

# TRINITY NEWS



FEATURE 10

## LOSING OUT BY DEGREES

Is your course a waste of time?

Student research in the field

## OPERATION WALLACEA

SCIENCE 19

## BOTTLE KICKING

What are these Leicestershire men doing?

TRAVEL 20



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Issue 5, Volume 55

# Protesters split at visit of Minister

- » SU “Silent Protest” against Batt O’Keeffe
- » FEE group attack concept
- » SU criticised for not publicising event enough
- » Reilly shakes hands with O’Keeffe

By Rory O’Connor

A “SILENT Protest” against Minister for Education Batt O’Keeffe in Trinity College last Tuesday ran into problems when protesters were divided as to whether they should stay silent or chant. SU President, Cathal Reilly, was unwilling to protest loudly as it would disturb the launch that Mr O’Keeffe was attending. The Students Union has been criticised by student activist group, FEE (Free Education for Everyone) for failing to publicise the protest effectively.

Approximately 100 students attended the rally, organised by the SU. A large presence from FEE (Free Education for Everyone) chanted, [”Batt O’Keeffe, hear us clear, keep your fees out of here!” and “They say cutback, we say fight back.”

However, the protest revealed important tactical differences between the two organisations: the SU had called for a silent protest, while FEE had brought their megaphones. The poster advertising the protest read, “He won’t talk to us, so we won’t talk to him.” Mr O’Keeffe was attending a launch of the programme for excellence in PhDs in the humanities.

It only became clear that Mr O’Keeffe was visiting the College late on Tuesday. Posters arrived in the Arts Block on the

morning of the event, but were not visible on boards in the Hamilton Building.

FEE leaders thought the SU should also have issued a general email to students informing them. The SU felt it was wrong to send more than one that week. The regular circular email contained information about the Student Activist Summit, which was to have been held in College, but was cancelled.

A SU desk in the Arts Block was

“Union leaders have no experience in organising effective protests, it’s not the kind of thing they do” Aidan Beatty



publicising a Voter Registration drive on the day of the protest. But it was not publicising the protest, as FEE members felt they should. A person at the desk told *Trinity News* that he was “aware” of the protest.

To the annoyance of some of the protesters, Mr Reilly was on the far side of the Garda barriers, and shook hands with Mr O’Keeffe.

Aidan Beatty of FEE called the meeting “pretty despicable”. Mr Reilly defended greeting the Minister, saying,

Continued on page 2



Campus Security attempt to remove a UCD protestor. Photo: Anna Laine

# CSC introduces ‘overposting’ fine

By Jessica Ryan and Deirdre Robertson

A COLLEGE crackdown on “illegal” posting has led to heavy fines, student rivalry and calls for more posting space in College.

In an email from the Central Societies Committee last week, societies were warned not to put more than one poster advertising an event on a society board. After a first offence warning, societies will face a 10% cut in their grant.

SUAS was the first society to receive a warning for over-postering. Spokesman Shane Garahy said the society would not appeal the warning. “I think it’s fair that the regulations apply to all societies even those that are charitable organisations...

If (the fine) was too small, people won’t take any notice.” Other societies disagree. Chair of PsychSoc Michelle McMahon says “the PsychSoc has received its first official warning and to be totally honest can’t afford to receive another which would result in a cut to our grant.” Thomas

“They’re not new regulations, they’re just being more strongly imposed. People complain.”



Kinsella, Auditor of the DU Historical Society, and Barry Devlin, President of the Philosophical Society, which societies boast the largest memberships in College, both agree that the 10% fine is “huge” and “disproportionate”.

Rob Kearns, Secretary of the CSC, said to *Trinity News* “Realistically, the best way to create a disincentive to break rules is to threaten to hit societies in their pockets, and that’s what we’re doing.”

Emma Matthews of the CSC stated that excessive posting was a major litter problem and that the time had come for tougher action. “They’re not new regulations,” she said, they’re just being more strongly imposed. The reason we’re doing it is because of the amount of posting around the campus... We’re doing it really because people are complaining about it”.

The CSC is encouraging student involvement in the policing of the regulations saying “if you pass a CSC board and you see a poster which you believe contravenes the rules, you may remove

it and dispose of it in as environmentally friendly way as possible.”

There are some concerns that societies competing for student attention and money may use the sanctions to engage in society warfare by tampering with rival posters. SU representative Stiofán Ó Broin, said, “People already engage in this type of thing, but I don’t think it’s malicious... it’s a waste of time, space and paper”

Mr Ó Broin noted that many societies place posters on the SU boards where they should be putting their material up on CSC boards. Mr Kinsella independently expressed an opposing view that the SU puts posters on CSC boards which is unfair to societies. The issue, he said, is not the sanctions but that there is a lack of posting space in College for events.



# FIRST XV SNATCH COLOURS VICTORY AT THE DEATH

SCORE

DUFC  
UCD

20  
18

NOBODY GAVE them a chance. Not the bookies, not the pundits – not even *Trinity News*, which reluctantly predicted a 10-20 point UCD victory. But the rugby team added another chapter to its proud history (over 150 years, for those keeping score), taking the Colours trophy with a converted try in the final minutes of the game. Although the side won in 2006/07 – by a similarly slender

margin – that could well have gone down as an aberration given UCD’s comprehensive victory in last season’s match, and their dominance over the past decade.

The passion evident in the side’s performance shows that the fixture retains its prestige in the professional era; the result allows us to hope that Trinity will be competitive against their great rivals for years to come. Insofar as the rest of the season goes, this victory over Division 1 opposition ought to leave the First XV confident that they can take on all comers and mount a strong promotion challenge.

INSIDE

MATCH REPORT, ANALYSIS & REACTION: PAGE 24 & 23

# Library opening hours to be extended again

By Emily Monk

FOLLOWING STUDENT demand the Berkeley/Lecky/Ussher library complex will, beginning immediately, open on Sundays from 11am - 5pm.

These facilities were initially introduced during Hilary Term 2008 and, proving successful, it was decided to continue these opening times to the Michaelmas term and extend the new times to the Hamilton library.

However, the College Library Committee, describing last year’s opening hours as a “pilot project,” reverted to Sunday closure on the grounds that the Library budget couldn’t stretch to cover the costs involved.

Cathal Reilly, president of the Student’s Union, says that upon first hearing of the Sunday closure, he “questioned college on a number of occasions about this and found that they were reluctant to provide the funding for this service, as the level sector (*sic*) was subject to some funding cuts.”

After negotiations between Reilly, Education Officer Hugh Sullivan, the Librarian, and the Vice-Provost, it has been agreed that necessary funding will be provided by revenue generated from tourists visiting the Book of Kells.

Without Sunday openings, Trinity has the shortest library opening hours of any university in Ireland (though equal to Maynooth.) At the moment,

the libraries in Trinity are open for up to 77 hours per week, five hours less than the average Irish university and considerably less than UCD’s 103.5 hours a week.

Reilly recognises that “it is essential the library opens on Sundays and it has always been a priority for the SU. For a university that is ranked 49th in the world, we should have the facilities of a top university.”

Despite the improved opening hours, there is still no access to the usual counter reserve service and books cannot be taken out.

Reilly, speaking with *Trinity News*, described the development of extended opening hours as “fantastic news,” despite the limitations imposed.

Last year the Students’ Union distributed a survey asking students to rank eleven issues in order of importance. Library facilities and study space were ranked top from a sample of 1100 respondents, illustrating enormous demand.

The new opening hours will be in place for the rest of the year and will be extended to the Hamilton after the Christmas break. There will be an assessment of the feasibility of continuing this facility in future years, depending on library turnout over the next couple of terms.

Sullivan has warned that even with the increase in registration fee, “cuts of up to 15% are due in the next college budget.” and that “library opening hours could be targeted.”





**'I think the silent protest would have worked with the amount of protesters there.'**  
- SU President Cathal Reilly speaking about the FEE leaders who chanted throughout the SU organised 'Silent Protest'

**'Unending liberalism from lawyers, judges, politicians and human rights lobbyists has landed us in this mess.'**

- Pat Reid on the causes of gang violence in Limerick

**'There really is no excuse for bad style or poor spelling.'**

- French Senior Lecturer David Parris on the importance of a good academic style: Opinion p16

## THIS FORTNIGHT THEY SAID...

Compiled by Deirdre Robertson and Tom Lowe

E: quotes@trinitynews.ie

**'We were very fortunate'**

- Tony Smeeth, Coach of Trinity's First XV, on his team's Colours victory: Sport p23



**'There was an agreement that we would go up, recognise them, which is fine, I have no issue with that, and then I would walk across the bridge and I enjoyed the walk'**

- Controversy in UL when a quote from Minister Martin Cullen suggested the SU had a secret arrangement with the Minister despite a student protest.

**'The best we can hope is that this is the darkest hour before dawn.'**

- Illustrator David Polonsky on his vision of the future of the world.

**'We can have this party and no-one can stop up'**

- Nick Roberts, student at Queen's University, Canada on the banning of their annual Homecoming: International news, page 7



**'I can see myself up there with my camcorder saying "wow, it is worth every penny"'**

- Entrepreneur Bill Cullen announcing his decision to pay €160,000 for a ticket to space, speaking at Trinity's Science Gallery during Science Week.

**'The union leaders have no experience in organising effective protests, it's not the kind of thing they do'.**

- FEE leader Aidan Beatty criticised the Trinity SU saying they did not effectively publicise the student protest on Thursday.

**'I once murdered a man called Max Tundra and stole his identity.'**

- Ben Jacobs aka Max Tundra, London-based songwriter, gives TN2 a 'special' reason for choosing Max Tundra as his stage name.

## NUMEROLOGY

Compiled by Deirdre Robertson

100

» The approximate number of students who attended the SU-organised "Silent Protest" against Minister Batt O'Keeffe on Tuesday 18th November.

300

» The number of left-handed desks that SU Education Office Hugh Sullivan proposes distributing around the Arts Building.

9

» The score of Trinity's winning team in the first ever boardgaming colours match hosted by the Trinity Gamers Society.

€160,000

» The price that three Irish businessmen will pay to be the first tourists in space in the next three years. Announced as part of Science Week at the Science Gallery.

### CLARIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS

In the soccer article titled "Soccer team crash out of uni league", published on November 11, 2008, a number of spelling mistakes were included that were entirely the fault of the College Sport editor and not of the writer, Niall Walsh, to whom we apologise. The player photographed was also incorrectly named as Evin O'Reilly rather than Daniel Moriarty.

The article titled "Southern Area Officer resigns from USI" (page 5, November 11, 2008) incorrectly implied that Kris McElhinny was a full-time officer of the USI and a student at the same time. McElhinny dropped to being a voluntary officer of the USI before leaving.

### INFORMATION

EDITOR:  
DEPUTY EDITOR:  
WEBSITE:  
BUSINESS MANAGER:  
COPY EDITORS:

Martin McKenna  
Anna Stein  
Stuart Martin  
Lia Prendergast  
Tom Lowe  
Eleanor Friel  
Nick Beard  
Kara Furr  
Kiera Healy  
Ruth Mahony  
Rachel Kennedy  
Deirdre Robertson  
Una Geary  
Kasia Mychajlowycz  
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TN2 EDITOR:  
FILM:  
MUSIC:  
FASHION:  
BOOKS:  
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FOOD AND DRINK:

All Trinity News staff can be contacted at  
firstname.lastname@trinitynews.ie.

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# Silent protest drowned out

Continued from page 1

"he has agreed to sit down and meet with me and discuss the issue of fees."

Members of FEE led the chants. They believed it would create a bigger impression as numbers were not great enough to create the effect of massed rows of silent students. They also wanted to 'let O'Keeffe know what we think of him.' Scenes of loud protest were carried on TV3 News. Mr Reilly said, "I think the silent protest would have worked with the amount of protesters there."

Twenty UCD members of FEE were also openly present at the demonstration, carrying UCD FEE posters. But they were forced to leave by security guards, who also asked other Trinity students for college ID cards. FEE leader Aidan Beatty said he asked Mr Reilly to protest the ejection but Mr Reilly says he was not aware of the conspicuous fall in numbers until "long after it had occurred." Journalists from the Irish Independent called Mr Beatty asking if the UCD students had been arrested.

FEE members had announced that they intended to blockade or otherwise

disrupt Mr O'Keeffe's visit. FEE leader Aidan Beatty said this was cancelled due to "an intimidating Garda presence".

FEE are now highly critical of the SU, saying that it did not do enough to publicise the event. They are expected to tell Mr Reilly that they intend not to depend on the union to organise protests in future. Mr Beatty said, "The union leaders have no experience in organising effective protests, it's not the kind of thing they do."

They also point to the SU in UCD, where the Vice President is now officially also the Campaigns Officer for such as that on student fees. Dan O'Neill, who currently holds the office, was among those blockading the Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan when he visited the college last month. Activist groups in UCD also feel that they can work more closely with their SU on fees than groups here.

Meanwhile, the Provost, who greeted the Minister, has clarified his position on fees, saying that it is important that colleges are properly funded somehow. Reintroduction would "solve the Government's funding problem, but not ours," he said.



Omar el Baradie is the strong, silent type, but FEE members aren't afraid to voice their disapproval. Photo: Anna Laine



# Gamers win inaugural Colours

By Sarah Rose Montague

THE EVENING of Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November was a historic date for one of Trinity's less well-known societies: Trinity Gamers Society. It saw the very first boardgaming competition held between Trinity and UCD. The society, which has been running for over three decades, is dedicated to boardgames and role-playing games and was the organiser of the event. About 25 people turned up at Goldsmith Hall to take part in the competition, which consisted of one-on-one competition in the games Memoir 44, Thud, and Little Wars. Trinity Gamers were confident of victory, believing themselves to be more dedicated than the opposition.

After three hours of combating, Trinity Gamers did indeed emerge victorious with a resounding win of 9 points to UCD's 5. The scores were tied between TCD and UCD in both Thud and Little Wars, but Trinity clawed back the points with a defiant win in Memoir 44. They defended their college colours and earned themselves a large trophy (even



Boardgame Memoir 44 in action. Photo: Carmelo Speltino

if they did have to buy it for themselves!)

The Chair of Trinity Gamers, Aidan Duggan, hopes that the competition will become an annual event between the two colleges, with UCD hosting next year. In general, the society's activity is based predominantly on day-to-day

unscheduled boardgaming and role-playing in their dungeon-like room in Goldsmith Hall.

Members go to relax, socialise and get away from the stresses of college academic life by escaping to the realms of fantasy.

The main event of the year for the society is their annual convention: Leprecon. The next one, to be held in the new year, marks the thirtieth anniversary of the event, making it Ireland's oldest gaming convention. The main organisation of the event is undertaken by the members of the society, which number up to two hundred on paper, but have a core, active membership of about forty to fifty members. They also travel to other annual conventions, such as those held in Belfast and Cork.

The Gamers society is unique in that it is not associated with any computer games, games consoles and is not affiliated with any other societies, such as the Sci Fi society. The members seem passionate about the social and tactical aspect of the games that they play, which range from serious war games to more light-hearted card games. They claim that they will play any game that is brought to the table, even Monopoly! Although there was a strong sense of competition against UCD, the society is based on the old-fashioned enjoyment of games, hence their motto: 'Trade in your degree for a good time!'

# LGBT holds auditions for TNTM

By Jessica Ryan

WALKING INTO the audition room in the Atrium, all eyes darted towards new entrants; sussing out posture, pose and pout. The time of year has come once again for a campus wide search for *Trinity's Next Top Model*.

As in previous years, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender society has run a phenomenally successful campaign, searching for talent from the depths of the Hamilton to the top floor of the Ussher in this hugely popular event. Cycle three looks more interesting then ever.

Organising committee member, Cormac Cashman, says that the turnout for this year's first auditions and model training was very strong. He hopes that the next set of auditions will be attract as many participants. The date is yet to be decided. Mr. Cashman insists that the contest is completely open to everyone of all shapes, sizes and genders and that "the more that take part, the better for all involved." It was fair to say that the Atrium was indeed filled with a great cross-section of tall, short, skinny and not so-skinny Trinity students. Curiously, there were more boys than girls there early, but it soon evened out.

The models in training did their best Naomi Campbell impressions, (minus the mobile throwing, screeching and overall diva behaviour).

One model-in-training told me after the auditions that "the more extravagant your walk is and the more you shake your ass, the 'nicer' the constructive criticism will be."

The prize for winning *Trinity's Next Top Model* is a much coveted First Options contract which is up for grabs in the final on the 22nd January during Rainbow Week. I asked some of the potential models (too shy to be named) for their gameplans. Some were coy, revealing nothing.

Others had mischievous glints in their eyes, suggesting secret plans to grab the judges' attention in future rounds. The LGBT Society promise a few surprises to put into the mix, including what they call a "mystery round".

Initially, students may shy away from the thought of sashaying up and down the Trinity runway, but the organisers are asking students to shelve their nerves and help the LGBT in raising funds for the Open Heart House, an organisation promoting a positive approach to people suffering with HIV and AIDS. It is the biggest organisation of its kind in Ireland. All proceeds will go directly to the OHH



Students descended on the Atrium to flaunt their wares. Photo: Mark Carroll

and their support services to people suffering and living with the diseases.

For other events in the fashion scene on campus, Trinity's Next Top Stylist looks promising so keep your eyes out for notices on that in the not too distant

future. As for *Trinity's Next Top Model*, impressions from the audition say it's "Here Come the Boys" time. As America's Next Top Model coach Jay Manuel once infamously said, "they're going to stomp this runway to death."



# SU Council demands left-handed desks

By Lisa Byrne

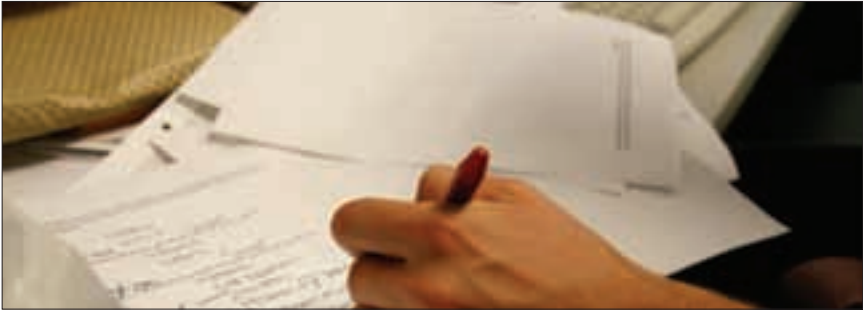
COLLEGE IS set to increase the number of left-handed desks in lecture halls and classrooms around the campus following a motion put forward by the Student Council.

Siobhán Carroll, class rep for Senior Freshman European Studies, proposed the motion at the Student Council meeting on November 11th. Her proposal was seconded by Student Union Education Officer Hugh Sullivan. The motion was voted on and passed. Once a mandate has passed, it becomes policy for the next 2 academic years.

The notes from the Council meeting read “that one in every 10 people is

left-handed and presently there are not sufficient desks for this amount of students”. The mandate was put forward by Ms Carroll asking that College “ensure that 10% of desks in all classrooms around college are suitable for left-handed students by the start of Hillary Term.”

Carroll was approached by a Senior Freshman student complaining about the lack of left-handed desks. For over 90% of the student body that make up the right-handed population, the inconvenience felt by left-handed students trying to write sideways goes unnoticed. Ms Carroll noted that while right-handed students who find themselves sitting at a left handed desk simply have to change seats, the inadequate amount of left-handed desks forces left-handers to



Specially adapted desks are a boon for the left-handed writer.

stay sitting at these right-handed desks, leading to an hour of discomfort trying to take notes.

On recent inspection in the Arts Building, Mr Sullivan found that the

majority of classrooms contained less than the four desks needed to accommodate the number of left handed students per room, with some classrooms lacking any left-handed desks whatsoever.

Referring to his recent inspection of the Arts Building, Sullivan said “the point is that there’s about 9% too few left handed desks and all college needs to do is buy about 300 left-handed desks and distribute them throughout the Arts Block.”

This is not the first time that the lack of resources available to left-handers has come to the attention of the Student Union Council. In 2007, then Education Officer Rob Kearns put forward a motion to introduce left-handed desks. As such, many left-handed desks can now be seen around campus, however this number is not enough to cater to the large number of left-handed students and Education Officer is hopeful that the extra desks will be brought in as soon as possible.

“I can’t say when this’ll be done unfortunately but myself and Cathal are both working on it”.

According to Sullivan, SU President Cathal Reilly will be bringing this issue to the next Site & Facilities meeting where he shall begin the process of getting it implemented.

Sullivan himself has been in contact with the Buildings Office who is says have been “favourable in principle” to the idea but as of yet have “committed to nothing”.

With registration figures suggesting that over 16,500 students registered to attend Trinity this year alone, the move by the Student Union will be welcomed by the estimated 1,700 left-handed students in the College.

# Hilfiger sells life story at Phil event

By Naomi O’Leary

AT TWELVE noon on Friday 21 November the GMB was graced with a visit by designer and business icon Tommy Hilfiger, 57, who arrived with his entourage in a convoy of black Mercedes.

Mr Hilfiger - in Dublin for the opening of his flagship store on Grafton Street - was interviewed by DU Philosophical Society president Barry Devlin. Mr Hilfiger then answered questions from the 150 members of the audience.

A TV3 camera crew and paparazzi added to the atmosphere of excitement. Phil committee members worked meticulously to move all jackets and bags into the adjacent room on instructions from Hilfiger security. Gleaming rows of Hilfiger gift bags were glimpsed awaiting distribution, prompting much speculation as to their contents. A glossy promotional video was screened to the assembled audience, which expounded the Tommy Hilfiger rags-to-riches story as “the proof that dreams can come true.” Images of Americana - Betty Boop, Warhol’s Marilyn Monroe, hamburgers and Cadillacs - beat down on the audience like a strobe, as a growling voiceover urged the brand’s latest descriptives; “ironic, iconic, unapologetically original and confidently optimistic.”


Mr Hilfiger entered the debating chamber to loud applause, sporting deep blue jeans, a navy Harvard Cardigan, cream canvas sneakers and a necktie which, he noted, had been his father’s.

Mr Hilfiger outlined the story of his success, recounting his initial ventures at the age of 18, bankruptcy at 25, and the lesson thus learned that creative energy must be wedded to business sense. Commenting on the possible repercussions of the current economic climate on his campaign, Hilfiger stressed that he did not encourage disposable fashion, and that the high prices of his products were bolstered by their quality and lasting style. He would hope, but never expect, he noted graciously, that the students present would invest in his clothes. Mr Hilfiger spoke about his future hopes for his company. He sees

Europe as a gateway to the rest of the world, and hopes to expand his lifestyle brand into everything from socks to furniture.

Tommy Hilfiger the brand is still struggling to reconcile its association with two contrasting Americas; the collegiate and the urban. An email hoax which accused Hilfiger of making racist remarks on the Oprah Winfrey Show sparked a misguided boycott of his clothes. The company rode a fickle wave of profit in the 1990s when black American rappers adopted the gigantic Hilfiger logo as a badge of cool, a trend which lost the brand its preppy core market. 2008 marketing initiatives include the newly launched Tommy

“Ironic, iconic, unapologetically original and confidently optimistic”



TV, which offers backstage videos of artists like Kelly Rowland and Wyclef Jean. Hilfiger told the audience that he had always been inspired by music and rock and roll. He recounted how he first became aware of his own image on seeing the cover of a Beatles album, and was inspired to emulate the pinnacles of cool depicted thereon.

The gift bags were distributed to the audience containing a USB stick loaded with a promotional Tommy Hilfiger video. Ireland is Hilfiger’s latest conquest in the European campaign which has been the brand’s engine for growth of its \$1.8 billion annual sales, while the US market has, at best, stagnated. Mr Hilfiger has conducted a whistlestop tour to court the Irish public, stressing his Irish roots and meeting with luminaries such as Jim Sheridan. The campaign has taken him as far as Galway for autograph signings, and he has been greeted with much enthusiasm by the Irish public. Scenes at his Shop Street store in Galway saw him hugged and kissed by female admirers, one of whom placed a sprig of Irish heather in his pocket. Devlin said of the Fashion guru’s Trinity visit “It’s really nice that someone so successful has been so thankful and appreciative to us.”



Tommy Hilfiger poses for photographs during his recent visit to Trinity. Photo: Caroline O’Leary

# Energy proposal rejected

By Brian Barry

A MOTION brought before the Students’ Union Council to introduce a pay-as-you-go scheme for energy use by college residents appears to have been rejected by the Trinity Accommodation Office, which described it as “not practical”.

Last year a Trinity News survey showed that residents on campus face higher energy costs than residents at any other major Irish university.

Currently, a limited number of residents pay by “energy deposit” in the first and second terms of the academic year. They can claim back money which they save through their own energy conservation efforts, following assessments of their meter. However, metering is limited to standard rooms in New Square, the Rubrics, and in the Pearse Street Residences, according to Accommodation Officer Anthony Dempsey.

A fixed energy fee is charged to residents of Goldsmith Hall, Botany Bay, and the Graduates Memorial Building. This fixed fee is labelled a “deposit” on the Accommodation website. No provision for reclaiming money from the “deposit” is available in these areas of campus, offering residents no incentive to conserve energy and cut costs. The position on the “deposit” remains unclear for residents in Front Square. It is neither listed on the Trinity accommodation website as being subject to the fixed fee, nor was it mentioned by Mr Dempsey, when asked by *Trinity News*, as an area on campus individually metered for electricity.

The SU Council recently discussed the matter. “Many students use less energy than afforded to them by their energy deposit” the Council heard in a motion proposed by Ashley Cooke, SU Environmental & Ethical Trading Officer, “A fixed charge system disincentives conservation of energy in student residences.” Mr Cooke also said that many residents were unaware they are entitled to claim back money as “this is not actively publicised by the Accommodations Office.”

Mr Dempsey said in response that “it is not practical to install any form of individual metering. The main elements of utility charges are heating and hot water and these are supplied by district heating systems.

“No element of profit is built in to these services.” It appears, following the debate and response by Mr Dempsey, that no change is imminent on the issue of energy charges.

# Centre for Deaf Studies facing financial worries

By Lisa Byrne

ONE OF the College’s most important centres could be on the verge of closure following the “pausing” of funding by the Higher Education Authority.

A press release on the website [irishdeafkids.ie](http://irishdeafkids.ie) under the title “TCD’s Centre For Deaf Studies Said to Be At Risk” (*sic*) reported that the Centre was now considered under threat due to the potential loss of funding provided by the HEA. However according to an official statement released by the College to the *Trinity News*, “There have been no discussions at College level on the future of Deaf Studies. Trinity College has followed due process with regards to making returns to the Higher Education Authority for State grant allocation.”

The HEA provide the Centre with Strategic Innovation Funding (SIF),

which is directly linked to matched funding, in CDS’ case, their core funding. Any cutbacks on this funding would prohibit the Centre from implementing their future nationwide projects and would put current projects in jeopardy.

The Centre for Deaf Studies in Trinity College was established in 2001 creating the first permanent centre of its kind to provide professional training programmes for interpreters in Ireland. Previously, there had been two EU-sponsored bi-university short-term ventures between the College and Bristol University in 1992 and UCC and Bristol in 1998.

The impact of the loss of such a Centre would prove devastating to ordinary members of the deaf community, not just students and lecturers in the Centre. According to Dr Lorraine Leeson, director of the Centre, the closure would cause “insufficiency in provision of



interpreters in both public service and private domains than exists at present, which in turn impacts on the legal obligations of both public and private bodies under the terms of the Disability Act.”

With an estimated 5,000 deaf people in the Republic, 4,500 in the North plus an additional 10 people per deaf person

who uses sign language to communicate with these deaf people, it amounts to over 95,000 people using sign language on the island. The CDS is the only Centre in Ireland to teach Irish/English Sign language interpreting therefore its closure would not only signal an end to the teaching in Ireland but could create legal ramifications due to a shortage of

interpreters. Recent examples including the Kanturk Court Case where a case was dismissed over question of the qualifications of the interpreter, could become common practice should the country lose its sole interpreter training programme.

Another serious case involved a deaf man being prepped for heart surgery when he was really due to receive an operation on his finger, all due to the absence of an interpreter.

Such examples only highlight further the need to increase the number of Irish/English signing interpreters in Ireland. There is currently only 50-60 with an estimated 200 needed to make up the shortfall. The effects already suffered due to the shortages would only serve to be intensified and become more frequent.

Deaf students within the College would also be affected. The Centre, along with the College’s Disability Support Service,

offers note-takers and reading support along with other individualized supports that could be jeopardized should the Centre close.

With regard to the recent funding awarded to the Centre under the Strategic Innovation Fund, the College said “We are now awaiting clarification on the prioritisation of SIF projects following recent reductions in state finances.”

Critics say that by allowing this centre to close, the HEA must acknowledge not only the academic ramifications it would create but also the social costs. They also claim that without the Centre, members of the deaf community would be deprived of a voice which would only serve to further marginalise them. The closure would also create legal ramifications similar to those seen in the Kanturk case.

The future of the centre will be decided later this week when the HEA meet to discuss the future of the SIF payments.



SHORT CUTS

HISTORY

A NEW LOOK AT 'KING DAN'

TRINITY HISTORIAN Dr Patrick Geoghan has launched a new book looking at the life of Daniel O'Connell.

The book was launched on Thursday November 14th by Minister for Education Batt O'Keeffe.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. O'Keeffe said that Daniel O'Connel had been an early advocate of universal education and had been committed to ensuring that all Irish people should receive the best possible education.

This may grate with some students who attended a protest against Mr. O'Keeffe and the proposed reintroduction of college fees when he came to Trinity last Thursday.

GOLD MEDAL

'IRELAND'S NOBEL PRIZE' TO PROF

PROFESSOR CHARLES Hepworth Holland, former Professor in the Trinity School of Geology, has been awarded a gold medal by the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

Professor Holland was awarded the medal, dubbed 'Ireland's Nobel Prize', for his outstanding contribution to the fields of Environment and Geosciences.

Professor Holland's research is in the area of stratigraphy and palaeontology. He was formerly the first person to be awarded the TN George Medal of the Glasgow Geological Society and was awarded the Major Edward Coke Medal of the Geological Society in London.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

NEW ARTS PHD PROGRAMME

A NEW PhD programme encouraging interdisciplinary learning in the field of Arts and Humanities was launched last Thursday 20 November in Trinity.

