

# TRINITY NEWS

UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS



## the Trinity News 30

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## '07/'08 IN PICTURES

OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS PRESENT THE YEAR GONE BY IN PICTURES



Trinity term, Week 3

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Issue 11, Volume 54

# Students' Union to back new €50 levy

*New levy will pay for 60% of the initial construction costs of long-promised Student Centre and could last ten years*

**DEIRDRE ROBERTSON**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Trinity students will be asked to shoulder 60% of the cost of the long-awaited student centre on campus. A referendum next year will propose the introduction of a €50 to €100 student levy in order to fund the building costs. Students' Union President, Andrew Byrne has come out in support of this proposed levy.

A planning application has been submitted to Dublin City Council, but management and funding for the initiative have yet to be decided upon. The centre will cost an estimated ten million with proposed expenses shared between College and students.

Current proposals suggest that College will pay for 40% of the building costs while students pay the remaining 60%. The Foundation - an initiative which relies on loans from wealthy associates of Trinity - will be responsible for finding sponsors to pay for Trinity's costs. Meanwhile, Trinity students will be asked to pay a student levy of €50 for ten years or €100 for five years.

The cost distribution is indicative of the amount of space allocated to students within the proposed centre.

Approximately 60% of the building will be student-occupied, with remaining office areas given to College facilities.

Student areas will include a bar, a gig venue, Students' Union offices, Central Society Committee rooms and a kitchen. College will use space for the Counselling Service, Careers Office and Health Services while College Catering will run the café. The Botany Department that presently resides in Luce Hall will be moved in 2010 to the new bio-resources building and the College Crèche will then take over the empty space.

Although College has promised 60% of the building to students, there is as yet no indication of how the building will be managed. Students' Union President Andrew Byrne would like to see a Union-run, student-staffed bar. But he believes that the Union President should not have "a day to day role" in running the bar and suggests the possibility of an external manager.

This set up has not worked well in other colleges; University College Cork is currently paying €250,000 annually towards the running costs of their student centre, but they have no control over the management of the building.

• Continued on page 2

Charity begins at College it seems: VdP pick up top Society award



Members of the Dublin University Saint Vincent de Paul Society celebrate after receiving the Society of the Year Award from the Central Societies Committee last week. The CSC awards are held annually to recognise the contribution of societies to College life. Photo courtesy of the Central Societies Committee.

# Fastest ever Trinity Ball ticket sales

*1000 applications in the first ten minutes as students try to win tickets*

**GEAROID O'ROURKE**  
EDITOR



It is not often you see a queue stretching from the Students' Union Shop in House 6 all the way out to Front Gate. This year's Trinity Ball was the cause for such an event last week when tickets went on sale and then off sale in the space of four and a half days.

Officially the quickest selling Ball in the history of the event, it shaved over a week and a half off last year's previously record time. Tickets went on sale on Wednesday 2 April at nine am and the pattern for the next four days was set early. In the first ten minutes, 1000 ticket applications were received. This figure climbed to almost 3000 by the end of the day - almost half the total ticket run.

Word soon got out among students that the Ball was selling faster than ever and the queues began to form outside House 6. Students' Union Ents Officer Ed O'Riordan was understandably pleased with how tickets sold. Talking to *Trinity News*, he told us "I was a little bit nervous because you can never tell how these things are going to go. We have a great lineup, but sometimes that isn't enough. I think what really worked this year is that there was a great buzz about the Ball even before tickets went on sale, so people were ready to pay up the minute sales opened."

Students' Union Administrative Officer Simon Evans, who has been involved in the organisation of many previous Balls, said that, "This was the most cohesive campaign to get the word out to students about the Ball that I have ever seen" The downside of the success of the ticket sales is that many students will be left disappointed. Over a thousand more applications for tickets were made than there were tickets available for purchase.

Given that he no longer has to promote tickets sales, O'Riordan says he will now be turning his attention to organising a calendar of events for those not lucky enough to get tickets. For these unlucky souls, now may be a good time to remind you that tickets were changing hands on the black market for up to four times face value before last year's Ball.

# College gives timetable of Farrell's girlfriend to tabloid

*Muireann and friends hounded on campus following College slip-up*

**CONOR SULLIVAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Trinity Student Muireann McDonnell is being stalked on campus by tabloid reporters from the *Star* and the *Irish Daily Mail*. The Senior Sophister Geography Student, and reported current girlfriend of Colin Farrell, is being followed by reporters looking to get photographs of her attending lectures and classes. Furthermore, one reporter recently obtained her timetable from the Geography Department, *Trinity News* has learned.

The journalists have been following McDonnell around campus in order to get photos of her attending classes. These photos are thought to command a high price premium.

Their efforts have been ill-received by McDonnell's friends. One reporter who has repeatedly come on to campus in order to track her down said that "a SS year Geology student got particularly angry when he found out who I was, telling me it was illegal to come into campus and 'accost' students". He continued to say that "she [McDonnell] was extraordinarily difficult to contact. I spoke to some of

her friends as well - some of whom were verging on aggressive, some even threatening me with legal action. It might be easier to get an interview with the Pope!"

Sources in the media have confirmed to *Trinity News* that the value of photos such as these could reach into tens of thousands of euros.

Another reporter was able to get her timetable from the Geography Department Office. The reporter claimed to be a Geography student who had lost her timetable and said that she

• Continued on page 2



Muireann McDonnell, Trinity student

# Science Gallery to lose €1.5m in '09

- Government funding is being pursued to plug the hole in the Gallery's finances.
- Senior College officials are concerned about future viability of the project

**NIAMH NIMHAOILEOIN**  
STAFF WRITER

The College Finance Committee has informed that the recently opened Science Gallery has a projected deficit of €1.2 million for 2009 and, if it continues to operate to full capacity, such a deficit will continue into subsequent years. Although, according to the Committee, further Government funding is being "actively pursued";

there is yet no viable plan to resolve the situation.

While plans for the Gallery were being developed, there was a concern among prominent figures in the College as to the gap which existed in the funding plan. The intention of the Gallery was not to generate income. Admission is free, so revenue is low in relation to running costs, with only a small amount of income being

• Continued on page 2

# CollegeNews

## The Numbers Game

6,500 tickets in 4.5 days

The ticket allocation for this year's Trinity Ball and the length of time it took to sell out, breaking all previous records.

1 ticket per minute

The approximate level of ticket sales processed by College staff, as represented by the above figure.

40.4metres (132.5 feet)

The height of the giant new biosciences development at the An Post site at Pearse Street.

€70,000

The cost of new sofas for the Arts Building and Hamilton foyers.

30E

The "essential measurements" of Trinity graduate and Ireland's first page three model, Claire Tully.

520

The pages produced by *Trinity News* this year. Each issue contained approximately 45,000 words.

## “ He said, she said ”

"I spoke to some of her friends as well, who were verging on aggressive, some even threatening me with legal action. It might be easier to get an interview with the Pope."

A member of the professional media on his attempts to reach Muireann McDonnell, actor Colin Farrell's girlfriend, who is a student of the college.

"...the very full "pumped up" appearance of this development will totally dominate the area and diminish the dignity of the existing varied and historical landscape."

The Pearse Street Rejuvenation Committee in their objections to the new An Post development.

## Clarifications and corrections

*Trinity News* would like to clarify that the article titled "Vitalic" in the *Trinity News Ball Guide*, which was left unattributed, was actually written by Conor Kelly. *Trinity News* wishes to apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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# Fifty euro extra to be added to registration

• Continued from page 1

The Editor of the UCC student newspaper the *UCC Express*, Alan Good, says "getting the student centre back into student hands has been a real bee in (Students' Union President Kris McElhinney's) bonnet". Likewise, the University College Dublin Students' Union is reliant on maintaining a good relationship with their manager.

Byrne notes that he would find this arrangement unsatisfactory, as it is dependent on personalities rather than a contractual agreement. An external manager, says Byrne, would have to be answerable to the Union in order to ensure that the student centre remained student controlled.

The management issue is just one of many concerns over the proposed centre. Some members of College have complained that Luce Hall is too far away from the heart of the campus and students will be pushed into a corner,

out of sight. Simultaneous fears emerged that student societies were going to be expelled from House 6.

In response to these worries, Byrne insists that no students will be moved out of House 6 unless they choose to. The society space in the student centre will be allocated by CSC on the basis of societies' needs and wishes. Luce Hall, he notes, is the same distance from Front Square as the Pavilion but would have the advantage of later opening hours.

The Pav, the DUCAC-run bar that has recently been closing at 10pm on the basis that College Security needs a lot of time to get students off campus before the gates close. The current plans for Luce Hall indicate both a gate onto campus and an entrance onto Pearse Street. The campus gate will be locked at night leaving the Pearse entrance open and ensuring that no student could be removed at 10pm due to campus opening hours. Furthermore, the events

venue planned for the first floor of the building would allow the student centre to hold a late night bar. Some people have suggested that a late-night student bar in Trinity would be useless due to competition from external pubs beside campus. This was given as one reason for the closure of the Buttery Bar. Yet Byrne suggests that the Buttery closed because extortionate staff wages meant prices were increased, it was dingy and did not have a student-friendly atmosphere. In contrast, the student centre will be "cheap as chips" with student staff and a more sociable atmosphere.

Andrew Byrne is confident that the current financial proposals can work. In October 2007, a survey of 1000 students indicated that most would be willing to pay the 50 euro levy as part of the annual student services charge. In 2007/8, this fee totalled 895 euros, as it included a 70 euro levy for the running costs of the sports centre. Yet these costs

are not subject to a fixed price and can rise with inflation. In two years, the administration fee alone rose by 50 euros. Likewise, there was no clause in the 2007 referendum over Sports Halls charges that set a fixed price on the levy. It can rise at the discretion of inflation, economics and the sports centre administration. Byrne agrees that rising costs would put financial strain on many students. He is adamant that he will only agree to a student levy if it is set for a rigid time period and price. He explains that while the Sports Hall levy goes towards running costs, this new fee would only pay for building costs.

Essentially, Trinity students would be taking a loan from College that will be paid back over a period of five to ten years. Furthermore, the levy will not come in until the building is complete so no student will have to pay for a student centre they will never see. If all goes according to schedule, the new student centre could be running by Feb 2010.



# Science Gallery set to lose €1.2m a year in "best case"

• Continued from page 1

generated from the Flux Café and from renting the space for corporate functions.

The Gallery, therefore, is almost entirely reliant on the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism, the Trinity Foundation and a range of corporate sponsors. The College also employed a permanent representative to explore possible further fundraising ventures. However, according to sources within the Student's Union, while the planning went ahead, there was an awareness of

the lack of funding and the College made the decision to continue regardless.

Such a decision could be attributed to the fact that this is a very high profile project, intended to enhance the College's reputation in the broader community. According to the Provost, Dr John Hegarty "The Science Gallery is Trinity's flagship project – a new manifestation of the role of the university in the twenty-first century." As was reported by Trinity News at the time of the opening, the Gallery can be seen as a "legacy project for some staff,"

which possibly prompts a greater willingness to divert funds from student services.

The College stands by its decision to go ahead with the initiative; the Committee congratulated the Gallery's Director, Michael John Gorman on the launch of the Gallery and on the "significant progress in fundraising which has been achieved in the last six months". Despite expressing "serious concern" over the projected deficit, the only proposed action is to source further funding. However, Ulster Bank, the Gallery's founding partner and

greatest contributor, provides only 250,00 a year to operational costs and all other sources of funds contribute significantly less. An effective reduction of 2009's deficit would therefore require more than a doubling of current funding and is a largely unrealistic solution. In the long term, the deficit is unsustainable for both the Gallery itself and the College and, unless more proactive measures are to be taken, there will eventually have to be a scaling down of operations.

# Tabloids hound student after College slip-up

• Continued from page 1

did the same courses as McDonnell. She was then apparently given access to the Student Information System and the timetables without being asked for identification. This would appear to contravene College Data Protection policies, which state that personal information should not be given out to third parties without identification. The College Communications officer, Caoimhe NiLochlainn, told *Trinity News* that College Security had a

procedure for dealing with such situations, but did not say what they were.

This follows criticisms of the media by Heather Mills, who visited Trinity late last year. Speaking to the University Philosophical Society, she heavily criticised the intrusion of the media into the private lives of celebrities and described her own treatment at the hands of the media as worse than that of a paedophile or a murderer.



McDonnell pictured with actor Colin Farrell.

# CollegeNews

## First class honors land page three for ex-Trinner

ANNE O'ROURKE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Trinity News was delighted to hear news of its graduates doing well in the real world. Having scored the maximum 600 points in the Leaving Certificate, Claire Tully acquired a First Class Honours degree from Trinity College in Immunology and Microbiology and is preparing to set off for Oxford as a research assistant in the hopes of pursuing a PhD in Biochemistry. And she is also Trinity's first Page 3 model.

Tully's rise to fame is due chiefly to her assisted blonde locks and 30E/30DD (sources differ) breasts. Despite financing her B.Sc with part-time work as a "Nail Technician", she has since moved on to bigger and bustier pastures, posing topless for such prestigious journals as the *Irish Sun* and *FHM*. *The Sun* recently voted her favourite page 3 girl, an award that is undoubtedly up there with her academic

achievements.

This all began when she found time in between her diligent studies to peruse the latter publication with her boyfriend, who convinced the 5'2, size 6-8 (she claims) lady she too could reach the dizzying heights of "high street honey". He sent the photos he had taken of her one long, lazy summer afternoon off, and they were immediately seized upon with excited, sweaty paws by the industry.

It has not always been easy, though. Tully comments that "After the pictures in *FHM*, I had messages posted on my Bebo site saying 'you're a slut', but I know I'm not. I'm a strong, brave person as I've been through a lot". Tully proved herself up to the challenges of this sort of life, remarking: "I'm sure I'll get some stick but I'm ready for it - because my brains are as big as my boobs."

In an interview with *U-magazine*, Ireland's new thin glossy, Tully admits to finding life at Trinity far from a positive

experience. Hailing from Dublin city, she remarked that she found her peers in College to be "upper class" and asserts that she was bullied here, as in school. To combat this, Tully has decided to deflect attention from her Dublin roots and onto her formidable intelligence. Indeed, the first thing most people will think when they see the adjoining photograph to this article is: "now there's a good conversationalist."

Feminism falls by the wayside as rather than making people think she is more than simply her looks, Tully rather supports the industry, commenting in a recent interview: "I hope the fact I'm intelligent will help change people's opinion towards topless modelling."

On a more serious note, Tully wishes to use her own breasts to make women more aware of their own. Sharing the sombre tale of her mother's so far successful fight with breast cancer, Tully hopes that her topless snaps will remind women everywhere to constantly examine their bodies.



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# CollegeNews

## News Briefing

### Hist elect new Treasurer on the last day of Hilary term

The College Historical Society held a by-election for the office of Treasurer on Friday 7 March, the last day of Hilary lecture term. Andrea Mulligan, a former Librarian of the society, received 24 votes and was elected, having surpassed the quota on the first count.

The election was prompted by the resignation of Darren Mooney, who sought reelection but polled just fifteen votes. Mr Mooney commented, "I'm obviously very hurt not to have been re-elected, and, in particular, not to have received the support of the Committee with whom I have served for the past year. I am disappointed to find my respect and appreciation of their work not returned. They are a fantastic bunch of people for whom I have the highest esteem. I wish Andi the best of luck and hope to remain active and involved."

Miss Mulligan, a Junior Sophister Law student, served as the Librarian of the Hist last year, and she is especially distinguished for her strong record in competitive debating. Mr Mooney's resignation surprised many in the Graduates' Memorial Building, since he has been heavily involved in the society for the last four years. He has held both the office of Censor and a seat as an Ordinary Member of the Committee in the preceding years. It is thought that Mr Mooney sought to regain a mandate from the society's membership following a difference of opinion with the Committee over the Hist's budget for attendance at the World University Debating Championships in Thailand over the new year. Dublin University Central Societies Committee funds four Trinity teams and two judges, with one of each guaranteed to come from each of the University Philosophical Society and the Hist. Apparently the Committee wished to expend an additional €1000 to send a second Hist judge, which would be Trinity's third. Mr Mooney felt that the monies would be better spent on the society's activities in College.

## Break-in in GMB

CONNELL CAMPBELL  
STAFF WRITER

Entrances to College were briefly closed on 18 March when College security was informed that a man had broken-in to a student's room in House 28 and stolen a laptop. The alarm was raised when a student in Botany Bay, at the opposite side of the tennis courts to the break-in, saw a man climbing into a ground floor

room through an open window and called College Security to report the incident. The occupant of the room, Gearoid Fitzmaurice, was in the residence's kitchen making lunch and had left his window closed but unlocked when the man raised the window and climbed through the window-frame. College Security telephoned the Gardaí, closed several exits from College and within minutes, the thief had been arrested attempting to leave campus

with the stolen laptop. Speaking to *Trinity News*, Mr. Fitzmaurice, a Senior Sophister French and Psychology student, said "Security were fantastic. I ran into Front Square and I couldn't believe it when I saw someone being arrested and the Gardaí holding my laptop". The suspect from the north inner-city has been placed on remand awaiting trial, as he has several previous convictions.



Not having a ball: Students queue out the door of House 6 for Trinity Ball



Trinity Ball tickets sold out in a record four and a half days this year. For each of these days, there was an almost permanent queue out the door of the Students' Union shop. Over 7500 applications were received for the 6500 tickets. Photo Gearoid O'Rourke

## College to pay €70,000 for designer sofas



*Couches to be placed in Hamilton and Arts Building foyers*

DAVID MOLLOY  
DEPUTY EDITOR

New comfortable seating is to be provided in the main student areas of College, at a cost of approximately €70000.

The couches, promised by Students' Union President Andrew Byrne in his election manifesto of 2007, are due to be installed in May, just before the end of the academic year.

The seating, described by Byrne as "glorious and luxurious" was approved by the Sites and Facilities Committee last September but was delayed because housekeeping had concerns over keeping the new seating clean. They suggested that plastic "airport-style" seating be installed instead.

In response to the extended delay, Byrne said, "This suggestion is off the wall and completely misses the point. These couches need to be installed because students need somewhere com-

fortable to sit during breaks. The last thing we need is uncomfortable hard furniture.

What's most worrying is that the original plan was agreed last September, now - six months later, with the funding committed, the Buildings Office still haven't installed the couches. College as a whole should be worried if the Buildings Office are unable to get something this simple done."

The Hamilton Building will not be receiving the same seating as elsewhere. While the Arts Building will receive 22 black leather sofas, fire restrictions in the Hamilton mean that it will receive only sixteen, and they will be "padded benches" rather than true leather sofas.

The proposed allocation of new seating is 22 3-seater sofas for the Arts Building, sixteen padded 3-seater benches in the Hamilton and eight of the above sofas for a new common area in St. James's, which will also have toasters, microwaves and kettles.



### How do you feel about the €50 levy to pay for the student centre?



Heather Cuddy,  
SF Science

"I'd say it would be a great idea. Down here in the Hamilton, there's no seating and not a lot of space to socialise. I think it would be a great thing for a lot of Hamilton students."



Mark Wright,  
SS English and Spanish

"I'm in my final year, so it will not affect me at all how much College raises the registration fee."



Aoife Treacy  
JS French and Philosophy

"I think it's a small price to pay for what will hopefully be a much-needed social space for students."



Marc Ó Gialláin,  
SF Philosophy

"It's okay. It isn't the ideal situation, but we really need more social space. But there are so many students in College, does the College really need 50 euros from each student?"



Marie Glynn  
SF Law

"It's all the same to me. The government pays my registration fee because of my grant and so an increase in the fee does not really affect me."

# CollegeNews



The original architect's drawings, above, have been described by the Buildings office as "not up to date at all". However, they are the most recent available from the Buildings office. Photo courtesy of Trinity College.



## Ten storeys and 33,700 sq<sup>m</sup>: Trinity's controversial new development

DAVID MOLLOY  
DEPUTY EDITOR

Trinity's visitor car park adjacent to Pearse Street Station will close next week as work on a new ten-storey, 33,700 square metre biosciences building begins.

Final planning permission for the controversial development was granted on 4 March last, nineteen months after the initial application.

The building, when finished, will be ten stories tall, with a further three basement levels. The total height will be 40.4 metres to the top of the flue stacks on the roof. (132.5 feet).

The development has been met with much resistance from the local residential community, which has

delayed the project since An Bord Pleanála first approved the plans in January 2007. The planning application received complaints from over 40 individuals, in addition to the Pearse Street Rejuvenation Committee and the Boyne Street Resident's Group.

Mr John Gormley TD, Green Party Chairman and Minister for the Environment, supported these complaints in a letter to the planning department of Dublin City council on 21 November 2006, citing "valid issues of concern".

Many of the concerns raised were repeated by all the complainants. The large size of the new development was reiterated again and again. One complainant stated: "We believe that the mass height and sitting in close proximity to the existing houses does

not have regard to the character of our area". The Pearse Street Rejuvenation Committee claimed, "the very full 'pumped up' appearance of this development will totally dominate the area and diminish the dignity of the existing varied and historical landscape."

Repeated concerns were also expressed about the shadows the new tall structure would cast over the surrounding areas and the lack of privacy for nearby residents. Trinity's planning and development consultants responded to this by sending unsolicited correspondence to the planning department, in which they claimed, "A full daylight and sunlight analysis was carried out for this development, which assessed the impact of overshadowing which could be caused by the building.

Due to the location of the building due north of the residential areas of Boyne St, the building will not have any material impact on daylight and sunlight or cause overshadowing."

Despite the level of complaints, conditions imposed upon Trinity's original application were minimal. Noticeable restrictions include the reduction of car parking space in the underground basement from 160 to 80 and the requirement for minimisation of dust and disturbance to local residents.

Of the total available space, 18,575 sq.m will be used by Trinity and will be divided between lecture theatres, research space, and College offices.

Another 12,972 sq.m will be rented or leased as commercial office space for the first ten years of the new development, after which, according to

the College's application, the space will be re-absorbed by the College when they require additional floor space.

Originally the planning permission of January 2007 was granted on the condition that all commercial office use of the development would be required to cease ten years after the grant of permission. However, the College successfully appealed this decision and the condition was omitted from the order of March 2008. This will allow the College to reacquire floor space within the development on a phased basis as required.

The remaining 2,153 sq.m is divided between five retail units on the ground level, which are expected to continue indefinitely and not to be reabsorbed by the college.

### Big Figures

Total height of the development: 40.4 m (132.5 ft). Liberty Hall, Dublin's tallest building, is 59m (193.5 ft).

Trinity will pay a contribution of over €4.2 million to Dublin City Council and the Metro project, due to regulations regarding developer's contributions to the amenities of the area.

The plans include allocation for 331 bicycle spaces in the underground basement.

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# CollegeNews

## Hearney takes on Crown in Exam Hall

JOHN CALLAGHAN  
STAFF WRITER

Minister for Health and Children and leader of the Progressive Democrats Mary Harney addressed a crowded Examination Hall in Trinity on Tuesday 8 April last. The debate, organised by the Dublin University Saint Vincent de Paul Society, was titled "That the Irish Health System Fails the Disadvantaged".

She was joined as speaker on the night by seven others, including Dr Sean Barrett, Lecturer in the School of Economics here in Trinity, Audry Deane, from the Social Policy Department of St. Vincent de Paul and Frank Mills from the Health Service Executive.

In what proved a lively debate, it was revealed by Ms Deane that the VDP Society have, on more than one occasion, been approached by people within the Health Service Executive to assist with financial support in cases where the HSE simply hasn't the funds to provide the assistance required themselves.

In the shocking admission, Ms Deane said, "The Vincent de Paul constantly receives letters from a variety of

sources, principals of schools, organisations working in disadvantaged areas, but also managers in the HSE - not admin staff - and hospital staff begging us to help fund cases they cannot assist due to a lack of funds or unacceptably long waiting lists in the public system."

She recounted several specific cases relating to people who had been refused additional personal assistance hours due to lack of funds within the health system. Dr Sean Barrett echoed much of Ms Deane's concerns, adding that the healthcare services in this country were "very inefficient".

Minister Harney reminded the audience that her department had finite resources and that also she realised and acknowledged that there were still some problems in meeting the needs of the population, yet she believed that many reforms had been introduced and that the situation was improving. Mr Mills added that the HSE did provide "comprehensive and holistic" services for the most marginalised in our society.

Minister Harney's reign as Health Minister has been dogged by controversy over reforms of the role of consultants and anger from the Irish Nurses Organisation.

Some healthy debate in the Exam Hall: Hearney defends her record on Health



A prominent member of the College staff, Dr Sean Barrett of the School of Economics, addresses the audience at the Saint Vincent de Paul society debate on the healthcare system. Also pictured is Minister for Health Mary Harney (far left). Photo: Madeliene Carrouée



Lisa Feeney, above, received much coverage for her campaign in the national press during her time living underground.

## Feeney exits M3 tunnel

BRIAN RONSON  
NEWS REPORTER

Former Trinity student, Lisa Feeney, emerged from her underground bunker in previous weeks following pleas from her father.

Feeney had barricaded herself into the tunnel with supplies to last her two months in protest at the M3 motorway development.

Feeney, who has a Psychology degree from Trinity College Dublin, is a member of the Rath Lugh Direct Action Camp and has been on site since last November to play an active role in the campaign to protect the Rath Lugh national monument at the Tara/Skyrne

valley.

"Please come out of there. Think of your family. Your mother is scared that you could be buried alive", said Mr Feeney, who is general manager of the Manor West Hotel in Tralee and previously managed the Park-nasilla Great Southern Hotel.

Speaking to *The Kingdom* from the home of her parents the tunnel, the protester said she planned to travel to her native Sneem for a break before heading back to join her fellow campaigners on Wednesday.

While she was underground, she had a two-way radio, food, chocolate, around 20 gallons of water and whiskey among her few possessions.

The group says a deal has been

struck with the National Roads Authority to halt work at the monument for a month as a result of Ms Feeney's protest.

Protesters' spokesman Derek Berrill, who also hails from Kerry, said the tunnel was only one aspect of the protest, adding other members of the group were willing to follow in Ms Feeney's footsteps if necessary.

"There were a lot of us willing to do it. The group is a unified, nonhierarchical one", said the Tralee man.

"We are extremely proud of Lisa and our hearts are with her and her family", he added.

## Experience something new in the Old Library



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The Library Shop opening hours are:

9.30 - 5.00 Monday to Saturday

12.00 - 4.30 Sundays

Email: [library.shop@tcd.ie](mailto:library.shop@tcd.ie)

<http://www.tcd.ie/Library/Shop>

## Dick Spring attacks Fianna Fail's record at SPR launch

BRIAN RONSON  
NEWS REPORTER

Speaking at the launch of a student journal last Wednesday, Dick Spring attacked the current government's record and called for more radicalism in youth politics.

Delivering the keynote address at the *Social and Political Review* launch, the former Tanaiste criticised successive Fianna Fail-led governments for feathering their own nests.

In particular he singled out the practice of creating extra minister of

state positions as being particularly self indulgent. "Ireland does not need twenty Ministers of State", he told the assembled students and staff of Trinity's Political Science Department.

Spring also expressed concern that the recent progress in Northern Ireland had almost eradicated the political middle ground.

He said it was "a very personal worry" that the political middle ground seemed to have disappeared.

The former Labour leader also expressed his support for the recent plea from the heads of UCD and Trinity for extra funding for third-level

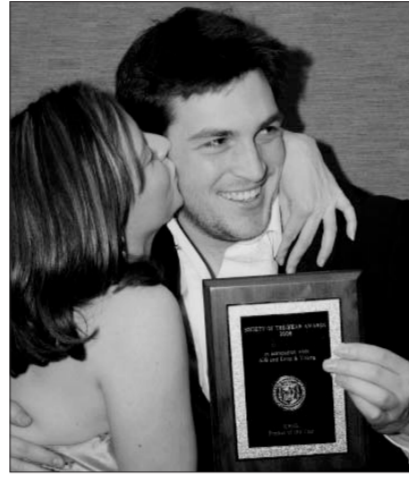
education. He said "there is a shortfall in funding for third-level education", which needs to be addressed for future generations will suffer.

Spring ended with a request that more radical young people get involved in politics. He said that Irish politics needs more radical young people who are willing to "challenge the norm."

The *Social and Political Review* launch was held in the Atrium on Wednesday 9 April. According to Tara Austin, Editor of the Review, this year the SPR has cured its previous financial woes and is now on firm ground for the future.

# SocietyNews

*The Society of the Year Awards are one of the highlights of the year for those involved in student societies. Trinity News Society News Editor Sophie Davies was on hand at the Hilton hotel to report on this year's the winners losers*



## A night to remember

**SOPHIE DAVIES**  
SOCIETY NEWS EDITOR

On Wednesday 9 April, students from over 40 different societies gathered at the Hilton Hotel to attend the Dublin University Central Societies' Committee Ball 2008, also known as the Society of the Year Awards! It's at the start of the evening when most of the awards are handed out, but at the end of the night, when the most-coveted Overall Society of the Year Cup is given; this last award is decided on the night with a single vote given to each society present.

The Chair of the CSC, Sophie Davies, opened the Awards by welcoming everybody, and congratulating everyone on all their hard work; thanks were also given to the long standing sponsors Kathy Kelly of AIB and Pat Moran of Ernst and Young.

The Award for Best Society is split into three categories: large, medium or small, depending on the number of members in the society. The first award of the night was for Best Small Society, and short-listed were Trinity College Dublin Botany Society, Dublin University Chess Club, Dublin University Gender Equality Society, the Dublin University Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Society and the Dublin University Metaphysical

Society. The winners, announced by Junior Dean Emma Stokes, were the LGBT, who this year celebrated their 25th anniversary, which culminated in a busy and eventful Rainbow Week.

Best Fresher, an award given to the Junior Freshman who has given the most to a society and who it is thought will go on to stay actively involved in the future, was awarded to Matt Smyth. Matt Smyth, who was nominated by both Dublin University Players and Dublin University Business and Economics Society, impressed the judges by the amount and variety of the work he had done all year.

Gerry Whyte, the Dean of Students, was up next to award the prize of Best Medium Society; this prize went to the Dublin University Japanese Society, who having only just been fully recognised (in 2006), have worked hard all year to offer students and members a taste of Japanese culture, offering everything from Kendo and language classes to Sushi and Karaoke Nights. They were in a category against Dublin University Mature Students Society, Trinity Suas and the Dublin University Radio Society (last year's winners).

Short-listed for Best Large Society were Players, Dublin University International Students' Society, Dublin University Comedy Society, Dublin University St Vincent de Paul Society and University Biological Association. The winners were DUIS, who held a

huge number of events during the year with the aim of showing-off Ireland and Dublin and also delving into the culture and history of Ireland, through their weekly events.

Narrowly missing out on Best Event in 2007, Trinity's Next Top Model took the award this time! The huge event from the LGBT was the centre piece of Rainbow Week, taking many months to organise and raising money for Open Heart House.

The prize for Best Individual was split between two, who were both very deserving of the award. Ciaran O'Melia, former Chair of Players, and Paul Gallagher of Dublin University Food and Drink Society were the winners. Ciaran was nominated by members of his committee for his enduring hard work in Players and also for his hand in organising the 75th anniversary celebrations. Paul was nominated by his Food and Drink committee for not only having a large hand in the running of the society, even only as their secretary since January, but also for his work in the Dublin University Management Science Society and Trinity Arts Festival.

Snap Printing chose the winner of Best Poster, which was awarded to the College Historical Society for their poster "A policy of multiculturalism would be detrimental to Irish Society". The Best Website award went to Food and Drink, who completely revamped

their website this year and used it as a means to contact their members weekly.

This year the CSC have affiliated with the Board of Irish College Societies and decided to enter the National Society of the Year Awards. The categories are slightly different from the CSC awards and are also judged differently. The Awards will be held in Dundalk on Thursday 17 April, and Trinity will be sending Botany as Best New Society, Comedy as Most Improved Society, Rainbow Week (LGBT) as Best Event and St Vincent de Paul as Best Society.

After the dinner, the votes had been counted for Society of the Year 2008! From a shortlist comprised of Trinity FM, Japanese, LGBT, Metafizz, ComedySoc, DUIS, St Vincent de Paul and Players, the prize went to St Vincent de Paul. It was presented by Pat Moran of Ernst and Young and the room stood in ovation as the society went up to receive the cup. St Vincent de Paul, chaired by Niall Walsh, have had an extensive volume of activity this year, providing new services to the local community, including drama club, art club and dance club; and for their members, sign language classes. This was in addition to their usual activities of various homework clubs, homeless soup run and youth clubs, to mention but a few.

The evening was almost over, with

nearly all present desperate to get up and dance to the music provided by Dublin University Jazz Society band Uncle Monty, when Sophie Davies gave a last few thanks for the night. Joseph O'Gorman was thanked for his continuing support and guidance he gives to societies, but the main thanks were for the staff of the CSC: Lucy O'Connell and Emma Matthews. The Chair heaped her praise upon them, reminding everyone in the room how hard they work all year and how hard they have had to work, particularly, in the previous week processing over 6000 ticket applications for the Trinity Ball – coming in on weekends and staying late into the evenings whilst also running the CSC office and organising the CSC Ball by themselves. This they do with smiles on their faces and being completely obliging to students and their societies. They came up to accept their gifts (from the officers of the CSC.) through a sea of clapping hands and cheering faces, all standing in ovation for the second time that night.

Some say that it was the best CSC Ball for many years; it's a wonderful opportunity for those who have worked so hard for the good of the College community to celebrate all together, and for those individuals and societies who have done extra special work during the year to receive acknowledgement in front of their peers.

## Society Diary



diary@trinitynews.ie

### Tuesday 15 April

*Botany:* AGM 4.30pm, Botany Common room, opposite Botany Building  
*Investors Society:* AGM 7pm Eliz Rooms, House 6.

### Wednesday 16 April

*Food and Drink:* Trinity Term Dinner, Commons in the Dining Room with the Scholars, 6pm, tickets €7

*Orchestra, Music, Jazz:* The Music Ball, Russell Court Hotel 9pm, ticket €15

*Pharmaceutical Students Association:* Talk by Darragh O Loughlin, Honorary Treasurer to the IPU on 'the Role of the Irish Pharmacy Union: Developments in the Community Pharmacy' 8pm in the Mac-Neill Theatre, Hamilton Building

### Thursday 17 April

*Jazz:* AGM, 8pm in the Jazz Room, Goldsmith Hall  
*Maths:* AGM, 8.30pm Salmon Lecture Theatre, Hamilton Building  
*Student 2 Student:* Don't Laugh at the Wall Comedy Show, 8.30pm, Ernest Walton Theatre, Arts Building

### Friday 18 April

*Trinity FM:* AGM 7pm in the Eliz Room, House 6

### Saturday 19 April

*Europa:* Mock European Parliament, Arts Building 11am till 7pm

### Monday 21 April

*Saint Vincent de Paul:* AGM 7pm in the Eliz Room, Hse 6

### Tuesday 22 April

*Greens:* Trevor Sargent GMO  
*FLAC:* Free Legal Aid Clinic, 6:30pm, 3037, Arts Building  
*CSC:* AGM, 5pm in the Swift Theatre, Arts Building

### Wednesday 23 April

*Geographical:* AGM 7pm Museum Building

### Thursday 24 April

*Joly Geographical:* AGM and Slideshow, 7pm, contact Joly for more information

### Monday 28 April

*Singers:* AGM, 7pm in the Boydell Room, House 5

### Tuesday 29 April

*LGBT:* AGM 7pm in the Eliz Room, House 6

*With thanks to all the societies who contributed to this diary since October*



### SOCIETY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Foresight Business Group



**DAVID MADDEN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Foresight Business Group is a little-known society within Trinity, given that it is not affiliated with the Dublin University Central Societies Committee, but it serves a vital function within the College community. It was founded in 1972 by a group of students in the Business School, eager to promote links between the leading figures in Irish business community and the students of Trinity. Since its establishment, the Group has gone from strength to strength, providing students with a wide range of opportunities to further their understanding of issues within business. It is probably best known for organising two to three business breakfasts every year in the Dining Hall.

At these breakfasts, students get the chance to sit beside a wide array of respected businesspeople while listening to a talk given by a guest speaker. Other events include interview and communication skills workshops.

