Irish Student Newspaper of the Year 2008

Trinity News

ECONOMIC MELTDOWN

Spare some pity for jobless bankers

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Ents in chaos for Freshers' Week events

» SU employs Ents race runner-up Dave Byrne
» Byrne quits midweek citing "series of errors"
» Longworth denies the week was a failure

By Brian Barry

TRINITY'S ENTERTAINMENTS Officer Nick Longworth has been strongly criticised in the wake of Freshers' Week following Dave Byrne's resignation from the Ents team. Byrne - who narrowly lost to Longworth in this year's Student Union election was a key member of last year's Ents team under Ed O'Riordan. Longworth hired Byrne to help in the production of gigs and club nights during the week. Byrne resigned on the Wednesday of Fresher's Week because of his dissatisfaction with Longworth's management of events.

Byrne spoke to *Trinity News* about what he felt was a series of errors on Longworth's part. Byrne felt that his own position on the Ents team had become untenable. He said that although Longworth was "doing his best" he was "making very basic errors".

Byrne claimed that a number of the key events of Fresher's Week were run poorly, due to Longworth's inability to implement itineraries for events which Byrne had drawn up for each event. Byrne claimed that ticket-paying punters

"Ents isn't about making money, it's about people enjoying themselves"

were not admitted to venues, bands were left without adequate sound systems for gigs, and a substantial amount of Student Union money had been spent needlessly. Furthermore, he felt he did not receive enough support from Longworth in dealing with the problems that arose. Longworth claimed that the week's events ran smoothly.

Dave Byrne said Longworth made

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UCD MED DAY INVASION

Med Day, they tell us, is all in a good cause, although quite why people should be expected to pay for the privilege of watching a bunch of lads getting their kicks running around in a wig, skirt and giant fake breasts is hard to say. It's a custom that is just about palatable when perpetrated by our own medical students, who, let's face it, don't get out much and could do with some fresh air and a run around. Unfortunately, the horde that streamed through College last Friday were birds of an altogether different feather. Trailed by a few bemused but deeply suspicious security guards, the mob of UCD medical students represented perhaps the most conspicuously unwelcome invasion since rebels attempted to storm these loyal precincts during the Easter Rising. Whooping and hollering, the vanguard came through Front Arch in force and swung around into Library Square, collecting tins and the occasional can in tow. Clearly, though, there was still something of a well-founded inferiority complex in the ranks; rather than charge towards their natural habitat at the science end, the intruders chose to extricate themselves via the Nassau Street gate, and as the cries of the barbarians mingled with the traffic noise, peace desended upon the cobblestones once more. *– As seen by Conor James McKinney*

No classes during Morgan hearing

By Deirdre Robertson
College News Editor

A SENIOR lecturer in the English department in Trinity has been temporarily suspended from teaching due to an ongoing disciplinary hearing.

Dr Gerald Morgan was the subject of a leaked report last year which recommended that he be suspended and evicted from his rooms. The hearing is now under way but as it has spread out into term time, Mr Morgan is currently unable to teach his Freshman or Sophister options in the English department.

Last year, *Trinity News* came into possession of a portion of Dr Morgan's disciplinary report. The suspension proceedings which the report mentioned began in May and are ongoing. Dr Morgan told *Trinity News* that he sat before a disciplinary panel on May 6, May 26, June 25, June 26, September 1-5, September 29, September 30 and October 6 and he faces four more disciplinary hearings this week. He explained that he is unable to teach as the hearings 'ran into term time'. He is currently on an 'alternate leave of absence' but could potentially be teaching next term depending on the outcome of the hearing.

The current disciplinary action relates to an incident in 2002 when Dr Morgan sent e-mails to a number of staff members claiming that he was more qualified

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East 17's doomsday performance

By Daire Hickey and John Lavelle

EAST-17 ATTEMPTED to make a comeback during Freshers Week when they played in Break for the Border during Club Philth. The reaction was lukewarm especially when frontman Brian Harvey spoke to *Trinity News* about his belief in a large Jewish conspiracy.

Life hasn't been kind to East 17 frontman Brian Harvey since the halcyon days of the mid-nineties, when he was the poster boy for a generation of teenage girls and single-handedly popularised wearing baseball caps at a 90 degree angle.

After five years at the top of the charts with such hits as "Stay Another Day", "House of Love" and "If You Ever", East 17's downfall was swift.

In 1997, Harvey boasted in a radio interview about taking 12 ecstasy tablets a night. His record label forced him to leave the band, which fell apart soon afterwards.

Brian Harvey, John Hendy and Terry Coldwell.

Brian still hasn't forgiven the media and the record industry for what happened.

"One minute you're massive, the next you're not worth a wank. I think we were mistreated, we were young and stupid." he said, speaking upstairs at Break for the Border nightclub after the London boy band's Freshers' Week performance.

The aggressively anti-record label lyrics of the band's newest song, "Fuck That", met with mixed reaction from the Club Philth crowd.

After being ejected from the band, the former plumber attempted a solo career with help from Wyclef John. His most recent venture was a failed entry in the 2007 Eurovision Song Contest. His song 'I Can' later reached number 199 in the UK charts.

Harvey "quit music for good". But it didn't stop him continuing to make headlines, often for the wrong reasons.

In 2001 he was hospitalised having been attacked with a machete outside a Nottingham nightclub. He then spent almost two months in jail for breaching a restraining order taken out against him by his ex-wife.

Harvey remerged in 2004 for a stint on I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here! but walked off the show after arguing with fellow contestants.

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"Proposed pro-life society" promotion aborted by CSC

By Conor Sullivan

A GROUP called the 'Proposed DU pro life Society' was asked to stop putting posters up around college by the Central Societies Committee during Freshers' Week last week.

According to Joseph O'Gorman, honorary treasurer of the CSC, 'an individual or a group, which is not a society, put up posters in college during Freshers' Week. They advertised a "Proposed DU Pro-Life Society"

Current College regulations state that only college societies and clubs may advertise in college but a group wishing to set up a society in college is allowed to call itself a 'proposed society'. Mr O'Gorman says these rules do not apply during Freshers' Week. Although the regulations published on the CSC website do not mention a specific time in which groups can or cannot put up posters, Mr O. Gorman stated 'in the past, groups which set up a stand to collect signatures during Freshers' Week, in order to propose that the society be recognized, caused confusion among the incoming Freshers.' However, he also said 'the CSC is not aware that there was any attempt to collect signatures during Freshers' Week'.

Mr O'Gorman stated that 'the posters were removed by individual students.' The CSC contacted an individual in the proposed society during the week about College 'postering regulations which prohibit the distribution of posters by groups which are not recognised within college.' He was told that the group could set up a stand in college during term a proper.

The CSC guidelines outline the rules for establishing a new society. Any group wishing to set up a society must 'examine the list of existing societies to see if there is one that is already recognised, and which could accommodate your interest.' Following this, the group may draw up a constitution along the lines of the 'CSC Draft Constitution'. If a proposed society collects 100 Trinity student and staff signatures and I.D. numbers,the C.S.C executive will decide whether the society should be recognized.

Similar guidelines about 'existing societies' in University College Cork, meant a 'pro-choice Society' was unable to establish itself on campus. In March 2007, students attempting to set up a pro-choice society, were told the 'Students For Life' society already dealt with the issues of euthanasia and abortion. They

"A society does not exist only in virtue of the aspiration of individuals" said Joseph O'Gorman

were turned down on the grounds that no society can be set up in direct opposition to another. This caused great consternation as many felt that one side of an opinion debate was being censored. The issue was further aggravated when the college told students that the best idea was to 'pack the house' of the 'Students For Life' society and overturn the entire constitution of the society thereby turning it into a pro-choice group. The students refused on the grounds that this was immoral.

The 'proposed DU pro-life society' was unavailable for comment at the time of going to print. Mr O'Gorman told Trinity news that the individual CSC spoke to was told he could set up a stand during term time but they have not heard from him since.

THIS FORTNIGHT THEY SAID...

Compiled by Victor Jones
E: quotes@trinitynews.ie

"1965 - 1968 was the world epicentre of sex, drugs, rock and roll and so...I inhaled"
»Salman Rushdie in his heady days as a Cambridge Uni student.

"One minute you're massive, the next you're not worth a wank."
»East 17 front man Brian Harvey speaking about the bands fall from forturnes. Their performance at Club Philth in Break for the Border during Freshers' Week met with mixed reaction from the crowd.

"Ignore whatever the Education Officer says about all that study lark and fcking party!."**
» SU Ents Officer Nicholas Longworth's advice to all incoming Freshers.

"Being Ents Officer is not the kind of job you can learn as you do, some of Longworth's decisions were naive"
»Mick Birmingham, part of the Ents crew on the current SU controversy

"It's all brilliant really."
» Gerald Morgan on College's efficient policy in appointing jurors to disciplinary hearings. Dr Morgan is currently the subject of disciplinary action.

"Look forward to a year where the water might get a bit muddy."
» SU Education Officer Hugh Sullivan's view of the restructuring in college. Wrtiten in the academic student diary given to every registering student.

"The value of animal experimentation for disease circumvention is unequivocal."
» Professor Veronica Campbell from Trinity's Medicince deparment speaking about animal research in light of John Banville's recent accusations

"It's not bad, is it?"
» Salman Rushdie on his Booker and twice 'Booker of Bookers' prize winning novel 'Midnight's Children'. He was speaking at an interview in the GMB organised by the Historical Society.

"You won't be expected to park your brain at the door. Our faith may be 2,000 years old but our thinking isn't."
» Darren McCallig, TCD chaplain, on a range of sermons based on Desperate Housewives, Sex and the City, The Shawshank Redemption, Superman and Harry Potter.

"No matter how hard I tried, stuff would still go wrong."
» Dave Byrne on trying to sort out the SU Ents chaos during Fresher's Week

NUMEROLOGY

Compiled by Victor Jones

3,000

»The number of students that the Students Union in NUI Galway say attended their protest march. The students were protesting against the proposed reintroduction of third level fees.

300

» The number of students that a Garda in NUI Galway saw at the same protest against the introduction of fees.

49

» Trinity College's position in the University World Ranking system as published in the Sunday Times University Guide.

199

» The most successful chart rating that East 17 front man Brian Harvey has had since starting his solo career. He entered his song 'I can' into the 2007 Eurovision song competition but his application was unsuccessful

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Sarah-Kate Caughey went to Romania with the Aurelia Trust, not the SUAS Volunteer Group as we incorrectly reported (Trinity Volunteers spent summer working with Romanian orphans, page 10, September 30). The Aurelia Trust is an Irish-based international organisation whose work is prevalent in Romania and Hungary. For more info on the Aurelia Trust please contact sarahkate.caughey@trinitynews.ie.

Adam Loftus was the first Provost of Trinity, not Luke Challoner as we incorrectly reported (Trinity's architectural grandeur: past, present and future, page 8, September 30). Challoner was one of the first fellows of the college, along with Launcelot Moine and Henry Ussher. Loftus' provostship is magnificently attested to in a splendid portrait in the Dining Hall.

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Ents team in bitter war of words

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errors on the first night of Freshers' Week. The 'Free Gaff' party, advertised for The Hub, in fact took place in Transformer. Byrne claimed that the 200-person-capacity venue could have proven to be too small, given the number of Freshers' Week 'package-deal' tickets sold. Five hundred people were entitled to attend through this ticket scheme. Longworth said this would not have been a problem as the bar upstairs was also available to ticket holders.

Byrne described a number of problems with the night Fallout club night at Redz. He claimed that Niall Morris, promoter of the Redz niteclub, was unaware of the theme of the night – a claim Longworth refutes, saying that he told Mr. Morris that it would be a themed night in advance. Byrne expressed disappointed at the no-show of a Led Zeppelin tribute band, and that the venue was quiet early on in the night. As a result of this, bouncers on duty opened the club to the public. Byrne claimed that because of this some paying ticket holders were refused admission.

Similar sentiment was expressed by Byrne regarding Longworth's alleged poor organisation of the Traffic Light Ball on the Tuesday night. Byrne said that hundreds of euros were wasted providing flashing traffic lights as part of the theme. The traffic lights were never used. Longworth denies that a substantial amount of money was lost, saying the traffic lights were lent to him by a friend.

Byrne was particularly disappointed that he had to hire DJs "at the last minute" for the Ball- a job he claimed he had designated to Longworth in his itinerary for the night. Byrne said this incident was embarrassing for him personally, and that he realised at that point that he would be unable to continue working as part of the Ents team.

A further point of conflict arose over the Dirty Epics gig in the GMB on the Wednesday. Byrne had been put in charge of the production of this gig and had made preliminary enquiries into booking a sound engineer. However, Longworth booked a cheaper sound engineer without notifying him. Byrne said that Dirty Epics were disappointed with the sound engineer's equipment and with the management of the gig generally. Byrne claimed he "had to take the brunt"of this."No matter how hard I tried stuff would still go wrong"

Dave Byrne also expressed concerns about how effectively Longworth promoted some of the more costly events. He pointied to the very low turn out at the 'Mock Wedding' event, and also to the failure to advertise a change of venue for the 'Binocular Soccer' event. He claimed that both of these events incurred financial losses. Longworth did not deny the losses, but explained that these two events were evening pre-parties that came under a ticket which included admission to the subsequent nights out – both of which he claimed were financial successes. However, Mick Birmingham, another member of the Ents team, said that the Saw Doctors gig which followed the Mock Wedding did not in fact make a profit.

"He's (Longworth) thinking off the top of his head but not thinking it through" Dave Byrne

"Being Ents Officer is not the kind of job you can learn as you do. Some of Longworth's decisions were naïve." Birmingham said. He said that the Saw Doctors was not a good choice, and that Longworth should have paid heed to the initial rejection of large colleges societies in collaborating with him for the gig.

Despite his resignation during Freshers' Week, Byrne was keen to emphasise that he will show support for Longworth in the coming months. "I think Nick has great ideas and I would like to see him do well" he said.

Morgan facing potential eviction

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for a position on a lecturer nominating committee than his colleague Professor Scattergood. The then senior dean Cyril Smith, recommended a three-month suspension for Dr Morgan.

Dr Morgan became the subject of dispute a few days later when a female colleague made a sexual harassment complaint against him. Dr Morgan responded by sending an e-mail to a large number of Trinity employees referring to the claimant as 'dumb without the virtue of being blonde'. The three-month suspension was enforced followed by a ban from the Arts Building for that period. Dr Morgan resigned as a Fellow in protest. When Dr Morgan refused to sit before a disciplinary panel for breaking the anonymity of individuals in alleged sexual harassment cases, he was brought to the High Court followed by the Supreme Court. Reports suggest that this action cost the College anywhere between €100,000 to €500,000 in legal fees. Dr. Morgan finally settled with the disciplinary panel after he made a formal apology to the woman in question and retracted the controversial e-mail.

THE FACTS

- Dr Morgan sent an email to staff saying he was more qualified for a position than one of his colleagues.
- A female colleague made a sexual harrassment claim against Dr Morgan
- Dr Morgan sent a derogatory email to staff members about the same woman
- A three month suspension came into effect
- College took Dr Morgan to court for refusing to attend a disciplinary hearing.
- Dr Morgan called for the resignation of two senior colleagues, Professor Cyril Smith and Mr Michael Gleeson
- A leaked report indicated that Dr Morgan could face eviction.
- In May 2008, Dr Morgan's 6 month disciplinary hearing began.

The issue cropped up once again when Dr Morgan insisted that two of his senior colleagues were preventing him from clearing his name. He issued another e-mail to over 150 Trinity staff members calling for the resignations of the Senior Dean Professor Smith and the College Secretary Mr Michael Gleeson.

Sophister students in the Department of English were told last week that Dr Morgan's optional Sophister course was no longer available. He was due to teach two 'Romance' literature courses, one entitle 'Chaucer' and the other 'Gawain and the Green Knight and Piers Plowman. One has been cancelled entirely and the other has been taken over by a different lecturer.

Speaking to *Trinity News*, Dr Morgan said 'I've been teaching for 40 years and I never envisaged my last two years sitting in front of a panel for bringing Trinity into disrepute.' He asserted that this case is currently causing and will continue to cause the College a lot of money. He has been living in rooms on campus since 1990. He currently lives in New Square but he may lose this right if the disciplinary hearing rules against him. Last year Dr Morganv told *Trinity News* that perhaps the intention is for him to retire before he is required to do so at age 70. This year, he said that he is 'prepared for whatever happens'. He was anxious to stress 'I am bound by confidentiality in respect of the proceedings. Any member of staff can sit in, but they are also bound by confidentiality.'

Dr Morgan explained the proceedings of the current disciplinary panel. 30 members of College are called as potential jurors in disciplinary cases, and four of these are selected by lot, remainingas the jurors for the entire case. Dr Morgan, in describing the system, said 'it's all brilliant'.

The outcome of this case could result in the dismissal of Dr. Morgan, an incident almost unheard of in Irish academia. Dr Morgan told *Trinity News* that the prosecution case has just finished and now his defence is about to begin.

E-17 muse on 'human reptilian' world leaders

continued from page one

2005 was particularly difficult for Brian. He was diagnosed with clinical depression, was allegedly suicidal, and was almost killed in a freak car accident.

"I was reversing my Merc and the door was still open, I fell out and was trapped under the wheel. It smashed through my pelvis" he says, lifting his t-shirt to show the scars on his chest. Harvey spent several days in a coma but has since made a full recovery.

Despite wearing a crucifix, Harvey declared "I'm not religious at all. Religion is a form of mass mind control.' He then lashed out at the prominent Jewish banking family, the Rothschilds claiming they are part of the reason for the current economic climate. Harvey spoke of a "new world order" and claimed there is a "secret elite running the world". He spoke of secret societies such as the skull and bones club that President George W. Bush was a member of while at Yale University.

Harvey also said "On December 12th, 2012 you're going to see something. Everything their finding us is mass mind control and government manipulation." He spoke of his interest in British Author David Icke who wrote that George W. Bush, Queen Elizabeth II, Tony Blair, Hilary Clinton and Kris Kristofferson are a race of reptilian humanoids.

Speaking on the current financial crisis Harvey claimed "the Jews are responsible, I mean the whole world banking system, we're paying interest on money that doesn't exist". He didn't offer any explanation for this theory. He simply said that if we wanted to know more then we should read David Icke and American conspiracy theorist Alex Jones. Jones is noted for his 2002 Film 9-11: The Road to Tyranny (2002) which claims that governments are responsible for many of the 20th and 21st centuries worst terrorist attacks.

Indiscreet words from a man who has never fully recovered from an indiscreet radio interview 11 years ago.

EAST 17: REVIEWED BY TN2

East 17
Up All Night (1996)

By the time they released their last album as a four-piece, things weren't looking great for East 17. Their 1994 Christmas number-one "Stay Another Day" was an increasingly distant memory and the rise of Brit-pop was beginning to make their baggy dance-pop sound distinctly dated. Perhaps more alarmingly, Tony Mortimer, who had written all of the tunes up until that point, stepped down as lead song-writer, making "Up All Night" a collaborative effort. Bad move, Tones.

In fairness, the album isn't entirely awful: "Thunder" is a prime slice of mid-nineties pop tomfoolery and, well, OK, the rest is pretty dire. Second single "Someone to Love" opens with guitar suspiciously reminiscent of the then-stellar Oasis and rapidly descends into the kind of song you might hear the village folk band belting out at church on a Saturday evening. Other tracks, such as "Do U Still?" betray a band who have run out of ideas.

If anything can be said in favour of this record, it's that it's not as bad as 1998's ill-advised "comeback" Resurrection, which saw the band, sans-Mortimer, operating under the moniker "E-17" and coming across like a pastier, less interesting Boyz II Men.

If you're looking to get your East 17 kicks, then, stick to the early stuff.

Trinity in top fifty but Maynooth gaining

By Lisa Byrne

THE RECENT publication of the annual Sunday Times League Table proved that Trinity College still has what it takes to make it the most prestigious university in Ireland, winning the coveted top spot in the League for the sixth year running. However, while Trinity sailed to the top of the list, this years title of 'Irish University of the Year', which Trinity won last year, went to NUI Maynooth. Despite winning first position in the league table, Trinity students received the third highest grades in the country when graduating.

Trinity has a long history with the Sunday Times League Table. The table, which assesses various aspects of the college from exam results to staff-student ratios and employment prospects post-graduation to completion rates, is seen as a fair comparator of universities. This is the sixth consecutive year in which Trinity has achieved the top spot on the League table.

"This award recognises the priority we place on the employability of our students"

Trinity's academic record is diminishing, however, ranking a disappointing 3rd place with regard to academic results. In 2007, 71% of University College Cork graduates achieved a first or II.1 compared to Trinity's 67%. Given that Trinity has some of the highest entry requirements and incoming students achieve a B1 average grade across six Leaving Cert subjects, it is left to question why Trinity failed to grab the top spot academically.

Senior Lecturer Dr. Aileen Douglas believes the emphasis would be better placed on the international standing of a Trinity degree, referring to the recent publication of the Times Higher Education Supplement League Table. In this table, the College received 49th place, the first time an Irish university has broken into the top 50.

NUI Maynooth, meanwhile, is rapidly catching up with Ireland's other large universities. According to Ian Coxon, editor of the Sunday Times, Maynooth was a deserving winner of the prestigious title of "The Sunday Times University of the Year for 2008". He believes that "Maynooth's excellent results on research funding and graduate employment" were key factors that led to the accolade.

Maynooth has seen one of the swiftest expansions of any Irish university, becoming one of the top 4 universities in Ireland after only 11 years in existence. While it scored well in all areas of the league, unsurprisingly it scored particularly highly in the area of research. With students receiving over €128,000 each per year in grants for funding, Maynooth is seen as the centre of research study in Ireland. This acknowledgment as the hub of research has been mainly attributed to the university's affiliations to over fifty multi-national companies. The college boasts an impressive near hundred percent employment record for graduating students. Maynooth was also the first global education partner for the world's largest computer chip manufacturer, Intel. Such unique and specialist IT training programmes cannot but guarantee direct employment in the ever growing IT sector. With Ireland's long-standing reputation in the IT world, as long as the IT sector continues to grow, Maynooth University should continue to grow and expand with it.

Internationally, Trinity College was the only Irish university to place within the top 100 Universities in the world. Its closest competitor was UCD, who ranked at 108. Having scored an impressive 53rd place last year, the College moved four places up into the top 50 universities worldwide. Helen Kelly of the International Students Office is adamant that this new placement will give the college a much needed advantage over other European and worldwide universities in the competitive environment that is education. "This achievement is significant not only in terms of attracting the highest calibre of international students, but also in relation to developing collaborative partnerships with other leading international institutions". It looks as though this new placement will serve to allow Trinity to continue to welcome not only Ireland's, but the world's most academically talented students."

Rushdie on his death sentence

Salman Rushdie spoke to the Historical Society about college, books and being "sentenced to death by an international terrorist group"

By Aoife Griffin

RENOWNED AUTHOR Salman Rushdie spoke to Trinity College students on Thursday 9th October following an invitation from the Historical Society.

Mr Rushdie was invited to speak about having written the "Bookeriest Booker of them all" and spending time under maximum security as a result of the fatwa issued against him by the Ayatollah Khomeini on February 14, 1989, having decided that the power of a novel was greater than the sanctity of human life. Mr Rushdie was interviewed by journalist Myles Dungan.

Born in June, 1947, only 8 weeks before the Independence of India, Rushdie

Hist Auditor Thomas Kinsella presented a medal to Rushdie

commented on how his life was made difficult, not by the division of his family, India or Pakistan, or religious conflict, but by fulfilling all three criteria for not being liked in an English boarding school: cleverness, foreignness and ineptitude at sports. These attributes were acceptable, he told the crowded chamber, only when two were combined. Nevertheless, Mr. Rushdie is no man to do things in half measures.

Among a variety of topics and anecdotes Mr. Rushdie recounted to the audience included a story about the morning of 14th Feburary, 1989, when he found out that he'd just been sentenced to death by the then Supreme Leader of Iran from a curious BBC reporter. Though his life was inevitably transformed for several years by the *fatwa*, Mr. Rushdie has never liked the term "in hiding" to describe his state of living. "It's undignified" he said, "and gives the impression that I was hiding under a bed somewhere. And it's a ridiculous term anyway because I was under maximum security, which, as anyone who has seen it will know, well, that it's highly visible.' Mr Rushdie then shared with the chamber the invaluable skill of figuring out when you're being followed by car and the difference between the security measures enforced for the President of the United States and himself and Yasser Arafat. Disregarding the clear interest of such events, Mr. Rushdie emphasised that he wanted to be remembered for the action, not the re-action, "I would like to leave behind a shelf of books that people would like to read" he said simply, without qualification.

When asked by an audience member if he ever thought of apologizing for *The Satanic Verses* in attempt to save his life Mr. Rushdie replied that the people who should apologize, and take responsibility for their actions, are the ones doing the attacking, Rushdie then emphasised that a definite function of art is to rock the boat, ask the difficult questions and create controversy.

On politics, Mr. Rushdie then spoke about his disappointment that George W. Bush was re-elected for a second term, an election decided by "ludicrously low expectations" and believes that the current economic catastrophe finally has the American electorate sitting up and paying attention, and leaning towards the more intelligent candidate. Mr Rushdie also described the American attitude to the forthcoming election as "the last chance to prove to the rest of the world that Americans aren't total arseholes."

In terms of Creative Writing courses he firmly believes that the technical aspects of writing can be refined, but that "you can't teach the ear, you can't teach the eye, you can't teach a vision of the world" or the relationship that a writer has with language or the world. Following this, when asked if he had always planned on being a writer Mr. Rushdie replied that he never really had any other plan and that his acting days in Cambridge offered the only other "vague, half-arsed" direction in his life. Though, as we can testify from his performance in Bridget Jones, he is clearly a man to whom life has closed few doors.

Salman Rushdie speaks to students after his interview in the Hist conversation room. Photo: Kevin O'Rourke

Ahern's 'golden age' - Prof

By Amy Davis

IN THE current climate of university cuts and recession, members of Trinity College's History department have described Bertie Ahern's period as Taoiseach as the "golden age." At the launch of Dr Micheál Ó Siochrú's historical account of Oliver Cromwell, "God's Executioner," on Thursday the 9th of October, the history department praised Mr Ahern for his support of Trinity College's humanities research in the past decades.

Dr Ó Siochrú – a lecturer in the school of history – launched his book in the Long Room of the Old Library. The function was attended by senior members of college staff, TD Martin Manseragh and Mr Ahern.

In introducing the former Taoiseach, Professor Jane Ohlmeyer described the incredible developments of humanities research on a "shoestring" budget. She spoke of the current "global meltdown" and looked back on the days of Bertie Ahern's time as Taoiseach as a "golden age" for university research. Professor Ohlmeyer introduced the former Taoiseach as the man who started everything, from agreeing to fund the current Long Room Hub project to inspiring the opening paragraphs of Dr Ó Siochrú's book.

The infamous story which Dr Ó Siochrú uses as the introduction to "God's Executioner" relates to a meeting in London between Bertie Ahern and then British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. Allegedly, Mr Ahern walked into the conference room to see a picture of Oliver Cromwell hanging on the wall. Mr Ahern took one look at the picture, and proclaimed Cromwell a "murdering bastard." He marched out of the room, refusing to return until the picture was removed. Mr Cook, afraid of a diplomatic incident, did as requested.

Mr Ahern had to retract the story last Thursday when he told the book launch party and members of the press that he had not been so dramatic. He admitted however that he had uttered a similiar expletive when asked for his opinion on Oliver Cromwell.

In launching Dr Ó Siochrú's book, Mr Ahern said, "I have devoted hours to destroying the enmities of the past... 17th Century prejudice has no place in 21st Century Ireland. Our children's children's children should never know the violence and hurt which has blighted our island for too long."

Dr Ó Siochrú concluded the speeches with an expression of relief that he had not asked Mr Ahern for confirmation of the story as he would have lost his introduction. He said he had used it to demonstrate how dramatic an effect Cromwell had had on Ireland.

Crucial research fund puts spending on pause

By Andrea Mulligan

TRINITY COLLEGE faces further funding cuts as a large government research fund has been ordered to "pause" spending on Irish universities.

The Department of Education has ordered the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) – a multi-annual fund directed towards support for innovation in higher education institutions – to temporarily pause spending.

The SIF amounts to €510 million over a seven year period and is now in its second cycle of funding. It had been expected to provide €97 million in funding to 21 higher education institutions throughout the country. Specific figures are not yet available but colleges have been ordered not to enter into new SIF contracts.

The purposes of the Strategic Innovation Fund include improving teaching and learning, supporting institutional reform and promoting access to higher education institutions. SIF Cycle I began in 2006 and provided €42 million worth of grants to higher educational institutions. Trinity has been allocated more than €7 million under SIF Cycle II for a diverse range of projects. These face an uncertain future if the funding is to be halted.

A major focus of SIF Cycle II is the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance (DRHEA), for which €44 million was to be provided. This is a programme run jointly by the four universities and four Institutes of Technology in the Dublin area.

COLLEGE DEFICITS

Last week, universities reported their current or expected deficits:

- UCD's cumulative deficit runs at €15million
- UCC is down by €13million
- UL's expected deficit is €6million by the end of this year
- NUIG has a projected deficit of €5.2million
- DCU no deficit as of yet but has borrowed money for capital projects
- TCD has not confirmed the expected deficit for next year

The aim is to encourage institutions to collaborate and share knowledge and resources. The focus in Trinity is to be the Dublin Centre for Academic Development, an initiative aimed at improving academic standards in the participating institutions.

SIF Cycle II also promised funds for Trinity's Online Mental Health proposal. This innovative project aims to improve access to mental health services and psycho-educational supports for an increasingly diverse student population. With student mental health a constant concern for the college authorities and the student body, this portal is expected to make a real difference to the ability and willingness of Trinity students to seek mental health care and advice.

Another programme which may not survive without the support of SIF is the Centre for Deaf Studies which existed as a pilot project until 30 September 2008. The Centre has developed diploma courses to improve education and career opportunities for deaf students. SIF funding was to make these diploma courses available nationwide and to implement a BA degree option.

The National Institute for Intellectual Disability (NIID) in Trinity has pioneered the highly acclaimed Certificate in Contemporary Living course for students with intellectual disability. SIF Cycle II allocated extra resources for this initiative to focus on researching access to quality third level education for people with intellectual disability and the development of best practice in life-long learning.

Trinity News asked college authorities to comment on the situation, specifically as to whether the projects expected to be funded by SIF will be discontinued. The Communications office responded that it would be premature to make any comment at this stage. Lack of resources is a constant concern for Trinity, and SIF funding will be sorely missed if withdrawn. Yet while the Irish universities appear to be beginning to be drawn into poverty, an article in the Sunday Times on 12th October revealed that University heads have no similar crisis in their own pay packets. Over the past eight years they have enjoyed a 120% increase in wages. Malcolm Byrne, a spokesman for HEA said "These institutions are key to the development of the country."

SHORT CUTS

THIRD LEVEL FEES

DUBLIN COLLEGES PROTEST FEES

ON WEDNESDAY 22ND October, all Dublin colleges are called to protest against the proposed reintroduction of thrid-level fees.

Last week, NUI Galway organised a similar protest that saw somwhere between 300-3000 students according to the varying reports of Student Leaders and attending Guardai.

The Dublin march will meet in Front Square of Trinity at 1:40pm and will join with the other colleges outside Front Arch.

The plan is to march to the Dail to protest government leaders. SU president Cathal O'Reilly begged students to "PLEASE come along and show your support. In 2002 we defeated fees and we CAN do it again if we have the numbers."

(Anne Byrne)

DEBATING COMPETITION

DAVID NORRIS' DEBATING TIPS

ON 7TH October, Senator David Norris launched the National AIB Phil Speaks Debating Initiative in the Graduate's Memorial Building. In attendence were the semi-finalists of last year's initiative and numerous Trinity Students.

The Senator gave a speech on the art of public speaking and afterwards the floor was opened so that he could exchange debating tips with his avid audience.

