



Feeling down?  
See page 10  
for some top tips  
on coping with  
depression.



Turn to page 11  
to find out why  
cheating is the  
ultimate form of  
betrayal.

## BIG BUCKS FOR MED HEAD

### UL to pay expert higher wage than some World Leaders



Projections of the new medical school which is being built on North Campus

Aisling Hussey

THE soon-to-be appointed Head of UL's Graduate Entry Medical School can expect to earn more than some world leaders, with a generous starting salary of almost quarter of a million euros per annum.

The position, which is advertised on UL's recruitment website, states that candidates could earn from €231,653

to €241,539 each year. This exceeds the wage of the Taoiseach, who earns €228,000 a year. Lecturers in UL have spoken out against the advertised salary, amidst growing problems in the economy and looming cutbacks in education in December's budget.

Dermot Shinnars-Kennedy, a lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, told An Focal that there is not a clear reason as to why the Head of the GEMS would be paid such a high sum of money. "I have asked for someone to give a justification, and no-one has come

forward," he said. "Many people feel the exact same." Maths lecturer John Kinsella noted on the staff forum that the advertised salary exceeds that of most major world leaders. However, President of the Student's Union, Derek Daly, has responded by stating that the University does not control the salary of the Head of the GEMS.

"I think it is a lot of money, but there is no mechanism by which the person can get paid less because it is a job in the public sector. The only way it can be changed is through the Department of Health and the Department of

Finance," he said. "Nothing can be done." Mr Daly further added that UL would be at a "disadvantage" to other universities in the country if the Head of the GEMS was to be paid a lower salary. "All medical schools pay that much. However, if the government wished to change this pay, I would have no objection," he said. According to the job description advertised online, it states that applicants must be registered as a generalist or specialist of the Registrar of Medical Practitioners, have a Phd or MD, and demonstrated leadership in a medical department.

Current head of the GEMS is Paul Finucane, who was directed the development of the school. The Head of Department's responsibilities will include overseeing developments in teaching and research, liaising with the Medical Council and to represent the GEMS internally and externally.

He or she will also have to manage all staff and control the GEMS budget. The deadline for applications is Thursday, December 15. UL's Graduate Entry Medical School was launched in 2007.

## News

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 Printed by  
 Impression Design and Print Ltd.

Brought to you by your Students' Union. Visit [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie) to view An Focal online.

Thanks to everybody who contributed to this issue.

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Special thanks to Zoha Ahmed who was accidentally left off the accreditation of recent publication Cellar Door.

**1. Contributors please note:**

All submissions to An Focal are greatly valued. If you have submitted an article which has not been published in this issue, it is very likely that your piece has been retained for publication in future issues. If you are concerned that your article has not been published, please say so.

**2. Editing:**

If you are unhappy with how your article appeared in An Focal, please discuss this with the Editor. A number of strict guidelines are followed in the production of An Focal, which means some articles may be altered to allow them to fit on the page and to improve readability.

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Kelly O'Brien, Editor

## EDITORIAL

It seems like only yesterday I was sitting down to write my very first editorial... and look where we are now! The semester has absolutely flown by and with Christmas stock already occupying space in shop windows; it doesn't look like it's going to slow down any time soon.

Around about this time every year, stress levels soar to incalculable heights. Students are stocking up on energy drinks left, right and centre as they begin to crack under the pressure of looming deadlines and fast approaching exams. But you, reader, shall not crack for I am about to impart some knowledge on you.

A very wise man told me that Weeks 8, 9 and 10 of Semester 1 are the worst weeks of the year. This is down to more than just deadlines and coursework. As we approach winter, the days are getting shorter and shorter and people feel as if

their time is just slipping away. I'm sure we've all said, at one point or another, that infamous phrase; "Where did the day go?" This may seem an obvious observation, but it's something people are only really subconsciously aware of. So before snapping at a class mate, complaining to a lecturer, or taking the head off poor auld mammy, take this into account and ask, "Why do I feel like this?"

In doing so, you will be better able to recognise emotions and manage reactions. You would also be more attuned to the feelings of those around you. In these stressful times, it is important to recognise why someone acts as they do. Keeping an eye out for erratic behaviour; your recently bitchier-than-normal housemate, your quieter-than-usual lab partner, may help get them through whatever it is that's getting to them.

If you are worried about any of your peers, please try talking to them. Sometimes all anyone needs is a sympathetic ear. If they are stand-offish or don't want to talk about it, don't get offended, it's hard to expose your problems to another human being.

I could go on for pages and pages, but my editorial space is drawing to a close so I'll leave you with this last piece of advice: if you come across behaviour that you don't think you are qualified to deal with, please come see us in the Students' Union or pop in to one of the lovely people working in the counselling department.

There are people here to help, if only you'll let us. Remember, a life is invaluable. A kind word costs nothing.

Kelly O'Brien  
 Editor



ULSU CSO, Paddy Rockett and newly appointed Entertainments Officer, Reiss Barran who helped raise over €2000 for charity.

## Fresher journalism students create new website

Jessica Leen

FIRST-year Journalism students in UL have established their own website [www.TheBlend.ie](http://www.TheBlend.ie).

The site was officially launched on Monday October 17 and is now being updated weekly with articles from the fresher students.

The group have set up a system by which they will share the editorial role. A new student will take charge of the position every week, so as to ensure

equal involvement from the class in this project. Conor O'Riordan, first year journalism student and debut editor of TheBlend.ie said: "Theblend.ie is more or less an outlet for our journalistic abilities, a place to showcase our talents. I think this is very beneficial. The editor is basically in charge of what TheBlend is about every week and by changing the person in charge every week, we're fresher and newer each week."

The website is designed and run solely by the group who cover a vast number of subjects in their writing that include politics, music, fashion, sport, comedy, opinion, and more. Derek Bowler, a member of the group, says: "we have a unique opportunity to draw people in to the writing of hungry young hacks who want to make a name for themselves."

The Blend have adapted social media as well, as they appear on twitter and facebook and already have mustered over 200 fans and followers.

Writer, Derek Bowler, is certain that the group will make sure the website remains up to date with all the latest features and advancements in design and technology, "The blend.ie will not be afraid to adapt and move forward in a market that evolves everyday."

## News In Brief

Mass in memory of deceased students

A MEMORIAL mass for deceased students and staff will take place on Sunday, November 6 in Milford Church. The mass will take place at 7.30am in the church, which is located beside the East Gate.

This mass will remember students and staff who have died since last November. Altogether, seven students and three staff members have died in the past twelve months. Fr John Campion of the Chaplaincy invites all UL students and staff to this mass.

JobBridge scheme seeks UL recruit

AS part of the JobBridge National Internship Scheme, UL are looking for a Third Level Project Coordinator. According to the description, The intern will gain practical experience in will have the opportunity to work in close conjunction with the GAA Games Development Officer in UL and to enhance their interpersonal, organisational, communication, administrative, coaching and games development skills. The intern will be responsible for communicating with various groups and project stakeholders within UL.

The intern will also gain practical experience in relation to organising and coordinating Games Development and Skill Development Initiatives as well as Education Programmes. In their activities the intern will be supported with continuous in-house training in the form of workshops supervised by Munster Council Provincial Games Development staff.

Anyone interested in the position can visit [www.intern.jobbridge.ie](http://www.intern.jobbridge.ie).

Musicians celebrate life of journalism

Four American students of the MA Traditional Music Performance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance joined forces with the schoolchildren of Moneygall and Dunkerrin to celebrate Daniel Pearl World Music Days with a free lunchtime concert last Wednesday.

The musicians; Dominique Dodge (Harp), Colin Botts (bouzouki/guitar), Joanna Hyde (fiddle) and Alec Brown (cello) will perform a programme of Irish traditional music arranged for the occasion. The event will be opened with a special performance of music, dance and poetry by the schoolchildren of Moneygall and Dunkerrin Parish.

## News

# NUIG College Week binned for good

## Concessions to be put in place as alternative

Colm Fitzgerald

FOLLOWING several years of bad behaviour, NUIG SU Council last week voted to abolish their annual charity week festivities.

The event, which was renamed College Week in a bid to reduce unsavoury behaviour, has attracted unprecedented poor publicity in recent years afoot of a culmination of unfavourable events.

At a special sitting of NUIG SU Council, 95% voted in favour of abolishing the event. Instead, five concessions have been agreed with NUIG and will be put in place. These an alternative single day event, concert or festival will be organised for the

spring semester, while the €2 charge for members of sports clubs to use the Kingfisher facility will be removed.

Upwards of €60,000 per annum will be added the Student Assistance Fund, which exists to assist those who are at risk of discontinuing their education due to financial hardship, while assurances have been made that charges will not be applied to the services provided at the Student Health Centre. The final concession is placement of SU

Noticeboards about the campus.

NUIG SU President Emmet Connolly said: "Over the past four years alone, the Students' Union has raised over €100,000 through rag week, however, this is often forgotten.

The actions of a minority of people, many of whom are not NUIG students, have been very destructive and the SU has decided not to continue with something seen to support the behaviour of that minority."

Last year's College Week coincided with Charity week in UL in an effort to curb the number of individuals travelling to a college other than their alma mater. Concerns have been raised that the abolition of the NUIG event may lead to an influx of students from there progressing to UL's Charity Week. So far, ULSU has not stated its official position on the matter.

## ULSU Launches Literary Magazine



Rachel Dargan

THE University of Limerick Students' Union new literary magazine was launched last week with a wine reception in the Millstream Court Building.

The event, which took place last Tuesday, was attended by a number of lecturers and students who were published in the new publication, 'Cellar Door'.

Over the last few weeks, students submitted poems and prose, a number of which were featured in the magazine, which has been distributed across the campus. The magazine was printed by Impression Design and Print, the same design company that print 'An Focal'.

Communication Officer in the Students' Union, Kelly O'Brien, was in charge of the publication. She says there was huge demand for the publication, as there were a large number of submissions made.

"I received a lot of submissions for Cellar Door, but unfortunately due to spacing issues, we couldn't print all of

them. I'm very happy with it though. It looks fantastic. I would like to thank Cassandra Fanara and all at Impression. I couldn't ask for it to look any better."

During the launch, a number of contributors gave readings of prose and poetry to the crowd. Readers included contributors, Shane Vaughan and Zoha Ahmed, Ms O'Brien and Campaigns and Services Officer, Paddy Rockett.

Mr Vaughan said that he is very happy with the publication and is looking forward to further literature publications from the university.

"Cellar Door is a whole new opportunity for people who want to get their poetry and prose published. I hope it will be continued."

Speaking at the launch, SU President Derek Daly complimented Ms O'Brien on the work she put into the publication. "On the pages before the back page there's a picture of an eye. This shows the vision that Kelly had when she created Cellar Door." Mr Daly went on to express his delight at the good turn out for the launch, saying that he hopes it can be replicated at more literary functions in weeks to come.

# Davis visits UL

Jason Kennedy

FORMER Presidential hopeful, Mary Davis, visited the UL campus a week before Election Day.

The independent candidate spent an hour in campus along with her husband, Julian and a number of supporters.

Ms Davis spent the hour meeting students and staff around the university, as well as taking 10 minutes to chat to ULFM's 'Nonsense' show with Eoghan Cannon and Michael Shea.

Her first stop in her hour in UL was to the Courtyard Spar shop, where one of her supporters sister's works. While there, she met with students queuing

up for food. Ms Davis then stopped to talk to students before heading into the radio station. There she spoke about the university and how delighted she was with last summer's Special Olympic Games. "I know this university so well. It was done up so brilliantly during the Special Olympics Ireland games.

It was just wonderful. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the students, staff and volunteers that helped during that time. "A few years ago, UL gave me an honorary doctorate and my husband, Julian came here many years ago as well."

Ms Davis went on to praise the University for its modern facilities, including the new radio station. She

continued on to say that she's truly an independent candidate, regardless of what people may so.

"I'm just an ordinary person. I want to be a hope and an inspiration to people.

"I want to ensure that young people who are about to emigrate do so out of choice and not by necessity."

ULFM Presenter, Eoghan Cannon had a chat with Ms Davis during her stop in UL. He said she was happy with the interview and that she came across very well. "She was really nice. I'd say she could talk for Ireland."



Former Presidential candidate Mary Davis making her way to the ULFM station



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## News

## News In Brief

## UL Surgeon Receives International Award

PROFESSOR Calvin Coffey, Chair of Surgery in the Graduate Entry Medical School and Consultant General and Colorectal Surgeon in Limerick University Hospital has been selected to receive a James IV Fellowship from the James IV Association of Surgeons. This Fellowship is awarded to candidates who have made outstanding contributions to the art and science of surgery. Each year surgeons are selected from around the world to receive this prestigious Fellowship. In the coming months, Professor Coffey will travel to clinical sites in North America, Korea, and across Europe to present his experiences of novel techniques and innovation in minimally invasive colorectal cancer surgery.

## Respected Chemist and UL Professor Publishes Seminal Textbook

INTERNATIONALLY respected Professor of Industrial Chemistry, Professor Julian Ross has published a seminal textbook for students of catalysis. The book entitled, 'Heterogenous Catalysis. Fundamentals and Applications' was launched by Dr. Edward Walsh, President Emeritus of UL. Professor Ross was Dean of the College of Science at the University of Limerick between 1994 and 2003. He has over 40 years' experience in catalytic research and lecturing on the principles of catalysis. For 25 years he was the Editor of Catalysis Today, a publication which reviews all aspects of current research on catalysis. In this book, Professor Ross presents the ultimate guide to core principles and applications, which will be an essential publication for researchers, lecturers and students of chemistry around the world.

## German ambassador visits UL

THE German Ambassador to Ireland, Dr Eckhardt Lübke-meier was recently welcomed to the University of Limerick by UL President, Professor Don Barry. Ambassador Lübke-meier was briefed on the research activities of the Centre for Irish-German Studies, Centre for European Studies and Centre for Applied Language Studies.

UL President, Professor Don Barry welcomed the visit, saying: "The German Embassy has been a strong supporter of pedagogy and research in German studies and culture at UL and we look forward to continued collaboration and partnership." Ambassador Lübke-meier was given a tour of the Languages Building.

## UL Model Search final

The final of The UL Model Search in Association with The Hilary Thompson Model Agency took place Wednesday October 19 in the Strand Hotel. With over 200 people in attendance, the finalists pulled out all the stops to win. The girls held their own among professional models also in the show. After a very hard decision the judges choose Gillian Monaghan, a first year Science Education student as the winner. Gillian will now go on to receive a number of vouchers from shops like Joli and Seduzca, along with jewellery and a full training course from Hilary Thompson and a modelling contract. President of Fashion Soc, Tina Nsubuga was thrilled with the night. "The night was a success, the girls did fantastic, better than we could have ever imagined. I hope Gillian the best of luck in the future and we will be there if she needs any help."

# UL seventh in Sunday Times rankings

Ann Styles

UL has placed seventh in the Sunday Times University Guide rankings for 2012 while University College Cork was named university of the year on the list. UL was the lowest scoring university with only Technology Institutes performing lower.

The University of Limerick ranked far better on sports facilities with many of "world-class standard" according to the surveys authors. It was the only Irish university to receive a coveted five star rating in this category. However, UL's place on the list has fallen from sixth

to seventh, with an unemployment rate of 11 per cent and a drop-out rate of 18 per cent. Its research income is €41.3 million, which is half that of Trinity College Dublin and UCC, who each have research incomes of over €80m. University of Limerick Students'

Union President, Derek Daly, said UL should be proud of some of their rankings, as the university scored well in previous ranking systems. "There are a number of ranking scales and the most recently refined is the QS Stars in which UL outstrips the only other Irish University measured (UCC) in all areas apart from research. This is hugely positive and ranks UL as better at teaching than UCC, better at engaging the community than UCC and better than UCC in terms of employability." Limerick Institute of Technology did not do well in the survey either as it came just third from the bottom at

number 18. A fifth of LIT graduates were unemployed and almost a quarter failed to graduate. This was well below the national average of a 15 per cent drop-out rate and the impressive three per cent in UCC.

Despite the slip in overall ratings for UL and LIT it was recognised that the student experience in Limerick was a positive one as the QS rating confirmed. The university engaged well with its student body and offered first class facilities for both students and the wider community.



Colm Fitzgerald

Grainne and Sean, ULFM presenters

PROGRESS on improving and upgrading several aspects of the ULFM operation is ongoing at a brisk pace.

Programming has been ongoing at the new streaming only radio station for the past five weeks, and as such, the trial period for programming has ended. The trial period allowed for presenters to resolve minor technical issues.

A major review will be undertaken on all current programming which may result in some changes. Programming now takes place between the hours of 11am to 11pm Monday to Thursday and 11am to 3pm Fridays, totalling 52 hours programming weekly.

Gráinne Harte and Sean Dunne, hosts of 'Censored', which airs Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm, are ecstatic about their experience so far. Speaking to An Focal, the duo said: "We really didn't know what to expect going into ULFM, we never realised it would be so much fun. On a real radio buzz now and just loving doing the show. It's our baby."

"ULFM is such a good opportunity for all UL students to have their say and to also gain some invaluable experience and the craic is mighty."

Access has been improved for mobile users with the Tuneln app for iPhone, Blackberry, Android and others, which allows access to ULFM.

Major improvements to the website are being made by 1st year Electronic and Computer Engineering student, Kieran Caplice. Items planned include songs playing now/next and a request shoutbox. After a protracted process with the .ie Domain Registry, ulfm.ie has finally been registered and is now functioning. With this development, comments and requests for the studio can now be emailed to studio@ulfm.ie. Presenters will shortly have the ability to place phone calls on the air, using a solution incorporating Skype. Phoning 061-748847 will reach the Skype in studio and calls can, as such, be placed on air. However, irate comments have been placed on infamous message forum, boards.ie, by a handful of anonymous individuals regarding the operation of the station. Almost all aspects of the station have come under fire. "We have, of course, gotten some awkward customers but I think you get that with any new venture," said Communications Officer, Kelly O'Brien. "Most of the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and when legitimate concerns have been raised, revamping the website for example, we have taken these suggestions on board and have improved greatly because of them", she added.

## Students contribute to 'A Pitch for Shane'

Evana Downes

STUDENTS passing O'Mahony's bookshop on campus on October 18 may have noticed a little table topped by clay figurines and rolls of unblemished terracotta, patroned by a lone lady calling out to passers-by. The stand was surrounded by several UL students contributing their artistic talents; rolling clay and scraping remnants of excess terracotta; honing their masterpieces.

What those who failed to stop may not have understood was that this process formed a significant part of an ongoing campaign dedicated to the memory of victims of violence and, in particular, Shane Geoghegan, a Limerick man murdered in 2008 in a case of mistaken identity.

The campaign, 'A Pitch for Shane,' involves the creation of thousands of terracotta figurines made by members of the public, which will be assembled and exhibited in a metaphorical 'pitch' in memory of the Garryowen rugby captain next month. Shane's aunt and the organiser of the campaign, Margaret Walsh, describes it as a "fun way of

remembering a fun loving guy who just wanted to live his life, and who was never given the opportunity to fulfil his potential. This exhibition is our way of remembering Shane, and all victims of violence."

She adds that the participation of UL students in this campaign is particularly significant, as in the aftermath of Shane's death a photograph of UL students protesting against gangland violence, and holding a placard with 'Enough' written on it, surfaced in the national media and powerfully reinforced "the point that we ultimately wanted to make."

The clay figurine exhibition will take place on November 9 this year, the third anniversary of Shane's death, in the Istabraq Hall in Limerick City Hall, Merchant's Quay, Limerick. Until then, members of the public are encouraged to call to the Limerick Milk Market on Saturdays, where they can contribute their own figurine for the exhibition.



## News

# Kinsella urges University to buy off-campus properties

Jason Kennedy

THE University of Limerick should buy up property around the city to create “satellite” campuses, according to economics lecturer Dr Stephen Kinsella. Dr Kinsella, who says that he is “obsessed with the idea of the future of Ireland” was speaking at the Carlton Castletroy Park hotel during presidential candidate Sean Gallagher’s visit to Limerick last week.

Some of his ideas include buying vacant property otherwise unused around the city, to “enhance the university’s relationship with the city centre”, and to revitalize the empty areas and buildings of the city centre with student life. “UL is the biggest entity in Limerick. It won’t take off and

move to Uzbekistan, it is never leaving and will still be here in hundreds of years. “I’m not saying they should buy the Opera Centre but they should start small, and develop satellite campuses” Dr Kinsella said at the conference.