The Group itself is made up of six Junior Committee members and five Senior Committee members. The Junior Committee consists entirely of Junior Sophisters and its members automatically graduate to the Senior Committee in Senior Sophister. This year's Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are Sam Nolan and Ruth Dundon. So far this year, the Group has hosted three major events. The first of these was a business breakfast held in November at which Deirdre Somers, CEO of the Irish Stock Exchange, spoke to a crowd of over 120. The second event was an Audience with Social Entrepreneurship, at which prominent social entrepreneurs

such as Michael King, founder of Suas Educational Development, engaged in a lively panel discussion. On 15 April, the Group held its last event of the year, a business breakfast at which John Bowen, CEO of Bowen Construction, spoke. The annual Foresight Business Journal was launched at this event. This year's Journal contained six high quality student essays, which covered a broad spectrum of business topics.

The activities of the Group would not be possible without the dedicated support of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, which is not only the benefactor of the Group, but is also the main point of contact within the business community. Next year's incoming Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are Nathalie Ennis and Eoin Fleck. They and the entire incoming Senior Committee are full of new plans and ideas and very much look forward to flying the flag of Foresight next year.



# InternationalNews



The scene at the 'grassy knoll' last Friday, the last day of classes at UBC. The students protested the plans to pave it over as part of a development (inset) Photo:Trent Maynard

## Demonstration turns ugly; 20 students arrested

**BORIS KIRBY**

NEWS EDITOR, THE UBSYSEY

Twenty University of British Columbia (Canada) students were arrested the night of Friday 4 April as Knoll Aid 2.0, a student-organized demonstration, turned ugly.

The demonstration, billed as a "peaceful celebration in defence of public space" by organisers, began to escalate at around 6pm after students listening to music and dancing in the area between the old bus loop and the grassy knoll decided to light a large bonfire on the sidewalk.

Approximately one hour later, campus police and firefighters arrived, to the dismay of those in attendance. Students responded by trying to obstruct the firefighters' access to the bonfire.

"They were playing music, everything was peaceful. What happened was, there was a bonfire, the police came and eventually the fire trucks came," said UBC student Andrew Witt.

"Eventually, people blocked the firemen from pouring water on the fire...two people were subsequently forced on the ground," said Witt. "One person's face was shoved in the water,

she couldn't move, the officer had his forearm pressing down on her, eventually, another person was thrown away into a cop car."

The woman in the water was Alma Mater Society VP External Stefanie Ratjen.

"I had serious concerns about some of the conduct of the firemen and police officers and that is why I approached the police officers and the firemen and I said 'why are you here and what are you doing?' because they had been pushing people out of the way very aggressively and very violently."

After Ratjen was detained, approximately a dozen students proceeded to encircle the police cruiser in order to prevent her from being taken away.

"People then linked arms to block the car and we were able to negotiate her release," said Witt.

By this point, police backup from both the campus police detachment and the Vancouver Police Department arrived, precipitating the arrest of approximately nineteen more students, one of which was the recently released Ratjen. At this time, the situation had attracted a substantial crowd of on-lookers.

"People surrounded the car and then squad cars from Vancouver, Richmond, all over the lower mainland, they started arresting people...25, 30, 40 arrested," said Witt.

Witness accounts and photos of the incident show police using significant force to detain a number of students, many of whom were seen being forced on their stomachs, with their face in the pavement and handcuffed with zip-ties.

According to witnesses, it took two full police wagons and a number of other police vehicles, including squad cars and trucks, to transport all the detained to detention.

"I was really blown away by the techniques and amount of force and just negatively impressed by the unnecessary of the force and just the fact that there were twenty arrests over a very, very peaceful protest," said Ratjen.

Afterwards, a number of students decided to follow police downtown to try and find out where the arrested were being held. A limited number of students were released over the early hours of Saturday morning, however, many were held overnight.

The nineteen individuals held overnight, almost all of whom were UBC students, spoke with a BC justice

of the peace on Saturday afternoon after first meeting with their lawyers. All nineteen were charged with at least one count of either assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, or obstruction of a police officer.

Despite claims of police brutality by some in attendance of Knoll Aid 2.0 on Friday and calls for a public inquiry by campus social activist group Students for a Democratic Society, the head of the RCMP on campus, Staff Sgt. Kevin Kenna, said he was satisfied with how the police handled the event.

"People are free to protest, and as long as they do it in a lawful manner and they don't impede other people or commit criminal offences, there's never a problem with it. But should [it] be that people are impeded and police officers are assaulted, it gets a little more serious."

On Sunday, UBC VP External, Legal and Community Relations, Stephen Owen released a statement on behalf of the University:

"The events of the arrest of nineteen people on our Vancouver campus on the night of Friday 4 April are most disturbing and work is underway in the university community to understand what occurred and to deal with the implications."

## The Global Campus



### UNIVERSITY FOR FOREIGNERS, ITALY

#### American student, suspects still held in Kercher case

Those suspected of murdering and raping Leeds University student Meredith Kercher have been ordered to remain in jail, reported the Associated Press on 1 April.

Amanda Knox, a student at the University of Washington, her Italian boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito and Ivory Coast national Rudy Hermann Guede have all been arrested for the murder and rape of Kercher on 1 November 2007. Kercher was studying Italian at the University for Foreigners in Perugia, Italy and sharing a house with Knox and two other women. The chilling and bizarre case was widely circulated by the media and reported by this newspaper, as Knox and Sollecito, at first only possibly witnesses, became suspects because of inconsistent alibis and were finally arrested thanks to Knox's confession. Guede was tracked down and arrested in Germany after posting a YouTube video of himself, clearly intoxicated, yelling "I'm a vampire!"

### UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER

#### German students use radio to make a difference

A student chapter of Amnesty International in Münster, Germany, are using the radio to focus media representation on Amnesty in the city. Besides the production of flyers and organising of fundraising, the members of the group are also producing a monthly radio show called "Amnesty on Air". Each first Tuesday of the month, they go on air to inform the wider public about human rights problems all around the world. According to a member of the group, "it is not easy to produce a radio show on your own each month. But it is definitely worth the effort. For the next show we are interviewing a girl from the Ukraine who had to immigrate to Germany, because she was not allowed to study in her home country for being part of the governmental opposition. Many people don't know much about the situation in countries like the Ukraine and if we can inform and make people aware of those problems through the show, all the work we do gets a reason."

Under the motto "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness" Amnesty International brings attention to human rights abuses through media attention, direct-appeal campaigns, research and lobbying.

Amnesty International is also active at Trinity College. More information how to join and become active can be found under [www.amnesty.tcd.ie](http://www.amnesty.tcd.ie) or by emailing [amnesty@cs.c.tcd.ie](mailto:amnesty@cs.c.tcd.ie).

### UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

#### Leftists add Palestine to fees protest agenda

Students at the University of Toronto's New College organized a demonstration protesting a twenty percent residence fee increase on 22 March, only to have other causes quickly introduced into the protest. Approximately 35 students stormed the university's main administrative building, according to the university newspaper *The Varsity*, refusing to leave and chanting "occupation is a crime."

"We want to ensure that people know that our scope is not just limited to tuition fees," Parmbir Gill, a member of Always Question, the leftist campus group that was present at the protest, told *The Varsity*. "We want to take a stand in our solidarity to the Palestinian struggle. Palestinian students are not able to go to school because of the Israeli bombardment."

Always Question apparently made demands to the university's administration: an "immediate" meeting with university president David Naylor, a reversal of the New College residence fee increase and the chance to make a short presentation at Tuesday's University Affairs Board meeting. The New College Students' Council quickly withdrew their at-first enthusiastic support of the rally when these other, broader demands were made. In a statement release on their Facebook group, the Council, represented by its president Jason Marin, stated: "At no time did Always Question indicate that the rally would lead to a sit-in at Simcoe Hall and make other demands that are unrelated to the New College student community," read the statement.

Campus police officers stood at the door for much of the sit-in, which had begun around 1.30 pm, until Toronto Police Officers arrived on the scene at 6.30 and removed the protestors. Reports *The Varsity*:

"Rob Steiner, a spokesperson for U of T, said that the protesters left voluntarily, but several of them claimed to have received injuries when police entered the building to break up the demonstration."

*The Varsity* also reports that the group repeatedly stated, "They're pigs, they're not even human," after the arrival of police.

Comments on the article from U of T students abounded on the website, some stating that "leftists students are the downfall" of the university, while many more doubted the credibility of the article. Many claimed that the chants described were seldom used, while the more used chants like "When the students are united, they will never be defeated," were not mentioned, and that the focus of the protest had always remained on New College and residence fee hikes. One post accused the newspaper, claiming that "*The Varsity* is notorious for providing misinformation to students to sway their views."

## Police charges for South African *Fear Factor* video students

**HUGH TAYLOR**

STAFF WRITER

Two students at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa are to be charged in connection with a racist video which appeared on the internet on 26 February. The video showed white students at the university tricking black residence hall workers into eating stew containing urine, prompting a march the following day in which five people were arrested, according to university officials.

The incident has provoked dismay amongst South African politicians and commentators, anxious to move beyond echoes of apartheid-era abuse. The video was apparently expressly made in reaction to the university's efforts to integrate its residences. The protesters of the 27 February included black and white students who later marched to the residence where the video was made and demanded that it be shut down, witnesses said. The video surfaced on the 26 February but was made in September, the university said.

In the video, white male students at Reitz Residence are seen encouraging at least three black female housekeepers to participate in what the students call the "Reitz Fear Factor", an apparent reference to the television show in which contestants eat live worms or compete in other feats. In one scene from the video, a student mixes what

looks like a beef stew in a plastic bowl and adds garlic and other items. Then he tells the camera he will add the "special ingredient".

The student then urinates into the mixture, which he later stirs up and puts in a microwave. Other students can be heard laughing on the tape. The next scene shows a different student urging at least three housekeepers to drink cups full of the stew, saying, "This is our dorm's Fear Factor. We want to see who has the best Fear Factor." On the video the student does not tell the women that there is urine in the mixture. The women, on their knees, spit the stew into buckets after tasting it. Some appeared to vomit, but the women also laughed during the incident as the student urged them on.

Next, the women struggle to run in what appears to be a race. The video is put in slow-motion as the theme from Chariots of Fire plays. Finally, one of the students awards a large bottle of whiskey to one of the women, telling her she has won the Fear Factor. At the end of the video, a message appears on the screen in Afrikaans saying, "That, at the end of the day, is what we think of integration." UFS officials quickly moved to denounce the video. "The executive management of the [university] condemns this video in the strongest possible terms as a gross violation of the human dignity of the workers involved," said UFS Rector Frederick Fourie in a statement posted

on the university's Web site. "We have immediately started with a most urgent investigation into this matter," he added. A statement from the university related that Fourie had met with the employees seen in the video and apologised to them. Counseling was being provided for the workers, it added. The students involved in the video have been identified and will be suspended, Fourie said, and charges against the men will be filed with the South African Police Service. Two of the students in the video are still enrolled at the university but had been barred from the campus in Bloemfontein, according to the university. Two others completed their studies last year.

"I am deeply saddened that students apparently see nothing wrong in producing such an offensive and degrading video. I have publicly said several times that the UFS is not a place for racism. The fact that it is openly linked to the integration process in UFS residences is also most disturbing," Fourie said. A spokeswoman in Free State province for the Democratic Alliance - an opposition party which says it puts equal rights for all South Africans at the center of its policies - called the video "shocking and inhumane." "It looked like they were willing [participants], but they didn't know what purpose the video served. ... It was quite humiliating at the end to see the quite senior ladies on their knees eating the meat," said spokeswoman

Liana Van Wyk, the South African Press Association reported. Helen Zille, the Democratic Alliance's leader, has asked the South African Human Rights Commission to conduct an investigation into racial tensions at the university. "The abhorrent footage of students abusing university workers is a fundamental infringement on the victims' constitutional right to have their dignity respected and protected," Zille said in a statement posted on the group's Web site. "This incident is symptomatic of racial tensions that have been simmering at the campus for some time over the issue of hostel [residence] integration," she said. Fourie acknowledged in his statement that "the university is going through a difficult time with its efforts to racially integrate its residences and to create a new residence culture based on diversity, respect, human dignity and human rights. These kinds of actions make it all the more important that we succeed with establishing such a new institutional culture on the campus. I appeal to all staff and students to remain calm and to act in the best interests of the university."

The University, a research centre, is one of South Africa's oldest; it was founded in 1904. It has more than 25,000 students, according to its website and uses a parallel-medium instruction in English and Afrikaans for its full range of undergraduate and graduate programs.

# NewsFeature

## One of the “Best Students Ever” convicted for armed robbery

*Niall Clarke was feted by his lecturers, set up his own company, and was on his way to considerable success. But his chronic schizophrenia led him to a ten year sentence for robbery.*

CONOR SULLIVAN  
STAFF WRITER

Niall Clarke graduated from Trinity with a First-Class Computer Science Degree, accolades from his lecturers proclaiming him to be one of the best students in his field that they had ever seen and a seemingly bright future ahead of him. But last February, he was handed down a ten year prison sentence for armed robbery.

Clarke, now 27, reportedly appeared calm as Judge John Woodcock handed down the sentence in Bangor Federal Court, Maine. The sentence was the most lenient possible for the offence - Clarke robbed the Bangor Bank of America of US\$11,500 in 2006 with a .38 calibre handgun. The judge said he had taken into account Clarke's schizophrenia that had turned him from being one of Trinity's best students to the author of a particularly heinous crime. The judge also indicated that he may be allowed to serve some of his sentence in Ireland.

Clark graduated from Trinity in 2002 with a First in Computer Science along with an Enterprise Student Award and set up his own company. During his final year, he had begun to show signs of stress, though his family attributed this to stress associated with his final exams. He travelled to Thailand after graduating and his mental state

“

My mother was a paranoid schizophrenic. My earliest memories are of watching the police come and force my screaming mother into a police car so they could take her to a mental hospital. As a kid, I learned to cope, the hardest thing I've done as a father was to sign the form for his involuntary committal to hospital.

”

soon began to deteriorate, calling home with angry diatribes against his father, with whom he had a previously close relationship. His father told the court that he has tried to have his son committed to a psychiatric hospital in 2003 after a serious psychotic episode. “I felt so let down that the Irish healthcare system let me down and, more importantly, let my son down. We probably wouldn't be here today listening to the victims of Niall's crime if that crime had been addressed then.”

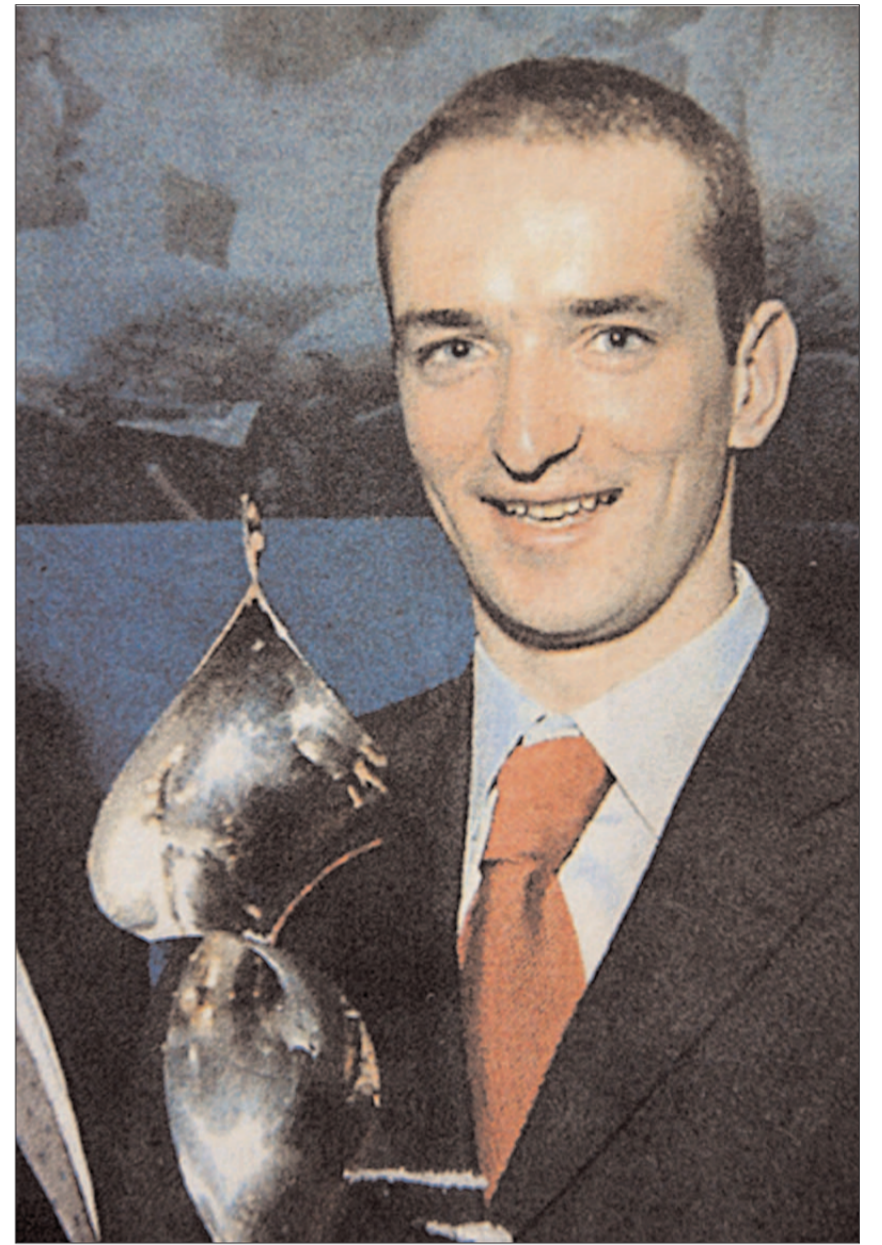
When he returned to the family home in Kilrush, Co. Clare, he weighed only 40kg, despite being over six feet tall. His father told the court that as he watched his son become more withdrawn, he recognised what was unfolding. “My mother was a paranoid schizophrenic. My earliest memories are of watching the police come and force my screaming mother into a police car so they could take her to a mental hospital. As a kid, I learned to cope. The hardest thing I've done as a father was to sign the form for his [involuntary] committal to hospital.”

After the Irish Authorities refused to commit Clarke, he set off again, travelling to South America and the United States; he lost contact with his family until his arrest in 2006 for armed robbery. He was working odd jobs, was US\$30,000 in debt and drinking heavily: eighteen pints a day, according to one psychiatrist's report.

At 1:30pm on 4 October 2006, Clarke walked in the Bank of America in Bangor wearing a balaclava and brandishing a gun and ordered the bank tellers to fill a bag with cash. At the sentencing hearing, the judge said, “he bought a ski mask to hide his identity and so the employees couldn't see his facial expressions. He took the gun out and pointed it directly at the tellers. One said that the gun was six inches from her head. When the gun was retrieved by the police, it's a chilling fact that there was a bullet in the chamber and four in the magazine”. He was tracked down shortly after he left the bank when a bank worker noted down his registration number.

Speaking outside the court, Clarke's father said “Obviously if Niall was not in the United States, which has a very lax policy in terms of walking in and buying a deadly weapon, it may not have attracted a seven-year sentence which a gun crime attracts”. It is horrifying the ease with which Niall was able to walk in and buy quite a deadly weapon by just producing a driving licence.” The judge recommended that if Clarke asks to spend the end of his sentence in Ireland, the request should be granted.

The company that Clarke set up was recently sold for an undisclosed amount; he could well have become a very wealthy man.



Clarke, above with his Enterprise student award, taken during his time in Trinity. Photo: Trinity News archives.

With exams starting on Monday and last minute preparations for tonight's Science Ball at The Hilton to organise, it was surprising that Cathal Reilly had twenty minutes to meet up and discuss his plans for next year's Students' Union. Running a couple of minutes late, but with the decency to text to say so, this did not seem like the actions of the slick political weasel I was expecting. My disaffected image of students in positions of college authority could not have been further from the truth. Cathal was amongst the most friendly, unassuming people I've met at Trinity.

Intelligent and shrewd nonetheless, he found my initial question about his plans for next year too broad, “I have lots – would you like to ask about anything in particular?” The crux of his campaign – to increase student awareness about the work of the Union – is still his priority. Any student with even a hazy memory of previous Union elections may get a feeling déjà vu here. This vague policy seems to be filler in most campaign leaflets. But Cathal is specific. He aims to do this by increasing the profile of campaigns. While the weekly banners across front gate are attention-grabbing to even the most bleary-eyed student stumbling in on a Monday morning, they do not actually increase involvement. For this, students need to be aware of campaigns in advance. They need to know the activities being run each day before the morning after. At the moment that is not happening.

The “Know Your Union” campaign run by this year's

Students' Union effectively publicised day-to-day events and services run by the Union; however, Cathal believes it should have been an ongoing campaign. He wants to make the suggestion boxes initiated during this campaign a permanent feature across campus. Realistically he knows that there will be more sweet wrappers than comments posted, but even if one useful comment is received that can make just one student's life easier, it is worth it. Not only this, he has an excellent idea to put up Union stands throughout College that will be manned by members of the Union. This way, students can talk to their student officers without the intimidating prospect of



climbing the rickety House Six staircase to knock on a door in the corner to speak to someone they don't know by sight, let alone to talk to.

Cathal may be looking for ways to encourage students to tell him what the Union can do for them, but it seems he already has a first-hand understanding of students' key concerns. For the first two years of College, he endured a two hour commute from Drogheda every morning because the price of living in Dublin was too great. Last summer, he worked two jobs so that he could

live in the city for his third year. He knows the trials of finding and affording accommodation. Students feel it's them pitted against their landlords, they don't know how much the Union can help them. The Students' Union can advise students on their legal rights and even help them find accommodation. There are accommodation lists posted outside the Union office in House Six, but the majority of students don't know they're there – his ultimate goal of increasing student awareness of the Students' Union is becoming increasingly relevant.

Cathal's understanding of the major issues of student life is comprehensive, but he's also paying attention to the little details that make our life easier. He wants to have microwaves put around College so that students can enjoy a hot meal during the day without having the extra cost of eating out or the inconvenience of having to leave campus or head across Front Square to the Buttery amid periods of intense study. What's more, that way we can all eat Marks and Spencer mushroom risotto.

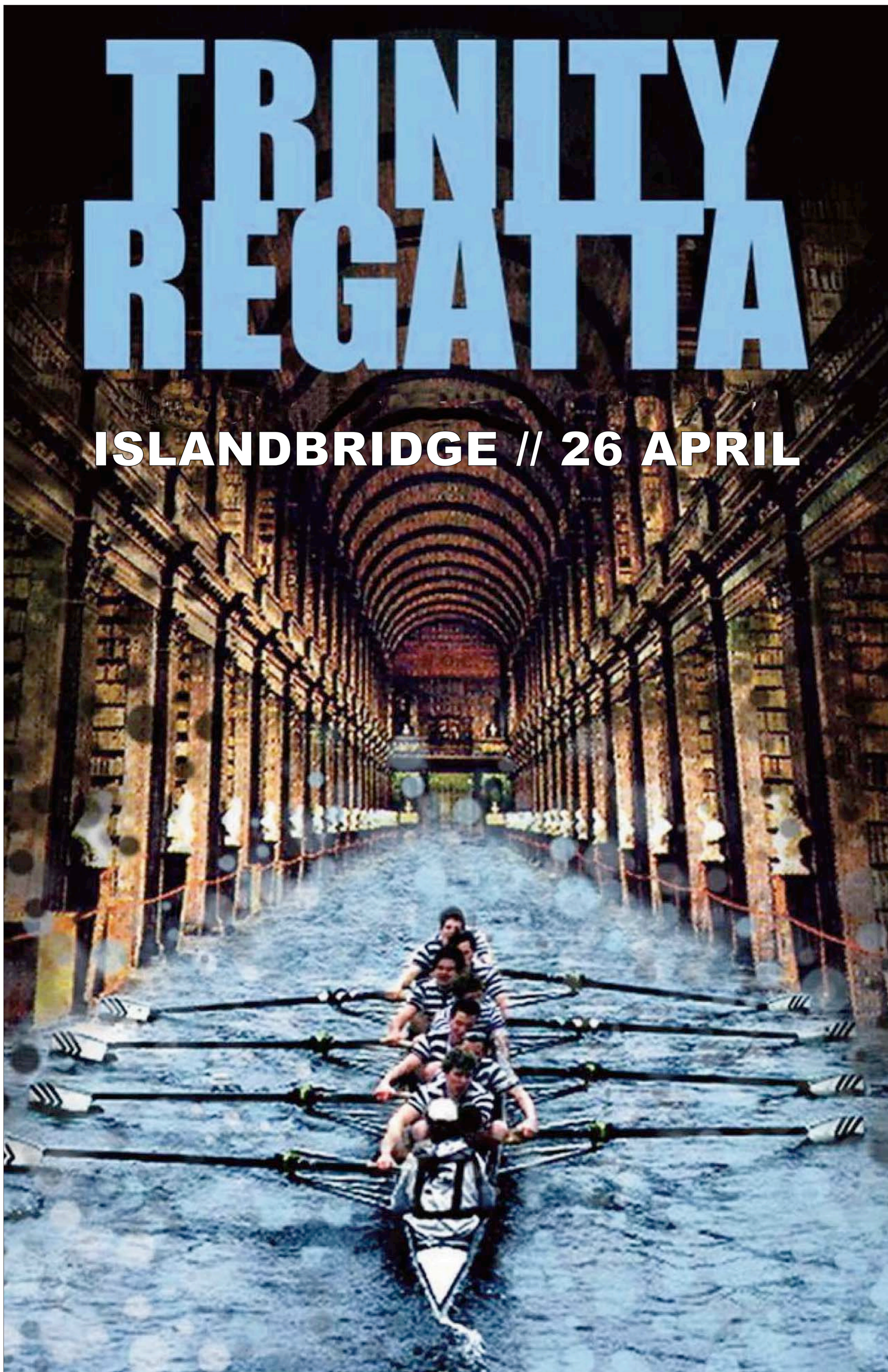
It seems cruel that I could suspect a man who openly expresses his penchant for Marks and Spencer mushroom risotto of having designs on world domination, but I can't quite put aside my feelings that somewhere beneath his humble exterior lies ruthless, political ambition. Bertie's just resigned...wouldn't he rather the role of Taoiseach than Students' Union president? Apparently not. His motivation as president is the desire to make life easier for us. He finds getting things done for students genuinely rewarding. I believe him.

## The nice guy didn't finish last

Frances Beatty meets up with Cathal Reilly to discuss his plans for his upcoming term-in-office as SU President, the problems faced by Trinity students and the delights of mushroom risotto...

# TRINITY REGATTA

ISLANDBRIDGE // 26 APRIL





# InProfile

## More than a biff: the real Brian Cowen

*The Taoiseach-in-waiting is a shy, down-to-earth guy with a photographic memory, writes Trinity student and family friend, Shane O'Donovan*

It was never really that likely that Brian Cowen would study at Trinity. He comes from a long line of Republicans (in the noble sense), he is fluent in Irish, he has played Gaelic football for Offaly, he is from Clara and he is a Roman Catholic. There weren't too many students from Clara studying in Trinity in the late seventies.

I understand that I was first introduced to Brian 22 years ago, shortly after my birth. I have to confess that I have no abiding memory of that particular occasion or what impression he made on me. However, along with 65000 other Offaly people, I am on first name terms with Brian. He may be a bit of an enigma to Dubliners, but he is simply Brian to country people.

People often express surprise when they meet someone in the flesh for the first time, having only previously experienced that person on television or in the newspapers. With Brian Cowen it is the reverse.

Here is a man who you have known in a familiar way all your life, or so it seems, and to some extent you wonder, is this the same person that can wither a political opponent on the floor of the Dáil with a cutting and sardonic remark or demolish a protagonist on primetime television with a blistering offensive of figures and facts (but unlike some of his predecessors, no fiction). He is an honest man who says what he thinks.

The private Brian Cowen is relatively shy, unobtrusive and relaxed. As has been widely reported, he is very entertaining company and despite his private nature, he is never short of a yarn, a song, or a mimic; whether he is attending a public occasion or simply entertaining in his own home or in a friend's.

He possesses a memory that is close to photographic and has an extraordinary capacity to absorb a complex brief delivered to him in a

“ He is a man who you have known in a familiar way all your life, and you wonder is this the same person that can wither a political opponent with a cutting and sardonic remark ”

short period of time, to process it and then re-deliver it in a refined manner without making even a single note. In his unique, energised and passionate fashion he could name for you each player on every victorious Offaly hurling or football team (limited as they

may be), each player on the 1960 English World Cup soccer winning team and in the same conversation recite for you the intimate biographical details of Eamon De Valera or Nelson Mandela.

His grandfather and father before him were butchers, publicans, undertakers, farmers, greyhound trainers and, of course, political animals. All of these genetic traits may form useful weapons in his armoury, given the challenges that will face him as Taoiseach. So his destiny was writ long before he was born.

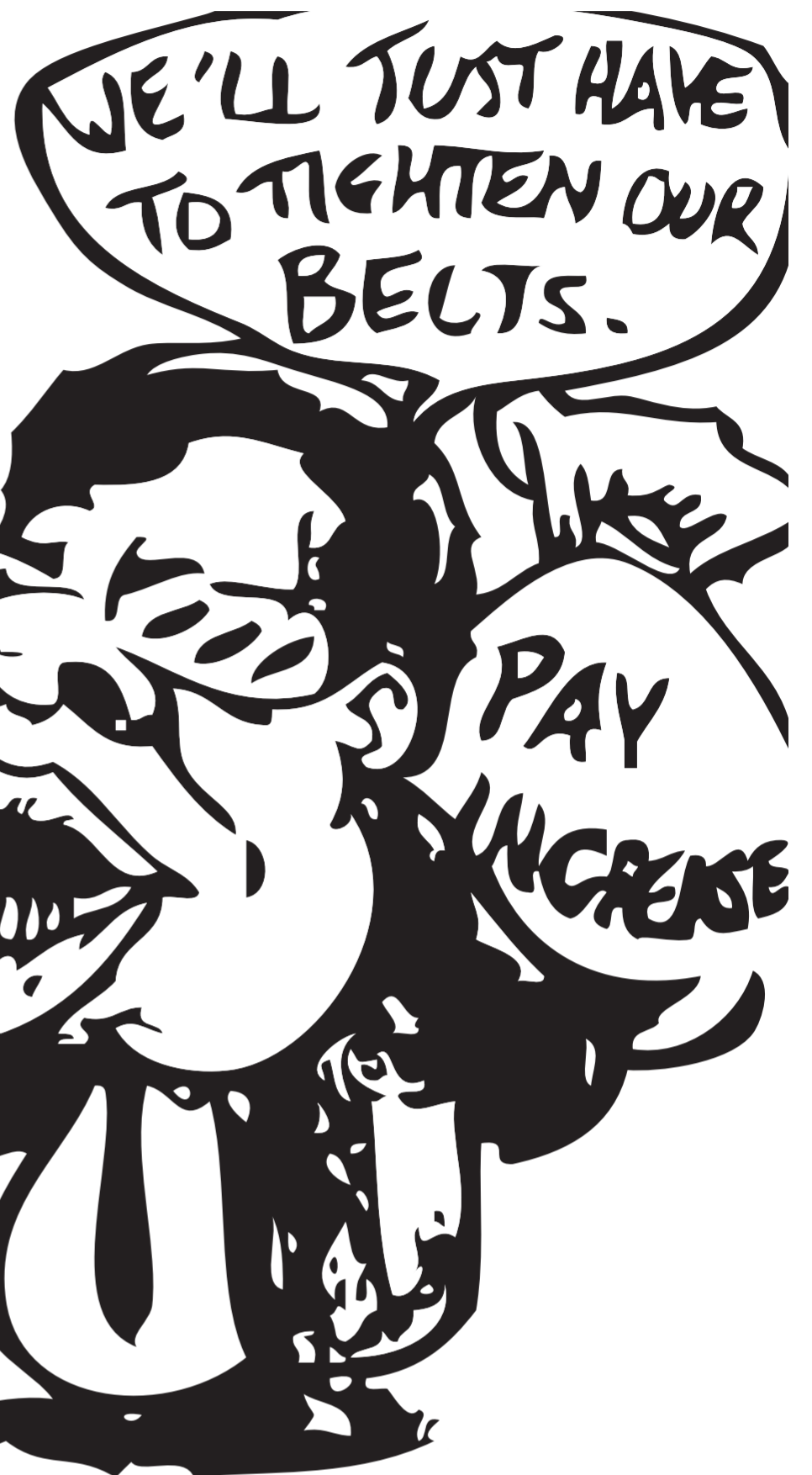
Having qualified as a solicitor in his early twenties, he was more or less plunged into the deep end of the political pond following the sad and untimely death of his TD Father Ber Cowen, aged 52. Brian was 24 years old. Without any real element of choice he walked away with the ensuing bye-election with a staggering 26000 votes and this kick-started the career that has led him to the summit of his political world.

When elected Taoiseach on 7 May, Brian will be the only person in Irish history to have held

the top four jobs in Irish politics, namely Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Finance, Tánaiste and Taoiseach. It is unlikely that he aspired to these dizzying heights when he was pounding the bye-election campaign trail as a rookie candidate in 1984. However, as they say, the rest is history.

He comes from a family of three boys and now has the benefit of the wisdom of the three girls with whom he shares his home: his wife and two daughters. Living with three females, he must also have gained the important virtue of patience. There is little danger, therefore, that Brian Cowen's feet will ever leave the ground regardless of his high office. It is also safe to say that gender will never be an issue for him in appointing his future cabinet members.

He is almost as passionate about sport as he is about politics. However, it is unlikely that a "Cowen Coliseum" will rise from the Midland mists at anytime in the near future, regardless of his gladiatorial instincts.



In his early days as a TD, he found himself at a function in Westminster seated beside a Conservative rural MP – someone he could relate to, given that they were both men of the land.

As the night progressed, they moved on to discuss the relative status of the agricultural industries in England and Ireland and in particular how various EU measures had impacted on their respective family holdings. When the eminent English parliamentarian went on to describe how he and his family had farmed their modest holding of 100,000 acres in Suffolk for generations, Brian decided that in the interest of Anglo-Irish relations, he would not describe in too much detail his own family's modest 25-acre holding in Offaly.

On 11 September 2001, Brian was preparing for taking the position of Chairman of the United Nations Security Council and in this capacity, he

was being driven across the desert to meet with the late Yasser Arafat when he was informed of the atrocities in New York. There followed frenetic security activity to ensure his safety, given the possibility that he was a terrorist target.

Notwithstanding this, he proceeded to meet with Mr Arafat, who following discussions, issued a statement condemning the attacks. Twenty four hours later, Brian was attending a local funeral in his constituency sympathising with the mourners, and not even an unarmed Garda with a baton in sight.

It is probably this capacity to comfortably rub shoulders with people from all walks of life regardless of status, colour, creed, gender or nationality, and to relate to them as individuals, that most defines the man that is Brian Cowen. He is always one of their own.

Just imagine what he could have achieved if he had chosen to study at Trinity instead of University College Dublin and not been exposed to the temptations of Belfield cannabis as he has admitted to another publication.



Send all your gossip to [evelyn.tent@trinitynews.ie](mailto:evelyn.tent@trinitynews.ie)

Gossip, gossip, gossip. Evelyn really does have too much on her plate these days. It seems everyone wants Evelyn to know their business and I simply don't time to stab everyone in the back, nevertheless, gin and tonic in hand, I shall do my very best for the last time this year.

Elections really do bring out the dirt, but not even the Students' Union elections could drag two of the candidates out of the closet. If only our College press were a little more tabloid-inclined we could have had two outings.

Another two candidates spent most of the time crying on the shoulders of their campaign teams and they wonder why they didn't get elected? As for Nick Longworth, Evelyn is really upset that the scruffy one managed to get himself elected. We are all looking forward to him fulfilling his promise that Led Zeppelin will play the ball. Evelyn has heard on the grapevine that the current Ents crew who manage, run and promote all the Ents events on campus have absolutely no interest in aiding Mr. Longworth's efforts. No €2

G&Ts for Evelyn next year, then.

More sour grapes and surprises at the Publications AGM. Resident thorn-in-the-side Tim Smyth couldn't understand why his man Conor McQuillan's nomination for Editor of *Trinity News* wasn't accepted.... after the closing date. Rules are rules, darling, and no matter how much you kick and scream, they'll still be there. It was nice, however, to see you whine in public.

