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**The TNT Power List 2006** TNT p2-5



# Arrest in Front Square after foiled GMB raid

**Gearóid O' Rourke**

Two individuals, described as "junkies", attempted to break into the GMB last Friday and to force entry to several rooms in the building including the Hist Committee room. The individuals who cannot be named for legal reasons were interrupted in their attempts by a senior member of the Hist Committee who chased them towards front arch and apprehended one of the individuals. With the aid of college security this man was handed over to the Gardaí. A subsequent search by security revealed that the man had two syringes in his possession.

At the time of the break in there was no security attendant in the GMB. However according to Hist Auditor Cathal McCann there was "a commitment by college to provide full time security in the building". Mr McCann explained that there had been a vacancy for a security attendant in the GMB for almost a year yet it had not been filled. It is only in the last two weeks that interviews for this position have taken place.

The individual detained by the Gardaí was taken to Pearse Street Station where, according to the Garda Press Office, he was later charged with Trespassing with Intent. It has not yet been made clear whether the man, aged 42 from Coolock, has any prior convictions.

If the offence is dealt with as a summary offence he could face up to two years in prison while if it is decided to take the matter to the circuit court, in front of a judge and jury, he could face up to ten years imprisonment. A decision on this aspect of the case has yet to be taken.

This break-in has once again brought the shambolic arrangement for management of the GMB into the spotlight. A new committee referred to as the GMB management committee in Phil documents had been set up at the end of last year to look into the situation yet despite sometimes heated negotiations with college the situation seems to still be unresolved. Under the current agreement College Authorities are charged with the maintenance, including security, of the building.

In this incident there was nothing stolen due to the timely intervention of a Hist Committee member however some minor damage was done to the building and the door to the Hist Committee room was split and the lock broken. Speaking again to Trinity News Cathal McCann said the major concern was that someone could have been attacked or injured.

In an unrelated incident on Friday 3rd a student was removed from the college campus by Gardaí following an incident in front square. The college Communications Office said the issue was a personal one which did not involve the College directly. The Garda Press Office also stressed that the issue was personal and that while an individual had been taken into custody at present no charges had been brought against him.

# Seventeen votes hand Quinn win

- Apathy reigns with turnout falling by nearly a thousand on last year  
- Hall, Kearns, Keogh, and Murphy take other sabbatical positions

**Jonathan Drennan**

In one of the tightest election finishes in recent memory, David Quinn was elected President of the Students' Union at three minutes to three am on Thursday 23rd of February. The winning margin was a mere seventeen votes, or 0.6% of the total turnout. The result was announced following three counts with the margin at one stage at mere five votes. With the overall

ballot down over nine hundred and fifty votes from last year the extent of student apathy could be easily seen on the night with attendance at the event pitifully poor. A number of the candidates themselves did not arrive until late in proceedings. Education Officer was the first position to be filled on the night, unsurprisingly going to Rob Kearns. Kearns has previously been a successful member of the SU executive and a BESS class representative. In the final tally he

managed to amass a total of 1467 votes in comparison to the 413 for Shane O'Brien.

Kearns was understandably relieved at the result commenting, "part of me is just happy it's all over, it's been a hell of a long time and being honest relief is my primary emotion right now."

Denise Keogh who had the dubious honour of having Ron and O'Brien as her main rivals took the Welfare position with ease. It only took a single count for Keogh to be elected, winning 1556 votes. Keogh was happy to leave the campaign trail behind her for now telling *Trinity News* "I'm relieved, happy and I suppose I was just terrified in case RON got voted in because I was aware there had been a campaign of sorts to get him elected."

It took the hotly contested race for Entertainments Officer to create some excitement on the night among the small gathering. Barry Murphy stayed ahead of Jane Cassidy with just 100 votes in

his favour initially. Despite a Cassidy rally he won out by a margin of 68 votes after the final count. Murphy attempted to commiserate with Cassidy however she and her supporters were ushered out of the hotel lobby due to space concerns.

The most notable aspect of the results for Deputy President was that it was O'Brien's most successful showing in the elections. Simon Hall took victory with previous experience with the University Record standing his campaign in good stead. Speaking to *Trinity News* directly after his victory he said "I didn't think I was going to get it, I was against people who had more fun things going on. I was perceived as a more serious candidate but thankfully that's what people ultimately wanted from the job."

The election results bash held in the Earl of Kildare Hotel had its own controversy with cur-

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The Garda Riot Squad looks on as riots rage outside Trinity Photo: Padraic Ryan

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Gearóid O'Rourke meets Ireland's former President  
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Review of Trinity's first Arts Festival  
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Steve Clarke talks to Canada's Broken Social Scene  
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**Elementary My Dear**

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**Post Election Analysis**

As the dust settles on another campaign we look at what happened  
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**Look out for Issue 8 in Trinity Term!**

## Student 'traumatised' after 'intimidation' by Fianna Fáil Senator

**John Lavelle**

A Trinity student was left 'afraid and intimidated' after a Fianna Fáil senator publicly accused him of defamation.

Senator Mary White approached Mr Kevin Sammon, the treasurer of Trinity Fianna Fáil, in Doyle's pub on January 30 and threatened him with legal action over a slanderous comment he had allegedly made about her.

The incident occurred just three days before the Fianna Fáil selection convention for the Dublin South East Dail constituency, in which Senator White was a candidate and Mr Sammon had a vote.

Mary White missed out on the chance to run for a Dail seat after Kevin Sammon and the two other Trinity delegates voted against her.

Senator White confronted Kevin Sammon at a Fianna Fáil table quiz in Doyle's and

accused the JS BESS student of having referred to her as 'continuity Mary' at a meeting of Trinity Fianna Fáil eleven days previously. According to Mr Sammon, Mary White told him that she had already spoken to her barristers and that he would hear from them the following day.

Kevin Sammon denied that he had used the term 'continuity Mary', a derogatory nickname used in reference to Senator White's support for republican causes.

Senator White told Mr Sammon that she had heard about his alleged comments from another member of Trinity Fianna Fáil, Ms Marianne Butler, the vice chair. She then telephoned Ms Butler to check if she "had the right person."

After the brief phone conversation, Senator White left Doyle's pub. The exchange was witnessed by a number of other members of Fianna Fáil.



**Fianna Fáil Senator Mary White**

Trinity Fianna Fáil.

Speaking to Trinity News about the incident, Mr Sammon said, "These allegations have caused me great mental distress. When you are twenty years old and a wealthy and powerful senator tells you to expect calls from her legal team it is only natural to feel afraid and intimidated, even when her allegations are proven completely false."

"This has been a traumatising and distressing time for me." He continued, "I do not intend to let this just go away. I will accept nothing less than a full apology."

When contacted, Senator Mary White said, "I have no comment to make about these allegations for the time being."

Mary White had addressed a meeting of Trinity's Fianna Fáil branch two weeks previously on January 12, in a bid to secure the cumman's support in the hotly contested Dublin South East Dail selection convention.

However, the three Trinity delegates, including Mr Sammon, opted not to support Senator White and she finished fourth in a close race, seven votes

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## Embarrassment as SU recruits for Coke

**Christine Bohan**

There were red faces in the Students Union last week when an email was sent out to hundreds of students on an SU mailing list publicising job opportunities available with Coca-Cola.

This is despite the ongoing ban on the SU selling any products of the Coca-Cola Corporation or entering into any kind of sponsorship agreements with it.

The blunder happened last Friday March 3rd when the email was sent out to the many subscribers to the SU jobs list, offering students the opportunity to work at 'promotion of the Coca-Cola brand portfolio at events throughout the year'.

Although the mail didn't directly contravene the Union mandate to have no dealings with Coca-Cola, it

is seen as another embarrassment for the SU following the discovery that it was stocking Coca-Cola/Nestle products earlier in the year.

The controversial banning of Coke has been in place for two years now, following a closely fought referendum in 2004 over the issue of Coca-Cola's work practices in Columbia. It was reaffirmed by the electorate in 2005 in a contentious second referendum.

Profits at the SU shops in both House 6 and the Hamilton building have declined dramatically since the first referendum, although it is unclear whether the slump can be attributed solely to the ban or simply to increased competition from shops nearby.

Tom Dillon, Deputy President and Publicity Officer for the Union was unavailable for comment.







**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July**

**THE WHO • THE STROKES**  
**ARCTIC MONKEYS • RICHARD ASHCROFT**  
**PRIMAL SCREAM • HARD-FI • JAMES BROWN**  
**THE MAGIC NUMBERS • DAMIEN DEMPSEY • THE GO! TEAM**  
**EDITORS • EELS • DAVID MORALES • TIMO MAAS**

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup> July**

**RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS**  
**FRANZ FERDINAND • PAUL WELLER**  
**KAISER CHIEFS • PLACEBO • BELLX1**  
**GOLDFRAPP • SIGUR RÓS • CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH**  
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**PARK 'N' RIDE - DAY TICKETS AND TWO DAY TICKETS WITHOUT CAMPING.** In order to reduce traffic around the local communities of Punchestown and Naas, protecting our environment and save time for fans - OXEGEN this year introduces an innovative Park n Ride shuttle service which will operate from Goffs on the Naas road. Parking for all One day Ticket and Two day Ticket (without camping) holders will be located exclusively at Goffs on the N7. Shuttle service is FREE, car parking €5 per car.

**DUBLIN BUS DETAILS.** Plan your quick getaway with Dublin Bus! Oxegen goers can avail of a specially negotiated discount with Dublin Bus when you buy your tickets before the 31st of March. See press and website for details.



News in Brief

Irish housing scheme expanded

Great news for Irish speakers was announced by TCDSU President at the last SU Council, Monday 27th February, in the Joly Theatre. In a double whammy, John Mannion announced that not only would the main Scéim Cónaithe spaces be moved to the brand spanking new accommodation at front square, currently a builders paradise, but there will be ten new spaces in Trinity Halls for Junior Freshmen students. This will bring the number of spaces on the Scéim from the current 18 to a total of 28 spaces. This improvement shows the level of commitment the college and the students union has to the Irish language.

Beatha Teanga í Labhairt as the saying goes. Indeed, the collage has proven that it realises that the best way to support the language is by giving it space to be used. By allowing an Irish language community to grow in the collage, there will be much greater opportunity of access for all students in collage to the language. The current members of the Scéim have put on many events, such as dramas, open mike as Gaeilge, hillwalking trips through Irish and much more. the perfect compliment to this latest expansion of the Scéim would be a seomra caidrimh. which could provide a further space for the language to be used.

Arts Block set for thorough makeover

Trinity News has learned that College is to undertake a large scale five year rennovation of the Arts block starting in the coming months. The addition of an extrat floor containing the IIIShas voided the buildings fire certificate and necessitated thecreation of several new fire exits and escape points. College has taken the opportunity affrdd by these necessary changes to impliment a broader ernnovation schemewhich will see several offices and Departments moved from the building. Some of these will be temporarily located in Foster Place and then returned to the newly redeveloped Arts Block while others will be permanantly removed from the building. These cahnges have been linked to thescheme of college restructuring introduced last year by the Provost. Details remain sketchy at the moment and the college authorities have been reluctant to clarify further. Trinity News before going to print contacted several different departments involved includingthe Director of Buildings Office and the Chief Stewardhowever none were able to offerclarification with some even claiming to have never heard anything about the rennovations.

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Joy-riding on campus

Unconfirmed eyewitness accounts last week reported to Trinity News an incident of joy-riding on the College grounds. Two individuals were allegedly seen breaking into a staff member's carand driving around College Park then onwards towards Front Square. The reports went on to decribe the joy-riders being pursued by College Securityn a patrol vehicleas they headed

in the direction of Front Square where they were eventually apprehended by the Gardaí. The Garda Press Office declined to comment stating "We normally deal more with murders" while a member of College Security stated that "we haven't heard anything about that, but if we had we wouldnt tell a journal-ist."

SOME MIGHT SAY

Compiled by John Lavelle and Úna Faulkner

"So i've been thinking of putting together an album of songs ... that capture the emotions of the last few weeks. I always tend to remember emotions through songs... I know it's kinda corny, but hey, how often do you get elected President." Newly elected Students' Union President David Quinn shows that he's in touch with his emotions in his Bebo internet blog.

"It's hardly news that some of the more insignificant magazines will fill their poorly read, poorly written coloum [sic] inches with opinion pieces based on features from more illustrious titles" SU Deputy President, Mr Tom Dillon's reaction to an article printed in Magill magazine commenting onhis coverage of the recent Noam Chomsky visit.

THE NUMBERS GAME

Compiled by Úna Faulkner and Gearóid O' Rourke

**0.6% or 17 votes** The victory margin between Harman Murtagh and David Quinn in the SU Presidential race

**18%** The percenatge of Trinity students who voted in the Student Union elections

**€74** The cost of a Trinity Ball ticket which is headlined by Ocean Colour Scéine and Felix Da Housecat

**€69.50** The cost of a one day ticket to Oxegen which is headlined by The Strokes and Artic Monkeys

Luas on track for Trinity

Jonathan Drennan

According to reports in the national press, Trinity's famous front arch could be tarnished by the introduction of the proposed connecting Luas line. The new line which is projected to cost up to €100m, will go from St Stephen's Green via Westmoreland Street to O'Connell Street. This confirmed route will make avoiding some intersection with the Trinity extremely difficult. The lack of a connection between the green and red lines of the Luas remains a huge bone of contention with Dubliners who waited a decade for the completion of the transport system. The service which commenced in the summer of 2004, has become extremely popular with students. Trinity Hall has benefited immensely from the service, with the vast majority of residents opting for the Luas as opposed to the increasingly unreliable Dublin Bus service. A new connecting line would extend this facility to students attending St James.

Connex the company which operates the Luas admitted that while there had been speculation in the national media outlets, no plans for the connection had been finalized at the time of print. SU Publicity Officer Tom Dillon assumed a worried stance about the proposed route, stating, "Whilst I am a great supporter of the Luas, I would have to admit that I am very concerned that Trinity's beautiful surrounding will be ruined with wires."



Artist's impression of new connecting Luas line

Photo: Gearoid O' Rourke

Battle of the bands goes democracrac

Kevin Nash

For aspiring Bands and Musicians in Trinity, final term will present an opportunity to play on the main stage at the Trinity Ball. The long-standing Trinity Battle of the Bands will return this year over the course of 5 weeks in Trinty Term. The prize of playing the main stage, which was won last year by Porn Trauma, is highly sought after by many Dublin bands.

While the prize remains the same, this year's competition will be run slightly differently than last year. Firstly there will be a new venue hosting the competition, The Rock Room in Spirit, Middle Abbey St. This will give

bands a better chance to perform to their potential as they'll be playing in a real gig venue not a cafeteria so everything from the sound quality to the atmosphere will be much improved.

Secondly, the winners will be chosen not by a panel of judges but rather by students. A 'Clap-o-Meter' will be used at the competition to see which bands are the most popular among the crowd bringing a touch of democracy to proceedings

The competition starts on Thursday 6th April and the heats run for over 4 weeks in the Rock Room. The final will take place on Wednesday 3rd May on the main stage in Spirit where the

final decision will be made as to who will get to play at the Trinity Ball.

Applications should be sent to the Ents Officer Niall Hughes at ents@tcdsu.org no later than 24th March.



Quinn scrapes through to take Presidency

Continued from p1

rent SU President John Mannion removed from the count as a result of not having the correct accreditations. Visably aggrieved, he stated, "Luckily Jane Cassidy was there to stick up for me, because they (the commission) have to realise I'm not a supporter of anyone here or a candidate." He was eventually readmitted along with Trinity News who had suffered the same fate.

The Presidential election is normally the most bitterly contested, generating the most interest from the student populace and this year was no exception. At the stroke of midnight the first count began in the upstairs area of the hotel, leaving the crowded bar hungry for speculation. John McGuirk who has been no stranger to controversy this year maintained a downbeat stance throughout the night. "I'm not confident at all, I'm pretty sure I've lost because I've heard negative reports."

McGuirk's pessimism proved well founded as David Quinn lead the field closely followed by Harman Murtagh after the first count. Following the first set of transfers Murtagh overtook Quinn to assume pole position going into the final set of transfers. Here however Quinn came back out on top as a recount was immediately called.

After the second count the gap between Quinn and Murtagh narrowed to only 5 votes, agency meeting of the society on February 9.

Ms Butler is understood to have filed a complaint with the Central Societies Committee over the circumstances of her impeachment. She has claimed that the emergency general meeting at which she was impeached did not comply with the Fianna Fail society's constitution. The re-run of the controversial EGM has been scheduled for this Thursday, when the motion removing her from her

leaving the beleaguered Murtagh to demand another recount.

A third count ensued after some debate with the electoral commission about the viability of the scheme with the time already approaching 2.00am. Finally at 3.00am, David Quinn was announced as the winner of the Presidential election for 2006.

The current SU office will have to wait until the summer before they can pass on the baton to the incoming officers. The newly elected officers reflect a wide spectrum of age and experience and the student populace eagerly expects them to deliver on their manifestos. whether their achievements will spark wider interest and turnout next year remains to be seen.

Controversy in Fianna Fáil

Continued from p1

behind winner Chris Andrews. Mary White is currently vying for selection as the party's second general election candidate in the constituency and the final decision will be taken by Fianna Fail headquarters in the coming weeks.

Marianne Butler has since been impeached from her position as vice chair of Trinity Fianna Fail over her role in the incident. All members but one voted to remove her at an emer-

position will again be put to the members of the society.

The chair of the Trinity College Fianna Fail cumman, Shane Conneely told Trinity News that "Marianne's impeachment and the circumstances which surround it have been a blight on an otherwise successful year and have left me with a sour taste in my mouth."

Ms Butler could not be reached for comment.

Where is the love?

Marie-Claire O'Kane

This term saw the introduction of Global Rights Awareness or 'GRA' week in TCD. The purpose of this event was to encourage Trinity students to become more active in issues of social justice throughout the world. 'GRA' translates as 'love' in Irish, and suitably, is an anagram of the more familiar 'RAG' week. GRA week, which took place from February 27th to March 3rd has featured previously throughout colleges in Ireland such as NUIG, UCC, UCD, DCU, Castlebar and Maynooth, but was introduced for the first time in TCD this year.

The week was kick-started on Monday, February 27th, with a free screening in the Arts Block of the work of internationally renowned Iranian filmmaker, Bahman Ghobadi; 'Turtles can Fly'. The following night saw "Who's the fairest of them all?" fashion show. This featured items from Oxfam, and environmentally-

friendly clothes outlet 'Hemp Store', aiming to promote a greater awareness of fair-trade products in Dublin. Dublin band 'Igohojó' and TCD's own DJ Mark took over in the Buttery that evening, with all proceeds going towards One World's literary counterpart, Divercity magazine.

"Nicaraguan Night" took place in the Swift Theatre on Wednesday, featuring a first hand account of life given by Nicaraguan students via talks and videos, complete with reception afterwards. However, the centre-piece of GRA week was the seminar given on Thursday night; entitled "An International Legal Perspective: An insight into the work of volunteers in the Middle East". This featured prominent speakers such as Aoife Daly of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, and Gerard Quinn of NUIG.

SU Constitutional Changes Pass

Christine Bohan

The recent referendum to amend parts of the Student Union constitution will see the abolition of the Equality and Equality of Access officer position and an end to the rule that future referenda must have a turnout of over 10% in order to be deemed valid.

These are the main points in the constitutional changes voted in by the student body on the same day as the recent SU elections.

The referendum appears to have come as a surprise to many TCD students judging by the high number of spoiled votes, with many students commenting that they hadn't been informed enough about the issue to make a decision either way. Publicity for the referendum was low key, with a minimal amount of advertising.

The amendments were put forward by the Constitutional Review Group, a committee set up by the SU in 2004 in order to update the old and increasingly outdated existing constitution.

The proposed amendments were discussed and debated at SU Council before they were brought to the electorate

The other main points of the amendments are: - Class reps must be given five days notice before being struck off so that they have a chance to appeal the decision - The establishment of a Finances and Services officer position - Two additional 'floating' positions to be introduced to the SU Executive which can be defined and given a brief by Council annually - The minutes of all committee meetings of Council, the Constitution and all policy documents must be placed on the SU website - A call for a policy referendum (such as the Coke/Nestle ban) now requires 250 signaures or else a two-thirds majority from class reps at an SU Council, whilst a constitutional referendum will require 500 signatures or else a three quarters majority of Council



# The mighty mighty Quinn

Following a narrow victory in the SU presidential election, President elect David Quinn talks to **Gearóid O' Rourke** about the campaign, his hopes for next year and his infamous haircut.

**So David how are you feeling following your election win?**  
I'm feeling excellent. It's still sinking in post the whole election period and results. So yeah I'm feeling good.

**How do you feel your campaign went over the last few weeks?**  
Well it went according to plan as far as I'm concerned as regards the way I wanted to run my campaign. The way I wanted to run it was very word of mouth, not just leafletting and flyerling but actually talking to people and informing them and that did go well By and large I think candidates and campaign teams got on very well. There always be a bit of friction but not as much as I was expecting.

**How does the small margin at the end affect your feeling of victory and also you presidency next year?**  
Well once I realised I'd won so tightly I immediately went down to Harman and said 'lets have a recount'. My greatest fear all the way through was that I'd win and lose the presidency in one night. I don't think it'll affect my presidency at all though. Fair play to Harman he ran a good campaign but I was the strongest candidate for it and now its up to me in my actions to prove that next year

**What is your opinion of the controversies regarding your fellow candidate John McGuirk during the election?**  
There was always going to be a lot to come out about John McGuirk and it was something that I wanted

to purposely shy away from. I didn't want to go down that route; I never planted a question for McGuirk about those issues. I mean I would have preferred if it had not come out because at the end it gave him an excuse. I don't think it effected the elections. I think people knew what the story was at that stage. It was a long email so I think that people who were motivated to read it would have already known a lot about it.

**The whole sabbatical team is in place now, what do you think of them as a group?**  
I'm overjoyed, completely overjoyed with the team. A major problem in years past has been sabbats not getting on with each other. I mean it's a high pressure job so people are always not going to get on but I think this year they're all great guys and they know what's going on so I think we all know the direction we want to take the Union in. One of my strengths is that I'm good at coordinating people and things and myself and a lot of the new sabbats have been working together for a few years in the SU so I think we can keep together as a team. No one wants to be wasting time working against each other.

**Looking back at this year's SU where are the areas where you think this year's exec will have to improve on?**  
Well I suppose all of us ran because we want to do a better job and there are a lot of issues we raised in our campaigns that are not necessarily criticisms of the current officers. One of the things I was running on

was that because I have worked with the two previous presidents I can build on their momentum, learn from their mistakes. In terms of next year one of the things that we need to work on would be communications, in terms of communicating the union better to the students. For example many students didn't know all about the elections. The union needs to start communicating and marketing itself better.

**Taking things outside of Trinity College for a moment how do you plan to handle relations with USI in the coming year following this year's tensions?**  
Yeah well this was something me and a lot of the sabbats were quite pivotal in bringing to the forefront because most years it just trundles along without being addressed. After the big debacle after the emergency conference we all came out saying we have to get out of this. However I see the need for a national body and I believe in that national body, but there will be a big big fight to fix this because organisations tend have trouble changing. I will be putting a lot of energy into trying to fix it personally. I don't think there will be a concerted effort to run Trinity candidates in elections however because I don't think there's any specific advantage to having a Trinity candidate in a position.

**Modularisation looks likely to be the major challenge of the coming year, what's your stance on it?**  
I mean I'm not going to say I'm against something just because its



David Quinn celebrates as the results are announced

new but I do feel the way its been brought along so far without student consultation is not right. What the SU needs to do is call for it to go back to square one with student involvement. I don't know exactly what the benefits and losses of modularisation are and this is something I'll have to find out. From what I got from people on the campaign trail students are totally against it and it won't be me mak-

ing this decision it'll be council and the class reps. What I'll be pushing for is a better information campaign so that everyone knows exactly what the changes will be.

**There were plans this year to formalise the relationship between the JCR and the SU, what are your plans in this sensitive area?**  
I think because I've lived in Trinity Halls and have been in the SU I can

see both perspectives - I can see why the JCR wants to remain independent and I can see the SU's concerns about the JCR's financial controls. I would like to integrate the JCR president into exec and senior JCR members onto Council. It's important to retain its autonomy but we need to cooperate.

**So David is it true that you spent seventy euros on an 'election**

**haircut'?**  
No that's not true, I spent twenty-five euro on this haircut. I went to a training school as the student that I am, the one on Grafton Street, and gave them free reign to do what they wanted. It is kind of a interesting haircut alright I suppose...I wish I had seventy euro to spend on my hair, it might look a bit better.

# Hist email controversy

Gearóid O' Rourke

Fallout from the SU elections continued last Wednesday night when failed Presidential candidate John McGuirk levelled several serious questions at Hist Auditor Cathal McCann during Private Members Time at the Hist. The questions all centred around a round robin email regarding McGuirk sent by McCann to Hist members during the recent SU elections.

According to McCann the email was sent to "clarify the society's position on an article which had appeared in *Trinity News*". The article, which outlined, among other things, accusations against McGuirk of sending abusive emails to several Hist members was published in the last issue of *Trinity News*. Nine days follow-



**Cathal McCann**  
ing this, an email from the Hist auditor responding to the article was sent to all society members.

There have been claims that with hustings finished when the email was sent but with polls still open the timing was inappropriate however Cathal McCann



**John McGuirk**  
asserted that "there would have been claims of impropriety if I had sent it at any time during the election. No the timing was not inappropriate because it would have been controversial at any time because of the interpretation some people have put on it" However

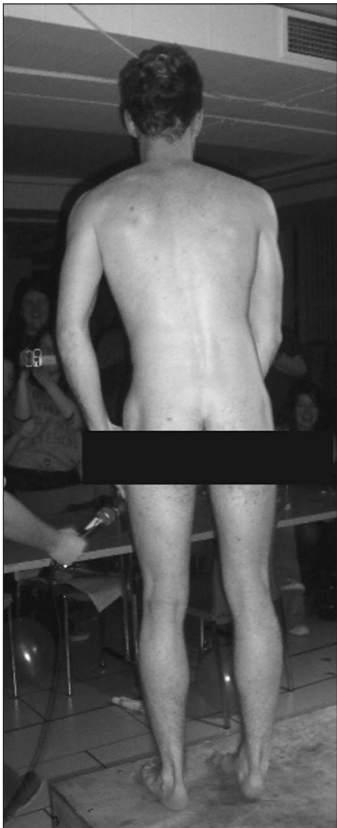
speaking to *Trinity News* John McGuirk told us that "the email slandered me and was a completely inappropriate interference with an SU election" When asked whether he felt the email had damaged his campaign he responded "yes, I know I got lots of feedback from people that told me they weren't going to vote for me because of it. Which was disappointing"

The email was sent two days following a Hist Committee meeting however the committee was not consulted about the email. This caused rumblings amongst Hist members coming to last weeks eventful public meeting however McCann remains adamant that he did not need to consult them stating "No because I don't have to. I didn't have to specifically consult the committee, there's many issues I don't consult them on."

When asked what he thought of claims the email had damaged McGuirk's campaign he replied that "Basically it wasn't my fault the story became public, the Hist had no interest in the story becoming public. I did not assert anything about John in the email that might be interpreted as taking sides in the election I simply gave our side of the story and clarified the facts of the story. Its not my fault if anyone formed an opinion from that."

John McGuirk maintains the email was "intended t o do as much damage as possible to my campaign" and "gave him absolutely no opportunity to respond". He has not ruled out taking further action against Hist Auditor Cathal McCann.

# SU candidates bare all



Quinn goes for broke

Una Faulkner

The annual Trinity Saint Vincent de Paul Slave Auction took place on Wednesday 22nd February in the Buttery. The event, which is one of the society's biggest fundraising events, presents the opportunity for all Student Union election candidates to sell themselves as 'slaves' in the name of charity and hopefully to win over a few undecided voters at the same time.

Last year, saw now outgoing SU President John Mannion and others strip down, a spectacle that was repeated again this year. SU presidential candidates including Mr John McGuirk, Mr Harman Murtagh, Mr Shane O'Brien, Mr David

Quinn and Mr John Tracey all partook in the evening's events, some making a larger contribution to the night than others.

Incoming SU Deputy President, Mr Simon Hall, was one of the first of the performers to willing bare all for the crowd, a scene which was then repeated by many others throughout the night.

The last act of the evening was a joint performance by the society's president, Mr Bart Storan, and SU President, Mr John Mannion. Mannion and Storan both performed at last year's auction and this year raised the largest bid of the night; the sum of €150.

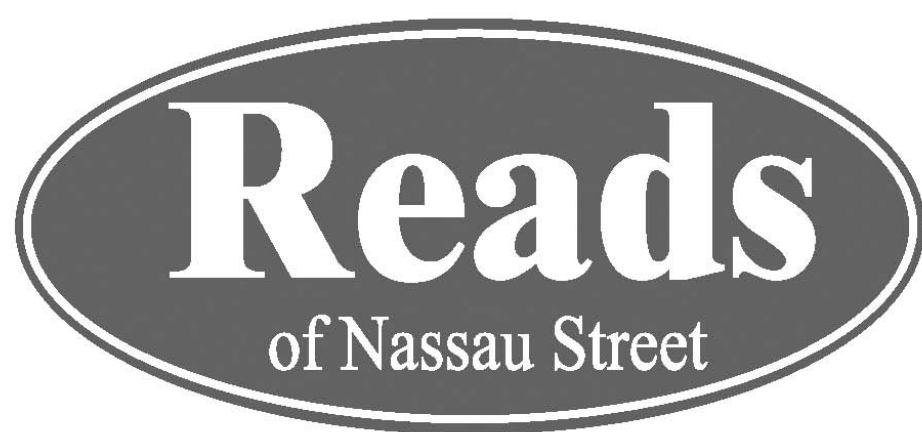
The total sum raised in total is estimated in excess of €1000.



The Tracey camp reveals all

Results In Full	
<b>President</b> Votes cast: 2720 Spoiled: 55 Quota: 1333  <i>First count</i> McGoldrick 101 McGuirk 351 Murtagh 826 O'Brien 78 Quinn 841 Treacy 348 RON 120  McGoldrick, O'Brien and RON eliminated  <i>Second count</i> McGuirk + 23 = 374 Murtagh + 59 = 885 Quinn + 38 = 879 Tracey + 33 = 381 Non transferable = 146  McGuirk and Tracey eliminated  <i>Third count</i> Murtagh + 225 = 1110 Quinn + 248 = 1127  Quinn elected without reaching the quota	<b>Constitutional Referendum</b> <i>Votes cast: 2602</i> <i>Spoiled: 424</i> <i>Yes: 1631</i> <i>No: 547</i>
<b>Deputy-Pres</b> Votes cast: 2681 Spoiled: 180 Quota: 1251  <i>First count</i> Flaherty 309 Hall 1185 Mallon 431 O'Brien 349 RON 227  RON eliminated  <i>Second count</i> Flaherty + 12 = 321 Hall + 24 = 1209 Mallon + 9 = 440 O'Brien + 12 = 361 Non transferable = 170  Flaherty eliminated  <i>Third count</i> Hall + 117 = 1326 Mallon + 65 = 505 O'Brien + 21 = 382 Non transferable = 118  Simon Hall elected on passing the quota	
<b>Ents</b> Votes cast: 2738 Spoiled: 49 Quota: 1345  <i>First count</i> Cassidy 899 Mulcahy 454 Murphy 959 O'Brien 67 O'Neill 265 RON 45  O'Brien, O'Neill and RON eliminated  <i>Second count</i> Cassidy + 68 = 967 Mulcahy + 57 = 511 Murphy + 70 = 1029 Non transferable = 182  Mulcahy eliminated  <i>Third count</i> Cassidy + 177 = 1144 Murphy + 183 = 1212 Non transferable = 151  Murphy elected without reaching the quota	<b>Welfare</b> Votes cast: 2694 Spoiled: 144 Quota: 1276  <i>First count</i> Keogh 1918 O'Brien 362 RON 270  Denise Keogh elected on passing the quota
	<b>Education</b> Votes cast: 2663 Spoiled: 155 Quota: 1255  <i>First count</i> Bennison 369 Kearns 1467 O'Brien 413 RON 259  Robert Kearns elected on passing the quota





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News in Brief

High Court victory for mature student

A mature student at UCD won a high court case last Wednesday over the failure of the Department of Social and Family Affairs to pay him a back-to-education allowance outside of college term time.

Father-of-four Michael Power was one of many recipients of social welfare who was encouraged to enter third level education because of reassurances from the department that he would receive a back-to-education allowance instead of unemployment benefit.

However, a series of welfare cuts in 2003, known as the “savage sixteen”, altered the way in which the scheme was run, ending back-to-education payments during college holidays.

The Union of Students Ireland is now appealing to the government to deal with the hundreds of claims being made by

mature students affected by the withdrawal of the back-to-education allowance during the summer months.

“USI is delighted that justice was done in the High Court this week, and calls on the Government to financially compensate those who have suffered material hardships and distress as a result of the bungled u-turns which the Government must now deeply regret” said USI President Tony O’Donnell.

UCDSU President James Carroll says that there are around 6,500 mature students in the same position as Power.

The judge in the case however said his ruling did not apply to the same claims made by other students because of their delay in instigating legal proceedings.

UCD set to have their own ball on campus

The Trinity Ball is set to be replicated with the first ever UCD ball to take place in the Belfield campus in April. Bell X1, Republic of Loose and Tiefschwarz have been booked to headline the black-tie event.

Three stages will be set up in the area around the Student Centre on the UCD campus. Tickets costing €60 will be considerably cheaper than those for the Trinity Ball however, which have risen to €74 this year.

WIT formally applies for university status

Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) has made a formal application to the Department of Education and Science requesting that the college be given university status. The application follows many years of government lobbying from both the college itself, local politicians and other interest groups in the South East region to have WIT designated as a university.

The submission from the institute is set to be considered by a panel of national and international experts in higher education. A specific framework for dealing with applications of this kind was established under the Universities Act 1997.

Waterford is the only major city in Ireland without a uni-

versity. The poor performance of south-east region in terms of disposable income and unemployment figures compared with other regions and has been attributed to the absence of a university in the area that could contribute to the creation of a knowledge-based local economy.

However, a major OECD survey into higher level education in 2004 said that there was a sufficient amount of universities in the Republic of Ireland and that no changes should be made to the status of institutes of technology. There are currently seven universities within the Republic.

In a Sunday Times poll this year, WIT was voted Institute of Technology of the year.

Controversy continues over NCAD move

Controversy continues in the National College of Art and Design (NCAD) as students carry on their protest against the proposed relocation of the college’s Thomas St. campus to UCD. Local politicians were recently invited by NCAD Students’ Union to speak at a seminar discussing the potential move.

Proposals to sell the Thomas Street building and transfer the college to a purpose-built facility on the UCD campus were first made last October. The move to UCD is seen as an alternative to the redevelopment of the present campus, the government funding for which has not been forthcoming.

NCAD Students’ Union have objected to the move,

protesting that changing the college’s city centre location would students of the cultural influences, amenities and sources of art material that are needed in the production of creative activity.

The union also feels that the economy and social atmosphere of the Liberties area would suffer the loss of NCAD, and fears that the college would lose its individual identity if situated in the huge Belfield campus.

Defenders of the move however have pointed to the huge commercial gains the college could make by selling the campus building which has a prime city centre location. This cash injection could be used to in the construction of a new building without the need to resort to government funding.

Medical education reforms announced

After months of speculation, the government has finally confirmed that €200m is to be invested as part of a major programme of reform of the way the Irish medical education system is run.

The number of places in medicine courses for Irish and EU students at undergraduate level are set to double, rising from 305 to 725. At postgraduate level, a special graduate entry system is due to begin in 2007.

The way in which medicine places are allocated to incom-

ing undergraduate students is also set to alter dramatically, with proposals being made to devise an entry system based on both CAO points and suitability for the medical profession.

Interest groups have called upon the Minister for Education to ensure that graduate entry to medical school is covered under the free fees initiative, so as to open up the medical profession to students from many different socio-economic backgrounds.

Compiled by Anne-Marie Ryan

# Many USI Officer posts left uncontested ahead of Congress

Anne-Marie Ryan

Nominations for USI officer positions, due to be voted on at the USI congress later this month, have thus far have left the post of Deputy President vacant and most other positions with only one candidate put for-

ward for election. The annual congress will take place in the West Count Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare from 20-23 March.