The programme is a collaboration between the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies, NUI Galway; the Long Room Hub,TCD; and the Graduate School of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences, UCC.

Through the new programme, Arts and Humanities students will be able to work towards and gain a PhD within four years. The programme concentrates on interdisciplinary means of studying. It also steps away from traditional Arts PhDs by incorporating new technologies and professional placements into the students' research.

Cullen going to Costa del Space

By Thomas Raftery

IRELAND HAS attracted many innovations with futuristic ambitions to the country, but none so advanced, yet near to actuality as Richard Branson's "Virgin Galactic" project. To date, Branson has seen €280 million go in to finalising his "space-tourism" scheme, which could send up its first passengers as early as 2010.

Branson, and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, have both been heavily involved in the project from its conception. He aims to be able to give "ordinary" (that is, currently, normal but very wealthy) people a space adventure experience. The flights will include two pilots and six passengers, and if business is brisk, Stephen Attenborough, commercial Director of "Virgin Galactic", asserts that losses will be recouped inside 3 years.

Despite being relatively short, considering the price of a ticket, and the distances covered, passengers can hope to experience a full five minutes of weightlessness. Virgin's revolutionary Space Ship "SpaceCraftTwo" is the first craft to be designed specifically around comfort, safety and the enjoyment of the passenger. Tickets will currently set you back €140,000, a bargain compared to the €160,000 paid by Virgin's 100 "pioneer" passengers, among whom three prominent Irish businessmen.

A specially designed aircraft piggy-backs the rocket powered SpaceShipTwo up to about 15km before its engine kicks in and boosts the tourists to between 100-140km above the Earth's surface. The crew will experience speeds upwards



SpaceShipTwo. Photo: Keith Mansfield

of 4000km/h, more than three times the speed of sound, in their suborbital adventure. The flights are currently scheduled to take off from the Mojave Desert (from an aerospace centre founded by Allen), California, and passengers will have to undergo a three day centrifuge training program at the spaceport, as well as passing a safety course and a medical.

Bill Cullen, along with Tom Higgins and PJ King, is one of the first Irishmen to have signed up. He appeared alongside Attenborough in Trinity this week to describe why he bought his ticket, "I can

see myself up there with my camcorder saying 'wow, it is worth every penny.'" Cullen cryptically remarked before the meeting that "My main focus is to raise between €2 million and €5 million for the Irish Youth Foundation," but asserts that how he is going to do this will remain a secret until he takes off.

A spokesperson for Virgin Galactic described the experience as "intense, wonderful and truly unforgettable," sentiments echoed by Mr Attenborough in a presentation made to Trinity's science gallery this week. Virgin are

marketing this experience as more than an extravagant, if brief, holiday for the excessively wealthy, but as a journey of self-discovery, identifying the program as having "enormous potential significance to the future of the human race".

It seems that space is the last place for the multi-billionaire to conquer. Branson, who has ballooned across the Atlantic, floated down the Thames with the Sex Pistols, appeared in a James Bond movie, has been knighted, and whose megabrand Virgin is home to more than 250 companies including

aircraft, trains, gyms and limousines, holds aspirations far beyond mere space travel. He said of his latest venture that "if it is a success, we want to move into orbital flights, and even get a hotel up there." This comes at the same time as Branson has unveiled plans for a new flight path from LA to Australia that will travel outside the Earth's atmosphere and subsequently take only 30 minutes, saying Virgin wanted to "pop people up into space from L.A."

Richard Branson commented, "The deal with Mojave Aerospace Ventures is just the start of what we believe will be a new era in the history of mankind, one day making the affordable exploration of space possible by human beings."

Aside from the ultimately insignificant cost to businessmen like Bill Cullen's bank accounts, the environmental costs that of this programme will be extravagant. Commercial flying, as it stands, is one of the world's most prolific polluters. This venture, which reduces flying to merely the act itself without a destination, will only contribute negatively to the Global Warming issue.

Branson, predicting this argument, has proposed to donate the next three years profit from his Virgin empire, which is estimated to be roughly \$3 billion, to the development of renewable alternatives to carbon fuels. His prize, "Virgin's Earth Challenge" which offers \$25 million dollars to the person or institution that produces an economically viable solution to the greenhouse gas problem still stands, so for students like me worrying about Christmas just around the corner, the answer is simple: solve Global Warming. Let's get studying.

Pomodoro to be caged Science school cuts emissions

By Deirdre Robertson

SKATEBOARDERS, GRAFFITI artists and Dublin's sea air have been named as the reasons why Trinity's Pomodoro Sphere will now remain permanently enclosed inside a barrier.

The famous Sphere, situated outside the Berkeley Library, recently underwent a huge restoration and renovation project carried out by the Buildings Office, metal sculptural experts and the restorer Agostino Ragusa who was specially recommended by the Sphere's creator, Arnolodo Pomodoro. Although both the inside and the outside of the Sphere have been fully restored, College has made the controversial decision to barricade the sculpture inside a plastic fence to avoid further damage to it.

According to Trinity's curator, Catherine Giltrap, 'Both the artist and restorers were quite saddened to see the condition the sphere's surfaces was in - most of their job involved removing as many traces as possible of deeply cut graffiti and protecting it again to conserve the surface against the atmosphere, particularly Dublin's sea air and pollution.'

Mr. Pomodoro has created similar spheres which have been placed all over the world including the Vatican, the United Nations HQ at New York, the University of California at Berkeley, and the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. Yet according to Ms Giltrap, none of the other golden spheres have been as badly damaged as Trinity's.

Although restoration works were finished in late August, a high metal



Trinity's Pomodoro sphere is one of five worldwide. Photo: Rachel Kennedy

barrier remained around the Sphere until late this week.

Ms Giltrap said that the delay in removing the security fencing around the sculpture was due to the Buildings Office who 'are trying to resolve the best way to create a low, subtle barrier at the base of the sloped podium' that does not interfere with the aesthetics of the plaza. This, she says, will protect the sculpture from 'skateboard damage which continues to be an issue.'

On Friday evening, the metal fencing was indeed removed but replaced by a

black, plastic, waist-high fence. Whether this is the permanent 'low, subtle barrier' that the Buildings Office has erected remains to be seen.

Ms Giltrap called on all Trinity staff and students to protect the Sphere by reporting anyone who tries to damage it, "The College staff and students will be helping to protect the cultural heritage of the College if reports are submitted to me about anyone trying to damage it, staff and students should also feel free to request anyone seen to be destroying the sphere or any other artwork to stop."

By Brian Barry

THE SCHOOL of Natural Sciences is set to launch two initiatives to improve energy usage and to reduce carbon footprint within the School. A group has been established to assess the School's current position on these issues, and to formulate a plan to improve energy use and to reduce its carbon footprint. Secondly, for this academic year the School is to launch a scheme whereby each department within the School will compete against each other in a bid to become the most energy and carbon efficient.

John Parnell, Head of the School of Natural Sciences, is responsible for the introduction of the two initiatives and sees it as necessary that the School sets a campus-wide example on the issues of energy and carbon efficiency and climate change. "I believe that our School should, almost by definition, be the leading School in the university on these issues. It is clear that carbon neutrality and energy saving will be of increasing concern to the Irish Government, private institutions, the university and to many staff and students." Mr. Parnell also spoke of the responsibility that Trinity has to the general public - "As an institution largely financed by Government, Trinity will be required to take action."

The assessment group comprising of Professor Mike Jones and Nick Gray from the Department of Botany, Professor

David Taylor from the Department of Geography and Professor Geoffrey Clayton from the Department of Geology will co-operate with the Director of Buildings Office to make a submission to the School Executive before July 2009 on how to make the School more carbon and energy efficient. There is no direct student involvement in the group

"As largely financed by Government, Trinity will be required to take action" said John Parnell



although submissions from students on the issue are welcome and Mr Parnell said he was "hopeful" that students would help.

More directly involving the students, albeit only those within the School of Natural Sciences, is the proposal of a competition between departments in the School to formulate plans to make their department the most carbon and energy efficient. A proportion of each department's budget will be held and allocated based on a presentation made by each department on carbon mitigation to the School's Executive. A prize will be awarded to the best plan. Mr. Parnell hopes this will foster student initiative to formulate ideas of their own; "at the executive I asked that discipline based students are involved along with all staff in formulation of the plan".



DO YOU THINK IT'S FAIR TO FINE SOCIETIES 10% OF THEIR BUDGET FOR OVER-POSTERING?



KEVIN O'ROURKE  
JF CLASSICS

You probably don't need more than one poster on each board but 10% is a bit excessive.



DAVID BOYLAN  
JF PHILOSOPHY AND ENG

It doesn't cost the amount of litter that would warrant a 10% cut in budget.



STEPHEN LYDON  
SS ENGLISH

Yes, it's fair enough because the boards are always crowded with more than one of each poster. You have to be able to see them.



LILIAN LAU  
POST-GRAD GENETICS

Well we're stuck in the Genetics department all day so it doesn't affect us! Nobody even thinks to put posters down there.



CONOR SULLIVAN  
JS ECONOMICS

I think its way too much. 10% is a massive cut to take for anything and especially something as minor as this. It strikes me as a bit petty.





Rugby studs pose for the Cancer Society's upcoming naked calendar. The calendar, which features Trinity students in the nip, will go on sale on the 1st of December for a price of €6.99 and all proceeds will go towards cancer research. Photo: Martin McKenna

## SHORT CUTS

### DU FOOD AND DRINK "YULE'N'JOY" CHRISTMAS PARTY

DU FOOD and Drink Society are offering their members a festive evening of free food and drink. According to the society "Yule'N'Joy will be the definition of elegance, opulence and Christmas itself. The three-hour event will encompass live carol singing, endless festive foods & drinks showcasing the best of Christmas fare, members unwrapping gifts and friends memorably ending the year together."

It will take place "in the picture of Christmas" inside the Graduate Memorial Building in Trinity. The event will be free to members and will take place on 2nd December in the Hist conversion room at 7pm.

### CHRISTMAS RADIO NON-STOP CHRISTMAS TUNES

A NEW temporary radio station, Christmas FM, has announced it will be gracing Dublin with non-stop Christmas tunes from 28th November until Stephen's Day. The radio station, due to launch next week, will play "a wide mix of Christmas music across many decades that will blend together into one distinct sound of Christmas." according to organiser Barry Hartigan. Throughout the day, he adds, "we will be featuring little clips of memories and nostalgia from a wide spectrum of individuals, ranging from celebrities to the child down the street telling the listeners what Christmas means to them."

The station, which will be broadcast on 89.9FM, is an initiative to raise awareness and encourage support for charity ISPC. All sponsorship, premium texts and inserts will go directly to the charity.

# DUPA organise Christmas exhibition in Filmbase

By Thomas Raftery

IT WON'T just be drunken tourists and obnoxious stag parties rolling around Temple Bar this Christmas thanks to the Dublin University Photography Association (DUPA). They have chosen Filmbase on Temple Bar's Curved Street as the location of their Christmas exhibition, which they hope will attract both students and non-students alike. Entrance to the exhibition is free of charge and the doors are due to open on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm. Muiris Wolf, chair of DUPA, assures visitors that, quite appropriately for the location, the event will not just be about the photos but will also be a social gathering with wine and "hors d'œuvres" on offer.

The theme for the exhibition is "emotion", but this should not put people off, comments Wolf. "We'll accept any genre and we're open to abstract interpretations of the theme." DUPA are still accepting entries to the exhibition up until 28<sup>th</sup> November. The winner of the competition will receive a €100 gift voucher for Camera Exchange on South Great George's Street. A section of the exhibition will be reserved for photos that don't quite fit the theme. This exhibition will mark another success for DUPA this year, whose members recently enjoyed a lecture given by award-winning photojournalist Julien Behal. Behal narrated some of the stories behind his famous shots, one of which was recently featured on the cover of August's 'Time' magazine, as well as



disclosing some of his personal tips for getting that perfect shot. Mr Wolf was keen to identify the active side of DUPA. "DUPA is not just about sitting around learning photography

well as regular walks around Trinity that give members a chance to consider sights they encounter on an everyday basis from a different perspective, the society plans a trip abroad for later in the year. DUPA visited Edinburgh last year and has enjoyed trips to Berlin, Amsterdam, St Petersburg and Paris in years before. DUPA members have 1 year long access to Trinity's two darkrooms and can use the supplied chemicals free of charge. This compliments the numerous darkroom classes put on by the society in which members can learn how to turn their unprocessed film into negatives, and turn these negatives into prints. For more information on getting involved with DUPA, or submitting photos for the exhibition this Christmas email [dupa@csc.tcd.ie](mailto:dupa@csc.tcd.ie).

## 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](mailto:library.shop@tcd.ie)  
<http://www.tcd.ie/Library/Shop>

### How is Research Changing Your Life?

## TRANSFORMATIONS

Interested in Seeing What Researchers Do?

A free and interactive exhibition of some of Ireland's top research projects, including those from TCD, will take place at the Science Gallery, Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

Thursday 27th November	1pm to 6pm
Friday 28th November	10am to 7pm
Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th November	11am to 6pm
Monday 1st December	10am to 6pm
Tuesday 2nd December	10am to 4pm

PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH IN THIRD-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS

**PRTL I 10**  
TRANSFORMING THE IRISH RESEARCH LANDSCAPE

**HEA**  
Higher Education Authority  
An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas



SHORT CUTS

ARTHRITIS IRELAND  
NEW CHAIRS OF RHEUMATOLOGY

ARTHRITIS IRELAND is to fund the position of Rheumatology Chair in three Irish Universities, according to a report in the Irish Times this week. The initiative, at a cost of €7 million over five years, is the most recent in a scheme aimed at promoting and ameliorating research, education and treatment for rheumatic diseases.

The study and research into arthritis, a condition affecting some 714,000 people in Ireland, is largely neglected on the medical studies syllabus. Rheumatology specialists in Ireland are frustrated by the lack of resources and time available for adequate research in the area.

Arthritis Ireland hopes that the three new Professors of Rheumatology will facilitate research teams and advance education in the area. It is expected that the new Chairs will be assigned to three of the Republic's six medical schools.

Funding for the Professorships is supplied by Arthritis Ireland and Atlantic Philanthropies, as well as clinical funding from the Health Service Executive.

(Kate O'Regan)

CELEBRITY  
FEES RUBBISHED BY BILL CULLEN

TOUGH-TALKING BOSS of TV3's 'The Apprentice' and successful entrepreneur, Dr Bill Cullen addressed UCC's Entrepreneurial and Social Society in a talk entitled 'Are You Ready for Hard Times'. He was invited to speak to the university's newly established society on attaining success in the business world.

After his presentation, Dr Cullen spoke to the *UCC Express* and condemned the proposed re-introduction of third-level fees. He claimed that the abolition of second level fees in the 1960s by then Minister for Education Donagh O'Malley was a very brave thing to do, and denounced the proposal as a "betrayal".

Bill Cullen is one of Ireland's most successful entrepreneurs and now one of the most feared men in the boardroom since TV3's version of the hugely popular "The Apprentice". During his address, Mr Cullen urged UCC students to remain positive despite the bleak economic climate and to work hard at attaining their goals.

(Kate O'Regan)

UNIONS  
IFUT ENDORSES PAY DEAL

THE IRISH Federation of University Teachers last week voted to accept the terms of the National Pay Agreement. The IFUT Executive had earlier recommended that its members accept the negotiated deal.

IFUT General Secretary Mike Jennings expressed the federation's satisfaction with the deal, emphasising that it was the best possible negotiation at this time. The vote was further ratified at the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Conference on November 17, where the new pay deal was overwhelmingly accepted by 305 votes to 36.

However Mr Jennings insisted that IFUT members were keen to denounce the "draconian" education cuts as outlined in the recent Budget. Mr Jennings warned that once the pay deal is resolved, the IFUT intends to concentrate on overturning the government's proposed cuts which, he claimed, would have "such a devastating impact on our higher education system".

He said that they would concentrate on winning popular and political support to overturn proposed cuts.

(Kate O'Regan)

Archive Research Centre for Maynooth

By Fearghus Brian Roulston

ON THURSDAY 14th November President Mary McAleese officially accepted the deposit of the Strokestown Estate Archive for the new OPW-NUI Maynooth Archive and Research Centre. The deposit will be housed at Castletown House, Celbridge. It intends to open to the public by early summer 2009. The centre will allow for the study, conservation and storage of a range of historical evidence, with emphasis on the Irish landed elites and the decorative arts.

The Strokestown papers, previously held at the National Famine Museum, are comprised of 6,000 documents relating to the daily life of the Anglo-Irish Pakenham-Mahon family. Including family and estate papers, correspondence, and press cuttings, these documents

are to provide a striking insight into the private and public lives of the Anglo-Irish elite.

Of particular interest will be the documents dating from the Great Irish Famine of 1845-50. These records, recovered from the estate office at Strokestown House, provide a harrowing account of Ireland's worst social disaster on record and allow some understanding of the widespread suffering it brought upon the country's poor.

Discovered amongst these moving documents was a request for food relief from President McAleese's ancestor, Mary Lenehan of Elphin Street in Strokestown. Her name appears amongst a list of those who received grain on the estate in 1865. President McAleese was shown the record for the first time on Thursday. "She's not sure of the exact connection but she thinks it could be

her great-great-grandmother or even her great-great-great-grandmother," a spokeswoman for the President said.

Speaking at the inauguration of the centre, President McAleese hailed the new culture of respect for source materials in Ireland, and warned against the practice of "ransacking the past for edited highlights with which to distort history". She added that "the old days of them and us in which so much energy and hope was wasted along those formidable demarcation lines of Catholic and Protestant, of landlord and tenant, of Irish and Anglo, have manifestly begun to give way to a shared purpose and shared identity as shapers of a shared future."

She recalled that "this was once a Big House, a place of and for privileged elites, its demeanour less than welcoming to the masses. Today it belongs to the people and is at their service. It will hold, protect

and tell the stories of privileged and poor alike, for, without all sides to our many stories, we remain in danger not just of misrepresenting our past or having it misrepresented to us but we remain in danger of knowing our neighbours only as incomprehensible strangers."

The opening marks the high point of an ongoing collaboration between the Office for Public Works and NUI Maynooth. The location of the archive at Castletown house, reopened by the OPW in 2007 as a cultural resource, was key to the project. The centre will occupy a suite of rooms in Castletown house.

John Hughes, President of NUIM, said "the collection that we welcome to our Centre today is an important part of our national inheritance. Our University now has a serious responsibility to maintain and catalogue these documents for future generations".

FACTS

- » Castletown House is the largest and earliest Palladian style house in Ireland.
- » Built for William Connolly, Ireland's richest commoner, between 1722 and 1729.
- » Passed into state ownership in 1994, and was refurbished by the Office of Public Works.
- » The Strokestown Papers contain 6,000 documents set to be officially archived by NUI Maynooth

UL blockade described as “pantomime”

UL Students' Union accused of having “deceitfully misled” its students in their attempt to block minister for Arts, Sport, and Tourism Martin Cullen from accessing the campus

By James Arthurs

THE BLOCKADE last week of Minister Martin Cullen's visit to the University of Limerick has been undermined by accusations that his eventual entry onto campus had been pre-planned by the UL Students' Union without the knowledge of the student body.

The minister was due to attend the opening of the Irish Chamber Orchestra's (ICO) new building on the UL campus on Monday 17th last. The UL students' union planned to hold a protest whereby they would block the minister's access to the building hence preventing him from attending. As the site of the new building is accessed by crossing the river Shannon, the blockade was set up on Thomond Bridge, the only other access being the "Living Way" pedestrian bridge. This action follows a number of recent protests and blockades, and was aimed at expressing objection to plans by Minister for Education Batt O'Keefe to reintroduce third level fees or to raise registration charges for students by 67%.

National and local newspapers have reported that up to four hundred students turned out in the poor weather at Thomond Bridge. Traffic was allowed to pass until the Minister's car came within sight at which point the students blocked the bridge, forcing the car to slow down and eventually make a U-turn and leave. The Minister then proceeded to the three hundred and fifty metre-long pedestrian bridge by which he gained access to the concert hall.

The UL Students' Union has declared the protest a success. ULSU president Pa O'Brien is quoted as saying "What we set out to achieve here today was to

erect a barrier to the Minister just as his government has erected a barrier to our education"

Despite this reaction, the organisation Free Education for Everyone (FEE) posted an article on their website the following Wednesday with a different account of the events. The article in question claimed that the Students' Union had in fact made an agreement between themselves and the Gardaí

Minister Martin Cullen suggested a deal had been arranged prior to the visit



stipulating that the Minister would drive up to the students, then seemingly abandon his attempt to access the site. The Minister would however be allowed uncontested entry by the Living Way pedestrian bridge. As a result Mr Cullen would have acknowledged the protest, but would be able to proceed to the opening ceremony.

In the Limerick Leader newspaper of Tuesday 18th November, the Minister is quoted as saying "There was an agreement that we would go up, recognise them, which is fine, I have no issue with that, and then I would walk across the bridge and I enjoyed the walk"

Eugene O'Callaghan, a third year UL architecture student confirmed that in the email sent to students by the ULSU, the union seemed adamant about the fact that they were going to block the Minister's access to the new ICO building.

The claims made in the article, which was also posted on the website indymedia.com by Emma Beckett, a



Minister Cullen's car performing a U-turn on meeting the protestors at Thomond Bridge. Photo: Denis Vahey

member of FEE, have been strongly denied by O'Brien. In an interview with Trinity News on Thursday last, Mr O'Brien stated that no agreement had been made with the Gardaí or with the minister. O'Brien went on to state that the original blockade on Thomond Bridge went ahead despite a threat by the Gardaí that an attempt to block vehicles would result in arrests. The members of the Students' Union also declined a private meeting to negotiate their dispersal after they had been on the bridge for an hour.

Beckett's article describes how upon realising that the students' union had negotiated with the minister to facilitate his entry via the footbridge, a group of students continued to the Irish Chamber Orchestra's new building in order to block Mr Cullen's access. They were too late however and according to the Irish Examiner some students were forcefully restrained by armed members of the Gardaí.

When asked about the events in Limerick, Gary Barrett of FEE stated "In our opinion, the protest was unsuccessful. In the press release issued on the morning of the protest, ULSU stated that their aim was to "block access to the opening" of the Irish Chamber Orchestra building. The Union negotiated with the Gardaí, on Martin Cullen's behalf, a scenario where the minister would be allowed unhindered access to the building in return for driving up to the protest and being seen to do a U-turn. The U-turn was subsequently presented to protesters on the bridge as a victory, despite the fact that the Union, contrary to its stated objective, had allowed Cullen access to the building. None of this was communicated by the SU to its membership. We find this unacceptable."

O'Brien stated that members of the SU were indeed on the footbridge during the blockade, but it was only after the Minister's car made its U-turn that the decision was made not to stop him passing by the "Living Way" as there were further threats of possible arrests if they were to do so. It was also felt that the students had made their point and it would be unnecessary to ruin the ICO's event.

The group that proceeded to the ICO were a breakaway group and were informed of this fact by the SU, at which point most of those who had proceeded

“There was an agreement that we would go up, recognise them...and then I would walk across the bridge”

there, according to O'Brien stuck around simply to see what was happening. He also explains that the Union organised food for the protesters and not alcohol as has been suggested.

The Students' Union president has claimed that the Minister's comment to the *Limerick Leader* was false and that it may have been the source of the accusations in the article published on the FEE website the next day. He also strongly criticised the FEE over this, suggesting some of their members seem to be trying to split the campaign and that some people present on Monday were simply looking to be arrested. O'Brien states "The FEE is saying that the Minister is the trustworthy party, not the

Students' Union." He also drew attention to the headline in Tuesday's Irish Examiner: "Armed detectives disperse student protest against university fees hike". O'Brien claims this was the only negative press received in the national or regional newspapers and he presses the point that "this [negative press] is not what we need"

FEE, the organisation behind this criticism, is originally made up of students and staff from University College Dublin. They claim to have a good working relationship with the students' union there. The group has only recently set up in Limerick and although it helped with the promotion of Monday's protest, it had no involvement with its organisation. The group states that its aims are "the building of a mass activist grassroots student campaign to fight the attempt to bring in fees and fight for genuinely free education."

The FEE campaign has also spread to Trinity College Dublin, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, and University College Cork. The events in Limerick follow recent successful attempts by the group to stop members of the government entering the UCD campus. This includes forcing Minister of State Conor Lenihan to withdraw from attending a debate hosted by the university's Literary and Historical Society on 12th November last. Mary Hanafin, Minister for Social and Family Affairs also recently pulled out of an Ogra Fianna Fáil meeting in UCD having cited security costs as the reason.

The website of ULSU posted a report on the day's events. It quotes ULSU President Pa O'Brien as claiming after the protest that, "from today no government Minister will come on campus unimpeded."

ICO adds another string to bow in UL

By Aine Pennello

STUDENTS MAY no longer be the loudest source of noise on the University of Limerick campus as the Irish Chamber Orchestra (ICO) settles into its new state-of-the-art office studio in the student resident village of Cappavilla. The new 900 square foot building, officially opened November 17th by Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism Martin Cullen, comes as the rewarding end result of a five-year, €3.5 million project.

The building, located on the college's north campus, was designed by Project Architects and acoustic specialists AWN Consulting. It consists of a rehearsal room, musician's common room, instrument storage room and an administrative office. The rehearsal room, although not designed for

performances, is able to hold up to 180-200 people comfortably along with the orchestra. Already the ICO is playing with the idea of using the space for experimental contemporary pieces. Spacious administrative offices located on the upper level are a big plus for the orchestra as never before has the ICO experienced the organizational flow of being under the same roof as its administrative staff.

The ICO has been the permanent orchestra-in-residence at UL since it moved there from Dublin in 1995. As the university developed over the past thirteen years, the demand for space grew significantly.

It was during this period that the ICO had to become more innovative in its use of rehearsal space. The orchestra moved from location to location until each became overcrowded or simply too far away.

BUILDING A CRESCENDO

- » Irish Chamber Orchestra founded in 1963
- » Founded by Hungarian conductor János Furst
- » Consists of 17 world-class string ensemble musicians
- » Guest performers have included Sinead O'Connor, Nigel Kennedy and Maxim Vengerov
- » Funded by the Arts Council of Ireland
- » Resident at UL since 1995

John Kelly, chief executive of the ICO explains, "At first we rehearsed in the Bourn Vincent Gallery. But it was being developed as an art gallery, and as more exhibitions were hung it became less and less possible for us to rehearse there. We also shared space with the Irish world academy of music and dance, but as their programmes grew it became more difficult to access that space, too." Mr Kelly said the need for the ICO to establish a more permanent home within UL quickly became evident. "When we found ourselves having to rehearse off-campus in Killaloe, I realised that we were going to have to build our own space".

When Mr Kelly initially spoke with UL's vice president for physical development, John O'Connor, the prospects of a new building looked bleak. However the ICO and UL held on to their vision and subsequently

received an influx of private donations as well as both state and local government funding. Mr Kelly says the site of the new ICO building is very generous and boasts top-class facilities, "I don't know of any chamber orchestra that owns its own studio and office complex". The ICO were fortunate in being allocated this site as the fixtures were already in place for student accommodation, making the site ready for development. "We were, in effect, given a fully serviced site", praised Mr Kelly.

The ICO, a renowned competitor on the international stage finally has a suitable home to reflect its status. It is expected that the role played by the orchestra within the community of Limerick will continue and even expand through the use of outreach programmes. Mr Kelly concludes, "It was a good deal for the ICO. It was a good deal for UL".



# 10 million Chinese graduates to lose jobs

By Hugh Taylor  
International News Staff Writer

THE GLOBAL financial crisis is having an impact on the world's largest graduate student body, with work prospects looking increasingly bleak for recently qualified Chinese students.

In attempting to enter the workforce for the first time, Chinese graduates are having to contend with a slowing Chinese economy, hit first and foremost by a decline in the demand for manufactured goods. As factories have shut, the knock-on effects have been widespread. Private firms, long since the principal provider of jobs to China's graduates, have been sorely affected. Professor Yue Changjun, an expert on education and economy at Peking University in Beijing, told China Youth Daily that 67,000 private Chinese companies closed in the first half of this year.

This difficult economic climate has given rise to a situation where first-time job seekers are having to hunt for jobs alongside growing

numbers of unemployed, who are often more experienced than recent graduates.

Meanwhile, the job environment is rendered even more competitive by the numbers of students involved. Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, Zhang Xiaojian, pointed out that 6.1 million college and university students will graduate in the first half of next year. This vast influx will be added to by the four million or so graduates from previous years that have failed to find work.

China's graduates have been forced to consider alternatives to the "traditional" fields of high finance and management consultancy. Government jobs, usually considered beneath most aspiring students, have been oversubscribed. Thus far in 2008, a total of 775,000 people have applied for a national examination to qualify as government servants, competing for only 13,500 jobs. This is the highest number of applicants since 1994.

Jin Zhenghao, a financial engineering major at Xiamen University in southeast

China's Fujian Province, has been desperately trying to find a job before graduating in June 2009. In an interview with the Xinhua News Agency, Jin said his university had given his classmates and him the whole of November to market themselves to potential employers. Jin applied to nearly 30 companies, and went to five interviews. Jin has not yet received any job offers.

Though Jin remains positive, it was clear that any assumptions about the job market had to be re-thought. Salary expectations have had to be lowered, with Jin now hoping for around 5,000 Yuan a month, as opposed to the 7,000 he had previously anticipated. Moreover, Jin has decided to move to Shanghai, China's financial hub, in order to be in the best position to take advantage of the slim pickings on offer.

The Chinese authorities, as part of their wider response to the economic crisis, have been attempting to address the problem of graduate employment. Eager to try and shore up wavering trust in the economy, job fairs and

web advertising have been used extensively to highlight opportunities. It remains to be seen whether such efforts are successful. Government spokespersons have emphasised the impressive figures (259 jobs fairs, 30,000 enterprises involved, 500,000 jobs available), but critics have pointed to a considerable discrepancy between the statistics and reality.