Slightly more dignified but perhaps just as embarrassing was former somebody Daire Hickey and current *TN* Editor Gearoid O'Rourke's half hearted pitch to edit *Piranha*. In the end, they left the rag to Andrew Booth - last year's failed candidate for Editor.

Darlings, you know I love to see you enjoying yourselves, but getting laid outside in the cold during the BESS Ball? Please, some decorum.

And as to the future Ents Officer who had two ladies at the USI conference - well done to you, Darling, but why did you choose the toilet as your place of practise?

Not quite as bad as the Students' Union officer whose advertised their interest in group sex on the web.

Naughty, naughty.

And what comes after sex, not marriage like back in my day, but, well, drugs, of course. In my day, you'd be happy with a woodbine and a glass of sherry, but the youth of today, well darlings you never fail to surprise me. Rooms at the USI conference were like hot boxes, I hear. I've always said student politics was a dull sport and nobody seemed to listen. Given your recent insurgencies, perhaps you'll agree. There were a few free desks in the library last week as many people contracted a mysterious sniffle after attending the launch of the Trinity Ball with Felix The Housecat. Poor Steady Eddy had no idea why his dear friends or illustrious predecessor were acting the way they were. Eddy's worst poison is the black stuff. But for others, it's a black and white world.

Evelyn is delighted to see Trinity is home to a number of Ireland's top models. First Options is the model agency to Hall boy hunks Sam Chapette and Hugo Walford - yum.

Poor Sophie Davies, CSC Chair, received a fright last week when she was told someone may just run against her

when she attempts to gain reelection. Darling Sophie does, of course, have more profile that any potential opposition. She did, after all, feature in the *Sunday Independent* and several reputable tabloids recently.

Also in the CSC, Sophie's colleague Conor McQuillan attempted to charge CSC for the many taxis he had taken in order to get to the many CSC meetings he briefly attends. And Eoin O'Broin thought it wise not to run for a position on CSC after being brought home from the CSC ball via ambulance.

And there was more drunken debauchery at the CSC ball as a very loud Joseph O'Gorman shouted lewd comments at several men. Joseph, darling, please. That sort of talk can get a College officer into an awful lot of trouble. It is better to just keep stum.

There was a tear in Evelyn's eye when she saw for the first time this year our beloved Provost. Yes, my darlings it is true... The Provost is still alive. Last spotted cycling out of Number 1...

E.T.

# Opinion & Analysis

## Remembering Ireland's fallen war heroes



*The 90th anniversary of the end of the Great War offers Trinity a chance to correct the nation's selective memory*

SHANE QUINN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This Easter many Trinity students probably donned the commemorative lily and involved themselves in some event honouring the participants of the Easter Rising of 1916. Few would have been unable to escape the unusual sight of a Tricolour flying high above Regent House, or media coverage of the official parade in Dublin.

However, what will be done this November, the 90th anniversary of the ending of The Great War, to remember the many more Irishmen who fought valiantly on the battlefields of Europe in the name of a greater cause? As the Irish nationalist and advocate of Home Rule, John Redmond, said, the fight for "...the freedom of small nations such as Belgium or Serbia, was that of Ireland as well." It is unlikely that much will be done in the College or elsewhere to remember the price they paid so others could live freely.

Most students here are probably unaware of the scale of the Irish contribution in that war. The figures are debated but the volunteers in Irish divisions numbered around 210,000. This doesn't include the many thousands of expatriates who joined other British and Commonwealth regiments. In comparison the Easter Rising was but "the small dust in the balance"

After all, only 5,000 Republicans even took part in the Easter Rising – the same number of Irishmen fell on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Yet, the evidence of remembering such a costly sacrifice is sparse, save in the Unionist bastion of Ulster.

While these gallant men braved the

living hell of the trenches, a band of minority extremists occupied the GPO and, without mandate, staged an insurrection. Their actions were nothing short of a bitter betrayal of their fellow countrymen who were dying in their thousands on foreign soil. Very little is heard about the true Irish heroes of 1916 nowadays. Perhaps it is better to ignore their sacrifice than to recognize the shameful nature of the origins of this State.

It should be noted, however, that this apathy or ignorance was not always the norm. In the decade subsequent to 1918 efforts were made to honour the fallen but these were met with a new political climate which discouraged such homage at best and proved hostile at worst. A Remembrance service at College Green in 1925 was disrupted by a smoke bomb and participants attacked by Sinn Féin supporters.

Other such incidents resulted in the service being relocated to Phoenix Park. Services were scaled back in the years following the election of the first Fianna Fáil government which was very much unreceptive to such commemorations. Other efforts to extol the fallen were hindered and the War Memorial Gardens were allowed to fall into a shameful state of disrepair until well into the 1980s.

Some attempts have been made recently to remedy the situation. The good work of Paddy Harte, the former TD, resulted in the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Messines, Belgium. Sadly, this gesture was somewhat undermined when the Defence Forces Band refused to play at the Menin Gate at Ypres. Senior sources revealed at the time that the Army felt it inappropriate to play at a British



The Roll of Honour in the 1937 Reading Room. Photo: Martin McKenna

memorial.

The Army undoubtedly overlooked the fact that many of the 55,000 names engraved on the gate were Irish. Then again, such an incident would ruffle few feathers in the Republic. How many students have visited the Peace Park? Moreover, how many have even heard of it?

War commemorations have long since symbolized Unionist solidarity in Northern Ireland. In fact, many of the Orange Order marches in the summer remember the Battle of the Somme alongside the Battle of the Boyne. The monopolisation of remembering the Irish sacrifice by the Protestant community has played some role in creating the Catholic amnesia surrounding The Great War.

That said, the efforts made on this side of the border to counter this have been lukewarm by any yardstick. Trinity College at one stage represented the residual anti-republicanism of the 26 counties but last year we witnessed a passionate, if superficial, popular student-campaign to have the Irish tricolour flown above Trinity on a daily basis. Enthusiasm to praise the heroes of 1914-1918, of whom many were Trinity students or graduates, was not so evident.

The Great War, if anything, represents the complexity of relations among the people on this small island and those between us and Great Britain. Many of the volunteers in The Great War considered themselves Irish patriots, including many of the Ulster Protestants, but not all were separatists. It is incorrect to treat these men as traitors simply because they fought in the British Army. Politically they may have been far from republican but they were no less Irish and no less deserving of our gratitude.

The words on this page may soon be forgotten by most but more tragic than each individual death would be the failure to forget to honour those who fought in a "war to end all wars"; however naïve that belief may have been at the time. How many of us would be prepared to lay our lives down so selflessly for the betterment of future generations?

As we near the 90th anniversary of the end of the bloody and sickeningly pointless carnage of The Great War it is perhaps salutary to reflect on the words of the Canadian Lieutenant Colonel, John McCrae:

*We are the Dead. Short days ago/ We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow/ Loved and were loved, and now we lie/ In Flanders fields*



Nigel Alexander

## To the citizens of the United Kingdom

You'll be interested to hear that we have decided to reinstate the union between our two countries. However, due to our economy performing better than yours for many years now, the new union shall now be called Ireland (or Éire) and shall rule the 113 counties from Dublin, the capital.

Cities in Britain must now not exceed one million persons in order to ensure Dublin is the largest city and to give Britain more of an Irish rural environment. Like the old union, this will be a fair democracy, but unlike the old union, it shall now be the English, who are heavily outnumbered in Parliament in order to give them little to no say in how their country is run.

Apart from the obvious changes to take place in your country, such as the introduction of the Euro, the Tricolour and Amhrán na bhFiann, some more pressing changes will also take place. The islands of Ireland and the British territories will now be referred to as the Irish Isles. You will cease referring to Derry as "Londonderry" and instead what you called "London" will now be called DerryLondon.

In this new union, you will be forbidden from referring to Irish people as "Paddys"; making jokes about Irish people (unless that Irish person comes out the winner of the joke); portraying Irish people as slow or backwards in your films or other media; making a "k" sound after words ending in -ing and (most importantly) mentioning the English World Cup win in '66. Any reference to any event in 1966 must be made clear to be in no way related to that World Cup. The penalty for any of these offences will be the immediate confiscation of perpetrators' lands, to be given to Irish settlers wishing to live in Britain.

This, combined with your greatly increased rural population from the urban-rural migration caused by the downsizing of your cities, will surely lead to small, barely viable plots of land for families to live on. However, do not fear, you can feed an entire family on a small piece of land by growing potatoes.

You will be required to withdraw your troops from Iraq, Afghanistan and any other pointless wars you are involved in at the moment. They are to be redeployed for an invasion of France. The French are currently attempting encourage tax harmonisation within the EU, a move that would prove highly detrimental to Ireland's heavily foreign investment dependant economy.

In order to prevent your further embarrassment at not only inventing a "sport" like cricket, but being regularly beaten by the small handful of former colonies that play it, it shall be replaced. In its place, Irish sports shall become the new national game throughout the Irish Isles, with large counties such as Yorkshire having two teams.

Don't worry if you not very good at first; in 50 to 100 years, you'll get better.

In order to improve the state of Irish soccer and prevent the constant outflow of all our best players to Britain, Premiership teams will each be integrated into Eircom League teams.

The best will be assimilated into the best. For example: Chelsea will be integrated into Bohemians (the combined team will still be called Bohemians); Manchester United will be integrated into St Pat's (the combined team will still be called St Pat's); Arsenal will be integrated into Drogheda United (the combined team will still be called Drogheda United) and Liverpool will be integrated into Derry City (the combined team will still be called Derry City).

A-levels and O-levels shall now be replaced in your education system with the Junior and Leaving Certificates. This means that it will now become mandatory for your children to learn Irish (the national language) in schools. It will also mean that half your school history course will be completely dedicated to painstakingly learning modern Irish history, in incredible detail.

Instead of wearing poppies, you will now wear lilies to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising.

Although President McAleese will now be your head of state, the royal family may retain some sort of ceremonial position. However, the vast majority of their wealth will be seized by the state in order to fund much larger St Patrick's Day (now your national holiday too) parades in Britain, as well as making the Dublin parade finally bigger than the one in New York.

In order to sustain their lifestyle the royal family will earn income by being made into a reality TV show in which they are made perform stunts and games for the viewing public's entertainment.

Long live the union.



## Varsity Talk with Kevin Lynch

## Luce Hall for bureaucrats, Front Square for students

Students and visitors alike cannot escaped the splendour of Trinity's buildings; those in Front, Library and New Squares have been called the finest collection of classical architecture in Ireland. While our many visitors take snaps in front of the Campanile and toddle off to see the Book of Kells and the Long Room, we must make do with the rest. Alas, few would pay to peer inside these buildings.

The embarrassing delay in the plans for refurbishment of the Luce Hall, a building sadly not part of this collection, are an opportunity for Trinity. The College's attempt to create a "student centre" represents an attack on the very idea of a university itself. That 15,000 students and their activities can be centred in one place seems to go against the nature of a "school of universal learning". If we are to be boxed in and hidden away in the Luce Hall, what will the rest of the place be used for?

A telling aspect of the plans, reported in the last issue of Trinity News in Michaelmas Term, is that students are to be hit with another increase in their fees to fund the redevelopment. The bureaucracy of the College is forcing students to pay to clean up the mess caused by its expansion. Imagine if officials denied a pay rise to fund their office space. It is administrators, not students, that are the necessary evil in a university.

There are a whole suite of student services: the Counselling Service, Careers Office, Information Systems and the Chaplaincy spring to mind, that are underutilised by the

student body. Collecting them together in the Student Centre would enable greater access and information by students. These are already funded from our registration fee. However, student activities, including societies' and clubs' rooms and bars, should remain spread across all parts of the College. Sadly most students never see the inside of the Dining Hall, the sides of the Theatre or Chapel building, the debating chamber in the Graduates' Memorial Building or Regent House.

Currently the Proctor's, Electoral, Alumni, Exams and Timetables, Accommodation, Buildings, Housekeeping, Careers and Enquiries offices are ensconced in Front Square. Why aren't these offices moved into the refurbished Luce Hall? Administration is a facilitative activity in the college, student-run activities are its beating heart.

The College calls student life the "Trinity experience"; something that is central to university education but current planning is based on price estimates of space and a desire to compartmentalise, control and relegate students to one corner of the campus. As Gerald Morgan argued in the Michaelmas term issue of *Miscellany*, there is a strong connection between the space we occupy and the output of our activities.

Students should not be so optimistic about the change. Recent renovations have been disastrous: Goldsmith Hall, possibly the most disliked building in the College, is a cold and sterile place – despite the best efforts of the Junior Common Room. Pearse St rooms are cramped, the Sports

Hall ridden with design flaws (were we vain to expect natural light?) and rooms in College Green are sweaty, pokey and appear to be entirely furnished from Ikea. None of these buildings even have plaster on the walls. These facilities are entirely unsuited to inspiring the spontaneous intellectual discourse that is the purpose of bringing students together.

Every construction at the east end of Trinity has been a disappointment from this perspective – no wonder depression and bitterness prevail in the Hamilton. As the Botany and Physics buildings show, there is no reason that the triumphal style of the past cannot facilitate the teaching and learning of the physical sciences.

Dr Morgan provides a stinging critique of the Arts Building as a space for learning: cramped and airless seminar rooms simply aren't conducive to rhetoric and discourse. Prior to its construction, academic, artistic and social activities were spread across Front Square and other parts of the College. It is my contention that the lamentable change in attitude from students to stenographers is partly caused by these factors.

Now the planners hope to repeat these mistakes in the proposed student centre. Unfortunately the Students' Union has pushed ahead these plans. Politically, it is much easier to tell their constituents that they are fighting for a new building rather than incremental changes in the distribution of space. The creation of a "Student Centre" implies that other parts of Trinity are out of bounds to students. It will institutionalise the quantity of student space and reduce future students' ability to have more rooms allotted to our

# Opinion & Analysis



## Face Off

with Joey Facer

**A**s I spend more and more of my frenzied fourth year days in the library consorting with some of the greatest minds to ever put pen to paper (or, rather, appropriating their ideas for glorified regurgitation in around eight weeks time), I find myself wondering, what does it take to be a great mind in the modern world?

I think the defining characteristic of any great mind is the ability to transcend the age in which they write. So often have I thought, mistakenly, that the modern age is one of clamour and noise, of confusion and synchronism, of too many impulses shooting across the cultural synapses to make any sense of the jabber that ensues in daily discourse.

I am, of course, wrong. Wrong in the way that people are wrong when they look at the modern world and say: wow. We're completely different to any other age. No age before us has transgressed so many previous rules of previous generations. My, aren't we a watershed.

Every age is a watershed and every age in the living of it is equally confused and confounded by its own sense of *now* that it takes a true intellectual giant to set it down before it has passed and must merely be chronicled. (One might compare Virginia Woolf in the 1920's writing that "around December 1910, everything changed" with the average remark of the average modern inhabitant reading *The Wasteland*: "oh, so that was Modernism".)

Nevertheless, the modern world does baffle the inhabitant, and it does unsettle us, and these feelings are not to be brushed off as "unexplainable; hence unwritable".

And how to begin? To begin to broach the vast chasm of space that envelops our stuffy, meaningless existences, existences defined by old words and old fashions and old books and old thoughts and old lives we might have lived?

So we begin, speaking into an overly packed room of people who have heard all of this before.

To begin with, there are very few boundaries anymore. As the EU encroaches on physical boundaries and the internet on more hypothetical boundaries, so too we have demolished class barriers and even gender barriers. (Man and woman have been rubbished in favour of "people"; man can become woman or vice versa, and besides, they were only ever arbitrary to begin with, as everyone knows.) This leads to a confusing state of play for many: what is the role of the male in society, the female? What is the relationship between them? If we are all simply people, why the disconnect?

The camp divides: some race back to the narrow womb of rose-tinted glasses and advocate a return to traditional values (scary), others rejoice that we live in such a liberal and tangential biosphere where we can effectively be whatever, whoever, however we desire, and in essence, can create our very selves (also scary).

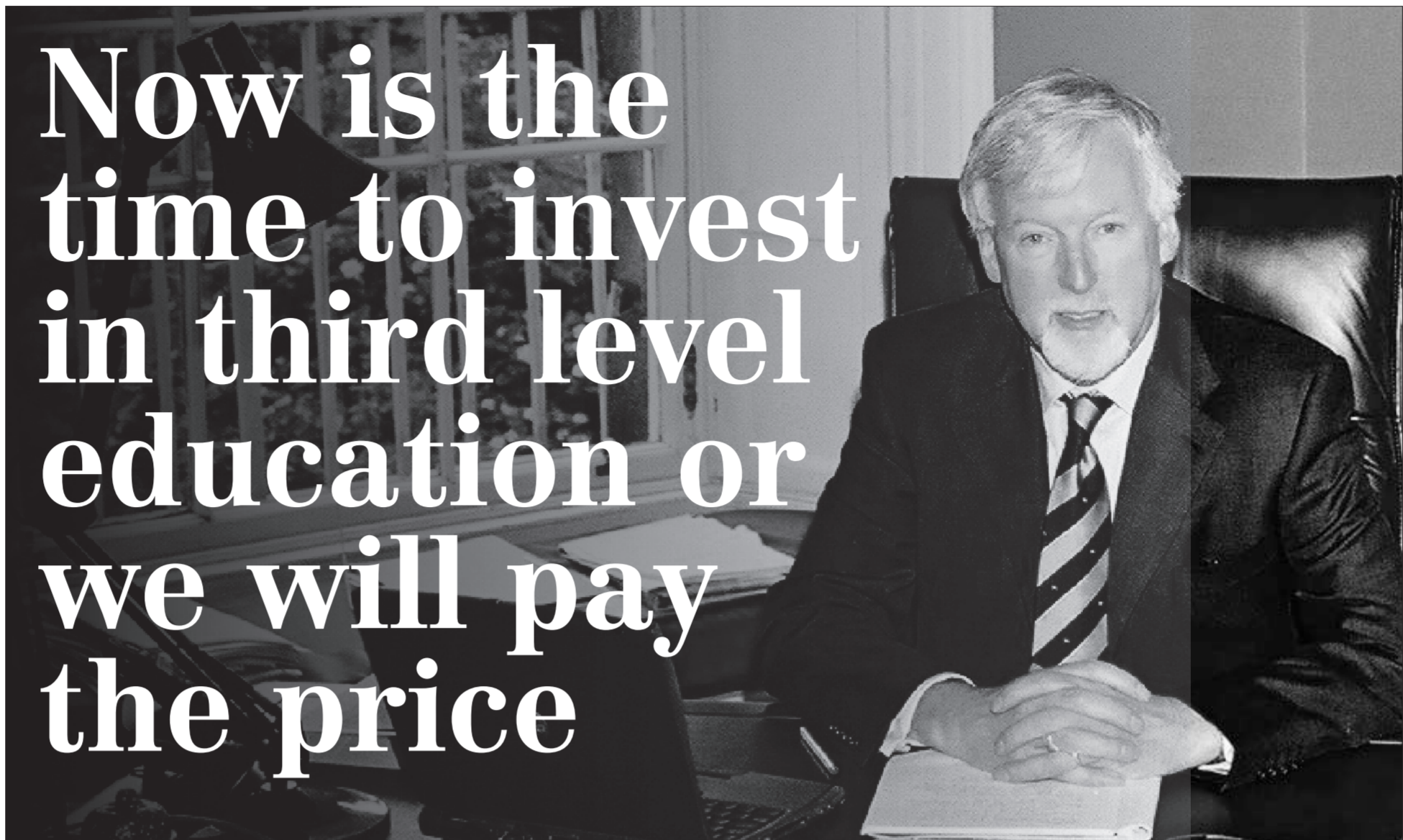
And yet from day to day we exist, as millions have existed before us, as millions will exist after us. As a million are born and a million die in the time it takes me to write my column, I wonder what the point is anymore. Studying books is all very well, but when the thesis can be found on the use of the semi-colon in Yeats (surprisingly interesting), one has to wonder what can possibly be left to say.

And so we come to this column. What is left to say? There is a small handful of words in the English language at my fingertips, and although the various groupings may be infinite, it is yet difficult to shake off the feeling that we are all writing echoes, all thinking echoes. It is strange in a time when knowledge is so brimming that it is inconceivable for anyone to know everything about one thing (even if it is only Yeats's grammatical nuances), yet we hesitate to know at all. The Renaissance man might have had the entire body of world knowledge at his disposal. Could write poetry, play music, woo ladies, fight wars, design buildings, paint masterpieces, sculpt, act and pretty much any other verb you can think of, and here we are, centuries later, stunned into silence by the untouchable mass of accumulated knowledge.

In the face of this breadth of knowledge we have fragments. Art disbands, fails to unify, to codify and we have fragments, which we can cling to, and try to make cohere, but every piece of our personal puzzles is stolen from a different set and all we hold in our hands is bric a brac, the kind that we would and probably will sell on at a car boot sale, to people entranced by its novelty, its bricolage, before taking it home and seeing the same fragments failing to cohere in their own kitchens.

I am in awe at those who can in modern times transform the discipline. There are some notable living authors who can write vivid novels of their own, can see with their own eyes and speak with their own voice; I am merely a record, one you have heard before, and will play over and over until I stop, though I will not want to stop: I will be dragged kicking and screaming out of this world of echoes, roaring my heard-before also-ran pleas against the void.

I stop in the knowledge that I can say nothing more, add nothing more; the knowledge that my complete wonderment at the cultural history that surrounds me is a history imbued in the very words we use to describe it.



# Now is the time to invest in third level education or we will pay the price

**C**hildren entering primary school this year will be eligible for third-level education in 2022. Decisions made now affect not just today's students, but our younger children's futures too. The growth in the numbers of students progressing to third-level education is one of the great success stories of modern Ireland. In two decades from the mid-1980's, the proportion of school leavers going to college has virtually doubled. More recently, we have seen an equally significant expansion in the postgraduate population, such that we now have more than 60,000 undergraduates and more than 15,000 postgraduates attending full-time courses in our seven universities alone.

University research and scholarship has expanded dramatically in the last ten years, in line with government policy. This is reflected in tangible outputs from the universities in the form of publications, collaborations with industry and, most importantly, a new generation of Masters and Doctoral graduates who will lead the next phase of Ireland's development. Largely as a result of investments in research, the performance of our universities in the international rankings is on the up. Growth in access to university education has been accompanied by a quiet revolution in the shape and structure of both course offerings and teaching itself.

Within our two institutions and throughout the sector, small academic departments have been replaced by a school-based structure which groups related fields of study together and promotes collaboration and interdisciplinarity. Students have greater

choice over what and when they study. Modern management systems have been adopted to support these innovations and the more efficient use of resources.

Our success is reflected in very positive external evaluations of the Irish university system.

These achievements should rightly be celebrated. Our universities have shown that they are willing and capable of responding to national needs, of innovating and substantially increasing places.

But what of the quality of the educational experience awaiting our students? In all developed countries the quality of university education is seen as a key success factor in the face of intense global competition.

But quality is about more than just numbers. It is equally about developing the full potential of each student. It is about educating students who are as informed and imaginative as the best in any country; students who are equipped to engage in and lead the development of a vibrant, creative and prosperous society.

In Ireland there is no shortage of rhetoric about the knowledge society and our aspiration to be "world class". The reality, unfortunately, falls well short of the rhetoric. By most indicators our universities are significantly constrained by comparison with leading international institutions.

We are not talking here of the elite US Ivy League colleges, but of universities in countries such as Denmark, Switzerland and Scotland. Two relevant points of comparison are student/staff ratios (three to four times better than the Irish average) and operating budgets (between two and three times those available here).

Of even more concern is that, rather than

closing the gap with these leading institutions, we are allowing it to widen by progressively eroding funding for core teaching.

On a per student basis, core funding has been reduced by one-third since 1995 in real terms. In addition, the maintenance and upgrading of the physical infrastructure for third-level teaching has virtually ground to a halt through lack of funding.

A visit to any university campus will show a stark contrast between the newer research buildings and undergraduate teaching facilities which would look strikingly familiar to those of us who attended college in the 1960's or 1970's. All of this is unsustainable if there is a real objective to be world class.

The contrast is notable because investment in research shows what can be done through enlightened policies, diligently pursued. The solution to the current difficulties facing the universities is not, as some have suggested, to backpedal on research.

The generation of new ideas and knowledge through research, and the enrichment of the learning experience by this knowledge, are at the very heart of a world-class university experience. Any vision of our universities which did not encompass excellence in research and teaching - and the fusion of the two - would be threadbare indeed.

And yet the circumstances which we face daily in our universities call into question whether we as a society really appreciate this. Virtually every recent review of the third-level sector has concluded that there is a major funding deficit by comparison with relevant international competitors.

As university leaders intent on delivering

both quality and quantity in the face of intense international competition, we must ask the question: can we as a society agree that there is a funding deficit at third level that needs to be addressed urgently in the national interest? If we all agree on this, the debate on finding a solution can then begin. What we cannot afford to do as a nation is collectively to bury our heads in the sand.

The future of our economy and society cannot rest on unsustainable levels of construction activity or personal consumption. Education is the key to our future and investment in the creativity, skills and talent of our people will always pay dividends. The difference today is that our recent economic success has irrevocably raised the bar in terms of the standards we need to achieve, the global benchmarks we must match and the level of investment required to do so.

We fully support the intention of the Minister for Education and Science to develop a new, long-term strategy for higher education. It is urgently needed. The strategy process, however, must not be used to shirk the immediate funding problem.

Investment in education is not a tap which can be turned on or off as circumstances require without deep and long-term impact. Failure to invest now will place an entire generation of students and the future of this country at a serious disadvantage.

To gamble with our future in this way is, simply, wrong.

*Dr Hugh Brady is president of University College Dublin. Dr John Hegarty is provost of Trinity College Dublin. First published in the Irish Times.*



## Conal Campbell

**"It's not easy being pollen these days among the queen bees of academia — and our grading system is to blame."**

**R**eady? Concentrate. The queen bees are the professors who publish journal articles that bring prestige to a department but would need to ask for directions to find the Ed Burke lecture theatre. The worker bees are the ordinary academic staff who are delegated the task of teaching undergrads (oh, the horror!) alongside their research interests. We, the students, are the pollen that fuel the whole process by bringing in government cheques. It's not easy being pollen these days, I only have four "contact hours" a week. Even in a course that requires lots of library time, this is scandalously low. Surely the honour of being deemed one of best arts and social sciences universities in the world should be largely based on ensuring that graduates have been

made to earn their degree.

In Poland during communism, there were dissidents who gave classes in their homes for free on philosophers that were considered undesirable by the establishment. Soviet rule didn't manage to destroy the desire for people to learn about philosophy, but capitalism is managing to achieve that aim by requiring the study of the arts be conducted with constant attention towards getting a II.1 that allows one to work for an accountancy company.

A vicious cycle is being created in many arts subjects. Many queen bee type academics put very little effort into teaching their undergraduate courses. This apathy creates reciprocal apathy, encouraging students not to engage with the course material and to do "just enough" to gain a passing grade (the

grading system whereby a very good paper gets 69%, but if you throw something together at the last minute, you get 55%, really doesn't encourage students to take a large amount of pride in their work). Then academics use the perceived laziness of their class the year before to put even less effort into undergrad teaching the following year.

The Leaving Cert is partly to blame. One has to work so hard to get into Trinity that the relative freedom of first year causes Junior Freshmen students to behave like thirteen year olds on a trip to Funderland and it's not a lecturer's job to marshal a crèche of 300 BESS students. It is, however, the job of academics to teach undergrads a few hours a week, and the reality is that these are the "dumbed-down" times that we live in. There is no better cure for Junior Freshmen

hyperactivity than small class sizes with a lecturer who is still clearly enthusiastic about his subject. Any Arts Building department hiring new staff over the coming years will receive applications from academics from some of the world's best institutions because our College is very highly thought of. If there is ever a choice between a queen bee academic, most of whom are interested in topics that are of interest only to the few dozen other academics with interest in similar technical topics and are of no relevance to undergrads or someone who has a rounded knowledge of his subject and manages to generate enthusiasm among students-protection of the value of an undergraduate degree from Trinity College demands that the latter gets the job.

# Editorial & Letters

## TRINITY NEWS

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Issue 11, Volume 54  
Tuesday, April 15th, 2008  
6 Trinity College, Dublin 2  
www.trinitynews.ie

### The student centre: a history of broken promises

As you can read on the front cover of this newspaper, the Students' Union is backing a College plan to have you pay for the proposed student centre. You will pay through a levy added to your annual registration fee. The current proposal is to add fifty euro to this fee for ten years in order to pay for the centre.

The problem is that in effect, you are being asked to take out a loan with the College in order to build what the College has already demmed, in its strategic plan to be an essential part of the campus.

In 2003, the first issue of *Trinity News* was abuzz with discussion of the then newly unveiled strategic plan for Trinity College. It was the baby of Provost Dr John Hegarty and contained a commitment to providing the students of this College with a first class student centre. These promises were nothing new. The Provost's predecessor had trotted out the same line before the strategic plan was even a twinkle in Hegarty's eye.

The devil, they say, is in the detail. The generous declaration of ex-Provost Mitchell that Trinity would give us a student centre in Luce Hall had changed to a far less appealing promise that we would get a student centre- but this time, in only half of Luce Hall. The other half would house academic space. Then there were more negotiations and it was decided that Trinity could not survive without a squash court: that would have to remain in the newly converted Luce Hall too.

At the time our Students' Union were sceptical. The Students' Union President Annie Gatling feared that College may wish to implement a student levy in order to pay for the student centre. She told us: "Obviously such a levy would have to be passed by a student referendum, but I would expect that, should College request a levy, it would have to be for an outstanding venue designed to last for up to 20 years."

In 2003, we had a Students' Union sceptical of a levy and ready to demand a high class facility before they would even suggest holding a referendum on one.

Today we have a building best described as a compromise and a Students' Union seemingly wholeheartedly backing a student levy for to pay for it. What has happened to the old mantra of fighting the first cut?

With the recent change in leadership in government, it was said that TD's were drawing up "shopping lists" for Brain Cowen describing exactly what they wanted to assure their complicity in the next four years of government.

Though it may be to less effect here, the student body is constantly asked for its cooperation in many ways by the College authorities. Students' shopping lists, it seems to us, should at least total one item: a student centre of the highest quality. Something which has been repeatedly promised, only to be renegotiated again and again, taking advantage of the constantly changing and apparently constantly shirking student representation.

The students of this College want a student centre. They should not have to pay for it. Though there is much talk and scaremongering that the College is veritably "bankrupt", surely the measly €7million it would take to build this student centre would not be too difficult to scrape together.

We take a very different view to the Students' Union on this. We do not accept the inevitability of a levy. We do not accept the idea that the student body should take a loan from the College to buy a facility they were promised several years ago. We do not believe the student body, which has worked hard to cut costs in the past few years, should incur massive debt to provide facilities enjoyed as standard in every major campus worldwide.

### This year, next year

This year *Trinity News* published 11 issues - a issue every fortnight during term. We would like to thank our contributors, staff, sponsors, advertisers and friends for their support this year. Next year, *Trinity News* will be edited by Martin McKenna. We wish him every success.

### Letters

All letters to The Editor, Trinity News, 6 Trinity College, Dublin 2 or letters@trinitynews.ie

## In defence of Joseph O'Gorman

Sir- It appears to me, having read a recent issue of *Trinity News*, that Mr Joseph O'Gorman has been improperly scapegoated by certain upstarts in the College community. Whether for personal gain or out of ignorance, they have

unfairly targeted someone who has made more of a contribution to the hallowed halls of Trinity in one lifetime than any of us could hope to make in two. He has not only brought class, something lacking for so long, but just as

importantly, taste. Something the present crop seems to lack in abundance.

Yours etc,  
Christopher Gambino,  
Texas, USA.

### Making the newspaper..



### From the archives

#### 22 T. C. D.

Up here I sleep in the hawthorn scent,  
It swims through my windows from lawn to lawn  
While June's first nights with their deep content  
Possess my spirit from dusk to dawn.

I lying here, alone, a king,  
In the centre of pleasancess green and sweet;  
Hearing the tree-tops murmuring,  
Hearing the far-away sounds of the street.

With only to lean o'er the garden-bed,  
To see steadfast Jupiter shine in the south,  
To see Arcturus hang overhead,  
And the stillness of spars o'er the river-mouth.

Eastward, westward, spread in the dark  
An acre of grass, an acre of daisies:  
Northward, a square; to the south, a park;  
Mine is the midst of pleasant places.

Hence I can see, as the midnight wears,  
The first blue tides of the morning steal  
Between the shores of cloud, among fleets of stars,  
Blanching the coigns of the Campanile,

And all the divine repose that looms  
Through the College Courts as the sweet hours go;  
Palatial piles and their cloister'd glooms,  
And dormer, and terrace, and portico.

While the sea-like city is laid asleep,  
No motion or sound in its mountain heights  
Of dark, vast waves, - or its furrows deep,  
Sown with the lines of unnumber'd lights,

Till the blue turns grey, and the grey turns gold,  
And the sea and land taste the new day's breath;  
And I hear the joys of the young man told  
By the wakening birds in the boughs beneath.

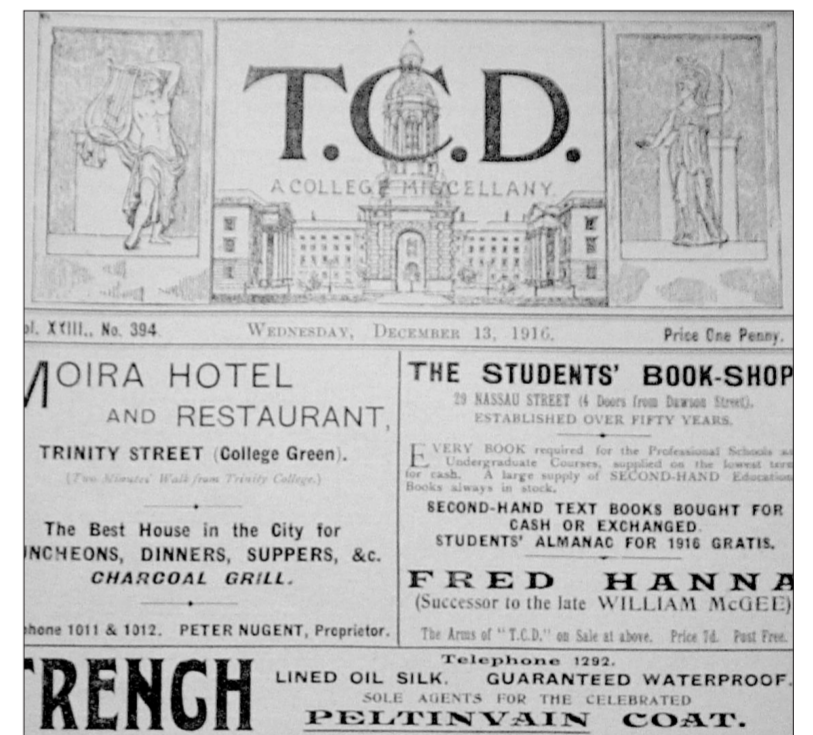
And thus in the city, I scarcely sigh  
For hollows that eglantines perfume,  
And speedwells make like an undersky  
Peering through clouds of chestnut bloom.

For I know my part in the treasure trove  
Of the glad green meads where June winds roam,  
As I knew the looks of my fair first love,  
As I know the shapes of our hills at home.

And so I sleep in the hawthorn scent  
That dwells with me here like a haunting passion,  
And so in the city I wait content  
While the time draws on to the long vacation.

W. W.

(The author, William Wilkins (Sch 1876, BA 1878, MA 1881), was the first student to combine Mathematics with Modern Literature for his degree, which he did in 1878. This poem was originally published in the *College periodical Kottabos* and later reprinted in the compilation *Echoes* from Kottabos (ed. R. Y. Tyrell, 1906). - Peter Henry)



## Student journalism in College over 90 years ago

Many graduates of Dublin University will be reminded of the flight of time by the news that *TCD: A College Miscellany* has just celebrated its 21st birthday.

Such modest anniversaries are apt to be overlooked in days when kingdoms perish as lightly as sparrows fall. Indeed, we gather that the present staff of *TCD* had forgotten all about its majority until a former editor - *jam senior*, - and not readily to be cheated of the joys of memory - recalled it to their minds. Twenty-one is a very creditable age for a college newspaper. To have amused five generations of undergraduates and pin-pricked for so long an unchanging hierarchy of dons is a distinction that few of *TCD*'s contemporaries can claim.

