

# Trinity News

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## SWSS and Sinn Fein disciplined over Taoiseach protest

Tim Walker

THE SOCIALIST Worker (SWSS) and Sinn Fein societies faced disciplinary action from College following their involvement in the vocal protest that greeted Taoiseach Bertie Ahern on his visit to the College Historical Society on the evening of Tuesday, January 28th.

The chairs of the two societies, Rory Hearne of the SWSS and Ciaran Doherty of Sinn Fein, were called before Junior Dean Brendan Tangney as a result of the infringements of college protocol that the protest represented. The chair of the Labour society, Patrick Nulty, did not face disciplinary action, despite his party's collusion in the protest, which roundly condemned the govern-



Gardi line up outside the Arts Block for the visit of the Taoiseach, MrAhern January 28th

ment's education cut-backs and co-operation with the US 'War on Terror'. Tangney told Trinity News that "the relevant parties did not

apply for college's permission to hold a protest, nor for permission to use a loudhailer on College premises. Disciplinary action was

taken as a result of a routine report by the Head of College Security." College regulations state that societies must give two

weeks notice before staging any event, including a protest. The standard procedure following a breach of those regulations would demand a

nominal fine and a letter of apology from the offending parties.

The anticipated Students' Union demonstration against the education cutbacks failed to materialise. Instead, the Taoiseach was presented with a petition of 1000 signatures, with a cover letter drafted by SU President Annie Gatling, criticising the government's policy. Rory Hearne of the Socialist Workers society called the SU's failure to mount a demonstration "a disgrace" and cited it as the reason for the last minute protest by the SWSS, Sinn Fein and Labour. "The issues at stake make a direct connection with students," he argued, "but the reaction of the Taoiseach's security team to the protest are part of a general clampdown on civil

liberties following the 'War on Terror'. They have a 'you're either with us or against us' attitude."

Ciaran Doherty, chair of the Trinity Sinn Fein society, was more circumspect. "This was a good-natured protest, involving 20 or 30 people at most," he commented. "We just felt it was important to make the political point that education is an investment in the future of this country, not simply an easy cutback." The subsequent meeting with the Junior Dean to discuss the infringements of College regulations ended, he said, "amicably, with the matter sorted...College understand the need for student protest," Doherty continued, "especially when

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## SU Education Officer under criticism

Ian Carey

THE SU Education Officer, Ms. Heledd Fychan, has come under criticism following her actions at last Tuesday's student council when she attempted to proceed with council despite not having the required one third of council in attendance to make quorum and continue with ordinary business.

The council was one of the longest of the year and saw speeches from the Provost, Prof. John Hegarty and USI President, Mr. Will Priestly. The actions of the sabbatical officer that provoked the uproar occurred at the end and it was in reference to the fact that the council failed to make quorum. Ms. Fychan was keen to get motions passed in the council. When it was declared that the council could not make quorum she decided to take things into her own hands. She began the process of striking class reps off the record. Class reps can be fired by the Education Officer if they fail to attend two council meetings without offering apology and can have their title as class rep stripped. Although this is technically allowed it still was frowned upon by members of the council because it seemed to be an effort to push the motion through.

"I thought that when she explained that she would have the problem of quorum solved she meant she was going to ring up reps I never imagined that she was going to start firing peo-

ple!" commented one member of council. There were 18 reps taken off the record to allow the meeting to resume. Questions have been asked whether the action was correct procedure. If one of the 18 could be proven to be taken off in error then that would plunge all the decisions taken from that point on into a constitutional limbo. Trinity News tried to get the details of the 18 reps but were informed by Ms. Fychan that she could not give them out as it would breach confidentiality. "Some people would not like to be identified as bad class reps" she contested, but these positions will need to be advertised for a possible replacement. The day after the council Ms. Fychan went about striking 48 reps from list by e-mail. Mr. Niell Glynn class rep for JF Computer Science told Trinity News that he was one of the people who were fired by e-mail. Mr. Glynn had missed Tuesday's council meeting because he was sick but it was the only one he missed all year. This means that he should not have been taken off the reps list. When he informed the Education Officer of her mistake she apologised profusely. Mr. Glynn raised concerns about Heledd's records, "if she can be so wrong as to accuse someone who has attended all the council meetings she shouldn't really be firing people."

Ms. Fychan apologised for her actions on the SU website message board. She said that it was

regrettable what had happened but she did it because, as she described, "it was imperative that the election regulation (schedule 3) was passed in time for the sabbatical election and coca cola referendum".

Members of council are very concerned by the efforts of the Education Officer to push through the new constitution at the meeting. Some of them claim it was unreasonable to ask council to approve such a big document especially since it was only given to most reps at the beginning of the meeting. In light of this the Chair, Francis Kieran, tabled a motion to have an emergency council meeting to deal with the constitution specifically. This was also highlighted by the fact that there had been some changes made to the constitution regarding the status of the GSU. In a meeting on Monday January 26th, the Executive Council of the SU took a vote over whether or not the GSU President should be allowed full voting rights in the executive. The Executive Council includes all the sabbatical officers, the convenors of the different faculties and the President of the GSU. Anne Gatling, SU President, and Ms. Fychan made an appeal to the executive to only give the GSU the right of attendance and not full membership voting. The executive in a vote rejected this but the qualification of 'in attendance' re-emerged in the constitution on Tuesday night when Ms Fychan pre-



Top: Heledd Fychan, SU Ed Officer



Above: Michael Dowling, GSU Pres

sented the motion on the overhead. The President of the GSU, Mr. Michael Dowling, spoke out against this during the council. Ms. Fychan told Trinity News that the reason for the inclusion of 'in attendance' stemmed from a conversation between Mr. Dowling and Ms. Gatling where he is reported to have suggested that he might prefer the 'in attendance' status but he had to await the decision of his executive council. This seems to be contrary to the reaction he gave at the council meeting. When Trinity News asked him to comment he explained, "I am not prepared to comment on the Tuesday's council but we (the GSU) have a hugely productive relationship with the SU. We have worked very well together this year with library cutbacks, accommodation and other issues."

Congratulations to TCD student Niall Carson who has won J1 costs in our Issue 5 competition with...



Under 26 & Student Travel & Trinity News

## Privatisation outrages Trinity students

Sinead Redmond

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) last week advised the government to allow some universities, particularly TCD, UCD and UCC, to cease dependency on government funding by becoming private institutions. The chairman of the HEA, Dr. Don Thornhill, compared the potential future of these institutions to colleges such as Harvard, Yale and Cornell in the US. He said that Irish universities

needed to focus on becoming "private but not-for-profit institutions along the lines of leading US based institutions". The HEA also said they believed that "active consideration should continue to be given to the individual's contribution to the cost of his or her higher education". They also recommend that universities should have to compete with one another for government funding. These shock recommendations were made in a submission to the Minister for Education, Mr. Noel

Dempsey. These suggestions have outraged many students here in Trinity, with some pointing out the exorbitant fees charged by the US universities mentioned are far beyond the reach of countless students. Harvard currently charges EUR30,300 per academic year, which over a four-year course works out to over EUR120,000 but for courses such as medicine the figure is higher. SU presidential candidate Francis Kiernan pointed out that "the

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## TAP hosts 4th Annual Shadowing Day

Claudia Calhoun

THIS WEEK, more than 150 second-level students will be taking part in the Trinity Access Programmes' Shadowing Day, with each fifth-year student accompanying a Trinity student to his or her lectures, tutorials, and labs. Shadowing Day is run by the Trinity Access Programmes (TAP). TAP's objective is to make third level education more accessible to disadvantaged students of all ages. This is the fourth annual Shadowing Day, which part of TAP's Second Level Programme. Mairead Byrne, a third-year philosophy student at Trinity, participated in TAP in sec-

ondary school. Byrne hosted Shadowing Day students last year, showing them the library resources, sports facilities, and their academic departments of interest. She described Shadowing Day as a valuable experience for the secondary school students, providing a 'really good basis' for students to understand how universities like Trinity operate and what student life is like. Students who participated in TAP in secondary school also receive assistance from the programme after they have matriculated to Trinity. It is staffed by fourth-year students who are there to assist TAP students with formulating, revising, and editing their

academic essays. 'TAP is great,' Byrne said. 'You always feel like you've got a shelter.' Trinity is not the only Irish university with a programme to facilitate access to third level education for underrepresented portions of the population. There are fifty Dublin-area secondary schools designated by the government as 'disadvantaged', and each is supported by a Dublin college or technical school. Trinity supports sixteen of these schools. More information the Trinity Access Programmes may be found at their website: www.tcd.ie/Trinity-Access. Students interested in getting involved in TAP may call 01 6082751

**TNT**  
trinity news two arts & culture supplement inside



## Annual Bloody Sunday speech by Trinity Grad

Ciaran Doherty

Last week a Trinity graduate, Mary Lou McDonald, gave the annual Bloody Sunday speech in Derry. This event in the past has been reserved for Sinn Féin top brass such as Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams. Mary Lou McDonald is Sinn Féin's candidate for Dublin in the upcoming European elections. She is a member of the party's Ard Chomhairle, as well as playing a central role on the Sinn Féin Good Friday

Agreement Review team. She spoke recently at a Historical Society EU debate, and will be speaking again in Trinity over the coming term.

During the speech Ms McDonald complained of the failure of successive Tory and Labour governments to acknowledge the British military's responsibility for Bloody Sunday. She declared her support for the families travelling to London this week to voice their concerns and demands for the British government to



Mary Louise McDonald, Trinity Graduate

accept responsibility but complained of the "culture of concealment" within the British Establishment, citing the enlistment of Widgery, the Saville Tribunal and Tony Blair's refusal to publish the Cory report and act upon its recommendations. She also cited the examples of the critical attacks on the part of the former Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald and Justice Minister Patrick Cooney upon the Barron Report that investigated the Dublin Monaghan bombings. She said

that the Police Ombudsman's recently published report into the killing of Sean Brown in Bellaghy raised serious questions for this British government and for the current regime at the top of the PSNI. She used the end of her speech to question Tony Blair's future actions, such as whether he will publish the Cory report, stating that his answers will say a lot about what direction the entire Peace Process takes in the weeks and months ahead.

## Saturday library could be axed

David Reubin-Symington

UNLESS THE Library secures EUR50,000 in funding, Saturday Opening will end along with other service reductions following this year's dramatic budget cuts on the part of the government. In an application to be made by the 20th February 2004 to the Resource Management Working Group (RMWG), the Librarian, Mr Robin Adams, has said that the Library Committee has recommended that three proposals be part of the Library's submission to the Emergency Fund. These include the closure of Libraries on Saturday afternoons excluding extended pre-examination and examination opening hours, a reduction in Bookstacks service from Santry to a possible single daily delivery, as well as a reduction in the Book budget. When asked whether the Library would be able to secure the necessary funds to avoid the plans outlined above, the Treasurer, Ms Grace Dempsey, has said it is only once applications have been received that allocations from the Fund will then be decided. Mr Robin Adams however has said that he hopes "its [Resource Management Working Group] its decision will enable the Library to

maintain the current level of service." Students and academic are hoping the RMWG will approve the Library's decision for the emergency funding. As Michael Dowling, the President of the Graduate Student's Union, has said, "the library just cannot close earlier on a Saturday if it is to remain a world-class library providing a world-class service. What about all the part-time students? How will they get the library service they paid for? We will be urging the college to give a priority to maintaining the opening hours of the library when they are disbursing the EUR800,000 emergency fund." The Emergency Fund of EUR800,000 controlled by the Resource Management Working Group, had been created last December 2003 after the College Board's controversial decision to collect all unspent funds kept by College Departments in order to respond to Trinity's EUR5 million budget deficit. An Emergency Fund of EUR800,000 was set aside to help College Departments, including the Library and ISS, finding themselves in need of an urgent financial injection. It is understood that ISS will also be making a similar application to that made by the Library.

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS**  
In TN Issue 5, page 3 the Bank of Ireland Scholar's Fund photo omitted Mr Laurence Crowley, Governor, Bank of Ireland Group from the caption

## Trinity gets 21m for Nanoscience

Wendy Williams

THE PROVOST of Trinity College, Dr John Hegarty, has welcomed the recent award of EUR21 million from the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) that will be used to develop a new centre for Nanotechnology, in collaboration with UCD and UCC. The new Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN) is Ireland's first purpose-built Research Institute, designed with the aim of making significant progress in the realms of Nanoscience. Recently Nanoscience has been considered by the government a strategic area for research as it provides the source for technology that is likely to be dominate in future generations.

According to Professor M

Coey FRS, joint Director of the centre, with Professor J. Pethica FRS, a position they will hold on a rotational basis, Nanoscience is effectively "science on a really small scale". Trinity was awarded the funding following a rigorous examination of their proposal during which the SFI were looking for a project that could be, in the words of Professor M. Coey, "world class and successful". When CRANN opens at the end of 2005, it will provide the physical and intellectual environment for world-class basic research. The new centre, to be situated on the North East corner of campus adjacent to Pearse Street, has been specially designed with laboratories, maintained at a constant temperature and quiet ultra-low vibration conditions. The centre, with 150-stong scientific and administrative staff,

will help develop tools and techniques to build structures and devices, atom by atom, allowing limitless opportunities for biotechnology and information and communications technologies. The institute is closely connected to the Physics and Chemistry departments and is going to be permeable to them with programs set up involving other departments.

The Millennium Entrance of the building will be used by thousands of students and commuters every day. As part of the project a Science Gallery is to be developed in the entrance offering an engaging program of exhibitions that will change every few months attracting students as well as school children, tourists and the general public. The exhibitions of the Science Gallery will be based on themes

ranging from 'Mars' to more controversial topics such as animal testing. Professor M. Coey has explained that many "people have lost the sense of wonder as to how these things are possible at all" thus the Science Gallery is part of an attempt to "demystify science" and show the public that "science is very much a part of day-to-day life".

To fully achieve its aims CRANN will need further funding but the money from SFI has been warmly received and is definitely a step closer. The Provost explained that he was "particularly pleased that our proposal to SFI for funding a specialised nanoscience research facility to be used by nanoscience investigators at TCD has been successful". It would appear to be a very exciting time for science at Trinity.

## Societies disciplined

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the Taoiseach comes to visit - and we understand that those protests need to be organised in the official manner."

The exemption of the Labour Party from disciplinary action was, according to both Hearne and Doherty, a result of Labour's eleventh-hour involvement in the organisation of the demonstration. Doherty explained: "Sinn Féin and the SWSS produced a leaflet prior to the protest, before Labour became involved. After they became involved there was a further poster produced with their name on it." The assumption is that Mr Tangney took action on the basis of the original leaflet, which made no mention of the Labour Party. Patrick Nulty, chair of Trinity's Labour Society, claimed, however, that "Labour was

always involved in the protest." He offered no further explanation for his absence from the Junior Dean's disciplinary proceedings. On Friday, February 6th, Nulty announced that he would be running for the post of SU President in the upcoming SU elections.

The parties involved maintained that no physical threat was posed to the Taoiseach by any of the Trinity students involved in the protest. However, a man later identified by Rory Hearne as a UCD student was seen to lunge at Mr Ahern before being restrained by Gardai. The 'metal implement' carried by the man, and reported to be "possibly a knife" by the University Record was actually, Hearne insists, a camera.

## Privatisation causes anger in college

continued from page 1

opportunity of going to university needs to be opened up to more people, not closed off to all but a small, highly-wealthy elite." He also said that universities such as Harvard and Yale have a "highly questionable" ethos of inclusion, and that going down this path would be a huge step backwards for a system already strained by government cut-backs. He believes "the proposal has zero merit" and that it is "a farce that we're even talking about this when the issue should

be, and must be, reducing the cuts in third level funding". Some of the stated aims of the HEA are to "allow colleges to build greater links with industry and develop new specialisations in teaching and learning". It also claims greater autonomy for colleges would follow. However, the concerns of the student body are that these will come at the expense of thousands of potential students losing out on the chance to benefit from third-level education.

## Trinity team get grant to develop new MMR vaccination

Cassidy Knowlton

THE GOVERNMENTAL organisation Science Foundation of Ireland has granted 694,000 euro to a research team at Trinity's Moynihan Institute of Preventive Medicine to develop a new vaccination for mumps, measles and rubella. Two post-doctoral fellows, Marina Fleeton and Barbara Kelly, a post-graduate student in virology, Sara Collagy, and the team's head, Professor Greg Atkins, are trying to develop an MMR vaccination that does not contain live viruses, which the existing vaccine does. There is a lot of controversy over the existing vaccination, which some claim has been connected to autism, particularly in children. A recent court case in the United Kingdom sued for dam-

ages caused by the vaccine. The case was unsuccessful and is under judicial review, but many people believe that there is a link to autism.

However, Professor Atkins says that the link is "problematic. There isn't a great deal of evidence that it is a main cause of autism. Some people say the evidence is nonexistent."

The vaccination does have less disputed side effects, such as seizures, meningitis and encephalitis in rare cases. "The trouble is that a vaccine made of three live viruses can cause problems," said Atkins. "The medical establishment assumes a low level of intelligence on the part of the public and they say that there is no risk. It is not true that it is completely safe. It is safe, but not without risk."

His team are set to develop a vaccine using genetic manipulation of the viruses that will not have the possible, if rare, side effects present in the existing vaccine.

The project has received a lot of media attention. Articles have appeared recently in the Irish Times, Irish Independent, Private Eye and the Scottish newspaper The Sunday Herald. The New York Times is also working on an article about the project. The UK independent television network Granada Television has filmed an interview and are airing a piece on "Tonight with Trevor McDonald" in about a month. When they tried to film the piece on campus, however, they met with serious opposition from college authorities.

Professor asked permis-

sion from college authorities for the television crew to film in his laboratory. The day before the shooting was to take place, he asked for permission for the television crew to bring its van onto campus. He received an e-mail back telling him that the crew were banned from Trinity's campus. "They wanted lots of information, permission from the secretary of college. They asked me to do all these things that I'd already done. It was nonsense; they were trying to get it scrapped," said Atkins.

"The Granada team are to be commended for their insight in making such a programme for popular television and did not deserve the impolite treatment they received from the University authorities. The Granada crew informed me that they

have filmed in several universities and research institutions and have never before encountered such bureaucratic and impolite treatment," Atkins said in an e-mail to the Dean of Science, Dean or Research, Provost and others.

The television crew hired out a room in the Mont Clare Hotel for the interview, and the programme will be broadcast as planned.

All of the recent attention on the MMR vaccine and its possible side effects, including the possible link with autism, has led many people to choose not to be vaccinated. Atkins warns that if people are not immunised against mumps, measles and rubella, the viruses, if they take hold in the population, are going to spread very quickly. He



Post-Grad Virologist Barbara Kelly

points to a recent outbreak of measles in Dublin and recommends strongly that people get the existing vaccine.

"The MMR vaccine has saved the lives of thousands of children. Any medical procedure has risks. What we're trying to do is reduce that small risk."

## In Brief



## Trinity to hold Annual Mediterranean Archaeology Symposium

Trinity College will be hosting the eighth annual meeting for postgraduate researchers in Mediterranean Archaeology, to be held from the 20th to the 22nd February 2004. This year's organizers are hoping the symposium will include regions and time periods outside of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Bronze Age and Classical periods with researchers working on the Western Mediterranean, North Africa, and other time periods being strongly encouraged to participate. The annual symposium provides an opportunity for an informal meeting of predoctoral researchers throughout Europe and beyond, to come together to present and discuss their works in progress. Researchers from a wide range of archaeological and related backgrounds are encouraged and invited to participate.

## Green Week has begun!

College's second annual Green Week has been officially opened by Senator David Norris yesterday on Monday 9 February at 1 pm in the Exam Hall. The week will feature a series of events and activities to stimulate environmental awareness in the University to which all are welcome, the theme of which will be: "Waste costs - practising the three Rs." Among the highlights of this year's Green Week, Tuesday there. Since last year's Green Week, recycling in College has increased from 12% up to 30% of general waste. The programme of events, to which everybody is most welcome, can be found at [www.tcd.ie/GreenPages/GreenWeek/programme2004.html](http://www.tcd.ie/GreenPages/GreenWeek/programme2004.html). Please access this site every morning during the week to check for updates. There is also an online survey on environmental attitudes of TCD staff and students running all week: <http://www.tcd.ie/GreenPages/survey.html>. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey.

## Miscellany Mag woes

Trinity's oldest magazine may soon be consigned to a footnote in history. Miscellany, first published in 1894, is currently without an editor, following the recent resignation of fourth-year student Eimear Nic an Bhaird from the post. The magazine has not been published at all this academic year and despite advertisements for the vacant position, a replacement has yet to come forward. John Kenny, Chair of Dublin University Publications explains, "The position was advertised in Trinity News but there were no applications. In a final analysis, it was probably expecting too much of someone to take over the reins in Hilary term and produce a high quality magazine in the short period of time available."

Traditionally the magazine has covered a broad spectrum of social, cultural and political issues. In recent years it has featured articles on the political aftermath of the attacks on September 11th 2001, New Labour, Croatia, the perils of text dating and a symposium on the worst Miscellany story ever.

SU Education Officer Heledd Fychan was the editor for 2002-2003. "I loved editing Miscellany as it is such a great magazine with a lot of potential. It would be such a shame to see it disappear".

## Fringe Fest for Rag Week

Rag Week 2004 (Feb 23rd-27th) will have the first ever Trinity Fringe Festival, involving all sorts of art and performances, from the student body in particular. One of the S.U.'s organisers, Jane Cassidy, told the Trinity News "We decided to set up the festival because not enough students were getting involved with Rag Week." The aim is to entice and encourage all students to take part in both Rag Week and the Fringe Festival.

Together with a number of the artistic societies in college, the Drama Department, and the Music Department, the S.U. plans to hold a number of performances and exhibitions across campus all week. They want to rejuvenate and reawaken Rag Week with the addition of the Fringe Festival. The point of the festival is to get as many students as possible interested, so if you have an interest in any of the categories, get in touch with the S.U! The categories for entries to the Fringe Festival are: Drama, Comedy, Music, Art, Photography, Film. Venues include Regent House, the Burke theatre, Printing House, and the Players Theatre. Some shows will also be planned and performed outside, around the campus grounds and in venues off campus. Unwary students and passers-by are very likely to get caught up and confused by the organised chaos, so be warned! The S.U. anticipate an extremely lively atmosphere all around campus, with an "anything goes" attitude prevailing.

Comedy organiser Adam Whyte will be performing stand up comedy throughout the week along with other big names. We have been alerted that there will be lots and lots of reaction theatre, "so those who are timid should shy from public places"! The Buttery and the Arts Block are going to be filled with improv actors just waiting to burst out upon innocent students and show off their laugh-provoking skills. Adam has also informed us that "Players will be in constant use, and the opportunities to drink and have a laugh will be endless".