The National AIB Phil Speaks Initiative is run by the Council of the University Philosophical across Ireland, North and South, and is open to all students at second level. In recent years the competition has grown in prestige with over 1,000 students taking part in last year's initiative.

(Ciara Finlay)

SOCIETY FILMS

CSC HOLDS NEW FILM LICENCE

THE CENTRAL Societies Committee have paid for a film licence to ensure that all societies that put on movies will host legal viewings.

The Motion Picture Licencing Company gives CSC "unlimited use of thousands of videos and DVD's".

The change came about as CSC 'became aware that many societies were holding film showings'. The regulations allow socities to continue as normal while CSC can regulate. Societies will now be unable to charge to view the film or advertise the film title to the general public.

Banville attacks Science Faculty

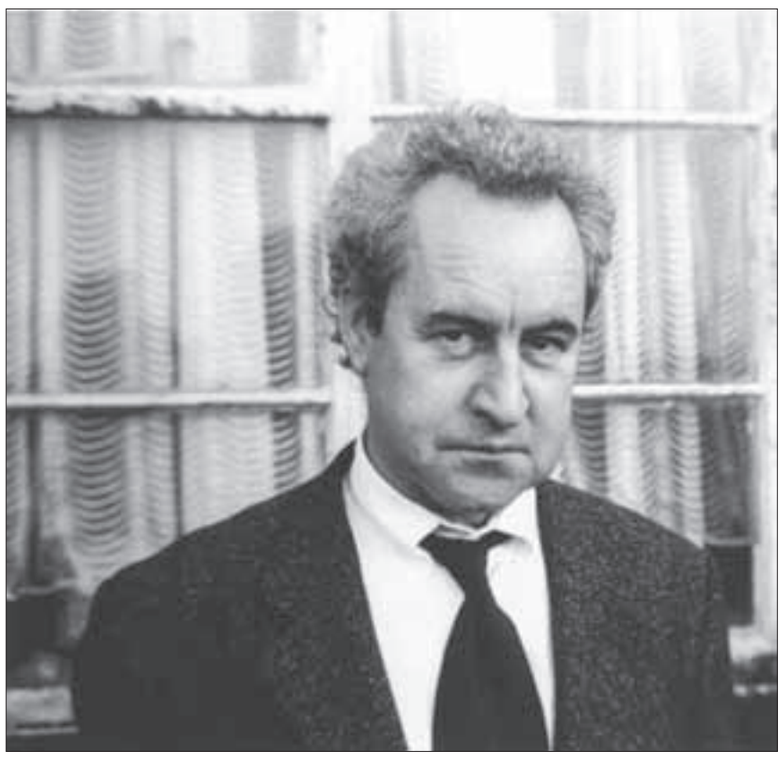
By Thomas Raftery

EMINENT IRISH author John Banville has attacked Trinity College's 'vivisection' policy in an emotive and strongly worded letter to The Irish Times last week. Banville describes how he was moved by a public demonstration by the 'National Animal Rights Association' (NARA), and felt compelled to speak out against "such brutal and unnecessary practices'".

Mr. Banville and a NARA spokeswoman asserted that Trinity 'test on mice, rats, rabbits, and even, horses when they can. Most of it is just for medical students to get experience.' They stated that animal testing is preferred as it is the 'cheapest' and 'most convenient' option available.

Professor Veronica Campbell of Trinity's School of Medicine replied to Mr Banville in a letter to the Irish Times. She began, "I reject the accusation by John Banville (October 3rd) that medical students at Trinity College engage in animal vivisection as part of their studies. This is false and misinforms your readers about undergraduate medical training in this institution". She continued by outlining the 'most stringent of guidelines' under which animal experimentation is carried out. "Experiments on surgically anaesthetised animals are conducted by experienced, licensed researchers who wish to understand disease processes" according to Professor Campbell.

One Trinity spokeswoman refuted NARA's claim that vivisection is merely the 'cheapest' option saying "non-animal alternatives did not require the same level of background support, and as such are considerably cheaper and researchers will choose these if they possibly can". Mr. Banville insisted that the 'unendurable agony' caused to the animals in question, renders the whole process, regardless of the details, as 'barbaric'.



Author John Banville. Banville and a NARA spokeswoman asserted that Trinity 'test on mice, rats, rabbits, and even, horses when they can. Most of it is just for medical students to get experience.'

Vivisection is a heavily regulated area of science. All animal research must be carried out in a Department of Health registered premises complying with standards laid down by a Council of Europe convention. A spokeswoman for Trinity College said, "this requires that animals are kept in purpose-built climate-controlled buildings with space allocated to them as defined in statute. The maintenance of these units is done by qualified animal care technicians whose sole function is to look after the welfare of the animals. This is all overseen by a veterinary director."

Such strong criticism from one of Ireland's most celebrated authors has attracted much attention to the 'vivisection' debate. For over a century, 'animal-testing' has suffered a long and turbulent history. The scientific, ethical and philosophical questions that arise have continually been the subject for heated discussion.

In her defence of Trinity's medical department, Professor Campbell stated, 'The public ought to be reminded that diabetes was a life-threatening condition until animal experiments led to the discovery that this disease could be treated successfully with pancreatic extracts containing insulin.' Since the start of the twentieth century there have been other similar breakthroughs stemming from animal research. At the start of the century, doctors stopped using cocaine as the standard anasethetic when animal testing showed it carried considerable health risks. Similarly, in the 1940s a 'whooping cough' vaccine, kidney dialysis machine and the 'heart-lung machine' used during open-heart surgery were developed. The following decade, the polio vaccine, hip replacements, heart transplants and measles treatments were introduced. In the latter half of the century, Meningitis, Hepatitis and Malaria vaccines along with medical advances to support premature babies, drugs for mental illness, breast and prostrate cancer arose from animal research.

Professor Campbell finished, 'The value of animal experimentation in the development of new strategies for disease circumvention is unequivocal. Although alternatives to animal studies have certain value, no emergent property of a complex living system (e.g. high blood pressure) can be studied exclusively in a dish and the consequence of disease and the efficacy of experimental therapies on a whole organism must be considered before any advances can translate into improvements in patient care.'

Google prevents drunken emails

By Deirdre Robertson

HANGOVER REGRETS are no more as new Google technology has invented an email system which stops people sending emails while drunk.

The new system, Goggle Mail, is programmed to stop people, particularly useful for students, from sending an email at any period in which it is likely that they may be slightly intoxicated. In order to determine whether the emailer is drunk or just sending late night emails, Goggle Mail asks 5 simple mathematical equations which must be answered within one minute.

One of the programme's developers Jon Perlow, said he came up with the idea after he sent an ill advised email to an ex-girlfriend one messy night. He believes that he could save millions from the terrible consequences of a drunken email.

Although the system may be in some way useful to students accross the country,most will have to wait until mobile phone companies invent a similar system to completely free themselves of hangover regrets. For now, we will still have to rely on the slightly soberer and so very annoying responsible friend.

Accommodation application fee unique to Trinity

By Brian Barry

TRINITY COLLEGE is the only large university in Ireland that charges its students to apply for campus accommodation. This year, students applying to live on campus or in halls paid approximately €50,000 in application fees alone to the Trinity Accommodation Office. In addition, Trinity campus rates have been increased despite opposing trends in the Dublin property rental market.

Trinity charges €15 to all students – whether they are successful or not – who apply to live in College Residences. According to Administration Officer Anthony Dempsey, the fees pay for 'the considerable workload and systems involved in the application process.' Other main universities in Ireland – UCC, UCD, Queens and NUIG – use a similar online application system and do not charge any fee.

When asked what the non-refundable application charge – amounting to approximately €50,000 – paid for this year, Mr. Dempsey said they also 'support the Accommodation Advisory Service'. This is an information service in the Arts Building that provides listings of available properties for students seeking accommodation. It runs for a five- week period starting from the end of August. UCD runs a similar service from mid-July to mid-August and UCC runs an accommodation office throughout August and September. SU President Cathal Reilly commented "obviously there are administrative costs that have to be paid for but if you do the maths yourself, it's easy enough to see that €15 per applicant is much more than enough to cover that cost and students shouldn't be charged as much."

Students who were successful in applying for college residences this year will pay increased rates for energy and rent. The Dublin property rental market has eased in recent months according to a survey by accommodation website daft.ie. Available properties have doubled while rents have decreased. Rates for Trinity campus accommodation have moved against this trend increasing by 3%. Mr. Dempsey commented 'While we do take notice of trends in the private sector we do not follow the market directly. When rents were increasing in the private sector in recent years we did not use this as a benchmark to establish our rents. Likewise, we are not following the private sector in the current market conditions.' The increased rates are used to pay for refurbishment and overhead costs arising from maintaining college residences including the current internal renovations in the Rubrics buildings. Mr. Dempsey noted that the college does not seek to make a profit from student and staff rents.

Last year, a Trinity News survey noted that Trinity students pay over twice as much for energy as students in other Irish universities. This year, energy costs have increased again but only in Front Square – an area of campus residences that does not have central heating.

Mr. Dempsey noted that the Director of Buildings office had reviewed the costs of energy and determined that 'contributions were below the cost of the utilities consumed.' Furthermore, a charge for water supplies will be incurred this year.

The Rubrics are the oldest buildings and student accommodation on campus. Photo: Martin McKenna

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THIS YEAR'S FRESHERS' WEEK?

JULIE SHEERAN
SF PSYCHOLOGY

I didn't really hear about much this year. I heard much more about it last year though maybe its just because I'm in second year.

DONNOCHA CONWAY
SF LAW

I was working a stand. There was a nice buzz. I only have one Freshers' Week to compare it to but I enjoyed myself anyway.

MICHAEL GALLEN
SF CLASSICS, PHILOSOPHY

I actually didn't go to any ENTS events. I saw all the posters around College but the first week has just been a bit hectic. People I know who did go out enjoyed themselves though.

ANDREW HOFFMAN
ANCIENT HISTORY

I was around in Freshers' Week but I had to deal with all the paperwork around registration. I went to the toga party on Friday. It wasn't bad; I had to snatch someone else's toga.

NICHOLAS B.
SF NATURAL SCIENCE

I went to the Freshers' Ball down in Purty Kitchen. It was not bad. It was very full. I can tell you, this year's Freshers' Week wasn't great due to the weather.

Revellers at the ENTS-organised Foam Party in Citi Bar during Freshers' Week. The foam was blasted out through a cannon near the dance floor at irregular intervals and could be directed. Ents Officer Nick Longworth explained: "It was pretty much pointing straight at the DJ booth". Photo: Richard Conway

Four-storey addition to Fellow's Square

By Niall O'Brien

TRINITY COLLEGE has been granted permission by Dublin City Council to build a new four storey Humanities Research building between the Arts Building and the 1937 Reading Room. The proposed building, named the Long Room Hub, overlooking Fellow's Square, and will also include an underground corridor linking it to both the Edmund Burke theatre and the 1937 Reading Room.

The four storey building will stand at 16.25m in height while the entrance level of the new building will be 2.1m above the ground level of Fellow's Square and will be accessible by both an open staircase and a lift from Fellow's Square. The underground corridor will be accessed through a new staircase at the west end of the Humanities Research building.

The structure will tower 16.25m over the space between the Arts Building and the 1937 Reading Room.

'Minor alterations' are to be made to both the Edmund Burke theatre and the 1937 Reading Room in order to facilitate the new structure. These will include the removal of the plantroom and parapet wall, which project above the theatre. The development also comprises ancillary works including the development of a new garden on the roof of the Edmund Burke Theatre.

€5.8 million has been allocated by the Higher Education Authority to fund the project. After some initial concerns raised by the Site and Facilities committee at their meeting last July regarding who would be responsible for any recurrent costs, the Director of Buildings confirmed that these costs would be met by the Schools involved in the Long Room Hub and maintenance costs would be met by the current maintenance budget. The Site and Facilities committee then decided to submit the planning application to Dublin City Council.

The grant application has not been without controversy. An Taisce wrote a letter of objection on 17th September, arguing that the proposal affected the setting of a number of protected structures. It insisted that the Planning Authority, in their decision on the proposal, show regard to the protected status of the structure and the need to protect its special character, the proximity of the new structure to the protected structure and the design of the new development, which an Taisce felt should 'relate to and complement the special character of the protected structure'. Furthermore, a departmental report by the consultant archaeologist of Dublin City Council noted that the site of the proposed building lay within the 'Zone of Archaeological Constraint for Recorded Monument' and, therefore, was protected under the National Monument Act 1994. The report recommended no construction or site preparation work be carried out until all archaeological required by the City Archaeologist are complied with and that an archaeological assessed be carried out before beginning any construction.

The Planning Authority approved the proposal on 7th October with some conditions, the most substantial condition being compliance with the recommendation of the consultant archaeologist. The date for construction to start is as yet unconfirmed.

SHORT CUTS

CHAPLAIN NEWS

THE GOSPEL BY SEX AND THE CITY

TRINITY'S CHAPLAINCY have taken a somewhat alternative approach to their method of preaching their message this college term by drawing upon the worlds of TV, movies and popular books as a basis for their sermons.

Morgan Freeman, Harry Potter, Dermot Morgan and Sarah Jessica Parker are just some of the 'prophets' to be reverently discussed at Sunday masses in the College Chapel over the coming weeks.

The clever ploy will see the College Chaplains base Sunday sermons on the likes of Father Ted, Desperate Housewives, Superman, and The Shawshank Redemption. College chaplain Darren McCallig says "We're doing things a bit differently… our faith may be 2000 years old, but our thinking isn't". More information on College Noticeboards.

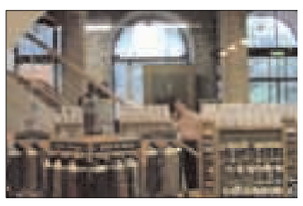
(Brian Barry)

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS

COOL ENTREPRENEURS

MINISTER FOR Science, Technology and Innovation Dr Jimmy Devins has launched the TCD Entrepreneurship Training Programme – an initiative to help Trinity's budding entrepreneurs. The programme's aim is to "assist entrepreneurs starting and growing a high potential business". There will be a series of workshops hosted by successful Irish and international entrepreneurs. Trinity based the programme on expertise gained from membership of the CLUSTER Entreprenership Group – a pan-European entrepreneurial education programme. Minister Devins delcared "It has become cool to be an entrepreneur".

Experience something new in the Old Library



The Trinity Library Shop

The Library Shop opening hours are:
9.30 – 5.00 Monday to Saturday
12.00 – 4.30 Sundays
Email:library.shop@tcd.ie
http://www.tcd.ie/Library/Shop

Education Officer expresses doubts over restructuring

By Aislinn Lucheroni

STUDENT'S UNION Education Officer Hugh Sullivan appeared to criticise College restructuring initiatives this week in the Student Academic Diary that is handed out to every Trinity student. Mr Sullivan said he did not mean it is a criticism rather a statement that new restructuring may be confusing. Other sources within College have agreed with his viewpoint.

The College has undergone a serious restructuring initiative in the past few years both financially and administratively. After a long period of resistance, all of the individual schools have received their own budgets and the heads of schools are now the budget holders. This was followed by the creation of three new faculties: the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Sciences and the Faculty of Health Sciences. The three deans of the new faculties have greater power than previously. One source within College says this will probably cause some contention over budget control between the heads of schools and the deans.

This year, the academic diary handed out to every student at registration has been combined with the Students' Union's own guidebook.

Finally, the most recent change was the appointment of Chief Academic Officer (Vice Provost) and Chief Operating Officer. One source within college has described this as "a huge culture shock" as previously there were only "vague lines of reporting". The positions were intended as an effort by Trinity's administration to increase efficiency and streamline the College's bureaucracy but Hugh Sullivan wrote on p193 of the academic diary "Look forward to a year where the water might get a bit muddy as to who reports to whom and who has responsibility for what; while everyone gets used to the new academic structures."

SU Education Officer Hugh Sullivan. Photo: Tom Gillespie

Although these offices were created to update the internal structures of College, and in fact to make it clearer who should report to whom within College, the SU's confusing stance makes an administration which is entirely unintelligible for the average student seem even more perplexing and disorganised. Despite placing the quote in the 08/09 Academic Diary given to each of the over 15,000 students who registered, Hugh Sullivan, SU Education Officer, said he did not realise that it sounded confusing. He assured Trinity News that the uncertainties he predicted would not have any direct consequences for students of the University. "It shouldn't affect students' day to day lives. It's more to do with the management of college and there'll be a period of people/committees finding their feet as new committee structures etc. get established and worked out."

Philanthropy: Trinity's unseen revenue stream

In recent times, the role of philanthropy – often large donations made by individuals – has become a more and more important source of income to Trinity. But just who are these donors?

By Deirdre Lennon
News Features Editor

Philanthropy is a relatively new – yet increasingly vital - word in the Irish lexicon. In the United States however it has long played a vital role in the funding of universities. With the emergence of large philanthropic organisations, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Sir Anthony O' Reilly Foundation it could be said that we are witnessing the "coming of age" of philanthropy.

Philanthropic giving has for many years been a way for the wealthy to support their favoured causes. In the last year alone Cornell University attracted over $500 million in alumni donations. It is also a method of securing funding from which Trinity has long benefited.

Many sources of income contribute to Trinity College's funding, including money that comes from government agencies and independent trusts. However, without donations from philanthropists and alumni the College's upkeep would be unsustainable.

Trinity's private donors are varied and wide-ranging, including some from the UK, Europe and several anonymous ones from the US. One of the major donors to College, Martin Naughton, an entrepreneur who founded Glen Electric in 1973, donated a significant sum to Trinity and subsequently had the Naughton Institute named after him upon its completion in 2007.

This building demonstrates what philanthropy can achieve and how it has grown as a practice over the last two decades. The Trinity Access Programme is another visible demonstration of the power of philanthropic donations.

As Trinity's became more recognisable as an icon of a strong and prosperous Ireland, donors who were unconnected to the college itself donated of large sums to varied areas of interest, be it in the Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Science or Business faculties.

Naturally, there are also individual alumni who have interests in specific areas and it is at their discretion as to whether their donations are targeted at one particular project or dispersed around the college faculties in general.

The recent "Save the Treasures of the Long Room" project, launched in 2005, is the most successful example to date of a fundraising endeavour undertaken by the Trinity Foundation. 3,000 alumni contributed, and €1.25 million was raised to clean the manuscripts and historic collection held within Trinity's Old Library.

The Trinity Foundation was established in order to foster Trinity's involvement with educational programmes in the fields of both outreach and research. Within the Trinity Foundation itself there are seventeen members of staff, with seven classified as major fundraisers within the unit.

The other role of the Foundation is to communicate with alumni worldwide in order to inform them of future projects. It also introduces networking schemes for alumni working abroad. The number of alumni within its "broad base" is over 60,000, and the Foundation aims to keep these graduates abreast of annual events and reunions.

The Trinity Foundation is a different organisation to the TCD Association and Trust, as it is a registered charity that entitles the donors to tax breaks, whilst the TCD Association and Trust is the original fundraising arm of the college, established to provide administrative support for small project donations to the betterment of college life.

The Trinity Foundation also plays a important role in the student community and is actively involved in several student projects within college, including the Student Awards, Sports Scholarships, the Financial Hardship Fund and the TCD Association and Trust Bursaries. The Student Awards recognise the contribution of several students who contribute to college life in an exceptional fashion. These students are awarded a grant of €2,000 by the college.

Likewise, the Sports Scholarships are allocated to students who display excellence in various sports whilst representing the college and the Financial Hardship Fund gives assistance from the Trinity Foundation to students faced with financial difficulties during their time in college.

The TCD Association and Trust Bursaries are concerned with supporting the most tangible aspects of student life, such as in the societies, welfare and research. It also includes support for the Voluntary Tuition Programme, the Student Union Childcare Support and the Trinity Arts Festival to name just a few.

John Dillon, the Alumni Director in the Trinity Foundation, sees these endeavours as extremely important examples of how the Foundation publicises the positive nature of the work it does. "We want to raise awareness about the good things that are going on in the college for students while they're here" he says.

Not only does the Foundation wish to perpetuate its good image within the student body, but also amongst the wider community. It hopes that the newly opened Science Gallery, which is now open to the public, will play an important role in reaching this target.

These aspects of the Trinity Foundation's work are linked into the Bank of Ireland Trinity Affinity scheme, whereby Bank of Ireland donates €15 to the College at the outset of a Trinity branded credit card application. This programme, available to both current students and graduates, is makes it easier for people to donate to Trinity whilst studying at the university, and also to continue once they've left.

For every euro spent on the card itself, Bank of Ireland donates a certain percentage to the college in order to support various projects. The card appeal also lies in the fact that it comes with a picture of our beloved campanile, for those who are particularly nostalgic and promotes, as Dillon puts it, "the strong affinity that alumni have with the college."

The college is required to keep an account of all the donations that it receives throughout the course of a year. In order to do this the college must return a Donor Report to the government for sums that are both large, and more modest in size. The Donor Report must specify where within the college the money was spent and detail the specifics of what it was spent on. The benefits to the College that result from the donations are documented in Trinity Today magazine that the Foundation publishes for the alumni.

Philanthropy does not confine itself to funding, according to John Dillon, the Trinity Foundation's Alumni Director. He points out that many graduates sit on the advisory boards, and are actively involved in helping the college achieve its aims. He is keen to stress that the Foundation is not merely concerned with the financial aid that alumni can give, but also with alumni volunteering their time and expertise.

ATLANTIC PHILANTHROPIES

CHUCK FEENEY, an American entrepreneur is, some would say, the modern forerunner of philanthropy. In two transactions, firstly in 1984 and then 1997, he gave over his entire fortune of $3.5 billion to Atlantic Philanthropies, a multinational organisation whose purpose is to distribute these monies in an equitable, accountable and productive fashion.

Over the course of this period, Feeney's impact on the education sector has been immense: in 1997, Atlantic Philanthropies contributed £75 million to the Program for Research in Third Level Institutions – a sum which came bound by the condition that it be matched by another £75 million from the Irish Government. Despite initial difficulties, this amount was eventually procured.

Atlantic Philanthropies has had a major effect on the way people think about philanthropy as a concept. During the last twenty years of economic growth, private donors were keen to point the way for other philanthropists to invest in universities.

The success of Atlantic's methods do however raise questions surrounding the leverage and conditions attached to such initiatives. Generally the monies that Atlantic Philanthropies distribute do come with accompanying preconditions in some form or another. Often though, these are intended merely as a lever for procuring matching funding and participation from the government or other grant-making bodies.

Trinity's links with Atlantic Philanthropies are strong. A former provost of the college, Tom Mitchell, joined Atlantic's board 2002 after finishing his tenure. Mitchell has a strong pedigree within the world of philanthropic foundations, as he was also responsible for setting up the Trinity Foundation in 1994.

PHILANTHROPY

- The Trinity Foundation deals with a network of over 60,000 alumni and maintain regular contact with these graduates who donate money to the college fund.
- The most relevant hands-on benefits of alumni donations for current students are: the Student Awards, Sports Scholarships, the Financial Hardship Fund and the TCD Association and Trust Bursaries
- The "Save the Treasures of the Long Room" initiative instigated by the Trinity Foundation raised over €1.25million euro to restore the manuscripts and historic collection in the Old Library.
- Atlantic Philanthropies, founded by Chuck Feeney, paved the way for other philanthropic donations from notable entrepreneurs in Irish society.
- A Donor Report must be submitted, detailing all donations, what they are spent on and which projects the money raised goes.

W

is for Writer.
Be one.

www.trinitynews.ie/index.php/about-tn

NYT's look at the future of university

Technology and student evaluations are the driving forces for change in today's students' daily lives in university according to the New York Times Magazines' "The College Issue".

The cover photo of the NYTimes Magazine: "It's All About Teaching"

By Kasia Mychajlowycz
International News Editor

THE NEW York Times Magazine published "The College Issue" at the beginning of term, focusing on innovations in – and problems with – teaching in American universities. Many articles revolved around the question of student reviews, and how technology and a more competitive, business-driven university model are putting more power into the hands of a massive, sometimes fickle, student body.

"The Tell-All Campus Tour" by Jonathan Dee profiles Jordan Goldman and his website Unigo.com, a website that provides free, unedited reviews of universities- in the form of videos, audio, photos and essays- which are meant to give prospective students a more 'real' picture of a university. The reviews range from terrible to insightful to bland, but the stress is on a review that is completely from a student's perspective, and shows the everyday existence of a student body, from a review focused entirely on someone's favourite cheap restaurant close to campus, or a photo of a typical dorm room.

Though Goldman asserts that the reason universities have declined to participate in his website is because "they really don't know the immensity of it", and that administrations "should be a bit scared by" a totally uncensored look at their performance, many American universities have been using student reviews as a standard evaluation of the teaching skills of their professors. Mark Oppenheimer's "Judgment Day" chronicles the trials endured by professors who have failed to elicit praise- or enough praise- from student-written reviews.

Professor Annemarie Bean, writes Oppenheimer, "knows that she belongs at Wesleyan, which is why she's especially sad that her students fired her" by giving her evaluations that were good, but that did not meet the administration's benchmark of 85% of the students marking her as either "Good" or "Outstanding". Student evaluations, the article says, are based not only on how effectively a professor conveys their knowledge of the course materials, but on their looks, personality, marking standards, or more insidiously, their race or gender. One experiment conducted in 1973 by psychiatrist Donald Naftulin, where a hired actor to give a lecture. "The actor was a splendid speaker", writes Oppenheimer, "his talked filled with witticism and charming asides- but also with 'irrelevant, conflicting and meaningless content'." Disappointingly, students', faculty's and colleagues' re views of the lecture were all "highly laudatory". Another anecdote tells of a professor in danger of losing his tenure at Carnegie Mellon University because of poor student evaluations, who fixed his problem not by improving his teaching skills (in fact he rebuked all offers of help) but by inflating his marks and telling his students that everyone was getting an A right before they filled out the evaluation.

If students are messing with academy more and more in the United States, technology is their accomplice, and not just because of student websites like Unigo.com, or RateMyProfessors.com. "The Camera-Friendly, Perfectly Pixelated, Easily Downloadable Celebrity Academic", as the title indicates, looks at how, once again, the criteria for a good, tenured professor are changing, this time because of the allure for universities of possessing a mini-celebrity, whose lectures are highest ranked on iTunesu, Mac's virtual space for podcasts from the world's best universities. Once the love of students but the bane of the administration, writes Virginia Heffernan, "now a charisma-sensei [a Japanese expression for a charming professor]- lucid, affable, groomed for "The Charlie Rose Show", - is all but a tenure shoo-in, an asset no blue-chip university can be without."

However much Heffernan bemoans the decline of the grumpy, old and ugly professor, she reviews her "five charisma-senseis that no online student should miss", whose subjects cover physics, 'behavioural economics', poetry and Biblical exegesis. These five top-ranking lecturers could be in jeopardy, however, thanks to the simultaneous launch of Oxford's and Cambridge's podcasts on iTunesu (after the publication of "The College Issue".) Cambridge and Oxford recently launched their podcasts of lectures and admissions advice, joining Harvard, Columbia and other Ivy League universities that have been broadcasting lectures for years. Their simultaneous launch gave way to speculation by some, including the Guardian, that it was designed to start an iTunes "race" between the two institutions, which have been neck-in-neck in the competition for best British university for 800 years. They will also have to battle with American universities for supremacy in the virtual college, without the advantage of experience, for once, and the influence of this new technology, and the American system of student evaluation, may soon be felt closer to Trinity.

Report calls for fees hike

By Hugh Taylor

STUDENTS AT better universities should pay higher fees, a recent report from the London School of Economics concluded. Analysing two decades of former students' salaries, the report found that students from leading universities would earn £35,207 more over their professional lives than students from lower-ranked universities, despite earning the same marks for the same degree, and coming from similar family backgrounds.

The report reads: "Such evidence suggests that there is some justice in requiring graduates to contribute to the cost of their university education, and in allowing different universities to charge different fees." With professors at top universities commanding higher salaries, the report reasons, as well as the higher average earning power that comes with a top name university degree, students should have to pay more to get more.

The Telegraph reported last week that Lord Patten, Oxford Chancellor, "called for the "intolerable" £3,000-a-year cap on tuition fees to be lifted." The cap will be reviewed next year by the Government, who is battling with Oxbridge to equalize the number of state school entrants with that of public school entrants, a objective with Lord Patten called in the article "a fool's mission". He continued: "Can there be a middle-class objection to higher fees? It is surely a mad world in which parents or grandparents are prepared to shell out tens of thousands of pounds to put their children through private schools to get them into universities, and then object to them paying a tuition fee of more than £3,000 when they are there."

TOP UNIVERISTY FEES

Harvard: $47,215
Princeton: $45,575
Stanford: $12,010
Oxford and Cambridge: £3,140 (excluding room and board)

In the United States, where private universities are free to set their fees, the financial crisis has caused panic with parents who have invested in the market to save money for college tuitions that can exceed $40,000. Harvard University's price of admission this year, including room and board (which is compulsory in most American universities for at least part of your degree), is $47,215, despite the fact that Harvard has the world's largest university endowment. Many of the State's most expensive universities do operate on a needs-blind admissions policy, meaning that there is no cap on how many students who qualify for subsidized fees in each year. Over 50% of Princeton University's Class of 2011 received some form of financial aid.

Despite the gap in fees in the two nation's top universities, America's Ivy League and Britain's Oxbridge continually battle for first place in university rankings lists, with little evidence that either system definitively produces better students.

Topshop targeted by students

Students, members of People and Planet, demonstrate outside Topshop in Edinburgh.

By Kasia Mychajlowycz
International News Editor

TOPSHOP CANCELLED an event at the University of Edinburgh following a protest by student organization People and Planet at their Princes St. store, just after it reopened after months of refurbishment and expansion.

An account of the demonstration was posted on People and Planet's central website (the Edinburgh chapter's website has not been updated since 2007). Protesters entered the store and spoke to employees and shoppers alike about Topshop's ethical policy. "After being discovered one by one and led out by the shop management," the report reads, "they made a 'human banner' outside the shop saying *"Get With The Trend, Join The Ethical Trading Initiative"* and spoke to members of the public about the issue."

People and Planet members also defaced- or "subvertised" according to their website- a Topshop ad campaign on campus with chalk.

As reported by Lee Bruce of the university's *Student Newspaper*, a spokesperson for Aracdia- Topshop's parent company- released a statement reading:

"Due to the reaction against the Topman activity that was at Edinburgh University the week before Topshop activity was scheduled, we took advice from the university and through our university contacts and decided we didn't want to put our staff in any danger by continuing with the T-shirt printing part of the activity."

People and Planet's news release on the protest claimed that, far from endangering Topshop staff, "some of the staff themselves expressed full support for the campaign." Member Fiona Ranford told the *Student Newspaper*: "We have been nothing but peaceful in our approach to challenging Topshop's supply chain practices." The national organization, which maintains chapters in several universities in the UK, has focused on Topshop in its "Redress Fashion" campaign, which aims at committing the company to its Ethical Trade Initiative. Topshop was chosen as a primary target of the campaign because of its heavy marketing towards students, including student discounts and student shopping nights.

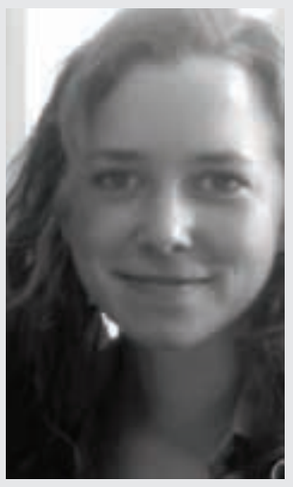
On its website, the activist group cite an article from the Times which investigated Topshop's supply factories in Mauritius, and found that workers were promised five times higher than what they received, and had to pay hundreds of pounds- equivalent to seven months of their wages- to be given the position. Another report, this time from BBC Two's Newsnight programme, links Topman to forced child labour in Uzbekistan, the world's second largest exporter of cotton, and home to an authoritarian regime which closes all schools during the cotton harvest and forces the students into the fields.