University journalism is usually a rather casual affair; editors are like ships that pass in the night; and the rate of mortality is high. *TCD* has had its vicissitudes, but one editor after another has passed the live torch on, and a goodly body of ex-editors will offer their congratulations to the successor under whom the little paper has

achieved its majority.

One of the *emeriti* is now a professor of philosophy; another a reputable vicar in England; others are doctors and King's Counsellors; another is fighting in France; yet another has exchanged the joyous irresponsibility of college journalism for sober consideration of Mr Runciman's restrictions on pulp.

In their day they fought notable causes. Often they bearded, and sometimes beat, the Board. They promoted College reforms; to *TCD* the present undergraduate owes the boon that, at "Commons", he sits on a seemly chair, not on a rude bench.

In spite of these interesting memories, however, we may be sure that the ex-editors today are heartily envious of their latest successor. He holds their chair in the most splendid hour of Trinity College's whole 300 years. He is the chronicler of a host that has given itself to the cause of Empire and the glory of Ireland.

From *The Irish Times*, Thursday, February 17, 1916.

Compiled by Peter Henry

# WorldReview

## The thorn that could bring down a giant

FERGAL GROGAN  
STAFF WRITER

With less than one hundred and thirty days until the opening of the Beijing Olympics, it is not surprising that events in Tibet over the last three weeks have been afforded such intense scrutiny by the world's media. On 10 March, a minor protest took place in Lhasa to mark the 49th anniversary of the failed uprising against Chinese rule. Buddhist monks were joined by hundreds of lay Tibetans as they protested outside the Jokhang, the holiest temple in Tibetan Buddhism. The protest has spread into the surrounding area. It has developed into a major crisis for the Chinese authorities and one that they could really do without in the run up to the Olympics - in a year that has already seen Steven Spielberg pull out of his involvement with the Games as artistic director over China's perceived inaction over Darfur.

It is not surprising then that Beijing has restricted or denied access to foreign journalists to Tibet and its surrounding territories. The state-organised media trip into Tibet was disrupted by protesting monks who accused China of lying to the outside world. Furthermore, internet users in China have been prevented from viewing Youtube and other video-sharing sites after the uploading of videos relating to the current Tibetan crisis. The last three weeks have seen a series of protests and rioting by anti-Chinese Tibetans. The Chinese authorities, in return, have responded by instigating a build-up of armed forces in the region and have ordered the immediate surrender of the organisers of the protests. There has followed a series of claims and counterclaims from both sides and a propaganda war has ensued. However, until an independent interna-

tional observer or the international free press are independently allowed into the region to investigate, it is difficult to establish definitively the facts of the current crisis.

The International community has responded to the current crisis by advocating for dialogue between the Chinese authorities and the Dalai Lama. Low-level dialogue has been taking place over recent years yielding little progress. To undertake such dialogue in a more public domain would be a major step for the Chinese, who have accused the Dalai Lama of orchestrating violence, a claim that the Tibetan spiritual leader vehemently denies.

The current crisis is essentially over the legal status of Tibet. The Chinese government argues that Tibet has been part of China since the thirteenth century. Some Tibetans see outright independence as the ultimate goal, while the Tibetan government, in exile since 1959, call only for greater autonomy for Tibet. The plight of the Tibetan people has remained so prominent on the world agenda because of the persona of the Dalai Lama. The spiritual leader's non-violent approach and tolerance received international recognition by way of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

Tibet had acted as an independent entity from 1912 until 1951, when Mao forced Tibet to cede to China, without, however, receiving widespread international recognition. Pro-Tibetans argue that the intervening period has been one of repression and genocide through the Cultural Revolution and the subsequent attempted eradication of the Tibetan culture.

China argues that an independent Tibet is not viable. Furthermore, if China granted full autonomy to Tibet, it would be creating a dangerous precedent for the other ethnic regions like Taiwan or the Uighir separatists. Pro-independence Tibetans argue that China has developed the Tibetan economy for

China's own gain. They argue that the building of the Qinghai-Tibet railway, for example, was a way of enabling Beijing to reinforce its control over the remote region while concurrently making it easier for the migration of ethnic Chinese into Tibet.

China has invested billions in to the Tibetan economy in a bid to quell unrest, particularly since the 1980's. However, critics argue that such endeavors were ill-conceived and have only provided increased wealth to the ethnic Chinese in Tibet. Much of the rioting since 10 March has centered on Chinese owned businesses. Another viewpoint in the Tibetan issue is the line adopted by the Dalai Lama, for China to permit Tibet greater autonomy in her own affairs, perhaps akin to that of Hong Kong or a model of self rule like that agreed between 1951 and 1959. Such a model would include the participation of the Dalai Lama. Tibetans argue that they have seen very little progress over the decades and are growing increasingly frustrated, as highlighted by the current heightening of tensions. It is likely that without dialogue this unrest will sporadically continue.

With the visit of the Dalai Lama to Britain in May this year and the arrival of the Olympic flame in Tibet en route to Beijing later this year, it is clear that in the run-up to the Olympics, Tibet will continue to hold the attention of the international community. The Chinese will come increasingly under the international microscope. It will be interesting to see the Chinese response if, for example, some international media outlets boycott the Olympic Opening Ceremony in protest at the lack of access to Tibet. China, for good reason, does not wish for the Games to be politicised. Given China's questionable human rights record and the wide support for issues like Tibet, it is unlikely that they will win this particular contest.



A Tibetan supporter at a recent rally in Paris. The tour of the olympic torch worldwide has been attended by political supporters of both Tibet and China. Photo: Philippe Leroyer

## What now for Cuba after Castro?

ROB BRESLIN  
NEWS REPORTER

Cuba's ageing leader Fidel Castro decided several weeks ago not to put himself forward for reelection as the country's Prime Minister, a post he has held for almost 49 years. His retirement has been met with a distinct lack of fanfare on a global news scale and I am interested in why this is so. It seems to speak volumes for Cuba's diminished stature and importance in world politics comparative to its position in the 50's and 60's. Back then Cold War tensions reached an all-time high with the location of Soviet ballistic missiles on the tiny island, the "Cuban Missile Crisis", very nearly leading to confrontation with the United States and a probable nuclear World War III.

Castro's staying power and that of his socialist revolution and Communist Party (PCC), is no small feat in a country located on the doorstep of the world's most fearsome defender of democracy, and therefore

natural enemy, the United States. Only 90 miles separate these two old foes. Castro's longwinded rants against American capitalism are synonymous with the man who defined himself largely by those whom he opposed, chiefly the United States. For this and other ideological crimes, several attempts were made on his life, the most famous of which is an apparent attempt by the Central Intelligence Agency to kill him using an exploding cigar. This and other stories have become legendary and helped to cement Castro's iconic globally recognisable image.

So why such little fuss as the man passes into retirement after decades of conspicuous rule? Well, essentially, Cuba's influence or importance has diminished hugely and with new ideological battles being fought between Islam and Christianity, the struggle against the world's few remaining Socialist states is not high on the agenda. Also Castro's personal power was waning as his health deteriorated in the last few years, with his brother Raul essentially running the country since Fidel's stroke some

“...several attempts were made on his life, the most famous of which is an apparent attempt by the Central Intelligence Agency to kill him using an exploding cigar.”

nineteen months ago. But that's not all. It is obvious that the Socialist Party intend to continue to run the country as a one party state and have the benefit of seeing how China's relationship with the global community has developed over the years. China's size and population of course are harder to ignore than the comparatively less populated Cuba, where embargos and a lack of access to basic materials such as soap have been a part of daily existence for the past 50 years. But Cuba's ageing political elite would do well to take China's lead in the slow opening up of its markets, an inevitability if they wish to truly take Cuba and its people into the 21st Century.

It might, therefore, be in American best interests to sit tight and see what Raul does before reconsidering their dogged stance centred on embargoes and isolation. Msrs Obama, Clinton and McCain are unlikely to be calling for dialogue as they battle for the presidency, for it would be very difficult to gauge United States public opinion on this thorny old issue; with no clear benefit in doing so,

I'm guessing they'll leave it well alone. If the United States had any intention of reaching out to the new leader then I'm sure we'd see a swath of coverage on this story, but as it stands, it seems there will be little surface ripples as Raul goes about his business in his renowned discreet fashion.

It seems small changes are already taking place, mostly unannounced in the Party newspaper, such as introducing the wider population to mobile phones or allowing farmers more freedom to buy tools, improve their land and determine output. These moves will be welcomed with trepidation, as they do not necessarily mean a better life for the majority of the people.

Cubans, wise in the language of doublespeak and accustomed to double standards as they are, are unlikely to become overly optimistic for such reforms and token gestures. They are not likely to miss the colossal father figure that has adorned every street corner, voiced so many public announcements and directed almost every facet of Cuban daily life for fifty years. Cubans are a very proud people

and it would also be foolish to think they are just waiting for a chance to free their markets and jump on the capitalist bandwagon. They want Cuba for Cubans, a perspective greatly encouraged by Fidel in the last half-century, and if Raul can provide this with minimal progressive benefits I feel most of the population will be content.

Bear in mind, however, that Raul is only five years his brother's junior at 77 and those that fought the revolution and have commanded such respect over the years are also ageing. In a changing global structure, there is room for a progressive socialist Cuban state once they figure out how to befriend America, but they must look to Russia, China and Vietnam for comparative studies of the do's and don'ts in one-party politics.

Cuba enters this new era with a whisper as opposed to a bang, but there will be talking points to debate for sure in the coming months and years as unavoidable change, driven largely by technology, creeps into life on this mysterious Caribbean island. Cuba and its people are ready, one must hope its leaders are on the same page.

# WorldReview



President of the African National Congress Jacob Zuma has had a career plagued by controversy, but has retained support throughout numerous trials and allegations. Photo: James Stenson

## Is the Rainbow Nation showing its true colours?

**PAUL HANNON**  
STAFF WRITER

Sitting in a café on, ironically, Robert Mugabe Street in a wet and humid Maputo, capital of Mozambique, surely the only country in the world with a Kalashnikov on its national flag, I reckon this is an opportune moment to reflect on matters in South Africa. Almost fifteen years after the miracle of the end of apartheid in 1994, I have found a suitably broad and often contradictory range of opinions in this diverse cosmopolitan land.

For many South Africans, particularly Afrikaners, there is a patent fear that South Africa could be harbouring their own Robert Mugabe in Jacob Zuma, the newly elected president of the ANC, having defeated national president Thabo Mbeki in party elections in December. Zuma is a populist and a polarising figure who has taken advantage of Mbeki's perceived aloofness by reaching out to the party's grassroots and promising to deliver jobs, land and a reduction in crime. Zuma was sacked from government and parliament in 2005 after being charged with rape, of which he was acquitted after a very public trial in which supporters were bussed up daily to the trial in Johannesburg. He is currently fighting corruption charges through the courts and will stand trial again in August. Should he overcome this latest obstacle, he is likely to assume the presidency of South Africa when Mbeki's second term ends next year.

Among other matters, Zuma is charged with accepting an annual bribe from French company Thales, who were awarded an arms supply contract in 1998. Zuma and his supporters have hit back by claiming Mbeki himself had a role in the awarding of a much larger fighter jet contract to British Aerospace over a more cost-effective alternative from Swedish company Saab/ABB in

the late 1990's as Chair of the Defence Procurement Committee. Mbeki refuses to be drawn on the subject, despite parliamentary questions and Zuma's supporters want this silence to be guaranteed with an amnesty for all those allegedly involved in questionable dealings, including Zuma himself.

As a backdrop to all this political shadow-boxing, the ANC, again at its congress in December, resolved to abolish the FBI-style "Scorpions" - an independent investigative body which has been remarkably successful in unearthing corruption in business and political circles and which is leading the case against Zuma. The plan, to incorporate the Scorpions into the regular police force and hence answerable to the government, has been widely attacked and is now subject to a mass constitutional challenge. The "Big C" of African diseases - corruption - is very much an ever-present in the modern South Africa. Zuma, meanwhile, has moved to placate Afrikaners fears that he will engage in Mugabe-style land-grabbing policies and is about to embark on a European tour to boost his poor international image and has also shifted his position on Zimbabwe, criticising Mbeki's softly, softly approach.

The declining value of the Rand, combined with global increases in commodities from oil to basic foodstuffs, has led to an inflation spiral that is gathering pace. People are being advised of the benefits of paraffin oil as a fuel substitute and to cut back on non-essential luxuries. No one in London or Dublin, Sydney or Melbourne, Vancouver or Toronto could be unaware of what is described of variously as the South African "chicken run" or "brain drain" as young highly qualified, predominantly white South Africans dig out the granny's birth certificate or jump on ubiquitously advertised assisted emigration programmes and vote with their feet on the future of the Rainbow Nation.

The finger is conveniently pointed at the ANC government's positive discrimination policy, called Black Employment Empowerment, whereby public and private bodies and other employers are obliged to maintain a quota of non-white employees, particularly at management, technical and high levels within organizations. This has led to what are euphemistically called "cappuccino companies" with a sprinkling of black South Africans at Board Level over a technical, management level of whites and an increasingly darkening workforce as one moves down the organisational structure. Many give the reason for the poor performance of public utilities and large private companies as the forcing of qualified and experienced white technicians and management out of their posts because of BEE, replaced by ill-qualified and inexperienced black staff. Removing the racial overtures of these sentiments, there is more than a grain of truth to this foreseeable side effect of positive discrimination policy.

A more direct driver of the brain drain is at a more fundamental level - fear. Crime statistics in South Africa are staggering by anyone's scale. The country is averaging 55 murders per day, yes, per day and the figures for other recorded offences are equally shocking. Johannesburg has long been considered one of the most dangerous cities in the world, but the centres of nearly all large urban areas in South Africa are no-go areas on foot after dark and indeed many areas also during the day - highlighted as such on city maps issued to tourists, as more affluent workers withdraw to gated armed response communities in the leafy suburbs.

Social life for many urban white and increasingly non-white South Africans revolves around American style suburban shopping malls. Visiting a sample of these and the wealthy suburbia surrounding them, one is struck by the extraordinary affluence of

part of the population, particularly the nouveau riche generation which has been benefited directly from the change to democratic government to an almost Russian scale. Meanwhile, their neighbours remain cheek by jowl in dire poverty in the townships and squatter camps. There is certainly a "rich getting richer and poor getting poorer" feeling among lower class workers and a growing resentment of those who have benefited from links to the Mbeki government, which is further fueling Zuma's support as he promises to slash the 25% unemployment rate.

The combination of these and other issues, too numerous to discuss, has appeared to have generated a widely pessimistic feeling, leading to a general widespread despair which, in my experience, is not entirely warranted. There are so many positives in this country by African standards, it is difficult to know where to start. While racial and intertribal tensions do exist, there is a far too great a diversity of educated people and a structural transparency in parliament, media and judiciary for South Africa to become the next Zimbabwe or even Kenya. The country has an infrastructure which is easily comparable to any western standard.

While cynics say it will all fall apart, the optimism generated by the opportunity to host the 2010 Football World Cup, the biggest sporting event on the planet, is a rallying point around which all South Africans can build their nation to showcase its talents to the world, in the way winning the Rugby World Cup showed is possible. Tourism potential is unquantifiable as are investment

opportunities if one is willing to accept positive discrimination as a necessary tool to right a century of wrongs in the workplace. Whilst the scourge of HIV and AIDS has reached frightening proportions, placing South Africa at the top of the list by some measures with a close to 40% infection rate and almost 2.5 million recorded deaths attributed to the disease, the government has belatedly woken up to the problem and funding, antiretroviral drugs, free healthcare and awareness campaigns are now firmly in place. Blatant racism, which clearly still exists, is now highlighted with public opprobrium from all sides.

The Rainbow Nation is reaching a critical point in its development as a post colonial, multi-racial and very much African country to which the rest of the continent looks to for guidance and leadership. Escaping the shackles of apartheid through reconciliation will take generations to come, but the job of transition is facing some of its biggest challenges yet, the resolution of which may well dictate how those future generations view both themselves and their ancestors in an uncertain but potentially very prosperous future.



# Foreign Adoption

## From China with love:

A personal account of one family which chose the option of foreign adoption

*In an age of stepsisters, half-brothers and interracial marriages, Ireland's families are today more diverse than ever before. Neil Monahan describes his parent's decision to adopt two babies from China and bring them home to roost in Meath. When asked where she is from, his ten year old sister Mei Mei replies that "I am Chinese, but I'm from Navan." Their family is one clear example of how far Ireland has come during the last fifteen years, not simply concerning the consequences of immigration but also in terms of our country's own attitude toward issues such as adoption.*

It was ten years ago this week that my parents returned from China with the baby girl called Mei Mei who was to be my sister. We were among the first few Irish families to benefit from a 1996 Supreme Court decision to allow adoption between the two countries. In the decade since, over three hundred more Chinese children have come to Ireland. Mei Mei had spent the first nine months of her life in an orphanage in the Hunan province; as a newborn, she had been left in blankets outside the local police station. Her case was typical of many girls born to the region's poor families, who sought a boy that could provide for his parents in their old age. The government's effort at population control, the One Child Policy, resulted in thousands of baby girls filling up orphanages across the country. A generation of boys became the hope in their parents' futures, while their unlucky sisters waited for new families to find them. Mei Mei, her name meaning "beautiful sister" in Chinese, made us the lucky ones a decade ago.

Mei Mei was joined three years later by Leo, another baby who had been left wrapped in blankets to be found by passersby. After spending a few months in an orphanage in the Hunan province of central China, my parents adopted him and

brought him back to our home town of Navan. The reason for a precious boy being given up was that he had a club-foot, a condition that would have prevented him from walking or working. In the West, a simple and relatively cheap surgical procedure can remedy this in a matter of months and relieve the sufferer of any disabling effects. However, in China this is beyond the means of most families, therefore children with such minor afflictions are regularly abandoned. A boy that cannot provide for his family one day will, tragically, not suffice under the One Child Policy, thus Leo eventually ended up with our family and his foot is now fully healed after a short stint in a cast. He is now running, playing tennis and kicking a football like any other kid. One can only imagine his fate had he had been left invalidated in his orphanage.

The fates of many other children in Chinese orphanages were depicted in a Channel 4 documentary called *The Dying Rooms* in 1995. The filmmakers gained access by posing as Western aid-workers and used hidden cameras to record footage of the facilities. Shocking images of children chained to furniture, severely malnourished and left to die in these institutions were broadcast to appalled viewers in the UK and Ireland. The victims of this treatment were, predictably, nearly all girls and the film presented the material as evidence of systematic murder of this unwanted segment of Chinese society. The female child seemed to have become an unwanted burden in the eyes of the state and so they "disappeared" into the barren rooms of underfunded orphanages. Despite controversy and argument over the accuracy of the film's findings, it spurred many to action. Almost immediately, British and Irish

adoption agencies experienced a surge of inquiries regarding Chinese adoptions.

Adoption between Ireland and China had been prevented up until 1996 due to the incompatibility of their legal systems. But following a Supreme Court decision that bypassed this hurdle, prospective parents were given the chance to seek children from the world's most

populous nation. My parents were among the first to be assessed by their local Health Board as to their fitness to adopt. The process, taking three years or more, involves extensive and intrusive interviews, health checks, financial inquiries and other intimate details of applicants' lives. This long and arduous evaluation is justified by the importance of entrusting a child's life to good people who can provide a promising future. Often those who seek to adopt are unable to have children of their own. It may be a very sensitive subject for some, but has to be broached by those conducting the assessments and discussed. For all these reasons, the appraisal procedure is an unpleasant and trying one that is only born because of the promise of parenthood. Only on the day that a photograph and details of the child arrive through the door is all forgiven by those anxiously waiting. The face staring out at them is likely to do so for the rest of their lives. It is a moment of joy, emotion and relief. Knowing the identity of their future daughter or son soon turns to impatience and frustration, as it may be weeks before they are due to visit the orphanage. All that time, the infant remains in the care of its orphanage, separated from its imminent kin.

Recently on a trip to China, I witnessed the incredible sight of thirty American couples (and one single lady) collecting their babies in a government office. This coachload of anxious, teary-eyed and impatient people filled the

busy waitingroom while they awaited the arrival of their precious cargo. For nearly an hour, these nervous wrecks sat biting their nails, squeezing each other supportively and jumping every time the door opened. For them it was the moment they were to become parents for the first time, their equivalent to the mad rush to the maternity hospital. Finally the patter of many feet came from the corridor outside, resulting in a sudden hush in the previously bustling room. A long line of Chinese women march in with bright-yellow-clad babies in their arms. The tension has gotten to many and tears have started to roll. Quite quickly family names are called out and couples approach to pick up their baby from the top of the line. One-by-one the bundles of colour are dispatched and left by their carers in the arms of trembling mothers and awkward fathers. I am asked to take numerous photos, presumably the first family portraits. The brevity of the exchange is amplified by the permanence of this new bond. Filing out, the Americans look shell-shocked and bewildered, but very, very happy.

Mei Mei and Leo came into our family just like this and even in the same waitingroom. From these atypical origins come typical kids. She likes horses, painting and playing Gaelic football at school, while he is obsessed by Lego and his Nintendo DS. Mei Mei doesn't see herself as any different from her friends or classmates and feels that being adopted is not really a big issue. On being asked where she is from, her reply is simply that "I am Chinese but I'm from Navan." In her class alone, there are seven different nationalities; the new multicultural face of Ireland has meant an easy integration. Irish identity has become more fluid and less restrictive in the last decade. As a result, adoptive children have one less hurdle to jump in the all-important "fitting in" process.

That adoption no longer carries the stigma of old has also aided their smooth transition into Irish life. In days past, when the moral authority of the Catholic Church still reigned supreme, children were often given up for adoption by "fallen" women. The shame of childbirth outside wedlock could ruin a girl's life and prospects; children were consequently often born in secret before being placed in an orphanage. The connotations that surrounded adoption therefore were of sin and pity. Often people were told when they turned eighteen, if at all, and the matter was spoken of in secretive tones by the family and the broader community. As our society became more secular, the values of the Church receded to the background. As a result, adoption seems to have emerged from the shadows and its stigma has, thankfully, been lost. This is another major obstacle removed from

the adopted person's journey through life.

Mei Mei and Leo are both Irish and Chinese. The culture of their homeland and ancestors must not be forgotten. Identity is always a huge issue in the lives of those adopted, especially when coming from a different race and culture. In order to prevent crises in the future, their Chinese identity must be fully supported and encouraged. It has helped greatly that there are ten other families in our town that have adopted children from this country too. This network of families have acted like a support group for both parents and children alike. Together they have lessons in the language, celebrate birthdays, the Chinese New Year and attend events for charities that support orphanages in their native land. The adults can discuss and advise each other on any of the complications of parenting and adoption, while the kids become friends with others just like them. These bonds and friendships will be very important during the choppy waters of the teenage years. It is far easier to go through this amongst others than alone. If any issues arise for them in later years they will have somebody to talk to and understand them. Our families have already taken regular holidays together to China, bringing them back to their hometowns and showing them their orphanages. By dealing with their origins openly from the very beginning, it is hoped that Mei Mei, Leo and the others will be comfortable with their backgrounds and more understanding of who they are. Thus they are fully aware of their dual identities and the reasons behind their adoption. This openness will hopefully demonstrate that being adopted is nothing to be ashamed of and that their heritage is something to celebrate and explore.

Leo Tolstoy opened his novel *Anna Karenina* with the famous words: "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." This aphorism may have been true in his time, but families today are more complex and diverse than they have ever been. Adoptive families are becoming more and more common in today's society. Fertility problems amongst those who are marrying at later ages have increased, leading to a heightened interest in adoption. The recent movie *Juno* presented just such a position, where a couple look to a teenage mother for a child of their own. The film treats adoption not as a tragedy or as a source of shame for either parties, but as a solution in a difficult situation. There was, refreshingly, no moralising or finger-pointing. When pop culture takes such a view of adoptive families, then it is surely losing any stigma it may once have carried. In Ireland there are hundreds of happy families who are not at all like their neighbours. Today, unmarried couples, stepbrothers, half-sisters, interracial marriage, fostering, and adoption all ensure that families are rarely the same. There is no one form which a happy family takes anymore. Mine is proof of that.

# Native Tongue

## A Parnell Street education

Looking across from the window of my classroom at the sun-bleached mural of the Crucifixion that decorates the stairwell of a crumbling 1970's social housing scheme and casts an eye over the groups of kids who play nightly between the complex's washing lines, it's hard sometimes not to feel like a ripped-off holidaymaker let down by the reality of their destination: "Do TEFL and see the world – South America, Asia, Africa"...not the arse-end of inner-city Dublin – isn't that what the brochure promised? But, in truth, travel was not my primary intention when I did the TEFL teacher-training course and, while it could hardly be described as glamorous, teaching English to foreign students in Dublin is, in its own way, often quite an exotic experience.

### Monday

Monday is a day for change – usually of the unexpected variety. Last week, I arrived to discover that the wall between my room and the "library" next door had been knocked through and that my class had, therefore, been upgraded from a pub gig to what felt like a stadium show; today, I learn, is an enrollment day and, most significantly in a school made up almost entirely of Chinese students, the first day since many of them arrived back in Ireland following Chinese New Year. As well as disrupting the dynamic of a class whose respect I have, after a bit of up and down, entirely won, and whose company I enjoy, the arrival of a batch of new students reopens some sensitive "classroom management" issues.

Regardless of the level of difficulty for Irish people of pronouncing their names, most Chinese people adopt (or are branded with) English names. However, whether out of mischievousness or understandable resentment, they are often less than forthcoming with these. So, having, I think, lost one student earlier in the year when out of desperation I called her "Euro" one too many times, I approach my newly-swollen class with great caution.

Just as I begin to congratulate myself on the genius of the various name-avoidance tactics I employ (subtle things, like calling out "next" and getting the class to answer questions in order rather than having to pick out individuals), I become aware of bubbling dissent and quickly realise my mistake: inconsistency. I've been using the names of those students I am comfortable pronouncing and calling out "next" or pointing only for those I am not. And, as it has become clear that I can only pronounce half of their names, the result is a class split between annoyance and amusement.

Not perhaps the greatest start to a new term, but no walk-outs at least. I leave the class at the end, regretting giving the students an easy-ride by telling them they could me Nick rather than throwing in the extra two syllables that make up Nicholas.

### Tuesday

In the self-regarding school where I did my TEFL teacher-training, I heard the terms "visa factory" and "visa school" thrown about in snooty tones several times and in my apparently very literal mind pictured a sweat-shop-type set-up with a team of immigrants spending twelve hours a day slaving over the production of false documents, while a supervisor recites pages from Murphy's English Grammar in Use through a megaphone. However, having applied for a job in January during the slow season when the city's bigger-name schools already had a full teaching staff and ending up, therefore, in a smaller less glamorous school, I can confirm that the reality is nothing so sinister or criminal.

Student visas are the most flexible and easily obtained type of visa and as well as studying, entitle recipients to work for up to twenty hours a week. As a result, many of those in receipt of student visas do not come to Ireland primarily for the purposes of education but to squeeze in as many working hours as they are legally permitted – and probably more – and only attend language schools in order to fulfill the requirements set out by the government. Those schools, such as mine, where the majority of students come to class primarily to get their names ticked off the atten-

*The Teaching English as a Foreign Language qualification is seen by many as a passport to far-flung destinations. But for Nicholas Hamilton, it was path to the unique experience of teaching English to Chinese Dublin residents.*

“

Apart from a few appalled questions about Irish drinking habits, my curiosity about the lives of Chinese people in Ireland is rarely reciprocated.

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dance roll, are commonly referred to as "visa schools" or "visa factories."

During my interview, the Director of Studies warned me that motivation is a big issue in many classes before elaborating, rather alarmingly, that students falling asleep in class was not an infrequent problem. While students are often tired, having done a day's work by the time class begins at 5.45 each evening, this is a problem I have yet to encounter. Nevertheless, the situation facing the teacher can sometimes be awkward – not wanting, on the one hand, to be unsympathetic to students who work hard all day in order, in many cases, to send money home to their families, but, on the other, being paid to do more than supervise a slumber party.

However, having handed over 1500 euros to the school for six months' tuition, most students are, understandably, not entirely closed off to the idea of learning; it is just that the teacher has a much narrower window in which to grab their attention. And provided you are pragmatic and revise your expectations appropriately from those applica-

ble when teaching, say, a class of Italians who have come to study in Ireland for a month before returning to sit exams, the experience is not necessarily any less rewarding. As today, when the fact that Wen can give a brief summary of a news story we read in class last week and Lan Lan remembers to use the verb "to make" rather than "to do" with "a mistake"; puts a bit of a spring in my step.

### Wednesday

For those not worn-out after a day's work, class is a social occasion when, after spending the day in the company of Irish people and those of other nationalities, students like to catch up and share stories and jokes. The Chinese sense of humour is surprisingly similar to the Irish, involving a greater sense of irony than that of many other nations apparently culturally closer to Ireland. And, despite their often shy appearance individually, when they get together, Chinese students enjoy nothing more than a bit of banter.

Irish drinking habits are a source of unending amusement, disgust and fascination for the Chinese. Today, the class are amazed that I can tell that the actress in the listening comprehension is Irish. Suiki, whose role in the class is that of court jester, pipes up with a theory: "Is it because she is drunk?" he inquires to hoots of laughter.

Contrary to many people's assumptions, TEFL courses are primarily concerned with passing on a methodology of teaching rather than providing a crash course in English grammar and as a qualified teacher, the minutes before most classes are spent frantically brushing up one's knowledge of one's native language. Assuming that you do get your head around whatever grammar point you have earmarked for class, however, the difficulty of communicating it, in the simplest terms possible, to a group of non-native speakers should not be underestimated.

Chinese students are particularly adept at portraying a polite and comprehending exterior; whether it is always back up by such a comprehending interior, however, is a mute point. Having nodded reassuringly throughout what I soon realise was a rambling explanation of a comparatively simple exercise, the most crushing moment of today's class comes when Zoë turns, in front of my face and matter-of-factly seeks a full explanation of what she is supposed to be doing from her partner.

“

In contrast to Eastern European immigrants – the stereotype of the astrophysicist Pole now pulling pints in your local – most Chinese immigrants are not highly qualified.

”

### Thursday

Undoubtedly the best and most interesting thing about working in a language school is the daily contact it provides with members of Ireland's immigrant communities, whose lives remain obscure to most members of the indigenous population, who rarely have the opportunity to say more than "please" or "thank you" to a Pole or Chinese person, when paying for their shopping.

Once a fortnight, each teacher is allowed to show their class a DVD or bring them on an "excursion" – usually to the cinema. In a perhaps naive effort to open up one another's culture to each other, tonight, I have invited my students to bring the class to a Chinese restaurant of their choice on Parnell Street, and, in return, intend to introduce them to the charms of Irish pub culture. Linda, the often vociferous mother hen of the group, has taken on booking duties and we are ushered upstairs, on arrival at the restaurant, to a private dining room complete with flat screen TV and karaoke machine, it becomes apparent that she has decided to

push the boat out.

The meal that follows is among the most surreal dining experiences I have ever had as I squeeze around the small table with my fifteen students and an Irish friend and new dishes arrive at five minutes intervals for at least three quarters of an hour to the accompaniment of surprisingly earnest renditions of both traditional and popular Chinese songs. My class prove themselves to be kind and attentive hosts, keen to explain what all of the dishes are and to hear my reaction and at the end of the meal, refusing any contribution towards the bill from my friend and I.

Unfortunately my effort to reciprocate is not a great success, as when I get outside the restaurant after the meal, I discover that most of the class have disappeared. Some have early starts in the morning and infrequent buses to catch, but sadly, despite my assurances that I would find somewhere peaceful and safe and that they wouldn't have to drink any alcohol, many seem to be intimidated by Irish pubs.

### Friday

One of the advantages of working in a "visa school" is the lack of obligation to teach a knock-out lesson each day. And the only complaint I have received in my current school being that I was making the students do too much work, I feel justified in allowing them to play board games and talk among themselves and with me during the second half of class on Fridays. As well as the half an hour I spend at the beginning of each class talking to the one or two punctual students while we wait for the others to arrive, class on Friday is usually one of the most interesting sources of information about the lives of Chinese people in Ireland.

In contrast to Eastern European immigrants – the stereotype of the astrophysicist Pole now pulling pints in your local – most Chinese immigrants are not highly qualified, few having more than second-level education. Most work in low-level jobs in factories, kitchens and shops; the most middle-class occupations are hairdressing and working as a beautician. Although in many cases only receiving the minimum wage, it is far greater than most Chinese people could hope to earn at home. And staying in Ireland for closer to ten years than five, when they return to China, most students intend to use the money they have saved up to make a big jump up the social ladder by becoming small business owners.

Apart from a few appalled questions about Irish drinking habits, my curiosity about the lives of Chinese people in Ireland is rarely reciprocated. Although some have expressed interest in seeing other parts of Ireland, for the most part my students are not particularly interested in engaging with Irish culture – or are too busy or exhausted to do so.

### Saturday and Sunday

Socially, working from 5.45 to 9.00 on weekday evenings can be very frustrating, meaning that you are busy during the few hours that friends with nine-to-five jobs are free and vice versa. However, while at the start class preparation can sometimes take a few hours, as you get into the swing of things, this is quickly reduced to virtually nothing and barely encroaches on your free time; leaving you free, in the way an impending essay or dissertation deadline doesn't, to enjoy your weekend unrestrictedly.

While teaching English in a far-off, exotic country is usually seen as a worthwhile adventure and legitimate life experience, doing the same in your hometown is often looked down upon as slacking for the unambitious and unimaginative and if asked what you do when out on the weekend, by somebody with a salaried and far more worthy job, the instinct is often to dodge the question or mumble inaudibly. However, as well as the worthwhile experience of getting to know people you would not otherwise have contact with and engaging with your city in a completely new way, the flexible hours and respectable pay (around 20 euros per hour) of a TEFL job afford the time to explore different careers through work experience and part-time work and, as well as being well-suited to those who want to travel, TEFL is also perfect for those who are actively trying to work out what it is that they want to do back home.

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# Trinity

## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Details for Heats

vs.

