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## The Edition, 20th February, 2018

DIT News Society

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# THE EDITION



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## Med Centre closed for four weeks

Nikki Murphy  
Co-Editor

DIT's Northside Medical Centre was closed for a number of days for almost a month because there was no medical secretary, The Edition has learned.

The college operates two Student Health Centres within a mile of each other; one on the Northside of the city on the Bolton Street campus, one on the Southside of the city on the Aungier Street campus.

The Linenhall centre was closed for three days each a week for a couple of weeks causing disruption to services both north and south side of the city.

Brian Gormley, Head of Campus Life said: "We are not aware of any other University which operates two Student Health Centres but as a multi-site campus we feel it is necessary in order to provide the best service to our students.

"However, challenges of staffing and resourcing do arise from time to time and, because of the sensitive nature of the service, we cannot easily provide staffing cover from other areas when a member of staff is absent due to illness or other reasons."

Student Emma McNulty said: "It caused a load of pressure on the Aungier Street Centre so much that I made an appointment to see the doctor on Monday and the next available appointment to see a nurse was Thursday and for a doctor was the following Monday, which was so stressful. Luckily I didn't need a doctor asap but many people do".

Continued 4



Photo: DIT Medical Centre // Nikki Murphy

## No BDSM consent class for DIT

Dan Grennan  
Co-Editor  
@dan\_grennan

BDSM consent classes for 'performing alternative sex acts' will not go ahead but general consent classes will.

The student council had planned to work with an organization called Nimhneach to provide BDSM classes to students but it turned out the organisation could not provide the service.

BDSM stands for Bondage, Domination, Masochism and Sadism.

Nimhneach (poison in Irish) is a "BDSM and fetish community for kinksters by kinksters" according to their website.

Nimhneach run fetish club nights in the Wiley fox on Eden Quay.

It is unclear what the classes would have consisted of but the motion says "the dangers of performing alternative sexual acts, such as BDSM, without proper knowledge of different sexual acts, safe application of these acts, and proper consent, which can lead to serious injury, paralysis or death."

Continued 8



## Boni hints at USI pres run

John Patrick Kierans  
Co-Editor  
@kierans97

DITSU President Boni Odoemene has hinted at running for President of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI).

Boni, who has campaigned for DITSU to leave the union in the past, also thinks that the college may see some "familiar faces" running in the upcoming DITSU elections.

He cannot run for a third term in office in DIT because the constitution states that the student President can only stay in office for two years.

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# 15 Bike stations to provide vital Grangegorman transport

John Patrick Kierans  
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FIFTEEN new DublinBike stations are being built across Dublin and will provide transport for DIT Grangegorman students.

Construction began on the new stations in January and three of these are located in Grangegorman.

"This is good news for Dublin, and for the tens of thousands of DublinBike users who have been seeking more stations in the city," said Green Party

Councillor Ciarán Cuffe, Chair of the Council's Transportation Committee.

"It means that hundreds of Dublin Institute of Technology students at Grangegorman will now have three Dublin Bike stations on their doorstep," he added.

The remaining twelve stops will be situated on Rathdown Road, Charleville Road, Phibsborough Road, George's Lane, Western Way, Avondale Road, North Circular Road, Mountjoy Square, Killarney Street, Merrion Square South, and Wilton Terrace, with two on Buckingham Street.

Neasa Hourigan, Green Party

Dáil candidate in Dublin Central said: "I am pleased with the news, but we now need to extend the scheme up through Stoneybatter and into Cabra.

"The DublinBikes scheme has been a wonderful new amenity, but it has been held back by the drip feed of funding from the Minister for Transport Shane Ross TD and the National Transport Authority.

"Since DublinBikes were launched in 2009 they have been an extraordinary success, but the roll-out has been delayed due to lack of funding. We are only at phase two of a fourteen phase scheme that was due to be completed two years ago."

She added: "Areas like Cabra and Drumcondra should not be waiting years for a scheme that has proved its worth and costs a fraction of the money it takes to maintain our motorway network.

"I am calling on Minister Ross to release funding of €30m per year so that all phases of the scheme can be rolled out over the next three years. benefit residents, and visitors to Dublin."



DublinBike station // Dublin City Council

## Students to get free GP care

Marc Morrisson



Roisin O'Donovan // DITSU

DIT STUDENTS will now receive free GP service via the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) website.

USI have launched the service for

their 374'000 affiliated students in a partnership with a company called VideoDoc.

USI believe the service will take

away the financial burden of attending a GP.

DITSU VP for Welfare, Roisin O'Donovan told The Edition: "I think it's a great initiative that USI have taken on, we will be promoting this to students but only as an alternative if it's an emergency."

All of VideoDocs online GP's are registered with the Irish Medical Council and the service will be available 8am to 10pm every day.

Speaking at the launch of the service USI President, Michael Kerrigan said: "We are delighted to partner with VideoDoc to provide free GP healthcare to our members. With the high cost of living and accommodation being the main factor in student poverty, our students can now rest assured that if they get sick they can save money on a GP visit with VideoDoc."

Students must register with VideoDoc via a link on the USI web-

site. Students then enter their personal details, including their student number. VideoDoc then take one working day to verify the students details and allow an account to be set up.

Kerrigan told The Edition that the service will have no effect on the affiliation fee which student unions pay to USI.

Given the recent closures of DIT's Lindenhall Medical Centre, Kerrigan said: "this service will be a help to many students, especially at evenings, weekends, during holidays and for students on placement".

"We do recognise the value of having a medical centre on campus and that this is something that cannot be replaced," the USI President added.

VideoDocs online GP service can issue students with prescriptions and sick notes.



# DIT library spends €10million in five years

Dan Grennan  
Co-Editor/Features Editor  
@dan\_grennan

THE BUDGET for DIT's Library over the last 5 years amounts to ten and a half million euro the Edition has learned.

The average yearly spend was €2.1 million over the last five years. With the lowest at €1.3 million in 2012/2013, the highest was the following year at just over two and a half million euro.

Year on year the biggest expenditure was 'Periodicals and central subscriptions' which amounted to €8,235,530 in the last five years with a yearly average spend of €1,650,706.

'Periodicals and central subscriptions' are the fees DIT pays for access to the journals and books available to all students.

The Library budget for the different schools within the college have consistently gone down over the last seven years.

The budget for 2010/2011 for Applied Arts, Built Environment, Business, Engineering, Science and tourism and food was almost €450k. The same budget was cut to €240k in 2016/2017.

Applied Arts has the largest library budget with €785k spent in the last seven years. Business has the second largest library budget with €410k spent in the same years. Built Environment has the smallest library budget with just under €175k spent in the same years.

The Library budget for Information systems was one of the few budgets to go up over the last seven years with a budget of almost six thousand euro in 2010/2011 and a budget of €114k in 2016/2017.

The faculty for the Applied Arts has gone down from €130k in 2010/2011 to €71k in 2016/2017 and the faculty of Built Environment has gone down from almost €40k to €14k in the same years respectively.

There have been inconsistencies in the Library budget with the 'other costs' going from €2,540 in 2013/2014 to



Aungier Street Library // Nikki Murphy

€78,700 in the following year.

The biggest inconsistency was in the years from 2011 to 2014 when the budget from periodicals and central subscriptions went from 1.7 million euro to 8 hundred thousand euro and then back up to over 2 million euro.

The cost of binding has gone down a considerable amount in the last seven years with costs at 10 thousand euro in 2010 to €975 in 2016.

"Variations in expenditure for goods and services for the Library (eg between 2011/12 and 2012/13) occur when payments are made in one financial year for goods requisitioned in two calendar years. The overall expenditure remains similar each year, although the timing of payments may vary," a spokesperson for DIT said when asked about the variance.

"Such variations have no effect on the range of books and periodicals available to students. However, the spe-

cific amount of €76,000 for copyright licensing, which is an annual cost incurred by DIT, was misclassified as a cost to the Library in financial year 2014/15 only and will be classified correctly in future accounts."

The biggest cost, periodicals and central subscriptions, could potentially be reduced if DIT were granted access to the IRel Library consortium that all Irish Universities have access to.

"The biggest benefit of IRel membership is likely to be a very significant increase in the number of journals and databases available to DIT students and staff. However, it could also result in some financial savings for DIT and a reduction in its financial exposure - the detail will depend on the final outcome of discussions underway.

"A number of meetings have been held recently and a positive outcome is expected by the end of the year," the spokesperson added.

# DIT University plans moves to final stage

Nikki Murphy & Conor Shields  
Co-Editor  
@SHIELDSYYYYY

IRELAND'S first ever Technology University took a massive step to becoming a reality when the bill was passed in the Dáil last month.

The future of a technological university in Ireland looks bright as the Technological Universities Bill was passed by the Dáil last month.

The bill, if brought into fruition, will see the merger of a number of Institutes of Technology including DIT, IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown, and will in turn create a new form of university in the country.

Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, carried the proposal through the initial stages of the Dáil. According to the Irish Times, Minister O'Connor said that this proposed legislation would bolster a new type of higher education institution and would build on the strengths of the existing Institutes of Technology.

At this moment in time, the Bill has passed stage 8 of the process and is currently being debated on in the Seanad. Once the Bill reaches stage 11 it will be considered an enacted bill and signed into Irish law.

At the moment, there are only 14 colleges who identify as Institutes of Technology in Ireland.

Although the enactment of this Bill will affect all Institutes of Technology across the country, DIT, ITT and ITB are currently the frontrunners in the race to creating Ireland's first technological university.

The site, which will be located at the current DIT Grangegorman campus, has been the focus of much debate in recent months regarding uncertainty over student facilities and staffing.

Last month, The Edition reported that Heads of School in DIT had written to Tom Collins, the chair of DIT's governing body after they were left out of TU4D talks with merger colleges ITT and ITB.

Speaking on the issue, DIT President Brian Norton had said that he "would like to confirm that Heads of School

in DIT, ITT and ITB are entirely equal, and all must be involved equally in the development of the Technological Universities Bill".

In the letter sent to Tom Collins, it was stated that a certain "director" has stated publicly that "colleagues in ITB and ITT at Head of School level have a strategic role while DIT Heads of School cadre are merely operational managers."

When asked about this comment, President of ITB Diarmuid O'Callaghan said, "this view is not supported by me or by the senior leadership team at ITB."

At the moment, there are only a certain number of courses located at the DIT Grangegorman campus.

A DIT spokeswoman said: "DIT, along with its alliance partners ITB and ITT, welcomes the passing of the Technological Universities Bill 2015 through the committee stage of Seanad Éireann on Tuesday and looks forward to the completion of the final report stage on Wednesday, 21 February and enactment shortly thereafter."



## NEWS

# Medical Centre closed for almost four weeks

Nikki Murphy  
Co-Editor

FROM PAGE 1...

A STATEMENT issued to the Edition by DITSU's VP for Welfare Roisin O'Donovan stated: "DITSU would like to express our disappointment in DIT, in the fact that the Northside Medical Centre was closed for three days for the past couple of weeks due to HR delays in appointing an administration staff. This is not acceptable.

"The DIT HR recruitment processes has caused difficulty for the counselling services, teaching staff and Societies, we believe that this needs to be reviewed and changed."

Ms O'Donovan also said that DITSU President Boni Odememe and herself would be raising the issue at the next Governing Body meeting on March 7th.

"We want the President of DIT to ensure that similar incidents do not occur in the future and

will be requesting that if any campus wide service experiences disruptions in its service that this be communicated to both students and staff to help prevent the upset that has recently occurred," she said.

"We expect DIT to investigate their HR recruitment processes so that this doesn't cause student services to close in the future."

In January 2018, DIT undertook a recruiting process for an additional Medical Secretary for the Student Health Centre in Linen

Hall/Bolton Street. No candidate was immediately available and as a result the DIT were unable to re-open the centre for a number of days immediately at the beginning of this semester.

Mr Gormley added: "While it is always our objective to have both Centres operational at all times during the academic year, the Student Health Centre team worked hard to ensure there was no reduction in overall service levels to students, albeit that students in Bolton Street had to travel further to avail of the service.

"The Medical Secretary in Linenhall assisted us by extending her working hours to allow the Centre to open three days per week and on the other days, the clinical staff transferred to the Aungier Street Health Centre so as to maintain service levels.

"In the short to medium term we continue to work hard with our colleagues in HR to ensure posts are filled on a timely basis. This is more challenging in an economy which is nearing full employment, and where necessary new procedures can increase the length of the recruitment process.

"In the long-term, this issue will be resolved by the development of the campus in Grangegorman, where student services can be consolidated and grouped together in a One-Stop-Shop.

"This will mean that staff from various support services can provide emergency cover for each other, and will also allow an enhancement of existing services."



DIT Medical Centre exterior // Nikki Murphy

# No timeframe for dreaded student levy

John Patrick Kierans  
News Editor

DIT STILL doesn't have a timeframe for when the dreaded student levy will be introduced.

The Edition reported in October that the college planned on bringing in the €150 fee to pay for a number of student services in Grangegorman.

The long awaited campus, which is not expected to be fully completed until 2022, will see students pay the added fee in order to use facilities such as the newly planned sports hall.