In the short term, it seems that graduates like Jin Zhenghao will have to come to terms with more limited horizons. While the centres of Beijing and Shanghai will continue to attract much of China's ambitious youth, the easier job market in less developed (and less fashionable) areas of China may provide a desirable alternative. Perhaps more importantly, the notion of a university education guaranteeing comfortable employment has been dented. Formerly, in a country of 1.3 billion, having a degree was thought a passport to the good life. But, in the inimitable way of the globalised world, sub-prime mortgages may have laid such an idea to rest.



## SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY, CHINA SU HOLDS DEMOCRATIC VOTE

SUN YAT-SEN University has become the first to hold open, democratic student elections in China in almost twenty years. Student democracy has been a taboo subject in China since the infamous student protest in Tiananmen Square in 1989. But Sun Yat-Sen University, in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, changed its rules for Student Union elections in early October of this year; this time all of the 30,000 registered students were given the opportunity to vote.

Previously only members of the Communist Party's youth organisation - the China Youth League - were permitted to vote for student officials. The development contrasts with the lack of voting rights of ordinary citizens in both local and national government elections. Elections, which were held November 11, mimicked the recent American elections. Candidates were provided with 2500 yuan (approximately €291) to run their campaigns, which included rallies and debates as well promotional pamphlets and posters.

However, authorities at the University imposed a "muzzle order" on staff and students, prohibiting them from speaking to reporters about the election, claiming that such media coverage would interfere with the academic progress of the students. The University's website offered no mention of the event.

Despite the ban, some students and candidates agreed to be interviewed. One of the four candidates, Chen Xia, expressed her pride at being part of the election, saying felt she fortunate to be a "pioneer". She is also quoted as saying that that the election was a "democratic progress experiment". The general consensus is just that - the elections were simply an experiment, and that it should not be viewed as evidence that China is trying to change its ways.

The election was still very much influenced by the governing Communist Party with three of the four candidates being members of the Communist Party. This is not the first time the city has been exposed to experimental ideas. In the 1980s, it was the testing ground for economic reforms, many of which have since been implemented as official measures.

Jennifer Doyle

# Iraq's new 'American-style' uni

The American University of Sulaimani opens its doors in Iraq amidst continuing violence

By Caitriona Murphy  
Deputy International News Editor

IN THE midst of the protracted conflict in Iraq, the American University of Sulaimani opened its doors this year and ever since has been showered in praise but has also, predictably, been the focus of some controversy. The University was set up by a board of trustees from varying backgrounds, all concerned with establishing a third level institute in Iraq that would educate to a high standard. Their website offers a guide to the type of student that the University expects to enter into its programmes - "passionate, independent-minded" and "only the most qualified" are the key phrases that jump out.

Being a private, independent university, the fees are in the vicinity of \$5000 per semester- a huge amount given the current average income of Iraqis, which at the end of 2006 stood at around \$2170 per capita, according to UNICEF. But the level of fees reflects the University's estimates that it will need between \$200-\$250 million over a period of fifteen years in order to be run effectively, according to the Board's executive secretary Azzam Alwash.

The American University currently offers degrees in Business Administration, Computer Science, Economics and English, with the number of programmes to be expanded over the coming years. It has been swamped with

applications since its opening in January, and struggled to hire new teachers to facilitate its popularity. Information on the level of student life is, however, limited, with the idea that societies and clubs will be established according to students' interests. However it looks like the students can expect a high standard of facilities, with construction works continuing on five quads, dormitories and additional classrooms.

The University has high aims, which include "to lead the transformation of Iraq into a liberal and democratic society, through an understanding of the ideals of freedom and democracy" and "to promote harmonious interaction among the future leaders of Iraq of different ethnic and religious backgrounds."

However, the main vision of the University board and the teachers seems to be the promotion of a high level of education and giving young students the opportunity to emerge with a well-recognised degree. This links in with their belief that an "American-style" university is the best way to reach this high standard.

While many would believe that placing an "American" university in the midst of Iraq is only shining a spotlight on a target for extremist attacks, a huge emphasis has been placed by the Board of Trustees on prioritising safety in the choice of location. The idea behind the American University comes from the founders' belief that American colleges provide the



best platform to "make you an expert in your field" and "open up your mind more broadly" according to the University's website.

Interestingly, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq Barham Sali has been quoted as saying that another aspect to the "American" title is due to Iraq's gratitude to the US for liberating the country. The school does not make any mention of this in their own explanation, with very little mention of US affiliation. It seems the school would rather focus on education as opposed to creating unnecessary contention.

Naturally, however, there is a level of controversy surrounding the University, particularly regarding its location. Sulimaniyah is located in Kurdistan territory, in the north of Iraq, an area considered to be relatively safe in the current climate. However, many Iraqis argued that the University should have been established in Baghdad, given its cultural and political significance and its position as capital of the country. But the school's rector, Gordon Anderson, argued that "the reason Kurdistan was chosen is because it's safe. It would not

have been possible to have started the University in Baghdad."

The establishment of the University comes at a time when the stability of Iraq's government and economy is being called into question. With a proposal for the gradual withdrawal of US troops from Iraqi soil, many critics have claimed that Iraq is in no position to be left to its own devices. This, coupled with ever-present violence in the country presents a strong argument against the plan. However the University and its high aims for it's students, shows that the future generation of Iraqis are working towards creating a stable and affluent nation.

On opening its doors earlier this year, the University received blessings from Iraq's most senior political figures including President Jalal Talabani. Indeed both President Talabani and Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi are on the University Board of Regents, a fact that has left many speculating on the possible political bias of the University.

Despite these misgivings, it must be reassuring for the people of Iraq to see the opening of a well-funded university in their invasion-ravaged country.

The American University of Sulaimani's main square.

# 140 arrested at student bash in Canada

BY Kasia Mychajlowycz  
International News Editor

CANADA'S QUEEN'S University, consistently ranked as the second best university in the country, has recently been deprived of another of one of its claims to fame - or infamy. The university's principal Tom Williams announced on November 18th that Queen's would no longer host its annual homecoming celebration, amidst protestations against the unofficial student street party that traditionally follows the official homecoming football game (American, of course).

The street party takes place every autumn on Aberdeen St., the main artery of a small neighbourhood known as the "student ghetto" near the leafy campus in the university town of Kingston, Ontario. Thousands of students and alumni from Queen's crowd the residential area for a night of dancing, yelling, and, most conspicuously, heavy drinking. This year, the Canadian Press (CP) estimated that 8,000 revellers flooded Aberdeen St.: 140 people were arrested at the party and 700 liquor violation tickets were handed out. The party was said to be made up this year by more people not affiliated with the university, most

worryingly, high school students. In a province where the drinking age is 19, most first year students, many second years, and no high school students are permitted to drink, and drinking outdoors is strictly illegal, two laws which account for the incredibly high rate of ticketing.

Another factor is the 300 extra police hired specifically to control the event by the Kingston police force, at a cost of 300,000 Canadian dollars, according to the CP. One popular rumour on campus is that no police officer is allowed to take the night of the homecoming Saturday off.

In a letter Principal Williams wrote to the alumni of Queen's asking them "to make this sacrifice, because I am persuaded that something very precious is at risk: our hard-won reputation." This is not the first time the street party has made national news.

Canadians were shocked in 2005 when a local resident's car was flipped over on during the festivities, and photos of Queen's students jumping and dancing on the overturned vehicle, which was then lit on fire, made the front pages of the nation's daily newspapers. As this reporter witnessed first-hand, the scanty line of police officers in



Scenes from Aberdeen St. Photo: Dave Perreault

riot gear at each end of the street could do little to stop the chaos going on right in front of their eyes, and while they stopped people from crossing police lines into the party, I was escorted by a Queen's student around a house, through a backyard and between two houses, emerging in front of the destroyed car while students threw empty beer cans from the roofs and porches of every house on that stretch of street.

After homecoming in 2005, the Kingston Police threatened to use tear gas and tasers to control crowds the following year, but the 2006 and 2007 Aberdeen Street bashes were mellow: although car-wrecking

had quickly become a tradition, no police-crowd clashes were reported.

Predictably, a Facebook group entitled "Don't Cancel Homecoming" was quickly set up to rally students, although the group had only 1,071 members by the end of last week. The group was set up by Queen's alumnus Fraser MacDonald, and its mission statement called canceling homecoming "an overreaction to a problem that was on its way to subsiding", and a "drastic action" taken "probably to please certain special interest groups" which weren't specified. It also included Principal Williams' email address and office phone number.

In the discussion being held on the page, one student, Alex Jokic, voiced a common sentiment among Queen's students that the city of Kingston (whose residents are commonly referred to as "townies" by the students) profits by the huge influx of people during homecoming: "I wonder how the city ACTUALLY feels about its loss of revenue? Last week you couldn't book a hotel in Kingston for Homecoming weekend 2009. I'm sure every room is/will be available now."

This is in stark contrast to the community groups, made up of residents who live near the student ghetto of the Queen's campus, who have protested homecoming in the city council and to the university vigorously.

Some even handed out pamphlets during the first week of term to students and their parents asking them to not to be part of the Aberdeen St. party this year.

But will canceling homecoming - and only for the next two years - get rid of the Aberdeen street party? Says Nick Roberts, a fourth year student at Queen's: "There are already plans to have the party anyways. It's just a sense of entitlement that we can have this party and no one can stop us."

## QIXANG, CHINA PANDA STRIKES AGAIN

A COLLEGE student paying a visit to Qixang Park was left regretting his decision to climb into a panda enclosure, after the scared panda attacked him.

The student, known only as Liu, was visiting the park with classmates when he broke into Yang Yang the panda's enclosure. He then attempted to hug the panda, which provoked it into biting his arms and legs. Park workers then rescued the student.

He was rushed to hospital where he underwent surgery but is now in a stable condition. He seemed to see a strong reasoning behind his decision to enter the enclosure "Yang Yang was so cute and I just wanted to cuddle him."

Park workers announced that the panda was recovering from the incident and did not seem to have suffered any psychological trauma. This is not the first time that Yang Yang has been in the news. In 2006 the panda bit a drunken tourist who had climbed into its enclosure. The tourist then proceeded to bite Yang Yang back in retaliation. The park also announced that it had no intentions to improve the security around Yang Yang's enclosure.

Caitriona Murphy

## TRINITY STUDENT ABROAD

**An interview with Maddy Ayers, TSM French and Spanish, on her year abroad at Grenada University, Spain:**

*Was this your first pick, and if so, why?*  
This was my first pick. I wanted to go somewhere not too big, with good weather, and was told that the department here for languages was one of the better ones.

*How is Grenada different from Trinity?*  
The main cultural difference would just be people's general attitude. They're SO relaxed here about everything! But, people also have a lot more hours of class here.

*What do you miss the most while living abroad?*  
I miss the fact that at Trinity, obviously everything's really easy to understand and I'm familiar with the whole university life and work set-up. I love it here, but I guess especially at the start it was pretty tiring being in lectures while simultaneously trying to work out what was going on all in another language. It's worth the effort though I think! I miss my friends as well of course!

*What's one big advantage of taking a year abroad?*  
I like the fact that here, for Erasmus students at least, you have way more freedom when it comes to what courses you can choose to do.

*Any advice for students wanting to go abroad?*  
The most important piece of advice I could give would be to try as much as possible to have both English-speaking and native friends, and to get involved with life in the place where you're studying. It can be really tempting to just be a bit lazy and speak English ALL the time, but try not to - it's such a waste!!

Kasia Mychajlowycz



# Energy efficiency: are all our efforts going to waste?



Trinity’s efforts to reduce energy consumption had never been more important at this time of year, or indeed, at a time when we’re watching the cost of everything around us so closely. How can we combine personal responsibility with the work that has already been done?

**By Deirdre Lennon**  
News Features Editor

TRINITY’S PARTICIPATION in the e3 project over the past couple of years has shown that it has taken even greater measures to ensure that it is efficient energy-wise. How has this initiative helped our college maintain its promise to reduce energy costs? As we all know, college buildings consume large amounts of electricity, gas and water. Each building in Trinity has been refurbished at various stages over the past two decades, which makes me wonder: is it feasibly possible to make costs lower?

The e3 project (Energy, Environment and Economy), a scheme part funded by Sustainable Energy Ireland, which involves DCU, UCD, Trinity and DIT has been underway since 2004, and has been successful in a number of areas. Its major goal was to reduce energy consumption in thirty buildings by 10% over a three year period, and it was projected that this would save a massive €800,000 per year if achieved. The buildings in Trinity which were originally targeted were the Arts Building, the Hamilton, Goldsmith Hall, the School of Nursing, Berkeley Library, IAMS, the Ussher, the O’Reilly Building, Biotechnology and Áras an Phiarsaigh, among others.

Figures at the end of 2006 showed a 7.2% reduction in the consumption of energy in eight of the buildings listed above. 2007 statistics show that the project was committed to ensuring that savings in these buildings and added another ten to the list, marked for the same intention. But how has progress been since then?

A common component of all four colleges involved in e3 is that part of their electricity comes from Irish wind farms, specifically, from Airtricity – a renewable supplier. College purchased a substantial amount of renewable electricity in 2008: 26,600,000 kWh is the figure cited. In addition, it is said to be the main supply of electricity to campus for this year, and also in 2007. This purchase has made significant savings of 15,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions, whereas other sources such as gas or oil would be much more detrimental to the environment. Undoubtedly, the cost of electricity will rise over the next year in particular, owing to economic factors, but Trinity states that it has entered into a contract that ensures costs will indeed be kept to a minimum for two years.

Older buildings in college undoubtedly take much more energy to heat, and thus, the CYLON system that was put in place in newer buildings has been



installed in older ones too, leading to refurbishments. These refurbishments are intended to make older buildings on campus much more energy efficient and include features such as heat recovery strategies, more efficient boilers and low energy lighting to name but a few measures. Retrofitting these buildings to bring them to the level of efficiency that newer buildings on campus have, however, would be expensive, perhaps prohibitively so. The same can be said for other colleges around the country who are facing similar problems such as UCD, but in comparison to figures from DCU and Maynooth, Trinity is forced to take greater initiatives, as it is much easier to have low energy design and greater insulation in newer buildings. However, it is worth noting here that over the past four years, the general unit cost of electricity has risen by 46%, and one report noted that there would be a further 17% increase in the next year.

Furthermore, for all these worthwhile attempts at reduction, it seems that there are areas in which college electricity costs are already increasing. Take the Hamilton Building as an example. Despite using the most recent energy efficiency technology, it uses a significant proportion of the energy purchased by College. The curious thing about the Hamilton building in particular is that, in four of the ten completed months of this year, the levels of electricity used were higher than those in 2004: the first year of measurements for the e3 programme. Worse still though, in all ten months of this year so far, the levels of electricity use have been consistently higher than those in 2007. This is a concerning trend and, perhaps, a signal that potential savings are becoming harder to exploit.

We can break these figures down somewhat, in order to illustrate what is happening more precisely, at least in terms of usage. As stated, the e3 programme started measuring in the Hamilton building in February 2004. In that month, the building used 89,087 kWh of electricity. In 2005, this increased to 94,191 kWh or, in other words, 105.7% of the 2004 figure. In 2007, for each month, there was the first widespread drop in electricity consumption – with each month amounting to 83.3% of the total in 2004: a considerable achievement and a dramatic drop.

However, this drop was reversed drastically this year, starting in January and – as of the end of October – the Hamilton building is looking at a 6.5% increase in electricity consumption on last year, based on figures from e3.

Moving on to the Ussher Library, we find that a similar – though not as dramatic – trend has taken hold. This year it has been somewhat more difficult to find energy savings and, in eight of the ten months completed so far, we’ve found that there has been more energy used than in the corresponding months of 2007.

There are, of course, multiple reasons which may explain this. To begin with, one could hypothesise that any decrease in unnecessary emissions has simply been offset by an increased usage of computers in the Hamilton building. This is a valid explanation, though it can’t quite account for all of the increased usage in the Hamilton, particularly this year.

A second proposal consists of the idea that most of the easily implemented savings in electricity energy have now been achieved and that it will – from here on – require a higher degree of capital

The Arts Block a-glow. Photo: Rachel Kennedy

### e3 AND ME: THE FACTS

- » The e3 project has been underway since 2003 and marked the beginning of Trinity working with other colleges – UCD, DIT and DCU – to reduce energy costs on campus.
- » One of the main sources of energy on campus comes from Airtricity – a renewable electricity supplier, and in 2008, 26,600,000 kWh was purchased from this company.
- » The general unit cost of electricity has risen by 46% over the last four years, and one report noted that there would be a further 17% increase in the next year.
- » Electricity consumption in the Hamilton building have increased by 6.5% on last year, based on the latest figures from e3.

expenditure in order to further halt the growth of electricity consumption. A third, and perhaps more abstract, theory is that since – for the first time since e3 ratings started – Ireland has had a below average temperature for five of the last ten months, it might simply be a behavioural shift, with more people spending time indoors. This, however, seems largely hypothetical.

One thing which is worth noting throughout this recent increase in electricity usage is that it seems to be confined to Trinity College when College’s e3 statistics are compared with other institutions.

For instance, DCU, another participant in the programme, has – thus far – used

The curious thing about the Hamilton is that in four of the ten completed months of this year, the levels of electricity were higher than in 2004

9.9% less electricity in 2008 than it did in 2004. Similarly, in UCD, we find that the Newman Building has posted a 4.7% decrease in electricity consumption for this year, compared to the same period in 2007.

At this time of year, from November to February, college faces expensive electricity costs, and personal responsibility will play more of a role than ever in the coming months to ensure that, as users of the buildings, we keep costs even proportionally lower. We are the ones who benefit most from the additional PCs, more advanced research equipment and increased opening hours of buildings such as the BLU complex on Sundays, and thus, we can help reduce energy costs by working with low cost energy initiatives on campus, not to mention on a wider scale.

## Energy rip-off charges

*Trinity students pay twice as much as counterparts in other universities*

**JOHN LAVELLE**  
OPINION EDITOR

Trinity students living in College accommodation are charged over twice as much for energy as students in other Irish universities, a Trinity News survey has shown.

Residents of Trinity Hall pay a fixed charge of €600 a year in energy charges, while students in other

energy fee of €560 a year, while charges on other parts of campus are based on the amount of energy used.

A total of 1,700 students live in College accommodation on campus and at Trinity Hall in Dartry and about 1,400 of these pay a fixed energy charge.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the €75 a month paid by Trinity residents is also far higher than the charges paid by students in private halls. The Students’ Union

An article in Trinity News last year reported that students were charged twice as much for energy charges in accommodation here than in other universities around the country, and were not charged for individual energy consumption, but instead, had to pay a fixed price.



# Trinity’s art world: surveyed

Does Trinity deserve its artistic reputation? Are art societies in Trinity only for a select few? And do students really care about Trinity’s Art world? **Caroline O’ Leary** investigates...

ART HAS never seemed a prominent element of Trinity College life. The college has long been renowned for its Arts and Humanities department, last year placing 32<sup>nd</sup> in the world rankings for the area. Yet despite influences ranging from the ancient Book of Kells to the contemporary Douglas Hyde Gallery, as well the many student resources on offer, actual visual art seems to remain unimportant outside. To see just how deep this lack of interest runs, for the last ten days *Trinity News* has been running its first Art Survey to gauge just how much the student population knows about the facilities on offer.

Results varied from the obvious to the very surprising. The survey questioned participants on their knowledge of the five main art societies in college - Trinity Arts Festival, Trinity Arts Workshop, Visual Arts Society, Dublin University Photography Association and the Digital Arts Society. Participants were asked if they were aware of each society and if so, to briefly explain it and its aims. The remaining questions involved participation in events run by these societies, knowledge of and visitation to the Douglas Hyde Gallery and knowledge of the Trinity College Art Hire scheme. Gender, course of study and year of study were also provided to see how these variables affected awareness and knowledge of the art scene in Trinity.

In terms of awareness, the Dublin University Photography Association came out as the society of which most people were aware,

followed by Trinity Arts Festival, Visual Arts, Arts Workshop and Digital Arts. However actual knowledge appears to be depressingly slim, with only 25% aware of most of the societies and their aims (see graphs), DUPA being the only exception. 16% of those polled had no knowledge of any of the areas within the survey, while 35% had no knowledge of any of the college’s art-based societies. Many who indicated they were aware of a society gave incorrect explanations, varying from a general idea to being entirely wrong, while answers for the more obviously named societies such as DUPA were often vague, leaving a question mark over how much the participant was really aware

“16% of those polled had no knowledge of any of the areas within the survey, while 35% had no knowledge of any of the college’s art-based societies”

and how much guesswork was involved. Unsurprisingly, participants’ knowledge varied depending on their course and gender. 63% of those polled belonged to the Arts and Humanities faculty, and the same proportion were female. However, despite the disproportionate numbers, the results defied expectations with students from the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science exceeding their Arts & Humanities brethren in many areas and males exceeding females in knowledge of 3 out of the 5 societies. Results involving the Douglas Hyde Gallery were also disappointing, with a vast majority of people never having attended, while only 2% of all participants surveyed claimed to visit it on a regular basis. Of course, these results are only an

indication and there are many variables that cause the figures to be far from an absolute. Those polled only comprised a small fraction of the college population. Students with longer hours and who are often located off-campus, such as medical students, are far less likely to know about the more esoteric sides of College life, while History of Art students are far more likely to know more.

So what do these results mean? Despite the many variables involved, do these results point to a defunct culture of art in Trinity? Should we bother to focus energy on what appears to be such a dead end, or simply leave it to those who really care?

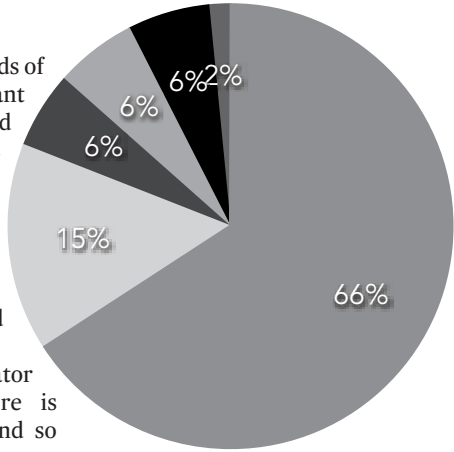
Despite the raw statistics, however, there is a glimmer of hope for the arts in Trinity. Possibly the biggest surprise of the survey was the number of positive and enthusiastic messages left in the comment box. Though some voiced the opinion that the art scene should not be a college priority, many expressed shock at their lack of knowledge in this area

provided. So is there hope? The heads of these societies are certainly adamant that they will continue to grow and flourish for anyone who wishes to be involved. Bella Scott, Chair of the Visual Arts Society, says “I think the Visual Arts Society brings together people interested in art, who want to see art, and talk about it together. It helps spread enthusiasm and knowledge.”

Trinity Arts Festival Co-ordinator Sorchá Richardson believes there is much potential in the societies and so much more they can do “It is fair to say that there is quite little known about art in Trinity, and this is something we are hoping to change this year. The interest and artistic talent is there amongst the students but it is just a matter of making them aware of the various art-related societies and events that take place in college and encouraging them to participate, regardless of their study faculty. I believe that the promotion of these societies and events is key, and holding fun, high-quality events also helps to raise the profile of art in college. All the societies have great and very dedicated committees this year, with some fantastic events lined up, so I feel that this will be a golden year for art in Trinity!”

## ART SOCIETIES IN TRINITY

- » Trinity Arts Festival- A week of tours, exhibitions and nights out in February to promote and celebrate art in Trinity.
- » Trinity Arts Workshop- Runs a variety art classes including life drawing, stone carving and painting.
- » Visual Arts Society- organises gallery tours and events as well as informs members about art-related events.
- » Dublin University Photography Association- organises classes on composition, developing, printing as well as walks, trips, exhibitions and talks from photographers.
- » Digital Arts Society- Focuses on digital forms of artistic expression such as Photoshop and sound mixing.



Student visitation to Trinity's Douglas Hyde Gallery. A vast majority have never visited.

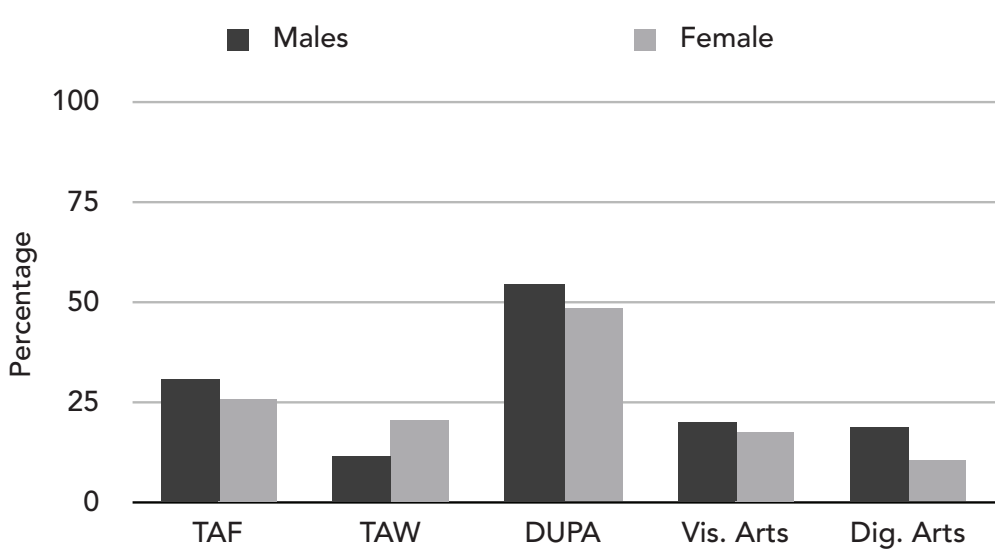
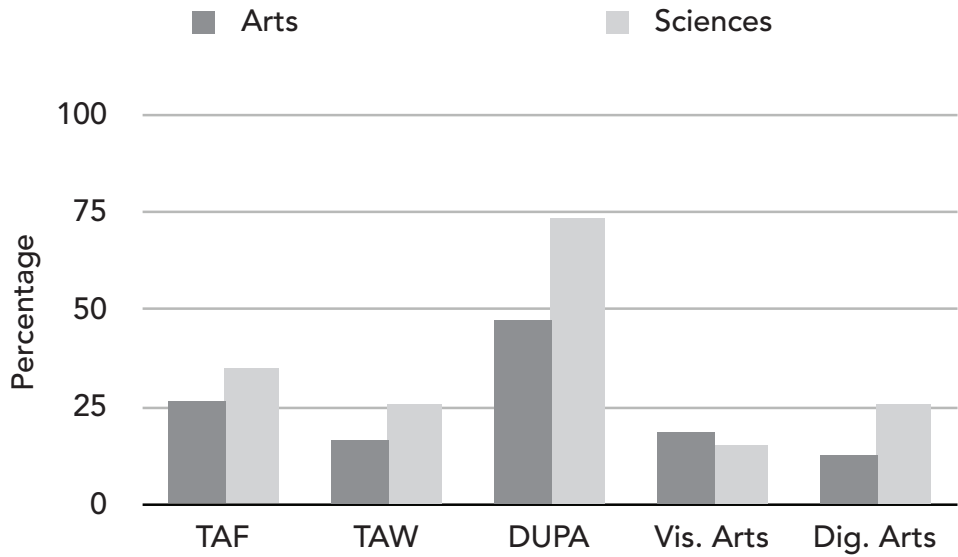
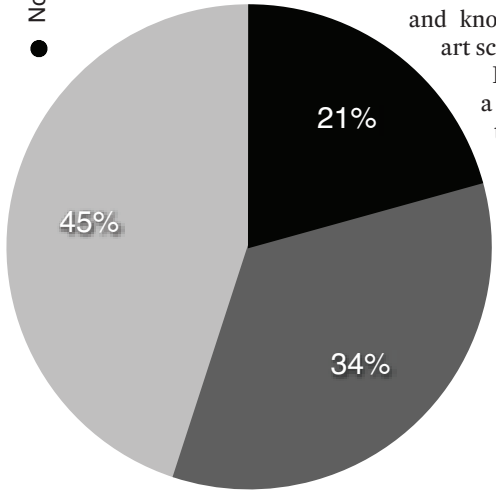
## SURVEY COMMENTS

- » Great idea to do the survey, I'd love to see/hear lots more about the arts in trinity and i think everyone else would too. People are LAZY - make it EASY for them to SEE the arts, and they will love it and want to see more!
- » Wow, I've studied here for four years and never encountered as much as a whiff of any of this.
- » It'd be great if there was some arts newsletter email or something. I just saw visual arts society! Digital arts society! God I want to know what those guys do!
- » Didn't realise how little I knew about Arts-y things in Trinity... which is strange, because I have some interest in the Arts,
- » I'd love to see some of the stuff they do on display in the Arts Block or something...plus it would cover up those disgusting walls!
- » I think people who are actually interested in the arts would seek them out anyway. The rest of the people don't actually care and don't need to know about the arts facilities provided.

No to all societies

Art ignorance in college; Percentages of participants who answered negative to all or majority of questions

No to all



# Trinity Arts Festival: tapping Trinity’s talent

Kerrie O’Brien takes you on a tour of past and future events at the Trinity Arts Festival, stopping off everywhere from the BLU to the Provost’s house

FROM 9TH-13TH February 2009 Trinity will hold its fourth arts festival. Created by History of Art student Pearl O’Sullivan in 2006, the Trinity Arts Festival (TAF) is a celebration of the creative arts within the student community. The goal of the festival is to highlight and cultivate the creative dimension of the student community, drawing on the talent already existent within the arts-based student societies. Held annually in February, the week-long event is Ireland’s first and only student-run arts festival.