While Dr Kinsella said that he has lived in Murroe for five years and only been into the city centre twenty times after returning from New York, he says that he believes UL should start aligning itself with the city, starting on a minor basis. Dr Kinsella has not approached UL with the self-described “half baked” idea, and says that it would require much further debate and consideration before it could come to fruition, and would also “represent

a sea of change” across not just one, but three presidencies. Changing the face of the city from a city of sport to a city of change, providing tax breaks to help “beatify the city” and bringing the World Academy of Music to Limerick are some more of Dr Kinsella’s ideas to improve Limerick’s stagnating economy. Dr Kinsella has written a book about the future of Ireland, Ireland in 2050, inspired partially by living in Limerick. While the principal speaker at the address was presidential candidate Sean Gallagher, most questions from the audience were addressed towards Dr Kinsella.



UL Economist, Stephen Kinsella says UL should buy off-campus properties

# Former UL student kicks up storm on Apprentice

Jason Kennedy

A University of Limerick graduate is currently entertaining the nation while trying to get in with Businessman Bill Cullen in this year’s series of ‘The Apprentice’. Contestant Christopher Harold is fast becoming one of the most well-known participants in this year’s show. Mr Harold is originally from Limerick, but is now working as a marketing manager in Clare. Christopher says he wants to win this year’s Apprentice to help Irish people to help themselves during these difficult economic times.

He thinks his business idea will get Ireland back on its feet. Mr. Harold says he is a great motivator, a good leader and a very optimistic person. Mr. Harold went on to study Business & Marketing where he received a 2.2 Honours BA. He decided to go back to university at a later stage to get a health and safety qualification. After a few years running his family’s business, Mr. Harold felt it wasn’t making much profit and could not support his wages and so he returned to a marketing role. He wrote his final thesis at University on male consumption since he was fascinated by consumer behavior and why consumers purchase the products and services that they do. Mr. Harold is not the only contestant in this years Apprentice with links to the University of Limerick. Contestant Maurice O’Callaghan is presently studying a full time masters in the University of Limerick while working thirty hours a week as a Guest Relations Manager in the Savoy Hotel Limerick.

He has also worked as a Director and General Manager of Ciaran’s Café in Dromroe. Mr. O’Callaghan says he has the right attitude to win the show, “I believe I have what it takes: business acumen, charisma, enthusiasm, people skills, drive and vision to build up a highly successful business. I have a

passion for food, a passion for life and a passion for people.” Right now, Mr. Harold is the least popular contestant in show, with 33% popularity on the tv3 online poll. Mr. O’Callaghan is the eight most popular, with 44% popularity.



Maurice O’Callaghan is gaining popularity on TV3’s Apprentice

# Recent graduate odds on to be next leader of Ógra Fianna Fáil

James Bradshaw

A graduate of the University of Limerick is the odds-on favourite to be elected as President of Ógra Fianna Fáil in its upcoming National Youth Conference.

Eamon Quinlan, a 2011 Business graduate, is the group’s current Third Level Ard Chomhairle.

The 24 year-old Waterford native was heavily involved in UL’s Con Colbert Cumann during his four years of study here, serving at various times as the group’s Treasurer, Leas-Cathaoirleach and Cathaoirleach.

After the sudden withdrawal of his sole opponent from the race, it now appears all but certain that Mr Quinlan will become Ógra’s next president.

He has fond memories of his time in the Cumann and he credits his experiences there as being vital in teaching him political and organisational skills, “It pretty much taught me everything. Four years of dealing with institutions, finance, mobilising large numbers of people, planning events giving you the logistical and the gritty skills to get things done.”

Mr Quinlan says he sees a shift taking place within the party itself, which he believes will come to the fore at the conference which will be held in the Silver Springs Moran Hotel in Cork from the 4th to the 6th

of November. “The youth wing of the party has always been much more to the left than the rest of the party. We’re very centre-left. I’d say there’ll be adoptions of motions like that the party should endorse things like universal healthcare.”

In spite of the party’s collapse in the general election, Mr Quinlan is optimistic about its future. “I’ve been out a couple of times in Dublin West for the by-election and I’m actually amazed at the turnaround,” he says. “The hostility that was there in February has been very much reduced back to where it was in 2007. In February, a lot of people used the phrase ‘not this time’ which was probably there way of indicating that they really just wanted a change of government.”

Mr Quinlan is currently employed in the financial services company, State Street, and if elected he will combine this with his role as president of Ógra Fianna Fáil. Ógra has been taking an increasingly independent line from the main Fianna Fáil party in recent times, and Mr Quinlan pledges that this will continue under his leadership.

“We’re now fully autonomous in terms of finance, and we can do our own campaigns. So if we disagree with senior party parliamentarians, we can and will run counter-campaigns.”

# FOCAL Sport

2nd November 2011

Volume XX  
Issue 5 FREE

Sports Journalist Garry Irwin gives An Focal readers the latest NHL run-downs. More on page 32.



Turn the page to read our first ever Sports Head to Head debate. How will Kahn fair against Mayweather?

## Our Chance to Erase Paris

Michael Ramsay

With a controversial victory over Armenia at the Aviva stadium, Ireland moved ever closer to their first major tournament in 10 long years. John Delaney may have sniggered at drawing the relative minnows from Estonia but if past experience is anything to go by, Ireland will not go about things the easy way. Michael Ramsay takes a look at our chances and assesses the danger from Estonia.

“Allez le Bleus!” The delirious songs of celebratory jubilation echoing down the tunnel. The succulent French champagne spilling out from under the door of the home dressing room. The valiant Irishmen stared at their feet, having had their hopes and dreams quenched, through an act of unspeakable injustice. With two casual flicks of his left arm, Thierry Henry had booked his plane ticket to South Africa, whilst crushing the hopes of this nation.

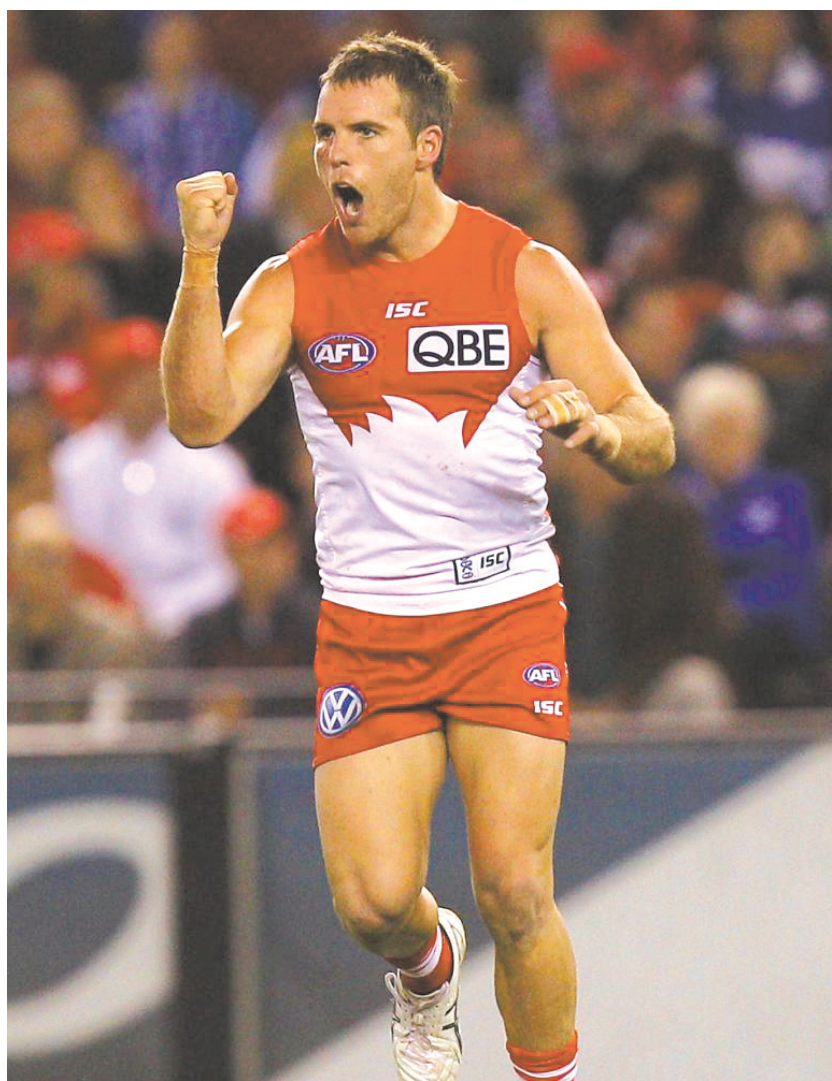
Tallin 2011. This is where it has all been heading. Ever since that sombre night in Paris, we have taken it upon ourselves to surge towards Euro 2012. The hard-fought victory in Armenia, the virtuoso Robbie Keane show in Macedonia, that miraculous point

in Russia... it has all been leading to this point. However, when the draw with Estonia was announced, a wave of relief surged throughout this country. There was even a shot of the FAI officials casting wry smirks at the draw. While it is true that we have avoided some heavyweights, the Estonians are no pushovers. Just ask our Irish counterparts up north, who shipped 6 goals against them this year. Blessed with youth, pace and skill, this Estonian team is one of a new wave of exciting new teams, alongside Armenia and Bosnia.

Watch out for talisman Konstantin Vassiljev, a tricky winger, blessed with wonderful vision and an eye for goal. Tarmo Kink, a dangerous striker, plying his trade in Middlesbrough, is another threat, with his evasive movement and quick feet. These so-called ‘minnows’ finished above World Cup finalists Slovenia and Serbia in their qualifying group, as well as dismantling Copa America champions Uruguay in a friendly. It is foolish to treat them as anything other than a stern challenge.



Against Armenia, Richard Dunne was the comforter rather than comfortee.



Tadhg Kennelly: Possible return to Kerry?

## Plenty through the GAA exit door

Eoin Scanlon

It's that time of year again. As the Cats cradle another All-Ireland medal, and the Dubs reminisce on events from last month, GAA veterans around the country start hanging up their inter-county boots. In hurling circles, Corks Ronan Curran called time on an illustrious career in August. The centre back, known for his colourful and ever changing helmets, won two All-Ireland and three Munster titles, collecting three all-stars along the way. Waterford bid a fond farewell to both Eoin Murphy and goalkeeper Clinton Hennessey, who retired after their All-Ireland semi-final defeat to Kilkenny. Murphy (32) suffered a career threatening head injury back in April, but has bounced back and will continue his club career. He ends an 11 year post with the Deise, winning three Munster titles and an all-star in the process.

Clinton Hennessey's retirement at the age of 34 has left a gap in the Waterford goal, and it will interest many to see whether Adrian Power or Stephen O'Keefe take over the reins for the 2012 campaign. Fans of the big ball, Gaelic Football, have also been digesting news of retirements, and of more to be announced in the coming weeks and months. Those who have already showed their hand include former double All-Ireland winning captain Brian Dooher. The Tyrone star's 16 year playing career saw him win three All-Irelands and as many all-stars. Highly admired for his leadership on and off the playing field, Dooher will now take up a managerial position under manager Mickey Harte.

As autumn rolls into winter, expect to hear more and more high profile names depart the inter-county. While

it's been all quiet on the Kerry front thus far, the likes of Tom O'Sullivan, Seamus Scanlon and Aidan Mahoney have enough All-Ireland medals won to warrant a departure from the County scene. Down under, Tadhg Kennelly has announced 2011 will be his last year playing Aussie Rules, fuelling speculation of a possible Kerry return.

Inter-county referee Pat McEnaney will be another absentee for the 2012 season, as he reaches the retirement age of 50. The Monaghan native was regarded as one of the best Gaelic Football ref's in the modern era, admired and despised in equal measure as all referees are. The question of whether or not Tony Browne will return for another year (or four) has yet to be answered. Christy Ring played until he was 43, Browne may well see that as another challenge to beat.

## Sport

# Deady highlights quality in the UL soccer ranks

Andrew Cunneen

AN Focal caught up with UL soccer star Martin Deady to get his views on the soccer front for the upcoming season. The former Limerick FC and Cobh Ramblers left back is a key player for the Limerick college side and he is hoping for a successful campaign with the University. The intentions of the football side are quite clear. Martin Deady highlighted their aims, while also underlining the quality of the competition. He said: "The league is a fairly decent standard in fairness, a lot of LOI players play college football so that gives an indicator of what the standard is. The structure of the league is UL competes in the South section with other colleges from Munster. The top 2 teams then go forward to the quarter finals with the top 2 teams in the other 3 sections. In the 2nd Semester UL competes in the Collingwood Cup which is the Holy Grail for University teams. This year UL is hosting the competition so we are hoping it will be a historic year as UL has never won it." "The team's ambitions for the year are simple really; win the Collingwood for the first time. We have a new manager

this year, Eoin Killackey, and the signs are very promising as we are a lot better prepared and organised as a club. Last year UCC won Collingwood and while they weren't the strongest team they were hard working and organised and we believe we can repeat that this year." Deady is also quick to highlight the quality in the UL side this year. "The likes of Nigel Stanley, Dave McGrath (Bubba Watson), Gavin Roche, Tomas Barrett and Barry Ryan have all had stints with LOI clubs. On top of that we have lads who play with good clubs right around Munster. I would say we are a small team but we like to play football the way it should be played."

In a rallying cry for support, Martin Deady hopes the UL campus will come out in support of the side. "As I mentioned already we like to play nice attacking football so hopefully will come out and support us and see how good we are for themselves. Hopefully by the time Collingwood comes around in February everyone will be aware of it being hosted in UL and we will get good crowds driving us on!"

# Editorial

Sports Editor, Robert McNamara

TO Estonia and beyond...we hope. Nothing can be taken for granted with our push for Euro 2012 qualification. After what can only be described as a messy performance against Armenia (the RTE panel helpfully compared them to Barcelona) we cannot afford complacency.

If we do get to Poland and the Ukraine, it will have been by sheepishly tapping on the back-door to get in rather than bolting through the front one when we had the opportunity.

It's almost 10 years since our last major tournament appearance at the World Cup in 2002. In my early twenties then, I remember it as a time of plenty and almost expected frivolity. We were so busy earning we had little time to enjoy it.

Of course there was Italia '90 as the Celtic Tiger was but a cub, and USA '94 came just as we were starting to get a little full of ourselves.

However, none of them can compete with the hazy and therefore almost mystical memory of Euro '88 at the tail end of a long recession.

My Dad, who is more of a rugby man than a football fan, almost flew through the ceiling when Ray Houghton smashed the ball into the English net. Sporting glory and indeed any sense

of national success was a foreign concept to us. The country celebrated in unison whether they were football fans or not.

Ireland was a bleak place at the time and had been stuck in a recession for many years. Our infrastructure and quality of life were nothing compared to what we have now.

Very few people had cars or house phones, never mind mobiles. Jobs were scarce and getting by was very much at the fore of most citizens minds. Euro '88 provided a sense of escapism and euphoria from the mundanity of everyday life that we bottled and lived off for 15 years.

It's a different kind of bust we find ourselves in now. A sense of waste lingers rather than deprivation. The fact remains, we need Ireland to get to Euro 2012. If we beat Estonia over two legs and clearly John Delaney thinks we will judging by his reaction to the draw, we can look forward



to a summer free from talk of debt defaulting, job losses and house repossessions.

Make it so Trap. It won't solve our problems but it might give us a kick-start like Ray Houghton's goal against the auld enemy did. Sometimes sport is the most important story of all. Now, where's my Euro '88 jersey?

Sports Editor, Robert McNamara

## Yes He Khan

Colin Clarke

THERE'S no doubting that Amir Khan faces a tough task if he wants to be the first man in history to beat Mayweather.

But, I think he's beatable. Top Speed and conditioning are the two forces which will end Mayweather's 42 match winning streak. Mayweather is slowing down.

It's clear to see from his last two fights that he doesn't get around the ring like he used to in his prime. A fighter like Khan will get opportunities in this fight.

His raw speed and powerful fast hands will catch Mayweather out. Power is something

Mayweather has in abundance but Khan is fresher and faster than him. Khan is ruthless too. He's not the "nice-guy" character in the ring like Ortiz before him and Khan won't let his guard down. Mayweather will have to look deep into his "glove" compartment to find a clean and legal way to beat Khan.

Cheap shots and sucker punches alone will not do it for him this time. Khan's trainer Freddie Roach has said that Mayweather is more hittable than ever before and that a fast guy will catch him out. Khan is that man and I fully expect him to end the amazing run of Mayweather in what is set to be the richest fight in boxing history.



## No He Kahn't

Gary Whelan

THERE have been 44 men who have stepped into the ring with Floyd Joy Mayweather Jr.

All 44 of those men have lost. Seven world titles, multiple Fighter of the Year awards, Ring Magazine pound-for-pound best fighter in the world. Undefeated in over 15 years beating such world champions such as De La Hoya, Hatton, Mosely, Gatti, Márquez and recently the future of the sport, Victor Ortiz. Many people believe Floyd will go down as the second greatest boxer in history with only The Greatest himself being above him. These are the statistics of a human being born

to fight. What makes an average fighter from Bolton, with little technical skill, no punch-power and a very questionable chin think he can step up and be the only man in history to win against the Michigan fighter.

True, Amir Kahn has just one loss on his record; however, the man has been knocked down and close to defeat in a big percentage of his fights, against opponents who Money Mayweather would not even hire as sparring partners. Kahn is very lucky to have Freddie Roach in his corner, but even he cannot stop the eventual counter-attacking punch which Floyd lands through Kahn's flurry of blind punches to end the fight very quickly. Can Amir beat Mayweather, no he Kahn not.





## Sport

# Forgotten Footballer: Gaizka Mendieta

Liam Togher

FROM Valencia, to Lazio, to Barcelona... to Middlesbrough. It certainly seemed like a very strange career path for a Spanish midfielder who had yet to reach 30. Not that Boro fans were complaining, they had sensationally secured the services of Gaizka Mendieta, who was one of the top midfield players in Europe at the beginning of the 2000s.

Mendieta made his name at Valencia, where he played for nine years, making two Champions League final appearances for Los Ches, only to taste defeat to Real Madrid in 2000 and Bayern Munich a year later. He really came of age in the 1999-2000 campaign, when the Mestalla club came from nowhere to reach the final, dumping Barcelona out in a memorable semi-final. Mendieta was named the best midfielder in Europe

that year and in 2001 he scored in Valencia's Champions League final reverse to Bayern. Mendieta moved to big-spending Lazio in the summer of 2001 but his one-year stay in Italy was a major disappointment for a team that had just come to the end of what was, in more ways than one, a golden era. He was loaned to Barcelona for the 2002-03 season but the Catalan club had a miserable campaign and it was felt that Mendieta's star was perhaps on the wane. That, however, didn't stop Middlesbrough fans from joyously welcoming him on loan in 2003 and he resurrected his career at the Riverside, helping them to a famous Carling Cup triumph in 2004.

Mendieta later joined the north-east England club permanently from Lazio, but his remaining three years with Boro were tainted by injury. He played his

last game at the end of 2006 and hung up his boots at the age of 32. He played 40 times for Spain and featured at Euro 2000 and the 2002 World Cup, where he scored the decisive spot kick in the penalty shoot-out against Ireland in the second round.

The popular Spaniard settled in Middlesbrough with his family after he finished playing and nowadays he frequently appears on Sky Sports' coverage of Spanish football. He is better placed than most to give his views on La Liga after he lit up the division in his heyday. Sadly he left Valencia a year before they won the league and it is a shame that this hugely talented player only has a handful of domestic cup medals to his name.



Mendieta often appears on Revista de la Liga these days.

## Limerick Branch of Special Olympics update

Louise Harrison

What has the Limerick branch of Special Olympics been up to since the National games were held in University of Limerick in the summer of 2010?

I recently met with Martin Tierney, an event manager and Jon O'Shaughnessy, an operations manager for the Special Olympic Games in the University of Limerick. "Having the games in Limerick got more Limerick people involved and it gave a centre for Munster in Limerick" said Martin.

Both were first time volunteers, they enjoyed the games so much they decided to stay involved and are some of the main organisers of Special Olympic Games in Limerick.

There have been four events held in Limerick since the Ireland Games. They were Basketball skills, Aquatics, Bocce and Basketball Cup.

Limerick has gained from the games by retaining approximately 350 volunteers who work at a regional level as competition managers and on the Regional event Support team.

After the Limerick Games Martin and Jon concentrated on training up the volunteers that were on the lower levels to be involved in venue management. There was a big push to get a core venue team. They were surprised with the level of response. "Now we have forty volunteers for 15 places for the next event. Everyone will get a chance to try new roles. Volunteers will do whatever is needed."