Other student areas the institute is planning to build include a bar, along with a bigger clubs and socs space.

DITSU held a symposium with a number of other colleges last month to find out how best to introduce the levy.

But President Boni Odoemene said there still isn't a timeframe for when the levy will actually be introduced.

"On January 18th we organised a student levy symposium, which was hosted by Maynooth's Student Union, where a number of major Student Unions (who have student levies in place and Student Centre[s] built) attended," said Boni.

"It was a very good day which we discussed the do's and don'ts of student levies. In regards to when it's going to be put [in place], at this moment I can't give a date or even a period.

"There [are] a lot of questions in regards to the student levy which have not yet been answered and there is a lack of clarity as to the merits of the levy being brought to the students.

"In regards to what we're doing to make it cheaper for students, we have been look-

ing at the way levies were brought into other colleges. The levy total for us is that the total amount will be €190.

"As a first time levy coming in like this, there is no example of this happening in any other Student's Union and taking into consideration the type of student body we have in comparison to the universities, we're very conscious of how this levy, this tax on registration, will affect the majority of the population of our student body," he finished.

Speaking about the levy in October, Paul Horan, Head of Campus Planning for Grangegorman, told the Edition: "We've been discussing a levy with the student bodies and the student's union for a while.

"We haven't been able to say for certain what spaces we will be getting, because the student accommodation has been a

long while in gestation so we don't want to go out to the student body for definite until we can say 'here's the proposal'. It's going to take another year to get to that point," he added.

"We hope the levy will include social and recreational space, which would be on the ground floor of the student accommodation and a new build in the first phase of a new sports hall. The typical levies are between €100 and €150. So instead of paying €3,000, you'd pay €3,149 for example, when you register and pay your fees," Horan went on to say.

The levy is being introduced because the Irish Government won't fund sports recreational spaces that colleges build.

The Government only pay for educational spaces that will benefit students.



## Boni hints at USI presidential run

FROM PAGE 1...

HE TOLD The Edition: "Constitutionally I can't run in the election because the max term is two years.

"But I can run in the USI elections, nominations are currently open so time will tell if I decide to run for president or not." When pressed about whether he would actually run or not, he said: "Everything is possible, who knows. The nominations close on the 26th of February, so you'll know then."

Boni also hinted that some sitting DITSU representatives could be running for positions in the upcoming election, but added that he will remain impartial and give the same amount of advice to each candidate. He said: "Campaigning teams have been made so I'm aware of who is running for what.

"I have spoken to several students that came to me for advice considering my experience in DITSU elections. I have given everyone an equal amount of advice so that's my role, I can't get involved with these elections but I can give an equal amount of advice to all candidates.

"Nominations close on the 13th of February and once the nominations close the Edition and all the DIT students will know who is running for what.

"I think it is most likely that there there will be some familiar faces."

Polling dates for the election are Tuesday 27th February, Wednesday 28th February, and Thursday 1st March.

The count will take place on the stage in DIT, Bolton Street on Friday, 2nd March.

# Quad construction to begin later this month

John Patrick Kierans

News Editor  
@kierans97



Artists Impression of Grangegorman campus // DIT

CONSTRUCTION of the East and Central Quads in Grangegorman is expected to begin at the end of the month.

The new facilities, which will be the home for mainly Cathal Brugha Street and Bolton Street students, is just awaiting approval from the Fire Officer.

Paul Horan, Head of Campus Planning for Grangegorman, said: "An essential thing for closing the deal as well as planning permission is getting your fire search done.

"I had thought construction would have begun this week but it looks like it's going to go into March now. It might be the end of February or the first week of March, so in the next two or three weeks.

"There is great pressure being brought and the fire officer is aware that there is a big project awaiting his approval."

Mr Horan continued: "This is the last thing that needs to happen before we reach financial close which is when everyone actually signs the deal and then building can begin to be built the day after.

"This is the last thing we need to get over the line. We had hoped to have it but there is just some iteration going over and back.

"They asked for more information which they are entitled to do but this is now the final step."

The Central Quad will house students

from 10 schools from the College of Science & Health, College of Engineering & Built Environment and the College of Arts & Tourism.

Facilities include wet & dry laboratories, the National Optometry Centre and specialist culinary arts training facilities.

The East Quad will be the home for students in the College of Creative & Cultural Industries which currently consists of seven schools.

Five of these will be accommodated within the East Quad.

The building will include a 400 seat music performance hall, music, dance and drama performance and practice spaces and creative arts and media studios.

## DITSU and Oifig Na Gaeilge make agreement to promote Irish

John Patrick Kierans

News Editor  
@kierans97

DITSU and Oifig na Gaeilge have come to an agreement to better promote the use of Irish in the college.

The two organisations signed a mandate of understanding last month which will see them look into a number of different ways on how to promote the use of Gaeilge.

These ideas include bringing out an Irish version of DITSU publications and the possibility of introducing an Irish Language Officer for students.

DITSU President Boni Odoemene told The Edition: "It was one of our mandates for a couple of years ago which was to agree on a memorandum of understanding between

ourselves and Oifig na Gaeilge here in DIT.

"I kicked this off halfway through my term last year and there was a lot of back and forth and a few things that stalled the completion of it, but coming into this year I wanted to get it all done and dusted.

"We signed the memorandum of understanding to see if DITSU can work closer and better with Oifig na Gaeilge to make DIT more Gaeilge-friendly for its students.

"The memorandum has things in it, for example, like looking into DITSU publications coming out in English and Irish and looking into the possibilities of an Irish Officer or Irish Student Representative. It covers things like that.

Gráinne Ní Bhreithiún from Oifig na Gaeilge said: "We here in Oifig na Gaeilge DIT are absolutely delighted that this Memo of Understanding has been signed with DITSU

on Monday the 23rd of January, recognising that the Irish language plays a significant role in the lives and studies of many students in DIT.

"We met with DITSU President Boni Odoemene

“

**We are going to be working closely with the Irish office to see what more can be done for DIT students**

early on his tenure, and his enthusiasm and dedication in achieving this really important development was evident and we thank him and all of the DITSU team for their commitment in formalising the supports that DITSU will give in ensuring that the use of the Irish language is continuously welcomed, promoted and normalised in DIT."



## NEWS

# Ten jobs for each DIT engineering graduate

John Patrick Kierans  
News Editor  
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DIT estimates that there are now 10 jobs per each building-engineering graduate in the college.

The institute launched a new campaign last month in an attempt to encourage Leaving Cert students to consider a career in building engineering ahead of the CAO deadline on February 1st.

The need for building engineering graduates has resulted in big industry players, such as Jones Engineering, SIRUS, Haughton and Young, Designer Group, Ethos, Varmings, Axis, Dornans, OCSC, Metec, Homan O'Brien, Cundall and Partners as well as the Association of Construction Engineers of Ireland (ACEI) partnering with DIT to support a recruitment and advertising drive to highlight the extremely promising and sustainable career opportunities that exist in the area for motivated students.

Ciara Ahern, Head of Building Engineering at DIT, highlighted the immense potential for career development in the area.

"Building engineers are the highest paid engineers in the construction sector earning a starting salary that is typically €5,000

more than other graduates," she said.

"Graduates often express surprise that they are immediately put to work on high-end prestigious projects on graduation. We pride ourselves on producing work-ready graduates that require very little further training and are thus of value to companies immediately.

"This means our graduates get a jump-start, climbing the career ladder rapidly. Within a very short timeframe graduates of this discipline are able to command very healthy salaries, such is the demand for their skills," she added.

Jim Curley, Group Chief Executive at Jones Engineering Group, said: "DIT is an innovator in the building engineering discipline and we are delighted to be supporting the Institute's campaign. There is a shortage of graduates with the building engineering skills needed by industry.

"These graduates are required amongst other things to support large-scale, high-end projects in all facets of building engineering. Opportunities abound not just at home but overseas for these graduates."

Ms Ahern continued: "The economic downturn in Ireland, combined with other related demographic factors and trends,



DIT Bolton Street Campus // DIT

has required the building sector to evolve and adapt hugely in recent years.

"Irish firms have proved themselves very agile and while new-builds might not be happening in one part of the world, they are in another. Combined with a digital revolution in the design of buildings, it is a very exciting time to be involved in the construction industry."

"With [the] industry now crying out for graduates with building engineering skills to support economic growth, there are now ten job opportunities available for every graduate. Our new building engi-

neering campaign is very much focused on bringing attention to the exciting and rewarding career opportunities that are now available to ambitious, capable students, who want to make a positive and real impact in our society.

"Whilst traditionally a career in engineering is not a first choice for young women, I would like to encourage girls to think about this discipline. Building engineers help design and influence the spaces we occupy, and women bring a much-needed perspective that we, as a society, need more of," she concluded.

# DIT building undergoes asbestos works

John Patrick Kierans  
News Editor  
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Park House, North Circular Road, Dublin 7 // Nikki Murphy

A BUILDING recently bought by DIT has asbestos, but the college has warned that it won't cause any health problems for staff.

Park House on the North Circular Road, which was bought by DIT for around €9 million last year, is located just yards from the Grangegorman campus.

The building will be used to house office staff in the college, as opposed to rumours that it would be renovated into student accommodation.

The first bulk of DIT staff are scheduled to move into the building over Easter.

Asbestos is defined as "any of several minerals, such as chrysotile, that readily separate into long flexible fibers, that cause asbestosis and have been implicated as causes of certain cancers, and that have been used especially formerly as fireproof insulating materials."

However, DIT has assured that the particular form of asbestos in the building is not dangerous and will have no health effects for any staff.

Paul Horan, Head of Campus Planning in Grangegorman, said: "The building was

bought with a full survey.

"There is a small bit of asbestos in some of the heating elements around the edges of insulation which is not uncommon.

"We bought it knowing it was there, it's perfectly safe. We are refurbishing the building on a floor by floor basis. At the moment we are refurbishing one floor which will then [replace] the office of HR which is based in Rathmines. [They] will be moving there around Easter time."

He continued: "The asbestos is a very small item. We know about it and the cost is very minimal. It's a very minor item which the cost is a few thousand.

"It's tiny and it's very safe. Our Governing body did raise it and we went into a lot of detail on it.

"People tend to get a bit ballistic when they see the word asbestos but there is asbestos all over the place. It's perfectly safe once you don't go cutting or drilling it.

"There [are] other tenants in the building at the moment."

DIT has been contacted for a comment.



# DIT excluded from IReL membership for over a decade

# HEA

## An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas Higher Education Authority

Nikki Murphy  
Co-Editor

DIT has been waiting for access to the Irish Research eLibrary (IReL) for over a decade.

The nationally funded IReL was set up to support researchers in Biotechnology and Information Technology and in 2006, it expanded to support research in the Humanities and the Social Sciences.

Students of the seven Irish Universities with membership to IReL have access to 96 databases.

However, DIT and other Institute of Technology's were provided with access to just two databases (Academic Search and Complete and Business Source Complete) in 2009.

According to IReL's homepage, "Researchers in Irish universities now have access to a world-class electronic library service comparable to any such service in the international research community.

"The range and quality of publications available through IReL compares favourably to what is available in some of the leading research libraries, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Columbia University and Imperial College London.

"Since the release of the first resources in 2005, millions of journal articles have been downloaded each year."

The page goes on to say, "Researchers and students have also made excellent use of the databases and ebook collections, performing over 16 million searches in 2015 and consulting over 6.5 million ebook sections over the last nine years."

DIT President, Professor Brian Norton said, "Since 2004, DIT has repeatedly asked for access to IReL, a resource which would be extremely valuable to DIT students and we are currently awaiting a formal

communication regarding a decision on a full membership from the IReL board."

Speaking to The Edition last October, Malcolm Byrne, Head of Communications, HEA said, "There is an agreement in principle among all parties that DIT should become a member of the IReL consortium. Terms and conditions, including a funding model to enable DIT's participation, are yet to be finalised.

"The HEA continues to liaise with the Irish University Libraries Collaboration Centre and DIT to ensure participation by DIT in



**No-one from DIT present at the IReL board meeting and to date they had received no formal communication**

IReL at the earliest possible date."

Dr Philip Cohen, Head of Library Services at DIT said, "In November 2015, following continued correspondence from DIT and with explicit HEA support, the Universities in the consortium agreed in principle that DIT could become a full member of IReL"

Dr. Cohen added, "The IReL Board met on Friday, 10th November 2017 to consider DIT membership of IReL. and the processes required to ensure access to resources which students in the Universities currently enjoy."

Much controversy has surrounded DIT over the past year in relation to library services. In March of this year DIT answered serious questions at the Public Accounts Committee hearing when it was questioned about the loss of over €700,000 to

SWETS UK.

SWETS UK, providers of electronic e-journals operated worldwide as a mediator between publishers and libraries. It provided the overall management and processing of subscriptions to scientific and professional printed and electronic publications for libraries.

In July 2014, DIT paid SWETS the sum of €671,000, on October 9th of the same year SWETS went bankrupt. DIT were also in credit to SWETS for just under €50,000 bringing the total figure lost to €718,000.