TAF wishes to provide every student, regardless of academic background, the chance to participate in the weeks events and in doing so provide them with the opportunity to explore their inner creativity. The majority of activities, excluding the major night-time endeavours, are free of charge. The past three festivals have included

a diverse and impressive range of events. As student participation and creativity is one of the festival’s main objectives, it has featured interactive workshops in fashion customising, make-up for film and TV, life-drawing marathons, studio and pinhole photography, African drumming, mask-making, juggling, balloon sculpting, dance, drum and bass, and beat-boxing with the renowned artist White Noise. In regard to talks, last year Curatorial Assistant Barry White discussed the role of the Douglas Hyde Gallery as a platform for contemporary art. Irish artist Doug Ross explored his use of digital technology in an artistic context. A Visual Arts panel discussion was held on “Institutional Contexts” which included prestigious speakers such as Brian Maguire (Head of Fine Art at NCAD), Karim Rehmani-White (The Hugh Lane Gallery) and William Gallagher (Education Officer,

Royal Hibernian Academy). Our Audio Detour provided students with a small headset whispering choreographic instructions for a 30 minute alternative tour of the college campus. The Future Fashion show in 2006 showcased a funky mix of organic, fair trade and vintage design and costumes made from recycled materials and provided a bright and broad introduction to the world of eco-fashion. Live outdoor performances from the Bulragá Choir, Boydell singers, the Orchestral Society’s string quartet and the Bluebricks performing arts workshop were featured; the last explored the nature of the Group Dynamic through sound and movement. And then there were the night-time events which catered for a wide and eclectic range of tastes. The past three years saw international DJ Rory

Philips from London’s T.R.A.S.H., the Filthy Dukes at Crawdaddy, a live set by famous Dublin ensemble the Jimmy Cake, the Amadeus Octet in the Chapel, evening architectural projections such as Stephen Mulhall’s Educating Rita installation at the GMB and live painting sessions at Rogue, to mention a few. Without doubt *I Want to Score* (a night of student film screenings in collaboration with DU Filmmakers accompanied by live music scores and stand-up comedy in the Sugar Club) has been one of the best nights in the festival’s history. Some events are permanent fixtures on the programme, such as the architectural tours of the College libraries and hidden gems around the campus along with tours of Trinity’s painting and sculpture collections. In 2008 the

Architectural Association of Ireland generously permitted an exhibit of the submission pieces received for their annual competition for architectural excellence. The plans, elevations and sketches of the proposed buildings were mounted on boards and displayed all week in the BLU Trinity Library intersection (Iveagh Hall) providing students with an excellent viewing opportunity. Happily the AAI have agreed to do the same in 2009 and it is hoped that this will become a tradition for the festival. However the most outstanding annual event is the tour of the Provost’s House. This presents a once-off opportunity for students and staff to view a large selection of the college’s prestigious art collection, located within the architectural surroundings of the Provost’s residence on campus. Highlights of the collection include a number of works by Jack B. Yeats, James Barry and Joshua Reynolds, and it’s absolutely free. Each year the festival kicks off in style with an opening reception in the Atrium with a photography exhibit, the sketches from our life-drawing marathon workshop along with live jazz and scrumptious delights from the Food and Drink Society. All week long the campus canvas is run, a unique artistic venture giving anyone

the chance to express themselves. The materials are provided, and you provide the art with two giant blank canvases in the Hamilton and the Arts block which beg to be filled with creative input from all. A variety of materials will be provided to decorate the canvas in the most imaginative way possible and the finished works are displayed on the final night of the festival. The amalgamation of societies which TAF encourages provides a wider platform, resources and motivation to successfully undertake larger projects. It emphasises what these societies are all about - a medium for students to be involved and become active and participative figures in all elements of student life. With the majority of events free and held at accessible after-class or lunchtime hours, the festival is for everyone, not just people with previous artistic interest.

If you wish to get involved or volunteer in the festival simply e-mail [artsfest@csc.tcd.ie](mailto:artsfest@csc.tcd.ie) and see [www.trinityartsfestival.com](http://www.trinityartsfestival.com). The theme this year is carnival, and with a dedicated and experienced committee TAF 2009 will be crafty and epic. Trinity will be set alight with creativity. Come along!





A TERTIARY WASTE OF TIME?

A degree with a dead end

Unemployment levels are rising and a university education is getting increasingly expensive. Sarah-Kate Caughey questions the usefulness of a degree: is it really worth it?

“EDUCATION IS a right, not a privilege” was the echoing chant of Trinity students on their exit from Front Arch a few weeks ago in protest against the re-introduction of fees for third level students. Taking this into consideration, even the most out of touch academics among us have to consider the question; is it really worth it? Third level education has been greatly encouraged in Ireland in recent years, but is it all it's cracked up to be, taking the current economic situation into account? Has it had its moment of glory, now left out in the cold? We are all here to get a qualification of some sort, but what if it's all a waste when you get out into the real world and find that there are just no jobs there for you?

If this is the case, why should we bother struggling for those extra five points in the Leaving Cert and just pack all academic learning in after secondary school? Why not apply for a job as a civil servant and work in the government,

where job security is high and stress is relatively low?

It seems that this plan for re-introducing fees has been put to bed; politicians are asleep and out of touch with reality while the rest of us have been left with a severe case of insomnia. We recognise the benefits of sticking with it for as long as we possibly can because it is a right not a privilege. But what if your degree stands for nothing at the end? Has it just become another social commodity or does it still have the power to stand you apart from the rest on the career ladder?

Life as a Celtic tiger cub has been pretty sweet up until now, that is before this big black cloud dubbed “The Recession”. This notion has descended upon us, dampening all our spirits in one way or another and showering us with unwanted parental drivel, warning; “In my day, I hadn't a shilling” or another favourite, “The young ones these days don't know what has hit them”.

In fact, we do know what is hitting us; it's just not in the same context as the expression is usually so fondly used. We know that the current economic climate is uncertain; we understand the impact yet we fail to see that a degree is not the answer to our problems for the future. This Emerald Isle is turning out more third level graduates in the last ten years than ever before with almost 75% of school leavers today going on to college. But will our efforts have been a waste of time?

The truth is, no one really knows. A lot has to be said for embarking on a career straight out of school with no degree behind you. At least this way, you are guaranteed to have some financial stability in four years time, unlike a student studying an arts degree, such as myself, with no exact vocation in mind.



Photo: Lowry Lou

Obviously it depends on one's chosen profession, but certainly in plumbing, film production, radio presenting and journalism; all well-respected, necessary, well-paid jobs, four years' work experience can be considerably more valuable (and cheaper) than the same amount of time spent at university. Or working in the Garda Síochána for example. This is one job which offers stability and a good standard wage regardless of the economic climate. There will always be a need for Gardai to patrol the streets. The annual wage for a new member of the Garda

are facing the same situation; possibly unemployable and likely oblivious to it.

It seemed the day would never come that not even a BESS student would be guaranteed job security. Yet, looking at the facts, we are now faced with uncertainty and we hear of increasing numbers of engineers becoming accountants and economics students going on to work in areas completely irrelevant to their degree.

So what happens to us? We end up in careers that we could have gone into anyway straight out of school. Look at

“Four years' work experience can be considerably more valuable (and cheaper) than the same amount of time spent at university”

Síochána today is in or around €26,000. This will increase to at least €38,000 within ten years with job specification. Perks also include exceedingly good holidays and overtime opportunities. This is just one of the many jobs which could actually pay reasonably well, putting your current degree in perspective depending on your field of choice. The truth is, none of us seem to know where we are going and if we can even get a job after 4 years. Whether you are studying film or business, theology or geography, we

Film Studies students for example – Who can actually say they went into that degree programme with a feeling of ease at the notion of high employment rates at the end of it? My point exactly!

The way things are going, why not take the government's advice literally and “economise” with the times and save yourself a couple of grand a year from September 2009 and work your way up in whatever area of interest you choose? In any case, most people go on to work in areas that are irrelevant to their degree.

“College is the best place to be when the economy sours”

RONAN HODSON  
PRESIDENT OF GSU



THERE HAS BEEN a pressure in the education system for many years urging students to go to college, regardless of their natural talents and personal ambitions. This has led to astoundingly high numbers taking up third level, with very few of those really appreciating what they're getting. A year ago I would have said: if you don't want a degree, don't waste your time and College's money getting one. If someone were to moot the same thought to me today, I would be inclined to respond with something in the vein of an accusation of insanity – for a number of reasons.

First, as a matter of pure, selfish pragmatism. This year's intake of freshers may be the last generation of Trinity students to enjoy four free years of university education. The emphasis being on “free”. College students anywhere else in the world shovel over massive annual fees, or accumulate vertiginous debts with every year they stay in college – you don't, and you won't.

If fees come in, they won't affect you. So you, effectively, have an exemption from the prevailing economic reality for the next few years. Of course, it's not a completely free ride. You may have to pay for rent by working evenings and weekends. You may have to cut down

on nights out and consider packing your lunch. But this has always been the case, even in the heyday of the Celtic Tiger, and it is unlikely that this student lifestyle will be impacted very much by whatever economic catastrophe looms.

And of course, you will come out of it with a degree. But what if the prophets of doom have it, and when you emerge as a degree holder in a few years the jobs market is a wasteland of despair? If the rationale behind dropping out is to cram oneself into whatever jobs are left before they all suddenly evaporate, then the whole problem reduces to a simple judgement: do you want the job you can get now as a college drop out, with the economy as it is; or do you want the job you can get in a few years' time as a holder of a higher degree, with an economy of uncertain strength. To choose the former path would be, I think, hugely short-sighted. You may enjoy some immediate affluence, but unless you expect an all-out employment apocalypse, you'll eventually find yourself limited by your choice, and will inevitably end up paying for it, either with a mediocre career or expensive college fees. If the jobs market is truly hostile when you graduate – just do a postgrad. Four years need only be the beginning!

Ruarí Quinn of the Labour Party studied Architecture. Alas, to add insult to injury, one of Ireland's best-known media figures, Pat Kenny, studied mechanical engineering, some suggest he should have stayed there. If you look the workforce, you will find that the vast majority just worked their way up.

You probably think I am barking mad to be even questioning the relevance of a college degree, above all writing it in a college newspaper, but I'm going to form my own explanation for why you disagree with me.

It would seem to me that you are suffering from what I call “Trinity Syndrome”. symptoms include an inability to interact with the rest of society on a deep level due to incapability to see beyond one's arrogant notion of pure superiority.

Come on and admit it! We all have encountered this “ailment” at some point

during our time here in Trinity, otherwise you wouldn't be here. The prognosis, I'm afraid, for this mental illness is bleak: I don't believe there is any cure for us poor unfortunates who happen to go to indisputably the best university in Ireland.

Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with pride in your college; but to parade around with the notion that a third level degree from Trinity solves all will not get you far.

Nothing in life comes easily, experience gained in college can work to your advantage but a bit of hard work and determination usually goes further than an undergraduate degree.

If all that is in our heads is this religious-like creed that a degree is the answer to all our prayers, guess who is going to spend the coming years with an empty bank account which not even a “Trinity” degree can repair?

“A degree gives an advantage in recruitment market”

SEAN GANNON  
DIRECTOR, CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE

SEAN GANNON of Trinity's CAS believes a degree significantly helps with employment. He says “having a degree gives applicants an important competitive advantage in the recruitment market, particularly so when it comes to earning power.

“Last year 57% of primary degree graduates obtained employment – 46% in Ireland and 11% overseas. Unemployment at 2% was lower than the previous year. 37% of graduates went on to some sort of further study and 7% took time out.

“In the case of postgraduates 87% obtained employment – 74% in Ireland and 13% overseas. Unemployment amongst postgraduates was 3% and this figure too was lower than the previous year.

“Recruitment activity in Dublin for the class of 2009 continues to hold up despite the uncertainty in the economy. At the recent GradIreland Fair in the RDS, about 163 organisations were offering graduate jobs both in Ireland and the UK, which is broadly in line with last year.

“The services sector continues to offer the most jobs to graduates and while some banks have halted their recruitment activities for this year, not all have done so and the four main accounting firms are recruiting in the order of 200 graduates each.”

“On the whole, my degree is just a back-up”

ED O'RIORDAN  
CLUB PROMOTER & FULL-TIME STUDENT

“SOME LECTURERS in business have little real world business experience”.

After a memorable year working as a sabbatical officer of the students union, Ed is back at the books, studying BESS.

He says business is “a lot of common sense” and emphasises the importance of work experience; “The work that I did as Ents officer last year developed my business skills more than the last and next few years of college ever will.”

However, he chooses to stay in college like the rest of us to get that gratification at the end, that piece of paper, the official qualification. He supposes that unless the degree is very specific, nothing is set in stone; “Accounting will stand to me in the future, but on the whole my degree is just a backup. Getting involved in societies was the best thing I've done so far.” It is the college experience as opposed to the degree that Ed has relished the most.

Alongside college, Ed runs many events throughout the week in hot venues around the city.

He has big plans for the future - “When I finish, I'd like to take a franchise from America and create a market here for it”, though he is more modest than is perhaps expected and will be making most use of his experiences in college rather than his lecture notes.

“My time in TCD was rewarding personally and professionally”

STEPHEN FORAN  
HOTEL MANAGER

STEPHEN FORAN is an alumnus of Trinity College twice over with a degree in both psychology and law. He is currently the General Manager of The Spa Hotel, Lucan, Co Dublin.

He says that “although my own 3rd level qualification is not related to my line of work, I have come to consider my time in TCD as a hugely rewarding time both personally and professionally.

“Furthermore the very fact that I had a 3rd level qualification gave me an advantage when applying for my current position. It showed that I could learn, it demonstrated that I had sufficient personal ambition to achieve a degree and ultimately it represented that I was serious about my future and the career path I had chosen.

“My advice to anyone currently in third level education would be to work hard to ensure those precious few years of your life are not only enjoyable socially but also successful on an academic level. Having a third level qualification, and particularly from such an esteemed university as TCD, will certainly do you no harm in the future. Also, if the career path you choose is different to the degree you have studied this does not make the pursuing of the degree a waste of time... far from it in fact. Employers are looking for a skilled and educated workforce regardless of the sector they are in.”

“A portfolio of work carries more weight than a certificate”

MARTIN FITZPATRICK  
NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS

AS CHAIRMAN of the Dublin branch of the NUJ, Fitzpatrick says it is not essential to have a degree in order to work in many jobs, including Ireland's national press.

“Many of the older reporters and subeditors in the ‘nationals’ trained as journalists with only secondary education. But in the last thirty years or so it has been the practice that newspapers have recruited young people out of universities and my guess would be that at the moment 65 per cent or more of the people currently employed by the ‘nationals’ have university qualifications.

“The existence of a post-grad journalism qualification in DCU has helped speed up that process.”

Fitzpatrick says, of a career in journalism particularly, “If someone can present a portfolio of published stuff to a news editor who is looking to hire staff, it would carry more weight than simply brandishing a graduation certificate.

“Journalism is one of the few callings in life that demands only curiosity, a hard neck and a burning desire to communicate what hacks tend to call ‘The Story.’

“Writing with clarity is a craft that can be learned, not easily, but eventually. Consequently there is no reason in the world why anyone with or without qualifications cannot become a journalist.”



# On the campaign for change

Clipboard and sunscreen in hand, David Traynor crossed the Atlantic to lend some Irish charm to the Obama presidential campaign in the crucial southern swing state of New Mexico

ON 10 February 2007, Illinois Senator Barack Obama announced his ambitious presidential bid on the steps of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois. Nineteen months on, it is hard to believe that the United States of America in on the cusp of inaugurating its first African-American President. While it is too early to analyse how and why this has come about a mere forty years after the racial tensions exposed by the civil rights movement, the unique character and charisma of Barack Obama has without doubt been a massive contributing factor. He has captured the imagination of not only his own country but of the entire world and has arguably energised a new class and generation of voters never before engaged in political discourse.

This summer I had the honour of working for Senator Obama's presidential campaign in Albuquerque, New Mexico and it is an experience which I will never forget.

What lay before us in New Mexico was an uphill struggle. Not only were we fighting tooth and nail in a key swing state but Clinton had beat Obama in the primaries

For the uninitiated, New Mexico is located in the cultural heartland of the south-western United States. It is often referred to as a 'frontier state', having only gained statehood less than a hundred years ago, in 1912. Wedged geographically and culturally between such extremely diverse states as Texas to the east, Colorado to the north, Arizona to the west and then, of course, Mexico to the south, New Mexico has managed to etch out its own unique identity as a relaxed backwater heavily influenced by Mexican traditions. 43% of New Mexicans identify themselves as Hispanic, the highest proportion of any US state.

In terms of presidential politics, New Mexico is considered a swing state having switched affiliations between Democratic and Republican presidential candidates at nearly every presidential election over the past 20 years. New Mexicans voted for George Bush Snr in 1988, Clinton in 1992 and 1996. In 2000, they voted for Al

Gore by a margin of just 366 votes and in 2004, they switched their loyalties to George W. Bush, electing him by just under 6,000 votes.

In the winner-takes-all electoral college system which governs US presidential elections, the candidate who gains a plurality of the vote in each state gains all the electoral college votes for that state. New Mexico contributes a total of 5 Electoral College votes out of the 270 that a candidate needs to be elected president. It may not seem like an awful lot in the grander scheme of things, but in an election which was for so long extremely tight, it could have made all the difference. Thankfully, it didn't have to.

I arrived in Albuquerque at the end of July and although only three months before the election, it was still early days for the campaign. The Democratic primary campaign had concluded just five weeks prior to that with Senator Clinton's concession to Senator Obama. Neither candidate had chosen their vice-presidential running mate and the full ramifications of the current financial crisis were not as readily apparent then as they are now. On an organisational level, by late July the Obama campaign was only beginning to set up its ground operation in the state of New Mexico; an operation which would eventually grow to number some forty offices throughout the state.

Upon arrival, I was placed with volunteers who housed me for the first six week period I was there. I was then assigned to a campaign field office located in the north-eastern part of Albuquerque. My initial task was to help grow the grassroots volunteer base in that part of town which was predominantly Republican.

What lay before us in New Mexico was an uphill struggle. Not only were we fighting tooth and nail in a key swing state which had leaned Republican in the past; in addition, New Mexico had also voted narrowly for Hillary Clinton in the primaries. With a divided democratic base, it was unclear how Clinton supporters were going to vote.

From my observations, the secret to Obama's success in New Mexico and indeed nationally was grounded in two integral parts of his campaign. Firstly, his superior campaign organisation which reached into every far flung county of all fifty states and managed to recruit a 5 million-strong volunteer base of motivated individuals. Secondly, his ability to out-fundraise the Republican Party through millions of small individual donations.



David Traynor lent his support to Barack Obama, shown here frozen in anticipation the day before polls opened

How Obama built his volunteer and fundraising base was nothing short of phenomenal. Based on his experience as a community organiser in the economically disadvantaged south side of Chicago, Obama constructed a model of volunteer recruitment and organisation unrivalled in modern US politics.

He departed from the predominantly media-based political campaigns of recent times and returned to a more old-fashioned grassroots campaigning style which placed immense value on individual voter contact, be it by phone, face-to-face contact or through the Internet. This of course was augmented by slick marketing and PR from campaign headquarters.

Obama's grassroots model was centred around what were called Neighbourhood Teams. To build teams, first team leaders needed to be identified. Once identified, they were invited in to the office to have a "one-on-one" with the staffer that recruited them. A one-on-one involved exchanging "your story" with the staffer i.e. who you are, where you're from, why you got involved in the campaign, and so forth.

Once the one-on-one was over, the next job was to assemble the team. To do this, a house party was scheduled - usually in the team leader's house. Over nibbles and refreshments everyone told their story, including the staffer and team leader, and then they planned their first volunteer act together.

The whole affair, from my own perspective, seemed gratuitously self-affirming, but Obama's number-crunchers certainly did their research because it worked.

People generally came away "empowered" and "fired up" (to use the "Obamanology" in vogue amongst campaign staff) and it acted as a very effective tool to galvanise teams of relative strangers.

Once these teams were built, they, in turn, recruited more volunteers, thus creating a multiplier effect which took on a life of its own. Getting the initial commitment was difficult but once it took off, it was an unstoppable force.

One thing the Obama campaign managed to execute seamlessly was its self-branding as a "grassroots movement for change" while simultaneously employing a rigid top-down hierarchy masterminded and directed centrally from the campaign's headquarters in Chicago. These headquarters were charged with homogenising a disparate group of 5 million individual volunteers scattered across 50 states. To say that this was a mammoth task is a gross understatement but by all accounts, it seemed to go off without a hitch. Something that definitely worked in their favour was the unifying nature of Senator Obama's message.

This contradiction in terms of an organisation being both based on

of the vice-presidential candidates, the two parties' national conventions or the reaction of both candidates to the financial crisis.

By mid-August, both candidates were more or less even in the polls but my feeling was that Obama had the edge, not just because of his fresh image and irresistible message of hope and change but because of his superior organisation and financing. By the end of the campaign, the Obama campaign's forty offices in New Mexico compared very favourably to John McCain's ten. Each Obama office was better staffed and used more efficient campaigning methods than its McCain counterpart. John McCain, bound by federal election spending restrictions, could not compete with the money pouring into the Obama campaign coffers from millions of die-hard supporters. Already at that point McCain was relying on negative campaigning and playing on the irrational fears of the electorate to get ahead.

Senator Obama's grassroots organisation would neither have been possible nor effective were it not for the terabytes of intelligent data that volunteers compiled before and during the campaign

a grassroots model and a top-down hierarchical one was all made possible by the Internet. From the outset, Obama was able to use social networking, targeted e-mailing and an interactive website to maintain contact with its grassroots organisation. It made volunteers feel part of something bigger yet at the same time giving the impression of being a cohesive, close-knit community.

In addition to his maximisation of the Internet's potential, Senator Obama's grassroots organisation would neither have been possible nor effective were it not for the terabytes of intelligent data that volunteers compiled previous to, and over, the course of the campaign. Every time a voter was called or spoken to face to face looking for support, contributions or to volunteer, any information that was garnered from the contact was recorded on a sheet of paper and fed into a computer system which would be updated at the end of each day. This nationwide database could tell you the age, sex and party affiliation of most voters as well as their address, telephone number and candidate preferences in the various levels of federal government.

With this detailed information, voters were specifically targeted with different tactics. For example, undecided voters were called to be persuaded of the reasons to vote for Obama. Meanwhile, identified Obama supporters were encouraged to apply for postal votes or avail of early voting to ensure that they would turn up to vote. In this way, the Obama campaign could maximise its votes amongst all sections of the electorate in an efficient and targeted manner, much in the same way businesses use intelligent marketing.

Over the course of the five weeks I spent in New Mexico in July and August, the Obama campaign built its volunteer base to reach a critical mass. By the time I left, most of what are now seen to be the turning points of the campaign had not yet occurred; such as the announcement

After my five week stint in the summer, I had to return to Ireland for work and college but I travelled back to New Mexico on 24<sup>th</sup> October for the last ten days of the campaign. When I returned, the office I had been working out of was a totally different place. The volunteer base had mushroomed in the period I was away. Now, day after day, the office was swarming with people making phone calls, doing data entry, picking up canvassing packs to go campaigning door-to-door. There were also an army of people cooking and baking for volunteers!

Everywhere I went, there was a palpable feeling of excitement in the air. By this stage, Obama was leading in the polls nationally and in New Mexico and he seemed like an unstoppable force. There was much speculation, however, over whether all the people who said they would vote for Obama to pollsters would do so in the privacy of the ballot box.

Much cited in the media was the example of Tom Bradley who was an African-American Democratic candidate for the California gubernatorial race in 1982. Despite being ahead in most polls in the lead-up to the election, he lost by a narrow margin to his white Republican rival, George Deukmejian.

As a result of this fear, despite the polling data which seemed very favourable to Senator Obama, the campaign stepped up their Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort in the days leading up to Election Day, aiming to call to every identified supporter either face to face or by phone.

Because I speak Spanish, this time around I was dispatched to help get out the vote in poor Hispanic areas where Spanish was the lingua franca. Here, houses were either trailers or ramshackle constructions built on unpaved roads and guarded by vicious guard dogs. The poverty I saw in these areas was unlike anything else I have seen in the Western world.

On Election Day, the Obama campaign organisation went into overdrive to implement what it called the Houdini Project - the culmination of all the intelligent data picked up by the campaign's army of volunteers over the course of the campaign. The Houdini Project aimed to use this data to track voter turnout on a real time basis over the course of Election Day. To simplify, the campaign was able to tell if one of the people who said they'd vote for Obama had actually turned up at their local polling station to vote. Those that didn't turn up to vote were called to be reminded to do so either over the phone or directly to their door by volunteers such as myself. If they needed a lift, we provided that too. The sheer extent of the Obama campaign machine was mind-boggling. How it was able to extend all of its tentacles into every far flung electoral precinct in every battleground state is overwhelming. The campaign estimated that the Houdini Project alone added 2-3% to Obama's

The idea that Palin would attract embittered Clinton supporters was ludicrous - she embodies the antithesis of everything Senator Clinton ever stood for

electoral support nationally. In an election where Senator Obama won by a 7% margin, that is an extremely significant figure.

While there is a tendency for people to get carried away with the historical significance of Obama's victory, it must be analysed in context. As I have already detailed, Obama's campaign organisation and budget was infinitely superior to that of McCain. Also, in fairness to McCain, George Bush has been the most unpopular US president since polling began and it was always going to be an uphill struggle for any Republican candidate.

Notwithstanding that, however, McCain did make a few unforgivable blunders, the main one being his selection of Sarah Palin as his vice-presidential running mate. With the selection of Palin, he cancelled out his most convincing claim to the presidency: experience. And in my opinion, Palin brought in very few extra voters. Those who could relate to her would probably have voted Republican anyway.

The idea that she would attract embittered Hillary Clinton supporters was ludicrous seeing as she embodies the antithesis of everything Senator Clinton ever stood for. McCain's erratic reaction to the economic crisis in the US was another factor. He seemed elitist and out of touch and despite his best efforts, he could not counter Obama's message of hope when it came to economic revival and wealth redistribution.

When asked about my time on the Obama campaign, two questions usually come to the fore. The first one often is do I think he will be assassinated. Because Senator Obama has been compared so often to John F. Kennedy, the analogy is simply made.

Having met the man and staffed an event at which he spoke, all I can say is that the security operation around him is second to none. The CIA screen all staff and conduct security sweeps of places he is due to visit days in advance of when he actually arrives. The second question tends to be if I think he is capable of achieving the so-called change he has promised.

Undoubtedly, President Obama will face very tough challenges in his first year in office and cannot hope to fully implement his ambitious plans for reform. He will, however, be a revolutionary change to what Americans have been used to over the past eight years with President Bush. And, while maybe I too have been brainwashed by the campaign spin, I do believe that Yes He Can.

To read more about David Traynor's trip, visit his blog: <http://newmexwecan.blogspot.com>



A trailer park in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Photo: David Traynor



# The greed of man and the wrath of God

For the people of Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, history is a nightmare from which they are trying to awake, writes John Lavelle

AS THE latest chapter in the sad history of the Democratic Republic of Congo unfolds, the possibility of Irish peacekeepers returning to the country has arisen.

Twelve days ago, rebels advanced to the within miles of Goma, the capital of the North Kivu province in the east of the country. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced and refugee camps have been attacked.

The United Nations peacekeeping operation – with 17,500 troops, the largest in the world – is stretched to its limits. France proposed deploying an EU battlegroup of up to 1,500 to help deal with the humanitarian crisis. Irish troops could potentially play a part if a mission goes ahead, although the government has not signalled whether it might participate.

It's 48 years since the last time the Irish army was sent to Kivu, charged with bringing order to the chaos that reigned in Congo after it gained independence from Belgium. Few Congolese today remember the troops' arrival in 1960.

One man who does is Robert Maroi. Now a waiter in a Goma hotel, Robert

“One day the Onuc men came to my primary school,” Robert tells me. “They were European, Irish I think. They gave us food to eat, sardines and milk and biscuits.”

“We were very content. Everybody thought it was the end of the war, that there would be no more problems.”

But it was not to be. The notoriously brutal Belgian colonists were replaced by the notoriously brutal 32-year dictatorship of General Mobutu Sese Seko. The people of Kivu gained little from the planetloads of gold and diamonds that left their airport each week.

**Rebel leader  
Laurent Nkunda  
is threatening to  
take control of the  
country's capital**

But none of the oppression and corruption of the Mobutu era prepared people for the events of the last 14 years.

I spoke to Robert Maroi during a brief visit to Goma in August, before the current rebel offensive began. The city has a beautiful setting by the banks of Lake Kivu on Congo's Rwandan border. But even then, with the fighting temporarily stopped, the sadness in the air was palpable.

As we talk in the hotel, a group of army officers strides in. The Congolese businessmen in the restaurant, dressed in expensive suits and ostentatious cowboy hats, are beset by a sudden timidity. A senior officer makes his way around the room and they smile nervously as they hand over cash.

Later that day, forewarned but not forearmed, I'm approached by a soldier on Goma's main street. He is a young man but has a confidence that belies his scrappy uniform. After some small talk, he tells me he needs five dollars for cigarettes.

I calculate that I'm not in much danger as fear of UN retaliation would probably prevent him from shooting a white person. I'm also aware that cigarettes don't cost anywhere close to five dollars.

But this is Congo, and he has an assault rifle, so in the interests of common sense I give him the money. Satisfied, he thanks me and walks on.

Much of the Congolese army abandoned Goma on Thursday, although



some have since returned. The famously indisciplined soldiers, many of them ex-militia men hastily integrated into the national forces, looted as they fled.

They had been pushed back into Goma by the advance from the north of rebels under the renegade general Laurent Nkunda. The group halted on the city's outskirts 12 days ago, declaring a unilateral ceasefire, ostensibly to prevent civilian panic. Diplomatic efforts continue and the fate of Goma remains uncertain.

Nkunda's rebels are just one of several armed groups based in the thick jungles of Kivu. It claims to protect the area's Tutsi minority from Hutu extremists and according to most observers has Rwandan backing.

The 14-year-old conflict in the province was temporarily halted by a ceasefire agreement in January. That truce is now off and the resurgence of war is having devastating humanitarian effects.

Some estimates say a million people have been displaced as they flee areas affected by fighting. Several large refugee camps have been burnt. Aid work has been all but suspended and

there are severe food shortages.

I'm in Goma for a couple of hours before I see people smiling for the first time. There are 20 children kicking around a battered football in a side street and I ask can I join in. The kids are entertained by my dubious French and my apparent resemblance to Chelsea footballer John Terry.

After the kick about, I conduct the closest thing you can get to a poll of public opinion in this part of the world – shouting names at a group of children and observing their reaction.

Claude Makalele, Congo-born footballer: loud cheers. John Terry: cheers, laughter at my expense. George Bush: some boos, mostly unfamiliarity. Joseph Kabila, President of Congo: mostly cheers, some boos. Laurent Nkunda, rebel leader: some cheers, mostly boos.