Martin and Jon hold two or three meetings a year and if there's a new event coming up they have to set up training for a new venue. "University of Limerick have been excellent since the games, the basketball skills, Aquatics and table tennis have been held there."

Head office organise most charity events but having great sponsors and so many volunteers means more athletes can get involved. In Limerick City Special Olympics Club they have been able to take on more athletes and also increase the sports they are offering such as athletics, swimming and basketball. Nine athletes from the Mid-west area represented Ireland at the World Summer Games in Athens.



Brains and brute strength are put to the test in Chess Boxing.

## Sports Virgin: Chess Boxing

Gerard Flynn

IF there was ever a prize given for the most literal name of a sport, surely chess boxing and football would be duking it out for supremacy. Simple ideas usually turn out to be the best ones but the thought process that allowed someone to amalgamate two already existing sports to form some sort of macho/geek hybrid was simply unnecessary.

Chess boxing does exactly what it says on the tin, except that the chess and boxing elements of the sport are separate to each other. Of the eleven rounds that are played, six are chess games while the remaining five are three minute boxing matches. Matches start off with a four minute chess match, followed by the first boxing match which is fought with amateur rules. The chess element of the sport is played against the clock

where the players have only a set time of twelve minutes to make their moves. The least interesting way for a player to lose the game is to take too long when making their chess move.

The matches alternate from chess to boxing and vice versa until someone wins either match or the game is declared a draw. Drawn games are then decided by whoever scores the most points in the boxing ring. Sadly, due to the separation of boxing and chess, there has never been a game yet where someone shouts "checkmate!" then promptly punches their opponent in the face. Chess boxing is divided up into three weight categories with players having to be intellectually strong as well as physically. Watching the sport for the first time, it's quite surprising to see two eighteen stone men coming

into the ring and sitting down to pit their wits against each other on the chess board. I was expecting two meek, asthma and zit ridden nerds to be cautiously poking and prodding each other with their boxing gloves for an hour. How wrong I was.

Chess boxing players are physically similar to normal boxers and the best ones in the world are stoic Russians who bear striking resemblances to Ivan Drago from Rocky IV. While the boxing part of the sport holds up as entertaining, there is something unsettling about two Eastern European powerhouses quietly moving around their pawns, rooks and queens when they should just cast the table aside and knock ten shades of spit out of each other.



**Special Olympics**

## Sports

# NFL Season Reaches Halfway Point

Garry Irwin

WITH the season nearly halfway through for most teams it's already turning into a league of opposites. The new rules might have increased safety but as yet it's too early to see if they have increased competitiveness.

Green Bay continues where they left off and have the longest unbeaten run in the league. Any team that can wrestle the Super Bowl crown off them surely deserves it. But it is at the other end of the ladder where things don't look too rosy. Teams where the season is probably already over before we week eight. Indianapolis, St. Louis and Miami are the teams on the worst winless streaks.

In fact the Dolphins haven't won a game since early last December, and their owners are fishing around for some new coaching staff.

Most surprisingly is surely the run the Colts are on. With Payton Manning out for the season with a neck injury, they have gone from annual playoff contenders to cannon fodder in the space of a few weeks.

Once again proving how important it is to have a competent arm, and brain, in the quarterback position. The Carolina Panthers are another team that has to

endure a nightmare start, but the one positive for them is the form of rookie quarterback Cam Newton. Who has looked assured and has thrown up some impressive numbers so far. Another rookie quarterback to catch the eye is Andy Dalton at Cincinnati. Only given the spot because previous All-Star QB Carson Palmer wanted away from the Bengals in the summer, this lead to a standoff between the owners and the player which saw the owners try and let Palmer sit out his \$11 million a year contract and retire rather than allow him to leave to a rival. He was eventually traded to the Raiders. But Dalton has taken his chance and managed to get the Bengals over the line in a number of tight games.

But while the Raiders and Bengals adjust to new quarterbacks, they probably won't have enough to trouble the Packers come the end of the season. For that we need to look at teams such as the Patriots or the Ravens. Maybe even the surprising 49ers, who are off to their best start in fifteen years. Whoever comes to the fore, it should be an interesting second half to the football year.



It's at the halfway point for hurling on ice.



Jared Huggins has got his life back on track.

## The Jared Huggins Story - Part 2

Cian Liddy

IN February 2010 Jared Huggins was living in temporary accommodation and facing homelessness by the end of that month. He had been homeless for the previous six months, living out of his car in Los Angeles.

After posting his story on the poker forum twoplustwo.com, one poster on the site decided to offer Jared \$30 to make a video. The conditions of the video were Jared had to hug at least ten strangers on the street in Los Angeles. Jared agreed to the terms and went about making the video.

Everyone following the story expected Jared to dolefully make a video of himself hugging ten strangers with little fanfare. The resulting creation however took everyone by surprise. Jared's video was uplifting and extremely well produced. Unexpectedly he got a warm reception from the people of Los Angeles while standing on the streets holding a 'free hugs' sign.

The video was to change Jared's life. The users of the forum decided they would do their best to get Jared off the streets. Some people gave him money while others gave him work around their homes in the Los Angeles area.

Professional poker player Justin Smith organised a life coach for Jared and a

cameo appearance in a Dr Dre video. Jared got enough money together to get a place to stay; he was finally off the streets. A petition was drawn up and signed by thousands of users of the site to get Jared on the poker game show Pokerstars, The Big Game. The petition was successful and Jared found himself with an opportunity to make a lot of money. The game show works like this. One contestant is selected to play against a table of professional players. The contestant is given \$100,000 and permitted to keep only the profits he makes from that money at the end of the show. Alas Jared did not make any profit from his appearance.

The wheels of change were already firmly turning in Jared's life however and he now found himself being offered journalistic work from some major poker sites. He worked for pokerstatic.com interviewing at this year's World Series at Las Vegas.

Jared is now finally at a place where he is happy with his life. He is working, raising funds for various charities whenever he can and looking forward to what the future brings.

## NHL Early Season Report Card

Garry Irwin

A FEW weeks into the new hockey season and we can see some familiar faces atop the conference tables. While a few surprise teams have come out of the blocks well, a few, including the defending champs Boston have yet to find their rhythm on the ice.

Up in Canada things have not started well, as Montreal, Winnipeg and Ottawa struggle, with each team recording more losses than wins in the opening few weeks of games. Also perennial playoff contenders Tampa Bay and San Jose cannot be content with their sluggish play opening the season.

Last time out in An Focal we said if you were going to follow anyone, make it the Edmonton Oilers, the holders of the previous two years worst records; and they have shown a lot of promise that this year will be a massive

improvement. Their rookie centre, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored on his debut and followed that up with a hat trick in the very next game, he is surely one to look out for in the coming months and a future star in the making.

The Maple Leafs are looking to become top dogs north of the border once again, but the hockey mad city will surely make do with a playoff spot after years of constant disappointment, they haven't had a winning season or made the playoffs since 2004. Other teams who are looking to overturn recent history and build on their hopeful starts are the New York Islanders and the Colorado Avalanche. The Islanders haven't recorded a season above .500 since 1984, but after beating arch rivals the Rangers, maybe this season could see them gel and become a force to be

reckoned with. The Avs have won the Stanley Cup twice in their short history but have been in decline the last number of years; will improved goaltending help them make the playoffs?

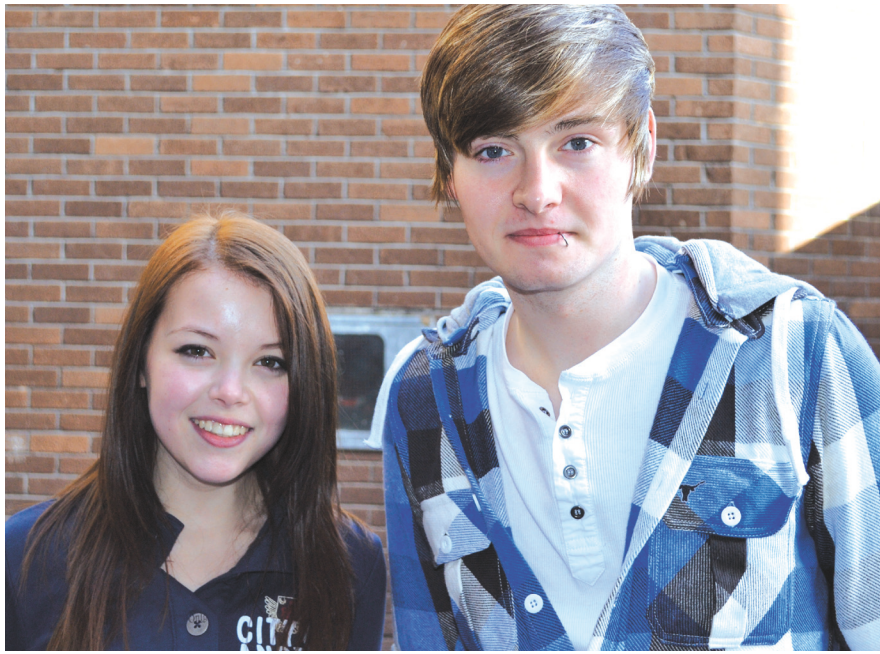
Some of the usual suspects have started strongly too, as mentioned in the last issue, the Red Wings, Flyers and Penguins all have playoff, if not Stanley Cup, ambitions and so far have lived up to their fans expectations of them. Finally, it seems the addition of Tomáš Vokoun in goals for the Washington Capitals could be the last piece of the puzzle missing from the Caps dream of winning the cup. But of course there is a lot of hockey between now and April.



The NHL season is hotting up.

Student Speak

# STUDENT SPEAK



This week, Dearbhaile Brennan and Jason Kennedy went round campus informing students about NUIG cancelling RAG week.

## We asked, "Should UL ban it's Charity Week?" Here's what you have to say:

*"Hell no!"*  
- Eoin Murray and Tara Kelly



*"Why would a single person say yes in the first place?"*  
- Niamh Broderick



*"Definitely not, it's a disgrace they're being cancelled. It's only the minority ruining it."* - Daniel Fox



*"No. I think it unites everyone in UL towards a common goal."* - Evanna Downes



*"No. It's a good way to let off steam after all the hard work."* - Jack Brolly



*"Even if we do cancel it, it will still go ahead."* - Jennifer Cleary



*"No, because we all like to get drunk, relax, and have fun."* - Kate Stewart



*"Why would we cancel it? We'd be letting down our local charities."* - Steffan Ashe



*"No. It raises money for charity and that's always a good thing."* - Sarah Dawson



*"No way. It's a good fundraising event."* - Liam Seck

## Comment

# RTE retains an Irishness we should be proud of

Aoife Coughlan

Maybe I am a sucker for nostalgia, tradition and a sense of “old” Ireland, but I can’t help but feel resentment every time someone suggests an overhaul in our national broadcaster, the iconic RTE. Figures of late have shown a dramatic decrease in audience numbers for RTE television and radio.

These lead to the revamp questions being asked, but worse some people would argue for the redundant nature of RTE in this era. Maybe I am not thinking in terms of economics, credibility, pie charts and boardrooms but something about the dismissing of our national radio and television channel makes me feel just a little bit sad. In this day and age Sky and numerous other companies provide us with the satellite TV experience. I am the first to admit that I love my multi-channel choices. Early morning is not right without Channel Four’s *The Gilmore Girls* repeats, what is lunch without a bit of *The Documentary Channel*?

And don’t mention Nickelodeon, there to feed some people’s *Sponge Bob* addiction, and all that is just while residing in college accommodation!

However, I still find the simple pleasures of RTE to be needed, even if just break up some of our less than education viewing habits.

We all need to catch up the news at times, the bias in international media in the conglomerate age means that stations such as Fox, Sky or CNN are not always reliable, not to mention not always relevant to the area of “home news”. Without RTE how would we get our fix of Brian Dobson telling us about yet another factory closure or even more important, that *Westlife* have finally split up! Leaving aside sarcasm I still hold to the core of the opinion, national news deserves air time and we deserve unbiased accounts of all current affairs, national or international.

Even though I note nostalgia as one of my reasons for continuing a love affair with RTE I make allowances that many my age would not see this as a good enough reason. However, the college student is not the only audience member and though figures show we are turning away there is still the older generation who should not go unrecognised.

Many older people like the idea of

turning on the television or radio to see a familiar face or the customary voice. We grew up in the age of international channels and are accustomed to flicking through hundreds of stations but some people want the traditional, established form of media. If RTE is a public service then I do not think it right to deny it to this grouping.

The *Late Late Show* may be facing competition but that does not take away from the fact that is the longest running chat show in the world, *Reeling in the Years* was one of the biggest successes in RTE history and love it or loath it, *Fair City* is always going to attract an audience. These are just some of the programs that sit on the “pro” list in the national broadcaster debate, and do note this is before we mention *Grey’s Anatomy*, *Neighbours*, *Home and Away* and other shows imported from across the waters that command cult followings. Viewing figures may wax and wane but RTE will always be needed. It may not have the X factor, in schedule or characteristic, but sometimes popularity contests don’t account for tradition and service.



The Late Late: RTE’s flagship show

## Glamorous Unemployment

Colm Fitzgerald, Comment Editor

I have a phrase for the standard “you didn’t get the job” rejection email. It’s called the “Dear John”.

It usually consists of lovely flowery phrases such as “Thank you for your interest but...” or “We are unable to progress your application...” or “The position has been filled”.

I’ve experienced great frustration over the last 12 months and longer in trying to find even 2 or 3 hours work a week, doing pretty much anything. Heck, I’d even apply to open a cardboard box.

I’ve had absolutely no success and as a result I’m rightly pissed off.

I’m not a Business Student, nor am I an expert in Human Resources, but it seems to me that the method of recruitment used by the majority of firms big or small is probably the most impersonal and ineffective.

It prompts you to do everything but provide your true and natural reaction. Ever done any of those online applications where it asks you “What would you do in this situation?” It’s quite obvious what they want you to answer, so why would you answer anything else? “A Customer asks you where an item is kept. Do you A- Show them B- Tell them to feck off”. Need I say any more?

In a similar vein, it encourages an annoying culture of lying, hyperbole and false information. So, did the paper round for 2 weeks? Nobody would notice if you said you did it for 2 years. Similarly, describing duties of

previous employment is often comedic. “Dealt with customers in a friendly and professional manner” when you really hated and cursed them all.

“Fully Experienced” is as ambiguous as heck. Because there will be different definitions of “experienced”, so how can a time value possibly be attached to it? I’ve gained a huge amount of experience in editing a newspaper in 2 years; someone else might take 5 years to gain the same amount. So, looking for “fully experienced” bar staff? Might as well say “Veteran”, then!

The interview is just like the Leaving Cert. It judges your performance on one particular meeting. And we all know how much the Leaving Cert has been castigated for that very reason.

They also seem to add in unusual variables to put you off. I’ve been interviewed in a canteen with the rest of the staff having their lunch. I once witnessed a woman being interviewed in a busy café in an English train station. And a friend of mine was once interviewed whilst standing at the counter in a shop.

Now, tell me if I’m being naïve, but surely that is entirely unnecessary? Is one’s ability to work hard reflected in their ability to cope with a bizarre interview?

Another bone I have to pick with retail in particular, is their “No, No jobs going here!” mantra, yet every week new staff seem to start work there. This is probably the biggest gripe I hold in this seemingly infinite quest. So, if you have vacancies in your delightful company, I’d really love one of them!

## The Government Job-Bridge Scheme Facts and Flaws

Colin Clarke

Give them an inch and they will take a mile. It’s a commonly used cliché in Irish society that we have got used to over the last few years. Bankers, politicians and now some local Irish employers are getting in on the act.

The Government backed Job-Bridge Internship Scheme is a great idea in theory but some exploitative employers are trying to cheat the system and use it as a means of acquiring cheap labour. The Job-Bridge scheme was supposed to take 5,000 people off the dole, but misuse by some employers has heaped negative publicity on the initiative.

The Scheme has been set up to try to get Ireland back to work and it could be a fantastic system if governed correctly. Loose guidelines, however, has allowed for dubious jobs to be dressed up as internships instead of being advertised as “proper” full or part time work.

A major reform of these guidelines is essential if this system is going to be successful in the long term.

You won’t read me writing this very often but I have to give a spec of credit to Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton. It’s clear that there is some logic in this scheme and Mrs screechy lungs herself has realised the need for reform.

Employers who take on interns must realise that they should be providing the intern with a set of skills that he/she can use to further develop their chances of getting a job in the real world. They cannot simply use the intern as cheap labour instead of hiring staff. Common sense must prevail in the governance of this scheme if it is to have any credibility.

An online blog called Job-Bridge To Nowhere has been created with the mandate of naming and shaming companies that list jobs under Job-Bridge that they should be paying people for. Some of these “internships” listed include assistant psychologists, shop assistants, green keepers, dog groomers and my personal favourite of a vagaslist (not a real word but one I’m hoping will eventually make it into the dictionary).

Yes, that’s right; one job offered an internship in the art of vajazzling. Vajazzling, for those of you who are not up to date with recent women’s fashion trends, is the art of gluing

crystals or stones to one’s vagina. I think that this Job-Bridge Scheme could benefit both responsible employers and unemployed people who have a genuine eagerness to get back to work. Providing that it is radically reformed, it could create opportunities for people who have been forced into unemployment and could provide them with a second chance. It could also serve as a deterrent to emigration which is an issue destroying families across the island.



## Lifestyle

# Blame your late running train on a derailed management: Why Irish Rail is going nowhere fast

Colm Fitzgerald, Comment Editor

IT'S a Friday evening, and you're heading home to wherever up the country.

You arrive at a windswept Limerick Junction after a brief though somewhat unsettling trip on a boneshaker railcar, only to find your next train is cancelled, hugely late, or is formed of just 3 carriages and you have to stand for the journey. The problems and corruption in Irish Rail are multifaceted.

If, like me, you took Economics for the Leaving Cert (or indeed are such a scholar at UL) you'll know that a semi-state body generally does not exist to provide a profit and as such will not operate in the most effective manner. Instead it exists generally only to provide essential services. Sadly, Irish Rail, a company with a reasonable amount of untapped potential, fits the above description well.

In recent years, the company has taken decisions which have been majorly influenced by politics. Take for example the Western Rail Corridor, providing trains between Limerick and Galway. From the outset, the cheap option that was opted for would only be a white elephant. It offers slow and expensive

trains which meander through the Co. Galway countryside, with a total journey time of 2 hours. Compare this to the Bus Eireann 51X service, which surely many of you are patrons, which takes about 80 minutes.

There are plenty more difficulties on the ground on a daily basis which are a greater problem. Trains to Sligo and Rosslare are often run with Commuter Railcars, entirely unsuited to long journeys. This is thanks in part to the rushed retirement of the old "orange" MKIII carriages (which continue in service in the UK), most of which are now dumped in North Wall in Dublin.

From a local perspective, it is difficult to understand why there are no direct trains to Dublin after 9am from Limerick. Having used the rail network in the UK extensively over the summer, organisation seems far more widespread there. Multiple companies provide services there, with all of them providing information about services in a far clearer and effective manner. Similarly, trains actually run at times which make sense and not all trains run to Dublin! Finally, reserving a seat when booking online should not be mandatory. Recent trains I've been on have had Darth Vader and Adolf Hitler booked to travel. I'm unsure is that the endorsement we need!



Irish Rail: Making decisions based on politics as opposed to consumer feedback

## Surviving the FYP

Andrea Gallagher

IT'S a frosty Thursday morning in January in the non-term time University village ghost town of Castletroy, Limerick. At least I think it's a Thursday, but the day doesn't matter. When you're "Doing the FYP", there are no days, only hours of daylight in between the half an hour it takes to drag yourself out of bed and the merciful moment in the evening when the creak of a door signals the first housemate to crack and make the journey downstairs for tea and Coronation Street.

For most 4th years at UL, (ahem, hard luck Law and Euro!) January is a far off, comforting beacon of hope, the promised land of hard work to suppress the guilt of first semester negligence, and just the right side of Christmas.