College News In Brief compiled by Christine Bohan, Sinead Redmond and David Reubin-Symington


## PRESIDENT

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	<b>Name:</b> Chris Gambino <b>Age:</b> 22 <b>Course:</b> 4th yr Theology (TSM Classics) <b>From:</b> Texas	to introduce different policies that are realistic, effective and original. <b>Strengths:</b> I want to introduce different policies. <b>Weaknesses:</b> Overworked with my	final thesis and Law School application. <b>Experience:</b> Class rep in my Second Year. Helped in the European Parliamentary Campaigns. Frequent Hist and Phil debater	<b>Political Affiliation:</b> None <b>Who is the Minister for Education?</b> Noel Dempsey <b>Who is the President of USI?</b> Will Priestly <b>Have you run for elec-</b>	tion before? Last year I ran for President and Welfare <b>Criminal record?</b> Only in Mexico. I just did something stupid. It was basically a misunderstanding, I got off the	next day. Prison isn't that bad <b>Interests/Hobbies:</b> Have won Fencing awards, play cricket and part of the Irish National Baseball League <b>Favourite album:</b>	Johnny Cash Greatest Hits <b>Favourite film:</b> Cinema Paradiso
	<b>Name:</b> Francis Kieran <b>Age:</b> 20 <b>Course:</b> 3rd yr Law <b>From:</b> Bettystown, Co. Meath	hard year for students and we will need to make a strong and effective case for retaining the services we have, not to mention increasing them. I believe I am the best placed person to achieve that.	<b>Strengths:</b> Am approachable, listen to students and know the Union (specifically its' strengths and weaknesses). <b>Weaknesses:</b> I'm a law student! (Sorry!) <b>Experience:</b> Was Irish	Language Officer for the SU in 2nd year and secured a place for Irish in the Strategic Plan. Am currently chair of student council and as chair have helped make the council more democratic by	involving people other than the 'hacks'. <b>Political Affiliation:</b> Was a member of Fianna Fail but have resigned because I believe that the SU President should be apolitical.	<b>Current Minister for Education?</b> Noel Dempsey <b>President of USI?</b> Will Priestly <b>Have you run for election before?</b> No <b>Criminal record?</b> No	<b>Interests/Hobbies:</b> Swimming, music, current affairs and the odd drink. <b>Favourite album:</b> The best of REM <b>Favourite film:</b> Kill Bill Vol. 1
	<b>Name:</b> Mark Munnely <b>Age:</b> 22 <b>Course:</b> 4th yr BESS <b>From:</b> Co. Laois	I'm just an ordinary student wanting to represent the student body behind one strong voice <b>Strengths:</b> Highly motivated to do the job, and	truly do want to represent the student body <b>Weaknesses:</b> Don't really know <b>Experience:</b> Been involved with various	committees at my old school. Was secretary of a group that looked after 1st years when I was around 18. Have had experience working with	other people. Am heavily involved in sport <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Gaelic Football, golf, squash, tennis and soccer <b>Political Affiliation:</b> No	<b>Minister for Education?</b> Noel Dempsey <b>President of USI?</b> Will Priestly <b>Have you run for elec-</b>	tion before? No <b>Criminal record?</b> No <b>Favourite album:</b> Xmas N. 1 Gary Jules <b>Favourite film:</b> Shawshank Redemption
	<b>Name:</b> Patrick Nulty <b>Age:</b> 21 <b>Course:</b> 3rd yr Sociology & Social Policy <b>From:</b> Blanchardstown	be more proactive and innovative. There needs to be more action to protect education for students <b>Strengths:</b> Sincere and have conviction. Believe in the ability of people to	change <b>Weaknesses:</b> Am very hands on and sometimes don't give enough time to myself <b>Experience:</b> Have been involved in various campaigns particularly the	Free Education and Anti Deportation campaigns. Am also a peace activist, Chair of Trinity Labour Society and Treasurer of the Social Policy Society <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Member of the Saint	Vincent De Paul Society, the Suas Society, and Amnesty <b>Political Affiliation:</b> Chair of Trinity Labour <b>Minister for Education?</b> Noel Dempsey	<b>President of USI?</b> Will Priestly <b>Have you run for election before?</b> No <b>Criminal record?</b> No <b>Favourite album:</b> 'Seize the Day' Damian Dempsey	<b>Favourite film:</b> My Left Foot
	<b>Name:</b> Ed O'Reilly <b>Age:</b> 21 <b>Course:</b> 3rd yr History <b>From:</b> London (Anglo-Irish descent)	I best represent student interests and my goal as President is to bring about action over apathy and having a university which is for the students and making sure every member of the student body has the unique	Trinity experience <b>Strengths:</b> Am a student's candidate representing and forcefully arguing on student issues only. Been on the SU council this year as a class rep and recognize the outsider's opinion	that the student body has lost faith in the council to understand the main student issues <b>Weaknesses:</b> Don't really know <b>Experience:</b> Fundamentally the best experience is having been	a Trinity student for the past three years and understanding the real student issues <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> DU Filmmakers, DU Players, the Megaleague and most importantly recent student issues	<b>Political Affiliation:</b> No <b>Minister for Education?</b> Don't know <b>President of the USI?</b> Will Priestly <b>Have you run for election before?</b> No <b>Criminal record?</b> No <b>Favourite album:</b> I like	all music but specifically U2 <b>Favourite film:</b> Scarface



## DEPUTY PRESIDENT

1

	<b>Name:</b> Ruth Ní Eidhin <b>Age:</b> 21 <b>Course:</b> 4th yr History (TSM English) <b>From:</b> Blackrock	and feel I have the necessary experience to run. The Deputy President position is very broad. It's not just about the University Record, it's about the website, publicity, and many other things as well. It's the	funnel for everyone else's job, touching all of them. My journalistic experience and high motivation makes me believe I would be very good at editing The Record. I would put 100% into the Deputy Presidency, it being one of	the most important jobs as it's very important to let students know that there is a union and that they're working for you <b>Strengths:</b> Put maximum effort into everything and make sure the job is done well.	Journalistic and Students Union experience which are key strengths when it comes to being Deputy President <b>Weaknesses:</b> Have a few, just not sure how many I want to tell you about! <b>Hobbies/Weaknesses:</b>	Films, An Cumann Gaelach and writing for Trinity News! <b>Political Affiliation:</b> None <b>Minister for Education?</b> Noel Dempsey <b>President of USI?</b> Will Priestly	Priestly <b>Have you run for election before?</b> No <b>Criminal record?</b> No <b>Favourite album:</b> Ben Harper - Live from Mars <b>Favourite film:</b> Casablanca
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## EDUCATION

2

	<b>Name:</b> Daithí Mac Síthigh <b>Age:</b> 21 <b>Course:</b> 4th yr Law <b>From:</b> Ashford, Co. Wicklow	have seen a lot of SU activities over the years and I feel like I can give a lot to the role, I am also genuinely interested in the position. <b>Strengths:</b> Committed to getting involved and	working hard. Have political experience but am not running a political campaign. Have support from all political backgrounds <b>Weaknesses:</b> Spent last year on exchange abroad	so have to get to know some people <b>Experience:</b> Access Officer for the SU 2001/2002. Law class rep in 1st and 4th year. Was the first Chair of Trinity FM. Involved with the	Free Legal Advice Clinic and Voluntary Tuition. Also Chair of Trinity Labour in 2nd year <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Cycling, Jazz and hurling fan <b>Political Affiliation:</b>	Labour but will hand it back membership if elected <b>Minister for Education?</b> Noel Dempsey <b>President of USI?</b> Will Priestly	<b>Have you ran for election before?</b> No <b>Criminal record?</b> No <b>Favourite album:</b> 'Kind of Blue' Miles Davis <b>Favourite film:</b> Being John Malkovich
	<b>Name:</b> Fiachra de Bhulbh <b>Age:</b> 19 <b>Course:</b> 2nd yr Engineering <b>From:</b> Leixlip	<b>Reason for running:</b> I have experience from my time as class rep and as I am currently Libraries and Laboratories Officer working very closely with the Education Officer. I	think there is a need for strong student representation next year and I can provide that. <b>Strengths:</b> Experience in the SU and with Education matters, and	not afraid of saying what needs to be said <b>Weaknesses:</b> Don't like being wrong! <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Photography, swimming, and Playstation 2! Part of	Canoeing club and on Engineering society committee last year <b>Political Affiliation:</b> None <b>Minister for Education?</b> Noel	Dempsey <b>President of the USI?</b> Will Priestly <b>Have you run for election before?</b> No <b>Criminal record?</b> No <b>Favourite album:</b> The	new Aslan one <b>Favourite film:</b> Lord of the Rings 3




## WELFARE

2

<b>Name:</b> Fergus Grant <b>Age:</b> 21 <b>Course:</b> 3rd yr BESS <b>From:</b> London (living in Ireland for the past 9 years)	<b>Reason for running:</b> I feel the SU is often out of touch with students. The Welfare Officer always has the most open door policy and I want to	maintain that. The Su needs to stop following personal agendas and ask students what they want. I intend to do that through surveys to be	completed by the students themselves. <b>Strengths:</b> Am committed with good, simple ideas that can get tremendous results	<b>Weaknesses:</b> Am not a student rep or involved within the SU but have been attending SU Council meetings <b>Experience:</b> Studying	Politics through my course <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Travel, scuba-diving and soccer <b>Political Affiliation:</b> No	<b>Minister for Education?</b> Don't know <b>President of the USI?</b> Don't know <b>Have you run for election before?</b> No	<b>Criminal record?</b> No <b>Favourite album:</b> Best Bob Dylan <b>Favourite film:</b> Requiem for a Dream
<b>Name:</b> Luke Ryder <b>Age:</b> 21 <b>Course:</b> 3rd yr BESS <b>From:</b> Cabinteely	<b>Reason for running:</b> Welfare is a very important position and I am worried that if someone not up to the task does where my assistance would be ideologically influenced or compro-	listener. No ideological baggage - no religion, not in any political party and pro choice. Don't feel there's any situation where my assistance would be ideologically influenced or compro-	mised. <b>Weaknesses:</b> Am going prematurely bald! Would be worried if I considered myself to have a lot of weaknesses because then I don't think I'd be up to the task	<b>Experience:</b> Course in peer counselling skills with the counselling service in first year. Also helped various friends and family members out when they've had problems	<b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Playing the drums. Currently Chair of the Rock Nostalgia Society DURNS, write for the Forum section of TN, and a member of the Phil council	<b>Political Affiliation:</b> None <b>Minister for Education?</b> Noel Dempsey <b>President of USI?</b> Will Priestly <b>Have you run for elec-</b>	tion before? No <b>Criminal record?</b> No <b>Favourite album:</b> Best of Burt Bacharach <b>Favourite film:</b> Requiem for a Dream

## ENTS

4

	<b>Name:</b> Sean Browne <b>Age:</b> 21 <b>Course:</b> 4th yr Information & Communications Technology	<b>From:</b> Dublin <b>Reason for running:</b> Around 70% of a student's education is done outside the lecture hall.	Want to improve the Ents situation. <b>Strengths:</b> Run my own entertainment company and organized around 14 events over the past three	years. Am very well connected in the entertainment industry <b>Weaknesses:</b> Don't really know <b>Experience:</b> Worked as a	DJ for the past 5 years and organized many events. <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Music and canoeing <b>Political Affiliation:</b> No	<b>Minister for Education?</b> Noel Dempsey <b>President of the USI?</b> Will Priestly <b>Criminal record?</b> Don't	really know. <b>Favourite album:</b> Coldplay - "A Rush of Blood to the Head" <b>Favourite film:</b> Shawshank Redemption
<b>Name:</b> Alex Gilliland <b>Age:</b> 20 <b>Course:</b> 2nd yr Engineering <b>Origins:</b> Bray County	<b>Reasons for running:</b> I believe that College should be the place where you have the time of your life and I think I could	make Trinity a more fun place <b>Strengths:</b> Fun, outgoing and always having a laugh. Very hard working	when I believe in something <b>Weaknesses:</b> Don't know when to stop having fun. <b>Experience:</b> Have taken	an interest in the SU this year <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Like going to the Battery every Thursday, soccer	and music <b>Political Affiliation:</b> None <b>Minister for Education?</b> Don't know	<b>President of the USI?</b> Will Priestly <b>Have you run for election before?</b> No <b>Criminal record?</b> No.	(It's something I'm still working on) <b>Favourite album:</b> Blood Sugar Sex Magik <b>Favourite film:</b> Matrix
	<b>Name:</b> Niall Morris <b>Age:</b> 21 <b>Course:</b> 3rd yr Natural Science <b>From:</b> Dublin	<b>Reasons for running:</b> I've been involved in SU Ents since my Junior Freshman year. I help with events, I work a lot with Kev Cahill, the current SU Ents officer, and I	want to improve the current events with my own ideas. <b>Strengths:</b> Highly motivated and love going out. <b>Weaknesses:</b> Don't really know	<b>Experience:</b> Highly experienced within the SU and have been running events for the past year. Help out in the Hub on Wednesday nights, booking bands and bring-	ing in sponsors such as Red Bull and Tiger Beer <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Music and of course going out, with my favourites clubs being No.4 Dame Lane and Ri Ra	<b>Political Affiliation:</b> None <b>Minister for Education?</b> Noel Dempsey <b>President of the USI?</b> Not too sure	<b>Have you run for election before?</b> No <b>Criminal record?</b> No <b>Favourite album:</b> Stone Roses <b>Favourite film:</b> Taxi Driver
	<b>Name:</b> Coleman Marcus-Quinn <b>Age:</b> 21 <b>Course:</b> 3rd yr Maths <b>From:</b> Ennis, Co. Clare	<b>Reason for running:</b> To gain experience for life <b>Strengths:</b> Ability to deal with people and good organisational skills <b>Weaknesses:</b> Recovering	alcoholic!!! (only kidding) <b>Experience:</b> Worked in a nightclub. Member of the Phys Soc having helped organise events, table quizzes, and a trip to	Bristol <b>Hobbies/Interests:</b> Member of the Rifle Club, Phys Soc, and Chess Club. Also training for my pilots licence	<b>Political Affiliation:</b> None <b>Who is the Minister for Education?</b> Don't know <b>Who is the President of USI?</b> Don't know	<b>Have you run for election before?</b> No <b>Criminal record?</b> No comment <b>Favourite album:</b> 'The man who' Travis	<b>Favourite film:</b> The Deadzone

## Iranian Students protest against elections

Leah Finnegan

THE LEADING pro-democracy student group in Iran has urged students to boycott the national parliamentary elections which are scheduled to take place on the 20th February. The Office to Consolidate Unity (OCU) maintains that under the current political climate there is no possibility of having a free ballot in the upcoming election. The OCU said in a statement that 'the reason why people are so disillusioned is because of the existence of powerful bodies which in the end render parliament powerless'. Their views coincide with those of the reform movement who have demanded a delay in polling following the decision of the conservative Guardians Council to rule out 2,500 of the 8,000 candidates as contenders in the election. Those disqualified from the ballot include 87 MPs who are currently in government. A group of MPs and reformist lawmakers have staged a sit-in at the parliament buildings for the past three weeks to voice their protest at the



decision of the Guardians Council. Students speaking on behalf of OCU urged the reformist deputies to continue the sit-in saying that 'the biggest mistake and failure of the reformists would be to give in and accept to have these elections'. The OCU has called for a referendum to be held on the political future of the country.

Authorities have banned students from taking part in protests in support of the rebel MPs and in favour of a boycott of elections. Several prominent pro-reform newspapers have also been reprimanded for their coverage of the political crisis. Despite the official ban on protests 250 students gathered at Amir Kabir University in Tehran to rally in support of the sit-in in the parliament. Mushin Armin, one of the MPs who has been barred from standing for further election following the decision of the Guardians Council, has called for students to take action to prevent a 'puppet parliament' from being voted in which would lead to a situation whereby 'we will no longer have a free press nor freedom to defend the rights of jailed students'. Students in Tehran have sought official permission from the authorities to stage a protest rally this week. However many believe that permission will be refused as it would coincide with the official date chosen to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

## Students to be reported to INS

Leah Finnegan

THE NEW York State Senate has passed a controversial bill which will require all universities to keep a close eye on foreign students enrolled in programmes of study. Under the bill universities will be obliged to report incidents of absenteeism amongst foreign students to the New York State police and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Failure to report to these bodies could lead to universities incurring fines of up to \$1000. The bill has been formulated as a key part in the fight against terrorism in the United States. Three of the hijackers involved in 9/11 entered the US on student visas. Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno said that 'the events of 9/11 have taught us a hard lesson and this measure will allow New York State's institutions of Higher Education to do their

part, act wisely and with good judgement to thwart any abuses of our system.' The bill is being sponsored by Senator Kenneth LaValle who has a long history of involvement in education issues and was previously the Executive Director of the Senate Education Committee. LaValle has argued that the bill will strike a balance between the tradition of 'international cooperation and collaboration' which has characterised the third level institutions in the state and the demands required by national security in the aftermath of terrorist attacks. LaValle said that 'the events of 9/11 have made it clear that there are some who would use our system of openness and inclusion for their own destructive purposes' and argues that the bill will allow the universities to 'act prudently' in the face of potential terrorist attacks. Opposition to the bill on

the basis that it infringes upon the privacy of the individual and unfairly singles out foreign students as potential terrorists has been voiced within the State Senate. Senator Lachman has pointed out the weaknesses of the bill saying that 'some American born students participate in terrorism' and that it is erroneous to assume that 'foreign students are more prone to participate in terrorism'. The bill was passed by 39 votes to 21 in the Senate which has a Republican majority. It now awaits approval by the Higher Education Committee in the Assembly which is dominated by Democrats. Last year the bill failed to pass through the Assembly however the current chairman of the committee has expressed his support for the bill on the grounds that 'it is a reasonable measure considering the new times we are living in'.

## UK Law Schools announce new exam

Leah Finnegan

THE LAW schools of eight of the top universities in the UK have announced that all prospective undergraduates will have to sit a new admissions test in order to gain entry to law courses. Students will be required to pass the National Admissions Test for Law (LNat) in addition to A-level exams. The admissions exam is composed of a series of multiple choice questions and students will also be required to compose an essay. The LNat has been devised in order to 'discern intellectual potential' amongst a wide range of applicants. Dr. Tim Kaye, the undergraduate law admissions dean at Birmingham University says that the LNat has been devised in order to help universities choose students from the large number of well qualified applicants. He says that 'the growing number of candidates with top scores



UK students will now face additional hurdles before they can gain admission to study Law at some top universities.

at GCSE and A-level has made it increasingly difficult for the most competitive law schools in the country to rank their applicants satisfactorily' and he believes that the LNat will resolve this. Those who are

in favour of the new selection exam believe that it will ensure that 'more even-handed and transparent consideration' will be given to all prospective law students. The LNat will be required

to gain entry to undergraduate law courses at Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, East Anglia, Nottingham, Oxford and UCL. Students residing outside the EU will not be required to sit the LNat.

## Political unrest in Haiti continues

- Student killed, Fifteen Arrested.

Leah Finnegan

THE ONGOING political crisis in Haiti has claimed the life of another student. Lionel Victor, a 29 year old law student at the University of Haiti in the country's capital Port-au-Prince, was killed during a demonstration that took place outside the US consulate. Police were called in to restore order and released tear gas to disperse the crowds of students and opposition groups. A government spokesperson said that Victor died as a result of injuries sustained after a tear gas canister hit him on the head. Fifteen other students were arrested by police for the part

which they played in demonstrations outside a hospital in the capital. Support for anti-government demonstrations continues to increase as the President, Jean Bertrand Aristide, continues to cling to power despite growing demands for his resignation. Leaders from 15 countries in the Caribbean (CARICOM) have held meetings with leaders of the Haitian opposition in the hopes of resolving the crisis before it spirals out of control. CARICOM has come up with proposals to put an end to civil unrest and political strife which stems from the disputed results of the elections of 2000. The plan calls for the immediate

establishment of a new government, a schedule for new democratic elections and the enforced disarmament of gangs which the opposition say are responsible for a number of violent attacks upon their supporters. Aristide has said that he supports some sections of the plan formulated by the Caribbean leaders. However his support for the formation of a new government is said to be conditional on the inclusion of members of his political party. Those leading the opposition have said that they could only support the proposed plan to resolve the political impasse if Aristide agrees to step down as the President of Haiti. Aristide has said that



Injured student receives medical attention during violent clashes in Haiti

such a move is out of the question and he has reaffirmed his intention to remain in power until the end of his presidential term in 2006.

Leah Finnegan

STUDENT PROTESTS in Liberia have resulted in the removal of the President of the University of Liberia, Dr. Ben Roberts. Several hundred students were involved in protests which culminated in an attempt to barricade the university campus. The student body claim that Roberts has failed to initiate any improvement of conditions at the university. Faculty members at the university also added their voice to calls for the

removal of Roberts and demanded an audit to be carried out by an independent body into the financial records of the university. Robert's resignation was announced by Gyude Bryant, Chairman of Liberia's Transitional Government, two days after the protests at the University. Bryant has named Dr. Joseph Kollie, the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the university, as the interim President. Soldiers from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) were

called upon to restore order at the university following the unrest. During the course of the protests five students were detained by UNMIL and there were some eyewitness reports that soldiers from the UNMIL forces were seen flogging students. A spokesperson for the Concerned Students of the University of Liberia called for the immediate release of the five students and threatened that further protests would follow if the students were detained.

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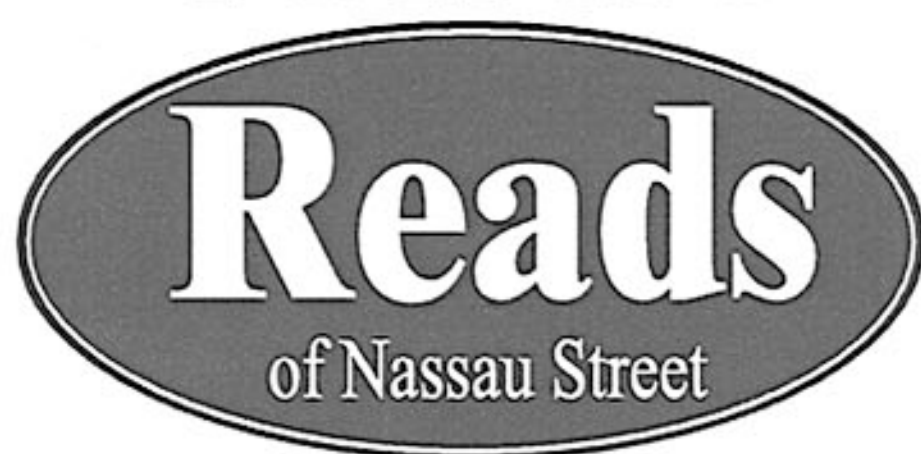
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# Political spin leaves colleges little choice

Patrick Cosgrave

Mary Harney was in Paris recently. She spoke at the OECD. She had much to say about the future of higher education in Ireland. For anyone perplexed by the recent cutbacks, her words are perhaps worth considering.

For one, she explained, "MIT...Berkeley, Stanford and Harvard have a terrific track record of close collaboration between industry and education and research," and added "we are trying to do that in Ireland". She also stated that "linking academic researchers with industry partners in Ireland will play a significant role in building Ireland's new knowledge-driven economy". "Broadly speaking the policies that need to be pursued" in higher education, she continued, "relate to the promotion of a business environment in which enterprise can prosper".

For anyone who remained unconvinced, Harney pointed towards the Government's commitment to "increased spending" in the area. For instance, on the 12th of January, she announced that Trinity was to receive 10 million for a new Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology, and an additional 11 million for the provision of a specialised nanoscience research facility. Twice the amount needed to counter the effects of cutbacks in Trinity. Incidentally, it is part of over 320 million of investment commitments made by SFI since 2001. Moreover, the Department of Finance has just introduced a bill, which grants tax relief for private spending in the same area. An area more commonly termed research and development, or R&D, in the "sciences".

Linking "education and research" with the needs of "industry" by following the "terrific" examples of "MIT...Berkeley,

Stanford and Harvard" would appear to be a highly laudable and reasonable end for the Government to pursue. As Mary Harney puts it, encouraging Trinity and other institutes of higher education to mimic the American example is perhaps "essential [to] our economic future". It seems reasonable. We cannot hope to compete with wage levels offered by other nations. Hopefully we can compete when it comes to "knowledge".

However, if the Government is so committed to following the "terrific" American example and "increase[ing] spending" in higher education, the question arises: Why make cutbacks? There are no obvious reasons. None have been stated. Moreover, cutbacks are surely contrary to the Governments desire to create a "world-class knowledge-based

We cannot hope to compete with wage levels offered by other nations. Hopefully we can compete when it comes to knowledge

economy".

There appear to be no definite answers. Consequently one can only speculate about the reasoning behind cutbacks. In my view, and it is highly speculative, cutbacks are a useful method of encouraging certain universities, like Trinity, to make the right choice - the Government's favoured choice. That is, the choice to "follow" the "American example" that the Government couldn't be seen to force universities to take as it would be political suicide. Who would want to vote for a Government that forced the best third level institutions in the country to privatise (their fees)? So what you do instead is reduce funding to Trinity, and other institutions, to a point where they regard State reliance as inimical to their betterment. In short, cutbacks make privatisation appear



Third level institutions are being dragged down a road with nowhere left to turn

as a very viable and very reasonable alternative.

The Chairman of the Higher Education Authority, Dr. Don Thornhill, articulated this point in a recent interview with the Irish Times. He simply stated that "for institutions that complain about being in State control, here is a

chance for them" to go "down this road" of American "private but not-for-profit institutions". The HEA call it a "chance". Noel Dempsey calls it "cutbacks". Mary Harney simply calls it "essential [to] our economic future". Either way, if certain universities eventually choose to privatise (their fees), it will appear as their choice, and not because of the imposition of Governmental policies. Of course it may never happen. But if it does, it can be expected to "be a long evolving process", notes the HEA.

According to the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment adopting the "terrific" American example will lead to "closer linkages between industry and the higher education system". Moreover, it will lead to a "larger proportion" of "public funding" being "devoted to research to kick-start investment and activity in the private sector", explains Mary Harney.

In essence, the public will bear the initial costs of "research" into new "technologies and sciences", while any private investment into the area will be publicly "subsidised" under the Department of Finance's new tax relief bill for R&D. If anything commercially viable and marketable emerges from this "publicly funded" and publicly "subsidised" process, the profits will flow into private hands. The public gain will be "jobs". This is what Harney terms "kick-start[ing]...activity in the private sector". As an afterthought, she mentions that moving towards this "new knowledge-based economy", or "a business environment in which enterprise can prosper", will create "fewer jobs", but in an attempt to silence any critics assured that these "fewer jobs" will in fact be "better jobs".

The actual experiences of the "leading research-based institutions in the US such as Harvard, Yale and Cornell" are oddly similar to the Governments depictions of Ireland's higher education system in the future. Take computers for example. In the 1950's well over 90% of funding for research in, and development of, computer technologies was publicly subsidised. Eventually, in the late 1970's and early 1980's, these publicly funded technologies became commercially marketable, mostly in the form of personal computers. Thirty years of massive "public funding" had finally "kick-start[ed] activity in

Either way, if certain universities eventually choose to privatise (their fees), it will appear as their choice, and not because of the imposition of Governmental policies.

the private sector", in terms of commercially marketable goods, as the "publicly funded" technologies were privatised. Profits were likewise privatised. The same applies to most other advanced technologies produced under the "terrific" American example, from aeroplanes to mobile phones.