No such fear was evident on Tuesday when the United Nations compound in Goma was stoned and firebombed by angry civilians, who felt that the peacekeepers were not doing enough to protect them from the violence.

The UN mission to Congo began in 2000, and its numbers were increased in 2006 to provide security for Congo's first general election in almost half a century. Almost all of the troops are from the Indian subcontinent.

Like the UN's first Congo mission in the 1960s, the peacekeepers have had to balance their mandate to protect civilians with a reluctance to engage hostile forces and risk casualties.

Attempts to halt the rebels' progress with helicopter gunships have been hampered by the use of civilians as shields. The peacekeepers have now

Up to 4 million people perished during the Second Congo War, making it the costliest since World War II. And it was in Kivu, the darkest corner of the Heart of Darkness, where the most blood flowed

Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda: vicious, angry, hate-filled insults.

It was in 1994, when neighbouring Rwanda descended into genocide, that the worst of Kivu's troubles began. Today, queuing for a visa at Goma's Rwandan border takes up to an hour. In July 1994, 10,000 Hutu refugees fearing Tutsi reprisals for the genocide crossed into the city each hour.

The world was gripped by television images of a million Rwandan refugees in Goma's camps, where thousands succumbed to cholera.

Then, in 1996, Kagame directed the Rwandan army to invade Kivu in pursuit of the Hutu *genocidaires*, who were using the camps to launch attacks on Rwanda's new Tutsi government.

With Rwandan and Ugandan support, Kivu-based rebels under Laurent Kabila marched across the jungle to Kinshasa and overthrew General Mobutu.

But within months of assuming power, Kabila and Kagame fell out and Rwanda invaded again. Eight African nations were drawn into The Second Congo War which dragged on until 2004.

Up to four million people died in the six years of war, making it easily the costliest since World War II. And it was in Kivu, the darkest corner of “the heart of darkness”, where the most blood flowed.

Given the extent of the devastation, Kagame's unpopularity is unsurprising. Now, the Congolese have accused Rwanda of interfering again by actively supporting Nkunda's offensive to advance its own interests.

It seems that every second vehicle that passes me on Goma's streets is a white jeep full of soldiers in blue helmets. One evening at one of Goma's ex-patriot bars I get chatting to three Indian peacekeepers, Mukesh, Rajiv and Prakash.

Although the cuisine – monkey is a local delicacy – is not to their taste, they seem content enough with the prestige and salary that goes with their UN post. They talk with excitement about their planned beach holiday to Zanzibar in September.

The major towns in the region are safe, say the Indians, but the surrounding rainforest is heavily populated with hostile forces – including Nkunda's Tutsis, the local Mai Mai militia and the remnants of Rwanda's Hutu *genocidaires*. The area's topography makes the rebels almost impossible to pursue but fear prevents them from attacking UN patrols.

fallen back to Goma and, despite the rebels' hesitance, a confrontation looms if Nkunda's guerrillas decide to try to take the city.

The UN is moving peacekeepers from elsewhere in the country to reinforce the 900 already defending the city, but they say more help is needed.

Apart from my new Indian mates, the bar's clientele are about one third foreign NGO workers and two thirds African women. The ladies of the night are keeping the middle aged Europeans entertained, dancing with them, talking with them and, when the time comes, leaving with them.

I politely decline their advances, falsely insisting that my wife is waiting

I calculate that I'm not in much danger as fear of UN retaliation would probably prevent him from shooting. But this is the Congo, and he has an assault rifle, so in the interests of common sense I give him the money

at my hotel. One girl, Melanie, stays to talk for a while. She is a student, she tells me in reasonable English, and she makes good money from her work. She doesn't like it that much but her life could be far worse.

Sexual violence is endemic in eastern Congo. In June 2006 alone, 2,200 rapes were reported in North Kivu. This figure is probably a fraction of the total, many of them perpetrated by combatants. The current conflict has exacerbated the problem, with retreating Congolese soldiers and advancing rebels both accused of widespread rape.

An unnamed Congolese sailor died of the world's first recorded case of Aids in 1959, the year before the first Irish troops arrived. Despite the early warning, the country was slow to respond.

Cynical Congolese joked until not long ago that the disease's French acronym Sida stood for Syndrome Imaginaire pour

## TIMELINE

**1908** – Belgium annexes Congo  
**1960** – Congo achieves independence from Belgium  
**1965** – Joseph Mobutu takes control in a coup  
**1971** – Country renamed Zaire  
**1997** – Tutsi and opposition rebels led by Laurent-Désiré Kabila topple Mobutu in First Congo War. Country renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
**1998** – Second Congo War begins, it is to continue until 2003  
**January 2008** – Government and rebel militias sign peace pact  
**April 2008** – Fighting between army and rebels resumes  
**October 2008** – Clashes in Eastern DR Congo intensify, UN peacekeepers engage rebels

Decourager les Amoureux. Now, partly as a consequence of sexual violence, an estimated one in three people in Kivu have HIV.

The local whiskey is easy on the throat but not on the head and so the next morning I try to beat the hangover with a swim in Lake Kivu.

From the beach, I can see the Rwandan border just a mile away. The sand is grey with a tar-like quality and methane gas bubbles to the surface.

Exploration has only just started in the lake, but with recent large oil and gas discoveries in nearby Lake Albert it's a safe bet that there's petroleum beneath its bed.

If there is, oil and gas will be added to the country's long list of mineral resources. Despite the wars and the huge logistical challenges, Congo is the world's largest coltan producer and exports copper, timber, rubber, diamonds and gold in abundance.

It was this extraordinary mineral wealth that attracted the Belgians and begat their infamous abuses of Congolese labourers (comprehensively exposed by an Irishman, Roger Casement). More recently, Uganda and Rwanda have been accused of using the wars as a cover for plundering their neighbour's minerals.

Even UN peacekeepers have been implicated in illegal ivory trading. Many observers believe that thirst for resources is what's truly driving the current conflict.

Considering the trouble Congo's natural wealth has created in the past, the country might be better off if the shores of Lake Kivu were sandy white instead of tarry grey. At the very least, it would save the peacekeepers the trouble of flying to Zanzibar.

I leave the city for Rwanda by the main road where major road works are underway. Dozens of emaciated labourers chipping away at the rough street surface with picks.

They are still scraping off the mounds of hardened lava that covered the city when the nearby Ngorongo volcano erupted in 2002. The residents had time to evacuate but houses, shops, markets and roads were destroyed when, like a modern-day Gomorrah, fire and brimstone flowed down on Goma, its man-made problems supplemented by the wrath of God.

For diplomats in Brussels debating whether to send an EU force to the province, its history illustrates the challenges a mission is likely to face. For the people of Kivu, its history is a nightmare from which they are trying to awake.



Photo: Endre Vestvik



# Nothing to lose but our chains?

Venezuela’s president Hugo Chavez congratulated “comrade” George W. Bush on his conversion to socialism after announcing plans to bail out the banks. As the First World economy flounders, has Chavez got the right idea? Is capitalism in its death throes, asks Alice Ryan

THROUGH A squally shower on Dawson Street the other day, a sign that looked like it had been laminated in a plastic sandwich bag swung off a lamppost. “WHY MARX WAS RIGHT,” asserted the poster advertising a public meeting at Wynn’s Hotel.

To the 21st century generation living in a capitalist haze, the notion of anything other than the supreme Western model is nothing more than history. Capitalism, the free market and the reduction of trade barriers have been entrenched as the norm in the Western psyche: the dramatic fall of communism is the real life proof of capitalism’s superiority. However in a year that has seen world markets crash and widespread government intervention in national economies, the question must be asked: are we witnessing the fall of the free market economy?

This was the view of Nicholas Sarkozy who announced the death of the free market in a speech in Toulon in September: “Laissez-faire, c’est fini.” A typical French solution to a typical American problem. The global financial crisis has made the question of ideological orientation and economic structure as pertinent as it has been since the Cold War. Riding on the wave of the fall of communism, capitalism has had huge success in establishing superiority over other market models. However, with billion dollar bailouts by Western governments now the standard response, economics once again becomes both political and cultural. Ideologies and history are again catapulted into centre stage as people look for someone to blame for this financial crisis. As the champion of capitalism, America is the easy scapegoat - particularly while Bush remains in office. With the capitalist system crashing in front of our eyes, what does the future hold for the free market and its champions?

The day after Barack Obama was elected President of America, Israeli daily newspaper *Haaretz* printed its congratulations hoping that he would “rehabilitate the status of a superpower that remains unrivalled in its influence over the peace and welfare of all humanity”. The power and the influence of the US went hand in hand with the spread of capitalism in the 20th century. In the fight against communism, the US has championed countries such as South Korea who choose Coca-Cola over Kim Jong-Il. As with the establishment of any other economic model, capitalism was one marred by conflicting ideologies and violence. British political philosopher John Gray has described “the seeming triumph of global capitalism at the end

of the twentieth century” as having followed “two world wars, the Cold War, and savage neo-colonial conflicts”.

With one superpower out of the way, the end of the 20th century was shaped by American world dominance. Capitalism, Pro-Americanism and globalization were concepts which, morphing into each other, dominated debates at the end of the last century. American economic power stemmed from the country’s huge domestic economy, its strong currency, its developed infrastructure and, ironically, its powerful financial markets. As a result, Starbucks infiltrated regional capitals worldwide and in 1990 the golden arches broke their worldwide opening day records when McDonald’s opened in Pushkin Square, Moscow. The importance and the power that the “land of the free and home of the brave” still has in the world was illustrated by the scale of international interest in the recent American election.

In a paper titled “The Realignment of Nations and the Rise of Regional Super States” Jagdish Sheth and Rajendra Sisodia describe the world as “in an unnatural unipolar state, with one superpower, the United States.” In such a world, they claim, “the rise of anti-American sentiments globally is inevitable.”

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq shook America’s foundations. Criticism of George Bush reached fever pitch and with the increasing power of the European Union, the drastic fall of the dollar and the booming Chinese Tiger economy, world order began to change.

However Russia’s widely publicized political and military resurgence, China’s meteoric rise to economic dominance and India’s transformation into an

A leading Chinese economist recently talked about how the US had been a model for China, adding, however, that “now that it has created such a big mess, of course we have to think twice”

offshoring powerhouse may not be callous bids to dethrone America. It may just be evolutionary economics kicking in. The American dream became reality to millions as the last century saw Allied success in both World Wars and victory for the US in the subsequent Cold War. The beginning of the 21st century saw a different world image of the US as the sheen began to wear off the world’s only superpower. When President Bush



Photo: Darwin Bell

addressed the nation in September to present a \$700 billion dollar government bailout, it may have signalled the next shift in global economic tendencies. Does the financial crisis herald the end of America’s world dominance? Have we awoken from the American dream?

Instead of shaking a steady nation, the global financial crisis has served to highlight the cracks in the formerly unshakeable American economy, and the much-changed world order. It has taken an economic world crash to shake the cobwebs off of the seemingly obsolete concept of First World debt. The financial crisis didn’t just drop from the sky, and China has the loans to prove it.

Bono, Bob and Band Aid confronted the West with the staggering degree of Third World debt in the 1980s and ‘90s. The extensive borrowing of poorer countries from richer countries was top political priority and a Christmas number one hit. The flip-flop of world debt however hasn’t made the same headlines.

negative level. In layman’s terms this means that Americans were not only spending their entire income, they were also borrowing or delving into savings to spend more.

The Chinese, on the other hand, currently have a savings rate of around 50%. It is no surprise that the US owes an estimated \$1.4 trillion to China. With questions over how Western governments are funding massive bailouts, is the not-so-long-ago communist China paying for the mistakes made on Wall Street? Madeleine Bunting, writing in *The Guardian*, dramatically described the US current account deficit as being “funded by the sacrificed futures of millions across Asia”.

What does this change in world order mean for the politics of the 21st century? Hilary Clinton broached this topic with fear saying, “We are so dependent upon decisions made in other countries’ capitals.” However it is not just traditional superpowers that are reconsidering their political and economic stance, the ailing American economy throws up questions of policy and planning worldwide. A leading Chinese economist talked lately about how the US had been a model for China, adding however; “Now that it had created such a big mess of course we have to think twice.”

It is hard to believe that economic power could shift so dramatically in the last century that in two of three US Presidential debates Republican nominee John McCain used Ireland as an economic model, quoting the low corporate tax rate. Impoverished at the turn of the 20th century, it seems that Ireland - one Celtic Tiger later - is now considered more capitalist than the capitalists themselves. With newspapers reprinting images of queues to soup kitchens during the Great Depression, the once triumphant

capitalist model is again in question as economics takes another evolutionary and geographical shift.

With the global economy in crisis, ongoing wars in the Middle East and

With newspapers reprinting images of queues to soup kitchens during the Great Depression, the once triumphant capitalist model is again in question

the pendulum of power swinging in the balance, what does the 21st century hold for capitalism and its champions? Was the answer at Wynn’s Hotel? Was Marx right? Or as Western economies hope, is this recession merely a cyclical blip on the evolution of capitalism. By no means perfect, fostering world inequalities and cultural divides as it does, capitalism has, it must be pointed out, brought greater economic growth to a large portion of the world. As easy as it is to blame greedy Wall Street bankers when things go wrong, Europe must remember that it was that same capitalist system and the American machine which got it back on its feet with the Marshall Plan after World War Two. With the inauguration of a new president defined by a theme of hope and change on January 20th, the champions of capitalism have a chance to awake from the Bush years and try to re-establish that much-vaunted American dream. Capitalism isn’t dead - not yet.

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# Being constantly broke is a given, so let’s not fight it

FRANZISKA HENSEL

AS AMAZING and surreal the whole College experience can be at times, there is always one constant, and that’s a student’s lack of funds. It doesn’t matter whether the funds are coming from Mummy or Daddy, or from that horrible menial job you work during the

weekends, waiting for the cash to come in is the longest wait ever. So what do you do, when you find you have spent all your money, and the next bout of cash isn’t coming in for a few weeks? Well, having personally survived the last six weeks on little or no cash, I managed to pick up a few handy little tricks on pinching those pennies.

The first thing I discovered is that you don’t actually have to eat in college. Sure, sitting over lunch chatting to friends about the ridiculous antics that happened during the weekend is great, but unless you’re rich and can afford to lunch at Lemon everyday, the only place to get

cheap grub is the Buttery or Ham café. You only need to eat their cold lasagne once to know that it was probably not the best choice you’ve ever made. I learned is to eat breakfast at home, and then drink those free energy drinks handed out by the lovely SU people during the day. Not only will that amount of caffeine and taurine stave off hunger for the next six hours, it will fill you with energy bounded with hyperness.

Another handy thing I discovered is that there’s no need to stay at home like a complete loser just because you don’t have the cash to pay for a night out. Instead, simply befriend the influential people in

College to get yourself on guest lists for nights out. Even better than influential friends are friends who live on campus. These should be utilised to the max, for not only does it save you a taxi fare home, you also have a comfy bed or sofa to crash on in town. So what if you happen to look like a homeless bum always crashing on other people’s couches, at least you won’t have to walk far as you stagger into your 9:00am lecture. And hey, as a student, this is probably the only time in your life you can manage to get away with the Walk of Shame.

Then there’s the Nitelink, or “Fightlink” as it’s more aptly named. As

opposed to taking a very comfy taxi ride home where the taxi driver brings you right to your doorstep, on the Nitelink you sit on a bus with about fifty other drunk people, half of which are either throwing up or signing “Fields of Athenry”. And that’s all for only five quid. So what if you manage to lose your food, your digestive contents and dignity, you managed to save a tenner.

Despite all its flaws, there’s a certain type of sleazy charm about riding the Dublin Bus home at four in the morning after a night out, the alcohol still buzzing through your blood.

Another plus is that at four in the

morning, nobody looks down on you for eating your four-in-one on the bus.

Well, at this point I was finally paid my monthly wages and I suddenly found myself with cash to burn again. Maybe living off twenty quid for a week teaches you how important it is to save and be frugal with your finances, but after three years in College, I fear the lesson still hasn’t sunk in with me. Come two weeks down the line I’m going to be in the exact same situation, but screw it, I managed to survive three years living like this, and I sure as hell can survive another few weeks until I get paid again. Long live being a broke Trinity student!

## IN PROFILE: MARTIN NAUGHTON

# Trinity’s benefactor

Ranked fifteenth on the Sunday Times’ Rich List 2007, Martin Naughton gives his name to Trinity’s impressive new nanoscience research institute. **Conor Gannon** looks at the man behind the name of this architectural gem.

FROM WILLIAM Hamilton (1806-1865), the exceptional mathematician, physicist, astronomer and innovator, to William Lecky (1838-1903), the Anglo-Irish historian and essayist, Naughton has certainly found himself in august company.

An engineer by profession, Dr. Naughton, founded the electrical appliance firm Glen Electric in November 1973 in Newry, Co Down. Employing just ten people to start with, his first business plan deliberately set out to expand to accommodate 100 employees, with the clear objective of not exceeding that number. His philosophy was that a successful company needed to focus on its efficiency, not on size.

It seems that Naughton has achieved both. His company is now the world’s largest manufacturer in domestic heating appliances. With operations in the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom and North America, he employs more than seven thousand staff and owns twenty-two manufacturing facilities. His brands include Morphy Richards, Dimplex, Roberts Radio, Goblin and Belling.

It is estimated that annual sales amount to around \$1 billion. Following significant expansion in the Chinese market, Naughton’s seventy-four percent stake in the company has increased to the value of £273 million, notwithstanding other investments, including an art collection, three office buildings in Dublin and shares in both the Merlion Hotel Group and the Sunday Tribune newspaper.

Born in 1940 in Dundalk, County Louth and educated in De La Salle College Dundalk, this Irish entrepreneur has come a long way since the foundation of

his first, humble business establishment in Newry thirty-eight years ago.

In 1985 alone, his company had incorporated Morphy Richards, the market leader in small domestic appliances, shortly followed by Blanella, a manufacturer of electric blankets and Burco Dean Appliances, a manufacturer of products for the catering industry.

Creativity, innovation, and a keen entrepreneurial flare has made this global company what it is. Martin Naughton’s management ability has been key to its success. He rarely uses the word “I” when referring to the company; it’s always “we”. He has been heard to say, “someone who can’t delegate is a menace. You give someone the responsibility and then the authority; tell them to do it, and it’s their show.”

Naughton is a true philanthropist, as we can see through his generous donation to support nanoscience research in Trinity College. Announcing his gift he said, “this is not only a flagship project for Trinity but one for Ireland as well, and one that I am unhesitatingly enthusiastic about. There is no doubt that nanotechnology will make a great impact on our lives, and if we grasp this opportunity, we can establish Ireland as a world leader in one of the most important fields of innovation. Rarely does a university get a chance like this and I’m delighted to be able to help.”

As a result of Naughton’s €5 million philanthropic donation, Trinity has been able to confirm its position as one of the world’s leading universities in this field, which was one of the goals set down in the College’s Strategic Plan. According to the Provost, “Trinity has recently built up a critical mass of world-class expertise in nanoscience by establishing our Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN). Over the last



few years we have attracted a number of superb people in the area, who have been externally assessed as one of the best groups in the world.”

In commenting on the essential need for private funding for programmes like this, Dr Naughton added: “For those of us who have been successful in life, rather than sitting back criticising the government about what is not being done, we should be prepared to put our money where our mouth is, and support visionary projects that will prepare our country for the challenges that lie ahead.”

It is not surprising then that he is Chairman of Intertrade Ireland, one of the six cross-border bodies established under the Belfast Agreement to enhance the global competitiveness of the all-island economy. Perhaps under his chairmanship, Naughton can work towards peaceful co-operation through economics. Martin Naughton, notwithstanding his publicity-shy reputation, gives extensively of his time, energy and experience to developing the business reputation and business ethos of the Island of Ireland. He has remarked, “the Republic of Ireland is recognised

world-wide as an entrepreneurial economy, what I want is the whole island to be an entrepreneurial island.”

Some would question whether it is appropriate to name one of Trinity’s buildings after a businessman. Perhaps it could be argued that Trinity is selling its soul, as it becomes more like a business, willing to sell the names of its buildings to the highest bidder. However, Naughton appears to have the best interests of the country and the College at heart. The story of his success and philanthropy are an inspiration to aspiring young businesspeople and scientists alike.

# To have, hold, love and cherish, till reality do us part

Jessica Ryan muses on the strange phenomenon that is celebrity tabloid marriage.

ONE CHRISTMAS, when I was a little one, I asked Santa for a kitchen. On Christmas morning, and to no one’s great surprise, I did not awake to the sight of a life-size Aga sticking out of my stocking, or a seven foot American fridge peeking out from under the tree. No, Santa in his wisdom knew that I didn’t actually want a “real” kitchen; I wanted a “pretend” kitchen.

And so, on that magical day, he gave me a scaled down red and yellow plastic number complete with tiny saucepans, a miniature fridge and a pretend cooker, so that I would not do myself any damage.

I thought about Santa’s great wisdom this week when I read about Peaches Geldof and her new husband Max’s “marital difficulties”. Like every other

marriage, it’s having its ups and downs, but rows are becoming more frequent, so Peaches and Max have gone to an American hideaway to get it all back on track again. After three whole months.

What a pity, I thought, that Santa wasn’t around on that fateful day way back in August, when Peaches and Max pitched up in front of the Reverend Steve Fabretti, waved their permit under his nose and asked him to marry them.

Rev. Steve would later remark how young Peaches looked, and how even though she was wearing some class of a dress, Max was in his street clothes and as no-one else was with them, the photographer had to act as witness.

Now had Santa been there, he would have realised, just as he had with me

and my kitchen fourteen years ago, that Peaches and Max didn’t actually want a real marriage, they wanted a pretend one, a sort of whimsical childish affair, where one minute you’re running around with this “rock star” that you’ve just met, and the next minute you’re eloping to Vegas for a quickie.

What Santa would have done (all Las Vegas churches please take note), was whip out a pretend marriage certificate from the big pile he’s kept handy since Britney’s fifty-five hour marriage, write Peaches and Max’s names on it in invisible ink, print out a few snaps on biodegradable paper, stick big plastic rings on both their fingers and whoosh them back out to play. No harm done.

Trouble was that Santa wasn’t there that day, and the Rev. Steve did legally marry them. The sad and predictable fallout is now panning out. For the first few weeks, of course, the imaginative play part of the marriage triumphed. She

wore a real ring, they told all their friends, and generally pranced and preened their way around their tabloid universe as Mr and Mrs Drummey.

But after a while in celeb-land, real life began to nudge through. They didn’t seem to be together in the way actual married people are together, she mused out loud and in public on the impermanence of marriage, “friends” talked of rows, and lately there’s been lots of chatter about heroic efforts to patch it all up.

Maybe it’s true, maybe it isn’t. Maybe they’ll stick together for fifty years, but the chances are that they won’t. My guess is that it’ll all be over, done and dusted by the time Santa makes his annual appearance next month.

When they split, it’ll just be another saddo failed marriage – although given the circumstances as reported, could you even dignify it with the term “marriage”, failed or otherwise?

If that is a marriage, then what do you

call a relationship between two people, that lasts maybe for half a century, that battles through lots of difficulties, that displays love, respect and commitment? True marriage seems way beyond the comprehension of the host of narcissistic “celebs” who get hitched one day on a whim, perhaps because their publicity machine’s been a little sluggish and they’re craving a tabloid hit.

There’s nothing wrong with Peaches and Max being together, living together, having rows, splitting up, getting back together, whatever. They’re young, talented in their own ways, and maybe they were madly in love and it just hasn’t worked out. That happens every day, all over the world, on this campus and in every other campus.

But why get married so soon? What does marriage mean to them? Is it anything beyond a fun little ceremony and a paparazzi rush? Because if it doesn’t really mean a lot more than that, if they

enter it only too calculatedly aware that they can exit from it any time they like, then they should just get on with living together instead. Marriage should be left to those who actually want to spend their lives together, those who think about it for more than five minutes before they commit, and those who think it might be actually be nice to tell their parents what they’re doing.

Currently there’s a lot of chatter in political and Catholic Church circles about civil partnerships, protecting marriage and supporting different family units. Lots of people are getting very excited about the whole thing.

The Church is apparently concerned about the number of couples who choose to live together without getting married first. Well if I was the Pope, I think I’d tell his Irish officials to relax. The problem, as demonstrated by the Drummey-Geldofs, is not that some people don’t marry, it’s actually that certain people do.



# Cancer vaccine causes headaches for government

Mary Harney’s decision not to make the potentially life-saving cervical cancer vaccine available to twelve year-old girls was wrong, writes **Tom Broe**

ON THE 5<sup>th</sup> of August of this year, Mary Harney announced that she would be rolling out the HPV vaccination programme for twelve year-old girls, beginning in September 2009. However, due to recent budget cuts, she did a u-turn on the vaccination programme, saying that funds would be prioritised for the development of the National Cervical Screening Programme instead.

She justified her position by stating that “screening has the capacity to reduce cervical cancer by over eighty percent, in terms of the population, and in an individual case by ninety-five percent”. Her decision provoked outcry, with Donegal TD Dr. Jim McDavid refusing to vote with his party on the issue. He told the Dáil that he could not support a decision that withheld a life-saving vaccine from young girls, as it was against his Hippocratic oath.

The vaccine in question was the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine. HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer, the eighth most frequently diagnosed cancer in women in Ireland. The new vaccines protect against the two most deadly strains of the virus, which account for seventy percent of cervical cancer cases.

Thus, by vaccinating twelve year-old girls, seven out of every ten cancers of the cervix would be avoided. Screening would detect the further three out of ten patients, and also the older women who have not been vaccinated.

At the request of the Minister in July 2007, the Board of the National Cancer Screening Service undertook a review of the role of HPV vaccines in the prevention and control of cervical cancer. The board examined the cost-

effectiveness of a combined national HPV vaccination and cervical cancer-screening programme, compared to a cervical cancer-screening programme alone. The board recommended the rollout of the vaccine programme.

In August, Mary Harney had also announced the decision not to put in place a catch-up programme for thirteen to fifteen year-olds in the first year of vaccination.

Did this receive any attention in the media? was it the subject of a Dáil motion? I’m afraid the answer to both questions is no. Belgium, France and the UK all have catch-up programmes for girls up to fifteen, up to twenty-three and from fourteen to eighteen years of age respectively.

Political expediency isn’t based on long-term benefits to be realised twenty to thirty years

The implications of both not rolling out the catch-up programme, and reversing the decision to vaccinate twelve year-olds, will result in parents and young women being forced to pay for private medicine. Charter Medical offers the vaccine for €610, a price well above what many parents can afford.

The HSE’s counterpart over the border and across the water, the NHS, has already made available cervical cancer vaccines to twelve year-old schoolgirls in the UK. They expect an uptake rate



of seventy percent. Fine Gael’s health spokesperson, Dr. James Reilly, pointed out the ludicrous nature of a situation where the vaccine was available “fifty miles up the road in Newry, and we cannot have it down here for our children.” The disparity between the health services on the same island is further underlined by the fact that a national screening programme has been in place in the UK since 1989.

According to Mary Harney, the axing of the vaccination programme will only save €10 million in a budget worth €1.6 billion. This projected €10 million cost wasn’t even accurate. The Health Information and Quality Authority’s €9.7 million estimate had been adjusted upwardly to the tune of twenty percent by the HSE. As the Labour Party health spokesperson Jan O’ Sullivan rightly pointed out, the government’s costing of €600 per schoolgirl was “well wide of the mark. The cost of three doses required for the vaccination is actually €345, which if a procurement process were to be put in place, could probably be driven down even further, bringing the annual cost down to somewhere in the region of €7 million.”

There were, of course, alternatives to the Minister’s u-turn. Both companies potentially involved in supplying the vaccines were willing to forego payment until next year. With this deferred payment of the vaccines, the HSE would have been left an administrative bill of just €900,000.

To compound matters, the Minister hasn’t even given a provisional date for introduction of the vaccine. It has been put off indefinitely. We must remain

Gardasil is one of the new vaccines available

content with her pledge to implement the cervical cancer programme as soon as possible, whenever that may be.

From a purely political point of view, this vaccine didn’t offer short-term benefits and this probably shaped the opinions of the Minister of Health when she decided to scrap it. Political expediency isn’t based on long-term benefits to be realised twenty to thirty years from now, when the number of cases of cervical cancer will be greatly reduced. One wonders what Dr. Harald zur Hausen, the man responsible for discovering the link between HPV and cervical cancer and a recipient of this year’s Nobel Prize for Medicine, would think of the u-turn. He spoke on Irish radio recently, saying that in each case, prevention is better than cure. He believes that vaccinations and screenings are should be used in tandem. The vaccination is clearly superior in preventing all those lesions and avoiding the therapeutic types of interference, but sceening is also important.

Failure to go ahead with such a vaccination will inevitably lead to deaths in years to come. Mary Harney has a real opportunity to regain credibility and respect by standing up to Brian Cowen and demanding the reinstatement of the HPV vaccine programme.

I would like to remind the Minister that in 2004, two hundred women were diagnosed with cervical cancer, ninety of whom died of the disease. Of those two hundred cases, it has been estimated that over one hundred of the diagnosed cases, and fifty-two of the deaths, could have been avoided by using the vaccine. How then, in good conscience, can it be denied to our country’s children?

## ROUND UP

AOIFE CROWLEY

HOME NEWS

### LIMERICK FUED SPARKS CALLS FOR INTERNMENT



AS FEUDS spiral out of control in Limerick, government debates how to control the situation. Internment is the way forward, according to Pat Reid in the Irish Examiner. He bemoans the fact that the EU has banned capital

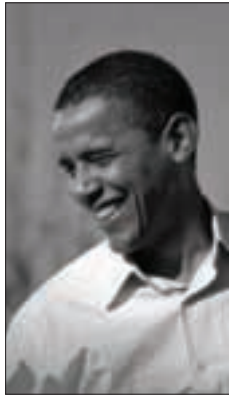
punishment and “the birch”, believing that it is the “unending liberalism from lawyers, judges, politicians and human rights lobbyists that has landed us in this mess”. Since we don’t have either the death penalty or beating in our penal system, internment will enable us to deal with the less savoury characters in our society: “The removal of the two hundred or so of the worst scumbags, whose identities are well known to the gardaí, would have a dramatic effect... Lock them up in spartan conditions away from the rest of us and see how quickly crime subsides.”