You reassure your older, wiser supervisor confidently, "Yes, but you see I've actually decided to dedicate my entire January to my FYP, so..." January is the month of the return to the grim (if a little flooded) arms of student accommodation. The very act of returning to a freezing house strewn with tragic remnants of the après exam frenzy of December, far from the indulgence of home cooking seems an adequate forfeit in itself. When you make the FYP Pilgrimage to Castletroy, the first thing to do is The Shopping. The genuine FYP experience necessitates the hermit look, which simply cannot be achieved by frequent trips to the

Mecca of Superquinn. Stocking up on practical goods is important. It's all about perish-ability! Meticulous effort to prepare dinners (for those of us to have discovered Tupperware and the miracle of freezing) takes up a day or 3. You see, once you get enough dinners cooked for a month, THEN you can settle down and focus on your FYP. And so it begins. Day one: I'm a one-woman poetry SAS crack unit. Everything is shiny and new and the zest for learning is overwhelming. But what's that I spy from my (perfectly arranged) desk? If it isn't my laptop from 1st year! It took its last breath many moons ago, since replaced by a kindly sibling hand-me-down. I absentmindedly turn it on, half expecting a miracle rebirth, but get the familiar error message I never bothered to decipher (recession wasn't in my vocabulary at the time). I'm soon searching the dark realms of computer geek forums for step by step instructions on how to resurrect this poor neglected piece of scrap metal. Six hours later I have burned two discs of reboot software with little triumph. Two hours later I'm looking a little dishevelled, but more determined than ever. I hear footsteps on the wooden stairs. This usually initiates a nice cup of tea and a two hour conversation, the threatening type where someone could leave any minute and upset the entire dynamic, and everyone will have to return to their respective FYP

caves. An FYP survivor friend walks in and eyes me suspiciously, enquiring as to what exactly I'm doing. After I manically explain my achievement with wide-eyed grit (I'm about to reboot it), he congratulates me... but his eyes say "and WHO has been looking after The FYP?!" At the ripe old post FYP age of 25, he gently prods "I hope you didn't spend all day doing this... because that's what I might have done when I was doing my FYP..." So where can one find relief from this burden? It can be refreshing to place yourself in a situation or group of friends where The FYP doesn't exist. Like an alternate universe. One January morning I called my mother to hear a chirpy voice asking whether I was working that day because I was up so early. I glumly stated (although with that smug self sacrificial pride of an FYP student) that no, I was up.... "Doing The FYP". Instead of the pat-on-the-back sympathy I was used to from my fellow UL graduate siblings she enquired, very confusedly and casually "What's the FYP?!" Now, this isn't a case of all encompassing FYP self pity/importance. Or even just the standard "my parents haven't a notion what I'm doing at college" situation. My mother has had FIVE children go through the gates of UL (I'm from a good Catholic home you see). That must be some kind of record. Five UL graduates = FIVE FYP's lovingly dedicated to her. You do not have that many children do The FYP without at least recognising the term, particularly as something of a negative or at least meeting its mention with the required reception of support/pity. I'd love to tackle that question but you better stop procrastinating, that book shelf isn't going to alphabetically arrange itself you know!



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## Lifestyle

# Dealing with Depression

Emma Norris

IN light of the recent Mental Health Week, here are some practical tips on coping with depression:

Over-sleeping is one of those tell-tale signs of depression. You might end up sleeping during the day and staying up all night, missing college and being awake when the rest of the world is asleep. You might feel like you're letting people down by missing college and who is there to talk to in the middle of the night?

Of course, there are always help-lines you can call but getting into a good sleeping pattern is probably a more proactive choice. Researchers tell

us that having a routine is extremely helpful in keeping depression at bay. A regular sleeping pattern and healthy eating habits (both content and frequency) will benefit you physically and mentally. Sometimes when you're feeling awful, you want to be left alone. In reality, this gives sad thoughts time to germinate in your brain. Keeping in contact with people is particularly important when you're feeling down. Surround yourself with friends.

It might feel like a real struggle to laugh and smile along with them but it will distract you from your own worries.

Talking about how you feel isn't for everyone, sometimes you feel like your friends won't understand or your parents will be angry, but you might

surprise yourself with how relieved you feel after a long chat with someone. You know what they say, a problem shared is a problem halved!

A lot of people are not aware that alcohol is a depressant. While one or two drinks make most people feel relaxed, more alcohol may cause feelings of anxiety, depression and sometimes aggression.

Research suggests that continued alcohol use can actually cause depression. So while you might feel like drowning your sorrows in a few cans of cider, it's really best to hold off on the booze until your mood improves. You could end up feeling a lot worse than you did in the first place! Exercise! It's almost common knowledge that exercise promotes the



release of endorphins which help to lift your mood. While you might not be feeling too energetic in the middle of a bout of depression, studies have shown that even a 15 minute walk every day can not only help to combat mild depression but also prevent it in the first place. If you haven't exercised

for a while, start gently by walking for 15-20 minutes every day. Get involved with a team or join some classes in the Sports Arena. An exercise that you can engage in regularly will do wonders for your mental health, it will clear your mind and increase those happy hormones!

## Gonorrhoea becoming resistant to certain antibiotics

Leonie Holly

AFTER a new and worrying statistic has been released in relation to the effectiveness of the antibiotic cefixime on gonorrhoea, doctors have been asked to change their methods of treatment.

A report from the Health Protection Agency in the UK has released information on how samples taken from patients which were grown in a laboratory, showed resistance to cefixime in 17.4% of cases in 2010. This is compared to just 10.6% of cases in 2009. It has now been suggested for it to be treated by a combination of two other antibiotics; one is called ceftriaxone and is given via injection. The second is azithromycin and is taken orally. Gonorrhoea is the second most common bacterial sexually transmitted infection, trailing just behind chlamydia. The fact that it has now shown resistance to an antibiotic is worrying and may lead to the infection, in time, being incurable. Symptoms of the infection in men include a thick discharge from the penis, inflammation of the testicles, pain when urinating and irritation and discharge from the anus.

Likewise in women symptoms include strong smelling vaginal discharge, pain while urinating, irritation or discharge from the anus, low abdominal or pelvic tenderness. Condoms are about 98% effective against pregnancy, if used correctly, and vastly reduce the risk of transmitting infections. They are readily available to you free in your student union and can be purchased in surrounding shops, pharmacies and supermarkets. So, don't be silly, wrap your willy! Unfortunately, gonorrhoea sometimes shows up no symptoms. This is why we need to be mature about our sexual health and get screened on a regular basis. The student health centre in block C, level M of the main building is a good place to start. The service is free and open five days a week. Give them a call on 061 202534 or simply call in to make an appointment. It is as simple as that. So, remember, when gonorrhoea is caught in its early stages it can be treated by a combination of antibiotics. However, if left too late, many complications ensue.



Gonorrhoea is becoming resistant to the antibiotic cefixime.

## Curvy vs. Skinny: What do men want?

Barbara Ross

IT'S the age-old question: curvy or skinny, which do men prefer? Marilyn Monroe was a size 16 and counted as one of the sexiest women in the world. Attraction is all down to ancient animal instincts.

Biological indicators tell us that skinny women are less fertile than curvy ones. Dividing the circumference of a woman's waist by that of her hips will give you her waist-hip ratio.

In Western cultures, a waist-hip ratio of 0.7 appears to be the one that men find most appealing on a woman.

Given that women's bodies were originally designed to carry a developing child over a relatively long period compared to other species, women are natural fat-storers. Back when our ancestors lived in caves and food was scarce, a woman with some meat on her bones was more likely to be able to carry a child to term.

A certain level of healthy fat sends a signal to men that a woman is a good choice as a mate. Recent research suggests that body mass index (BMI) is a strong predictor of a woman's level of attractiveness. A BMI that falls into a normal range is most desirable.

In one of the least shocking discoveries of the 21st century, it turns out there's a biological reason why leering boob men are alive and well in the world today.

In 2004, a study published in Biological Sciences found that large breasts were associated with higher levels of mid-cycle estradiol and progesterone in women, making conception easier.

A woman with some fat on her body is therefore more appealing from a mating perspective to men. Unless they're implants, it's rare for skinny women to have large breasts.

While some guys indulge the bulge, others are thoroughly turned on by the supermodel physique. This breadth of tastes is what allows humanity to thrive. As if only the generically 'beautiful' got laid, the human race would die out. Men are much more visually driven than women. That's just a fact. Mother Nature in her

infinite wisdom has engineered it so that women with boobs and hips will always be in biological favour and men are nothing if not driven by nature's Viagra. Men like women who take care of themselves and look healthy. So girls, stop dieting to a size zero and get healthy.

Then you'll be irresistible.



Marilyn Monroe was a size 16 and counted as one of the sexiest women in the world.

## Lifestyle

# Cheating: The Ultimate Betrayal?

Paul O' Sullivan

CHEATING, or the thought of cheating, on your other half brings with it a burden that very few relationships can bear. It is a destructive force and its ripple effect often impacts both parties in future relationships and even in day-to-day interactions with the opposite sex. But why do people go down a road so clearly fraught with grief? There are countless reasons but the motivation behind the act does vary from person to person. You may have a lack of enthusiasm for your relationship, a feeling that you are not appreciated, an intense physical attraction to somebody else or maybe you are just bored with your relationship and are looking for a way to spice up your life. Many of these problems can be solved by re-opening the lines of communication with your significant other. Other problems, however, have little to do with the relationship and more to do with an individual's psychology.

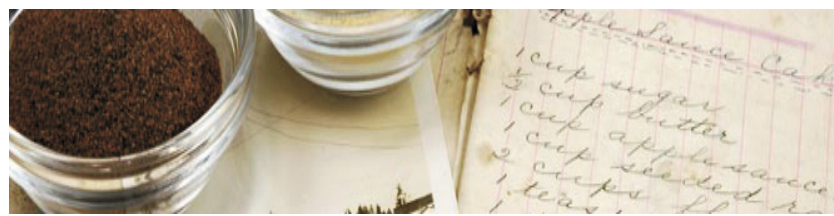
People find it difficult to reconcile their feelings of intense physical attraction to someone other than their partner with what they know to be morally correct. This is a struggle that is inherent in everyone. It is a natural

part of our biological make-up to feel attracted to other people, even when you are in an exclusive relationship. Therefore, it is not cheating to think sexually about people other than your companion. It only enters this territory when you either act on it or feel that you will act on it. People are naturally inclined to desire what they cannot have. If society indicates that it is wrong to cheat, suddenly the idea becomes a lot more attractive to people. People are also curious about what they may or may not be missing out on. These predispositions are a great hindrance to any relationship.

The fact is that the grass is not always greener on the other side. This constant battle between your moral intuitiveness and your libido is the battle that will determine whether or not you are capable of cheating. If your morals are victorious, you are not immune from temptation but you are unlikely to act on it. If you discover that your libido is the stronger force, you are probably better off ending the relationship civilly before you open up a Pandora's Box of issues for your partner.



Could you ever trust your partner again if they cheated on you?



## GINGERGIRL'S FOOD UL LOVE...

Helen Keown, Food Columnist

AUTUMN brings the best vegetables for wholesome soup and butternut squash. You'll be amazed at just how simple this soup is to make and surprised at the few ingredients required. Feel free to play about with this recipe; I like to add some toasted sunflower seeds, bacon lardons or homemade croutons depending on my mood. Butternut squash creates a velvety, creamy texture, rich in wholesome goodness. This really is autumn in a bowl!

### Roast Butternut Squash Soup

- 1 medium to large butternut squash
- 2 red onions
- Olive oil
- 2 vegetable stock cubes - I use Kallo organic, low salt vegetable stock cubes
- Salt and fresh black pepper
- 1 teaspoon of fresh thyme

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Peel the butternut squash, cut in half lengthways and scoop out the seeds using a large spoon. Cut the squash into large chunks and place on a baking tray. Peel the red onions and chop into quarters before placing on the same baking tray. Drizzle the vegetables with a little olive oil and season with salt. Roast, uncovered, in the oven for 30 minutes or until the vegetables are soft and caramelised. Meanwhile make the stock using 600ml of boiling water and two vegetable stock cubes.

Once the vegetables are cooked, place in the saucepan on a medium heat with the fresh thyme and add the stock.

Bring the soup to the boil then simmer for thirty minutes. Remove the soup from the heat and gently blend using a hand blender until smooth and check the seasoning.

Enjoy with some crusty bread! Helen's produce is available nationwide from independent food emporiums and at UL Farmer's Market where you can also purchase her range of breads and chocolate brownies. Helen also writes a weekly food column for the Limerick Leader and the Limerick Chronicle and is Spin Southwest's resident "foodie".

Want some cooking advice and tips? Email [helen@gingergirl.ie](mailto:helen@gingergirl.ie)

For a chance to win some delicious gingergirl produce and avail of special offers, follow gingergirl on Twitter ([gingergirlfood](https://twitter.com/gingergirlfood)) or on facebook ([gingergirl](https://www.facebook.com/gingergirl)).



## THE BEAUTY COLUMN

Roisin Curran, Beauty Columnist

BODY oil should come with a warning on the packaging, or at least a set of instructions. It's not me being daft here, it's basic common sense.

Body oil can go terribly wrong or terrifically right. Before I start off, however, I want to make the assumption that both I and the readers are fully aware of what body oil can do behind closed doors...

So there will be no stating of the awkwardness here thank you very much! Use it in a couple's bath to soften both of your skin but be careful of letting your man know.

Baby oil in his bath might be the tip of an iceberg of bubbles, scented candles and Adele on the iPod. You want to keep a slight bit of his masculinity intact, so what he doesn't know won't hurt him, it'll just soften his skin!

It can be a great way to suggest romantic cuddling or it can be an awful mood killer.

Every lady wants her man to hold up a bottle, dim the lights, spark the candles and offer a sensual massage. No one wants the, "What's the story with me, you and a bottle of baby oil?" text.

Another thing the lady wants is smooth strokes with the right amount. She doesn't want to feel like a slip and slide for your hands.

Baby oil is messy, so use it sparingly with small amounts in the palm of your hand to avoid staining the sheets.

But don't go too far on the massage. It's better to be safe and dry than sorry and slippery. Oil breaks latex, so if you are having sex (and safely)

do not involve the poor bottle of baby oil. It will render the condom useless and become a real mood killer nine months down the line.



It's time to oil up!





Turn to page 16 to find out why Roisin Burke thinks  
The Three Musketeers doesn't make the cut.

2nd November 2011

Issue 5 FREE  
Volume XX



# The Power of Art

**Josh Lee, Arts & Entertainments Editor**

WHILE bombs and bullets ultimately brought Muammar Gaddafi's 42-year rule of Libya to a bloody end, the rumbling tremors of revolution in the People's Republic of China are taking a distinctly more peaceful approach.

In 2010, literary critic, Liu Xiaobo was famously awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in absentia following his work in drafting the human rights manifesto, Charter 08, an act which saw him gaoled for eleven years in 2009.

More recently, the conceptual artist and prominent political dissident, Ai Weiwei, was arrested while boarding a flight in Beijing and detained mysteriously for three months. Previously thought to be an untouchable figure even in the Communist Party of China's (CPC) totalitarian state, Ai's arrest sparked outrage from Western governments and the international art community.

Perhaps best known for his part in designing Beijing's "Bird's Nest" Stadium and his Sunflower Seeds exhibition at London's Tate Modern Turbine Hall, Ai was named the most powerful artist in the world by ArtReview magazine in October.

The magazine credited the 54-year-old with "activities [that] have allowed artists to move away from the idea that they work within a privileged zone limited by the walls of a gallery or museum."

Ai has been a long-time opponent of the dictatorial Chinese government; a government which, he says, has led the country to a state to that "in many ways is just like the middle ages."

"China's control over people's minds and the flow of information is just like the time before the Enlightenment," Ai said in an interview shortly before his arrest. "People with

different minds and voices are being thrown into prison."

Ai has never been far from the CPC's reach. His father, the influential poet Ai Qing, was sent into an 18 year exile in 1957 for alleged "rightism" when his son was just a year old. Under the conditions of his release, Ai is forbidden from speaking to journalist and using the internet, a medium which he has used to spread ideas and criticisms in the past, especially among younger generations. Although he criticised the Chinese government in an August

"Ai was named the most powerful artist in the world by ArtReview magazine in October"

Newsweek article, he has largely remained silent.

The work of both Liu and Ai are reminiscent of the likes of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (The Gulag Archipelago) and Boris Pasternak (Dr. Zhivago) in the USSR. Free artistic expression is one of the first victims of totalitarian regimes, and with good reason.

With the power to transcend societal barriers, its subversive power is huge. Whether the pen proves to be mightier than the sword in China's case is yet to be seen.



Chinese artist Ai Weiwei poses in his Sunflower Seeds installation.

## Arts &amp; Ents

# Particle Physics, and a Crowbar?

Evan O'Grady

I MUST admit my entry into the Half Life series is a late occurring one. The original dropped into stores long before my gaming days truly began back in 1998.

A major title in the then flagging FPS genre, it was miles ahead in terms of storytelling, presentation and, most importantly, gameplay.

As pre-rendered cut-scenes were being considered increasingly the norm, in Half Life the player rarely ever stepped out of the shoes of physicist Gordon Freeman as he attempts to survive a

brutal alien assault in the underground Black Mesa facility. Unfortunately I never saw or played the title until the comedy short Freeman's Mind piqued my interest.

Since I was now aware of the storyline behind it I decided I would instead opt to play its sequels, and I was not mistaken in my choice. Half Life 2, and its strangely titled semi-sequels Episodes One and Two, remain some of the most acclaimed PC games ever made. From the very first tram ride until the final moments in the White

Forest facility, Half Life 2 holds your attention. Set several years after the events of Black Mesa, Freeman walks into a dystopian future. Unarmed and disorientated, he ambles around the crumbling City 17, as throughout the game, its dictator general Dr Breen beams his face onto every screen, in reference to Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four. Aided by the Source physics engine, Half Life 2 plays extremely well. Arguably, the Half Life series sets a precedent for all FPS to come after it. Many current games such as



Dr Gordon Freeman

Bioshock and Deus Ex owe much to its mechanics of shooting, puzzling and general gaping in awe at the brains behind it all. Though it shows some age in textures, and some odd foibles that to a more recent gamer may seem odd, such as the exclusion of iron sights, the 'aim button' so to speak. Where it excels is the physics, unsurprisingly, given the protagonist's occupation. Gravity and momentum are also as you'd expect them to be in real life. The game's minor flaw is its AI: enemy soldiers throw themselves

into the path of Gordon's crossfire all too often. Half Life 2 is most definitely an amazing game.

Enemies are terrifying, friends are heart-warming, the cities crumble, the towns fester with monsters, and the forest enchants you with its quiet dignity, untouched by the horrors gunning for you, not only Gordon, but you the player. That is why Half Life exists. To make you see another world, a window to the fantastic. And that is the essence of gaming.

## Blink-182 are back



Alt-rockers, Blink-182

Declan Mills

It's been an exciting few months for alt-rock fans of a certain age. In June, Taking Back Sunday released their first album with their classic line-up since 2002 and now, after eight years of silence, Blink-182's Neighborhoods is finally out.

The first thing that should be acknowledged is that fans of pre-hiatus Blink who buy Neighborhoods hoping for Enema of the State Part 2 will be disappointed. After a cursory listen, one would be forgiven for thinking that the band's darker side projects, Angels and Airwaves, (+44) and Box Car Racer, had recorded an album together. Judged on its own merits, however, this album is a rewarding and enjoyable listen.

Opening with an intro worthy of AVA at their most spaced-out, first track "Ghost on the Dance Floor"

quickly dives into gloomier territory, ruminating on the death of Travis Barker's friend and collaborator DJ AM. Indeed, the whole album is preoccupied with questions of aging and mortality, which is unsurprising given the circumstances surrounding their reformation. Despite this, there are upbeat tunes in there; I grinned like a loon all the way through "Wishing Well" and frankly you would need a heart of stone to hear it without nodding along.

The SoCal punk influence that was an integral part of Blink's sound only manifests itself on two tracks: "MH 4.18.2011" and "Heart's All Gone", which is preceded on the deluxe edition by, wait for it, an instrumental interlude. However, despite the predominance of 'Tom songs' on the album, this does not mean that Blink have become AVA

2.0. While the bouncing guitars that have become DeLonge's signature are present and correct (see "Natives" for a shining example) his unique vocal style which, unchecked, has made his other work such as an acquired taste, is restrained here by Mark and Travis' creative input.

Neighborhoods seems to signify a new creative direction for Blink, who are moving away from punk rock into uncharted waters. While it may disappoint those hoping for a rehash of old glories, it shows that after nineteen years, including four on 'indefinite hiatus', Blink are still relevant and still at the vanguard of American alternative music.

## Seth Macfarlane wants Family Guy to end

Keith Beegan

A DRUNKEN father, a talking dog, an evil genius one-year-old and an awkward manic-depressive teenager. Hardly the ideal middle class family with a white picket fence, but they guarantee you're wearing your happy pants by the end of their half hour time-slot.