Colm Hamrogue of Sligo IT Students’ Union is the only presidential candidate put forward, while Kelly Mackey of the Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology and Damien

Macken of Athlone IT are the sole nominees for the positions of Welfare Officer and Equality Officer respectively. Education

Officer is the only contested position, with both Bernadette Farrell of Dublin IT and Patrick Carroll of UCD in contention for the job..

Trinity College Students’ Union has backed the nominations of Hamrogue, Farrell and Mackey.

UCDSU Education Officer Jane Horgan-Jones had originally put herself forward for the Deputy President position, but withdrew last week..

The USI Annual Congress is the main decision-making body of the union and as well as electing new officers motions are submitted by affiliated unions and voted on by members.

The four-day conference will see delegates debate as many as 72 different motions in the areas of education, union organisation, national affairs, welfare, equality, administration and finance, and international affairs.

Proposed constitutional

amendments are to be debated again, with fourteen changes up for discussion. The constitutional amendments caused unprecedented controversy at a special USI congress held at Trinity last December, which led to the resignations of the Deputy President/Campaigns Officer Ruth Ní Éidhin and the Education Officer Daithí MacSithigh.

Trinity College Dublin Students’ Union (TCDSU) have submitted seven motions for discussion and one constitutional amendment.

One of the motions complains that, students’ registration fee is being squandered on wages rather than student services, because universities are using outdated methods of registration that require a large amount of staff to administer.

TCDSU motions also include calling on the USI to publicly condemn county councils who have not been effective in dealing with student grand applications; requiring the

officer board to report to the National Council on the mandates they have fulfilled from the previous year and ensuring that in the case of future resignations the activities of working groups affected by the resignation are continued until a replacement is sought.

Two of the motions are concerned with the Irish language and mandate council to lobby the Irish government to keep Irish as a compulsory subject for Leaving Certificate and to lobby the British government to protect the Irish language in Northern Ireland in the same way that it is protected in the Republic.

Motions submitted by other colleges mandate the USI to lobby for the introduction of an ombudsman for higher education; academic accreditation for participation in college activities and the introduction of a centralised grants system. It has also been proposed that USI officers should hold office hours at affiliate colleges at least once per term.

# Grants will arrive on time claims Hanafin

Rachel Fahy

The Union of Students Ireland (USI) were last week left fuming over the vague nature of government plans to overhaul the out-dated student grants system. The Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, announced plans for a system whereby students will be guaranteed to receive their grant cheques as soon as possible.

Under the new system students will get a decision on their application within three weeks of the closing date and can expect to receive their grant cheques within a month of the start of the college term provided they send in a completed application form by 31st May. Students who have been turned down will also be able to appeal the decision and have their case reviewed.

The new legislation plans to combat the current student grants situation which each year pushes many students into financial difficulty due to lengthy delays in the processing of their grant applications. These delays can some-

times even stretch to months before the students receive their grant payments in a system that is in serious need of reformation.

The lack of information made available to students wishing to apply for a grant and the confusing nature of the system further prevents students from receiving financial assistance.

While welcoming these planned reforms the USI challenged the minister over the lack of detail made available about the new system. Speaking on the matter USI president Tony McDonnell said “While USI would welcome the news that Minister Hanafin is due to reform the current grant payment system the haziness of the information disclosed makes it very difficult to see how well the reforms would remedy the gross inadequacies of the existing system”.

The USI also argued that the level of payment remained inadequate, and there was no substantial change in the numbers of students entitled to support.

The college grant system is the government’s main source of financial aid for students and last

year paid out over 200 million in grants to 56,000 students. The value of these grants has also been on the increase with the highest level of grant available being worth almost €5,400 compared with €2,000 in 1997.

The minister also announced plans to create a single agency to facilitate the grant scheme, which will replace the four different schemes in operation at present. This was also met with scepticism from the USI.

It was also suggested that the Minister utilise the resources of the Department of Social and Family affairs in the administration of the scheme . “The question students are asking is whether this will be a new agency or simply a rehash of the current system. USI urges the minister to recognise the logic of the department of Social and Family affairs managing the distribution of grants payments as they have the most experience in this type of process” said O’Donnell.

Speaking about the new initiative Minister Hanafin said “These reforms are part of the government’s strategy to ensure that



Minister says students will no longer be left waiting for grant money to arrive. Photo: Catherine Shanahan

students get the support they need when they need it, so that money problems don’t stop them from achieving their full potential at college.”

This new legislation will be brought before the cabinet within weeks and passed by the Oireachtas by the end of the year. It is hoped that the new system will be up and running in time for the 2007/08 academic year.

Reform of the grant sys-

# More Irish students than ever attend colleges and universities

Jenny Gallagher

Leaving Cert. students from Sligo whose parents are farmers are more likely to enter higher education than any other group, a new study has found.

According to a report published last week 55% of 15-17 year olds entered higher education in 2004, an increase of 11% on the same statistics in 1998. Twenty-six years ago in 1980 only 20% of Leaving Cert. students went on to higher education.

The report for the Higher Education Authority (HEA) entitled *Who went to col-*

*lege in 2004?* has found that while there has been substantial increases in third level participation from lower socio-economic groups, the children of farmers and professional group continue to dominate the numbers entering college.

There is evidence of improved equity of access in education however. The skilled manual group doubled their participation from 32% in 1998 to between 50% and 60% in 2004. Increases of around 10% were recorded among the semi and unskilled groups, between 33% and 40% of which now go on to third level..

Participation among farmers and higher professional

groups is almost as high as it can go, with this group sending students to college, particularly universities, in excess of their proportion of the population.

Sligo students are more likely to go to college than students from any other county in Ireland, with 71% of secondary students there admitted into third level education. This reflects the high numbers of students from counties along the western seaboard entering third level.

Dublin students are now 13% more likely to go to college than they were in 1998. In the Dublin 14 area which includes Dundrum, Clonskeagh and Rathfarnham as many

as 86.5% of students finishing their Leaving Certificate go on to third level. While many traditionally disadvantaged areas in Dublin such as Dublin 1 and Dublin 24 have shown substantial increases in the numbers attending higher education, only 11.7% of Leaving Cert students in the Dublin 10 (Ballyfermot) area enter college after their Leaving Cert.

The figure of 55% refers only to students entering higher education institutions in the Republic of Ireland. When the number of Irish students going to college in Northern Ireland and Great Britain are included the figure rises to 60%

The report says that

measures must be introduced in order to sustain and build on increases to higher education from the lower socio-economic groups.

Commenting on the study, the Union of Students Ireland President Tony O’Donnell said that in spite of substantial advances made in access to higher education for all socio-economic groups, inequalities still exist.

“Young people’s chances of going to college still hinge significantly on the wealth of their parents – and ultimately, on whether or not their parents had the opportunity of going to college 30 years previously” he said.



# Sudan, a country still bleeding

Rob Quinn

Why is it important to care about wars thousands of miles away from us? We don't know the people involved, events there have absolutely no bearing upon our day to day lives which by the way are filled enough with things to be worrying about. It all looks awful on the news, but then "Desperate Housewives" comes on with its mind numbing fug, thankfully putting other thoughts on hold. By the time the lights go out at night that small clip we saw is just a dim memory.

What is striking, however, about the skeletal child, the crying woman, the muted, baleful teenage girl staring into the camera lens is that their image wasn't shot on a Hollywood set before breaking for lunch. It was captured in a real and horrific situation where only those with the power and resources to intervene can now help them. At present in Darfour, that is the UN and its wealthy or powerful members (which include Ireland). We owe it to the people of Darfour to care, for the luck which put us in a safe and prosperous environment, for the principles our society should aspire to, and above all for the cause of shared humanity..

Since 2003 Darfour, a

western region of Sudan has been subject to bloodshed on a mind-numbing scale. 300,000 are estimated to have died with a further million people displaced from their homes living in petrified, abhorrent conditions. The cause? A government backed campaign by the Janjeweed, an anarchic militia set on eradicating rebel groups considered a threat to the regime. Racially motivated attacks upon innocent civilians have also revealed a far more sinister purpose: permanent displacement of the region's main ethnic group, black settled farmers.

Historic tensions over land between these and cow herding Arab nomads have been allowed to manifest into full-blown tribal warfare. The international community's squabbles over whether events in Darfour constitute genocide pale in significance with the need to recognise and act upon what is at present according to the UN "the world's greatest humanitarian crisis."

Sudan is no stranger to civil war. Indeed the roots of today's conflict are forty years old and utterly complex, originating in the southern quarter of this mammoth country the size of Western Europe. Unease existed since independence in 1956 when the predominantly Christian/Pagan south demanded and was refused autonomy by the Arab north.

Tensions inflamed throughout the 80s and 90s in a war claiming over 2 million lives. Eventually international pressure forced both Christian rebel groups under the umbrella of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the government in Khartoum to make peace in 2001. A future referendum on southern autonomy preceded by a six-year Khartoum government composed of both Arabs and southern rebels were the terms. An equal split of profits from the country's vast oil reserves was also included. Outrage gripped other parts of the nation as people saw two autocratic factions with no interest in their affairs divide between them future petrodollars.

Two years after peace was made with the south, this feeling of marginalisation prompted the formation of the Sudanese Liberation Army in Darfour, swiftly followed by the Justice and Equality Movement. Both represented the settled black farmers of the region and launched a campaign against Khartoum's authority. The government, paranoid this would lead to further uprisings in the north and east responded ruthlessly. The Janjeweed was recruited, bolstered with the dregs of the capital's overflowing prisons and given carte blanche to terrorise, murder and drive the settled farmers from their homes. Blood has

stained Darfour's sands ever since.

Following the horrific events of the 90s in the Balkans and Rwanda, "never again" were the words on every prominent statesman's lips. Lack of intervention in Darfour has made a mockery of the lessons these atrocities were supposed to have taught us. Since the crisis began it has only been passively recognised in the deployment of a woefully undermanned African Union (AU) peacekeeping force incapable of stemming the tide of violence. Initial excuses were made that any further international intervention in the country's west would compromise peace in the south. These lost weight over a year ago as this region grows increasingly stable. Cynical politicking on the Security Council's part has played its role (Russia and China are nervous of being flagged for human rights abuses in their own countries if they admit overly to atrocities elsewhere). Meanwhile, weak sanctions by the UN have done nothing to stem the flow of arms and supplies from Khartoum to the Janjeweed.

Glimmers of hope are appearing though. The Secretary General's chef de mission in Sudan, Jan Pronk has urged intervention in recent months and received positive, if slightly begrudging responses from the per-



The West continues to ignore the escalating crisis in Darfour

manent five. Additionally, in a symbolic gesture, the AU decided not to bestow its rotating chairmanship to Sudan (though it was its turn) indicating that even traditionally corrupt leaders are no longer tolerating the situation.

Early statements suggest

that if any kind of real UN force is to intervene, it will take close to a year to assemble and deploy. Darfour's people will wait out that year in refugee camps short of food and rife with disease, the permanent threat of a Janjeweed raid hanging over them. Many will not

last. In the time until intervention arrives they will no doubt be subjected to further acts of abuse and cruelty, murder and terror. Sadly, the deficit between words and action is being paid in innocent life.

# First Impressions of the Gaza Strip

# Iran's nuclear capabilities

Luke Carey reports for *Trinity News* from Palestine

From my apartment I have a great view of the sea. I watch the procession of tiny fishing boats returning to the harbour after a day's work under the watchful eyes of the Israeli gun-ships. The sun is getting ready to set, downstairs some kids play football, a neighbour moves his belongings into a truck, the army patrol the roundabout and some guy anxiously walks up and down the street like he is looking for someone. He is carrying a shotgun.

I've been here in Gaza city for two weeks now and I'm just starting to find my feet. For those of you who don't know Gaza or the Gaza strip is in the very South-West of Israel, bordering Egypt and the Mediterranean. It has a population of around 1.3 million, a president, a legislative council, an army, a police force, two main militia armies and loads of people with guns.

The legislative council election ended just before I arrived and the place is still covered in posters, posters and flags. I'm slowly

starting to get my head around the various political groupings, it seems like an election poster holds no kudos unless there is a bloke in the background carrying a machine gun. Not unlike South-central colours are important here, green for Hamas, yellow for Fatah, black for Islamic Jihad etc. Although where I am (Gaza City) is relatively safe, law and order is a serious issue for Gaza. The political insta-

**“Gaza has a population of around 1.3 million, a president, a legislative council, an army, a police force, two main militia armies and loads of people with guns.”**

bility and the military vacuum left by the withdrawal of the Israeli army has led to a upsurge in Palestinian-on-Palestinian crime.

There has been a spate of 'Limerick Style' family feuds, tit-for-tat killings, and the odd lynching. The people here were so unsettled that in the election the two biggest issues for the electorate were law and order, and the econo-

my. People are tired of living in a lawless state, and they are tired of being poor. And poor they are.

Some 80% of the population of Gaza are registered officially with the UN as refugees, and the unemployment rate is somewhere between 25% and 45% depending on who you ask. The economy is virtually non-existent as the market here is too small to satisfy a manufacturing industry and the severity

of the Israeli border controls mean an export driven economy is an impossibility. The majority of those with jobs here work for the Palestinian Authority who have been unable to meet the wages of their employees for over a month (Although as of yesterday - Monday 27th - the EU, the PA's biggest donor, has promised aid). The infrastructure in Gaza is also a

real problem for the economy, there is no airport (since the Israelis bombed it last year), there is no dock, no buses or trains , there isn't even a postal service. On top of that the Palestinian Authority do not control their own air or water space, or even their own gas, water, or electricity supplies. It all begs the questions; what exactly does the Palestinian Authority have authority over? And what exactly is Gaza; a state? a devolving region? or a very large prison camp with a beach?

There has been alot to take in so far in my stay here. It really is a beautiful culture, and they really know how to look after their guests. They do however object to you taking pictures of their president from an overlooking apartment block. However it was a good way to make friends with the special forces. I found out the next day that the laser from the autofocus on my camera really upset them.

They radioed for permission to shoot.They didn't get it. All's well that ends well I guess.

Toufic Machnouk

The United States has once again twisted the truth to push forward its 'war against terror', so what else is new? It is surprising to see the number of westerners who are actually buying the European backed American story, although there are several factors, not all American, which have lead to this situation. A recent survey conducted in the US has shown that most American's feel that Iran is a threat to world peace, even though Iran has never attacked another country.

Even now, over four years later, and the truth behind 9/11 has still not been made clear in the public arena despite different efforts to bring the truth out to the people. Yet under this pretext the Bush Junior administration has changed world laws, invaded other countries, and pulled a tight rope around Europe's neck, leaving no one strong enough to stand against their plans.

So what does Iran want? Iran had been researching and developing the use of nuclear energy during the time of the Shaa. This program was put on hold during the Islamic revolution and the

government has been looking into restarting what was already there. Iran has had UN inspectors in its country for several years now and no complaint has ever been made with regards to the nature and intention of the program. Even now there is no evidence to support the claims made by the US, which is why the west is using the media

**“Iran has had UN inspectors in its country for several years now and no complaint has ever been made”**

very precisely to put its people under the impression that Iran is, for a fact, developing nuclear weapons.

The reason why people are buying this story, even after the Iraq war lies have been revealed, is partially due to the way the Iranian government has dealt with the issue. You can not expect to receive an empathetic reaction from westerners if you come out on the front-line and one day say that Israel needs to be wiped off the map, and the next day that you wish to devel-

op a peaceful nuclear program.

It is Ironic that America, with the largest arsenal of nuclear weapons and to date the only country to use them, wants to police the world on who can and can not have nuclear weapons, and who poses a threat to world peace. I still can not understand how the US justified the use of two atomic bombs in Japan, wiping 250,000 people off the face of the earth.

Keeping that in mind, and also considering the fact that the US does not have the man power to invade or start a war with Iran, the future doesn't look good at all. Iran's Islamic system gives it access to great man power if it was faced with an invasion. So what will happen next? Could America try and invade Iran the way it did to Afghanistan and Iraq? When you study the America's attempt to scare the world from Iran, you get the impression that the US is trying to find an excuse for a pre-emptive nuclear attack on the Islamic republic. Surprised? Don't be, all you have to do is look into the Japanese bombing and 9/11 to realise how justifiable the unjustifiable is when

# Attack on Shia Shrine in Iraq

Raya Kaladeh

The world has been dubbed a global village. Yet unfortunately, the people of this village are growing further and further apart, stressing their differences and disagreements instead of considering their much more common ground -that they all belong to one family, that of Adam and Eve.

What is happening on a daily basis in Iraq, and the recent bombing of one of the most sacred Shia shrines in Samarra, indicates the mine fields that Muslims tread on, each one that goes off paves the way for yet another. In the last two decades, a new group has emerged from among the Muslim community and claimed to represent the 'true' Islam. This group is referred to today as 'fundamentalists', 'radicals', 'extremists', or 'terrorists'.

Although comprising a minority in the Muslim world, this group has proved to have a major influence in fouling the image of Muslims throughout the globe.

Where and how this group emerged is debateable, but what is certain is that it is clear for any person who reads the Qur'an and the teachings of prophet Mohammad, that such people do not follow Islamic teachings. The present chaos in Iraq has bred fertile grounds for such fundamentalists.

As a Muslim, who came to Ireland to do my postgraduate study, I was brought up as a Muslim not as a "Sunni" or "Shia". When asked by an Irish person asked me about the difference between the two, I was confused as it had never before been an issue for me. The primary difference lies in the question of successionship after the prophet Muhammad. The Shia regard Ali bin Abi Taleb as second in line to the prophet. However Sunni and Shia alike hold Ali is one of the most highly respected and admired personalities in Islam.Sunnis consider Ali to be the fourth Caliphate in Islam.

The Shia consider the descendants of the prophet through Ali bin Abi Taleb to be the rightful

Imams of Islam.The Golden shrine that was bombed contains the tombs of 10th and 11th of the imams.These are the Imams Ali bin Muhammad al Hadi and the Imam Hassan bin Ali al-Askari. Although Sunni Muslims do not recognise these Imams as their spiritual leaders no Muslim can ever justify the attacks on the Shia Shrine in Samarra.

It is not wise for Muslims to insist on their differences and forget their common grounds. We should be mending fences instead of breaking them in order to understand and face together the problems of the world as a united force.

Fundamentalists claim that all, including mainstream Muslims, are 'infidels'. The word Infidel in Islam is not a term that should be used loosely and refers to. It seems these people have created their own 21st Century religion or have not heard of the Qur'anic verse: "Whoever kills one person and takes one single life it is as if he has killed all of humanity".





# The Talented Mr Cooper

Trinity News’s Cillian O Conchuir talks to Risteard Cooper about Trinity, Apres Match, and why he’s disappointed with I Keano

“They can ridicule you for next to nothing,” was how Jim Beglin described being on the receiving end of an Apres Match sketch, “but if you are doing that sort of job, I think you’re up there to be shot at. Sometimes they can be a little cruel, but 99% of the stuff they do I would have a good laugh at.”

“I think they’re brilliant,” exclaimed John Giles, “I think it’s a compliment in many ways how the panel became so well known.” Risteard picking up on this said: “John’s the master analyster and clearly of comedy as well.”

His fellow comedian Mario Rosentock said: “He is one of the few extremely good impressionists. I always followed Apres Match when I was younger because he is really convincing when he goes into any character.”

“The first time I did them (Bill, John and Eamon) at all was when the World Cup was on. I think it was ‘82,” says Cooper. “I went upstairs, brought my tape recorder and did a whole routine of Bill, John Giles, Eamon Dunphy and Liam Tuohy who was one of the major panellists. It is definitely the source of an awful lot of what I’m doing.”

A self proclaimed dosser at St Michael’s, he then turned his mind towards the stage. “I realised more and more that I was less interested in academia. The opportunity came up in Trinity, for one of the first drama courses in Ireland. This was full on and lots of different approaches to acting. It was brilliant, but also restricting. It was formalised and very much trying to keep reigns on you.”

Difficulty gaining an equity card was a minor setback soon overcome. “It was ridiculous. You couldn’t get work unless you had an equity card and visa versa. I pretended I didn’t know in the end that they were the rules. I applied two or three times for equity. They said I didn’t have enough work, so then I just took work pretending I had one.”

After a three year stint in

New York he returned to Ireland to find an audience in waiting and it wasn’t long before his talents were on display in ‘Glenroe.’ “I thought it was a funny part without intending to be. Looking back on it, it was done extremely seriously and therefore much funnier then anything I could come up with.”

“The big thing was me on the trail of Dick Moran’s glasses. As you can imagine by the sound of it, it was vital to all concerned. I found the glasses in the rubble and we all know what that meant. Need I say more? When I look back on it I really do cringe. Even when I was doing it at the time I knew I would be cringing. If you’re cringing when you are doing it, there is a good chance that

array of players all looked completely mental and most of the players couldn’t remember the anthem.”

“We had a bit at the end where Andy Townsend says to Packie Bonner: When’s it ovah Packie? When’s it ovah? And Packie replies: Just claaaaaap after me! Just claaaaaap after me! They’re all singing their own tune really. I think John Sheridan, who always looked like he wasn’t a footballer at all, was thinking of something else. There was always the thinking that anything that came into our heads we were allowed go with.”

France ‘98 was next on the agenda and the Apres Match version of the Bill, John and

**“To be honest, I Keano wasn’t a nice experience. I felt strangely cheated in a way. It was such a wasted opportunity. Sure it’s been successful, but it has only reached one twentieth of its potential. It just got a little pantominey”**

you will be cringing for the rest of your life looking back at it.”

It was as Bill O’ Herlihy, Jim Beglin and Trevor Brooking that he came to prominence on Apres Match, which was born out of a friendship between himself and Barry Murphy. “Barry had just got a job presenting ‘The End.’ He asked me to go on with him. The first sketch we did still probably ranks as my favourite. It was just so completely raw. It was terrible in one way, but just makes me laugh. The two of us did a five to ten minute sketch on Liam Tuohy and various other people, Jack Charlton and Barry had the Frank Stapleton card board box on his head which nobody in RTE could work out what the hell it was suppose to represent”

Euro ‘96 saw the emergence of Apres Match and Risteard Cooper and it will be forever remembered for the thought camera sketch as the Irish team lined up to sing the National Anthem. “The footage was from USA ‘94 and the

Eamon panel. A month of Risteard Cooper and co climaxed with them presenting the 3rd/4th place play-off on RTE, and saw the introduction of some new characters including Jim Beglin.

“The weather and travel guide was the perfect platform for Jim because the language of travel guides is like, ‘If you want to avoid taking the train then don’t take it,’ says Risteard. ‘I mean the best way to get to Paris is to fly by plane,’ and ‘Lens is the most northern city in France apart from Paris here.’ RTE knowing they had something exclusive, chose to give Euro 2000 and World Cup 2002 the Apres Match treatment.

He then appeared in the feature film ‘The Closer You Get’ directed by Aileen Ritchie. “I think his approach is very thoughtful and measured said Aileen. He takes direction well and has the ability to draw out the most from a line or a moment. I think he’s talented, has a great gift for comedy and that he will have a great career ahead of

him.”

Joe Duffy was next in line for an ‘Apres’ slot. “I started doing him because I was listening to the programme in the car and it was talking about somebody who was disappointed with Teeaaaaaaaaa Baaaaaaaggs. It literally was that. I thought t was hilarious. The three of us started talking like Joe for the entire time during Euro 2000. When we were off we were just like, ‘How’s it going and good afternoooooon to yooouuuuuuuu.’ We decided to do a few sketches and we got an incredible response.

‘I, Keano’ went on release in England at the end of February but Cooper, who starred in the original, with Mario Rosentock, was not taken up by the apparent success of it. “To be honest, it wasn’t a nice experience. I felt strangely cheated in a way. I said in the media at the time that it was such a wasted opportunity. Sure it’s been successful, but it has only reached one twentieth of its potential. I wouldn’t say it’s cheap, but it’s not that far away from it. It just got a little pantominey. That’s when I thought I put too much work into it to be like this, so I thought grand I’m out of here.”

For true football fans, ‘I, Keano’ represented a disappointment. With Mario Rosentock of Gift Grub and fellow Apres Match star, Gary Cooke also in the musical, it seemed a waste of talent. “What came out was a bit disappointing. People loved it. It was incredible. I would say the majority were non sports fans which was really a killer for me, like I’m not being true to myself. People who didn’t have the first clue really about sport or Keane really loved it and went to see it ten times. That is the one aspect of it that I don’t understand.”

Then ‘Chasing the Lions’ with Hector Ó hEochagáin brought more characters to the small screen. “I said it to Brian that I’m really sorry for your shoulder, but it’s great for our documentary. Then I came up with the Tana Umaga T-



Risteard with his fellow Apres Matchers Gary Cooke and Barry Murphy

shirts, “WANTED FOR THE ASSASINATION OF BRIAN O’ DRISCOLL.

The reaction from those was hysterical and frightening in another way. The best thing was the guy printing the T-shirts in New Zealand. He was like, ‘Oh my God, what the hell am I doing here, T-shirts of Tana Umaga. What am I doing here mate.”

If Clive Woodward needed to be brought down a peg or two, Risteard certainly did that. “I went into the press conference as

Colm Murray, and asked Clive Woodward: Do you feel your Knighthood is in jeopardy; and the looks I got from the people around me were quite extraordinary.”

What did the Lions tour mean to him? “It became more then about various characters, like the fans and general reaction of them to Woodward’s failure. I was tied between really disappointed as a general fan of the Irish players and their input into it, and in a way them wanting Woodward to fail because he really is an arrogant

arse.”

So, what is next for Risteard? “I’m only contracted for the Six Nations, but hopefully it can continue. I’m writing a TV programme with Gerry Senbridge which looks like it’s going to happen. RTE look like they are interested in it. We’re probably going to be doing the soccer World Cup this year, but we will have to see in what format.” It also seems that he has a fondness for Bill O’ Herlahy’s twirling chair, so watch out Bill.

# Trinity’s role in the Easter Rising

As the 90th anniversary of the Easter Rising approaches, Timothy Smyth looks at the role played by Trinity in the week’s events and the efforts made to defend College from the rebels

By 11 o’clock on Easter Morning 1916, as many of the most important building in the city of Dublin were occupied by insurgents, great unease was breaking out in Trinity as they realised that strategically it would be a natural progression to occupy Trinity. With its four walls facing out onto some of the most important streets in Dublin, its location practically in machine gun breath of the G.P.O. on O’Connell Street, and inside a considerable dump of arms used by the Officer Training Corp of Trinity College for the British Army, it would prove a great tactical error that they did not.

In Trinity all the gates had been promptly closed by the porters at the first sign of trouble, Easter Monday falling in the middle of the holidays as well as large numbers of the college community fighting in Europe. The insurgents would have found Trinity an easy target. With roughly only fifteen people in position around the whole 40 acre campus, the defenders in Trinity expected to face attack at any minute. This fear was reinforced by the former soldiers in the College, who recognised that as O’Connell St. and St. Stephen’s green were two centres of the Rebellion, consequently Trinity was splitting them off from each other.

By nightfall on Monday night, the total number of defenders stood at forty four, all occupy-

ing important points of observation. Numbers had been bulked up by Australian soldiers who had been on leave in Dublin and students who had received the call to defend the college. At this time the college defence was being organised by Captain Alton, later Provost of the college, and Lieutenant Luce.

Soldiers on the roof of Regent House played a crucial role in preventing the insurgents from occupying the Bank of Ireland, which would have been a

Thursday they had over four thousand troops stationed in the college with horses grazing on the lawns, tents littering the square and 18 pounder guns located in college park, meanwhile number fifteen Botany bay was being used as a field hospital. It is incredibly difficult to imagine now. From all accounts the Provost supervised all these events with great calmness and resourcefulness.

At this stage the fighting was largely over, though

**“To be called upon to defend our University against attack of Irishmen, to be forced in self-defence to shoot down our countrymen - these are things which even the knowledge of duty well fulfilled cannot render anything but sad and distasteful.”**

vital sniper position for them.

By Tuesday the College was playing an active role in defending the city, up to this point they had been reticent in regard to aggressive shooting, an Anzac Solider shot a despatch rider on College Green, and with machine guns the college was keeping Westmoreland Street and much of Grafton Street free from fighting.

By Wednesday, large numbers of British soldiers reached Dublin, meaning that Trinity was now safe. But it was not the end of Trinity’s role. The army promptly set up headquarters in the college and by

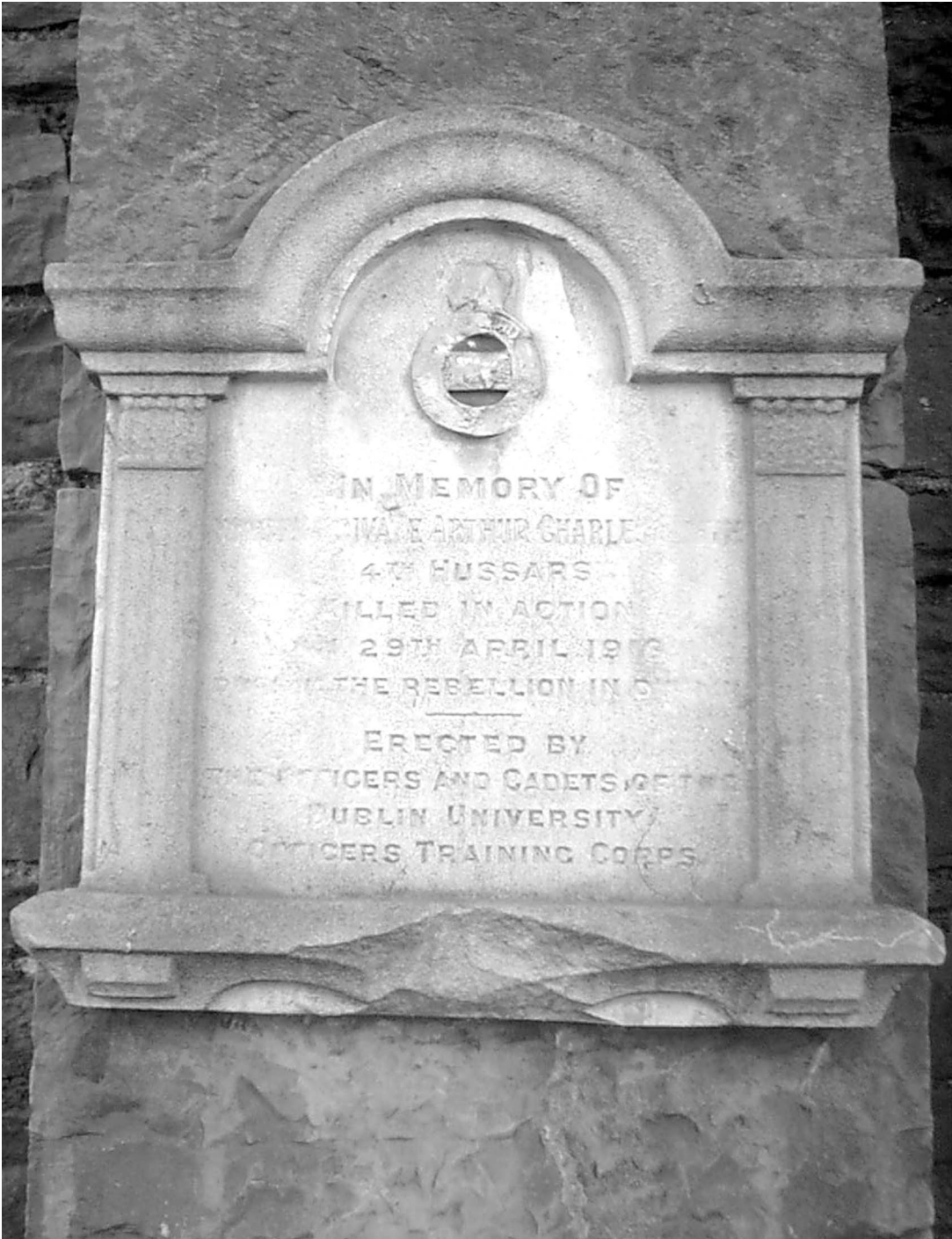
there would be no formal surrender until Saturday. Had there been a credible threat to Trinity? There is no doubt of the strategic importance of Trinity, which must have been realised, and if the insurgents had managed to take over just one building it is not difficult to imagine the chaos and likely destruction in removing them from that building.

What were the affects for Trinity in the aftermath? In 1917 Trinity played host to the Irish Convention, but by and large the actual details of the week for Trinity have been forgotten in the haze of history. Today in the New Ireland it is not

particularly fashionable to remember that Trinity played a pivotal role in the undermining of the Rising. In recognition of the New Ireland on the 75th Anniversary of the Rising, College Park was again host to guns, this time from the Irish Army to fire a salute.

Though I do think that it is unfair to blame it all completely on discomfort, in the words of later Lieutenant Kingsmill – Moore later Chief Justice, writing at the time “To be called upon to defend our University against attack of Irishmen, to be forced in self – defence to shoot down our countrymen - these are things which even the knowledge of duty well fulfilled cannot render anything but sad and distasteful.”

On one final point, as elements in college campaign for the Irish flag to be flown on Easter Monday this year to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Rising, I wonder shall anyone be campaigning to remember Private Arthur Charles of the Officers Training Corps, killed in action on the 29th April in Dublin during the Rising, all that there is to remember him now is a rapidly deteriorating stone plaque on the Nassau Street wall near the Ussher library, practically obscured behind a tree.



Plaque on the Nassau Street wall commemorating Private Arthur Charles



# Trinity Arts Festival 2006

Last month saw Trinity’s first ever student Arts Festival take place. In this special report *Trinity News* takes a look of some of what went on.

## ‘Make Up for Film’ Workshop

Jeananne Craig

The zombie film is enjoying something of a resurrection. Over the last couple of decades, zombie movies tended to bypass the box office and head straight for the video shop bargain bin. In recent years, however, the undead have been dusted off for gore fests like 28 Days Later and the Dawn of the Dead remake, and tongue-in-cheek offerings like Shaun of the Dead and Irish film Boy Eats Girl.

Now DU Filmmakers is getting in on the act, as their very own zombie flick goes into production later in the term. With this in mind, Filmmakers joined forces with the Trinity Arts Festival to hold ‘Wanna Be a Zombie’, a film and TV make-up workshop demonstrating how to transform living students into the walking dead.

In the cramped arts studio, professional make-up artist Lorraine McCrann demonstrated how to create the zombie look using latex, make-up and kitchen cupboard essentials. Lorraine, who has worked on big budget productions like Breakfast on Pluto and King Arthur, prepared her model’s

skin and applied a foam prosthesis to the upper half of the face to create the effect of a sunken skull. She then painted on layers of liquid latex, dried it with a hairdryer and pricked it with a pin to create a peeling effect.

“Lorraine had transformed a healthy young woman into a fully fledged zombie with a striking resemblance to Pete Doherty, or Bob Geldof on a bad day.”

Clearly the procedure requires a lot of patience but Lorraine explained, “it’s really important to spend plenty of time on all the cast. The director might decide to close-up on an extra, and if you’ve done a rush job it’ll show”.

After painstakingly applying the prosthetics and latex, Lorraine announced it was “time for the fun to begin”. She began shading the eye sockets and cheeks for an exhausted, sunken in look. Lorraine also showed how to create

different types of bruising and burns; It’s really just trial and error. The trick is not to be afraid to play with colours”.

The final result was, for want of a better word, deadly. Lorraine had transformed a healthy young woman into a fully fledged zombie with a striking resemblance to Pete Doherty, or Bob Geldof on a bad day.

With the model zombified, students were then invited to come over all Blue Peter, creating cold sores with cornflakes and deep cuts from coffee granules. One student who looked like he had put his head in a blender was delighted with his fake black eyes and wounds: “I’m meeting friends later, so I might leave it on and give them a surprise. Or I could stretch myself out in front of a car and really shock them”.

Ruth Farrar of DU Filmmakers was encouraged by the turnout for the event: “We’ll definitely hold workshops like this again. It’s good to do something practical. With a student production it can be hard to get that professional edge, so hopefully with the zombie movie coming up this’ll give the crew some useful tips”.



