flynn’s character and goes to leave. She pauses: “And cut your nails”.

It’s a loaded comment, full of spite and a sense of finality. It shows her cold nature, once again. Perhaps as much due to the audience as the delivery, the line just missed its heavy-handedness and came across as heavily comedic. There is undoubtedly humour in it, due to the smashing of high tension (a tension impressive- ly built up by the actors), but the line wasn’t quite a bulls-eye.

Regardless, DIT’s version of Doubt was a remarkable success. It was clearly well directed by Jack Lynskey and well produced by Sarah O’Shea, on top of the actors’ performances.

Only minor elements held it back, an achievement considering the scale of this play and the critical genuflection it has received in the past. Though the audience left full of doubt in some ways, this team’s Doubt left no ques- tion marks over their talent.

**Drama A Slow Day in Purgatory**

**Writer & Director: Pierce McDonough**

Grade: A

In a set in a literal waiting room, complete with magazines and a door to either Heaven or Hell, this play was nothing of the slow day it portrayed.

A sharp wit, intelligent story and sensitive dialogue drove the story along, back and forth and in a sheer energy and physicality of Jack O’Higgins performance.

Gerard Higgins proved an idealistic ‘Student’ with Jack O’Higgins’ letter-like straight man to O’Higgins’ anti-hero Sam, whose self-doubt, frustration and regret underpin- ned the story, without seeming overly moralistic (an achievement, for a play about what we might expect to find in an afterlife). Strong acting performance- es and equally talented writing heavily outweighed the minor negatives of this play.

Cameo performances from Clara Murray, Nabil Ghnawi and Michael Ly- sicht were exceptional, and Eoin Connan was outstanding as ‘Saint’ Peter, particu- larly in the latter half.

I’ll offer no spoilers as I hope this play will have a chance to develop and be shown again, with a few minor kinks ironed out.

Writing and directing a play is a huge achievement, and to do so with this much success is remarkable. An excellent production.

**Drama A Courtroom Comedy**

**Writer & Director: David Boland**

Grade: C+

A tale of false accusation and absurd legalism, Ryan Dunne is surrounded by an ever-worsening crowd of eejits as his court case on a mugging charge de- velops. But Courtroom Com- edy never quite manages to achieve what it wanted.

It was slapstick without the slapstick, satire without the cutting edge, and abs-urdism without ever really letting itself go. For that reason, its mixture of co- medic styles at times jarred with the viewer.

Having said that, there were more than enough laughs and likable charac- ters to make this play en- joyable. Gavin Jenkins (as Dunne), in the lead, had the audience from the first min- ute. Few could pull as hilar- ious an exaggerated face as well as this guy. A little too often the hu- mor went over the line of schoolboy, or forced a joke upon the audience. But, the idea was there and most of the performances were good. With the plot boiled down, and some weaker jokes re- moved, Courtroom Comedy will be on to a winner.

David Boland created and brought to the stage an en- joyable production, which has some sharp lines, solid jokes, and a lot of potential. It finished the festival on a fun, light-hearted note.

We were regrettably unable to attend Low Level Panic, the fourth play of the Drama Festival
vodafone DIT Fashion Show

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Doors 7.30pm

Tickets €20/€15 a student
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Make Up For Ever
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In aid of
Jack & Jill Children's Foundation

No care like home care
Making head-Lynes at the Winter Olympics

Conor Lyne, of Ireland's Sochi Winter Olympics team, speaks to Sinéad Farrelly about his difficult experience at the games and plans for his future in skiing.

The Irish team sent to compete in the recent Sochi Winter Olympics received a lot of negative comments as only one member of the contingent was born in Ireland, however, upon speaking to alpine skier Conor Lyne, there is no doubt of where he calls home. The 21 year old was born in Reading, England and then moved to Utah when he was four where he then took up skiing, but it is his father’s Kerry birthplace that holds a special meaning for Conor.

The recent Olympic competition held a mixed bag of results for Conor, he injured his shoulder the day after the opening ceremony and then fell in his first run of the giant slalom and did not finish.

However, he came back from this disappointing start to then finish 40th out of a 117 man field in the slalom event. He admits that it was tough to move on from the giant slalom. “It was tough, especially as it was the day after the opening ceremony that I got the shoulder injury and that kinda crushed me in general.”

The shoulder injury Conor suffered in training is not the only major injury that he has suffered from the sport. While he says he has not sustained any major long term injuries, three years ago he tore the cartilage in his ankle capsule; it has been in ongoing pain since then despite receiving treatment.