This begs the question: why stop now? The Griffin household and the queue of eccentric neighbours that populate the fictional town of Quahog have been dominating the airwaves for one year short of a decade, and have rarely let audiences down. The show's humour is controversial and provocative, with jokes aimed at ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and the gay community, to name a few.

But audiences have come to accept this humour as light-hearted and if you are a celebrity that the show mocks, you must be doing something right. In 2002 the show suffered cancellation after a mere three seasons but cult followings ensured highly profitable DVD releases and impressive rerun ratings, which rekindled Fox's enthusiasm for the show's continuation.

The animated series has since released a further six seasons and revamped the show to keep it fresh and interesting.

The start of season four marked the rebirth of Stewie Griffin's character; he resigned as an evil genius plotting to kill his mother and was reborn as a closeted homosexual in love with



Family Guy creator, Seth MacFarlane, has confessed a part of him would like to see his hit show come to an end

Brian the dog. The hilarity of Stewie's evil antics had become quite stale and this transformation revitalised the show's humour. As opposed to showcasing a new weapon or machine each week, we now witness Stewie dressing up as a woman, flirting with the dog and offering innuendos that certify his new sexual orientation.

Another notable change centred around one of Peter Griffin's best friends, Cleveland Brown, who left Spooner Street and was recast as the protagonist in a spin-off show, The Cleveland Show.

The omission of such characters is always a risk but appears to have paid off as the show was renewed for a fourth season. It is difficult to gauge whether MacFarlane wants the show to end respectfully on a high note, as the Simpsons should have done 12 seasons ago instead of insulting the fans, or if he has become too preoccupied with his other shows: The Cleveland Show, American Dad and a planned remake of The Flintstones.

## Arts &amp; Ents

# Totally Addicted to the Box

Roisin Burke

It was made for a Monday night when the weekend was over and there was nothing much happening, but slowly, very slowly, TV has become the main entertainment hobby of the world and is quietly killing the social nation.

I think the realisation of the grip of TV hit when I was skulking behind a tent with a work colleague over the weekend who pulled out a portable TV to watch the Liverpool/Man United match and another piped up how 'old skul' portable TVs were: "Just use your phone!" was his high-tech suggestion. Welcome to the era of the smartphone.

TV is no longer the box in the corner; it's down the pub, on your phone and on your laptop as you procrastinate from work. It is a universally accepted concept that is more easily accessible than buying bread in the local shop. Its 24/7. It's here and now, immediately.

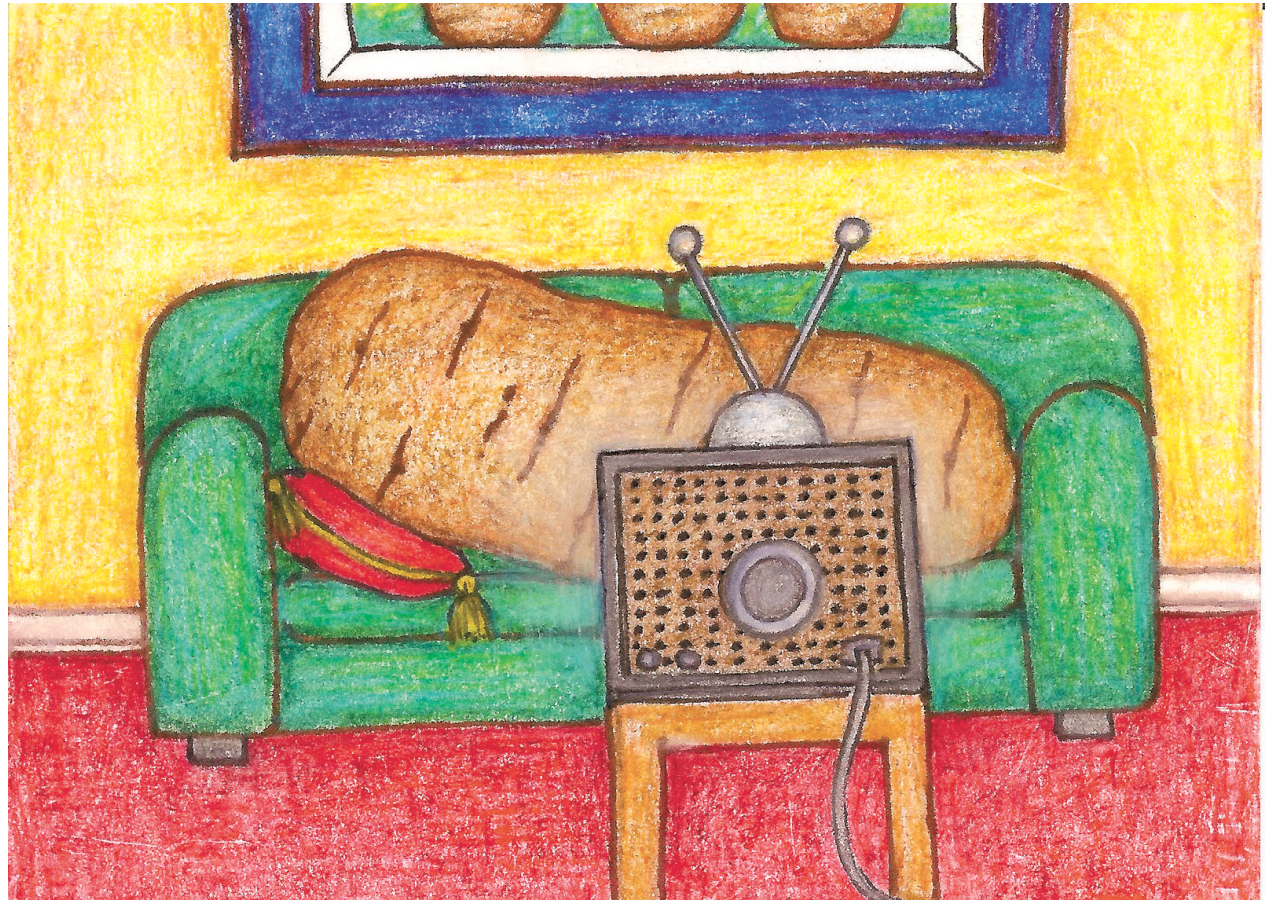
The term 'the box' used to mean the telly in the sitting room but now means whatever contraption you use to watch recorded media entertainment. Television is YouTube and DVDs, Playback and Sky.

In the digital era TV is even used to describe Facebook and Twitter as nations of people spend hours online 'watching' the world go by. Americans are surveyed as spending, on average,

eight hours a day 'watching' and we are quickly catching up. Eight hours is a lot of time to spend staring at a screen. Yet it is obvious that the time spent on the number of media networks available for social networking and digital entertainment is easily more than this copious amount of hours. The significant importance of modern technology cannot be dismissed, however. The consequences of the online world must not be ignored. People are immersed in their online identity and obsessed with up to date instant information. Reality can be distorted and important things can be ignored: people of the present, wholesome hobbies, living life.

For young people creativity takes a big hit. Ideas and imagination are shunted like a sugar rush dinner. For older people it is an excuse to avoid social occasions and get-togethers. For nations it promotes individualisation and solidarity living. For students it means watching The X Factor down the pub on a Saturday, and then discussing it for the rest of the night.

All side-effects to the choco-entertainment rush of 'the box'. Time to take a step back and relax; the real world is just as fun. Reality is refreshing; make sure you get your hit!



There may not be need for a couch, but are we still all just potatoes.

## An Unusual Love Story

Colm Fitzgerald

YOU'D be at your wits end with traditional love stories. Chic lit after chic lit clogging up best-seller lists with their incredulous happy-ever-after plots. A very inspirational English lecturer told me their secret to success, so sadly they won't be banished any time soon, nor will I take up writing them. Some will put One Day into the chic lit category, and if you do, you must be somewhat disillusioned! This is one love story you won't get tired of. David Nicholls has not been the most prolific of authors, with Starter for Ten and The Understudy already in his arsenal. Reactions to One Day are quite mixed, but it's very easy to understand why. His writing style is not far from that of a literary genius, and it goes without saying literary geniuses are not for everybody. Meet Emma and Dexter. They fall in love under unusual circumstances whilst at University. Dexter is sexy and popular, while Emma is a nerd. So then, a situation familiar to most of us. The characterisation for the entire novel is something I'd not yet experienced and on reaching the end, I realised how quite fantastic it all was. The level of intimacy to which you will descend with both Emma and Dexter is intense but exuberantly compelling.

I won't divulge too much of the storyline, because it's something you should experience for yourself, but it involves a love story and a peculiar

ending. It is one of very few mainstream novels that will stick with me, one I would go back to, and if I went to dinner parties, one I'd discuss at dinner parties. It is thought provoking. You'll find yourself questioning your life, your motives and your routines. That's before you even consider the difficult love. It was adapted into a recent film. Given the success-neutral film adaptation of his earlier novel Starter for Ten, One Day was met with an unsure reception. I blocked out such noise, so, unsurprisingly it was one of few films I've really looked forward to. I set my expectations somewhat high and was mildly disappointed. Naturally I became annoyed at the omissions and blatant amendments. But at the end of it all, it held an aura of amazement.

So, read the book before you even consider watching the film. If you think it's pompous shite I apologise. If not, read on and savour every page.



One Day author, David Nicholls

## Rocksmith: because Guitar Hero's for wimps

Tom Horan

DESPITE green, red, yellow, blue and orange not technically being music terms, Guitar Hero has indulged our rock fantasies for six years now; but what if a game could actually teach you guitar? Early next year, Ubisoft's Rocksmith hopes to do just that.

Instead of using a five-buttoned piece of plastic, Rocksmith lets you plug in a real guitar using a special USB jack packaged with the game. The software then recognises the notes you play and scores you appropriately. Unlike the samples triggered in Guitar Hero by pressing the correct buttons, Rocksmith works like an amplifier and what you hear in the game is what you are actually playing.

The game's simulation approach obviously means you won't be playing something like House of the Rising Sun without practising first. Initially, you will just be playing to get the basic gist of the song, with the game gradually ramping up the difficulty based on how well you do. To be successful, you're going to have to practice each section of the song separately, and repeatedly, until you are confident enough to play the song in its entirety. You can practice necessary techniques such as sliding and chord switches through the game's own retro mini-games.

For a game that is so eager to promote how different it is from Harmonix's Guitar Hero and Rock Band franchises, it owes much of its appeal to its less serious rivals and their interfaces are quite similar. In Rocksmith, you play

the songs as prompted by notes sliding down a fret board. It's much like Guitar Hero, except with more frets and six strings to worry about. Rocksmith could have ended up being a guitar simulator instead of a game, but has found the happy medium between being fun and being an effective guitar tutor. It even has a song list to rival the 'fun' titles, including David Bowie, The Rolling Stones, Pixies, Radiohead, and Nirvana, among others. Music-based games seemed to be on the way out, with far

less Guitar Hero and Rock Band updates being released. This is probably a relief to most people, considering the amount of Guitar Heroes Activision managed to pump out (12 in five years). Rocksmith deserves to win music games back some lost respect after the last few years of money grabbing cynicism, and if you're going to spend hours of your day on your Xbox 360, at least this way it's productive.



Can Ubisoft's Rocksmith dislodge Guitar Hero

## Film

# The Three Musketeers: Lads pick, but one for all too

Roisin Burke

"Boys will be boys" the queen quips of the musketeer's behaviour and that is the main mantra of the vintage tale remake. All for one and one for all in modern translation: boys will be boys. Directed by Paul Anderson, the film sees Ray Stevenson, Luke Evans and Matthew Macfayden as the musketeers, Porthos, Arames and Athos and Logan Lerman as the youthful D'Artagnan. This classic tale of retribution and deception unfolds in a bizarre mix of mystery, history, and fantasy with a modern twist. Based on Alexander Dumas' story, the talented D'Artagnan comes to France to contact his heroes only to discover their retirement from the world of contest and bravery. Finding their squalor and poverty, his disgust is made known with consequence.

Eventually finding favour with the musketeers he finds himself being mentored and becomes part of their sprawling team as they set out to right the wrongs of their past and of Frances future. To say it is a lad's film is not to discriminate the female entertainment quality, Orlando bloom as the Duke of Buckingham is pleasant scenery, but it is definitely the male audience that is the target. With guns and gadgets create a dodgy technological timeline. There are laser security systems but no central heating, hot air balloon ships but no lights, overnight flights to England but no express mail. It is a confusing era in turbulent times. The first twenty minutes are a bad omen with something not sitting right between the actors yet after this poor start off the

production is seamlessly entertaining in PG terms. The action scenes are well choreographed and the 3D effect, at times, adds to the atmosphere along with some spectacular historic fashion 'faux pas'. The acting is superb with Lerman playing the feisty, fitful, D'Artagnan with lemon zest. The three musketeers each fulfil their characteristics beautifully and 'the baddies' live up to the title.

The ladies are plenty and appealing with Milla Jovich as the deceitful Milady, Juno Temple as Queen Anne and Gabriella Wilde as the evasive Constance Bonacieux. Left open for a sequel, I am excited for the next instalment of this action packed criss-crossed personality fiasco.



The Three Musketeers in all their fine-feathered glory.

## Footloose: Lose you yourself, or you mind



Tom Horan

THE Footloose remake isn't going to be on next year's Oscar shortlist, and it probably won't be remembered as anything but a remake of the "real" Footloose, but it's almost winter, it's wet, it's dark, and what else are you going to do?

The trailer tells you everything you need to know. 2011's Footloose is a hip, 'with-it' take on the original 80's teen drama that doesn't do much except update the soundtrack and make what was already a bonkers plot seem even more unlikely. Public dancing is banned in the town of Bomont, but then a new kid moves in, kicks up a fuss and helps everybody believe in themselves again. At the very least, it's a great piece of escapism, if a world where dancing is a crime is your idea of a nice place to escape to. The premise of this film requires the viewer to suspend their disbelief every bit as much as the most farfetched fantasy or sci-fi.

It attempts to make dancing appear as a gritty, underground thing, like if Step Up was crossed with The Fast and the Furious. There's scene in which the main character, Ren McCormack, escapes a bus explosion. Enough said.

The problems the kids in Footloose have to deal with are not the most

pressing, or convincing, but any problems that can be solved through synchronized dance will hold the audience's attention. There's also a scene in which Ren releases his pent-up rage by aggressively dancing around an abandoned barn.

It is, and still was in the original, impossible to take seriously. There's a balancing act to good film direction between making it believable enough to relate to its characters, and idealised enough to give you that warm, life-affirming feeling that makes you forget the world's troubles. Every film offers some form of escapism as it takes you into another world, but it's the ones uncannily like our own world that are the most affecting. Light entertainment like Footloose has earned its place in our soppy, optimistic hearts, but nobody should settle for just being entertained by a film. Art has the ability to teach and influence us, so only watching films that reinforce a non-existent, idealised reality isn't rewarding for anyone.

I know I'll remember Schindler's List long after I've seen twenty films in which a plucky young underdog defies expectations to overcome astounding odds.

## Classic children's movies

Jennifer Armstrong

AS a 'wild' college student, I should be able to acknowledge the long gone days of rainy afternoon Disney movie dates, but no. Last weekend I watched Mulan, and perhaps this weekend it will be time to revisit Pocahontas. They might not be cool and new, the quality may be poor, and the story simple and predictable, but it is with classic Disney tales that we were brought up in this world, and there really is nothing quite like them. Who can forget the whimsical tales of a mermaid wishing she could walk, or The Aristocats trying to find their way home? Will any movie ever produce as many tears as the tragic tale of Bambi? Or dare I say it, the death of Mufassa. Yes, they may be flawed, the messages not always the most favourable. 'Wait for a handsome prince and you shall live a charmed life' may not be the most ideal message to

send young girls. But regardless, they are fun, light-hearted and above all else, innocent. They didn't need amazing effects or special features, a good story and a well written melody could make children fall in love for hours. Every girl has their favourite Princess, every boy his hero. And every year parents attempt to rid their shelves of the dusty cassettes, and every year, they are once again held back. As long as there is a VCR, there will be a Simba, and a Mowgli, and of course, a Dumbo.

I can't but question the re-release of The Lion King in 3D. As I fail to be a major 3D fan myself, I may be speaking subjectively, but I speculate, was it even necessary? I would happily pay to enjoy the original on the big screen again, minus the new effects. The music, the colours, the characters and the story don't need to be adjusted

or modified to be exciting again. It will always be a major memory of childhood for our generation, and it will remain so for as long as we cherish it. I hasten to suggest children's movies today aren't worth a watch. There's no denying the hilarity to be found in the Dreamworks and Pixar films such as Shrek, Cars and Ratatouille. But they still don't hold anything like the warmth of Aladdin, or the memorizing enchantment of Beauty and the Beast. Perhaps in efforts to make children's movies enjoyable for all ages, they've lost the simplicity of a tender romantic tale. Having said that, Toy Story 3 was only released in 2010, and during the 'hand-holding' scene, well, I may never have cried so much.



Recapturing our youth with Disney's Aladdin

## Film

# Are you afraid of the dark?



Wolf Creek: Quentin Tarantino described it as the scariest film he'd ever seen.

James Bradshaw

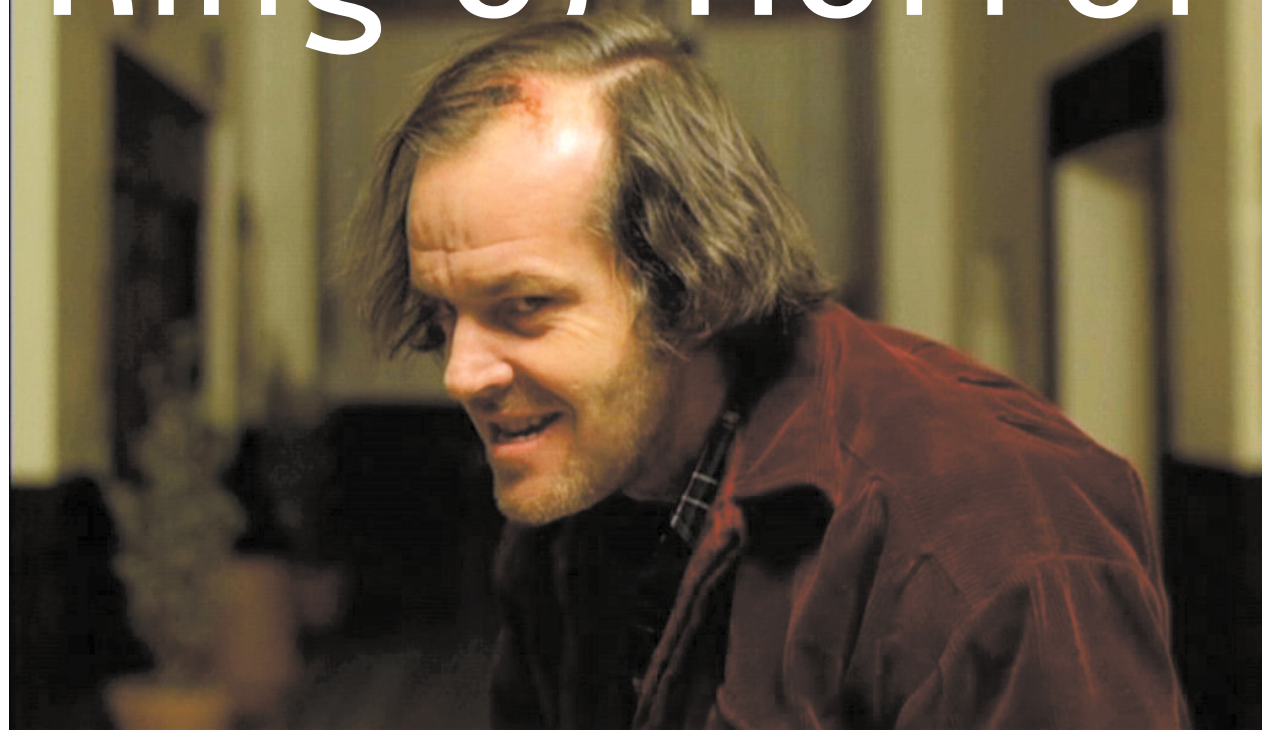
EVERY film genre has its heyday. Action heroes dominated the eighties and nineties, but Father Time has since caught up with Arnie, Bruce and Sly, and their successors have been unable to match those muscle-bound titans. Many would say the same about today's horrors, which since the advent of the 'teen slasher' have increasingly begun to revolve around violence, sex and awful one-liners. While there is some truth to this, there also have been some real gems over the past few years, the likes of which could keep anyone awake at night. The Exorcism of Emily Rose, released in 2005, re-energises one of the most intriguing and terrifying stories of all; demonic-possession. Based on the true story of Anneliese Michel, the film revolves around the trial of a priest accused of negligence after the death of a young girl on whom he was performing an exorcism. His agnostic attorney slowly comes to realise that the deceased Emily was not suffering from mental illness, and in the process she is drawn uncomfortably close to the forces of darkness. Oren Peli's Paranormal Activity follows a similar

course by examining another recurring theme in horror, that of the poltergeist phenomenon. Unlike so many other modern directors, Peli shows patience in his build up, keeping the viewer in suspense as the story of the young couple's haunting experience slowly unfolds through the looking glass of Blair Witch Project style 'found footage'.