The Festival’s Organising Committee. Back row, from left: Kevin Thompson (design committee), Pearl O’Sullivan (Festival Co-cordinator) Front, from left: Laura O’Connell (core committee), Roisin Gaffney (Launch co-ordinator), Bebhinn Cronin (Core committee)  
Photo: Brian Wyse

## Digital Technology in the Arts with Doug Ross

Brian Wyse

Having never been to the Printing House before, Thursday’s Arts Festival talk offered the opportunity to take a much needed library break in new surroundings. TAF had outlined that ‘contemporary Irish artist Doug Ross’ with a ‘fine Arts background’, was going to explore his own personal use of digital technology in an artistic context - which was fairly wide open. For me, there was an expectation some additional uses for Photoshop might be revealed, or an artist’s response to Aperture, just anything to do with the technology part of the poster description.

However, arriving just in time for Mr. Ross’ opening to his work, the phrase “this is what its like to be a human being” hit the

air. So not about ‘Aperture’ then, damn. Doug carried on to compare his digital media ventures to being rather ‘like film making’ as opposed to still photography - so nothing about Photoshop then either.

“Here was an artist with a groomed collection of muses and an obvious grasp of classical Greek, even Catholic mythology evident in his dogma but hard to see in his images.”

In fact, Doug didn’t think too much of advances in digital technology, explaining that he once had 10,000 people visit his exhibitions throughout Europe to see his images, which were captured using only a 2.1 megapixel camera. Regardless Doug was able to talk well and verbally expressed a unique grasp of mythology and

people. Fair enough, but how could he translate this into his work?

The lights were lowered and projected images were displayed for roughly 10 minutes. Essentially we were looking at topless woman. Some of them bare

his exploration, yet it was hard to share in such a vision beyond the crude graphics imposed on still photographs.

The lights were turned up and some people asked questions while others left. At this point Doug made a confession, he said that his digital artwork was his hobby and his true focus was sculpture. There was a gasp, sounding a kind of premature closure to the presentation; Here was an artist with a groomed collection of muses and an obvious grasp of classical Greek, even Catholic mythology evident in his dogma but hard to see in his images. On leaving the print house, and even on writing this, there remains the thought ‘what of his sculptures?’ Maybe next year Doug Ross can come back and display a couple of those for us.



“Zombifying” at theMake Up for Film Workshop. Photo: Jeananne Craig

## Valentine String Quartet

Emma Brown

By 1:15 on Tuesday 14th a crowd had gathered rather unusually at the bottom of the Dining Hall steps. This was prompted by a performance of the Valentine String Quartet as part of TAF. Their repertoire consisted mainly of popular classics, with a couple of suitably romantic pieces for the day that was in it, with the only hitch being the inevitable gale-force wind conspiring against the sheet music as they played. However this merely added to the tongue-in-cheek atmosphere of the event, and the hour was well recieved by all.

The audience in attendance was a motley assortment of

students with the horribly conventional Starbucks coffee (even this amount of publicity is resented) and quite a few rather bemused looking tourists, with some looking overly excited and others not quite sure how they had got there.

The quartet was made up of four accomplished musicians from TCD’s Orchestral Society. It was a great move on their part to get involved with TAF as every person in attendance was a mule for free publicity. And that publicity would ore than likely be positive.

What was surprising was that the hour did not feel forced, there was no overhanging feeling of cynicism or triviality and the location actually complimented the

performance, with the platform of the Dining Hall steps becoming a natural stage for the four musicians to take over. A couple of students voiced their opinion that it was a favorable alternative to the usual never ending drone which accompanies lunchtime in the Tarts Block.(Their words not mine). In principle most would agree. After all, given the choice, wouldn't you listen to Bach or Beethoven rather than once again defend your hatred of Ugg boots for the tenth time that day?

Perhaps this analogy is a tad extreme. But the point remains that an hour of classical music in the open air was an extremely pleasurable and different way in which to spend my lunchbreak.

## Everything you ever wanted to know about the Trinity Arts Festival

Brian Wyse talks to co-ordinator Laura O’Connell about the Arts Festival and plans for next year

Who is TAF?

We are a team of over 20 students from the various arts based societies in college from various different courses – mostly History of Art oddly enough. Pearl O’Sullivan was the main Co-ordinator, and the Core Committee consisted of: Bebhinn Cronin, Daniel Kennedy, Peter Morrow, Laura O’Connell, Eilise McGuane

What, and why did you set up TAF?

Trinity Arts Festival, the first of its kind, was mainly set up as a celebration of the creative arts within the student community. Organized by students for students with an aim to address the need for greater creative outlets, and to provide a greater opportunity for artistic expression throughout the campus. We wanted to provide every student regardless of academic background the chance to participate in the weeks’ events and in doing so, provide them with the opportunity to explore inner creativity. All events were non-profit motivated, and thus free - except of course for the evening events held out of college, which have serious costs.

How did you manage to get the project off the ground?

First we approached the CSC who gave us the go ahead, agreeing to support us with funding. It must be mentioned, that we are indebted to the overall support, advice and guidance from Lucy, Joe and Emma in particular.

After approaching the CSC, we found further funding from the Trust and Association, body, without their additional funding the festival programmes and printing costs would have been too much.

With our finances secure, we then contacted the relevant arts based societies at the beginning of the academic year with the idea. (Pearl really ignited the process) Various members came forward, and meetings were held with the intension of brainstorming how best the societies should collaborate with each other; coming up with ways to work together and make the most of the resources we had. By early December provision- al event timetables, mission statement, proposal, etc were more or less set down. The ball was rolling.

Which societies got involved, and

how?

In summary: DU Filmmakers, Trinity Arts Workshop, Visual Arts Society, Photography Society, Trad. Soc, Digital Art Soc., Food & Drink Soc., Music Soc, Orchestral no less.

They all pooled resources to come up with events in which they would work on in teams. For example the Filmmakers and Photography societies put on ‘Zombie make-up’ class, and then followed it with a photography shoot. Another example was the Fusion event in 4 Dame Lane, where the Digital Arts and Traditional Irish Music Society got together, which most people really responded too.

How did the week work out?

The ‘Launch Party’ generated an overwhelming response from students, staff, and media alike. There was a journalist from the *Irish Times* covering the story, and prominent figures from the art world attended. Willie White for instance, from the ‘Project Theatre’ opened the festival for us.

Another highlight was Thursday night’s event in Spy and Wax. Rory Philips from London’s

T.R.A.S.H label set the pulse, while projections of our logo mixed with contributions from various photographers let hundreds of people simply know of TAF’s existence, that feedback alone we found impressive.

There were some difficulties though. Printing on such a large scale in such a short time-frame meant it was hard to make the deadlines. However, the help we got from the Design Time people such as Brian Solon, Fiona Hallinan, Peter Morrow, Alex Syngé and Kevin Thompson allowed us to pull it off an a day to day basis.

Because of TAF, Trinity had its first Arts Festival. Do you think it should be an annual event?

For the societies, I felt their amalgamation gave them a wider platform to work on, especially in terms of pooling resources and getting motivated to contribute to a larger than usual project. Furthermore different society members got to know each other, and there was a kind of spirit to the whole thing. We hope societies will be encouraged to work together in projects again, and definitely in the form of the 2nd TAF, and for every year herein out.



The Valentine Quartet take to the Dining Hall steps Photo: Emma Brown





# No sympathy for Lady Vengeance

James Von Simson takes a look at the final installment of Park Can-Wook’s revenge trilogy.

There is a rough group of them; the Kaufman boys, the brothers Coen, Jeunet & Caro over in France, Spike Jonze, that Cunningham bloke, and I’m sure that Quentin chap is in there somewhere. Auteurs, cultists, & writer extraor-dinaires. Individuals who do not adapt or copy but create – leaving a universally envied back catalogue in their wake.

With the culmination of his tar-black revenge trilogy, Korea’s Park Chan-Wook can now be added to that list. ‘Sympathy for Lady Vengeance’ follows 2002’s ‘Sympathy for Mr Vengeance’ and 2003’s ‘Oldboy’.

Be warned; while none of these films are inherently driven to appeal to violence-seekers, there is a viciously evocative level of blood that can’t fail to brutalize anyone but the closet psychopath, as Park put it “I don’t know how people can find fun in watching mindless films. If you want a peaceful rest, have a bath.”

Lee Geum-ja (Lee Yeong-ae) is a young, innocent and lost schoolgirl who moves in with her schoolteacher Mr. Baek (Min-sik Choi – the protagonist from Oldboy) when she finds herself pregnant and alone. Falling under his influence she unwittingly aids in the abduction and killing of a young child. When caught by the police, he forces her to confess to his crime in return for the life of her young daughter that he has also

kidnapped.

Jailed for 13 years she seemingly assumes the role of the model inmate, always ready to help others; becoming the devoted Christian who leads the prayer group, earning the moniker ‘kindly Ms. Geum-ja (which is the literal English translation of the original title). She even goes so far as to donate a kidney; earning her a purity that Park emphasizes by surrounding her with a visible aura.

Yet underneath she is twisted with revenge – she dreams of dragging Mr. Baek, trapped in a cage complete with a dog’s body, across a snow bound landscape before unceremoniously executing him – her purity is not of forgiveness, but of retribution. Her ‘Be warned... there is a viciously evocative level of blood that can’t fail to brutalize anyone but the closet psy-chopath’

revenge, as Park puts it, is her way of “trying to save her soul”. Her kindness, therefore, is not to balance her karma. Her fellow inmates are nothing but pawns in her plan to hunt down Mr. Baek. Once released she sheds her cover, rejecting the welcome and help of the prison chaplain who believed he had saved her, and focuses on setting the balance right again.

Park wants to explain so



Lee Yeong-ae as ‘Lady Vengeance’

much in this film, concluding all the loose strands and themes of the trilogy, that he almost overloads the viewer with information; constantly slipping backwards in time, in and out of fantasy sequences, which is frequently confusing. Just when your brain becomes attuned to this, Park slows the movie down. The final third almost drags as the culmination of Geum-ja’s duplicity sets up the pièce de résistance.

There is no attempt throughout the trilogy to see revenge in anything but a highly stylised way. In ‘Lady Vengeance’ Park surprisingly employs the same type of colour filters that were used in Amélie to signal the changing mood of the film and, in particular, of the leading lady. It is somewhat unsettling and seems odd considering that the violence is supposed to be so integral. If Park believes that we can see some kiddy snuff and show us eight year olds begging for their lives before they are killed by

Mr. Baek, why does he add such a cartoonish angle to the rest of the violence?

It is almost as if Park can’t quite bring himself to reveal his vision completely, indeed there is a strange strand of justification in the trilogy, not of the act of revenge, which is pure and unquestionable, but in the protagonists. As Lee Geun-Ja puts it “There are good kidnappings and there are bad kidnappings”. This attempt at implying a fallibility of the characters is somewhat incongruous to the stylised nature of the film itself. It makes it rather hard to empathise with them, and all you are left with is a feeling of detachment that detracts from the film.

‘Sympathy for Lady Vengeance’ is no doubt a good film, but the trilogy peaked with Oldboy, and judging Park on his own high standards it doesn’t quite cut it.

# ‘Frat Pack’ rules the comedy roost



Will naughty Vince Vaughn and his friends continue to monopolise Hollywood’s comedy scene or have we had enough of them already? **Becky Jackson** has a look at how five friends’ banter became box office gold.

Splashed by the bus one gloomy day last autumn, I looked up to find a poster for Will Ferrell’s new film. On the other side of the bus Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson were touting their latest ‘Wedding Crashers’ in which Ferrell also happens to appear. Toss in Ben Stiller and Owen’s little brother Luke and you have a full set of inter-changeable buddy banter adaptable to suit any special occasion from meeting the parents to weddings, barmitzvahs or even children’s birthday parties.

As it is the banter that is all important - carrying the famous five through with cheerful aplomb to whatever appropriate happy ending – one might well wonder whether much of the dialogue is improvised or just lifted from collective personal experiences and made to fit the scenario. According to Owen Wilson the original ‘Wedding Crashers’ script only had two rules but every time Vince Vaughn went off on a rant he would

conjure up a new rule to back himself up. A bit like a drunken game of Monopoly when you suddenly find house rules have been extended to handing an item of clothing to the banker every time you pass Go... Vaughn has also spoken up about LA nights out with John Favreau when they would have to work round lines such as “Excuse me if I appear to be squinting but I was up really late last night painting miniature elves”. A tough one to go with, though it may have been part of the inspiration behind Will Ferrell’s 2002 hit ‘Elf’, in which full-on all-singing, all-dancing elfness was no barrier to him getting laid (or paid: a reported 6 million).

The secret to the flexibility of the ‘frat pack’ (as they have been labelled by *USA Today*) is their apparent willingness to star, support or just materialise on screen. I can’t imagine many Hollywood stars being prepared to mustachio-un-credited as Will Ferrell does in ‘Starsky and

Hutch’. Perhaps there is a tacit agreement: “If you play a Spanish newscaster (Ben Stiller in ‘Anchorman’), I’ll be that ice-cream seller who gets hit on by the cheerleader”- between the five of

‘Vaughn has spoken about LA nights out with John Favreau when they would have to work round lines such as: “Excuse me if I appear to be squinting but I was up really late last night painting miniature elves”.’

them. But somehow it doesn’t seem so. The leading role appears to be democratically shared round, so that one man’s pet project (Ferrell wrote and starred in and Stiller directed, wrote and starred in ‘Anchorman’ and ‘Zoolander’ respectively) becomes another’s

lovable stray.

These ‘hilarious cameos’ presumably have some healthy financial benefit, as well as ensuring a consistently high profile, but at the same time there must be some concern about the risk of over-exposure. Cinema goes only want so much of a good thing, even if it comes in all shapes and sizes (from a 5 ft 7 brunette to a 6 ft 3 1/2 ginger). This point is only arguable however if the frat pack really cares if they appear together in a box office flop.

The five of them have taken care to maintain film careers entirely separate from each other and have presumably shown nothing but avuncular goodwill to newly spawned break-away members such as Steve Carrell, Paul Judd and Seth Rogen who like precocious wingmen went from ‘Anchorman’ to star in their own buddy banter movie ‘The Forty Year Old Virgin’. It would therefore be hard to condemn the Frat Pack for not fixing what isn’t yet broken; If my chat sold like this I’d keep it coming until I’d totally lost my audience... wait... Where are you going...?

# Isolation Variations: Bukowski goes to the Cinema

**Bashir Moukarzel**

Cynicism, far from undermining the regime’s hold on power actually strengthens it. How far was this understood by the fictitious Henry Chinaski (played by Matt Dillon) in the recent Charles Bukowski biography, ‘Factotum’?

At the end of the film, sitting in a New York strip bar on the early side of midday sipping a beer, we are instructed by a prophetic voiceover that all (a) man can hope for is the inherent truth of isolation. The film, standing as a lament for the lustful children of capitalism, forwards an aesthetic of irony and distance from the working world, relations with other people. Use-value subordinated to exchange-value affects not just commodities but human beings.

Waking up in bed with his sometime bed-body-buddy Jan (Lili Taylor) after a (typical) heavy nights drinking, Chinaski runs to the toilet and vomits his worth, gets

a beer from the fridge, downs it, sits, and holds his head. Jan wakes up, runs to the toilet, vomits, returns to bed, lights a cigarette. Chinaski attempts talking and comes out with “I need to be on my

‘Barfly is notable in that it is as a movie that would not be touched by Hollywood today; it is too unattractive... Factotum, true in spirit, is unfaithful in surface.’

own”. Sure, thinks Jan - a head heavy with yesterday’s drink and smoke needs space - but Chinaski does not need time on his own, he wants time to be his own; 9-5, his business.

He packs and leaves, and is in a strip bar, and then we hear about the isolation. And that’s what we are left with - Bukowski’s Big Idea, man’s salvation; dignified

resignation. But this very male fantasy (a New York motel in the early hours, pulling on a Lucky Strike, filled with Jack Daniels, thrashing at a Remington Rand typewriter) is mistaken if it conceives this solution as responding to an ontological truth, a deep, universal insight; that somehow we really are alone (only boys wait for Godot).

This position is popular in the male-literary tradition - Beckett, in his Trinity composed thesis on Proust, wrote “For the artist, who does not deal in surfaces, the rejection of friendship is not only reasonable , but a necessity.” More helpful is the approach hinted at in the superior 1987 Bukowski biography, *Barfly*. Chinaski (Mickey Rourke), sitting bar-side with Wanda (Faye Dunaway), is asked a question:

*Wanda: Do you hate people?*  
*Chinaski: No; I just prefer it when they're not around.*

Antagonism towards others has not the easy resolve in the refuge of isolation. The dialectic of connectivity-solitude is engaged with in respect to its tension without an attempt to designate Truth exclusively to one side. Where do I reside?

‘Barfly’ is notable in that it is as a movie that would not be touched by Hollywood today; it is too unattractive. There is an unexplained soar on Chinaski’s eyelid throughout the film, his knuckles are scab-ridden and there is a supporting cast that must surely have been local barflies. ‘Factotum’, true in spirit, is unfaithful in surface.

Later in ‘Barfly’, Chinaski is confronted with another question; “Who are you?”

*Chinaski: Ah, the eternal question!*  
*And the eternal answer: I don't know. (Laughs. Exits)*

Cinema-going under-

# Your Ca-po-te?

**Alex Christie-Miller**

The American journalist and writer Truman Capote was catapulted to fame and fortune when in 1965 he published his masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*, a book which fused fact and fiction to create a new literary genre: the non-fiction novel. Bennett Miller’s film follows the unusual story behind the writing of the book, adapting itself from Gerald Clarke’s biography to create a portrait of this eccentric, brilliant and iconic figure of the late twentieth century.

In 1959 a family of four were brutally murdered in a remote Kansan farmhouse, and Capote travelled there with the intention of writing an article. He became obsessed with the case- and particularly with Perry Smith, one of the murderers convicted of the crime- and spent the next six years interviewing people involved and writ-

‘This kind of emotional scope and depth is possible in literature- but is an ambitious aim in a movie and what ‘Capote’ has in subtlety, it lacks in cohesion and focus.’

ing what he knew would be one of the most important books of his age. But in the process, he became torn apart by the guilt of the exploitation and deceit he employed to gain the trust and explore the minds of the people involved in the case.

It is certainly a film one expects to impress. The portrayal of the flamboyant, tortured, loathsome yet charismatic and brilliant writer offers a platform for Phillip Seymour Hoffman to break out of the supporting roles that have for so long made him the darling of the Hollywood art-house scene, and finally to shine in the lead. So why was it that despite there being so many great things to be said about this film, I left the cinema with a vague sense of disappointment?

But first of all- the good things. ‘Capote’ demonstrates extraordinary subtlety in portraying the perpetual dilemma facing writers as they delve into the lives of those around them for artistic purposes. It is almost painful to watch as he coaxes the closest secrets from the people around him through his uncanny ability to instantly strike up a bond of intimacy. One is struck not only by the manipulation and deceitfulness of this man, but by his growing self-hatred, as he becomes increasingly estranged from his own sense of human decency, and as his obsession with the masterpiece within himself and his subjects gradually takes over.

Equally affecting is the portrayal of his relationships with his close friends, particularly Belle Harper Lee (Catherine Keener), and his lover Jack Dunphy (Bruce Greenwood), who are both witnesses to and victims of Capote’s obsession. By permitting us to experience the emotional realities of a range of characters Bennett accentuates Hoffman’s own portrayal of a man who is by turns callous and compassionate, arrogant and yet possessing a magnetic



Phillip Seymour Hoffman camps it up in ‘Capote’.

genius, simultaneously repelling and attracting the people around him.

Most impressively, in a film where there is plenty of room for moralizing, we are never told what to think, and the credit for this must go to the director. In fact, the chief emotional force derives not from the monstrousness of Capote, nor from the brutality of the murderers whom he studies, but rather from the awareness we are given of the humanity within these individuals: the fact that monstrous acts are committed not by monsters, but by people.

The performance of Clifton Collins Jr. has to be mentioned: he was utterly brilliant in the role of Perry Smith, achieving perfectly the difficult feat of believably portraying a man on death row who might strike up an intimate friendship with a camp, turtle-necked, bespectacled intellectual, but who might equally lunge out and murder him at any moment. Richard Hickock (Mark Pellegrino), Smith’s partner in crime, is an almost comically contrasting figure who, in a film peopled by pensive, sensitive artistes, seems to have wandered in from a next door screening of ‘Aeon Flux’, existing in an odd ‘Sixth Sense’ world where he is virtually ignored by everyone else on screen.

What, then, was the problem? As the film progressed, I found myself secretly hoping with each ponderous fade to black that the credits might roll, and yet I was amazed to find on leaving that in fact it was less than two hours long. It may be that ‘Capote’ suffers from trying to adapt itself from not one, but two books. It sets itself the almost unimaginable task of capturing both the literary process, the man himself, his complex relationships, as well as giving the other characters some voice of their own, and finally to reflect (particularly in the stunning opening sequence) something of the power of Capote’s book.

This kind of emotional scope and depth is possible in literature- but was an ambitious aim for Bennett Miller, a man directing his first feature, and the result is that what the film has in subtlety, it lacks in cohesion and focus.

Perhaps the formulaic plots and slick, perfectly conclusive endings of typical Hollywood fare have ruined my palate, but it seemed to me as if ‘Capote’ called too many strands into play, detracting from the film’s overall clarity and narrative force. This level of subtlety and complexity can be

sustained within a written work, but not in a movie- or at least this movie- and I fear I’ll not be the only person who thought that two hours felt more like three.

The other disappointment (and I hate to say it) was Hoffman himself. In the pivotal scene I was struck with an odd feeling of déjà vu when he screwed up his brows, turned his face a beetroot red, and began pumping out the tears. I suddenly felt like I might be watching a clip from ‘Magnolia’ (a film that surely sets some record for ‘crying’ scenes), where he again demonstrates his singular facility for changing the colour of his face and weeping a small bathful of tears.

His voice, his mannerisms, his poise were all perfectly realised- but somehow he never quite managed to rise above the affectations and intonations of Truman Capote. It was very much a case of ‘Phillip Seymour Hoffman as...’ rather than ‘Phillip Seymour Hoffman *is...*’ Having seen him



American writer and journalist Truman Capote

perform so brilliantly in his diverse supporting roles, it almost seemed as if the lead was too much for him- although perhaps it was *I* that was expecting too much.

That said, it is a film of extraordinary ambition, coming frustratingly close to being truly great. As well as Collins, Catherine Keener gave a remarkable performance, as in fact did all the supporting cast. And despite my nit-picking, Hoffman himself must surely be a strong contender for Best Actor at the Oscars.



Matt Dillon plays barfly Henry Chinaski in ‘Factotum’

scores this connectivity-solitude tension. Seated amongst many, in the dark you are alone (unless your partner or a friendly stranger tries to hold your hand. Resist this temptation; you will miss the entirety of the film. “Should we rent a film?” “No, let’s just take our clothes off and see what happens.”

Or like when group-film-

going and you choose the film; sitting in the auditorium, as the title-credit reads ‘Irreversible’, soon enough a man’s head is being beaten to a pulp with a fire-extinguisher and you’re thinking “Because I chose this film, do my friends think I like to beat peoples’ heads in with fire extinguishers on the weekends? Do I like to beat peoples’

heads in with a fire-extinguisher on the weekends? Am I certain of nothing?” And in the middle of your Joycean internal word-pile, the film ends. When asked by your friends “What did you think of it?” You only say “I like your heads just the way they are.” And, before you know it, you are experiencing the Bukowskian isolation.)



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# Making the Scene...

Steve Clarke speaks to up-and-coming Canadian indie band Broken Social Scene their new album, breaking up, and their local music scene.

Supergroups, despite their architectural interest, are rarely the sum of their parts. For every Traveling Wilburys (which featured Roy Orbison, George Harrison, Tom Petty, and, wait for it, Bob Dylan), there seems to be numerous ill-advised counter-examples. Audioslave will never be as good as Rage Against the Machine, and all the collective might of the musical titans known as Billy Corgan (Smashing Pumpkins), Matt Sweeney (Chavez), and David Pajo (Tortoise/Slint) couldn't help their supposed supergroup, Zwan, from being plain embarrassing.

Broken Social Scene, however, are an exception to the rule. Originally a side-project for Toronto indie-band K.C. Accidental, the band snowballed to fifteen members, including Amy Millan from Stars, James Shaw and Emily Haines from Metric, Charles Spearin and Ohad Benchetrit from Do Make Say Think, Murray Lightburn from the Dears, and solo artist Leslie Feist. It's a verifiable who's who of the Canadian indie music scene. Their current, self-titled album has seen them receive rave reviews, building on the critical success of 2003's *You Forgot It In People*. Trinity News caught up with founding member Charles Spearin before their sold out Temple Bar Music Centre gig last month.

TN: So, you've just released your latest album in this part of the world- to me it definitely seems less accessible than *You Forgot It In People*; the vocals are less audible, there's more ambient sections- it really takes a few listens to decipher it. Was that a deliberate reaction to the amount of hype or attention you received with the last album?

Charles Spearin: Yes, I think to some extent- we didn't want to make a pop record. But it's really hard to say what's deliberate- there's so many thousands of decisions made when making a record that it kinda takes on a life of its own, and you can't really say that you did anything intentionally.

TN: I was wondering how the song writing process occurs with so many of you in the band?

CS: Well, every possible combination you can think of in song writing happens. Somebody could write a song on their own and bring it in and teach it to the band-that'd happen very rarely and then we'd rehearse and record it. Once in a

What was the story there?

CS: Yeah, well I guess it was just before the record came out...it was a year ago or more when we had this famous "last show" in Toronto- we said it was potentially our last show. But that was just cus we'd been working really hard and everyone had been touring a lot- we'd reached our limit. But we took a little time away from touring and everybody did their own thing...nobody ever really thought that the band was ending; that was never really an issue. When we first started as a band, at the beginning of every show we'd say, ok, this is our last show, because we never knew where the band was gonna be at the next town. We had this attitude that we're not trying to

there's twelve of us, sometimes fifteen of us on the bus, travelling together...living together all the time. You just have to understand that people are different and to start to appreciate people for their differences- it kinda makes you a better person if you can get through it.

TN: So. The whole Canadian music scene...I suppose you're sick of being asked questions about that?

CS: [Laughs] Well, I could give you an answer I've given a lot of times but I wanna give you something different... there's a lot of good music everywhere. Canada has a big magnifying glass on it right now, which is wonderful cus there's a lot of bands that deserve attention there, but there's also a lot of bands everywhere that deserve attention too, so I mean its just a trend- I'm happy it's happening and I think there's a lot of merit in the music in Canada right now but like anything its just a popular phase. It's healthy, it's a good thing, and I hope it lasts. But I hope it doesn't get spoiled at the same time.

TN: Are there any influences shared across the band? The album reminded me of Loveless by My Bloody Valentine- that same kinda blurry, unhinged dream-like quality... but that might just be the production more than anything.

CS: Everybody knows My Bloody Valentine in the band, but there was no...actually I'm sure Dave Newfeld, the producer, doesn't know My Bloody Valentine- he doesn't have any records made past 1984. He's a really interesting character- he's not trying to make a fashionable record, that's for sure- he's completely unaware of the

make it as a band, we're just trying to make it for tonight- we just wanna have a good show. So we'd tell ourselves it was gonna be the last show, and play like it was. Now we've got so many people involved we can't do that anymore because it scares people too much...so we're officially a band now.

TN: Is there a secret to non-stressful touring then?

CS: I think it's just maturity- I think we've all gotten a bit more mature, we're not kids anymore...just understanding that people are different. Y'know



Canadian supergroup Broken Social Scene in one incarnation...

fashion of the world, so I think we're lucky that way.

TN: The internet has been a huge factor in your success, with a lot of publicity coming from grass-roots fanzines and blogs. But you've also experienced the dark side of the internet, what with your album being leaked...

CS: Well, not really- that wasn't

genuine forum...or it can be anyway. It's so diverse and it really has been the basis of our career...file sharing and the whole bit is how we've been successful.

TN: So, as an overall verdict on the internet? Thumbs up? CS: Give it the thumbs up, definitely. As long as you go outside sometimes...

from when we recorded the last record; it was time to put out a record so we had to decide which songs to finish. So we have a whole lot of other unfinished music which we would like to release, not necessarily as an album; maybe as another kinda Bee Hives type thing, maybe. We've got lots of maybes...we just wanna get it finished so we can forget about it and move on. We've got lots of plans.



...and here in another, flying the X-chromosome flag. There's a lot of them.

## Album Reviews

### It's a shame about Ray...

Ray Davies:  
Other  
People's  
Lives

Oisín Gartlan

I've been putting off writing anything about this album for a while. There's a much better reason (fine, excuse) then just average run of the mill procrastination. I'm just not that impressed with the album. I want to be, I loved The Kinks and as Ray Davies vocals and song writing were 53% of the reason I loved The Kinks, I figured I'd love this album. I was however slightly worried. Let's face it, most of

Ray's still got that distinctive voice and story telling lyrics which are well observed and often witty

those who managed to survive the 60s shouldn't have. You know who you are, has-beens. Cut your hair. I'd like to take this time to apologise about the headline, I've noticed that the editor has an unhealthy fetish for puns (which he should see someone about), and it's the only one I could think of. Besides, it's unfair to create a link

between Ray Davies and Evan Dando; one was one of the greatest songwriters of all time, and the

“The only way this album changed my life for better or worse was that I spent 110 minutes listening to it. That means I listened to it twice...”

other was in The Kinks... I'd like to take this time to apologise for this fiasco of a paragraph. And for apologising so much, because you and I both know I'm not sorry.

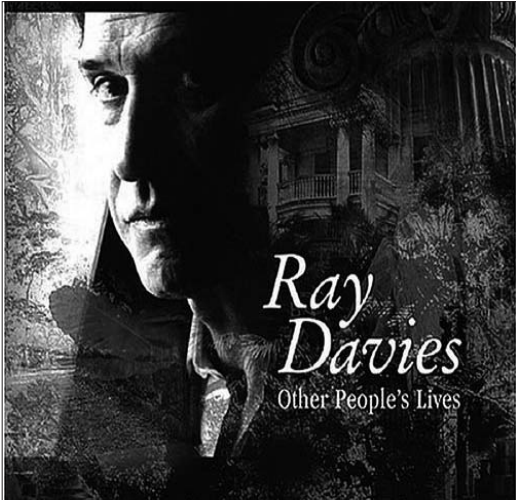
There are some good songs here, All She Wrote, Stand Up Comic, and Is There Life After Breakfast in particular stand out for me. Having read that line after a second listening I've realised I was lying to myself. They're just above average and the rest of the album is decidedly average. It was even more ordinary and typical the second time around.

Ray's still got that distinctive voice and story telling lyrics which are well observed and often witty. What lets this album (and you the consumer) down is everything else. It's just fairly standard, I'd bet a fiver Ray really misses his brother

Dave despite all the fights off the stage and the shenanigans on it. Dave Davies was the other 47%

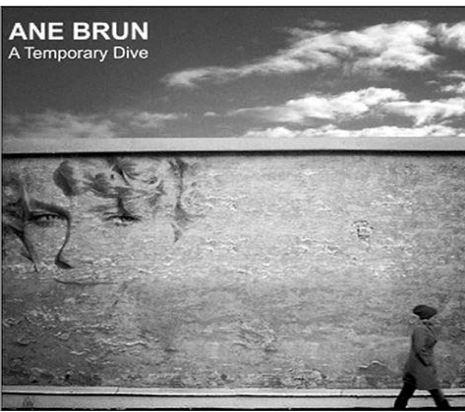
that made me love The Kinks. His skilful guitar work and superlative solos (think 'You Really Got Me') served as the perfect foil for his brother, something which is definitely missing here. More importantly however, he has an astoundingly brilliant name. Say it: Dave Davies.

We're done here. What? You want some kind of rating on a scale? Forsaking the traditional “number out of 17” format: a generous and rose-tinted 3/5



## Ane Brun: A Temporary Dive

Will Daunt



If anything, Swede Ane Brun certainly fits the criteria for mysterious singer song-writer. She sings about love and loss, she is cute but not beautiful, and the cover for this album seems to be an attempt

“Its mind-boggling lack of originality forces one to not only ponder upon the desolation of modern life, but to positively wallow in it...”

to evoke thought upon the loneliness and desolation of modern life (a woman walks past a wall upon which there is a portrait of Ane Brun looking sad). Indeed, a listening of 'A Temporary Dive' reveals her success in following

up this image; its mind-boggling lack of originality forces one to not only ponder upon the desolation of modern life, but to positively wallow in it.

Such lyrical nonsense as 'I wear rubber bands around my soul' on Rubber & Soul (a misguided reference to The Beatles?) is in the same vein as the esteemed Mr Blunt's knack for completely meaningless allusions to emotional state; absolutely unforgivable. In short, I very nearly turned it off two songs in.

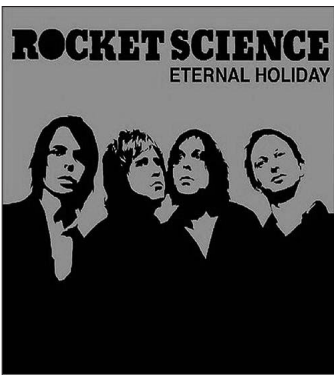
However, after forcing myself to continue I found that it is not all utter drivel.

Had it been produced in the same stripped down manner as Joanna Newsom or Cat Power there would be more than a drop of potential, but as it is, we are left with some distinctly dodgy synth and string arrangements. She has, after all, supported Abba.

Similarly it seems that Brun has not yet quite found her voice (worrying considering this is her second record) and she switches from Dido style blandness, to Alanis Morissette whine, to Bandhart-esque quiverings. Indeed, the only true highlight on the record is 'Song No.6' featuring the great Ron Sexsmith, where her vocals dip and dive around the melody of the chorus, which bears the same menacing and circus like quality as the new Bandhart record. However, the fact that this is the only non-generic moment on the album is telling of its overall mediocrity.

## Rocket Science: Eternal Holiday

Catriona Gray



I have to say, upon first hearing this album, I felt pretty indifferent towards Rocket Science. They seemed to be yet another faceless four piece churning out pop-rock to a saturated market. Since then I have listened to the album a bit more carefully. First impressions aren't always accurate. Unfortunately, in this case, they were.

"Eternal Holiday" is the third album from Rocket Science, who originally hail from Melbourne. Although no one could describe Rocket Science's sound as innovative, "Eternal Holiday" does have some good tracks, in fact, all of their songs are surprisingly easy to listen to, probably because we've heard them all before somewhere- the title track's riff being a not-so-subtle adaptation of Nirvana's "Come as You Are".

"Modern Life" is one of the best songs on the album- essentially a traditional rock song, but with the frantically played keyboards introducing an electro-pop vibe. "Connect Me" has an uplifting, pulsating melody, which is enriched by chords played on an organ and lead singer Roman Tucker assuming an impressive Bowie-esque falsetto for the impressive chorus.

The final track, "Blow Up" is also worth a listen. With influences audibly derived from The Dandy Warhols, this track would be brilliant-if only it wasn't for Tucker's failed attempt at snarling the word 'Destroy' in an exact imitation of Johnny Rotten, mid-way through the song.

Think the Hives, the

“Rocket Science are yet another faceless four piece churning out pop-rock to a saturated market...”

Kaiser Chiefs, the Killers, Razorlight or just about any commercial rock band that has surfaced in the last few years and you will have an amazingly accurate idea of what Rocket Science sound like. Remember in the film School of Rock, when Jack Black takes a group of school children and shows them how to be a rock band? Rocket Science are like that. They sound right, they have all the correct chord progressions and the obligatory swear-words, but they're missing something. Something essential but sadly lacking. Originality.



# Strokes set Room on Fire



New York’s the Strokes overlooking the Big Apple.

Will Daunt  
Ben Eastham

The Strokes named their most recent album 'First Impressions of Earth', yet, as they are clearly aware, it is the world's first impressions of them that continue to dog their progress. Hailed as the saviours of rock upon their arrival in 2001, their subsequent development has been the focus of enormous press coverage and analysis. Moreover, the New Yorkers seem to have been left behind by the new bands comprising the very scene they had inspired. The recent coronation of the Arctic Monkeys as band of the moment, 'voice of a generation' seems to highlight the Strokes' failure in capitalising upon their initial breakthrough. They returned to Dublin for the first time since Oxyegen in 2004 with a point to prove.

The Point Depot provid-

ed them with the ideal venue to do spiky, piercing guitar.