When asked if membership to IReL would have prevented such a loss, Dr.Cohen said, "The loss to DIT following the SWETS bankruptcy was just over €700,000. It is true, however, that the Institute's exposure was higher than that of the universities with full IReL membership as the consortium's size allows it to negotiate directly with publishers, enabling the universities to largely eliminate the need to use intermediary agents such as SWETS.

"Individual Universities did lose money when SWETS filed for bankruptcy but their losses were less than DIT because IReL considerably reduced their exposure. Dr.Philip Cohen, Head of Library Services

DIT."

In 2017, the DIT budget for journals and databases was €2 million. The amount was similar in 2016.

While it's not clear at present what the financial savings will be through membership of IReL, savings will depend on when membership is confirmed; what charges (if any) DIT is asked to pay and on the respective cancellation policies for the very many individual journals and databases to which DIT have subscribed on their own behalf in the absence of IReL access.

"Membership of IReL would immediately provide access for DIT students to additional information resources that students in the Universities currently enjoy," said Melda Slattery, spokesperson for President Norton.

Ms. Slattery also went on to say, "DIT membership is under active negotiation with the HEA and the Universities. A number of meetings have been held recently and a positive outcome is expected by the end of the year. The biggest benefit of IReL membership is likely to be a very significant increase in the number of journals and databases available to DIT students and staff. However, it could also result in some financial savings for DIT and a reduction in its financial exposure - the detail will depend on the final outcome of discussions underway."

The IReL website states that, "The objective of IReL is ambitious. The purpose is to provide common access to electronic resources for all IReL members. In doing so there will be clear benefits not just for researchers and research projects, but also for those whose objective it is to attract researchers of the highest international calibre to make Ireland and Irish research institutions their preferred location.

The initial (STM) phase of IReL was jointly funded by the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the HEA. The HSS phase is funded entirely by the HEA. Total state investment in the first five years of IReL provision was more than €35 million. Budgets are under pressure in line with all public funding and achieving value for money for all resources continues to be imperative."





## NEWS

# Shurikon makes €2,000 for charity

Conor Shields  
@SHIELDSYYYYY

SHURIKON 2018 managed to raise a whopping €2,000 for ISPCC Childline.

Hosted by DIT's Game Society and Japanimation Society, the annual game/anime/cosplay convention was held in Griffith College on Saturday, February 10 and featured a wide variety of gaming, tech and anime stands and workshops. Both societies also drafted in some special guests on the day including popular YouTuber, CDawgVA, professional cosplayer, LUX Cosplay.

Cosplay is best described as the practice of dressing up as a character from a video game, film, TV show or comic book. Although costumes can be bought through retailers or online, the majority of cosplay enthusiasts prefer to make their own costumes from scratch using craft materials. This is the second year the event took place, with 2017's convention proving to be a stellar success and a hit with gaming and anime enthusiasts across the country. According to their event pages, Shurikon is described as a "celebration of nerd culture with events ranging from gaming tournaments and VR, to cosplay competitions to photoshoots."

Speaking on social media after the event, a spokesperson for the DIT Japanimation Society said: "We all had a fantastic time and we hope you all did too!

"We have a huge list of thank yous, starting with a big thank you to our committee and volunteers. You all have worked so hard for the past few months and deserve a giant THANK YOU!

"Huge thank you to our guests CDawgVA, Lux Cosplay, Stuckshocker cosplays and War Panda Cosplay. "You were all so

great and we loved having you at our event big thank you to DIT Photo Society, Deirdre Wray, Craig Johnson and Niamh Brady for the photography and videography and to all of our artists and traders for our first trade hall! Thank you so much to Griffith College and to our sponsors and everyone who helped us out for Shurikon 2018; Keelings, Red Bull, Offbeat Donuts, Asia Market, The R.A.G.E., Sub-City Comics, GamersWorld, New Wolf Studios, Anathiell, The Fabric Counter, Recreate Ireland, Jaconi Crafts, The Clockwork Door, Guild of Nerds and of course everyone in DIT Societies Office! "Most of all, thank you to all of our attendees! You are what made the event what it was.

"Thanks to you we have been able to raise €2000 for ISPCC Childline! You guys are awesome.

"Photos from the event will be up soon, but for now, peace out peeps, see you all at Shurikon 2019!"

Last year, Shurikon had won the 'Best Event' category at the DIT Society Awards in Gleeson Hall. This allowed both DIT Japanimation and Game Society to enter the BICS Awards in Athlone for the national award and were highly commended for their work. When asked about her prospects for the upcoming DIT Society Awards, and in turn the BICS national award, Chairwoman Serena Duffy expressed confidence in her and Shurikon's chances at success.

"I hope this doesn't jinx us but I do feel confident! We have been working on Shurikon 2018 since Shurikon 2017. Our event this year is twice as big with plenty of new events too.



Shurikon poster // Shurikon Facebook page

## No BDSM consent class for DIT

Dan Grennan  
Co-Editor  
@dan\_grennan

FROM PAGE 1...

"The student movement is very liberal so it passed but when we looked further into the motion that the organisation we were meant to work with didn't provide the service", said DITSU president Boni Odoemene.

"So we amended it and now we're going to have consent classes.

"It was replaced with the motion for the Welfare Officer to have the consent classes for students."

"The consent class is planning on taking this Thursday 15th in Aungier Street between 12-2pm," said VP for Welfare Roisin O'Donovan.

"We are working with our partners, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) who will be delivering this session. We are still waiting confirmation for the workshop and it's exact content as one of the staff members is sick at the moment.

"If it can't be delivered this week, will be re-

scheduled as this is such a critical issue

"The BDSM workshops didn't make it as the motion at council has emerged as part of the current 'consent' debate; this has been amend-

“

**There were no qualified facilitators available to deliver such a workshop in DIT**

ed by Student Council and now encompasses the concept in its broader terms so that it has relevance for all our members.

Katie McNamee, Chairwoman of the DIT Feminist Society, said: "There's a lot of grey area when it comes to consent and classes will help to address these areas.

"There is a lot that the wider public needs to learn and this a positive step towards fully informed decision making.



Fifty Shades of Grey promo poster // Amazon.com



# ‘Is Grangegorman real?’

Dan Grennan  
Co-Editor/Features Editor  
@dan\_grennan

A number of DIT students are starting to question if the new Grangegorman is real because of endless delays.

Students have been promised a move to the new campus as early as 2014, four years later and only a small number of students are based on the property which has been referred to as “more mythical Middle Earth.” The latest deadline for the big move is 2022 but some students doubt it will ever happen.

“I don’t know boii. They have been promising us the new campus as long as I’ve been in DIT. I am starting to think the whole thing is a big rouse. I get that it is a big project to move all of DIT but jaysus lad, you’d think they’d pull the finger out and get it done,” said Kev, a renowned ‘mad dog’ and construction management student in DIT’s Bolton Street.

“I heard it’s a big ploy by Leo Varadkar and the bois to get all the students out of the city centre so they can build a load of quirky sock factories to keep up with Leo’s big demand,” Kevin went on to say.

“I heard they moved the photography students up to Grangegorman but I’ve never met a photography student. Neither have any of my mates. It seems like the it’s a big distraction so they can let all the campuses go to shite and use Grangegorman as an excuse to stop spending cash on facilities,” Kevin also said.



Questions are being asked about the elusive university, Grangegorman // DIT.ie

“**I don’t even know where it is and I am a bit too embarrassed to ask now**

The Grangegorman site is located North of Stoney Batter and is on the new Luas line. “When I started in DIT three years ago they said I would graduate in the new campus in Grangegorman. I graduate next year

and I don’t think many students will be in Grangegorman by then. The new Luas line was finished before the move and that seemed like an eternity,” said nutrition student Lisa.

“I don’t see why anyone would want to move up to Grangegorman. I am in DIT Aungier Street and can’t see why anyone would want to sacrifice the centre of town for Grangegorman. I don’t even know where it is and I am a bit too embarrassed to ask now,” Lisa went on to say.

“Now they are planning on introducing a levy to build a student centre but the

whole thing seems almost made up to me. I think it’s just another way to squeeze more money out of the student population,” Lisa added.

“The whole Grangegorman campus seems a bit like Big Foot to me. There are a load of people who say they’ve seen it but I’ve yet to see concrete evidence that it exists,” said Kev ‘mad dog’.

“It has a ring of area 51 to it man. I think DIT are holding all of Dublin’s aliens up there and if ya ask any questions some fella in a suits comes around a blanks your memory like that film,” Kev added.

# Trinity student saves the world

Dan Grennan  
Co-Editor/Features Editor  
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The Edition has learned that a Trinity College student will save the world from all global warming and pollution by drinking from a reusable coffee cup.

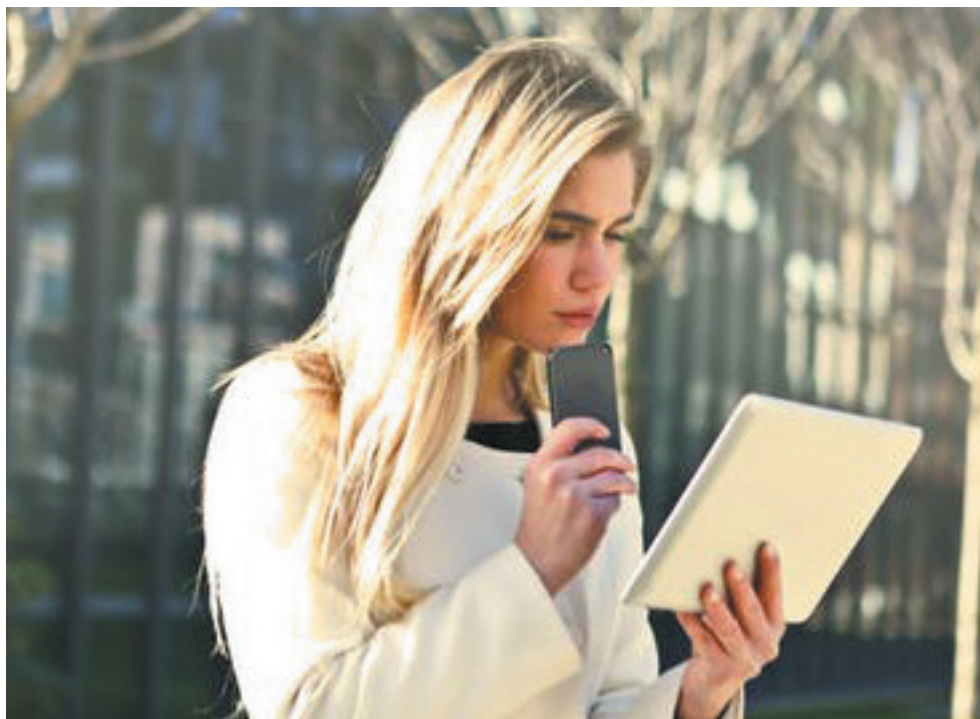
This incredible news comes in light of the talk of ‘latte levies’ from the likes of big Leo on Kildare Street, the natural role model of Trinity.

The modest hero has taken the drastic step in the face of a “throwaway culture that exists in Ireland and the rest of the Western World”, said Mia ‘Mai Tho’ Wallace.

Mia changed her name to Mia ‘Mai Tho’ Wallace after a trip to Thailand had such a ‘profound’ effect on her ‘spirituality’.

“I think it is terrible how much waste we have in Ireland. When I was in Thailand, the people there, like, I don’t know, they live a life so much closer to nature,” Mia went on to say.

When asked if she thought she could save the world, Mia said “Every journey of a thousand miles starts with one step.”



A pensive Trinity student ponders the responsibility of being our world’s saviour // Pexels

“**The modest hero has taken the drastic step in the face of a ‘throwaway culture that exists in Ireland and the rest of the Western World’**

How effective Mia’s strategy will be are yet to be proven but she is confident her efforts will have an effect, saying “It only takes one person to change the course of history, take a look at Steve Jobs, he has had a revolutionary effect on the world and he is only one person.”

“I think disposable coffee cups are the biggest challenge my generation faces, our world war in a sense. I believe we can overcome disposable coffee cups like the allies overcame the axis of evil in the 1940s,” Mia also said.



## FEATURES

# “The Danes? They’re sound”

Ever the intrepid explorer, third year journalism student Kasper Delaney Petersen has packed up and fled to his partial homeland of Denmark for the semester. Here are the first of his impressions..

It wasn't coincidence that I chose Denmark as my situation of arrival for Erasmus. A semester away in an unknown nation without a single word of the language and an insatiable lust for discovering one's true self, all riding on the back of “well, it's different than home so I'm in for a shock!” It was never really like this in truth. As soon as I was aware of the Erasmus program I knew I wanted to come to Denmark. As a technical expatriate, I hadn't been since



Kasper stumbled across a historical danish bell in Aarhus City Hall // Kasper Delaney-Petersen

2010 and I at least knew how to say hello, goodbye, and count to ten.

I also thought Denmark would not be that much of an eye-opener as I grew up ingrained in the culture. While I never learned the language, it never sounded foreign or alien to me. It was like Irish only that the devoted television stations are not absolute dogshit.