But there's one stand-out in recent times for me, and that's Wolf Creek. The mention of it sends shivers down my spine, and puts me off ever visiting Australia. I've never been more terrified by a film in my life, I was 18 when I saw it, and I freely admit I couldn't sleep that night. Quentin Tarantino described it as the scariest film he'd ever seen, high praise indeed. I'll say no more about it, but if someone who sounds like Steve Irwin offers you a lift in the middle of the night, run!

Horror isn't dead, far from it. As long as we wish to feel that sense of fear; haunted houses, mysterious ghouls and machete-wielding lunatics will continue to light up the screens before invading our nightmares.

## King of Horror



Joe O'Brien

**The Shining: A patient but terrifying story of how family man Jack Torrance transforms into nothing less than a raving lunatic.**

STEPHEN King is the greatest horror story-teller of our time. In my opinion this is not even worthy of a debate. He is the undisputed horror king, and now that that's said and done, I can move on to looking at his work. King retains the crown for being the author who has had the most film adaptations of his work. Naturally, the vast majority of these films are horrors, a reasonable number of which are considered horror classics.

Falling under this category is his very first adaptation, the 1976 film Carrie. This high-school themed revenge tale put King on the radar, and did wonders for both director Brian DePalma and title actress Sissy Spacek's careers. The film revolves around Carrie White, a confused young outcast who experiences a less than enjoyable time in school. But Carrie has a gift, the gift of telekinesis. And when the

time comes for her senior prom, she uses this gift to extract sweet revenge on her tormentors, in one of the most horrifying blood-soaked climaxes in horror history. A true classic, which I think has aged surprisingly well. This is perhaps due to the timeless morale: don't bully the weird kid!

Probably the best known adaptation is the 1980 Stanley Kubrick film The Shining. A film, which strangely enough, King has openly expressed distaste for. Kubrick, a man infamous for making changes from book to screen took a completely different approach to the story, but it paid off. Despite the endless spoofs and take offs (The Simpsons, anyone?) The Shining is considered by pretty much everyone as a classic. It's a patient but terrifying story of how family man Jack Torrance transforms into nothing less than a raving lunatic, putting his wife

and boy in danger in the process. With Jack Nicholson in his bravest, best and most iconic performance of his career it is clear this one will be around forever.

A less prolific but equally brilliant King adaptation is Rob Reiner's Misery. Made in 1990, we find author Paul Sheldon (James Caan) imprisoned by super fan Annie Wilkes (Kathy Bates), and forced to write for his life. It's a truly chilling film, made real and intense by Kathy Bates who gives, dare I say, the greatest female horror performance of all-time! Misery is an often overlooked gem which deserves its place alongside the former two films. Watch them all this Halloween season to experience the "King of Horror" at his best, if you may be so bold and brave.

Cinema listings for  
**Storm Cinemas - Castletroy**  
Castletroy Shopping Centre, Limerick - 061 330036

Johnny English Reborn  
1hr 41min - Rated PG  
- Comedy - English  
- Trailer. 15:10, 16:15,  
18:00, 19:00, 20:50

Footloose  
1hr 53min - Rated NR  
- Comedy/Drama/Musical  
- English - Trailer.  
15:25, 18:00, 20:40

Real Steel  
2hr 7min - Rated 12A  
- Action/Adventure/  
Drama - English - Trailer.  
14:20, 17:30, 21:00

The Lion King 3D  
1hr 29min - Rated G  
- Animation - English.  
14:10, 16:30, 18:50

Paranormal Activity 3  
1hr 21min - Rated 15A  
- Horror - English  
- Trailer.  
20:00, 21:20

Dolphin Tale  
1hr 52min - Rated G  
- Drama - English  
- Trailer.  
14:30

The Three  
Musketeers 3D  
1hr 50min - Rated 12A  
- Action/Adventure  
- English - Trailer.  
15:00, 17:45, 20:15, 21:15

The Three Musketeers  
1hr 50min - Rated 12A -  
Action/Adventure  
- English - Trailer.  
16:00, 18:40

Drive  
1hr 40min - Rated 18  
- Action/Adventure/  
Drama - English.  
21:30

## Travel

# Erasmus in Budapest

Darragh Roche

**THIS WEEK:** difficult realisations, channelling Tintin, the terror of public speaking and a chilly autumn settles on the Danube bend.

"I don't want any threesomes" is the constant refrain of an unwitting tutor with a penchant for group work. The nervous but audible giggling hasn't been enough to alert her to her faux pas but it reminds me that in the battle of the sexes, I've already lost. Women outnumber men in all my classes and in most by a significant margin. We're outnumbered three to one in a class on science fiction, which should debunk any stereotypes there might still be. I've never liked being in a minority group but I'm adjusting. Slowly.

I've been reminded lately of the world's greatest journalist and a personal idol, Tintin. Not only is the boy reporter the most famous Belgian

of all time but his travels around the world should be inspirational to all of us venturing out on Erasmus. Whenever I walk down a pretty avenue here I think "Tintin would probably chase an assassin down that street". Tintin reminds us that when you get past the international diamond thieves and military dictators (or in Hungary's case, dreadful rightwing parties), the world is really an incredible place. On Zrinyi Street stands a statue of a portly Hungarian soldier who fits nicely into my Tintin thoughts and though Tintin travelled widely and had many adventures, he never filed so much as one column inch of newsprint.

They tell me speaking in public is a terrifying experience. I say 'they' because of the many, many things I'm afraid of (the woman who works in Lidl, being hit by a tram, the number of black cats in this city) public speaking isn't one of them. It's not that people want to hear me, just that I know I'm going to do my best to interrupt the conversation they're having during my presentation. I'm also not keen

on day dreaming. Giving hand-outs to your classmates is the done thing here. One lecturer brings about 50 warm pages to every class, almost as evidence of her scholarly acumen (or a shield from questions). Of course then there's the other kind of lecturer, the one who started lecturing when the Austro-Hungarian Empire was new and who views the blackboard as an extravagance. My first weeks here saw 30°C heat but it's already dipping as low as freezing now, and everyone wears a scarf. As ever my trusty stylish, yet subtly manly, scarf is serving me well. There's something about the freshness of the cold weather that makes the city brighter. I'll admit it, I'm hoping for snow. Real, European snow, the kind of snow that killed Francis Bacon and screwed over Napoleon, that's the kind of snow I want.

Ireland is, apparently, the 11th most peaceful country in the world. That's good news. By the time this publishes, a new president will be elected. I hope that'll be good news, too.



On Zrinyi Street stands a statue of a portly Hungarian soldier.



Panto Season is just around the corner!

## Co-op in AOIFE

Caitríona Ní Chadhain

This week we moved office, from a building that used to be a mental hospital to Ballinasloe's Town Hall Theatre. There's no proper heating, phone-lines or internet access yet so it's been...interesting! At the moment our desks are all scattered about the lobby of the theatre and we'll have to up and move again next week when our proper offices are finished. Not a great time of the year to be up in the air like this when we're coming up to the AOIFE (Association of Irish Festival Events) conference but we've made do so far!

I've been spending my time on the radio press side of things for the past week or so. This involves calling stations and pitching ideas to them for speakers from our conference who they might be interested in featuring. There's been a good reaction so far and I've had interest from one or two shows on RTÉ. I also spoke to someone from one of the TG4 shows who said they might come along and film a bit of the action at the conference. Now it's up to me to follow up on these leads and try and ensure they happen. I also did a radio interview on Raidió na Gaeltachta during the week about the conference, which was a little nerve-wrecking but went well! I'm learning a lot, gaining a lot

of experience and building my contacts while I'm here, it's a lot of work but I know that this placement will stand to me in future. At times there can be quite a bit of pressure but the fact that everyone in the office gets on so well makes it a great place to work.

And then there's my other hat, 'Ballinasloe Life Magazine', the next edition will be a bumper Christmas edition which means more pages for me to fill. The fact that the conference is on the 10th and 11th of November and the fifth issue of the magazine is to be out by the end of November will mean a lot of juggling to be done by yours truly between now and then. I've tried to get as many articles as I could out of the way this week; I went to interview a local band, Milan Jay (check 'em out). I went to the rehearsals of Ballinasloe's Christmas panto to talk to the cast about how they're getting on, (I'm doing the press for that also...sheesh!) and met some people from local sports clubs too. The next two weeks will be hectic coming up to the conference, I don't know where I'll find time to squeeze 'Ballinasloe Life' into all that, guess that'll be the end of my social life for a little while but I'll make up for it after!

## A Grad Down Under

Sinead Keane

SITTING with my soy latte outside a bustling street café in Melbourne's city centre, I can't help but smile at how lucky I am to be living in such a job-rich environment. Having experienced such negativity in the search for a job back in Ireland, the sight of a 'Staff Wanted' sign or a job advertisement still surprises me. Australia is certainly the place for the Irish to go. Melbourne is a maze of job opportunities. Every suburb has its own unique character, its own personality. Whether you prefer the bustling Italian-infused restaurants of Lygon Street, the funky clubs and bars of Brunswick Street or the coffee and cake atmosphere of Sydney Road, there is a place for everyone to make themselves comfortable. And there is a job for everyone too. Shops,

cafés, companies are all shouting for employees, and apparently (according to a local I've spoken to) a foreign accent is a distinct bonus. Which means us Irish have a very strong advantage.

It is extremely important, I've discovered, to be prepared when looking for a job here. Australian employers are not dissimilar to their border security. Any immigrant who isn't completely cleared and ready for work in Australia won't be looked at twice for a job. I've learned to make it clear to potential employers my status as an Australian citizen, it means no visa worries for them and a sense of permanence for me as an employee. Other things have come up too though; you need a special qualification to work in any place with a bar, an Australian phone number is

essential for your CV, and a second language is much sought after. Having all these things sorted before you go on the hunt is essential in order to be successful.

Whatever direction you decide to go, corporate and professional work, fruitpicking on the Gold Coast, or barwork in a Sydney nightclub, there is no doubt that a great opportunity will come up for you.

Your nationality already gives you an advantage. Irish people are very well respected in Australia and the accent is extremely popular! It's a wonderful change from the negativity of the Irish job scene. Here's hoping that one day soon Ireland will have as much to offer as Australia does.



Street art on the funky Brunswick Street in Melbourne.

## Travel

# Amalfi: A Town upon a Cliff

Jason Kennedy

Located one hour from Naples Airport, the town of Amalfi, on the Amalfi Coast, is truly one of Italy's maritime treasures. To reach the town, you must pass incredibly steep and winding roads, which are made twice as scary by the speed of Italian taxi drivers.

Like many towns in the region, many of Amalfi's houses are perched on steep cliffs with a sheer drop down. The foundations of these houses are the cliffs, which add to the town's beauty, as many of these rustic feats of architectural brilliance are dotted around the town. The town has an average summer temperature of around 25 °C so a daytime dip in the Mediterranean sea could be the perfect cooling-off activity. If you bring snorkels you can even see the crabs, fish and other marine life that occupy the Mediterranean. The town has an active tourist economy but you'll be sure to find a quiet part of the sea to relax and unwind. When on holiday in Amalfi, it is impossible to escape lemons. There are lemons everywhere, especially in the region's trademark liquor limoncello, which packs a punch with a bitter 30% alcoholic volume.

There are entire shops dedicated to the drink, which is very cheap and easy to produce. When buying bottles of limoncello you are normally paying for the decorative bottle designs. If liquor isn't your thing, then you can purchase limoncello ice-cream, soap and cream.

Of course, the food in Amalfi is second to none. The town is dotted with restaurants full of cheap and delicious food. Menus are full of food that shouldn't go well together, but are simply delicious, such as Parma ham, buffalo mozzarella and melon.

There is plenty to do in the surrounding regions as well. The ruins of Pompeii are only around 90 minutes away and are a must. A few minutes further will bring you to Mount Vesuvius, where you can trek to the top to see the volcano that destroyed Pompeii and Herculaneum. Rome is around three hours away, but a whole holiday could be devoted there.

Although Amalfi would be best suited for a couple's break, it would also be fun for a group holiday, just be prepared for a lot of walking and some sunburn.



Towns across the Amalfi coast are etched on cliff faces

# Erasmus in Spain

Alana Walsh

SOME good news on the Spanish front: the foreign language class that the majority of Erasmus students do with the Modern Language Centre here is actually fun.

We all took a level test before term started so we are now divided into small groups of other students that have the same level of Spanish as us. My class is diverse in nationalities and I have surprised myself by actually enjoying these classes and being capable of joking around with my peers in Spanish, it being our only mutual language in many cases.

The classes are active learning as opposed to sitting in a lecture hall where people are talking at a speed you cannot possibly comprehend. So all is not lost yet, what a relief!

Time is truly flying here; a month has passed in the blink of an eye. There is still so much to do and see here. La Alhambra palace, one of the biggest attractions in Granada, is near the top of my list.

As of yet I have only seen it from afar while walking through the Albayzin district during the day and when in El Camborio nightclub, whose terrace displays full views of the palace lit up at night. It is a truly beautiful view and not something I have ever seen from a nightclub in dear auld Eire.

I mentioned previously the tradition of tapas down here in the Andalusian region, when you order a drink you receive a small snack with it.

It is very common here to meet with friends for tapas before heading out or just to grab a bite to eat and have a catch up.

Types of tapas vary from bar to bar but it is well worth trying out different places for the experience.

At the moment my favourite is a place called Poë where when you're on the hunt for food a glass of coke is €1.80 and you can get amazing spicy

Thai chicken with it for nada. Shots bars or "chupiterias" are very popular throughout the city and usually there is a rewards system for drinking shots, you get a token with one point for every shot you purchase and then you can trade points in for merchandise.

Many students I know here are striving towards the 70 point target for a hoodie from 'La Chupiteria 69' and at only one euro a shot I have no doubt that they will reach their target!

"A month has passed in the blink of an eye"



UL student Laura Collins watching a Spanish Sunset in the Albayzin district

# Erasmus in Sweden

Adam Leahy

Oh my God, you're Irish? You must be an alcoholic, right? You're Irish? Why aren't you drinking? You're from Ireland? Do you like Guinness?

I have come to hate those questions, almost as much as I abhor when someone (of a well-known but unnamed country) says:

"I'm Irish! My Grandmother conceived my mother while stuck in a lift in Penney's on O'Connell Street for three days with nothing to ingest but Bailey's Irish Cream and a packet of salt and vinegar Taytos, so that makes me part Irish. That's why my mother is named Bailey!" Of course...

You see, as much as we would like to think we can drink every other country under the table I'm afraid I have to shatter some illusions.

I was sitting in a little Danish themed pub in Copenhagen airport around midday last week. Carlsberg bottles and banners were everywhere; apparently the Danes are quite proud of that. Anyway, I got myself some lunch and found the nearest available table. Annoyingly, as I wanted a good bit of space to myself, I had to sit beside this old (hearing-aid old) couple. Well, what I saw made me reevaluate my whole idea

of 'Irishness' altogether. Here this elderly couple sat, at midday, with a large glass of beer each and multiple shots of Jagermeister.

No food, just alcohol. Me, a young Irish 'alcoholic' student with all my native boasts and stereotypes caught without a pint and these geriatrics were downing shots faster than an alter boy breaking into the sacramental wine. My mind was blown.

Not wanting to let our reputation be tarnished (yes, I did this for you), I went straight to the bar to get a pint.

Somewhere along the line with all the studying abroad, with all of our Co-ops and 'worldly' experiences, we have gotten so wrapped up in the assignments and the getting good jobs and the 'too-early-to-drink-ities' that we sometimes forget to have a good time as our cultural stereotype would expect us to. So for all Erasmus students (and those at home too) remember, you're an Irish Student. Irish. Student. These two words come with a responsibility. Funny how Denmark can teach you more about 'being Irish' than Ireland can. If you need an excuse say that you're at the wake of the Celtic Tiger.

## Fashion



Plus size model Johanna Dray

# Big girls, you are beautiful!

Leanne Quinn

WE have all been victims of the fashion industry at some point in our lives, whether it's the new season's must-have collection that simply had to be bought or that one designer piece that everyone just loves to brag about. There is no doubt that this industry has a huge impact on our lives. However, this influence has not always been a positive one. The size zero phenomenon has not only affected models and celebrities worldwide. Every day, women and girls feel huge pressure by the media to look like these stick thin celebs. Not only that, but since the dawn of the size zero era, there has been an overwhelming increase in the number of anorexia and bulimia cases in young girls.

Models have gone on crazy diets such as the Apple Diet, where nothing, but a limited number of apples, is consumed. They have even admitted to eating cotton wool to suppress their appetite! These women are jeopardising their health for the sake of their profession. Can you imagine living this lifestyle? Working ridiculously long hours and eating cotton wool to feel full? Eating cotton wool full stop? How does this equate to being a healthy role model to

look up to? What this size zero phase has given us is an unhealthy, unrealistic image of the 'perfect' body and fear for these deadly skinny celebrities and models. Unfortunately it took the death of many models such as the 22 year old Uruguayan model, Luisel Ramos, who collapsed backstage of the catwalk at Montevideo minutes after being on the runway, to make the public aware.

It was later reported that the model had adopted a diet of lettuce and diet coke six months previous in order to slim down to a deadly size zero. Her 18 year old model sister Eliana had died from the same cause only months before.

These events shook the industry to the core. Unbelievably it took these deaths, dangerous health risks and loss of fertility in many women such as Geri Halliwell for the world to wake up and see that this is not the way to live the one and only life you are given?

Finally, the fashion world is seeing the rise of curves and the plus-size model. What has been long awaited for is finally here; acknowledgement, acceptance and celebration of the fact the plus-size models are just and beautiful and healthier looking than these coined

"lollipop" girls. We have gone back to the days of plus-size sex symbols such as Marilyn Monroe and are seen today in the form of the beautifully curvy Beyoncé Knowles, Kelly Brook, Louise O'Reilly, Ireland's most popular plus-size model, the beautiful and talented Adele, Queen Latifah and many, many more successful, talented, beautifully curvy girls. Most importantly for the fashion industry, Vogue Italia in a bid to 'battle against anorexia', employed three plus-size models in a lingerie shoot for the cover entitled 'Real Beauties'. Editor Franca Sozzani who also started an anti-anorexia website ban, says, "Curvy women are back in all their splendour. The exuberance of a body with rounded lines is much more alluring and sexy". This was a massive statement to the industry worldwide from Sozzani, being one of the most influential people in the industry, having the guts to embrace the rise of the plus-size model and the importance of promoting a healthier lifestyle. So ladies, embrace those curves, they could be saving your life!

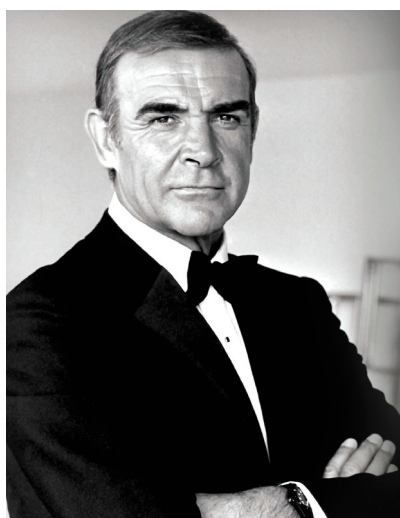
# Double '00' Style

Roisin Burke

When I think of Sean Connery's style I think black and white movies. The classics. But he is not just an icon of the sixties, he is THE icon. He was Bond. James Bond. Connery is the epitome of the Bond era. The man who embodies effortless elegance, style with a smirk and that accent that adds so much flavour. His sleek suits contrast his handsome rugged features to create an aura of sexual charisma that goes uncontested and unquestioned. Voted the sexiest man of the universe, his charming personality is as fashionable as the clothes he wears and that's the unsellable secret. The arched eyebrow, the dry smile and that sweet Scottish twang make even the aging Bond scripts seem good. Sean Connery stood for all that is appealing of the ultimate Bond hero. He redefined womanizing and had no competition until the most recent Bond instalment, Daniel Craig.