**Heat 1**  
Thursday 10th April  
9pm - €4 with flyer

Killer Chloe  
Fault Expert  
Oh, Child  
State Between States  
Hussey Scoop

**Heat 2**  
Wednesday 16th April  
9pm - €4 with flyer

Jazzberries  
Channels  
ibid  
The Tonix  
Mark Woods  
Take the Money and Run

**Heat 3**  
Wednesday 23rd April  
9pm - €4 with flyer

Jools King  
Valletta  
The Muscly Arms  
Vinyl Mesh  
Leonards Corner  
LikeKings

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16th APRIL

2nd Heat

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4th Heat

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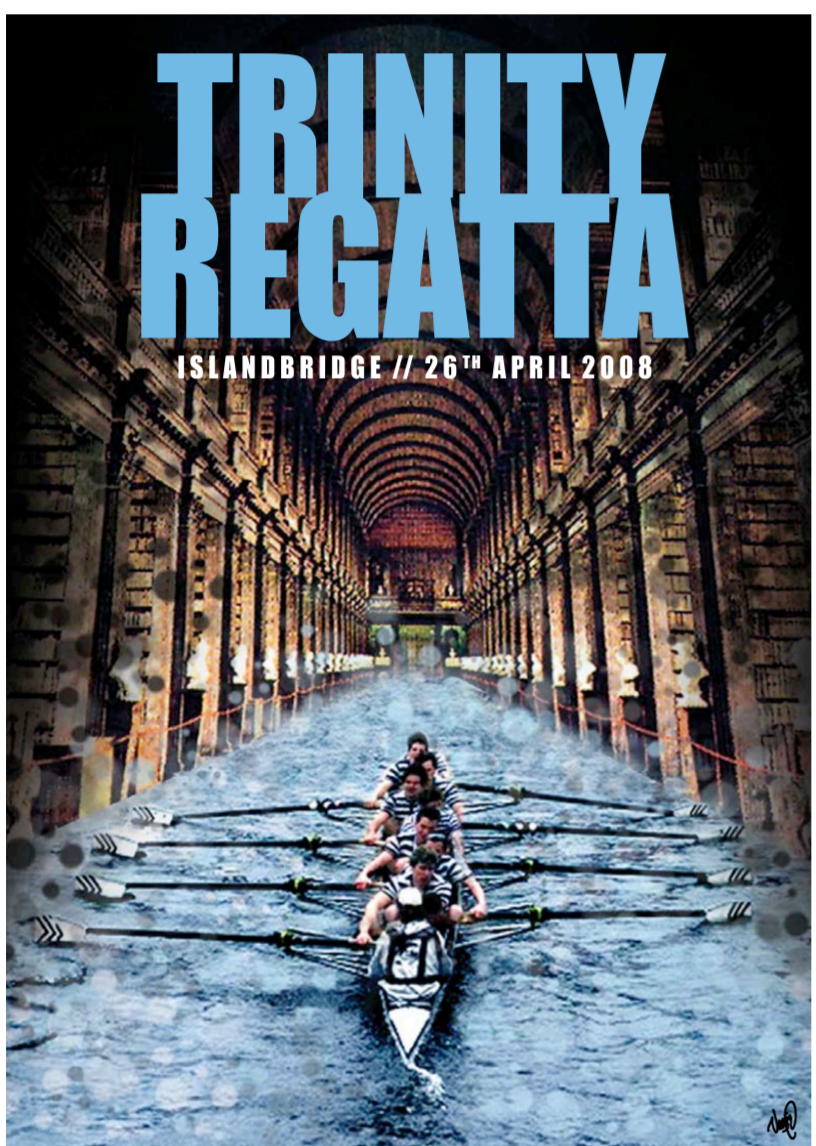
thursday 10th, 16th, 23rd april

wed 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd april

every tuesdays

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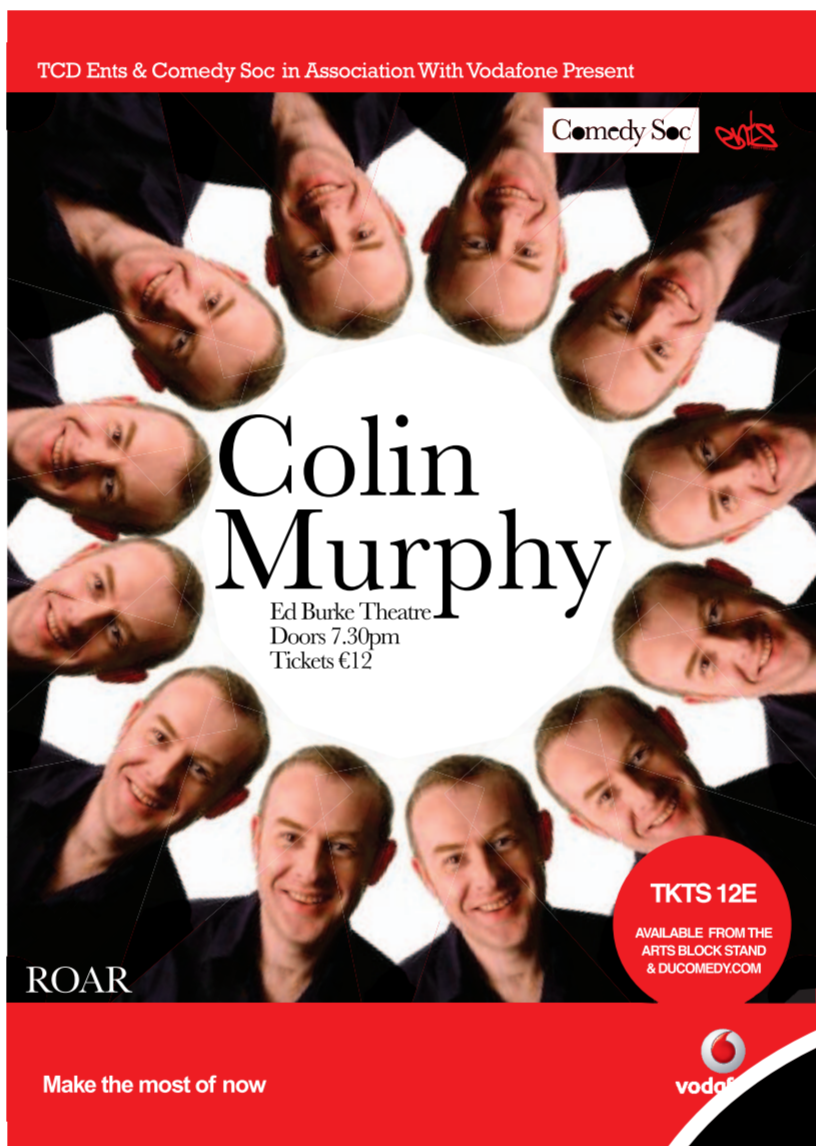
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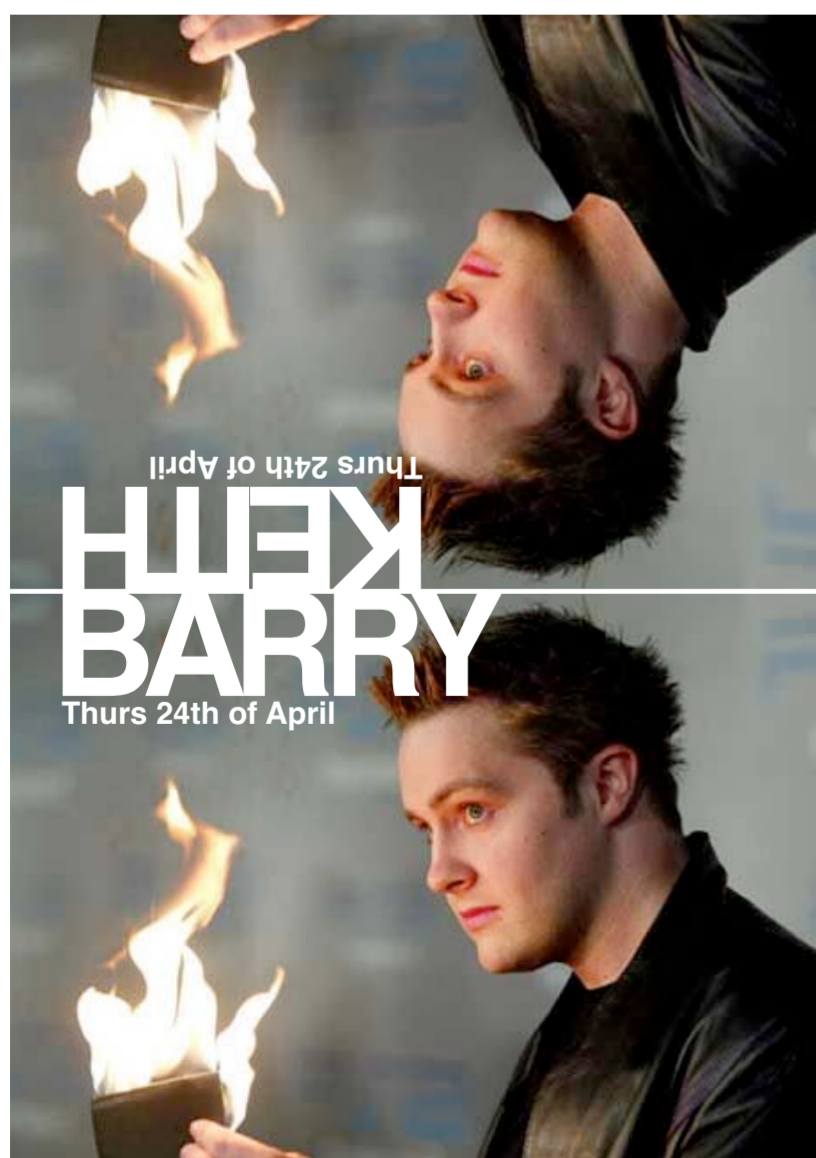
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Thurs 29th May	Turks Head
Fri 30th May	Purty Kitchen
Mon 2nd June	Trivia
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# WorldTravel

## Peru to Argentina: Across a continent

South America has become a far more popular destination than ever before, particularly among backpackers. **Andrea Mulligan** made the decision to cross the continent from Pacific to Atlantic in seven weeks, with not much of a plan and little knowledge of the area.

**ANDREA MULLIGAN**  
STAFF WRITER

When myself and three friends decided to backpack across South America, we knew almost nothing about it. I had heard that there was somewhere hidden called Machu Picchu in Peru, which sounded kind of cool and I quite liked the film *Evita*, so thought visiting Buenos Aires would probably be a good idea. On that basis, we booked a flight from Dublin to Lima, capital of Peru on 2 July and a flight home from Buenos Aires in Argentina on 23 August. We had just over seven weeks to cross the continent, making our way from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic.

Worryingly we didn't know all that much more about our trip when we actually arrived in Lima some months later. We had booked a room in the Flying Dog Hostel in Miraflores, the safest area of the city and a flight to Cusco two days later, but that was it. So we gathered in our comfortable but drafty room with a bundle of Lonely Planet guidebooks to make some plans. Ill-advised as this sounds, it actually worked out pretty well. Because we had allowed ourselves seven weeks to make it to Buenos Aires, we didn't have to be too rigid with our schedule. That was probably my favourite thing about the journey: the complete freedom. Flexibility means if you like somewhere you can stay a week, if you don't, you can just pack your bag and move on. So in Lima we put together a rough outline of the places we'd like to go, along with an idea of when we'd like to get to them.

We began the real adventure with our flight to Cusco a few days later. Cusco was the most important city of the Inca empire. It is perched in the Andes at nearly 3500m above sea level. Before I went to South America, figures like 3500m above sea level meant absolutely nothing to me, but while there they became very significant. To put it in perspective, Carrauntoohil, the highest mountain in Ireland, is just over 1000m high. 3500m is very high indeed and we were to climb even further before eventually reaching the 5000m mark on the Boliviano Altiplano. With such a location, Cusco is surrounded by dramatic scenery, but the altitude has its drawbacks, namely freezing cold weather and altitude sickness. July is the harshest month of the winter in Peru and Bolivia, so don't be taken in by the typical image of sun-drenched South America. Even if you are horribly unprepared like we were, there is vast amounts of Lama wool clothing on sale, which will keep you wonderfully warm.

Harder to deal with is the altitude sickness. For some people it will just feel like mild shortness of breath, a certain tiredness when you climb a flight of stairs. On our first days in Cusco we just felt absolutely exhausted, a bit like you might with a bad flu. Common effects include headaches, insomnia, and for some, the symptoms of a bad stomach bug. Luckily there is a way to cope with

this weird ailment: coca tea. This is tea made from the controversial coca leaf. The coca leaf has a very important place in Peruvian and Bolivian cultures, it is central to religious ceremonies, chewed for energy and was sometimes used as currency. But its most famous use is as the primary ingredient of cocaine. Drinking coca tea won't give you a high, but it will help you deal with the altitude- you'd be very foolish to refuse it.

Some people feel Cusco has become too touristy, but I think it has a certain charm. The nightlife is surprisingly fun- where else would you find people out dancing in hiking boots and fleeces? So if you do visit Cusco, spend a few days there to adjust to the altitude and have some fun. Especially if you have decided to undertake that most famous of mountain hikes: the Inca trail. This is a four day trek from Cusco to Machu Picchu, the lost Inca city. I did not actually do the Inca Trail myself (and can't say I regret it), but opinion on it seems to be divided. Most people say you don't need to be very fit or very experienced, but climbing at that altitude is always going to be a grueling experience. You go with a group of guides who carry your bags, prepare your food and pitch your tents, so that makes it quite a bit more comfortable. On balance I'd say unless you're a real outdoorsy type, be wary of tackling the Inca Trail and if you do go, remember to book months in advance, as places are limited.

There is a much easier way to see Machu Picchu and that is by taking the scenic four hour train journey from Cusco to the town of Aguas Calientes. Spend a night there and you can get up early enough to see the sun rise over the lost city - without ever going anywhere near a tent. Machu Picchu is very impressive. It's possible to take a guided tour in English and essential if you want to really get a feel for the place.

In Cusco we experienced a common feature of life in South America- strikes. Strikes happen all the time and usually mean that all transport stops so your plans will be disrupted on a regular basis. It's best to just get used to it and try and enjoy whatever random place you're stuck in.

When the strike died down we finally made it to Bolivia, the next stop on our journey. At best Bolivia can be described as fascinating - at worst as downright bizarre. Because Bolivia is so remotely located, balanced high in the Andes, it was extremely hard to colonise. As a result indigenous culture is more alive there than anywhere else in South America. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the capital city La Paz. Initially it seems like an ordinary sprawling metropolis, but on closer inspection you'll realise it's anything but ordinary. We stayed in the middle of the Witches' Market. As the name suggests, this is where you go to buy potions to cure various ills, charms and icons to ward off evil spirits or a lama fetus to bury under the threshold of your business to guarantee commercial success. These are most certainly not tourist trinkets- shops are crowded and



“

...we were involved in the daring rescue of a sloth who had found his way onto land reserved for logging and faced certain death without our aid. We felt nothing less than heroic.

”

Machu Picchu, 2,400 metres (7,875 feet) above sea level, is an ancient stronghold in Peru. The UNESCO world heritage site attracts over 400,000 visitors a year, despite its remoteness. Photo: Andrea Mulligan

shopkeepers are distinctly unfriendly to gawking tourists.

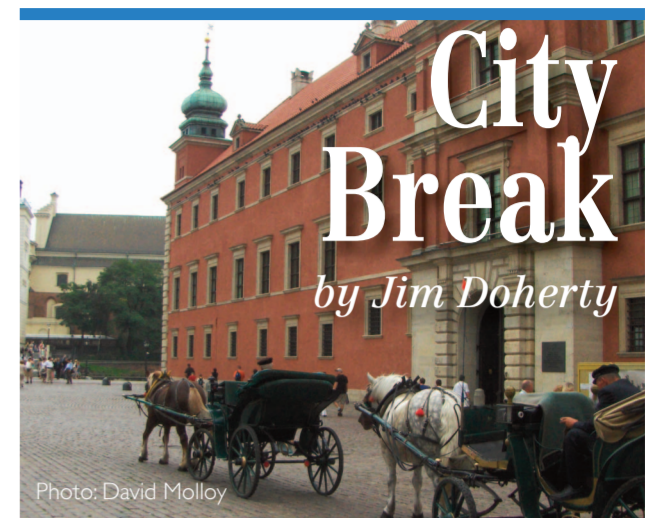
Eager for a break from the freezing cold, we headed north to take a trip into the Bolivian Amazon. Due to a problem with the local airline, we decided to make the trip by jeep. This turned out to be a costly mistake. The journey from La Paz to Rurrenabaque consists of a twelve hour drive on treacherous roads winding around sheer cliff-faces. Combined with the dire standard of Bolivian driving, this is an absolute deathtrap. After one of the most terrifying experiences of our lives, we made it to rainforest and resolved to wait as long as we needed to to get a flight back to La Paz.

You can choose to tour either the jungle or swamp part of the rainforest. We chose the swamp (known as the

Pampas) because it is easier to spot animals there than in the dark undergrowth of the jungle. The Pampas tour began with a two hour jeep trip from Rurrenabaque followed by a three hour boat trip down the river to our camp. We spent a highly exciting three days in the swamp. Accommodation is pretty basic, but you really feel like an intrepid explorer. It's certainly not for the faint-hearted- nighttime at the camp meant hoards of toads and all sorts of creepy crawlies- even the occasional tarantula! The river is full of alligators and piranhas, neither of which seemed to want to eat us. We also saw various types of monkeys and the famous Amazon pink dolphins, which looked suspiciously grey to me. The highlight of the trip was on our way back to Rurrenabaque where we were involved in the daring rescue of a sloth who had found his way onto land reserved for logging and faced certain death without our aid. We felt nothing less than heroic.

After the balmy heat of the rainforest, we headed for the other extreme- the Salt Plains of Uyuni. Now this is where giving travel advice becomes difficult. When we were on our three day trip of the Salt plains, I know we were entirely miserable. I know when we slept the night in a shed with broken windows in -24 degrees Celsius we were very far from happy. But in retrospect it seems utterly hilarious- and yielded some of the most memorable stories of the whole trip. The salt plains are impressive and are exactly what they say they are - a vast expanse of salt stretching as far as the eye can see. We even stayed in a hotel made of salt! When you're driving in a jeep for days, all that salt does get a bit monotonous. And then eventually it gets very very funny.

After a day back in the town of Uyuni- possibly the most miserable place on earth- we headed for Argentina. Sadly I have not enough space to describe Argentina in full, but I can do so in brief. Argentina is perfect. Everything from the people to the food to the shopping was wonderful. And there is so, so much steak!



City Break  
by Jim Doherty

Photo: David Molloy

WARSAW

## Communism, vodka, and the Bermuda triangle

Warsaw's central area is divided into two parts: the old town and the city centre. In the old town, traditionalism is the chief tourist attraction. One can hear traditional Polish music on most street-corners. There are stalls serving meaty delicacies or the Polish mountain treat *oscypek*, which is smoked cheese made from sheep's milk: lush and hot, it goes down a treat on a crisp day in December, when I visited. Restaurants are pricier in this area than in the city centre proper, but I found an inexpensive soup kitchen adjacent to the prestigious University of Warsaw. The Poles are extremely fond of soup, especially beetroot soup, which is a popular dish in the Christmas period.

The city centre proper is a rush of frenetic energy set to an urbane concrete beat. Stalin's dystopian Culture Palace, set amongst a hoard of newer skyscrapers, presides over the city. What stood out to me is that there is no main street or square as such in the centre, rather shopping and dining take place in large, impersonal, flashy complexes, such as the Zloty Tarasy. Here you can find all the high street and designer chains we have in Dublin and then some.

I stayed with friends in their apartment in a suburb called "Ursus", which means "tractor". In the Communist era, the suburb was centred on a tractor factory. The apartment block in which I stayed used to house the workers. The particular apartment my friends rent had been home to one of the managers, her name was on a plaque on the front door. She died only last summer and her clothes were still hanging in the wardrobe, her knick-knacks still decorating the living room. My friends discovered the woman's Communist party membership card, which possessed the kind of minimal austerity that one might expect. I was also shown a gold medal depicting a tractor: a reward from the party for exemplary service. I was informed. I found myself constructing a story of this person's life and yet in the end, even such tangible clues left gaps. How rewarding was being a good Communist? What sense of self-achievement did this person derive from such service?

My friends, who are Polish, had a rather disparaging attitude toward the good Communist life. They are too young to remember the regime; the most telling reference to it was "the time before we were free." Western Europe is, for them, *el Dorado*: the choice to work and to accumulate wealth is wholeheartedly embraced.

At night, the city trades in its cold daytime haste for an equally determined hedonism. Bouncers in Warsaw are selective about who they admit, even compared with those in Dublin. We were acceptable enough for a club called Zoo: entry is free for women; men pay fifteen zlotys (just over four euros). Clubs stay open much later than in Ireland, but the music is typical nightclub fare. Vodka is the drink of choice, and in Poland one downs a shot, then drinks fruit juice. I'm certain that Polish vodka is considerably stronger than the kind we drink here; my relative vodka ignorance and extremely generous companions ensured that I learned this the hard way!

A midnight ramble around the city introduced me to what the locals affectionately call the "Bermuda triangle." This refers to three locations in the vicinity of the Marriott where prostitutes sell their wares. Interestingly there is a hierarchy: the youngest, slimmest, and therefore most expensive hang around near the hotel, perched on the bonnet of their pimp's Mercedes. There is a progression then to those offering less expensive services: the final angle is the turf of a group of sexagenarian women in ankle-length faux-fur coats.

One needs to choose hostels in Poland with some care. I recommend Hostel Lemon in the centre of Warsaw. Reasonably priced, laundry and breakfast is included, and the facilities are more than adequate. Warsaw is serviced regularly by Ryanair and Aer Lingus. Krakow tends to attract more tourists, but flying to Warsaw is considerably cheaper; it is worth spending a night or two in the capital and then travelling by train to Krakow, which is only three hours away.

# SportFeatures

## The theatre of dreams

DAVID LYDON  
STAFF WRITER

Winter, 1966. A young undergraduate arrives in Edinburgh with the Trinity Rugby team on a hotly-anticipated tour. However, after the match, the undergrad sneaks off to the Traverse Theatre, preferring a quiet night of culture ahead of the intended boozy evening planned by his teammates. This was a shrewd move – for that young man soon found himself employed by, and eventually running, the Traverse, using it as a springboard from which to shape one of the most distinguished and successful careers in Theatrical Directing. For that undergraduate was none other than Max Stafford-Clark, now a famed director who has nurtured the careers of some of Britain and Ireland's best new writers. Back then, though, it was rugby that commanded his attention.

"By my own admission, I wasn't a bad scrum half whilst at Trinity. But I was a lousy director." These are amongst the first words Stafford-Clark utters upon our meeting. With the basement bar of the Royal Court theatre serving as the backdrop, fitting given his fourteen year tenure there as Artistic Director, I began to draw treasured memories from a theatrical heavyweight about his university days. His fondness for the rugby club is obvious – he claims that matches on College Park took immediate priority over his degree (a general studies course comprising of English and History) and even his considerable involvement with Dublin University Players, an interest that he would later develop into a career. "It was the reason

I went to Trinity," he cites. "That, and the prospect of balancing it with the theatre. No other place could grant you that, not even Oxford." Appropriately enough, he turned down a place in Oxford to study in Dublin. The fact that he continued his rugby after university – he played for Edinburgh Wanderers after moving to the Traverse, is testament to his love of the game. In fact, he needed no encouragement to recall the great moments he enjoyed; "Along with myself the Edinburgh Wanderers team boasted Ronnie Lamb, Nick Doyle, Ken Huston and Aubrey Bourke. That's Trinity, Oxford, Queen's University of Belfast and University College Dublin all in the same team." Interestingly enough, Stafford-Clark remembers Bourke's younger sister Mary coming to watch matches when they played in College Park – "She went onto become Mary Robinson – and you think you know a girl!"

As memories of College Park are put aside for the time being, I ask him about his eventual move into directing. It quickly transpires that, he took a Trinity Revue to the Edinburgh Festival the year he graduated; it fared rather better than the traditional heavyweights of Oxford and Cambridge and was invited down to London's Arts Theatre subsequently. "However," he reminisces, "we had to bump the show up from its original one-hour running time to two, which meant including all the material we'd previously rejected." Stafford-Clark pauses and laughs at the following memory: "The reviews weren't overly kind. The Evening Standard was particularly cruel and said that the one comfort to be taken from the show was that

none of the infantile amateurs involved would ever return to work in theatre professionally." He laughs retrospectively. "That certainly made a nice little anecdote for the Evening Standard Lifetime Achievement Award last year..." What is remarkable about the man is the sheer volume of work he still undertakes – with plays scheduled until 2010, he is easily one of the most prolific members of the London theatre scene and shows no signs of stopping. His current project, a twenty minute piece entitled *The Mother*, is evidence enough that he remains at the forefront of new writing. However, it wasn't always this way – "I was a classic case of learning on the job," he remembers. "To be honest, I blagged my way through my first few jobs and learnt through trial and error." Judging from his output since, it seems like this education has served him well.

So how comfortably do the interests of sports and the arts sit together? Well, in the words of Stafford-Clark, it's all to do with the collaboration. "Theatre is a collaborative art form. There's a collegiate aspect to directing – such as the writer being present in rehearsals, that is integral to the process." Known for his ability to turn a diverse group of actors into a tightly-knit company, this director clearly values the community that the theatre provides, a facet not too far removed from the rugby field. Was there a similar setup in Players? "Yes, except we were all so arrogant and competitive – it was a relief to be working professionally, much more laidback!" Stafford-



Clark also stresses the various strands of

the theatre world that make it unique – he even considers critics to be part of the theatre family, despite several run-ins with high-profile reviewers who may have differed in opinion. Hardly surprising for a man that has often had strained relationships with his writers and they're supposedly on the same side. When asked about the role of the writer within a production, he is enigmatic – "They are an invaluable resource but should certainly not be trusted to direct their own work." So why not just produce work by dead writers? "Never the same. Collaboration may be difficult, but it's essential." He recalls one such incident when fellow Trinity graduate Samuel Beckett was in the Royal Court, ranting about a New York interpretation of *Play*, which had been set on a subway. If relations are strained, why not write your own piece? "I think not" he calmly assures me. "I think I'll leave the writing to Mark Ravenhill. He knows what he's doing."

So what advice would one of the most eminent directors of new plays give to a young writer, then? "Observe life and find what you want to write about." That seems straightforward enough. "Although you should only write about essential issues. Anybody can complain about getting drunk on a Friday night." Later, he invites me to watch the dress rehearsal of his Ravenhill project in *Out of Joint's* (his touring theatre company) rehearsal space. Naturally I accept, eager to see him in action. I am not disappointed – even in the latter stages of a production he exudes a calm presence that is clearly a result of closeness within the company – a father figure, if you will. Watching him assess the bigger picture of a play through the smallest details is fascinating; his relationship with Mark Ravenhill is clearly well developed. After the rehearsal finishes, I ask him what he thinks of the current state of London's theatre scene – recently dominated by musicals and

spin-offs. "The West End is a desert. Always has been. There are never enough new plays on. However, anyone can get on a play in a room above a pub? Can anyone be a writer though? "Well, I've always said the two horses that pull the plough of playwriting are autobiography and journalism. If you've lived through something or can report as if you have, you're onto something."

With this mantra ringing in my ears, I ask him what he thinks makes Trinity such a special place. "Well, look at the number of writers it's produced for a start. Wilde, Beckett, Farquhar and the rest. And of course the rugby." Max Stafford-Clark can certainly be added to the long list of theatrical alumni that Trinity has produced. Any particular favourite memory, I ask, expecting an account of a successful play or a lifetime achievement award. "Playing for Trinity in Lansdowne in the Leinster Cup. I played so well in the first round – a six all draw – that they'd singled me out in the replay and I could hardly stand by

## Bridging the divide

*"I'm a Belfast man, an Ulster man, an Irishman, I'm British and I'm European, anyone who demeans any part of me, demeans me as a person." - John Hewitt*

JONATHAN DRENNAN  
SPORTS FEATURES EDITOR

Northern Ireland has changed. The haunting stream of images from the Troubles have largely been stopped, replaced by the impossible, the beaming duo of Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness. Tired stereotypes and a grotty cityscape have been quashed; gleaming new buildings and a deluge of fascinated tourists have become the norm. Before this cherished era of hope and reconciliation, people were working quietly and feverishly behind the scenes to provide a better future for their country. Former Irish rugby star Trevor Ringland was motivated by the pursuit of peace; sickened by the needless violence that plagued the North, the solicitor worked tirelessly at cross-community events and dialogue and he shows little signs of tiring.

The son of a policeman, growing up in the predominantly protestant town of Larne, Ringland's childhood was far removed from the glory he was later to find on the fields of Lansdowne Road and Twickenham. "Growing up as a child in Larne, you got used to it, I remember once my father had to play golf at 6 and he found a car that had

suspected of carrying explosives at 5, he was in a rush, so he had a quick look around and it seemed ok, he was about to move to check the boot, when he was advised not to by sergeant, he didn't and as it turned out, that sergeant saved his life." Ringland acknowledges that his father's experience mirrored many others; a good man trying to keep the peace in a violent country had his life constantly under threat from terrorists. Every night Ringland's father returned home with a different story to tell, it was rarely pleasant. "There was always a level of security consciousness, I can clearly describe what an AK-47 would do when it's shot into somebody's head, the families are the counsellors for the police officers, everytime my father turned the ignition in his car, he had to take a deep breath."

Warm and insightful, Ringland represents a curious paradox that affected many of his countrymen. He's a man with a Unionist political ideology who played with pride for a team that represented the 32 counties of Ireland. Despite being one of the finest wingers that Ireland produced and a Lions tourist in 1983, he is palpably reticent once it comes down to personal glory achieved on the field. He talks instead of his pride at wearing the green jersey

with his contemporaries North and South of the border. "When you look at what the conflict in Northern Ireland was about, it was an interpretation of Christianity-people need to be challenged in their religion, the Irish rugby team moved beyond all of this, it represented a different type of Britishness or Irishness, rugby created an inclusive Irishness dimension that included me."

For a man who strongly believes in unity, Sean Kelly's Rule 42 provided a convenient watershed for an Ireland that was keen to move on from petty bigotry. Opening up Croke Park to "foreign games", (despite the fact American football and the Special Olympics had been previously held there - draw your own conclusions), represented a courageous gesture from the Gaelic Athletic Association that encouraged Ringland. "That was a really commendable gesture, it undoubtedly helped to create a more inclusive Ireland, it's the way forward, it's working on both sides, the Northern Ireland football fans have taken action against sectarianism, though I do believe there has to be a change of anthem, to help us move forward progressively."

Politically Ringland represents the



Ulster Unionist Party, yet he is quick to state that he is primarily an advocate for peace. "Just because I believe in Unionism, doesn't mean I believe in inequality in Northern Ireland or anywhere else, I'm trying to work for the mutual benefit of Ireland, I'm a Unionist, yet crucially, I believe I'm a democrat." In an early interview a few years ago, I met a man in the Catholic New Lodge estate in Belfast who tirelessly worked as a boxing coach and as a peace broker to both sides of the divide. Similar to Ringland in many ways, I asked him why he stayed in Northern Ireland when so many of us have been quick to leave and avoid tired problems. He said, "If all the good people left this country, where would it be now?" That statement has stayed in my head for three years and it accurately characterises Ringland.

Angered by the DUP and Sinn Fein's failure to engage in any kind of political dialogue, Ringland and countless others were working tirelessly behind the scenes working tirelessly for peace, often with little thanks. He remains philosophical. "Society at home is reaping the benefits of years of work that many people have done, I do admit I find it rather difficult with Paisley and McGuinness in the spotlight, there's still so many fractures, but told to dry my eyes and get on with it, finally there are people getting out of the trenches and talking in no-man's land, some are even getting out of them for good and I believe rugby and soccer only will help this in the future."

Ringland represents many of the things Northern Ireland has to engage with if it is to have a sustained future: an ability to cross tired barriers and

engage in dialogue whilst constantly working for peace. Our morning interview in his solicitor's premises comes to a close, Ringland has numerous cases to prepare. Outside of the office, he has much to distract him, his latest project is the cross-community charity "One Small Step Campaign: bringing people from both sides together through dialogue. Ringland's closing words resonate in my head all the way home to Dublin. "I love the idea of the German soldiers playing football on Christmas Day with the British in no-man's land, Abraham Lincoln said 'if you make friends you destroy enemies', in Northern Ireland I want people to get out of their trenches, people can get caught in a hateful environment-we need to be so careful not to contaminate each other in this country."

# Sporting Legends

## If Carlsberg made hockey players...



### Biography

A graduate of Natural Sciences in Trinity, Caulfield first learnt how to play hockey in her native Wexford, turning out for her school Loreto Wexford, subsequent provincial and international under age honours followed.

Earned her first cap as a twenty year old against Russia in 1999 at right back, in only three years she had reached her first milestone, her 50<sup>th</sup> cap coming against England.

Playing the South East provincial team at Under 16, Under 18 and Under 21 level, she has played all of her senior hockey for Leinster.

After four years of playing for Dublin University Ladies' Hockey Club, including three Varsity championships, Caulfield moved to South Dublin club Hermes where she has remained ever since, becoming an integral part of the side.

After earning 151 caps for Ireland at senior level, Caulfield took the decision to retire at the age of 29, after 9 years of playing at the highest level.

Linda Caulfield sets up an attack (left) against Italy, and (above) about to intercept a vital pass. Photos: Linda Caulfield



*College Sport Editor Jonathan Drennan interviews one of the greats of Irish hockey and Trinity graduate Linda Caulfield*

In a journalistic medium notable for its excessive reliance on tired superlatives and clichés, it is a pleasant surprise when you are detailed to interview Linda Caulfield. A native of Wexford, Caulfield is arguably the greatest female hockey player Ireland has ever produced. Amassing an unprecedented total of 151 caps, the Trinity science graduate has recently retired from international hockey in her late twenties, leaving a sizeable void in the national squad.

Hockey has been good to Caulfield. She has made lifelong friends and has been able to travel the world doing something she loves. Playing hockey at Trinity was an enjoyable yet brief hiatus, but it represented a crucial decision in her sporting and social development. "As soon as I left school at Loreto Wexford, I was getting phoned to join other clubs, including my current club Hermes, but I felt from a social point it was so important to play for your college, it's only four years, it didn't affect my Ireland ambitions at all. I thought if I was good enough to get caps I would." Getting capped for Ireland in her first year at Trinity, Caulfield was under immediate pressure to combine her international aspirations with her burgeoning College commitments. "I honestly don't know how I juggled everything really, when I was playing for Ireland, I used to train outside the Pavilion Bar, but I still did the social thing whenever I could, as for study, I still think DUCAC gave me my degree, I was away so much!"

“ Sitting in New Square, Caulfield admits she hasn't been back inside Trinity for two years. Instantly good company and readily nostalgic, work commitments in Dun Laoghaire have kept her away from her alma mater

For an aspiring international athlete, playing hockey for Trinity comes with difficulties. Unfashionable to outside eyes, the club is constantly swimming against the tide with the Irish Hockey Association. To make matters worse, Dublin University Ladies' Hockey Club is forced to play and train at the infamous Santry Avenue in North Dublin, boasting the worst hockey facilities in Leinster. However, Caulfield believes Trinity's lack of creature comforts helps to create a unique atmosphere which can galvanize any group of student athletes. "Santry definitely has problems, I'm not even sure you could shower there, but there is something about having your own place, we had great fun going all the way out there in cars, that's where you made your best friendships and created a bond in the team. I do have sympathy for students playing there, but it can really cement you and bring you together."

After countless drunken nights, three Varsity Championships and a degree in Natural Sciences, Caulfield left Trinity to play hockey for Hermes. The transition from student to a respectable taxpaying member of society is always difficult and Caulfield was no different. "When I played for Trinity, I suppose I knew there was a certain responsibility on my shoulders and I had to work a bit harder, but when I arrived at Hermes I felt completely lost for my first year, in a College setting, you know your role much better." The initial misgivings aside, Caulfield's relationship with Hermes has been mutually beneficial. An integral member of a winning side, Caulfield

continued to amass international honours.

Hockey is a difficult sport to market. Lacking the physical impact of rugby or the celebrity status of soccer, it struggles to attract advertising and spectators, despite being one of Ireland's most popular sports for schoolchildren. Playing hockey for your country comes with huge sacrifices, basic necessities such as a healthy social life and a good relationship can become stilted; even your finances can become precarious. Caulfield is quick to stress how fortunate she was in her decade of international hockey. "My company was always great with hockey, helping me when they could; however, I do know some girls did go out of pocket playing for their country, though now people are starting to get financial help more often." Caulfield's career was playing at a professional standard without any of the normal compensations. Her weeks were filled with interminable training sessions. Combining work with two gym sessions, two fitness sessions, three hockey sessions, Monday to Friday, everyday in and sometimes out of season, she was a monk with a hockey stick. "I suppose it was a bit difficult at times, I was out at 6.30 am doing short corners before work; normally I was staying in on a Saturday night while my friends were out thinking to myself this is quite normal, when it really wasn't."

Despite the sacrifices, Caulfield is able to look back on an international career with pride. She enjoyed a highly successful career for nine years, nearly making the Olympics and

drawing with the might of the Germans in Auckland in a game Ireland could so easily have won. Caulfield is happy to admit that Irish women's hockey has an assured future. Improved coaching and intensive computer analysis have helped this generation of female hockey players from Ireland to compete at the highest level. Yet despite still playing as well as ever and being in her late twenties, Caulfield feels the time was right to retire from the international game. "I must have been stone mad to play like I did for nine years, honestly I don't think the younger players will do it nowadays for that long; the time was right, nobody knows how I felt or what my body was telling me, when the time comes when you lost the hunger, it's time to walk before you get too negative and I left before I got too haggard."

Sitting in New Square, Caulfield admits she hasn't been back inside Trinity for two years. Instantly good company and readily nostalgic, work commitments in Dun Laoghaire have kept her away from her alma mater. On St Patrick's Day, she tormented her old team, masterminding proceedings for Hermes against Trinity in the Leinster Senior Cup. Her love of the game continues undiminished and she will keep playing as long as her legs allow her. "I definitely stay playing for Hermes for at least three years, in the future I can see myself going back to Wexford and coaching kids, hockey has given me so much and it would be great to give something back if at all possible."