Topshop has replied to these allegations by stating through a spokesperson: "We make it clear at the beginning of our relationship with a supplier that we will not work with any factory that employs child labour. We believe every worker has the right to join a trade union, we support the principle of a living wage and with regards to the environment we have made significant progress on a number of fronts".

Global Campus

Why I left Trinity: a farewell from a transfer student

By Emma Dorsey
Barnard College at Columbia University, New York



THERE ARE MANY differences between Trinity and Columbia University in New York City. I cannot unequivocally endorse one over the other. Columbia has spectacular resources, but it also requires all students to fulfil what can feel like irrelevant requirements outside of their majors. Trinity allows great independence of scholarship, but can be frustratingly disorganized. In stark contrast, while Trinity could hardly be bothered to send me an acceptance letter and an annual bill, Columbia sent me what amounted to a care package, complete with a novel by a recent alumna.

Perhaps what is most important, however, is the fact that members of the Columbia community, both students and faculty, are held accountable for the work the do (or fail to do). Between the university blogs, professorial review websites like www.culpa.info, the daily newspaper, and the generally uppity (though admittedly tiresome at times) student body, much is expected, and all that is expected is demanded. Students and faculty force one another on their toes, and the result is an environment of constructive, if copious, criticism.

One incident stands out as a good example: a Bat Mitzvah is a Jewish rite of passage from girlhood to womanhood. You didn't know that? Fine. That's entirely understandable. Your lecturer for *The Anthropology of Gender* didn't know that? To my dismay, I found that my use of the Bat Mitzvah as an example of a gender-specific rite of passage in a paper showed me just that.

Professor Barbara Bradby, Trinity's Head Lecturer of the Sociology Department, wrote in her critique of my essay: "If your main argument is that rites of passage are general to women as well as men, then it is strange that you pick the example of the Jewish Bar Mitzvah! (mis-spelt, incidentally) *[sic]*" In the interest of full disclosure, I should explain that Dr. Bradby offered to remark my paper when I brought the error to her attention. I never followed up, due to the fact that I had by then made the decision to transfer to Columbia University, and my Trinity marks would not affect my degree.

What I wanted was not a new mark, what I wanted was some degree of accountability. I wanted the system to acknowledge and correct whatever error it is that allows such gaps in knowledge to occur without comment. What I found was an apology for which I had no use. My feelings were not under attack, my education was. Nor was it under attack by Dr. Bradby individually, but rather by Trinity's slothful and tremulous bureaucracy as a whole, one that inhibits student feedback and professorial accountability, and favours brushing problems under the mat to facing them head-on.

It was not that one incident that caused me to leave Trinity. Nor did any perceived discrepancy in quality of academics. Comparing the two universities is akin to comparing apples to oranges. Like almost all students of Trinity College Dublin, I respect and revere the honourable tradition and stellar academics of the College. Here I am arguing, however, that the university would be infinitely better served if a portion of students' reverie were released in the form of justified indignation.

Trinity students, lecturers, and administrators are quick to grumble. My complaint is that more people need to grumble into a loudspeaker, a blog, Trinity News, fight the system and hold it accountable for its insufficient status quo. Have you ever been patronised in a lecture? Have you ever been assigned a book that was impossible to locate in the library, or even in Dublin? Have you ever received an essay that was hardly skimmed, and then tagged with a seemingly arbitrary mark? Perhaps you have made an appointment to see a professor, only for him or her to fail to show up. Or maybe you have even been scolded in a lecture for giving negative feedback on an instructor evaluation. I know that many—if not all—of you harbour some underlying discontent. You have been disappointed and fixing the problem didn't seem possible, or "worth it."

My plans to study and practice Law in the United States came heavily into play in my decision to transfer. Trinity is a position to forge an enviable education, and Dublin is possibly the greatest city on earth. This letter is not about Bat Mitzvahs or Bar Mitzvahs. This is certainly not about Dr. Bradby. This is about you and your education. This is a plea to you to stand up and seize the education you deserve! Students: complain!

UCC launches new PhD programme in cancer biology

By Kate O'Regan

OCTOBER 3RD saw the inauguration of a new PhD programme in Cancer Biology in University College Cork, the first of its kind in the Republic. The programme was launched on Friday October 3rd with a mini-symposium featuring addresses by three distinguished academics in the field of cancer research. The keynote address was given by Prof Scott Lowe, deputy director of the Cancer Centre at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York.

The new course is the first dedicated PhD-training programme in Cancer Biology in the Republic. It is one of four structured-PhD programmes in Ireland funded by the Health Research Board in 2007. Students will receive a stipend of €18,000 per annum for four years plus registration fees (at EU level).

The new Cancer Biology programme in UCC has been designed to incorporate a broad field of research. The programme will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach, including investigators from the College of Science, Engineering and Food Science and the College of Medicine and Health. The primary aims of the PhD Scholars' Programme is to train the scholar in research methods and practices, through high-quality research projects which are considered to be at the forefront of international research.

The programme hopes to train eighteen scholars in Cancer Biology over the next seven years. The first five of these scholars begin their training this month. Scholars will be trained in the following areas: key genes and proteins associated with the genesis and progression of cancer; signalling systems, cell interactions and tissue remodelling in cancer; and novel therapeutic strategies using clinically relevant models of tumour growth and spread. The first year is structured to include taught elements, general scientific training and specific training in the biological and clinical aspects of cancer.

In addition, each student will complete three laboratory rotations, and subsequently choose a project and mentor, under whose guidance they will conduct research for their thesis. Throughout the programme there will be research seminars with international speakers and advanced training workshops. As significant advances have been made in cancer research and treatment in recent years, the programme will also educate the PhD scholar in the approaches to screening, diagnosis, treatment and management of different cancers that have led to major increases in survival rates.

Cancer has long been considered one of the world's major health issues. It is a class of diseases in which a group of cells display uncontrolled growth (division beyond the normal limits), invasion (intrusion on and destruction of adjacent tissues), and sometimes metastasis (spread to other parts of the body via lymph or blood). Most cancers form a tumour, but some like leukaemia (cancer of the blood or bone marrow) do not. It causes about 13% of all deaths, and research into it is consequently a top scientific priority. Since US President Nixon's 1971 declaration of a "War on Cancer," over $200 billion has been injected into cancer research. This type of research is multi-disciplinary, involving genetic, diet and environmental factors.

Of the latter, tobacco has arguably attracted the most attention. Tobacco smoke contains over 50 known carcinogens. Carcinogens are mutagens (substances that cause DNA mutations) that cause cancer. Ninety percent of lung cancers are associated with tobacco smoking. Lung cancer death rates have mirrored smoking patterns.

However, the 'tobacco epidemic' continues, with numbers of smokers worldwide increasing, despite the efforts of anti-smoking activists around the world.

CANCER TODAY

- The three most common cancers in Ireland are prostate, lung and bronchus and breast
- Each year over 19,000 new cancer cases develop and there are over 11,000 cancer deaths
- The Eastern seaboard has a high rate of colorectal cancer, and the incidence in men is 1.5 times higher than in women.
- Between 1994 and 2000, the incidence of prostate cancer increased by 33%
- For men, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death

Students march on Cork protesting reintroduction of fees

THOUSANDS OF students from the nine third-level institutions across Munster marched in Cork city on Thursday October 10th in opposition to Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keeffe's proposals to re-introduce fees.

The demonstration began at Cork Institute of Technology in Bishopstown. From there, it extended noisily along College Road past UCC, then along the quays and up through Patrick Street to finish up on the Grand Parade. Students blew whistles, banged drums and chanted slogans such as, "No way, we won't pay!" Placards bore the mottos, "No to Batty policies" and "Batman is Robin Students."

Shane Kelly, president of the Union of Students of Ireland, riled up the crowd saying the Minister thought students had a spare €8,000 to pay for fees.

UCC SU president Cal Dioliún said "We have demonstrated today that the students of Munster are a force to be reckoned with. We are not going to take the reintroduction of fees lying down. Over the coming months, we have to keep the momentum going and, if there are any more protests, to join them," he said.

- Una Geary

CIT SU President is fined €400 for public urination in pub

AINDREAS DOYLE, president of Carlow IT Students' Union, was brought before Carlow District Court last week under Section 6 of the Public Order Act.

Inspector Gerry Cooney testified that Mr. Doyle had urinated on the floor of Leverett and Frye on Dublin Street on 11 July 2008.

Mr. Doyle, former captain of the Carlow Senior Men's Football team, is a graduate of Communications and Public Relations.

His solicitor, Brendan O'Flaherty, said his client pleaded guilty to the offence and that drink played a factor in the incident. Mr Doyle admitted that he "had had a few shorts that didn't suit him at all."

"It has had serious consequences for him," Mr O'Flaherty said. 'He has treated this very seriously. The following day he was down and apologised for his behaviour.' He added that his client was "ashamed and embarrassed" by his act, which has made front page news in local papers, and was conscious that it was a black mark on his student union credentials.

At the mid-September sitting of Carlow District Court, the initial charge of urinating in public was struck out. However, Judge William Harnett convicted Mr Doyle on charges of "insulting behaviour" and fined him €400.

- Una Geary

SPECIAL REPORT

Eyre Square march a washout

Kevin O'Connor, editor of NUIG student newspaper, SIN, describes the student protest against the re-introduction of fees which took place in Eyre Square on October 2nd

By Kevin O'Connor
Editor, SIN NUIG

The scene at GMIT last Monday. Photo: Darragh Canning

MANY STUDENTS who gathered outside the College Bar on Thursday, October 2nd, were disappointed when one of the heaviest rainfalls Galway has seen since last January began to fall. However, the mood was not dampened by the weather, with around a thousand students, veteran protestors and first years alike, looking forward to a demonstration of a size unprecedented since the protests against the 2003 Iraq war protest or the registration fee hike. It is estimated that between eight hundred and twelve hundred NUIG students massed in and around Áras na Mac Léinn in preparation for the march into Eyre Square where they were met by the same number again of GMIT students. The crowd was warmed up and organised by Students' Union representatives handing out free t-shirts saying "No to fees" and placards bearing slogans such as "Batt O'Keeffe = Education thief" and "Education is a right, not a privelage *(sic).* Many students also brought along their own home-made placards for the occasion, including the obligatory "Down with this sort of thing" and "Careful now" and more militant slogans such as "Resign Minister O'Keeffe" and "Fuck Fees."

At 1:30pm, the crowd began their march from the College Bar, in a single column walking along the path, herded by Union representatives in high visibility vests chanting slogans into megaphones. The GMIT and NUIG marches were well timed, ensuring that the two masses met at almost exactly the same moment in front of the fountain in Eyre Square where a radio microphone and a PA system were already set up in preparation for the speeches, the main focus of the demonstration.

The torrential rain only got heavier and heavier, meaning that plastic bags had to be placed over the speakers. The rain did not affect the numbers among the crowd however, with some estimates from the Students' Unions placing the numbers at up to three thousand protestors. However, the Irish Times offered a more conservative estimate of two thousand, with the lowest estimate of "no more than three hundred" from a garda who watched the protest from inside his van, one of the three police vehicles which maintained a subtle presence throughout the protest in case of trouble.

However, the protest passed without even a hint of riotous behaviour. Many students danced and chanted to the sounds of bongo drums and whistles, creating a carnival-type atmosphere as the protestors kept themselves warm while waiting for the sound system to be turned on.

The President of the Union of Students of Ireland, Shane Kelly, set the tone for the event, by joining in with the rhyming chants started by the GMIT students; "G-M-I-T, we won't pay no fucking fees!" before pleading for calm and beginning his speech; "We have experienced the biggest period of money wasting in our education system ever, and Batt O'Keefe wants to tell you that you have to pay fees because he misspent all his money. He wants to make you and your brothers and sisters scapegoats for the way they have wasted money," which resulted in bouts of spontaneous applause and cheers from the assembled crowd, now huddled together for warmth facing the fountain.

Kelly continued, "Today we send a very strong message to the government, we tell them that they will not pickpocket us. Students of Galway will stand with students of Dublin, Cork, Athlone and everywhere." Cheers erupted for every location mentioned, Kelly was interrupted by chants of "N-U-I-G, we won't pay no fucking fees" until the crowd was hushed by the speaker who was gradually overcoming the struggle against the rain, coming down more heavily than ever.

"We will, today, with one voice, send a message to the Minister – he can find his money somewhere else because we don't have any. He won't find the money in your pocket or mine. The only question is this: are we going to stand together and fight on?" This was followed again by uproars of mixed chants and slogans from the crowd. "This is a proud day for students. We're here to tell the minister that it's not our fault that he misspent his money, that it's not our fault that some presidents of Universities have butlers – they can pick up their own socks and save a few quid. Let the message go forth that we as students will not be scapegoats and will not be bullied."

Senator Fidelma Healy-Eames was on hand to accept the microphone from Kelly to keep up the momentum which was building among the crowd. "These are strange times," began Healy-Eames, the Fine Gael spokesperson for education. "We are here to stand in solidarity with you. As you know, we were part of the government that abolished fees in the mid-nineties. Since then, thousands of low income families can afford to finally send their kids to college, around twenty five per cent more students were enabled to go to college because of the abolition of fees.

She continued, "I am very concerned about the waste of public money by this government; I hope your future isn't at risk. We are calling the seven heads of the universities in Ireland before the education committee next Thursday to ask them to account for their spending. Minister Batt O'Keeffe has said that his plan will only target higher earners..." the mention of the Minister's name brought forth a tirade of booing and scorn from the crowd which lasted for almost a solid minute before being calmed by the senator. "Listen please, this is important, his claim is false, this plan is the thin edge of the wedge. We know from experience that if the floodgates of fees are opened, that this will only be the beginning. It will be middle income families that will be targeted if fees come in. We have to say no to fees because this country needs an educated workforce." In a display of appreciation for the senator on her ending note, there was an eruption of applause that she has surely seldom heard outside a Fine Gael rally, with the whistles and drums starting up again, amplifying the cheers and applause.

Green Party City Councillor Niall O'Brolcháin said on behalf of his party, "I just want to say one thing, the Greens are in the Government at the moment, and I can tell you for sure that we do not support the reintroduction of fees." O'Brolcháin continued after the crowd died down, "[the Green party] supports students, we need a vibrant economy and it's an investment in education, not a taxing of it that is required." He added, "The Greens represent a very academic, intellectual constituency, so we would like to make it clear that we are doing everything possible to look after their needs. I was delighted to see so many students coming out today, especially considering the weather. We need to be investing further in education, not against it. I hope the students keep up the fight because it is an important issue."

After the protest, NUIG Students' Union President Muireann O'Dwyer was quoted as saying "A very strong message was sent by the protest, to have so many students march through monsoon-like rains and then to stand in the cold in Eyre Square to display their opposition to fees was a great sight to see. The whole crowd seemed to agree that it was just plain unreasonable to ask students to pay even more for third level. Hopefully the Minister will take heed of their worries, and we can soon see an end to this hair-brained notion."

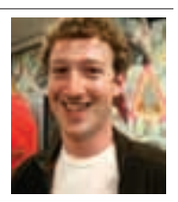
Facebook to move international headquarters to Dublin

By Kate O'Regan

FACEBOOK HAS updated its status. By the end of 2008 the international headquarters of the world's largest online social networking site will have relocated to Dublin. The news was announced on October 2nd by Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Coughlan TD.

Ireland will now be the centre of Facebook's international operations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Ms. Coughlan praised the decision of Facebook directors to base their international services here, "As a growing global economy, this is an exciting investment for our country to host the leader in social networking."

The meteoric rise of Facebook since its foundation in February 2004, by Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg, has seen it establish itself as the premier social networking site in the world. In less than five years, Facebook has seen its friend list grow to over one hundred million, making it the fourth most-trafficked website in the world. It is a privately held company, currently based in Palo Alto, California.



Mark Zuckerberg founded Facebook in Harvard in 2004. Forbes calls him "the youngest billionaire ever"

According to Barry O'Leary, CEO of IDA Ireland, it is a welcome endorsement of the substantial benefits Ireland provides to multinational companies located here. The move was influenced by the availability of a highly skilled local workforce, and follows other successful online companies such as Google, who have also chosen to base their operations in Dublin. According to Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, one of the main attractions of Dublin was the top-class services and workforce available in the area, "The talent pool in Dublin is world-class and recruiting local talent will help us better understand the needs of local users and the regional dynamics that, in turn, can give us better insight into what features matter most."

At present Facebook employs more than six hundred people, with up to seventy jobs earmarked for the Dublin site. Jobs in the legal counsel area are already being advertised on the Facebook jobs page, as well as vacancies in sales operations and human resources. The decision comes at a time when Irish industry and employment is in disarray following the global stock market crisis.

As of last week, Facebook were not forthcoming as to where they will be sourcing their employees, but it is likely that the world's most successful online social networking site will attract a young and dynamic workforce. In the US, where Facebook's headquarters are currently located, they have initiated a recruitment drive targeting university students. The company claims to offer benefits and opportunities for career development along with the swiftly expanding company. They search for the most talented and innovative students and graduates for full-time jobs and internships.

In this rapidly advancing software industry, other companies such as Yahoo! and Google have had their pick of the most outstanding students of the computer generation. The unprecedented popularity of Facebook can be compared to that of other Silicon Valley successes such as Microsoft. The pioneering employees of this computer-age phenomenon enjoyed stakes in a company whose value has multiplied to billions of dollars. An innovative company like Facebook can also be a dream job for gifted computer engineers and product designers. According to "Boz," a current software engineer featured on the sites jobs page, there is no limit to the new inventions and ideas permitted, "Your role is limited only by your energy, not by your title or your seniority. If you want to create a new product, it is yours to build." For those who want to play a role in the development of the fourth most trafficked website in the world, the opportunity is only a click away. Facebook invites budding computer engineers to try one of their 'puzzles' found on the jobs webpage in order prove their worth and attract the attention of the company bosses.

No information has been released yet as to the exact location of the headquarters, but Facebook will have a ready network of friends with other leading online companies such as Google and Yahoo! based in the city centre.

FACE THE FACTS

- Membership was originally restricted to students of Harvard University. It was subsequently expanded to other Boston area schools, Stanford, and all Ivy League schools within two months
- On August 23, 2005, Aboutface Corporation sold the domain name facebook.com to Facebook for $200,000
- The name of the site refers to the paper facebooks depicting members of the campus community which US colleges and preparatory schools give to incoming students, faculty, and staff.
- Facebook has over 500 employees worldwide.

Funny business at DU Comedy Soc

PJ Gallagher performing live on the Sunday before Freshers' Week in Trinity Hall. Photo: Eoin O Braoin

By Robert Kearns
Chair, DU Comedy Society

THE STORY of the past eighteen months in the history of DU Comedy Society is one which has been reported in both this paper and its local rival before, so it's not worth dwelling on here. But, as a short synopsis, jump back to April of 2007 as three friends who have met through the Students' Union share a pint in a city bar and discuss the events of the past year. One of them is soon-to-be Comedy Soc chair Eoin O Braoin, who shares his plan to revive the society, which had been mostly inactive for the previous ten years.

His two colleagues divvy up the roles of secretary and treasurer and they set about recruiting a committee that can best develop the society. Just over a month later, they hold an AGM in a Botany Bay corridor and start planning what they hope to be a new life for the society. Over 1,000 sign-ups, six huge gigs, one rather humourous magazine and some pretty wacky improv classes follow in the coming year, which places the society as one of the bigger players on the College scene.

Fast forward to Freshers' Week of this year and the society, off the back of the deliverance of the previous year's committee, finds itself in much stronger stead to recruit members and to put on top quality events. Freshers' Week saw DU Comedy run an event every evening, including two free gigs (one featuring PJ Gallagher, Aidan Bishop and the other featuring a host of top student comedians), Trinity's first Rock, Paper, Scissors Championship, a sell-out gig with If.Comedy Award winner David O'Doherty and the biggest event of the week – the O2 Headphone Disco. The 700 sign-ups of Freshers' Week 2007 were more than trebled to just over 2,500 and the current buzz around the society is greater than anyone who took part in that corridor AGM could have ever imagined.

The work now begins to take the success of Freshers' Week and build on it to bring a great year of activity to our members. Already on the agenda are more huge gigs and some unique nights out.

In the immediate future, we have a Roller Disco on Tuesday 14th October in Dandelion, at Stephen's Green, an event which you probably won't see the like of again in your time in college. The following week, on Wednesday 22nd, we host one of the elder statesmen of Irish comedy, Karl Spain, as he performs in a double-header with Jarlath Regan, a new comic star on the rise. In later gigs, we'll be bringing in 'Father Ted' star Ardal O'Hanlon and 'The Panel' mainstay Andrew Maxwell, who sold out his Trinity gig in just 24 hours last year.

After the success of our magazine 'Goldfish' last year, we'll be producing three issues of it over this academic year. The magazine sets out to be the high quality satirical magazine which Trinity students have always deserved but never received. The target launch date of the first issue is November 12th which means that students who are interested in taking part should get in touch now. We need designers, illustrators and writers and we'd encourage anyone with any interest to get in touch. You can find out more by e-mailing goldfish@ducomedy.com.

Another big aim of ours this year is to give our members a start in comedy, through classes in comedy writing, stand-up and improv. We've managed to attract some of the best teachers around who have agreed to get involved and the classes will begin during this term.

Topping this all off, we'll be running a 'King of Comedy' competition to find a new comic talent in our midst and a 'Best Comic Short' competition, in association with DU Filmmakers. We will also be hoping to build a strong community within the society which can carry it to bigger and better things in future years.

As you read this, the Comedy Soc committee is working on new ideas for how we can make your sides split with joy and you can expect to hear much more over the coming months. For information on what we're getting up to next, keep your eye on www.ducomedy.com or come to one of our stands over the next few weeks and join up.

EVENTS GUIDE

What's on this coming fortnight

October 14

Comedy Society: Roller Disco in association with SU Ents. It'll be on in Dandelion in Stephen's Green from 10pm and tickets are available for €8 from the SU Shop and DU Comedy stands in the Arts Block and Hamilton.

Jazz Society: Jazz improvisation and theory lessons with established professional saxophonist Nick Roth, geared towards musicians who can play their instrument (ie not just starting out) but are new or relatively new to the world of Jazz. These lessons are free for members and will take place every Tuesday of Michaelmas Term, 6.30pm-8pm.

October 16

Literary Society: Donegal poet Matthew Sweeney will be reading his work, talking about his career and answering questions. 19:00 Room 2041B

Afro-Carribbean Society: Afrocarib Flava 08 in 4 Dame Lane.

Philosophical Society: Creationism debate with reception to follow. 7.30, GMB.

Jazz Society: Every Thursday evening at 7.30-9 we hold our weekly Open Jam session in our Goldsmith Hall rehearsal room/studio/jazz lair. This is for musicians of all shapes and sizes to come down and have a tinkle, twang or toot and we try and get musicians with similar musical interests to form bands to fill our showcase bills. Very relaxed atmosphere, welcoming to nervous musicians (you don't have to play if you don't want to).

October 20

Theological Society: Three guest speakers on the theme of 'Women, Gender and Theology.' Prof Linda Hogan, of the Irish School of Ecumenics, will be presenting on Feminist Theology, while Dr Mary Condren, from the Institute of Women and Religion (and our own Centre for Womens' and Gender Studies) will present on the theme of goddesses. Finally Prof Brendan Leahy, Professor of Systematic Theology at St Patrick's College Maynooth, will give an insight on women in the Roman Catholic tradition with reference to the future state of women in the church. After the three short papers an informal discussion will be held amongst attendees. 19:30, GMB

October 21

History Society: . William Doyle from the University of Bristol, a specialist in 18th century Europe, will be giving a lecture on 'Napoleon, Women, and the French Revolution'.

October 22

Photography association: Introduction Lecture. Learn about our forthcoming events, our facilities and discounts available to members. 19:30 – 20:30 A5052, Arts Building

October 23

Literary Society: Boob club - "Lucky Jim" by Kingsley Amis. (The book club meets once monthly, and the Literary Society subsidise the cost of each book for its members) 19:00 House 6 Room 32

Literary Society: Open Readings are a chance for you to come along and read some of your own work. Or perhaps your favourite poem, story, song lyrics or screenplay or whatever else you can think of. And if you don't fancy standing up and reading, you can just sit down, have a drink and listen to fellow students reading. 20:00 Chaplin's Pub.

Comedy Society: Jarlath Regan and Karl Spain live

Philosophical society: Capitalism debate

October 24 – 27

Jazz Society: Cork International Jazz festival. Tickets secured to the headlining gig to see Jazz superstars Chick Corea and John McLaughlin playing together. Also included are three nights accommodation in a hostel, transport and a tickets to a gig on Saturday night as well, all for €95. Places are limited and issued on a first come first served basis. We will be taking deposits in the Arts block this week and next on Wednesday and Thursday from 12 till 4.

October 29

Photography association: Class: Camera handling. This class will explain the basics of camera handling, the anatomy of a camera and its basic commands: aperture, shutter speed and focus. The concept of depth of field will be briefly introduced.

November 5

Photography association: Class: Digital camera handling. This class will explain the basics of digital cameras including their anatomy and basic commands. The most common commands found in a digital point and shoot camera will be explained and linked to the concepts of the camera handling class.

W

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POLITICS

Intimidation and murder in Coca-Cola's Colombian factories

In an extract from his new book, activist Mark Thomas tells of the dangers encountered by trade unionists in Colombia.

DOWNTOWN BOGOTÁ may proclaim itself a modern city with skyscrapers and a financial centre, but the world of international commerce seems far away as we pass old men selling cigarettes from trays and cramped shops with their stock spilling out on to the pavement. In minutes we move from the morning havoc of the back streets into Teusaquillo, where the roads are slightly wider and the craters fewer. The well-to-do used to live here, but they moved on long ago, leaving it to human rights lawyers, civic groups and non-government organisations. We stop at a house with a low brick wall.

The graffiti that used to read "Death to trade unionists!" has been painted over. Now there is nothing to announce that this ordinary house is home to Sinaltrainal (*Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria de Alimentos* — the National Union of Food Industry Workers). This is the biggest trade union in the "Coca-Cola system" in Colombia, representing more than half the organised Coke workers — although after more than a decade of attacks and intimidations, the membership is nothing like as big as it once was. Current membership in the Coca-Cola plants is down to 350.

This building is where we meet two men, Giraldo and Manco. They arrive on different days and give their testimonies separately, but they tell the same story. Campaign posters in the room where we talk demand boycotts and justice; the images are of handguns painted in the company colours of red and white. Pictures of dead trade unionists are everywhere. Giraldo and Manco knew these men, they were friends and relatives, and now they speak of how they died.

Oscar Alberto Giraldo Arango is 42, but he carries a few more years on his shoulders. Colombia is the most dangerous place in the world for trade unionists — since 1986, 2,500 of them have been killed. "To be a trade unionist in Colombia is to walk with a gravestone on your back," the two men told me the first time we met — and they looked as weary as if they had physically borne their stone.

Giraldo was raised in Carepa, Urabá, in the north-west of the Colombian countryside near the Panama border. He started work for Coca-Cola in 1984, at the Bebidas y Alimentos de Urabá (Drinks & Foods of Urabá) bottling plant. When he told his friends, they congratulated him for landing such a good job. And it was, too. The union had done well for the men, securing bonuses, overtime and health benefits. But this was not to last. Graffiti announced the paramilitaries' arrival in Carepa in 1994: "We are here!" Shortly after the graffiti appeared, so did the bodies.

The first Coca-Cola worker and trade unionist in Carepa to be assassinated was José Eleazar Manco, in April 1994. The second was killed days later on April 20. He was Giraldo's brother, Enrique. In the mornings, Enrique travelled to work on the back of a friend's motorbike. Three men emerged from the side of the road and aimed guns at the bike, forcing it to stop. Enrique was dragged off into the bushes.

When Giraldo got to work, everyone was talking about the kidnapping; soon, anxious speculation turned to mourning. Another man arriving had seen Enrique's body dumped at the side of the road.

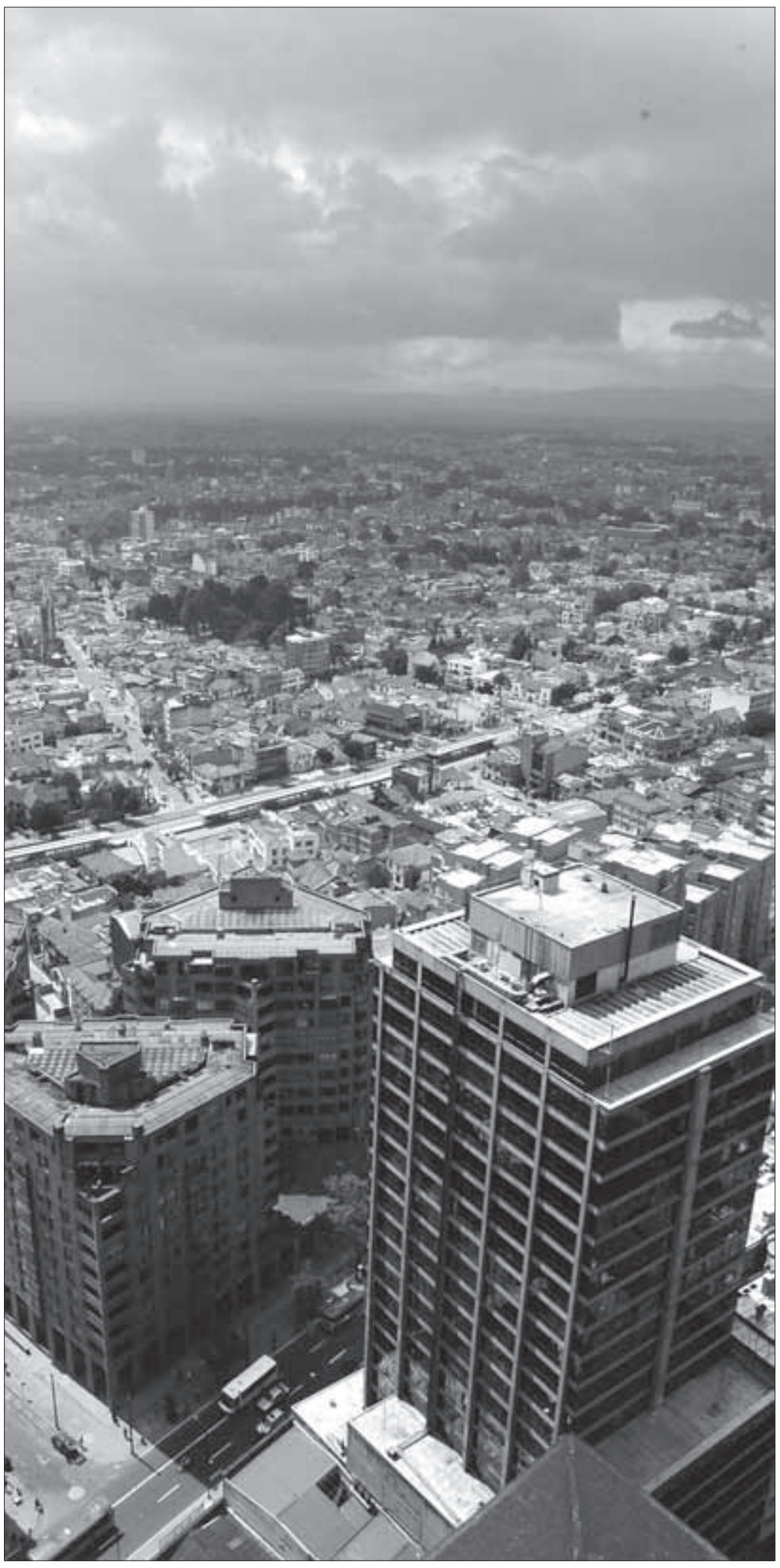
The Colombian paramilitary groups were spawned in the conflict between the state and revolutionary guerillas. In 1982, officers under General Landazábal, the defence minister, worked with multinationals and cattle ranchers to organise and fund "defence groups". Ostensibly they were to fight leftwing insurgent groups, but increasingly the paras, as they are known, became entwined with the drug cartels and the army. They formed death squads, attacking and killing anyone considered to support the leftwing guerillas — basically anyone working in human rights or trade unions. It is a common refrain among the establishment and security forces that the guerillas and trade unionists are one and the same.