Although in America "public funds", which go to R&D in higher institutions, are mostly channelled through the Pentagon, usually under the pretext of military spending, as a means to "kick start...activity in the private sector", or pump-prime the economy. In Ireland, on the other hand, the pretext, according to the HEA at least, is the need to "position ourselves on the world stage... [by] catching up...and staying ahead". According to Mary Harney, the pretext is the need to compete with "lower cost third [world] countries", or face disaster.

However that is not entirely

In short, cutbacks serve as a useful method for encouraging certain universities to make the right choice

true. There are other knowledge-based models which the Táiniste could choose for higher education, so as to be more competitive with "lower cost third [world] countries", and "position ourselves on the world stage". It was something Paul A. Samuelson and John Maynard Keynes pointed out when "MIT...Berkeley, Stanford and Harvard" adopted the Government sanctioned model of publicly subsidising private research and development in

debated. However, for Mary Harney there is no debate. Adopting the American model is a means of creating "a business environment in which enterprise can prosper", and people can have jobs. In short, if "business[es]...prosper" and everybody else gets "jobs" it is a direct consequence of Government policy. However, if everybody else "prosper[s]", as opposed to just "businesses" it is an incidental outcome.

And for anyone worried about academic integrity and independence the HEA assures that this move "will significantly enhance [universities] flexibility and capacity in carrying out their core functions of teaching, research and service to the community". And just in case anyone is still worried the HEA adds that "colleges would apply for... funding on a competitive basis and would be given a contract by the State to run certain courses and to undertake research" "linked" to the needs of "industry". This would presumably also apply to publicly subsidised "private investment" given to third level colleges by industry.

In short, cutbacks serve as a useful method for encouraging certain universities to make the right choice - the Governments favoured choice - follow the "terrific" American example and privatise (fees). Something the Government "are trying to do" but could not be seen to force directly upon certain universities, as it would be political suicide. Of course Trinity may never privatise (their fees), and cutbacks may be related to something entirely different, however much of the evidence seems to suggest otherwise.

Although, ultimately, this is just armchair speculation based on the policy recommendations and comments of Mary Harney, the HEA, and Noel Dempsey. People sometimes lie, and politicians sometimes tell the truth, and my speculation is probably wrong at best.



Mary Harney ponders the insufferable position she is putting college authorities into

institutes of higher education, which Harney now advocates. However, Samuelson and Keynes ideal of creating a pro-people environment by directing public funds into public utilities stands in sharp contrast to Harney's ideal of creating a "business environment in which enterprise can prosper" by directing public funds into private technologies. And therefore it is unlikely Harney or the Government will radically alter their commitment to pursuing the "terrific" American model.

The HEA calls the American model genuine "service to the community"; which "community" they are referring to remains to be

But one thing is for sure, as students we deserve to know why Mary Harney and Noel Dempsey bill higher education as "essential [to] our economic future", but continue to make cutbacks. Moreover, academics and students in the humanities deserve to know if they too will be receiving a portion of "increased spending", more "public funding", and more publicly subsidised "private investment" like the "sciences". I would hope so. It is just that the HEA, Noel Dempsey, and Mary Harney, have not suggested so.

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# TN Debate: Should Ireland introduce college top-up fees?

## The Proposition

Carl Cullinane

Top Up Fees is a phrase every student in the British Isles recoils at. But why? We must question whether this instinctual reaction is any more morally grounded than say your average adult's aversion to the phrase 'income tax'. Why do students feel that they have the moral high ground over the government (British or Irish) in this regard and why do most people accept that to be against fees is to be progressive and left-wing? Because it's too easy, is probably the most relevant answer. Whether we can afford it or not, it is patently obvious that none of us particularly want to be paying more for our education than we currently are. The question is whether the opposition to fees or top up fees or whatever they are going to be called, stretches any further than mere self-interest. The crux of this debate rests on what is best for a) the education system as a whole and b) for students at the bottom end of the spectrum.

Unfortunately for the 'Fight Fees/Fight Cutbacks' brigade, we do not live in an ideal world. Despite the fact we are students we have to realise that in the real world there are limited resources to go around (the fact that the current government managed to squander the Celtic Tiger boom is separate to this article). The brute fact is that there isn't enough money in government coffers to give grants to anybody who needs them, pay for all our fees and fund universities generously so that we get a world class education. Rightly, the Department of Education's focus is on Primary and Secondary education; that is where our education system is most in need of progress.

The major issue that those who carp on about cutbacks continually ignore, is the reason that the universities are in a position whereby the government can cut their funding: fees. Were universities allowed to charge fees directly, they would have complete financial and political independence from the government and could guarantee that we get the facilities and services that we deserve. Their current position as subordinate to the whims of government is not really acceptable and is what is causing all

this trouble in the first place.

The other main objection to fees is that it will reduce access. For those who believe in real social equality, the current situation whereby the government subsidises the likes of Michael O'Leary's college education is hardly palatable. Why on earth should the government spend huge amounts of revenue on paying for the education of the wealthy? The current system is in no way progressive and redistributive. If top up fees were to be introduced, the money the state will save by not paying the fees of the well off can be directed at those who really need it at the bottom end of the scale. The grant can be extended and increased massively, and free fees can be kept for those who patently cannot afford them. If those in middle class families have to skip on the bi-annual new car or the yearly continental holiday so be it. Education is far more important than the vast amounts of consumer crap middle to upper middle class families spend their money on.

To briefly deal with the British controversy before concluding; the Labour rebel MP's main problem with Blair's education bill was the allowance for variable fees, i.e. providing for a system of elite expensive universities for the super rich. If Ireland were to legislate against that and enforce a strict cap, that problem dissolves. Ultimately, for the good of less well off students, for the good of Irish education as a whole and for the good of Third Level independence and standards of education, we may eventually have to swallow the bitter-pill of Top Up Fees.

## The Opposition

Luke Ryder

If someone goes into further education and earns more when she gets older, then she should pay for that bonus. Thus runs the logic of the decision to introduce top-up fees in the UK, and the logic behind similar proposals here in Ireland, which fortunately has been stymied so far. There are two major flaws in the logic of this idea, though.

Firstly, there's a problem with the idea that a student should pay for voluntary education past a certain point. If the logic is sound, then the most sensible point at which to start charging for education is the moment such education becomes voluntary rather than compulsory. Students who finish their Leaving Cert earn much more on average than those who leave school at sixteen; why, then, do we not simply extend a fee-paying model to secondary education after sixteen? The principle still applies - earning power is increased, so those who do get the benefit of that increased earning power should pay for it. Of course, no politician would dream of advocating an abolition of free secondary education past the age of sixteen. So why are universities any different?

They're not. But politicians looking for a quick way to get more cash will pretend they are in order to impose cuts on the age group least likely to vote rather than on anything which might impact negatively on their re-election chances.

The second problem is to do with taxes. If someone earns more, then they pay more tax. That's a fair proposition, and as such, I support the higher tax band. But if a college graduate is earning more as a result of her education, then she's already paying back the investment on her education. Adding a second tax purely because colleges need the money, has nothing to do with any ideology, except perhaps the ideology of pork-barrel politics.

All this would be forgivable if we could believe that these ideas really were behind the question of top-up fees. But we can't. It seems too coincidental that this shift in ideology with relation to third level education happened simultaneously with the realisation by the government of the existence of a serious shortfall in tax revenue. The real motivation behind moves to reintroduce fees is budgetary. College cuts and fees drastically cheapen the cost to the government of maintaining third level education. If it were really a question of ideology, the government would have matched the reintroduction of fees with a tax cut. Instead, the money is simply spent elsewhere, a sure sign that third level education is being hurt simply because it seems least likely to cause significant damage to election prospects.

The answer, therefore, seems clear. We need to impose an unacceptable cost on the government in the event of reintroduction of fees. Perhaps targeting Noel Dempsey's constituency in Trim would be a start. An intensive campaign focused on making sure he loses his seat would send a clear message to any politician thinking of bringing back fees and would cement the student voice into something able to take major action to defend its interests. Perhaps it's worth looking into?



Mr Noel Dempsey, Minister for Education

# Cowering by the heels of our Giants

Rory Loughnane

Standing on the shoulders of giants or peeping around the corner of their heel? I can not write a sentence (of any length) which is not essentially a make up of another million sentences in the body of literature. I can not walk on one square foot of untrodden soil. Or write a melody which has not already been written. Has it all become a little bit boring? What is there left to do if you're not exactly thrilled about science? It would be so much fun to do a Marty McFly, and play Johnny B Goode to a group of fifties school-kids.

Still, it's easy to fall into whimsical yearnings for the past in a world where nothing is new. The word "new" has come to mean "expected". Seriously, nothing could enthrall the children of today. The problem is that every single present they receive has an improved version on the market within six months. So, unless your dad works for Lego, the fact remains that your present has a newness factor of about a week.

Of course, everything prescribed to be new in the world today, is in fact just a rehash of what's been done before. In a child's world, action



James Joyce: a foreboding figure from our literary past

heroes and villains will essentially always be the same. Cartoons on TV take on the mantle of cartoons from the Beano etc. Always the same simplistic divisions of good and evil exist within. Nappies seem to have almost passed the boundaries of technological advancement by this stage. I ask, where else can they possibly go with a disposable cloth fit for only one purpose?

I received an e-mail informing me of about thirty little inescapable factors in having a real Irish childhood e.g. tig, black or red principal's book for naughty kids, photo taken on first day of school etc. Of course, it was chock full of sentimental schlock but it ran some truths home. We all, essentially, had the same childhood. Maybe some had more money for sweets or more friends or more family concerns but at a basic level we all did the exact same things. Wow. No wonder when you're abroad the Irish tend to be the loudest. We're all trying to break the homogenous role.

In literature, it seems nigh-on impossible to write anything new these days. However, Hodges Figgis and Easons don't have too many problems filling the New Book's section. What drivel must they put down on these pages? Admittedly, as

an English student, I have to believe in some moments of worth in the writing public, but for the most part must remain a little cynical. The literary cannon has become too massive. Joyce, Yeats, Beckett, Kavanagh loom much too large in our past. The height is insurmountable. We can add, but can we replace? Born into an Ireland based on tradition, can a writer overtake and replace the tradition. Essentially, could a young Irish writer, write so well, that the achievements of his inspirators from the past are forgotten?

The answer seems to be a resounding "No". In Ireland anything new to the public eye, is invariably compared to the past. This is fair in that it allows people who are unfamiliar with the new entity, to have some sort of expectations. However, it is criminally unfair in that the comparison pigeon-holes and belittles a new entity into a subordinate position. Hence, a new Irish band compared to U2, are immediately subconsciously thought of as not as good as U2. For how can a new band be as good as a band which has been setting standards for twenty years? Likewise in Art, Cinema, Sport, Politics and Literature.

I would love to be able to say that

in today's culture a new Irish entity in any of the above topics could enter into folklore. However, this is where the weird paradox in Irish culture exists. Our patriotism and general consensus on how to have a good time is born out of our traditionalism and knowledge of the past. Our international position puts us on a different plane, whereby our status as European gives us a share of a completely different history and of a forward-moving body politic. So should we continue to revere the past or look to the future? The solution seems to be to embrace the present. This then negates the possibility of admittance to the past cannon of the various arts, politics and sports. You can not enter folklore, you can remember it.

Unfortunately, this all seems a bit dreary. Nothing is quite "new", but is rather "expected", the "expected" is celebrated but not "reversed", the past that is "reversed" can never be "re-performed", and to complete the cycle, at any rate "re-performance" is nothing "new." Still, it is probably worth a shot, because it might only take one person or one idea to stop the cycle.

# End of the Irish-American affair for students

Rory Loughnane



My Cowboy Adventure

Walking in Memphis, Dreamin' in California, finding a sweet home in Alabama- once again the American dream is open to Irish students this summer. But, is it really? Red tape abounds in a new nightmare-ish USIT J-1 programme.

Never been to the U.S. embassy? Well, here's your chance to not only indulge in the D4 scenery but also do an interview to see if you have fundamentalist tendencies. Imagine what sort of questions they ask trying to catch you out. "So, young Irish man, could you tell me, what are your three main ambitions for the summer in the United States?" "Having the craic, meeting women and fulfilling my inherent sense of duty towards my terrorist brethren." Realistically, how does an interview help at all? If you act nervous, are they going to be genuinely suspicious? I think you'd need to have seriously bad interview skills to fail this one. As in, declare that you don't agree with the whole tax thing, wear a t-shirt of Osama to the interview and break out into Islamic chants mid-sentence.

Next up is the whole concept of having to have a job offer before you even step foot on American soil. This shows an obvious bias to people who have relatives or friends already there and pretty much single-handedly takes any sense of adventure from the holiday. My dream of humming along to a

troupe of seventy year old blues guitarists in Memphis for the whole summer is starting to look less and less likely. The reality is that I'll get a crap underpaid job in McDonalds in New York and end up smiling rather than humming mournfully for a living.

I'm new to this whole thing but I think the basic idea behind USIT's start-me-up introduction meeting on American culture the morning after one arrives is ludicrous and for people who have been home-schooled all the way to college level. What could they possibly tell you in this meeting? Beware of bad men? Keep your wallet/purse in your pocket rather than playing run-and-catch with it? The whole thing stinks of a general lack of adventure.

I suggest that USIT offer an alternative start-me-up where they blind-fold you and your friends, put you on a random bus at some depot and let you wake up the next day in some place you can't pronounce like Arkansas or Albuquerque. Then you'll get a true indication of American culture and can discover for yourself all about bad men and women.

The whole idea of going to a foreign country for the summer is to have a laugh, see the different culture and come back with funny stories for the people to went to an equally "great" but different place. It has nothing to do with actually wanting to

become a resident per se of that country. There's where the U.S., Ireland and USIT seem to be going with all this information gathering. I'm not applying for citizenship, but a rather a tiny little work permit to let me have a laugh in warmer climes than home. That is the student way. No-one seems to get it.

Instead, we have to pledge allegiance to abiding by the American status quo in the

interview, have a job so we can join the rat-race and get lessons in how to fit in. The whole point is surely, that we're not meant to fit in. We're meant to be Irish students messing about, barely making ends meet in a big country where we can get away with it.

With this article, it's pretty safe to assume, I'm black-listed come around the fun interviews out in Dublin four.



The crew waiting for me in Memphis, if I ever make it...



Niamh  
Flemin

# Can lace reduce your waist? Corset can

French steel, Madonna and Moulin Rouge: Niamh Flemin traces the rise and rise of a female (and male!) institution

Who was the first to point out what was beautiful and what wasn't? Caught in a world of eating disorders and various 'we'll-make-you-look-like-Barbie' physically altering surgeries this question reiterates itself ten times more than the average TD, which, it is fair to say, is quite an achievement. There has hardly ever been a time when bodily alteration was not on the wish list.

Women began shaping their bodies in Neolithic times. Pictures drawn on bones twenty thousand years ago show women using variations on what is now known as the corset. These were then made from metals such as bronze. Later, similar garments were constructed using linen, whalebone, satin, silk, leather, horn, reed and corded rope. Originally, restricting materials were central to the theme of torture for the sake of beauty, now it's physical alteration.

Tales of the lengths women (and men) went to for the sake of being physically ideal are shocking. Girls from a young age faced endless days of sadistic lacing to train their waists to some sort of Barbie-esque and rib crushing narrowness. The objective of the corset was to raise the bust, reduce the waist size and straighten the posture as appearance became key to success.

The weight carried by one's waist size became hugely important in the 16th century where it was increasingly associated with one's rank. In the English court one's dress implied one's position, rank and wealth, while in France the corset's laces were used to determine one's actual position in court. Catherine de Medici imposed strict regulations correlating women's waist size to the positions they held in her court. Her rules forced the corset even tighter and brought about the introduction of a light steel framework and vastly more elaborate and detailed designs. Some even go as far as to claim that the corset was for women akin to what armour was for knights, which, by then was more symbolic than practical. The more ornate a knight's armour the higher his rank.

However, male dealings with corsets did not begin and end in a similarity with armour and some bedroom negotiations with the endless lacing. There is also evidence that men were as eager for narrow waists as women were. Influenced by the King Henry III men began wearing corsets, which they did not remove even at night until completely satisfied that their waists were acceptably narrow. How vein!

Corset training was a gruelling process that required a high pain threshold, endless self-discipline and willingness to breathe as little as possible. It is probably not at all unfair to compare it to the training men went through in order to serve their countries. Cultivating the tiny waist, the perfect hourglass, and the ideal figure of femininity involved weeks of lacing tighter and tighter, reducing the size of the waist inch by inch (a reduction from 18.5 to 14 was achieved on occasion). In many ways a few days of pain and a little bloodshed seems meagre in relation to the endless hours young girls spent encased in things far less agreeable than straight jackets.

Nineteenth century thick leather corsets, laced together with leather thongs, did not come with kinky whips and hand-cuffs but with a stocking needle mounted on the bust to punish the wearer should she stoop forward in the slightest. Many were fitted with shoulder straps to force the shoulders back, others with steel bars across the top and running under the arms to develop the perfect posture. Disagreeable young ladies spent hours imprisoned in these punishment corsets. The horror of which would have human right activists up in arms if inflicted on today's murderers and criminals let alone the faint, pale and innocent damsels.

The battle with the body did receive some respite in the twentieth century, however. As if by a sudden miracle, perhaps with the realisation that women are equal citizens, (thank goodness they never managed to deprive the brain of air completely) the desire for the narrow waist and wide hipped upright woman began taking second place to a new found desire for a wholly boyish figure, yet another sign of the infinitely old obsession with appearance as something of vast importance and meaning. Only now the obsession turned from matrimony to politics.

The 1920s flapper wore a loose corset that caused little waist reduction under the non-descript shape of the flapper dress. Amid the lunacy of the 1960s women were saying no to all constraints placed on their bodies. However, fully emancipated woman had by the 1980s decided that she herself should look as the corset had once made her look. Instead of compressing her organs inside a brace she decided to insist her ribs protrude, her breasts enlarge and her waist diminish. Thus began the tucking, sucking, reducing and enlarging surgeries.

Irishhealth.com conducted a survey last October, which resulted in the revelation that approximately 50% of those questioned would consider cosmetic surgery. Other reports say teenagers are increasingly demanding cosmetic surgeries at younger and younger ages. They say it will make them happy! And we are baffled by the mindset of young Victorian girls? The BBC has recently carried reports on what Britain's middle class consider essential in this modern age, finding that once 'luxury' products such as flashy cars and body altering surgeries are no longer considered outside the realm necessity. The weight given to appearances certainly has not waned in any sense, it is a matter addressed with the same passion today as it ever was.

This new perfection and the corset were married in Madonna in the 1980s. Donning a Jean-Paul Gaultier corset she turned the garment into something entirely different from an old lady's item of under-clothing. Viewed no longer as Granny underwear it became an attractive piece that could show the starved, exercised and perhaps surgically altered body, in its best light.

Today the corset, and currently a softer corset-shaped but unboned effort can be found in all walks of life. It is worn to formal evening affairs and worn over jeans. At the recent Trinity debating IV (which culminates in a formally attired final), over one third of females present were donning some sort of corset like garment. We remembered the corset with Madonna who made it a symbol of the controlled, empowered and bold woman. The Age of Innocence romanticised the garment. The film Moulin Rouge smudged the lines between its status as an undergarment and an outer garment putting it on the high streets. Corsets are not just found at the 19th century established Madame Voller's in London but also at Dolce e Gabbana and Antonio Berardi. And they are particularly common in bridal shops where brides seek to magically loose inches and fit into the prized wedding dress. Although restrictive corsets are less common now with corset shaped affairs the current choice.

Although proper corsets are not cheap, they are a lot less expensive than liposuction, which could serve as a relief to those saving endlessly to have their insides sucked out. The corset has also been embraced by and gained popularity among the transvestite population, particularly the Victorian style that hold the whole body. A surprising new role for this ancient garment.

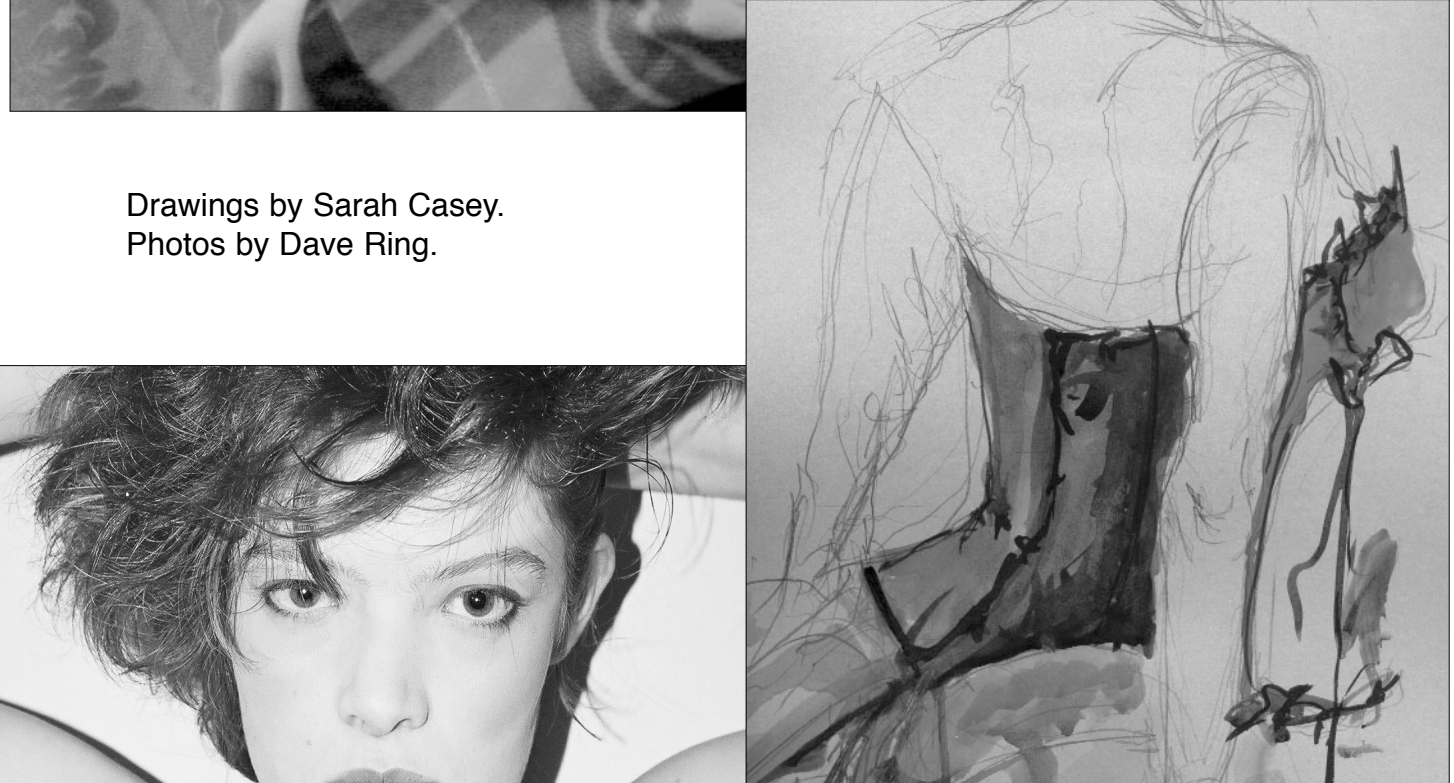
But regardless of what's popular and fashionable and when it's popular and fashionable, the question remains as to what is the best method of body altering. Reading of the cruelty inflicted on Victorian girls it is easy to imagine that the world we live in now is far more humane when it comes to beauty, but is it really? I suppose we have mastered the quick fix solution to our deemed imperfections, much as the soldier now kills his enemy with a machine gun from inside a tank rather than through duelling. However, since not everyone can have the version prized for its machine gun efficiency, the corset-less body that wants to look like a corset leads to eating disorder after eating disorder. Irish health experts are warning that the teenage girl is now more susceptible to eating disorders than ever before.

Furthermore, the term 'watch your back' is now relevant outside of wars and duels. We're not so obsessed these days with posture as the Victorians. Couple this with a definite increase in the strain placed on our backs and you arrive at a society constantly complaining of backaches and pains. The modern world slouches and stoops in further confirmation of Darwinian theory and leading medical professionals to constant criticism of posture. Is the corset the answer to this problem?