# CollegeSport



## Cricket

WITH DAVID LYDON

## Get bowled over by cricket in Trinity

What Trinity term evening would be complete without the picturesque sight of leather against willow on College Green? No, I'm not talking about some bizarre ancient Trinity ritual, but, of course, the arrival of the new cricket season. Dublin University Cricket Club reached new heights last year, with the club achieving several long-term goals and, more importantly, providing students both old and new to the game with the chance to play on various levels.

The 1st XI achieved two of their goals – winning a first game in four years in the DGM 45 overs league (in which the players who served Ireland so well in last year's world cup play) and signing their first overseas player, Ben Dunk. The arrival of the Queensland wicketkeeper-batsman proved a shrewd one, with the team resembling a professional and close-knit unit by the end of the season. Dunk's return this season, as well as the tantalising prospect of West Indian sensation Gary Baugh bowling at full speed, indicate that 2008 could be another prosperous year for the firsts, led by Mark Lane.

The 2nd XI achieved their primary goal last year in gaining promotion to the Middle "B" league. For some years, the gap between the top two sides had been five leagues, so it is testament to the depth of the club that this has been narrowed. The strength of the first eleven squad enabled a seconds squad to be developed, with the same core group of players remaining in place throughout the year. This paid dividends by the end of the season when, in beating Merriion, the team guaranteed the seven out of nine wins necessary for promotion. The best news is that most of these players are still in College this year, so with a bit of luck and kind exam timetables, the seconds hope to raise their game in a new league under inspirational Captain Neil Griffen.

For the first time ever, DUCC fielded a 3rd XI in the league format last year. Skipper Roman Kane led from the front admirably, and despite some Herculean efforts by his boys, the thirds came up slightly short in their promotion effort, ending just one game short of their target. However, having passed on the reigns to Ju Kim, a veteran of DUCC who challenges anyone in the club for durability, the team is confident of success. If previous years are anything to go by, a combination of old hands and eager new blood will provide the impetus for a title bid.

As well as the three formidable league teams, DUCC proudly boasts the Ramblers, a collection of cricketers upcoming, fading or both. Led by Mark Wright, the team lines up in the hugely popular Twenty 20 discipline against local Dublin sides, as well as touring teams. With the emphasis being on social cricket as well as competition, the team is always drawn from a cross-section of the club, providing the perfect chance to meet and greet fellow cricketers. The ladies club is also going from strength to strength, playing in Leinster Division 1 and providing many a Pav-goer with the thrills and spills of Friday evening Twenty20 action. Captains Claire Hearnden and Anne Cunningham will be hoping to continue last year's success.

Of course, DUCC wouldn't be a proper club if it wasn't for the great social side it prides itself on. The Table Quiz has become a Trinity institution, and the 6-a-side Blitz will be returning to college park in the near future. So keep your eyes peeled for a glorious summer of cricket that will do its best to distract you from your revision. If it does, feel free to pop down and find the best form of procrastination to be had this term.

For details on any of aspect of the club, contact [lydon@tcd.ie](mailto:lydon@tcd.ie).

# Trinity's sporting embarrassment

JONATHAN DRENNAN  
COLLEGE SPORT EDITOR

Four years ago, on a miserable Tuesday night early in my first year at Trinity, I trained for the first time with the Dublin University Hockey Club. For two weeks, I had suffered from a combination of unpredictable bouts of homesickness and flu. Sport was meant to provide some kind of solace; I climbed in the car full of optimism. Driving tentatively through the gates at Santry Avenue, my optimism quickly turned to sheer disbelief at the rundown facilities Trinity provided for their students. Walking to the hockey pitch in heavy rain, my desire to get home to Belfast increased noticeably: Santry Avenue was an embarrassment to Trinity.

Santry is heavily used by Trinity's sports clubs. Due to the compact size of the University, there are precious few outdoor sports facilities on campus. Every weeknight, representatives from the men's and women's hockey clubs make the arduous drive across Dublin to train. In heavy traffic, the journey takes up to forty minutes, leaving the players exhausted by the time they arrive in North Dublin. The teams will not arrive home until at least 10.30 at night, leaving social and academic commitments by the wayside. Yet this is all mere detail,

the most pressing issue is the state of the facilities Trinity's sportsmen and women have found themselves enduring in recent years.

Walking through Santry Avenue, you feel you have left Celtic Tiger Ireland behind and arrived on the set of Angela's Ashes. Negotiating the heavily potholed carpark, you try to find a level bit of ground to park on. It's advisable not to park within ten metres of the goal. A gaping hole in the fence leaves cars completely exposed to flying hockey balls. Undoubtedly the jewel in the crown at Santry is the clubhouse. Ugly and imposing, a mosaic of Trinity's crest hangs sheepishly on its grey wall. Completed covered in graffiti, one of the main sporting hubs of Trinity has become an unofficial meeting point for the area's teenagers. In bold spray paint on the side of the building "THE LADS" is written with an arrow pointing to the roof where a hasty fort has been built. In recent years, this has become a great vantage point for youngsters throwing stones at players on the pitch.

Santry possesses a large amount of land; there are countless sports fields used principally for Gaelic games, soccer and rugby. Windswept and exposed, rain makes them a quagmire. Uneven and heavily rutted, a player isn't only worried about injuries sustained from late tackles but more pressingly,

from the surface he/she is playing on. Trinity's GAA club has been forced to train at Clanna Gael in Ringsend, unable to use its University's own facilities.

However, as bad as the grass pitches are, none of the aforementioned clubs would dream of playing their senior teams on them if at all possible. Justifiably Santry is only used as a subsidiary pitch for junior teams. The hockey club don't enjoy this luxury. Due to the nature of the game, the club are completely tied to Santry for training and games.

The astro-turf pitch is arguably the worst in Leinster. It is a complete hindrance in terms of attracting the best talent available and it provides a good excuse for players wanting to leave the club. Laid in 1998, the cheap surface refuses to drain properly, leaving large collections of grime and mud by the goals. Slow and heavy on leg muscles, home advantage is instantly conceded: Trinity remains the only club in Ireland who revel in playing away. The paint on the goals is chipped with a combination of electrical and duct tape holding the nets tenuously together. Countless visiting players arrive at Santry to play against Trinity; in four years of playing, I have never heard a compliment about our playing facilities.

Trinity claims to be the greatest university in Ireland;

Broken fences and poorly finished playing surfaces are indicative of what Santry has to offer as a sporting campus. Photos: Martin McKenna

academically perhaps, but in terms of sport, it is lagging badly behind the rest of the country. A direct comparison with neighbours University College Dublin doesn't bode well. They possess the national hockey stadium, the Belfield Bowl and rugby facilities that the national team regularly train on. The University of Limerick, University of Ulster and Queens University of Belfast all possess similar arrangements.

This year, rugby colours was conceded in spectacular fashion, losing to UCD by 30 points. It signified a greater problem, University sport has become increasingly professional and it needs facilities to match this mindset. UCD have embraced this change, while the bureaucrats at our own University have happily let us stay in the sporting doldrums for decades, stoically playing at Santry.

How can this University attract the nation's best young athletes? They could point to our incredible range of sporting alumni: Maeve Kyle, Linda Caulfield, Ed Joyce and Bernard Dunne all studied at Trinity. They could rely on our world wide academic reputation that plays heavily on Oscar Wilde and Ernest Walton. Finally they could show the prospective students the beautiful Front Square and College Park. We can only hope that they don't show embarrassment themselves and the athletes by taking them on a tour of Santry.

## First aid required as Taekwondo lose Colours

SORCHA NICHROIMIN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dublin University Taekwondo Club were defeated by University College Dublin in the Taekwondo Colours Match on Friday 11 April 2008. UCD scored seven wins to Dublin's three, with one bout declared a draw. Colours were decided on the aggregate score of the eleven individual fights. Vice-Captain Kevin Lynch, Secretary Peadar Donnelly and Brendan Toner won their bouts, while Tom Todrick drew. Both clubs contested the Colours with a fierce competitive spirit and first aid attention was required for several fighters on both sides with bloody noses. In keeping with the sporting spirit of the art, the results were left inside the ring as all present retired to the Pavilion afterwards, where the Lawn Tennis and Basketball Clubs were also hosting sportsmen from the other university. Having expressed their feelings toward the rival college, a pleasant convocation ensued, free from the skirmishes that succeed consumption of the drink outside the

walls of Trinity. Trinity's loss was for tactical reasons as much as a lack of skills - DUTC tried to give everyone who has been training an opportunity to represent their College, rather than selecting a narrower but stronger team.

The result was disappointing since ten fighters represented Dublin University in the Irish Taekwondo Interschool Competition in UCD on the 1 March 2008. Mr Lynch and Damien Kearney won silver and bronze respectively in the men's heavyweight category, while Dr Stephen MacDonald won the men's white belt to green tag sparring section. For three fighters it was their first experience of sparring in competition, which is much more intense than sparring practice.

In the first week of Trinity term, Captain Laura Cremen, her sister Sarah and Mr Lynch travelled to Birmingham for the English Open, with the Cremen sisters both placing first in sparring. Mr Lynch placed third in senior men's heavyweight sparring. The competition was run by Master Isaac Harry and of a very high standard, since it was an important tournament as part of their preparation for the upcoming European

Championships.

Meanwhile back in college, seven students attempted the Hilary term grading in the sport centre on Wednesday, 5 March. All passed while John Carey, Dr Mac Donald and Emile Akoka, all novices in Taekwondo, performed very strongly and were promoted two grades. This rare honour was given due to the commitment Mr Carey has made to training, which has resulted in fast progression, while Dr MacDonald and Miss Akoka are experienced martial artists, having studied karate previously.

The test lasted two hours; during the first, Mr Michael Whelan IV, dan, conducted a class-style test, assessing students' fitness, flexibility, knowledge and observing their technique as they trained. In the second hour, students were called onto the floor individually and in pairs to break wood, spar and perform patterns. Kevin Lynch, Jenny Musgrave and Takyuki Hirotsawa were also promoted and the examiners commended the high standard displayed as evidence of hard training over the term. The next grading will take place in the last week of Trinity term.

# CollegeSport

## A gallant defence not enough for final win

*Rowe makes some incredible reflex saves to keep the score line respectable and the large student support vocal through tense match*

**DUHC: 1**  
**HERMES: 3**

**JONATHAN DRENNAN**  
COLLEGE SPORT EDITOR

For over three decades members of Dublin University Ladies' Hockey Club have spent their St Patrick's Day in customary fashion, presumably drunk. 1975 was the last time Trinity made the final of the Leinster Senior Cup, which is held annually on the day of Ireland's patron saint. The club have endured a long wait, filled with near misses and heartache. This year womens' hockey in Trinity has enjoyed a resurgence; captained by Rebecca Murphy, they have confounded critics, frequently upsetting the odds in Division 1 and reaching a showpiece final. Cynics will point out that they enjoyed a smoother passage to Grange Road than most, beating a weakened Railway Union and Division 2 opposition in Glenanne. However, you have to beat the teams put in front you and Trinity were rewarded with a glamour final against Hermes.

Hermes was always going to represent a mammoth task for Trinity. Counting Irish centurions Jenny Burke and Linda Caulfield in their ranks, Hermes enjoyed an embarrassment of riches compared to Trinity's paltry treasure chest containing provincial players Ciara Murphy and Danielle Costigan. The first quarter read straight from the form book, Hermes dominated Trinity, seldom allowing the students to escape from their half.

Suffering from an unpredicted bout of nerves, Trinity was disorganised and disjointed. The midfield was particularly guilty of missing simple passes, giving possession away needlessly. Predictably, Hermes' early onslaught was rewarded

with an early goal opening the score at 1-0. In an opening quarter that was completely dominated by Hermes, the Trinity defence was constantly employed. Vanessa Buckley remained a calming influence for her team when weathering a storm, using well-timed challenges and passes to cajole her teammates.

In a game against such illustrious opponents, much of Trinity's hopes rested on Ciara Murphy's shoulders. The Connacht native was employed to man mark former Trinity mainstay Caulfield, arguably one of Ireland's greatest female hockey players. A daunting task for anyone, Murphy was given a torrid time all afternoon. Frequently beaten on her weak side, Murphy was frequently left in Caulfield's slipstream.

Tormented by Caulfield, Trinity was forced to defend deep. Their attacking options of Costigan and Lyndsey Watson were completely redundant in a game of attrition. At the close of the half, Trinity were flattered by a deficit of one goal, owing the slender margin to their outstanding goalkeeper Ciara Rowe. Rowe made some incredible reflex saves that kept the score line respectable and the large student support vocal.

After a tumultuous first half, Trinity managed to create some rare attacking opportunities. Claire Hearnden's pace created a headache for an underused Hermes defence, skilfully drawing frees when possible. Indeed, it was from a quickly taken free hit taken from the top of the circle that Trinity nearly equalized; unfortunately the ball hit the backboard with no sticks on the end of it.

Despite the early promise, Hermes scored from a dubious short corner that left Trinity in danger of being embarrassed by a big score-line. Trinity



Despite the early promise, Hermes scored from a short corner that left Trinity in danger of a drumming. Photo: Martin McKenna

were again reliant on Rowe's saves as the goalkeeper remained her team's outstanding last line of defence. However, another goal from Hermes left the score at 3-0, silencing a partisan crowd and leaving Captain Rebecca Murphy trying to turn the Titanic around.

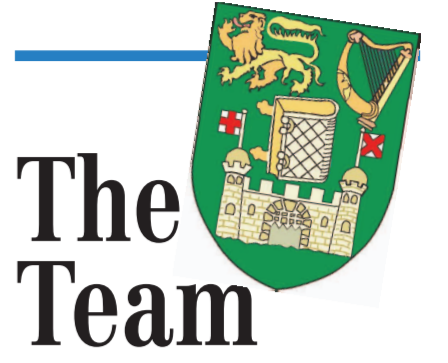
Whether it was Hermes becoming complacent or Trinity showing a renewed sense of purpose, the final quarter was completed dominated by the students. After a tentative start, Junior Freshman Maebh Horan consistently won possession back for Trinity with excellent tackles, creating

valuable attacking chances. After a clever exchange of passes with the frequently isolated Costigan, Lyndsey Watson coolly finished to give Trinity a glimmer of hope, leaving the score at 3-1.

A few Rowe stick saves apart, Trinity looked completely different from the timid and nervous side of the first half; confident and impulsive, the students counterattacked at every opportunity spearheaded by a reinvigorated Ciara Murphy. At the final whistle, DULHC were left wondering where their earlier stage fright had come from. In the final minutes, they

outplayed and outthought their lofty opponents, leaving the pitch with their heads held high.

Trinity's sporting future is uncertain. The rugby team has just escaped from relegation to Division 3, while the men's hockey team are valiantly trying to keep their dream of promotion to Division 1 alive. University sides are often left fighting for breathing space in an increasingly cold professional climate that has enveloped all sports. Trinity Ladies' have confounded the critics and torn up the form guide, a student side like theirs will always be able to compete against the best.

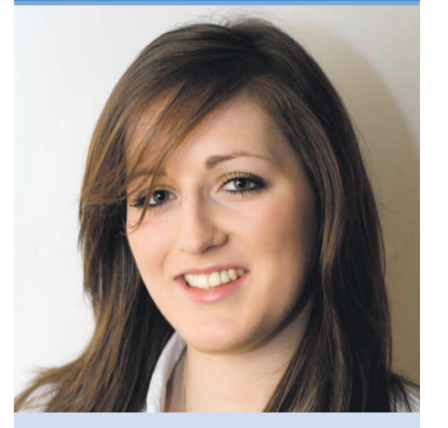


## The Team

### DUHC

- Ciara Rowe GK
- Lucy Small
- Caroline Murphy
- Katie O'Byrne
- Rebecca Murphy (C)
- Maebh Horan
- Ciara Murphy
- Danielle Costigan
- Lyndsey Watson
- Christine Boyle
- Vanessa Buckley
- Laura O'Connor
- Claire Hearnden
- Caoimhe Costigan
- Ailbhe Coyle
- Jessie Elliott (GK)

### MAN OF THE MATCH



### Ciara Rowe

Facing a team like Hermes is a daunting task, they have a luxurious amount of provincial and international players, designed to make a goalkeeper's day difficult. In a team notable for its brave performance against a technically superior outfit, Rowe was the standout player. At one stage in the game, Trinity was 3-0 down and it could have been much worse if it hadn't been for exceptional reflex saves from Rowe. It was never going to be a quiet day for the Trinity defence and Rowe's assured presence in goals helped sustain her team in adversity. A score-line of 3-1 to Hermes was justified, yet Rowe's ability to play her best when the occasion demanded it, gave her team the confidence to outplay their more illustrious opponents for much of the second half.

# Four awarded Univeristy Colours by DUCAC

**KEVIN LYNCH**  
STAFF WRITER

Four students were awarded University Colours at the Hilary term Captains' meeting of the Dublin University Central Athletic Club on Thursday 28 February. Ciara Aucoin and Laura Cremen of the Dublin University Tae Kwon Do Club, who won gold medals at the World Championships and David Cahill and Colm Flynn of the Dublin University Fencing Club received the award.

Dublin University's Colours were first awarded in 1927, when pink was chosen as the University colour. They are awarded to sportsmen and women in college who achieve outstanding sporting success while students.

Twelve students were nominated before the meeting, but the Dublin University Football Club (rugby) withdrew their six nominations due to a lack of documentary evidence before the meeting started. Mark Raferty-Skehan (Dublin University Cricket Club) and Jonathon Meredith (Dublin University Sub Aqua Club) were nominated but did not

receive Colours. The four new pinks each received the unanimous approval of the club captains.

Miss Cremen and Miss Aucoin were on the Irish ladies' sparring team who won gold at the World Championships last summer. They also won medals individually. Miss Cremen, a Junior Sophister History and Political Science student, has won the Spanish Open and the Midlands Open in England and been selected for the Irish squad for the last two years. She is the current captain of the Tae Kwon Do Club. Miss Aucoin, who reads Junior Sophister Philosophy and Political Science, is a previous winner of the Irish Intersarsity Competition and was captain of the Tae Kwon Do Club last year.

Mr Cahill has been on the Irish fencing team at Under 17, Under 20 and Senior level, competing in the Junior World Championships and Junior World Cup. He fought for Dublin University five times in Intersarsity competitions, twice winning the Best Individual Award. He is a former Junior World Champion. Mr Flynn captained Dublin University to success in the Men's Epepe event in the Irish intersarities and has represented Ireland in the student five nations and

### Dublin University Colours

The Pink to Trinity sportsmen is designed to correspond, although not exactly, to the Light Blue of Cambridge and the Dark Blue of Oxford.

They were first introduced in 1927 by Terence Millin, a former Captain of the Football first XV and later a Harley Street surgeon. Pinks are awarded to student club members who have excelled; usually externally or through representing their country.

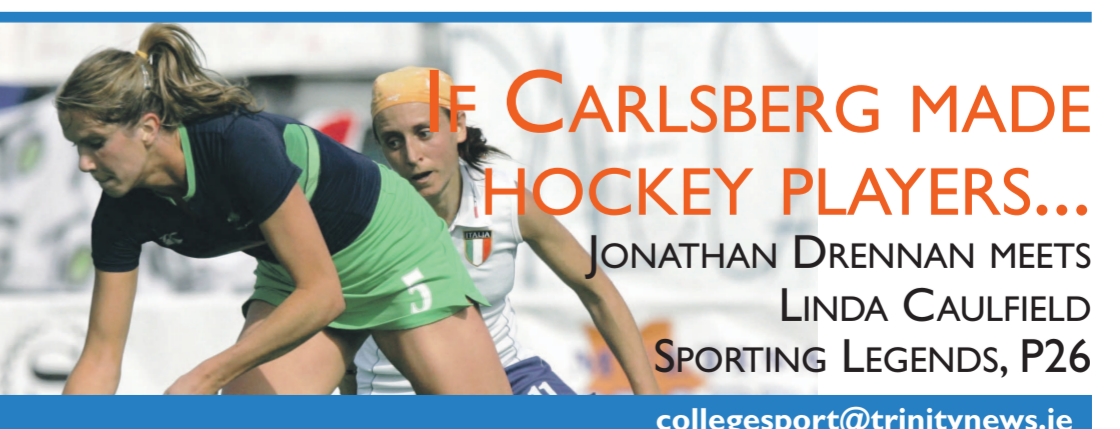
The Captains' committee, meeting twice annually adjudicates nominations from clubs. Pinks are entitled to wear University Colours, a scarf of plain pink, a tie, dark blue with a pattern of crowned pink harps and a blazer, for which the design has sadly been lost.

senior level. He is the reigning Irish Intermediates Champion.

The pinks system is vaguely analogous with the Blues of Oxford and Cambridge; however, while a "Blue" is awarded to their Varsity teams, Dublin's pinks are an individual award for outstanding success in sport while at university. TCD: A College Miscellany noted the practical difficulty of comparing athletic achievement back in 1936, saying,

"[the] difficulties are increased at least an hundred-fold when the player must be compared not only with his team-mates but also with participants in sports that have not the remotest similarity to his own."

This challenge remains and Dr Trevor West, Chairman of the Captains' Committee, noted the problem in his opening remarks. There are stringent standards defined for each sport, which can be thought of as constituting necessary but not sufficient conditions for the award. The new University Colours are entitled to wear a unique tie, scarf and blazer. The captains will consider nominations again when they meet in Trinity term.



# TRINITY NEWS

# 30

Trinity College is a place of superlatives. This is Ireland's oldest and most esteemed university. This is home to the greatest academic minds in the country. We are surrounded by the most beautiful College grounds on this island. Everything about this place inspires greatness.

Unsurprising, then, that among our fifteen thousand strong population lurk some of the best, brightest, most ambitious, talented and powerful students Ireland can offer.

Here we list them.



## Loves charity

Had Alessio Frenda, President of the Graduate Students' Union, had a bad year? Well, yes, as it happens, really, really bad. In a nutshell, he tried to filch €20,000 from the other student bodies (the CSC, Students' Union, DUCAC and Publications) whilst simultaneously giving money away to charity. While there's nothing wrong about giving your own money to charity, he tried to give everyone else's money to charity, which led him to being taken down a peg (or three) by College.

In addition, his Treasurer resigned, and he lost his Vice President before the term even began. Once the term started, he...well, the Panel is hard-pressed to think of anything that Frenda has done. His spending power is a 4, as he has control of large amounts of money (despite the fact that he obviously has no idea how to spend it). Frenda comes in with a 2 for both profile and influence, reflecting a year of disappointment and confusion for all involved with the GSU under his guardianship.



## A laugh a minute

John Gallagher is a History and French Scholar and perhaps one of the greatest whits of Trinity College. Hailing from Dublin, John is a Belvadere boy through and through. Good mannered, smart and above all an all round nice guy. As Record Secretary of the College Historical Society, he is well-

known for his ability to contort words, much to the amusement of the Wednesday night audiences. He is an accomplished debater and a finalist in the *Irish Times* debating competition. His score of 5 in regards to profile is due to the fact that anyone who's ever met him will remember him. Gallagher is also heavily involved in Players, after all, the

boy does love the stage. With a spending power of 1 and influence of 2, Gallagher is much further down the list than his heir apparent counterpart in the Phil, Barry Devlin, who also holds a position on CSC; nevertheless, the Panel predicts another good year for the Hist, particularly if Gallagher runs for the top job, something the Panel predicts to happen.

## The perfect BESS girl

This year's Dublin University Business and Economics Society (the society for all the BESS kids) auditor has really gone from zero to hero. Things didn't start out well: her committee was riddled with in-fighting and nobody really expected her to do much.

She managed to turn this around, with the BESS Ball, which sold out and was a big, big success.

The lady has garnered a pair of 3s for spending power and profile due to her position in DUBES and the fact that she's done a damn good job at it. She gets a lonely one for in-

fluence, as she might be auditor of DUBES, but this only gets her in with the BESS oompa loompas. There might be hordes of them, but they are all very non-powerful, since they spend more time talking about their fake-tan and clothes than noticing what's happening around them in College.



## The electoral overseer

The handsome rising star of the Students' Union, Cathal Horan looks to have a bright future ahead of him. Since becoming a class representative for Theoretical Physics in first year, he has become more involved in the Union and ran the Electoral Commission this year (the most anally retentive and pedantic group of people, ever). He gets a nice round zero for spending power, as it is only the sabbatical officers in the Union that have any say.

A regular around House 6 and the H-

Block nets him a 4 for profile, and having scored most of the first year class reps last year helps as well, as does his relationship with socialite Orla Marnell. Alas, Head of the Electoral Commission might seem important and indicative of respect within the Union, but he hasn't landed himself any positions that might give him influence and hence he gets a 2 here. Rumours abound of his intentions to run for high office in his beloved Union (as well as branching out into CSC), so we can expect him to be on the up and up for next year's list.



## You'll hear her coming

If random College knowledge was a qualification for the Power List, this American would certainly rate highly. Try to find something that she's not involved in: Chief Copy Editor for *Trinity News*, she sees this paper from cover to cover before it's published. As the dedicated International Students' Officer of the Students' Union (read: the only international student you've ever heard of), she can often be read in a letter to the editor complaining about an issue that no one cares about.

Her spending power is a mere 2, as Beard solely uses financial influence to grab more money

for her various societies, Beard scores her highest in profile: obviously not enough to win a Students' Union election (better luck next year!), but having the most Facebook friends in the TCD network has to count for something. Beard's influence is 3, as she manages to worm her way into everything; a significant amount of her powerbase comes from assorted romantic interests (a boyfriend with a gun never hurts). Although she ranks low on the list, being simply the silent person in the room (and by that, we mean every room) rather than the person in charge, look for her to attempt to raise her profile in her final year.



## For the record...

Not that we're biased here at *Trinity News*, but does the College really need the *Record*? So we have a newspaper that covers news and events in College and then we have one that covers Union news and events while promoting the Union agenda. Propaganda rag? Don't be absurd...

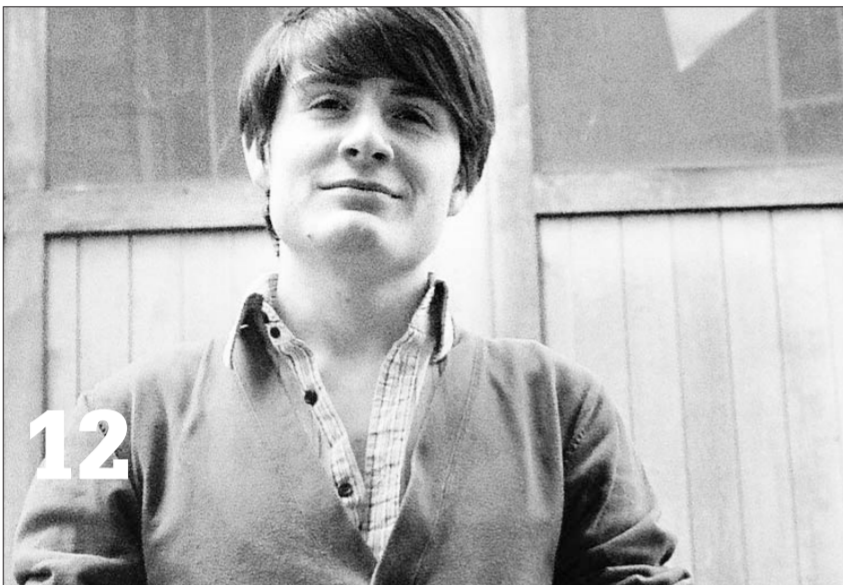
*The Record*, to its credit, has employed a number of

bitchy hacks this year who have endeavoured to create some passable standard of journalism, chiefly by ripping off *The Guardian* and anticipating that a former Union officer would be capable of tracking down news-worthy stories (alas, delusion strikes).

Tighe's spending power is 3; one has to ask how much that dirty rag costs to produce (more in blood, sweat and tears than cold hard cash, the Panel

would hazard). *The Record* has been described as "the best *Record* in years"; but even a cursory glance through its archives would prove this faint praise.

Generally well-liked as a human being, Tighe's profile of 5 is due to her, occasionally, leaving her office to saunter down the hallway ("anybody want tea?"), and her influence 3. We imagine some people read it...



## A total playa'

Ciaran O'Meala is the outgoing Chair of the College's cliquiest student society – Dublin University Players. His rise to the top came after Players' most controversial AGM in recent history, which led to the storming out of the society's

honorary patron. Despite this, O'Meala has managed to reunite Players this year. The darling boy presided over the 75 year celebrations, although some say a little more could have been made of the event. Not just a committee member, O'Meala is one of Players' best actors with a particular

penchant for Shakespeare. One wonders if he ever managed to put this skill to use when working as a sales advisor as Schuh?

The Senior Sophister Drama student's hard work was rewarded at the recent CSC Awards, where he received the award for Best Individual.



## Taken at face value

An English student, Joey Facer is arguably the most innocent of the political operators on the list; the Chair of DU Publications certainly shies away from politics, despite being a regular around House 6. Facer is the other half of *Trinity News* editor Gearoid O'Rourke and between the two of them, they command a great deal of influence in Publications and the college media. Some might say she slept her way to the top, but the Panel would never be so cheeky (after all, she signs his cheques, not the other way around). Her position on the Capitations Committee also allows her some influence in the horse-

trading that goes on between the various capitated bodies.

This year has been a relatively good one for Publications, mainly due to the absence of scandal that characterised previous years. Facer scores a four for spending power, given the high revenue of publications such as *Trinity News* and the €47,000 Pubs receives from the Capitations Committee. Her profile of 2 reflects the fact that Facer commanded more space in *Piranha!* this year than the Junior Dean; now, that's a feat. Her literary credentials remain confined to her column in *Trinity News*, which causes as much controversy as Roisin Ingle's regular contributions to the

## Admiral on deck

Gabriel Magee arrived at Trinity as just another American obsessed with the folklore of the British Isles; thanks to his involvement in DU Boat Club, he ironically stayed true to the traditions (read stereotype) of philosophy, his chosen branch of enquiry, now in his fourth year in Trinity, having squeezed the most time out of his Mlitt, he is now Vice President of the Graduate Student's Union.

By an ironic twist of faith, this traditionalist who also acts as the Union's Welfare Office is forced

to distribute promescuity packs to the horny post grads of Trinity College. Seen by many as the real force within the Graduates' Student Union, Magee scores a three for influence. He still carries a lot of weight in the Boat Club, having advised current Captain Joe Calnan on his recent dealings with the Junior Dean. Magee's traditionalism angered some last year, when he opposed many of the proposals for pinks (the University's highest award for sport). He can often be heard ranting in Neds of Townsend Street.



## Now in stereo

Brendan McGuirk is the only person to come in lower this year than last. After making TFM known around College (if not listened to), McGuirk searched for the bigger and better challenge: he landed on the role of CSC Secretary. In keeping of in this year's theme of former society officers fading away into CSC officers, McGuirk tends to sit quietly through meetings. His big project this year has been the new music magazine *Analogue*. McGuirk rates a 2 for spending power this year, as he only has the budget of any mem-

ber of the CSC Executive (and let's be honest, they all tend to nod and agree to Steamroller Joe). He rates a 3 for profile; most would know his name by now and even perhaps read *Analogue* (despite the fact that if you're not a die-hard indie music fan, it can be difficult to understand). Finally has 3 for influence, as the extent of his power is to recommend that your society be recognised by the CSC or writing up your mate's band in *Analogue*. Luckily for this Senior Sophister Medicinal Chemistry student, he has a good degree to fall back on.



# No Flash, just fizzle

**R**uth Faller, Trinity's second largest student society, featured at number 25 last year. The Galway girl is on a sabbatical from her Law degree so she can concentrate all her attention on the University Philosophical Society. She stood unopposed for the position of President last year, and featured at number 25 on our Power List. Faller presided over perhaps the most successful Freshers' Week any society has

even seen, attracting over 2,500 new members and taking in revenue of almost €20,000, which awards her a spending power of 8. Guests included Oscar-winning actress Dame Helen Mirren, and Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr. In November, Faller entertained the controversial one-legged Heather Mills to a packed Chamber. Following this everything fell apart. The Panel wonders whatever happened to the promise of Naomi Campbell, Harrison Ford or even Jade Goody? Perhaps an interview with Brian Cowen

might have given Faller some respect. Her year may be aptly characterised by the words "premature ejaculation." Faller scores 3 for influence; after all, no one really knows who she is, and she hasn't done anything either. She also managed to cause herself a few problems with the Central Societies Committee, who certainly weren't happy that she skipped off to Florida when she should have been presenting her grant application. Many of her Council are said to be disappointed or disillusioned with the society. This is despite

the fact that Faller has more MC's (for the uninitiated, these are the "Members of Council", chiefly responsible for glass-cleaning) than those before her. She scores a 3 for profile, not a patch on her predecessors. Faller hit the headlines only once this year, when she was criticised for distasteful comments towards Jews in her Philander magazine. Although she is credited with bringing debating back from a lads' club that entertained page 3 girls and porn stars, didn't she do that last year? Frankly, the Panel expected more of Faller.



# College's mammy

**W**elfare is that notorious position which appears to not do much. Previous Welfare Officers have rarely ventured beyond the confines of House 6 and have found the "big push Union weeks" difficult to commandeer. Faulkner, who proved throughout her campaign she was one of those "strong woman" types, has been an exception.

As an erstwhile Trinity News section editor (for National News), of course, we necessarily find Ms. Faulkner quite lovely.

And few College students would refuse a wholesome Mass-reading wench bearing condoms. All round wife-figure, Faulkner is endearingly described by one Union insider as "the Mammy of the Students' Union?"

Faulkner's spending power is a paltry 2, although she herself admits that "SHAG banners aren't that expensive." Her profile, as mentioned above, is a strident 5; it is difficult to ignore a presence as great as Faulkner's. Her influence of 4 reflects a close relationship with the Man Himself (no, not Jesus - that'd be Andrew Byrne), as she is a fully paid-up member of the History mafia.

This year has seen campaigns

for Mental Health and SHAG weeks of a profile never before achieved, for which Faulkner should congratulate herself. However, her greatest achievements are probably her dedication to individual casework, something that goes unnoticed by most but must be mentioned here. Faulkner is swift and helpful in her correspondence, often spending long days sifting through mind-numbingly dull documents in search of grants, aid and, well, welfare.

She is a straight-talking, dedicated lady with an agenda to push and she knows how to push it. Hats off (or should that be, hats on?) for Úna Faulkner.

# Pulled no punches

**S**am Chappatte has had a decent year, despite holding the office that is the pothole of Halls JCR President. He might be Swiss, but his diplomacy skills wouldn't bear this out. It's usually a good idea to keep in with the Phil,

Hist and Ents, but he has messed these guys around big time in the past year. The JCR has a budget of €50,000 and this nets him a 5 for spending power (God knows what they do with it all, since most Halls residents quite understandably wonder frequently where on earth their money goes). The fact that the Halls

JCR possesses scarce influence within Halls and that Chappatte has landed himself in the bad books of most of this year's Power List, means that he gets a paltry 3 for influence. JCR president, his boxing achievements and his dashing good looks combine to get him a respectable 5 for profile.



# The man who will be King

**T**his man is the Brain behind the Boobs. While Ruth Faller, Trinity's President of the Phil, might have made a bit of a hash of her year off-books, Barry Devlin, Faller's Secretary, has quietly worked away at the society's Thursday night debates, which have been well-attended both in terms of crowds and guests.

It's no secret that Barry is already President-Elect in the Phil. He had already secured this, however, long before the upcoming Election/Coronation season in the GMB. More than one Panellist has speculated that

he might already have some top guests lined up for his year already.

Barry gets a 4 for spending power, due to the fact that the Phil has lots and lots and lots of dosh. He cuts a distinctive profile with his Dylan Moran-esque drunken intellectual charm (he is also a scholar of this hallowed College, with more brain power than both of Faller's assets combined) which earns him his 5 for profile. In addition he holds a coveted spot on the CSC, and keeps the Hacks sweet with his frequent contributions to this paper. His influence rating of 3 might seem a bit low, but this will surely rise in the year to come.





# The rock

**D**ear wee Bartley defied all the hacks' expectations when he was elected to Education Officer of the Students' Union, largely trading on the helpful timing of the new "rock the vote" omnipresent slogan around campus (thank you, Mr. Hickey). The vote was rocked, and Bartley duly entered office, promising

everything from more libraries to note-sharing and even, could you believe it, timetables. Another set of well-worn election promises seem to have finally come through in Rock's year, which is why he finds himself at number 4 in the list.