Moreover, the New Yorkers seem to have been left behind by the new bands comprising the very scene they had inspired.

so. Having seen them live before, the first and most striking surprise was the new-found ability of the band to fill the enormous space in front of them and to engage the crowd. This must in part be credited to excellent sound engineering, but also demonstrates a previously absent confidence in their ability to play to such a large crowd. Never ones to interact either with the crowd or with each other onstage, the five-piece nonetheless maintained an impressive momentum through a lengthy set, keeping intervals between songs short and playing with an incredible cohesion, kept together by Fab Moretti's metronomic drumming and illuminated by Nick Valensi's

The only interruption to the breakneck pace, however, proved to be a highlight. Having played a frenzied and unexpected Ramones cover, following it with the crowd favourite 'Barely Legal' from their debut album, the band exit the stage to leave lead singer Julian Casablancas alone with the microphone, under a spotlight.

This gig demonstrated that they are finally ready to fulfill their own potential and reclaim their place at the forefront of contemporary music

Singing to a looped Mellotron track, the enigmatic lead man is left exposed. The strange intimacy

this creates is particularly enjoyable because it destroys the suspicion of aloofness that has accompanied the band's live performances before.

The song is well-received, as are others from First Impressions... The Strokes' search for a new direction is demonstrated by the variance in style (and indeed quality) of their most recent collection, but the well-integrated set-list cleverly mixes songs from their ever-popular debut, under-rated sophomore album Room on Fire and the newer, more challenging effort. Other highlights included

the aforementioned Ramones cover 'Life's A Gas', 'Someday' and 'Hard to Explain' (both now estab-

lished sing-alongs) and opener 'You Only Live Once'. Whilst it is the material from 'Is This It' that really seems to resonate with the audience, the reaction to songs from both Room on Fire and First Impressions is still massively enthusiastic.

The Strokes have been accused of ducking their state with stardom, but this gig demonstrated that they are finally ready to fulfill their own potential and reclaim their place at the forefront of contemporary music. It is easy to forget, as the Strokes seem almost veterans in a scene they helped to create, that the band are still only in their mid-20s and only released their first album in 2001. In conjunction with the refreshing ambition and confidence displayed by their sonically adventurous new album, this gig points towards a promising future for the band that rejuvenated rock 'n' roll.

### Setlist:

- You Only Live Once
- The Modern Age
- Hawaii
- Juicebox
- Soma
- Heart In A Cage
- Razorblade
- 12:51
- Alone Together
- Last Nite
- Hard To Explain
- The End Has No End
- Ize Of The World
- Trying Your Luck
- Life's A Gas
- Barely Legal
- Ask Me Anything
- Vision Of Division
- Reptilia

- New York City Cops
- Someday
- Take It Or Leave It

## Her Space Holiday: The Past Presents the Future



John Picardo

There's a sort of grim humour in a marriage of glum lyricism and chirpy, polished electro-pop, as though the incongruity augments the emotional impact of the lyrics while simultaneously making the self-obsession more musically palatable. Her Space Holiday - nom de guerre of California-based singer-songwriter Marc Bianchi - sang "The only thing I know / Is I'm unhappy here" on 2001's fine "Home is Where You Hang Yourself" and was traduced as a misery-monger distinctly lacking in subtlety. Friend of Conor Oberst, remixer of R.E.M. and American Analog Set, and recommended by no less an authority than Arab Strap's Aidan Moffat, HSH remains one of the most visible members of the American underground scene - his 2003 gem "My Girlfriend's Boyfriend" was even covered by the 2004 Polish Idol winner, Monika Brodka; this despite its mordant lyric about infidelity.

Of late, however, Marc has expanded his emotional range and "TPPTF" is his most buoyant work yet, retaining the lush strings of "Manic Expressive" and the chiming melodies of "The Young Machines." Reminiscent of The Album Leaf and even Bright Eyes' "Digital Ash in a Digital Um" HSH isn't exactly charting exciting new sonic territory here, but tracks like "Forever and a Day" and ""The Good People of Everywhere" showcase a new empathic bent to the lyrics while the blend of organic instruments, Marc's lovely chapfallen vocals and spaced-out electro textures continues to mark HSH out as one of the best offbeat singer-songwriters in America at present. Sumptuous synthesised strings on Air-esque "You and Me" make it a stand-out track.

Even if "The Past Presents the Future" features a cleverer-than-thou title and occasionally you long for a sound more gritty than Marc is willing to offer us, HSH's latest album is a reminder that amidst the beats and blips of electro-pop there can be emotions more powerful than any acoustic troubadour could muster.

# Stylish debut from Gorky’s frontman

Mark Rodgers on Euros Child’s ‘Chops’, the debut album from the Gorky’s Zygotic Mynci frontman

Given the current vogue for acts such as Architecture in Helsinki, Animal Collective, Devendra Banhardt etc., it is strange to find that Gorky's Zygotic Mynci should feel the need to take a break from recording when they have been largely responsible for some of the best off kilter pop music of recent years.



Gorky's Zygotic Mynci frontman, Euros Child

In the meantime, Gorky's front man Euros Childs

has decided to bring out his own effort, with volume adjusted and knobs twiddled by Gorwel 'Welsh super producer (it's all relative)' Owen. That's actually his full name on his birth certificate by the way. Owen was the man who helmed Gruff Rhys' 2005 self styled Welsh language opus Yr Atal Genhedlaeth.

Unfortunately for Chops, it is the embellishments that Childs' band mates ordinarily would have provided on Gorkys' albums that, at times, prevents Chops from becoming anything other than mildly frustrating. Any of the bizarre instrumentals that found their way onto Gorkys' album were usually kept to a minimum. Chops on the other hand, has 14 tracks and lasts little over half an hour, half of them under a minute long. A number of songs seem half finished: Country Girl's strum a case in point; Stella is a Pygmy, Parts 1, 2 and 3 are no more than doodles between songs; and you can't help but wonder what a song such as Dawnsio Dros Y Mor would have sounded like had it been fleshed out a little.

However, that is not to say the album is not without its moments. Stylistically, the album incorporates both the psychedelic aspects of Gorkys' earlier work

and the more country tinged folk of recent years. Lead single Donkey Island is the phat cousin to Spanish Dance Troupe's Poodle Rockin', with its cheap keyboards and vocoder effects as Childs tells the story of well, being on an island inhabited by donkeys. Hi Mewn Socasau has an equally ramshackle feel to it, redolent of something from Tatay or Barafundle. There's also the hypnotic eight minute First Time I Saw You which, although opening with a somewhat repetitive keyboard refrain, slowly gathers layers of harps, flute and guitars towards the end without ever getting out of breath, never mind breaking sweat.

But it's the trio of Costa Rita, Circus Time, and Surf Rage that really stand out. All match the lazy low key beauty perfected on albums such as How I Long to Feel that Summer in My Heart and Sleep/Holiday. The seaside romance of Costa Rita, populated by Childs' usual endearing misfits, where the narrator falls for the local ice cream girl is a particular highlight. With no sign of any activity on the Gorkys' front, Chops has just about enough in it to keep you going for the time being, and repeated listening makes it worth the effort.

## Is this the worst album ever released?

Rahul Bery has the misfortune to review Coheed and Cambria’s latest album Good Apollo I’m burning IV Volume 1: From Fear Through the Eyes of Madness. He’s not happy about it.

Firstly, let me admit that I didn't finish listening to his album...I couldn't...it was too painful. I'm sorry. Anyway, here's the deal: this seems to be the first installment of some grand four-part saga, and it has song titles like 'The Speed (Of God's Blood and Burial)', and also has an accompanying graphic novel for which you have to pay an extra \$20, but which I'm sure is essential to the understanding of the 'plot'.

Clearly these guys think they're creating a masterwork with the flawless construction and plurality of 'Ulysses'; a timeless epic to rival 'The Lord of the Rings'. The pictures of monsters might suggest the latter, but in reality, it's

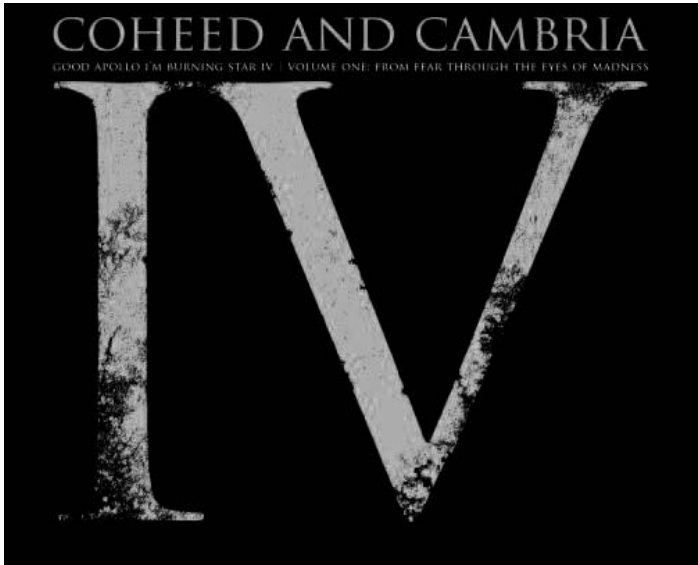
I cannot do justice to how bad this album really is. Listen, do not buy this under any circumstances....

ridiculous, overblown emo (worse, 'prog emo'), complete with strings and keyboards and a singer that sounds like the result of a car crash in which the bodies and minds of

Michael Jackson, Busted, and Leatherface from the Texas Chainsaw Massacre are diabolically intermingled, creating a heinous singing beast that won't shut up. The lyrics are of the cheesiest, most sickly 'my girlfriend dumped me and creating (shit) 'art' is the only way to soothe my emotional torment' type, and you can hear the singer saying 'woah, like, what if I said 'I love you' and 'I hope you die in the same song!'

I am not doing justice to how bad this album really is. Listen, do not buy this under any

circumstances. If you do, when you die, penniless with your friends and family nowhere to be seen, coughing out your last tubercular breath in a godawful dingy alley, you'll think, in an agonizing moment of realization 'It was that 15 euro I spent on the Coheed and Cambria CD, that was where it all went wrong' before you plummet down to hell, where Satan, forsaking his usual punishment, forces you to listen to all four parts of 'Good Apollo...' for ever and ever AND EVER!





# The Dublin Food Experience

Mongolian Barbeque, 7 Angelsea Street, Dublin 2, 01-6704154

Rosie Gogan-Keogh

Two weeks ago the flat I was living in went on fire. I awoke at three in the morning to the sound of my flatmate’s heart-stopping screams. Half asleep I ran from my room, in my slumbering state only noticing the smoke coming from her room as I reached the sitting room.

The old-fashioned oil heater beside her bed had exploded. She’d awoken to the sound of the bang and miraculously managed to escape the room. Within seconds the flames had spread from the curtains to the sheets on the bed. The entire room erupted. A giant ball of flames scorching, searing, burning everything in its reach.

By the time we reached the bottom of the stairs of the two storey building, we could see the bright orange glow as the fire spread. My cheeks would glow red for several days afterwards from the intensity of the heat from the smoke alone.

The three of us living in the flat found ourselves standing on the street in our pyjamas, huddling together, listening to the sirens of the ever closer fire brigade. The other tenants in the building streamed out after, having followed the sounds of our frantic screaming and manic bangings on their doors.

It took four fire engines to put out the fire. We waited shivering in the taxi of a kind passerby, completely in shock. It hadn’t sunk in. We were alive and physically unhurt. Was I still dreaming?

To be honest I don’t think it has sunk in yet.

Even when four days later, entering the flat after the forensic’s examination and a team of builders who made the place safe for us to enter, it still didn’t register fully. These remains weren’t the rooms I’d made my own over such a short time. No, that place was happy and warm. That was the place after staying up all night partying, going to work and coming home exhausted I’d still gone crazy and tidied up just because it was my own. It was where me and my boyfriend had sat on the couch, simply gazing



around, admiring our own gaf, after doing up the place, making it ours.

The room where the fire had started was unrecognisable. The ceiling was no longer there. The wall that had fronted the corridor was now just several blackened

all-you-can-eat menu. In fact this is all you can eat. They serve nothing else apart from a handful of starters and desserts.

For €20 you can choose whatever mixture of ingredients you like, as many times as you like.

“Take small amounts each time, try different mixtures and hopefully by about the fifth bowl—if you’ve made it that far—you should have reached perfection”

wooden posts. There was no furniture, no nothing. All that remained of the boxes of junk we had cleared so carefully and stacked in the hall was a sloping pile of black ash. The plastic shower screen in the bathroom had melted down into a mess. The black, melted and charred things we used to own were now an artist’s dream of distorted found objects. This was like life, barbequed.

Speaking of barbeques a week after the fire I went for dinner at the Mongolian Barbeque with several good friends –friends who automatically opened their doors and wardrobes to us now-travelling nomads, no questions asked. There were fifteen of us at the dinner, for one of our group’s birthdays.

The Mongolian are their

Sounds good.

They also do a lunch buffet for €13 12:30–3:30PM and an early bird for €16 3:30–6:30PM.

You choose your ingredients from a wide assortment of fresh vegetables and meats and fish: beef, chicken, pork, and a concoction of mussels and prawns that didn’t look very appetizing. You then move on to pick a sauce, and though there are many to choose from, they all taste a bit the same. And last, you spice your dish with a choice including paprika, chilli powder, garlic etc.

Then you wait in line with your concoction and hand your bowl of raw ingredients to the chef, and he works his well-practiced magic — skillfully throwing one bowl at a time in a circle on the

heated plate, which lays atop burning coals with low flickering flames, cooking the food while we await impatiently .

The food isn’t much more than this gimmick however. And for the most part, no matter how I tried to vary the ingredients each time I returned, it never tasted much different to that homemade stir fry I know so well as a down and out student.

We did have a great time though. The food was tasty and the constant running up and down to the buffet meant that for such a large group we did all manage to see each other, as opposed to having to shout at those at the opposite end of the table to talk to them.

It’s not cheap either. But then again you could feed yourself for a week. My advice is to avoid letting excitement get the better of you by succumbing to the temptation of piling your plate as high as possible first time round. Take small amounts each time, try different mixtures and hopefully by about the fifth bowl—if you’ve made it that far—you should have reached perfection.

Here’s to hoping I don’t have to wait that long before finding my own perfection again.



I never thought I would be as relieved as I now find myself to gaze upon the scrawny countenance of my scribe. This past week has been the most breathlessly eventful of all those I have spent here, among the fetid stew of distaff deviants making up the Mountjoy Prison women’s wing. This, you see, has been vocational training week.

On Monday, a troupe of thick-tongued do-gooders descended on the prison, as part of a government scheme to give incarcerated females the necessary ‘skills’ to pursue a productive life beyond the barbed wire fence. I, dear reader, was as baffled then as you no doubt are now. Nevertheless, I must truthfully say that I felt my first ever twinge of solidarity with my fellow inmates when I witnessed Big Sharon being dragged kicking and screaming to a basket weaving class in the exercise yard. I believe it was this moment of vulnerability that enabled a frizzy-haired wretch calling her self Cleena – and a being of indeterminate gender proclaiming its name to be Breege – to descend upon me and, flashing yellowed smiles, cheerfully inform me that I had been enrolled in the ‘Cooking Class’.

This term ‘Cooking Class’ proved to be quite a puzzle as I turned it over in my head while shuffling in single file with six or seven other prisoners towards the canteen. I had always understood the Cooking Class to be a social stratum somewhere below the

## Conspicuous Consumption ... With Claudia Braün

Butlering Class but above the Bed-Making Class. Cleena and Breege laughed heartily at my confusion and declared that I was about to take enforced lessons in food preparation. Suddenly, everything made sense. These beings with their thrusting manner and – oh, how I shudder – beige slacks, were about to force me into a life of drudgery below stairs. I had been kidnapped by Socialists.

We were lined up along a silver counter in the kitchen, at which point Cleena shuffled to the front of the room and announced that the prisoners would be making a fried egg. Whether all seven would be frying a single egg or whether eggs would be distributed to us individually was unclear, at least to begin with. I was certain that we prisoners were being kept in suspense as part of some mind control technique. However, a few moments later, portable cooking devices known as ‘stoves’ were wheeled before us, and my adventure truly began.

My first shock came when I saw that the egg I was handed had issued not from a quail, but from a common hen. Of course, Mr. Browne and I did have hens, though we never ate their eggs. No, they were kept solely for the use of our haruspex – Mr. Browne often having recourse to the use of bird entrails to predict the stock market. Apparently, the great crooked-toothed mass of the population preference the egg of the hen over the egg of the quail, presumably because it is larger and, as peddlars, they are not guaranteed another meal for some time.

As I gingerly cracked this object into the pan placed in front of me, a neighbouring criminal, popularly known as ‘Wham Bam Betty’, nostalgically informed me that we were cooking with the self-same make of frying pan she used to batter her husband and his lover into a coma and an early grave, respectively. Perhaps in an effort to escape Betty’s attentions, I focused my own on the activity of

the hen’s egg as it fizzed and sputtered on the frying pan, and found that a most unexpected change had come over me. I was absorbed. Indeed, by the time it came to lift the egg from the pan, it was with positive pride that I noticed mine was the only one not to have congealed into a freckled mass of white and yoke. ‘It looks,’ Cleena leered from the front of the class, ‘like we have a natural on our hands.’

It was evident from this remark that Cleena was as ignorant of genetic predestination as she was of hair-care. Enraged, I flung my egg on the ground and goose-stepped right out of the class. It is one thing to discover in oneself a capacity for mingling with the lower echelons – it is quite another to be told one belongs among them. Naturally, I didn’t get far from the kitchen before I was marched off for an afternoon in The Hole to think about what I had done.

My ordeal reached its apex mere moments before you arrived for this interview. A warden disrupted me as I applied my make-up to tell me that not only had I been enrolled in a year long cooking class, but that Cleena and Breege had maliciously put my name forward as a participant in the Annual Mountjoy Bake Sale, in which prisoners compete in a cake-baking contest, the first prize of which is a chance for early parole.

Obviously, those Socialist blood-suckers think they can humiliate me, but Claudia Braün has a surprise in store for them. I’m going to beat them at their own game. This is one Jail Bake that’s going to end in success.

NEXT TIME: The Annual Mountjoy Bake Sale.

[Claudia Braün is in conversation with David Turpin.]

# SEARCH FOR THE HOLY GRAIL

*The essence of this column is cheap. But a cheap pint doesn’t have to mean a bad pint. It is with this in mind that we are including a section on drinking on the bright side of three euro. If you are taste sensitive then turn away now. The sunny side of three euro per pint comes at a cost, the bar maids with hoof dentures, the funeral time music and the refreshing taste of anti-design. This is not Dawson Street country.*

## Whatever you charge



# Your own keg parties

My search this week for the Holy Grail has taken me away from ‘bar maids with hoof dentures’ and ‘funeral time music’. Instead, I have delved into the world of the keg party.

I know we have all watched American High School movies in awe. Those kids in Dazed and Confused really had it sussed. Ever wonder what on earth you were doing lugging eight cans of Dutch Gold to that ‘great’ party you’ve spent three hours trying to find, only to get them stolen from your crafty hiding place behind the couch?

These days the keg party is the way to go. Screw trekking around in search for the perfect pint or drinking warm, flat cans, when you

expensive- it is in fact the cheapest way to enjoy beer on tap.

I’ve even heard of recent schemes across the city, in

went to the extreme of renting out a projector, ordering several kegs and turning their sitting room into a makeshift sports bar for the Saturday afternoon match.

This may seem a little far-fetched, but for those of you not so inclined to make profit from your friends it still works out at the cheapest way to get a decent pint in this city. What’s more you can do it in the comfort of your own home with your own ugly friends and terrible music.

Check out the BrewCrew.ie where you can choose from a

variety of 50 litre kegs (that’s over 105 pints) such as Guinness, Budweiser, Heineken and Bulmers for €240 each including delivery and equipment.

Alternatively they have a special offer at the moment of 30 litre Dublin Beer Brew for €130.

Or if you’re planning on going all out and really want to make a night to remember, or not as the case maybe – they also rent out bartenders for €75.



A keg and a projector will set you up nicely



# Idiot Thinks Aliens Are Falling from Sky

We of course all know of the many recorded incidents when the giant weather god in the sky rained down, with malice aforethought, not his or her conventional water based products but a variety of implausible living things; among them the French towns where it has rained dead fish and the various spindly indigenous populations of South America who have claimed that anything and everything from frogs to monkeys have fallen upon them. But now they have all been trumped by the state of Kerala in southern India where scientists claim that alien lifeforms are falling from the sky- most probably in an effort to bypass the hours of humming and haaing that make up

the overly bureaucratic passport control when you try to enter the country by more traditional methods.

Indian scientists have long been known to the community as unconventional in their methods, and whilst they themselves would like to describe this as 'original thinking' others have slated it as 'excessively zany' and even 'down-right silly'. However this radical approach has been taken to new heights recently when the New Scientist revealed last week that a paper written by a physicist working in Kerala which outlines his quite exceptionally improbable theory will appear in a peer reviewed scientific journal in the



Alien, unusually not contained within a raindrop

not-too-distant future. (In case you were wondering- 'peer reviewing' is how members of the science fraternity make those long winter evenings fly by).

During two months in 2001 a mysterious red rain fell sporadically across Kerala, the tone varying from a light pink to a deep blood red, and whilst the local population were initially mildly irritated, they soon learnt to ignore it and get on with their lives. Not so the wacky Keralan scientists. And although some of the more well-known and respected scientists postulated that the red particles in the rain were some kind of pollen or fungal spore, a man called Godfrey Louis had other ideas: he

shows they consist of around 50% carbon and 45% oxygen, which is consistent with that of a biological cell, as is their shape and thickness, although they possess no visible nucleus and tests for the presence of DNA were predictably unsuccessful. Godfrey goes on to present a plethora of increasingly spurious reasons why they could not be biological cells from here on earth culminating in the wonderfully vague rationale that they could not be spores or pollen because 'rain was collected in buckets placed in wide open spaces' (New Scientist).

Despite the fact that only half of the sentence: "Godfrey Louis happened upon his crackpot theory during 2003, at the climax

“Godfrey Louis happened upon his crackpot theory during 2003 at the climax of a 3 week opium and LSD binge”

decided they were extra-terrestrial microbes raining down upon the area from a passing comet, apparently this is based on extensive research. The comet allegedly passed over Keral from the north shedding alien microbes as it went before finally exploding over the town of Kottayam where the red rain was first recorded. Analysis of the particles' chemical composition

of a 3 week opium and LSD binge" is true, it does highlight just how long the science world has had to come up with a halfway decent rejoinder. In fact, when pressed on the matter, the seemingly equally ridiculous Milton Wainwright, a microbiologist at the massively prestigious University of Sheffield, said "If they're not living cells, I don't know what they are. Maybe

this is the beginning of something amazing" Although another scientist simply commented "Sounds like bullshit to me", this, unfortunately, is symptomatic of the lazy approach that many experts have had toward trying to disprove Louis' theory. One popular belief is that the particles are in fact the red blood cells of mammals, which Louis counters by asking, quite reasonably, just how 50 tonnes (the estimated total mass of the particles that fell) of mammalian blood got into the atmosphere? Though this is indeed a difficult question to answer there are undoubtedly better explanations than the one that Charles Cockell of the Open University gives. His best idea is that a meteor explosion (presumably the same one) massacred a flock of passing bats splattering their blood into surrounding clouds, a theory that is apparently based solely on the fact that there are a lot of bats India. Whilst the New Scientist euphemistically describes this hypothesis as a 'wild guess' it might better be called breathtakingly idiotic.

With no sensible suggestions coming from either side of the debate surrounding Kerala's red rain it is left to the voice of common sense to ask whether: Godfrey Louis is:

- a.) stupid
- b.) taking the piss
- c.) very very incompetent
- or
- d.) all of the above



Raindrops, probably not containing aliens

# Blasting Off To Distant (Michelin) Stars

Olivia Floyer-Acland finds martian cooking wanting

There is nothing quite like jumping on somebody else's band wagon, particularly if that band wagon is headed towards mars. As soon as the European Space Agency (ESA) announced their hopes of engaging in long field trips to mars and beyond - the question of how to keep our boys in space from starving became the focus of much debate.

Naturally it was two French companies, Alain Ducasse Formation and GEM, who started the battle to win the lucrative ESA contract. Unlike previous space odysseys there will not be room to take enough dehydrated food stuffs

to sustain a crews whole trip. Besides as the ESA's biological life-support coordinator, Christophe Lasseur points out there is more to food than meets the eye, " In addition to being healthy and sufficiently nutritious for survival, good food could potentially provide psychological support for the crew, away from earth for years".

In the circumstances one can't help feeling that 'potentially' is a rather generous overstatement, with dishes such as 'Martian bread and green tomato jam' and 'Spirulina gnocchis' lined up the crew are sure to be comforted in the presence of such nostalgic morsels

of home cooking. Incidentally for anybody who was wondering spirulina is in fact a bluish green algae, however what it lacks it scrumptiousness it makes up for in nutrients. Containing 65% protein with generous dollops of calcium, carbohydrates, lipids and essential vitamins it shouldn't be too long before we see it cropping up in health food shops nation wide.

Despite the emphasis on the quality of food to be made available for the astronauts, between them the top 'Haute cuisine' chefs from both ADF and GEM only managed to come up with 11 recipies and although they are insistent of the 'tasty' nature of the 11 recipes, one cannot help feel that variety is most definitely not the spice of life for these earnest

souls. However before we condemn them too quickly it is worth asking exactly what ingredients were made available to each team of chefs. Once the astronauts have succesfully invaded and colonized mars, Christophe Lasseur expects that they will be able to grow nine basic ingredients: rice, onions, tomatoes, soya, potatoes, lettuce, spinach, wheat and of course the all important spirulina. Not the most thrilling of food stuffs for even the most devout of vegans and as head chef of ADF, Armand Arnal grumbles it is difficult to make edible dishes when the EU health Nazis clamp down on seasoning, "

Moreover, we had absolute restrictions on using salt...sugar and fat, ingredients normally essential to the elaboration of a dish and highlight its flavours." However before you panic and cancel reservations for the next tourist shuttle to mars, gastronomy on mars will have some benefits.



Mmmm... martian bread with green tomato jam

Lasseur is quick to point out that by growing roughly around 40% of our food, small holding martian

colonizers, " will also 'get for free' the oxygen and water needed to live". What could be more of an

incentive to spend years floating around space?

# U.S. To Turn Military into ‘Traveling Circus’

Engineers funded by the US Navy announced recently that they have designed a neural implant that will allow a shark's brain signals to be manipulated remotely after preliminary tests on dogfish in tanks proved successful, allowing the scientists to remotely control the fish's movements. A series of electrodes embedded in the sorry animal's brain are used to stimulate various areas of the fish's brain and control its movements via something called, not particularly helpfully, a "phantom odour". Great excitement in the scientific world was, however, averted by the fact that, according to the New Scientist on March 1st: "radio signals used to direct the dogfish in the tank will not penetrate water" how very useful.

Whilst the morally upstanding scientists conducting the research hope that it will bring a new understanding of how marine life interacts with its environment as well as helping research to tackle paralysis in humans (the former being inevitable, the latter wildly optimistic), the more ethically dubious Pentagon think the new technology could have military uses. Following the mildly successful

incorporation of dolphins into the US navy, they now hope that remote control sharks may become 'stealth spies' capable of following enemy vessels undetected.

Although this would no doubt further the US military's ambition to bring the average IQ of new recruits closer to that of their commander-in-chief, it too is unlikely to be massively successful, as, whilst the shark is not quite as stupid as the sardine or tuna, which they feast on with impunity, they are very definitely looked down upon by dolphins and even many whales as among the dunces of the underwater world.

Convincing one to follow for miles the hull of a boat which it cannot eat will also, even



Shark, almost certainly up to no good

with brain implants, be a tricky task: one pessimistic scientist at Boston university describing sharks as too 'unreasonable and uncooperative' for any serious military application. This has prompted hushed rumours that along with the squadron of fairly useless dolphins in the US navy and a team of rats that are allegedly used to sniff out bombs the sharks are merely playing their part in George Bush's secret operation to create the world's first military that can double as a travelling circus, in order to win the 'hearts and minds' of various occupied populations, following widespread condemnation of the previous policy codenamed operation 'death to the natives'.

# The Long Awaited Return Of... Overrated and Underrated Science

Overrated:

Regular Rain

We were bored of it after 20 minutes. 20 years later we're still bored

Acid

The orignal and best

Natural Sugars

If it don't taste sweet it ain't sugar

The Thyroid Gland

Who knows what it is? Who cares?

Underrated:

Red Alien Rain

Bringing some much needed excitement to the world of precipitation

Alkali

Basic. Very Basic.

Real Sugar

You wouldn't want fructose in your tea now would you?

Mammary Glands

Says Harriet Johnson, possessor of two: "I'd happily give up my thyroid gland ahead of either mammary"



# A Job Well Done in Ecuador

Alyson Mc Evoy reflects on her experiences volunteering with children in Ecuador

Those familiar with my last four articles on travelling through the various regions of Ecuador may well have wondered at times what brought me to Ecuador in the first place.

My main reason for travelling to Ecuador was to join a volunteer organisation there, in the impoverished southern part of the capital city, Quito. This I did for five months, travelling at weekends, before taking the final two months to work on a more rural volunteer project and to visit those more far flung parts of the country which needed more than a week-end hit.

In Quito I worked in CENIT - Centro de la Niña trabajadora or, “centre for the working girl.” When I first arrived, I wondered what kind of ‘working girls’ these might be. It turned out to refer to young girls who worked alongside their parents in the numerous city market places. These were kids who were either taken out of school at a young age by their parents, who saw more advantage in their earning money straight away rather than receiving an education. The already overcrowded state schools of the city don’t see it to their advantage to argue with such views. Other children working in the markets had been expelled from a succession of schools due to ‘anti social’ behaviour, the result of shaky upbringings, unstable homes (some did not have homes at all though) and many had also suffered some kind of abuse be it psychological, physical or sexual.

CENIT is situated on the site of an old abandoned school which has been renovated (in a pretty minimal sense of the word). It is a bright yellow building, cheerful and animated. Various walls are decorated with murals painted by the kids themselves. It is well positioned to help some of

the poorest families in Quito who live in the south of the city. It’s a non governmental organisation which was founded by an order of nuns in 1991. It offers educational, psychological and medical programs to working children and

“Many children are used to volunteers coming and going and although they can’t help but get attached to them, they know they day is coming when they will leave”

their families. Speaking from a personal point of view, it is a great place to volunteer as the options are endless with regard to what you can get involved in. On arrival you are given a list of all the programmes run by CENIT and asked to tick your preferences. Then a schedule of work is organised for you trying to place you working in as many of the programs listed as possible. This is just a small sample of the projects at CENIT: Preparation courses for young children about to start school, Kindergarten, after school support centre, vocational programs in areas such as art, beauty, hairdressing, leatherwork, card making etc, free medical clinic.

I had four English classes per week at CENIT, teaching in their ‘alternative’ schooling system. As the standard of English was quite low and the concentration of the children limited, teaching involved disguising lessons in lots of games and activities. All the more fun for the volunteer! One of the most memorable classes was when my friend Gemma and I decided to start teaching the English words for various tastes. We arrived in class armed with provisions and set the class to sampling various salty, spicy, bitter and sweet foods. Well, we passed around salt, chilli sauce, lemon slices and sugar! Each taste was followed with getting them to iden-

tify the word in Spanish, then to repeat it after us in English. That was the theory anyway. Some kids managed to overdo it with the chilli sauce, others had too much of a liking for lemons and spent the class sucking at the rinds of already

chewed slices! We all had fun but we were doubtful as to whether anyone learned anything. The time came for the monthly test and we were truly amazed when we found that the majority had remembered those four words from that class!! We tried other kinds of similar things after that, bringing in props to class, acting things out etc but we never managed to repeat the glory of that one class!

Two afternoons a week were spent on the after school program. This takes place in a shed which CENIT managed to acquire from one of the market places. It was at the very back of the market place so all the volunteers had to walk through the whole market to get there- an interesting experience! In the meat section, hungry-looking dogs prowled the ground for scraps and stripped carcasses of unidentifiable (well, to me anyway – a vegetarian!) animals hung from metal hooks. Next was the fruit section, a seriously impressive display of exotic fruit such as pineapples, melons, coconuts, tiny bananas (known as oritos), star fruits and so many more, the most expensive being about a dollar (and that was for, volunteers and tourists- who knows what crazy deal the locals got!?) People lived in these markets and huge communal cooking, sitting, sewing, squatting areas lay underground, beneath the market. Every so often

a baby could be seen waddling among the stalls, a man shaving beside the open sinks or women preparing dinner for the family on the workspaces of the meat area.

Volunteers spend two hours in the centre here, helping children with their homework and occupying those who had finished. A weekly football match got going on Wednesdays which made it difficult to believe the ‘I have no homework today’ stories, especially when accompanied with an eager young face with a football in hand!

Two other afternoons Hazel and I gave art classes to the

mothers of some of the children. This provided not only a skill for these women but also a social group and contact outside of the home. The women also bought supplies from CENIT volunteers and painted small paintings outside of class time, putting their skill into action. A number of trendy cafes in the touristy part of town had agreed give over a small area for the women to display their work and each week I visited these cafes with new work to display and collect money from paintings sold. Nothing gave these women more pride (many of whom lived in abu-

sive relationships or just had very hard impoverished lives) than to know that someone had admired their work and had paid to own it. It was one of the best parts of my week, handing over collected money to the woman concerned.

Needless to say it was very hard to leave CENIT at the end of five months, just when I was beginning to get comfortable. I didn’t have the nerve to tell the kids I was leaving until my very last day in class. The sad thing is that many are used to volunteers coming and going and although they can’t help but get attached to

them, they do know the day is coming when they will leave.

I hope my story inspires some of you to pack up and head to CENIT! It is truly a wonderful place. I think the volunteer manual sums it up when it says:

“ Hi! Welcome to CENIT! We are so excited that you have come to share your time, energy, education and experience with us. Whatever you do here will be an amazing experience both for you and the children you work with. Enjoy it!”

CENIT’s website is [www.cenitecuador.org](http://www.cenitecuador.org)



Alyson surrounded by some of the children she worked with when she was in Ecuador

# Fear and Loathing in California

Klara Kubiak is left decidedly unimpressed by her experiences on the West Coast in part two of her Californian diaries



Last issue saw us about to leave behind the socially backward, nutritionally deficient black hole that was South Lake Tahoe. Desperately hoping that this place was the exception that proved the rule we vowed to wipe the slate clean and give the rest of California a chance. We had had glimpses of the outside world during our time in Tahoe, taking advantage of our days off from work to travel to Yosemite National Park, Las Vegas, Reno and Sacramento.

Yosemite was awful, in the old-school sense of the word. We had gone early enough in the summer so that the glaciers were still melting, and the resulting waterfalls were spectacular. Yosemite’s landscape is completely alien to anything you’d experience in Europe, which only seems to vindicate the saying that America is wasted on Americans. We encountered a little housing crisis thanks to all the campsites being officially booked out, but came across a seemingly empty patch of land and decided to colonise it. We managed to pitch our tent unnoticed, but soon an irate American male was shouting at us for trespassing on his proper-

ty. And so we pulled the foreign card, pretended we didn’t understand him, babbled on in Irish, looked at each other and him in bewilderment and eventually he got so frustrated that he acquiesced and said we could stay for one night. Who ever said getting residency in America was a harrowing process?

Another weekend trip took us to Las Vegas, which is a very odd place indeed. The entire city literally looks like it’s made of plastic and one wonders why it doesn’t melt in the stifling heat of early August. People here have gone to great lengths and expense to make places look like other already existing places: the ‘New York New York’ casino boasts a mini-city complete with shop fronts and street lights inside it and a replica Statue of Liberty outside. ‘The Venetian’ casino is even more disorientating. With everything from indoor canals to gondoliers and a fake sky, you’re not quite sure if you’re indoors or out. The complete absence of clocks in the city only adds to this feeling of disorientation. Arriving quite late on our first night, we didn’t head out until about one in the morning and found some grotty, grungy pub on

the outskirts of the ‘strip’ since the casino bars are overpriced and underwhelming. Through some manner of frequent flyer point system, the barman became very generous with our drink portions and thus when we eventually stumbled outside, thinking it was still sometime in the early morning, it was mid-afternoon. So in Vegas you go to bed at about 1pm, after attempting to eat breakfast but finding that you are incapable of manoeuvring

“Californian cities are odd in that once you arrive there, you really feel like you’ve completed your journey already”

cutlery, and sleep ‘till four. Which is fine, because everything is open all the time, so you can never wake up too late to get anything done. Besides, Vegas during the day is not a nice experience. The humidity is unbearable, so walking anywhere is impossible, and anyway there is very little to do there while the sun shines. And if the city looks amusingly tacky at night, it just looks plain dingy during the day-time.