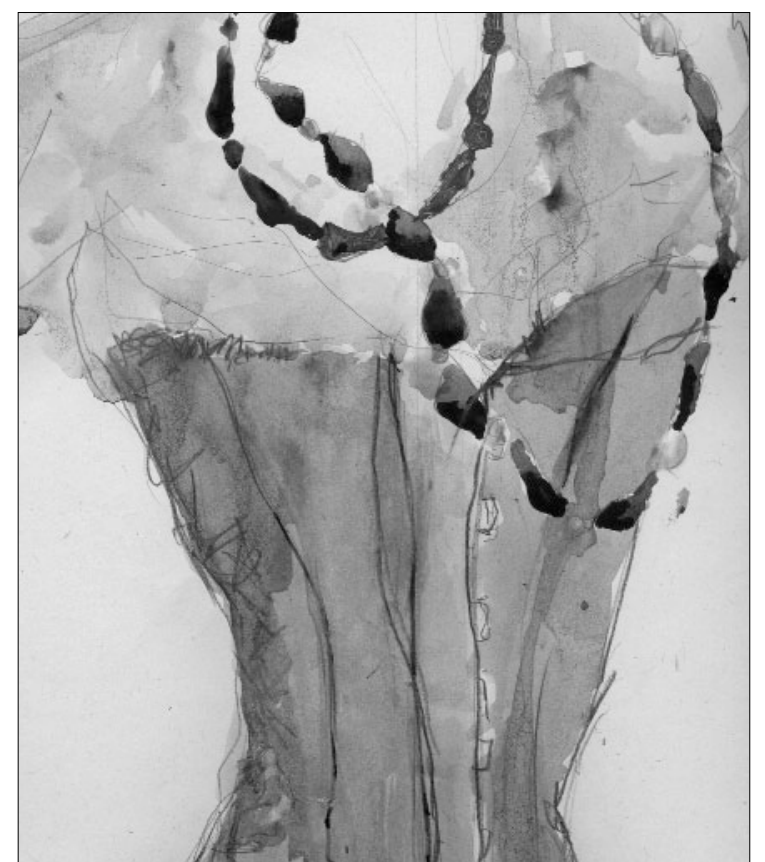
While we will scorn the vanity of bygone generations, it is also true that the corset if used correctly and worn comfortably can do no ill. Corset use comes with the same hint as dieting: sensibility and moderation are to be applied. Could it be the fashionable back brace society needs to regain its regal back straight, chin up and proud stance? Of course, there are a couple of minor hints to remember if wearing a corset, which seemingly will make the experience far less traumatic. Well meaning experts warn that eating and drinking too quickly will induce a severe case of the hiccups, sitting down rapidly will cause agony, you will be short of breath and you will have sore ribs. These discomforts are unfortunate but heed the warnings and you will appear somewhat more graceful than usual, somewhat closer to the ideal. Who cares if it isn't real, it's all about appearances after all, isn't it?



Drawings by Sarah Casey.  
Photos by Dave Ring.



“Although proper corsets are not cheap, they are a lot less expensive than liposuction...corset use comes with the same hint as dieting: sensibility and moderation are to be applied”



Corrections: In issue 5, Andrew Furlong was mistakenly referred to as a member of the Church of England. He is actually a member of the Church of Ireland.



Alan Murrin

# Hotpress writer hot to trot

Sex Columnist Competition, run in association with Durex. She is Ireland's first columnist to discuss the ups and downs, the ins and outs, and the cut and thrust of sex. And unlike this previous sentence she refuses to use euphemisms when she does so. Sexton has emerged victorious from a sea of sexual literature probably containing enough confessions to keep a prison full of perverts sexually satisfied for the duration of their jail term. On meeting her and reading her column a number of reasons immediately emerge as to why. Anne Sexton is first and foremost a social and sexual voyeur. She applies the strategy of "people-watching" to researching and writing her sex column, informing me that her ears are constantly peeled for snippets of sexual discussions. Not that this can be very difficult to come by because in the office she works in as a graphic

**"Sex motivates us to do most things...if sex was taken out of the equation we would become extremely lazy",**

designer sex is constantly being talked about. Sexton, both in appearance and in her style of writing is suitably androgynous for the roll she seeks to fill. Her writing is neither glib or naïve enough to draw comparisons with Carrie Bradshaw nor is it "tits-and-ass" enough to place her in the lads-mag category. She is intelligent and forth-right, though one wonders if her name had

anything to do with her eligibility as a candidate. Like the porn-star Michael J. Cox, the inclusion of the "S" word in her title can only act as

**"Think of all the things that people don't talk about: incest, wife battering, emotional abuse, rape... to put sex in a category like that where it is evil and dirty and not talk about it, is ridiculous."**

promotional aid. So what inspired her to get involved in this competition in the first place? "I had my issue of HotPress and I saw the advert and I was like, "my two favourite things: writing and sex!" In discussing the subject of sex with Sexton it becomes clear that she sees it as something much greater than the sum of its parts. "Sex motivates us to do most things," she says. "I mean why do you get up in the morning and go to work? So you can have a decent house and a decent car and decent clothes and attract members of the opposite sex and persuade them that you are an okay proposition. If sex was taken out of the equation we would become extremely lazy." Forget any of your old fashioned ideas of being an independent spirit then. Sexton is also under no illusions as to the importance of sex to a successful relationship. "Sex is a large part of whether a relationship is going to last any length of time. Obviously companionship etc. is very important as well. But any romantic relationship is based on both companionship and sexual attraction."

One cannot deny that society has an insatiable fascination with sex. And let's face it, anyone who says

that sex is an entirely private act shared between two people that shouldn't be discussed, is a hypocrite. From the seedy little sex-shops mushrooming from the nether regions of our city, to the celebrity magazines that crowd the shelves of our newsagents, whether it is hidden or confronting us, our world is saturated with sex.

The truth is that society as a collective voyeuristic entity is not interested in who is in love with who, who is having dinner with who, or who is holding hands with who. What our interest in these snap-shots of gossip translate as is, who is having sex with who?" Sexton is in full agreement: "There is still a certain weariness about discussing our own sexual experiences but if you heard someone discussing Catherine Zeta Jones and Michael Douglas "supposed" sex-life that wouldn't bother us at all."

But what exactly is the importance and relevance of discussing sex in a frank manner as Sexton sees it? Do detailed analyses of our sex-lives or lack thereof, really benefit anyone? "Absolutely, because knowledge is no burden. I remember when I was younger and I wanted some people's opinions on things but I couldn't say

anything because I would be regarded as a pervert in some way." She also believes that to place a wall of silence around the issue of sex unnecessarily degrades it. "Think of all the things that people don't talk about: incest, wife battering, emotional abuse, rape. I can understand why people don't talk about these things because they are tortuous situations. But to put sex in a category like that where it is evil and dirty and not talk about it, is ridiculous."

Not everyone has the desire to walk into a café and hear the couple at the table next to them discussing the particular techniques they employ when indulging in sexual pleasure. Sex is a double-edged sword. With the right person sex it is a private and special act, with the wrong person it can at least be fun. But maybe a sex column provides a specific time and place for such fun to be discussed? "No, it's important to discuss sex full stop. It all comes down to attitude. If you're with someone and you're asking questions and exchanging stories and swapping information then that's fine. But if you are being salacious for the point of being salacious then that's possibly not very nice."

In the past, a frank discussion of sex in Ireland would have been, "fancy a quickie before Glenroe?" Sexual education was excluded from secondary schools because boys did not have penises and girls did not have vaginas (and God forbid that they should ever discover what they were actually used for). The Catholic Church had a strangle-hold on the country's libido. Unless of course you were married and in that case you were permitted to repopulate China if you so desired. This was a distinct possibility considering that the use of contraception was also condemned. Of course you could use contraception and have sex before marriage but we were informed from the pulpits that literally, there would be hell to pay. But soon it emerged that a small section of this hallowed Church had certain perversions that made the sexual activities of the majority of the country seem perfectly harmless. The more liberated amongst us in times gone by, enjoyed sex, but it was never discussed. Maybe that is why Ireland came running into the nineties like a child that had discovered sex for the first time and became fascinated by the very mystery of the act. But we have passed this stage. To catch up with the rest of the world we have had to have our sexual revolution fast. So fast in fact that we have already missed it and have not had time yet to take stock. Or at least as much of a sexual revolution as Ireland will ever be capable of. As Sexton puts it: "Even if we had the weather for it, I doubt there would be topless beaches in Ireland." But the general consensus around the Trinity campus at least, is that the idea of a sex column is already dated. This may be true, but another way of looking at it is that this sex column is a natural part of Ireland's sexual progression. We are still the spotty teenager of Europe

an it would appear that Anne Sexton is the woman who has taken it upon herself to deflower us, though one fears that the process may be short. At the beginning of our conversation Sexton informed me that she grew up mainly in South Africa and before she returned to Ireland she went to her local family planning clinic and stocked up on a years supply of the pill because she imagined that Ireland would be more conservative. Perhaps this is the entire premise of this column: imaging that Ireland is more sexually backward than it actually is. In a world where sex is used to sell cars and women fellate chocolate bars on our television screens one wonders if there is anything truly original to be said on the subject. In fact it has been suggested to me that the sexual pendulum of society has swung so far in one direction that it is inevitably going to swing right back again, and we will all be prudish innocents once more. Nonetheless we should be weary of expending something as fundamental and vital as sex. Besides, as DBC Pierre puts it in his interview that appeared in the same issue of HotPress as Sexton's column, "Your secrets are your blood and when you give them all away, you f\*\*\*ing die."

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**"One cannot deny that society has an insatiable fascination with sex. And let's face it, anyone who says that sex is an entirely private act shared between two people that shouldn't be discussed, is a hypocrite".**

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Neasa Cunniffe

# Catching Trinity copycats

Trinity is implementing a plagiarism detecting software to deter students from "cut and place" internet plagiarism

"E-plagiarism" is the newest threat to academic integrity in Trinity and universities all over the world. Modern technology has exacerbated an already present problem in formal education of cheating and plagiarising. Students are using new tools like text messaging, high-tech transmitting equipment and wireless internet facilities to beg, borrow and steal a higher mark. The internet provides a wealth of information on almost every topic and while many students are genuine in using the facility, there are also a large number who exploit the convenience of "cut and paste plagiarism". The American Psychological Association conducted a survey among undergraduates in 1996 and found that 50% of undergraduates cheat at some time in their college career in one form or another.

Students say they are plagiarising and cheating for a variety of reasons. In some cases it is just plain laziness and the convenience of easy sources of essays like the many websites which offer ready work immediately. These include websites like mightystudents.com, essaymill.com, essaysonfile.com, termpapers-online.com, collegepaperpers.com, researchpaper.com, schoolsucks.com, geniuspapers.com. Some of these websites are free of charge, and others require a fee. In other cases, there may be a climate of cheating where students are under pressure to succeed and those who choose not to be dishonest put themselves at a comparative

disadvantage. Sometimes students have found the workload too much to cope with or feel they are ill-prepared and so turn to the internet for a quick fix.

However often students are genuinely unaware that what they are doing is plagiarising. Many people perceive the internet as a public domain and so feel justified in using the information any way they please. Copyright issues aren't apparent as the internet isn't as constrained by regulations. Whereas most students would be aware that they are prohibited from copying directly out of books, there has been a distinct rise in this cyber plagiarism as a method of gathering information. Some students therefore have difficulty distinguishing between legitimate research and a cut and paste.

As this serious threat to honourable education increases, sophisticated technology is being developed to detect plagiarism. Already there are numerous plagiarism detection software companies like Plagiserve.com, copycatch.freeserve.co.uk, edutie.com, canexus.com/evet, plagiarism.org, integrityguard.com. Trinity College is currently using one of the market leaders, turnitin.com. This is a web-based software, which increases its appeal as it requires no installation and does not raise compatibility issues with different systems.

The Psychology Department in Trinity is involved in piloting this software. Students are now required to submit both a hard and soft copy of all essays and reports. Instructors can then submit a random (or com-

plete) batch of essays into the plagiarism detection system to determine the level of originality of every paper. The work entered into a large database which consists of over two billion regularly updated internet pages and millions of published works, periodicals and electronic books. It also includes every other student paper every submitted into the system.

After comparing student papers to all the available information, an "originality report" is produced for each individual essay. These are exact duplicates of the submitted paper which highlight, underline and colour-code any unoriginal work, paraphrasing or explicit plagiarism. It also links these defects to their original source. The originality report state an "originality percentage" for each paper. The college can then decide what level of unoriginality is acceptable. For example, essays with over 45% unoriginal material may be deemed to be plagiarised.

Turnitin.com provides Trinity with a useful tool. The ideology behind the software is not to catch students out but to provide a realistic deterrent against plagiarising so that students no longer believe they won't get caught out. Ian Robertson, Head of the Psychology Department comments "Plagiarism is very bad for students' education as it prevents them from doing the work that ultimately develops the skills, critical thinking and knowledge that the university offers".

The software can be licensed to individual instructors, whole departments, a campus or multi-campus. It cannot be

## OBVIOUS SIGNS OF PLAGIARISM

1. Spelling: a mixture of Standard English and American in large chunks
2. A lack of references for quotations
3. Cut & Paste: irrelevant portions or mismatching subject matters
4. Datedness: if the paper does not refer beyond a certain date, ex. 1975
5. Mixed citations: MLA vs APA styles of citation
6. Formatting: unusual margins, mixed sub-heading fonts or styles
7. Anachronisms: referring to past events as currently happening.
8. Blinding Stupidity: URLs or dates in the corners, name of the real author at the end of the page. Name of the website ex. "Thank you for using Termpaper.com" at the end of the page.

purchased by students, only by faculty staff. The cost of the software depends on the type of institution, the particular plan and the total student enrolment. At the moment Trinity is seemingly using the system on a limited number of departments. However if the venture is successful, it is likely that all faculties will begin to use this technique. Robertson states "I have come across several cases of plagiarism across several faculties over the last few years and to fail to take the most effective steps to minimise plagia-

rism would be grossly unfair to the students who do not plagiarise". He goes on to add that the software would merely be a screening process and that the traditional manual checking would still be used. In addition, The Sunday Times reported in November that according to the UCD registrar, in response to a number of cases of plagiarism, UCD were considering licensing the software on a joint basis with other main universities. Many universities in the United States are already implementing college-wide plagiarism detection programmes. Conceivably before long Ireland will follow suit.

A large number of Trinity students apparently aren't aware of the official college guidelines defining plagiarism. The college website provides an overview of plagiarism in its many forms. According to the website, plagiarism is described as the taking of another person's sentences or theories and presenting them in your work as if they were your own sentences and theories. In addition, a student who fails to put quotation marks around another author's words is plagiarising. Much of what some students would think of as bad referencing, is actually defined as plagiarism. It seems to be the case, that even if the source of a paraphrase is included in your reference section, to avoid plagiarising, it must be directly acknowledged in the text or footnotes. It is also plagiarising if an authors ideas are presented while claiming implicitly or explicitly that the idea is your own. There are also more direct examples of plagiarising such as copying another student's work or enlisting

the help of another person to complete an assignment on your behalf. The problem of plagiarising may be tackled by greater awareness of what constitutes plagiarism and a belief that any deviance will be detected and penalised. However there are also other issues which are not dealt with by the software. For example among the easy essay websites on the internet are those which will send students originally constructed essays for a fee. These cannot be detected as the material is new. These facilities can be very sophisticated where students can specify the grade they would like to receive as well as the content, to avoid arousing suspicion.

A final catch 22 goes to the core of education as it stands. Many people argue that essays are inevitably a regurgitation of other people's ideas and theories. Unless we have conducted our own research or written an original thesis, we are always writing from what we have learnt, not what we know. Therefore our work is never a product of our unique original thoughts. Everything is required to be backed up by books and references. Essays full of our own opinions and comments instead of recognised critics, receive poor marks. Therefore a good essay, defined as not plagiarised, seems to be in reality a cleverly paraphrased essay. An essay where, not only do we use the thesaurus but we rearrange syntax, sentence structure and order of subjects covered. In any case, until these deeper issues are resolved, the message seems to be: watch out copycats, the computer's

coming to get you.



Shane O'Driscoll. SF Engineering. "I don't cheat. So everyone is screwed except me!"



Graham Mooney. JF Economics & Sociology. "I think it's going too far and many students will be accused of plagerism who in fact just have a similar views one of thebillions on the internet".



Lorna Sweeney. JS Psychology. "I think it will benefit student's education in the long run".



Barry White. SS Art History. "In an arts subject it's difficult to differentiate between your own ideas and ones you've heard elsewhere".



Tommy Connolly. SS Gaelge. "It's a great idea but students would have to be properly informed beforehand on what is and isn't acceptable".

Focal ar an tadh le R.G.  
Cuan: Rudaí Tábhachta

Nach amáideach an duine daonna in amannáí? Cuireann muid an saol ar fad, mar atá a fhios againn é, i mbaol, beag airid ar na hiarmhairtí. Déanann muid dearmad ar na rudaí is tábhachtaí dúinn agus ... mo leithscéal a léitheoirí, tá R.G. ag rámhaille leis....

Cibé ar bith, bhí sé ar intinn ag R.G. gan ceist na Gaeilge in eagraíocht áirithe ar an mhórronn a phlé an tseachtain seo ach chonacthas dó gurbh fhearr cur leis an tine, go háirithe anois agus í sa bharrach.

Sibhse nár ghlac páirt ró-iomarcach sna himeachtaí ag deireadh na míosa seo a chuaigh thart, beidh a fhios agaibh go raibh seachtain spreagúil spleodrach againn i rith Éigse na Tríonóide. Ach ná luí go headra go fóill mar tá tuilleadh fuinnimh den tsórt céanna de dhíth sa tréimhse amach romhainn.

Tá STÁDAS, an feachtas a cuireadh ar bun chun aitheantas a bhaint amach don Ghaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil oibre de chuid an Aontas Eorpach, tá an feachtas seo fá lán seoil i láthair na huaire agus tá a gcuid féin á déanamh ag mic léinn na Tríonóide ar son na cúise seo. Ba shuntasach an chéim a ghlac Aontas na Mac Léinn sa choláiste nuair a rith siad rún ag tabhairt tacaíochta don fheachtas agus tá obair nach beag ar siúl ag an Chumann Gaelach agus na Gaeil Óga chomh maith, grúpa úr a bunaíodh ar na mallaihbh le béim a chur ar an cheist. Tá tábla amuigh in Áras na nDámh le tamall anuas, ag cur phobal na hollscoile ar an eolas fán fheachtas, agus tá chóir a bheith 2000 litir ghearán sínithe acu, litreacha a seolfar chuig an Dáil go luath.

Mar atá a fhios ag an tsaol Gaelach fán am seo, is róthábhachtach an cheist í seo le neamhaird a dhéanamh uirthi. Tuigeann muid nach mórtheanga í an Ghaeilge agus go bhfuil cuidiú de dhíth uirthi. Níor réiteach iomlán é an t-aitheantas seo ach ba chéim mhór chun tosaigh é. Tá gluaiseacht na mac léinn ag feidhmiú léi agus tá ár ról pearsanta féin le himirt ag achan duine againn má tá muid ag dul stádas oifigiúil a fháil dár dteanga san Aontas Eorpach. Tá R.G. den bharúil go mbeidh agóidí oifigiúla á reachtáil i gceann tamaill ghaire, mar sin, coinnigí súil amach do na postaeir srl. agus seasai gí an fód dár dteanga.

...beidh a fhios agaibh go raibh seachtain spreagúil spleodrach againn i rith Éigse na Tríonóide. Ach ná luí go headra go fóill mar tá tuilleadh fuinnimh den tsórt céanna de dhíth sa tréimhse amach romhainn.

# Níl aon tinteán mar...

## Aicid na nGaelbheáranna thar lear le Gaelán Ó Comáin

Má's taistealaí thú a bhfuil cuairt tugtha agat ar a lán háiteacha ar fud an domhain mhóir seo, is cinnte go bhfuil iomrá cluinte agat ar na háiteacha sin ar a dtugtar 'Irish Pubs' nó 'Gaelbheáranna' mar a thugaimse orthu de ghnáth.

Má théid tú go Páras na Fraince, cuir i gcás, tífídh tú an oiread sin de na háiteacha seo go mbeidh tú ag sílsteán gurb é fríd shráideacha cheantar Bharr an Teampaill inár bpríomhchathair fhéin atá tú ag siúl!

Caidé is 'Irish pub' ann? Sin an cheist atá le freaghairt. Tá, daofa siúd nár lig ariamh cos ar thalamh ghallda, is é atá insna háiteacha seo nó toithe tábhairne ar nós na dtoitheach tábhairne atá againne in Éirinn anseo, nó 'Irish-themed pubs' mar a thugann lucht an Bhéarla orthu. Mar eiseamláir dá bhfuil á mhaíomh agam, théid tú isteach ann agus tóinn tú leann Mhic Fhionnghusa á dhól (drochphionta de is mó!), nó Beamish, an leann dubh sin nach bhfliuchfadh Éireannach ar bith a bhéal leis dá mbeifí ag tairsint ór iomlán na cruinne dó! Bíonn, in amanntaí, craos breá tineadh curthu síos sa teallach agus bíonn craic is cuideachta ag gul ó mhaidin go hoíche, seacht lá na seachtaine.

Caithfidh mé a aidmheáil gur uasal an coincheap seo, eadhon, gnéithe dár gcultúr is dár n-oidhreacht fhéin a fheiceáil á gcrabhscáileadh ar fud fad na cruinne. Ar ndóighe, tá clú agus cáil orainn mar gheall ar ár 'gcaic'. Bíonn Muintir na Fraince ag trácht ar an *joie de vivre* atá acusan; bíonn muidne ag trácht ar an lúcháir a thig orainne nuair a bhíos neoin bheag agus deireadh an lae ann, agus saothar iomlán an lae tugtha chun críche againn, agus cha bhíonn le déanamh ach ár scéite a dheanamh i gcomhlúadar cairde maithe... Is é is díol mór-spéise, áfach, nó gur de réir na fianaise atá ann, nach seo an rud atá ag tarlú ina iomláine. Féadaim scéal beag biaoideach a aithris...

Tá seachtain ó shoin ann, d'imigh cara de mo chuid go Páras. Is Francach ó dhúchas í, atá ag obair anseo in Éirinn anois corradh le trí bliana. Oíche amháin, agus í ar shiúl amach go hantráthach in



Quigley's Point, les Halles, Paris. As Doire an t-úinéir, agus ba as an Nua-Shéalainn triomlach na ndaoine a bhí ag obair anseo nuair a bhuail mise siar i rith an tsamhraidh! Thug mé iarraidh deoch a tharraingt i bhFraincis; tugadh freaghar orm sa Sacsbhéarla!

éineacht lena grá geal, rinne sí amach deoch a chathamh i gcionn de na 'Gaelbheáranna' seo i gcroflár na cathrach. Chuaigh sí suas fhad leis an stócach a bhí i mbun dáilte na dí agus d'iarr deoch. Ba é an freaghar a fuair sí nó, 'Sorry, what's that again?' B'éigean don ghirseach náiriste an Sacsbhéarla a labhairt ina tír dhúchais fhéin. Anois, chan gá domhsa a mhíniú duit ábhar mo ghearáin ina thaobh sin... Is í an cheist a chaitheamh a chur nó an bhfuil sé ceart nó cóir go mbeadh ar Fhrancach teangaidh ghallda a labhairt i bpríomhchathair a tíre dúchasaí? Chan sin ach íomhaidh bheag dá bhfuil ag tarlú sa lá atá inniu ann insna « gaelbheáranna » seo... Fan go gcluine tú a thuilleadh...

Tá bliain ó shoin ann, chuaigh mé ar cuairt chun na Gearmáine, go Kiel, cathair mhór suite i dtuaisceart na tíre. Bhí mo chara Aifric i ndéidh posta a fháil i ngaelbheár i lár an bhaile. Nuair a thug sí mise isteach ann go bhfeicfinn den

chéaduair é, shuigh mé fúm, tharraing mé deoch agus chuir sí a comhoibrithe in aithne domh. Bhí Graham ann as Éirinn a raibh rud beag Gearmáinise aige, bhí Pádraic ann a bhí ag obair san áit le cúig mhí anuas is nach raibh oiread is focal amháin den teangaidh ar a thoil aige (Oisín i ndéidh na bhFiann ceart a bhí ann), agus ansin seo isteach Artur, bainisteoir ne háite, as cathair Liospóin na Portaingéile... Char chuala mé ceol éireannach ar bith ann, chan fhacaidh mé daoine is chual siad ag bheith insan áit seachas corrbhodach sa chlúdaigh a thoisigh a screadaigh 'English! English! Ja! Ja!' a luath is a chuala siad ag caint mé is dá bharr seo, thug siad iarraidh Béarla a labhairt liom; agus, crochta suas a chlár bhí « teilifíseán leathan-scáileáin » as a raibh Sky TV de chuid Shasana ag búireadh leis. Anois, cuirim sin faoi do bhráid, agus chan gá domh a thuilleadh a ráit...  
Is náir domhsa a rá gurb é

muidne, Muintir na hÉireann, an dream atá craobhscaoileadh an chultúir angla-mheiriceánaigh ar fud an domhain. Títear sinn nuair a bhaineann muid an James Joyce Bar amach ag Port-Maillot i ndéidh taisteal le RyanAir go Paris-Beauvais. Shílfeá nach raibh Éire fágtha againn ar chóir ar bith nó cuireann muid ar dhaoine Béarla a labhairt a luath is a schroichtear an choigríoch. Bíonn inni ar dhaoine i dtaobh na McDonald-anna agus i bhfoscadh ar fud na hEorpa. Ach, bíodh sé ráite, áfach, go dtig le Francach, ar a laghad, gloine Cóc a fheannact i dteangaidh dhúchais a thíre fhéin agus é i McDonald's... I ngaelbheár ní in 'Oirish Pub', cha dtig... Nach mór an chosúlacht é seo le hÉirinn: cha dtugann an Gael thar lear cead don ghall pionta a ordú ina theangaidh fhéin agus, mar a gceanna, cha dtugann sé cead don Ghael pionta a ordú i nGaeilic ina tír dhúchais fhéin, cé gurb í an Ghaeilic teangaidh oifigiúil na tíre a bhfuil sé ina shaoránach inti! Agus síleann an saol mór gur 'Eorpaigh' sinn?!