I worked ‘relatively’ hard to get my ‘almost’ 60 percent average in second year and I was ready from the beginning of third year to enter the world of almost the same price pints and cheap as dirt ciggies. I have not been this excited for the future in a long time.

I've been living up to the stereotypes of the drinking Irishman (except in relation to the Danes man, them fiends can drink like nobody's business), catching up with old friends and making new ones, and generally just enjoying life. My bank probably hates my guts and the general population of Denmark even more so (I kid...I hope) and I can honestly say I made entirely the right decision.

Of course there are differences that must be noted and while not few and far between, they are immediately noticeable but also easily adapted to. It is here that I will attempt to illustrate the difference between the Irish and the Danish, or lack thereof.

While speaking to a Dane in the student



bar, after

men - tioning that I thought the Danish were wonderful people, I was asked what the difference between the Irish and the Danish really was. I thought for a moment. Ever since I arrived the people of Denmark were unbelievably friendly, so nice in fact, that I thought they felt pity on me for my immeasurably dumbfounded demeanour.

So, I replied, the difference between the Irish and the Danish is that we are both super nice to foreigners most of the time, but the Irish people really fucking hate each other at the best of times. The Dane

just laughed and replied, “So do we”.

I will admit that my perception of the Danish had been skewed, not unfavourably, but enough to garner a bit of a shock once I started talking to others. It is true that my interactions with my own Danish family gave me an impression not entirely false, but quite off the mark (kind

of like when you have family in a different county so you judge your perception of the rest of the people from that area on your own biased knowledge of your relation).

All I can say is, coming to Denmark is an experience in and of itself and I would recommend it to anyone looking for a bit of craic and getting horrifically drunk many times during the week. Sounds like home, doesn't it?

Photo credit: Kasper immerses himself in the Danish culture // Kasper's Instagram

## Casual work and students

Dan Grennan  
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Nearly half of employed young people in Ireland do precarious work which has ‘numerous negative effects’ according to mounting research.

One study commissioned by the National Youth Council of Ireland found 47% of working 18-29 year olds are on non-standard or precarious contracts in Ireland.

“The insecurity and lack of predictability of hours was a key negative implication which was facilitated by employees’ lack of control over hours,” was one finding from a report into ‘zero hour contracts’ by University of Limerick(UL).

“A second negative implication raised by interviewees related to financial implica-

tions, specifically, that a lack of predictable hours leads to unstable income,” the UL report also said.

“Trade unions highlighted the negative effects of unpredictable work for employees in terms of unstable income, a lack of integration into the workplace and an imbalance of power in the employment relationship,” the UL report found.

Another report from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions found that such “a mounting body of evidence demonstrates that precarious employment has numerous negative effects on the wellbeing of workers and that of their families.”

Some college students are working up to 50 hours a week in while taking full-time courses.

“You get very little sleep and you live off

coffee. You don't see people(friends) and if you do it is for only a couple of hours a day,” said DIT student Danú Connolly-Fanning who averages 45 hours a week in rockets on Baggot street.

A common complaint of working students is how difficult it is to plan your life while doing precarious work as well as going to college.

“I find it really difficult to plan my life. There's never a day that I'm not in college or work and I have very little spare time except for the middle of the night. The last time I had a totally free day was hurricane ophelia because both the college and work had to be shut,” said an NCAD student and service industry worker who didn't want her name published in fear of her being fired.

“At least once a week I have to skip college to go to work, even though my manager is aware that I have to do this,” the NCAD student said.

“I was obsessed with money. I used to love going out every week with my mates so I always wanted money but it was getting to a point where I was like I can't do anything. I was set to three days a week were I could do things. I had a social life I wanted to

pursue too, so I was going manic last year trying to do it all,” said Conor Shields a DIT student and former bookmaker employee.

Another common complaint is getting called in on your day off with Danú Connolly-Fanning “turning her phone off on days off” to avoid calls from her employer.

“My concern in relation to precarious work and ‘if and when contracts’ as we call them, is that when they become the norm we have a problem,” said Ged Nash, spokesperson for employment in the Labour party and Commissioner of the University of Limerick study on ‘Zero Hour Contracts’.

“All of the power lies in the hands of the employer,” he added.

“I think the imbalance of power used guilt as a weapon. They would say ‘well it's in there [the roster]’ even if you booked it off months in advance and ‘remember that time you didn't come in for me’ and ‘remember it swings and roundabouts, said Mr Shields

“My hours were never cut for refusing to come in on my day off but as a result of refusing my manager simply gave me more hours than I could manage with college.”





Our Editor-in-chief throwing some shapes on the Workmans Club dancefloor found on the Quays // The Workmans Club

# Are you sick of Harcourt street?

**Tired of the cramped dancefloors and overly priced entrance fees on Harcourt street, Dan Grennan moseyed across the city, sampling some of the other delightful drinking emporiums our capital has to offer**

**H**ave you had enough of the expensive drinks, cover charges, rammed dancefloors and top 40 chart tunes that cover the length of Harcourt street? If so here are a few alternative nights out that can freshen up your social life.

Having done my time on Harcourt street in first year and gotten sick of it, here are a few other places I have found since.

Somewhere in the Workmans club. It's a personal favourite of mine, the Workmans club on the Quays offers up cheap drinks (€4 pints of heineken, 3 sol for €12) and a fantastic variety of alternative tunes. Plus, very sound bouncers! DJ Deece downstairs brings the best of disco, funk and soul while DJ Trev throws out alternative, rock and punk upstairs. I can say with quite a large degree of personal experience, the Workmans club offers one of the best student nights in Dublin with a variety of tunes and affordable drinks. The smoking area is quiet enough for conversation which is nice. It's free entry before 11pm and only €5 after. Fibber McGees. It has to be of the best boozers in town if you ask me. It's great if you're looking for a couple of pints and a few games of pool to chill out. The pints of Guinness are class and you can't go wrong with a €12.50 pitcher of fosters!

One of the most eclectic venue/pub/clubs in town in terms of people and music. The focal point of the smoking area is a pool table that must be worth more than Michael O'Leary because the queue is always massive after six o'clock.

The theme of the place is metal but don't let that stop you. The people are really friendly and makes for a refreshing night out.

Yamamori Izakaya. A little Japanese sushi bar by day and basement techno bunker by night. Situated on George's Street right next door to the Globe, there's no cover charge and it has funky japanese art and movie posters all over the place.

The drink is expensive but it's worth it just to experience the place with always enough space to show off your moves to the choons of some great DJs.

Xicos. It's a fantastic Mexican-themed restaurant/nightclub with some crazy drinks. Shout out to the Bulldog!

The Bowery, Rathmines. The Bowery is probably one of the most unique spots in town. Shaped like a boat made with wood from an old British Navy ship, combined with great live bands and DJs every weekend, makes it a top spot for a night on the lash.

Being a ship, it is naturally a rum bar with some delicious rum infusions (mango and chilli my personal favourite). I have to admit I am a bit biased on this having worked there,

but it's still a top notch venue and bar. Drop dead twice. Bring your own booze cocktail bar. You bring the spirits and the staff at Drop Dead Twice will mix you custom cocktails. Brilliant craic is always had and it's a great mix up from your standard pints and shorts.

The Ruby sessions in Doyles. There's a lovely, intimate acoustic gig here every Tuesday. This night has been running for 16 years and has had some of the biggest names in music in attendance from James Blunt to Glen Hansard.

“

**You bring the spirits and the staff at Drop Dead Twice will mix you custom cocktails. Brilliant craic is always had and it's a great mix up from your standard pints and shorts**



## FEATURES

Maryam Madani investigates the world of sex robots, their future within our society and the consequences they will have on sexual human relationships. On her journey, she ventures into Good Vibrations to discuss the matter with a local salesman and looks to the future with guidance from a technologist

# (S)ex Machi The future of



Another sex robot partaking in human activities // Instagram

**M**y commute to Aungier St leads me past the neon pink façade of Good Vibrations. I've never taken more than a lingering peek inside. But today, I find myself in the backroom, with a fully naked, life-sized and disarmingly life-like doll sitting spread-eagled on a chair in front of me. She is anatomically correct, Asian in appearance, with dark hair and white pinkish-tinged silicone skin and is for sale at 450 euro a pop.

Gary says that he has had a few customers buying them, apart from the internet, it seems his store is the only place in Dublin selling them. He says "It hasn't taken off here because they're (simply) not here yet. I think if they went on sale and were out there, they would sell."

Sex dolls equipped with robotic parts that have the ability to move and speak with AI programming are not popular in Ireland yet but they are becoming increasingly popular in the US, UK, China and other parts of Europe.

They are bringing with them a wave of concern for the future of human relationships. Dr. David Levy, author of "Love and Sex with Robots" has said "I believe that humans will want to marry robots by about the year 2050."

The dolls are generally marketed towards those who are lonely or have difficulty with social interactions. As Doug Hines, founder of the "original" sexbot, has put it: "We're in the business of giving people unconditional love. And that means helping people to find something they're missing, whether it's companionship, social interaction, whether it's a sexual aspect."

There is concern that their use may damage our capacity to form relationships with each other.

Gary is not so sure. He feels that to a certain extent, a customer is likely "pre-exposed into whatever condition he's in, before he even buys the sex doll. The problem is evident before he even makes the purchase, be it loneliness, or a personal fantasy. It's a chicken and egg thing". He

“

**There is concern that their use may damage our capacity to form relationships with each other**

does worry that a robot might "enable them to stay in that position, of not socialising"

In her thesis on Sex Robots, Carmen McNerney Quigley tracks the development of sex robots, and how men have always dreamed of creating the ideal woman. In Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in 8 A.D, Pygmalion, who had grown tired of human women and

created Galatea, with whom he fell in love with and became obsessed with dressing, cleaning, and bedding. Venus eventually brought her to life. The concept of creating perfect beings to bonk or fall in love with has never left our cultural imagination, from works as modern as *Ex Machina*, "Her", *Blade Runner*, *Weird Science* and even the *Bride of Frankenstein*.

"The thing is, is the ideal which you imagine actually truly what's ideal?" asks Ben Field, a technologist at Tog Hackerspace in Dublin with work in the field of robotics. "We're the worst judges of our own character: we're narcissistic, we frame ourselves in the best possible light, and really a partner who challenges and complements you, while also contradicts parts of your personality, is what makes life more interesting for people, because no one likes predictability. Being kept on your toes makes things much more interesting. "I think if you were given the partner that you had formed, sculpted, crafted to be what you imagined it to be,



# na: Sex robots and of human relationships



Sex robot for sale in Good Vibrations on Aungier Street // Maryam Madani



Lars and the Real Girl: Ryan Gosling seeks companionship in the form of the life-like doll Bianca // Facebook

“

**Having a companion that is incapable of taking advantage of you and is focused solely on your well-being would be advantageous in a rehabilitation/trauma setting**

you would get bored of it very quickly. And then you'd probably get quite dark.”

Gary isn't sure whether the doll would satisfy sadistic urges: “I think from a psychological standpoint, it wouldn't be release at all. It's just an object, there's no reaction, there's no feeling of power if that's what they're seeking.”

The Campaign Against Sex Robots bases much of its criticism on a feminist standpoint, fearing that the dolls may normalise violence against women, and encourage literal objectification of women.

One only has to look at the porn-inspired bodies of the biggest manufacturer, RealDoll, to understand the concern. Their dolls are fully customizable from skin tone to vagina lips. Ben wonders if pornography and the mainstream media “are more the cause of concern in forcing this narrative and image on people: “I think the manufacturers would just be following suit” The potential positive uses as sex therapy dolls are already being assessed, not just for the lonely but for paedophiles, for the

disabled, the elderly in care homes. Ben can see some potential here: “For example, having a companion that is incapable of taking advantage of you and is focused solely on your well-being would be advantageous in a rehabilitation/trauma setting.” But with some areas including paedophilia, he is concerned that “you're substituting and possibly reinforcing that behaviour”.

Gary thinks that we tend to “jump on the negative” in assessing these things and he's “sure it can have some positive benefits”.

In the 2007 film “Lars and the Real Girl”, starring Ryan Gosling, we see a positive interpretation of the possibilities of sex dolls, as a way for a lonely person to transition to intimate relationships with real people.

As to whether we should fear this technology replacing our intimate relationships, ultimately Ben thinks “there are traits in humans which can't be emulated. I hesitate to use the word “Soul for it's spiritual/religious connotations, but

it's the most appropriate. Until we have AI that

are capable of independent thought, creativity and a degree of emotional intelligence, then I can't see it working.

When we get to the point that AI are capable of such things, and robots that are suitably life like - I think we will have more pressing issues to handle, namely the existential crisis of a race of sentient beings that are vastly stronger and faster than ourselves that could see us as inferior or as a threat. Not unlike Homo Sapiens and the Neanderthal.

Although we will continue to see technology being used to commodify every aspect of our lives, Ben still thinks it's important to stop and ask these questions.

“It's at the point where the march of technology is inexorable, it will continue whether or not we want it to because there are vested interests, people need to make a bottom line and they're going to try and use more and more invasive means to make that money. Im-

agine if you have an ad-supported sex robot, trying to sell you things while you're using it?