And so finally leaving behind the fast food and slow wit of Tahoe for good, our road trip took us to San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Cruz and back to San Francisco. Flying into San Diego in the early hours of the morning, we decided it best to hold out till the next day before looking for accommodation. This involved a couple of hours of dozing in the airport, after which we hopped on a dingy bus into the city. Bearing in mind that we had no proper sleep, it hit us particularly hard that the proprietor of the hostel wouldn’t let us check in till 2pm. So we ended up going,

unwashed and exhausted, for drinks at 9am followed by a trip to the cinema. To add to the pain of it all, the only film on at the time was the harrowingly bad “The Brother’s Grimm”. It’s funny how being homeless, tired and grubby will allow you to endure even the most awful cinematic experience simply because movie theatres provide seats, food and toilets.

San Diego’s nightlife is centred around its ‘Gaslamp

Quarter’ which is composed entirely of restaurants and bars and offered a massively welcome change from Tahoe’s severely limited menus and nightlife. But after devouring a fantastic Indian meal, that actually had real vegetables in it, and taking a trip to a proper pub that served proper pints, there isn’t a lot to do as such as a tourist. Balboa Park, which houses the city’s famous zoo, also hosts museums and galleries, but a day spent there is all you really need. Full of plans to take a detour down south to Mexico, the painfully bureaucratic folk who issued us our visa informed us that we needed to have the foresight to get said visa stamped two weeks prior to our crossing the border: getting out of America wasn’t the problem it was being allowed back in that would be the issue.

So instead we headed to Los Angeles, which is perhaps the dodgiest place I have thus far encountered in my apparently sheltered life. We somehow ended up staying in downtown L.A., on the outskirts of areas such as Compton

and Inglewood, which you will be familiar with from any generic rap song. Our hotel was actually quite pleasant; our walk home to it from the metro station, however, certainly was not. It was but eleven at night and yet were the only females to be seen on the streets, which were lined with groups of men whose priorities in life appeared to be drink, drugs and procreation. A friend of mine said we should almost take it as an insult that nobody tried to impregnate us. But to our credit we did get a lot of hissing, and the occasional bark. The desolation and poverty of downtown L.A. is the polar opposite to the other main area of the city, namely the Beverly Hills/Hollywood area. After our downtown experience, we drove up Sunset Boulevard, known to anyone who has ever secretly watched American soaps or MTV’s ‘Cribs’. The affluence of Beverly Hills is in stark contrast to the large homeless population and gangland crime evident in other areas of the city. But yet again, the recurring theme emerges-there is very little to do in American cities. You walk down Hollywood Boulevard lined with famous names surrounded by equally famous stars; you pass endless number of shops selling tacky, overpriced souvenirs; but that’s it, you’ve ‘done’ Hollywood, and unless you want to get a job in Hooters (which by that way offers ghastly food served by middling-average looking women), you might as well get packing.

Californian cities are odd in that once you arrive there, you really feel like you’ve completed your journey already. There is no sense of having to explore the area, to wander down little side-streets and immerse yourself in the cul-

ture. Firstly they lack any real centre, they are more like sprawling, oversized shopping centres, thus you never feel you have really been to the heart of the city. Secondly, there are very few activities for tourists. Most of it consists of arriving at some world famous landmark, taking a few photos, and leaving with the feeling you’ve been cheated out of an actual experience. Rather than being there to be discovered and explored, the tourism value of California’s cities exists more in saying you’ve been there and literally gotten the t-shirt.

Santa Barbara was next, a pretty, sleepy town, entirely modelled on Mediterranean style architecture. This serves to emphasise another characteristic aspect of California: anywhere remotely aesthetically pleasing is far from original but constructed to resemble somewhere else, usually European cities. Despite having its name defiled by ‘The Thrills’, we gave Santa Cruz a go anyway, just to keep up the missionary town theme. It boasts a nice main shopping street which we wandered passively down, (by this stage money was something of a luxury) but yet again there was little else to do, apart from the famous boardwalk with its amusements and candy floss stalls, which my friend was incensed to find closed for the summer. So we ended up in a bar instead, where some weird guy who smelt funny drew a picture of us for no apparent reason and decided to share with us the intimate details of his life.

Leaving Santa Cruz, we brought our adventure full circle with our return to San Francisco. Our final days were spent wandering Chinatown unsuccessfully in search of presents to bring back

home; but successfully finding the dingiest looking but best tasting Chinese restaurant that side of the Great Wall, visiting Alcatraz on a fly-infested ferry and generally lolling about in the fantastic Green Tortoise Hostel. A painfully boring ten hour flight later we were home-except we weren’t. We were in London and the dollar to sterling exchange rate was nearly half, so about two hours wages were spent on two much needed pints. A dose of sleeping pills, which somehow didn’t manage to make me sleep but just made me incredibly stoned for about six hours, did considerably lessen the pain of the lengthy transatlantic trip. During these few blissful hours plane food was not only temporarily tolerable, but even bordered on exciting, and the terrible films they offer you had me enthralled, though I don’t remember many details. And so back I came with naught but 100 dollars in my pocket, some very odd photos and some memories, which are not so much fond as all right.

Admittedly Tahoe was an unfortunate exception to California as a whole (it seems a kind of Middle American Hicksville mentality somehow managed to migrate westwards) but nonetheless I don’t intend to repeat the experience. I suppose if you like your portions and your people super-sized, yet painfully lacking in substance, America may be your ideal holiday destination; but given the unjustified cost of obtaining the J1 visa, I really don’t feel it’s worth the money. Perhaps I generalise too much-one cannot blacklist an entire country on the basis of one relatively small subsection, but I am in no hurry to find out if California is an exception to the overall American dream...



# Career Focus: Private Detection

Miles Amoores investigates the options available to those wishing to pursue a career in the sometimes thrilling sometimes mundane world of private detection.

The Job

Following the Holmesian model for private detection, many people believe the profession to be imbued with an atmosphere of constant and exotic danger. Whilst this may be the case in a few extreme instances, the belief that the private detective works in such conditions all of the time is a slightly distorted one.

In reality, the detective will often spend long hours carrying out routine surveillance work, making phone calls from their office and carrying out database searches on their computer. Additionally, the investigator will be involved in conducting de-bugging operations, carrying out polygraph lie-detection tests for employee verification purposes and, in some cases, obtaining photographic or video evidence to support their client's suspicions.

All of these operations are aimed at assisting the client. The private detective's client base ranges from attorneys and businesses to members of the public experiencing legal, financial and personal problems. This latter client is perhaps the most renowned: the jaded lover whose distrust has brought into question the fidelity of his or her partner.

The objectives laid out by the client can vary greatly. As a result, the private detective's sphere of work is constantly shifting between one job and the next. The investigator's job is, according to the client's agenda, to offer protection, present individual background profiles and to investigate computer crimes perpetrated by those involved in identity theft, illegal downloading of copyrighted material or sending harassing emails to members of the public.

To compliment these aspects of the job, there are also the cases that involve fraud, custody over a child, premarital

screening, personal injury claims and issues of civil liability.

However, within the enormous realm that constitutes the world of private detection, there is always the opportunity to specialise in certain fields.

Investigators of Intellectual Property Theft: In this area of specialisation, the detective will primarily be involved in documenting acts of piracy, providing evidence for prosecutors, as well as helping clients prevent illegal behaviour.

Legal Investigators: This type of investigator is usually employed by law firms. They assist in preparing criminal defences, locating witnesses, interviewing police and prospective witnesses, testifying in court and collecting evidence.

Corporate Investigators: This job has two focal areas. The detective may be used internally in order to unearth suspected drug use in the workplace, as well as the abuse of expense accounts and the theft of merchandise by the company's employees. The investigator may also be deployed externally, as a means of preventing or uncovering the theft of a company's assets.

The private detective's workplace is as diverse as his occupation. A combination of irregular working hours and time spent both in and out of the office make for a lifestyle defined by constant oscillations between the banal and the exciting. Inside the office, the detective's time is usually spent making phone calls at hours when most people have finished their work. This type of menial and tedious work is counterbalanced by the often fascinating and varied world that greets the private detective upon his or her exit from the office space.

Once in this world, the detective might find himself, with equal regularity, either in the luxuriously decorated boardrooms of the business elite or in the seedy underworld inhabited

by some of the world's most notorious criminals.

The majority of the detective's working hours are spent alone, although this occasionally changes in situations that require the daily tracking of a subject's movements.

What about the money? To begin with, you could earn as little as €15,000 PA, although this is not too bad considering that many investigators earning at this level are employed part-time. At the opposite end of the pay bracket, an investigator with a large client base could earn upwards of €40,000. If you choose to remain self-employed, then you can expect to charge between €50-80 per hour of your time and between 70-110 cents per mile when using your car.

Getting There

Although there are no formal educational qualifications required for entry into the world of private detection, it will certainly be an advantage to possess a degree when applying for the job. A degree is of especial importance as many people who make the move to private detection do so from another type of interrelated employment, such as the police force.

Despite the evident experiential advantages that a career in law enforcement offers, the applicant who does not possess such knowledge should not be deterred from applying. In instances of corporate specialisation, a knowledge of civil law is evidently of more value than the criminal law practiced by the police.

In addition, the various training programmes offered by private investigation companies will accord the person undertaking one of these courses a full understanding of the ins and outs of the law.

There are many courses offered by numerous agencies. The standard format of these

courses tends to begin with a rough overview of the profession aimed at those people who have no prior knowledge of what the job entails. After this preliminary sketch, the trainee will normally move onto a more intensive course that lasts between two weeks and a month, and is aimed at covering the essential information needed by those who wish to pursue a career in private investigation.

These courses provide the foundation upon which a career in the profession is based. Depending on the desired area of specialisation, the person can then attend to the more particular areas of the detective's job, such as surveillance work (whether electronic, pedestrian or automotive), debugging, tracing and knowledge of lie-detectors. All of these individual subsidiary courses can extend over a period of up to ten days.

In addition to these courses, there are seminars available that deal with setting up an independent private detection agency. The choice of owning one's own business may well appeal to many people and there are a few ways of realising the dream of self-employment within the world of private detection.

One such way might be to become part of a franchise, many of which exist in order to centralise an otherwise dissipated yet interlinked workforce. The cost of setting up within a franchise varies slightly amongst the different agencies but is usually in the region of €37,000.

Initially, a few over-heads need to be taken into consideration when creating the business, such as the cost of the equipment, employing members of staff who can answer the phone around the clock and the locating and renting of the actual office space. However, once these have been accomplished, a private investigation company can prove highly lucrative, earning upwards of €70,000 per annum.

Personal Qualities

For private detective and investigator jobs, most employers look for people who are assertive, persistent and ingenious. In addition, the detective must not be afraid of confrontation, as the job can sometimes prove to be dangerous, although this is no reason to carry a gun, as the private eye is not involved in law enforcement nor is he responsible for the apprehension of criminals.

The private detective must also command good interviewing and interrogation skills, as gleaned information from obstinate sources is often part of the detective's daily routine. It is also essential that the investigator is able to stand up and present information in a lucid and appropriate manner because the courts are often the sole arbiter of a properly conducted investigation.

Finally, the investigator must be personable, and have the ability to sympathise with emotionally distraught clients: jilted lovers, the mothers and fathers of missing children, witnesses who have been threatened by defendants, and the grief stricken victims of unfavourable child custody decisions are all just a few instances of traumatised clients.

Sherlock Holmes, the greatest private eye of them all. employees, 5 corrupt police officers, and 1 corrupt lawyer spread over three separate continents.

In addition to this commendable record, NIG have played a large part in numerous other cases, which illuminate the various situations in which private detectives can become involved.

Case 1:

A woman who claimed €1 million in a personal injury case because she could not walk had her case overturned when operatives discovered her, and filmed her, dancing on tabletops in a Greek restaurant.

Case 2:

A man who had recently taken out a large life insurance policy

on his wife's life claimed, a year later, that his wife had been electrocuted by an iron. NIG sent an agent to Pakistan, where it was discovered that his wife was not dead and that the death certificate had been forged. The man was charged with conspiracy to defraud the insurance company of €400,000.

Case 3:

A client paid an incredible €8,000 for the return of his Persian cat.

Career Resources

[www.tcd.ie/careers](http://www.tcd.ie/careers)  
[www.nig.co.uk](http://www.nig.co.uk)



## Be Prepared for Continuous Professional Education

With technology and scientific advancement revolutionising our lives and careers so often, Myles Gutkin looks at why education can no longer be confined to the classroom.

If you're working as hard as you can now because you think that the study will all end when you get your honours degree, think again. Employers expect the high standard of education that employees possess on entry to be maintained throughout their careers. Technology and scientific knowledge are evolving at an ever increasing rate. Qualifications and skills quickly become redundant unless they are updated regularly as industrial and professional practices are revolutionised. For example, computer literacy is a skill very few possessed 30 years ago, but with the advent of personal computers and the digitisation of many industries, no profession can survive without computer literate employees.

You may be working hard at college in the hope of gaining a high entry level position with a high quality degree, but don't imagine that you'll be able to keep up in a demanding field without renewing and developing your skills. From starting on your career path at say, 25 years old, until retiring at around 65 years of age there will be 40 years of scientific and industrial development. Many cutting edge technologies will be abandoned in that time, and most careers will have changed significantly. Throughout your career, you'll be working for an employer and a customer, and you can only do that effectively if your knowledge and skills are up to date. To be one year out of date is inefficient, but to be 10 years out of date is criminal. You must update your practices to comply with modern

concepts of best practice regularly, or risk negligence.

Professional bodies license members to practice within their jurisdiction, and audit them to insure that they maintain appropriate standards. With the right to practice comes the duty to satisfy certain criteria, which includes remaining abreast of advancements in relevant fields, and updating professional skills to coincide with modern techniques. The Irish Medical Council for example, requires certain educational obligations to be met by its members each year. This can be done by subscribing to appropriate journals, attending conferences, and practicing in relevant clinical settings. Failure to maintain a satisfactory level of education will lead to removal from the register. Regulated accreditation is integral to the maintenance of appropriate standards in the fields Engineering, Medicine, IT, nursing, and teaching.

For professionals in carefully regulated industries, maintaining standards of education is actively supported and enforced. However, for the majority of employees, self education won't be compulsory, yet it can improve efficiency, and increase attractiveness to current and prospective employers. To serve employers and customers well, an employee needs to use modern techniques. With regular advancements in the fields of customer service, management, education, healthcare, materials science, and media, which can improve the quality of product and service provision substantially,

there are few if any industries which won't benefit from regular updates of practices. Attending relevant seminars and short courses in subjects relevant to your area of employment can be an excellent boost to your efficiency taken regularly throughout a career.

To remain competitive, industries must continually increase quality and decrease costs. Those who fail to keep up with market trends will lose custom to businesses using more efficient, modern techniques. If a competitor is using a better method, it's in your best interest to learn about it and how it can improve your productivity. This is done not only by investing in research, but also by encouraging employees to update their qualifications regularly, and giving financial support to do so. An employee with outdated skills is a burden on their employer, but with continuous professional education, employees can bring new ideas and techniques into play as the industry develops. Education and technological advancement can give your product the competitive edge in the market place, which is better for industry, employees and consumers.

With technologies reducing the labour intensiveness of industries all the time, redundancy is something facing more people in every generation. We must all be prepared to re-educate ourselves for lateral movement between related careers or vertical advancement to management positions. Maintaining high standards of education can facilitate early knowledge of impending industry

changes and specialised education mid-career can facilitate movement to a more favourable sector before or during difficult employment conditions. Increased computerisation and outsourcing of labour doesn't need to spell disaster if employees can be educated continually, to advance with the industry.

Industries change, and careers change with them. Employment is as dynamic an entity as knowledge is, and both must be in balanced to maintain a healthy employment status and healthy industry. You may have

plans to get your foot in the door and then take it easy, but watch out that the office doesn't relocate while you're napping at your desk. For professionals especially, education is a never ending process, so don't burn yourself out at the beginning. Instead establish a level of

study and work which you can comfortably balance with a healthy private and social life. Education is not just a stepping stone to a career, but a treadmill, so set the incline to a level you can maintain for the duration.



'Education is not a stepping stone to employment, but a treadmill, so set the incline to a level you can maintain for the duration'



# Overboard: Trinity’s New Community

As the SU website begins to gather dust due to lack of use, an alternative has sprung up. The TCD forum on boards.ie has become increasingly popular as a place to talk to other Trinity students about well, just about anything at all. Here some of its regular users explain its appeal.

An real internet phenomenon, unlike this fleeting Bebo craze, has been growing slowly but steadily around campus over the past two years. Its influence has far surpassed that of the SU forum, though it has absolutely nothing to do with the SU. It has been claimed that it has even eclipsed the University Record as a medium for college-related information. It's not merely about that however; as anyone who uses it regularly will tell you, it's become somewhat of an open community with an informal atmosphere.

Boards.ie was officially founded in 2000 and has grown Ireland's largest online community with over 50,000 members. Although two of its owners (Dan King and Tom Murphy) are TCD alumni, the Trinity forum was only founded in September 2004. Now one of the most popular websites in Ireland, the Trinity forum is the most popular of all the college forums.

A huge advantage boards.ie has over the SU website is the great variety of choice available. When one gets bored waiting for a reply on TCD-related gossip, they can peruse over 500 other forums covering almost every imaginable topic. With forums ranging from Scuba Diving to Conspiracy Theories to a recreational "After Hours" forum, Boards has that Bebo-like addictive element. Clocking in with well over two thousand posts a day, it could never accused of being a boring place to avoid the library with - there's simply too much to do on it.

Boards now boasts some well known TCD'ers including current Education Officer Dónal McCormack, Ents

**“Boards.ie has become the authoritative informal source for anything to do with Trinity”**

Officer Niall Hughes, Trinity News editor Andrew Payne, ex-GSU President Michael Dowling, and ex-SU Deputy President and former Engineering lecturer Tony O'Donnell. To the surprise of all posters, a registered user with the name of jhegarty has recently been observed browsing the forum. Whether or not this is in fact our esteemed Provost has yet to be determined.

The TCD "community" is well-knit: one of the regular users was the result of a poster campaign around college; follow-

ing a complaint about being single, he arrived into college the next morning to a barrage of "Would you date this man?" posters - truly showing the power of the community present.

Many hacks and non-hacks alike have criticised the heavy-handed moderating on the SU forum. Some even go so far as to say it dealt its own death-blow. Certainly, at around the time those complaints about the moderation were rife, the more casual TCD forum of boards.ie noticed a surge in activity. However one notable who was ultimately banned from boards.ie is the legendary ex-SU President candidate Christopher Gambino. Having told us of how he pierced holes in his housemate's condoms for borrowing his jumper, commented that "poor spelling is a sign of a good education" and stating "I fully support heroes like Franco, Pinochet, De Valera and that guy in Argentina in the seventies" his stay was interrupted when he made one abusive comment too many.

An in-depth and graphic discussion of the "glory holes" in the Hamilton Building toilets was one gem that showed the effective moderating of casual discussion. What started as a simple question became a no-holds barred, taboo-busting phenomenon. Anything you ever wanted to know about bodily functions, illicit sexual encounters, menstruation, washable tampons, female masturbation, or the mystery of the men's urinals in the Berkeley Library was contained therein. Some classic quotes include "Guys don't need to wipe, we just shake. Although you can actually shake for too long, and freak people out. There's an etiquette to it" and "There must be a thrill in getting your jollies with a faceless, unidentified person".

As members got to know their colleagues on the other side of the screen in real life, they decided to meet together

**“The TCD forum is easily the most popular of all the college forums”**

er over a few beers. Last summer the first major Boards Beers was held with well over a dozen people attending. Since then they've been regular occurrences with attendance ever on the rise. The next is planned for the end of term.

Serious discussion does

happen as well. While debating the merits of candidates in the recent SU elections, threats of legal action were branded after a reportedly vicious post about presidential candidate John McGuirk. The post was deleted and the thread locked. As this article goes to print, a serious discussion is developing over an alleged arrest in Front Square, before either of the college newspapers report it. The immediate nature of the correspondence is very prevalent.

So what's in store for the SU message boards? The future looks bleak. Prospective students come in their hordes to boards.ie to mine information which would formerly have been the preserve of the SU. The complete dependence on funds and thus lack of autonomy the SU have from the college gives boards.ie another advantage. Boards.ie has become the authoritative informal source for TCD information. If you're sick of the inane bureaucracy associated with the SU and want to hear about a whole other side of life in Trinity then maybe it's time you have a look, or even say hello.

**Thanks to all on boards.ie who contributed to this article**



Boards: A whole other side to life in Trinity

## BESS Ball ticket winners



Congratulations to Kirsten Clear who won the two tickets to the BESS Ball in our last edition. Picture shows Kirsten and Darren Ryan enjoying the Ball.

## Win one of 10 double passes to the Down Under Expo on March 11th-12th

Bringing together a host of opportunities for working, travelling and studying in Australia and New Zealand the eagerly anticipated Down Under Expo will take place from Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th March at the RDS. A year Down Under is becoming something of a rite of passage for many Irish students, so if swapping grey days for blue skies appeals to you then this show is a must visit!

Over 40 exhibitors and a comprehensive seminar programme will unfold information on everything you need to know about delving Down Under - from employment to travel, finance to housing and shipping services to studying.

Travel experts including USIT and YHA hostels will offer invaluable tips on transport and accommodation while ‘Study Options’, an independent education agency, will offer a comprehensive insight into studying in either Australia or New Zealand and help students choose and apply to their dream undergraduate or postgraduate degree.

If swimming and surfing with seasonal work is your choice then there’s great news for you, as details of the new two year Australian Working Holiday Programme will be uncovered by the Australian and NZ Immigration Departments. Those of you with a little more experience can discover a wide range of Skilled Migration opportunities including details of positions available in over 80 individual professions such as Accountants, Solicitors, Doctors, HR Professionals, Nurses and Engineers.

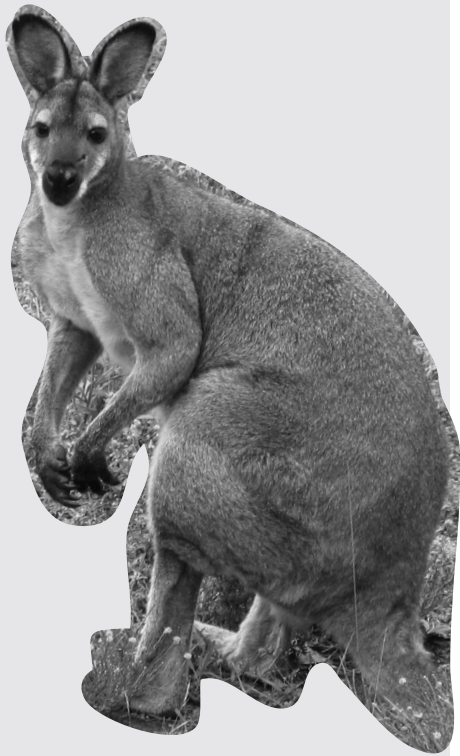
So if you think you would like to delve Down Under, or are already planning a trip, make The Down Under Expo your first step! More information is available at [www.downunder.ie](http://www.downunder.ie).

**Trinity News & The Down Under Expo have teamed up to offer 10 readers the chance to win a double pass to the show. To be in with a chance to win all you have to do is answer this simple question:**

**Question: What mammal is commonly associated with life Down Under?**

Admission Times  
Saturday 11th March 10am – 5pm  
Sunday 12th March 11am – 5pm

Entries to be sent to [trinity.news@tcd.ie](mailto:trinity.news@tcd.ie)





## Who ends up offended?

Recent media frenzy has fed into the giant uproar over the Mohammed cartoons. But when retaliation proved more offensive than the offense, **Gillian Hamill** wonders who actually loses out the most in such a furore

The British National Party recently published leaflets displaying the controversial Danish cartoon of the Prophet Mohamed. The leaflet's caption poses the question, "Which do you find offensive? A cartoon of Mohamed with a bomb for a turban OR Muslim demonstrators calling for terrorist attacks on Europe and the 'extermination' of non-Muslims?" A photograph of protestors carrying placards such as "Europe you will pay, extermination is on its way" and "Butcher those who mock Islam" is used to illustrate this alternate benchmark of offensiveness.

Labour Party Chairman,

**"This was controversy for the sake of controversy"**

Ian McCartney was quick to deride these leaflets as "straight out of the Nazi textbook." However, whilst equating these leaflets with fascism would be a relatively easy task due to the exclusionist credentials of its authors, nevertheless it is hard to deny that this question possesses a certain logic.

The cartoon's creator Kurt Westergaard has stated that his inspiration for the pictures was "terrorism" which he said received "spiritual ammunition" from Islam. Surely Muslim demonstrators threatening to "butcher all those who mock Islam" is a prime example of how terrorism and violence are generated in the name of religion; how ammunition stems from spiritual outrage? These protestors are ambushing their own cause by further linking Islam with extremist violence, which afterall, was credited as the reason why the

cartoon caused offence in the first place. A more morally effective campaign in my eyes was the thousands of Muslims who gathered in Trafalgar Square on 11 February to protest against both the caricaturing of the Prophet Mohamed and the extremists seeking to exploit the tensions for their own ends. These protestors didn't sully their argument against Mohamed's portrayal by stating it with the exact characteristic Kurt Westergaard claims his cartoons sought to illustrate, namely, extremist violence within the Islam faith.

The BNP leaflet went on to elucidate; "By showing you just how mild and inoffensive the cartoon is, we're giving you the chance to see for yourself the huge gulf that exists between the democratic values that we share, and the medieval views that dominate Islam, even supposedly 'moderate' versions." How "mild and inoffensive the cartoon is" is actually a matter of perspective. A Western audience might ask what all the fuss was about; there's no guts or gore within this simple drawing, but the circumstances under which the cartoon was originally published ought to be examined. The Danish Editor Flemming Rose, aware that images of the Prophet Mohamed have long been discouraged in

**"Muslim protestors need to distance themselves from extremism"**

Islam, decided to hold a competition for cartoonists to enter their own interpretation of him. The best one would be published. He choose the by now infamous car-

toon drawn by Kurt Westergaard. This behaviour, as some commentators have put it smacks of a 'big red do-not-touch button' syndrome which Rose knew he shouldn't push, but curiosity killing the cat, decided do it anyway. Controversy for the sake of controversy.

It is popular to argue that cartoons depicting religious figures such as the Pope in an unfavourable light have been published across Europe, and therefore why should Mohamed be treated any differently? However Robert Fisk in The Independent made a valid counter argument against this when he pointed out that Muslims live their religion. We do not. They have kept their faith through innumerable historical vicissitudes. We have lost our faith ever since Matthew Arnold wrote about the sea's "long withdrawing roar." That's why we talk about "the west versus Islam" rather than Christians vs Islam" because there aren't an awful lot of Christians left in Europe. There is no way we can get around this by setting up all the other world religions and asking why we are not allowed to make fun of Mohamed."

I believe that to unnecessarily offend a religion just to see how far the boundaries of free speech can be pushed, is not responsible or productive journalism. Maybe cartoons aren't meant to be responsible or productive, but they are a comment or reflection upon what is happening in the world. It seems to me that suicide bombers targeting innocent civilians are a much more potent illustration that extremism exists within Islam than any picture an artistically uninspired cartoon could paint. Muslim protestors should distance themselves from extremism if they want their point about the disassociation of Mohamed and bombs to be taken seriously.

Although I wouldn't personally have taken Flemming Rose's decision to publish the cartoon under the circumstances involved, I have to agree with Sir Trevor Phillips, Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, when he stated that "Short of people menacing and threatening each other, we have freedom of expression. We allow people to offend each other." Pointlessly offending religious groups isn't desirable, but has to be tolerated in order to continue living in a democratic state - it is a legal activity; killing people is not.

## Is this a good ID-a?

Our passports need to be updated to guarantee entry into the United States. Britain want to issue biometric ID cards. **Umar Ahmed** looks at how much of this is a violation of privacy, and how much of it may be necessary.

Some people watched the movie 'Minority Report' and thought that it was a great movie. Others felt that Tom Cruise had not really performed as he could have. The 'boy-racers' could not wait to get their hands on one of those futuristic Lexus cars. And then there were those who came out of the cinema and thought, "Wait a minute. Biometric scans. I don't

**"This will force illegal immigrants even more underground than they already are"**

like the sound of that. I don't like Big Brother knowing what colour the last pair of GAP khakis I bought were!" This is the person who is now vigorously campaigning against the introduction of the biometric identity (ID) cards in the United Kingdom (UK). So what could possibly be so bad about these ID cards?

I will start with a brief

history lesson. ID cards were last used in the UK during World War II as a means to allow people to get food rations and to prevent citizens from evading conscription. They were also introduced to make sure that German spies could not easily enter and operate within the UK. The ID cards were abandoned from 1952 as the government of the day felt it unnecessary to have such cards during peace time. The current government in the UK has brought a bill that was recently passed in the House of Commons to reintroduce ID cards and to ensure that these cards contain biometric data such as retinal scans and DNA. Accepting opposition in the House of Lords concerning the compulsion to own an ID card, the revised bill maintains that from 2008 when applying for a new passport you must also purchase an ID card with biometric details stored on a central register. The government plans that by about 2013 ID cards will be made compulsory.

The introduction of

these cards will be significant for Irish people and those of any other nationality travelling and living within the UK. The obvious difference between 2006 and 1946 is that the European Union (EU) has eroded somewhat the sovereignty of states within the Union. Citizens from all 25 EU states are allowed to freely travel and work within both the UK and Ireland. The introduction of ID cards in the UK will apply only to UK citizens and it is hard to conceive that the programme will have much success because of this. Of course, advocates of the reintroduction will point out that we will have to

services in their efforts to counter terrorism, organised crime and illegal immigration. The major benefit that will be provided by the introduction of ID cards will be that of fighting identity theft and identity fraud. This will help to ensure that members of criminal or terrorist groups will be unable to use false identities. The ID cards will also ensure that only those entitled to the use of public services such as the NHS will receive them. A major criticism has been that this will force illegal immigrants even more underground than they already operate, as they will contact neither hospitals nor the police.

**"The UK government say that ID cards will help counter terrorism, organised crime and illegal immigration"**

start somewhere and that the trend towards biometric ID cards is inevitable. The United States is demanding that all new passports contain biometric data so we are already on our way. The US is not planning on introducing ID cards but France does have ID cards which are not compulsory to own and about 90% of the population does have these cards. Another problem that will occur with the introduction of biometric passports is that countries from which the threat of terrorism is highest, such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, are countries that are less likely to have the technology (or desire?) to produce biometric passports or ID cards.

The UK government has argued that ID cards will help the security

Many have criticised the governments proposed reintroduction of ID cards by claiming that it will antagonise ethnic communities. When members from these communities are subjected to police stop and searches they will feel that they are being unduly harassed by the police forces and that the demand to produce ID cards is only happening to them because they fit a certain profile. However, is this not already the case. In the post-9/11 security environment, and in the aftermath of the July 7 bombings in London, ethnic communities, especially those of Arab or Asian background, already feel singled out. It is undeniably true that the threat of extremist-Islamic terrorism stems disproportionately high from these particular ethnic groups. With the introduction of ID cards the security services will be able to distinguish the law-abiding dutiful British citizen from the individual on a watchlist and ensure that identity theft is not occurring.

If the security of the individual is increased from the introduction of ID cards then I believe the government knowing some of our movements is a cheap price to pay and one that cannot be bought. At the end of the day, we should have no problem with the introduction of ID cards if we are not planning on committing a crime. If you have nothing to fear then they don't actually make that big a difference in your life. Our freedom is not being stolen by a government that would seek to introduce ID cards but in fact being protected from those who would seek to abuse that freedom.



Tony Blair is intent on introducing ID cards into Britain



Muslims protests over the publication of the cartoons

# Dummywatch: Village Idiot

**Derek Owens** is a would-be journalist. And when he sees other journalists acting stupidly, he feel he should tell them. In his continuing series of Articles for Dummies, he has a message for Village magazine: Up your tone and standards or you're not going to last much longer

If commercial success were our sole criteria for judging journalism, we could hail Rupert Murdoch and Rebekah Wade as saviours of the fourth estate. They're not, to put it mildly, and there is no shame in producing an impressive magazine or newspaper, only to see it go under in an equally spectacular financial fireball. That fact explains the strong reputation of Vincent Browne, whose entire

**"The Village is increasingly resembling a sort of Sindo of the left..."**

career in publishing, from the early Magills to the Sunday Tribune, has been a series of laudable failures. With falling readership and advertising, his latest venture, The Village, looks set to go the same way - even Paddy Power refused to offer me odds against the magazine going under before its second birthday in October. When this latest folly is wound down, we can presumably expect the RTE and

Irish Times stalwarts to chime in with moral support: "Good old Vincent," we'll hear them murmur sadly, "He puts out such wonderful journalism. It's just a shame nobody wants to read it."

Browne and his supporters may blame the gormless Irish readership for the demise of Magill and the Sunday Tribune - both these publications had their moments - but the reality is that The Village only has itself to blame for its impending demise. In a new, relatively sexy era of Irish journalism, The Village is about as appealing as a crusty old protestor in an Aran sweater. Never mind the shallow observation that it sports the ugliest cover in the Irish media, nor the fact that its headlines have all the subtlety of a placard at a pro-life rally. The Village simply looks and feels like a bad student newspaper, from its grainy, poor-quality photographs right down to its haphazard spelling and grammar, and the worrying similarities in texture between its pages and Dunne's Stores' no-frills toilet paper.

All this is superficial and fixable - perhaps a double-quilted Village would get more use - the

real, incurable malaise lies in what's actually on the page. The

**"The Village is about as appealing as a crusty old protestor in an Aran sweater"**

magazine's contributors are agonizingly predictable, pontificating on every issue from their safe perch on the moral high ground. When we all know what The Village is going to say about the big news of the week, is there really any point in buying it? Almost all newspapers have realized that a bit of unpredictability and variety helps keep things fresh; Kevin Myers and his ilk are tolerated at the Irish Times precisely because they counterbalance the left-leaning liberal consensus that forms the backbone of the paper. A broad church attracts more worshippers, and readers, but The Village is effectively the temple of Browne and his chums. You can hear their many axes grinding and chips falling off shoulders as you flick

through its pages.

Fair enough, you may say, but if 'balance' and unpredictability are so important, how can we explain the success of the Sunday Independent, a paper with such an obsessive contempt for all things Sinn Fein that it frequently passes into the realm of the risible? To be fair, there is a similarity there, and The Village is increasingly resembling a sort of Sindo of the left. The crucial difference, though, is that while the Sindo sprinkles its anti-nationalist polemic with the occasional nugget of hard news, The Village has consistently failed to do that. With the exception of the Eddie Hobbs fiasco last year - The Village presented Hobbs with accusations of impropriety made by his former employer, Tony Taylor, only to back down from printing them when the Corkman threatened legal action - there has not been a single story of note that the magazine has broken. Of course, a terminal lack of anything significant to say hasn't prevented The Village from positively screaming at us weekly that the Thatcherite enemy is at the gates. If the Sindo is your sleazy, untrust-

worthy cousin, only listened to because he tells such great stories, The Village is fast becoming your crazy uncle Larry, wild-eyed as he tells you that the world is run (I'm quoting, by the way, from an article in the 'Arts' section!) by "a corporate and militarist minority, headquartered in Washington." Some people enjoy shrill declamations, backed up by little or no factual evidence, with their morning coffee. Sensible sorts prefer Sudoku.

And there we come to the sad, brutal fact that will ultimately do for the rag. As one veteran of Leinster House put it: "It's strange, nobody really talks about it, or what it says. No-one here really cares." The magazine's strong moments - think Harry Browne's likeable Meejit column, or Donal Ruane charting his spiral into existential crisis with grim humour - come when it isn't aggressively demanding to be taken seriously. When the bubble bursts on The Village, it may be hard to take this bunch as seriously as they want ever again.



Leinster House: "Nobody there cares about Village"



# Why Sexy Advertising Works

Alanah Sparks knows that sex sells, which is why it’s used in advertising. But where is the line that’s crossed when it offends?