Sílim fhén go mb'fhearr is go mba thairbhí don eachtrannach a theacht go hÉirinn má's ea an « chraic » atá uaidh. Chan Meiriceánaigh, Astrálaigh, nó Sasanaigh sinne, cé go labhrann muid – de dheasca na staire – teangaidh na dtíortha sin. Chan ionann muidne agus iadsan. Tugann Muintir na Fraince 'na hAngla-shacsanaigh' orainn cheanna féin, agus cé go mbíonn a fhios acu go bhfuil duifear ann eadar sinne agus Sasana, cha ndearfaonn siad eadar an dá tír. Nach sin an t-ábhar a bhfuiltear ag cur na Gaeilice chun cinn? Dá ainneoin seo, tífídh tú fhéin an míghar a n'fionn na háiteacha seo d'Éirinn agus dúinne ar fud na cruinne ar bhonn idirnáisiúnta. Má tá na Státaí Aontaithe agus a chomhghleacaf an Ríocht Aontaithe ag iarraidh a gcultúr a chraobhscaoileadh is a chur chun cinn ar fud an domhain mar atá ag tarlú faoi láthair le céad bliain anuas, ná bíodh cuidiú na nGael ag teastáil uafu! Bíodh ciall againne sula mbeidh an meas a bhí ariamh tuillte cailte orainn!  
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# Life beyond our shores?

### A summary of what's going on with NASA, ESA and their frequent missions to Mars

**Brian McGrath**

YOU WOULD be forgiven for thinking that trips to Mars are as commonplace as a trans-Atlantic flight with all the media coverage of both European and American Space activity lately.

Since December of last year there has been a closely followed succession of satellites and explorers landing on Mars. Both NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and ESA (European Space Agency) have been involved in separate missions. Some explorers have faced many technical difficulties, but the information and data received will be treated and analysed for years to come. The question is

whether or not there exists or existed life, of any description, on Mars.

To date the ESA's Mars Express mission has recorded water on the surface of Mars in the form of ice on the southern polar cap. The Mars Express orbiter has performed really well so far, one exception being the loss of contact with the mission's lander probe, the Beagle2. The probe has not been heard from since Christmas Day. By now the vast majority of hope of finding the British-made probe has gone.

At the moment NASA has two explorers on the surface of Mars: Opportunity and Spirit. Earlier in the mission NASA ground-control lost radio contact with the Spirit Rover and could not

re-establish it because its overloaded flash memory was causing technical difficulties. By deleting excess files from the lander's system, the engineers have been able to get the rover up and running again.

The Opportunity rover is believed to have landed in a region containing deposits of the mineral haematite – which is formed under watery conditions – even more evidence that Mars did once contain water.

The main direction of the research mission is to search and characterise the wide range of rocks and minerals on the surface of the red planet. Rocks and raw elements such as iron bearing carbonate lead scientists to possible sources of water.

Geologists will also have a large input into the data study. They wish to determine the processes, which created Mars' rich variety of rocks and soils.

The overall objective is to use these missions as a stepping-stone to landing humans on Mars in the not too distant future.

The surface explorers are geologists and chemists and astrophysicist all rolled into one machine. On board the landers and orbiters is, amongst other things, a high-resolution stereo camera, which will map out the topography of the surface in full 3-D colour. The surface vehicles are also equipped with two spectrometers, one of which, a mineralogical spectrometer, will examine rocks and soils for water content. The

other is an atmospheric spectrometer, which will monitor the wavelength of light adsorbed by the constituent gases in the atmosphere and determine its chemical composition.

All the data sent and received by ground control will be transmitted via radio signals. By monitoring them scientists can determine the density of the surface below. This is how the 'Seas of the Moon' were discovered. A high density of material under the surface of Mars will interfere with the radio waves being sent back to earth, thus a map of the planet's upper crust can be investigated.

So far the initial data from both the Americans and the Europeans seem to conclude that there was

indeed water on Mars at some time in its past. The key now is to determine the cause of its extinction. The various space agencies have benefited greatly from the early successes of the missions by the enormous public interest in the ventures. Already in Trinity College, the images obtained from the satellites and surface explorers, are being used in the astrophysics courses in the Physics Department.

It will take several months, however, until the entire geological and other findings are released to the general public by NASA and the ESA.

## CV career vitals

### Haven't got a clue what to do after college? These people might give you ideas..



**Louise McDermott, 30  
Zookeeper at  
Dublin Zoo**

- Diploma in Environmental Resource Management in Cathal Brugha Street, 1995.
- Degree in Agriculture and Environmental Science in UCD, 1998.
- Certificate in Zoo Animal Management with City and Guilds, 2001 – 2002.

**Previous Jobs:**  
I Worked with Duchas, The Heritage Society in 1999 as a tour guide.

**Current Job:**  
I started working as a zoo keeper in Dublin Zoo in February 2000. I work with a variety of animals. At the moment I am mainly working with farm animals and reptiles. I look after them, feed them, clean up after them and if needed give them medication. I am also responsible for their exhibits. Zoo keepers also give talks to members of the public; education is one of the main aims of a modern zoo.

**Loving it:**  
I always wanted to work with animals or something to do with the environment. I also wanted to work outdoors, as I think I would go mad working indoors! Being a keeper you are continually learning about your animals through observations, research, talking and listening to you colleagues. In my job I get the chance to interact with animals and to enhance their lives, which is very rewarding.

**Getting there:**  
Being a zoo keeper is very rewarding. Obviously there are good days and bad days. But the good days far outweigh the bad. This job is a dedication, as animals still have to be cared for on weekends, Christmas Day, St. Patrick's Day, New Years Day, etc. I would recommend my job to anyone who is not afraid of hard work. You get to work with animals, outdoors, and no day is ever the same.

## Sexy Science

Introducing TN's Sexy Scientist  
Jane Ferguson on...

### Hot Blondes or: Why Men Are Slaves To Evolution

Picture the scene: cosy night in, flicking through the TV channels. Suddenly beside me, the boyfriend sits up, eyes glazed over, mouth hanging askew. It's the usual bounteous offerings – Porno Valley, Strippers – from the gods of Sky1. As I mutter bitterly – "fake breasts...not real lesbians...bad dye job...completely removed from reality" – he smiles blissfully. "Sssh honey. Watch the hot blondes."

So why is this? How come those men that manage to persuade us that what they really love about us is a sexy brain and a natural body (cellulite and a squishy tummy included, are rendered completely incapable of logic as soon as a female, composed mostly of silicon and peroxide, pouts her collagen lips and bats her eyelids?

Science gives us a clue. It's all about reproduction. Whoever has the most children, gets the highest proportion of their genes in the next generation. So whoever figures out the best mating strategy, passes this on, until it eventually becomes the dominant strategy. A man can choose: sleep with lots of women and move on quickly, hoping that at least some of them will give birth to his children and look after them.

Or pick one woman, persuade her to stick around and give birth to several children, while he helps to keep them alive by bringing food and protecting them from lions.

In the first strategy, you want to pick a woman who is young and

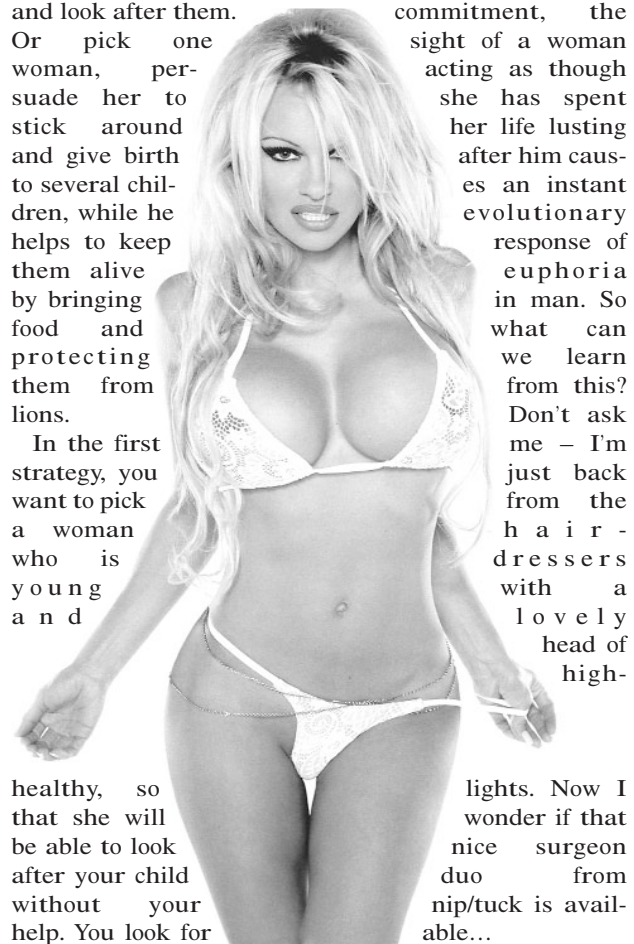
healthy, so that she will be able to look after your child without your help. You look for

blonde hair (a sign of youth as hair darkens with age), wide hips (great for popping out sprogs without crushing their heads), a small waist (to show that the hips are wide because of large bones, not just excess fat), and large breasts (ideal for breastfeeding a hungry child when no formula is available).

On the other hand, if you are choosing a partner for life, you are more concerned about personality. If you have to return to the cave every night after a long day hunting woolly mammoths, you want somebody who can make intelligent conversation, make you laugh, and share your interests.

Evolution, it seems, favoured option number two. In general, societies choose monogamy, with some polygamy in the form of extramarital affairs and casual sex thrown in – a compromise between the two extremes. Monogamy works better for the majority, and so it predominates. Men pick smart successful women as life partners, but when faced with a hot young blonde, they can't help but consider the alternative. As, in reality, beautiful women rarely approach the average man begging him for casual sex with no commitment, the sight of a woman acting as though she has spent her life lustful after him causes an instant evolutionary response of euphoria in man. So what can we learn from this? Don't ask me – I'm just back from the hair-dressers with a lovely head of high-

lights. Now I wonder if that nice surgeon duo from nip/tuck is available...



## Possible treatment for Huntington's

THE SUGAR trehalose is a potential cure for the neurodegenerative disease Huntington's chorea, which affects 1 in 10,000 people. Japanese researchers around Nobuyuki Nukina have shown that the simple carbohydrate can relieve the symptoms of the disease in affected mice.

Huntington's is an inherited illness that causes progressive neural cell death, which in turn leads to severe motor dysfunction, seizures, mental deterioration and a slow and painful death. This disease is inherited by a dominant pattern, which

means that the child of an affected parent has a 50% chance of inheriting it. Since Huntington's has a late onset, patients tend to start exhibiting the symptoms only between 30 and 50 years of age, by which time they have often had children who may be affected too.

There is currently no cure for this disease and the prospect of a possible treatment is exciting for anyone involved.

A protein called huntingtin accumulates in the brains of affected mice and eventually brings about the symptoms. Trehalose reduced the

protein aggregates in mice by up to 40%, improved their coordination and increased their life span by 10%. This sugar is known to be safe, as it is widely used as a sweetener in fruit and dairy and it also prolongs shelf life in many food products.

It is, as of yet, impossible to conclude that trehalose treatment will work on human patients. Human patients have a protein aggregate in their brains that is different from that of mice. Clinical trials have to confirm that the sugar is safe for humans if taken in larger quantities

than they are present in food products.

It is also unclear how the sugar works. Researchers speculate whether or not if it even reaches the brain or whether it simply acts as an energy source for cells, thus relieving the symptoms.

If the effects of trehalose are confirmed and shown to work in humans this study will help scientists develop a safe and effective drug for treating Huntington's disease. (Nature Medicine, 18.1.)

Kirsten Bratke

## The Energy Crisis: Is the answer blowing in the wind?

**Kevin Kielbasa**

THE EARTH is getting warmer. It is a fact that the average global temperature is rising annually, resulting in climate change, new weather patterns and the recent and rapid rise of natural disasters all over the globe. Most scientists attribute this increase in temperatures to the burning of fossil fuels - namely coal and oil – which release carbon into the atmosphere. To ensure that this is kept at bay, fossil fuels must be replaced by new forms of energy.

The natural power of the wind is one such source of renewable energy. Wind farms, which consist of wind-rotated turbines directly connected to a power grid, currently exist in the US, Germany, Spain, and the UK among other countries. Consider the following facts about wind farms: Wind power is totally clean and renewable. The land of onshore farms can still be used for agriculture and grazing. High voltage transmission is completely avoided because the power produced is plugged directly into local electrical networks. Jobs in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance are created with the expansion of the industry. Finally, wind farms are much easier to decommission than nuclear or gas power stations in the event of a complication.

Wind farms also make economic sense, at least according to supporters looking several decades into the future. According to Marcus Rand, chief executive of the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA),

there is already a downward trend in production costs that suggests wind energy at sea (more expensive than on land) is on a course to be fully competitive with gas at today's prices by the year 2020, if not 2010.

The story is not that simple, however. Wind farm opponents are uniting together under a variety of complaints. For instance, as turbine towers can be several hundred feet tall with blades about one hundred feet long, they are often considered an eyesore. Homeowners near proposed wind farm sites worry that their property will decrease in value when the farms are constructed. Conservationists and others allege migratory patterns of birds will be significantly altered. Some fishermen are concerned about the effects that concrete foundations and new shadows will have on the habits of fish, along with reduced fishing areas around offshore wind farms. Cost is a further sticking point. Almost all opponents point out that the typical taxpayer and energy consumer is paying a heavy price for wind energy because of the huge government subsidies that have been necessary to jump-start the very expensive technology of wind farms.

With both sides making strong arguments, the wind farm debate comes down to one core issue: exactly how much energy can the wind produce? In other words, is it worth the possible negative impacts? In the case of the UK, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), BWEA, and organizations such as



An offshore windfarm

Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth claim that there is enough wind to supply Britain's current energy supply needs three times over.

But these figures may be quite misleading. Britain's current energy needs are just that – current. The DTI estimates that energy consumption will actually increase by 26 % by 2020. During this period, most nuclear plants and some coal-fired plants are scheduled to close as part of Britain's effort to meet its goal of halving carbon emissions by 2050. The closing of these plants, combined with growing energy needs, will result in total energy shortfall

of about 65 %.

Ideally, wind farms would have no problem bridging this gap. Yet, to operate at maximum capacity, as wind farm supporters assume they will, winds of thirty miles per hour must be constantly sustained. Even for the UK, the windiest region in Europe, this is clearly not possible. In truth, wind farms generally operate at only 25%-33% of their capacity. All in all, it can be concluded that wind is not the final answer to the world's energy problems and other forms of renewable energy must continue to be researched and developed.

### Quote of the Month

As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain, and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality.  
- Albert Einstein

## Short Cuts

### Diabetes and Obesity

Trinity researchers are awarded a grant for research into diabetes and obesity. A record breaking European Commission Sixth Framework grant of 11.7m has been awarded to a multi-disciplinary consortium to investigate pioneering treatments for obesity and diabetes over the next five years.

Researchers at Trinity College and St. James's Hospital will contribute, focussing on human physiology and genetics, co-ordinated by Prof. John Nolan at the Department of Clinical Medicine and the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre, Trinity College. The project was thought innovative because it will attempt to identify the mechanisms by which the body's control systems defend body weight. This is based on the observation that once a chronically overweight state has been reached, the brain interprets reduced food consumption as a threat to the individual's survival. In response to the reduced energy intake, control systems in the brain reduce the metabolic rate to maintain body weight.

Obesity is the main cause of type 2 diabetes and there has been a great increase in both obesity and diabetes in the past ten years in Ireland. The researchers' goal is to find new genetic targets in the body which can be influenced by medicines which could treat or cure obesity and diabetes.

"New research on obesity shows that weight loss doesn't only depend on the individual's willpower. In order to stop the obesity epidemic we also need good medical treatments. The first step in developing such medicines is to understand how the body's own hormones regulate appetite and body weight," explained Prof. Nolan.

# 100 Years Young: Abbey Theatre celebrates in style!

It's almost one hundred years since The Abbey Theatre opened its doors and a special, yearlong programme called 'abbeyonehundred' has been created to mark the occasion. Divided in to five strands the programme will present a diverse mix of new writing, old classics and European visitors as well as a huge range of cultural events around the country. January saw the year kick off with the visit of Teatr Rozmaitosci from Warsaw with their production of 'Festen' and Brian Friel's 'Aristocrats'.

After the successful run of 'Festen' there is no doubt that the next two European visits will be two of the most widely anticipated theatrical events of the year. In March Vígsház from Budapest will be presenting their physical look at Hungary's recent past with 'Dance in Time' and in May Slovenian company, Mladinsko Theatre, will present 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The European visits have been chosen to coincide with the Irish European Presidency and are all from countries on the verge of acceding to the EU and will give Irish audiences a first taste of what is bound to become a closer cultural relationship with the East. Cultural exchange with the cutting edge performance practices of Eastern Europe can only enrich the textually focused Irish Theatre scene and for once this dialogue will not be happening at the fringes but at the heart of Irish Drama.

Also in the Abbey and Europe strand are two new adaptations of European Classics by major Irish writers. Tom Murphy has created a new version of Chekov's 'The Cherry Orchard' that will preview next week. The play's centenary coincides with the Abbey's and this high point in Naturalistic drama should be worth getting a ticket for. Seamus Heaney is having another crack at adapting Greek Tragedy with his new version of Sophocles' Antigone. Heaney is Nobel prize winner, 'great poet', 'national treasure' and so on but his previous dramatic attempt, a allegorical Ulster version of 'Philoctetes' called 'The Cure at Troy' got a very mixed response with some people suggesting that 'Seamus the Famous was not cut out for the Theatre.

The Abbey is often criticised for a touring policy that excludes

the regions of Ireland in favour of the wider world. This year they will be combining both with a major tour of what is, perhaps, the key work in the Irish canon, 'The Playboy of the Western World'. Starting in Galway the production will tour Ireland, North and South, before heading for a tour of the Irish American centres. There was a riot during its first performance in 1907 over its shifty representation of rural Ireland but the only riots expected during this year are likely to be related to Cillian Murphy's performance in the role of Christy Mahon.

With a huge total of over thirty productions that go on to include many Irish classics as well as five new plays the Abbey Theatre has never been a more active and exciting venue. Added to this are a great number of special events, library tours, professional development programmes (including a number of bursaries for emerging theatre artists), and public debates with the Artistic Director, Ben Barnes. Copies of the hefty programme can be found in the Samuel Beckett Centre but don't try the Abbey itself because the one base they forgot to cover was to print enough to satisfy demand!

Many Student tickets are just EUR 9.50. Booking 01 8788722

Patrick Stewart



'Festen' and Peter Sheridan's 'Finders Keepers' in Abbeyonehundred. Photos Stefan Okolowicz, Tom Lawlor

## Abbeyonehundred Interview: Jenny Scanlon

**To get the inside story on events in the Abbey Patrick Stewart spoke to Jenny Scanlon, abbeyonehundred's Artistic Officer and recent TCD graduate. She started off as an Abbey intern while still at college and was so successful that she moved straight in to her new job as soon as she finished college.**

**Which show in the centenary are you most excited about?**

I am not sure because until it finished last week I was definitely most excited about Festen. I saw the original film the day after I saw the production and I thought there was a fascinating crossover between the filmic and the theatrical. It

sold really well and I thought that it attracted a more diverse audience in to the Abbey than normal.

**When you say the audience was more diverse what groups do you think it attracted?**

It was definitely a younger audience. The regular Abbey patrons went to it, which is really important, but I definitely felt that we had pulled in a crowd that would not have normally come. Poland accedes to the EU in May of this year but there are already Polish people living here. The box office suddenly found that they couldn't pronounce the names of any of the credit card bookings. A huge number of Poles turned out for Festen and this is a community

which otherwise fairly invisible. I sat next to a Polish audience member on the bus on way home and he was so delighted that 'Festen' had happened. That is job satisfaction.

**Beyond 'Festen' what else are you looking forward to? Are the European visits the most important thing for you?**

I am really excited about 'Dance in Time'. The snippets of video that I have seen look great and Hungary is a fascinating country with lots of parallels to Ireland's history. The Eastern European stuff is really exciting and avant-garde but there is a lot more to the programme than that. I think that the really important thing is the number of people that we are

reaching out to across the country. We are visiting libraries in every county, schools are being helped to visit, there are professional development programmes and a series of debates.

**You, yourself, have been involved in this by speaking at various colleges. Was that in your official capacity?**

Yes. I've been speaking at colleges in Dublin and one of the things that I've been saying to students is that they should take their views to the Public Debates. I went to DCU and people were so relaxed. They had opinions but when I told them to come to the debate they did and were able to air them in front of Ben Barnes, the Artistic Director. At Trinity it was differ-

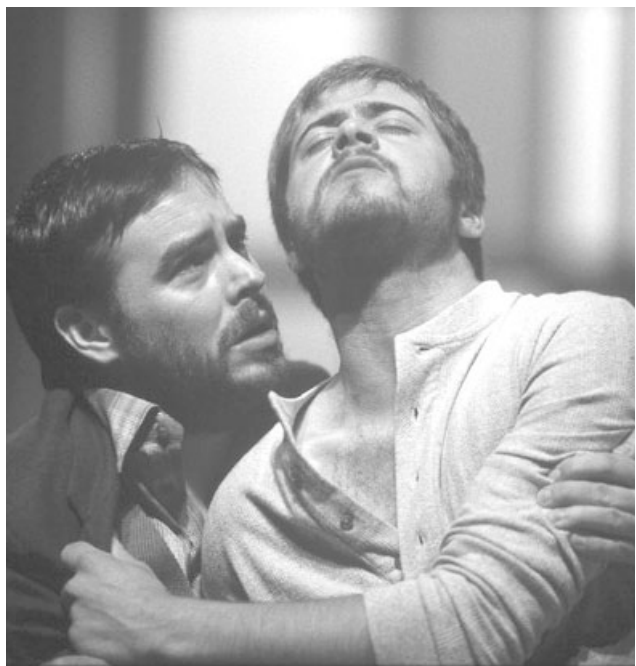
ent. I did the drama course so I had listened to people bitching about the Abbey for three years. When I came to Trinity people sat back in their seats and stared at you. They asked questions about the nature of representation and so on but when I told them to go to the debate nobody showed up. What better opportunity to influence the National Theatre could you get? I am sure I would not recognise their faces, and I don't think I'm wrong, but maybe a couple did. On the whole they just didn't bother!

*There are two more Abbey Debates: 'National Language and Identity', 20th March and 'Memory and Repertoire' 15th May that coincide with the remaining visits of European companies.*

## Leaving Cert Hamlet passes test

The huge rake of plastic seats and the sports hall feel to the SFX Theatre makes me painfully aware that the highly enjoyable production I am watching has been created by Second Age Theatre Company for Leaving Cert students to talk about in class. The exam paper connection means that this is what I would call a fairly straightforward production of a Shakespeare play but it was an impressively put together one and director, Alan Stanford, fashioned an enjoyable evening from a play that can seem too dense, verbose and lengthy.

Rory Keenan's Hamlet was an excellent performance; Keenan tripped across the stage with a very energetic physicality that brought a great deal of youthful humour to the part. Hamlet's madness was perfectly pitched as just over the boundary of the regular cockiness and impatience that allows him to linguistically toy with the other characters, but



Rory Keenan and Alan Smyth in Hamlet

powerful, emotional and direct when necessary. He was clear and witty with his use of the Shakespearian language despite his relative inexperience with

Elizabethan verse on stage and great things can be expected from a young actor who seems to be going from strength to strength.

Barry McGovern helped the production along with a comically arrogant and vain Polonius that

worked well against Keenan's knowing and sardonic Hamlet. Aonghus Óg McAnally is also worthy of mention for his strong Marcellus and Rosencrantz as well as his hilarious Gravedigger 1 that makes it sound like it was written for a Dublin accent. Fiona Cunningham's Set Design was simple and clean cut with a theme of panels and changing colour schemes, working in tandem with Eamon Fox's lights. Along with the costumes hovering between 1950's and the present the overall aesthetic effect was an understated contemporary classiness fitting for a royal court without needing to labour under pageantry and frills. It is rare enough to see a top end production of Shakespeare in Ireland and this Hamlet has finally banished the ghost of last year's Theatre Festival Hamlet. It almost makes me nostalgic about school exams.

*Hamlet runs at the SFX Theatre on Sherrard St until Friday 13th February*

Booking Number: [01] 855 4673

Patrick Stewart

## Players' Plot: Paper Tigers

The first thing on stage in Ben Schiffer's new play, Paper Tigers, is a small human turd. The tensions created by the arrival of the, by now legendary, turd amongst a small group of children hanging out in a messy play area known as 'The Pit' form the basis of the dramatic action, adding a bit of a twist to the traditional 'whodunit'.