Technology is going in this direction: how do we feel about it and what do we want to do about it?”



Carmen McNerney Quigley, author of 'The Dangers of Sex Robots' // Buster Duffy



# OPINION



**This month our resident ranter, Rob O'Halloran is a little peeved at the tax man. Detailing his experience with the revenue office, he has some choice words for Ireland's financial sector**

**T**he people who smile at the idea of sorting their tax are the same people who have baths with their da. €3,000 worth of fees, two jobs, no grants, no back to education dole. I'm not the only one. I'm also not the only one who may as well have a direct debit with Wishbone, or Boojum, but sure something has to keep us going.

Thankfully, the ever helpful people of the revenue commission have ensured that you have to sort your tax credits all by your helpless student self. Sounds easy. You can do it online!

All you need is your password to be delivered to you in the post (probably by Hedwig) and you are ready to go.

Revenue.ie is like that book you have

to read but just can't. There's text, and writing, and text. A couple of burnt eye sockets later, and you're laughing; you won't know why. Anyone who studied

**“The people who smile at the idea of sorting their tax are the same people who have baths with their da**

economics in school will get serious CSO vibes. But alas, good things come to those who wait, and wait, and wait, and wait some more.

Heavily taxed payslips continue to infiltrate your emails, before you lose patience. Try emailing them and it won't work. Just ignore their wishes and go to the tax office. Go meet the people who are taking more than you owe; they'll have no emails to hide behind. If you want to appreciate the little things in life again, just pop in.

A trip to the tax office is as sobering experience as ever. The waiting area resembles a hybrid of your local GP's office and Argos. Yep. Get your ticket and they'll be with you in a moment (hour). Red numbers pop up on screen accompanied by a doorbell sound, as if hearing your own

at home isn't enough to make you think "ah for feck's sake".

The wait is akin to that sweaty, crowded 8am bus journey that never ends. You sit there,

hoping it'll all be over soon. Humidity and borderline silence. No Wi-Fi, no newspapers, no hope. You can keep informed via a couple of miniscule monitors and the monotonous British tones of Sky News, if that's your fix. I didn't think 'out of service' water coolers existed until I went. I had never even thought about it. There's nothing worse than losing more than half of your payslip, knowing that you'll have to claim it back. It sucks. It's adult stuff, but just do it. Administration and responsibility is our future. We're getting old and our vessels are emptying. Have a good one.

## Put your money where your memes are

Dan Grennan

Co-Editor/Features Editor  
@dan\_grennan

Millennial comrades, are you sick of being bashed by the media for being 'lazy 'snowflakes,' while also facing shite jobs, a ridiculous housing market and being the first generation to be worse off than their parents in decades?

I urge you to organise yourselves and work together to fight the neoliberal chains set upon us by Thatcher and the Tories in the 80s.

Facebook pages like "Sassy socialist memes" have become very popular, and with it they bring socialists ideas that contradict the current status quo.

While engaging with socialist ideas through memes on social media platforms, why not take real action and join a workers

union, or better yet, start your own.

At the core of neoliberalism, is the idea that society is a group of individuals, and as Thatcher said "there is no such thing as society: there are individual men and women, and there are families".

This ideology makes it easy for big businesses to take advantage of the 'labour market' (people), because it prevents any unity in society. This is evident in trade and work unions, who have low membership rates, particularly amongst young people.

Over one third of young Irish people are employed in precarious work, according to a Red C poll conducted by the National Youth Council of Ireland.

"Precarious employment has numerous negative effects on the well-being of workers and that of their families", according to 'Insecure & Uncertain'; Precarious Work in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ire-

land' a study carried out by the trade unions of Ireland.

You don't need to go as far as looking at studies to confirm this. In your circle of friends, there are probably one or two that hate their job and find it difficult, or impossible to balance work and study.

The best way to fight this is through collective bargaining and joining together to fight as one for better working condition and better work.

Neoliberalism is conducive to a profit-driven economy, because it views society as an economy with surpluses and deficits, rather than a society with actual people.

The Irish people fell victim to British neoliberalism before. During the years 1845 - 1852, when the British chose to export Irish crops for profit, instead of letting the Irish have them when the potato failed, which was the only food available to a lot of the

poor Irish. They only saw markets and profits and not the masses of starving Irish.

Britain is now seeing the consequences of long-term neoliberalism - the collapse of the Carillion and the failing Private Financing Initiative, the Grenfell tower disaster and the failing NHS.

The British youth have reacted to this by voting for Jeremy Corbyn's Labour in the largest youth vote to hit the voting booth in years. Corbyn offers up good opposition to neoliberalism, with his preference to make infrastructure publicly owned as opposed to private and his slogan 'for the many, not the few'.

Ireland saw the power of the youth vote in the marriage equality referendum, and if we organise ourselves we can slap the head off neoliberalism and develop a society for people not economies.



# Get in the B1MM

Ciara Brennan details some stand out acts, and exciting upcoming gigs to look forward to from our noisy neighbours over on Francis Street

Want to keep your finger on the pulse and know what bands are hip and cool this year? Well I've got the list for you! We've got to support local music the best we can: follow your friends' band on Instagram, like their videos on Facebook or add their songs to your playlists on Spotify. Here are some fellow D.I.T. students that are currently making waves in the Irish music scene, and are people to look out for this year. Check out their new releases and head on out to a gig.

**LE BOOM**  
Chris and Aimie make up electronic duo LE BOOM, who are taking the Irish music scene by storm. Their energetic performances and catchy songs have been a hit with critics. After their Electric Picnic 2017 set, The Irish Times wrote: "Le Boom destroyed the Body and Soul main stage and made waiting in the rain until 3am on Sunday morning entirely worth it." Over the last 2 years they have played shows all over Ireland, Iceland and New York. Their song "What We Do" has been used in advertisements for Vodafone and Absolut Vodka. In November the duo released their latest single 'Don't Need It Now' on Spotify and Bandcamp. Recently they've announced a London gig and their biggest Dublin headline show in the Button Factory which will take place April 7th (This is definitely a gig you won't want to miss).

**St. Bishop**  
St. Bishop is an Irish electronic and R&B pop artist. His music fuses elements of soul, experimental and alternative pop, taking cues from similar acts such as NAO, James Blake and Will Heard. After learning piano at the age of 19, the R&B singer illustrates a

sense of coming-of-age after struggling with self-acceptance issues and reiterating them into his new smooth and sleek sound. St. Bishop began working with producer Seán Behan (A Place Called Kai) in early 2016, recording the personal and polished songs that form St.Bishop's distinctive, vibrant sound. After months of carefully cogitating his sound, the debut single, 'Porcelain', was released on October 27th via A Place Called Kai. St. Bishop is set to play his biggest headline show to date on February 19th in the Sound House, tickets are available through Eventbrite.

**Vernon Jane**  
Vernon Jane are a Jazz Punk band from Dublin, who have grown from strength to strength since their first EP release 'The

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**Maria spent many years crafting and developing her sound into a delicate blend of atmospheric-alt-folk**

Inner Workings Of A Damaged Nobody' in 2016. The release led to a sold-out show in The Opium Rooms, and multiple festival appearances including Electric Picnic, Body & Soul, Liverpool Sound City, and a headline slot at Knockanstockan in 2016. 2017 brought Vernon Jane's biggest success thus far in their single 'Fuck Me'. The animated video for 'Fuck Me' went viral



across multiple web-sites including Reddit and NewGrounds which resulted in the views of the video increasing from 5,000 to 50,000 overnight on YouTube. This publicity led to contact from a record label in China, 'Pocket Records', and the band have recently signed a deal which will see their music distributed across multiple platforms in the growing Chinese market. However, it is Vernon Jane's live show which has people coming back for more. The intensity, creativity and hard work Vernon Jane put in behind the scenes is the reason why they sold out Whelan's Main Room with the release of their single 'Fuck Me' in early 2017. After a summer of song writing in New York and finishing the year with over 100,000 plays on Spotify, Vernon Jane have set themselves the task of selling out The Sugar Club for their upcoming release on 7th April 2018. Keep an ear out and get a ticket for a live experience that you won't forget!

**Maria Kelly**  
Maria arrived in 2015 with the delicate 'Before It Has Begun' (Veta Records) before playing the Other Voices Music Trail. Growing up in Mayo, Ireland, Maria spent many years crafting and developing her sound into a delicate blend of

atmospheric-alt-folk. 'Stitches' (Veta Records) followed, praised by the 405 and quickly named one of 'The 50 Best Tracks of 2016' in The Irish Times. The track went on to garner an impressive 160,000 streams on Spotify. In 2017, Maria was named one of '50 People to Watch' in The Irish Times, which was followed by the release of her debut EP, 'The Things I Should'. The four track EP, produced by Matt Harris (HAWK) has received praise from various online publications including Wonderland, Mahogany and The Line of Best Fit. Live, Maria has toured extensively across the UK and Ireland supporting the likes of KT Tunstall, James Vincent McMorrow, Marc Cohn and Billie Marten. So far in 2018, Maria has spent some time in Berlin performing, recording and writing new tracks. She has also performed alongside acts such as Saint Sister and Lisa Hannigan as part of the 'Imagining Ireland: 21st Century Song' concert that took place in the National Concert Hall. Next for Maria is a Dublin gig on February 15th at Fumbally Stables and a London date on March 5th. Maria's gorgeous lyrics will draw you in, and her live shows will warm you up and make you feel a spectrum of emotions making her a no-brainer for this list.

## Why not listen to your fellow students

Fontaines D.C.  
Farah Elle  
TooFools  
Akora  
Bicurious  
Chasing Abbey  
The Girl Talk  
KANDCE  
LAOISE  
JOOCE  
Search Party Animal

Rock for Rag, in association with DITSU, Whelan's Main Room, Feb 20th. Doors 8pm. Tickets €5 (Cheap list/Eventbrite) // €7 on the door.  
  
St. Bishop, The Sound House, Feb 19th. Doors 7:30pm. Tickets early bird €5 + booking fee// GA €7 + booking fee (Eventbrite)  
  
WeBloom 2nd Birthday bash, Akora/ Farah Elle/ Travis Is A Tourist, The Workman's Club, Feb 27th. Doors 8pm. Tickets early bird €5 + booking fee (Eventbrite)

## Upcoming gigs

Blue Fish Diamond, The Workman's Club, Feb 28th. Doors 8pm. Tickets €5  
Garageland presents Kyro Jones, The Grand Social, March 1st. Doors 7:45pm. Tickets €10.  
  
JOOCE, East Side Tavern, March 8th. Doors 8pm. Tickets €5 Cheap list// €7  
Search Party Animal, Whelan's, March 9th. Doors 8pm. Tickets €15.35 + booking fee from Ticketmaster  
  
TooFools, The Bowery, March 16th. Doors

8pm. Tickets €12.50 +booking fee from www.bowery.ie  
  
BIMM Dublin Midnight Hour Sessions, Whelan's Upstairs, Thursday nights (semi-regularly, check 'the Manuscript' Facebook page for more details) Doors 11:45pm. Free Entry.

**Ciara recommends**  
We-Bloom, The Workman's Club, a bi-weekly gig held on a Monday night, 3 acts, good pints (and Wow Burger upstairs). Doors 8pm. Free entry.



## CULTURE

# Altered Carbon: a gritty dystopian future



Altered carbon presents a grim take on immortality, set in a dystopian future // Netflix

Robert Geoghagen

Altered Carbon is an American science-fiction television series created by Laeta Kalogridis, adapting Richard K. Morgan's sci-fi novel of the same name from 2002.

The series takes place over 350 years in the future, in the year 2384. In this world, people's consciousnesses are contained in "stacks", storage devices attached to the back of a person's neck. Physical bodies are turned into "sleeves", mere disposable ves-

sels. Essentially, Altered Carbon is set in a future where a person's consciousness can live forever.

Mankind has colonised planets beyond our solar system and their advanced technology effectively renders them immortal in theory. In practice, only the wealthiest get to live forever. The sleeve is an engineered human body, a blank slate of sorts. The stack is kind of like a portable hard

drive for human personality. Everyone has a stack, and if their body dies, they can just load their stack into a new sleeve.

Takeshi Kovacs, portrayed by Joel Kinnaman, is killed and wakes up 250 years later in the body of Elias Ryker, a former cop who quickly comes in contact with another police officer named Kristin Ortega (played by Martha Higareda).

Kovacs is an ex-Envoy, a military unit formed to cope with the challenge of interstellar warfare. Kovacs, finds himself working for Laurens Bancroft, a so-called "Meth," or Methuselah, one of the one-percenters that can afford to keep his stack in circulation from now until the end of time.

Bancroft offers Takeshi a small fortune and a full pardon to investigate a murder - his own murder... While police ruled it a suicide, Bancroft is convinced he was murdered and wants Kovacs to find out the truth. Each episode is packed with valuable information that will slowly unravel the complex story. Kovacs also has flashbacks that are interspersed through the story.