Carlos Castaño, leader of the paras, claimed that 70% of his organisation's funding came from the cocaine industry. But he was also an ardent supporter of neo-liberal economic policies and of multinational investment in Colombia — so why shouldn't national and international companies support them? In a newspaper interview, Castaño maintained there was always a reason for the paras' attacks. "Trade unionists, for example. They stop the people from working. That's why we kill them."

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) puts the conviction rate of trade union murderers at 1%. Certainly President Uribe has shown little inclination to rectify this situation. "There are no assassinations of workers in Colombia," he has stated, adding that there are "rotten apples" in the trade union movement.

Giraldo has lived with the story of his brother's murder for 14 years. No one has been charged with Enrique's murder. "There wasn't very much of an investigation," he says. Almost a year to the day later, another Sinaltrainal leader working at the Coca-Cola plant in Carepa was killed. His name was Enrique Gómez Granado, and on April 23 1995 he was shot on his doorstep in front of his wife and children.

When the surviving union leaders were threatened and intimidated, it became blindingly obvious that there was a campaign against the union at the Coca-Cola plant. These men were followed as they left work, cards were delivered to their homes saying, "Go now or face death!" The union leadership fled to Bogotá en masse, which left the workers at the Carepa plant with no effective union. So they began meeting in secret. "We agreed to set up a new underground union," Giraldo says. The president was Luis Hernán Manco Monroy (Manco), whom I was to meet in Bogotá a few days later.



Downtown Bogotá. Photo: Juan Felipe Rubio

As president of the newly formed union leadership, Manco helped draw up a proposed collective agreement, and the union came out into the open. "We informed Coca-Cola that we had new leadership, so we started having meetings with the -management at the Coca-Cola plant."

The manager at the time, they allege, knew and socialised with the paramilitaries. On one occasion, Manco said, the manager sat drinking with the local commanders outside the plant. "There was a meeting with Cepillo and Caliche [the commanders] at the kiosk — they were drinking with the plant manager, and he said that if he wanted to end the union, it would be very easy." Giraldo says they were not overly concerned at the time: "We didn't know how bad it would get." They were soon to find out. December 6 1996 was Carepa's darkest day.

The body of Isidro Gil lay inside the plant. The first bullet had hit him between the eyes. The remaining five shots were fired out of spite or bravado. Another Coca-Cola union leader had been disposed of.

The two paras who killed him had arrived by motorbike and gone to the security hut by the main gates, where Isidro was working. Manco was working on a machine nearby. The manager had disappeared and was nowhere to be found. "The production line stopped," Manco said, "but we stayed there in the afternoon because we were too scared to leave... Not working, just waiting there."

Another trade union organiser, Adolfo Luis Cardona, nicknamed El Diablo, a local footballer of some renown, had also seen Isidro killed. While his friends and workmates waited in the plant, he went to Carepa. The paras spotted him and called out that the local para commander Cepillo wanted to see him — "Come, nothing will happen," they said. "Get in the lorry, we will drive you there." El Diablo made a fateful decision. He ran. He took off down the village street, screaming, "*Van a matar a mí!*" — they are going to kill me. He ran towards the police station four blocks away. Behind him, the paras gave chase, one on motorbike, the rest on foot. They were hunting him down in broad daylight. None of the onlookers in the street did anything. El Diablo burst into the police station begging for protection and sanctuary.

The police all but shrugged: "What can we do?" But they did escort El Diablo home, waited while his family packed and then drove them to the airport. The family went first to Bogotá and then on to the US, where El Diablo lives today.

The morning had seen the murder of Isidro Gil, the afternoon the attempted abduction of El Diablo. That night, Sinaltrainal's offices in Carepa were firebombed and burned to the ground.

Manco had gone into hiding, but the following day the para leader, Cepillo, sent out messages that he wanted to talk. Manco agreed. The meeting was held at an ice-cream shop in Carepa. Two other union men arrived with Manco to find Cepillo — a chubby man, aged about 25 — at a table with a group of paras. "Cepillo said they had killed Isidro, and burned down the head-quarters. And they said the union was over, that the union was the guerrillas," Manco said. The paras issued their orders. At 9am the following morning, all Sinaltrainal members were assembled at the Coca-Cola bottling plant. There the paras made them sign letters resigning from the union. The letters were apparently prepared by a man who worked for the company.

The union in Carepa was smashed. The leadership was in hiding, exiled or dead. The members, cowed by guns, threats and intimidation, had signed away their rights. Meanwhile, the managers of the plant introduced a pay cut — according to Sinaltrainal, the wages dropped from between $380 to $450 a month for experienced workers to $130 a month: Colombia's minimum wage. When asked about this drop, Coca-Cola failed to respond.

In Bogotá, Manco and Giraldo tell how they lived for six months in the union office — there was nowhere else for them to go. Eventually, Giraldo's family came to join him in Bogotá and he moved out. He has not had a full-time job since. "I haven't been able to earn much. I have just been doing odd jobs with three or four-month contracts... Sometimes days go by here where we have no food."

Manco says it's horrible being forced to remain in Bogotá. "I lost my house, my family, everything." His family stayed in Carepa.

"Serious charges demand a serious response," said the Coca-Cola company CEO Neville Isdell, referring to allegations of abuse by the company's Colombian bottlers. According to Sinaltrainal, the murders at the

CAPTAIN BOYCOTT

COCA-COLA HAS been officially off the menu at Manchester's student union since March 2007. There's no Pepsi at Cardiff, and no Kit Kits in many places. What else has been boycotted, and why?

- Eminem – In 2001 Sheffield banned Eminem from the university radio station, citing his "misogynistic and homophobic lyrics"
- Nestlé – Currently boycotted by 73 university Students' Unions as a result of their aggressive marketing of powdered milk to mothers in developing countries.
- Bacardi – Sheffield banned Bacardi from its Student Union bar in 2001 in protest at the company's support of the US embargo on Cuba
- FHM – The magazine was banned by most of the Students' Unions in Britain after it featured an article detailing how to commit suicide at university, and giving details of five recent suicides
- Pepsi – Cardiff University banned Pepsi in 1996 after it emerged that Pepsi operated in Burma. The boycott was lifted when Pepsi withdrew from the country.

COLOMBIA IN A NUT

- Colombia has the 2nd largest population of internally displaced persons in the world.
- The Colombian government maintains that there are no longer paramilitary forces operating in the country. However, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia claims that paramilitary commanders continue to engage in recruitment of troops and criminal activity.
- The National Labour School, a Colombian rights organisation has recorded over 2,500 killings of trades unionists since 1986
- In 2006 72 trades unionists were reported to have been killed by paramilitary groups
- The FARC and ELN guerilla groups continue to engage in abuses against the civilian population, including kidnap
- The FARC engage in widespread use of antipersonnel mines, resulting in many civilian deaths.

Carepa plant were part of a countrywide campaign against the union. They claim: seven trade unionists have been killed by paramilitaries, the bottlers have links with the paras, and the bottlers are accused of union-busting, intimidation and -harassment of workers.

What was the Coca-Cola Company's response? Its website displays the only public audit by the Coca-Cola Company into their bottlers in Colombia. This was conducted in spring 2005, more than eight years after Isidro Gil was shot dead. Intriguingly, the audit conducted by the Cal Safety Compliance Corporation focuses on compliance issues: the report notes several health and safety breaches, including the absence of a protective guard on a syrup container at one plant, the incorrect number of fire extinguishers at two plants, and incorrect documentation for an employee at one plant.

I am happy to report that the appropriate remedial action has been taken to comply with health and safety regulations. Coca-Cola's take on the Cal Safety report is that it "confirmed that workers in such plants enjoy...collective bargaining rights and a work atmosphere free of anti-union intimidation".

From the outset, the company's Atlanta headquarters denied "any connection to any human-rights violations" and distanced itself from the bottlers saying, "The Coca-Cola Company does not own or operate any bottling plants in Colombia." This is the standard use of the "Coca-Cola system", operating as an entity but claiming no legal lines of accountability to the Coca-Cola Company. Coca-Cola does not own the bottling plants; the bottlers operate under a franchise. But the case here is similar to that of Gap and Nike in the 90s. In these particular instances, the clothes giants had outsourced their production to factories in the developing world that operated sweatshop conditions. It was not Nike or Gap that forced the workers to do long hours for poor pay, it was the contractors. However, campaigners insisted the companies should have enforceable human rights standards applied throughout the supply chain, compelling the companies to take action. The argument was then, and is now, that no matter where the human rights abuse occurred, if it's your name on the label, then you're responsible for sorting it out.

In the Coca-Cola Company's case, the argument is made more compelling by the fact that although it franchised Coke production to Bebidas y Aliementos and Panamco, Coca-Cola held 24% of Panamco's shares — a controlling interest. Which gives it considerable clout in how the business is run.

This view of the company's responsibilities is shared, in particular, by Councilman Hiram Monserrate from New York City. He represents a large Latino community and became aware of the situation through some of his constituents. And so I visit New York for the first time, to talk to him.

Monserrate represents District 21 in Queens, across the East river from Manhattan, where the houses and salaries are much smaller. An ex-marine, he has the politics of a Queens Democrat, a combination of liberalism on issues such as immigration mixed with a strong populist streak. He has been a persistent critic of the Coca-Cola Company since 2004. He worked with New York City's pension fund on how they might use their stockholding in Coke to influence the company, tabling critical resolutions at shareholders' meetings. He has spoken out against the company on US campuses, with students subsequently -boycotting Coke.

The councilman was introduced to Sinaltrainal's officials in New York in 2003 and found their tale compelling enough to help organise a delegation to Colombia in 2004. "I wanted to know more." he said. "At the very least it seemed to me there had to be some truth in what the workers were telling me. That labour reps and workers were being killed." While planning for the delegation, Monserrate decided he ought to invite the Coca-Cola Company along, too. "We have to have some fairness. They could have been a partner in this delegation. They refused."

Monserrate's 2004 report found a lack of action by the Coca-Cola Company and the bottlers, and an alarming laissez-faire attitude. Although the delegation was denied access to Coke's bottling plants, Juan Manuel Alvarez and Juan Carlos Dominguez, representatives of Coca-Cola Femsa (a huge bottling company operating in several central and south American countries, including Colombia) did meet them. The delegation asked what they had done to investigate the allegations of ties between plant managers and paramilitaries. At first "these allegations were vigorously denied", the report states, but it continues, "Alvarez and Dominguez acknowledged that Coke officials had never undertaken any internal or external investigations into these assertions, nor into any of the hundreds of human rights violations suffered by the company's workers."

Monserrate leans forward: "Isidro Gil was killed *inside* the bottling plant. That alone, to me, puts the onus on the Coca-Cola Company..." He nods his head and stares at me, as if he were Robert De Niro. "There's a causal relationship between the trade unionists' deaths and working at Coca-Cola. So, at the very least, the company in Atlanta has an obligation to try and get to the bottom of it... You can't just chalk it up to the politics of the country. You're Coca-Cola and your logo is worldwide and it started here in America.

"I mean, we wouldn't accept it in America. Could you imagine if, in a Coca-Cola plant in the US, a worker was killed because he was part of the union — what kind of outrage there would be." Coca-Cola represents American capitalism, he says. "And American capitalism should never be about allowing your workers to be subject to violence or death because they are organising to defend their rights. What does it say about America?"

The Carepa murders were the starting point of a new saga of violence and intimidation for the union. Sinaltrainal decided to take action. In July 2001, they brought a lawsuit in the US against the Coca-Cola Company and its Colombian bottlers; and in 2003 they initiated a call for an international boycott of Coca-Cola products.

The bottlers retaliated by taking the union to court, claiming that in bringing the US lawsuit the union had libelled and defamed them. The bottlers even went after 500m pesos in damages. In 2004, the case was dismissed as being without merit. According to Coca-Cola, over the years the Coca-Cola bottlers have frequently and publicly denounced violence against union members.

Sinaltrainal's lawsuit has had mixed fortunes. It began in July 2001 when the United Steelworkers of America union and the International Labor Rights Fund filed an Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA) suit on behalf of Sinaltrainal in the US Federal Court in Miami. (The Act allows for companies and individuals to be taken to court in the US for complicity in the crimes of kidnap, torture and murder committed outside the US.) The suit, claiming $500m compensation for the plantiffs, alleges that the bottlers Panamerican Beverages (Panamco) and Bebidas y Alimentos "contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that utilised extreme violence and murdered, tortured, unlawfully detained or otherwise silenced trade union leaders", and that the Coca-Cola Company as the parent company bore indirect responsibility. The Colombian bottlers deny the charges.

The Coca-Cola Company argued that the Colombian bottlers were separate companies and so Coca-Cola had no case to answer, stating, "We deny any wrongdoing regarding human rights or any other unlawful activities in Colombia or anywhere else in the world", adding that, "The Coca-Cola Company does not own or operate any bottling plants in Colombia."

The union's legal team argued that the Coca-Cola Company exerted control over its bottlers by way of a legal agreement, called "the bottlers' agreement". The argument went thus: the Coca-Cola Company licences the production of its drinks, it provides the syrup with which to make them, and dictates the types of bottles, cans, industrial processes, adverts and promotions that the bottlers are to use. Thus, it exerts a degree of legal and economic control. Furthermore, the Coca-Cola Company not only possessed "a controlling 24% interest" in Panamco's stock, but had two seats on Panamco's board.

In a landmark ruling in March 2003, District Court Judge Martinez ruled that the case against Panamco and Bebidas y Alimentos could go ahead — the first time a US judge has allowed a case against a company for alleged human rights violations committed overseas to be heard under the ATCA. But the judge dismissed the case against the Coca-Cola Company on the grounds that the "bottlers' agreement" did not give the company explicit control of labour issues over the bottler.

Neville Isdell, Coca-Cola chief executive officer from 2004–2008, and current chairman of the board of directors, told the 2005 annual meeting of shareholders, "there are no threats or attempts by management to attack or intimidate workers for being affiliated with a union... The people employed by our Colombian bottling partners work in facilities where their labour and human rights are respected and protected." It was noteworthy that the CEO of the world's most popular brand felt compelled to defend the company, which also says that it meets regularly with Colombian government ministers in an effort to stamp out violence directed at union organisers.

In 2006, Judge Martinez reversed his previous decision and dismissed the case against the bottlers, now arguing that the case could not be brought in the US because of "lack of...jurisdiction".

Sinaltrainal lawyers submitted an appeal on both rulings on March 31 2008, and a result is expected by the lawyers in 2009. If successful, it means the case can be heard and Sinaltrainal will have its day in court in the US with both the Coca-Cola Company and their bottlers.

Across the world, the Coca-Cola boycott met with mixed results. In Ireland, Trinity College and University in Dublin voted to "Kick Coke off Campus" and refused to stock its products in student-run facilities, as did New York University and Michigan University in the US. They were joined in the UK by Sussex, Manchester and Middlesex universities, and London's School of Oriental and African Studies. Even though the contracts with US universities are usually worth millions, kicking Coca-Cola off campuses is unlikely to dent the balance sheet of a company that last year made $5.98bn profit. But the accompanying media attention, and headlines such as "Is Coke the new McDonald's" in the Guardian, and the Nation calling Coke "the new Nike", must surely be part of the reason Coca-Cola has seen its "brand value" drop. Something had to be done. (Brand value is what turns a sweet, fizzy brown liquid into a product that is desirable and saleable around the world. In 2007, Coca-Cola's brand value was estimated by Business Week/Interbrand at $65,324bn — $2.2bn less than it had been in 2005.)

Publicly, Coca-Cola increasingly described the lawsuit brought by Sinaltrainal as an "out of date" allegation or "an old story". But behind the scenes, it was involved in negotiations with the union to settle the case. Crucially, Martinez's 2006 decision was not at a hearing of the case itself; instead, it was to decide if the US courts were the correct venue for the trial. And once Martinez decreed that the US courts did not have jurisdiction, this left the union lawyers free to launch their appeal, bringing the company back into the dock.

If the union lawyers were successful in their appeal, then the case would go to full trial and the Coca-Cola Company would face the legal procedure of disclosure, forcing it to hand over internal documents detailing its relationship with the bottlers. I can't speak for the company, but I would imagine this prospect was about as appealing as syphilis. Six weeks before Martinez's ruling, the Coca-Cola Company began to negotiate with Sinaltrainal, on August 19 2006.

When I asked Coca-Cola about these talks, it portrayed them as "fruitful and informative". The purpose of the talks, the company said, was "to assess whether a mediated resolution of the parties' differences could be achieved". In short, it was looking to settle out of court, and with a settlement such as this comes money — a lot of money. How much? A barrowful. Although I cannot disclose the exact sum offered to Sinaltrainal and the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, it is my understanding that it had six noughts at the end of a dollar sign and a couple of digits in between.

If the company was offering money, what were the conditions attached to it? I spoke to Ed Potter, the Coca-Cola Company's global workplace rights director, a man with intimate knowledge of these negotiations. I said to him that the company had history in this department: "Financial settlements are reached, but part of that financial settlement is that you don't criticise us again, you shut up, you go away." Ed Potter replied, "All I will say, as a general matter, is we've had several different resolutions... You've described one of them."

Sinaltrainal did not use the words "fruitful and informative" to describe the talks. "We were in a process that lasted almost a year and a half, where we talk and talk and talk with them in order to find a solution to the conflict — and it didn't give us any result at all," said Edgar Paez, the union's international officer. He is sitting in his office, by the same table where Giraldo and Manco gave their testimonies. The only reason Coca-Cola negotiated, he believed, was "because they don't want us to keep reporting them [campaigning]... What the Company wanted was to buy the silence of the people involved. They give some money to the victims in order not to denounce the problem."

The negotiations broke down in early 2008. Coca-Cola said "no final resolution was possible. An impasse was reached and no further discussions are anticipated at this time." Arguably, the impasse was a result of the conditions of the settlement: Coke would pay millions of dollars, but anyone working for Coca-Cola/Femsa and involved in the lawsuit had to leave their jobs — they could no longer work at Coke. But more than this, they would be legally bound never to criticise Coca-Cola again. According to Paez, this would apply "not only in Colombia but everywhere in the whole world. They wanted us to sign an agreement that no one would denounce Coca-Cola any more, for the rest of their lives." In effect, the agreement, if signed, would prevent them from campaigning against any multinational that Coca-Cola had business with. From the moment they signed until the day they died.

The end result of key members of the union leaving Coke — in effect, gagged — would mean the end of the union. Sinaltrainal would cease to exist in the Coca-Cola plants.

The money was on the table and all Sinaltrainal had to do was agree and take it. So the men and women who had fought for the right to be in a trade union would become silent. For men such as Giraldo and Manco, the prospect of compensation was money they literally could only dream of.

The union refused to sign. They refused to be silent. Leaving the Coca-Cola Company with an "old story" that would not go away.

© Mark Thomas 2008
This is an edited extract from Belching Out The Devil: Global Adventures With Coca-Cola, by Mark Thomas, published by Ebury Press

Meeting in Edinburgh with the Colombia Solidarity Campaign in 2005 with Juan Carlos Galvis from Colombian union Sinaltrainal (2nd from left).

VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT

These six men are some of the former trade union activists killed by paramilitaries in order to indimidate other trade unionists. Clockwise from top left: Alejandro Hernandez; Alvaro Realpe; ; Jesus Agreda; Gomez Rozo; Toribio de la Hoz Escorcia; Antonio Arias.

MARK THOMAS PROFILE

BORN IN South London in 1963 to a midwife and a builder, Thomas is a comedian and political activist.

He won a scholarship to Christ's Hospital School. He went on to earn a degree in Theatre Arts at Bretton Hall College.

Thomas is best known for 'The Mark Thomas Comedy Product' but before that he was the resident stand-up comic on Saturday Zoo, a Channel 4 comedy series first screened in 1993. Amongst other things, he is a founding member of the London Comedy Store's 'Cutting Edge' show. His political comedy shows have earned him criticism from politicians but many see them as a crucial investigative tool.

He is the Chairman of the Ilısu Dam Campaign; a campaign which was successful in temporarily blocking the development of a large-scale hydroelectric dam in southeast Turkey, that campaigners claim will lead to the displacement of up to 78,000 people, mostly Kurds, without adequate compensation or consultation.

The Parliamentary committee which oversees weapons exports, the House of Commons Quadripartite Select Committee, commended him for his undercover work, which led to official warning letters being issued to a number of companies. His work in this area is covered in his first book, "As Used on the Famous Nelson Mandela: Underground Adventures in the Arms and Torture Trade". The book chronicles his experiences undercover, his political activism and his projects designed to find and report loopholes in arms trading laws, which culminated in a controversial unbroadcast Newsnight article about the Hinduja brothers.

Whilst he was promoting that book, Thomas was also organising Mass Lone Demonstrations, in protest at the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, which prevents any demonstrations around London's Parliament Square without prior police approval. The last event attracted over 100 'lone protesters' at the same time. In 2006 he was added to the Guinness Book of Records for most demonstrations held on one day, 20 individual protests in 20 different locations.

RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE '08

Swinging the blues in the Midwest US

Traditionally Republican territory, the Midwest of the US has seen a recent push from red towards blue. Madison, WI is one of the cities changing the electoral landscape

By Alice Ryan
Madison, USA

HOME OF the Green Bay Packers football team and best known as the dairy state, Wisconsin is a typical flat-lying, flag-flying Midwestern state. Wisconsinites say "aboot" for "about," add cheese to almost every meal and have without doubt always seen the last Packers game. However unlike most Midwestern states, whose identities are characterized by traditional Republican values, Wisconsin, like some of its fellow breakaway Western Great Lakes states, has voted Democrat in the last five Presidential elections.

The media twister that has followed Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin since her surprise nomination has electrified an already buzzing presidential election. American TV cannot get enough of the moose-shooting, lipstick-wearing Alaskan governor and Saturday Night Live can't write skits fast enough. While New York and California laugh off the media hype, chants of "Sarah, Sarah, Sarah!" emanate from the Republican Midwest. Strong on religion, against high taxes and traditional in values, Republicans have long been favoured in the low-lying heart of America. The Midwest prairie states of Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota have voted red in all but one election since 1948. Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania are toss-ups traditionally favouring Republicans but throwing out more blue results in recent years. These four states loosely define the 'Rust Belt', so-called because of the dominance of the steel industry and heavy manufacturing in the area.

The traditionally red North Central states of Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin are becoming more and more blue as they cling to minimal differences in poll results, often decided by a decimal place. Minnesota, a Rust Belter losing its tinge, is a fiercely contested swing state that just scraped a victory for Democrat John Kerry in the 2004 elections while scoring the highest turnout (77.2%) of any state.

With its huge urban centre of Chicago it is no surprise that their neighbouring North Central Midwest state of Illinois has held a strong Democrat majority in recent years.

In the Midwest, which was once a Republican gimme where, as recently as 1984, all but one of 12 states voted Republican, strong enclaves of Democrat blue are forming, helping narrowly to swing elections.

Landing in the leafy college town of Madison, Wisconsin, a Democrat stronghold in the heart of the Republican Midwest, it is difficult to see evidence of those red roots, which run deep in this state. In 1854, the first meeting took place in Ripon, Wisconsin of what was to become the Republican Party. The formation of the party was based on opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska Act of that same year which aimed to allow the spread of slavery into the western territories. Subsequent meetings led to the party's official formation and in 1860 the US saw its first Republican president when Abraham Lincoln was elected to the White House.

A giant statue of Honest Abe himself sits high on Bascom Hill in the heart of the University Of Wisconsin, Madison (UW). The Republican forefather seems blissfully unaware of the hue of Democrat blue surrounding this liberal Midwest town. What turned the capital of the state at the forefront of the foundation of the Republican Party rogue?

Straight down Bascom Hill is State Street, the city's main thoroughfare, which leads to the Capitol building. Odd smells of Kali Ma, Jaya Durga and offbeat incense drift out of several State Street stores, all displaying the Obama sunrise logo.

Stepping inside, Quartz rocks from Orange River South Africa, DVDs of the Dali Lama and books entitled "Happy for No Reason" could make you think you'd fallen into the set of "That 70s Show".

An old hippy in sandals, jeans and an oversized Obama '08 hat meets and greets. Obama badges, t-shirts, hats, posters, lawn flags and pens make way for the predictable John Lennon-fronted "give peace a chance" posters and the occasional satirical bumper sticker proclaiming "Cheney-Satan '08," or "Republi*can't* Balance the Budget!"

Abraham Lincoln, father of the Republican party, surveys the UW campus on Bascom Hill, Madison. Ironically for Honest Abe, the campus and its surrounds are now mostly populated by supporters of the Democratic Party. Photo: Adam Fagen

All the way down State Street, shopfront after shopfront adorned with peace signs clarify the strong liberal mindset of the city, displaying notices such as "Madison supports its Gay, Lesbian and Bi community". This is the old hippy core of blue Madison. A UW student explains that many of these incense-burning, organic food shopping Dems were part of the liberal movement of the 1960s that stemmed from the Madison campus, often referred to as the "Berkeley of the Midwest".

In the 60s the UW, Madison campus became an important liberal enclave holding strong protests against conscription and the use of Napalm in the Vietnam War.

Orthodox wisdom has it that the bastions of Democratic support lie on the East and West coasts, in educated urban centres, blue-collar unionised cities and university towns — and this still rings true. The liberal past of this university town explains its obvious Obamania. In Madison, the liberal activities of the 1960s and the strength of its young student population continue to shape and influence the politics of the state capital. Claire Rydell, chair of the University of Wisconsin College Democrats, describes the Madison campus as crucial in her party's fight to win the state. In recent years Wisconsin has been a savage political battleground, with nail-bitingly close calls in the last two elections. In 2000 Al Gore won Wisconsin by 0.2% of the vote, beating George Bush by a mere 5,700 votes. John Kerry edged in front of Bush again in 2004, this time by only 11,400 votes or 0.4% of the vote. By any standard the margins are tight in the "Cheese Head" state, whose population is a million higher than that of Ireland. When a few thousand votes separate the candidates, the 42,000 odd students of UW, Madison become a voting goldmine with an influential role in determining which way the state swings.

Each vote is being chased energetically and voter registration is the first step. Smiling, silver-haired Carl Silverman tells me that he is one of 500 volunteers on the streets of Madison getting people to register to vote. The streets teem with volunteers just like him, mainly retirees and students, making it difficult not to be registered in a state with some of the most liberal voting laws in the country.

Supporting Obama seems a given on the campus which melds flawlessly into the city. I'm only in town a day when I'm invited to several Obama events and given free pins and stickers. With the nearest Republican office five miles south of campus in Fitchburg, it's almost as though the Republicans feel liberal Midwestern towns like Madison, with both its hordes of students and fair share of old hippies, are already sewn up.

Obama's association with youth and his campaign for "change" certainly dominate the mood on campus. When Michelle Obama comes to town, Jackson Five and U2 blare out from speakers and "Barrack and Roll" pins are flaunted. Not surprisingly there is an element of

> In recent years Wisconsin has been a savage political battleground, with nail-bitingly close calls in the last two elections

Republican cynicism towards the rock star element of Obama's campaign. Sara Mikolajczak, the UW College Republicans chairperson, told the university newspaper, The Badger Herald, that it was a "fad", adding, "A lot of people are simply for Barack Obama because it's cool right now". A hand painted sign hangs from a flyover saying "Students with Brains 4 McCain".

The few thousand votes separating blue from red may be difficult for McCain to secure in Madison or urban Milwaukee, but are plentiful in rural and suburban areas of the state. Like the rest of the country it is Wisconsin's small town religious enclaves, big on guns and hostile towards abortion, which hold huge promise for the Vietnam War veteran. Acutely aware of the importance of this northern swing state, McCain made a visit to the city of Cedarburg near Milwaukee straight after the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis.

With the failing American economy now centre stage as the kings of capitalism play with the free market, the election battle intensifies with voters looking for a Roosevelt-esque "New Deal". Flat screens flash updates on the economic crisis while students do shots at Brats, a student bar on State Street. At night, 'Yes we can!' becomes a chant. Obama stickers shimmer in shop windows and coloured chalk on pavements smudges under stilettos in the birthplace of the Republican Party. It may well be that these touch-and-go Midwest states, where traditional Republicanism collides with growing Democrat enclaves, will decide America's fate come November.

Ukraine's Orange Revolution finally comes full circle

Since Viktor Yuschenko's election to power in 2004, infighting, coupled with Russian interference, has caused governmental collapse

By Aaron Mulvihill
World Review Editor

THE UKRAINIAN president, Viktor Yushchenko, dissolved his country's parliament and called snap elections on October 8 and with that gave the kiss of death to Ukraine's developing pro-European democracy.

It was the final nail in the orange coalition's coffin, and the death knell for a short-lived pro-European democracy in the former Soviet state. Morbid metaphors come easy when describing the bleak crisis brought to a head by Ukraine's first pro-Western leader, who was almost killed when he was poisoned during his election campaign in 2004, leaving him with a pockmarked face in testament. A rigged election then handed Russian-backed Viktor Yanukovych the presidency but hundreds of thousands of cheated citizens marched the frosty streets in protest, waving the orange flags of Yushchenko's party.

The Orange Revolution spurred a fair election in which Yushchenko secured the top job, and his feisty blonde ally Yulia Tymoshenko was promised the premiership. Now their alliance is in tatters and the Orange Revolution looks set to come full circle and restore a pro-Moscow government to power.

Dissolving the Verkhovna Rada was the last in a series of legal steps to dismantle the government. The spiral towards the current crisis was set in motion at the beginning of September, when Prime Minister Tymoshenko supported a bill authored by the pro-Russian opposition Party of Regions to limit the president's powers. The bill wasn't passed, but it doesn't take a Kremlinologist to realise the significance of the move — this is the party that many say was behind the near-fatal dioxin poisoning of Tymoshenko's former comrade-in-arms.

To add insult to injury, Tymoshenko was summoned to give evidence on the poisoning case, which remains unsolved, and she echoed suggestions prevalent in Russia that it may in fact not have been a poisoning at all. Before the Prime Minster's shocking comments, the theory that the politician was the victim of a particularity violent skin disease that he managed to turn into a political weapon was the preserve of pro-Russian extremists.

Yushchenko offered a final olive branch to his erstwhile partner during the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. Condemn Russia, he proposed, and we can return to the negotiating table. But Tymoshenko refused to criticise Russia's actions in Georgia, sending a final clear signal that she intended to cosy up to the Kremlin. The president pulled his "Our Ukraine" bloc out of the governing coalition, and the coalition was soon dissolved, followed by the parliament itself. One month on, all the dissolving has left the political arena in a watery mess and snap elections scheduled for 7 December are likely to mop up the country's nascent pro-EU political force.

Tymoshenko is more than just a symbolic hairdo or a pretty face behind the democratic movement. She is a shrewd businesswoman who made her fortune in gas and metals in suspect dealings during the early chaotic days of Ukrainian capitalism. Her political bloc (the multitude of parties in Ukraine typically organise themselves into voting blocs in Parliament) was the second largest in Parliament, and looks likely to hold that position after the elections. She has featured on the cover of as many women's magazines as political journals.

We have known and celebrated Tymoshenko as the face of a budding, optimistic Eastern European democracy since the Orange Revolution.

Though she and Yushchenko have been uneasy bedfellows for some time,

Yuschenko went so far as to call Tymoshenko, left, a "traitor to the revolution"

the prospect of her flirting with the pro-Moscow Party of Regions is a crushing blow to Europe's hope for the maturing democracy.

Yushchenko, as well as much of Europe, saw his ally's actions as a betrayal of what they had fought for together in 2004 – he went so far as to call her a "traitor to the Revolution". But his personal and bitter decision to seek a political divorce was not the right move for Ukraine. His approval rating now stands at below 10%, while Tymoshenko and Yanukovych each enjoy popularity ratings of 20%. The "gas princess" may be reneging on the original goals of the Revolution, but at least the President could keep her in check while in coalition with her. The coming election looks certain to return a pro-Russian coalition of some kind, and the past four years' progress towards democracy and closer ties with the European Union is in dire jeopardy.