Merlin (the accused, Demian Fox) is slowly losing his best friend Stephen to the pressures of the turd-related bullying he receives at school and the strain on loyalties that accompany their troubled emergence in to the culture of the teen. Merlin's Mum is a shadowy (heroine dealing?) figure who locks them out of the house on his birthday, the principal bully controls the main garden and, as if the hapless pre-teen didn't have enough to deal with, he has a younger brother and sister to look after. Schiffer weaves in to Merlin, the best developed of all the characters, a lively



imagination, a touching sense of honour and defiant innocence that keeps interest alive in a character whose extreme bad luck could have made him a dramatic lost cause. The text rings many emotional bells in depicting this pivotal moment in a child's development and there are some well crafted moments of taut drama but some scenes seem sentimental and lost in what is quite a weak overall structure. It is difficult to see Merlin's journey as much beyond a continuing story of unrelenting hardship. The entertaining presence of the junkie tramp (Mike O'Leary) frames the kids' emergence in to their adult life with a possible sad end to their adult life but until his final moments it is unclear how we are to relate

his occasional emergence to the drama of the children's world.

The production standards, like the text, were a cut above much of the new work in Player's, a testament to the ambition of this show's creators. Strong and lively performances from all the actors Demian Fox, Sarah-Jane Quigley, Will O'Connell, Mike O'Leary, Davy Banks and Jason Gilroy were delivered under the capable and direction of Matthew Torney. Hannah Scott's set design had exactly the right look but forced all the action in to one space, leaving the director little to play with. At times Paper Tigers felt like a dry run for greater things and this probably has a grain of truth in it as they have already booked their place in the Edinburgh and Dublin Fringe. There is much to be excited about and much to be developed. I look forward to its eventual, and hopefully triumphant, return to Dublin in October.

Patrick Stewart

## Highlights of 2003 - as voted by you

So the results are in. Despite the best efforts of some (including one plucky student who insisted that he really did ask for Spin FM), enough people voted in to make the choices in this top ten rundown vaguely credible. Well, to us anyway.

### 10) Rolling Stones rocking the Point

Livelier than the normal Antiques Roadshow.

There are a limited number of events in today's world where a middle aged man can happily find himself crushed against a brash young twenty something. And so, the yearly Haj to Mecca notwithstanding, The Rolling Stones concerts on September 9th and 11th of last year were truly unique. The Stones transcend both generation and taste. Both the sixty year old mid-lifer to the left of me, and the baggy-clothed youngster to my right kept funk'n' all night.

It needs to be said that there was no guarantee of a good time. There were concerns that Mick (60) and his geriatric quartet would simply be outside of gas. By the time they arrived in Dublin the band had already been on a year-long tour that



spanned from the U.S. to Turkey. There were rumours that things were falling apart. The Band looked noticeably tired at a SARS benefit concert in Toronto in July. And one night, on a European stop, Keith Richards stepped on stage to begin the show, fell flat on his face and began to laugh uncontrollably (I make no assumptions).

But the world's greatest living band quickly put any fears to rest. The Point rocked and replacement hips popped out all over the place as both young and old were treated to a rare gem of a show. Ben Simon

### 9) Johnny Cash's posthumous success

He just deserved it.

Johnny Cash pulled off a rare coup in the years that sadly led up to his death, and that of his wife soon afterward - a critically and commercially successful comeback; one that lasted for not one album, but four. The American recordings, as they are known, were certainly the best thing Cash had produced in about thirty years, if not the best studio recordings he ever

committed to tape. Some of the most exciting tracks from his last years were covers - of U2, of Beck, of Soundgarden. But it is his sublime version of the Nine Inch Nails' 'Hurt' that should stand as an epitaph for a troubled but ultimately redeemed icon of country music. His final 2003 album, 'The Man Comes Around', from which 'Hurt' is taken, is an unmissable tribute to the legacy of the Man in Black. Tim Walker

### 8) Radiohead - Hail To The Thief

Some said they were spent. You clearly didn't agree.

Just when it seemed that Radiohead had been buried by the expectations of a devoted fan base and doomed to the hell of weighty concept albums, they burst forth from their tomb with Hail to the Thief clutched in their guitar-clawed fists. Here we find Radiohead effortlessly blending electronic beats with solid guitar dynamics to transport the listener to a twisted, hopeless environment. Thom Yorke chews up the lyrics and spits them out to the sound of harsh guitars and thunderous percussion.

It's hardly their most



upbeat album but it's so beautifully executed that it leaves you feeling oddly reassured. There's hope when even desolation can be expressed with such verve. If a band is only relevant as long as it's willing to experiment, to take risks and to find new forms of expression, then on this evidence Radiohead are alive and kicking. Hail to the Chiefs. Dave White

### 7) Britney and Madonna lose all dignity

Some of you felt sorry for them. Clearly not enough.

Holy Shit! Britney and Madonna lesbian kiss at major music awards ceremony! Three years ago, this would have been the hottest goddam news on the planet (and even now has parents across America terrified that their daughters are french-kissing each other in the toilets at school). Madonna had made her big old comeback and married a promising young film director. Britney was the most desirable thing in music. So what went wrong in the interim to make this piece of unabashed self-promotion seem just a little sordid and pathetic?

Well, let's see; Britney's new album, Madonna's new album (the one with the rapping). A couple of dodgy Gap ads, A couple of dodgy Pepsi ads, 'Crossroads', 'Swept Away', Christina Aguilera, Justin Timberlake...Speaking of Justin, the press went wild with speculation over his reaction to the kiss. The face of Britney's former beau was simmering with suppressed anger and jealousy, they said. I reckon it looked more like pity. Tim Walker



### 6) Mad World nabs the Christmas no. 1 slot

We won't be so simplistic as to attribute the song's success to the song itself, what with that stupid, "The dreams in which I'm dying are the best I've ever had" line and those New Age-y piano parts. It's more plausible that the reason it resonates so loudly inside our skulls is its particular relationship to Our Common Past. Unlike No Doubt's cover of that Talk Talk song, 'Mad World' looks to the Eighties with appreciative sincerity. He says, "Listen, children, to my beautiful song," (sitting in a tree with a p-

pipe, surrounded by woodland creatures) rather than No Doubt's, "Hee hee, we covered a song from the Eighties!" while laughing all the way to the bank. The song identifies with The Eighties by interpreting it in our language. It makes The Eighties ours by making it ahistorical. It tricks us into following it into The Past, thinking that we're sitting comfortably in our contemporary armchairs. Shane Greene

### 5) Damien Dempsey emerging

They really don't teach this shit in school.

Damien Dempsey's is a unique voice amidst a growing sea of 'one man and his guitar' acts. In a market saturated by 'You're A Star' rejects and formulaic love songs, Dempsey sticks out like the proverbial sore thumb. After over a decade of graft, Dempsey is finally receiving the critical and popular acclaim he deserves. He has been nominated for four Meteor Irish Music Awards, including Best Irish Male Singer, and Best Irish Album, for 'Seize the Day', his much-lauded second album, which peaked at Number 5 in the charts. Two of its singles, 'Seize the Day' and 'It's All Good' were voted fifth and sixth con-

secutively in the annual Hot Press Critics poll. This album is a more polished effort than his raw debut, 'They Don't Teach This Shit in School', but the treatment of urban issues and the strong Dublin accent are still unmistakable. RTE recently aired a documentary about the singer's rocky road to success, entitled, 'It's All Good: The Damien Dempsey Story'. It seems that 2003 really has been all good for the 28 year old, who is currently recording his third album in London, due for release in late 2004. Here's hoping that Dempsey can sustain the success of the past year, and continue to make songs that hit home with listeners. Jeananne Craig

### 4) Those Pixies rumours

Will they? Won't they? Where the Hell is Joey Santiago?

"Ah, you see, that's what happens you see. You get relaxed in an interview, and you mention that you still occasionally jam with your old band-mate, and before long your big reunion tour and album is being talked about. That's why I don't trust you people" - with those less than friendly words to the Irish Independent, Frank Black seemed to have confirmed the niggling fear of every Pixies obsessive: It really was too good to be true. Whether or not the story

had any basis at the time, Hot Press reporting that the Pixies were in fact getting back together, and doing at least one date in Ireland, had an impact. Ticketmaster were bombarded with calls prior to Black pooh-poohing the notion, and the international frenzy even seems to have convinced black to do a U-turn on the matter. At time of going to press, we understand that they've been pencilled in as support for the Red Hot Chili Peppers European Tour. And yes, there's an Irish date.

## 1) The White Stripes

Brother/Sister/Husband/Wife? Nobody quite understands them but enough of you voted for them to make them your highlight of 2003.

From the moment The White Stripes burst unto our awareness this Summer with the brilliantly frenzied 'Seven Nation Army' it was clear this was a band determined to make a statement, and not just in fashion. Of course, The White Stripes are instantly recognisable by their Distinct black, white and red minimalist image, but this isn't a band that needs to fall back upon a gimmick because their music can't speak for itself. Far from it. What their unique look has done, however, is to turn them into MTV icons, a bonus to being respected for their musical abilities. Whether or not video did truly kill the radio star, is irrelevant: They are streets ahead in both - Their stark, visually striking appearance complements their music perfectly. Both are powerful, relentless and represent a no-nonsense approach to



the music business. Talking of videos, they successfully managed to pull off a real coup with the release of 'I just don't know what to do with myself.' Kate Moss, the original queen of cool is careful when she chooses to endorse any project, but this definitely wasn't a faulty career move. Whilst Kate wasn't exactly 'but-toned up well' as she silkily slid around a pole to a tune that combines sophistication with a rockier more hard-core edge, Kate looked classy and arty, not tarty. This encapsulates The White Stripes' image perfectly, sexy in a fabulously understated way. Many females who have seen the film, Cold Mountain, will testify to



### 3) The rise of Rice

The Rice man marches on...

Damien Rice has been nominated for Best International Male Solo artist at the 2004 Brit Awards. Perhaps the bizarrely, he's up against 50 Cent, Justin Timberlake and Sean Paul. Admittedly, many will find his brand of delicate, melodious and often beautiful music quite incomparable with lyrics like "Find me in a club, bottle full of Bud...come gimme a hug", or "I'm gonna stick to me girl like glue". However, this nomination, and the level of fame the other contenders enjoy does demonstrate the international success Rice has been experiencing since the European and American release of his debut album 'O'. The

Independent described the album as containing "some of the greatest love songs of the year", and The New York Times called 'O' "an album of understated gems". The subsequent tour, topped off with an appearance of 'Volcano' on Letterman, was a great hit.

In October, Rice picked up the Shortlist Music Prize for Artistic Achievement, the American equivalent of the Mercury Music Prize. According to the organisers, this prize is awarded to an artist whose artistic merit outweighs their commercial popularity. Rice, however, has both in bucket loads, with brilliant album sales, sell-out gigs, and heaving crowds at Glastonbury, V2003 and Witness. Jeananne Craig

### 2) The Darkness and all that

Silly Hair. Never ending guitar solos. It was bound to happen sometime.

Soon, no doubt, the NME will begin their inevitable critical backlash against the Darkness, as they must with every band that becomes wildly successful in a very brief period. Sadly, if the case for the prosecution argues that those long-haired Lowestoft loons are one-trick ponies, or that you can have too many guitar solos, then they may turn out to be right. Nonetheless, 2003 will always be remembered as a good year for jumpsuit manufacturers, and that



is due to one band, and one band alone. In just twelve months, the Darkness have gone from languishing in unsigned obscurity, to radio play ubiquity, to Christmas single hilarity - and all with their tongues lodged firmly in their cheeks. If this is our time, they seem to say, we're bloody well going to enjoy it. And so is everyone else.

this, as Jack White nearly stole the limelight from under the nose of leading

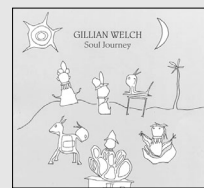


man, Jude Law (Close, but unfortunately no cigar). Whilst their co-ordinated wardrobes show their unity and strength as a band, they still come across as effortlessly cooler than if they've tried too hard. Another factor that has set The White Stripes apart from similar bands in the same vein is the enigma that is Jack and Meg's relationship. John Anthony Gillis (aka Jack White) and Megan Martha White were initially thought of, by many spectators to be brother and sister, but this notion was confused by Jack stating that, in actual fact, at one stage he was married to Meg, an assertion rein-

forced by the posting of a marriage license and divorce certificate on the Internet. This will probably continue to be an intriguing mystery. The White Stripes' 2003 album, Elephant is certainly an apt name for an album full of power anthems that vigorously pound themselves into their listeners' consciousness, taking no prisoners, in the most unrelenting, self-assured fashion possible. However, one aspect of the connotations surrounding 'Elephant' as a title that certainly doesn't fit with the White Stripes' persona is that they're not grey, and they point blank refuse to fade into the background. Then again, we definitely won't forget them in a hurry. Gillian Hammill

## Reviews

Gillian Welch  
Soul Journey  
Lost Highway



Gillian Welch does have plenty to be happy about. Thanks to that 'O brother Where Art Thou' soundtrack, she's far more of a star now than her offbeat songs about rural depression-era America would have you expect. The lighthearted nature of her contributions to that album was a change from hereafter solo work, broody, dark, and occasionally anguished songs, that sether (and song writing partner David Rawlings) apart from the folk/alt. countryalso-rans. So it's understandable that she from 'look at miss Ohio', the first and possibly the best track, the whole thing is far sunnier than we're used to. Sure, she sticks to her normal themes of love, greed and death, it all works, Welch's voice is as good and her band as tight as always, but the evocative misery that drew in her first and most dedicated fans is sadly absent. Maybe we should be glad that a talented artist has cheered up and gotten herself more fans-music wise, it's a bit of a pity though. (3/5)

Derek Owens

Matchbook Romance  
Stories and Alibis  
Epitaph



Let's be brutally honest. When you were 16 you probably had a name for people who listened to bands called 'Matchbook Romance', or anything with more than 3 syllables. I'd also hazard a guess that 'gimp' featured in that name. But now that the 'gimplord'/gimpface/just plain gimp' has abandoned the silly black makeup in apparent deference to your taste, you could do a lot worse than listening to this. For those of you who haven't downed the magazine in disgust, we're with punk which flirts with both pop and metal in equal measure for ten songs, before wandering off in a bad mood. How very Emo. It's a well executed album, with some snide lyrical remarks and wonderfully ostentatious chord sequences, and will appeal to those who find 'Good Charlotte' just too poppy, but don't wince at the sound of American voices singing in perfect angsty harmony. On the downside, it's hard to find a hit here, or anything that will get Matchbook Romance really broad success. Maybe this album is destined for gimplord's collection after all. Buit in a genre chronically in need of new blood, a solid debut album, if not exactly a classic, is a very welcome thing indeed. (3.5/5)

Derek Owens

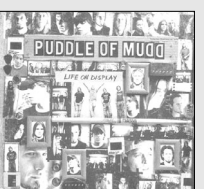
Franz Ferdinand  
Franz Ferdinand  
Domino Records



Those of you who haven't heard of Franz Ferdinand yet probably don't read many music magazines, certainly not those given to predicting the rise of a new British act every fortnight. Now that one of the most concentrated, coordinated campaigns in alternative and student media since the days of the third Reich is reaching its pinnacle, it's probably the right time to release the source of all the fuss, the band's debut album. Time for us all to be let down by another band that succumbed to the poisoned chalice of the 'next big thing' title, or be blown away in a frenzy of worship and excitement, right? Personally, it's hard to be either. 'Franz Ferdinand' is everything you'd expect from their single, 'Take me Out'. Essentially, it's The Strokes all over again, but with a disco funkiness, reminiscent of 'Bossa Nova' or 'Trompe de Monde' era Pixies, and peculiar, Blur-esque British vibe, accentuated by a singer that's like a slightly more butch version of Freddie Mercury. If that sounds like your worst nightmare, it probably is. If you're drooling at the thought of it, then get it now. For those of us that don't fall into either category, it's still a tidy little album, with enough good songs to make it well worth shelling out for. (3.5/5)

Derek Owens

Puddle of Mudd  
Life on display  
Universal



When I got this along with the apologetic words "it's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it", things looked ominous. Hence, I put off this review until it became inescapable on the bus to Belfast. However, things started not too badly. Track three seemed promising with a mellow opening groove, until my ears struck upon guitar riffs which I temporarily mistook for the bus' squeaky windscreen wipers. No such Luck. Overall, little material here was truly innovative; my presiding emotion was one of boredom. The clichéd angsty lyrics, "help me!" seemed particularly appropriate. However, songs such as 'Freak of the World', which left me on the bus thinking, yes I agree, you are a "freeeaaak!", now stop hurting my eardrums; when cranked up full blast in my friend's small living room off the Lisburn Road, might well have me headbanging in delight. Unlikely, but stranger things have happened (certainly in that room anyway.) However, the resounding verdict was uncomplimentary. Definitely a poor man's Nirvana. (2/5)

Gillian Hammill

# ZZ packs a punch

'Reading Coffee Elsewhere' - ZZ Packer  
Canongate  
Mairéad Galvin

ZZ Packer has already made an impression on the literary world, having won not only the Whiting Writers' Award but also the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. Furthermore, her skill as a writer has been thoroughly endorsed by the Oprah magazine, ensuring her popularity amongst a certain powerful demographic in America. As a graduate of Yale, it is safe to assume that Packer is both highly intelligent and driven. Her ambition as a writer is met with a defined quota of talent necessary for entry into and exit from Yale.

'Reading Coffee Elsewhere' is a collection of eight short stories created around the lives of female characters, all of whom are black. Each story deals with a woman at a different stage in her life. Using this soli-

tary woman she weaves wonderfully intricate themes around her, with a common theme being a crises of identity. She writes soulfully, describing events with such skill that she moves the reader. Packer is adept at using very simple language to deal with her complex and difficult themes. She doesn't shy away from controversial issues nor does she founder at painful subject matter. In certain stories, a lack of personal experience gives her the edge to convey the trauma subjectively.

At times, Packer is very witty. This is an incredible strength when dealing with her challenging topics. It can be seen that she has drawn her humour from everyday malapropisms, in much the same way that popular Irish novelists and comedians have. When one character, Dina, is moving to Japan, one of her neighbours comments that now she'll be able to understand what the local Chinese men are saying. Her humour isn't bound exclusively to one form, in fact she is sharp and acidic in turn.

One of the finest points of 'Drinking Coffee Elsewhere' is her peripheral characters

which are so identifiable from everyday life. Since she is a white middle class twenty-something from the midlands it's no mean feat that I can pick out her characters and assign them to real living alternatives. This is especially true in the story 'Brownies'.

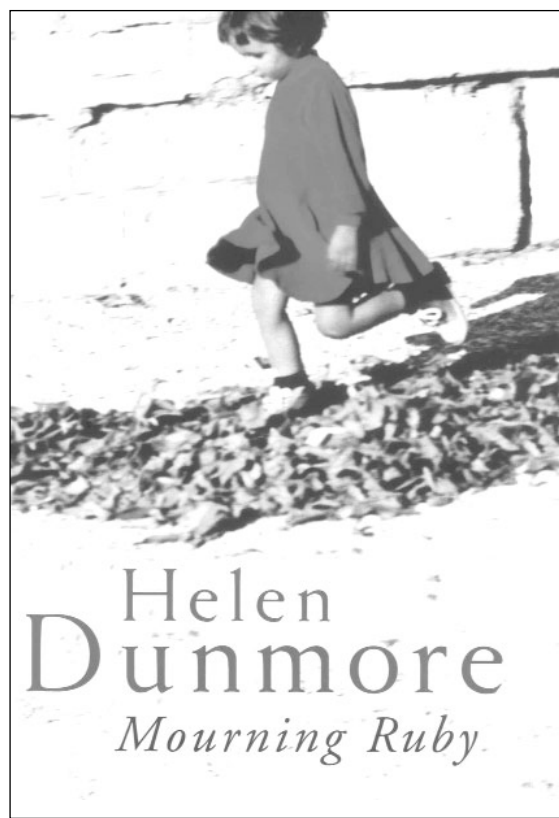
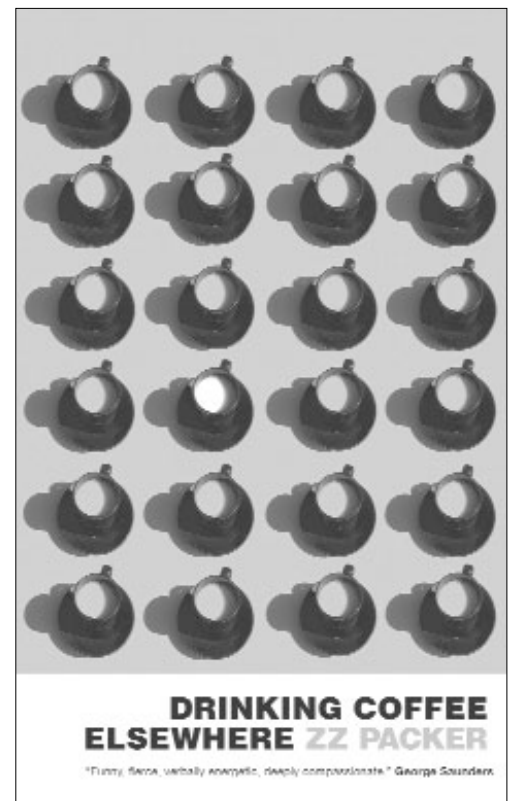
In the title story 'Drinking Coffee Elsewhere', the main character Dina has just moved from Baltimore to Yale. Immediately it is obvious that she is an outsider, deeply troubled and mistrustful of her peers. After displaying some desire to wipe out mankind, she is condemned to "a years worth of psychiatric counselling." Packer doesn't allow the full range of Dina's problems to be revealed and therapy is just a device to portray her anger without fully explaining the source. Packer describes in plain terms the coping mechanisms Dina has employed to get through life and the price she has paid by "constantly saying what she doesn't mean." Her struggle with her sexual orientation seems to stem rather from a "crises of identity". Dina isn't sure what's real or not and rather than concentrate on the source of her unhappiness, she reduces it all to a state of confusion regarding her sexuality. In a touching scene with her psychiatrist, she describes the morning of her mother's funeral, Packer hints at the cause but never truly resolves it. Surprisingly, Packer resurrects Dina again

in the story 'Geese' which sees her fleeing to Japan to "make loads of money." In keeping with the general tone of the book, things do not work out that way. Although it's clear Dina has come to inhabit a world with little hope, 'Geese' sees her final descent into despair. She contemplates the fates of the kamikaze, and combines their with that of her own.

'Brownies' tells the tale of mob rule and fanaticism from the point of view of prepubescent black girls. On a camping holiday, a perceived racial insult from the white girls "their complexions a blend of ice cream: strawberry and vanilla", sets in motion a series of events with an unexpected ending. In addition to tackling the age old racism question, Packer also deals with innocence, poverty, loneliness and intimidation. The manner with which she deals with these issues makes the story a success and forces the readers to challenge some misconceptions. The situations Packer describes with incredible tenderness are particularly striking. In 'Brownies', Daphne begins to clean the camp rest rooms "She did it so methodically, so exquisitely, so humbly, she must have been trained."

ZZ is the childhood name that Packer adopted when her friends had difficulty pronouncing her name. Her real name is Zuwená, which means 'good' in Swahili. It's

an apt name for a writer who deals with the dark aspects of life.



# 'Mourning Ruby'

'Mourning Ruby'- Helen Dunmore.  
Penguin Ireland.  
by Erica Walsh.

It is apparent to anyone from the very first that Helen Dunmore's new novel is not going to be a light or upbeat read. The sombre title is combined with a picture of a little girl in a red dress, evidently Ruby, running through autumn leaves. It has the appearance of being a frame from an old home movie and as such it feels intensely personal. Before even opening the book the reader has been drawn into the story by that glimpse of someone's memory, and the knowledge that it cannot last.

The novel starts some years after the death of Ruby, Rebecca and Adam's only child, and in a series of flashbacks it shows us their idyllic life before the tragedy. Love and the home are evoked powerfully as Dunmore returns again and again to the depth of Rebecca and Adam's physical love for one another and the life they have built together. "I'd become the woman I'd once glimpsed at the door of lighted houses, and envied. A young woman in an old narrow house with a porch light that spilled yellow on the steps at homecoming." However despite the beautiful poetic imagery, there is an ever-present sense of sadness, as we know that what we are seeing is only a fleeting memory, already a part of the past. As Rebecca talks

of what she has become, we realise that her reality is far from the rose-tinted memories she reveals to us. She is no longer that person, and the home that she had treasured has been ripped apart. Love is inextricably tangled up with loss, as the most powerful love images are also the most poignant. Nonetheless, the lasting impression the book leaves is one about surviving loss.

The flashback format of the novel's first section puts the action in the past. It places an emphasis on survival, yet also places a question mark over stories and how we remember and tell them. One example is the story Mr Damiano tells, a story of early grief and then life-long survival. Story telling becomes a key theme in the novel and is brought to the fore by Rebecca's writer friend Joe, who starts the novel writing about the death of Stalin's wife "it was suicide, say

the history books, but you can also find almost any version of her death that you want". Rebecca, who was found in a shoebox outside an Italian restaurant in the first chapter of the novel, has no history or ancestry and Joe says, in a letter to her, "Nobody really knows their ancestors...but they may possess stories...so I thought I would give you another story". This leads into the second section of the novel, which reveals Joe's draft of a novel, and is a section that at first seems completely detached from the first section of the novel. Yet as we read Joe's wartime story we hear echoes which resonate with Rebecca's story. "Like an aeroplane flying along which gives birth to a baby aeroplane which immediately begins to fly with its full strength and its own life, and gives birth to its own baby aeroplane". The images in the novel run into each other, cre-

ating a constant stream of ideas which never clarify or resolve into anything solid. Like different but never quite conflicting stories, the versions overlap and compliment each other, making us reassess the very mechanisms of storytelling and memory.