Breda O’Brien of the Irish Times disagrees, saying that although the demands for internment are understandable, there is no evidence to support that it actually works. “In Northern Ireland, it merely served to increase the numbers of recruits for violence.”

POLITICS

### WILL OBAMA BE BAD FOR IRELAND?

NOW THAT the initial jubilation has died down, Irish people are wondering what Obama’s election will mean closer to home. Pat Cox believes that he should not be thought of as a soft touch for the Europeans. He writes in the Irish Times, “Obama will approach Europeans not just bearing the gifts of change, but also inviting and expecting a new commitment to burden sharing.” He warns that there is a “protectionist and interventionist mood abroad”, and that “Obama’s focus on possibly raising additional US tax on corporate profits earned overseas to promote more jobs at home could threaten unilateral abrogation of existing bilateral tax treaties with dire consequences for Ireland.” Sounds bad.



HEALTH

### OBESITY EPIDEMIC SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR OUR FUTURE



“WITH ALL this talk of belt-tightening, one has to wonder how many people actually have a waist anymore”, writes Orna Mulcahy of the Irish Times. As our economic boom fades into memory, the only booming sound to be heard is in the clumsy jounce of our obese toddlers. Mulcahy tells us that we’ve gorged our way through the boom, and we better not

comfort-eat our way through the recession. Instead, let’s recall the tiny portions of the eighties: “Watching a re-run of the 1980s cop show Cagney & Lacey recently, it was mesmerizing to see the detectives share a takeout lunch - tiny packets that turned out to be burgers and drinks in small Styrofoam cups. No wonder they all had snake hips.”

Not everyone takes the epidemic so lightly. According to John Gibbons in the same paper, “it’s a slow-moving disaster that threatens not just the lives of the people so affected, but has the potential to destroy our health system and quite literally bankrupt the State.” He recommends that we tax unhealthy food to make healthy food more appealing and to downstream costs to society. The Examiner, on the other hand, feel that “the challenge is for the individual, and all society can do is to create an environment that will encourage a person who is overweight to change.”

RELIGION

### THE SAD CASE OF PRIESTS’ CHILDREN



IN THE Irish Times, Newton Emerson laments the plight of priests’ children, “disowned by their fathers, exiled from their homes and furtively adopted by decommissioned nuns.” He writes that “it is sobering to consider how many families have broken down because of the popular idea that married priests should be judged alongside whoremongers and adulterers.” Comparing their fate to that of the clergymen’s children, he observes that the latter seemed “extremely well adjusted”, with a stable family structure to fall back on. He points out that before the Catholic Church turned its back on marriage, “the bishopric of Armagh passed from father to son fifteen times during the Middle Ages, and from husband to wife at least once.”

# The modern renaissance of Irish

Trinity has firmly rejected its anti-Gaelic ethos of old and embraced the recent Irish revival, writes Trinity’s new Irish language officer, **Aonghus Dwane**.

THE IRISH language is one of the oldest literary languages in Europe and contains one of the oldest vernacular poetic traditions. For many centuries, Irish was the most widely spoken language in Ireland, but the process of Anglicisation, the plantation of Ulster and the Great Famine, among other events, led to its gradual decline. The Celtic cultural revival in the late 19th and early 20th century, led by key figures from an Anglo-Irish cultural background, and the pioneering work of the Gaelic League, saw a resurgence of interest; however, the dynamism and inclusivity of this era came to an abrupt end with partition and independence in the 1920s.

The misguided placing by the newly independent State of the burden of language revival almost exclusively on the education system, without a parallel plan for facilitating the use of Irish in social situations and in working life, led to a further weakening. Today the census puts the number of people in the State with a reasonable command of the language at some 1.6 million people, but the practical meaning of this is hotly disputed, with the true figure of fluent speakers estimated at but a fraction of that.

Culturally, since the early 1990s, there has been an explosion of interest in the Irish language, not only in Ireland but further afield. A revival of national confidence linked to economic improvement, social liberalisation and the developing peace process in Northern Ireland was to free up cultural energy and create a space where the language could finally develop without being

tarnished by association with militant physical-force republicanism and traditionalist and conservative values. The influx of migrants into Ireland, bringing with them enormous cultural and linguistic diversity, led many to reassess the value of Ireland’s own indigenous linguistic heritage.

In an increasingly globalised world, it has become clearer to many that this unique badge of national and cultural identity must be cherished lest it be lost. Younger people, both North and South, have taken a greater interest in Irish, which might in part be seen as a harvest from the growth of Gaelscoileanna and Irish-medium education in earlier decades.

Many have grown up with TG4 as a given and are unencumbered with the negative baggage towards the language which bedevilled older generations, who had suffered unenlightened teaching methods.

There has been a blossoming in the media, literary and artistic fields.

Today’s Irish classes are increasingly being taken up by people who have not used Irish for a number of years. Organisations such as Gael-Linn, Conradh na Gaeilge and Gaelchultúr are central to Irish language-learning and cultural provision.

The US-born comedian Des Bishop has inspired many with his successful quest to gain fluency

in the language, as documented in the RTE series “In the Name of the Fada”. His Irish language rap “Léim Thart” injected a lighting bolt of energy when performed at the 2007 Oireachtas na Gaeilge festival in Westport, which festival was attended by over 10,000 people.

Sean-Nós singing has also enjoyed a revival among the young, as seen in Ciaran Ó Con Cheadainn winning the prestigious Corn Uí Riada at the 2008 Oireachtas in Cork.

John Spillane, Slide, Kila and Clannad are some other modern exponents of the language as a vibrant force. There has been a parallel blossoming in the media, literary and artistic fields. Links with our Celtic neighbours have been rediscovered and strengthened, making Irish a force in cultural relations with other countries. Many immigrants have taken an interest in the language, as evidenced by the establishment of the group iMeasc. The internet has put Irish speakers world-wide in constant and instant touch with each other.

For much of its history, Trinity College would not have been perceived as sympathetic to Gaelic culture and identity. Nonetheless, it has had an important connection with the fortunes of the language since its establishment.

In its early years, Trinity provided training for the clergy of the Established Church, in order to promote the reformed faith in the language of the majority of the people. William Bedell, one-time provost, was responsible, as Bishop of Kilmore, for the translation of the Old Testament into Irish. Dr Douglas Hyde, a son of the rectory, founder of the Gaelic League and first President of Ireland, was a student in College.

Today, as an inclusive and thoroughly Irish institution, Trinity remains proud of its historic links with the Church of Ireland, expressed today through its relationship with the Church of Ireland Theological

Institute. The Church of Ireland itself has its own Irish language body, Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise. Trinity’s current Anglican Chaplain, Rev. Darren McCallig, an Irish speaker, will hold a service of Evensong as Gaeilge as part of Éigse na Tríonóide in January. Naturally, with the majority of students today being Roman Catholic, masses in Irish have also been a key feature of the Éigse in recent years.

College’s Chair of Irish was

The Official Languages Act will play an important role in making Irish more visible on campus.

instituted in 1841 and among its occupants was renowned writer Máirtín Ó Cadhain (1969-’70). Today, the School of Irish under Professor Damian McManus is located in the Arts Building. It holds microfilm copies of the Irish Folklore Commission’s Collection of Irish Folklore Manuscripts. Trinity’s Coiste na Gaeilge works with the Irish Language Officer to promote the language, and in recent years has sponsored the “Trinity=Gaeilge” initiative, which aims to counter outdated perceptions that College is a cold house for the language. Classes in Scottish Gaelic for transition-year students in secondary schools in Dublin have been organised under this initiative.

Our college also has two Irish language student residency schemes, one on the campus itself and the other in Dartry, where Irish is the daily language of communication. Free classes are held for staff and students on campus every Tuesday. The Cumann Gaelach is one of the largest student Irish societies in the

country, and gives Irish a vibrant presence on campus.

Speaking at an Irish Language Reception in College in October 2008, the Provost, Prof. John Hegarty, reaffirmed College’s commitment to Irish, instancing the establishment of Oifigeach na Gaeilge as a full-time position, thereby bringing Trinity into line with other third level colleges. The Official Languages Act will play an important role in the future in making Irish more visible on campus. College signage will, in accordance with legislation, be bilingual, with Irish coming before English, and of equal prominence.

In common with other public bodies, College will be called upon at some point to prepare a Language Scheme setting out its commitments to enhance the range of services it makes available through Irish. Currently, all persons have the right to communicate in Irish with College (as an institution) and to receive a reply in that language. Watch out for a special information session on your rights under the Official Languages Act during Éigse week in January.

Each year towards the end of January, Trinity celebrates Irish through the Éigse na Tríonóide festival, with a week of social and cultural events for students organised by the Cumann Gaelach. This cultural celebration features gigs, quizzes, tours, dancing and sport. Oifig na Gaeilge will be cooperating with the Cumann this year in providing some events which will offer College staff and the wider community a chance to participate in the Éigse. By virtue of its unique situation in the heart of Dublin city centre and at the heart of national life, Trinity has an opportunity to become a focus of activity for the Irish language community at large. Irish contributes to linguistic and cultural diversity, and is part of our contribution to multiculturalism. Ni neart go cur le chéile – there is no strength without unity.



# Student standard of written English is worryingly low

David Parris

I have been worrying about the use of English in an academic context. As a specialist of a language-based discipline, I see language as the most important social convention. In a democratic society we may disagree about politics, religion and philosophy, but we have to vent those disagreements through a shared language. So language is common ground, a *terrain d'entente*.

I am very well aware that one of the more worrying symptoms of advancing age is a rather belligerent conservatism in matters of language, expressed through irate letters to the press and broadcasters. My worry does not so much concern the fact that language has changed. Change is inevitable. One of the advantages of age is that you begin to be able to see historic changes, and this applies to language too.

The clipped tones of the BBC of the 1950s, the careful articulation of Jean Cocteau in French, have gone forever. The changes are not limited to

pronunciation: I remember the first time I heard the word “computer”, and when an English-master asked whether we had encountered the word “peer” as in “peer-culture”, which he thought a barbarous neologism. We had never heard of dyslexia, Quangos (Quasi-Autonomous Non-Governmental Organizations) or even AIDS. Words come and go. It seems a while now since I heard anyone say “WYSIWYG”, and the verb “to text” has only gained currency since the mobile phone came into general use.

Women, in the bygone age of my youth, were affectionately referred to as “girls”, while the gay community was referred to as “poofers”, “nancies”, and “fairies”. I am rather in favour of political correctness, which, at its simplest, consists of not being gratuitously offensive to minority/disadvantaged groups. So much so, indeed, that I regret that the College, unlike many other institutions, has no official policies on the use of offensive language in submitted work.

One of the big changes in British English has been the emergence of what is called “estuarine English”, a mixture

of cockney and Essex English, which grew up in post-war housing estates and has now spread far beyond its original geographical base, to the detriment of so-called “received pronunciation”. However, my concerns over the use of English do not concern the way it is spoken. Spoken English is often playful and inventive, as well as being the badge of belonging to a certain group or set.

Nevertheless, while recognising that change and inventiveness are legitimate, it seems to me possible to hold on to the view that complete licence in the written language is counter-productive. The view has spread that an inability is a “disability”, and that just as students and staff with mobility or sensory problems need to be specially provided for, so too scruffy use of English is a “handicap” for which we need to be indulgent. I am not persuaded that the majority of slipshod work I see is the consequence of any underlying disability.

Instead, I see it as a result of the mistaken belief that language is a “natural function”, requiring neither self-control nor effort. Academic usage

is partly responsible for this, because we call languages like English, French, Swahili and so on “natural languages” in order to distinguish them from “machine languages”, which are codes written for computers.

There is no way that any student, or indeed academic, can master English spelling in a “natural” way. It is full of bizarre anomalies – for example, discrete and discreet are pronounced the same, while lead and led have always been difficult for me. There would be a good argument for simplifying it. Sometimes, defenders of the status quo think that any modification of spelling would bring the entire temple of civilization crashing down about our ears. However, Italy has maintained a flourishing culture with a very logical spelling for centuries. Germany introduced a revised spelling as recently as August 2006. Still, any change would need to be concerted and agreed in advance, and cannot be improvised by undergraduates late for their deadline.

It should not be thought that good writing is ever achieved at the cost of no

effort. Students can now look things up online, and the College has a site licence for the Oxford English Dictionary. Strangely, though, now that all these study aids are readily available, there is little sign of their being used. Badly scrawled, crumpled sheets are handed in with names of countries, races and religions left un-capitalised and other glaring errors.

One of the reasons I am exercised by this question is that after graduation, our students, precisely because they are graduates, will be looked to as guardians of correct usage. Secretaries may or may not get the spelling right; it is the boss's responsibility not to sign anything he or she does not pass as correct.

Students who work in any public capacity will soon discover there are many “grumpy old men” out there waiting to pounce on any perceived mistake. Those who pursue an academic career will find that it is no longer possible to hand over a faulty manuscript hoping it will be proof-read before it is published: material has to be submitted electronically in useable form.

I am most worried about really quite minor but irritating mistakes of the sort that drove Lynne Truss to write her very successful *Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*. For practical purposes, most Departments provide students with a style-sheet, but if they need further guidance, *New Hart's Rules* (the Library's single copy usefully hidden in Santry) will be of assistance. Over and over, I see that students who have mastered a good academic style are at a real advantage. There are many helpful books, such as the *Complete Plain Words* by Sir Ernest Gowers and *Usage and Abusage* by Eric Partridge. For non-Arts students, perhaps *Scientific English: A Guide for Scientists and Other Professionals* by Robert A. Day. There are also websites that will help: <http://www.edufind.com/ENGLISH/grammar/INDEX.CFM> is good, as is <http://www.gedmartin.net/>. With all these resources available, there really is no excuse for bad style or poor speling.

David Parris is a French Senior Lecturer.

## HEAD TO HEAD: SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

“CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO MOTHER AND FATHER”

DAVID QUINN

FOR THE debate about marriage to finish in the right place it must start in the right place. The wrong place to start is with adults and their perceived rights. The correct place to start is with children. Precisely the right place to start is by recognising the fact that children have a right to a mother and a father, when possible.

Many gay rights advocates disagree, insisting that a child has a right to loving parents, rather than a loving mother and father per se.

In this debate let us be clear where the burden of proof rests: it rests with those who would deny a child's right to a mother and father. Every child, even those who are brought into the world via sperm or egg donation, has both a mother and father. If we deny them their right to a mother and father, then we are saying they do not have a right to be raised by the two people who brought them into existence. If this is so, then who do they have a right to be raised by, and who has a duty to raise them?

In other words, an attack on a child's right be raised by their own mother and father, where possible, is also an attack on the notion that parents have a duty to raise their children.

If children have a right to a mother and father, and they do, what are the consequences of this? One is that we should do our utmost to ensure that this right is realised. This means developing social attitudes and policies that will encourage the mother and father of a child to commit to one another and then to commit to the raising of that child. The social attitudes and policies we have developed in order to give substance to a child's right to a mother and father adds up to the institution we call marriage. For this reason, marriage is intrinsically heterosexual. It cannot be anything else, because if it was, it would no longer be principally about a child's right to a mother and father.

Gay rights advocates make several objections to this line of reasoning. As mentioned, they deny a child's right to a mother and father, without offering any justification for this. If this doesn't

wash, then they say marriage really doesn't have anything to do with children, because lots of married couples are childless.

The first line of reasoning has already been dealt with. The second can be rebutted in two ways. The first is to point out that the vast majority of married couples do, in fact, have children and all married couples can provide a child with a mother and a father, something no same-sex couple can do, by definition.

The second is to point out that every social institution will have what social policy theorists call “free-riders”, that is, people who benefit from a particular policy without fulfilling the policy criteria. There is little or nothing that can be done about this.

In addition, gay rights advocates point out that some children are, in fact, being raised by same-sex couples and, for the sake of those children, the couples should give all the benefits of marriage. But many combinations of adults raise children. Should all those combinations be given all the benefits of marriage as well?

Gay rights advocates also claim that most heterosexual couples no longer believe marriage is primarily about children. This may or may not be true, but it isn't relevant. No matter what motive people have for marrying, the fact remains that we give marriage special support and status for the sake of children. We didn't make it a social institution for the sake of adults; we made it so for the sake of children.

If, indeed, there comes a time when heterosexuals want to redefine it, then we would probably be better off abolishing it altogether as a civil institution because the reason for supporting it will have largely vanished.

The main argument in favour of same-sex marriage is that it demanded by the principle of equal treatment. But this principle only applies if two situations are treated differently for no rational reason. However, heterosexuals and homosexuals are in very different situations because the the former can give a child a mother and father, while the latter cannot.

Therefore it is entirely rational to treat the two situations differently. In fact, justice demands it. Only a society in the grip of a deep ideological mania could think otherwise.

David Quinn is Director of The Insha Institute and a columnist with The Irish Independent

“WE MUST GIVE EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL”

HUGO O'DOHERTY

THE 4TH of November 2008 will be remembered by many as a great day in history. It is also a day, however, that saw tens of thousands of Californian residents relegated to second-class citizenship because they may no longer obtain the civic, financial, emotional, legal, and personal benefits of marriage to the person they love. Proposition 8, which was proposed in conjunction with numerous other state propositions as well as the Presidential election, passed by a margin of fifty-two to forty-eight percent, with most of the support for the measure coming from rural inland counties. An amazing \$73million was spent by both sides of the proposal, setting a new record nationally for a social policy initiative and trumping every other race in the country in spending except the presidential contest.

California in often seen as a bastion of liberal social values in a nation that tends to err on a more conservative side on these matters, but Prop 8 has shown that a sharp cultural divide is present within the state itself. The Yes side was supported overwhelmingly by vocal Christian and conservative factions, who argued that the future of children was more important than the marriage aspirations of a minority of adults. A bizarre ad was shown throughout the campaign in which a girl comes home from school and happily tells her mother that she learned that she could marry a princess if she so wished. The mother then makes a shocked face and the scene is paused as a man comes on and tells us that “It's already happened!”. I'm reminded of the Simpsons character Helen Lovejoy, who regularly implores Springfieldians to “Puh-lease think of the children!”. Veiling a dogmatic, usually religious, belief behind a secular moniker is a tactic that has often successfully been used by religious fanatics to bring liberal society closer to theocracy. Keeping in place a universal right to marry in California, as was the case prior to this proposition, did not lead to children being exposed to gay pornography or being urged

to be homosexual, two arguments that were regularly put forward by the Yes campaign.

The reality is that people do not choose to be gay as an anti-establishment lifestyle choice. The thought that someone might be attracted to someone of the same sex is antithetical to many religious fundamentalists, who, when faced with an ethical conundrum, follow the “word of God” as if they were hypnotised. Faith, that most overrated of virtues, wins out over fairness and equality. Thousands of people are denied what should be a basic right, a right that needs to be recognised closer to home too.

If one adult is not allowed the same right as another, it may be said that they are not a full citizen. In that old rallying cry of the American Revolution, “No taxation without representation”, singer Melissa Etheridge has said that she will refuse to pay taxes until the decision is reversed. While it is difficult to agree with such a militant stance, it's equally difficult to argue against the premises of that argument. Religious bodies and their adherents are perfectly within their rights to abhor homosexuality and to put forward the notion that one may be “cured” of it, but to legislate on the matter is to merge the religious and state spheres in favour of religion. A secular approach would actually benefit religion, as it would also benefit the state and the people. In such a scenario, one might say that if you don't like same-sex marriage then don't get one, and if you don't like the idea of children being brought up in such a household (as many already are; same-sex marriage would not really change much), then don't offer any children up for adoption, and urge friends and foes to do likewise. Homosexuality is not something that will, or even can, be legislated away. It seems that some people think that homosexuality was only invented in the 1960s.

Of course, I'm being unfair on the minority of people who voted for Prop 8 who are not religious. It has been said that perhaps they are not “ready” for the idea of same-sex marriage because of that word “marriage”, and so their vote may rest on a semantic point rather than an ethical or social one. Legislating on moral issues is always difficult, and many believe it should not be done at all, but I can only hope that they become ready, and that we all become ready, to give equal rights to all citizens, regardless of how we view their personal lives.

# Premature Christmas decorations bring out inner Scrooge

Overzealous shopkeepers and county councils are ruining the spirit of Christmas, writes Ciara Gately

WITH THE chilly November evenings closing in on us, the darkening evenings, and the aggravation of lugging a heavy jacket around campus, this is usually the time of year when the world-weary individual can look forward to the raising of Dublin's Christmas lights, their illuminating glow heralding the festive season. November the nineteenth would make it roughly a week until the traditional show of Christmas decorations. Unfortunately, any enthusiasts keen to watch the grand premier can strike it off their list of things to see: the Christmas lights have already been turned on.

It seems that Dublin City Council have taken the somewhat controversial decision to flick the switch three weeks

early. Complaints were issued from various sources, including Ryan Tubridy, who mentioned that it doesn't feel like Christmas when leaves are still falling as opposed to snow. One reason for the pine trees now adorning our streets is that the DCC is frantically trying to boost ever falling sales by oh-so-subtly reminding shoppers that the season of winter is a time for presents. The battle between Christmas and commercialism is age-old, but whether a three-week head start makes a difference remains to be seen.

Away from the showcase that is O'Connell Street, shops on Grafton Street have followed the lead and unveiled their Christmas window displays. As usual, Brown Thomas is the most notable. The

decorations are undeniably attractive, and BT's windows have stopped pedestrians in their tracks, leading to un-festive use of elbows by those in a hurry, as mesmerised shoppers gaze in wonder at the decorations that, apparently, can all be bought inside.

Even the Luas has Christmas attire on carriages, painted on the outside naturally. Those things are crowded enough without some well-meaning person trying to shove a Christmas tree in. Not surprisingly, any reference to the religious side of the festival is non-existent. Heaven forbid you have an attack of Christian piety as you stand in Brown Thomas. What is interesting to note is that there is a noticeable absence of the fat guy in the red suit. The Stephens' Green interior consists of gold streamers and crackers, while BT2 has a display of gingerbread men that will have Shrek producers marching down the street to sue for copyright. But perhaps the absence of jolly St. Nick is only

temporary. After all, it is early days yet, despite what you may see on O'Connell Street.

The depressing fact of the matter is that if lights and trees are up the month before December, and if we begin to prepare for Christmas now, then we haven't a hope of our Christmas living up to the hype. When all is said and done, Christmas only lasts for two days and preparing for those two days practically two months in advance is going to lead to an inevitable let down. Having Christmas on the brain from early November means that the only scenario that could exceed expectations would be one where Colin Farrell or some other smouldering screen star calls over Christmas eve, informs you that he's loved you all his life and incidentally, in the spirit of the season, Trinity are offering you exemption from the exams. Not to mention that Granny slipped the winning Lotto ticket into your Christmas card. With all the adverts, lights and tinsel, you will feel abject

misery if you end up passing Christmas watching television or frantically working on that project you swore you'd start in October.

There have been comments and dubious looks at the “Christmas tree” that happily flashes away by the spire. It's an LED tree. For those who are uncertain of what that is, march up to the science block and demand an explanation. In simple terms, it saves energy. It was designed by the French company Blachere, whose commissions include the Eiffel Tower and decorations for cities such as Milan and Monaco. Without one pine needle, fake or otherwise, it consists entirely of small lights that change from white to green to blue whenever the mood takes it. Granted, it is eye catching. On the other hand, it's not so much a Christmas tree as a bunch of bubbles in cone formation. Last year, it was the chandelier lights that appeared on Grafton Street that caught people's attention. But the new O'Connell Street LED decorations are seventy five per

cent more energy efficient than tradition lights and will save much more energy.

Well, one thing it certainly won't save is our money. The Blachere Christmas tree cost an estimated €300,000, and that's not even taking account of the other decorations. Retailers, businesses and the DCC decided to splash out on the twinkling pyramid and then, to add insult to injury, turned it on three weeks early! It costs almost €2 million every year to light the streets and host special events at Christmastime. It is bitterly ironic that in our worst economic crises since the 1980s, with the country in recession and the credit crunch hovering over our every purchase, that Dublin City Council decided to add on some needless expenses to our electricity bill.

Of course there are the usual allegations that it's all in the spirit of Christmas and no matter how far away it is, it brightens the gloom of the recession. I'm united with Scrooge on this one. Bah Humbug.



# TRINITY NEWS

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## A SIGNIFICANT MINORITY ARE SEIZING INITIATIVE

AFTER THE MARCH on the Dáil of October 22, 2008, this newspaper said that “each student’s time will have been wasted if the one voice that was heard on the day of the march isn’t turned into 10,000 voices, all clearly making their disparate, individual thoughts felt.”

Minister for Education Batt O’Keeffe’s visit on Wednesday proved exactly how students have already diverged in their opinions on how to further the fees debate. As reported at the front of this paper, the Minister was treated to a strange sight on that Wednesday evening, as one section of students had their mouths taped over in silent protest, while the other was equipped with a megaphone. The source of this contrast was the difference in opinion between TCDSU and FEE, “Free Education for Everyone”, the nascent direct-action organisation set up by students and staff in UCD to campaign against the re-introduction of fees.

FEE also saw matters differently to another students’ union, ULSU, last Monday when Minister Martin Cullen did a U-turn on meeting student protestors before walking down a different route to his destination, as reported on page six, where they accuse ULSU of “unacceptable” behaviour.

In these episodes, FEE have proved themselves to be a significant minority that are undoubtedly affecting the discourse around the issue of fees. Their very existence, and actions so far, reveal that the students’ unions around the country have failed a portion of their electorate. Indeed, the accusations that ULSU struck a deal with Minister Cullen which allowed him to enter campus do not inspire confidence at all. Further, they raise suspicions about the level of collaboration between our own SU and College authorities, especially given the revelation that a silent protest was chosen so not to disturb the launch that Minister O’Keeffe was attending.

All the students’ unions around the country, but especially our own, now face the not-insignificant task of convincing their electorate that they still retain the political capital and impetus to keep up with their charges’ obvious vigour and passion around the issue of fees.

This newspaper is sceptical. The students’ unions are giving an impression of institutionalisation that undermines their position. The whole saga so far further illustrates the fallacy that “students” are an interest group (or indeed, that “the elderly” are either). Why should it be the case that there be just one union to represent tens of thousands of students? Under what circumstances is it likely that a body such as that would be entirely homogeneous?

FEE have certainly taken at least part of the initiative over the last weeks; that much is not in question. What remains to be seen will be how the campaign continues to pan out. Could some relative blow-ins like FEE pull-off a Libertas-style coup, where they hijack the debate away from the establishment? Only time will tell.

## PETTY RESTRICTIONS

THE TOUGH NEW approach to posters in College is indicative of a more general determination by the authorities to simplify the rules relating to advertising events on campus, and to reduce the amount of waste produced. As we reported last issue, the Junior Dean has banned the distribution of promotional flyers, as they constitute a form of littering; the same could probably be said of excess posters. Insofar as that these regulations will save the earth, they are welcome in theory, but the implementation of the poster policy could have a significant impact on many of our societies.

The carrot here is that if everyone plays by the rules, each society will have equal opportunity to promote itself and its events. The devil is, typically, in the stick: the threat of a 10% cut in the CSC grant of a disobedient or negligent committee. It seems like a blunt instrument; several societies have already received the one warning to which they are entitled before this punishment will be meted out. If the CSC are unwilling to exercise discretion when instances of non-compliance are brought to its attention, groups that have not deliberately set out to flout the rule could be exposed to crippling financial penalties.

The question of who is entitled to bring such violations to its attention is also cause for concern. Complaints from societies who feel that their ability to spread their message is being impaired by the inconsiderate acts of others should certainly be entertained, but encouraging the student body at large to police the noticeboards is misconceived, and amounts to a busybody’s charter. The idea of a third party informing on a society over a poster malfunction – and furnishing photographic evidence to that effect – is pathetic. If College wishes to enforce such petty restrictions, it should do so on its own time.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@trinitynews.ie

## Cobble reduction is mindless vandalism

I have been told of the deeply depressing news that the powers that be are preparing to rip up the cobbles in Front Square and macadamise it. This mindless vandalism is apparently in the name of the latest ephemeral fad of political correctness, against which I realise it is fruitless to protest. It appears a classic example of the underlying ideology of barbarism: “If you can’t create, destroy”.

It is melancholy to reflect on what Trinity was and what it is becoming, and I feel no happier for entertaining the selfish reflection that we who knew our wonderful University in civilised days have at least our memories to console us.

Nikolai Tolstoy

LETTERS TO THE Editor should be sent to letters@trinitynews.ie or to Trinity News, 6 Trinity College, Dublin 2. 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.

## BATT THE ARISTOCRATT



## OLD TRINITY

by PETER HENRY

John’s and Trinity College at Cambridge. Provost Bedell, who had been a fellow of Emmanuel, would have heard these lines many times when at Cambridge.

The waiter continues the “before meat” prayer: “... Have mercy on us, we beseech thee, O Lord, and bless thy gifts, which from thy kindness we are about to receive, through Christ our Lord.” This sentence, almost word for word, is the *ante cibum* prayer at Trinity College, Oxford. It is probably of the same origin as the familiar “Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which of thy bounty we are about to receive, through Christ our Lord.”

That the Dublin grace consists of a combination of the graces of Trinity Oxford and Trinity Cambridge may simply be coincidence, but it may be a nod by Bedell to the two English colleges with which we share our name.

All in hall then proceed to fill their bellies as the three courses are served in quick succession.

Once the meal is finished and libations have been poured out to the earls of Iveagh, the same student mounts the egg cup to read the “after meat” grace, much of which is unique to our college.

Again in Latin, he begins: “To thee be praise,

to thee be honour, to thee be glory, O blessed and glorious Trinity. Blessed be the name of the Lord now and forever. ...”

This beginning is very similar to the start of the prayer used after meals at Clare College, Cambridge, an establishment which was founded over 250 years before our own. The triple praise corresponds to the three persons of the Holy Trinity. “Blessed be the name of the Lord” is a quote from the first chapter of Job.