A Moscow-orientated government in Kiev would bring with it some serious policy changes, the most important of which being Ukraine's position on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato). Russia is vehemently opposed to Ukraine's membership of the military alliance, and accuses the organisation of attempting to encircle it. Calls to admit Ukraine grew louder recently as the Georgia-Ossetia conflict spooked former Soviet satellites who fear a creeping Russian hegemony.

An ambition to oust the Russian Black Sea Fleet from its home port in Crimea has been riding the anti-Russian wave since the Orange Revolution. Russia's twenty-year lease on the port of Sevastopol runs out in 2017, and Yushchenko has said he won't renew it. It is difficult to separate the two issues of Nato membership and Russia's naval presence on the peninsula - keeping the ships anchored to a Nato member would be like basing an American warship in St. Petersburg harbour. If Yanukovych returns to the cabinet he will scuttle both plans, and moves towards European integration will almost certainly reverse.

Yushchenko has squandered his country's chance for a real pro-European democracy and put a personal vendetta before Ukraine's best interests. An argument about "who should be the horse and who the jockey" is how he summarised his conflict with Tymoshenko, but in a country so sectionally split, one leader can hardly expect to be able to 'ride' the other. A dogged hostility to compromise seems to have been the downfall of every revolution from 1789, and a 'people's revolution' is perhaps no different. The president has actually encouraged citizens to welcome this latest election as en essential part of democracy: "Democracy is like a lady who has an answer to any question," he enthused on the day he announced the polling date. Yushchenko himself has a lot to answer for. Can jaded voters, compelled to cast their third ballot in as many years, be expected to remain enthusiastic about democracy?

YUSHCHENKO: WAS HE POISONED?

In September 2004, Yushchenko fell violently ill, necessitating a visit to a private clinic in Vienna where he was diagnosed with acute pancreatitis, a sudden swelling of the pancreas. Doctors blamed ingestion of dioxins, a type of compound which are severely carcinogenic and rarely found in food or the natural environment. It was claimed that the concentration of the substance was between one and six thousand times normal. These facts point to poisoning, and many sources have linked Yushchenko's illness with a dinner he attended with the chairman of the Ukrainian Security Services (FSB.) This has caused a conflict of interests, as the FSB happen to be the agency responsible for investigation of the alleged poisoning.

Spare some sympathy for jobless bankers

The public has found one comfortable scapegoat for the current economic situation: fat cat bankers. But could it really be that every one of these financial workers deserve our scorn?

By Emily Monk

THERE IS a common conception of the rogues from the banking world and their equally unfavourable brothers from the hedge fund community as gaudy, arrogant, and overpaid. All are credited with a well established ability to go spectacularly astray in markets of their own invention, lend money that doesn't exist and refuse to accept responsibility for damage wrought on the wider community – all vices fuelled by an appetite, come what may, for gross personal rewards. But it's getting boring arguing with ostensibly sensible friends who laugh that it is good news that many of Lehman Brothers' 25,000 have lost their jobs overnight and no jobs in the financial sector are safe. I don't think that's funny, and it's painful to watch.

A friend was standing outside Costa on London's Kings Road last month. She recalls the literally wailing women in Chanel coats clutching keys to Mercedes Benz. They are watching breaking news on the corner television and dropping their super slim chai tea lattes in chorus; it has just been announced that Lehman Brothers is no more. Their husbands and sons, sisters and daughters are – were – investment bankers. They notice for the first time that the price of their coffee is over three euros. At first it is hard to sympathise. But their friends and relatives have suddenly joined Europe's increasing number of highly skilled unemployed, with bleak job prospects for the near future. Worse still is that for many, every penny earned in the last ten or twenty years of sixteen-hour days in the office was reinvested into the firms' now worthless shares. The houses in Chelsea and chalets in St Moritz, their investments as well as luxuries, are fast losing value and the payment date for their kids' private school fees looms.

For ninety-five percent of the Western world, fee-paying schools and second homes aren't even an option. So why should we feel sorry for those who have been knocked from their sky-high stools to the perfectly comfortable cushions on the floor like the rest of us? "Capitalism has got its comeuppance," Jarvis Cocker said the other day. And he is certainly not alone in his derision. Nick Clegg, the British Liberal Democrat leader, basked in applause after pouring contempt on the "City boys" who had made more money than him. The public is gripped by a gleeful and ugly schadenfreude.

Lehman Bros' head of mergers and aquisititions Steve Schwarzman

For one, it is these bankers who are largely responsible for turning Britain, amongst others, into a global economic power. They filled the restaurants, funded the academies, bought the art and employed the builders. For the last two decades investment banking has attracted the cream of business graduates. The brightest, most ambitious and hardworking students left top universities and entered the City. Since then, their weeks have merged together and their wives and children have traded weekend trips and family meals for deeper pockets. It is the greed of just a few unscrupulous cowboys, who feverishly grasped at even higher short-term profits and who lent so unwisely, which has left so many high and dry. John O'Hagan, a Professor of Economics here in Trinity, commented that "there are tens of thousands of hardworking individuals within banking, who are in no way responsible, but could suffer with their jobs". And let's not forget the cleaners, secretaries, post-room men and drivers who are in an equally unstable position and who have never enjoyed stratospheric salaries and daily liquid lunches.

There are literally tens of thousands of hardworking individuals within banking, who are in no way responsible, but could suffer with the loss of their jobs

I am not condoning banks' excesses. Lloyd Blankfein's (of Goldman Sachs) $68.5 million earnings last year were completely ridiculous and I don't doubt there should be a far more transparent correlation between performance and bonuses. But we should remember why these banks originated. They are there to make profits for investors, most of whom are not the demons they are made out to be but ordinary workers who choose to put their surplus family income into stocks and shares in the hope of a reasonable return.

An ex-Lehman Brothers worker told me yesterday of the "absolute shock" of his former employer's bankruptcy: "We were expecting it to be taken over!" Though she blames the CEO, Dick Fuld for the collapse of the bank, she said "it is the subprime mortgage stuff that started the current crisis".

She only took a role in the firm because her colleagues during her internship were "so likeable, just really, really great, hardworking, intelligent people". Most of whom are now struggling to find replacement jobs, are married with children and mortgages and "lots of their money was tied up in share options... which dissolved to basically nothing. It's very sad."

It seems to me very short sighted to revel in a delicious retribution. The majority of these people were just doing their jobs. Perhaps it is the direction and method of investment that needs to change.

A few ravenous managers gambled at unprecedented stakes, often with the personal security of a plump corporate pension should things take a turn for the worst. We should return to the days of low-risk betting, with more modest profits but less chance of the economic disaster we find ourselves victim to now.

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Easy access to information is dumbing down students

AOIFE CROWLEY

"THERE IS too much learning in books these days, and too little in the head." This was the opinion expressed by The Tailor in *The Tailor and Ansty* way back in the 1930s. If it was bad back then, it has reached new heights nowadays. Our trigger-happy googling has left our poor brains distended with unprocessed information.

We watch prisoners dancing to "Thriller" in the Philippines, while at the same time half-reading about celebrity dogs and searching for funny quotes from films, so that we will seem funny by association.

We do not engage with any of this information. If something does not prove to be entertaining in the first thirty seconds, it's discarded, never to be given a second chance.

This ease of access to information is contrary to how our minds work. Trekking out to library, finding the books you need and lugging them home takes time and effort. Expanding all that effort on finding your sources makes you value them more. The easier something is to do, the less your brain enjoys it.

In September, *Scientific American Mind* magazine linked the ease and convenience of modern life to the rising rates of depression. We are wired to feel satisfaction and happiness when we produce something tangible and meaningful through physical effort. The click of a button is not as satisfying mentally as the physical search for information.

I know from experience that using the Internet has changed how I think. I used to be the bookish sort, happy to curl up reading anything and everything.

Within five minutes I'd be immersed in whatever was being described in the pages, be it prose or merely prosaic. Those days are gone. Now, I find it more difficult to focus; my mind wanders.

If my book were a website, I'd navigate away in search of bigger thrills. It takes gargantuan effort to engage with the story. But I don't like effort, I want instant gratification. I want links and pictures and video-clips and comments from other people telling me what they think I should think.

With access to the opinions of millions, you can lose confidence in your own. It doesn't take too long to find someone on the Internet who has read more than you, or can write better than you, or just seems to be far more intelligent than you.

It can be easy to take other people's opinions at face value in lieu of considering the facts on your own. The plagiarism epidemic that the Internet has facilitated is obviously rooted in laziness and a lack of understanding of intellectual property rights, but there is more to it.

Students don't see the point in even trying when they can see all that is already out there. There is a feeling that other people's words are better than your own, that other people's opinions are more valid than your own and that even a bastardised version of someone else's thought is better than an original thought of your own.

The Tailor believed that the place for learning and wisdom was in the head, not in a book or a website. So absorb what you read. Engage. The Internet has made it very easy to find out about anything that takes your fancy, but knowing things is not the same as wisdom. Any idiot can know things. It's what you do with the information available to you that is important.

IN PROFILE

For business or for pleasure?

Declan Ganley emerged as a key player in the Lisbon Treaty debate, but questions about his honesty, his methods of funding Libertas and his American connections have become more and more insistent, says **Aoife Crowley**

A SELF-MADE multi-millionaire, Ganley is no stranger to hard work. A consummate businessman, he admits to being a Blackberry addict and sleeping for only three to four hours a night.

Born in Watford to Irish parents, he moved back to Ireland at the age of 12. He considers himself to be very much an Irishman, saying, "I was brought up in the UK and went to school there but every holiday, every school break was spent in the west of Ireland. We were raised surrounded by traditional music and Irish culture. I take pride in my Irishness. It is fundamental to me, to how I am."

He left school with his Leaving Certificate and began working immediately, initially following his father into the building industry.

Believing in the American ideal that through hard work and determination it is possible to better oneself, he worked his way up from the position of gofer in an insurance company to running a hugely successful business shipping aluminium from Russia to Rotterdam. He considers himself to be an entrepreneur, and is not fazed by what his opponents say about him, stating that "Ireland is becoming not just accepting, but supportive, of entrepreneurs, but obviously some people haven't moved with the times. Some people find the new wealth threatening or alien or even shady in a sonic way. There's nothing mysterious about it. It's just the product of hard work. That was the way I was brought up".

Ganley initially made his fortune in the former Eastern Bloc. As well as running his successful aluminium business, he was appointed as the foreign affairs advisor to Latvia in 1992, where in 1997 he set up a forestry business. It was during this time that Ganley says he began to distrust the idea of a superstate. He is quoted as saying "I saw how a society is retarded by an elite cut off from its citizens. I witnessed how inherently undemocratic socialism was and that is why I don't want an overweening EU. It's just another form of state interference."

Ganley then turned to telecommunications. He founded a Europe-wide telecom company called Broadnet, which he sold for €50 million. After the September 11th attacks, Ganley saw the US military's need for emergency response systems. He set up Rivada Networks in response to that need, and gained a contract with the US defence forces.

Ganley came to prominence in the Irish media due to his involvement with the Libertas "No to Lisbon" campaign. He took on a large portion of the funding himself, admitting to giving Libertas a €200,000 loan from his own money, as well as large donations.

On a recent appearance on the Late Late Show, Ganley said that he had started reading the treaty as a businessman looking for opportunities, but had finished it as a father of four worried about his children's future. He believes that the treaty would promote an undemocratic Europe, with unelected representatives running things without having to answer to the people that they represent. He says "we want a European Union that's credible but we're sick of the failure of this Brussels elite to bring the people with them - it almost seems like some sect of secular cardinals who think they know better than us."

Ganley has ridiculed the suggestion that Ireland would have to vote again as "re-mockracy" in the making. In his view, Brussels' response to Ireland's no vote vindicates his belief that Brussels has become less and less democratic.

> Apparently, I'm being backed by the CIA. What's next? I'm working for Martians?

There have been concerns surrounding the funding of Libertas and whether Ganley is being honest about his motivations for setting up the organisation. Although Ganley denies being a neoconservative, he has written articles for the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a Philadelphia based think tank in with strong neocon leanings.

Several of Rivada's key personnel have previously held high-ranking positions in the US military or intelligence sectors. Rivada's top level includes Lt. General Dennis M. McCarthy, who was Commander of Marine Forces North until his resignation in 2005, Admiral James M. Loy, who was the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security 2003-05, and Don N. De Marino, who helped assess various operations in Iraq for the U.S. Secretary of Defence in 2004.

Fine Gael's Lucinda Creighton remarked back in April that "the idea of a politically strong EU, acting as a check or counterbalance on the US, does not sit well with our transatlantic friends."

She went on to remark that Ganley's close links to the US military could be behind his motivation to derail the process.

Ganley has laughed at allegations that he is back by US interests such as the CIA, saying, "Apparently, I'm being backed by the CIA, UKIP and the American military. What's next? I'm working for Martians? I get advice from lizards?"

It is believed that the Standards in Public Office Commission is investigating the source of the money used by Libertas during the referendum. However, they have refused to comment on this allegation.

BIOGRAPHY

- In March 2006, CNBC's European Business magazine suggested he was worth around €300 million, and could be a billionaire by his fortieth birthday.
- His highest qualification is the Leaving Certificate, 1987.
- His company Rivada had contracts with the US Department of Defence, the Department of Homeland Security and individual American states.
- The Future of Freedom by Fareed Zakaria is his favourite book.
- He was behind the high-profile jewellery website Adornis.com, which collapsed in the technology downturn losing him about €9 million.
- Ganley has been a director of the Irish Chamber Orchestra. His hobbies include jazz, classical and traditional Irish music, Army Reserves and international politics.
- He is married with four children.

Irish boozing habits will not be changed by restrictive laws

To tackle the problem we need more Gardaí on the streets, not nanny-state legistlation, writes **Peadar Donnelly**

THE IRISH are known all over the world for their drinking culture. We are seen as "those crazy Irish", a fun-loving bunch who can't get enough of the craic. Alternatively, we have been seen as "those drunken Irish", a nation sodden in vodka and cheap beer. I noticed this in Australia, a place where the Hibernians who migrate each summer are either loved or hated.

We spent our first week in Melbourne, where we frequented a local waterhole called the "Rosstown".

While I won't say the place went out of business when we departed for Sydney, it's safe to say that its profits spiked during our week's stay. It might even be possible that it made more money in that week than its total income since the place opened.

Whist discussing the Irish attitude to alcohol, a German friend who had spent a year in Ireland commented that she had been amazed by how much boozing went on in her college. I suggested that seven the strait-laced Germans are fond of their alcohol. They have a whole festival in October dedicated to beer where they get hammered for three whole weeks. I told her that Europeans probably drink just as much as we do. "Nein," she replied, "der stereotypes are true."

And that's the thing. She is right. When it comes to drinking, the Irish sure as hell don't hold back. Even during Oktoberfest your average Kraut only drinks three pints in an afternoon and he's done. An Irish guy would be only warming up at that stage.

You see the same in other countries. The Frenchmen are fond of their wine, but they drink while eating. The Irishman eats after a night of drinking, seeing the food as a "soakage" used to prevent the dreaded hangover. Pierre stays healthy while Paddy succumbs to liver failure.

The English man... gets plastered. But they probably picked it up from us.

The Irish are pissed, and proud. We would drink European lightweights right under the table. It is a national habit, and is somewhat frowned upon by the rest of the World. It's like picking your nose in front of all the other countries, a guilty little indulgence when you hope that no one else is looking. But they always are.

People in other nations drink too, you say. That's true, but they don't do it nearly as much as we do. Or as often.

Any occasion, any wedding, funeral, and its straight off to Corcoran's for refuelling. Any excuse will do.

DRINKING GAMES

- Alcoholic disorders accounted for 15 percent of first admissions to psychiatric hospitals in Ireland in 2003. Admissions were highest in the 25-44 age groups.
- Alcohol problems are calculated to cost the country €2.4 billion per annum in lost productivity, health related costs of direct alcohol damage, car accidents, violence, crime and direct treatment costs.
- Irish people are 3 times more likely than the EU average to binge drink.
- Ireland's per capita litre consumption of pure alcohol has increased from 7.0 in 1970 to 13.5 in 2004, according to the World Health Organisation.

It's a mindset, a mentality. Irish teenagers are still among the worst bingers in Europe. It has survived generation after generation. And something with that much force and survivability behind it isn't going to stop anytime soon.

Michael McDowell fancied trying himself against this beast, only to stop when his Cafe-Bar plan crashed and burned. A recent development in the crackdown on the monumental Irish binge is not allowing alcohol to be sold in off-licenses after ten at night.

What's that going to change? I can't enjoy a quiet drink at home in order to prevent a few teeny-boppers from getting their naggins. How many intoxicated drivers will that pull off our roads? How many teenage girls won't get pregnant at some crazy house party?

Punishing the rest of us isn't going to solve anything. When all is said and done, Ireland has a problem that needs to be tackled intelligently. We need a smart-bomb, something sharp and surgical, not a nuke that will take out all the rest of us along with it.

And in my honest opinion, our drink laws are fine the way they are. What we need is more manpower. Numbers is our answer and more of them.

A greater Gardaí presence on our roads is needed and a permanent one too, not a glorified bank-holiday crackdown that will last until the Gardaí get lazy again. We need this presence nationwide, not just in the cities but in towns and villages too, often the areas worst affected by vandalism and crime.

It's very simple. The more Gardaí on the streets, the less likely you are to get away with being drunk and disorderly. Easy, mathematical logic. You don't need a super genius theoretical physicist to tell you that, who's probably in no state to do so anyway, being as he is face down on the carpet in Doyles. Until then, the Irish will drink until their livers turn to naan-bread.

"Republicans are misrepresenting feminist positions"

IT SEEMS that women have never had it so good. At certain points during this year it seemed likely that the US was on the verge of selecting its first-ever female presidential candidate. There is still the possibility of ending up with a female president by default.

In terms of getting women in to positions of power, the battle has been won. Those crusading feminist relics from the 1970s can hang up their placards and, like Rosie Boycott, founding editor of Spare Rib and sometime feminist activist, repair to the countryside and enter an Arcadian twilight filled with chutney-making and organic alpaca-rearing.

With women breaking into positions of such power, surely it can only mean that the lot of women in society will only improve? Sadly, the reality is far removed, a situation aggravated by the complacency of the former activists; their silence on the subject has ceded ground to those who seek to distort and undermine the feminist argument.

The truth of this assertion can clearly be seen in all of its glorious simplicity when observing the US presidential race. The Republican Party, never previously known for its progressive stance on women's issues, is now proclaiming itself the defender of American womanhood. In order to demonstrate their new-found solidarity with womankind, Republicans have chosen Sarah Palin to stand as John McCain's running mate. In so doing they proclaim that they, unlike the Democrats, have taken on board the wishes of the 18 million people who voted to select Hillary Clinton as the Democratic presidential candidate. This, in their eyes, marks them out as the "feminist" choice.

> But it would be too easy to dismiss Palin as a "trophy" candidate, whose only electoral asset is her gender.

The arrogance behind this policy direction is staggering. It suggests that Clinton's 18 million supporters were motivated solely by the fact that she could provide the recipe for the ultimate chocolate cookies, rather than by her grasp of world economic issues. Moreover, the inherent misrepresentation of the feminist position would be risible if it wasn't so pernicious and damaging. The Republicans have appropriated the feminist demand that the best person for the job, regardless of gender, be appointed, and have instead inverted it. Instead, they present a candidate whose only qualification is the appeal of her gender, and ask people to vote for them on the basis of it.

But it would be too easy to dismiss Palin as a "trophy" candidate, whose only electoral asset is her gender. Who, once she had been successful in snaring the coveted "hocky-mom" vote, would sit quietly in the corner and let the real politicians get down to business. The true danger implicit in Palin's nomination lies in the fact that she is extremely vocal and bombastic about her ultra-conservative beliefs. It is her rhetoric whilst on the stump that reveals the true threat underlying the Republicans' appropriation of feminism, and lays bare the very real obstacles that women in public life still face.

Sarah Palin is emblematic of the wave of anti-intellectualism that is all-pervasive in public discourse, and reaches an hysterical pitch when applied to women in the public view. Contrast Palin's unthreatening "aw gee shucks" debating style with Hillary Clinton's calm, assured and business-like discussion. Michelle Obama, an educated, intelligent woman has had to fight accusations that she is an "Angry Black Woman". These accusations are partly founded on the subject of her undergraduate dissertation, which dealt with the alienation of African-Americans in higher education.

> Palin sidesteps the usual vitriol poured on to women who dare to raise their heads above the parapet

Both Clinton and Obama have consistently been accused of neglecting their families, being ruthless and,-greatest of sins- being unlady-like. Sarah Palin on the other hand, the only one of the trio who, if asked to skin a moose would have the faintest idea of how to set about it and the only one who has ever been pictured holding an assault rifle, has emerged unscathed from criticism of this sort.

Any queries that were raised as to how she would continue to care for a large and ever-expanding family whilst holding a job of such importance were quickly stifled. Her predilection for spending weekends inflicting carnage on the fauna of her native Alaska have been cited with pride by those sections of the US electorate, presumably also responsible for the election of Arnold Schwarzenegger, who hanker after action heroes in positions of high office. Lastly, her insistence that both evolutionism and creationism merit teaching in classrooms has been positively welcomed by some.

Herein lies the crux of the matter: Palin neatly sidesteps the usual vitriol poured on to those women who dare to raise their heads above the parapet, and who refuse to deny or apologise for their intelligence because she is not of their ilk. A former beauty queen who cannot name a single paper that she reads, her value lies not in her intelligence, insight or experience. It does not lie in what she as a thinking, rational person can bring to the table in a time of economic crisis, but only in her gender.

Those poor, misguided souls who were intending to vote for Clinton, but will now vote for Palin are damaging the very cause they profess to support. When a woman is appointed because of her gender, because of the non-threatening nature of her anti-intellectualism, she further harms the prospects of those women who fight so that their intelligence, ability and drive will be recognised and rewarded.

If, in November, the female vote is mobilised in favour of Palin, and in favour of the reactionary, small-minded world-view that she represents, there will be more at stake for women than the right to choose an abortion. It will send out a clear message that this world will make room for a woman, but only as long as she does not present herself as the intellectual equal of the men that surround her, and does not seek to fundamentally challenge the status quo. How feminist is that?!

Is there a crisis in maths education, or not?

ON THE morning that this year's Leaving Certificate results were published, there was a headline in one of the free Dublin papers proclaiming that more than 20 percent of students had failed mathematics. I was certainly aware that we had problems with mathematics in Ireland, but surely it couldn't be that bad?

A quick read revealed that it wasn't. The correct failure rate was 10.2 percent, but the error made by the journalist, and presumably approved by the editor, was perhaps more revealing about the true position of mathematics nationally. They reasoned that since 4.5 percent of students had failed the higher level paper, 5.7 percent had failed the foundation level and 12.3 percent had failed the ordinary level paper, it must follow that 4.5 + 5.7 + 12.3 = 22.5 percent of students had failed mathematics. The enormity of such an error and its ability to reach the front page illustrates clearly that many of us are functionally innumerate.

Is there a crisis in mathematics education, or not? A good starting place to examine this might be the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment, or PISA. Mathematics performance of 15 year-old students across the range of OECD countries was measured in a detailed study in 2003 and in a shorter follow-up in 2006. A comparison of our performance at the highest level shows us struggling, with only 1.6 percent of Irish students reaching this level compared to the OECD average of 3.3 percent. PISA may not be foolproof, but such a mediocre performance cannot be easily dismissed, particularly when one looks at our current social and economic aspirations.

Another obvious source of information on the state of our mathematical health is the Leaving Certificate results. Even a casual glance at the statistics will show that something is amiss: along with Irish, mathematics is the only subject that has a Foundation level course. Both also share the dubious distinction of having fewer candidates at higher level than they have at ordinary level.

So, is the Leaving Certificate mathematics programme the root of problem? Recently it seems we have shifted the blame, with many commentators now blaming the inadequacy of preparation at primary level. No doubt the next shift will pass the blame to the parents, who will, in turn, blame the secondary teachers who taught them – and so we will develop an infinite loop with nobody to blame at the end.

Fortunately, there has been some more serious reflection and three primary issues have been identified. Firstly the existence of multiple goals for mathematical education, secondly, the so-called "new" mathematics with its emphasis on abstraction which has dominated secondary teaching since the 1960s and finally, the fact that mathematics is taught with relatively little emphasis on problem solving.

The first point is a serious issue and one that has been, I believe, somewhat neglected. Mathematics as a scientific discipline is built upon a 'pyramid of knowledge' and, somewhat akin to music, it needs people to be technically proficient before one can even begin the process of approaching the real core of the subject. Thus, the key skills of numeracy, algebraic manipulation and the other basics need to be learned early and must become second nature.

Fortunately, these too are part of the skills-set needed for most citizens, who interpret the world around them using basic numeracy, data interpretation and problem solving. Advocates of the foundation level programme may argue that this is precisely the purpose of such a course but, unfortunately, this seems not to be true. If it were, everyone would be obliged to take the programme and at a much earlier age.

In the 1980s I tried to argue that the mathematics curriculum should be split right from the beginning of second-level education, with one part focussing on the basic skills and the other on the deeper, more abstract ideas. I wasn't advocating that students take only one half of the programme, which would be a recipe for disaster, but I was trying to emphasise the importance of both.

Whether we like it or not, the best way to place emphasis on a topic is to examine it rigorously. I still believe that such a splitting of the programme offers a way forward. It is perhaps useful to look at the various reports by the Chief Examiners over the years. A typical comment occurs on the 2005 Leaving Certificate (Higher Paper) Report: "Firstly, foundation skills in mathematics were often not up to the standard required. ... Secondly, weaknesses continue to stem from inadequate understanding of mathematical concepts and underdeveloped problem-solving and decision-making skills." Many such reports are available but little has changed – the new Project Maths initiative may be a worthy one, but how long can we wait to begin tackling the really serious issues on a truly national basis?

Aside from the natural inertia of a bureaucratic system, we also have a problem with the teaching of mathematics. At primary level, many teachers are themselves uncomfortable with mathematics and at secondary level many teachers of the subject have little background in the subject. They are thrown in at the deep-end and struggle. How many honours mathematical graduates enter the teaching profession each year? I don't have access to official figures, and indeed, the Department of Education & Science may not have such figures, but I would wager the number is very small indeed.

There is, however, another factor that is not so openly discussed. As I mentioned in the opening paragraph, we seem to be rather innumerate as a nation. But worse than this, we seem proud of it. Quite distinguished academics have often told me that they were "useless" at mathematics. It seems that in Ireland it is perfectly acceptable to boast that one was a mathematical failure; contrast this with the likely fate of anyone who dared to even hint that "X is illiterate"! If children's difficulties in mathematics are met with a collective response "don't worry, I was useless at mathematics and it never did me any harm", is it any wonder that we continue to languish behind in mathematical performance?

Professor Brendan Goldsmith is research director and former President, DIT

It's easy being green in today's market of Fairtrade and vegetarianism

Nowadays, everywhere you turn it seems your carbon footprint is looming after you. Notices in trendy shops tell you which products to buy so that you can be a responsible consumer, while signs on the back of buses ask drivers if they really needed to drive today. Everyone is telling you how to be 'green', but does being 'green' really make a difference, or are those do-gooders simply full of manure?

One of the first things that they will recommend you do is to stop eating beef, as the effect of cows 'passing-gas' is one of the largest contributors to global warming. This statement is exemplary of the eyebrow-raising suggestions that you'll be given as examples of how to combat climate change. But when you analyse the data regarding livestock, the proposal begins to make sense. The figure that shocks people the most is the fact that the methane released by cows is responsible for approximately 20 per cent of all methane in the atmosphere.

As a study in "New Scientist" magazine explained it, a kilogram of beef is responsible for the equivalent of the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the average European car every 250 kilometres, and burns enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for nearly 20 days. In addition to this, you need to factor in the level of energy consumption, which is accrued in raising and slaughtering cattle.

This information has lead to the rise of 'green' vegetarianism, with countless people taking red meat out of their diet or in the case of the less committed environmentalists, cutting down their level of consumption by not eating red meat one or two days a week.

Buying a bike might be the next step that you are advised to take. The benefits of cycling are more obvious, plus cycling can save you a lot of time. For Trinity students living in Halls, it takes less than 15 minutes to cycle from there to the front square. If like many Trinity students you live along the bus route of the 46A, it can take as little as 25 minutes to cycle from the Stillorgan shopping centre to Front Square, including time to stop at the traffic lights. This means that you can get a bit of a lie-in and that you won't find yourself getting stuck in endless traffic jams, but these are only the personal perks. When you cycle the only energy that is consumed is your own energy. There is no pollution caused by cycling, so it is an ideal mode of transport for anyone with green tendencies.

If you have ever gone to a green reception, you might have noticed that the chocolate, tea, coffee and wine were all 'Fairtrade' and wondered what it was all about. The Fairtrade revolution is something that is rapidly taking over our shops, with Fairtrade products being sold in over 55,000 supermarkets all over Europe. These Fairtrade products are easily accessible to Trinity students as they are sold in the Oxfam shop opposite St. Stephen's Green Shopping Centre, Tesco, Marks & Spencers, as well as the SU shop, which sells a number of Fairtrade snacks.

The popularity of this movement is mostly due to the fact that Fairtrade operates on the basis of fair terms of trade, fair prices for farmers and promoting sustainable development. It also encourages workplace democracy. With sustainable development standing at the heart of the green ideology, it is unsurprising that their receptions are usually Fairtrade, but they aren't the only ones to step up and support Fairtrade. During Freshers' week the Phil provided free breakfast to all its members, including tea, coffee, and chocolate, all of which was Fairtrade and from Amnesty International. Going Fairtrade is one of the simplest ways of adopting green practices as you are guaranteed that the producers are paid a fair price and the products themselves are of a notably superior quality.

With this information before you, going green starts to make sense. It is something that everyone can incorporate into their everyday lives, and even benefit from personally. You can choose you own level of commitment. It takes very little effort to eat less red meat and even less effort to choose a Fairtrade bar of chocolate over another from the SU shop. As for the more enthusiastic supporters of the Green movement, they can often be found in Front Square dressed as an organic apple or in the Young Greens room. If you want to join them I'm certain they would be glad to have your support.

ROUND-UP

Sound of a bell drowns out the death rattle of a Celtic tiger

Seán Fitzpatrick
Chairman of AIB, Seán Fitzpatrick, recommended this week that the government's budget should reduce corporation tax and tackle the "sacred cow" of universal child benefit, state pensions and medical cards for the over-70s. In the Irish Times letters page, Seán and Roisín Whelan think it a bit rich that "a man who is paid in excess of EUR 600,000 a year should be suggesting that universal provision for those a lot less wealthy than himself should be subject to means testing."

As Fitzpatrick now calls on the government to bail out the banking sector, John Gibbons of the Irish Times recalls Fitzpatrick's comments from last year. He writes, "the same Fitzpatrick ridiculed Irish politicians for their "corporate McCarthyism"'. Fitzpatrick had gone on to say that it was "time to shout stop. The tide of regulation has gone far enough . . . our wealth creators should be rewarded and admired, not subjected to levels of scrutiny which convicted criminals would rightly find intrusive." Now with the benefit of hindsight, it would seem that the so-called "wealth creators" would have benefited from a far higher level of surveillance.

Angelus
It was suggested this week that the broadcast of the Angelus on RTE gives non-Christian people a feeling of exclusion, and should be stopped. The practise was accused of being partisan, representing "the superiority of the Christian/Catholic faith in this country". A letter in the Independent declares "it is not the kind of programming one would expect in a theocracy, and serves only to remind non-Christians that they are on the margins."