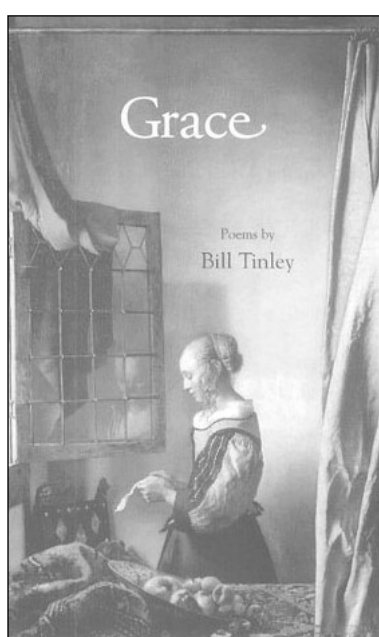
The front cover tells us that "Ultimately about the most important relationship in any novel [is] that of the reader to the writer". This is never more evident than in the epilogue, when Rebecca addresses the reader directly in a step back from a more traditional style of storytelling. "Without your imagination the story would die" she says, and we realise that the act of reading is as much a part of the story as the act of telling. 'Mourning Ruby' becomes a story about survival through loss, and how this is possible even when your world has fallen apart.

# A Voyage into Grace

'Grace' - Bill Tinley  
New Island  
By Jeremy Murphy

Art criticism, what a task we poor critics face with our pens, to write to audiences, full of the overly tolerant, full of the overly liberal, who stand up heroically and defend the artist against the bland, bloodless pen of the critic who writes ode's to a blend of draining, over simplifying dogmatism. Our age is an age where art is in anarchy. The poet, no longer merely an architect selling his poetry in perfectly textured little patios, but instead a sculpture moulding beauty from the raw sweet possibilities of life. What place then, is there for the art critic, the sleazy spectator who analyses from behind the shutters, playing greasily with his petty perceptions and prejudices, grafting over something that should be left pure and personal? But in saying that, what art among us strives for textual and structural perfection more so than poetry, poetry, as the fleeting heavenly body that glares sublimely on life's innumerable little sincerities? Surely then the art critic has some role, his role being, to correct errors when blatant, point out the artist's failure when obvious and spot a style that is still a long way from maturity.

But one could not possibly suggest that, Bill Tinley, author of the recently published anthology 'Grace' was not good at what he did whether it was your taste or not. He is a poet that should be considered among the best at what he does. His wave like music comes across as a more uplifting, more spiritually defined version of Philip Larkin. One could also draw parallels between himself and Longley, who like Tinley had a cool sedate breeziness to his words. The anthology, as the title suggests, revolves around an embedded interest in the religious and attempts to come the terms with



the desperation and impermanence of human life. Tinley's words come with a great sense of maturity. They drift beautifully between concrete realities and airy abstractions. His poems rise like cool austere slabs of truth, swerved from the sound of the learned and the wise. He challenges the possibility of a religious salvation with the integrity and discipline of a great philosophical master. He tells of "the acute science that would dispel

"Tinley...attempts to come the terms with the desperation and impermanence of human life..."

the clouds above" along with similes scooped straight from the flashing changes of nature. "Outside our disappointed room it is beginning to rain a rash of damp confetti drops and water braided window pane".

Although some of his descriptions, to my mind at least lack subtlety, or perhaps are just overly copious, some are genuinely wondrous. He speaks of the "Lemon evening sun, the light unbound", the "Upturned fonts

for the last drop" and how "we'll ream the weathered grass like paper". His observations, that revolve around how the natural world combines, with the turmoil and emotional friction of modern life, are undoubtedly one of the anthologies finer dexterities. He takes the regular banalities and beauties of Mother Nature in his grasp, and paints them richly in coolly cut contrasts full of natural lush and emotional integrity.

Another dominant theme is his attempt to capture the regular everyday moments that radiate in meaningfulness, which he philosophises as a journey through stages of both nostalgia and forgetfulness. Numerous poems, set in empty bedrooms, honeymoon hotels and one outwardly personal poem that narrates the meanderings of a lonely hearted woman strolling around north America, leaving her lover back in Ireland drowning in his own regret and contemplation, challenge love. Such a sense of the impermanence of human relationships sweeten the anthology with a humanistic sensibility. I would of course not advise you to read Tinley if you hunger for the hefty mouth of an Irish poet. For there is nothing in Tinley's poetry in terms of sound and theme that makes him Irish and not an Anglo Saxon. But in saying this, one should also admit that there is in Tinley's verse a felling of the showery and often drab Irish suburban life, this is an Irishness however, that has the suave urban hinterland of the twenty first century as its pivot, an honest gauzy portrait of modern life. Tinley captures in his poetry the aura of a middle class intellectual through whose accomplished journeys into everyday scenarios he challenges the alienation and finitude of the human condition.

Tinley's verse, if anything, lays testament to the times in which we live in, times where the poet brings dream to our despair, tenacity to the temporal and music to the mundane.

# The Curious Success of the Novel in the Big Time...

'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' - Mark Haddon  
Jonathon Cape  
By Olav Henricsson-Bell/ Laura Dixon

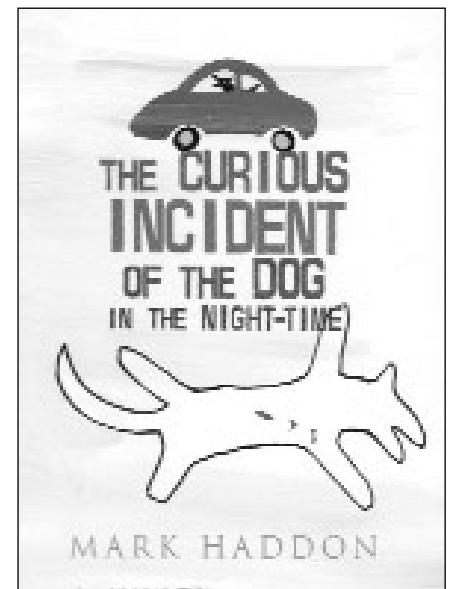
Mark Haddon is the author of fifteen children's books. In 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', his first venture into the world of the adult novel, he embraces much learnt in that previous life. The novel's narrator, fifteen year old Christopher Boone, for instance, could be one of Haddon's loyal readers. Or rather, he could be if he read children's books, which, as we shall discover later, he does not. The novel has received almost universal critical and popular acclaim since its release, and outsold John Grisham and Jackie Collins over the holiday period, but it is Haddon's triumph at last week's Whitbread Prize that has made him a household name. Having already received the best novel award, Haddon was the favourite to collect the £30,000 prize, but he described it nevertheless as a dream come true, perhaps reflecting a worry that the novel's mixed child/adult audience would count against it. The Whitbread has never been awarded to the winner of the best children's book category.

The novel is something of a murder mystery, the mystery of the death of Wellington, the neighbours' dog, in the middle of the night. Being caught with the dog, which has been stabbed with a green garden fork and killed, in his arms, fifteen year old Christopher is the prime suspect. These false accusations lead Christopher, an autistic yet exceptional child, to stretch beyond the narrow boundaries of his daily world, his home, his garden, and his school, to solve the problem. He decides to overcome his fear of strangers, and conducts an enquiry into the dog's death, questioning the whereabouts of his neighbours on the night of the murder. The seriousness of the situation as it appears to Christopher, is somewhat comic in contrast to the adult world of his neighbours. Haddon's astute insight into the mind of an autistic

child creates the unique tone of the book. The chapters are numbered 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, and onwards, according to prime numbers, since Christopher likes these numbers, which are "what is left when you have taken all the patterns away". Christopher himself is a fascinating character. He is very intellectual, fascinated as he is by space and the galaxy, and is even taking his maths A-level during the course of the book, despite his headmistress's assertions that this is not 'normal' in a 'special' school. Through this complex and interwoven character then, Haddon makes us aware of the intricacies of learning difficulties, and the 'other side' of children like Christopher. Christopher's intellect however, contrasts to his child-like dependence on order. He tries to find the square root of two when he is worried, screams, and buries his head in his hands when he feels like he is not in control. His quirky little behavioural eccentricities however, are enlightening, viewed as they are through Christopher's own eyes. He sees it as perfectly logical that once the different foods on his plate have touched, he can no longer eat them. He hates being touched, hence he rationalises that although he did not want to hurt the policeman, "yes" he did want to hit him. Similarly, he reveals how confusing and frightening the adult world can really be to a child who does not understand it. Thus phrases such as

I decided that the dog was probably killed with the fork...since I do not think you would stick a garden fork into a dog after it had died for some other reason, like cancer for example, or a road accident.

'KEEP OFF THE GRASS' confuse him, since the sign should say what pieces of grass you have to keep off. Christopher's confusion and perplexity at the adult world are combined with a certain naivety, regarding for example, his mother's 'death'. He accepts that she has died, despite the fact that he



could not visit her in hospital or go to her funeral, and the reader is as confused as he is when he stumbles along the path of this discovery, intertwined as it is with his search for the dog Wellington's killer.

'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' is a book that provides a fascinating insight into the minds of autistic children. Haddon's own extensive experience with children with this condition is clear throughout the novel. The reader forms a certain emotional attachment with Christopher, being allowed to enter the unique vision of his world. Haddon uses Christopher's own childish voice to lend the reader a certain complicity with his protagonist. The unique style of the novel is in fitting with this image of Christopher's world, filled as it is with visual symbols and explanations, with charts and diagrams, making the novel an appealing read. Christopher's ambiguous position, between the boundaries of the child's and adult's world, is portrayed with cutting honesty, and a certain sadness. Christopher is unable to tap into the child's world because imagination is alien to him, nor is he logical enough and mature enough to understand that of the adults. The frustration this causes him is repeatedly portrayed, although through Siobhan, his teacher, he is slowly coming to learn to deal with the overwhelming stimuli of his daily life.

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## Arts Block mistreated paintings restored

Barry White

As you may have noticed, there are two restorers currently working outside the Edmund Burke theatre. Stella and Cian Harte are restoring the impressive collection of modern Irish paintings that are housed in the arts block. The paintings being restored, all prime examples of the work of the most noted Irish artists working in the 1960's and 70's include works by Robert Ballagh, Cecil King, Patrick Scott, Michael Farrell and Barrie Cooke.

In some ways, the arts block is an ideal setting for these works. Many of them are on a very large scale, and require such an expansive structure in which to be housed. Aesthetically, they fit in very well with the architecture of the building and add some much needed colour to the building's exposed concrete structure. However, the relationship between these impressive works and the building in which they are housed is one which is fraught with difficulties. Being housed in a public space used for conferences and student recreation, the paint-

ings are open not only to the artistic appreciation of those who use the building, but often to their unthinking mistreatment.

I spoke to Stella while she worked on a section of Robert Ballagh's *Map Mural 1*, and she explained the nature and extent of the damage that the works have incurred. The Ballagh on which she was working had a total of nine holes in the canvas. She explained that when people or objects were leaning against this work, which is constructed of numerous canvases attached to a large backing board, the pressure caused the stretcher to push against the canvas itself, eventually causing tears in the canvas. Apart from the usual layer of grime which any painting picks up from the atmosphere, stains from substances such as coffee, coke and, believe it or not, a mashed up muffin were being removed from the painting. Perhaps worst of all, areas of the painting had been damaged by sellotape and thumb tacks which had been used to affix posters directly to the surface of the painting. I wonder if whoever

did this would have any qualms about going into the national gallery and sellotaping a flyer to a Vermeer or a Fra Angelico? How's about popping over to London and stapling some conference posters to Da Vinci's *Madonna of the Rocks*?

Stella has put forward a number of suggestions to college authorities regarding measures which could be taken to minimise future damage to the paintings following restoration, however no decisions have yet been made. Should the restored paintings be returned to their original positions without any protective measures being taken, it is inevitable that they will incur further damage, as they will again be in exposed positions in high traffic areas of the college. However, if people are made aware of the great cultural and financial value of the works, hopefully it shouldn't be too difficult for them to refrain from the kind of flagrant abuse to which the paintings have been subjected - i.e. sticking sellotape to them and smearing them with mashed up muffins.

Come on people, you wouldn't do that in your mother's house.

## Anne Madden - Big Red Mountain series

Louise Taylor

Like a lady in a scarlet dress, Anne Maddens *Big Red Mountain Series* (1967) injects the fire of a chilli pepper into the dreary concrete surrounds of the arts block coffee dock.

Of Irish and Anglo-Chilean origins, Ann Madden moved to Ireland from Chile in her teenage years, subsequently attending the Chelsea School of Arts and Crafts in England. During this period she encountered Abstract Expressionism at an exhibition of American painting at the Royal Academy, a style she herself said 'opened vistas of possibility,' in contrast to the traditional approach to art as instituted in Chelsea.

Although seen as a landscape, *Big Red Mountain Series* is clearly quite abstract in execution. A sexpartite piece, it uses colour physiologically to illustrate the power of nature, a sub-

ject that fascinated Madden since her days as a young girl on the Burren in Co. Clare. In this piece, the artist uses splashes of colour brushed rapidly onto the red painted background, building up layers that are harmonious and hence pleasing to the eye. The use of dark patches of paint has a double function, firstly creating depth and intensity to lead the eye into the work, and secondly binding the six canvases together to create an overall unity within the piece. Areas of fine detail are created by allowing paint to drip directly onto the canvas, a hallmark of abstract expressionists such as Sam Francis and Jean-Paul Riopelle both of whom she met in Paris in the 1950's. This work however is more architecturally structured in its relationship between areas of activity and space than many of her earlier works such as *Aran* (1957) which would have been more

directly influenced by the above artists.

As the wife of Louis le Brocquy, one could argue that Maddens brilliance has been overshadowed by that of her other half. Certainly, in terms of the general public, Madden still requires an introduction whereas le Brocquy has become a household name. Yet, Madden seems quite content to recognise her husband's artistic ability, a fact demonstrated by her writing of his biography significantly titled *Louis le Brocquy. Seeing his Way* in 1993. Madden herself however has her own considerable list of achievements including the Carroll's award at the Irish Exhibition of Living Art in 1964 and representing Ireland at the 1965 Paris Biennale.

*Big Red Mountain Sequence* was purchased by Trinity college from The Arts Council in 1976. It had already received considerable distinction after

undergoing a series of exhibitions and tours which included the Arts Council European Tour, Modern Irish Painting, 1967-71. Sadly, like many of the art works that have come into the college collection, the respect for this important piece of Modern Irish art has been minimal. In recent years, Dr. Peter Cherry, the chairman of the collection has had to rehang the piece higher on the wall because of many students "fondness for lounging up against it." Many students I spoke to didn't realise that this was a work of art! Instead it was perceived as some sort of high quality wall decoration used to 'jazz up the place a bit.'

We as students are fortunate enough to be surrounded by important art works as we eat our sandwiches and check our e-mails. For goodness sake reflect on them, don't lie on them!



## Michael Farrell - Pressé Politic

Gwen Graham

Michael Farrell's *Pressé Politic*, also known as *Pressée for Madam D.W.* 1973, can be seen outside the left-hand entrance to the Walton Theatre.

For gallery owner Leo Smith, the sight of the art critic Dorothy Walker marching into his Dawson

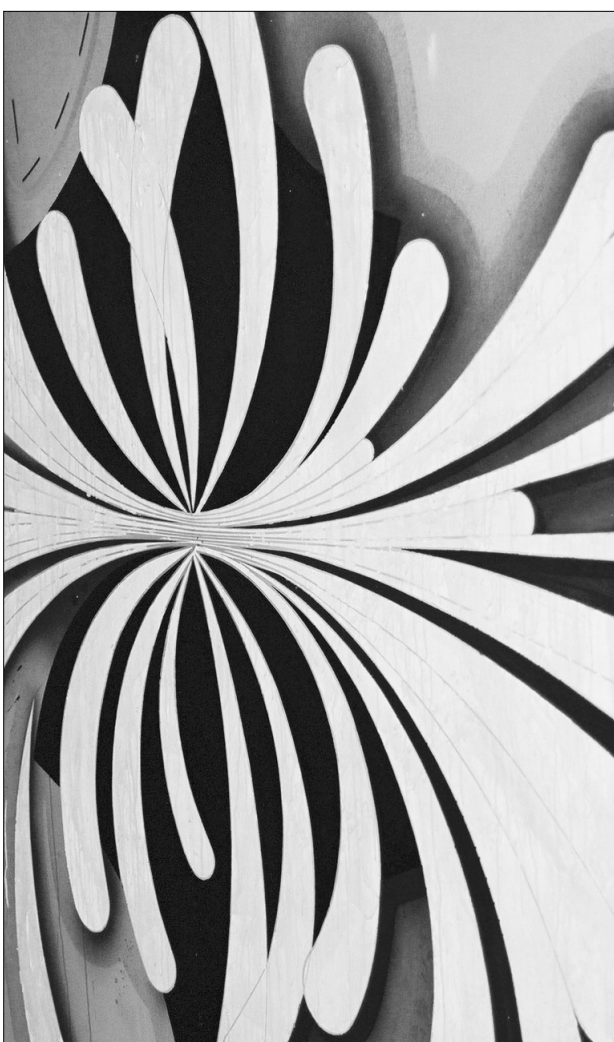
Street premises armed with a large tailor's scissors back in 1973 must have caused him some concern. She was a woman on a mission. The artist Michael Farrell had issued her with a challenge, written onto the canvas of his *Pressé Politic* (roughly translated as 'Now Madame D.W.

you can cut them yourself'). Dorothy Walker was a critic who championed Irish artists throughout her long career; she sadly passed away last year. On the committee of ROSC, probably the most important series of exhibitions of modern art to have taken place in Ireland in the second half of the 20th Century, she was involved in bringing some of the great names of modern art to Ireland, thus opening up new vistas for many young aspiring Irish artists. Her spat with Michael Farrell, who back in the late 1960's early 1970's was an artist in great demand, emanated from a comment she had made about his earlier *Pressé* works- so called as they are based on the common French lemon-press, spotted by Farrell while he lived in Paris. These earlier works had sections of the canvas cut out and Walker had commented that she felt the works would be better in a normal format. In the Trinity College piece, one can see where Farrell has crudely outlined a section of the canvas in the upper left hand side, ready for Madame's scissors! Leo Smith according to Walker eventually persuaded her to put the scissors down- and of course if she had cut the section

out she would have, by following Farrell's lines, cut out the reference to herself.

This is the amusing side to this work, but Michael Farrell along with many other Irish artists at the time, including Robert Ballagh and Brian O'Doherty, was deeply concerned about the situation in the North of Ireland. The title of the work, *Pressé Politic* gives us an indication that the artist was in some way making a political comment. Unfortunately, the work is now missing a vital component: originally there was a plinth which ran the entire length of the bottom of the painting. On the plinth rested a wooded segment similar in shape, size and colour to one of those painted on the canvas. With this plinth intact the entire piece called to mind some lines from the Yeats poem, *The Second Coming*, "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."

How one reconciles the seemingly petty spat played out in the work between the artist and critic, and the deeper political meanings that can also be read into it is entirely up to the viewer, making it one of the most interesting to contemplate in the Arts Block.



## Robert Ballagh - Map Mural Series

Rebecca Mc.Keown

Big, bold and blue - the three Robert Ballagh Map Murals are a familiar sight to the kids of the Arts Block.

Ballagh is one of Ireland's best known contemporary artists. He was part of a generation of painters, mostly born in Dublin, that began to emerge onto the Irish art scene in the 1960s. Energised by the urban Pop art movement in America, these painters used their experiences of contemporary urban life to shape their artwork. Ballagh reacted against the traditional view of Irish art as one of land-

scapes and pastoral images. His Map Mural series is representative of this idealistic era. It is a new type of Irish landscape, one incorporating strong graphic design and brilliant colour. It is a landscape aware of international art movements and one preoccupied with the state of language, identity and power in a modern Ireland.

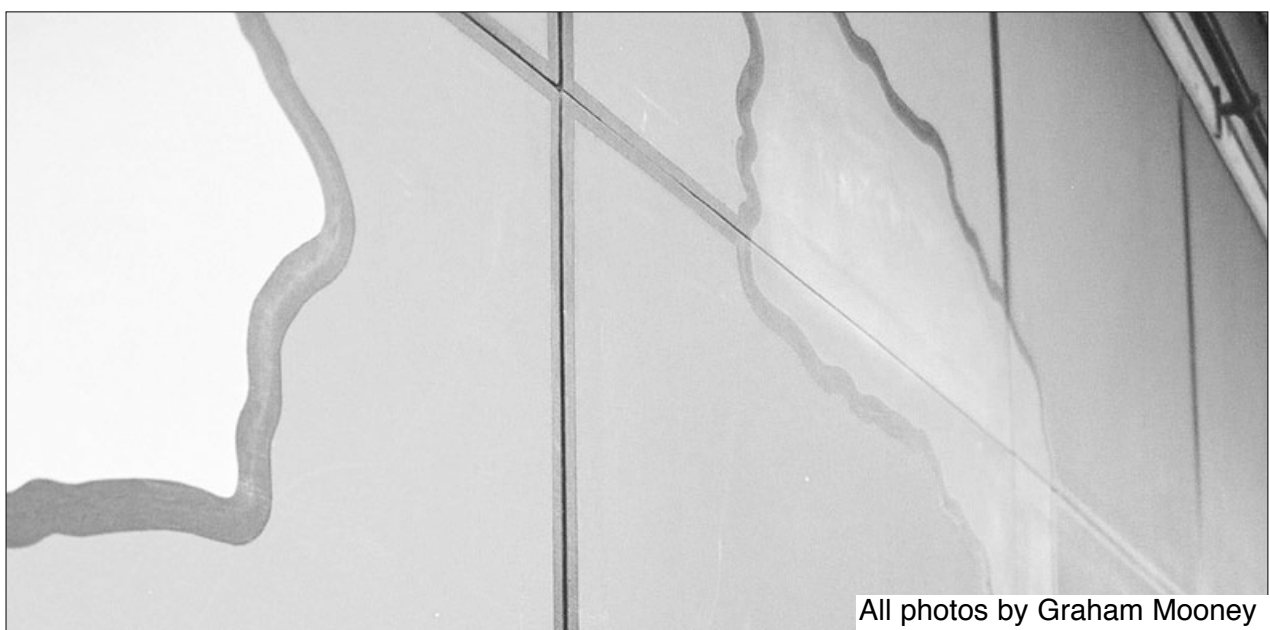
The Map Murals were painted in 1970 and around the same time Ballagh was tackling political issues in his other artworks. In 1969 he reworked Delacroix's painting of 1830, *Liberty Leading the People*, likening the violence of the French Revolution to the

troubles in Northern Ireland. Ballagh has since said that he believed these paintings would alter the world of Irish politics. However they were generally greeted with critical and public indifference. Like the Map Murals these paintings represent a time in the artist's life abundant with youthful idealism and fearlessness. Ballagh frequently refers to works by other painters in his art; his *Three People With Jackson Pollock* from 1973 hangs at the entrance to Trinity's Lecky Library.

Ballagh's art is designed to be accessible to everyone, regardless of education or background. His work is represented in

many important collections including the National Gallery of Ireland and the Irish Museum of Modern Art to name but a few.

A ubiquitous figure in the world of Irish art and design, Ballagh has produced over 70 stamps for An Post in which he combined images of history with elements of Pop art as well as designing the last Irish banknotes before the arrival of the Euro. He is also responsible for the set design of Riverdance and the staging for the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics in Croke Park last year.



All photos by Graham Mooney

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## Letters to the Editor

### Labour, Sin Féin and Social Worker protest

Dear Madam,

We are writing in relation to a protest jointly organised by Trinity's Labour, Sinn Féin and Socialist Worker Societies which coincided with the visit of the Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern. We wish to first thank all those who braved the elements to come out and support the protest and to oppose the savage cut backs in government funding for Third Level education. Our respective societies felt that with the current state of cut backs in government funding (yet they can find 12.8 million to spend on a new missile defence system for the army) of Universities having such an impact both on student services and indeed on academic activities that it was imperative that such a protest be mounted. The protest was in good spirits throughout and in no

way posed a threat to anybody. Despite the jovial nature of the crowd however the Gardaí decided to forcefully move protesters back down the ramp of the Arts block. The Iron gate used to close off the Nassau street entrance to College at night was used as a battering ram by the Gardaí to drive protesters back. This was a dangerous and stupid move and could have resulted in injuries. This type of behaviour is a totally unacceptable response to peaceful protesters championing a legitimate cause, the right to a decent education. The right to protest peacefully is a key in any democracy (and especially in our universities) and must be upheld and not be prevented by the thuggish actions displayed last Wednesday evening. This marks yet another example of a disturbing

tendency by the authorities to clamp down forcefully on those who protest. Furthermore we would like to express our extreme disappointment with the Students' Union for not supporting the protest. Even though they may have disagreed with our method of protest, we would hope that the SU would now join with us in opposing the heavy-handed tactics adopted on the night, as they may find themselves facing this approach the next time they engage in peaceful protest on our campus. The best way to defend our education is united collective action by students.