Sex sells. Clichéd though it may be, no one can deny the unrelenting truth of this old adage, first cottoned on to by the bright new cigarette and cosmetics companies of the freshly industrialised nineteenth century. Today it bears more truth than ever. Who was Paris Hilton but a good time party girl before her scandalous screen debut assaulted the public eye? What do fame-starved Big Brother down-and-outs do to claw back a little extra mileage in their fifteen minutes of stardom? Why was it that Janet Jackson enjoyed an exponential boost in sales after an “accidental” strip scene with the shocked Justin Timberlake? Because sex is the master of our money. We the punters cannot get enough of it, whether it’s a lascivious chocolate ad, the hype of a new lapdancing club, or the quest to find out who Jordan’s slept with now.

Just this week the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland upheld a complaint against a rather arresting poster ad for TG4’s Paisean Faisean, which features the back of a leggy teacher reaching up to write something on the blackboard, thus offering us a glimpse of her silky black suspenders from under her micro mini. The accompanying slogan is “Girls dressed by Boys”. Judging by the amount of stricken men walking past the ad, it seems to be a fairly apt representation of how a man might dress a woman given full carte blanche, and since that is the idea on which the cult dating show is based (three guys, one girl, each guy chooses outfit for said girl and she chooses guy based on outfit), the advertisement would appear to be a playful if a little blatant reflection of the show’s intentions.

The woman who wrote in to complain about the ad seemed to think otherwise. She was incensed by what she saw as the swaggering objectification of women, stating it to be insulting

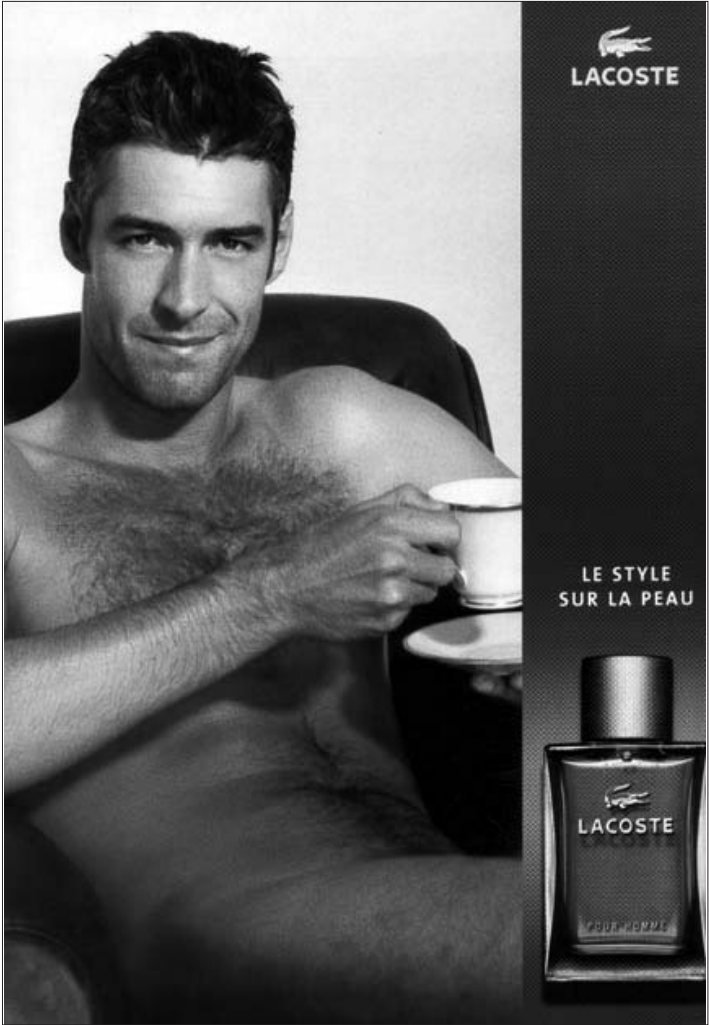
and dehumanising, and reductive of women to mere sexual objects. She evidently has never witnessed the Anabel’s queue on School Disco night, where the outfits donned by half the heaving crowd make this one look like a burka in comparison. Does sexual objectification bear the same stigma if it is self-inflicted? Outfits like the one displayed in the ad sell out in their thousands every day in Ann Summer’s-type shops all over the world. This is not so that women can victimise themselves at the hands of men. It is not dehumanising. It is because, knowing that men are programmed for visual stimulation, women realise that this is one of their greatest

weapons. Many women are fully aware of the power of a flash of thigh, a suggestion of a lacy undergarment, a provocative smirk; gestures which can often render a man weak and defenceless. Why deny this faculty, one to which women, bearing an innate control over their visual tripswitch, are not vulnerable should it attack from the other side? How many girls can actually claim to be turned on by greased-up thong-wearing male strippers? How many girls are likely to buy a magazine filled with naked men for their sexual delectation? Moreover, how many men are going to deliberate over their choice of underwear (black lacy or

red silky?) depending on their plans for that night? Unfortunately for men, turning on a woman requires much more than a pair of suspenders. So why deny this female superiority and turn it into a thing of moral wrongness?

You might say it is one thing to go out and display your wares out of choice but quite another to use those wares in order to plug a product to the market. Sex is vital to the advertising industry, and while it may not be channelled to the market solely through the use of the female body (you may remember a very beautiful use of the male body in a recent Lacoste ad- no complaints upheld) the fact remains that it is a far more effective tool for channelling that message, simply because of the vulnerability of people to it. When women see beauty or sex their brain is stimulated, when men see it, their other brain is stimulated. This is the fundamental purpose of advertising: soliciting the eye and gaining a reaction from it, and it is safe to say that TG4’s suggestive campaign was every bit successful in achieving this aim.

Given the acceptance of society to a woman sexualising herself for her own benefit, it should not be seen as morally wrong to transcribe this into commercial use, provided that it is used with sensitivity and decorum. The TG4 poster was advertising a programme based on the obsessions of the new generation- materialism, aesthetics and sex, and so the image was consexually apt. To ban it on the grounds of objectification is a denial of one of women’s most powerful tools of sexual expression. I’m not for a moment suggesting that everyone should go out and sex themselves up- subtlety and taste as always apply- but neither should it be stigmatised, or condemned.



Too much or just enough?

# Maintenance in Halls

Living in Halls is promoted as a good deal. Alex Culley would agree if only they would actually fix broken things. If incessantly asking doesn’t help, what will?

I shall forewarn you that this article is not the most interesting that you will read this year, but if you live in Trinity Hall, it is an important one.

Have you ever had the frustration of your fridge door suddenly falling off? Even been rudely awakened after a night out on the booze by a nice, cold ‘borstal’ style shower? Is the most interesting TV programme you watch all week called ‘No Signal’ because your aerial connection is about as strong as a can of cheap cider? Is a wet fart about the most your cooker’s extractor fan can handle before becoming exhausted? Furthermore, did you actually have a functioning one when you moved in?

Yes, you guessed it Einstein, this article is about the rapidity to which faults reported to the Trinity Hall Accommodation Office are dealt with. Since my flatmates and I moved in to Trinity Hall late last September we have made countless fault reports regarding the state of some of our flat’s facilities, mainly concerning the kitchen. However, for whatever reason, many of those faults still haven’t been dealt with, despite the inspections of Trinity Hall maintenance staff.

You see, all this stuff really isn’t a big deal at the beginning. Believe it or not, you can learn to survive without an extractor fan. I wasn’t about to jump off O’Connell Bridge about it. However, when considering that we receive constant reminders that we will be fined at the end of the year for having posters on our walls, or be swiftly reprimanded for making excess noise or having parties, then it starts to become one. That’s because it’s something

of an inconsistency. It is my opinion that both essentially relate to inconvenience, so why is one apparently being treated more seriously than the other?

Of course, it’s also a question of cash – something which most students are short of. The Trinity website advertises Trinity Hall as providing ‘modern accommodation’ with ‘a well fitted kitchen/living room’. For this we

for that spare part for our cooker to be delivered from Outer Mongolia, but I put it to you that this has all gone beyond a joke. We’re being taken for a ride, and such ridiculous statements coupled with hostile reminders that we cannot enjoy ourselves without risking grief insult our intelligence as Trinity students. There is much spiel about creating a fun-loving, all embracing community here at Trinity

tion. When you experience a fault, complain, complain and complain again. Keep complaining until it’s sorted. Make ten complaints a day if needs be. Badger the authorities by email, by phone, by loudspeaker, anything.

In short, next time the phantom mechanic pays your apartment a visit and you are left no better off, remember the words of that magnificent Dubliner George Bernard Shaw: “Take care to get what you like or you will be forced to like what you get.” Right, I’m off to complain about my bathroom fan again!

Hall, but how is that possible in such an atmosphere and environment?

There is only one solu-



Your oven shouldn’t look like this.

We’ve all being waiting

# Losing the election

You’ve all seen him, heard him, maybe even voted for him in the SU Presidential election. John McGuirk reflects on whether it is better to have run and lost, then never have run at all?

Over the past week I have been asked one question repeatedly. “What’s the hardest part of being a candidate?” The answer, I think, varies depending on the person. Some candidates, I know, dreaded hustings. Others feared the count. For yet more it is the inevitable nastiness and public scrutiny that comes with putting yourself before the electorate. For me, however, the answer was easy, - the toughest part of the SU campaign is polling day, when you have to watch people vote.

To win, you tell yourself, you need two out of every five people who go into the polling booth to vote for you, - and yet, as you watch people who you have never spoken to, and don’t know, queue up to cast ballots, there is a sickening feeling of inevitability about the result. It brings home the fact that what you have done, in choosing to be a candidate, is to allow hundreds of people you don’t know to make a judgement on you based on very limited information. You wish that you could sit down and have a pint with every single person who goes in to vote because if they could only get to know you they’d definitely vote for you.

Of course, they probably wouldn’t, but in the heat of an election campaign, that’s how it feels. As a candidate, I always felt that my greatest weakness (apart from being evil, right wing, and evil, - thanks Cathal) was an inability to communicate well with people one-on-one. To be frank, you feel like a bit of a clown, going up to people and asking them to vote for you. For two weeks, every conversation you have feels like a competition, wherein you have to prove to the person you’re talking to firstly that

you’re a nice person, and secondly, that you should be President. Of course, you can’t prove that you’re nice in 5 minutes, no matter how hard you try, and if you talk about nothing other than your campaign, you seem like a boring git, which is the kiss of death.

In fact, one of the great things about the election is the friendship that develops between candidates and campaign teams; - a lot of which I think is down to the fact that they are the people

“As you watch people who you have never spoken to and don’t know queue up to cast ballots, there is a sickening feeling of inevitability”

who you can talk to without feeling under pressure to win their votes. One of the nicest things about this campaign was having the chance to get to know both Harman Murtagh and John Treacy, who are both lovely guys, and getting the chance to spend some quality time with Dave Quinn, who I’ve known for a while, - and don’t worry Dave, you’re a lovely guy too, even if you do sometimes pretend otherwise!

As regards the election itself, lots of people seem to want to



# Schols anyone?

Sheila Monica Lynch wonders whether all the build-up, the hassle, the studying, the missing out, the guilt, the dread and the fear is worth a Foundation Scholarship

First year was, well what was it? A lot of people enjoy it so much first time round that they decide to do it again. Then comes second year – the last year of your degree that doesn’t count. Your first two years in college are one of the few times in your life you can get away with doing absolutely nothing productive for a few months. Or else you become incredibly busy with everything else except for your degree. Essays can and are done in 24 hours, assignments and presentations in less. The only thing that takes concentrated effort is to be NS’d. When you only have about 4 hours a week of seminars that you have to turn up to, it actually takes concentrated effort to miss them. That is if you are an Arts block student. Hamilton end the labs are a little longer but a similar idea.

So why on earth am I doing schols? Why have I decided to do this to myself? I really don’t know. There is no logic to it. Why would I, a reasonably sane person voluntarily take on all this extra work, extra study and extra exams? Is it really worth it? The stress and the pressure are immense. The library feels like home. Your social interaction for the day is the conversation in counter reserve with the Librarians. It is a strange and scary day the first time the library staff recognise you. Not only that but they know your name. Not just because it has just flashed up on the screen in front of them but they actually know it.

There are few sounds more depressing and simultaneously joyous then the bell for library closing on a Friday night. Never mind a Friday night, it’s a horrible sound

any night of the week. The sound echoes through the empty building, everyone else has long ago left for the bright lights of the Pav. While your friends who are not doing schols go out and enjoy their time in college, you must have the self discipline to say no and go home. Home so you can get up and do the same thing all over again. Study.

You are studying when everyone else is off enjoying Dublin, enjoying college life. Posters and people entice you and distract you; You torment yourself with things that you can’t or shouldn’t go to because you should be studying. So you don’t go. Then you end up not studying and then feeling guilty that you’re not studying and kicking yourself for not going. This endless



Studying for schols can get you down...

guilt. It’s ridiculous, it’s all completely self inflicted. Maybe it’s just because I’m Irish so I’m genetically obliged to feel guilty about something. We can’t just be happy, there always has to be something.

Then there is the actual study itself. Once you do start it is easier. You stop feeling so guilty but fear replaces that emotion. You realise how little you know about anything. You read these countless

know if losing hurt. Yes, it did, although I had resigned myself to defeat for about three days prior to the count. When you put yourself before the electorate, you are setting yourself up for a fall. While I thought that a lot of the things said about me were unfair, and nasty, the truth is that they would never have been said if I had chosen not to run.

The final thing people keep asking me is whether I would change anything if I had the opportunity to do it all over again. Obviously, I would have stolen Cathal McCann’s laptop, and cut holes in the front page of every copy of the last Trinity News, but other than that, I don’t think so. Despite the bad moments, and there were many, the campaign was fun, and worthwhile. I wanted to win, but I didn’t and that’s life. I’d like to take this opportunity, by the way, to congratulate Dave on a well run campaign, and wish him all the best for next year. For me, it’s off to a post grad somewhere. Finally, advice to prospective candidates? Don’t run. But if you really do want to, remember that losing isn’t as awful as you think it’s going to be!

articles on never ending reading lists. You get lost in a sea of academia. Theories to explain everything. Theories to explain theories. The expression over analysis springs to mind, repeatedly. You reach saturation point and want to scream.

You don’t need theories to explain every decision ever made. Take for example the European Union; less war more money. End of story. That was all there was to it. Functionalism and neo-functionalism, theories of integration and interpretation and other such like are all (I have no problems generalising here) a pile of artificial crap retrospectively applied in an attempt to analyse something that does not need to be analysed. You reach this stage of insane frustration that you

end up losing your temper in the middle of a tutorial. So much so that your class mates back away from you slowly and the tutor looks like they are about to cry because you have called their life’s work an exercise in pretentious self indulgence, that is of no relevance to reality, completely pointless and an artificial attempt to justify some over-weight over-privileged judge’s bad day and fit it into the magical all powerful common law.

Yet I keep going. The lure of free accommodation on campus, free food, free

Guinness, grazing rights for my sheep and the title of Scholar is too much for me. I sacrifice my second year in college for this archaic tradition and so put myself through hell.

Will I regret it? I don’t know. Ask me next month. I’ll be the person curled up under a duvet crying and cursing in a truly melodramatic Shakespearean style because I didn’t even get exemptions.

Comments, Tips, Hate-mail to: vandevp@tcd.ie. Please feel free to send comment or opinion articles to the same address.

All views expressed in the Comment & Opinion section are those of the authors of the individual articles and not those of Trinity News



Trinity News  
EST. 1947

Riots Come to Dublin

Saturday 25th February saw Dublin city centre descend into a brief period of lawlessness that came as a massive shock to many people. The looting and rioting that followed protests against the ‘Love Ulster’ march extended as far as Merrion Square and saw college close down as cars were burnt out along College’s walls on Nassau Street. While this behaviour must be condemned for the horrible and unacceptable occasion that it was, more serious issues need to be looked at than purely a police clampdown.

When rioting recently broke out in News Orleans and Paris the Irish media were only too willing to suggest it had occured due to societal breakdown. In the aftermath of Dublin’s own riots however the public and the press have been quick to blame local ‘hooligans’ but slow to raise more serious questions of Celtic Tiger Ireland. If these questions are so pivotal to France and the United States then why not here?

The answer may be that society does not wish to see itself as collectively guilty for the events that took place. Are there not questions to be asked of the sources of Irish identity being put forward by our businesses, politicians, media and others in powerful positions? In a society which prides itself on a loose, often uninformed nationalism, and an emphasis on material wealth and goods is it any surprised that this mix of anger and looting would break out amongst the disaffected? Attacking those who took part but not the underlying social problems will only end in further problems.

Serious questions also have to be raised however over the decision to allow ‘Love Ulster’ to march to begin with. Just a cursory glance of their website will show the parallel exclusive Unionist identity being preached. While this in places may seem amusing (such as the suggestion made on the site’s forums of RTE brainwashing the Republic’s youth through not displaying the border on weather forecasts), the underlying tribalism is the same as that shown by the Dublin rioters. These identities need to be challenged at all levels for our country to progress.

Trinity News  
GIVEAWAY  
Win 2 tickets to  
Oxygen!

One lucky reader will win two tickets to the Oxygen festival taking place in Punchestown on July 8th and 9th. To put yourself in the draw just answer this simple question:

What is the  
chemical symbol  
for Oxygen?

Send your answers to  
trinity.news@tcd.ie  
by Friday 10th March at 6pm

Opening up of  
Croke Park

Sir,

The article in the 24th January edition of Trinity News on the opening of Croke Park to other sports contained some spurious allegations about the G.A.A. which i would like to redress. Firstly, to say that the maintaining of Croke Park exclusively for Gaelic Games represented a 'sorry and xenophobic chapter in Irish sport' is absurd. The G.A.A. kept Croke Park to themselves for several reasons, mainly to ensure that they don't lose a generation of youngsters to rival sports, by allowing what is essentially rival products to be sold on what is essentially our shelves. Even before that, during the years of 'the ban', the reasons why the G.A.A kept members of the crown forces out of the association was not due to xenophobia, but merely to keep out spies from the garrison and informers who worked in Dublin Castle.

Secondly, the G.A.A. did not open the doors of Croke Park after a 'Government bribe'. We are entitled to a Eur 60m grant from the State as much as any other sporting organisation is, being the biggest there is on the island. Also, it doesn't matter how much money the Government gives us, the changing of any G.A.A. rule can only be passed in annual Congress, which is voted on by

every county in Ireland, not just the bureaucrats at Croke Park.

Claims of prejudice are also misguided. It seems a little hypocritical to me that the writer of the said article, who comes across strongly as primarily a rugby fan, given the sport's failure to embrace every sector of society and its exclusivity to certain schools and renowned rugby strongholds. The G.A.A. reaches out to every parish in the land and has been the single biggest provider of sporting recreation in Ireland for over a century.

Lastly, to say that football and hurling will find new popularity if they link themselves to soccer and rugby is simply outrageous. Take a look at the domestic situation in both codes. Since Rugby Union went professional in 1995 the domestic league has fallen apart, and has in fact gone backwards since the introduction of pay for play. The Eircom league is not much better, and produces only a handful of players who will ever represent the country, and those who do will get a run out in a friendly at best. Soccer and rugby are everything the GAA doesn't want to be; Full of overpaid mercenaries and dominated by corporations rather being run by grassroots members.

Another thing which the GAA doesn't desire is homelessness, a fate that has befallen its rival codes. Had the IRFU and the FAI not been lining the pockets of their players, maybe then they could maintain the high

standards set by the GAA, an amateur organisation that is setting all the standards for the professionals' to follow. The sporting bodies should be grateful to the GAA for accommodating them for their shortcomings, and give thanks that they don't have to suffer the indignity of playing 'home' internationals in Britain.

Yours truly,

Shane McVeigh, SF Law  
Secretary Trinity College GFC

Islamic  
Protests and  
SHAG Week

Sir,

Firstly, I must say that I am disgusted by the events concerning the Islamic protests, and their cause: the now infamous cartoons in various newspapers. During SHAG week however, I noticed another similar situation, but without the protests.

Many people are aware of the stance of the Catholic Church on various issues. However, the one that I refer to is their stance on condoms. They firmly condemn the use of any artificial contraceptives, as they believe that they destroy the process of creation, and its divine nature. Now, regardless of any personal stance on such an issue, I do

believe that the attitude shown on campus during SHAG week, has strong echoes of the aforementioned cartoons. By this I mean that the way in which condoms are being freely distributed, and more importantly brought to the public's attention, is very similar to the attitude shown by the cartoons.

This clearly flies in the face of the Church's opinion, and made a mockery of their beliefs, in the same way as the cartoons did to the Muslims.

I respect the need for sexual health and guidance. However, to so plainly insult the beliefs of the Catholic Church (as well as others), is entirely unnecessary and avoidable.

Perhaps this insult seems trivial compared to that of the cartoons, yet it is an insult nonetheless. I think that perhaps people should consider others more carefully before they decide to exercise their rights. After all, with rights come responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Britton

Bike Theft on  
Campus

Sir,

I am writing to express my con-

cern over the number of bike thefts that appear to occur on campus. I personally have had a number of bikes taken for instance.

While in one sense this is what you would expect in a city centre location, the preence of security guards all around campus and the high number of bikes in certain places about campus would, you would assume, ensure some added safety. This often does not seem to be the case however.

While it would seem to be relatively safe to leave a bike in the locked campus overnight, it is in the day that more could be done. Many bike thefts occur in broad daylight or in the early evening. These thefts could surely be avoided if a concerted effort was made to clamp down on these crimes.

Given this high number of cyclists on campus,college should ensure proper safety facilities for those who choose to cycle in. To not do so not only encourages crime, but discourages cycling. Given the increasing numbers of people suffering from health problems today, college should feel obliged to provide facilities for those who wish to stay in shape through cycling to college.

Yours,

John Deenan,  
JS Science

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Photograph of the Fortnight



Riot police prepare themselves for battle at the back of Trinity, following the violent scenes that met the planned Love Ulster march through the city centre last week  
Photo: Padraic Ryan



# An Chíréib – Cad ba chúis leis?

Ursala Ní Shionnan

Bhí sráid Uí Chonaill scriosta i ndiaidh an chíréib a tharla an Sathairn seo caite. Ach na ceisteanna atá i mbéal gach duine ná cé a bhí bainteach leis an gcíréib? Agus cén fáth? An ionsaí seicteach a bhí ann?

Thóg gach cineál duine páirt sa chíréib i mBaile Átha Cliath an deireadh seachtain seo caite. Bhí poblachtánaigh, gnáth Dubs, andúiligh drugaí agus díthreabhaigh ann. An chúis a bhí ag na poblachtaigh ná gur creid siad gur eagraigh na hAontachtaithe an máirseáil chun saoránaigh Baile Átha Cliath a chur le cuthach. Ceist eile ná dá mba rud é go raibh náisiúnaithe ag máirseáil tríd oirthear Bhéal Feirste an gcuirfidh na hAontachtaithe ansin suas leis? Nach bhfuil an ceart ag gach duine máirseáil ach más máirseáil gríosaitheach é an féidir é a chosaint?

Cad mar gheall ar na gnáth Dubs, na handúiligh drugaí agus na díthreabhaigh? Cén fáth a raibh siadsan ann ag ionsaí ar na Gardaí? Tá sé soiléir nach bhfuil meas ag mórán daoine ar na Gardaí. An mothaíonn daoine nach bhfuil meas ag na Gardaí ar na daoine? Cinnte bhí daoine ann

nach raibh ag lorg ach trioblóid. Ghoid siad earraí ó siopaí ar Sráid Uí Chonaill, chuir siad carranna trí thine agus bhris siad fuinneoga.

Bhí an máirseáil ar an Sathairn mar chúis do cuid maith daoine teacht amach agus a sárú a thaispeáint. Tá sé soiléir nach bhfuil daoine ó mBaile Átha Cliath réidh cur suas leis an méid a bhí ar náisiúnaithe ón tuaisceart cur suas le ar feadh na blianta. Nílím ag cosaint an chíréib ach ní fhi-afraíonn daoine cén fáth. Tá “Love Ulster” ag iarraidh teacht ar ais ar ball, an gceart dóibh?

Thosaigh an Evening Herald ag cur pictiúirí i gcló ag iarraidh feachtas “name and shame” a thosnú. Bhí scairfeanna agus caipíní ar chuid maith de na daoine bhí ag baint páirteach, ach is dócha gur thiteadar astu de réir mar a lean cúrsaí ar aghaidh. Maille le sin, bhí daoine ar an suíomh idirlíne “www.politics.ie” ag iarraidh feachtas mar sin a thosnú.. Ach i ndeireadh na dála, sin an jab atá ag na húdaráis.

Ag caint faoi na húdaráis, tá ceisteanna á chur ar an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóraithe Dlí maidir leis an máirseáil. An cheart dó éirí as mar gheall ar na heachtraí a tharla. Tá roinnt polatóirí ag cur an cheist sin, ach an mbeidh toradh leis?



Na Gardaí amuigh ar shráideanna na cathrach ag iarraidh lucht na cTróibe a chur faoi chos an Sathairn seo caite

## Cath na Cathrach – Ar tharla sé theanna?



Cón barbil a mbeadh ag Jim Larkin foir cad a tharlá ar an Satharn seo caite?

## Cúpla Amhráin Gaeilge

An cuimhim leat na hamhráin seo a d’fhoghlamar ar scoil iad? An chéad uair eile atá tú ag cóisir agus séisiúin á thosnú, nach feidir leat amhrán Gaelach mar seo a chanadh:

### Bríd Óg Ní Mháille

Is a Bhríd Óg Ní Mháille  
'S tú d'fhág mo chroí cráite  
'S chuir tú arraingeacha a' bháis  
trí cheartlár mo chroí  
Tá na mílte fear i ngrá  
Le d'éadan ciúin náireach  
Is go dtug tú barr breáchtacht'  
Ar Thír Oirghiall más fíor  
Níl ní ar bith is áille  
Ná'n ghealach os cionn a' tsáile  
Ná bláth bán na n-airne  
Bíos ag fás ar an droigheann  
Ó siúd mar bíos mo ghrá-sa  
Níos trilsí le breáchtacht  
Béilín meala na háilleachta'  
Nach ndearna riamh claon  
Is buachaill deas óg mé  
'Tá triall chun mo phósta  
'S ní buan i bhfad beo mé  
Mura bhfaighidh mé mo mhian  
A chuisle is a stóirín  
Déan réidh agus bí romhamsa  
Cionn deireanach den Domhnach  
Ar Bhóithrín Dhroim Sliabh  
Is tuirseach 's brónach  
A chaithimse an Domhnach  
Mo hata i mo dhorn  
'S mé ag osnaíl go trom  
'S mé ag amharc ar na bóithre  
'Mbíonn mo ghrá-sa ag gabhail ann

'S í ag fear eile pósta  
Is gan í bheith liom

### Tá mo chleamhnas déanta:

Tá mo chleamhnas déanta ó athrú aréir  
'S ní mó ná go dtaithnoínn an bhean adaí liom fein  
Ach fágfaidh mé i mo dhiaidh í  
'gus imeoidh mé liom fein  
Ar fud na gcoillte craobhach  
Shiúil mise thoir agus shiúil mise thiar.  
Shiúil mise Corcaigh 'gus sráide Bh'Áth Cliath  
Ach macasamhail mo chailín deas ní fhaca mise riamh.  
'Sí an bhean dubh a d'fhág mo chroí cráite  
D'éirigh me ar maidin dhá uair roimh an lá  
'gus fuair me litir ó mo mhíle ghrá  
Chuala mé an smoilín 's an lon-dubh a' rá  
Gur eileagh mo ghrá thar sáile

### Beidh Aonach Amárach:

Beidh aonach amárach i gcontae an Chláir (x3)

Cén mhaith dom é - ní bheidh me ann

Curfá:  
A mháithrín, an ligfidh tú chun aonaigh mé? (x3)  
A mhúirnín é, ná héiligh é.

Níl tú a deich nó a haondéag fós (x3)  
Nuair a bheidh tu trídeag, beidh tú mór

Táimse i ngra le gréansaí bróg (x3)  
Mar bhfaighe mé é ní bheidh me beo

B'fhearr liom féin mo ghréasaí bróg (x3)  
Ná oifigeach airm gona lásaí óir

## Lá Fhéile Phadraig 2006 –Borradh Eile

### Fiona Heddarman

An gceapann tú gur cineál frithbhuaic e La Féile Naoimh Phádraig? An gcaitheann tú an lá i do theach tabhairne áitiúil ag cur amú do chuid airgid? No fiú (agus níos measa) an dtéann tú ag ól le do chairde i bpáire éigin nó ar shráide na cathrach? Na bíodh náire ort faoi. Rinneamar go léir é, nuair a bhíomar inár déagóirí.

Caithfidh mé a rá nach ndéanaim aon rud simiúil ar La Fhéile Phadraig raimh. Bhuel, seachas nuair a bhí mé óg, chuaigh mé go dtí an pharáid ach ní raibh sé go maith in aon chor. Bhí me ró-óg agus bhíodh mé tuirseach agus ní raibh me i mo sheasamh ach ar feadh cúpla nóimead. Ina theannta le sin bhí duine ard i gcónaí ina sheasamh ós mo chomhair. Bhí me a dul amú ansin ach mo phointe anseo, dá mbeadh na cuimhnaí chéanna agat agus gur mhaith leat rud éigin corraitheach agus iontach a dhéanamh i mbliana, caithfidh tú frealtal ar'St. Patrick's Day Festival 2006'.

Bhunaigh an rialtas an ‘St.Patrick's Festival’ i Samhain 1995. Mhair an fleá se ar feadh trí laethanta agus d'éirigh se go han-mhaith. I mbliana, beidh sé ar siúl ar feadh ceithre laethanta agus ceaptar go mbeadh 1.2 milliún daoine ag freastal ar an fleáanna. Is é aidhm atá ag na héagraithe tallan sa tíre seo agus cultúr na tíre a chur in úil dúinn i dtaispeántas



briomhar, ruthaitheach is lán de fuinneamh.

Gealltear go mbeidh tréimhse leathan imeachtaí do gach duine ar siúl i rith na laethanta. Beidh na himeachtaí seo a tarlú i lár na cathrach.

Seo sámla de na chineál imeachtaí a bheas ar siúl ón 15ú (Dé Céadaoin) de mhí an Mhárta go dtí an 19ú lá (Dé Domhnach) de Mhárta i gcoillár Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath.

caidreamh idir Éire agus Sasana go talamh i bpléascadh foréigin, caidreamh a bhí ag dul i bhfeabhas le blianta anuas.

Anois, roinnt blianta ina dhiaidh sin, tá ár bpríomhchathair agus ár dtír i staid díchreidhimh. Is ar a maithe leo féin a rinne na daoine an gníomh dodhearmadta uafásach ar na sráideanna i mBaile Átha Cliath. Ach an uair seo ní Sasanaigh atá i gceist ar chor ar bith ach ár gcomhshaoránaigh féin, roinnt mór le geansaí glasa nó éadaí cheilteacha á chaitheamh orthu.

Bhí sé i gceist ag gach uile amadán dóibh "cleacht" a mhúineadh do na hAontachtaí a tháinig ón dTuaisceart. Ní raibh siad ach tar éis cos a chur ar an dtalamh agus iad thar a bheith sásta lena gcuid oibre. Fuair siad an bhua a bhí ag taisteáil uathu agus iad ar a mbealach abhaile le miongháire ar gach aghaigh Aontachta.

Ní féidir a shéanadh go bhfuil an-mheas ag gach protastúnach agus gach caitliceach freisin don Gharda Síochána agus an farracht a rinne siad chun síocháin a fháil, ach ón soicind a chaitheadh an chéad buidéal chailleamar ár gcéannacht náisiúnta. Leis sin d'fhill an méid sin náire ar ais i ngach croí soineanta.

Titeadh go leor deora tráthnóna Dé Sathairn, ní hamháin ar sráideanna na cathrach, ach ar fud an oileáin beag seo.

Ag féachaint air na pictiúirí a bhfuairamar ar an teilifís, baineadh geit asainn. Samplaigh cad a smaoinigh lucht an domhainn mhóir faoi. Na tuar-icéasóirí a bhí le teacht ó Meairiceá agus na háiteanna eile, an dtiocfaidh siad anois? Inseoidh an amsir, mar a deir an té.

Mhuirfeann  
Dé Satharn:  
An Lá Gaelach,Comedy circus, Terrafolk.  
Dé Domhnach:  
Denny big day out, 40 shades of green, city side up

Tuilleadh Eolais:  
www.stpatricksday.ie



Trinity News

International Students

Parce qu’étudier rime aussi avec s’associer

Is a university a place to study or a place to live? **Audrey Gonthier** suggests that being a student is far from just reading some boring books in a cold library: it is most of all discovering new things, new people. In order not to be lost in the anonymity of the mass of the students, societies give you a chance to become an actor and create history.

« Pour que les hommes restent civilisés ou le deviennent, il faut que parmi eux, l’art de s’associer se développe et se perfectionne, dans le même rapport que l’égalité des conditions s’accroît ». C’est beau hein ? Ce n’est pas de moi (qui a dit poils aux bras ?!) mais de Tocqueville dans La démocratie en Amérique, ouvrage essentiel pour toute personne qui veut parler, ou à défaut sciences-pipoter, sur le rôle des associations. Néanmoins, toute autre référence à un illustre penseur et utilisation de grille de lecture sciences politiques s’arrêtent ici. Pour toi lecteur, je vais partager mon expérience des associations de Trinity College et qui sait, t’éviter de commettre quelques erreurs si tu viens de débarquer à Trinity pour Hilary Term.

Pour ceux qui sont ici depuis le début de l’année scolaire et savent maintenant comment emprunter un livre qui se trouve à la Santry (si non, prenez une petite fiche bleue à l’entrée principale, remplissez la, et mettez la dans la

boîte qui se trouve sur le long bureau. Je reviens à mon article), nul doute que vous vous souvenez tous sans exception de la Freshers

“Pour que les hommes restent civilisés ou le deviennent, il faut que parmi eux, l’art de s’associer se développe et se perfectionne...”

week et des multitudes de stands qui représentaient autant d’associations. En ce qui me concerne, bien que mon Ecole renferme quelques associations qui marchent plutôt bien et organisent des événements (organisations de soirées, de voyages, des dégustations...), c’est sans commune mesure avec ce qu’il se passe à ici a Trinity, tant d’un point de vue du nombre d’associations (le chiffre exacte m’échappe totalement) et de leur dynamisme. Il faut aussi avouer que le nombre d’étudiants est loin d’être le même. Au risque de généraliser, et là mea culpa pour ceux qui ont une expérience différente, je pense que la vie associa-

tive dans les universités françaises est plus que réduite et cela pour une simple raison : les facultés sont plus des lieux d’étude que des lieux

de vie. Tu y vas, tu prends tes cours (c’est optionnel, tu peux aussi seulement faire « acte de présence), tu fumes une cigarette avec ton café à la cafétéria (c’est la clope sociale), et tu t’en vas t’éclater dehors, loin de cet endroit plus ou moins impersonnel.

A Trinity, il semble clairement que ce soit le contraire, si bien que parfois, je me retrouve à aller au College...pour chanter. S’il est certain que participer régulièrement (et là, j’insiste tout particulièrement sur le « régulièrement », car si c’est seulement pour prendre sa carte et faire « et oh, j’suis là » une fois toutes les lunes rouges, ça ne sert à rien) à une activité dans

le cadre associatif est l’opportunité de rencontrer des personnes dont nous n’aurions probablement jamais fait la connaissance autrement, dans mon cas ça été également l’occasion de découvrir une nouvelle passion. Et là on dit merci qui ? Merci Trinity et la chorale society. Si de par mon expérience je ne peux vous parler que de la chorale, je suis certaine qu’il en va de même pour de multiples autres associations, après c’est à vous de vous jeter à l’eau. C’est

“Incapable de choisir, tu es vulnérable et tu écoutes tout le monde. Résultat : tu te transformes en collectionneur de cartes de membres dont tu n’utiliseras pas la moitié.”

alors que vient le terrible moment du choix et comme l’a dit un jour un Homme « trop de choix, tue le choix ».

Incapable de choisir, tu es vulnérable et tu écoutes tout le monde. Tes ami(e)s, tes parents,

ton placard (???) ont tous leur mot à dire. Résultat : tu te transformes en collectionneur de cartes de membres dont tu n’utiliseras pas la moitié (en fait, sûrement pas plus de cinq) et tu penses à tous les sandwiches que tu aurais pu manger (ou les Guinness que tu aurais pu boire) avec tous les trois euros que tu as déboursés. Autrement dit, au moment du choix, sois réaliste, ça t’évitera une période d’errance associative.