“I haven’t ever really had any long term injuries, just the shoulder really. I did my ankle three years ago. It was annoying because you use your ankle every day, you walk on it and that doesn’t help it heal properly, even now it still hurts a bit three years later.”

The future is certainly looking bright for this young Irishman who says that the next Winter Olympics in South Korea are still a major goal for him. “I’m definitely going to try for South Korea in 2018. There’ll be two world championships between now and then and I’ll be going to both of those and then to see if I can make it to 2018 – that’s the plan.”

The day came and I guess I just skied, I survived, which is what you had to do on that course, it was so destroyed by then time off skiing to spend in Ireland before returning to university in Utah this August. The next major competition Conor is looking ahead to will be the World Championships in Colorado in February of next year.

“Here in Ireland I’ll mainly be just trying to get in shape, I’m quite weak after the season now and with my shoulder so I’ll be training up until I go home. Then I’ll be ski training for August, September, and October onwards and then the World Championships are in February.”

These will not be the first World Championships that Conor has competed in, having participated twice before in 2011 and 2013. “2011 was kinda my first time on the international stage and then in 2013 I made the second run which was quite good and then I finished 52nd and that was a really good result and that kinda gave me the confidence coming into this season.”

“I haven’t ever really had any long term injuries, just the shoulder really. I did my ankle three years ago. It was annoying because you use your ankle every day, you walk on it and that doesn’t help it heal properly, even now it still hurts a bit three years later.”

“We've been back the last two Christmases as well because I've been training in Europe so it's easier for me to just come here and have my family come over than to go all the way back to the States. "I really feel at home there, I always had a great time growing up, fishing and just having the craic! It's just home to me.”

The pride Conor feels for Ireland was cemented when he was given the honour of being the Irish flag bearer for the games’ opening ceremony on the 7th of February.

Upon speaking about the ceremony Conor says that it was “probably the greatest moment ever. It’s a special moment in the games, we came in and there were loads of lights flashing at you and 40,000 people in the stadium, it was pretty incredible.”

The 21 year old was born in Reading, England and then moved to Utah when he was four where he then took up skiing, but it is his father’s Kerry birthplace that holds a special meaning for Conor.

“Yeah I’d come back every year, I think I’ve missed two summers growing up that we didn’t come to Kerry;” he said.

“We've been back the last two Christmases as well because I’ve been training in Europe so it’s easier for me to just come here and have my family come over than to go all the way back to the States. "I really feel at home there, I always had a great time growing up, fishing and just having the craic! It’s just home to me.”

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“Building back up to the first race I was into it, feeling confident enough and I felt kinda disappointed [when he fell] but I just kinda threw it out the window and said ‘took just have to focus on the slalom’.

“My arm was still quite sore at this point but then in the last few days before the slalom I was in the training area and I was feeling good. Then the day came and I guess I just skied, I survived, which is what you had to do on that course, it was so destroyed by then”

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Ireland out of T20 World Cup

Sinéad Farrelly
SPORTS REPORTER

The Irish cricket team got knocked out of the ICC World Twenty20 in a match against The Netherlands as the Dutchmen qualified for the main stages of the tournament.

In the final group B match both teams needed a win to qualify. The Netherlands had an even tighter margin as they had to chase down 190 runs in less than 14.2 overs as opposed to the usual 20 due to close net run rates between The Netherlands, Ireland and Zimbabwe.

However, on a day where four world records were broken, they stunned the cricketing world and broke Irish hearts when they did just that.

Ireland, however, need not look back on the tournament with too much bad feeling. The tournament did have some positives that the squad and supporters can take away from it. One of these is that it shone a light on Ireland’s newest off break bowler Andy McBride. In Ireland’s warm up match against host nation Bangladesh, the Donemana man finished with figures of 1-22 and took the key wicket of Sabbir Rahman.

He continued this good form in his T20 international debut against Zimbabwe in Ireland’s opening world cup game when he took two wickets to help steer Ireland towards a victory. Despite a blip against The Netherlands when he was hit for 24 runs in just a single over, he has shown a large amount of potential and at only twenty years old, he has many years left to play.

The introduction of Andy McBride to Irish cricket will be one of the positives to take from the tournament.

Harry Hatton
Success is built on solid foundations and they were certainly in place for the DIT Fresher camogie team this season.

The team won the All-Ireland Fresher ‘A’ camogie championship on Wednesday March 12, beating Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) in the final on a 4-9 to 1-2 score-line.

That was DIT’s first ever title at that level and much of the praise should be given to their manager Stephen Hoary, who works to bring the most talented players around to play camogie for the college.

Hoary and his staff were able to bring in senior inter-county stars to the Fresher squad which was pivotal in the college’s breakthrough All-Ireland camogie success.