The blond James Bond, originally deemed unsuitable for his fair hair, has charmed the nations with his enormous muscles and potato head scowl. Just as Connery's smile captured hearts, Craig's petulant frown makes them flutter. The sharp suits got sharper and the Scottish accent replaced with a Cambridge quality. One element remains unchanged, the enigmatic magnetism of the lone ranger, fighting evil, brave and courageous. It is a unique style statement and of course, we can't forget the gadgets.

The futuristic technology displayed in the Bond movies is an attraction all on its own. The super shiny, extra sleek, turbo charged computer-savvy car is



Sean Connery as James Bond in 'Never Say Never Again'.

the ultimate accessory to the Bond hero just as a 'purse puppy' is to Paris Hilton. It seems technology is men's form of makeup and gadgets their version of handbags, which poses the question: would Daniel Craig still be beautiful if we stripped him of his technology savvy credentials and super sharp suits? What is he without the makeup but a spud shaped temper and is that really that pretty? You could ask the same of women. How many supermodels are hot without spending several hours in the makeup chair and wearing hundreds of Euros of accessories? My original point is, Connery is a classic man, and he doesn't need makeup and handbags. The man is a fashion icon all on his own. Congrats to the lone man ranger. He is a classic fashion demon.

# UL's Next Top Model

Jennifer Armstrong

FOR a group only in its second semester, UL Fashion Society has truly managed to create something quite extraordinary.

Last year, their debut fashion show was undoubtedly a major success but this year, they have gone above and beyond, creating a wonderful glamorous night of amazing clothes and amazing girls.

A hopeful group of 30 students soon became a nervous nine as they took to the stage last Wednesday for the final of the UL Model search.

Hosted by the Strand Hotel in Limerick city, the event was a dream land for fashion moguls and enthusiasts alike. Featuring some of Limerick's best clothes shops, the girls on the night were seen in everything from The Ivory Closet to A/wear and viewers were even treated to a few male models wearing designs for Jack and Jones of the Crescent shopping centre, Limerick. Sponsored by The Red Onion Brasserie Limerick, Medicare and The Lakeside Hotel Killaloe, the night was one the Fashion Society should feel more than proud of. The judging panel consisted of Gretta Gibbs, 26 years in the fashion business, Sinead Clohessy of Specsavers, and Grainne Vaughan, the owner of the wonderful accessories treasure trove, Jolie. The glamour, style, fun and class immediately transported the audience onto an haute couture New York runway, complete with sky high heels and lots of sparkles. The prize, announced after a stressful waiting period, was awarded deservingly to 1st year Gillian Monaghan. The 19yr old science education student from Cork exclaimed after the announcement, "I never expected to win tonight! I entered

the competition to have fun and make some new friends, but I'm absolutely ecstatic". Not only does Gillian receive a fabulous photo-spread in the Limerick Now magazine but she also receives a contract with the Hilary Thompson modelling agency. I think it's fair to say, it won't be the last we see of this lovely and deserving winner and with such a great experience under their belt, any one of the finalists may be seen in Vogue some day! As Hilary Thompson said herself, all of the girls including runners up Michelle O'Mahony

and Jessie Barr, were 'gorgeous and talented ladies', with 'extremely bright futures ahead!'. Above all else, it was a fun, fashionable, girly night, and an extremely successful, well run event. Tina Nsubuga, founder and president of the Fashion Society added, "I could not be more proud of the fashion soc committee for organising such a great night, and we'll definitely be coming back even bigger next year!" I, for one, can't wait to see what's in store for this innovative and seemingly unstoppable UL society!



Gillian Monaghan, the worthy winner of the UL Model Search.



## Fashion

# Bowties and Tweed: Why Matt Smith is the newest style icon

Dearbhaile Houston

WHEN Matt Smith first appeared on our screens as the 11th incarnation of Doctor Who, he piqued the interest of both Whovians and fashionistas alike with his quirky, distinctive style. You don't have to have seen an episode of Doctor Who to understand the It-Boy appeal of Matt Smith: he's got the talent, the model girlfriend and the cheekbones. Born in 1982 in Northampton, England, Smith began acting on stage when he was in his teens. His first major role was in 'The History Boys' at the National Theatre and television roles soon followed. However, his status as a Bright Young Thing was not cemented until he replaced David Tennant as the new Doctor in 2010.

With each regenerated Doctor comes a new look, from Tom Baker's long scarf to Christopher Eccleston's leather coat. Matt Smith's incarnation is no different. On screen, his wardrobe veers towards the professorial. It's a quirky mix of

tweed jackets with elbow patches, Doc Martins and his beloved bowties. Many style critics were divided on the look but the fans of the show loved it, so much so that the sales of bowties went up dramatically after pictures of the new Doctor's outfit surfaced. Well, they are cool!

It's part heritage, part geography teacher, all worn with a bit of hipster irony. And it works. Just take a look around at the menswear that is available on the high street. You can't move for all the tweed and leather and granny jumpers. Undeniably, it's a timeless look, borrowing from different eras while also reflecting catwalk trends. Rag and Bone's Autumn/Winter 2011 collection featured tweed suits, waistcoats and an array of hats that would surely appeal to the Doctor.

But the style does not stop there. Smith is flaunting his fashion credentials off screen too. He recently won 'Most

Stylish' at the GQ Men of the Year Awards. When he's not hanging out in a TARDIS, Smith's style is sleeker and darker. While receiving his GQ award, he wore a black three piece suit, classic white shirt and, of course, a bowtie. He's a fan of sharp tailoring, even in his most casual looks. Think dark jeans and a quirky t-shirt paired with a blazer and shiny shoes. Take a look at him at this year's V Festival in London, the man looks like he covered himself in glue and stumbled into Topman and I mean that in the best possible sense.

While his on-screen persona is certainly on trend, Smith is no slouch in the style department either. His look is unique to him all the while being accessible, regardless of your knowledge of Daleks and Supersonic Screwdrivers.



Matt Smith, an undiscovered fashion icon.

# Still waiting for a size revolution

Amy Grimes

THE AVERAGE waist of an 8-year-old child measures 8 inches (according to The Telegraph). The typical waist measurement of a size zero model is 23 inches. An American size 0 is equivalent to a UK size 4.

To put this into some perspective, the typical measurements for size 0 models are a bust of 31.5 inches, the aforementioned waist of 23 inches and 33 inch hips.

Natural body types vary greatly from one end of the scale to the other but you have to admit that a 23 inch waist is on the extreme side of things and hardly easily achieved for most women.

In fact there are numerous cases of models that have died trying to maintain their highly-employable shape, such as the well-known 2006 case of Ana Carolina Reston, the Brazilian model who died at 21 due to complications from anorexia.

Cases like this inspired many in the fashion industry to call for a ban on underweight models. There hasn't exactly been a size-revolution however, at least not in the Irish industry.

The Holman-Lee Model Agency is one of the most prolific in the country, its models are often featured in fashion shows and magazine spreads.

There are 36 'girls' listed on the website, most of whom have their clothing size listed. According to the site, the majority of the models are size 8 or 10. There are a few size 12s and one size 16. While a UK size 8 (equal to a US 4) is certainly a reasonable size for a model, agencies lack diversity in sizes. The average size of an Irish woman is a 14, according to The



Ana Carolina Reston died at 21 through anorexia complications

Independent. While we don't expect models to look normal, after all, they're supposed to be the embodiment of beauty; it would be nice if what we saw on catwalks and in glossy photos reflected reality.

It seems that most models above the super-slim norm are relegated to catalogue work; they're certainly not catwalk favourites.

In the US larger models such as Crystal Renn (who rose to fame as a US 12/UK 16 after dealing with an eating

disorder and is currently a US 8/UK 12) have forged successful careers in both the plus-size and mainstream industry. Renn has appeared in campaigns for Jimmy Choo, Chanel and Mango, who notably didn't use her size as an advertising gimmick.

One hopes that someday this attitude will permeate the Irish industry, with size 16 models getting more work than a plus-size catalogue spread.

# This fortnight in fashion history

Marguerite Happe

1940. ITALIAN fashion designer Roberto Cavalli is born on November 15 in Florence, Tuscany. Cavalli first took the fashion world by storm in the 70's when Brigitte Bardot wore his beachwear creations in St. Tropez, and continues to be known for his array of beautiful prints and textiles.

1943. German fashion designer Jil Sander, famous for her minimalist style, is born in Schleswig-Holstein. Sander's focus on understated elegance, minimal accessories, and high-quality clothing has earned her an almost cult-like following internationally.

1960. Yves St. Laurent is released from the hospital in early November after a disastrous twenty-day period as a soldier. While the creative designer of the Dior Fashion House, St. Laurent is conscripted by the military to serve in the French army during the Armenian War of Independence. Hazing from his fellow soldiers landed him in a military hospital, where he then received the news that he had been fired by Dior.

1983. Alexa Chung, British television presenter and former fashion model is born on November 5 in Privett, Hampshire, England. A fashion icon and muse to many designers, Chung is also a contributing editor at British Vogue and has been regularly featured on the covers of Vogue, Elle, and Harper's Bazaar.

1985. On November 15, Lily Aldridge is born in Santa Monica, California. Aldridge is best known in the United States for her work as a Victoria's Secret model, but has also

appeared on the cover of Spanish Vogue and in editorials for Glamour, Cosmopolitan, Elle Girl, and Teen Vogue.

2005. In early November, Stella McCartney releases a line of affordable clothing and accessories for H&M. The line sells out almost immediately on launch day, due to the extreme similarities between the cheaper H&M line and McCartney's expensive designer line.

2008. Marco Zanini is named the new artistic director for the French fashion house, Rochas. Rochas' clients include Nicole Kidman, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Jennifer Aniston. Zanini showed his first collection at Paris Fashion Week in 2009, representing the rebirth of the Rochas fashion division after it was dismantled by Procter & Gamble in 2006.

2010. From November 8-15, Latino Fashion Week takes place in Chicago, Illinois. The only week completely dedicated to Latino fashion in the United States, LFW showcases creations from around the world to pay tribute to designers such as Alicia Estrada, Borris Powell, and Jaqueline Amezcua.



Lily Aldridge, American supermodel.

# American Broadcaster to speak in UL

Carol Hennessy

AMERICAN broadcaster; Max Keiser, will be appearing in the University on Friday, 4 November in a visit organised by the university's Debating Union.

Mr Keiser will be speaking to students on a variety of topics, ranging from his broadcasting work to his opinions on the Irish financial situation.

Mr Keiser is a former equities broker and is now a renowned television presenter. He hosts On the Edge, a news and analysis programme on Iran's Press

TV. Mr Keiser holds an impressive CV and has presented numerous other shows. His financial predictions have so far for the most part have been accurate. Mr Keiser has often been a controversial figure in financial circuits, with several of his statements coming under fire as being sensationalist and over exaggerated. The Guardian has accused Mr Keiser's Karmabank hedge fund as a 'fantastical scheme' and entitled the article 'Mad Max'. Mr Keiser also caused quite the controversy with his short film, Extraordinary Antics, in which he accused the CIA of carrying out an extraordinary rendition of an Egyptian citizen from Italy.

Mr Keiser recently claimed notoriety in Ireland for his condemnation of the state broadcaster, RTE. Mr Keiser is often associated with David Williams and the two have been known to share similar opinions on the on-going banking crisis. Mr Keiser has called the broadcaster 'the biggest problem Ireland has...' who, in Mr Keiser's opinion refuse to "report the news in a responsible manner." Mr Keiser also correctly predicted the inevitable IMF bailout and it would appear he holds the 'criminal bankers' in contempt. Mr Keiser has gone so far as to say on his show, On the Edge, that the Irish bankers were 'terrorists' and severely criticised

the Irish austerity programmes put in place to help us out of the recession.

This presentation promises to be an informative and lively debate on the global financial crisis, as well as on the Irish fiscal situation. Mr Keiser will be speaking from one o'clock on the 4 November in FG042 in the Foundation Building. For further information contact [uldebu@gmail.com](mailto:uldebu@gmail.com) and check the campus notice boards.

Carol Hennessy.

## UL Rainbow Week 2011



Out in UL hosts UL's very first Rainbow Week, which takes place in week 10 (7-11 November) This week will be packed full of events and campaigns to help raise awareness on LGBT issues in UL, and to showcase the LGBT community of Limerick.

**Rainbow Week**  
University of Limerick  
7th-11th Nov.

Monday:

Cocktail Night in Scholars Club @ 9 pm. Dresses and suits.

Jazz band 'The Blue Monk Quartet'. Admission free. Prize for best dressed.

Tuesday:

Homophobia workshop with LGBT liaison officer Ger Hanly D1050 @ 6 pm

Screening of 'Priscilla, Queen of the Desert'. D1050 @ 8:30 pm

Wednesday:

Drag Race at the Iron Man Statue @ 6 pm. Kings and queens race to SU courtyard.

All proceeds go to The Red Ribbon Project and Rainbow Support Services

Wedding Bells in SU courtyard @ 7 pm. Followed by reception in the Stables Club.

Thursday:

Homophobia Stocks in SU courtyard @ 3 pm

The Big Night Out @ 31 Thomas Street. Bus leaving outside Stables @ 8:30 pm sharp. Hosted by Connie Liebe. Music by Return to Sender and DJ til late. Admission €5.

Friday:

Electro Ladies' Night in Scholars Club Burlesque, music and electro beats. Ladies only! Admission €3

For more information, email [outinul@gmail.com](mailto:outinul@gmail.com)

**ULWC TOGA/UV PARTY**

**Wednesday**

**November 2**

**At the Lodge**

**Tickets €3**

On sale in the SU courtyard from 12-4 Tuesday Nov.1 and Wednesday Nov.2

[ulwc.committee@gmail.com](mailto:ulwc.committee@gmail.com) ULWC on Facebook

## GSoc...

### Where it's Okay to Kill Your Friends

**Billy Maher, PRO Games Society**

On the November 8, Activision will be releasing one of the most hotly anticipated games of the year, Modern Warfare 3.

The game will conclude the story of Soap MacTavish and his squad-mates that started with one of the best selling games of 2007 Modern Warfare, and advanced with 2009's Modern Warfare 2, the biggest video game launch in history.

To celebrate this launch the Games Society will be holding a LAN (Local Area Network) for Modern Warfare 3 on the Xbox 360. The LAN is due to take place on the Friday of week 10 (11-11-11).

For those unfamiliar with LANs, they involve networking together several Xbox's to achieve massive 16 player games. Similar to Xbox live but with the added bonus of witnessing your victims response first hand when you start crouching up and down over their dead body.

There is also the mix of junk-food, half price pizza and energy drinks/caffeine required to get you through the night that last a minimum of 12 hours.

GSoc also has another LAN scheduled for the Friday of week 12, to celebrate the release of Halo: Combat Evolved Anniversary. That's a decade following the adventures of Master Chief and Cortana.

Become a member of the Games Society to get more information about the LAN's and the other events we'll be holding throughout the year.

## Clubs

# Parkour in Edinburgh

Eamonn Walsh

Recently the parkour club went to Edinburgh to take part in a men's health survival of the fittest race and I was fortunate enough to go with them. It wasn't just a normal 10km race though it had an obstacle every kilometre to challenge you even more.

When I first heard about it I thought "Ya, I'll definitely go, it should be great craic!" It turned out to be even more of a laugh than I thought it would be. I've run 10km before so I thought it couldn't be much harder, but what I hadn't anticipated was that Edinburgh can be quite hilly which made the run a lot tougher! Adopting the "Start together, finish together" spirit, some of us ran the race as a group which made it easier, since when you got tired the others motivated you to keep going. As well as the motivation, the race was some laugh as we ran around cracking jokes and having a bit of craic along the way. This made the time go

by faster which always seems to drag by when you're running. Even though we were only there for one night with all the travel and everything that was going on it seemed like we were gone for days. As much fun as the race was, the highlight of the trip to me was when a group of us went out the Saturday night and did some parkour around Edinburgh. While we were, jamming people were passing saying "oh you guys are doing parkour" or just watching or praising what we were doing. As a beginner to have people notice and positively comment on what we were doing it was a great feeling, with a touch of pride and achievement, and a great confidence boost.

I went to Edinburgh knowing one of the guys and I came back with a group of new friends. To sum up the trip in one word, it would have to be un-missable!



The UL Ninjas celebrating at the Galway Open

## Galway Chess Tournament

John O'Connor

Congratulations are in order for the UL chess club, for their most recent performance at the Galway tournament, which is one of Ireland's most renowned competitions. Over the course of the three day event, our players score a total of 14 points. In particular, Chris Murphy and Muthukumaran Thangaramanujam both finished joint third in competition, however, missed out on a prize due to the tie breaking system. This year was the first year that games were streamed live across the internet for anyone to see the Irish chess club union site, <http://www.icu.ie>. The games can also be downloaded at the Galway Chess Congress site <http://galwaychess.com>. Congratulations are also in order to Kevin O'Flaherty who entered the prestigious master section of the tournament, where he was against some of the best national and international players, including Gawain Jones, the former British Chess Champion, Alex Lopez, the former Irish Chess Champion, and Alex Baburin, Ireland's only grandmaster. Needless to say it was great performance by the UL Chess Club. The UL Chess meet every Monday night from 6pm in EGO-10 and every Thursday night in room3 of the Students Union from 6 - 8pm.

## Major Success for UL Handball

Thomas Ryan, Handball PRO

THE 60 x 30 singles intervarsities took place in Kilkenny on Friday October 14 and 15. The tournament had Men's Open A, B, C and Contenders grade and Women's Open, A and B grade. The tournament had a strong UL presence with 10 players representing the university across all grades of the event. The ladies representing UL were Catriona Casey, Hazel Cuddihy and Aileen Madden. Catriona Casey started off in the ladies open but was unsuccessful and lost in the semi-finals. This was not the end for the young trainee teacher, however, who proved her worth when she was dropped into the A grade, by winning out the final and beating Aoife McCarthy of Athlone IT. In the ladies B grade Aileen Madden and Hazel Cuddihy reached the final ensuring UL of success in the grade one way or another. The overall winner was Hazel Cuddihy in a very close match with only 5 points separating the girls. The men's A tournament had no UL players and lacked some of the excitement of the lower grades. The men's B grade was well represented by UL with four players; Paul Holden, Danny Riordan, Shane Walsh and John

Fitzgerald all playing in the early stages of the grade but failed to get any further. The men's C grade had three very strong UL players Mark O'Donovan, Eamon McNichlos and Thomas Ryan. Handball newcomer Thomas Ryan was one of the big surprises in the tournament reaching the quarter finals of the grade before losing to eventual finalist Eamon McNichlos. After scrapping a win in the hard fought battle against Thomas Ryan, a tired and weary Eamon McNichlos still managed to overcome the efforts of nationally respected hand baller Mark O'Donovan in the semi-finals. The match was so close that it required a tie-breaker to decide the winner with a final lead of 8 points to Eamon. Eamon went on to lose to John Walsh of UCD in the final. The tournament was rounded off appropriately with the tournament organisers providing all players with a meal in the Kilkenny nightclub and bar, Langtons. The night out gave all of the players from the different colleges an opportunity to get to know each other under less competitive circumstances and a great night was had by all.



## Windsurfers Halloween Trip

Gerald Flynn

So far the Club has had three very successful trips and one hum dinger of a beach party. On our most recent trip the club partook in some festivity, with a multitude of costumes ranging from "innocent" angles to ready to ride Cow Girls. Festivity broke into song with a mini xfactor session where anyone and everyone who knew the words to a song were more than welcome to offer their talents. (Let's just say at least we still have windsurfing to fall back on.)

As for the windsurfing, the new recruits learnt a lot on the first day (Saturday), with light winds it was easy for them to learn how to tack and gybe (types of turns). On Sunday the wind picked up and the improvers took to the water showing off their skills. The wind was slightly gusty but most of the intermediates were still able to get planing. The last two trips showed that there is a huge interest in the sport

and that the club is shaping up for what seems like a strong Intersvarsities fleet. The club has a lot of activity underway at present with our new website going live <http://www.ulwindsurfing.com/>, plus our foreign Trip to Egypt being put together in the next couple of weeks.