Ainsi, la vie étudiante à Trinity College recèle une particularité en ce que le rôle des associations y a une importance clef. Aussi, elles représentent un passage obligatoire (enfin, ça, c’est ce que je pense) pour tout visiting students qui trouvera sûrement en



De Kunst van het Verenigingsleven

**Lieke Boersma** is convinced that ‘society participation’ is a life on its own: It takes seven instead of four years to get a degree, but for the rest of your life you will be convinced, that you had the best time ever: drinking warm beer and wearing expensive clothes

Verenigingen in Nederland zijn heel anders dan hier in Ierland. In Utrecht, waar ik vandaan kom is het verplicht om aan zware ontgroeningen deel te nemen voor dat je ‘erbij’ hoort. Dat betekent onder andere een week niet slapen, alcohol drinken, in de gracht zwemmen (ja dat is vies en nee het water is niet verwarmd) en gras eten. Als beloning mag je heel veel geld betalen aan deze vereniging en nog meer alcohol drinken. Verenigingsmensen wonen allemaal in hetzelfde huis en gaan eigenlijk met niemand anders om. Het resultaat is ook vaak dat men in plaats van vier jaar een luttele zeven jaar over zijn studie doet, maar dan heb je wel de beste tijd van je leven: warm bier drinken in dure gala kleding.

In het begin van het jaar toen ik net aan Trinity begon leek het me een goed plan om een vereniging uit te proberen omdat ik wel eens wat Ieren wilde leren kennen. Ik sloot mij aan bij de roeivereniging. Dat begon allemaal heel leuk en aardig, maar na een tijdje

werd het toch wel een beetje zwaar. Ik dacht: verenigingen staan gelijk aan feestjes en niet zes keer per week om zeven uur opstaan om in

“Het resultaat is ook vaak dat men in plaats van vier jaar een luttele zeven jaar over zijn studie doet, maar dan heb je wel de beste tijd van je leven: warm bier drinken in dure gala kleding.”

de kou te gaan dobberen in bootjes met gaten erin. Ja er zaten gaten in onze boten, want er zijn stenen in de Liffey en wij konden nog niet zo goed sturen. Mijn grootste avontuur was toen we bijna in de sluis terecht kwamen. Het meisje achter mij schreeuwde omdat ze bang was en het meisje voor mij schreeuwde tegen haar omdat ze boos was. De coach had zijn sokken en schoenen al uit en was klaar om in het water te springen. We konden net op tijd een boom vast grijpen; ik ben nog nooit zo blij geweest om een boom te zien. Uiteindelijk blijkt dat roeien toch niet echt voor mij is weggelegd. Ik ben nogal klein en

de roeipanen zitten daarom ter hoogte van mijn neus in plaats van mijn buik waar ze eigenlijk moeten zitten. Bovendien liet ik om een of

andere obscure reden mijn schoenen zo nu en dan in het water vallen, zodat ik altijd soppend in mijn schoenen naar huis moest.

De meiden van de vereniging waren allemaal heel erg aardig en als je mensen wil ontmoeten kan ik het dus sterk aanraden om bij een vereniging te gaan. We hebben ook wel een paar feestjes gehad en die waren erg leuk. Van hen heb ik alle drankspelletjes geleerd dus ik heb er toch nog erg veel positieve en nuttige dingen aan over gehouden. Ik ben echter tot de conclusie gekomen dat ik niet ben weggelegd voor het verenigingsleven; het is een hele



sport op zich en ik moet nog uitvinden hoe je die moet beoefenen. Petje af voor de genen die nog steeds elke morgen dapper de Liffey trotseren. Uit mijn vergelijkend warenonderzoek komt echter wel dat de verenigingen van Trinity beter zijn dan die in Utrecht, al is het maar omdat ze een stuk goedkoper zijn en je, als je even doorzet er ook nog een goede conditie aan overhoudt.

In the next issue we will try to find out about your overall emotions about the 2005-2006 experience. So if you would like to share some impressions or if you have a nice story to tell us, please mail to [krita@tcd.ie](mailto:krita@tcd.ie) and leave your article at the start of Trinity Term. If any questions occur to you, please don’t hesitate to contact.

Take care,  
Alesya Krit.

Trinity Publications AGM

Tuesday 7th March 7.30pm

Hist Conversation Room

All welcome to attend and meet next year’s editors!



# Contepomi Eyes Toulouse

Cillian Ó Conchúir meets Felipe Contepomi, Leinster’s Latin General, and finds him excited by the upcoming clash with Europe’s defending Champions

When Leinster take the field against Toulouse at the Stade Municipal on April 1st, they will be relying heavily on the influence and creativity of Felipe Contepomi. "I think we got the toughest team, but if you want to win a tournament you have to beat everyone," stated the Leinster No 10. Back in 2004, when he swapped Bristol for Leinster no one could have envisaged him having such an impact.

Problems on and off the field marred his first seasons at Leinster. "In my first year that I arrived I had this administration trouble," began the Argentinean out-half. "Then I got a bad neck injury and when I was coming back I didn't play much with Declan Kidney. He really didn't rate me as a player. So definitely this year, with nearly two years injury free and having time on the pitch I feel more comfortable."

The administrative error saw Contepomi banned for six games, which seemed harsh given that he had no involvement in the original problem. "We all make errors. It's human, but I was surprised that I was banned for six games and people who punch or stamp are banned for three or four games. I did nothing wrong. I was paying the price for something that I didn't do wrong. It's ridiculous. I can't understand the other part of the law, blaming a player that hasn't done anything wrong for six games."

Toulouse, under Coach Guy Noves, will go into the game as slight favourites which should suit Michael Cheika's team. Noves has been with the French club for nearly 13 years guiding Toulouse to a unique Heineken Cup treble in 1996, 2003 and 2005. His Leinster counterpart, Michael Cheika was

brought in to replace Munster bound Declan Kidney last summer, but has dramatically changed Leinster's style of play.

"Leinster has been changing coaches for the last few years. Every coach has their own way of play, likes of players, so I think it's difficult for players to keep changing their style. With

option for me, especially for my studies and playing in a good team."

A new addition to the family, in baby daughter Catalina, playing professional rugby with Leinster and studying to be a surgeon is a testament of his determination. "I try hard. I'm not the best one in the class. I don't have any

**“Contepomi has become as much of a key player in Argentina’s side as the legendary Hugo Porta”**

new coaches there are new opportunities. With Declan, definitely I was not one of his preferred players. He didn't give me many opportunities. With Cheika, I can't complain. The rugby style he likes to play suits me because I think it's the way rugby should be played and the way I like to play rugby."

When Bristol and the English Premiership came calling, Contepomi seized the opportunity. "It came to a point when I was in fourth year of Medicine and I said if I don't go now I will never go. The last thing I wanted was to regret something when I'm older because you had the opportunity but didn't take it. I went for one year, I stayed for three at Bristol and this is my third season here."

He might well have been playing for the red of Toulouse, in next month's game had he decided to opt for France when his time at Bristol was at its end. "I considered that, (joining a Top 14 French side) but I wanted to go back to my studies. I was even considering going back home, but Leinster came. I always say you can't do things for money. Money comes and goes. There is no point ruling your life around money. Leinster was a good

medals or any prizes. It's not all about that. There are many things that will make you a good doctor. One of them is your professional behaviour and having to perform in two jobs, studying medicine and playing rugby. Its professional behaviour and you develop those skills as well as practice them. Perhaps you won't go out frequently or you won't have many days off, but its part of what you've chosen."

The lack of importance given to the Celtic League has been seen by many as one of the reasons why Irish, Welsh and Scottish clubs are not on the same level as their English and French counterparts, and Contepomi is adamant that it has to change. "Europe is not about turning up on the day with good players. You are playing against teams that are playing week in week out in a very high pressure environment like the Guinness Premiership or France. If you don't create that environment for yourself, like with the Celtic League, it's very difficult that you will turn up one day and say I want to beat Leicester. Toulouse or Stade Francaise."

He thinks a solution would be use the Celtic League as

a qualifying tournament for the Heineken Cup. "The qualification for Europe has to come from the Celtic League. That won't make many teams joke about it. If you say the first six Celtic League places are for the Heineken Cup, they will take it seriously week in week out."

Welsh captain, Gareth Thomas will miss the April 1st clash having sustained damage to an artery in his neck, but there is plenty of cover as the champions aim for their fourth Heineken Cup final in a row, in Cardiff on Saturday 20 May.

"It's nearly a dream team (Toulouse), but I think Yannick Jauzion is on form. He is one of the best, if not the best centre in the Europe, and it will be good to see him playing in front of O' Driscoll and D'Arcy. Jauzion and Fritz against O' Driscoll and D'Arcy will be one of the best clashes ever," exclaims the 31-year old Argentine.

Toulouse boast the best squad in the tournament. With Gareth Thomas injured, Clément Poirenaud, Cédric Haymans could be recalled to the starting line-up. If Leinster are to triumph over the French Giants, the backbone of

**“Toulouse are not very used to playing teams that really attack and pressure them.”**

Xavier Garbajosa, Vincent Ckerc Florian Fritz and Yannick Jauzion will certainly have to be contained. A lot will also depend on which Frédéric Michalak will line-up in the Stade Municipal, whose kicking is often erratic. "Kicking is about practice and concentration. There are loads of good kickers, then they that can't kick on the day



Felipe in action for his native Argentina

because they can't concentrate or pressure will come on them," says Contepomi who, bar one nightmare against Glasgow, has been impeccable with the boot this year.

in the front five. Unfortunately backs take all the credit, but I always say that credit is due for the front five. When the front five play well, we play well."

It seems that Contepomi relishes big games. There's certainly no bigger game in Europe than Toulouse in France, and as far as the Argentinian is concerned, Leinster's best form of defence is attack. "It is a big game because it's the quarter-final of the Heineken Cup. I can't remember when they last lost at home in the Heineken Cup. I think Toulouse on their day are the best team in the tournament. Toulouse are not very used to playing teams that really attack and

pressure them. I would like to see what Toulouse can do if someone attacks them. We will see. If we can perform on the day you never know."

"I think the two teams are similar in the way that they want to a fast game, entertaining and complete. There could be some similarities between Toulouse and Leinster. But it's not about us copying them or them copying us. It's about each team trying to play quick and dynamic rugby. Hopefully we can perform and the result will look after itself," concludes the Puma's out-half. Don't be surprised if he has more of a say in the final score than he lets on.

# Ugly Diving Is Ruining Beautiful Game

Connel McKenna

Diving, or 'Simulation' as those within the game sometimes call it, has seemingly reached epidemic proportions within football. Those on the terraces have long had enough, and it seems their strength of ill-feeling has now filtered through to the press box.

The recent London Times campaign, based around the publication of an anti-diving poster (and much anti-diving rhetoric), to free the sport of this infestation has perhaps finally given the match-going fan some reassurance that their cat-calls are being listened to.

It says much for the way that racism within football has been dealt with by the English F.A. that play-acting is now probably the greatest stench to emanate from a Premiership ground. While it has not been entirely successful, the 'Kick Racism out of Football' campaign of the 1990s provides hope that similar widespread condemnation and perseverance with this campaign will return some much-needed sportsmanship to the football field.

The racism still suffered by players in Italy, Spain the Balkans and elsewhere demonstrates though, that the dark side of football is still unfortunately not restricted to grown men sacrificing their pride for a cheap free-kick, or worse, to gain an unfair numerical advantage for their side. The football community must take strides to counter racism, but until it is eradicated from society it will raise its head in all walks of life, sporting or otherwise. John Barnes recently called it "society's problem," and he was right. Diving is football's problem.

Every team seems to have its divers - and these players should be branded as such if are we to overcome their poison. The higher the stakes it seems, the more that diving enters into the equation. This is problematic, given that the vast majority of tomorrow's stars are regularly rendered stary-eyed watching the Champions League, and not the Setanta Sports Cup.

Children learn through observation and repetition; it has long been argued that the cheating they see on Match of the Day they will recreate on a Monday lunchtime in the playground. Don't dismiss this argument as mere 'think of the children' moralising, for a new generation of injury-figners will continue to erode the game's reputation, and therefore, appeal.

So, Messrs Robben, Reyes, Drogba, Deco and Messi, consider how your actions have further reaching consequences for the game you love; or perhaps you just don't love it enough; perhaps that's the problem. There's no point though in arguing that it's all the fault of those pesky foreigners: Gary Neville: sometimes guilty. Joe Cole: often guilty. Robbie Savage: well, difficult to quantify. Both Michael Owen and Wayne Rooney have during their careers won important penalties by impersonating falling timber, and I'm sure I'm not the only one who has witnessed with a wince, perhaps even a silence of denial, Robbie Keane, and the almighty Duffer unnecessarily muddy their green shirts on occasion.

Denial though, is in this case acceptance. There are too many people that accept and even embrace diving as part of the game. Managers are one such group of people. Arsene Wenger's long-range vision takes an unfortunate but temporary turn for the worse whenever Robert Pires moves into the penalty area, while Jose Mourinho will happily rant about the role of Lionel Messi in Asier Del Horno's sending off against Barcelona but ignore Arjen Robben's part in Pepe Reina's at Stamford Bridge only weeks earlier. Can we be sure that these men, and the others in their profession, even scold their guilty players within the privacy of the dressing room? Can we be sure that the players respect their team-mates any less as a result of their unsporting behaviour? I suspect that in most cases the answer to both questions is no.

There are though, man-

agers who go against this deplorable grain. Cork City manager Damien Richardson reflected on Sunday night upon his delight that he and his team had managed to win the Eircom League last season whilst "upholding the dignity of the game uppermost in our minds." That Richardson had to wait thirty years for a league title makes his philosophy all the more admirable. Admirable too is The London Times' campaign, but I fear its moral and dignified tone will alone not be enough to dissuade the rich young men who play the game at the top level from continuing to play-act, so long as it can win them trophies and please their managers.

Robben's name has perhaps appeared a disproportionate amount of times in this article (or perhaps not, depending upon your affiliation), but his attitude towards this issue has been an angering disappointment. "I don't want to talk about diving," he recently asserted, going on to comment on the injustice of his treatment at the hands of the media. A word of advice, Arjen, try not to court sympathy in the near future, you'll find it's in short supply.

Perhaps then it's time to hit these players where it affects their careers most - on the pitch. Yellow cards have been shown to be an ineffective deterrent (and all too often referees seem bizarrely unwilling to show them to the more limp-limbed player), but the idea that a dive could be punished with a red card is pure folly - that is sure to result in the farcical situation of players being sent off having actually been fouled. An automatic one-match ban, in conjunction with the initial sanction, is a concept which, strangely, appears not to have been considered by football's governing body FIFA - maybe Mr. Blatter's mind is still dominated with the idea of shortening the female player's skirts.

The implementation of video evidence panels for this purpose would remove the inevitability of yet more blame being laid at the feet of referees, and would enable the judicial force to have

more than one look at contentious incidents, for example where it is not certain whether a player tripped over thin air or merely accentuated a fall caused by physical contact. In the case of the former, the ban is enforced, regardless of whether the referee brandished a card. If a player is given a second yellow card for a dive and is therefore subject to a ban anyway, add another game to it in any case.

Such a scheme has obvious flaws. It would be expensive to administer, and of course, certain offences will slip through the net,

so to speak. However, cleansing the sport of this disease would be substantially beneficial, even in monetary terms (if all else fails, let the guilty players pay for the system through fining them). All the necessary technology is already in place, and I find it difficult to believe that a decrease in 'simulation' would not be evident to fans within weeks of its implementation. I believe it could almost remove diving from the game within a year. This scheme is a simple one. It is based on threat, but the threat is great enough to make it a

success. If managers thought they could lose players for matches to diving, they would greatly discourage it. They may not even need to, given the desire of the players to play. They will be almost afraid to fall - they will at last stay on their feet.

The implementation of such a scheme is the aim behind The London Times' campaign. Those behind it are not naïve enough to believe that mere tutting and finger-wagging will be enough to prick the conscious of a spoilt young millionaire - as a certain

Dutch winger has shown. Moral and sporting attitudes though, can greatly impress upon the psyche of children, the players of the future, and it is for this reason that they must not allow their campaign to become in time, a token gesture. Its tone must be maintained if it is to be taken seriously. Having started this honourable campaign, The London Times now owes football fans its commitment to it. With that, who knows what it could achieve?



**“No More Diving,” says the London Times, and all true football lovers should join them in condemning the blight of show-diving that is destroying soccer’s already modest reputation for fair and honest play.**



# Scotland take Calcutta Cup in shock result

Theo O'Donnell

Getting rid of Ruddock was clearly a great idea. In a single fortnight, the Welsh Rugby Union has established itself as one of the most staggeringly inept governing bodies in sport.

Any organisation that can mount a dirty tricks campaign to force its own Grand Slam-winning coach out of his job halfway through a tournament deserves a big poke in the eye. One that then attempts to place the entire burden of responsibility on its own players is something quite special indeed. Gareth Thomas' stress-related burst blood vessel and impending retirement from rugby have been the only regrettable incidents in what has been an incredible tournament.

No one really expected Wales to be able to repeat their success of last year, particularly not without the likes of Tom Shanklin and Martyn Williams, who found themselves among a long list of injuries facing the already deeply-troubled Welsh management. This season was to see a return to French and English dominance in Europe while the hosts and defenders of next year's World Cup asserted their status as the only Northern Hemisphere sides able to take on the likes of South Africa and the All Blacks with any confidence.

Things obviously haven't gone quite to plan. Last week, all was (almost) as expected. Italy were becoming more competitive,

certainly, but they hadn't yet racked up a win. Ireland had played some incredible rugby to come back against France, but they ultimately followed pre-match predictions and lost by a two-try margin. France had lost to Scotland, but everyone knows how inconsistent, and, well, Gallic the French can be, especially when caught off guard in the first match. Wales hadn't managed to rediscover last year's confidence, and England were blindly steam-rolling their way into Grand Slam contention with boring ten-man rugby.

It would now appear that Scotland's victory over France was not a flash in the pan. Having wheeled out every national hero from Rab C Nesbitt to Mel Gibson before the clash with England at Murrayfield, the Scots had a genuine air of confidence about them. They managed to outplay the English at their own game, making their kicks, closing down space, taking no risks, keeping it tight, dominating the set-piece, etc. Had it not been so tense, it would have been the dulllest match since the World Cup. Any game in which Patterson making his kicks and Ben Cohen dropping the ball near the line are highlights is bound to be on the boring side. Actually, scratch that. Ben Cohen dropping the ball is a highlight of any game in which it happens.

The most remarkable thing about Scotland has been their versatility. Having beaten France with open, free-flowing rugby, full

of flair and offloads, they then proceeded to close up shop against England with some play from the opposite end of the rugby spectrum. Not many teams have the ability or conviction to execute such radically different game-plans, so there is certainly something special about the Scots, but we have yet to see how they truly perform away from home, as their fourteen-man effort against a disjointed Welsh side in Cardiff is very hard to judge by.

Ireland are also difficult to pin down at the moment. They managed to undo a ragged-looking Welsh side, and they did so with some style, but they still don't look clinical enough to close out games against more focused opposition. England are keen to re-establish an air of invincibility around 'Fortress Twickenham,' and how better to do it than by beating the very side who dispelled that myth in the 2004 Six Nations. Ireland will travel to face England with some trepidation, and it is important to remember that they have yet to face Scotland as well.

With four sides (Ireland, Scotland, England and France) all level on points with two wins and one loss apiece, this tournament is getting harder to pick than a broken nose. In order for Ireland to win outright, they must obviously look to get wins over England and Scotland in their final two games. France, inconsistent though they may be, are unlikely to lose to Wales, and Scotland will surely be

favourites when they take on the ever-improving Italians. The best-case scenario for Ireland would see England beating France this weekend. Brian O'Driscoll's side would then top the table with four wins; England, Scotland and France would follow with three each.

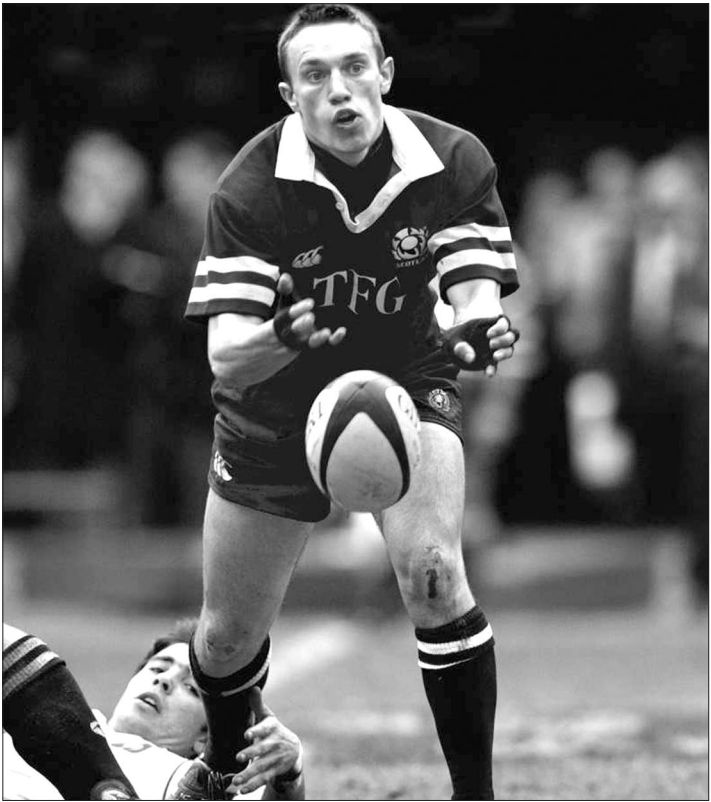
What this tournament has demonstrated, however, is that making predictions is the best way of making yourself look like a fool. Any one of the four teams is well capable of winning their two remaining games. Ireland and France have both looked like they are living on a knife-edge and could easily implode if put under the right degree of pressure; at the same time they both have the talent from one to twenty-two to pull out remarkable performances if they can only click together as a team.

England have massive potential, and also look a few small steps away from becoming a winning side again, but those steps would appear to include at least one change in the centres and a major tactical overhaul, neither of which seem likely unless they force their head coach to pull a Ruddock and disappear before their next game. Like Ireland, the balance of England's back-row seems slightly off, and change is necessary.

England are without a genuine openside, with Worsley and Moody both more typical sixes than sevens. Worsley has been playing well, at least until the Scotland game, and is England's best option now at flank. This gives

Robinson the opportunity to drop the 'indispensable' Lewis Moody. He's not indispensable, he's useless. English rugby pundits describe him as the best chaser of restarts in the game. Really? Remember him winning any? Ever? He charges up like a man possessed, takes out the man in the air, and gives away a penalty. Hardly the most effective tactic. Besides which, England wouldn't have to take so many restarts in the first place if he didn't give away so many penalties for killing the ball, handling on the floor, dangerous tackles, and so on. Who is picked at eight, Corry or Dallaglio, is too close to call.

Likewise, Eddie O'Sullivan could do with dropping Easterby, who has been strangely quiet, and replace him with the rampaging Johnny O'Connor. This will give them the greater levels of aggression required to counter the likes of Jason White when they take on Scotland. As for France, they need a genuine option at out-half. Michalak has all the flair of a Charlie Hodgson, but none of the reliability of a Ronan O'Gara. It looks distinctly like Bernard Laporte was banking on Yannick Jauzion providing his side with a steady tactical influence from the midfield, with Michalak simply there as an attacking playmaker. Jauzion's injury really cocked that up, and poor old Freddie has buckled under the strain of running the game, rather than just releasing his backline.



Mike Blair has been at the centre of Scotland's play

Scotland, of all the contenders, look to have the most balanced outfit. On paper Dan Park is hardly the strongest out-half, but with the likes of Lamont and Patterson on hand to share the responsibility, he has proven himself adept at running whichever gameplan Scotland go with. Elsewhere in the side, its hard to argue either with performance or selection. Scott Murray will be kicking himself, or at least just

wishing he hadn't kicked Michael Owen in the face, as if Scotland had played with fifteen men and beaten Wales they would surely now be favourites for an overall win with a possible Grand Slam in the pipeline. God knows who'll win now, but one thing is certain; its going to be a great couple of weeks.

# Winter Olympics: They Aren't Totally Rubbish

Connel McKenna

So, did you watch the Winter Olympics? If you reply with a hearty 'yes,' having been for two weeks captivated by the speed and daring on show, you will find yourself in something of a minority. For most of us it seems, the Winter Olympics comes and goes every four years without making much of an impression on our sporting Richter Scales. Having stumbled across it on television, we casually give our channel-flicking thumb a rest for five minutes, and watch whichever event is at that time being broadcast, purely out of curiosity. Curiosity appeased, our inane flicking resumes.

The fact is that for many, these games take a series of minority and in certain cases obscure sports and wrap them up inside one big novel package, which happens to have the word 'Olympics' stamped across it. In isolation, most of these sports lack any sort of prestige for the average armchair fan, but stage them as Olympic events, and that somewhat changes. The very word demands respect; demands you, as a sports fan, to sit up and take notice; but how much notice should you take?

It is illogical to suggest that the events of the Turin 2006 would have received as much coverage as they did were they simply called 'The Winter Games.' They would have seemed very foreign to

anyone in this part of the world were that the case, but then everyone feels as though they belong to the 'Olympic Community' (Hell, we even sent four competitors ourselves). How we would have scoffed at poor souls trying to look dignified whilst skiing across flat and even uphill terrain. We probably would've enjoyed some good auld craic at their expense, alright. But wait, this is the Olympics; this is serious.

Undoubtedly it is, if not to you then to someone else, and this article is not attempting to pour scorn on the fine achievements of the athletes who competed. It clearly mattered to Duff Gibson, the 39-year old Canadian who, having become the oldest ever

Skeleton gold-medallist, couldn't steady his withering emotions enough to complete a sentence without choking back tears. Athletes like Gibson though, have to be set in an Olympic context, as indeed do these very Games, and of course that is quite a context. The athlete's status as a true Olympian though, has to be qualified in this way.

The Summer Olympic Games, as they have now come to be known, come with an aura which is positively scented with ancient history, mythology and mystery. Despite the most deplorable efforts the drug cheats who have tarnished its reputation, The Olympic Games is sport in its purest form. Of course it is only known as 'The Summer Olympic Games' because of the creation of the Winter Olympics, which seems to present something of a balance between the two - almost equilibrium. It becomes somewhat difficult to justify any sporting event being granted this in light of the incredible heritage of the Olympics.

The oldest myth concerning the Olympic Games is that of the demigod Herakles, who commissioned a day of games in Olympia to honour Zeus, who had defeated Cronus in a struggle for the throne of the gods. The first Olympic Games, according to historical records, can be traced back to 776 B.C. Dedicated to the ancient gods, they were staged on the ancient plains of Olympia.

They continued on for almost the next twelve centuries, until in 393 A.D. the emperor Theodosius banned them, along with all other "pagan cults." Sports of these ancient games included the shot-put, javelin, and boxing. Many luminaries took part, with a certain competitor by the name of Plato a double winner of the pankration event.

The games were reborn in Athens in 1896, and welcomed many new events, including tennis, where Englishman Jon Bolland emerged victorious.

Just twenty-five years later the International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) announced that they would stage 'International Sports Week 1924' in Chamonix, France. The new concept was a complete success, and was retroactively named as the first Olympic Winter Games. It has, like its sum-

mer counterpart, been subsequently staged every four years, outside of war-time.

With that brief history lesson taken into account, it is not difficult to conclude that there is a lot more prestige surrounding those Games which find their origins in Ancient Greece. It is more difficult to imagine that any Winter Olympian could be revered worldwide to the extent that great Olympians such as Carl Lewis are, no matter what their medal haul. Whether or not you consider the athletes who competed in Turin to be true Olympians - and to consider them not to be, I believe, is a valid viewpoint - these men and women are Olympians by definition, and that has to be respected. That cannot be taken away from them. No matter what response their respective sports provoke in us, we must always remember that they have earned our respect through the dedication and ability they have shown themselves to possess.

Duff Gibson's was not the only extraordinary achievement of these Games. Cindy Klassen won five gold medals for Canada in the speed skating event, while Hermann Maier completed his recovery from career-threatening injury by taking gold for Germany in the giant slalom. To show any sort of disregard for these feats would merely display ignorance.

Whether these games merit an Olympic title or not, the fact that they possess one is hugely beneficial for the individual sports involved. As well as giving them that sense of prestige which we have seen comes with Olympic recognition, it probably ensures that many of them do not slip into absolute obscurity. Certainly, it gives them a worldwide audience, even if it is only for two weeks every four years. The Olympic iron lung helps to maintain a great diversity in the sporting world (even the summer Games have incorporated various sports which certain detractors may claim devalues them overall) and that has to be a good thing. So when you tune into Vancouver 2010 during an idol hour, be grateful that the novel side of competitive sport lives on.

# Big Moe Vs. The Neo-Nazis

Johnny Walls

With hindsight, I suppose it wasn't too surprising. After all it's not everyday the Azzuri play Germany just 10 minutes down the road.

Friendly or otherwise when these two heavyweights of the international game lock horns it's the only show in town. That said, the lack of atmosphere in the Fiddler's Elbow for Steve Staunton's big day wasn't really the issue. It was more that we had misjudged the mood of the entire Irish population of Florence.

Weeks ago, my flatmate and I had weighed it up and made our decision. Germany and Italy, we agreed, was destined to be a snore draw and with tickets going for 15 Euro a pop, it would be just like flushing our money down the toilet. Lets face it, we convinced ourselves, they may have quality players but these two neighbours don't exactly play the most attractive brand of football. No.....we were going to watch Stan and the lads in the Pub. That was that.

Of course on the night itself we arrived to find that every Tom, Dick and Harry.....and Mick had reckoned the game in the Stadio Artemio Franchi would be a cracker and had gone there instead.

Only a few enclaves of Swedes punctuated an otherwise forlorn pub. Were we disheartened? - Sure, but wasn't the end of the world. There was a new era for Irish football to kick off , and a friendly to be won.

With a full house at Lansdowne, two promising youngsters, making their debuts, and quality opponents in the guise of Sweden, their were reasons to believe it was going to be a good evening.

Two hours and a three nil victory later, the consensus was that it had been just that. Duff had returned to form, Steven Reid demonstrated that he may very well have what it takes to be an international class central midfielder, and the goals were top drawer.

Even Bill, the barman was in jovial mood, but that was probably due more to the fact that he had spent the evening in the company of two Swedish blondes.

There may have been shortcomings with the Irish team but that was for another day. It was time to bask in Stan's flying start. The post match analysis began and the topics of debate flowed. Should Staunton have given Doyle the full 90 minutes, was it right to substitute Joey O'Brien immediately after he made that mistake and are those two guys in the corner doing impressions of a song thrush or are they speaking Swedish? We subtly edged our table closer to theirs and earwigged.

David, the linguist among us, assured everyone it was Swedish. I didn't buy it.15 minutes later I was still certain they were trying to communicate with an invisible black bird or talking Klingon.

Thankfully, it wasn't long until my priorities changed. Moe, the Scottish barman informed us that earlier in the day, the pub had been packed with boisterous German supporters, who were likely to return angrier than ever after watching their team getting thumped by the locals. You had to feel sorry for Moe, in a few hours time, he would be the solitary black barman in a pub full of extremely disgruntled neo-nazis. But he did, however, have a plan. He was simply going to explain that his dark complexion was as a result of not washing for a few days! His ability to laugh at himself speaks volumes for one of the nicest guys you could hope to meet.

So we decided to make haste, heading for home through the cobbled winding streets, safe in the knowledge that the Stan era had got off to a flying start, and that we could, at least for now, dream about European glory in 2008.



Claims that the British Curling Team are underfunded remain totally unfounded



# Don't allow the opportunity for sporting excellence to pass by

While continually improving its academic and other facilities, Trinity College is neglecting its sports clubs and allowing other Irish universities to take the cream of Irish sporting talent. **Adrienne Da Costa** thinks College needs to wake up to this.

You can't get too much of a good thing: it seems sport in Trinity could be surrounded by clichés like this. As the season draws to a close for several DU clubs, one wonders to how many more of its successful sportspeople the College will bid farewell to. Their college years have seen several of Ireland's top sportspeople flourish; but ultimately, a degree opens doors, and the red and black jersey gets hung up on the way out, leaving everyone to ponder over what they had. You just don't know what you've got until it's gone.

Is College Park nothing more than a field of dreams, where the next O'Driscoll bides his time until bigger and better things come along? The reality is that you'd be more than likely to see him playing for the opposition these days. The association of Trinity's teams with the College naturally limits the time their members are given to shine, but it shouldn't excuse the College's mediocre sporting performances. Amidst all the pining, Trinity is lagging behind in the race to snap up the cream of the crop, and the solutions to the problem are all too obvious.

DU Hockey Club's two international players, Peter Blakeney and Phelie Maguire, would surely have to consider their options were the first XI to be relegated in a few weeks time. The team currently sits second from bottom of Leinster division one, and with so many high calibre

players playing in the division, JS student Blakeney will have to move elsewhere to compete with the best if he is to continue to be selected for his country. Maguire, who has thirteen senior caps and has just finished competing in the Four Nations tournament in Egypt where he notched up four goals in two games for the Irish team, is in his fourth and final year at Trinity and at the Hockey Club. Although his international career has blossomed during his Trinity years, Maguire cannot provide the College with his services forever. Next year he plans to play club hockey in Holland, where the standard of the game is higher still, and where he will be sure to improve his game and solidify his place on the international squad.

That the club will lose a player of Maguire's expertise is inevitable. The fact that DU Hockey Club draws its players from an exclusively Trinity student base means that it can never enjoy the loyalties displayed by other international-standard players to their respective clubs. Realistically, any college club can only expect to keep an elite sportsperson for a maximum of four years. This was highlighted in the previous issue, when DUFC expressed concern that their student players were being matched up against professional players who had devoted their entire careers to one All Ireland League club, and that Trinity could only retain an elite

player for a limited amount of time. In this respect Trinity's glory can only stretch so far, and its accolades will continue to lie in the hearts of those who enjoyed a few good years playing college sport before it was time to take things more seriously.

But what about the players whom the college could lose unnecessarily? The Hockey Club have suffered from Peter Blakeney's absence due to international duty on various occasions this season, and the detrimental effect his departure would have on the first XI next season is clear: he was Leinster top goal scorer and player of the season for 2004/5. However it should not be the case that one or two players sustain a College team. The College should be making more of an effort to develop the talents of the likes of those hockey and rugby players occupying the bottom places of the country's top sporting leagues with the provision of better facilities. Perhaps this would also stall the trend that sees many Trinity students play for other clubs, as well attract the best of the new talent rising from schools-level competition. Current sixth-year students were undoubtedly weighing up the facilities at Trinity against those of UCD when they were filling in this year's CAO applications. Come August, the admissions office will no doubt be singing to the tune of their quota of 600 pointers, all set to make the most of some of the



**Phelie Maguire goes for goal in an international match against Belgium. Trinity is lucky to have Maguire playing for the College's Hockey Club.**  
Photo: Jonathan William Drennan

finest academic conditions the country can offer. It's unlikely that there'll be any such song and dance out on the sports fields.

Playing for your college cannot be an honour in itself for Trinity's talented sportspeople, and

moves need to be made by the relevant college bodies in order to make it a more attractive prospect. This year's sport scholarship recipients were each given €250, an amount which has in the past three years decreased from €750, and is

miniscule in comparison to, for example, the €2500 on offer at DCU. It will only be a matter of time before the abundance of attractive sports scholarships on offer at other Dublin universities will take precedence over the pres-

tige of attending Trinity College in the eyes of Ireland's brightest sporting talent. That is, if it hasn't already. The College needs to ask itself whether it is happy to see the potential for sporting excellence so easily passed over.

## DU devastated after attempt at Collingwood Cup



**Stephen Hanaphy**

Freezing Coleraine was the setting for this year's Collingwood Cup, Ireland's premier intervarsity soccer competition. Over the course of four gruelling days thirteen teams competed for a trophy which has eluded Trinity's grasp since 1979. Sadly this unenviable record was not to be broken last week.