“We had two Dublin senior camogie players who came in, one of them is the vice-captain, Ali Twomey and the other would be Clíona Rigney, both from Lucan Sarsfields.”

“We’re always actively recruiting. I’m speaking at the moment with most of the minor camogie management around the province in relation to Kilkenny, Wexford, Offaly and Dublin,” Hoary informed.

Hoary coaches at minor level which helps in his recruitment efforts.

“I coach at that level so I know a lot of managers and basically I would pass on details of DIT and get them to look into it.”

Obviously the players then follow on from there. The obvious one was DIT sports website or the DIT general website.

It’s all well and good for someone to be offered a sports scholarship, but especially in terms of Gaelic games, they aren’t going to make a career for themselves out on the pitch.

“We don’t want to be bringing players [in] just to come and play sports. We want them to have a good academic experience,” said Hoary, who also manages the DIT Senior camogie team.

The will and efforts put in by Hoary are echoed by Lucan Sarsfields Ali Twomey.

“Stephen first approached us after a minor club semi-final and we organised a meeting at the college with himself and Darragh [Biddlecombe]. They were really helpful in going through our options for courses, so much so that by the time I had by CAO filled out, the first eight choices I had down were for DIT.

They explained the vision they had for camogie at the college over the next couple of years and how they would be putting a lot of time and focus into it. I wanted to be a part of that,” said Twomey.

Facilities problems
It’s hard to believe that a manager that is just after winning an All-Ireland ‘A’ title is not entirely content.

Hoary is frustrated with the facilities provided by DIT.

He pointed to the logistic difficulties that players have in getting to training as DIT is spread out north and south of the River Liffey.

“The facilities are really killing us. I have lots of girls from Meath and Kildare who are going to finish college at half four, five o’clock. ”

“My involvement in club and county level actually suits because during the winter you don’t do a whole lot. Our [college] season would be from September, October through to February, March so that off-season for my other commitments.”

DIT GAA should be doing their utmost to hold on to their Fresher camogie manager, a man that guided the college to their first All-Ireland ‘A’ crown earlier this month, a man that could well repeat that success in 12 months time.

The search begins for O’Driscoll’s replacement

Simon Maguire
CHEF SPORTS REPORTER

The day finally came when Brian O’Driscoll took off his last Ireland test jersey and finished a remarkable career as a Six Nations champion. The fair-play ending for arguably our greatest ever player was a fitting finale to the rugby life of Brian.

How do we replace the great man? The simple answer is we don’t! There is no like-for-like replacement within the Irish ranks at the moment and to expect someone to stand up to fill the void is sheer folly. How long did Argentina have to wait for Messi to fill Maradona’s shoes? Has any Hungarian ever reached the heights of the revered Ferenc Puskás?

Robbie Henshaw, Darren Cave, Jared Payne, Luke Fitzgerald,ergus McFadden or Keith Earls are obvious favourites to wear the now iconic Irish jersey no.13 jersey, but we shouldn’t expect one of them to carry the load on his own.

Oddly, the ‘Moneyball’ statistics-based approach deployed by baseball’s Oakland Athletics in the 1990s may provide a blue-print for how to use a fresh approach to rebuild a team.

Ireland has survived the need for an out-and-out openside flanker in the mould of a Richie McCaw or David Pocock over the past decade for three reasons. Our back-row unit shared the workload at the breakdown, Sean O’Brien’s skillset evolved from a gain-line breaker to a more rounded no. 7 technician and O’Driscoll operated as an unofficial fourth member of the back-row.

BOD’s courage at the breakdown raised the bar for second-centres worldwide. As he aged, he became a defensive master to add to his attacking instincts. His wide base and low centre of gravity made him almost impossible to move once in place over an opposition player. Any high-tight reel of the great man at work includes both aspects of his game and Ireland need to act accordingly.

One option is to create a new centre partnership which shares out the workload. A combination of Luke Marshall and Tommy Bowe in the centre with Tommy O’Donnell at seven could be worth a go on the summer tour to Argentina. Bowe’s impressive physicality, allied to Marshall’s bravery would be complimented by O’Donnell’s ground game.

A further radical change would be to move Jonathan Sexton to first centre, to play in what the New Zealander’s call the second five-eighth role. On his return from injury, Dan Carter played at 12 for the Crusaders with Tom Marshall pulling the strings at 10.

A midfield of Paddy Jackson, Sexton and Jared Payne would give us three talented footballers patrolling the midfield and would pose questions for any defence with Peter O’Mahony and Sean O’Brien deployed in the back-row for breakdown protection.