Continuing: “... We praise thee, most gracious Father, for the most serene ones, Queen Elizabeth the founder of this college, James its most munificent builder, Charles its preserver, and our other benefactors...”

Queen Elizabeth I, as is well known, founded this college in 1592. Her immediate successors to the throne of England and Ireland, James I was responsible for granting generous amounts of land to the college in the 1610s, while Charles I was king during the time of the composition of the graces. All three monarchs issued charters to the new Trinity College.

One must wonder what Catholic students, over the years, thought of having to praise God the Father for Elizabeth – excommunicated and deposed by Pope St Pius V – and her heretical successors. It wasn’t until 1873, when religious tests were abolished, that Catholics could attend Trinity. That year, a Catholic scholar asked to be excused from saying grace, and was supported by the vicar general of the Archdiocese of Dublin, who declared that “no Catholic could with safe conscience take any part, active or passive, in such a prayer”.

McDowell and Webb, in their *Academic History*, put this declaration down to the Church of the time “riding high on the ultramontane tide”. There seems to have been no problem with the prayer since that time, even when “the ban” was lifted in 1970.

The waiter then finishes: “...asking thee, as we make use of these thy gifts rightly and for thy glory at this time, that we might exalt in thee together with the faithful happily in the future, through Christ our Lord.”

The divine source of all wisdom thus acknowledged, all remain standing for the fellows’ exit, after which the undergraduate rabble stays standing for the scholars’ departure.

The ancient prayers are not always said with the dignity they demand. The unedifying sound of a giddy scholaresse racing illiterately through the graces assaults the ears of the assembled diners more often than one would hope. But nothing under the sun is new: an 1898 issue of the student rag *TCD* called for the university’s professor of oratory to “offer instruction to the misguided young men to whom is relegated the task of saying grace”. “Sensitive ears”, it recorded, were forced to endure “barbarisms produced by faulty phrasing”.

It must be something close to a miracle that these graces have escaped the revolutionary wrath of today’s progressives. One would expect Christian prayers to have been excised from college life by indignant modernists, whose abundant zeal is usually matched by their intolerance.

But, *laus Deo*, the graces remain prescribed by the statutes. Long may they be preserved from the wretched onslaught of change. Amen.

pehenry@tcd.ie



Future  
Calling



THINKING OF VOLUNTEERING?

A GAP year between university and employment provides students with a valuable and challenging experience- provided it is carefully planned. A well-structured year out can really improve your employment prospects and benefit personal development. Employers are becoming increasingly selective due to the high level of skilled graduates competing for a diminishing number of jobs. A productive year out could be just the thing that sets you apart from other applicants.

Skills gained on a well-structured gap year are considered invaluable in the workplace. These include fundraising, working in teams, risk management, thinking under pressure and the international perspective gained by working in another culture. But perhaps the greatest benefit is the increase in confidence that comes from tackling a major challenge and succeeding.

There are many different types of programmes ranging from teaching English abroad to building villages to environmental conservation. Programmes may be undertaken with various organizations in Europe, Africa, South America and Asia.

There are many reasons why students decide to volunteer abroad. Among these, it provides opportunities to help make them important decisions about their lives, the opportunity to travel and experience new cultures. Other reasons, of course, are purely altruistic.

Gráinne, who volunteered with SPW in Tanzania, explains that she volunteered for “a couple of reasons, some idealistic, some selfish: I was interested in development as a career; I wanted to go to Africa; I was a teacher and felt I had something to offer; I didn’t feel that I could watch the AIDS crisis unfold and not do anything about it; I wanted to challenge myself and see if I could manage with the isolation, the lack of electricity and running water and a new language or two”.

Some advice for potential volunteers includes researching all aspect of the placement before leaving home: this can include even the most mundane elements such as food, housing and clothing. It is important to question your motives before accepting a placement as well as doing practical things such as learning the language and getting vaccinated. It is very important for volunteers to have an open and positive attitude to the culture in your host country. Being open and flexible will also allow you to get the most out of your experience abroad, after all you are there to learn more than teach.

There are many reasons why volunteers benefit so much from their year abroad these include: their long-term commitment to the organization they volunteer with; patience to understand and assimilate the development context and responses; openness and initiative in identifying areas of work and making positive contributions; and cultural adaptability

There are many resources available online, such as volunteeringoptions.org or yearoutgroup.org. These websites are very informative and also provide summaries and contact details of many voluntary organizations. It is also worth contacting the organization directly in order to find out about individual application procedures. Contacting them directly can greatly benefit your application as it shows your interest and dedication to their cause.

With many employers keen to hire graduates who have gained experience on a gap year, it is essential to use your time wisely, plan the year carefully and pick up useful skills for later life.

Is anyone  
singing in  
the rain?

Jason Somerville investigates aspects of the global economy which, despite the odds, are performing well. Should we relocate to sunnier pastures in search of economic gain?

IN RECENT decades the Irish economy has experienced unprecedented growth. But as we enter our first recession since 1983 the imbalances left behind are starting to become evident.

The latest labour market trends confirm this. Over the past 12 months there has been an alarming rise of 94,600 in the numbers signing on to receive unemployment benefit or an increase of just over 60%. Furthermore, when seasonal factors are taken into account, the total number on the Live Register last month increased sharply, posting a monthly rise of 15,800 to 260,300, its highest level since March 1997. The headline Live Register usually drops in October as third-level colleges re-open after the summer holidays. However, more and more graduates are finding it difficult to find employment and this has been reflected in the figures.

It is hard to be positive about prospects for the Irish labour market over the next twelve months. It is only a matter of time before the seasonally-adjusted Live Register breaks through the 300,000 mark and the jobless rate is running above 7.0%. Many economists are now forecasting an unemployment rate above 8.0% in 2009.

What makes the current economic downturn so different from that experienced in the 1980s is that back then, while we were in a recession, most western economies were booming. This time around a global financial crisis is hampering economic growth. Historically, once the Irish economy found itself in difficulty the US and Britain became obvious targets for emigration. However US and UK labour markets are currently facing significant challenges. In America, news that non-farm payroll employment fell by significantly more than 200,000 in each of the last two months confirms that the American economy is not only in recession, but a potentially severe one that could blight the entire first term of Barack Obama’s Presidency. Weakness is not confined to one sector but is widespread. Manufacturing employment fell by 90,000, with less than a third of that decline explained by the strike at Boeing. Construction sector jobs fell

by 49,000 and services shed 108,000, including 20,000 positions at car dealers alone. Healthcare and the public sector are currently unaffected; they created almost 50,000 jobs. But despite this good news, the slump in employment shows no sign of abating. The jobless rate jumped to a 14-year high of 6.5%, topping the peak reached in the last recession. Many economists now see it breaking the 7.0% mark in 2009 and rising up to 8.0%, a level not seen since the 1980s.

The labour market outlook for the UK also continues to deteriorate as the economy enters a recession. The ILO unemployment rate will soon be over the 6.0% level, and survey data are sending a strongly negative message. The Bank of England’s agents’ survey is also downbeat with sharp falls evident in the scores for manufacturing and services employment. However it’s not all gloom. Although profit margins have been squeezed by the rise in producer price inflation, the corporate sector is in a relatively comfortable position with private non-financial companies enjoying a financial surplus. This, coupled with the flexibility of the UK’s labour market, means that wages, rather than employment, should bear the brunt of the recession. The main downside risk comes from the relatively large share of UK employment in the financial sector.

Are there any economies ready to meet the challenges posed by this crisis? The world’s second largest economy, Japan, is often overlooked. While it is far from immune from the current global economic slump it finds itself in a far stronger position than most. This is largely due the extensive corporate restructuring of recent years. Severe recessions typically occur when economic downturns are exacerbated by the shake-out of excess labour and spare capacity, but there is little need for that in Japan. Many companies continue to report labour shortages. This suggests that the unemployment rate is also likely to remain low, maintaining upward pressure on nominal wages. More generally, Japan has largely avoided the economic and financial imbalances that threaten to drag others into a prolonged recession. Structurally, the economy



Photo: Stephen Poff

remains healthy and financial conditions have not deteriorated to anywhere near the same extent as elsewhere.

The Canadian labour market is also holding up well despite the global slowdown. Since the beginning of 2008, employment has increased 1.2%. Not only has the labour market been growing, but the year-on-year growth in average hourly wages for October was 4.3%, an increase above the rate of inflation. However it is worth noting that there is considerable variation between provinces. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia all boast unemployment rates between 3.8% and 5.1%, whereas Newfoundland and Labrador’s unemployment rate is running at an alarming 13.7%. While it has been reported that Canadian GDP will decline for the final quarter of this year any recession is likely to be shallow and short-lived with a return to positive growth expected by the second quarter of 2009.

Australia, is also reporting stable labour market growth. Over the past year, the Australian labour market has continued to experience solid growth. Total employment increased by an estimated 2.0%. The Australian government is always looking to attract highly skilled migrants with tertiary qualifications and proficiency in the English language. Unemployment trends indicate that highly-skilled occupations experience lower rates of unemployment than low-skilled occupations.

One of the world’s most talked about economies, China, is also holding up quite well on the labour front. The unemployment rate is already below 4% and the outlook is optimistic. While Chinese growth has slipped below double digit figures, a third quarter GDP figure of 9.0% is by no means a disastrous performance. Furthermore, in an effort to boost its slowing economy, the Chinese government recently announced a near \$600bn stimulus package. The Chinese government billed it as 4 trillion yuan (\$586bn) in extra spending, or roughly 15% of this year’s estimated GDP. In addition, official media have reported that the Ministry of Transportation would spend an additional 5 trillion yuan in the next three years or so. Such a massive fiscal program can only mean the unemployment rate will continue to decline over the foreseeable future and the capacity for labour market expansion is certainly evident.

Until now the Irish economy has had a highly qualified workforce and relied heavily on low-skilled labour from the newest EU member states. But as we edge closer to net emigration it is clear that we can no longer rely on these low skilled workers.

The bottom line is that we now have an overqualified workforce leaving many graduates looking abroad for career prospects. With a return to growth not expected until 2011 many more may find themselves doing so over the coming years.

Mercenary wishes for Christmas

Maeve Glavey is forced to consider Dublin businesses’ fate this Christmas – even though it’s still only November

I HAVE a rule. Nobody is allowed to so much as breathe a word about Christmas to me until it is December. That’s right – from the first day of the last month of the year I’m happy to listen to carols, attend festive parties and investigate my savings so I can see just how much my family and friends are going to think they’re worth this year. But not before the first of the month. Unfortunately, for as long as I can remember, the retail industry has not shared my view.

However this year I was still somewhat unprepared for the suddenness with which Christmas has descended. It could also be the denial I’m experiencing given that almost every one of my assignments is due right before Christmas.

When I was told a couple of weeks ago that O’Connell street was closed to traffic so that they could put up a Christmas tree my first thought was, “Isn’t that a little premature?” Maybe so, but as it turns out the early arrival of Christmas decorations in our city centre is no accident. When Lord Mayor of Dublin Eibhlín Byrne

switched on those Christmas tree lights three weeks earlier than usual, she was playing her part in the push to stimulate consumer spending this Christmas.

With the recent declaration that the Eurozone is now officially in recession, nobody is trying to hide the fact that we are in an economic downturn anymore.

Shops all across the country are preparing for what is traditionally their busiest season while quietly praying that it stays that way. Their fears are not unfounded.

A recent survey by consulting firm Deloitte revealed much for retailers to be concerned about. The annual Christmas consumer spending survey showed consumers intending to cut back significantly on Christmas spending, searching out discounted options and forgoing luxury gift items amidst a rapid loss of confidence in the economy.

The crisis may have been in the making for a while, but this Christmas may be the first opportunity consumers have to illustrate just how worried they are about Ireland’s economic health.

Add to the mix the government’s decision to up VAT from December 1<sup>st</sup> and it’s no wonder retailers are uneasy. Balking at this particular announcement, Torlach Denihan, director of Retail Ireland commented that “consumer confidence is at an all-time low”. Given all these factors, Deloitte estimates consumer spending power as having dropped by close to ten percent. Hardly what you want to be hearing as you paint Christmas trees onto your shop window.

Considering the gloomy atmosphere, these decorative efforts may be only part of what we need to get customers out and spending.

The Dublin City Business Association is among those calling for customers to stay local when they go on their Christmas expeditions to buy whatever it is they can still afford.

This option is in contrast to shopping in say Northern Ireland, or embarking on shopping expeditions abroad, for example to New York, as has become a common occurrence over the past years of the Celtic Tiger economy.

Of course the thought that if you don’t travel abroad you’ll be affecting airlines and that once you get there you’ll face similar desperation from retailers reminds us – the recession is worldwide and there really is nowhere to hide from the misery.

For students experiencing the recession, there can be hidden benefits – plenty of shops are slashing prices and the number of food outlets offering student-friendly “recession-busting deals”

Christmas has arrived already but is early merrymaking a devious scheme to bankrupt us all or do we have a civic duty to our city?

is rising. But what about if you go seeking Christmas employment? The attitude you’ll most likely encounter is one of shops that traditionally take on extra staff to deal with the Christmas rush cutting back sharply on their new recruits. Not only can they not afford to pay as many new people, but they don’t expect to have as many customers swarming their shops for them to serve.

While we wait for the leaders of the world to tell us what it is exactly we should be doing about the recession and how to get ourselves out of this mess, it’s difficult to know just how pessimistic we should be.

Of the same Irish consumers telling Deloitte they’d be cutting back spending this Christmas, 71% attested that they expected a further deterioration in the economy in 2009. But there are glimmers of hope for Irish retailers – despite the fall in spending, Ireland is still Europe’s top spender at Christmas.

This indicates that some of the festive spirit is in fact still alive in us, and if retailers can figure out ways of luring us into their shops, we just might be persuaded to make those vital purchases after all. Bigger stores that can afford to offer deals to stimulate sales might benefit as consumers place the cheapest prices at the top of their wish list when purchasing gifts.

With all the added pressure this Christmas, and the bleak thought of 2009 as the first year in which the Celtic Tiger is well and truly dead, the decorations adorning O’Connell and Grafton street may not be enough to part us with our money. At the very least, maybe they can distract us, and keep up spirits as we go through tough times.

Consumer spending on entertainment is also a vital part of the Christmas economy – so if you’re feeling the need to take a break from studying and head out in the run-up to Christmas, you can easily explain it away as just doing your part to help steer Ireland back on the path to prosperity.

POCKET GUIDE TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

CUT OUT and keep this handy guide of the different organisations that volunteer abroad

Organisation	Costs	Age Requirement	Duration
UN Volunteers	No	Minimum of 25 years	4-6 months 7-12 months 1 year +
Suas Educational Development	Participation fee from €2950	Minimum of 18 years Maximum of 25 years	1-3 months
Goal	Volunteers need to raise a minimum of €2000	Minimum of 21 years	4-6 months
Concern	No	Minimum of 21 years	1 year +
Himalayan Light Foundation	From €1200	No	0-4 weeks 1-3 months 4-6 months



# Student research saves planet



Every year Opwall helps students leave these fair shores to join colleagues from Britain and America doing real research in the tropics that also contributes to conservation efforts.

By Ailbhe Goodbody  
Science Staff Writer

OPERATION WALLACEA (Opwall) is an organisation that runs biological and social science research expeditions in a variety of remote locations around the world – Indonesia, Honduras, Egypt, Cuba, South Africa, Mozambique and Peru. The expeditions are designed with wildlife conservation in mind, and provide a fantastic opportunity for students to experience something different for their summer.

University students can join the expeditions for 2-8 weeks as Research Assistants or as dissertation students. Research Assistants help the academic teams to gather data on a range of different terrestrial and marine research projects, as well as completing training courses. Not much prior knowledge is needed for this, so you don't have to be a science student to take part. Dissertation Students conduct their own project on-site, with the help of a supervisor.

I spent eight weeks in Honduras last summer as a Research Assistant – the first six weeks on projects in the cloud forest in Cusuco National Park. Jungle training is a requirement for all volunteers who will be working in the forest sites, and teaches you how to operate safely in remote areas – this includes navigation with compasses, cooking your own food, setting up camp with minimal forest disturbance, and of course an awful lot of

hiking! We were even shown how to build a natural shelter, as well as how to gather our own food and water in the case of separation from the group. It was tough, but enjoyable, and we all really bonded as we struggled to light a fire with damp wood so that we could eat our rations!

As a Research Assistant I was able to choose which projects I would like to help out with. These included mist netting with the bird team, where we would catch birds, weigh and measure them, and then let them go by hand; and light trapping with the invertebrate team, where we used light traps to catch moths, praying mantises and jewel scarab beetles. Possibly the smelliest data collection I did was for a forensics student, who was studying which invertebrates are attracted to corpses – she had three dead pigs surrounded by pitfall traps in different locations in the forest, and our job was to collect the bugs in the traps that had been attracted by the scent of rotting flesh. The day I volunteered for this, the pigs had been outside for eighteen days, and smelled disgusting!

There was a genetics lab in the forest base camp where scientists were building up a catalogue of DNA for various species in the park. We learned how to survey the various plants and animals and collect material for DNA extraction. It was strange doing lab work in such a non-sterile environment (once a lizard fell onto the table as we worked!) and it was often so dark in there during the

day that we had to wear head torches to load our gels, but I still managed to get results from samples such as bat swabs and beetle legs.

My favourite forest project was the howler monkey project, as the howlers were so used to humans that they mostly ignored us – there were nine different troops, and we could get really close to observe their behaviour as they interacted with each other. A dissertation student was studying their vocalisations when I was there – we would sometimes get up at 3.30am and set up the recording equipment near the troops, and record their howls as the sun rose.

I spent my last two weeks on marine

It was strange doing lab work in such a non-sterile environment (once a lizard fell onto the table as we worked!)

projects in the Caribbean Sea. Volunteers have a choice of two marine sites – on Cayo Menor, which is a protected and uninhabited island, although it has a scientific research centre, or on Utila, which is an island developed for dive-based tourism. Both sites are surrounded by reefs. I went to Cayo Menor, lured by the promise of unspoiled sandy beaches and the extremely rare pink boa constrictor snakes that inhabit the forest in the middle of the island.

During my time on the island I learned how to scuba dive, completing my PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water training. I cannot think of a more beautiful place to try diving for the first time – and as an added bonus,

Images from the Wallacea Honduras placement.  
Photos: Ailbhe Goodbody

the Open Water training was free, and the Advanced Open Water training was relatively cheap. I also did a course in Caribbean Reef Ecology, where I learned to identify many species that I would see on the reefs, as well as learning survey techniques. This training meant that we could help to gather data when we went diving on the reefs, which would go to the Honduran Coral Reef Foundation.

Operation Wallacea has a policy of social and environmental responsibility that ensures the projects have minimal negative impact on the environment and benefit the local communities. Food and supplies are purchased locally when possible, locals are employed as guides, cooks, etc. I spent two weeks in Buenos Aires where we stayed with locals - this meant they were paid, but also that we got to experience life in a Honduran village, very different to living on a campsite! We also got the chance to teach English to the local children (or attempt to, anyway!)

## CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

A REPRESENTATIVE of Operation Wallacea gave a presentation in Trinity for potential volunteers on the 11th November. However, don't worry – you can still get involved! Their nearest office is in the UK, so all prices are in sterling – starting at £975 for a 2 week expedition. Operation Wallacea provide an information pack on fundraising. I managed to raise over €3000 towards my expedition before I went to Honduras. More detailed info is available on their website, [www.opwall.com](http://www.opwall.com); you can also email [info@opwall.com](mailto:info@opwall.com), or telephone +44 1790 763194.

## IN BRIEF

LUKE MAISHMAN

### MEDICINE

## BUSH'S LAST MINUTE ANTI-ENVIRONMENT PROPOSALS



IN HIS last few days in office George Bush is trying to push through a change to the Endangered Species Act. This change will remove the need for a full scientific assessment before drilling; mining or construction projects get the go-ahead. Bush is also accused of introducing only ten new endangered species per year, significantly fewer than his predecessor, Bill Clinton, who brought in about 65 per year.

### POLITICS

## NEW SOURCES OF ANTI-MALARIA DRUG ON THE CARDS

INCREASING PARASITE resistance to traditional anti-malarial drugs has led to dependance on one particular drug, artemisinin, which is derived from the plant *Artemisia annua*, such that demand will soon outstrip the supply. The Artemisinin Enterprise Conference 2008 suggested 3 solutions to this problem: Upping yield from the plants by fast-track breeding, making synthetic Artemisinin like drugs and a new fermentation method of synthesizing the drug.

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

## EMERALD ISLE 1ST IN WORLD FOR MOBILE PHONE USE

A REPORT by the British regulator Ofcom on the International Communications Market noted that the Irish were the most chatty mobile phone users in the world in 2007, with an average of 179 minutes and 154 text messages per month. The average number of text messages sent by a UK mobile user was just 81.



### SURPRISING SPECIES

## VERVET MONKEYS



THE VERVET monkeys are Old World Monkeys that live primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. They are highly social animals, live in groups of up to 80 and have a complex group hierarchy. They learn alarm calls specific to different predators, which are used to warn other group members of danger (a much discussed example of animal cognition).

### EGGHEAD OF THE ISSUE

## WERNER HEISENBERG



BORN 1901, the German physicist is best known for enunciating the uncertainty principal of quantum theory, but also made contributions to nuclear physics and particle physics and invented quantum mechanics. He received a Nobel Prize for his work on this in 1932. He died in 1976.

### ON THIS DAY (25 NOVEMBER) ...

- » IN 1884, the first U.S. patent for the process of evaporated milk was issued to John Meyenberg, of Missouri. Condensed milk had already marketed, but was sweetened to help preserve it.
- » In 1910, the American College of Surgeons was incorporated "to elevate the standard of surgery" in the United States.
- » In 1922, archaeologist Howard Carter opened the first door to the tomb of King Tutankamun.

### 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](mailto: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.



# An emerging technological superpower?

By Luke Maishman  
Science Staff Writer

ON WEDNESDAY the 22nd October the Republic of India burst into the global technological elite by launching a space mission to the Moon. India will be the fourth nation on the planet to place its flag on the Moon – after the USA, Russia and Japan. But is this the result of a sudden technological advancement in India, or are our perceptions what is sometimes still referred to as a “developing country” somewhat mis-formed?

Investigation shows that there is some truth to both of these explanations. India has undergone something of an economic revolution over the last decade, opening up its markets to globalisation and investing in IT and biotechnology as well as other technological

sectors.

For most of the time since the formation of an independent Indian Republic in 1950 India followed a quasi-socialist approach with strict government control over the economy. However, since 1991, India has gradually opened up its markets through economic reforms and reduced government controls on foreign trade and investment.

This has led to a huge influx of multinational corporations and the investment that they bring. But India's impressive labour statistics certainly also played their part: two million English-speaking college graduates a year and wages of professional educated workers averaging at a tenth to a quarter of those in Europe or America.

The Indian government deliberately targeted the export oriented IT services sector for growth,

giving it special subsidies. This combined with the advent of the Internet and India's excellent international data communications links, made India an ideal location for outsourcing labour.

So, is it only cheap labour that is driving India's technological success? Once prices go up, will the multinationals withdraw to Europe and America? Unlikely. The boom that started with foreign investment for outsourcing has rapidly expanded to make India a global centre of technological expertise. As Professor Nirvikar Singh of the University of California, Santa Cruz, told BBC News “The IT sector has a definite potential for contributing to broad-based growth and broader economic objectives”. And all of this investment is bringing economic success. Indigenous businesses are taking their slice of the pie, and becoming global players in their own right as is

evidenced by the purchase of both Jaguar and Landrover European car companies this year by Tata, an Indian company. The Tata group also owns such European and American brand names as Tetley tea and the Ritz Carlton, Boston.

The THES university rankings 2008 for Technology are based on Engineering & IT prowess. No Irish Universities make it into the top 100, but there are two Indian Universities in the top 50. The highest ranked is the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, which sits at number 36. Five of the top 100 universities for technology are in India, the fourth largest fraction for any country in the World.

So it looks like India's economic influence in the technological sector is here to stay. And India as the centre of technological academic excellence is not inconceivable. Wait and see.

## SCIENCE WITH A CONSCIENCE

Compiled by Shane Heffernan.

following the completion of his PhD in the late seventies. Confronted with the development of smart cruise missiles as his only funding opportunity, he made his decision based solely on ethical beliefs, to pass up the offer and wait for funding from a non-military organisation. Though

the ethics of that particular scenario were black and white, it was Kuipers' decision to continue refusing military funding of any kind, no matter how benevolent, that has seen him become one of the scientific community's most notable ethicists. It's understandable to most of us why any scientist or engineer will avoid involvement in weapon technology, but opting out completely from an organisation such as the US military when they have been responsible for many socially beneficial advances in technology (the internet, artificial intelligence) has set Kuipers apart from his peers. Put in his words:

“It's a testimony, and a testimony has to be clear and visible to be useful.

Certainly there is virtuous research funded by military agencies. But it (accepting seemingly benign military funding) doesn't send a clear message to others, and I want to do that.”

This hard attitude has had to withstand some extremely tempting research offers though until this day Kuipers has stood firm in the belief that a stance like this is needed now more than ever in a world of increasing tensions between the worlds most powerful and volatile states. Most recently, Benjamin Kuipers presented a lecture entitled ‘Why I don't take military funding’ on behalf of INESGR (International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility) in the University of Copenhagen.



Kuipers, a computer scientist based in the University of Texas in Austin, vowed never to accept military funding

IT HAS long been the case that behind every military weapon there is a brilliant but perhaps misguided scientist. One Prof. Benjamin Kuipers is therefore to be commended in his outspoken stance against accepting military funding of any kind.



# Ukraine’s hidden secret

Ukraine may be famous for nuclear explosions and Eurovision winners but on a recent trip **Derek Larney** managed to discover a gem of a city called Lviv in the west of the country

WHEN IT was suggested to me that a trip to the Ukraine would be a good spot for a weekend break, I must admit the idea didn’t exactly inspire confidence. Thoughts of the radioactive city of Chernobyl and post-Soviet towns with filthy chimney stacks as their highlights came to mind, and this, coupled with cold evenings and an even colder welcome nearly put me off going. Nearly.

But for those who can see beyond the atypical stereotypes there lies a true gem in the Ukraine- that of the city of Lviv which is know in Russian as Lvov and pronounced Le-vov. Here one can find a remarkably beautiful European city that has so far escaped the clutches of mass tourism, in fact we barely saw more than half a dozen tourists in the city’s old town the whole weekend. This is most likely due to the effort that is required to get to Lviv- although it is only 70 kilometers from the Polish border it is still relatively difficult to get to- this is a trip for those who see a journey as worthwhile as the destination itself.

To get to Lviv one must first fly to either Krakow or Rzesnow from Dublin after which a nine hour train journey is needed to get over the Ukrainian border and to the city proper. The border itself is wide open to EU tourists, no visas are required since 2004 but nonetheless it is far from a formality. Firstly one must deal with endless passport inspections, bag searches and questions as to the purpose of travel. Then a one hour wait is in order whilst the train is lifted by crane off its tracks and the axels changed to the narrower Ukrainian gauge.

But within a short time of arriving in Lviv one will realise that the journey is well worth undertaking. Lviv is a city which is packed with stunning architecture that rivals its sister cities of St.Petersburg and Krakow.

Indeed, some are now touting Lviv as the new Prague. I have no doubt that the budget airlines are already eyeing it up for direct flights from western Europe to help fulfill this prophecy. Walking around Lviv’s open boulevards and

large market squares, one will recognise parts of Florence, Paris, Krakow and St.Petersburg. The collage of different architectural styles on show in this city now has art students coming to study every nook and cranny during the warmer summer months and a short walk around the compact old town soon reveals why.

Lviv is translated from a Slavic word which means lion, and the city is teeming with lions which can be spotted as door handles on huge oak entrances, as frescoes perched high on the city’s opera houses, theatres and town hall or even just lazing lion statues that proudly guard the entrances to government departments.

The city of Lviv itself was founded during the 16th century by one of the most notorious psychopaths of the Hapsburg Empire, Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, from whom the english language derived the term ‘masochism’. This is thought to be due to Leopold’s tendency to beat up his wife when she refused to whip him. In the event of this happening he used to get some of his servant boys to give him a

LVIV PRACTILITIES

Getting there- both Ryanair and Aer Lingus fly every day to Krakow in southern Poland.A flight booked two months in advance should cost around €90. From Krakow take a train to Prezmsyki where the border formalities are taken care of which takes around an hour. After that the train goes onwards to Lviv. Lviv has a number of good hostels, the Kosmonaut Hostel is right beside the main square and is the most popular with dorm beds from €5 upwards. Also good is the Shevchenko Hostel which has dorms from €4.50

good whipping to satisfy his inner desires for pain. Since those times the city has undergone a building boom with heavy influences from the Italian renaissance period as well as a healthy dose of gothic and baroque shapes too. Architects from



The Opera and Ballet House in Lviv, Ukraine. Photo: Jan Melich

Vienna and Prague later introduced art nouveau, and buildings from this period can be spotted quite easily too.

A highlight of Lviv is perhaps the Armenian Cathedral. It is only open for services these days but if one knocks on the large door the caretaker will show you inside for a quick look. The ceilings inside are ornately decorated with all manner of golden religious statues; the alter itself is so large that it could only dwarf an orthodox bishop during the Sunday service. Outside the courtyard is paved with headstones and for those who have always wanted to go dancing on someone’s grave this is the place to do it. Armenian culture views it as good luck to have as many people walk on your grave as possible and therefore the headstones along the walk to the front door of the cathedral are considered to be in a privileged position.

For entertainment in the evenings a trip to the Opera House is a must. Tickets start at a lowly €2 for the cheap seats and rise up to €55. Without a grasp of Ukrainian you won’t understand exactly what the opera is about but it is not too hard to distinguish that it involves with a love triangle of some description with the heroine bound to succeed in her endeavours to get her man. The inside of the Opera House is spectacular and it

is hard to fathom that a seat can be had for a performance in such a marvelous building for such a cheap price.

The public squares of Lviv are also well worth a sit down on one of the many terraces that are dotted around them. Rynok Square is by far the largest; from any point on it one can spot numerous sculptures of lions whilst being surrounded by grandiose buildings. Behind Rynok Square and the National Museum there is an art market of sorts where it is possible to stock up on everything from paintings to communist army uniforms. If you don’t mind a good steep walk then take a hike up to the High Castle, a 17th century castle nestled on a hill offering fine views of the old town.