On top of all of that, the club has its UV TOGA party taking place on November 2 in the Lodge night club. Tickets will be 3euro, which makes for a very busy couple of weeks for the Windsurfing club. We will be selling tickets in the courtyard from 12-4 in the usual fashion leading up to the event. If you are worried that you won't be there on time then get onto us at [ulwc.committee@gmail.com](mailto:ulwc.committee@gmail.com) or check us out on facebook, just google ULWC and you should find us.

So be sure to keep in touch with any and all activity if you want a chance to get involved with the club.

## ULKC - Freshers Trip 2011

Mark Barrett, ULKC PRO

THIS year the kayak club went on the annual fresher's trip to Lahinch in October. Over 50 kayakers took to the waves and many tried kayak surfing for the first time. Between the cold water and the big waves, the first years found something to bond over. Over a short period of 48 hours, strangers became friends and the club got closer

as a group. The Halloween Wicklow trip took place during the long weekend and saw many paddlers gain their proficiency levels. The paddlers had a great experience on the river and most of them pushed themselves that extra mile to gain valuable skills. As this was the first river trip of the year, a new and exciting experience was had by the first



years. Most had only paddled down the Castleconnell River, which is very close to home. Preparations are already starting for the first international trip of the year to Wales. Much practice and experience is required before hitting the road and paddling the cold waters of the Welsh countryside.

*In Focus*

# The Halloween Ball, In Focus

Last Wednesday, students from UL, LIT and Mary I packed into the South Court Hotel decked in costumes of all shapes and sizes. Cleverly disguised CO, Kelly O'Brien, was there to capture the madness.



In Focus



## Gaeilge

# Oíche Shamhna

le Máire Ní Ailín

Mar atá a fhios againn ar fad, titeann Oíche Shamhna ar an 31 Deireadh Fómhair – 1 Samhain. Glaoitear Lá na Marbh ar an gcéad lá de mí na Samhna. Go stairiúil, ciallaíonn sé go bhfuil deireadh tagtha leis an samhradh agus tús a chur leis an gheimhreadh. Seasann sé don fómhar deireadh mar go traidisiúnta thógfaidh stoc den tréad agus dhéanfaidh cinneadh cé na hainmhí a bheadh le marú ionas go mbeadh na daoine in ann maireachtáil thríd an gheimhridh.

Baineann nósanna áirithe leis an Samhain agus seo cuid de na cinn a chleacht mise agus mé i m'óige.

Is é an cáca a bhíonn againn ar t-am seo den bhliain ná an Bairín Breac, cáca torthaí. An difríocht atá idir an cáca seo agus cácaí eile ná go mbíonn fáinne istigh sa mBairín Breac. An te a fhaigheann an fáinne, deirtear go bhfuil rómáns nó sonas sa todhcháí dó nó di. Déantar éadan a snoí i bpuimcín ag an am seo den bhliain agus cuirtear coinnle beaga isteach ann ionas go mbeidh solas ag teacht as. Deirtear gur dtáinig sé as an mbéaloideas go raibh gabha Éireannach darbh ainm Jack a rinne socrú leis an Diabhal tar éis dó cleas a dhéanamh air. Nuair a bhásaigh Jack níor tugadh cead isteach sna flaitheas dó mar gheall gur drochdhuine a bhí ann. Níor ligeadh isteach in ifreann é ach an oiread mar gheall ar an cleas a rinne sé ar an Diabhal agus thug an Diabhal aibhleog gual dó a chuir sé isteach i meacan ráibe a bhí gúistithe

aige. As sin a tháinig an traidisiúin Jack O'Lanterns. Nuair a chuaigh na hÉireannaigh ar imirce go Meiriceá ní raibh na meacan ráibe fairsing agus d'úsáid sí puimcín ina áit. Lastar tine chnámh ar Oíche Shamhna chomh maith.

Is breá le gasúir óga gléasadh suas Oíche Shamhna. Cuireann siad culaith orthu chun daoine a scanrú agus teann siad ó dhoras go doras ag déanamh 'Trick or Treat'. Go hiondúil tugtar milseáin agus cnónna dóibh. Tá an nós ann anois go ngléasann dream óga suas agus téann siad amach chuig cóisir chun an oíche a cheiliúradh.

Imrítear roinnt cluichí ar an oíche seo chomh maith. Tá úlla lárnach i roinnt acu seo. Ceanglaítear an t-úll ar rópa ón tsiléail, cuirtear puicín ar an gasúr agus bíonn ar an ngasúr greim a bhaint as. Cluiche eile ná na húlla a chur i mbáisín uisce agus bíonn ar na gasúir iad a thógáil amach lena mbéil.

Tá roinnt éachtaí cláraithe i leabhar Churiarrachtaí Domhanda Guinness a bhaineann leis an Samhain. Bhain an Sasanach, David Finkle, dhá churiarracht amach ar an lá céanna ar an 31 Deireadh Fómhair 2010. Is é David an duine is sciobtha riamh a snoí puimcín nuair a rinne sé é i 20.1 soicind.

An dara churiarracht a bhain David amach ná an uimhir is mó puimcín a snoí in uair a' chloig, 102 puimcín.



## Le linn an ama seo

le Féilim Ó Flatharta

Imeachtaí a tharla ar an 1 Samhain. I 1938 bhí rás capall i mBaltimore, Maryland, Meiriceá idir Seabiscuit agus War Admiral.

Bhuaigh War Admiral an Triple Crown, an Belmont Stakes, an Preakness agus an Kentucky Derby, i 1937.

Bhí slua ollmhór i láthair nuair a ritheadh an rás ar rás cúrsa Pimlico agus tá sé ráite go raibh 40 milliúin eile ag éisteacht ar an raidió.

Bhuaigh Seabiscuit an rás, rud nach raibh súil leis. Déanadh scannán faoi Seabiscuit i 2003 le Toby Maguire (Spiderman) mar príomhaisteoir.

I 1993 cuireadh tús le Conradh Maastricht agus i 1986 fuarthas an chéad cás den galar BSE nó "mad cow disease" i Sasana.

Is ar an dáta seo i 1936 a rugadh an t-imreoir sacar Eddie Coleman i Salford. Bhí Eddie ar dhuine de ochtar Busby Babes a bhásaigh i dtimpiste aerlíne Mhunchen i 1958.



## An Daonáireamh

Ar líon tú foirm an daonáirimh Aibreán seo caite? Mura líon, cén fáth nár líon? B'fhéidir nár tugadh an spreagadh ceart duit nó b'fhéidir nach raibh an fhógraíocht déanta ceart! Bhuel dá mbeadh tú san Ungáir tá seans an-mhaith ann go mbeadh suim agat an daonáireamh a líonadh tar éis na fógraíochta atá acu thall ansin a fheiceáil. Tá sé 10 mbliana ó bhí daonáireamh sa tír sin go deireadh.

Tá fógra curtha ar-líne acu ag iarraidh ar mhuintir na hUngáire an daonáireamh a líonadh amach ar-líne. San fhógra seo, tá bean óg, dathúil nach bhfuil mórán éadaí uirthi seachas bristín beag dearg, stocaí riteoga dubha agus tá fuip ina lámh aici ag oscailt an dorais don duine atá ag déanamh an

daonáirimh. Tugann an duine seo eolas di faoin daonáireamh a dhéanamh ar-líne. Is féidir an fógra sin a fheiceáil ar an suíomh seo <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71d7gzymPA0>.

Meastú an mbeadh RTÉ á thaispeáint seo roimh an am tairseach 9:00 i.n. atá acu? I bhfolach sa liosta thíos tá an aistriúcháin Gaeilge den na contaetha. Tá ortsa an leagan Gaeilge a aimsiú. Tá ceann déanta duit - mar shampla, an Ghaeilge ar Limerick ná Luimneach.

## Na Contaetha

Z S Q S P P W Q H M K E C Z Z P C L B P  
L I A T R O I M N E I I N V Y N I L A O  
A I Í E W G A R O N L O S I X T L A I R  
O S T A W S S O B L A D R M H T L G L T  
I T A A R F W I C D Q R H T Í D D N E L  
S P Z M E R W H E X D T Á R N R A A Á Á  
Q C E A T H A R L A C H E D H O R N T I  
F T D V Y I I I B U S O K M A S A N H R  
A E M O N X H L C N G F I C L R I Ú A G  
U B A N I Á T N A H M L L I C Á B D C E  
N W I R R R W T A K L A G O M N C O L A  
Á G B I M M E I Q I D E H R N P R N I L  
H A Q H K A N I A K A K A C T G I Q A T  
C M N G S D N G V C C G P X A Á F P T T  
A A Ú I Í L I A H F H B Í U M H U O H X  
E I D A A W K V C C I H G O D Z M T R R  
N G N C J R C F O H M Y C R E J R D G T  
I H A R K B M L L N L S R Á L C N A R N  
U E V O E R F H A D O A N C A B H Á N A  
M Ó R C A N L Ú Í R H C A E N M I U L I

Antrim	Leitrim
Armagh	Limerick
Carlow	Longford
Cavan	Louth
Clare	Mayo
Cork	Meath
Derry	Monaghan
Donegal	Offaly
Down	Roscommon
Dublin	Sligo
Fermanagh	Tipperary
Galway	Tyrone
Kerry	Waterford
Kildare	Westmeath
Kilkenny	Wexford
Laois	Wicklow

## Union

THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
COLUMN

**Derek Daly,**  
President

So it's been a little hit and miss. I'm writing this on a day off from Dublin and it's late. Typical. So the big news is I was out sick most of week 7. Manflu is terrible! But really there is actually some big news.

Remember that promise of a nightclub on campus? Well we haven't quite gotten that far yet, but as part of a wider development a big concert venue for us is possible. The main part of the development will be a Student Centre development to house more student fun space as well as more room for ULSU to get work done and for Clubs and Societies meeting rooms and enhanced sport facilities.

So what is it YOU would like to see in that? Should the Students' Union stay where it is? What is campus missing? Of course, every good news story has a balance. This all means that the €72 levy that funded the Student Centre, Arena and Boathouse will have to be extended until 2020 and possibly increased. You can let me know what you think on SUPresident@ul.ie or on twitter @ah\_lads

Derek Daly  
President  
061 202326 | 086 043 5300  
supresident@ul.ie

WELFARE  
WATCH

**Tara Feeney,**  
Welfare Officer

Hello there,  
Hope you are all enjoying the semester so far and college work isn't taking over. It's getting pretty hard to distinguish between the weeks at this point. They all seem to be rolling into one.

Most of my time over the past two weeks has been taken up with administering the Childcare Bursaries...but finally got them finished, yay! Remember applications open again next semester. If you need more information regarding the application process just send me an email and I'll get back to you.

Want to get more involved in Students Union? Well you're in luck! Three Welfare related posts are still open as part of the new class rep system: the Equality Officer, Mature Student Officer and the Disability Officer. If you are interested in any of them please let me know. It would be an invaluable experience, not take up much of your time and would look great on your CV, so why not go for it!

Think that's pretty much it. Feel free to drop into me if there is anything bothering you. My door is always open and I will do my very best to help. See you around campus,  
Toodles,

Tara Feeney  
DP/Welfare  
061 202519 | 086 043 5301

ENLIVENING  
EDUCATION

**Aoife Kenny,**  
Education Officer

Hey guys,  
It's week 9, oh dear lord. So the provision timetables are out this week so if anyone has any problems please contact your class rep that will be able to help get it changed.

If anyone is interested in organising group study session or helping out with the new Peer Tutoring scheme I'm planning to launch in Week 10 please give me a shout. Basically what I'm trying to do is get any student who wants to volunteer a few hours to their fellow student to help them in the run up to the exams. It's a win-win situation, you can volunteer hours for the PVA and it will give you an opportunity to start revising for your own exams. I'm planning on having EGO10 booked for the 2 weeks for the tutoring so as I said give me a shout.

Also from the Education Office, the faculty officers have been busy booking faculty balls. They are provisional booked as the following: KBS Wk3, EHS Wk5, AHSS Wk9 and S&E Wk10. Remember guys the exams are only a few weeks away so get a head start and start the study now, even just get your notes organised.  
Later, Aoiffs

Aoife Kenny  
VP/Education  
061 203491 | 086 043 5302

CAMPAIGNS  
BRIEF

**Paddy Rockett,**  
Campaigns and Services Officer

Hi all, What a great couple of weeks it has been there are some mad things going on. SHAG week which was supposed to be last week is going to be next week people, so let's get ya riding with confidence. We're gonna have a load of activity in the courtyard (all of it sexual) so get involved by grabbing the freebies and for god sake use em!

This week is the start of MOVEMBER, a month dedicated to issues prominent in mens health such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and in general all it mean to be the mans man, the moustache man. At this stage your Movember moustaches will be coming on a treat and you'll have a tache that will look like what Ross o Carroll Kelly called 'ronnies'. For all you Mo-bro's & sistas there will be events throughout the month with regular checks on your mo. Get it sponsored by going to the website: [www.movember.com](http://www.movember.com)

Remember this great month sends a powerful message of awareness and appreciation. Cannot wait to see what comes from this month. Oh and ULSU are the holders of a Guinness World record – 24hrs and 30 min. On a Ferris Wheel!!! Congrats to all involved and a huge thank you on behalf of Bone Marrow and Leukaemia Trust.

Paddy Rockett  
VP/Campaigns and Services  
061 213542 | 086 0435303  
sucso@ul.ie

WORDS  
FROM THE  
PSA

**Sarah Jane Hennelly,**  
PSA President

Hey there!  
I hope you are all well! The semester is flying, and things are going really well on the PSU front. Firstly, we have successfully formed a Toastmasters Club UL. It's the first University Club in the country, so we're all really excited about it! If you are interested in joining you can send me an email, the more the merrier!

PSU is also hosting its Halloween Havoc event this Thursday, 27th October. It's in Scholars and there's a prize for the best dressed! This is one of the biggest events on the Postgrad Calendar. It's always a great success, plus there's a free bus to Costellos after, sure what more could you want!

I hope to see plenty of you there, in your glad rags or whatever takes your fancy!

All the best,  
Sarah Jane Hennelly  
PSA President  
061 203473 | 086 043 5305  
psapresident@ul.ie

# Movember campaign starts for 2011

**Rachael Power**

MEN of UL put away your razors. This November sees the return of Movember, the month where 'Mo - Bros' are encouraged to grow a moustache and raise some funds for prostate cancer.

It's not all about the guys though, as 'Mo - Sistas' are also encouraged to get involved and promote awareness of the campaign. This year's UL Movember Campaign is being organized by Med

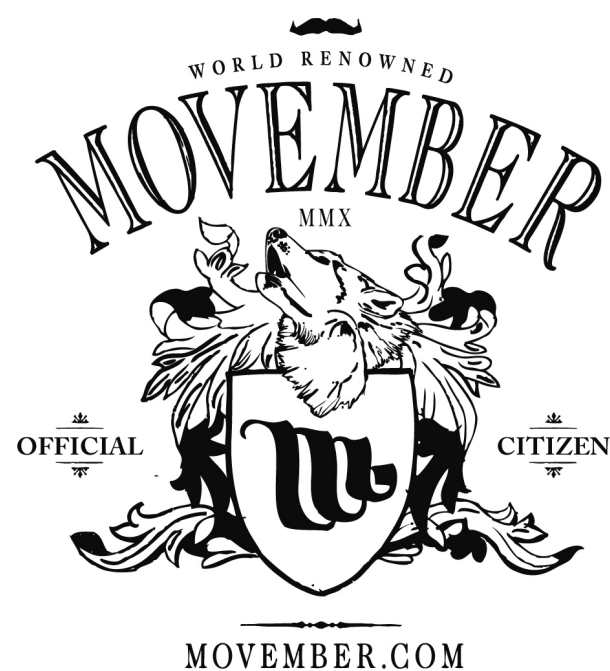
Soc and Captain of the UL team, Ryan McArthur. Every man has a one in twelve chance during their lifetime of getting prostate cancer, which is the second most common cancer in men in Ireland. Movember is about having fun, growing a moustache and raising funds and awareness for men's health – specifically prostate cancer.

The UL team will be in competition with other university teams around the country, with potential for team members to win prizes such as the "Best Mo in UL" title. Other events and treats will also be organized by the team.

Mo growers will receive their own Mo Space page which they can personalize so people can view their progress and make donations to the

cause. Mo Sistas are encouraged to get involved with the fundraising side of things, while Mo Bros can register with the UL team and get growing.

The Movember facebook group already has 224 members and is still growing. Anyone interested in getting involved can register for the UL Movember by visiting [www.movember.com/ie](http://www.movember.com/ie) and searching for UL. 2011 is Movember's fourth year in Ireland. If you are interested in learning more about the work that is being carried out as a result of Movember funds, check out the details at [www.ie.movemberfoundation.com/research-and-programs](http://www.ie.movemberfoundation.com/research-and-programs).



## Interview

# Former student has the X-Factor



Megan Burke, second from left, at the X Factor auditions with some of her supporters and presenter Dermot O'Leary

Jason Kennedy

HOW do you go from being a regular 18-year-old UL student to standing in front of thousands of people giving you a standing ovation?

Well, this is what happened to Dubliner, Megan Burke. She speaks to Jason Kennedy about her encounters on one of the most popular shows on television.

Former Voice and Dance student, Megan had to go through four rounds of auditioning for hit show *The X Factor* before she landed in front of judges Louis Walsh, Tulisa, Kelly Rowland and Gary Barlow. Although her main audition only happened in June, Megan says she was in such shock that it's quite hard to remember. She performed her own version of Adele's *Rolling in the Deep* and Alicia Keyes' *Fallin'* to

a cheering audience during the show's auditions over the summer in Cardiff.

"It was weird. It was just so surreal. It wasn't that long ago, but it's kind of hard to remember it. I got a standing ovation from the stadium. It just felt like I was watching someone else doing it. You watch it every year and it didn't really sink in that it was me doing it."

Megan received praise from all the judges, with former *Destiny's Child* singer, Kelly Rowland saying: "There is a star in Cardiff. There's nowhere else for you to go but up, babe."

From there, Megan sailed into *Boot Camp*, where she became good friends with a number of contestants who have survived to the live shows, especially with Liverpoolian, Craig Colton, who is currently fourth favourite to win at 9/1. "Craig is such a good guy. He's a really decent bloke and I really think that he has the best voice in the competition. I'd love him to win. I'm good friends with Marcus Collins too. I

spoke to Kitty Brucknell. I can tell you she really is that nuts in real life."

While she was in *Boot Camp* along with 86 other acts, the bookies heard that Megan blew the judges away with her voice. Paddy Power then decided to give her odds at 66/1, which was considerably higher than a number of acts that made it to the live finals. During *Boot Camp*, a number of newspapers quoted X-Factor sources, who said that Megan was a sure thing for the live shows. The last ever edition of the Irish 'News of the World' devoted a whole page to her. She said she really enjoyed *Boot Camp*, which was held in Wembley Arena, London and in a hotel just outside the city. Megan said that she really enjoyed the boot camp experience, which is where she, unfortunately, was eliminated from the competition. "There were 87 of us there in *Boot Camp* and of all those people there were only two or three that I disliked. Everyone generally

got on because everyone was in the same boat." Megan also claimed that X-Factor rebel, Frankie Cocozza, was a decent lad every time she encountered him. "Frankie is such a nice lad. Just before one performance he came over and told me that he was really nervous. I think a lot of X-factor is creating characters out of people. I know he showed the tattoos during his audition, but still.

"I think Frankie might be one of the next ones out. He is one of the weakest singers in the competition. It could be Johnny Robinson as well."

Megan added that she rarely came in contact with the judges during *Boot Camp*, but she once accidentally went into a staff only area and had a brief encounter with two of the judges. "With my luck, I went into a place I wasn't supposed to go to and I walked by Kelly and Tulisa and the producers gave out to me. The judges were very separated from the contestants during

*Boot Camp*. They do seem very friendly though and there does seem to be good banter between them."

Despite not getting through, Megan, who has returned to normal life, says she's unsure if she'd go through with it all again. "Never say never, but I think of Emilia Lily, who was kicked off in the first live shows. I'd hate to be known as the girl who was kicked off on the first show."

One of Megan's friends who is still in UL, Emma Langford, told *An Focal* that Megan will be successful no matter what. "I think she'll do amazingly well, but I don't think that's down to the show. I know she'll find success in her own right. She's got a fantastic career ahead of her."

To hear Megan sing, you can visit her YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/MeganBurke18](http://www.youtube.com/MeganBurke18) or you can follow her on twitter @MeganBOfficial.