In the same paper, a Jewish contributor declares that this is not the case. Rather than finding the bells offensive, their familiar sound is reassuring, dividing the day into the constituent parts of our lives: morning, afternoon and evening. The letter goes on to say, "please leave this tradition alone, so that perhaps for a fleeting moment the sound of a bell will drown out the price of a share or the death rattle of a Celtic tiger".

Government's Guarantee to Banks
Opinion has been divided over the government's backing of the Irish banks with taxpayers' money. In the Irish Times, Noel Whelan writes that 'the Cowen government finally came of age this week.' He commends the government on their handling of the banking crisis, favourably comparing it to the Americans' efforts. He writes, 'the Paulson rescue plan got bogged down in congressional bargaining as the national interest played second place to localised political considerations'. Not so the Irish plan, which was "decisive" and "prompt".

A contributor to the Examiner muses on this promptness. He wonders why, when the banks are in trouble, we must "act, and act now", while the crises in health, education and disability services are allowed to languish on indefinitely. He says that the interests of the wider economy and society demand that we take immediate action when the banks are in trouble, "but why, oh why, is that never the case when we talk about poverty? Could it be that when all is said and done, the poor, the old and the handicapped don't matter as much as the banks and their richer customers do?"

Meanwhile, David Walsh is of the opinion that while the taxpayer is footing the bill, they should also reap of the rewards.

He suggests that "all the corporate boxes from Croke Park to Cheltenham in the possession of the six banks should be "nationalised" for the period covered by the guarantee.

Seats in these boxes could then be raffled among interested taxpayers". An interesting thought.

Climate Change Propaganda
In The Irish Times, John Gormley spoke of his efforts to cut Ireland's carbon emissions under the Kyoto Agreement. He identified two key areas of "cars and cows" as those with worryingly expanding emissions rates.

In the Examiner, Ultan Murphy dismisses the Minister's claim that cows produce damaging amounts of methane as "climate change propaganda". He points out that "during the course of bovine husbandry, grains and grasses are cultivated to absorb carbon from the atmosphere and only a fraction of that carbon is released back by the animal in the form of methane." In his view, carbon taxes are "economic expansion fines".

- As read by Aoife Crowley

HEAD TO HEAD: VIVISECTION

RECOGNISE SENTIENT NON-HUMANS' RIGHTS

ROGER YATES

ANIMAL RIGHTS advocates face what appears to be a mammoth task. We want people to go vegan, to recognise sentient non-human individuals as rights-holders, accept the validity of the claim that the use of non-human animals is a rights violation, and help bring down the bastion of cultural speciesism. A big task, without doubt. Animal rights advocates, of course, want the abolition of animal experimentation.

There are at least two major problems about non-human animal experimentation. Firstly, the practice is immoral, and secondly, it does not do what it says on the tin. These problems are articulated by two positions: the animal rights position and the scientific anti-vivisection position.

Although the two stances are often combined, there are tensions between them. Some scientific anti-vivisectionists are opposed to rights-based thinking about human-non-human relations, and tend to consider most human beings selfish animals, who act only in self-interest or in the interests of near-kin. The animal rights position is much more positive, assuming that most human beings are potentially moral agents who can conceive of, and abide by, ethical principles.

Because the animal rights position regards sentient non-human and human animals as rights bearers, experimentation on those who do not consent, in this view, is a gross violation of rights. The animal rights position argues that non-human animals cannot be viewed as property, so just holding them in cages violates their rights. Rights-based animal advocates tend not to separate animal use issues, instead adopting an abolitionist approach. Therefore, most animal experimenters will also be violating animals' rights by eating meat and wearing leather.

Animal experimenters are speciesists whose speciesism is highlighted in specific ways. For example, since vivisection involves systematically overriding the rights of some individuals to benefit others, and since it is clear that the most valid data comes from research on the species intended to benefit, the logic of vivisection is to use human beings as its experimental 'models'. As rights philosopher and law professor Gary Francione explains;

"Data gained from experiments with animals requires extrapolation to humans in order to be useful at all, and extrapolation is a most inexact science under the best of circumstances. If we want data that will be useful in finding cures for human diseases, we would be better advised to use humans."

Of course, we don't advocate researching on unconsenting humans, because we think that they have rights that cannot be overridden even if it benefits general welfare to do so. We also do not research on human beings who themselves show little or no respect for the rights of others. Now, vivisectors themselves, that's another issue entirely. They claim research on 'whole mammalian systems' is vital; they support animal experimentation; they want it, and they say their number one priority is the general health of the whole of humanity. They should clearly research, therefore, on themselves. Indeed, there is a long, impressive and well-documented history of self-experimentation dating back to the 19th century.

The pro-vivisection side will suggest that animal rights advocates regard the health of a mouse higher than that of a human being. This is not true, even though there is a greater probability that the mouse will be a vegan. What we say is that it is the values of speciesism that automatically declares non-humans "lesser-than" in every case, and we oppose speciesism and the rights abuses that flow from it. We are not opposed to medical research that does not violate rights. We are very much in favour of preventative research and practice. If researchers really value human health, we suggest that they pool their expertise and knowledge. We are sceptical of health and research systems in which profit and personal gain are principal motivating factors. These are surely not needed within a community whose number one priority is the general health of all of humanity.

– Roger Yates is spokesman for Alliance for Animal Rights

ANIMAL RESEARCH CRUCIAL TO PROGRESS

TOM HOLDER

ANIMAL RESEARCH plays a crucial role in the development and safety testing of the many medicines we take for granted everyday. The discovery of older medicines, such as Penicillin, Insulin, and the Polio vaccine, all relied on animal research and have gone on to save millions of lives.

More recently, research using monkeys with experimentally induced parkinsonism has led to a treatment that has alleviated the tremors and pains of tens of thousands of Parkinson's patients around the world. Looking to the future, animal models of genetically inherited diseases such as cystic fibrosis and Huntington's disease are enabling the development of treatments that offer hope to millions of people.

Just this week, work on the link between the human papilloma virus (HPV) and cervical cancer, as well as the discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), have brought three scientists Nobel Prizes. Although their work did not directly involve the use of animals, work on vaccines and treatments for both diseases have relied heavily on animal research. Recently two new HPV vaccines were brought to the market after an extensive development stage in dogs, rabbits and cows.

Animal testing to assess toxicity and pharmacokinetics played a key role in the development of anti-HIV drugs, but is not limited to this. Studies with simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) infected monkeys provided the first evidence that Tenofovir is effective at preventing infection after exposure to the virus, and is now widely used for post-exposure disease prevention. Its ability to prevent mother-to-child transmission of SIV in monkeys has lead to promising early results in clinical trials.

With over 70% of Nobel Prizes in physiology or medicine going to those who have used animals in their research, it is little wonder that scientists believe that such methods are still crucial in helping treat and cure modern diseases. Medicines are not the only end product of such research; many surgical techniques such as heart and kidney transplants, and advanced diagnosis methods like MRI and CT scanning, have been developed with the help of animals.

You might wonder how we can learn anything about ourselves from a mouse. In fact, we share over 95% of our DNA with these rodents. Mice have the same organs, performing the same functions in more or less the same way. Mice suffer from many of the same or equivalent pathologies, and genetic modification presents opportunities to make them even more like us. Recently, GM mice were given the common cold, something previously only possible in higher animals such as primates, giving hope for new treatments to help fight rhinoviruses which can trigger asthma attacks, and acute attacks of chronic bronchitis and emphysema, both of which kill many people in the UK and Ireland.

The use of GM animals also allows the evaluation of gene therapy and RNAi approaches to treating disease. These potentially powerful and dangerous new techniques need to be carefully studied in living animals before they can be considered for trials in humans.

Animal research is strictly regulated in both Ireland and the UK, with new projects having to pass ethics committees to ensure that the potential benefit to humans outweighs the cost to the animals involved. Underpinning the high welfare standards are the 3Rs; replacement of animal methods with alternatives wherever possible, reducing the number of animals used, and refining our care for animals by ensuring suitable enrichment activities.

Overall, while animal research may account for only a fraction of the overall medical research effort, it is crucial to medical progress. It is highly regulated to ensure animal welfare is a top priority. The development of cutting edge medicines to fight cancer, AIDS, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other life threatening or debilitating diseases depends on it.

Finally, it is currently irreplaceable. Although we may find replacements for individual areas of research, in general, methods such as computer modelling and in vitro testing are not so much replacement methods as they are complementary ones, useful when being used alongside the animal research.

– Tom Holder is spokesman for Speaking of Research Protest group

Trinity's world ranking has risen, but the system is flawed

By John Lavelle

WHEN HE saw the Times Higher Education Supplement on Thursday morning, John Hegarty must have been a happy man. Trinity College rose to 49th in the world in the newspaper's annual university rankings – its highest ever position.

It has broken into the top 50 for the first time with a rapid climb from 111th in 2005. Trinity now outranks such prestigious institutions as Dartmouth College, St Andrew's University and the London School of Economics (LSE).

But before he invites UCD President Hugh Brady round to number one for celebratory champagne, the Provost should pause to consider the serious flaws of the THES rankings.

First, university's positions are extremely volatile. Trinity is a case in point. It began in 88th place in 2004, dropped to 111th in 2005, climbed back to 78th in 2006 before moving up to 53rd last year. In 2007, LSE fell from 17th to 59th and University College London rose from 25th to 9th. Universities simply don't change enough from year to year to justify these huge jumps and falls.

This volatility has its root in the rankings' most important indicator – 'peer review'. Five thousand academics worldwide are emailed a survey asking them to name the top 30 universities in their area of expertise. The measure accounts for 40% of a university's score. But new academics respond to the survey each year, causing large inconsistencies between annual rankings.

Trinity is 49th now. It could easily be 149th in 2009.

Second, the rankings appear strongly biased in favour of universities in certain regions – specifically Britain, Australia and China. Four of the world's top ten universities are in England, according to the THES. Six of the top fifty are in Australia while none are in Germany.

Again, the problem arises because of the way academics are surveyed. Professors from English-speaking countries where the THES is widely known are far more likely to respond. The rankings are further skewed against non-English language universities by the "citation per faculty member" indicator – the journals taken into account are almost all in English.

Third, the league tables favour universities which are strong in certain subjects – notably medicine, science and graduate-level business. The "citations" indicator only takes account of academic journals; research in arts, humanities and social science is often published in books and therefore ignored.

Science-focused universities also tend to score highly on the "staff-student ratio" indicator, because small classes are essential. And the survey of recruiters (with a weighting of ten per cent) gives an advantage to colleges with strong MBA programmes.

This helps explain why world-leading social science schools, such as LSE, fare so badly.

Fourth, there is no obvious reason why the THES bases ten per cent of a university's score on its proportion of foreign staff and students. The number of international students and staff at a university is due mostly to the location, language and government policy. It is a poor indicator of quality.

Fifth, the objectivity of the rankings is dubious – half of a university's score is determined by the subjective assessment of academics and employers. Perception is more important than reality.

Finally, the methodology used by the THES is strikingly opaque. Nobody is told which academics and recruiters are surveyed, what subjects they teach, where they come from or how they are selected. This makes it difficult to assess the quality of the research underlying the results.

THES UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

COMPILED BY an the Times Higher Education Supplment, the THES rankings have been considered among the top two university league tables since their inception in 2004.

The THES world rankings score universities on the following indicators (weightings in brackets):

- Peer Review (40%)
- Recruiter Review (10%)
- Citations per faculty member (20%)
- Faculty members per student (20%)
- International Faculty (5%)
- International Students (5%)

The other leading university league table, compiled by China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University, is also deficient. These rankings are more objective than the THES. But they concentrate solely on research, ignoring universities' teaching standards. Colleges are rewarded for historical achievements, such as Nobel Prizes – the fact that Samuel Beckett played cricket here for a few years before wandering off to Paris keeps Trinity in the top 300.

Dubious as they may be, doing well in university league tables is still important to universities. As Hugh Brady, President of UCD put it, rankings are "seen as a measure of how we are performing. . . whether we like it or not". Rising up the THES table will enhance Trinity's reputation, attracting better students, smarter academics and more money.

Yet around the world, there is a rising concern that the growing fixation with league tables can actually damage university education.

And Trinity, more than most, has become preoccupied with moving up the world pecking order. According to its *Strategic Plan*, one the College's main objectives is "to claim a place among the top 50 universities in the world". This raises questions about how world rankings are influencing the College's direction.

The past decade has seen a shift in Trinity's priorities, from undergraduate teaching – the quality of which is difficult to measure – to research – which is the most important factor in university rankings. Is this development due solely to changing perspectives on the role of a university? Or has the new fascination with rankings reinforced the strategic shift?

Is the growth of international staff and student numbers an attempt to increase diversity and quality? Or is the boost to the university's league table position part of the attraction?

Are more lecturers being hired on a part-time basis because of financial necessity? Or is it a convenient way of manipulating the College's staff-student ratio?

If league tables were just a chance to boost egos and pick up some favourable press coverage, their methodological flaws wouldn't matter so much. But more and more, it seems, they are dictating how universities are run.

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ACADEMIC FREEDOM

A principle is, by one defintion, something that is unhelpful in practice but obligatory in theory. Academic freedom is one such principle that must be defended vigorously and constantly. The recent debate around the use of animals in research, including that on these pages, reminds us of this.

The participants in the debate have focused on the details and examples of use of animals in science, and our co-existence with "non-humans", to use the Alliance for Animal Rights' term, in general. It is worthwhile however to look at this issue in the context of all the activities carried out in a university. A university must be a place where academics be allowed to perform the research they deem necessary, and that especially includes unpopular, controversial or maverick research. Society grants academics this privilege since they are the leaders in their fields who devote their working lives to those fields, and for that reason we trust that they will use this privilege responsibility. To cherry-pick and judge their chosen course of research from the sidelines is to violate this implicit agreement.

A situation in which academics can only work under duress or fear would represent a most grave tradegy. Research and teaching are the two bedrocks of a university and without academic freedom, research becomes a meaningless veener and with time so too will teaching as there won't be anything new to teach.

It is recognised that this principle will be unhelpful in practice. Academic freedom creates the perfect arena for immovable cranks. Evil people will attempt to abuse academic freedom for their own nefarious purposes. Idiots will persue hopeless trains of thought and pointless avenues of research with academic freedom. But these risks are worth the benefits. Successful research by academics is the driving force for the enrichment and facilitation of our daily lives. This is what academics give back to society in return for the trust we place in them to carry out their work unfettered. "Academic freedom" need not preclude vigilance: "trust, but verify" is the principle of security that applies in this case too.

History is littered with examples of maverick genuises who were at best ignored or at worst distrusted and hated for their ideas. We take great comfort in the status quo and we will not be able to learn from the examples in the past of and of thinkers mistreated. This is merely human nature. We are no doubt currently mistreating some maverick somewhere who in a hundred years' time will be first-year undergraduate material. To mitigate this part of human nature, we institute an environment of free research in universities. Those who seek to unjustly impede free research are indirectly seeking to unseat this most basic of principles of any university. Those who value the contribution that universities provide to society must recognise this and resist these attacks accordingly.

OUR "CIVIL SERVICE"

This College can be thought of as a sort of mini-state, complete with elected representatives (the Students' Union), a civil service (the College authorities), a police force (the stewards), a populous of students and a figurehead leader in the provost. All these bodies are important to the daily life of students, but the College officials – the "civil service" – have a tight involvement in the adminstrative details of students' interaction with College. Even those students who do not directly perceive the effects and work of these officials are unquestionably affected by their decisions and running of their respective offices.

For that reason, it is important that students examine the way these offices work. These bodies and personas are there to serve and facilitate the students' interactions with College – not the other way round. Students and staff equally should remember this. Some students have perhaps not yet quite realised it at all. This should be remedied in order to ensure that the correct delination exists between those students and the offices there to serve them.

Further, much like global warming, descriptions of our funding crisis have been thoroughly hammered home. In these times, it is essential to examine the efficiency and return on investment that all aspects of College provide – especially these offices. Cuts will have to be made across the board and savings implemented. No part of College can be allowed to hide behind a status quo. These kind of offices should be first on the list of scrutiny since their's are the offices where bureaucracy mounts up most – and where most bureaucracy can accordingly be eliminated.

Our current financial climate will mean uncomfortable times for all concerned. It is no use ignoring the realities that down-scaling is inevitable, nor is it any use to say that cuts can be made "somewhere else". The sooner we start evaluating all aspects of our interaction with College with such practical concerns in mind, the better.

UCD MED DAY INVASION

Medicine students from UCD invade Front Square during Freshers' Week. Photo: Conor O'Kelly.

Statutory rights

I hate to sound like a cranky old man, but what has happened to the much mooted Matteo Matturba memorial that was promised to the students, staff and alumni of Trinity College, Dublin?

As a new generation of students begin their academic journey within our hallowed walls, it saddens, disappoints and enrages me that these students are ignorant of such an important figure in Trinity's historical heritage.

It strikes me that all of the promises made of commemoration made in Trinity term last year were no more than political expediency – mere words, signifying nothing.

For those of us who experienced first hand Matt's love – conveyed through silent gestures and affectionate-walking-stick pokes – it is truly sad that others bereft of this experience will not even understand what they have missed.

What I suggest is this: a statue, that when you walk past, swings at you with a stick, and gets in your way on the house 6 stairs.

Only then will the students of tomorrow learn about the legends of yesteryear.

Perhaps during this current economic climate, college authorities do not feel they can fund such a project.

If so, I personally demand the re-introduction of fees to finance worthy and enlightening endeavours such as these.

Cormac Walsh
JS Civil Engineering

Weary cynics

I could not agree more with your weary and anonymous cynic in their Real Guide to Society Life (TN Volume 55, Issue 1.) That nobody cares about the "activities of these 'paper-reading' societies" is evidenced by the fact that you used a picture of Luke Ryder, ex-Phil Registrar taking a day off his real-world job to run a public-speaking workshop for secondary school children, many of whom were from disadvantaged backgrounds and participated in the event with the assistance of the Trinity Access Programme. The Hist also do something similar with their work in their Leinster Schools' Competition. Might I suggest that the next time an unnamed correspondent takes the time to complain about the GMB Societies failing to do "more things for the students and their members instead of just themselves", you use a stock photo less likely to embarrass him or her?

Brendan Curran
Honorary Secretary, 324th Session
University Philosophical Society

Sunday sermon

I note that the library is no longer open on Sundays. Is there any point in us having a Students' Union?

Kieran Fitzgibbon
SS Theology Studies

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@trinitynews.ie. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for style and length. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Trinity News, its staff or its Editor.

College's "Green" policy

College makes a great deal of fuss about energy efficiency, and more generally about College being environmentally friendly; and I would presume that this has taken on a new significance with the recent surge in Oil Prices. Nevertheless some shocking examples of waste are still to be found. Everyone remembers the massive diesel generators, spewing massive amounts of fumes into the air, that were dotted round campus during "Green" week last year.

And, in some residences in New Square, some apartments have large, uninsulated, heating pipes running through them; prompting a massive waste of energy as residents leave windows open to expel the excess heat. Meanwhile others are left freezing and waste yet more energy in employing their own heaters.

Conor Sullivan
JS Economics

OLD TRINITY

by PETER HENRY

THE PAST has a lot to offer the present, and Trinity's past is a storeroom filled with valuable traditions. A lesson is always learned from any excursion into history, as history's vast accumulation of knowledge and wisdom far outweighs the whims and fashions of the present. Chesterton wrote that tradition is the democracy of the dead, and here at Trinity we should always try to give our predecessors their vote.

This lofty vision of the glories of the past applies to the great things of the academy: law, medicine, science, theology and the other great disciplines of learning. But it also applies to the simple, and the simple is often more interesting than the grandiose. And so I direct my attention to one of the simplest things of all: one man's necktie.

The president of the University Philosophical Society has a new tie. It is black, and stripes in red, pale blue and royal blue are repeated at intervals. The Phil has rescued a simple piece of its own tradition from near effacement, and its president and members now proudly wear the Phil tie when receiving distinguished guests to the Graduates' Memorial Building.

The design of Phil's tie may have been lost forever if a sharp graduate – William John White, LLB 1942 – had not committed to paper the provenance of this piece of silk in the alumni yearly of the time, *Trinity: An Annual Record*, back in 1953.

(The Phil celebrated its centenary that year, although it has since revised its origin backward, from 1853 to 1684. A big jump, and one which the editor of this year's Calendar clearly doesn't agree with: 1684 has vanished from beside the University Philosophical Society's entry in this year's DU Calendar!)

The *Trinity* periodical preserved a description of the Phil's tie for posterity. The Phil, it said, "has made up, to some extent, for the absence of a 'student' tie in College by bringing out its own tie – a handsome piece of poplin (designed by Atkinson's) in black with narrow red, pale blue and royal blue stripes."

Quod erat demonstrandum, a tradition revived, one might think. But not quite: some old Phil members have produced from their wardrobes a black tie, with the stripes as described in 1953, but with the addition of a repeating pattern of the University of Dublin arms: a quartered shield with a crowned harp, an open book and a blazing castle.

This is an oddity: the University of Dublin's arms were not granted until 1882, after both of the Phil's alleged founding years. This could be forgiven, as confusions abound when it comes to the use of the arms of the college and the university. But the Phil has always used the college arms – the familiar harp, lion, book and castle – on its medals and stationary, so an explanation is demanded.

This newspaper may hold the reason. In June of 1963, an article on the heraldry of our institution was published in *Trinity News*, and the author was upset about the confusion between the college and the university. He mused on the college's ties, writing:

"The sports clubs which describe themselves as Dublin University clubs correctly use the harp surmounted by crown on their ties. The College Historical Society also uses it on its ties, but the University Philosophical Society for some unknown reason does not."

A progressive modernist in the Phil, drunk with the spirit of the 1960s, must have decided to deface the ten-year-old Phil tie with a logo not its own, all in response to one sentence in this newspaper! He even got it wrong: the Hist and many of the DU clubs use the crowned harp, but not the full shield as found on these later Phil ties.

This left the restorationist of 2008 with a dilemma: was the initiative of 1963 an organic development, carried out in a spirit of continuity with the past? Would Pope Benedict, the great proponent of the hermeneutic of continuity, approve of such a move?

Archaeologism triumphed, and this year the original tie saw the light once again, sans shields. The Phil's pretty lady members, the remnant of the old DU Elizabethan Society, are taking advantage of the society's new scarf, which is in wool and made in the colours of the tie.

And so the University Philosophical Society is like the householder of Matthew, "who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old". Make sure to commend Barry Devlin and his predecessor, Ruth, when you see them, on their brave reinvigoration of tradition.

CONTINUITY is pursued in the Phil, but a venerated part of our university has made a major break with tradition this year. The University of Dublin Cal*endar* was, for most of its existence, the *Dublin University Calendar*. That change barely scandalised a single pedant in, I think, the 1980s.

But this year, for the first time since its inception in 1833, the Calendar has been printed in a sans serif font. This change from Times to what appears to be Arial or Arial MT ought to be condemned: a pointless and miserable innovation.

MY PRESUMPTUOUSNESS has been highlighted: spraoi may be Irish for "fun", but it does not "hardly need to be said" (as I wrote in the last Trinity News) that the word for a college party, or spree, derives from the Irish. A Scotsman himself, Dominic Esler, BA 2008, wrote to point out the Scots origin of the word. A consultation of the dictionary shows that "spree" first appeared in Scotland in the early 19th century to mean "a lively outing" or "a drinking bout". Thank you, Dominic.

pehenry@tcd.ie

Careers Week

IT MIGHT seem too early in the year to be thinking about the next step after College. However, the reason that Careers Week is held in week 2 of Michealmas term is to publicise upcoming closing dates for both recruitment and postgraduate study.

Trinity students return to their studies later than most Irish colleges, and therefore don't have as much time to get settled before making these important applications. The week- long programme of events is mainly targeted at Sophister and postgraduate students. Students from Freshman years are also welcomed.

The Careers Advisory Service will be running a series of workshops and presentations throughout the week. These workshops will be covering CVs, interview skills, application forms, career planning for mature students, entering the legal profession and many more.

Presentations will be given by employers such as Microsoft, JP Morgan, Deloitte, Accenture, Google, HSBC bank plc, Boston Consulting Group and Goldman Sachs International. Many of these firms actively recruit in Trinity and run internships throughout the summer.

The Careers Service are also running Career Sector talks which aim to give students an insight into areas which are unlikely to be represented at the Graduate Employer Fair in the RDS.

Graduates who have been successful in sectors such as journalism, the public service, translation, development and science return to speak of their professional experiences. Many speakers work in organisations such RTE, Google, The Sunday Tribune, the National Gallery, The European Commission and Wyeth.

Speakers have always been very generous with their time and advice. In the past, many speakers have spoken individually to students and have even given their contact details for further support. Attending presentations provides students with an excellent opportunity to gather vital insight into the career of their choice, to make valuable contacts and discover life after college.

Tuesday the 14th of October sees the turn of larger employers at the Dublin Graduate Employment fair, taking place in the RDS from 11am to 5pm. This will include over 150 national and international employers demonstrating thousands of jobs on offer. The event is organised by Trinity Careers Advisory Service and other Dublin colleges in partnership with GTI Ireland.

The full list of attending companies is available on the website www.thegraduatecareersfair.ie

It is advised to register on the website to avoid the inevitable queues. This is a unique opportunity for students to meet with potential employers in a relaxed atmosphere, to ask questions and to really gain some important knowledge of what to expect when you graduate.

Other events this week include the Law Careers Fair taking place in the Atrium on Thursday 16th of October and the Computing Careers Event.

This week there's something for everyone!

TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER

Graduate Careers Fair (RDS)

WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER

9.30-11.50	Career Planning for Mature Students (GMB - please sign up in advance) (GMB)*
12 noon	CVs, Application and Assessment Centres (facilitated by Deloitte Consulting, GMB)
1pm	Postgraduate Research and Funding (GMB)
2pm	Applying for Teacher Training (Primary and Secondary in Ireland and UK) (GMB)
3pm	Museums Galleries and Arts Administration (GMB)
4pm	Translation, Interpreting Careers in Ireland, European Commission and UN (GMB)
7pm	Entering the Legal Profession (Arts Block, RM 3074)

THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER

9-11am	Law Careers Fair (the Atrium)
11am	Interview Skills (GMB)
12 noon	PR, Marketing and Advertising (GMB)
1pm	Careers in the Public Sector - Civil Service Commission and European Commission (GMB)
2pm	Preparing your CV (GMB)
3pm	NGO and Development (GMB)
4pm	Completing Application forms (GMB)
5pm	Journalism: Newspaper, Magazines and broadcasting (GMB)
6pm	Pharmaceutical, Medical Devices and BioIndustry sector (Maxwell Theatre, Hamilton Building)

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER

11-1pm	Assessment Centres (facilitated by Bank of Scotland (Ireland)) (GMB)*
2.15-4.30	drop in appointments with Careers Advisers, East Chapel

* - limited places, advance booking necessary
More details www.tcd.ie/careers/events

Economics' go-to guy on the radio

Newstalk 106's Economics Editor Mark Coleman speaks to **Grace Walsh** about the economic challenges heading our way

TODAY IS budget day. It is the first time in living memory that the budget has been brought forward by two months to October. It may be an attempt by the government to look as though they are dealing with the current economic crisis or it may be to increase tax levels. Trinity News asked Marc Coleman what tricks the government may have up their sleeves.

"I expect strong cuts in expenditure, in recent years government spending has exceeded justified levels in comparison to the relatively low output of the public service. This waste must be eliminated."

Recently in the media there has been much coverage of the inefficient and bloated public service. There has been much speculation that the public service is to experience a severe wake –up call in the form of reducing everything from expenditure to personnel to bonuses in an attempt to cull the gross wasting of taxpayer's money.

> "If you learn to swim against the tide you will be a much stronger swimmer when tide turns in your favor."

"I am not anticipating tax increases but we can expect an increase in non-indexated tax bands and thresholds [such as VAT and Excise Duties] which will effectively act as a tax increase."

"Also I expect to see an increase in Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI), and hopefully the end of the apartheid system in which the private sector is obliged to pay PRSI whilst the public sector, as part of their contract, does not." 0

The European Commission will have to scrutinize the budget from a macroeconomic point of view, however the Minister's budget is unlikely to be constrained by the Commission. This year the budget is likely to breach the 3% deficit limit by a substantial margin." It is rumored that the government may have to borrow up to the European maximum level of 60% of GDP. As unlikely as it seems "This is a good thing, the economy is having difficulty breathing so it is important for the government to loosen the belt and tie. Provided current taxes broadly meet current standing the government should be happy to borrow up to 9 billion."

"However borrowing for current purposes is unacceptable. The Controller and Auditor General's Report has indicated that tens if not hundreds of millions of euro a year is being wasted in government spending. By not acting to end this waste but at the same time borrowing for current purposes the government is inflicting an unnecessary burden on the taxpayer and that is only the tip of iceberg. Structural reforms of public service, in the form of targeted cuts and useful public spending could release billions of euro back into the economy."

On the topic of recession and the collapse of the global stock market Coleman refuses to go overboard and adapts a moderate, realistic viewpoint.

"The market crash is the direct result of 10 years loose monetary policy- too low interest rates- weak regulation of banks and poor credit rating. As a result growth in the world economy in recent years has been more fat than muscle. Recent increases in interest rates since 2005 have revealed this to the markets and they are now reacting. If the government can restore confidence in the banking system and if media can be constructive in not talking down economy then asset prices and economic activity generally should begin next year to stabilize. Asset prices should stabilize where they were in 2003/2004 and global economic activity should grow weekly from 2009.

However in this country we are dealing with the excessive overhang of SSIAs and credit growth which artificially inflated the economy between 2005 and 2007. As most of this growth was illusory we should expect the economy to wash it out of its system during the next 18 months. Economic activity should stabilize at the level attained in 2007 sometime during the year 2010. This adjustment is perfectly natural and healthy. It must be managed carefully by the government by keeping the lid on taxation and dealing effectively with public spending. If government makes mistakes on taxes and spending that's another matter."

"There is a lot of fear out there at the moment. I would like to think that people like me, Newstalk and the Sunday Independent are doing their best to provide balance on the negative and positive factors of the economy. This (sense of balance) is less evident in other media outlets which are perhaps immune to many consequences of the downturn."

Unemployment has become, for the first time in years, a serious worry for graduates. "However gradates need to remember that unemployment is increasing in sectors where graduate skills are not as important such as construction, hotels and retail. Students must remember that there are 2.1 million jobs in economy so there no real cause for concern just yet. It will be the toughest year for graduates since 1993 but it won't be as tough as 1993. If everybody holds their nerve the economy should be back to its previous steady state by 2010. For some doing a Masters degree or some other form of other post graduate work could be a good strategy over next year or so. But anybody who wants to jump into the job market should not be afraid of plunging in - if you learn to swim against the tide you will be a much stronger swimmer when tide turns in your favor.

Regarding the US Presidential election Coleman is of the opinion that John McCain is better for Ireland's economy given that Barack Obama intends to make it more difficult for countries like Ireland with low corporate tax rates, to leverage tax rates to attract US multinationals.

"Generally speaking both candidates appear to be just as capable if not more capable [of handling the economy] than the administration we have at present -in fact either would be an improvement, However the Bush Administration is not entirely to blame for the present crisis- the phenomena of sub prime mortgage lending has its origins in the Clinton regime of 1990s."

On a more controversial issue Newstalk' Economics Editor is unambiguously in favor of the return of college fees.

"My Trinity degree was funded by the tax payer through a local authority grant system which worked well. Third level education differs from first and second level education, both are mandatory and necessary, therefore state has an obligation to provide it for free.

Third level education is lifestyle choice, people who go into work straight from school are funding those in university. This is unjust as university graduates earn much more later on in their professional lives. Any honest appraisal of unequal opportunity in Ireland shows that university fees were never a barrier to poor people going to college because as I know from my own case the fees of under-privileged students were paid.

It is the inability of students to fund their day to day living expenses in today's high cost economy that has prevented low income families from sending their kids to college. That problem needs to be tackled by an imaginative combination of loans and grants. The tax payer cannot be expected to bear the burden of sending other children to university when they cannot afford to send their own.