Rock scores a mere 3 for spending power, but he would contend this matters little, as he has managed to score big with the birds. Shock and horror rippled through the cynics as

Rock found females were, contrary to previously held belief, attracted to him.

Rock's profile is a respectable 6; it is hard to miss his quick trot around the vicinity of the College. Rock has what few others possess: all-consuming hack-power. Indeed, wherever he trots, he becomes a hack. Rumours of USI electioneering were confirmed, as Rock now prepares himself to step up to the national plate.

With an influence score of 8, Rock pulls himself ahead of the herds. Having lost several elections in his time (but who hasn't?) he has excelled himself in the office of education. In spite of being said to be too quick to fall in step with the College line and described by one co-worker as "not so helpful with casework"; Rock seems to be a do-er. Library hours? You got 'em. Timetables? No sweat.

Hacks may scorn him, but

Bartley Rock has, where so many have not, really come through for the students. Of course, there will always be those nay-sayers who pick holes in policies and allege he has other motivations. Despite this, we have very much to thank Mr. Rock for. As other Education Officers melt into the mists of time, Rock is one who will be remembered for years to come as someone who achieved the beginning of great things for students.

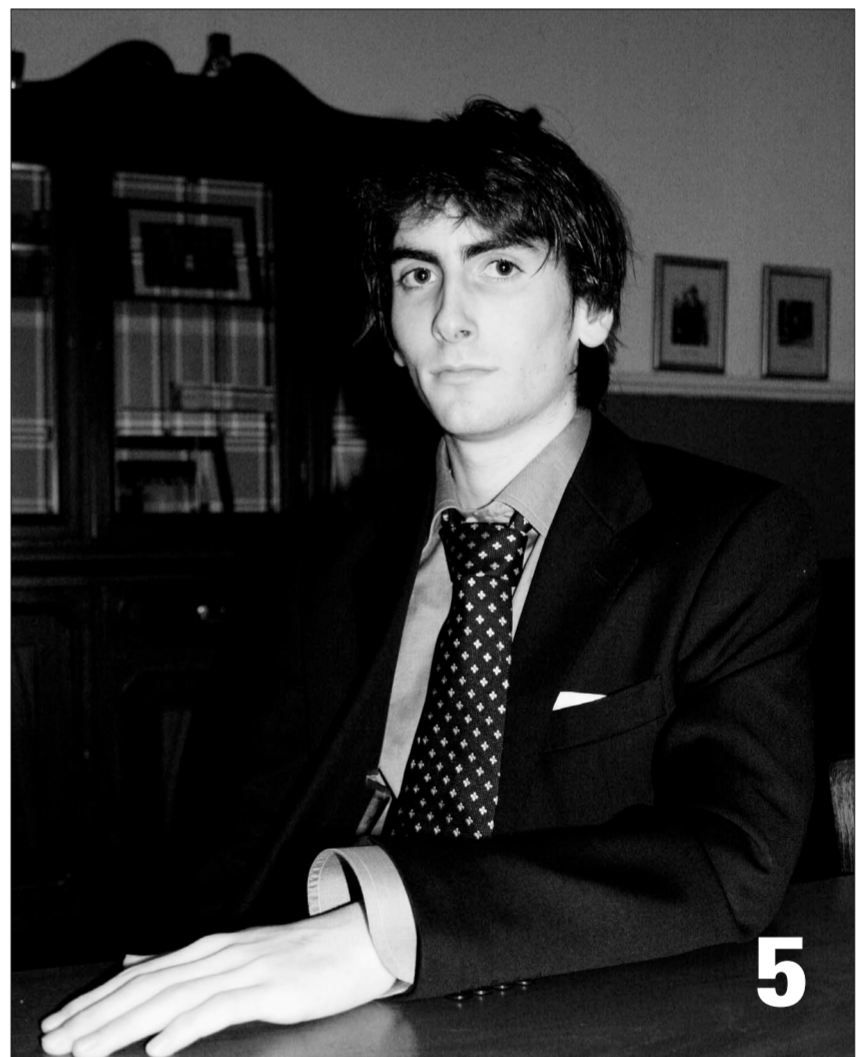
# All bark, bark bark but no bite

**T**im Smyth, Auditor of the Hist and Member of CSC Exec, has led his society into probably the most successful year in quite some time. That being said, comparative years were disasters. Smyth quietly stepped away from the James O'Brien-shaped-mess and managed to reunite the society. Guests such as FW De Klerk, the Burmese PM in exile and John Major gave Smyth an edge over his counterparts in the Phil. Ian Paisley was perhaps his biggest coup. Smyth's profile sits

at a respectable 5, as he can often be seen cantering across Front Square of bellowing into his mobile, complete with West-Brit nasal tones. It's hard to believe this boy is from salt of the earth Kells, Co. Meath. He is, however, a true blue blood Protestant. Smyth made a name for himself this year as perhaps the most difficult person to deal with. Friends were lost and many enemies made. Instead of playing Mr. Nice guy like his predecessors O'Brien and Cathal McCann, Smyth took everyone on from his colleagues in the CSC, The SU, JCR, The Phil and Trinity News. Smyth

took particular offence to his appearance in the Evelyn Tent column. At the same time as racking up enemies, Smyth made an undertaking not to bring any controversial guests to the College and seemed to court the friendship of Junior Dean, Emma Stokes. He has also enjoyed some cordial relations with the Auditrix of the Law Society.

Despite also sitting on the CSC Exec, Smyth's influence is only a 3. Too much blustering doesn't get you far. Spending is a respectable 6, given he is in charge of one of the biggest student society budgets.



# Reserved

**G**affney made the list last year due to his stellar performance as Phil Secretary, but has pulled away from the society somewhat this year.

Gaffney is a Maths student. He wears glasses and dresses like a civil servant, in fact, some people refer to him affectionately as the Martin Manseragh of Trinity College, or for those of you who share his interest in the series Yes, Minister, he is Sir Humphrey Applebee. He currently holds the position of Treasurer of the CSC. Last year, Gaffney was the man in the shadow behind Phil president Daire Hickey and is a

quiet individual. Words are carefully chosen and advice delicately dispensed. His profile is a 3, as he's well-known within the GMB and House 6.

His influence of 5 is reflective of his position as Treasurer of CSC, the gatekeeper to some serious funds. Despite being a man of principles, one CSC Exec member confirmed suspicions that Ed just rubber stamps for Joe O'Gorman. As a HMC of the Phil, Gaffney still holds some power. He sits on the society's Constitutional Review Committee and is a close confidant of President Ruth Faller. The Panel agrees Gaffney's happy to still be involved in College life and CSC is essentially his retirement home.

# Can the real Andrew please stand up?

2



Coming in at number two is Students' Union President Andrew Byrne. Byrne might be a bit disappointed to be taking up the same spot as David Quinn, who came in second last year. Despite this, no one has any doubt that Byrne has done a better job. Speaking to one *Trinity News* staffer, he talked of a 78% satisfaction

rating that the Students' Union got in a survey they ran, and claimed that this means he got 78% satisfaction, and therefore, everyone just loves Andy. (If he uses this reasoning in his academic work, you wonder how he ever got Schols.) The Union has had a decent year; but whether you can put all this down to one person is a different matter. Bartley, Ed and Úna have all done lots of spade work in their respective jobs and it would really be awfully unfair for Byrne to claim all the credit. He can claim some of it, though.

Longer Library opening hours and exam timetables in April might seem like minor achievements, but College bureaucracy is a notorious minefield. What are minor changes for Trinity's peers worldwide are major ones here due to the backward, inept and inefficient administrative structure of Trinity. It is not a huge exaggeration to say that the Union is really running to stand still. On paper (specifically, on his CV), Byrne seems to have ticked all the boxes. Scholar in History and

Politics, Secretary of CSC, Chair of Trinity Greens, MC of the Hist, the list goes on and on. He seems to be the ideal career politician, having his sights on working in the Union when his five years in Trinity are up. Andy is a Really Nice Guy; but a bit too nice, if you ask the Panel. He comes across as just a bit fake and the hacks, and many others, will always wonder what his real motives are. Andy scored a 7 for spending, since the Students' Union has a good bit of (your) money to play around with, and Byrne also claims to have

complete control of discretionary spending. He loses out to Number 1 on this measure, since Ents has an incredibly profitable year. The 7 for Profile comes from his ability to spam all 12,000 Undergraduates weekly with whatever he so fancies, and just by virtue of being President, people will more likely than not know who you are. Finally he gets an 8 for influence, coming from his from his automatic right to sit on almost every committee including the College Board, the highest of them all.

# "Nice" can get you places

Everyone's favourite society girl, Sophie comes in as the number 3, just pipping last year's CSC Chair Kat Sheane, who made it to 4. Davies should hold a lot of power by virtue of her position as Chair of the Central Societies Committee. She has risen to this spot mainly by being a nice person. Really, really nice. Don't mistake this girl for being a pushover, though; Davies is pretty even handed and even has a bad side to get on. Just ask Afro Caribbean or the Phil, who got their funding slashed this year. She's even had a run in or two with the man behind the throne, Joe O'Gorman (CSC Honorary Treasurer) and CSC Executive colleague Conor McQuillan. How do we know this? Well, Davies is a bit of a gossip. Davies defies the Hamilton Block stereotype by actually engaging with the College. The Junior Sophister Maths student shunned the Hamilton last year and is now firmly at home in House 6.

She plays the flute for the Trinity Orchestra and chaired the society last year. Despite increasing the society's funding, she was still an outsider in what is an unbelievable clique. She also edits the Societies' page for this fine publication, which has gained her some considerable favour with the smaller societies which she has championed through the paper and CSC.

The panel have given Sophie a pair of 7s for Spending and Influence. This comes from being a genuinely nice person and from her position in the CSC and its massive €250,000 budget. O'Gorman holds most of the sway over this (he even pays himself €30,000 from it and kept everyone in the dark about this until last month), but Davies has proved herself willing to stand up to the man, something none of her predecessors ever did. One wouldn't want to overstate this, as O'Gorman needs taking down a peg or two. O'Gorman is also an impediment to any real influence Davies could have in the CSC. After all, he is the man with the real power, even if that's not what the Constitution might say.

Chair of CSC garners her another 7 for Profile. Seen at every party in College from the smallest to the biggest, Sophie also managed to get herself featured in a number of newspapers just a few weeks ago. The all-round good girl found herself at the end of a fist when travelling home to her Northside residence last year. Poor Sophie's bloody face made the *Sunday Independent*. Davies is a friend of Students' Union President Andrew Byrne and also dates David Rickard, former Secretary of the Scholars Committee and the Frisbee Team.

We wish Sophie the best of luck in her re-election as CSC Chair. The panel's money is on Sophie not to run unopposed. We wonder where she'll feature on next year's list?



3

# PullOut

# '07

# '08



MARTIN MCKENNA

15. The Dublin University's Literary Society's largest event by an order of magnitude this year was a visit by a Heineken-wielding, cigarette-rolling D. B. C. Pierre. After enlisting the help of the audience with his new novel, in progress, the action moved to Doyle's.

16. Ent's officer Ed O'Riordan (left of catwalk) admires part of the casual wear collection modelled at Trinity's Next Top Model in January.

17. Eternal student Matteo (Masahiso) Matubara, known popularly as "Matt the Jap" to students, died of natural causes in his home off Mount Street, aged 73. He was found by Gardai on 20 November, shortly after 9 am., after food outside his door was left untouched for a number of days. The Gardai contacted Matt's niece Akiko through the Japanese embassy and she flew to Ireland to identify the body.

18. A visit by Jonny Marr to the Phil, guitarist for the Smiths and Modest Mouse, was part of a lacklustre year for the debating society that was marked as much by the absences of promised guests such as Naoimi Campbell and Harrison Ford as it was by the presence of Heather Mills, on the same night that the Hist brought John Major to College.

19. Students' Union presidential candidate and JCR grand poobah Rob Donohue revealed some genuinely promising election pledges despite his jokey image.

20. Staff photographer Mark Carroll plucked up his courage in a graveyard to produce this photo-illustration for TN2's feature on how to survive if you find yourself in a Hollywood horror film.

21. One lucky Trinity Hall resident got more than he bargained for at his birthday party in Halls last September, with fire alarms, robbery, mass evacuation and a 35-year old (allegedly transsexual) stripper. One of the young Team-Englanders got a bit trigger happy and coated the common room with foam from one of the fire extinguishers, which could potentially have suffocated everyone present. It is unclear what happened next, though a wallet and 250 euros was stolen, one guy vomited on the floor and another urinated on himself.

22. USI President Richard Morrisroe resigned following a motion of no confidence at the USI National Congress in Galway in October. In an interview with Trinity News, Morrisroe said he felt his ousting was "completely political" and "absolutely disgusting".

23. Dublin University Football Club in action against visiting Malone from Belfast in College Park. The home side lost 9-32 on the beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon.

24. "Liffey Larry", a visiting Erasmus student from Finland who did not want to be name lest he had broken any potential administrative regulations by undertaking a guerilla-style swim in the Liffey to raise funds for Players' Freshers' Co-op.

25. Outgoing First Minister of Northern Ireland, Dr. Ian Paisley regards one of the original copies of Declaration of Independence in the Old Library, during his visit to the Graduates Memorial Building this year.

26. In Joe Duffy's day, the mantra was 'Fight the first cut'. This year, appeasement has been in vogue. Students' Union president Andrew Byrne prides himself on having built up cordial relations with the senior College administration. However, with the Student Union actively supporting controversial College policies, such as restructuring, semestrisation and a new student levy one, wonders if Andy is quite sure what team he is playing for.

27. Dame Helen Mirren poses for photographs in the Phil Council Room. Mirren's visit marked the high point of the Phil's calendar and showed much promise for the year to come. The event itself was greatly oversubscribed and Mirren delivered an interview arranged in topic from her own acting career to the importance of strong women in society.

28. Enda Kenny, lands some punches while visiting the young Fine Gael stand during Freshers' Week. A member of the Young PD's present but not pictured was heard to comment, 'It's a pity he couldn't land any during the General Election.'

29. Junior Dean and Registrar of Chambers, Dr. Emma Stokes. At the beginning of this academic year, Trinity News set about compiling file photos of senior college staff including the Senior Dean, the Senior Tutor, the Dean of Students, et al. Though emailed in October, Dean Stokes has yet to reply to our invitation. We await the opportunity to photograph this pillar of College society with great, yet patient, expectation. Photographs can be arranged by emailing photos@trinitynews.ie.

Staff photographers: Brian Martin, Caroline O'Leary, Conor O'Kelly, David Adamson, Dave Molloy, Dominique English, Emer Groarke, Jessica Pakenham-Money, Madeleine Carroude, Mark Carroll, Martin McKenna, Rachel Kennedy, Stephan Hügel, Tom Gillespie.



EMER GROARKE



MARTIN MCKENNA



DAVID ADAMSON



OFFICE OF THE JUNIOR DEAN

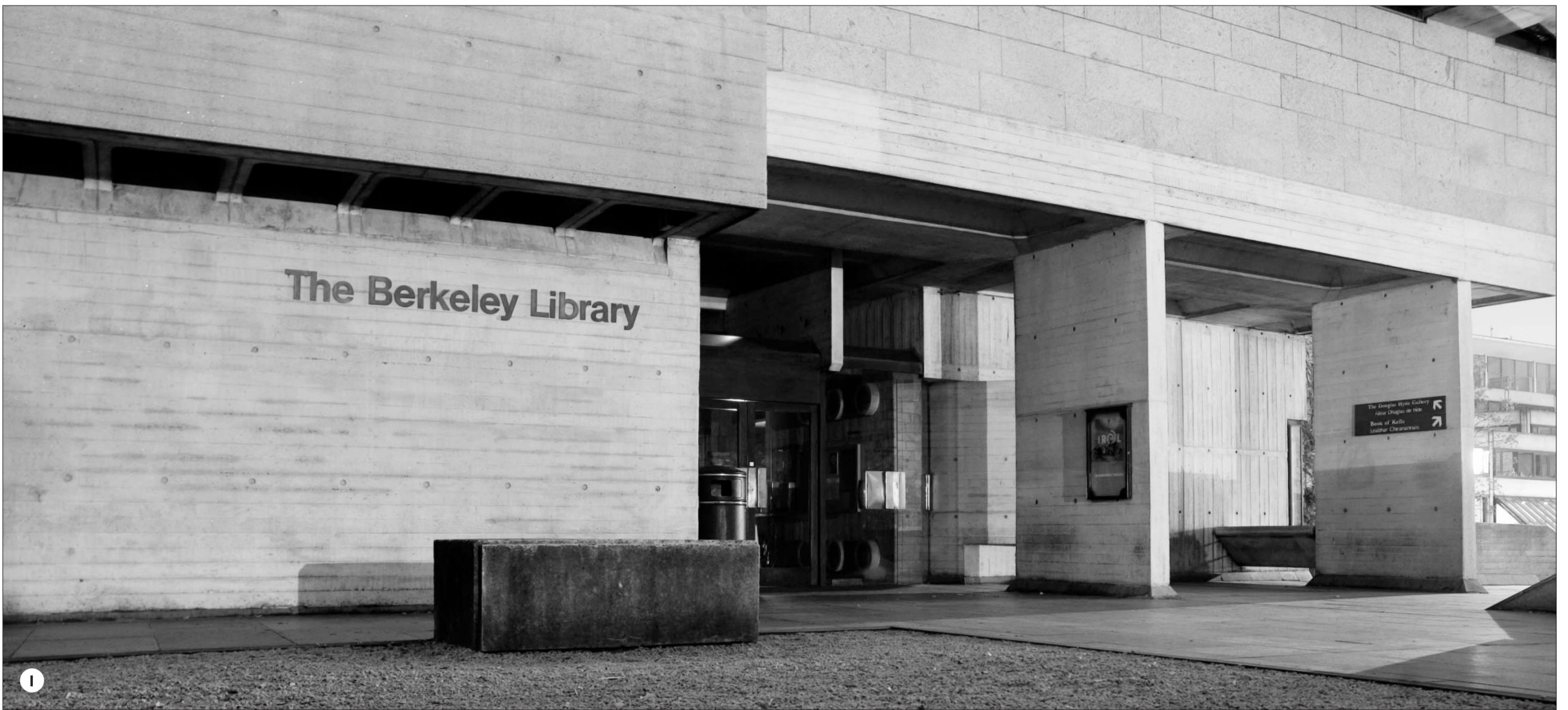


MARK CARROLL



MARK KEARNEY

# PullOut



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MARTIN MCKENNA



2

JESSICA PAKENHAM-MONEY



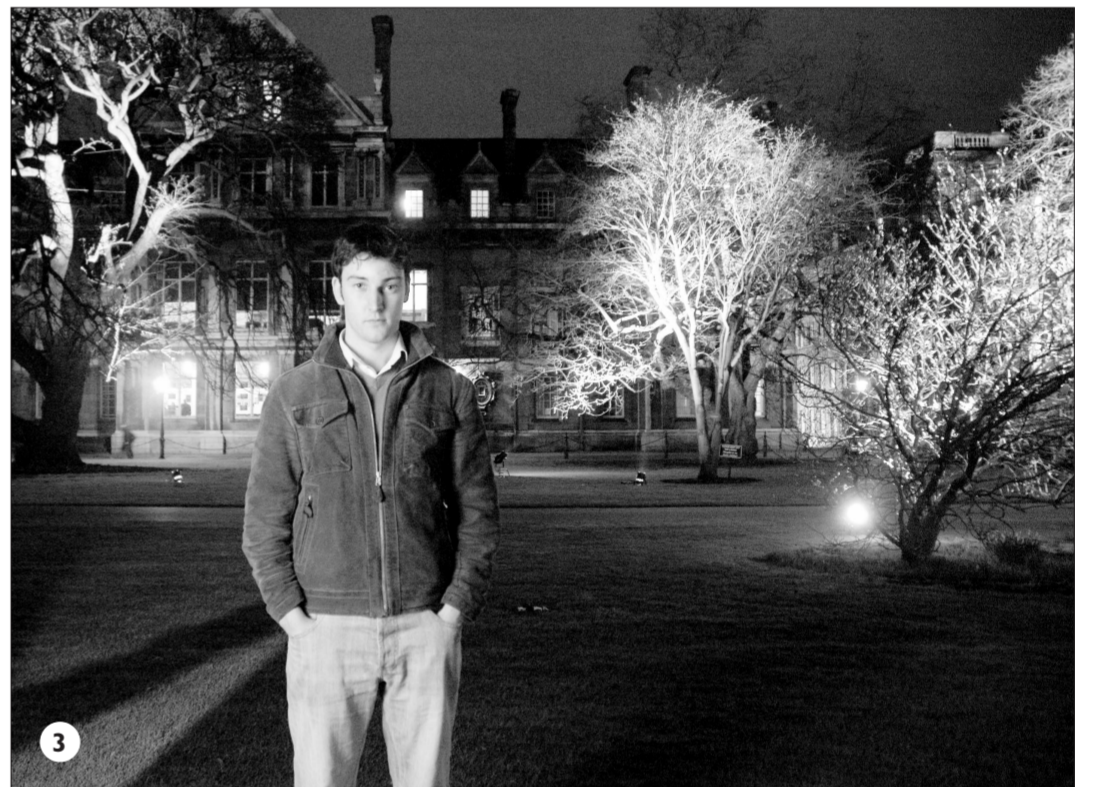
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MARTIN MCKENNA



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MARTIN MCKENNA



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MARTIN MCKENNA



5

MADELINE CARROUEE



4

MARTIN MCKENNA

# PullOut

# '07

# '08

## The year as seen by Trinity News staff photographers



MARTIN MCKENNA



BROCHURE COURTESY OF CHURCH OF GOD

1. The Sunday opening hours secured for the Berkley Lecky Usher complex was a significant achievement for the Students' Union, though as always it was tempered by conditions; there were no counter services and the Hamilton and John Stearne Libraries stayed closed.

2. Dublin University Hockey Club and Dublin University Ladies' Hockey Club sent nine teams to UCD for this year's Colours at which the hosts were ultimately victorious. The Ladies' 1st XI were engaged in an incredibly tight game that finished 4-3 to UCD, with goals from Rebecca Murphy, Maebh Horan and Claire Hearndon. Après hockey, with hotel management complaining of loutish behaviour, the teams were unceremoniously kicked out at midnight.

3. Despite topping Trinity News opinion poll, Eoin Moore failed to beat science kid Cathal Reilly to the Students' Union presidency.

4. Amid the hallowed stones of Christ Church Cathedral, the string section of Dublin University Orchestral Society prepare to dazzle audiophile and philistine alike with their celestial rendition of Dvorak favourites in November.

5. The LGBT wisely added spotlights to their photocall scheduled after sunset, but failed to foresee that a dispute would arise when members of College Security claimed that prior permission had not been sought to hold the event in Front Square. The LGBT responded with chanting and singing and a standoff ensued. Luckily the Honorary Treasurer of the CSC, Assistant Junior Dean, Strategic Development Officer of the CSC, Chorister of the Chapel Choir, Chapel Crucifer, Department of Philosophy Lecturer, Secretary of the Dublin University Far Eastern Mission, Mr Joseph O'Gorman (M. Phil, M.A. 1988), pictured, was on hand to bring his sobering influence to bear before events escalated too far.

6. Sam Chappatte had his eye on the talent on display at the Dublin University Amateur Boxing Club's annual "Brawl in the Hall" in the exam hall on January 16th.

7. Students' Union Education Officer Bartley Rock has had a visible year of education-related success -- exam timetables arrived on schedule and the BLU library opened on Sundays. Having graduated this year, he will take up the position of Education Officer of the USI for which he was uncontested.

8. Admiral of the Dublin University Boat Club, Gabriel McGee, looks forlorn with the surgically vandalised boats (with one end severed, to his left) in storage in the boathouse in Islandbridge. The damage occurred while the boats were on a trailer during one of the boat club's trips over the Christmas season.

9. The "Church of God", which Trinity News revealed had begun recruiting members of the college community to their faith, believes that their founder, Ahnsanghong, is the reincarnation of Christ. The Church was less than pleased with the free publicity they received from Trinity News' front page story on the matter, threatening in no uncertain terms to take the matter all the way to the top -- the Provost, that is, not God. Trinity News was happy to assist them with this, directing them to no. 1 Grafton Street. Despite dire warnings, we can only assume the locusts have been lost in the post.

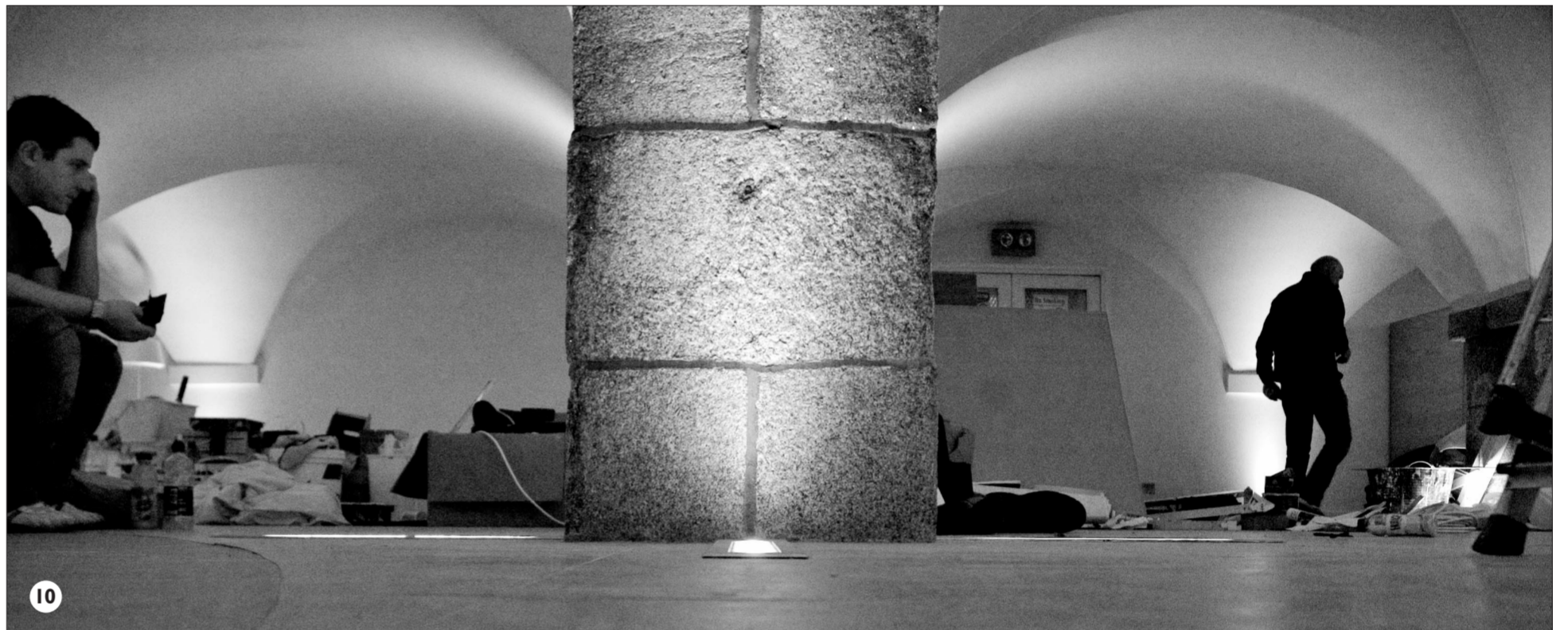
10. The sleek new Buttery was being finished mere days before Freshers' Week started when Trinity News was given a tour of the facility by Eugene McGovern of College Catering, who said he wanted to distance the Buttery from its previous "greasy spoon" image.

11. A 35-year lease to the Wright Group promises €9.5 million for the College to develop the currently criminally underused Foster Place into a two-storey bar and restaurant complex with room for the School of Linguistics, freeing up 500 square metres in the Arts Building.

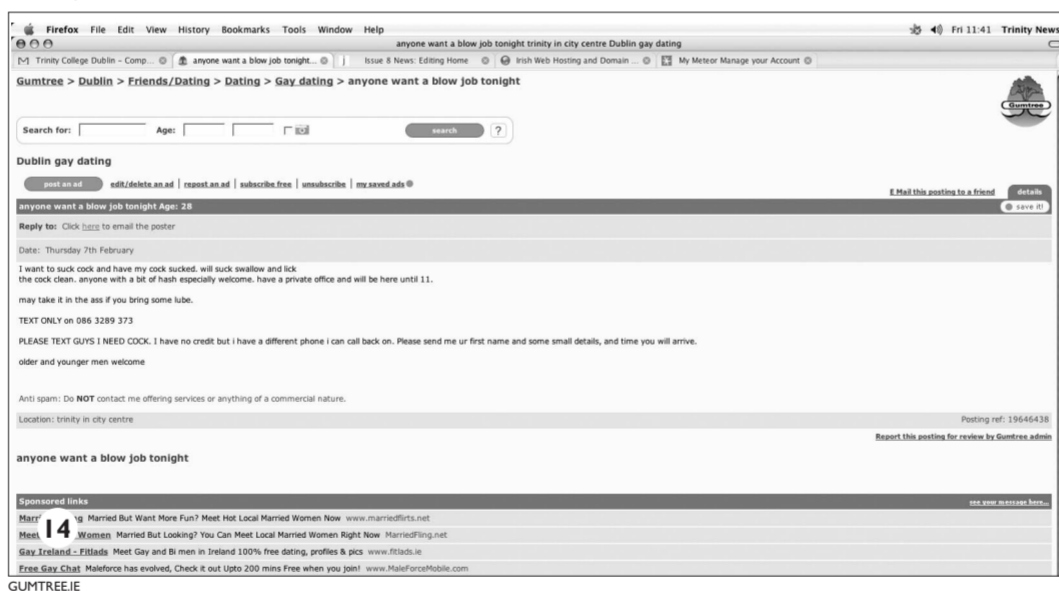
12. A tender moment at this year's Strauss Ball in the Dining Hall.

13. A reveller at Trinity Arts Festival.

14. The now-infamous screenshot from gumtree.ie that gained Trinity its only front page national news story this year, first reported in Trinity News and subsequently blazoned across the front page of the Evening Herald, the "staff sex story" showed Trinity at its stuffiest. The staff member in question is, to the best of our knowledge, still working in Trinity College despite his dalliances. To date, no Garda investigation has been logged.