Either of these changes would be harsh on O’Driscoll’s partner in crime, Gordon D’Arcy, after a year of consistent performances, but the future must be planned. A summer off would do the Leinster veteran no harm with a big year ahead, and new combinations deserve a chance to mesh.

Joe Schmidt’s reign has been an undoubted success in just eight short matches. The next 18 months will see the defence of our Six Nations crown and an assault on the Rugby World Cup. There is no better time to start planning than now.
**SOCCER**

**Kick Start coaching kicks off in DIT**

Piers Moyles  
Sports Editor

DIT Soccer club ran a coaching course on 20 March which enabled participants to achieve the Kick Start one coaching badge. The Kick Start one coaching badge is recognised by UEFA. It qualifies holders to coach age groups between 6 and 9 and it is the first step on the coaching pathway.

Numbers who participated in the course were positive and soccer development officer John O’Carroll was pleased with the amount of people who took part.

“We had 10 students who completed the kick start course on March 20th in DIT. This is the fifth Kick Start 1 course which has been held in DIT over the past six years. We have now qualified 55 students to Kick Start 1 level. We also ran a Kick Start 2 course in 2011 with an additional 14 students completing this course.”

The Kick Start badge not only allows holders to coach children’s teams but it also enables them to work at summer camps.

O’Carroll hopes that students will use this opportunity to progress on the coaching ladder and help at national as well as college level.

“I do this [participating in the course going on to help with coaching DIT teams] should happen in the future but Kick Start 1 & Kick Start 2 only qualifies you to coach up to 12 year olds. We have had students from these courses assist with community and school coaching programmes organised by the DIT Soccer Club. Students also have also secured employment working on the FAI Summer Soccer School Camps run nationwide each July and August.”

**Inter-college tournament lined up**

Piers Moyles  
Sports Editor

DIT’s first ever College Cup, organised by the DIT soccer club, will take place on the 7th of April at Larkin Community College. The inter-college tournament which will be contested between Aungier St, Kevin St, Bolton St and Catholic B ringha St, will be between 6 and 8:30pm.

However soccer development officer John O’Carroll says that participants from other campuses are welcome, “If students from Rathmines, Mountjoy Square or other want to submit a team they are most welcome and we can easily extend the competition. We would be looking at 6-a-side with squads of maximum 10 players.” O’Carroll also said that further details for the tournament can be found online, “Updates will be on the DIT Soccer Club Facebook page and the person responsible for collating teams in their Garage whose details will also be on the Facebook page.”

He finished off by saying, “We have run inter-class competitions to date but this will be the first time we have run an inter-college competition where students will be representing their college.”

No captains have been selected yet and there is still time for students to submit teams.

The soccer club have run 5-aside tournaments which are played on the all-weather pitch at Larkin College over the past year which a number of players have attended with proceeds raised going to children’s charity Barretstown.

T-shirts will be provided for those who enter and the winners will get their hands on the first ever College Cup.

**Crushing defeats for DIT Ultimate Frisbers leads to a drop in their seedings**

Matthew Colfer  
Staff Writer

A developmental DIT Ultimate Frisbee Club side dropped their seed at The Siege of Limerick tournament held in the University of Limerick sports ground on the 1st and 2nd of March.

The Saturday of the tournament started poorly for DIT with a loss to NUI Galway before being beaten by amalgamated club OCHammer leaving DIT in 21st place.

One more loss on Saturday to DCU in the crossover game left DIT rock bottom in 22nd going into the second day of the tournament.

Sunday morning started on a more positive note as DIT overcame the elements to beat the NUI Galway side that beat them in their first game on Saturday.

“Things certainly didn’t look that way on March 16th. However, low funding does not compensate for the quality of the players we have,” said Hollingsworth.

The basketball calendar doesn’t commence until November and matches don’t take place until February, as it tries not to clash with exams but also so that it doesn’t have to compete with popular sports such as GAA and soccer.

“We really are conscious of the GAA and soccer because we’re stuck with the bare minimum of funding because no one really thinks of basketball.”

Continued from Back Page

**EDITORIAL**

**Two very different Reds: Rodgers v Moyes**

Ryan Nugent  
Sports Editor

Based on the differing standard of performances between Liverpool and Manchester United, not only last week but during the league season as a whole it’s fair to say that three nil flattened the home side.

Liverpool have been superior throughout the season and United’s frailties came to the fore yet again at Old Trafford. Heartless and gutless would be one way of describing United’s efforts in the game, compared to the confident, vibrant and certainly ‘up for it’ Liverpool outfit. Yet, there was one much more pertinent issue for United and David Moyes in particular.