Reintroducing university fees is also needed to provide funding for research excellence. Universities must compliment their very solid core of postgraduate lecturers with an equally valued core of lecturers with professional experience in market driven disciplines. University sectors must become research driven as well as student driven."

Mark Coleman graduated from Trinity in the time of fees, and supports their re-introduction. Illustration: Alex Mathers

IN PROFILE

MARC COLEMAN is one of Ireland's leading economic commentators. He is an author, as well as being a columnist with The *Sunday Independent*, Economics Editor with Newstalk 106, and a lecturer in economics on the MBA programme at UCD's Smurfit Business School.

He is former Economics Editor of The *Irish Times.* Marc has also held positions with the European Central Bank and the Department of Finance.

Graduate job market prospects bleak

By Aisling Deng
Deputy Buiness & Careers Editor

AS WE return to another academic year, horror stories of a collapsing global economy dominate the financial news.

AIG, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have been taken over by the US Federal Reserve. Lehman Brothers have filed for bankruptcy whilst Merril Lynch has been bought out by the Central Bank of America. This overhaul of the financial system has sent shockwaves throughout our globalized economy.

And so the question arises how does all of this affect graduate careers?

According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) the economy contracted by 0.8% in the second quarter of this year compared with 2007, which means that the economy is technically in a recession for the first time since 1983.

In the financial sector we are due to see some great upheaval. The merger of Halifax Bank of Scotland with Lloyds TSB has been rumored to be axing more than 3,000 jobs both here and in the UK. The recent turmoil in Wall Street is expected to oust 40,000 people from their jobs worldwide. The affects of these events will slowly filter down to the Irish job market which as of yet has remained largely unaffected by recent events in the financial markets. A major concern to Irish business is the rising cost of production. We have seen many firms close such as Tyco in Cork citing high wage costs and costs of production as reason for closure.

Mixed news prevails for business students. Accountancy remains among the top recruiting sectors in the country with the big four accounting firms alone planning to recruit over 1000 graduates in 2008. Whilst the banking sector is expected to reduce its graduate recruitment by 15% this year.

Graduates stemming from computer science, arts and media studies face a more challenging future. Unemployment rates for these sectors range from 8% to 10% for the year 2007. Dell is planning a contraction of its production base here in Ireland; Hewlett Packard plans to cut its global workforce by 7.5% whilst many technological firms have defected to Eastern Europe and India. With "conservatism in IT spending" rife throughout the industry many graduates may be forced to look abroad for job opportunities. Those with arts or communications degrees are in the most vulnerable position. During a recession there is a contraction in the service industries where many of these graduates will end up.

On the other hand for everybody down in the Hamilton things don't look so bad. Powerful industries such as alternative fuel sources, bio and medical technologies, ICT and pharmaceuticals are quickly gathering momentum. The high demand for fuel, the fact that oil is a finite resource and a drive for a cleaner environment has boosted investment and research in alternative fuel sources. Exxon Mobil has invested $20 billion this year alone into researching new sources of energy. Environmental engineering is also a developing industry with great prospects. Also science graduates are often recruited by financial firms due to their high analytical skills.

Graduates from a career specific course such as medicine, dentistry, and engineering have very low unemployment rates. Many find a job within the first six months of graduating.

The healthcare industry has to date been little affected by the recession. The employment of doctors and in particular nurses has remained high due to the opening of Centers of Excellence around the country. However the closure of wards in many hospitals has caused employment to fluctuate. Unemployment rates for healthcare professionals are exceedingly low at 0.2%.

Small businesses though more vulnerable to market fluctuations may become a more attractive option to graduates. As the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Chairman John Wright commented on the publication of the latest FSB survey: "Small business owners know their greatest asset is their staff...By having a committed and loyal workforce... [Even] the smallest business has a big advantage." Although smaller enterprises may have fewer vacancies they may be more supportive of individual needs and suggestions. As smaller enterprises tend to be more flexible, they can rapidly shift their focus to adapt to changing circumstances. They are able to respond quickly to any market fluctuation thereby reducing the need for redundancies.

Graduate prospects are not all doom and gloom however depressing the future may seem. Graduate Careers Ireland found that 71% of the 211 employers it questioned said they expect to recruit the same number of graduates this year as in 2007. However just 2% said they planned to increase graduate recruitment levels this year. Many firms suffered with a talent dry-spell during the recruitment freeze of 2001 and so will continue to hire graduates to ensure a consistent flow of talent when the market picks up.

The Graduate Market Report 2008 is reporting more of the same. It claims graduate vacancies will rise by 16.4% with finance based firms planning to take on 14.7% fewer graduates. The report also shows that almost half of the organizations featured in The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers plan to expand their graduate programmes this year. According to Irelands Leading Graduate Employers Report, the top ten firms are Price-Water-Coopers, KPMG, Google, Deloitte, AIB Group, Bank of Ireland, Civil Service, Ernst & Young, Accenture and Intel.

The general public, the new lab rat?

Recently rescued from financial crisis, our Science Gallery now hosts an exhibit that, whilst entertaining and informative, also collects data from the audience for use in research by the Institute of Neuroscience.

By Ronan Lyne
Deputy Science editor

THE SCIENCE Gallery, Trinity's financially controversial sexed-up science venue, is currently running its *Pay Attention: Lab in the Gallery* exhibit. Actual scientific research is being carried out in front of and on the public. It has been drawing a constant stream of fascinated visitors. But is it a waste of money? Or is it just a cheap way of doing research?

The *Lab in the Gallery* concept was the brainchild of Michael John Gorman, the director of Science Gallery. He approached various laboratories in Trinity, asking them if they could carry out research in the gallery space. He found his answer in Ian Robertson, now the curator of this exhibit, and his research team, who could feasibly work in the space available. Robertson, as well as two members of his team - Sabina Brennan and Redmond O'Connell – was kind enough to offer insiders' perspectives on the exhibit, which they have been planning since May.

> Even as an extreme skeptic of Science Gallery, it's hard not to be taken in by the buzz around the current exhibition

Youth appeal is central to Science Gallery's ethos and branding, and talking to the curatorial team, it becomes clear that the Gallery's mission statement is clearly understood. But Brennan, O'Connell and Robertson were all equally enthusiastic about the possibilities of engaging undergraduates and members of the public alike. In fact, even for an extreme skeptic of Science Gallery, it's hard not to be taken in by the buzz around the current exhibition. People are genuinely fascinated, and it's easy to understand why. Unlike the largely passive *Lightwave* and *Pills* exhibits, visitors to *Lab in the Gallery* are engaged by mediators from the moment they step inside the space, and are invited to play *Mindball* while they wait for their stint at their chosen research booth. Brennan highlights the biggest difference: "*Lab in the Gallery* allows the audience to interact, engage and converse with the scientists so they have more control over their learning experience."

Lab's unique selling point is that it is actual research being conducted publicly. O'Connell believes that, given taxpayers' contribution to research, they have a right to observe. He goes as far as to suggest that "all labs should be able to justify their research to a public audience." But is this audience more of a liability than expected? Especially when considering the effect of observation on participants' reactions? O'Connell claims the booths have been designed so as to minimise distraction, and adds that the experiment designs have factored in their location in the Gallery. He also maintains that "most attention-requiring tasks are already carried out with normal distraction levels, so one could argue that a controlled lab setting is actually less representative of everyday life than *Lab in the Gallery*."

In the wake of John Banville's comments, the use of animals in research has come under scrutiny by the public.

In the Science Gallery's latest exhibition, actual scientific research is being carried out on the visiting public. Photo: Ernest Figueras

Robertson, Brennan and O'Connell are all involved in the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, which uses rats in neurophysiology experiments. When asked if research schemes such as *Pay Attention*'s would pave the way for less use of animal models, O'Connell was adamant that the two were very separate areas of research. Brennan admitted that she did not enjoy the thought of killing animals for research purposes, but realised the necessity of it. She suggested that wasting/throwing out uneaten meat is a far greater crime. "If John Banville has ever thrown out a steak, then that animal has suffered for nothing. At least the animals used in Trinity have contributed to scientific research, and with less suffering involved." Robertson believes that Banville is misguided, and that if he truly objected to animal testing, "ethically Banville should refuse any medical treatment, or go back to medieval medicine, because it's impossible to do medical research without using animals."

The Science Gallery has suffered financial woes since its launch, and needed a big bailout from the Wellcome Trust this summer. O'Connell says this exhibition has been run quite frugally, and that it may not have even used its entire budget as all the equipment belongs to Robertson's lab.

The remaining question is: if *Lab in the Gallery* is successful, will we see more research being conducted in public? Robertson is cautious "This exhibition is a world first, and is a learning experience, but has been extremely successful so far ... There are limits to the types of research that can be done publicly. But I hope that it will be the first of several such endeavors."

Poka-Yoke: The Guardian Angel of Design

By Luke Maishman
Science Editor

'POKA-YOKE'. NO, not a new kind of video-game dreamed up by Nintendo but in fact a concept behind the technology that surrounds us. Quite literally it means mistake-proofing or fail-safing in design. It is those little things that we take for granted but sorely miss in their absence.

To take just one example, think about ATM's. Relatively commonplace, these generally take a card, dispense cash and return the card. Or do they? I had never even considered the importance of the order of these rather mundane events until my visit to Asia this summer. Certainly in India, the order is card in, cash, card back. And I came so close to losing my debit card on many an occasion, yet back home I had never had any trouble remembering the card. The secret is of course that in Ireland the card is returned before the cash, so that the cash-hungry user is kept waiting while returning card to wallet, before getting the sought-after notes and heading off for more shopping/drinking!

THE LINGO

SHIGEO SHINGO was a Japanese industrial engineer who distinguished himself as one of the world's leading experts on manufacturing practice. He studied the Toyota Production System and coined the term poka-yoke.

The term Poka-yoke is Japanese and originates from the efforts of Dr Shigeo Shino who was instrumental in developing it into a technique. This week I took a look at some of the more interesting cases . . .

I wonder whether anyone doesn't know at least one person who has made the mistake of putting the wrong fuel in their car? It is an annoying and common mistake, often requiring the entire tank to be drained and even damaging the engine permanently.

But Poka-yoke prevents against the worst possible mistake: Using diesel in a petrol engine may destroy the engine's catalytic converter, causing thousands of euro in damage. How is it that we're not all broke already? The nozzle on the diesel pumps at garages is slightly larger than the petrol nozzle, meaning it won't fit into a petrol car's filling inset. The user is warned before the flow of diesel has even begun.

> The feckless driver who sets off with the pump nozzle still in their vehicle isn't pulled around in a circle to crash into one of the other pumps

But perhaps the most exciting petrol station design is the fact that the hoses from the pumps are designed to tear off with a strong pull. So the feckless driver who sets off with the pump nozzle still in their vehicle isn't pulled around in a circle to crash into one of the other pumps. The breakaway of the hose coupling also shuts off the flow of petrol to reduce fire risk.

The lowly bathroom sink is also an illustration of poka-yoke: You know that little hole under the taps? It stops flooding. Ingenious.

The window in business envelopes is not only a time-saver for address-writers. It also prevents mix-ups of contents to recipients, ensuring that that a client's private statement is not sent to the Christmas prizewinner!

Airport luggage carts are great for racing. The momentum of an over-laden cart can be an almost unstoppable force, ploughing through the crowds of would-be flyers and causing injury and destruction left right and center. The poka-yoke answer? The brakes of the trolley are applied whenever the handle is not being pressed to slow the cart once it has been released. This also prevents against more sensible dangers like unattended carts rolling away.

IN BRIEF

LUKE MAISHMAN

PHARMACEUTICALS

LOST PENGUINS AIRLIFTED TO SAFETY BY KIND BRAZILIANS

HUNDREDS OF penguins were airlifted back to their native territory in the South Atlantic by the Brazilian air force this year while more still were brought in a Navy vessel. Every year penguins make their way north in search of food, but this year at least 1,000 washed up on Brazilian beaches, even in the far north of the country. Experts say that this indicates a problem with the penguins' food supply.

RESEARCH

FLY USES REMOTE CONTROL CAR FOR FLIGHT RESEARCH

HOW DOES a fly fly? Roboticist Brad Nelson and his colleagues in the Swiss Federal Institute, Zurich, are trying to find out by allowing fruit flies, a long-studied "model organism" in biology, to "drive" a remote controlled car. The fly is tethered but tries to fly according to the images it sees on the LED "simulator" surrounding it. Sensors that detect the fly's flight direct the car.

INVENTION PUBLISHED 10 OCT 08 IN 'SCIENCE'

UNITED STATES CHEMISTS MAKE NANOTUBE GECKO GLUE

GECKOS HAVE long inspired scientists with their ability to scamper up vertical walls and cling to ceilings. Now US chemists claim to have made a material based on nanotubes that is ten times stickier than some gecko feet. Stuck to glass, a dot of the material about ¼ the size of a drawing-pin head (4mmx4mm) can support over 1.6 kilograms when pulled parallel to the surface.

SURPRISING SPECIES

MEXICAN FREE-TAILED BAT

One of the most abundant mammals in North America, this bat roosts in caves and urban locations. Like all true bats they use echolocation to "see." Up to 50 times per second a muscle in the bat's ear contracts, muting its sensitive ears to stop the loud "screech" deafening it.

EGGHEAD OF THE ISSUE

WILLEBRORD SNELLIUS

WILLEBRORD SNELLIUS, Dutch astronomer and mathematician, is famous for the law of refraction: Snell's Law, which describes the bending of light as it goes from air to another clear material. The law explains why people in water seem to have short legs. The moon crater "Snellius" is also named after him.

ON THIS DAY...

» IN 1947, Chuck Yeager was the first human to fly faster than the speed of sound in a rocket-powered airplane.
» IN 1968, the first live telecast from outer space was beamed from the orbiting satellite Apollo VII.
» IN 1863, Alfred Nobel was granted his first patent in Sweden for the preparation of nitroglycerin. Later, in 1868, Nobel patented dynamite as a form for safer handling.

SCIENCE WITH A CONSCIENCE

Compiled by Luke Maishman

THEY ARE CALLED "incidental" findings, but for the volunteers involved they could be the opposite. Accidental discoveries during research on human volunteers can bring to light serious implications for the subjects' health, but in the past the norm has been not to tell volunteers. This is particularly crucial in human genetics research which can show a life-threatening predisposition to disease, for example where a chromosomal deletion confers a risk for a dangerous heart arrhythmia. In a situation like this, seeing a heart specialist could save the volunteer's life.

A pioneering project by the Corriell Institute for Medical Research in New Jersey is breaking the mould in volunteer care in research. The project aims to recruit 10,000 volunteers before the end of 2009, whose genomes (genetic sequences) will be scanned using Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) chips. The research aims to uncover links between single-point mutations in the genome and the risk of common conditions such as heart disease.

In addition to this an external oversight board, the Informed Cohort Oversight Board (ICOB), will review findings of medical relevance and inform the subject if it feels that harm can be alleviated in some way. The ICOB is headed by Dr Erin O'Shea of Harvard University.

One fear held of genetic scans is the health insurance and employment implications of getting bad news. But this project has these bases covered – as outlined on its website, in New Jersey it is illegal to discriminate based on genetic information for either employment or health insurance purposes. "This protective New Jersey law applies to all participants... regardless of where the participant resides."

In addition to all of this the project is willing to help volunteers understand their results. Although the project advises consulting with a GP first and foremost in the event of a risk being discovered, it does offer free advice from one of two full time genetic counsellors.

As the website of the project notes, "This research-study is a forward-thinking, collaborative effort." Until now, this kind of genetic study has generally avoided issuing subject data unless left with no choice because of the administrative difficulties and costs involved.

Indeed many scientists are against passing on information to subjects because they believe the costs involved will make research ineffective, and also note that research scientists are not physicians and do not have the same duty of care.

Researchers at work on genome analysis in Coriell Genotyping and Microarray Centre.

COMPETITION

WIN A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE

TO WIN this great prize, submit around 300 words of your own writing for the **Science with a Conscience** panel. Articles should describe a person or group in the scientific community who displays an inspiring consideration for ethics or moral concerns.

Rules: Email entries as an attachment to sciencenews@trinitynews.ie. Entries will be judged both on content and journalistic quality. Applicants must be registered students of Trinity and must not be part of Trinity News' editorial staff. Entries from students who have not written for Trinity News before will be viewed favourably. Closing date: 12 December, 2008.

Adventure, adrenaline and elves

It's a long way to the South Island of New Zealand but for those who make the trip, the world capital of adrenaline awaits. Queenstown is an adventurer's nirvana.

Derek Larney
Travel Editor

THERE'S ALWAYS been a hint of adventure about New Zealand. Crazy Kiwis have pushed the limits in adventure sports ever since Edmund Hillary's first ascent of Everest. There has always been something in the national psyche that strives to challenge sanity and do extraordinary things. The adventurer's Mecca is Queenstown, a small alpine hideaway which is home to more adventure sports than France has got vineyards.

Queenstown is a tremendously scenic area, lying as it does on Lake Wakitipu and surrounded by no less than three mountain ranges which collectively make up just a small portion of the Southern Alps. The town itself has a population of less than 10,000 and this gives it a vibe that cannot be found in larger resorts. But what really makes Queenstown come alive is the myriad activities that can be found in the town and the surrounding valleys and canyons. Here we go through just a select few, indeed a whole book could be written on the attractions to be found in this gem of an alpine hamlet and weeks could be spent throwing yourself from all manner of ledges, bridges and airplanes.

Bungee Jumping

This was invented in Queenstown by AJ Hackett, famous for his pioneering jump from the Eiffel Tower in 1987 which ultimately led to his arrest. Queenstown now has eight of them to choose from- the world's first ever bungee jump at the 42m high Kawarau Bridge still operates to this day. The largest jump in town is the Nevis, a terrifying 134m descent into a deep gorge. There used to be a higher jump, dropping over 300m but unfortunately the Health & Safety brigade managed to get it shut down. This might have something to do with the fact that it was a bungee out of a helicopter and it was feared that an unlucky jumper might bounce back up into the rotor blades on a windy day!

Skydiving

If jumping out of a plane at 12,000ft with nothing more than a piece of canvas strapped to your back sounds like fun, then there's no better place to try it than here. 45 seconds of 200km/h freefall is followed by a gentle descent with some awesome scenery to take in from your bird's eye view. There are a few different outfits in town, all of which offer skydive instruction courses and one even offers a 16,000ft oxygen assisted jump.

White-Water Rafting

Queenstown gets good dumps of snow in the winter and all that fluffy stuff has to end up somewhere. Spring is the best time of the year for rafting and the Kawarau and Shotover Rivers offer the best New Zealand has to offer. Also available is the locally invented sport of river surfing- surfers hop into rapids and attempt to catch the waves on a body board.

Yacht Racing

The waters of Lake Wakitipu have an abundance of pleasure craft seeking your custom. From the TSS Earnslaw, a 19th century steamship, to paragliding operations, there's a vessel to suit everyone. The only way to do it with real style and speed, however, is to hop on an Americas Cup racing yacht. Trips leave twice daily from the pier and you can either sit back and relax or get to grips with the sails yourself.

Trekking

Hikes abound in the area, but for something a bit special, perhaps head to the Milford Track, once described by Edmund Hillary as "the most beautiful walk in the world." The Milford Track takes four days to complete and ends at some of New Zealand's most stunning scenery at Milford Sound. Having done this walk a few years back I can indeed share Hillary's enthusiasm, it's almost like walking inside a postcard for four days.

Lord of the Rings Tours

Fans of the Academy Award-winning films can adventure through the scenery that Peter Jackson used to bring Middle Earth alive. Tours are run in jeeps, micro-light planes or both. The Queenstown area was the setting for Lothlorien, Amon Hen, Amon Lhaw, the Fort of Bruinen as well as Gandalf's journey to Isengard.

Snowsports

Luckily, Kiwis generally have a "She'll be right" attitude to safety which means heli-skiing/boarding is legal here, unlike many European countries that ban the flying of helicopters near mountains due to the risks of turbulence. Plenty of companies can take you to the backcountry to sample some virgin powder.If you can't afford it, then there are four different ski resortswithin an hour's drive of the town — The Remarkables, Coronet Peak, Cardrona and Treble Cone. These are no more than a smattering of the many activities on offer in this picturesque mountain town. Also available are hang-gliding, a luge, mountain biking, parapenting (riding shotgun in a stunt plane,) jet boating, kayaking, quad biking and paragliding. Queenstown is also a favoured spot for Europeans to go to in order to complete their pilot's license in either helicopters or planes — a few outfits offer courses which are made attractive by the exchange rate.

After all these adventures get the adrenaline pumping you'll probably need a few calming beverages. Queenstown is a real party town and pumps until 6am every night. Many small bars offer excellent local DJs spinning out everything from drum & bass to trance. If you've any energy left the next day take a hike (or the gondola) up to the top of Queenstown Hill, sample the excellent buffets and appreciate the fine view from the restaurant window.

NEW ZEALAND: GETTING THERE

For those heading straight to Queenstown, USIT offer return flights from Dublin to South Island's Christchurch International Airport for €661. The airport is about seven hours' drive from Queenstown itself in a rented car. There is also a scenic coach tour available for NZ$78, which leaves daily at 8:30.

Those who want to take in the North Island as well can fly Dublin-Auckland from €591 return, also with USIT.

Skydiving in Queenstown. Photo: Dave Scriven

International Festivals

Snow wonders

China's biggest ice sculpture festival is a sight to behold

Derek Larney
Travel Editor

HARBIN IS a large city in Heilongjiang Province; located further north than Vladivostok in Siberia, it suffers bitterly cold winters which sees the mercury regularly shrivelling down past the -25°C mark. With this comes a blanket of ice and snow, which is put to good use every winter as a mass of over six hundred sculptors descend on the city to compete in the Harbin Ice and Snow Sculpting Festival. Its popularity increases year-on-year and is now recognised as one of the top tourist attractions in China, currently attracting over one million tourists over its one month run.

The festival has been running since 1963 despite an interlude of several years during Mao's Cultural Revolution before being resumed in 1985. Since then the festival has gained international recognition and now ranks alongside similar festivals in Montréal, Canada and Saporro in Japan.

The festival takes place in two of Harbin's main parks: Zaolin Park and Snow Park. Zaolin Park showcases ice lanterns which are made by freezing water inside various vessels and then carving the ice into many different formations to create dazzling illuminated displays. The lanterns on display at the festival have come a long way from the locals' simple creations before the festival's inception. Recent festivals have seen all manner of sculptures lit up at night in an amazing array of colour – creations such as lions, tigers, dragons, flowers and even ice waterfalls have featured, as have Thai temples and even suspension bridges. Dozens of installations serve to make the park look like a fairytale city at night-time and the throngs of tourists who arrive to view this spectacle are also entertained by nightly fireworks.

Over at the Snow Park in Harbin, competitions in snow sculpting take place. Most works of art span at least 50m and many more scale heights rivalling their subjects. The Egyptian Pyramids, the Eiffel Tower and Big Ben have all featured in past competitions. Also on offer at the Snow Park are giant snow mazes as well as ice climbing for anyone keen to try it.

For those willing to brave the freezing temperatures and long nights the Harbin Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival holds something quite extraordinary, these temporary exhibitions of snow and ice serve to amaze visitors at every turning and the wintertime atmosphere of this spectacle is truly memorable.

Going Underground in London: Scene and The City

When you're bored of Big Ben and you've been for a spin on the London Eye, look under the carpet for the real London

By Paul McDonnell
Deputy Travel Editor

LONDON IS the eternal misfit's paradise. Beyond the suits of Canary Wharf and the plentiful attractions brimming with tourists lies a road less traveled. The alternative scene in London sets the global standards of cool and unique. The desire to be different transcends the boundaries of music and style to everyday life, art, performances, nightlife and food. Pioneered in the seventies by punk-rock outfits like the Sex Pistols and The Rolling Stones the thirst to go against the grain has never been more visible than in modern day London.

The place to go for all things indie is undoubtedly Camden Town. Thriving with hippies, rockers, skaters and every other social group imaginable, Camden emits an aura of common acceptance. A trip to the renowned market is a must; witty t-shirts and kooky sunglasses can be yours at a steal if you're willing to haggle with the Del Boy-esque vendors. The food quarter is the battleground where vendors of many and varied nationalities thrust samples to unsuspecting passersby in an attempt to gain custom. The offerings are usually quite generous and appetising so for those on a budget a quick lap of the stalls results in a cheap lunch. Camden is a shockingly colourful town and art meets the eye at every corner. One artist who seems to be adopted at the Camden Market is the now critically acclaimed "Banksy." His graffiti makes unique use of stencils, and his work adorns walls on many of London's streets. In many ways the artist personifies the alternative aspect of London; his use of an alias and his belligerent resistance to authority (he once hung his version of the *Mona Lisa*, complete with smiley face in the Louvre) epitomise the rebel spirit of many Londoners. One of *London Walks'* walking tours is an ideal way to see his work which can also be viewed at the Lazarides Gallery on Greek Street in Soho.

BANKSY: IN PROFILE

IF YOU really want to get to know Banksy, you'll have to ask his mum, as the graffiti artist keeps a notoriously low profile. Rumour suggests that he was born in 1974 in Bristol and trained to be a butcher before finding his calling. His works are frequently highly political in both their subjects and their media, including peace-themed work on the West Bank Security Wall.

On the subject of weird and wonderful art disrupting the accepted status quo is Martin Creed's *Work No.850*, exhibited in the Tate Britain. The concept is to frantically sprint through the neo-classical sculpture galleries at 30-second intervals mixed intermittently with 30 seconds to appreciate the exhibitions. Described by the Tate director as 'reassessing a mundane activity'. The 2001 Turner Prize winner has produced a thoroughly enjoyable and exhilarating experience for participants as well as a great way to spend a bizarre afternoon.

Approaching evening time in London one encounters a vast array of shows and gigs. *Secret Wars*, which pits two graffiti artists against each other in 90-minute master classes, are held regularly in secret locations such as Juno Bar in Shoreditch. The winner receives £500, a foosball table and a Sega Mega Drive... only in London.

Nightlife in the city is the jewel in Alternative London's crown. For a true rock n' roll experience *Astoria 2*, conveniently located on Charing Cross Road, is a no frills metal venue. Buy your cans in there (who needs glasses?) and rest content in the knowledge that you're standing where Nirvana, Radiohead, David Bowie and Black Sabbath have all played. Another option to see music legends is *The End* nightclub in Bloomsbury, where you can check out London's superstar DJs. Although tricky to find, *The End* is well worth the trek for a true London Underground experience.

Next stop is the infamous *Fabric* where hordes of youths clad in neon let loose, still a bit peeved that they were born at the conservative end of the 80s. Its three rooms vary from Techno to Indie to RnB, with Room 1 featuring the unique "Bodysonic Floor" which emits the thumping bass of the playing track. This is a revellers' nirvana and is guaranteed to satisfy frenzied party-goers into the wee hours. The inevitable downsides are the over-eager bouncers and the £15 entry fee — those on a budget may want to take a rain check. After a tiring night in *Fabric* there's only one thing you need for breakfast, *Egg*. Voted "Best London club" in its first year, *Egg* opens from 4am on Saturday night and closes at 2pm on Sunday afternoon. With a much smaller capacity, as well as hammocks and beanbags galore, *Egg* is the ideal end to a frantic day.

London is the world's biggest college campus. Grasp the opportunity to languish in the bohemian spirit and let yourself go — only in London can one experience such a vast array of cultures. In Banksy's immortal words: "Think outside the box, collapse the box, and take a fucking sharp knife to it."

Some of Bansky's work in Green Park. Photo: Gareth TT

LONDON: GETTING THERE

If you want to make a day of it, you could take the HSS ferry from Dún Laoghaire. A bundle "Sail and Rail" ticket costs €44 each way, or you can bring a carful then drive from Holyhead to London for about €100 each.

The obvious alternative is to fly: if you book in advance, a ticket to Heathrow from Dublin can cost as little as €5 (less taxes and charges.)

Decadent Persians who want to fly almost directly to the city centre can fly to London City airport, but the privilege will cost you up to €200.

SPECIAL REPORT

Netball players hope for a revival in a sport with its best days behind it

By Conor James McKinney
Sport Editor

ON ANY list of Things That Your Average Person Doesn't Really Care About, netball would rank quite high. You could be excused for not knowing what netball is, let alone that it's played in Trinity, given its spectacular unpopularity in this country. So, at the risk of regurgitating Wikipedia-standard information, it may be worth noting that netball developed as a sort of female basketball in the late 19th century. It is, nowadays, quite different to that sport, in that dribbling the ball has faded out and players can only move within their own area or zone of the court. It may not have the same bite as hockey or camogie, where there's at least a fair chance of someone getting smashed with a big stick to sustain the spectators' interest, but it undoubtedly has its charms. You get to play indoors, for one thing, and with global warming still not pulling its weight that's a major advantage of an Irish winter's evening. Still, it's fair to say that if basketball hasn't made much of an impact here, its less glamorous little sister has fared even worse.

The grassroots don't look too healthy. Only around half a dozen schools still play in the Republic, and the most well-known of those, Mount Anville, will cease its participation at the end of this year. Netball's profile is pretty much non-existent, making it hard to attract new players, and women's sports generally get a raw deal in terms of coverage (clearly not a bias reflected in this newspaper). Given the challenge facing her beloved discipline, it's surprising to see just how enthusiastic the Trinity netball captain, Sarah Green, comes across. Even more unexpected is the revelation that this year saw record numbers signing up to play, with over 50 players turning out to the club's first training session.

"The girls coming up from school have a real passion for the game and are trying to keep it alive", says Green. Not that there's much help forthcoming from the college authorities, who didn't see fit to include netball markings on the new indoor court in the sports centre. In any case, such a level of interest can't be accommodated within the confines of the hall; in common with other indoor pursuits which attract good numbers during Freshers' Week, the club finds that the severe overcrowding means that new recruits are hard to hang on to. "There's just no space", says Green. "We've never had proper facilities, anyone who's inter or beginner doesn't get the attention and they just leave. At one point we were actually looking to rent space in UCD".

Her frustration is understandable, given that the club won promotion into Division Two of the Netball Ireland league last year. That success was down to the talent and committment of a few players, but with increased numbers and a revised training schedule Green says that there is increased competition for places within the ranks, which should improve the overall standard. The club will field three competitive sides in the forthcoming season. Members will not be forced to go cap in hand to Belfield, however, as Rathdown school – one of the few still playing netball – have made their facilities available.

Netball is still relatively strong in England, New Zealand and Australia, with a presence in other former colonies in Africa and the Caribbean. It is now a fixture in the Commonwealth Games, and according to the sport's governing body has been a "recognised Olympic Sport" since 1995. Quite why this is an achievement without netball actually being played in the Olympics, nobody knows, but the popularity of the game in the crucible of Empire seems solid: last week, a former English netball international was even appointed to the House of Lords. A good proportion of Trinity's players come from the mother country, which is just as well given the decline in interest here. "In a team of seven, we could have five English and two Irish", says Green.

In recognition of the small pool of opposition around these days, the club is seeking to arrange some friendly matches against schools for the beginner and intermediate sides, as well as lining out against some British opposition; University College London will cross the pond around Halloween. The intervarsity against Queen's, held up in Belfast last year, will come to Trinity this time around – but only in spirit. As Trinity, disgracefully, don't have a court to play on, the matches will have to be played in UCD.

Green rejects the charge that netball is just a less exciting version of basketball, noting that it is "a sport requiring a high degree of co-ordination", often played by female rugby players in the southern hemisphere to enhance their technical skills. "It's regarded as a female sport in the British Isles but if you go to South Africa or New Zealand you'll find guys playing as well – if they're man enough". Point taken.

LADIES HOCKEY

THE DULHC first XI were comprehensively defeated in their first league outing of the season, shipping eight goals against defending champions Hermes to go down 8-2 at home. A second defeat away to Loreto, in a match which saw the students squander a number of chances, consigned the Trinity ladies to the bottom of the division ahead of the trip to Belfield next week.