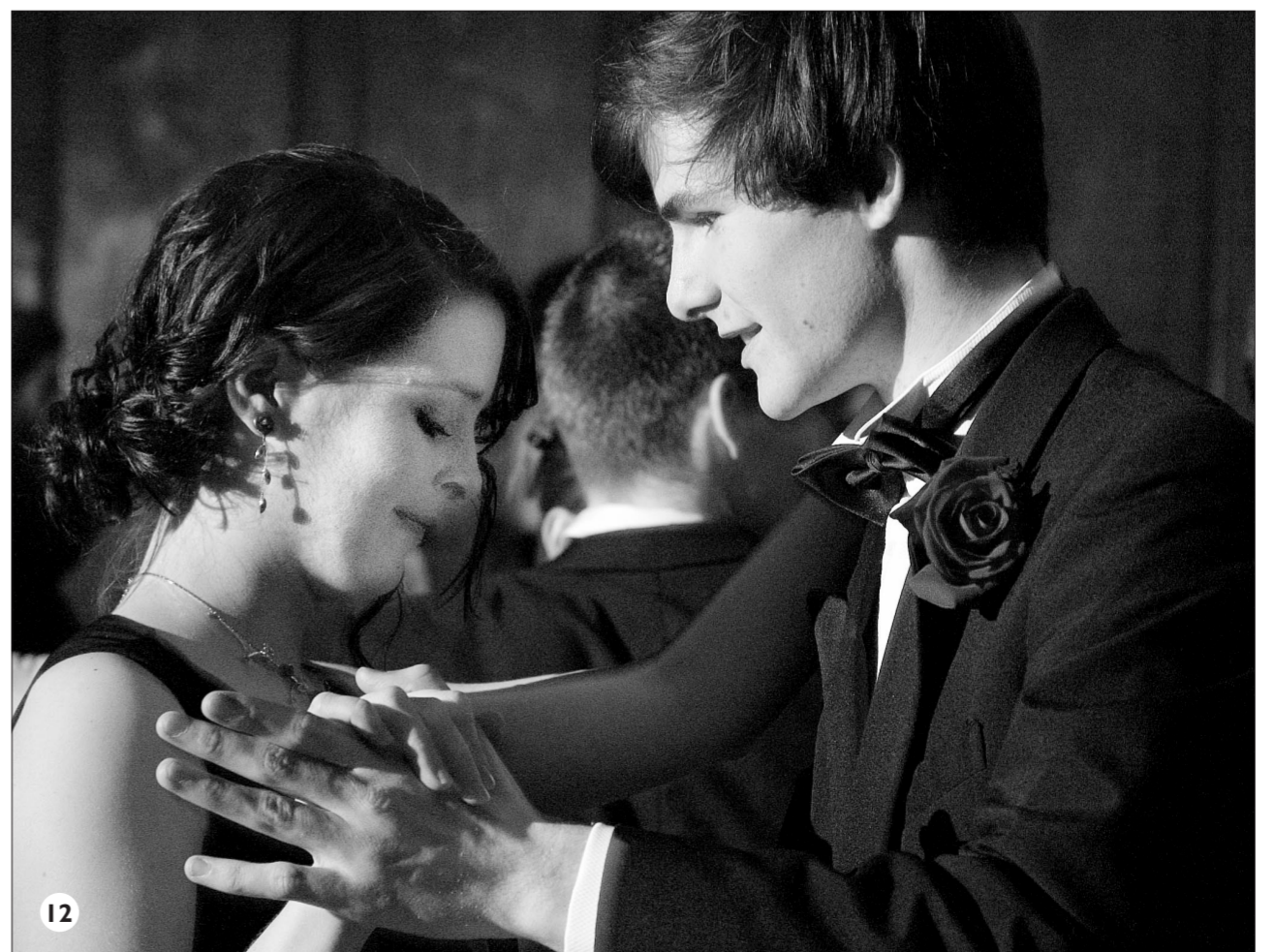
MARTIN MCKENNA



MARTIN MCKENNA



MIKE WAZOWSKI

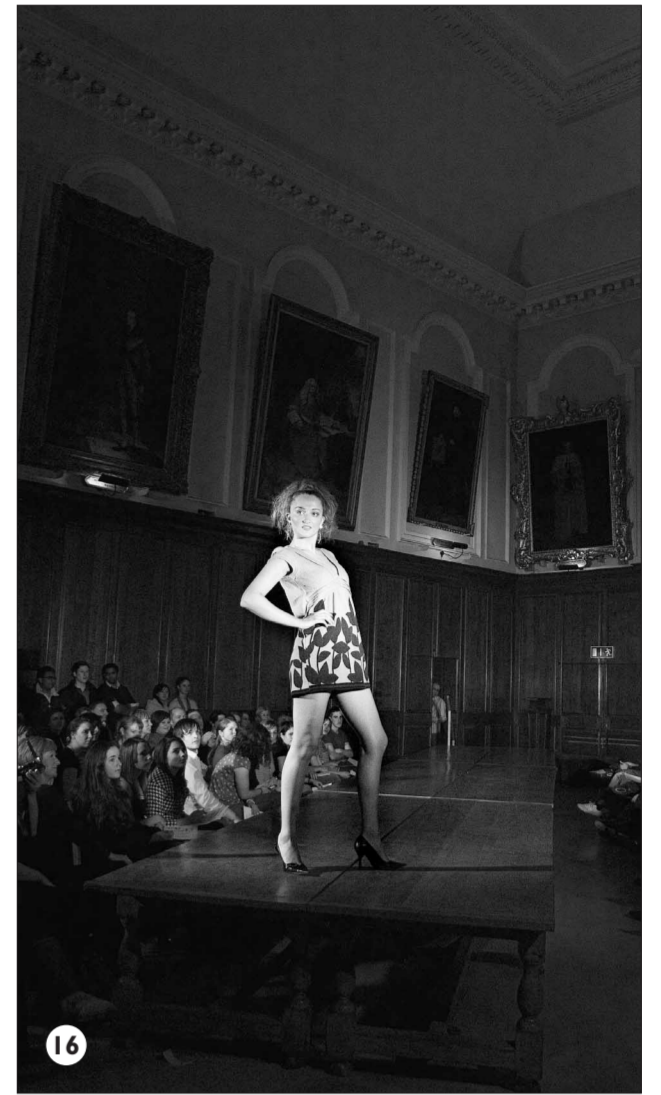


MARTIN MCKENNA

# PullOut



CAROLINE O'LEARY



CAROLINE O'LEARY



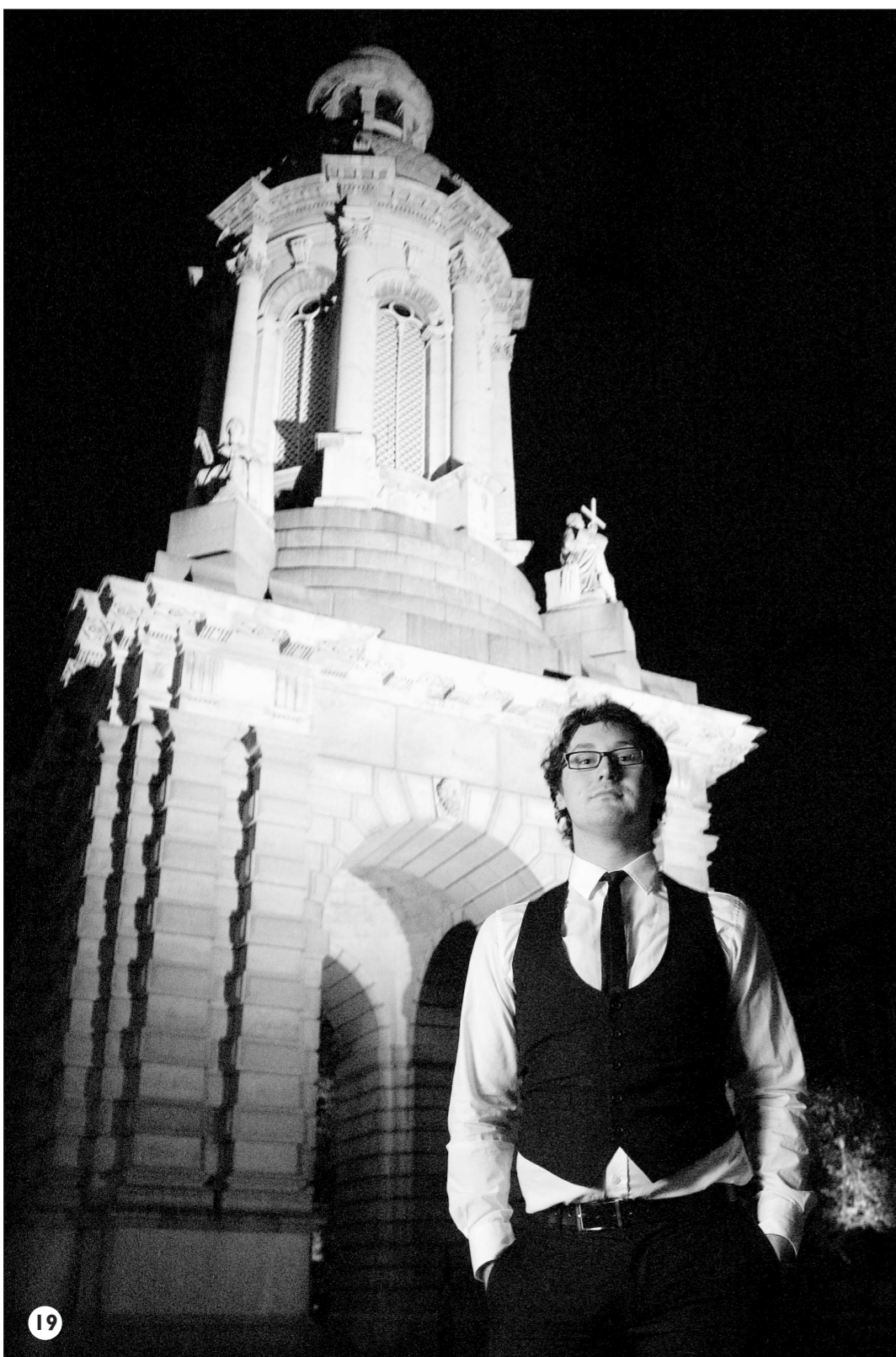
MARK CARROLL



THOMAS VALENTINE SPENDLOVE



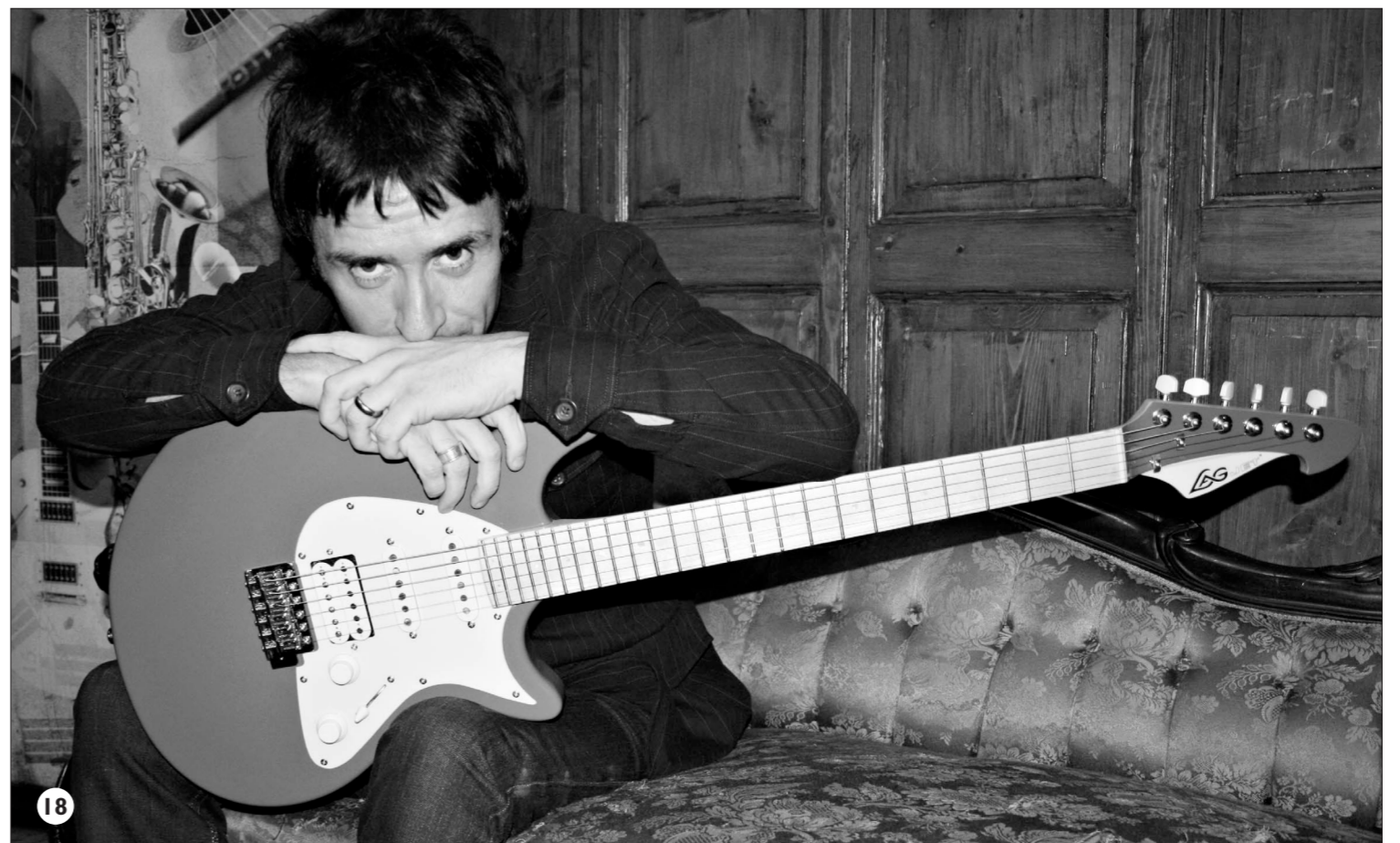
SHANE COLWELL



MARTIN MCKENNA



USI



DAVID ADAMSON

# Getting you twisted every week

*Being known by everyone from first year BESS to final year medicine gets O'Riordan to the top slot - what better power over the masses than through their beer glass?*

The Limerick boy done good. Ed O'Riordan's rise to the dizzying heights of this year's list are sure to put a twisted smile on his little face. For those who do not know Mr. O'Riordan (definitely in the minority), here's an overview of nuggets we have picked up whilst being allowed, from time to time, to bask in his glowing presence.

O'Riordan is the first person to top this list who has not been regarded as a "hack". He is even more of an oddity in that as an Students' Union Officer and even in the run-up to his election, he was not an Students' Union hack. (Although he did publish one front-page story in *The Record*, a particularly low-point in his career.) O'Riordan is the anti-hack who is also known and loved by hacks. Of course, hosting the biggest and best events in College is sure to make even the most cynical warm to you. O'Riordan controls Trinity through the beer glass and the guest list.

In spite of spending the majority of his time in the company of the most wasted people in Dublin, O'Riordan has managed to secure a reputation as straight down the line - he is very honest and would never embroil himself in the seedy drug-fuelled ventures that have become the hallmark of past Ents Officers. Hailing from Limerick, you would expect him to be a good deal more au fait with the seedy underbelly of a city, but in fact, O'Riordan is more little-boy-lost than gun-toting gangsta. O'Riordan went to Glenstal Abbey, along with former number 1 on the Power List of yore, Paddy Cosgrave - one wonders if there is something in the water there?

Generally well-liked and amiable, O'Riordan is not afraid to speak his mind and has gone against the Students' Union when he thinks his way will reap the more shiny rewards. This finds its repercussions, however. O'Riordan's diplomacy skills are perhaps not quite as top-notch as his party favours, and his blunt-to-the-point approach has got him in trouble with the Students' Union and the other Sabbatical Officers on more than one occasion.

On a more personal note, O'Riordan lives with David

Quinn (however has, to the naked eye, picked up no similar characteristics of the slime-variety), enjoys cheesy pop (who doesn't?) and prefers to go running at night so no one sees him in his running shorts.

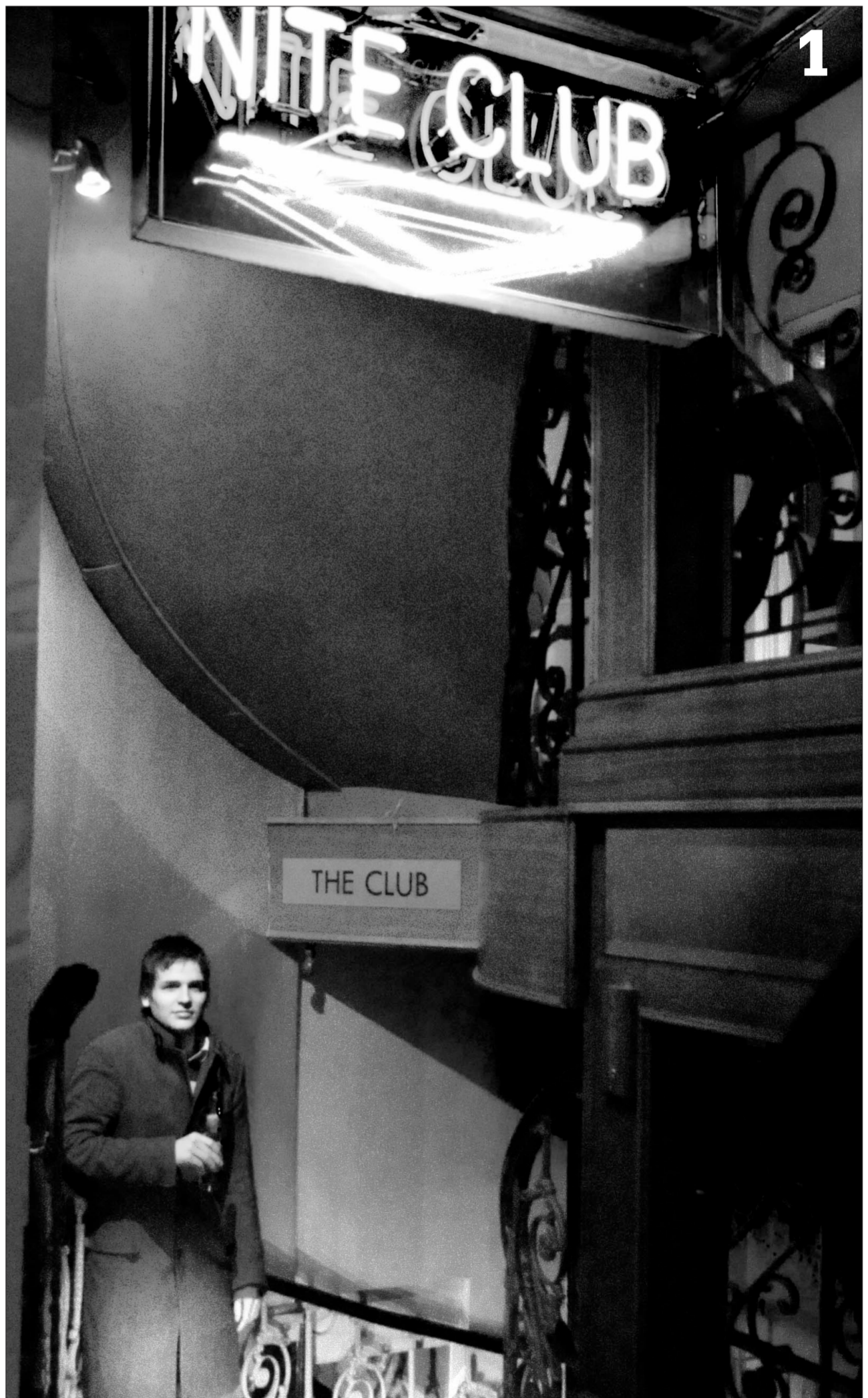
Ed O'Riordan was once the Trinity Hall Ents Officer known to all those Dartry kids, however, he really made his name by co-hosting club nights - predominately in Citi Bar - with old school chum Bobby Talbot. It is said that Ed is the "good cop" to Bobby "Muscles" Talbot. The two-euro drinks at Twisted Tuesdays were a winner for O'Riordan, ensuring that more students piled along to his nights ("rack 'em and stack 'em") than to erstwhile Ents Officer, Barry Murphy's, gigs.

It was not always smooth sailing for O'Riordan, however. His similar club night, Smashed Thursdays, caused a rucus with Mature Enjoyment of Alcohol Society, although there has been speculation that the "anonymous complaint" was in fact lodged by one of O'Riordan's rivals for Ents Officer in the run-up to last year's elections. Similarly O'Riordan is not a fan of College beauracracy and his hobby-horse du jour is the Junior Dean's ability to halt even the most wholesome of plans before they have passed through a forest-worth of paper trails.

This year, O'Riordan was burned by one prominent College society, who withheld once-promised rooms from him for a function. Happily, O'Riordan, ever the pragmatist, had a handy back-hander prepared for the man of the moment, ensuring the night went ahead without (many) hitches.

Surprisingly, the reputation for being a "Ladies Man" has eluded this Ents Officer, although there are rumblings of his indiscretions - the Ents Office has been privy to some amount of action, as have the elevators in Halls and the bathrooms in Citi Bar. (Something to chew on on your next visit).

Commanding an estimated budget of upwards of €50,000 and also bringing in the majority of the Student Union's sponsorship this year, none of Ed's club nights have made a loss yet, which accounts for his hefty 7 in Spending Power. The Students' Union will even make a profit this year, thanks largely to O'Riordan's efforts.



O'Riordan's profile is a whopping 9, mostly due to the fact that social life is pivotal for students and he is firmly behind the machinations of it this year. In addition, he is rarely to be found in his office, preferring instead to spend his days flyering, poster, visiting and generally working jolly hard in the public eye. O'Riordan's influence is 6: this is the year of the party people and he

commands the course of the social life of practically every Trinity student.

A part of O'Riordan's success is thanks to his close relationship with Simon Evans, the administrative Officer of the Students' Union. O'Riordan's unsurpassed skills in fundraising have made Evans' job smooth-sailing this year and he is one to respond in kind, allowing the Ents Officer the support he has

needed to back all his ventures.

Other accolades to his name include the fastest selling Trinity Ball in history (it's not often you see a queue around House 6), a successful and well-marshalled Ents Crew and a great right hand man in Mick Birmingham.

Having built College Ents up to its current status, next year's Ents Officer will definitely be starting out with more money than sense.



## Timmy Harnedy

Very few Trinity students can claim to be among the world's top athletes, but rower Timmy Harnedy has a silver medal from the World Championships. Harnedy was a member of Ireland's elite lightweight coxless four at the Worlds in Japan, where the crew was less than two seconds off the gold medal. The Botany Bay resident is a Skibbereen Rowing Club man, but this year he will be competing for Dublin University Boat Club, helping the crew towards victory in regattas closer to home. Good friends with the current DUBC Captain Joseph Calnan, some students might remember the amorous encounter between the two at the Students' Union slave auction last year – all for charity, of course.



## Eoghan Kerlin

Eoghan Kerlin's brute strength and years of rowing experience make him one of Trinity's top sportsmen and an indispensable asset to the College's senior eight. Kerlin rowed for years at Queen's University of Belfast, before coming to Trinity to study for a master's degree and he has been part of almost every winning Trinity combination since he arrived nearly two years ago. Kerlin has yet to receive the call for Ireland, but his dedicated approach to training and natural aptitude for rowing may see him selected for the Home International Regatta this summer. Northerner Kerlin rows hard, but he is also well known for a healthy approach to socialising and he is a big hit with University College Dublin's beefy ladies.



## Johnny Watt

Dublin University Football Club - Johnny Watt has been an integral part of Tony Smeeth's plans ever since he walked through Front Gate in 2004. A talented schoolboy footballer, he was once a member of Glasgow Rangers school of excellence in Belfast. Watt started his rugby career at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, earning Ulster and Irish schools honours. Now a Senior Sophister Business, Economics and Social Studies student, Watt's performances at fly-half in an ailing Division 2 side have helped to carry his team at times. Closely followed by Max Cantrell and Joe Burns as the side's talisman, an injury cruelly deprived Watt of his final colour's appearance and Trinity of one of their most naturally talented players.



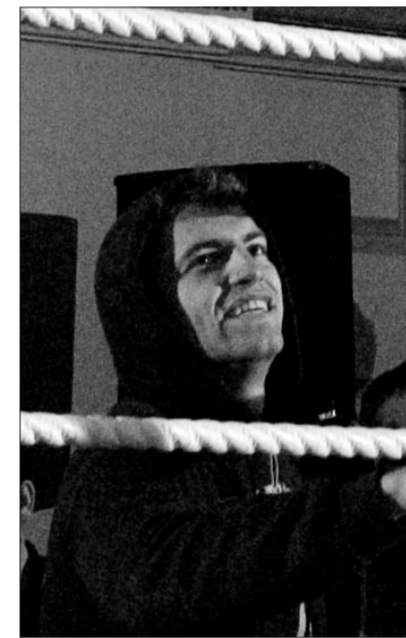
## Rebecca Murphy

Dublin University Ladies' Hockey Club - Rebecca Murphy - The Senior Sophister Sociology and Business student is irritatingly talented. An extremely skilled sailor, she recently captained Dublin University Ladies' Hockey Club to their first Leinster Senior Cup final since 1975. Murphy epitomised a team that overachieved against the odds. A recipient of provincial Under 21 honours for her native Munster and her adopted Leinster, Murphy was selected for the Irish Universities' Squad this season. Ably supported by a backing cast that includes Club Captain Vanessa Buckley and Connacht senior player Ciara Murphy, Rebecca Murphy has excelled in her leadership role this year, fully deserving her place.



## Ben Hewitt

Dublin University Hockey Club - Ben Hewitt - A captain in a difficult season, Hewitt has worked tirelessly to ensure DUHC had some chance of promotion back to Division 1. Hewitt gained Ulster 16 honours at school before changing provinces as a student, earning Under 21 honours for Leinster. In a club which was often without a coach on the sideline, Hewitt was forced to combine roles, leading both on and off the pitch. A Senior Sophister French and History student, Hewitt's season has been filled with surprising losses and wins. DUHC have been wildly unpredictable. A steady hand on an unsteady boat, Hewitt fully deserves to represent his club on this list.



## Sam Chappatte

Dublin University Boxing Club - Sam Chappatte - Featuring twice on the list, Chappatte remains Trinity's great multitasker. In his role as President of Trinity Hall JCR, he has managed to earn his place on the Power List in only his second year. However, his sporting prowess is arguably more impressive. A former rugby standout at St Paul's in London, Chappatte took up boxing on arrival at Trinity. Vice-Captain of the Club this year, Chappatte has revelled in the role; an outstanding boxer, he won the British and Irish Universities Championships.



## Bryony Treston

Dublin University Harriers and Athletics Club - Bryony Treston - A Senior Freshman Medicine student, Treston is her club's outstanding representative. Combining one of College's most demanding degrees with her sport, Treston was elected captain of Dublin University Harriers this year. She has dealt with the responsibility with ease; a member of the Irish team at the European Junior Championships, Treston came second in the Celtic Nations varsities cross country championship. A winner at the European Club Championships, Treston is closely followed by the men's captain Simon Taggart - a winner of the varsity 400 title at both indoor and outdoor.



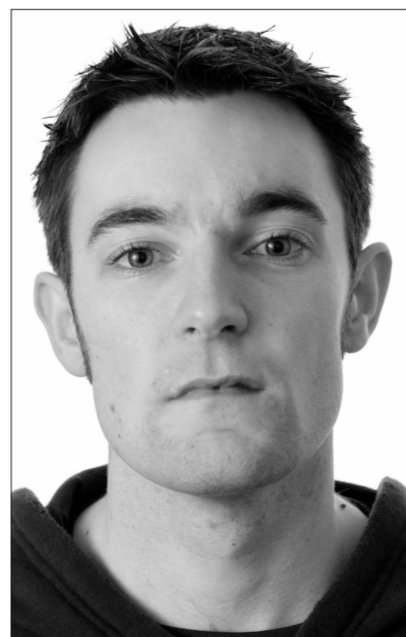
## Laura Cremen

Laura Cremen has been practising Tae Kwon Do since she was seven years old and learned to kick before other important concepts, such as how rivers are formed and that the famine was, in fact, bad. Apart from being a central member of the Irish Ladies senior team for the last three years, she has won a silver medal at the European Championships and Gold medals the English Open (twice) and the Spanish Open. Despite her lethal abilities, Laura is a Hufflepuff at heart, enjoying cooking Sunday lunches, baking and yoga. She is testing for her third dan in this September and is tipped by many to be the first female to reach Master rank.



## Ciara Aucoin

Ciara Aucoin was on the Irish ladies senior team who won gold at the International Tae Kwon Do Federation's World Championships in August 2007. She has kicked ass in several other competitions, winning medals at the English Open 2007, Irish Intervarsities and the West Kinsale under 11's "Brawl in the Hall". Learned in languages, Ciara has read Kant's critiques of both pure and practical reason in the original High Dutch. She likes dancing, flower arranging, wearing pretty summer dresses and other such noble feminine pursuits.



## Barry Kennedy

Barry Kennedy is a rarity in Trinity. A member of the Dublin senior GAA panel, he is one of the naturally most gifted footballers to ever play for the club. A Junior Sophister physiotherapy student; Kennedy is blessed with raw natural pace and an ability to kick equally well with both feet, helping him to become top scorer this season as full-forward. A man with his talents in demand, Kennedy spent his summer playing football in Boston. Earning Dublin minor honours in hurling, he concentrated on football, coming runner-up in the All-Ireland championship in 2003. He also won a Leinster Under 21 championship in 2005. Moving from his home club of St Mark's GAA club in Tallaght to Trinity, Kennedy has won the Trench Cup and player of the year honours.



# TRINITY REGATTA PREVIEW



## SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL



## ISLANDBRIDGE





## TRINITY REGATTA PREVIEW



Piers White and Mark Ryder observe some fine rowing by DUBC at the Trinity Regatta in 2003. Photo: Peter Henry

# A DAY AT THE RACES

*Peter Henry*

*“The race between Dublin University and Oxford University promises to be the highlight of the day”*

**T**rinity Regatta takes place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April and you are invited. The Boat Club’s annual rowing tournament has been a fixture on the College social and sporting calendar for 110 years. The event was first held in 1898 and has long been an unmissable day in the Dublin social season. As a day out, Trinity Regatta has been gaining popularity among undergraduates in recent years and this year’s event has plenty to offer the diversion-seeking student.

Trinity Regatta has been compared to the famous Henley Royal Regatta. Henley is on a much larger scale, but Trinity Regatta has the same attractions: a high standard of rowing, beautiful surroundings, and a busy and enjoyable social side to things. But the Dublin event has its own peculiar charms. Everyone at Trinity Regatta has a rowing background or has studied at Dublin University; whichever it is, a friendly and convivial atmosphere exists, which makes for a very pleasant day out. This year, a large entry means races every five minutes during the day, with events ranging from junior women in small boats to top men’s crews racing for the University Grand Challenge Cup for senior eights. Trinity have not won the University Grand since their small-margin victory over Lady Elizabeth Boat Club in 2004 and this year’s powerful eight have high hopes for another glorious win.

The eight will really be out to prove themselves at the home regatta this year. Defeat at the hands of a lucky University College Dublin crew in this year’s Colours race has meant that the men in black and white need a confidence boost – and they’ll be

hoping for some decisive wins at Trinity Regatta in front of the college crowd on the bank. The draw, yet to be made, may pit Trinity against the Belfield boys yet again. If this occurs, then spectators can expect a hard-fought race, with neither side willing to give an inch.

The big one this year, threatening to overshadow the University Grand, is the planned challenge race between Dublin University and Oxford University. This varsity race, generously sponsored by the Central Athletic Club and Department of Sport, will take place just after lunch. This race promises to be the highlight of the day.

Oxford’s Blue boat had a resounding victory over Cambridge in the annual Boat Race on the River Thames in London a few weeks ago and the race against the Oxonians’ world-class boat will be tough. But Trinity have had many unexpected and unlikely victories in the past and with the Dublin men having the home advantage, the Dark Blues may return to England with their tails between their legs.

Along with Oxford University and a host of crews from Ireland, the boat club of St John’s College Durham will be travelling to Dublin to test themselves against this country’s finest oarsmen.

As well as your encouragement from the bank, the Boat Club’s crews are looking forward to having the Provost, Dr John Hegarty, there on the day. British Ambassador to Ireland, Mr David Reddaway, will be a special guest this year. A large turnout from College would be a huge boost for the Club’s crews, which have been training all winter to win some glory for old Trinity.

Socially Trinity Regatta has always been a favourite among students and a

large turnout is expected this year.

When the sun shines, the grass by the towpath in the War Memorial Park is packed with rowing fans and attractive girls. As usual, the Pembroke Bar will be open all day in a marquee by the river and the Boat Club’s own bar will be serving drinks in the club itself. Some people like to bring a picnic and the park with its riverside setting is an ideal place to sit down for some food with a group of friends.

Making it easy for the student socialite, the Boat Club is organising buses from College and Trinity Hall to Islandbridge on Regatta day. Keep an eye on posters around College and on the Facebook group (search for “Trinity Regatta”) for the times of buses.

There is no dress code for Trinity Regatta, but many people like to dress in the spirit of the occasion: blazer and tie for men and pretty summer dresses for the lady undergraduates.

In the evening, when the racing is finished and the prizegiving over, the Club is organising a competitors’ dinner in the Boat Club. Non-competitors, particularly students, are very welcome to stay and socialise in the Boat Club, where the bar will remain open.

A lot of Boat Club men are working hard in advance of the big day, both on the organisational side of things and in preparation for some tough races. You can help too by praying for sunshine. The old Club building and the marquees will protect us from any bad weather, but beautiful weather would really make Trinity Regatta an unforgettable occasion.

This year’s Trinity Regatta will be a memorable day. Take some time out from the drudgery of study and come and enjoy yourself at Islandbridge!

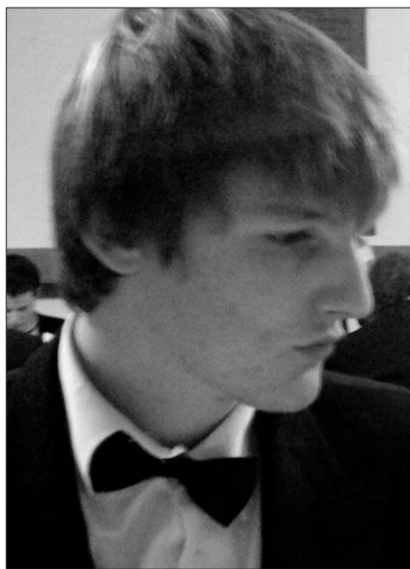
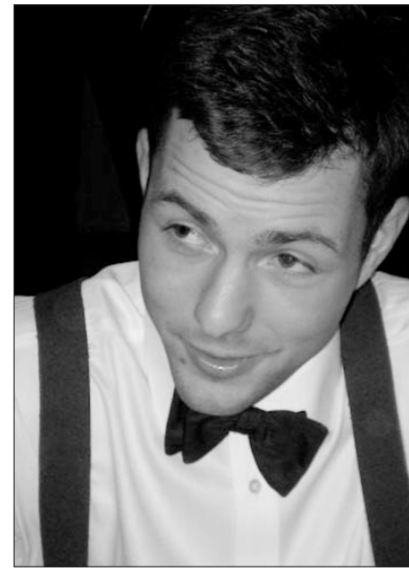
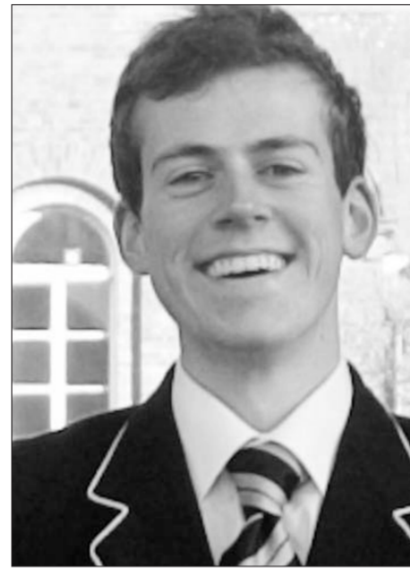
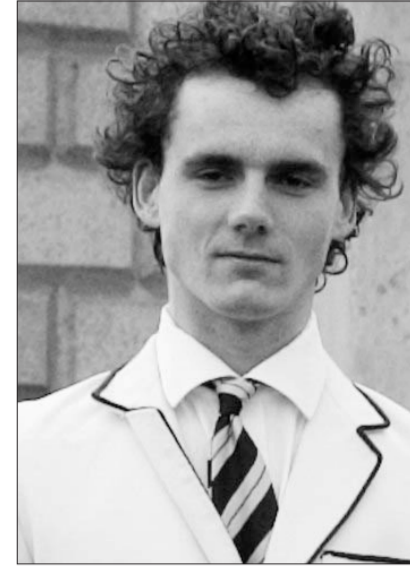


Top: Some of the members of the undefeated Maiden eight from the Regatta in 1946. Above: DUBC Senior eight, 1950. Current club President Robin Tamplin is pictured third from right. Photos courtesy of Peter Henry.





## TRINITY REGATTA PREVIEW



# IN THE BLACK AND WHITE BOAT

*Peter Henry*

With less than two weeks until the race against Oxford University at Trinity Regatta, Trinity's oarsmen are anxiously awaiting the naming of the final line-up. From left to right and top to bottom:

Coach **Mark Pattison**, himself a successful former senior eight man, will not announce the names of those who will race for Dublin University until days before the race, and a large group of students is contending for seats in that boat. The varsity race will be contested by "eights" – racing shells containing eight oarsmen and steered by a cox. More than ten men are training hard, hoping for a spot in the Trinity boat.

Captain **Joseph Calnan**, an Senior Sophister Business, Economics and Social Studies student, has a successful rowing history behind him and is considered a reliable man to have in an eight. Calnan won the schoolboy event at Henley Royal Regatta before coming to Trinity. An Abingdon man, he is friends with Oxford's president and coxswain, Nick Brodie.

**Paul Laird** is a veteran of the Boat Club's senior eight and the massive amount of power he brings to the boat can never be underestimated. Laird, a Scholar, is extremely strong in tests in the gym, and has valuable experience.

However, unlike previous years, he has not been the top man on the rowing machine. Inconsistent application to training may also be a black mark against Laird in the eyes of the coach.

**Seán Osborne** always rows well and he has been considered a natural oar since he took up rowing at Trinity. The southsider's smooth rhythm makes him a candidate for the stroke seat. His performance in training leaves little to be desired, but with so much competition, Seán's seat is far from guaranteed.

Black blazer **Henry Tindal** is hard to beat on the rowing machine, and the TSM student has been a lover of Trinity's traditional ideals for years. If the coach places an emphasis on technique for the varsity race, then there is a small chance he could be sacrificed, but the good money is on Tindal sitting somewhere in the powerhouse of the eight.

Sculling supremo **Eoin MacDomhnaill** is the model Trinity oar. Having taken up the sport in College, MacDomhnaill has excelled both in the gym and on the water. He has had a meteoric rise from naïve novice to star senior, but his recent poor health may count against him when it comes to selection day.

**Robert Swift** has been committed to his

rowing since the day he entered Trinity, but his eloquent bladework has not always compensated for his lack of power. Rowing at school has given Swift a technical edge, but he cannot match the sheer strength of the likes of Laird and Tindal. A possible lack of dedication to land training may be Swift's downfall.

Belvo boy **Gavin Doherty** took up rowing in College, rising quickly through the ranks. His precise oarsmanship has made him sought-after as a stroke man, and he was in the hero seat for Trinity's win at the Erne Head of the River race this year. While Doherty's times on the machine don't match that of some of the heavier crew members, his light weight makes his excellent scores particularly commendable.

**Alexander Floyd** is new to the Trinity squad, having been the novices' coach in his Junior Freshman year. Floyd has over one year's priceless experience at Eton. However, for a man of his weight, Floyd's time on the rowing machine leaves something to be desired, which may work against his bid for a seat.

There is no doubt that JS Bess student **Timothy Harnedy** is the best oar in Trinity College. The World Championship silver medalist has only recently put himself forward as a candidate for the University's senior eight, but his unmatched rowing

history should see Harnedy in the white shorts, stripy socks and stripy zephyr on Trinity Regatta day. A win would bring Harnedy one step closer to his private goal: the right to wear the famous Boat Club senior blazer.

**Peter Heverin** is a lover of DU Boat Club's grand traditions. The hopeful youngster has a wealth of experience from his time spent rowing with Clonmel Rowing Club before coming up to Trinity. A consistent winter's training means Heverin will take no prisoners if he makes Trinity's varsity eight.

A heartbreaker off the water, Queen's University of Belfast graduate **Eoghan Kerlin** will be indispensable to the Trinity assault on Oxford. Kerlin has beaten Oxford University in the past and his confidence makes him a prime candidate for the stroke seat. Kerlin stepped right into the Boat Club's senior eight when he came to Dublin to read for his MSc and rowing fans can expect to see him either in stroke or in the big six seat.

Outside bet **Brendan Guildea** has impressed this year in the gym, having rowed in Trinity's best second crews last season. But Guildea's attempt at last year's scholarship examinations may have set back his rowing goals, and he is likely to be on the bank for this race.

Junior Colours man **Paul Dunphy** probably has the edge over Guildea, having performed excellently in the single scull at recent Dublin regattas. The BAI candidate is a dark horse, but his quiet nature conceals an irrepressible will to win. While Dunphy and Guildea have been working hard this year, neither is likely to face Oxford, but they should form the backbone of a strong second eight later in the season.

Long-time MLitt student and Graduate Students' Union Vice-President **Gabriel Magee** is guaranteed his spot in the coxswain's seat – or is he? The committed admiral was ousted by veteran cox Sophia Gold before Henley last year, but he seems set to steer Trinity's finest in the varsity showdown at Trinity Regatta this year.

Whatever the make-up of the final eight, Trinity will have a determined and experienced crew, and the Dark Blues shouldn't approach the race with too much arrogance. The fame of the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race draws experienced international oarsmen to Oxford every year. But the determined will to win of the Trinity College rowers is extremely powerful and will make this an unforgettable race.

Remember, Oxford: we have good men, not simply good oarsmen.