Altered Carbon's main issue is its way of storytelling. It is a Cyberpunk show that alludes to different philosophical concepts. It is an ambitious, convoluted, violent and derivative. It raises provocative questions about the social implications of turning people's souls into transferable digital files, but piles so much exposition and so many

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**Altered Carbon goes from one exposition filled scene to another, only solving the problems it raises through action**

story lines on top of everything that it doesn't really work.

It wants to tell so many stories, it seems to get lost within its need for action. Altered Carbon goes from one exposition filled scene to another, only solving the problems it raises through action. And perhaps that is the point, the show opens by saying not to believe everything you see. And proceeds to tell us that everyone can be anyone.

## Dark and dreary

Jenny Murphy Byrne

Production Editor  
@jenny\_mb

Dark is a time-travel, whodunit thriller set in the German town of Winden. The small, myopic community is shrouded in mystery and deceit as the billowing columns of the nuclear plant tower over it.

The residents are left reeling when several local kids go missing, and later turn up dead. Concerned, yet comically neglectful, parents are gradually ripped apart by grief and doubt.

As Jonas - the main protagonist - struggles to cope with his father's death, he accompanies his mates on a late-night mission to unearth some hidden weed, stashed by one of the missing boys. Things only get more complicated when Mikkell Nielsen apparently vanishes into thin air and winds up in 1986.

As the narrative shifts between the present and the 1980s, complemented by the synth-heavy score, it's easy to compare Dark to the equally stylish Stranger Things. And while both shows are deeply nuanced, Dark undoubtedly nabbed thematic strokes from the popular series.

Dark is visually unique: revealing character motivations and backstory through slick edits, underpinned by the soundtrack's

haunting German vocals. But its narrative is less alluring. After the disappearances, that initial attraction soon fades, and slowly dissolves into a meandering mess. Characters suddenly become deranged, making highly-questionable decisions.

As the series reaches its latter stages, you will scoff with disgust by the writers' choices. After hours of dedication, speculation, twists and turns, you're rewarded with an 'it was all for nothing' conclusion. And while the final scene crudely hints at a second season, viewers may be apprehensive about stepping back into the Dark.

Though the similarities to Stranger Things can, at times, be distracting. Netflix should have had more sense to tone down the echoes of its other disappearing children show, allowing Dark to stand on its own.

If you're intrigued, however, I highly recommend switching from dubbed to subbed. Seeing the characters mouths moving out of time with the words can be unsettling. Also, watching a show in a foreign language, you're less likely to pick up your phone and deep scroll Instagram.



Protagonist Jonas explores the myserious woods of Winden // Netflix



# The Academic fly the flag in 2018

Caileam Raleigh

he Mullingar group's first substantial outing, 'Tales From The Backseat', has been a long time coming. Their debut single "Different" hit the airwaves in April 2015, followed later that year by the "Loose Friends" EP. Since then, the boys have gone from strength to strength and gathered a sizeable international fan base, as well as some notable supporting slots with indie-rock giants The Kooks and Catfish and The Bottlemen.

"Tales From The Backseat" blasts off with a traditional indie-rock banger in "Permanent Vacation", a song so heavily laden in sappy Summer-like hooks that you can already hear the crack of the first can of festival season ripple up the hairs on your arms.

Next, we bounce into the already viral icon of "Bear Claws", which was brought to life in a trippily-slick Facebook live video last year.

The "ay-oh" bridge of this song can be deceiving, as there is genuine substance to the lyrics of the choruses and verses in this story of late-teen rebel love.

However, this is when the album hits its major stumbling block. "Different", arguably the band's biggest hit to date, follows next. The band have fallen into the trap of over exposure prior to the re-



The Academic's sound harks back to the indie explosion of the mid 00s //

lease of their debut. We have already worn out "Different" before we even first hear it on an album, just like we have with the two tracks before it and with "Northern Boy" and "Why Can't We Be Friends?" further down the line. This almost detracts from the quality of the intermittent album tracks, such as the bouncy "Bite My Tongue" and sturdy album closer "Girlfriends".

This issue is reinforced by the fact that the album's stand-out track, "Why Can't We Be Friends?", was released in the weeks preceding the album. While this song is the perfect combination of a heavy riff and a punchy chorus that is sure to make it a live favourite, we find ourselves bemoaning the same sentiment – It's great, but we've heard it all before. Anemoia is defined as a nostalgic longing for a time which you have never experienced, and it is rife within The Aca-

demic's debut LP. This album feels like a sonic embodiment of that bizarre feeling of a lack of cultural identity that those of us born between the years of 1995 and 2000 often feel. We were too young to experience the 90's, and yet somehow feel as if we belong to them too. We weren't quite teenagers during that early 00's boom of indie-pop/rock heralded by the likes of The Strokes, Arctic Monkeys and Franz Ferdinand. Whenever we discovered those bands, we were not quite present for the initial explosion of the first new energy guitar music had since Britpop. While "Tales From The Backseat" feels in parts the continuation of this quirky energy, it also feels as though it could be heralding the beginning of something new, however that is quite a big "could be". All eyes to album two.

## Julien Baker: lyrically dark but sonically uplifting

Jesse Melia  
Culture Editor  
@emeliac

Julien Baker's second album, *Turn Out The Lights*, is much like her debut, *Sprained Ankle*. The music is sparse and minimal – chiming guitar supporting Baker's warm and emotive vocals. And lyrically, she lays her emotional state bare in raw detail.

But while her maiden effort was a pretty series of sketches, this new work is on a whole other plain. While she's added some extra instrumentation – some cello and piano – the music is still stripped back and restrained. But this doesn't negate any of the music's power. While lyrically, the album's gaze is set inward, the music feels powerful and expansive. Musically, *Turn Out The Lights* is borderline hypnotic. Many of the songs are underpinned with spiraling, lovely guitar lines. Baker's voice has a pure, resonating quality, which perfectly compliments her confessional lyrics.

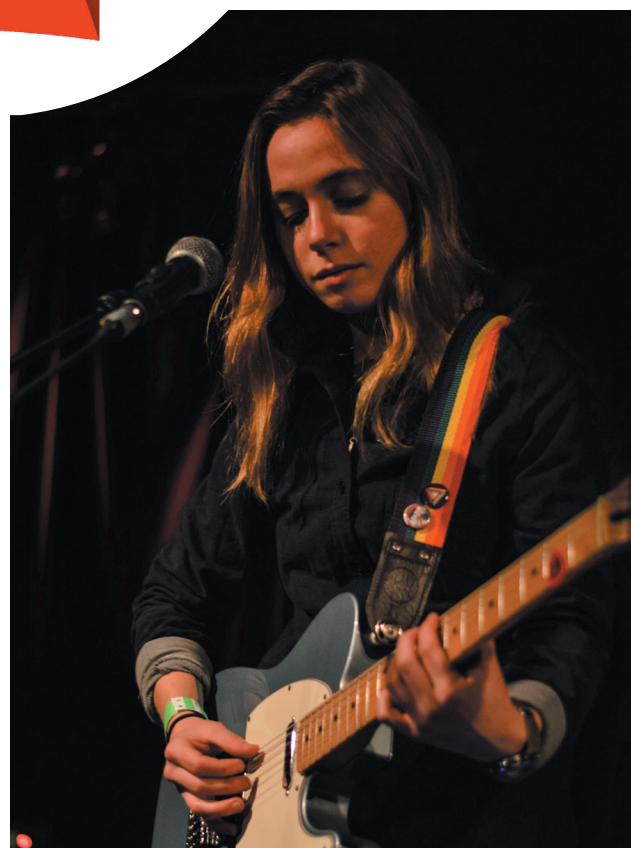
The album's lead single, also titled *Turn Out The Lights*, is a perfect example of Baker's impressive craft. It starts with a gorgeous, simple guitar, and Baker's clear, evocative vo-

cals paint a picture of her mental state. While, her lyrical sentiment seems raw, almost bleak, the music offers an affecting counterpoint. It builds and builds, eventually reaching a crescendo where Baker's vocals soar, and her guitars crash – it's an emotionally stirring song, and what's most impressive, is that the rest of the album manages to live up to it.

Lyrically, mental illness is a recurring theme. "If I could do what I want I would become an electrician. I'd climb inside my ears, and I would rearrange the wires in my brain. A different me would be inhabiting this body. I'd have two cars, a garage, a job, and I would go to church on Sunday," she sings on another album highlight, *Happy to be Here*.

In *Hurt Less*, possibly the album's best song, she details crashing through the windshield of her car – she pictures the event, and her soul floating away, backed my sweet, heart churning piano.

If these lyrical samples sound depressing, it's because they are. *Turn Out The Lights* is an emotionally heavy journey, but it's a testament to the quality of Julien Baker's songwriting that it's a journey that's worth taking.



Julien Baker performing in Whelans on Wexford Street // She Bop Imagery, The Thin Air.



## CULTURE



Hugh Jackman returns to his stage roots in the Greatest Showman Photo credit // Netflix

# Hugh Jackman seizes the stage

Jessica Keller

**T**he Greatest Showman is a dazzling cinematic experience filled with laughs, heartbreak and a little song or two.

This musical film follows the life of P.T. Barnum [Hugh Jackman], the son of a tailor who dreams of a future far away from his plain and tedious life. Barnum's wife, Charity [Michelle Williams], is happy with their humble and simple life but Barnum has his eyes set on being able to provide the best for his family and with this, the legacy of P.T. Barnum is born.

The film begins with a bang accompanied by one of the film's best songs. Director, Michael Gracey, made excellent use of foreshadowing by showing the viewer the extraordinary life in store for Barnum and then scrapes it back to his childhood. From this moment, you can tell that the direction of this film is going to be brilliant and let me tell you, it does not disappoint.

The camera work is truly stunning. Each scene transitions beautifully, and there is no stopping and starting with the movement; the camera makes the whole storyline glide as one.

The Greatest Showman features nine

songs written by the dynamic duo, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, who brought you the music of the award-winning film La La Land and Broadway's hit musical Dear Evan Hansen.

Yes, the film is set in the 1800s and yes, the music is written in a modern 21st century style, but don't let that sway you as each song fits into the spectacle wonderfully. Well, with one exception. Unfortunately, Michelle Williams' solo song 'Tightrope' did not fit very well.

Feeling distant from her husband, the idea for this song had potential but sadly, it was not executed in a way that worked with the rest of the film. With that being said, the song 'The Greatest Show' will leave you humming days after you have seen the film and the Grammy-winning song 'This is Me' will leave you in tears. There will be a lot of tears.

A handful of actors in this film that were pleasantly surprising. Hugh Jackman was not one of these because he always pleases, but if we compare his singing in 'Les Misérables' (2013) to The Greatest Showman, he suited the voice of P.T. Barnum a lot better than Jean Valjean.

Zac Efron has made some questionable

movies in the last few years but his performance as the playwright, Phillip Carlyle, left a lasting impression.

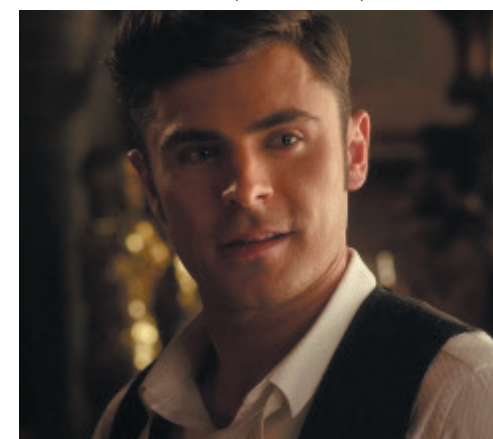
You may know Zendaya from Disney Channel's 2010 show, Shake It Up or more recently Spider-man: Homecoming.



Zendaya also featured in 2017 film Spider-man: Homecoming // 20th Century Fox

Although Zendaya has a short list of film experiences, her interpretation of performer, Anne Wheeler, was very enjoyable and her duet with Efron 'Rewrite the Stars' is spectacular.

The Greatest Showman is a very entertaining film with lovable characters and memorable songs with musical numbers that reflect the authentic amazement of live circus performances. Spending a couple of hours watching this film would definitely be worth your while.



Zac Efron as playwright Phillip Carlyle // 20th Century Fox



# The 8th Amendment: the past and future

The upcoming referendum on the 8th Amendment highlights the friction between modern Ireland, and its conservative, Catholic past.



"The news story of Ann Lovett's death, as published in the Irish Times, pictured is Ann Lovett's best friend Mary Maguire // Irish Times

Aoife Kearns

The upcoming referendum on the 8th Amendment has made abortion a hot topic of conversation. Coming from a rural, catholic upbringing, discussing the possibilities makes for some difficult and conflicting conversations with family members and friends alike. A week ago, I had a conversation with my mother about what it was like for a young pregnant woman in her generation.

At that time, there was minimal, if any sexual education. For the information given, it focused more on abstinence and sex only in marriage rather than help, support and safety. After she said this, she recalled the one time she ever heard the words "If you need to talk" or "if anyone needs help" regarding unplanned pregnancies, this was following the tragic death of Ann Lovett.