Yours faithfully,

Trinity Labour  
Trinity Sinn Féin  
Socialist Workers  
Student Society

### A Louder Call to Arms for DUFC Supporters

Madam,

I write with some irritation now that I learn that BBC Northern Ireland got the score wrong in yesterday's match against Bective Rangers, announcing as a 33-20 victory (and with it leadership of the All-Ireland League, Division 2) what proved in fact to be a 18-27 defeat. It was possible for me to believe that the BBC was right, for the present team is certainly good enough to head the division and win promotion to Division 1. But they now have to go out on the field of play and prove it by at least winning their four remaining matches. But if they are going to do so they certainly need better support from College than they are getting at the moment.

The situation at the top of Division 2 is exceptionally tight, and any one of six teams could conceivably win it. Yesterday's

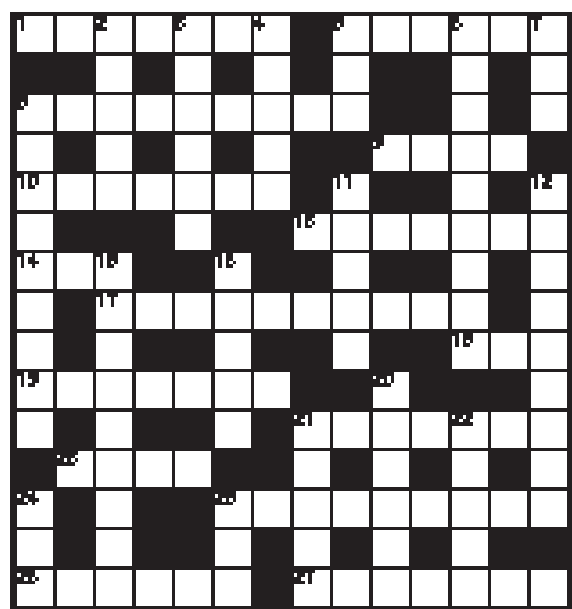
match against Bective was in the circumstances, I think it fair to say, one of the most important matches in the history of College rugby with a place in Division 1 beckoning for the winners. But, incredibly to relate, it was the second of our home fixtures in succession played away from home. I do not know of any team that is so willing to forgo home advantage in this way. And yet we are supposed to be a team challenging for promotion to the highest level of club rugby in Ireland. College Park was fit today (if fit is the right word) for the Second XV and it is fit for training but it is not fit for the First XV for their most important matches. I had hoped that those responsible for Trinity rugby might be more far-seeing and adopt a more intelligent approach. College Park has been a disgrace for many years now, and the responsibility

for that must ultimately be the negligence of College officers. At least we can ensure that it is rendered playable to ensure that the important home matches are actually played at home. And if they are, I hope that College will turn out to support the team with the enthusiasm that their performances deserve. This is the 150th anniversary of the Rugby Club. It is a proud and in some respects an heroic record. Sadly, too little of that pride belongs to the most recent past. There is no point producing books of reminiscence when we cannot produce a playable pitch. I shall see little cause for celebration if the First XV fail to gain promotion to Division 1 through bungling and incompetence.

Very best wishes,

Gerald Morgan, FTCD  
(1993)

### Crossword compiled by Kirsten Bratke answers in Issue 7



#### ACROSS

- 1 LAND AROUND A CASTLE (7)
- 5 TYPE OF CEREAL (6)
- 8 AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL (PL) (9)
- 9 EXTREMELY SMALL AMOUNT (4)
- 10 STRAIGHT LINE TOUCHING A CURVE (7)
- 13 EX-SOLDIER (7)
- 14 RECOMMENDED DAILY ALLOWANCE (3)
- 17 A REMARKABLE PERSON OR THING (10)
- 18 AFRICAN ANTELOPE (3)
- 19 MAINLY (7)
- 21 CONTINENT (7)
- 23 AVOID (4)
- 25 PERFORMANCE IN THE THEATRE (9)
- 26 ONE OF THE CORRS (6)
- 27 AN ILLEGAL DRUG (7)

#### DOWN

- 2 BIG ROUND GREEN OR YELLOW FRUIT (5)
- 3 A SUIT, BLACK (6)
- 4 LIVE (5)
- 5 PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLE (3)
- 6 HANGING AROUND (9)
- 7 EVERGREEN TREE WITH POISONOUS FRUIT (3)
- 8 LARGE ONE AT NIAGARA (9)
- 11 PREVENT (5)
- 12 PEOPLE ATTENDING SOMEONE IMPORTANT (9)
- 15 UNDERSTAND (9)
- 16 SMALL HILL (5)
- 20 DEVIL (PL) (6)
- 21 A MUSICAL, GIRL'S NAME (5)
- 22 MEDITERRANEAN PARTY ISLAND (5)
- 24 SINGER, CHRIS (3)
- 25 GREEN SEED GROWING IN A POD (3)

Solutions Crossword 5

ACROSS 2 Sauron 3 bow 4 Moria 5 Miranda 7 dwarf 9 orc 10 Middleearth 14 Tom 15 Frodo 16 Smeagol 17 Arwen 18 man 19 Serkis  
DOWN 1 Gondor 2 Samwise 4 Meriadoc 6 dark 8 Peregrin 11 Legolas 12 doom 13 Edoras

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<b>Picture Editor:</b>	Graham Mooney
<b>Sports Photos:</b>	Matt Pitt

#### WRITERS:

Mairead Galvin, Jeremy Murphy, Erica Walsh, Olav Henricsson, Alan Murrin, Kevin Byrne, Patrick Cosgrave, Tim Walker, Carl Cullinane, Luke Ryder, Kevin Byrne, Seamus Kelly, Alan Murrin, Mairead Galvin, Gwen Graham, Louise Taylor, Laura Fergusson, Rebecca McKeown, Ben Simon, Dave White, Shane Greene, Jeannane Craig, Gillian Hammill, Brian McGrath, Jane Ferguson, Kevin Kielbasa, Keith Dalton, Carrol Mullen, Pamela Fitzgerald, Niamh Flemin, Claudia Calhoun, Sinead Redmond, Ciaran Doherty, Wendy Williams, David Reubin Symington, Christine Bohan, Cassidy Knowlton.

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# Students and Staff of Trinity

AIB, The Hamilton Building, Trinity College is now open full office hours throughout the year.

## Opening Hours:

Monday: 10.00-4.00 Thursday: 10.00-4.00  
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## Decision finally reached on future of Lansdowne Road stadium

Carrol Mullenn

It may have taken years to decide, but plans have finally been revealed for the redevelopment of Lansdowne Road stadium. The new 50,000 seater stadium has the backing of both the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU), both of whom will contribute some financial backing for the project, leaving the government to pay the balance of just over 80 million. The stadium's design is similar to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, with what's being termed a "sweeping" roof, to improve the appearance of the stadium. The East and West

stands will each have three tiers, with the Lansdowne and Havelock Square ends having single tiers, all of which are promised to have unobscured views of the pitch. For those prawn sandwich and champagne supporters, there will be a number of executive boxes. Plans are also afoot for easier pedestrian access and traffic management.

Despite the fact that this is a redevelopment of an existing stadium, the name of the stadium may be put up for sale by the IRFU, auctioned to the highest corporate bidder, such as the Reebok Stadium in Bolton, for example.

Work on the stadium should proceed within the next 18 months, although

the redevelopment is not expected to be completed until 2008. This means that an alternative venue will still have to be found for the World Cup 2006 qualifiers, and for the Irish rugby team's home internationals, making it unlikely that we will see teams like France on home ground in the near future. Venues touted for these matches include Celtic Park, Glasgow, Old Trafford, Manchester, the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff and Anfield, Liverpool. Thus, for Irish sports fans at this time it seems inevitable that they will have to travel to the UK to watch our national teams. While most fans are dissatisfied (to say the least) at this prospect, the only suitable existing



John O'Donoghue, Minister for Sport unveiling plan for Lansdowne

venue, Croke Park, seems to be even farther from reach than these grounds, as the GAA have repeatedly refused to allow the use of Croker for "foreign games". Nevertheless, the GAA have expressed some interest in holding matches at the proposed new

stadium. It appears the GAA are adopting a give and take approach to this matter...they won't give but are happy to take.

While the plans for another stadium at Abbotstown, (what we've all come to know as "the Bertie Bowl"), have been put on

hold for the time being, it may be a runner in the near future, if the Lansdowne Road stadium has been proved a success. So for now its Brazil, The Czech Republic and Romania at home, before 10 World Cup qualifiers away.



Trinity were well beaten in the hockey colours losing the series 6-2 with only the Ladies seconds winning their match.

Photo: Matt Pitt



Trinity rowers surge into action at Lagan Head, Belfast

Photo: Tom Murphy

## Trinity white-washed at cross country colours

For the first time in over five years UCD proved victorious in both the men's and women's races at the colours cross country. A strong UCD turnout painted this affair black and white long before the TCD athletes laced up their spikes. TCD hosted the event at the college sports grounds in Santry, adding spice to a UCD victory no doubt. David Hackett and his team as always did a great job preparing the challenging 1.5km circuit.

Paddy White (UCD) took the 7.5km men's race in a respectable 27.24mins. The blistering pace of guest Vinny O'Sullivan (26.07) stretched out the field from

the off. Second placed, Aidan Hogan TCD had an inspiring performance. His dedication to training this year is starting to pay dividends. This performance suggests he is on target for a sub 4minute 1500m in the Intersvarsity T&F! Dave Battie(TCD) was denied 6th position in hard fought battle for the line. Harrier's captain Karl Fahy likened the event to the Worthington Cup, and has his sights set on bringing the intersvarsity title back to TCD. Fahy who only managed to turn out the required minimum of 6 athletes explained that his hands were firmly tied behind his back, with many

key athletes absent through injury or international commitments.

The women's race was well contested by TCD under the guidance of Captain Janine Jensen. Eilis Connery (UCD) convincingly negotiated the 3.5km course in a time of 14.02 min to take the ladies title. An upbeat Jensen commented "There's a lot of promise for the future as our first three ladies across the line were all juniors. We hope to make up for our loss by winning the colours track and field which will be held at UCD in March." TCD's Catriona Hooper(3rd) and Fodhla Tracey(5th) had excellent runs in their first taste of

colours competition. Tracey in the true spirit of cross country fought to the end, taking Ruth Mills(UCD) on the line! Trinity had six of the top ten finishers with Eleanor Griffith, Niamh O'Boyle, and Janine Jensen all giving good accounts of themselves. Well done to all who turned out on the day!

With the indoor track & field, and intersvarsity cross country events to contend in the coming weeks, there has never been a better time to get involved in athletics at TCD. Visit our website for further information on training and events, <http://www.tcd.ie/Clubs/DU/HAC/>.

## Fifth colours victory in a row for Trinity trampolinists

Keith Dalton

Trinity trampolinists are celebrating after a 5th straight victory over their UCD counterparts. Trinity has dominated the event in recent years but this year's competition, which took place in Belfield on Saturday 17th January, proved to be one of the closest colours events yet.

The overall competition is decided by the combined scores of the top six competitors from each university.

The competition kicked off with the women's and men's novice sections in which Trinity managed to win four of the six medals available. Valentina Benivegna won their first medal of the day, finishing second in the women's event and things got even better with Trinity completing a clean sweep of the men's event. Alan Blighe put together two consistent routines to take gold, with Will Kelly and Carl Mageean finishing in second and third respectively despite both competing for the first time.

The start of the intermediate competition was delayed when a nasty fall left Trinity's Peter Dunne requiring medical treatment on what was later revealed to be a fractured ankle. His subsequent withdrawal left Trinity with only two competitors in the men's event. Paul Byrne, making his first appearance at intermediate level, managed to complete both of his routines but a one-footed landing in his second cost him dearly and he finished in sixth place. Keith Dalton finished in third place to prevent UCD from completing a clean sweep of the event.

Trinity's ladies fared much better; Jane Bryant improved on her third place finish at intersvarsities by claiming gold and Niamh Appleby confirmed Trinity's domination of that particular event by finishing second. Recently crowned Regional Champion, Linda Coote, just missed out on a medal finishing fourth, just 0.2 points behind UCD's Joanne Feeny.

Trinity's other competitor, Bernadette Brady, was unfortunate not to land her front somersault and had to be content with eighth place.

At this stage, Trinity had a comfortable 2.4 point lead in the overall competition and, with a number of traditionally high scorers still to compete, looked favourites to win.

The men's advanced competition, however, proved to be UCD's strongest. Neil Moran and Cathal Prendergast, who were expected to be in contention for medals, were both unable to land both of their routines and this left Kieran Hallahan as the only Trinity competitor to successfully complete both of his routines. His score of 48.6, however, was bettered by UCD's Michael Dooley and Darron Costello and he finished joint third with Gareth Martin, also UCD. Fabian Armandariz, Alan Baxter & Jason Byrne, all relative newcomers at this level, could only manage to complete one routine each.

The ladies competition came down to a battle between Adrienne Dacosta and Gemma Kearney, both TCD. It was Adrienne Dacosta who came out on top in what was an extremely tight and high scoring event.

The performances of the advanced ladies helped to counter the damage done by UCD's domination of the men's event but by this stage, UCD had moved into a 0.4 point lead. This meant that Trinity's Louise McGuigan, while being the only competitor at elite level, still had to achieve a score of at least 49 to prevent UCD from winning. And she duly obliged, pulling off two impressive routines despite the immense pressure. Her score of 49.9 was enough to give Trinity victory by just one point.

UCD proved to be gracious in defeat with Captain Aisling Ni Mhaoinis congratulating Trinity as she presented Captain Niamh Appleby with the colours trophy.



Trinity go head under heels in colours win  
Photo: Matt Pitt

### Trinity Medal Winners:

Novice Ladies:  
2nd - Valentina Benivegna

Novice Men:  
1st - Alan Blighe  
2nd - Will Kelly  
3rd - Carl Mageean

Intermediate Ladies:  
1st - Jane Bryant  
2nd - Niamh Appleby

Intermediate Men:  
3rd - Keith Dalton

Advanced Ladies:  
1st - Adrienne Dacosta  
2nd - Gemma Kearney

Advanced Men:  
3rd - Kieran Hallahan

Elite Ladies:  
1st - Louise McGuigan

### Final Score (Team Event):

UCD	301.1
Trinity	302.1

## Extra Time

### Results

Soccer: Trinity- 2, Tallaght IT- 2

Hockey: Colours

Ladies 1st:	Trinity 1, UCD 4
Ladies 2nd:	Trinity 4, UCD 3
Ladies 3rd:	Trinity 2, UCD 3
Ladies 4th:	Trinity 2, UCD 2
Ladies 5th:	Trinity 1, UCD 2

Mens 1st:	Trinity 1, UCD 1
Mens 2nd:	Trinity 1, UCD 4
Mens 3rd:	Trinity 1, UCD 2

Rowing: Lagan Head, Belfast- February 7th

-Novice men's eight won, beating Queens' novices by six minutes  
-Men's first eight came second

-Women's intermediate eight came second  
-Women's novices won

## Upcoming Fixtures

Fencing Intersvarsities February 14th

Equestrian Intersvarsities February 21st

Rugby February 21st  
-150th match between the first XV and President's XV, in College Park at 2.30 pm

Windsurfing Colours February 22nd

Basketball Intersvarsities March 4th

Badminton Intersvarsities March 12th

## Trinity cop out of Sigerson Cup

Trinity College 0 - 8, Garda College 2 - 8

It is generally accepted that the Sigerson represents the pinnacle of the college football experience. Early morning gym sessions in Westpoint testify to this. Certain players had to be up at 5:30 just to make these early morning sessions. This is what makes the defeat all the more disappointing. The guards played a very different style of football to the one that Trinity played.

It involved a lot of short passing and dynamic running with the ball in hand. This style was particularly effective in the first goal when Trinity were opened up by quick incisive passing leaving the Garda half-forward with the simplest of tap ins. This goal was a double blow to Trinity as captain Brendan Teehan got injured in a valiant attempt to stop it. Initially Trinity looked rattled but soon got back into the game through an excellent point from halfback from Paul Connell. The Trinity defence started to stop the running game of the Guards through some stern shoulders and dogged persistence. Even still, Trinity were finding it hard to break even in midfield and were under a lot of pressure in defence. The next period of the game was probably Trinity's best of the game. They started to break the ball off the lanky Garda midfielder and this was paying dividends. Just as Trinity were getting on top, they again conceded a free in scoreable range. Subsequent back chat to the referee meant that the free was moved in front of the posts. Trinity were living on scraps and found it very difficult to advance against a physically bigger team. Even so, they still managed another score before half-time. This score was a piece of individual genius and it came from centre-forward, Niall Kelly. With half-time rapidly approaching, there was still time for a controversial decision which resulted in a Garda penalty that was easily foiled by Trinity keeper David Mitchell. The half-time break seemed to galvanize Trinity and they started the second half the stronger. The pressure told as the Garda College conceded a soft free in front of the posts, which Mickey Lyng converted. This put Trinity into the lead for the first time. Although Trinity were improving in possession, the Guards still had prominence in midfield through giant midfielder Hugh McInerney. Kennedy tapped over a right foot shot to put Trinity two points to the good with some 15 minutes remaining. However, the physical excursions of the first half were beginning to tell on the Trinity defence and the Garda players were getting more time on the ball than they had gotten in the first half. Another needless free conceded brought the gap to the bare minimum. The game was still there for Trinity but what happened next effectively ended the game as a contest. The Garda corner forward scored the decisive second goal of the game. This goal was very similar to the first as the Garda basically passed their way through the Trinity defence. From play kept Trinity in the game. Trinity never really had any goal chances in the game and this proved to be the decisive factor.

Trinity team:  
David Mitchell, Pdraig Bambrick, Frank Wallace, James Sharkey, John McFann, Paddy Connell, Brendan Teehan(capt.), Enda Nulty, Sean Maguire, Michael Lyng, Niall Kelly, Paddy Connolly, Barry Kennedy, John Mannion, John Prentysubs: Mark O'Se for Teehan(inj.),M.McNulty for Mannion, Dermot McTernan for McNulty(inj.),Eoin Diamond for Bambrick

## Bective ranges beyond Trinity

Trinity's rugby season effectively ended with this disappointing loss to Bective Rangers. A partisan crowd at Merrion Road roared on a Bective side that should feel lucky to have escaped with a victory.

Playing with the aid of a strong wind in a scrappy first half Trinity were clearly the better side. Although there were few passages that went beyond 3 phases, Trinity ensured that they came away from every foray downfield with a score. Simon Mitchell was in superb form and struck six quality penalties in the first half, balanced only by a solitary miss. The huge Bective pack huffed and puffed but achieved very little against an organized Trinity defence, while Trinity outhalf Keelan McGowan kept them pinned in their own 22 for long phases. The only bright spot for Bective was a well-worked try by no. 8 Paul Hatton who barged over off the back of a scrum. This try was converted along with another Bective penalty after consistent Trinity infringements to leave the scores 15-10 at the end of a disappointing first half.

With the advantage of the wind, slope and a dazzling glare in the eyes of the Trinity backs Bective opened the second half the brighter. However massive hits from Mark Warburton and Hugh Hogan in particular frustrated their efforts to get quick ball to the Bective backs who waited forlornly on the wings. Their failure to score led to a renewed

period of Trinity pressure. Wing Stephen McGee beat his man with sheer pace but was taken down by a cynical foul when hot favorite to ground his own grubber kick. Unbelievably the referee failed to notice. For a solid period of 10-15 minutes Trinity were camped just outside the Bective 22. However they spurned numerous opportunities by over-complicating moves when the Trinity wingers were screaming for the ball. The Trinity centers seemed way too fond of the crash ball up the centre when they had numbers elsewhere.

However another Simon Mitchell penalty, scored into the teeth of the wind and efficient line kicking by Keelan McGowan meant that Trinity were in a comfortable position with 20 minutes to go, both on the scoreboard and in terms of field position.

However two injuries in the Trinity pack, along with Jamie Heaslip limping heavily seemed to rob the college eight of any cohesion. Bective stormed downfield and exerted heavy pressure, which Trinity struggled to cope with, fine tackling by both Mithell and captain Martin Garvey keeping them at bay. However the break had to come, and Bective left wing Donall Campion managed to break two tackles to score a fine individual try. With the conversion it left Trinity hanging on to a slender 18-17 lead with ten minutes to go.



Trinity attack at all angles, but to no avail

The remainder of the match was a titanic conflict as the result lay in the balance. Trinity capitalized on some poor Bective defence to secure vital possession. Good breaks by Gaynor and Hogan broke down within metres of the line due to an infuriating lack of support. Multiple 5 meters scrums yielded by Bective under pressure failed to yield any reward as Trinity were frustrated by dubious refereeing decisions and an inexplicable decision not to pass when McGee would have benefited

from a 3 on 2 situation. Trinity really should have scored. Bective took heart from this frailty at the crucial moment and fought their way downfield with the aid of penalties awarded against a tiring Trinity pack. With 5 minutes to go Bective camped on the Trinity line but failed to capitalize as huge hits close in by flankers Crockett and Conlon drove back Bectives muscled back row. However persistent hands in the ruck led to a penalty which Bective opted to kick, a testament to

the Trinity defence.

The last phases were frenetically contested as Trinity again drove their opponents back. Good breaks by the explosive Hogan set up a last penalty for Mitchell from about 30 metres. Opting to kick at the posts in a howling gale, Mitchell unfortunately miskicked left and wide from a difficult position. However the real killer blow fell on Trinity when Bective's Timmy Sheehy took advantage of garbled communication amongst the Trinity backs to

race clear and score from 60 meters out. After the conversion Bective won the game 27-18, a hugely disappointing close to a game that Trinity could easily have won. Moments of poor support play by the loose forwards, and strange decision making by the backs should not conceal the fact that this was a fine Trinity performance. The fact that Trinity had superior skill levels and far better half-backs than their opponents will make this loss all the more difficult to accept for Tony Smeeth's team.

Photo: Matt Pitt

## Trinity Camogie shines at Colours

Pamela Fitzgerald

Trinity 4-5, UCD 3-5

Trinity Camogie team lined out on Wed 21 Jan to launch their attack on arch rivals UCD. It was a clear dry day in the UCD grounds and Trinity could feel the first Colours win was not far away. Within minutes a lobbing ball was received by full forward Jane Mythen who followed it through to see it into the back of the net. This rattled a confident UCD side and set Trinity off to a flying start. While the goalmouth was still warm Jane once again collected a ball from wing forward Anne Horan and encoire une fois she buried it in the back of the net.

Two goals up after ten minutes Trinity were at their peak and UCD were not in contention at all. UCD then picked up the pace but their endeavours were no match for Anne Glennon in goals, who successfully challenged every UCD girls' attempts at goal. They were not to be outdone however as they put over their first point to bring them into the game. This was answered by centre forward Catriona Power as she

found the back of the UCD net to finish off a beautiful play. UCD retaliated with two more points but midfielder Claire Gormley had the final say in the second half with a well taken point. Trinity had done well to capitalise on a slow start by UCD with the score at the end of the second half saw Trinity leading 3-2, 0-3. UCD emerged in the second half with a new attitude and were not ready to take this lying down. They were the first to score with a goal that rattled the backs and the goalkeeper. Trinity had to adjust to this new pace which they promptly did.

Full back Emer Murphy was quick off the mark to pull her backline into shape and they made mammoth efforts in keeping this pulsating UCD side at bay. A well executed point from Catriona Power put the Trinity girls at ease and the game had settled into an energetic pace. Each side were contesting everything and a fine display of camogie was seen by both sides. UCD pressed through with another goal that the backs were powerless to stop. Anne Glennon in goals was keeping Trinity ahead with some incredible

saves. A pair of frees from Ciara O Reilly kept Trinity's nose ahead. UCD then put over two more points but Claire Gormley responded with a point to quell their ambitions. In the closing minutes the tension was mounting with a Trinity side within seconds of a first win at Colours.

Trinity fought nail and tooth and a goal mouth melee resulted in Claire Gormley pulling on a loose ball and blasting the back of the net. Her efforts were in vain however as a quick puck out saw UCD reply with an unexpected goal. The final minutes reflected the whole game, Trinity wanting the victory more and being in control of the game in all areas of the pitch. The final score read 4-5, 3-5 a well deserved colours triumph for the Trinity girls.

Team: Anne Glennon, Emer Murphy, Grainne Morgan, Caoimhe Fitzpatrick, Caoimhe McGarry, Miriam Kearns, Claire Gormley, Ciara O Reilly, Pamela Fitzgerald, Catriona Power, Anne Horan, Jane Mythen Subs: Aine McDonagh, Niamh Foley.



Trinity camogie team win first ever Colours match

Photo: Matt Pitt

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**Workshop in Journalism & Photojournalism**

**Week 9 Hilary Term**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2004**

**GMB**

**7pm- 9pm**

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National University of Ireland, Galway  
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## MBS IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS & HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

This 'one-year' course is offered by the Department of Management at the National University of Ireland, Galway. It is designed for those interested in human resource management, trade union and/or management consultancy careers. Successful completion of the course also provides Graduate membership of the Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development (CIPD).

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CAREERS OF RECENT IR & HRM MBS GRADUATES	EMPLOYER	JOB TITLE
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**APPLICATIONS**

Further information can be obtained from the Faculty of Commerce web site <http://www.nuigalway.ie/commerce> or the Admissions Office, NUI Galway (091 750437).