There’s been a staggering 43-point turnaround between these bitter rivals since last May and one must wonder why?

If David Moyes was to add Liverpool players to his team, who would get in?

Suarez for one, definitely, Gerrard too, even though he’s not the player he once was, and maybe, only maybe, would Raheem Sterling push for a place. Sturridge is good, but not Rodgers is not a great manager, yet, but is a dab hand at motivating players and is tactically astute ahead of Rooney or van Persie.

So there you have it, eight United versus three Liverpool. It certainly didn’t look that way on March 16th.

Since David Moyes took over, Manchester United and their players have gone backwards, both tactically and mentally, while the scorers have moved in the opposite direction.

Brendan Rodgers, along with Luis Suarez, have the rest playing above themselves, totally. Rogers, similar to what Ferguson did throughout his career, is making the likes of Henderson and Flanagan believing they’re better players than they are. He’s also got them motivated to fight for each other, to work hard and keep running and pressing.

Liverpool are keeping their shape and counter-attacking with only two players; Suarez and Sturridge. And it’s working.

I’m not saying Rodgers is a great manager – he’s still got a lot to prove. However, the Northern Irishman has proven himself to be a dab hand at motivation and tactically astute at the same time, with half the quality that Moyes has at his disposal.

Contrary to the hopes of the Stretford End, United quite simply are not playing like Fergie’s boys.
Unprecedented win and major silverware for DIT Basketball

Senior Women win Division Two All-Ireland for the first time, and men’s sides bring home honours

The Edition speaks to Aoife Hollingsworth, the team’s captain who brought home the trophy

Piers Moyles
SPORTS EDITOR

“It was intense but we did it”, recalls Aoife Hollingsworth, captain of the Senior Women’s basketball team, who added to the college’s list of honours by becoming the Division Two All-Ireland College champions.

“We had to play five games but we only ended up playing three out of the five because we got two walkovers”. The teams dispatched along the way included IT Tallaght, IT Blanchardstown, RCSI (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) and Tralee IT before they came up against and beat their “team rivals” Carlow IT in the final.

“Last year we got to the final as well but we lost to Carlow so this year thankfully we managed to beat them.”

Despite the locality of the two other Dublin IT’s in the competition, Carlow are considered arch rivals due to the recent success of the south-eastern side over the newly crowned champions.

“Last year Carlow beat us three times. They beat us in the freshers’ final, although we ended up with two of us being fouled out of that game, they beat us during the league season and they beat us in the league final. We did manage to beat them in the varsities though.”

This meant that DIT’s recent record over IT Carlow read, played four and lost three, which did not make for pleasant viewing going into the crunch game.

The recent past not being on their side and having to overcome the favourites in the form of Carlow IT added to the hurdles that DIT had to overcome to claim the cup for the first time in their history, which included a hectic schedule of playing all the games one week after the next.

With the varisites in DCU coming up in April, Aoife and her teammates will get a chance to rub more salt into the wounds of Carlow and build on their league triumph. This may prove a more difficult challenge, however, given that there will be more than double the amount of teams competing as compared to the league.

Increasing popularity

The success coincides with increasing numbers in those willing and able to participate in basketball. “This year we had a lot of girls apply to be on the team but we had to narrow it down to 12 because there’s only one girls’ team. Around 60 girls signed up during the clubs and societies week and 20 turned out to the trials,” said Hollingsworth.

To put those figures into perspective, only eight girls were registered to the team last year. This undoubtedly affected performances as basketball is a sport which relies heavily on substitutes given the frenetic pace of the game and although the amount of substitutions allowed is unlimited, recycling the same players throughout the game drains the team’s stamina immeasurably.

The rise in the number of participants coincided with a rise in standard, with the women’s team having three premier league players amongst their ranks which is the highest playing level in Ireland.

Despite the NBA being on in the early hours of the morning on these shores, Aoife believes that the game is beginning to get recognition and attention in Ireland.

“The popularity is definitely growing. More people are getting involved in it because they’re starting at a younger age. In some parts of the country they have Under-6’s basketball teams. It is getting more popular but it’s still one of the minor sports.”

Despite the popularity of the women’s game growing in the college, there are still fundamental problems at the base level of the game.

“In Basketball Ireland guys would be more a priority but in the college it’s a bit more even – I’d say it even leans towards the girls in a way.”

National problems remain

At national level there is no longer a senior women’s team with the age group stopping at Under-18’s and a men’s national team is only put together for the Olympics.

With basketball being one of the minor sports, funding becomes a big issue which it may not do for the more traditional games.

“It’s a massive problem getting funding. Not just for us but teams down the country and at colleges as well.”

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