34 years ago, the 15 year old school girl from Grennard, Co. Longford died giving birth after an 8 month hidden pregnancy. Alone in a grotto under the statue of Our Lady, the young girl suffered a postpartum hemorrhage and passed away shortly after giving birth to her stillborn child. The tragic event was national news and members of the public truly sympathised with the young school girl.

Although this is a story that will never be forgotten for the people of that generation, it was one that many young people are not familiar with. The day I decided to research Ann's tragic death, like a strange sign I looked at the date in which she passed away, January 31st 1984, it was 34 years to the day. Just 4 months previous to her death, the 8th amendment was introduced following

the abortion referendum of 1983.

How much have things changed? There are still people out there that won't support a pregnant woman in making whatever decision she wants to make in an unplanned pregnancy. The 8th amendment, which was introduced just before the death of Ann, still limits access for women seeking an abortion. It could be financial difficulties, lack of family support, or shame limiting women from traveling to Britain. For those who do make the choice to terminate their pregnancy, the support for them is abysmal, and the trauma of their journey which is described as feeling "like a criminal" lives forever.

Some people say that something like the death of Ann could never happen

“  
Some people say  
that something like  
the death of Ann could  
never happen again,  
yet the impact of a conservative, religious and  
shame ridden Ireland  
still lurks in our minds

again, yet the impact of a conservative, religious and shame ridden Ireland still lurks in our minds. There are still babies being abandoned on roadways like baby Maria found in Rathcoole in 2015. This week a brave young woman from Waterford named Ruby Potter

talked about the abortion she had as a teenager on her social media accounts. She received overwhelming support for sharing her story, but also some horrific comments from some people, especially many older people.

You can pretend Ireland has drastically changed and that we live in a society that would shower a young girl with support in an unplanned pregnancy. However most people would have to question how true that really is. Ruby, who found herself with an unwanted pregnancy and made a difficult decision, received some unspeakable abuse from certain people. The most striking thing is that these very people are the generation that lived through the death of Ann Lovett.

Abortion is not an easy decision. In a crisis pregnancy the reasons for undertaking a termination could be some of the hardest issues someone could face in their life. Imagine the distress of a fatal foetal abnormality or rape, let alone the journey that is ahead of these women to access an abortion. Every reason is completely different, yet the decision is not one that should be put in someone else's hands. Terminating a pregnancy is an immensely difficult decision, there is no doubt, but in a crisis pregnancy, truly what are the easy decisions?

The choice of the individual in an unplanned pregnancy should not be made by other people's disapproval and fears. I truly believe that it should be made by that specific individual in accordance to their reasons. For everyone that will have to go through this in their lifetime: for your future daughters, sisters and for the women who had to suffer unspeakable injustices and shame in Ireland's dark history, Repeal the 8th

# New year, new body

Aoife Kearns

What I want to talk about today is the January weight loss craze. As the majority of people love to indulge on turkey sandwiches, 'Roses' and wine over Christmas, every January it has become a sort of sick tradition to regret these tasty indulgences. It is usually followed by a feeling of self loathing and wanting to rewind time and switch it all to celery sticks.

"New year, new me" is a term most of us have bought into, or at least heard at some stage but the "New me" phraseology for shops, gyms and all forms of commercialism might as well say "new body". Every newspaper is followed by a healthy recipe book or weight loss guide, ads on TV promote yogurts to reduce bloating and weight loss groups see their signups go through the roof when people read about Brenda from Cork, the group's PR girl who lost 15 stone after joining.

Because we see this everywhere, subconsciously it has to have an impact. Maybe you didn't even eat any more at Christmas than you usually do, but you're almost convinced that you've committed a disgusting felony against food? Maybe you haven't run 100 metres since third year or done strenuous exercise in 18 months, but you see the gear in 'Penneys' the minute you walk in the door and somehow you're motivated? Not only are some of these things a waste of money for many people, sometimes the more sinister side to this weight loss craze is how it can impact your body image or body confidence.

The reason why this craze annoys me so much is because I've fell for it. I've bought the gear and tried to give it a go and it didn't work. It worked in June, not January. (You'll probably get them reduced then anyway) This is why this is CRAZY and as my father would say, "A money racket". What I've seen on Instagram this month, weight loss app advertisements targeted at me (considering my age, sex, interests etc.) was something that I felt was truly dangerous and damaging to anyone with body image issues.

Now for most people this might not seem so shocking. But for myself, it just makes me feel sad. What does an average person look like? A recent study by German University UCL, School of Life and Medical Sciences established the link between Instagram and Eating Disorders. It found that "Instagram use was associated with a greater tendency towards orthorexia nervosa, with no other social media channel having this effect." To somebody with issues with their body, there is no doubt that this image would appear to be something that you don't want, as that is the light it is painted in. But also to someone without these issues, it might create the complex.

Most people don't love their body, I've always fluctuated weight through the years and I've also had my fair share of 'problems' with food. (Eating disorder sounds so scary to people so being Irish it's just easier to say that). So if you can do anything at all, do this; be an absolutely cynical f\*\*\*r. Think twice about what you consume, what you read, what you see on TV, or online. Don't absolutely hate yourself and if you want to make changes, do them for the right reason. Think about a healthy lifestyle, not a flat tummy and know that half them wans on insta and in magazines aren't like that really, you're better.



## LIFESTYLE

# Fringe, not just for Festivals

While some find fringe intimidating, its fashion resurgence lends itself to some of the most alluring and distinctive trends this season. Aoife Kearns demonstrates how to incorporate the look into your daily life...

**Y**ou may be more used to seeing this trend by swaying teenagers in muddy fields during festival season, but fringe is a trend that just keeps on giving. This spring/summer 2018 really showed us there's much more to it than its festival look. It may be a real 1970s look but it was just as relevant in 1920s flapper fashion. This season created so many fresh, innovative ways to wear the classic trend!

## Pom-pom Princess

Calvin Klein pulled out all of the stops with their vibrant, fringe shift dresses. Even though the shape resembles the 'ill fitting' 1920s flapper dresses, they have vibrant, metallic colouring. The colour and texture almost makes the dress look like a cheerleader's pom pom, and creates a weird and wonderful new way to wear fringe. It is no surprise that fishnet continues to appear on the catwalk after its popularity over the past year, but in this case it is the fabric of the neckline which adds another modern element to the dress itself, especially the many different colours of the fishnet material other than the traditional black.



Calvin Klein Spring Collection 2018. // Imax Tree

## New Age 70s

Because this look is very much 70s based, you may think that this jacket is a 70s fringe jacket? Wrong! Although it fits with the fringe trend, it is the denim that is the most 70s inspired part of this look. This season think Bewitched multiplied by Justin Timberlake and Britney... Yes I'm talking that much denim. This blue fringe jacket is such a fresh way to wear the fringe trend while still keeping with a boho/ 70s style. Dior know really know what they're doing this season.



Meet our talented photographer, Natalie. She resides from the idyllic town of Greystones. She spends her days shmokin' skins with her bff Danu, tormenting Rob O' Halloran and developing her own brand of memes on snapchat.



## Casual Fringe

Although this is a very classic 70s fringe jacket, maybe something you could wear to a festival, I tried to style it in a very different way. This is a statement in itself, and paired with a navy striped top and navy jeans, it creates a more casual way to wear an otherwise not so casual jacket. This vintage jacket is real suede from the 70s, and was under €40 so to shop for this trend I would 100% recommend having a look in vintage and second hand shops!



Jacket, The Vintage Factory // Natalie Kavanagh



Dior Spring Collection 2018 // Imax Tree





The DIT Team that won the North Dublin Mixed Cup. Credit: Marcus Blake

# DIT Hockey team takes home cup

Marcus Blake  
Contributor

DIT KEPT their good form up after their success in hosting the All-Ireland Intervarsities by taking home the annual North Dublin Mixed Cup in mid November.

DIT started off with a 3 - 1 Victory over rivals IT Tallaght, goalscorers Neil McDermott, and Herbie Fowler Hudson (2). Captain Matt Treacy was on hand with a brace of his own to help DIT to their second victory of the tournament over Maynooth University with another 3-1 win, Laura Horan grabbing the third goal. With 2 wins DIT knew they'd only need a draw in their final match with hosts DCU. DIT wrapped up the tournament in style with a 2-0 victory, Treacy and Fowler Hudson again on song.

Following the winter break DIT Hockey Club were back in action in January as they took part in the Inaugural Connacht Indoor Championships. DIT took the field against Galway B in their opening game and showed that the changeover from outdoor was flawless as they recorded a 5-1 win, goals from Sophie Barnwell, Elizabeth Fogarty, Sara Quill, and Sally Campbell (2).

Up next were college rivals NUI Galway and the game was a fiery affair. DIT raced into a 4-0 lead with Sophie Barnwell and Sara Quill both registering braces. NUIG fought back and 2 minutes before half time brought the scoreline back to 4-4. DIT however showed their experience and pushed forward to score 4 more goals from Sally Campbell, Sarah Fox, and another goal each from Barnwell and Quill.

DIT faced Galway A in their third game and

guaranteed themselves a place in the final with a resounding 5-3 victory over Connaught's top side, goals from Sara Quill (2), Erika Markay (2), and Sophie Barnwell. Greenfields provided the opposition for the final group stage match and DIT rounded out the group with a 2-0 victory with goals from Erika Markay, and Jenny Long.

DIT once again went up against Galway A in the final and raced into the lead with Sally Campbell on song. Galway however sought revenge for their earlier defeat and turned the game on its head with 3 sharp goals and went into the halftime break 3-1 ahead.

The pressure from Galway continued into the second half and they were rewarded with another goal to put them 4-1 ahead with just 6 minutes to play. With time running out Coach Gary Ruddock pulled goalkeeper Jodie Chapman in an effort to claw back a goal and was rewarded almost instantly when Erika Markay stole in.

Seconds later the gap was reduced further with Sally Campbell once again tapping past the keeper. With seconds remaining in the game Sophie Barnwell was inches from tying the game up but a fantastic save from the Galway keeper meant that DIT had to settle for second best in Connacht.

Next up for DIT Hockey Club is the Mixed Intervarsities which takes place once again out west, this year hosted by NUI Galway. DIT are looking for their 4th Mixed Cup Victory on the trot, having won the previous three years. DIT will also take part in the Mixed Indoor Cup and the Mixed Plate Competitions and will hopefully bring home all 3 trophies to wrap up a magical year for DIT Hockey Club. Best of luck to all!

# Rugby squad fend off Athlone IT

Jessica Ní Mháirtín  
Sports Editor  
@tweeter\_creeper

THE DIT Rugby team had a great win over Athlone IT on Wednesday 14th February, beating them at 32-28.

The team will now go on to compete against IT Carlow in the Brendan Johnston Cup Semi-Final which will take place in Grangorman on March 7th.

Rugby manager, Herbie McClelland, is delighted with the win and he's very much looking forward to the upcoming semi-final, "It's fantastic that we've beaten Athlone as they were one of the favourites to win the cup.

"It was a brilliant performance by our lads and the game against IT Carlow will be very tight and close. It will be tough but if we have our full team we should be them because it really is a great team that we have."



Photo: Captains both get a taste of possible glory // DIT Sports

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## SPORT

# Sports Office supports students in external competitions

Jessica Ní Mháirtín

Sports Editor

@tweeter\_creeper

Every year, in every college, there's always a sports person that has to make a tough decision.

An elite athlete must ensure their health is top priority and that they are in good condition physically and mentally. Sometimes, this means having to make a decision on what team or competition they are going to prioritise.

In regards to elite athletes on scholarship in DIT, sometimes the college season clashes with their own external competitions and this is where the decision-making becomes slightly more difficult.

Darragh Biddlecombe, Head of GAA Development said, "we run a program at the start of the year that if you're playing

for your club in the Senior Club Championship during the league, we don't expect those students to play as we've a nine-day rule that we always put in place. The level of support then will probably differ at the end of the day, depending on how far you progress with your club."

The athletes that receive support packages are not all in receipt of financial assistance and Sports Officer Niamh O'Callaghan stresses that these athletes have an academic programme available to them also, which they can benefit from.

"We have to move away from this idea that it's a financial agreement. There is no financial agreement in place. There is a package of support that is awarded to an elite student athlete which enables them to play, train and compete at the highest levels while pursuing their third level qualification at DIT.

"That's the whole premises of the package of support that we award here and each package of support is tailored to meet the individual needs of each student athlete," said Niamh.

If it's the case where students must make a tough decision based on which competition they will compete in, or who they wish to represent, the support package allows them to do this as they may have to represent a sport at county, province or even a national level. Some of these students may avail of the entire support package, but others are also content with having academic support available to them.

Niamh continued, "If a student was playing in a very important cup competition or international representation well then there's flexibility awarded to the student that they wouldn't have to meet their sporting obligations for DIT. Other times

the answer would be, yes, you have to absolutely meet these sporting requirements.

"The student has to make a decision on which one they're going to prioritise. And if they prioritise and external sporting commitment, when we have felt that it shouldn't be prioritised, well then there will be an impact," she added.

The DIT sports office are very open to students who wish to compete in an extensive range of sports and they will be of assistance in any way they can to students of all standards, in all competitions.