FIXTURES

04/10/08: Trinity College 2 Hermes 8
11/10/08: Loreto 2 Trinity College 0
16/10/08: UCD v Trinity College
18/10/08: Trinity College v Bray
26-28/10/08: Intervarsities

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.	Railway Union	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
2.	Pembroke Wanderers	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
3.	Hermes	3	2	0	1	10	3	6
4.	Loreto	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
5.	UCD	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
6.	Glenanne	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
7.	Old Alexandra	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
8.	Bray	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
9.	Corinthian	3	0	0	3	1	7	0
10.	**Trinity College**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**10**	**0**

MEN'S HOCKEY

FIXTURES

11/10/08: Dublin University 8 Navan 0
18/10/08: Dublin University v Skerries
26-28/10/08: Intervarsities

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.	Skerries	2	2	0	0	10	1	6
2.	**Dublin University**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**8**	**0**	**3**
3.	Clontarf	1	1	0	0	6	1	3
4.	Suttonians	2	1	0	1	7	4	3
5.	Bray	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
6.	Avoca	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
7.	Weston	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
8.	Naas	2	0	0	2	1	13	0
9.	Navan	2	0	0	2	0	13	0

Stepping out of history's shadow

DUBC's Irish Championship win recalls the glory days of old and ranks alongside the club's greatest past achievments, writes **Peter Henry**

A BIG WIN demands a big celebration, and on Friday week Dublin University Boat Club will mark the senior eight's momentous victory in the Irish championships with a celebration to remember.

The club will be taking over the Dining Hall on the night of Friday, October 24, in what promises to be its largest get-together in living memory. As many as 260 people, students and graduates, will attend the drinks reception and dinner, which will also celebrate 1998 captain James Lindsay-Fynn's World Championship gold medal win. But why is the 2008 senior eight's win – which occurred back in July – so important? Why is it not just another victory among the determined Boat Club's many?

The Irish senior eights championship has been a big deal for every Irish club since it was instituted in 1912. Oarsmen of all clubs and backgrounds will declare that it represents the peak of rowing success in this county. This year, for the first time since 1981, the Big Pot – as it's called – is back with the men in black and white.

The tradition of championship success did not begin for Trinity until 1922. Indeed, for the first years of the event, DUBC were in the final only once. The impact of the Great War on the university was felt among Trinity's sports clubs, with education and athletic endeavour the least of many young men's worries at the time.

Bow man Bobby Steen was first over the line in 1922, and again for Trinity's second win in 1925. In 1926 a win came DUBC's way yet again, won by the hosts at Trinity Regatta. The decade marked a tentative beginning to Trinity's eventual dominance.

In the 1930s the event belonged to the men in black and white, who had adopted the new Fairbairn style of rowing. It was an uplifting string of triumphs: 1932, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938 all saw the Big Pot come home to old Trinity.

DUBC can trace its origins back to the foundation of the Pembroke Club in 1836.

The 1935 championship on the Suir in Waterford was the most dramatic of the decade: in Trinity's heat, both Shannon and Neptune had to be rescued as their boats went under. The lucky DUBC crew drifted over the line as their own boat sank.

Trinity's longest winning streak in the history of the race took place while the world was at war, with the DU eight winning every year from 1941 to 1946. The UCD club put a stop to this catalogue of glory, as they had previously done to the 1930s wins. The universities dominated those years: it was either Trinity or UCD first past the line from 1935 to 1951.

1949 was another memorable win, the Trinity students beating National at Galway Regatta. Robin Tamplin, who became president of DUBC in 2006, was sitting in the seven seat that year. He was in the stroke seat for the following year when the eight left UCD and Neptune behind them in New Ross.

But the years of Trinity's dominance were over. Dublin University would no longer dominate Irish waters. Subsequent wins were glorious but sporadic. The UCD club had come to maturity, and Queen's were looking for their share of the silver.

Two very tight races were won from behind to take the Big Pot in 1954. The next win, in 1958, was a close one. After being knocked out on the first day of Henley by Christ's Cambridge, four days of banter ensued. Preparation for the senior eights championship in Dublin involved a stroll in the Wicklow mountains. A very lucky Trinity beat Garda Síochána by a third of a length that year.

It was 1967 before the next win came Trinity's way, this time in Blessington, Co Wicklow. Coached by Robin Tamplin, DUBC beat UCD and Garda Síochána to win, and the entire eight were selected to race for Ireland at the Home International – as were two of the 2008 winning crew, Peter Heverin and Eoin MacDomhnaill.

A drought ensued, with UCD and the Gardaí the fastest crews in the country for the next decade. But Trinity had big plans, and by 1976 had claimed another championship win. This was the year before the pinnacle of the 20th century: the win at Henley Royal. An almost identical crew lifted the Big Pot in 1976 and the Ladies' Plate in 1977.

Some people wondered if a Trinity student eight could ever do it again. It seemed as if the universities were out of contention as the standard of rowing in Ireland increased and increased. Big Pot-winning crews had Henley winners and Irish internationals on board. The students were out of their league.

But they did it in 1981. The nine men who won the championship that year celebrated the 25th anniversary of their triumph last year. Indeed, "will this be the new 1981?" is one of the questions the oarsmen in the black blazers have asked themselves every year since. It had been a preternatural hope: verbally expressed but doubted within. Could it really ever happen?

As 1981 faded into the past, it seemed less and less likely that a student eight from any Irish university could win the Big Pot again. One of Trinity's apparent drawbacks was its focus on Henley. With very little time to prepare on their return to Ireland, the senior championship was often an afterthought.

When DUBC won the intermediate eights championship in 2006, it was rightfully lauded as a great win for the Trin's first eight. But it was felt that this was as far as a student eight could go. After all, other Trinity clubs have to go outside of College to recruit members in order to stay competitive at the highest level – surely students couldn't go it alone in rowing, the most demanding sport of all?

DUBC was sticking to its own rules – full-time Trinity students only – and paying the price.

But it can be done, and it has been done. They did it this year, defeating crews filled with Oxford blues and Irish internationals. It was the 23rd time DUBC had won the event, and the first time in 26 years.

The senior eights championship is a big deal, and Trinity were up to the challenge of beating the best. And so Boat Club men of all ages will come to college next week to celebrate the greatest win of the generation. It's going to be a great night.

Any current or old Boat Club members who have not been contacted about the event and are interested in attending should write to the club c/o DU Central Athletic Club, or send an email to dubc@tcd.ie.

VICTORIES PAST & PRESENT

Past wins for DUBC in the senior eights championship:
1922, 1925, 1926, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1949, 1950, 1954, 1958, 1967, 1976, 1981, 2008.

2008 winning crew:

Bow	Robert Swift
2	Peter Heverin
3	Paul Laird
4	Alexander Floyd
5	Henry Tindal
6	Eoghan Kerlin
7	Eoin MacDomhnaill
Stroke	Seán Osborne
Cox	Gabriel Magee

NOT FITTING IN GAVE ME A REASON TO STAND OUT.
SIMONA LAMANTIA, TRIPLE JUMP
HERE I AM
DISCOVER A DIFFERENT KIND OF STRENGTH AT NIKEWOMEN.COM

Tennis team more than a match for European titans

A strong showing on clay from a DULTC selection wasn't quite good enough to bring home the trophy, but the experience will stand to all the players involved, writes **Cilian J White**.

THERE IT stood, so tantalizingly close. As Trinity tried to solve Bocconi, an Italian University, in the HEC European Clay Court Tournament final, the finalists' silver sparkled in the sun behind a baseline, 10 feet overhead. Superb against their opponents in the preliminary rounds, Trinity succumbed to Bocconi at Paris, one win short of a Roland Garros title, but our players did not go down without a battle.

The 3rd HEC European Clay Court Tournament, organised by École des Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) de Paris, hosted six European Universities at this year's September event. Those invited to fight it out with two local French clubs on the courts of Roland Garros were University of Zurich (Swizerland), Esade Business School (Spain), Bocconi University (Italy), and Trinity College Dublin (Ireland).

The team from Trinity College Dublin for this two-day event was made up of 6 dedicated players, Mark Crowley (Men's Singles), Kellie O'Flynn (Ladies Singles), Hannah Kirk & Kei Fujiwara (Mixed Doubles) and Joanna Smyth & Cilian White. At the tournament's opening ceremony, the six University teams were divided into two pools, dubbed "Federer" and "Nadal". If the intention was to provide the players with some inspiration, it certainly worked for the Irish side. Drawn against Esade and HEC, the Trinity players fearlessly fought off the challenges of both teams, making their way to a spot in the final. Meanwhile, the identity of their opponents was being resolved in the other pool, as the Italians from Bocconi stealthily made their way to the showdown.

> "This was amazing. I still didn't believe it could happen. I think we both played well, had lots of chances and I am just happy I kept my composure throughout."

Courts were swept and watered, and the nets inspected and adjusted - finals day at Roland Garros, Paris. The sun shone from blue skies overhead, the setting was idyllic - it doesn't come much better than this in University tennis. Umpires from Roland Garros oversaw each of the final games, with Hannah and Kei taking on the mixed doubles first. After two wins from the preliminary rounds, they felt confident of a strong performance. On the day though, the Italian pairing of came out on top after an epic battle of top-class tennis.

Following this, the Men's and Ladies finalists took to the courts. In the Men's Singles final, Crowley faced a difficult match-up against an experienced opponent. It was evident from the start that the Italian was a seasoned clay court player, and on this occasion got the better of Trinity's No. 1. It was a steep learning curve for the Senior Freshman, who commented that "it was tough, but I've been strong, and I made my way there... that gives me a great feeling, you know, a great satisfaction".

Kellie O'Flynn, a Trinity Sports Scholar, took on the challenge of the Ladies Singles. Composing herself well, Kellie started off the stronger player and never looked back, posting a 6-1, 6-1 win in her match. "This was amazing. I still didn't believe it could happen," O'Flynn said in a courtside interview. "I think we both played well, had lots of chances and I am just happy I kept my composure throughout."

The event was an aberration of sorts, not because Trinity is demonstrably playing surprisingly good tennis, but because the players are doing it in the 16th arrondissement on clay, a surface that rarely has been graced by the feet of these players. This showing will further drive the already strong vision for the development of tennis in Trinity. To partake in such a high-quality tournament was fantastic, but to reach the final was the icing on the cake.

If you are interested in joining the tennis club, please see our website at www.tennis.tcdlife.ie, or email us at tennis@tcd.ie for further details.

The Commentary Box

Conor James McKinney

College sport is a tough gig, in many ways. In most of the major sports it acts as a vital link between school competition and the professional or top level of the game. While in some disciplines children or teenagers can emerge from the chrysalis ready to take on the world, generally speaking the agea between 18-24 are crucial in a player's development – but a period in which many are needlessly let slip through the cracks.

The trouble with sending would-be athletes through the college is the potential for distraction. It must be hard to focus on your training with the siren call of nights out with two euro drinks, guaranteed absolutely savage, ringing in your ears. Any commitments with a society or, heaven forbid, getting entangled in a publication of some sort will make demands on your time. Lectures traditionally fall low on the list of priorities in a student's first couple of years, but anyone with serious sporting ambitions will find even the holy grail of the bare minimum a lot to handle.

Anyway, that's not really the point, because as this column has previously pointed out, the chances of us producing many elite athletes aren't all that high anyway. Chaps like Leinster's Jamie Heaslip and the cricketer Ed Joyce are generally the exception that proves the rule, and developed most of their skills outside these walls. Put another way, they would very likely have succeeded without ever having come to Trinity – we cannot be said to have "produced" them in the same way that a club, academy or better-equipped university does.

> It doesn't matter, and should never matter, how atrocious someone is at sport – the pleasure to be found in the lower echelons of a sport is unique.

No, the major problem with college sport is the attrition suffered among average to poor competitors during the transition from school to college. Many people who played casually in their schooldays, whether because they were forced to or not, will drop that part of their life upon entry to college. This doesn't matter much in terms of producing good teams, as the very best players will keep up their chosen discipline, but in the opinion of this column, the more the merrier. Each person lost to a game – whether it be soccer, cricket, sailing or table tennis – is a blow to that game, and indeed for that admirable but largely fictional notion of the "college community".

On a personal level, though, the loss is more profound. It doesn't matter, and should never matter, how atrocious someone is at sport – the pleasure to be found in the lower echelons of a sport is unique. Mega League soccer, volleyball, Third XI hockey – the sort of thing that no spectator could value but has a strange, seemingly inexplicable allure to the intiated. Michael Green's classic "The Art of Coarse Rugby", now decades old, is one of the most hilariously accurate accounts of the tribulations of the mediocre sportsman. It also provides a clue to his motivations. Buried in there somewhere is the explanation of just why people drag themselves along of a miserable evening or weekend to turn out for a really bad team.

> Real athletes will never know how it feels to win something truly pointless and be ecstatically happy about it afterwards.

It's got nothing to do with keeping in shape or getting any better. Rather, it is a reflection of the mutable nature of sport. The amazing thing about it is the way in which even the most casual game, played with a thumping hangover, in a ground miles from anywhere, on a pitch more suited to grazing camels than anything else, is transformed into something that matters, for a time.

There are certain moments that are part of the rich tapestry of life, when the muscles ache and lungs are bursting and the contest is tight, and winning all of a sudden takes on a new importance. The snapshot image of the most laid-back teammate, never known to care about anything in his life, all fired up and dripping sweat, cursing his way through the last five minutes. The sight of people around you giving it their all, for no other reason than the pure joy of competition, which can transcend even the mundane and unlikely of occasions. That sudden flutter of pride in belonging to a *team*, the other members of which were mere acquaintances at the start of the collective ordeal. The sheer joy of a victory born not of skill, strength or a rigorous fitness regime - devoid of everything, in fact, but sheer bloody-minded determination.

This special sort of of adrenaline-fuelled camaraderie is impossible to hold on to but forms a bond that never really goes away. Everyone should experience those moments. Real athletes will never know how it feels to win something truely pointless and be ecstatically happy about it afterwards. If you can't relate to all this in some way, you need to get out and *play*.

A lot of the time, admittedly, the other team turn out to be a lot bigger, stronger, faster and more skilful than you, win by some unreasonable margin, someone sprains an ankle, and everyone goes home in a worse mood than when they went out. It's a bit like panning for gold – the good days are generally lurking in there somewhere, on a windy pitch in the pouring rain, or in some backwater competition that nobody wants to be at. The point is, you'll never find them unless you look.

RUGBY

LEINSTER DIVISION 2 (MEN)

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	TB	LB	Pts
1.	Bruff	2	2	0	0	1	0	9
2.	Malone	2	2	0	0	0	0	8
3.	Ballynahinch	2	2	0	0	0	0	8
4.	Lansdowne	2	1	1	0	1	0	7
5.	U.C.C.	2	1	1	0	1	0	7
6.	Bective Rangers	2	1	0	1	1	1	6
7.	Old Crescent	2	1	0	1	0	1	5
8.	**Dublin University**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**5**
9.	Belfast Harlequins	2	1	0	1	0	1	5
10.	Greystones	2	1	0	1	0	1	5
11.	Highfield	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
12.	Wanderers	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
13.	Clonakilty	2	0	0	2	0	1	1
14.	Thomond	2	0	0	2	0	1	1
15.	D.L.S.P.	2	0	0	2	0	1	2
16.	Instonians	2	0	0	2	0	0	0

SCORES & FIXTURES

04/10/08: Dublin University 13 Clonakilty 3

11/10/08: Old Crescent 19 Dublin University 13

18/10/08: Greystones v Dublin University

25/10/08: Dublin University v Bective Rangers

Tennis – Floodlight League:
14/10/08 Trinity 1 v Donnybrook 1 (ladies)
20/10/08 Donnybrook 1 v Trinity 1 (men)

Squash – Leinster League:
22/10/08: Trinity A v Westwood B (ladies)
22/10/08: Westwood A v Trinity A (men)

Gaelic football – Intervarsity League Round 3:
23/10/08: Trinity v The Law School

Hurling – Intervarsity League Round 2:
22/10/08: Tallaght IT v Trinity

Ultimate Frisbee – Indoor Tournaments
18/20/08: Whacking Day
25-26/10/08: Edinburgh Beginners

Captains: To have your club's results and fixtures included in this section, just send the information to collegesport@trinitynews.ie, or by text to 085 785 9980.

Trinity ladies dine at Ultimate's top table

Any Irish women's team faces a formidable battle to achieve world championship standard, especially in a sport still in its infancy. Former DUUFC captain **Linda Barry** reflects on the long and winding road to Vancouver.

WOMEN'S ULTIMATE in Ireland was transformed by the EUC07 experience, which saw an extraordinary advance on the previous international outings in terms of level of commitment, regularity of training and standard of play. Our 13th place finish at the world championships in Vancouver was a massive achievement for a country with such a small player base to call upon.

It had been unclear initially whether Ireland would even field a women's team. A meeting was held in October 2007 to plan the upcoming season. It quickly became clear that there was eagerness to play women's ultimate, to improve as individual players and not to let the once-every-four-year opportunity of participating in a global event pass us by.

A squad of 18 was selected over the course of two trial days in January. An incredible 35 women tried out over the course of these dates, coming from around Ireland and the UK to bid for a place on the Irish team. The line-up, announced at the beginning of February, included four players who have played in every international event since the Irish women's team's debut at EUC03, including Trinity's Sparky Booker. Among the five new caps, three of whom were current or past Trinity players (Heather Barry, Finola Shannon and Katie Twidwell).

Leaving little time to sit back and revel in being selected for the national team, the fitness plan kicked in from the second week of February. There was something in there to turn everyone's stomach – distance running, shuttles, pushups, fartleks – with the far off promise of washboard abs and a Zaytoon kebab to get us through the 24 weeks. Training began at the end of February with a session on deep cutting from men's coach Cian Ó Móráin and a team night out, both of which gave rise to catch-phrases that would last the whole season. March turned out to be a rough month with disagreements about the training schedule, sessions cancelled due to flooded pitches and exasperation over paying so much money, putting ourselves through the gruelling fitness plan and never actually getting to play together!

In mid-April we had our first full weekend session with our new coach – Lucy Barnes of top women's club Brutesquad, who happened to be a Trinity player for the year as well – and this marked a turning point. A new voice and an outside perspective boosted the work ethic at training and Lucy's attention to detail, understanding of the game and time for each individual player couldn't have come at a better time with our first warm-up tournament just around the corner.

Our competitive season started in May at Tom's Tourney in Bruges, with a match against YAKA (the French women's team – our closest rivals from EUC07). It was a whitewash in YAKA's favour, but one which ended up having positive consequences as we resolved never to go down that easily again. Our only other losses of the weekend were in a close match against Tequila Boom Boom (10-7) and to Wonderful Copenhagen, which we avenged when we beat them in the final placing game for 5th spot at the tournament.

> "Yes, it is expensive and involves a big commitment in the months leading up to the tournament but this is the single biggest thing that can develop the level of play"

Throughout the preparations for WUGC08 we implemented a training schedule based on less frequent team sessions but with maximum turnout and high intensity. This amounted to one team session/weekend per month from February to April and two per month from May to July. Thursday evening sessions began in mid-April for the Dublin players and ran weekly right through until we left for Vancouver. This weeknight training was focused on the national team but was open to any other female players who wanted to come along and improve their skills. Some players took real advantage of this throughout the season and this allowed them to really step up aspects of their game as well as to get an insight into the intensity and commitment involved in representing Ireland. We also ran more relaxed sessions approximately once a month, on Sundays when there wasn't national team training or a major tournament, aimed at those not on the WUGC team.

We arrived at Windmill Windup in Amsterdam with our full team playing competitively together for the first time! It was a chance for us to play our separate Offence and Defence lines and to test our level against a number of other national teams. We came out strong on offence right from the start and as the weekend wore on our defence became much more confident, aggressive and intelligent. On day one we won three out of four games, leaving us in a strong position and really geared up going into day two. After beating the Spanish National Team without conceding a score in the morning, we had an epic game against Primavera Olandese which ended in sudden death. Our offensive line did what offensive lines do best – scored the point and put us into the quarters! Two convincing wins against Leeds and YAKA gave us a spot in the final where we unfortunately weren't on top form against a small but strong Italian Women's Team. We were delighted with our performance and our results overall and still had six weeks to fine-tune our game before WUGC. If 13th didn't quite reflect the potential of the side, it definitely gave the national team a lot to build upon in the years ahead.

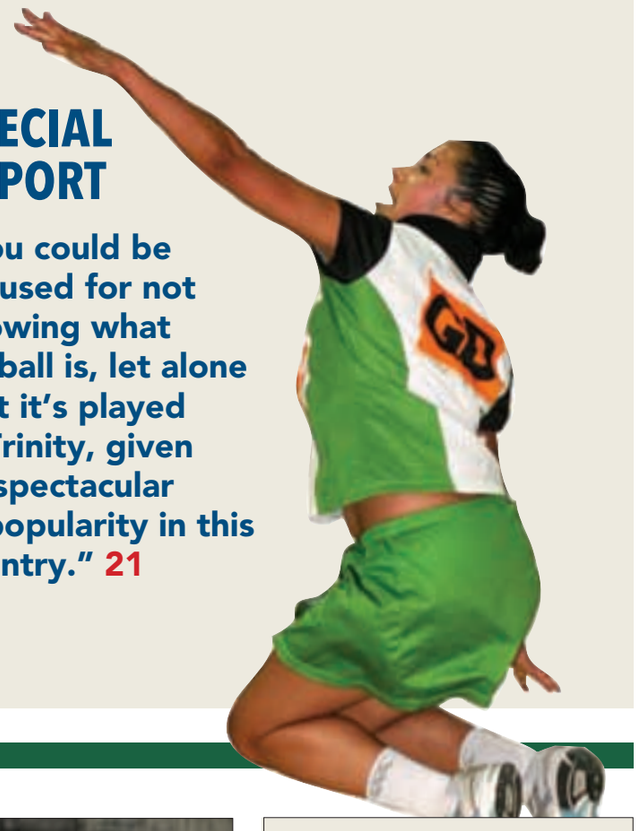
Many European countries opted not to send women's teams to Vancouver because of the cost, the prospect of getting beaten and the decision to focus on developing women's ultimate at home. Yes, it is expensive and involves a big commitment in the months leading up to the tournament, but the Irish women's experience over the past two years has shown that, win or lose, preparing for and competing in a World Championship event is the single biggest thing that can develop the level of play.

Insofar as Trinity Ultimate goes, it's worth noting that a DUUFC player has won Irish Beginner of the Year for the last three years running. If you see yourself playing for Ireland someday, it's a great place to start.

DULTC TRIUMPH AT ROLAND GARROS 23

SPORT

Trinity News
Tuesday, October 14, 2008



SPECIAL REPORT

"You could be excused for not knowing what netball is, let alone that it's played in Trinity, given its spectacular unpopularity in this country." 21

Clonakilty didn't seem able to put their advantage to good use. Photo: Martin McKenna

MATCH STATS

SCORE

DUFC	13
CLONAKILTY	3

DATE
4 OCTOBER

VENUE
COLLEGE PARK

REFEREE
JONATHAN PEAKE

TEAM
15 PAUL GILLESPIE
14 CHRIS JEBB
13 CONOR COLCLOUGH
12 RICHARD BRADY
11 CILLIAN STAFFORD
10 MICHAEL BOLAND
9 BRYAN JOHNSON
1 TRISTAN GOODBODY
2 MARK MURDOCH
3 JAMES GETHINGS
4 COLIN MCDONNELL
5 SCOTT LAVALLA
6 JOHN BYRNE
7 SHANE YOUNG (C)
8 BRIAN COYLE

SUBSTITUTES
16 ALAN MATHEWS
17 PADDY MCCABE
18 PAT DANAHY
19 EDDIE HAMILTON
20 ANDY WALLACE

MAN OF THE MATCH
SCOTT LAVALLA

HONOURABLE MENTIONS go to Young and Boland for some crucial kicks, but it was LaValla who looked the part for the entire 80. Outstanding in the lineout, along with Colin McDonnell, and got through a mountain of work in the loose.

Rugby team clinches AIL opener

Sound defence seals victory as Trinity edge past "bogey team" at College Park

By James O'Donnell
Rugby correspondent

LAST SATURDAY'S contest between DUFC and Clonakilty was, by virtue of the early kick-off, the first game of the new AIL season, and if the standard of play wasn't exactly vintage, the weather conditions were classic Irish rugby. The Trinity boys weathered a blustery, drizzly afternoon by pouncing upon the few scoring opportunities that came their way, and shutting the door firmly on any chances for their opponents.

Coach Tony Smeeth had described Clonakilty as Trinity's "bogey team" before the game, and in a neat twist of fate it was their hefty tight-head Tony Bogue – affectionately referred to as "Bogey" by the travelling supporters – who led the way in the demolition of the DUFC scrum. It was only from the lineout, which functioned like a dream with the exception of one or two wind-wrecked throws, that DUFC were able to establish a solid attacking platform.

Platform or not, scores were thin on the ground in the first half, with out-half Michael Boland squandering a relatively simple penalty opportunity in the second minute. He was nearly made to rue it soon afterwards, when DUFC were penalised for holding on and Clonakilty sought to make use of the wind from beyond the ten metre line. They missed too.

For the next half an hour, both sides engaged in a knocking-on contest, with Trinity just about shading it. Clonakilty didn't seem able to put their advantage in the resulting scrums to good use – poor service from the base and slow ball from subsequent breakdowns hampered their attacking efforts. They resorted to the boot, and it was when a series of poor kicks – the first of many such exchanges – was finally ended by Scott LaValla, whose determined chasing netted him an indecisive Clonakilty back. One crunching tackle and some good rucking later, the arm went up; Boland redeemed himself by addressing the ball sweetly and putting DUFC in the lead.

That aside, Trinity didn't have the required muscle to force their way through the red shirts, despite game attempts by John Byrne and Brian Coyle. Their one clear-cut chance came when Boland ignored the posts to go for touch after Clonakilty infringed at the breakdown. A series of forward drives were halted just short of the line, and when the ball went wide a basic move broke down in crossing. The backs weren't threatening at all, in fact, and even made a rare defensive blunder when fullback Paul Gillespie dropped an aimless Garryowen just before halftime. A retreating pack cracked at the resulting scrum, No. 8 Coyle saw yellow, and Clonakilty knocked over a morale-denting equaliser to make it 3-3 at the interval.

Pat Danahy was put in on the left wing in an effort to sharpen the backline's claws, but with Coyle in the bin Clonakilty stepped up a gear and began to make inroads into the Trinity defence. The home side were up for the challenge, though – with captain Shane Young to the fore, the big hits started coming in. The replacement Clonakilty scrum-half looked sharp initially, but his shine wore off after being hit hard behind the ruck by LaValla in a typical spot of spoiling by the Trinity pack.

Ironically, given Trinity's continued difficulties at scrum time, it was a penalty conceded by the opposition front row that gave them the lead. Boland pocketed a routine three points, having put in an almighty relieving kick to get into the Clonakilty half in the first place. The Corkmen weren't making life easy for themselves – Mr. Peake let them away with nothing – and their tendency to infringe at the breakdown was getting increasingly hazardous to their health with Boland getting his kicking in order. On around the 55 minute mark, the out-half hauled his side into the Clonakilty 22 for the first time in the half with a penalty to the right touchline. The lineout proved its worth again – a good take and neat manoeuvre allowed Coyle to celebrate his return from the infamy of the bin with a try in the right-hand corner. Boland put the seal on a great spell by squeezing over a difficult conversion.

Clonakilty huffed and puffed, but the house stood firm: Young, Murdoch and Byrne all put bodies on the line, and move after plodding move faltered as Trinity refused to allow them clean possession – Tristan Goodbody typifying the opportunistic spirit with his dive onto a loose ball at the base of the ruck to break up another Clonakilty attack. The attacking effort never got going, however, with ineffectual variations on a crash ball to 12 the only move in town. It didn't matter much, as the match petered out in a pattern of repeated turnovers between the 22s. As one away supporter put it "you'd get old watching this carry-on", but Trinity had the cushion and can be happy with how their defence held up. Fittingly, the final whistle came after DUFC had wrested possession from their opponents at the breakdown yet again.

It wasn't quite a good start to the season, but with three points in the bag, nobody around College Park was complaining.

HOCKEY

Sun shines at Santry as First XI cruise to victory

SCORE

DUHC	8
NAVAN BADGERS	0

By Conor James McKinney
Sport Editor

"THE TEAM did what we asked them to do", said coach Ronan Pelow after the final whistle, and if what the DUHC First XI had been asked to do was to give their opponents a painful lesson in how to play hockey, it was mission accomplished by half time. Trinity's first game in Division 2 saw the league debut of Junior Freshman Andy Gray. It was his more experienced colleagues who did the real damage, however – Barry Glavey in particular ran proceedings from midfield without appearing to break a sweat. Probably an unfair suggestion, as the result had as much to do with Trinity determination and skill as Navan incompetence. Chris Pillow showed the way scarcely two minutes in, when he picked up the ball in the circle to the left of the Navan goal. The two defenders in between him and goal didn't prove much of a problem, and an emphatic finish got Trinity off to a perfect start.

The Badgers never really got into their stride. Their focus was on the right flank, but they reckoned without the speed of the home side's counter-attack, which yielded a short corner after a Navan raid on the Trinity half broke down. A confident Glavey sent the ball into the roof of the net to make it 2-0.

It was becoming apparent that the beleaguered Badgers had no answer to the DUHC attack; the technical skills on display were all in green jerseys, with Ben Hewitt in particular showing some fabulously deft touches. Gray was coming more and more into the game, and showed why he had been catapulted into the team. After deflecting in a powerful Glavey shot for goal number three, the midfielder then turned provider; a neat inside pass by Stuart Cinnamond enabled a fast cross from Gray to find Pillow unmarked. His first finish was saved, but the big forward tucked away the rebound to effectively end the game as a contest.

The precautionary substitution of captain Orr didn't do much to break the flow, with Trinity continuing to string passes together like pearls on a necklace. Aaron Jolley didn't get his first touch until around fifteen minutes into the game, and wasn't forced into a save until a rare Navan attack was rewarded with a short corner. The shot was straight at him, and as if to punish the Meath men for their temerity Trinity went on the rampage once again; good work from Gray and Hewitt won another short corner, and although the direct route was blocked, substitute Cian O'Reilly knocked in the rebound.

It's a rare team that wouldn't slack off a little with a five-goal cushion, and Navan were able to conjure up their first shot on goal from open play near the end of the half. Pelow, obviously conscious of the need to sharpen up his charges' play for days when it might really matter, was bemoaning several wayward passes when the half time whistle blew.

There was no revolution in the second period, though, with Navan rarely offering anything constructive – indeed, they decided to up the aggression rather than the tempo, with several instances of unnecessarily dirty play sidling into their game. Trinity, in truth, weren't above a few niggling fouls themselves. It took them a while to put the final gloss on the scoreline – O'Reilly miscued what should have been goal number six – but when they did break the second-half ice, it was with considerable style. Daire Coady trotted up from the defence to take another short corner. His low, hard and above all accurate shot signalled the resumption of normal service.

The Badgers did their best to stem the flow, applying a new goalkeeper as a makeshift tourniquet. The new arrival made several saves, but his most memorable contribution was to strike Gray in the face following an entanglement. The umpires failed to act, but Trinity had their revenge with two more goals. Cinnamond and Hewitt pounced in quick succession to ensure a democratic spread of laurels and a comprehensive victory.

In the light of an 8-0 win, Pelow's post-match observation that Trinity hadn't been up against the strongest opposition was probably redundant, even for someone as untutored in hockey as this reporter. The test now is surely consistency; another home game against Skerries this Saturday will show whether or not DUHC have the makings of promotion challengers.

THE TEAM

A. Jolley, B. Cleere, A. Stanley, D. Coady, I. Gorman, B. Hewitt, B. Glavey, J. Orr (c), A. Gray, S. Cinnamond, C. Pillow.

Subs: C. Moore, N. Odlum, C. O'Reilly, J. Hegarty, S. McKechnie