Competing first against DCU, Trinity seemed to demonstrate all the attributes required for success in this competition. The centre-back partnership of Dave Holt and Danny Goode looked impregnable for most of the play, while the penetrative runs of Will Pender were a constant thorn in DCU's left side. It was Dermot Byrne, however, who emerged as Trinity's star-turn. Latching on to an incisive through-pass by the artful midfielder David Andrews, Byrne left his marker for dead before dispatching the ball neatly into the bottom corner of

the net. The trick was repeated in the second half, before Byrne claimed his hat-trick with a speculative volley from twenty yards out. Captain Darren Dempsey also adorned an impressive display with a confident penalty-kick, which he scored between Byrne's first two strikes. While the eventual 4-0 result might have flattered Trinity to a degree, the victory was unquestionably merited.

The reward for this win was an encounter with one of the sides favoured to win the competition, the University of Ulster, Jordanstown. From the outset it was apparent that Trinity would face a much sterner test than in the previous game, and it was the northerners (in whose ranks were a number of Northern Ireland under-21 internationals) who took the lead mid-way through the second half. The breakthrough suddenly sparked the initially cagey encounter into life, and immediately from the tip-off Trinity equalised. Picking up the ball in the final third of the pitch Trinity's quick-footed Davy Hayes unleashed a ferocious effort which flew into the far corner of Jordanstown's net. Having first controlled the ball with his right foot Hayes demonstrated sublime ambidexterity to score what was, unequivocally, the goal of the tournament.

Unfortunately Trinity's jubilation was short-lived, as it was

Jordanstown who clinched the winner in the very last second of the game. A sweetly struck left-footed free-kick beat the helpless Colin Morris, and from the resulting tip-off the referee sounded the final whistle before Trinity could stage a comeback. The unforgiving knock-out system of this year's competition meant that Trinity's Collingwood campaign was over. The disappointment of the players and the management staff, compounded by the cruel nature of the defeat, was palpable. After the heights of the display against DCU, the realisation that the coveted trophy had been snatched from their grasp so prematurely, and in such brutal fashion, was all too sobering for the Trinity squad. The fact that Jordanstown ultimately claimed the cup in Thursday's final against the University of Ulster, Coleraine provided only scant consolation for the DU boys.

On a positive note, however, the performance of a certain number of Trinity's players would indicate that next year's competition, which is to be held at DCU, could prove more successful. Luke Coyneccurry, whose skill levels and pace were a highlight of Trinity's final match against DIT, and the aforementioned Andrews, whose vision and reading of the play generated many of Trinity's attacks, both belied their freshman status. Next weekend Trinity's auxiliary side will travel to Galway to compete in the Crowley Cup, no doubt keen to restore some pride to the college's footballing community.

## DU Orienteering Club had a decent 2005

Dublin University's orienteers had an eventful 2005. **Stuart Scott** gives an outline of the year in this belated report.

You may be forgiven for thinking DU Orienteers had run off the face of the earth. With a temperamental mailing list and a dramatic reduction in size (due to the departure a large contingent of final year members last year), it has been fairly quiet on the information front. However, the Club rose above these challenges, managing to enlist a good number last Freshers' Week and has continued to field strong (well, perhaps "enthusiastic" is a better word) teams to all the major events.

The 2005 season ended with the Irish Championship on Inisbofin over the May Bank Holiday weekend. Over two-hundred orienteers from around Ireland descended on the island, complete with bicycles, high-energy food and, in the case of the Trinity team, a plentiful supply of Dunnes Stores own-brand. As there was one shop and no ATM on the island, this showed remarkable foresight unlike our decision to save the hostel bill and stay in tents as it turned out to be one of the stormiest weekends of that "summer". Nevertheless, it was a memorable experience, though thankfully not to be repeated for a while.

Next up was the Rogaine. No, not a replacement hair product for men, but an annual large-scale "score" orienteering event held over twenty-four hours in the Wicklow Mountains. Fifty orienteering controls are distrib-

uted over fifty square kilometres, each worth a different amount of points, and competitors in teams of two given twenty-four hours to find as many as possible. Coming straight after the exams, Trinity assumed the "training is for losers" policy and decided to take it on. With fifty-one kilometres covered, two hours "sleep" and thousands of midge bites, our "achievement" pales into comparison considering the (inhuman) winners covered (at speed) at least twice that distance.

July saw five orienteers from Trinity and UCD go to Finland for five days of orienteering. Taking the scenic route, our whistle-stop journey took in the delights of Stansted Airport, Riga, Helsinki and of course Tallinn and its "Kiek in de Kök", all in four days. Arriving in the event centre just in time for our first race, we had no idea what we had let ourselves in for. Seemingly, the Finnish take our "impassable" forest and call it "runnable", and then sprint through it without a second's thought. Perhaps this stems from years of fighting off the savage horse-flies, which managed to catch up with us whenever we stopped to figure out where we actually were. And running in thirty degree heat (which only went away during the twilight hours of two to four AM) was painful to say the least.

On top of this, the Finns take orienteering far too seriously.

If you didn't finish your course, you were 'interrogated' by the officials. At least that's what the English translation said. As the only Irish contingent there (in fact, the only competitors outside Scandinavia and Russia), we felt we had no option but to live up to our reputation by coming last in every event and by keeping the local pub in business (it seemed no-one else would). Although we had to listen to the same Finnish karaoke for five nights in a row, it was a worthwhile cause, especially considering we had five nights of sleeping on the concrete floor of the local school.

Anyway, back to normal climes and the start of last year's autumn series. Trinity's orienteers, as usual, hit the ground running – no pun intended. Both beginners and veterans performed well at events in Mullaghmeen (Westmeath), Ticknock (Dublin), Mall Hill (Wicklow), Dún a Rí (Cavan) and the Curragh (Kildare). Large turnouts were also present at local events in UCD and Marlay Park. A number also travelled to the Connacht Championships in Portumna. Each of these events provided different challenges, be it navigational, fitness or simply surviving the Irish weather. With terrain varying from mountainside to forest to parkland, it is often route choice and (a not so small amount of) luck which determines the winner; not always speed.

# Sixteen medals for Trinity fighters

**Stephen Toner**

DU Tae Kwon Do Club took part in the IUTF Irish Tae Kwon Do intervarsity on the 26th February, taking home a record sixteen medals.

First up in individual patterns, Laura Ni Chroin did excellently to win the ladies' black-belt

pattern section. In team patterns, hours of practice and careful choreography shone through as Sandie Hosford, Ciara Aucoin and Simon Deignan put in an excellent effort to win this keenly contested section.

In junior sparring (white to yellow belt) a team comprising of John Tobin, Matt Fleury and

Richard O'Dwyer did well to finish second, narrowly losing in the final to a more experienced UCD team. Matt, competing in his first competition, finished third in the individual section. Christian Heri, John Tobin, Richard O'Dwyer, and Alan Courtney all fought extremely well in the same section, but unfortunately didn't make it into

the medal positions.

In the intermediate colored belt section (green and blue belts), Club captain Sandie Hosford maintained her title from the previous year as she again won gold after a number of hard-fought rounds (which her opponents will testify to). Ciara Aucoin also managed a very creditable third place in

her weight category after being narrowly beaten in the semi-final. Simon Deignan fought a number of tough opponents in the men's section, with unanimous decisions in every round ensuring another deserved first place. Alex Gray and Richard Magnier also had tough bouts in their first continuous sparring competition, with both

losing by a narrow margin.

Niall Murphy claimed second in the men's black belt division, narrowly beaten in a split-decision in the final by his brother. Laura came third in the ladies' black belt section. In the black-belt team section a team comprising of Simon Deignan, Cathal Hardiman, and Niall Murphy beat more expe-

rienced opposition, and after a tough final against UCC ultimately emerged as champions, which was an excellent achievement for a team comprising of lighter and lower-graded fighters than the opposition.





Patrick Cosgrave of the DU Lawn Tennis Club loses his footing during a game at the Irish tennis intervarsities which the Trinity club hosted in College and at Mountpleasant Lawn Tennis Club Photo: Brian Wyse

# No varsity trophy for Trinity fencers

Maria Clair

February saw the opening of the busiest few weeks for Trinity’s fencers with the Club being represented at the Scottish Open in Edinburgh and at the inaugural West of Ireland Open.

It was the trip up to Belfast on the weekend of the 18th and 19th that saw the most activity. The 2006 fencing intervarsities were held at Queen’s Belfast for the first time in ten years. Day one was a tough competition as for the first time seven universities, UCD, Trinity, UCC, NUI Maynooth, University of Ulster Coleraine, Queen’s Belfast and DCU had both a men and a women’s team.

After tough fights, Trinity’s epeeists Colm Flynn, David Cahill, James Stratford and Colin Couper lost to UCD but managed to pull back beating Maynooth, Coleraine and Cork. Our women foilists, captain Aoife Brown, Kate Harvey, Maria Treacy and Suzanne Clayton were ranked third overall after beating DCU and UCC and giving tough competition to UCD and Queen’s who eventu-

ally took ladies’ foil. The last weapon started on Saturday was men’s sabre but due to a technical problem most of the matches were played on Sunday along with women’s epee, men’s sabre and ladies’ sabre. Our sabre team of Cathal Scanlon, men’s captain Colm Flynn, Owen Rooney and Laughlin Sykes were victorious in matches against Maynooth, Coleraine and DCU, only just losing to Queen’s Belfast who took the weapon with straight wins.

Trinity’s victory was in ladies’ epee fenced by Maria Clair, Melanie Bouroche, Suzanne Clayton and Aoife Brown. They swept the board with stunning victories over the favourites UCD and Queen’s. With men’s foil and ladies’ sabre left to fence, it looked like Trinity was back in the running for winning the competition.

Men’s foil got off to a bad start with one of our fencers becoming ill. Nonetheless the team of David Cahill, Colm Flynn, Laughlin Skyes and Dan Bergin managed noteworthy wins over Coleraine, Cork and DCU but lost to Queen’s and UCD who eventu-

ally had victory in men’s foil. With only ladies’ sabre left to fence, the competition was still up for grabs. Queen’s had victories in men’s sabre and ladies’ foil, Belfield had won men’s foil and men’s epee, Trinity had won ladies’ epee, so Trinity needed victory to remain in the running. The ladies’ sabre team of Kate Harvey, Aine Whelan, Sarah O’Reilly and Isolde Murphy put up a spirited fight and beat Cork and Maynooth, and gained a stunning victory over Queen’s but had an unlucky defeat at the hands of UCD. Queen’s were also defeated by a strong UCD team and because of this victory UCD came away with the intervarsity cup.

Trinity’s fencers have been proving themselves capable of putting up a challenge to the best fencers in the country with Colm Flynn, Kate Harvey, Loughlin Skyes, Suzanne Clayton and Isolde Murphy representing Ireland in the quadrangular match in Cork on St Patrick’s Day.

Judging by their performances at this year’s intervarsities they look likely to take the cup from UCD in 2007.

# Nine times in a row as Squash Club retains Irish intervarsity title

David Lowry

DU Squash Club recently brought the intervarsity trophy back from Cork, making it nine successful intervarsity tournaments in a row. One would be foolish to come to the conclusion that the squash players have it easy each year at the competition. The opposite is true. Competition is fierce and matches are close, some being separated by the slimmest of margins – a single point in one notable match this year.

The men’s “A” team travelled down to the competition on Friday the 24th of February as hot favourites. Unfortunately our number-one ranked player Brian Byrne could not travel until late

that night and as a result all players had to play one position “above themselves”. Trinity were drawn in the group stages against NUI Galway and UCD. Trinity had met UCD in the final of the competition for the last five consecutive years and so a difficult game was expected. DU lost 3-2 with only Aidan Sharky and Paddy Burke picking up victories. Karlis Zauers (Club captain) narrowly lost out to rival Fergal Field 10-9 in a five game thriller enjoyed by a packed gallery. This left the next group match against NUIG vital if Trinity were to progress to the knockout stages of the competition. The pressure was on and Trinity performed superbly, the whole team winning.

The semi-finals were held on the Saturday and Trinity

was drawn against Queen’s Belfast. With a full-strength team out Trinity sailed into the final losing no matches. The scene was then set for another Trinity and UCD final. Trinity were back to full strength, playing a strong UCD team with a lot of hunger for the trophy. However our Belfield colleagues were dramatically knocked out of the competition by a spirited UCC team who played some inspired squash to come back from behind and take the tie 3-2.

The final was held that evening and Trinity dominated proceedings, with only Kevin-Francis Humphreys losing a match. Despite Kevin-Francis’s loss, the tie and the trophy were still ours for the ninth time.

The Trinity ladies also

had a trophy to defend as they were the reigning ladies champions. However the team was blighted by injuries and withdrawals of some key players. The team could only muster four players for Friday night so unfortunately had to forfeit one match before a ball was hit in anger. They did put in a spirited performance but too much was left to do on Saturday and they finished in third position in the overall tournament.

Following the clean sweep at last year’s intervarsities, the men’s “B” team had their trophy to defend as well. Due to the immense enthusiasm shown by the members this year Trinity sent down two teams to compete in the “B” section. Unfortunately neither was successful in retaining the tro-

phy. The men’s team captained by Sean Reilly got to the final in the section narrowly losing 3-2. There were some great performances by the men’s “C” team captained by Robbie Woods in the same section.

The intervarsities were over for another year and it was the Trinity team drinking champagne from the trophy on Saturday night.

The credit for the win goes to the squash coach Elvy d’Costa who puts in a tremendous amount of work training all the players. All going well, 2007 will make it ten in a row.

**DU Squash Club’s men’s “A” team:** 1 Brian Byrne, 2 Adrian Sharky, 3 Kevin-Francis Humphreys, 4 Karlis Zauers (Captain), 5 David Lowry, 6 Paddy Bourke

# Busy time for Harriers

Mark Kirwan

The last few weeks have seen a busy period for the DU Harriers and Athletic Club with both the Colours and intervarsity cross country events taking place, and a trip to London for the Hyde Park Relays thrown into the mix.

First up was the Hyde Park Relays where the men’s and women’s teams aimed to replicate the success of the previous year when the men were first overall team and the women first overseas team. A group of twenty-two eager athletes traveled out from Dublin Airport on Friday, 10th February with high ambitions. The race is a student relay run in the heart of London’s Hyde Park with over one-hundred-and-fifty teams, both men and women, competing.

The races are a continuous relay with the men’s teams comprising of six legs of 5.2k and the women’s four legs of 3.4k. Trinity had two teams in each race and there were some fine performances throughout. With a stronger field than 2005, the men’s first team did well to secure third place behind St Mary’s and Oxford.

The men’s second team competed strongly finishing well inside the top half of the teams. The women’s race was fiercely contested and the women’s first team was pleased to place seventh with the second team also contesting admirably to another top half finish. Following Saturday’s night out in London, a tired but enthusiastic team came home on the

Sunday anticipating Colours the following week.

Trinity proved the run-away victors at Colours, comfortably defeating UCD in both the men’s and women’s events. The women placed three in the top four led by Carolyn Dobbyn, with Fodhla Treacy and Caitriona Hooper not too far in arrears. The men too placed first and second in Mark Kirwan and Patrick Temple who were backed up by good support in the rest of the team. This provided a solid background for success in the intervarsity cross country hosted by Trinity in the Santry playing fields.

A cold but crisp day and a well constructed course – due to the efforts of Trinity groundsman David Hackett and his team – provided the perfect setting for the intervarsity cross country. Unfortunately Trinity’s teams, both men and women, were severely depleted due to injuries and sickness. The women’s team ran solidly and packed well to finish a secure fourth, despite having had hopes of a medal. The men’s team was the worst hid by casualties, with three or four of the top six runners out, and after a second place team effort last year they could only muster fifth on their own turf. They were led by Mark Kirwan who finished fourth overall. The rest of the team gave everything but it wasn’t enough on the day.

Up next on the agenda after the break in term is the 111 mile relay. Keep an eye on the Club’s website for information.

# 100 years ago

Peter Henry

J duP Langrishe, captain of the DU Boat Club in 1906, is pictured here standing by the Liffey.

“Jack” was seven-man in the crew which won the Thames Cup at Henley Royal Regatta in 1903, one of only two Henley wins for Trinity last century.

Langrishe is wearing the uniform of the senior eight: a black and white striped zephyr with a royal blue badge bearing the College’s arms, white shorts, and black and white striped socks.

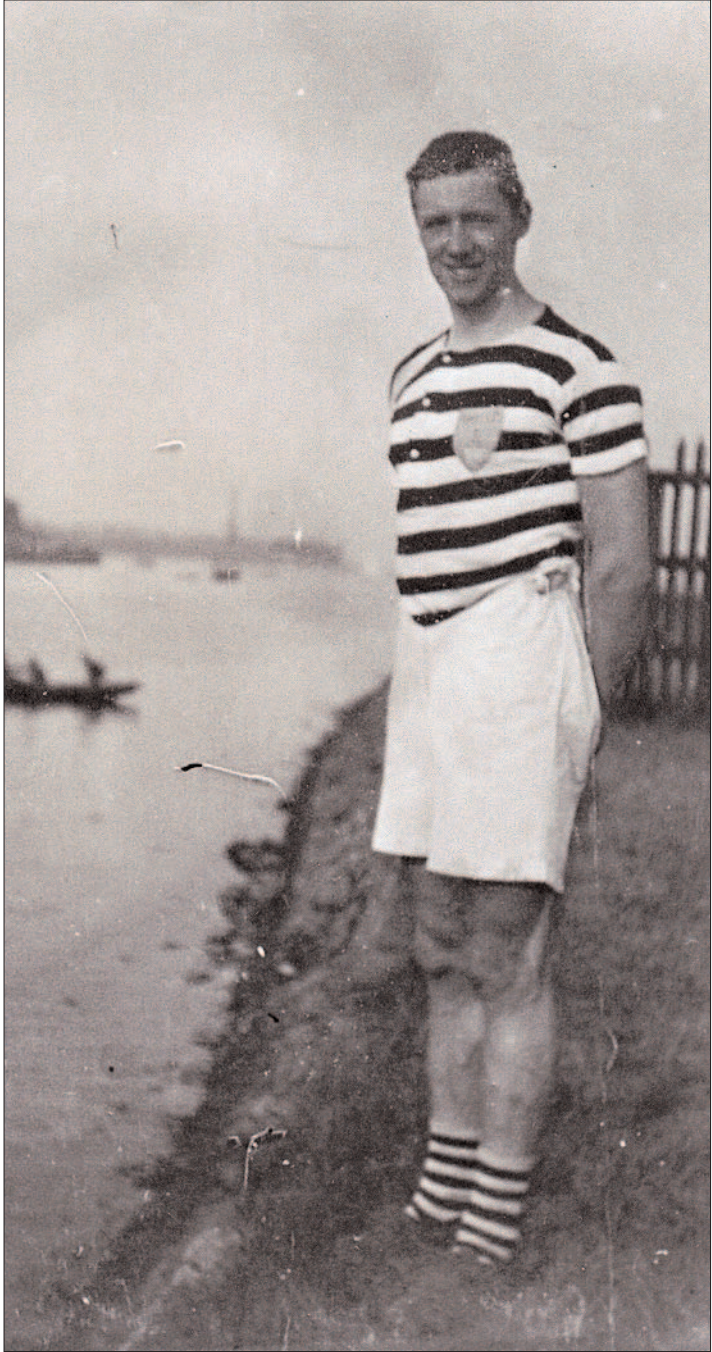
It’s interesting to note that this uniform is entirely unchanged since then. The Boat Club’s senior eight’s members will be seen kitted out exactly like Langrishe when they face UCD in the Colours race at O’Connell Bridge on Saturday week.

Langrishe came up to Trinity in 1901 and took his degree in 1906.

His year as captain was a disappointment. A strong Bann Rowing Club eight dominated on Irish waters, and despite coaching from Cambridge Blue CJD Goldie that year, Trinity’s senior eight were no match for Bann in the University Grand Challenge Cup event at the home DUBC Regatta.

After graduating Langrishe joined the British Army’s Royal Army Medical Corps and was sent to India in 1908 as a Medical Officer.

His rowing career didn’t end then, however. While on leave from army duty in 1909, he stroked a RAMC four to victory at a regatta held in Naini Tal, a hill station in the Himalaya foothills.



J duP Langrishe

Photo: DU Boat Club

# Short Sport Report

## Subversive secret sporting societies

It’s no secret that the DU Knights of the Campanile have been rather unactive in recent years. The Club’s website hasn’t been updated in five years. However, by all accounts the new president, Philip Balbimie of the DU Hockey Club, hopes to revive the Club. The Knights’ motto, *in certamine fortis, in convivio comes*, loosely translates as “good at sport, and not too bad at partying either”.

Elected in January, fitting that description, and to be seen sporting their dark blue, light blue and pink ties at Trinity Ball, are: Darren Dempsey (Association Football), Stuart Greene (Harriers and Athletic), Darren Hayes (Football), Sam Hunt (Sailing),

Paul Doran Jones (Football), Mark Kirwan (Harriers and Athletic), Richard Miles (Hockey), David Misstear (Cricket), Iain Nash (Rifle), David O’Riordan (Windsurfing), Eoin Sheridan (Amateur Boxing), Adam Ward (Hockey) and Pat Wheen (Judo).

Nor is it a secret (any more) that the members of the DU Heraeans like to sing lewd songs. Elevated to the heights of lewd-song singing this term are Danielle Costigan (Ladies’ Hockey), Rachel Griffith (Ladies’ Hockey), Karen Mary Molony (Badminton), Kate O’Flynn (Ladies’ Hockey) and Alannah Whitehead (Equestrian).

## Boat Club looking good for Colours

DU Boat Club’s senior eight raced a challenging course at Erne Head of the River in Fermanagh last weekend. The crew battled with cross winds and difficult bends, sometimes struggling to maintain the rate of striking at thirty-six strokes-per-minute over the 6.5km stretch. A final placing of third in the senior category was, perhaps, a true reflection of the performance. However, there were positives to be gained from the experience, including a significant margin of thirty-two seconds over UCD’s senior crew.

This year’s novices gained more essential race practice and two eights came off of the water satisfied with their respective performances. For both squads, the focus now shifts to the annual Colours race against UCD, taking place on Saturday week.

The senior eight also rowed at Lagan Head of the River in Belfast on the 18th of February, finishing second only four seconds behind a Queen’s University and Lady Victoria Boat Club combined crew. (David Cummins)

**DU Boat Club senior eight at Erne Head of the River:** John Joseph McCabe (bow), Robert Swift, Joseph Calnan, Edward Roffe-Silvester, Rory William Horner, Rory Browne, David Cummins, Seán Osborne (stroke), Jonathan Christopher Maitland (cox)

## Boat Club yet to win a race this year

The “head”, or time trial style rowing events are almost over for this year, and DU Boat Club is scheduled to participate in one more, the original Head of the River race in London taking place on the 25th of this month. No time trial pennants were added to DU Boat Club’s collection this year; disappointingly, one might think, especially when one remembers that six of these pennants were added to the walls of 23.0.01 in 2004.

Nevertheless, the tactic of racing the College crew in more difficult categories may yet pay

off. As mentioned above, Saturday’s time trial on the river Erne at Enniskillen saw the Club’s senior eight take third place, behind Neptune Rowing Club and Queen’s University Belfast Boat Club. The crew was six seconds ahead of NUI Galway’s eight, and thirty-two ahead of UCD.

Beating UCD by such a margin will give the members of the first eight a confidence boost going into the Colours race which is scheduled to take place at O’Connell Bridge at 2:15pm on Saturday, 18th March. Come on the Trin.

## Dungannon take a kicking from DUFC

DU Football Club’s first XV beat Dungannon Rugby Club 25-12 in their AIL match last Saturday. The match was played at Wanderers’ ground on Merrion Road because a frozen College Park was unplayable. Trinity tries came from Paul Doran Jones, Martin Garvey, Philip Crowe and Ronan

Doherty. The first team’s next encounter will be a friendly with Oxford University at Iffley Road in Oxford on Friday week. Trinity face a tough game as the Dark Blues have not been beaten so far this year. God willing, Trinity will crush the insolent Oxonians.

## This year’s lucky sport scholars

These pages neglected to publish a list of this year’s sport scholars earlier in the year. The twenty-four sportsmen and sportswomen on scholarships this year receive neither accommodation nor commons. The amount of money they do receive is not enough to attract Ireland’s top sportspeople to College clubs. Those chosen by the Department of Sport and Recreation, however, are not complaining, and they are: Shane Aherne (Swimming), Lukas Anderson (Swimming), John Behan (Basketball), Peter Blakeney (Cricket and Hockey), Joseph Calnan (Boat), Niall Conlon (Football), Owen Coyle

(Gaelic Football), Darren Dempsey (Association Football), Caroline Dobbyn (Harriers and Athletic), John Downey (Sailing), Nicola Fitzgibbon (Equestrian), Neil Fleming (Canoe), Barry Glavey (Hockey), Maria Hoey (Gaelic Football), Sam Hunt (Sailing), Cecelia Joyce (Cricket and Hockey), Phelie Maguire (Hockey), Karl McGuckin (Gaelic Football), Claudine Murphy (Sailing), Rebecca Murphy (Ladies’ Hockey), Geoff Tait (Sailing), Lisa Tait (Sailing), Niamh Taylor (Camogie), Aisling Toolan (Ladies’ Association Football), Sinead Tyrrell (Swimming)



# Trench Cup win for Gaelic Football Club

Ray O'Brien

Dublin University	3-7
St Patrick's College	2-8

Trinity College made history at the DCU grounds on Saturday 25th February when DU Gaelic Football Club claimed their first ever Trench Cup triumph after outscoring St

Patrick's College, Drumcondra by 3-7 to 2-8 in an exciting decider. For the third time in four games Trinity decided that a cliffhanger was the only way to go about winning the title.

The winners managed to do the business despite having been reduced to fourteen men in the early stages of the second half. Even though Trinity had fewer men

they were not lesser men and all dug deep to hold on in a frantic six minute injury time.

Trinity began the game in fired-up mode with early goals from Darren Dempsey and Derek Casserly propelling them into a convincing early lead after just eight minutes. St Pat's gradually edged their way into the game and a goal from David O'Donnell had

the DU team under pressure for the first time in the match.

St Pat's actually finished the first half the stronger of the two teams with a goal from David Heraty handing them a 2-6 to 2-3 lead.

The second half was a much more fluid and higher quality encounter with St Patrick's starting brightly, Brian Kavanagh pointing

a free. However, Niall Collins lifted Trinity with a massive score from thirty-five yards and then Trinity hit a purple patch with a third goal from Dermot McTernan which gave them a lead they never subsequently lost.

With time running out St Pat's laid siege to the Trinity goal; however, their attacks foundered on the rocks that were the Trinity

defence. The opponents launched one last attack and a twenty-five yard shot looked destined for the bottom corner when goalkeeper Dermot Mullen somehow managed to pull off a fantastic save. Trinity managed to clear their decks and with it went St Pat's hopes of winning. The final whistle brought scenes of unbridled jubilation as Pierser Og Casey and Shane

Gilleran lifted the Trench Cup.

Dermot McTernan was awarded man of the match. Great praise must go to Trinity manager Tom Smyth along with coaches Dan Davern, Gavin Kerr and Ray O'Brien.

**Scorers:** Dermot McTernan (1-4), Darren Dempsey (1-0), Derek Casserly (1-0), Niall Collins (0-2), Gavin Bernie (0-1)

# Good performances at snow sport intervarsities



Boarding in the snow sport intervarsities at Kilternan      Photo: Sean O'Callaghan

Sara Harrington

DU Snow Sports Club took part in intervarsities in Kilternan on Saturday February 25th. While UCD took the overall prize Trinity won the development prize thanks to Frank Lu and Gearóid Ó Chonchobhair who put in excellent times on the slalom course on board and skis respectively. It was great to see Gearóid representing Trinity as he only began his skiing career on this year's Christmas trip to Les Arcs. The best Trinity times in the ski slalom were recorded by Mike Friedmann and Darragh Holmes, both of whom have plenty of Kilternan experience. Despite their valiant effort, the brother-sister team of Conor and Laura Swain ensured victory for UCD in this event. The snowboard slalom was won by DCU with Cody Punter and Sasha Smolin from Trinity providing the DCU team with some challenging competition. The "slope style" competition was a crowd pleaser with plenty of people pulling off impressive jumps and enjoying the new rails. All in all Trinity was extremely well represented in what turned out to be a fine spectacle of snow sports.

The snow sport intervarsity competition is growing in popularity each year with many thanks due to irishsnowboarder.com for their continuing help with the event. The event provided the opportunity for all levels of Trinity skiers and boarders to compete at their respective levels in what turned out to be a very close competition. Saturday evening ended with a barbeque and music supplied by Trinity DJs.

# Cyclists' performances not far off the mark

Michael Barry

The DU Bicycle Club faced a veritable baptism of fire on the 24th of February in its first race, the Irish Cycling Intersvarsities hosted by NUI Galway. Thanks to the funds contributed by the Club's sponsors, AFA O'Meara Advertising, Murphy and Gunn Motors, Park Developments, and AIB, Trinity were able to send a team of five riders. More a trial for the Ireland under-23 team than a university championship, the Club was up against a strong



Nick Cosgrave time trialled well      Photo: Michael Barry

field, half of who were in the senior "A" and "B" categories.

Nonetheless, Trinity posted commendable times in the initial eight mile time trial, and finished high up in their "C" category. In many cases Trinity riders recounted overtaking other riders, despite not using carbon fibre framed bikes or other expensive gear.

After lunch the main event, a fifty-mile road race, took place. In freezing cross winds the field was told that the six-lap course was wet, slippery and dangerous. All were raring to go.

As is always the case with race starts, riders start off fast to try to establish themselves towards the front of the pack. Out of the saddles and in the high gears, the pack set off at twenty-eight miles-per-hour up the first hill. Into the first corner it was only skill and luck helped riders avoid some ugly potholes and crashes.

There were many near misses during the race, with racers constantly skidding and bumping into each other at high speeds. One competitor almost cycled into an escorting Garda car in his attempt to make a cheeky sprint.

DU's team opted to stay in the middle of the pack and let the other riders do the hard work for them. Trinity's Nicholas Cosgrave in particular took this approach to its logical extreme, and

hid in breakaway group led by the eventual winner. However, the disadvantages of facing a carbon fibre bike and eight years of experience eventually began to tell on Nick, and he had to fall back to the main group.

Riders Stephen Heary and Peter McKenna started out well, yet an unlucky combination of chasing stronger riders and fierce winds wore them out, and left them trailing towards the end of the race.

Trinity rider Joanna Hickey was the sole challenger to the Ireland women's under-23 member Mary Brennan. Facing such a strong opponent Joanna did well, staying neck and neck until the last lap where Brennan pulled a sprint that couldn't be matched.

Michael Barry chose a group in the middle of the field and made a determined effort to stay in it. By drafting just behind the group leaders for over an hour, he placed himself in a good position for the final sprint. However, a slow puncture in the last mile robbed him of speed that could have been usefully spent, and had to content himself with a finish in the middle of the group.

While not a record breaking performance in itself, the experience gained by the Club members from racing against such strong competition will set them up well for the coming season. In particular it is interesting to note that UCD sent no riders to the intervarsities, despite having a larger and more established club.

**Time trial results:** 24 Nicholas Cosgrave 20:24, 26 Michael Barry 20:39, 28 Peter McKenna 22:00, 29 Joanna Hickey 22:22, 31 Stephen Heary 23:48

**Road Race results:** 19 Michael Barry. Other riders DNF.

# DUFC the victors in nail-biting league final against Bective

Tadhg Peavoy

Dublin University	8
Bective Rangers	7

What a game. In a topsy-turvy encounter at the 'Brook, Trinity's under-20 "B" team somehow managed to scrape a one-point victory in a cracking under-age encounter, sealing the JP Fanagan division one league title.

Our men in red and black bossed the game for the opening half hour and in the twelfth minute deservedly drew first blood. From a lineout on the Bective line, Trinity bullied their way over from a maul, with open side flanker David Whately credited with the five points. Bill Walsh missed the resulting conversion.

In the twenty-second minute, the Trin almost doubled their advantage from exactly the same position that yielded their first five points. A lineout from a penalty kick to touch failed to go to hand, however, and the chance was lost. Trinity's dominance continued into the twenty-fifth minute, when

they again used their powerful maul to drive to within inches of the Bective line, and yet again from a lineout. Bective spoiled the move by bringing it down and the referee inexplicably awarded a penalty to Bective, allowing them to clear their lines.

Trinity kept pressing for further points; however, they did not come. The lineout platform was the fulcrum of their mistakes. For a period in the first half, the hooker could not hit a barn door, resulting in the lineout creaking and groaning like old floorboards under the weight of a Nick Popplewell.

As a result, Rangers managed to wangle their way back into the encounter. In the thirty-fourth minute, they squandered a guilt-edged opportunity to level the scores. From broken play, the south-side team managed to create a two-man overlap on the left wing. However, a poor pass from second centre Eoin Cross meant that Trinity escaped the seemingly unavoidable. One sure way to ruin an overlap is to skip passes in the line and that is just what Bective's number-twelve did. Having with-

held that late attack, Trinity took a flimsy yet appreciated five-point advantage into the break.

Trinity continued where they left off at half time, spewing up possession through poor line-outs and failing to recycle the ball quickly. After only two minutes into the second half, Trinity gave away a penalty for killing the ball at the breakdown, just inside the twenty-two. Bective elected to kick for goal. Unfortunately for Bective, their out-half Dave Elliott skewed the ball horribly wide. This continued the pattern of an afternoon that the ginger-haired out-half will surely do anything he possibly can to forget.

Lady Luck briefly abandoned DUFC seven minutes later, as they lost a ball from a ruck just inside the Bective half; and from the ensuing turnover their left-wing James O'Flanagan jinked and jived his way through countless tackles, to go over in the right hand corner. It was a first-rate individual try. Elliott added two points from the hoof to put his side 7-5 ahead.

Trinity picked up the gauntlet thrown down by Bective

and began to throw everything they had at their opposite numbers. From the ensuing kick-off, they stole back possession and strung together several phases of play, with out-half Bill Walsh putting together some his better passages in the game. On the sixth phase, Bective conceded a penalty for off-side, giving Trinity the chance to level. On this occasion, however, Trinity's number-eight - Zac Desmond - could not capitalise from the kick.

Desmond and his pack continued to drive Trinity forward in search of that elusive second score. The number-eight and his pack repeatedly minced the Bective forwards, with hooker Ben Cunningham and second row Alan Matthews playing outstandingly in the loose. Behind the engine room, handling errors in the back division were costing the team dearly. Knock-ons and flat lines of running - which would fail to cut through paper, let alone a robust defence - kept undermining the pack's good work.

Against the run of play, in a move from a Bective scrum,

fifty-three minutes in, the south-siders' left wing James O'Flanagan made another storming break down the left-hand flank. Full back Michael Kavanagh managed to knock the winger into touch with a scampering cover tackle. From the ensuing lineout, Trinity surprisingly gained possession and cleared their lines.

Kavanagh's superlative tackle seemed to galvanise Trinity. From here on the pack began to batter the Bective line with more vigour than ever before. Desmond almost doubled his team's points on sixty minutes with a sniping break in the left hand corner. On sixty-nine minutes, Bective's defence buckled and conceded a penalty under their posts. Zac Desmond, in what was growing into a man-of-the-match performance, knocked over the ensuing kick - leaving Trinity a point ahead at 7-8.

Sensing defeat, Bective realised they needed to dig deep, and the final ten minutes was all theirs. It is worth noting that Trinity played with pride, passion and self-belief under enormous pressure at

the death knell of the game. In the end, however, it was Bective who lost the game, rather than Trinity winning it. In the seventy-third minute, Bective fly-half Elliott missed his second penalty of the day, from just inside the Trinity ten-metre line.

A cacophony of errors meant Trinity continually gave the ball back to Bective in the closing stages. This gave Elliott his second chance to win the game in the seventy-eighth minute from a drop goal, which fell inches wide of the right post. The best was saved until last, however, as the same man was offered his third chance to win the game two minutes into injury time. To complete his 'day-mare' he dreadfully miscued, in one of those sporting moments that are at the same time wonderful and

heartbreaking. With that win came the final whistle, and a just about deserved Trinity victory. There will be silverware in the clubhouse this year.

**Dublin University XV vs Bective Rangers:** 15 Michael Kavanagh, 14 Paddy Ferrante, 13 Eoin Cross, 12 Chris Sale, 11 Alistair Musgrave, 10 Bill Walsh, 9 Bryan Roche, 1 Mark Wright, 2 Ben Cunningham, 3 Eoin O'Cuilligan, 4 Dave Byrne, 5 Alan Matthews, 6 Dan Brennan (captain), 7 David Whately, 8 Zac Desmond (man of the match).



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