"You have to understand that circumstances can change as well, but the scholarship is adaptable and supports those changes. The key thing is to make sure that the student athlete is happy and is able to compete at a high level," concluded Darragh.

## Juniors hungry for win against DKIT

Scott Howe  
Contributor

THE JUNIOR footballers will fancy their chances when they travel on Monday to take on DKIT in Dundalk.

Off the back of a division 3 league campaign, which ended in a defeat to RCSI in the semi finals, David (Flash) Gordon's charges will be looking to return to winning ways.

Having went through the group stages of the league unbeaten there are many positives to take.

The addition of Denis O'Shea, who is a former Meath minor manager, to the backroom team will also aid the student-managed team.

With players who have plied their trade at various club and inter-county levels, they will be hoping to go far in this year's championship. The game is set to start at 7pm.

## Drainage compensated but lights still dimmed

JP Kierans and  
Jessica Ní Mháirtín

THE PITCHES in Grangegorman are holding well since being reopened after drainage issues, but Broombridge is still a no go after dark.

Fixing the serious drainage issue didn't actually cost DIT any money, according to Head of Campus Planning for Grangegorman Paul Horan.

"Our problems with the pitches were all solved at no cost to DIT. The contractor fixed what was wrong," Mr Horan said.

"It took a long while to get it done but it's done and the pitches have been getting some good use over the last couple

of weeks now and everyone is very happy with them."

He added: "There was problems with the drainage but they were sorted by the contractor at his cost not ours. There [are] Sigerson Cup and Fitzgibbon Cup matches being played on them."

According to DIT's GAA Development Officer, Darragh Biddlecombe, the pitches in Grangegorman are in good condition since the reopening, which means that DIT have a home ground again as going without one was a slight struggle.

The astroturf in Broombridge however is not accessible after sundown as the lights are still

being tested. The Edition contacted Head of Sport, Sinead McNulty, who didn't comment at this time.

Photo: An overhead view of Grangegorman in 2015 // dit.ie



Photo: The 4G astro in Broombridge with lights that have not passed required testing // dit.ie



# DCU poc DIT out of Fitzgibbon



Photo: Fergal Whitely for DCU breaking away from Derek McNicholas from DIT // Brian Keane

Scott Howe  
Contributor

DCU 2-20  
DIT 1-12

THE DIT senior hurlers fell just short of a first ever Fitzgibbon cup final appearance as DCU proved the much stronger side in the semi-final of the competition in Parnell Park on Tuesday night.

Following an impressive victory over UCD last week, DIT were no match for the north Dublin College, who produced a rock-solid performance from start to finish with Dublin

star Donal Burke setting the tone and finding the net with a low shot to the corner just two minutes after throw in.

Sharpshooter Niall O'Brien kept DIT in contention through the first half. The Westmeath native, who has been a central figure in DIT's campaign, was again on target on several occasions in the first half to deny DCU an overwhelming lead. Donal Burke responding with frees for the opposition.

Impressive points for DCU courtesy of Kilkenny's John Donnelly and Waterford's Patrick Curran had the score 1-7 to 0-7 in their favour at the break. Donnelly also coming close to doubling their goal tally in the opening half after forcing a brilliant save from Steven Brennan in the DIT goal.

Although only three points ahead DCU were in control and their dominance continued straight into the second half. Three quick-fire points from Donnelly, Burke and Fergal Whitely had them six points clear with a big response needed from DIT.

Kilkenny man Niall Walsh, who scored a vital point against UCD, was introduced following these scores in the hopes of a DIT comeback, but no such joy would come with Derek Brennan's men only adding five more points to their tally in the second half. Centre back Derek McNicholas was the only DIT player other than O'Brien to add to the scoreboard.

DCU only improved as the game went on and any hopes of a tight finish were dashed by a Peter Hogan goal and further points from Whitely and Paul Kelly. Conor McSweeney and Joe O'Connor also impressive for the victors. DIT only found celebration with an O'Brien goal five minutes from time.

While the result was disappointing, DIT have done extremely well to reach this stage of the competition and will

hopefully push on in the coming years.

DCU on the other hand, while showing impressive talent, will have it all to do as they face UL, who defeated reigning champions IT Carlow in their semi-final, in the Fitzgibbon cup final in Mallow on Saturday 24th February. They will bid to be the first Dublin College to win the competition since UCD claimed honours in 2001.

DIT: Sean Brennan (Dublin); Warren Kavanagh (Wicklow), Thomas Doyle (Westmeath), Phillip Cass (Kilkenny); Liam Blanchfield (Kilkenny), Derek McNicholas (Westmeath) (0-3,1f), Luke Kelly (Dublin); Justin Cahill (Tipperary), Eoghan Dunne (Wexford); Fiontan McGibb (Dublin), Patrick 'Bonner' Maher (Tipperary), Niall Mitchell (Westmeath); Niall O'Brien (Westmeath) (1-9,7fs), Robbie Greville (Westmeath), Conor Ryan (Dublin).

DIT subs: Niall Walsh (Kilkenny) for Greville (36), Joe Kelly (Kilkenny) for Cass (46), Cian O'Donoghue (Kilkenny) for Ryan (53), Jonathan McGurk for Cahill (57).

DCU: Oisin Foley (Wexford); Paul O'Dea (Dublin), Eoghan O'Donnell (Dublin), Conor McSweeney (Limerick); Aaron Maddock (Wexford), Conor Delaney (Kilkenny), Paudie Foley (Wexford); Darren Mullen (Kilkenny), Joe O'Connor (Wexford)(0-2); Conor Burke (Dublin),Killian Doyle (Westmeath), Donal Burke (Dublin)(1-10,7fs); John Donnelly (Kilkenny)(0-3), Rian McBride (Dublin), Patrick Curran (Waterford)(0-2).

DCU subs: Fergal Whitely (Dublin)(0-2) for O'Dea (16), Peter Hogan (Waterford)(1-0) for C Burke (30), Daire Grey (Dublin) for Doyle (40), Paul Kelly (Dublin)(0-1) for McBride (43).

# Ladies looking for Lynch

Seán O'Reilly  
Contributor

DIT 5-11  
CIT 1-7

DIT Ladies Gaelic Football Team began their Lynch Cup campaign with an emphatic win over CIT down in Cork last Thursday.

Following a cagey opening to the game Dublin Senior footballer Aoife Kane got DIT off the mark with a super long-range point. CIT were set up very defensively and frustrated DIT for the first 15 minutes of the game. It was a low-scoring affair up until a great combination of play between captain Emer Heaney and Kate Dwyer, who then set up Ciara McGuigan, unleashing a ferocious right-footed shot above the CIT keeper for a brilliant goal. The ever-reliable Bronagh Sheridan kicked three first-half points to leave the score at 1-5 to 0-3 at the interval.

DIT's superior game plan, fitness and execution took the game out of CIT's reach following a blitz of goals. On the 40 minute mark, following great team play between Sarah McCabe, Bronagh Sheridan and Ciara McGuigan with the latter assisting the pacey Amy Murphy to riffle the ball to the back of the net, the floodgates opened for DIT.

Murphy went on to score another two goals to complete a remarkable 12 minute hat-trick. Sarah McCabe completed the rout with DIT's 5th goal in the 55th minute following an unselfish set up from Wicklow's Shona O'Connor. The outstanding Cavan full-forward Bronagh Sheridan added

to her tally, from both play and from placed balls, to end the game with 0-8 to her name.

CIT were no match for DIT and the defense was led magnificently by Aoife Kane, Sarah Nulty, Melek Fagan and Rachel Kelly who gave CIT no chance of getting back into the game. CIT themselves scored a wonder goal in the last minute of the game but it was merely a consolation goal as the game was well and truly wrapped up by then.

DIT Ladies Manager, Seán O'Reilly said, "We are delighted to come down to Cork and perform to our ability. I know the talent that is in the group but it is always nice to perform to our ability and to get a great victory away from home. Our ambition is to qualify for the Lynch Cup weekend and see what happens from there, we are another step to achieving that so we are all very happy.

Our next game is against UUJ who beat us in the league semi-final up in Belfast so we are looking forward to testing ourselves against one of the best colleges teams in the country when we face them in Grangegorman next Thursday (15th February). It will be tough but I know if we perform like we did against CIT, we have every chance of causing an upset against UUJ."

Having reached the Lynch Cup final for three consecutive years the ladies will hope to go one step further this year and finally take home the title.

The ladies will continue to battle for Lynch on Thursday 15th February against UUJ in Grangegorman. Throw in is at 6pm.

C.Murphy, M.Fagan, S.Nulty, L.Gillman, O.McGonigle, A.Kane (0-1), R.Kelly, A. Minogue, A. Murphy (3-0), E.Heaney, S.McCabe (1-0), C.Crosby, K.Dwyer, B.Sheridan (0-8), C.McGuigan (1-2)



Photo: Kate Dwyer in action for DIT // DIT GAA





Photo: NUIG's Cein D'Arcy and Adam Gallagher battle for possession with Brian Howard of DIT // Credit RTÉ

# Sigerson hopes blown up

Tye Adamson  
Contributor  
@tyeadamsongarry

DIT 0-15  
NUIG 2-12

The DIT Sigerson team fell to an agonising defeat at the hands of a very hungry NUIG team starved of Sigerson glory for over 15 years.

After a tense opening to the game, NUIG settled the better of the two teams and went in front early on after DIT struggled to settle into the conditions. Compliments are certainly due to the ground staff at St. Loman's GAA Club in Mullingar, who have the pitch in immaculate condition considering the weather lately.

The returning Brian Howard helped DIT settle into the game with a neat score after steady patience in the DIT half back/forward line. Wicklow's Ross O'Brien then cancelled out an NUIG effort, to settle a period of score after score, each side cancelling each other out. That left the game level half way through the first half.

Shortly before half time, NUIG struck for

goal after a lapse in the DIT full back line. A sucker punch just before the interval, which left Billy O'Loughlin with a lot to ponder at half time.

DIT emerged for the second half, appearing to have the grit between their teeth, cutting the deficit bit-by-bit before eventually drawing level after some lovely scores by Mayo's Conor Loftus and Kildare's Séan Hurley which brought the game to a score of 1-09 to 12 points.

In the middle of DIT's purple patch, NUIG's Eoin Finnerty effectively struck the hammer blow as he fired home after a debatable call from the referee not to award DIT a free out while in possession in defence. DIT never backed down and chipped at the gap with scores by Callum Pearson, Séan Hurley and Killian O'Gara.

The DIT side provided a late surge by cutting the gap to 3 points and while going for the proverbial juggler, were unlucky not to get a penalty decision in their favour.

At 3 points down with seconds remaining DIT's goalkeeper Lee Stacey fired in two 45's but, to no avail, as the referee's full time whistle signified the end of the game, along with DIT's hopes in this years Siger-

son championship.

DIT's manager Billy O'Loughlin said after the game, "we felt a few decisions didn't go our way. It was a great performance, but wasn't to be. The lads put in a huge effort all year and we're very proud of them all. We've a good squad next year to look forward to as well, so we hope we might go that one step forward."

“

**DIT never back down and chipped at the gap**

NUI GALWAY: Tadhg O'Malley (Galway); Stephen Brennan (Mayo), Sean Mulkerrin (Galway), Kevin McDonnell (Sligo); Colm Kelly (Donegal), Ruairi Greene (Galway), Gerard O'Kelly Lynch (Sligo); Céin D'Arcy (Galway), Peter Cooke (Galway) (0-01); Enda Tierney (Galway) (0-02, 0-01'45), Owen Gallagher (Antrim) (0-01), Adam Gallagher (Mayo) (0-04, 0-02f); Brian Donovan (Limerick), Damien Comer (Galway) (0-01), Sean

Kelly (Galway) (1-00).

Subs: Ronan O'Toole (Westmeath) (0-02) for S Kelly (32), Kieran Molloy (Galway) (0-01) for Donovan (42), Eoin Finnerty (Galway) (1-00) for O Gallagher (43), Ryan Forde (Galway) for C Kelly (48), John Maher (Galway) for Greene (59).

DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY: Lee Stacey (Dublin); Andrew McGowan (Dublin), Brian Power (Meath), Ronan Shanahan (Kerry); Brian Howard (Dublin) (0-01), Rossa O'Brien (Wicklow) (0-01), Bill Maher (Tipperary); Tomás Corcoran (Roscommon) (0-01), Seán Hurley (Kildare) (0-04, 0-04f); Callum Pearson (Dublin), Conor Loftus (Mayo) (0-03, 0-01f), Cormac Howley (Dublin); Caomhin O'Reilly (Cavan) (0-01), Danny Kirby (Mayo), Shane Dempsey (Westmeath) (0-01).

Subs: Liam Hughes (Longford) for Dempsey (BC 22), Killian O'Gara (Dublin) (0-02) for Corcoran (42), Liam Hughes (Longford) for Kirby (42), Ben Brennan (Meath) for O'Reilly (57), David McAllister (Monaghan) for Dempsey (57), Conor Madden (Cavan) (0-01) for Loftus (59).