So is it worth the journey of getting to Lviv for a weekend? It is certainly not an easy place to get to, but for anyone willing to undertake the arduous train journey before the advent of direct flights kicks in then there is a reward of a beautiful city that is so far untouched by neon, billboards and the annoyances that mass tourism will inevitably bring. UNESCO have shown their recommendation by designating the entire city of Lviv as a World Heritage Site and a weekend there spent walking the old cobblestone streets and admiring the scenery certainly justifies why.

# The world’s biggest rugby scrum?

Forget Easter eggs and bunnies— for some unusual fun and frolics on an Easter weekend it is hard to beat a bit of mob football

By Derek Larney  
Travel Editor

THE SPORT of bottle kicking is an old tradition which takes place between the Leicestershire villages of Hallaton and Medbourne. It dates back over two hundred years and the winners of the competition are held in high esteem throughout the local community. So what exactly is bottle kicking you may ask? Well on a basic level it involves two mobs from each village competing to get three bottles, two of which are full of beer, over two streams which are approximately a mile apart. The ‘bottles’ are really small kegs of beer which will be drunk later that evening by the victorious team. The only rule to the game is that there are no rules; teams can use any method they desire to get the bottle over the stream.



The day of bottle kicking begins with a parade through both villages, during which a few refreshment stops are had in order to help participants mettle up for the afternoon’s festivities. Then the crowd gathers on a hill between the two villages known locally as Hare Pie Bank. This is in honour of a local legend that says a hare prevented a bull from killing two women by distracting the bull. The hare didn’t seem to get much thanks for his efforts as the consumption of hare pies are now part of the tradition.

After the first bottle is thrown up in the air by the master of ceremonies, both teams from the villages begin a massive scramble to clutch onto it and the holding team will then attempt to move it in a rugby-like scum by any means possible. Shoving, mauling and eye-gouging are all part of the fun of bottle kicking, as the bottle moves over hedges, ditches and barbed wire in an attempt to cross it over the finish line of the stream. Injuries are quite common, and ambulances are on standby to ferry those with broken bones to the nearby hospital.

The bottle kicking is divided up into a best-of-three event lasting most of the afternoon. Contests can take even longer as another local village, Cranoe, often joins in to help the losing team just before they are defeated and then switches sides in an effort to prolong the event. Some participants take a hands-off approach by opting out of the scrum to drink a few pints of the local cider before rejoining it again. Others take it far more seriously, competing in all three contests, or until it is time for a lift to hospital.

There is no need to be from either of the two villages to compete, strangers are welcome to get involved in the scrum and frequently help out their chosen team by bailing straight in. Bottle kicking takes place on Easter Monday every year. If you can’t wait that long to give it a go then why not try some other forms of mob football over Christmas? Check out the Ba game, a form of medieval football played in Scotland around Christmas or even Haxey Hood, a huge brawl over a leather tube in Lincolnshire on January 6 every year.

There are some videos of bottle kicking available to watch on YouTube at the following web addresses: <http://bit.ly/bFdZ>, <http://bit.ly/K8Bo>, <http://bit.ly/vgPQ>

# New York: city of insomnia and blinding lights

New York has been dazzling visitors for a long time—it oozes culture and class effortlessly out of every seam to leave even sceptics departing the city looking for the next flight back

By Paul McDonnell

EN ROUTE to New York, an anxious anticipation is common. Expectations of the iconic city are nurtured since childhood and the only certainty is that the trip will be like no other. The assumption is that the awaiting city could not possibly live up to its idyllic movie portrayal, the land that has inspired generations to strive for success. However, taking the first surreal steps into the madhouse reveals that all ambitions will be met and the bar for all future excursions will be significantly raised.

The first NY symbol you will encounter is the yellow cab. Stories about the city’s cabbies are legendary but following basic etiquette will ensure a harmonious ride. Initial charge is a reasonable \$2.50 and a note-worthy point is that extra passengers are free.

Alternatively if you arrive via rail, Grand Central Station brings travelers back to a time when train travel was a privilege. A fascinating tour of the nigh-on one hundred year old station offers an insight into American travel history and is free of charge.

Some notable legends of the station include Hitler’s bid to scupper the electronics and the famous four-faced, opal-encrusted clock valued at over \$15 million.

A cursory glance at the New York skyline serves as a statue to New York’s founders and patrons. Recent years have seen the dominance of Donald Trump, with 5th Avenue buildings Trump Tower and the sleek Trump World Tower. Numerous other tycoons continue sculpting the city but the true father of New York is undoubtedly the philanthropic John D Rockefeller Jr. He was a major catalyst in rejuvenating a dejected economy in the years following the depression. His notable legacies are the Rockefeller Centre and the Museum of Modern Art.

The Rockefeller Centre is a prime example of the sheer vastness of the family estate. Comprising 19 commercial buildings over 22 acres it includes Radio City, art deco skyscraper offices, an underground shopping concourse and the GE Building. The GE Building is now home to ‘Top of The Rock’, the best observation deck in the city, as Central Park and all major sights are visible. It also also has the advantage of being less busy than other attractions. Perhaps the most memorable asset of the Rockefeller Centre is the ice rink captured in many a silver screen production.

An obligatory addition to travel itineraries is Ground Zero. Construction began this summer of most of the replacement towers (seven in total), which will encircle the site of the two towers. In



Central Park and the Manhattan skyline, New York. Photo: Trey Radcliffe

the footsteps of the previous towers will be two pools of water, each inscribed with the names of the 2,980 victims of 9/11. When completed in 2010, the pools will be surrounded by foliage and will offer some means of tranquility away from the assiduous financial district. The best place to get a feel for the continuing grieving of the atrocity is the ground zero museum workshop situated in the meat-packing district, approximately a seven minute subway ride from Ground Zero. Inspired by the Anne Frank museum, the workshop houses exclusive photographs

by Gary Marlon Suson, the official photographer at ground zero. Reasons why this tour shouldn’t work include the small size of the gallery and the steep \$25 admission, but the emotion captured in the pictures coupled with the uniquely intimate surroundings quickly nullifies the downside to produce the best account of the attacks and aftermath.

As regards entertainment, New York is a shrine for all things outlandish. Shows currently running on Broadway include Mamma Mia, the extremely popular Wicked and the awe-inspiring Lion King.

Broadway shows are utterly unparalleled. Throw away all conceptions of a stage show as the revolution of animatronics, massive budgets and actors and musicians handpicked from thousands all serve to encapsulate the once modest theatres. The drawback of this is the often equally substantial prices (upwards of \$120). However TKTS comes to the rescue selling unsold tickets for the days shows for up to 50% less and often offering premium seats. They are located in South Street Seaport, Downtown Brooklyn and Times Square but beware the queues for

the latter are notoriously long. For a truly unique alternative, tickets can be sought to recordings for both The Late Show with David Letterman and Late Night with Conan O’Brien. Tickets for these shows are free; Conan’s can be sought after via

NEW YORK PRACTICALITIES

» Flights from Dublin to JFK with Aer Lingus typically cost around €500 return and less during sales. If Ryanair enter the Trans-Atlantic market as proposed expect to see these plummet

» Accomodation in hostels depends very much on location. For example a bed in the Wanderers Inn on 113th street is €16 per night, closer to downtown on 17th street (Hostel 17) it is €69

» Subway and bus passes give you unlimited travel and can be had for €6

telephone or a visit to NBC studios while Letterman prefers an e-mail request followed by a trivia question or a lottery for tickets.

New York quickly becomes a drug for those lucky enough to experience it. It has maintained its entrepreneurial spirit that has attracted so many and the fruits of its current labour are becoming ever more ambitious. Countless cities claim you need maybe a week to appreciate them fully; in New York a month wouldn’t suffice. Every corner of the city has its own charm and pride; every building has a remarkable story. Love it or loathe it, New York will never be boring!



# New dawn for the Knights

In a rare glimpse into the inner workings of an organisation traditionally renowned for its secrecy, **Conor James McKinney** examines Trinity’s most exclusive club

LIKE SCHOLS, portraits of deceased monarchs and cheap cans outside the Pav on a summer’s day, the Knights of the Campanile are one of those institutions that is uniquely Trinity. Like those other features of campus (well, apart from the cans), their existence does on occasion lead to charges of elitism. After all, a semi-secret society open only to the College’s top sportsmen is by its very nature going to have a bit of a snobbish feel to it.

The corresponding clubs in Oxford and Cambridge (Vincent’s and Hawks, respectively) wouldn’t disabuse you of this notion, being very much gentlemen’s clubs with a sporting ethos. Our own Knights are a social outfit, to be sure, but are looking to shake off their aloof and secretive air. “I feel we have to be a bit more outward-looking”, says post-graduate student and current President

“what keeps the Knights going is the supposed prestige and the existence of the tie”

Mark Raftery-Skehan.

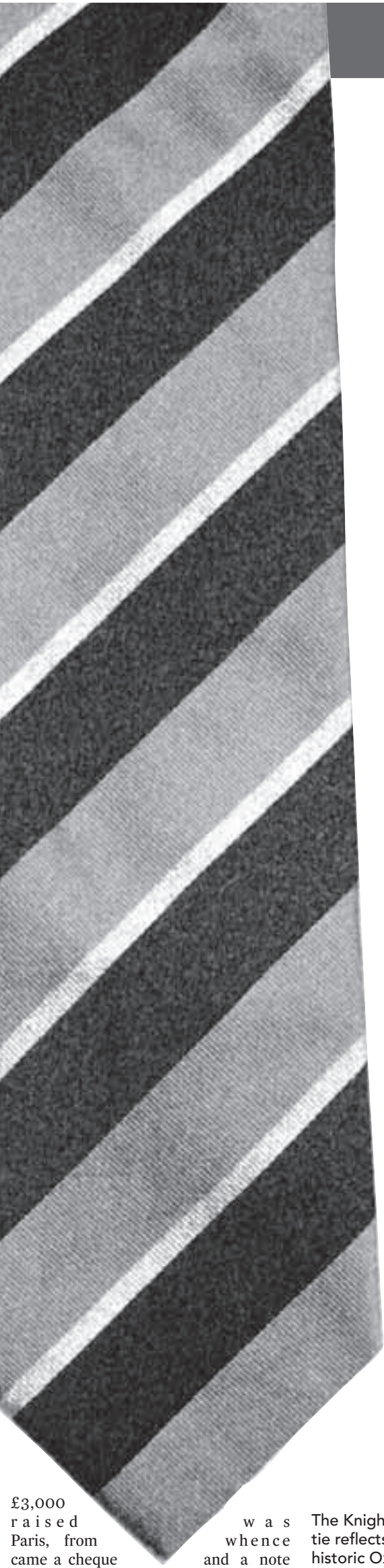
As Dr. Trevor West puts it in *The Bold Collegians*, his history of Trinity sport, the Knights of the Campanile “constitute not so much a club as a society of hospitable sportsmen with an elected membership”. But how does this election process work? In times gone by, only Knights could make nominations, but due to the decline of the organisation in recent times this led to many talented athletes being left out, as nobody from their club was active in the Knights. The decision was recently made, therefore, to open up the process somewhat, so that now club captains may make nominations as well.

What happens then is up to the current members. While the Vincent’s and Hawks are restricted to holders of Blues, it seems that membership of the Knights does not depend upon possession of the equivilant honour in Trinity, the College Pink. Our sister publication *Miscellany* reported back in 1991 that while “the three main criteria are usually that you are a member

of a 1st Team, have some sort of committee involvement and are socially active in the sport... these stringent criteria have been surmounted by the most unlikely of people. Even the slightest connection to a sport can be enough to gain membership for a socially adept individual. A present Knight who played a little hockey at schoolboy level managed to be elected.” Nowadays, international and Pink honours undoubtedly come into the equation, but the bottom line, according to Raftery-Skehan, is that “you’ve gotta be good at your sport”, have contibuted to your club in some way, and be up for the social aspect.

One source says that “a lot of the ‘secrecy’ about the Knights just covers up the fact that there’s not much to say... what keeps the Knights going is the supposed prestige and the existence of the tie.” There is an argument to be made, of course, that such prestige as does remain can act as spur to the ambitions of Trinity sportspeople, and gives recognition to those individuals who achieve conspicuous success – Raftery-Skehan speaks in terms of “aspiration” toward becoming a Knight, and the society’s mission statement refers elegantly to “the pursuit of sporting excellence in the service of the College”. However, given the annual award of Pinks, to say nothing of the more concrete attraction of the sports scholarships, which could be said to be fulfilling this role already, the Knights probably need a bit more than that to justify their continued existence.

Traditionally, their role was to play host to visiting teams, particularly those from Oxford and Cambridge. They also engaged in fundraising for sports-related projects within Trinity. One appeal, for the resurfacing of the tennis courts in Botany Bay, involved flogging the Knights’ tie (pictured above) to past members around the world. One source of the



£3,000 raised Paris, from whence came a cheque and a note saying “Delighted to help the tennis court appeal. Don’t bother to send me a tie. I never wear one. Sam”. The author was, of course, the noted golfer and cricketer Samuel Beckett, also known for some plays.

So how much of this is relevant to the Knights nowadays? One of the Department of Sport’s scholarships is still known as the Knights’ Scholarship, but they no longer fund it, and much of their other work has fallen into abeyance. Raftery-Skehan, a former cricket captain,

HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTS

SET UP in 1926, the club was given its own rooms on campus in 1957. It may have helped that the Provost at the time, Albert McConnell, was a Knight himself. They were removed from their perch at the top of House 27 some years ago, however; this may have had something to do with their tradition of what Dr. West describes as their “overenthusiastic hospitality”.  
Past Knights include the playwright Samuel Beckett (golf) and former Tánaiste Dick Spring (GAA). Trinity Senator David Norris is, according to his website, an honorary member.

is committed to modernising the Knights in order to make them more relevant to Trinity in the 21st century. He admits that they are “not maybe been as active as we might be” at present, but sees a huge potential for the Knights to get more involved in the sporting life of the College. The society’s website professes the belief that the Knights are “less than ever outdated in the contemporary environment of increased professionalisation, the effect of which has been to make sporting success harder than ever for Trinity to come by”. In an overhaul of the society’s internal structures, a council has been set up to help the three-man committee in its work and to aid in liaising with the clubs. The committee is “trying to get into dialogue with DUCAC and the Department of Sport” in order to ascertain how best to “carve out a bit of a role for ourselves”.

At a EGM held last Friday, as ever an occasion of well-lubricated merriment, there was serious business on the agenda as well. A six-point plan for presentation to DUCAC was discussed; Raftery-Skehan wants to build on the existing elements of the Knights’ work, as well as carving out a new niche. Hence, he envisages a reception for the annual visit of the MCC, and possibly the Oxford rugby team when

“less than ever outdated in the contemporary environment of increased professionalisation”

they play DUCF in March. A big past-present dinner is also on the cards, as bringing together different generations of Trinity sportsmen is a big part of the Knights’ ethos.

But in terms of new initiatives, Raftery-Skehan is looking into an informal role to “be involved in trying to lure talented sportsmen to Trinity”. Their website also professes their desire to make “an effort to lure the best sporting talent into the university”. He also wants to aid in the revival of the Hereans, a female equivilant of the Knights which is now entirely defunct. Anyone wishing to join in these noble endeavours should keep on training and wait for that call.

LETTERS TO  
THE EDITOR

letters@trinitynews.ie

Dear Editor,

As Captain of the Trinity Ladies Hockey Club, I am contacting you on behalf of a group of rather discontented students. The most recently published match report on the Ladies 1st XI defeat by Glenanne caused me, among other club members, some serious concern.

The opening paragraph of your most recent article, in which you refer to members of the team being “wildly inebriated” in the Palace on Friday night, and that this may have contributed to Saturday’s defeat, is utterly outrageous. I understand that you have not claimed this information to be fact but feel you have grossly underestimated the potential backlash of such a scandalous insinuation.

This wildly inaccurate accusation not only is insulting to an extremely hardworking panel of coaches, players and friends of this team but is potentially damaging to the future successes of our club.

As I am sure you are aware, the Trinity Ladies 1st XI are one of the only college sports team to compete at the highest club level. By suggesting that such unprofessional behaviour

exists within the club, our struggle to attract talented young players and attain much needed funding will only become more difficult. We pride ourselves on being a professional outfit, and strive to be considered serious sporting contenders, however with our own college newspaper printing such defamatory insinuations we will be considered as nothing more than a joke!

Although perhaps unintentionally, this is how you have portrayed our club to the students, and staff of this university. As sports editor, you have been appointed to a position of great power; what you write, be it fact or opinion, influences not only thousands of Trinity students but countless more through the World Wide Web.

By publishing this article you have acted wholly irresponsibly and have quite simply abused your position of power. It is a disgrace and I think we both know that if similar unfounded comments had been printed in a national publication about the likes of Brian O’Driscoll, there would without doubt be a lawsuit pending. I am simply requesting that you acknowledge your flaw in judgment and publish an apology in your next edition.

Yours Sincerely,

Caoimhe Costigan  
Club Captain DULHC 08/09

*Ed: We apologise for the insinuation that members of the Ladies hockey team were impaired in their performance by reason of being out the previous night. The passage in question was meant as comparison rather than conjecture; it was not our intention to give the impression that such an incident actually occurred, and we are sorry for the offence it undoubtedly caused members of DULHC.*

## Boxers square up to Junior IVs



Fighters go toe to toe in the Trinity exam hall last year. Photo: Martin McKenna

By **Conor James McKinney**  
College Sport Editor

DU BOXING Club’s newest recruits got a taste of Intervarsity action in the Mardyke Arena last weekend. The Junior Intervarsities are only for those fighters with less than five fights under their belt. It was a relatively successful outing for the club, which finished 3rd overall behind UCD and UCC. Sean Mulvaney won the 71kg catagorey after a fine win over his UCD opponent in the final, using his superior reach to good effect. He also took the top honour of the weekend after being named Boxer of the Tournament. Meanwhile, Peter Linney and Luke Gordon also made the final of their respective catagories.

The club has a busy season ahead, according to captain Ronan O’Brien: the more experienced fighters contest the

Senior Intervarsities after Christmas, while students should keep an eye out for the Colours even, which will be hosted by Trinity this year. The club is “hoping to bring over Oxford this year as well”, says O’Brien, adding that if the exhibition games against the English pugilists go well, it could become an annual event.

THE TRINITY TEAM

60kg: G. McGibney  
63½kg: E. FitzGerald  
67kg: M. Huston  
71kg: S. Mulvaney  
75kg: P. Linney  
81kg: T. Pepper  
86kg: L. Gordon  
91kg: R. MacSweeney  
+91kg: P. Kerr

SPORTS 1

Michael Willoughby

THE  
COMMENTARY  
BOX

## THE PHENOMENON OF THE SPORTING VILLAIN

MODERN SPORT has produced countless heroes, men and women who have earned the undying love and respect of their peers through their achievements in the many arenas of performance throughout the world. However, wherever there are heroes, the villains generally follow. There are few sportsmen who have generated as much contempt as the infamous Chelsea stalwart Ashley Cole. The question is why has this man has managed to fall so low in the eyes of the informed sports fan and, to an extent, the general public?

On the face of it perhaps Cole could have reason to feel unfairly vilified; he performs consistently well for both club and country and is arguably one of the best left-backs in the world. Not only does he always play the game to win, but plays the kind of exciting, attacking football that should inspire awe and admiration. So what seems to be the problem?

There appear to be three incidents that have shaped the public’s impression of Ashley Cole. The first, and perhaps the most contentious in the eyes of any Arsenal fans, is his well-documented move from Arsenal to their London rivals Chelsea in 2005. The move alone would have been grounds enough for anger from the fans who had seen this young man progress up through the ranks of the club and become an established member of the side. The view at the time was that Ashley had “bit the hand that fed him” by jumping ship. This view is understandable given that Arsene Wenger had provided the opportunity for Cole in what was at the time an Arsenal side that was challenging for the premiership title on a regular basis.

Why did he move? Money? Respect? Most likely a mixture of the two. Cole blamed the Arsenal Board of Directors, claiming that “[They] didn’t show me any respect and treated me like a little kid.” The result of this feud meant a move into the welcoming arms of the über-rich Chelsea. The move also brought Cole a significant pay increase, which earned him the unfortunate nickname “Cashley Cole”. While this debacle might not show Cole in the most favourable light, it still does not answer my question as to how he became to be universally disliked.

So what other crime has Cole been guilty of? This brings me on to Cole’s misguided interpretation of the Respect Campaign, introduced in an attempt to rid football of referee bashing and degradation. Cole made what can only be described as an horrendous challenge against the Tottenham player Alan Hutton which resulted in a booking for the Chelsea man. However it was not the challenge that will be remembered but the childish and ignorant reaction of Cole to being booked. He initially protested his innocence but when Mike Riley refused to listen and commenced to take Ashley’s name in the book, Cole turned his back on Riley while Riley attempted to talk to him. Even though Riley asked Cole to turn around, he flat out refused and this act of defiance led to a lot of anger in the football hierarchy. There have been other incidents of unsportsmanlike behaviour from Cole, most notably his attempt to get the Birmingham attacker Aliou Cissé sent off in 2002 by diving theatrically after a somewhat tame challenge.

While it is clear to all football fans at this point why Ashley will not be receiving any Christmas cards this year, it would also be understandable for the general public to be indifferent. This ties in nicely with my final submission: Cole’s recent marital difficulties. On the face of it “marriage difficulties” makes it sound almost like Mr. Cole is a victim in all of this. While I must stress that the majority of the allegations made against Cole were by the British tabloid press and thus must be taken with a liberal dose of salt, it’s clear that there were some “indiscretions” on his part.

Before I go any further, I must highlight the fact that Cole is married to quite possibly the most beautiful woman in British pop, Cheryl Cole (née Tweedy). The Girls Aloud star was voted the “ultimate fantasy body” in a poll commissioned by slimming aid Zotrim this year. I think we can all agree that we are dealing with something a little bit special here.

And what did Ashley do (according to the Sun and various others)? You’ve guessed it. Aimee Walton is her name and she is no Cheryl. While it must be stressed that these allegations were all made by the tabloid press, Cheryl did go on record as saying that they were having “serious difficulties.” This author’s humble observation is that the female public hated the idea of him being unfaithful while the male population was more disgusted by the fact that he could play away from such a lovely home ground at such an “unattractive” away ground. There are other sporting characters that fail to generate a positive public image: Floyd “Prettyboy” Mayweather and Michael Schumacher come to mind. However there is no denying that these men are better known for being the ultimate performer in their respective fields. In the case of Mayweather, there was always a feeling that he might just be less of a villain than he portrayed himself in the build up to the Hatton fight earlier this year.

The question remains: Why would you do it Ashley?



SOCCER

# Surgeons hit for six

SCORE

DUAFC	6
RCSI	0

By Niall Walsh  
Soccer Correspondent

THERE IS no such as thing as an easy game in football and third level soccer is most certainly no exception. RCSI arrived at college park determined to prove to their Trinity counterparts that the Surgeons had every right to continue to play in the Premier division. The winner of this playoff would cement their place in next year's competition with the loser thrust into a relegation playoff against Maynooth or DCU.

Trinity adopted a new look 4-4-2 formation and manager Cummiskey made some changes from the game against DIT. For the first ten minutes of the game it certainly looked as if a few of Trinity's players hadn't even seen, let alone played with, each other before.

RCSI started the brighter of the two sides with striker Fran Reilly causing the Trinity centre backs Danny Trimble and John Lavelle, both returning after injury

problems, some worrying moments in the early exchanges. Trinity created the first clear cut chance of the day though, striker Niall Walsh tested the RCSI keeper with two well-struck volleys in quick succession and with fifteen minutes played, Trinity broke the deadlock with a goal out of nowhere. With the ball bobbling at the edge of the area, it landed just behind Walsh, his back to goal. He connected with the ball on the turn and zipped it past RCSI keeper James Clerkin into the top left corner of the net for his fourth goal of the season.

This score served to settle Trinity's nerves and with Trimble and Lavelle looking far more assured at the back, the college were given a great platform on which to build. RCSI striker Reilly, who had been such a menace for the first twenty minutes, began to cut a forlorn figure up front as Trinity captain Trimble gave him no space to work in. At the other end, Trinity wingers Fergal Mullins and Cormac Farrell doubled up on the flanks to cause the RCSI defense some real problems with some intelligent link-up play.

It didn't take too long for Trinity's pressure to produce a second goal. A



Man of the match Luke Guerin rises unchallenged to test the opposition keeper. Photo: Jessica Pakenham-Money

superb passing move by the home side ended with full back Johnny Cummins playing Walsh in down the line with a perfectly weighted through ball. The Trinity man squared for his strike partner Daniel Moriarty who composed himself before toe poking the ball into the bottom right corner of the net.

Trinity went into the halftime break well on top but knew that they could not afford to take their foot off the pedal in the second half. They started the second half as they ended the first, with Guerin and Joe Kennedy controlling the game in the centre of the park. The two then combined for Trinity's third, and with it, effectively killed off the tie.

Guerin picked the ball up about 35 yards from goal on the right hand side and curled a sumptuous through ball for Kennedy to run onto. The Trinity midfielder somehow managed to squeeze the ball under the keeper and then had the simple task of tapping the ball into an empty net.

After this, space seemed to open up all over the pitch and Walsh should have added his second moments later after some great work down the right hand side by Moriarty. Within minutes, however, he was given the chance to make amends and this time he made no mistake. A through ball from Mullins found Moriarty down the left hand side and the Trinity striker,

whose pace had been simply too much for the RCSI defence throughout, beat his man and cut the ball back for Walsh to smash home at the front post.

Manager Cummiskey made some changes at this point, completely changing the midfield bringing on Gavin Kane, Edward Tinsley and Eoghan Keegan and pushing Guerin back into centre half. However, rather than taking the edge off the game these substitutes galvanized the college team into a very strong last twenty minutes. Keegan and Kane both got on the score sheet with close range strikes and Trinity's new-look defence were in a determined mood at the back, giving very little away.

THE TEAM

1. N. O'Carroll
2. O. McMahon
3. J. Cummins
4. D. Trimble
5. J. Lavelle
6. L. Guerin
7. C. Farrell
8. J. Kennedy
9. N. Walsh
10. D. Moriarty
11. F. Mullins
12. G. Kane
13. V. O'Mahony
14. M. Storan
15. E. Tinsley
16. E. Keegan

MAN OF THE MATCH:

LUKE GUERIN

TRINITY'S VERSATILE midfielder has been an ever present in Trinity's team this season and on this form it is easy to see why his manager fellow team mates think so highly of him. Guerin seemed to win every 50-50 challenge he was involved in and he kept the Trinity midfield ticking for the whole game, rarely giving the ball away. He capped off his performance with a superb assist and gave everything for the Trinity cause from the first to the final whistle.

In the end, Trinity's players did what was asked of them and the management were delighted with the professional approach adopted by the whole squad to the game. The college side will now focus on their campaign in the Leinster Senior League until the Christmas break, and can then look forward to the annual Colours game in the new year.

HOCKEY

# Unhappy umpiring fatal to DULHC hopes

SCORE

DULHC	1
CORINTHIAN	4

By Conor James McKinney  
College Sport Editor

DAVE BANE is a nice chap who could really do with a victory. Speaking before this must-win encounter with Corinthians, Trinity's coach noted that "it's do or die, in a sense", and while Trinity didn't exactly die, they certainly didn't do.

"If we play to our potential, we should beat these guys", said Bane: he didn't need to add that Trinity, unfortunately, have not played to their potential in any of their games so far this year. This is not a side used to slugging it out in the lower reaches of the table; as defender Vanessa Buckley pointed out, "the team has been competing at the highest level of Leinster hockey for four years, has never finished in the relegation zone and reached the Leinster Senior Cup Final

last year, making these last few years the most successful since the mid 70's". Even leaving all that aside, the ladies easily beat Corinthians in both their meetings last season, which makes last Saturday's loss to the second-from-bottom side all the more disappointing. A 4-1 defeat at Santry leaves the students four points adrift at the foot of the table.

Confidence wasn't helped by the concession of a short corner in the first minute, as Corinthians got stuck in from the off, aided by some poor tackling. A well-struck shot came off a stray Trinity stick and rebounded high to keeper Jessie Elliott's left to get the game off to the worst possible start for the home side.

Corinthians kept the pressure on thereafter, not letting Trinity out of their own half in the first ten minutes, during which period, only a goal-saving tackle from Caroline Murphy kept the advantage to a single goal. But with Irene Gorman sprung from the bench, Trinity had the opportunity to equalise during one of their first forays into the opposition half; the former Ireland U18 international drove down the right for her partner in

crime Danielle Costigan, but a vital close-range block from the Corinthian keeper prevented the forward from finishing.

Despite being frustratingly unable to keep possession for long periods, Trinity looked intermittently like a Division One side, playing with more intensity than in previous games. A barnstorming run by Costigan down the left hand side almost gave Rachel Scott a chance at goal, but the midfielder was unable to find any space in the circle.

The visitors had their one-goal cushion, however, and were dangerous on the break. A long ball out of defence after one Trinity attack almost caught the defence napping; Murphy did just enough to force the Corinthians attacker wide so that her shot came off the outside of the post. It was both warning and omen: Ailbhe Coyle's mistimed challenge in the circle gave away another short corner, this time saved by Elliott. A couple more chances were fortuitously redirected over the goal, much to the chagrin of Bane ("No deflections, get in front!").

Clearly, though, the umpires weren't content to let the efforts of the teams

decide this encounter. After Corinthians strode away on the break and purported to score in highly dubious circumstances, the official signalled for a goal to the utter disbelief of the home defence. An outraged Buckley flung her stick to the floor in fury, but got only a stern talking to in response.

Unsurprisingly, the baracking from the sidelines increased, and the Trinity captain Claire Hearnden was called over to account for it. Despite trying to keep the mysterious hecklers quiet, she was sent to the bin to atone for their sins, in accordance with the rules of hockey as formulated in the Twilight Zone.

Her team, to their credit, responded well to this manifest injustice, winning another set piece courtesy of Lucy Small. Nothing came of it, or indeed of the subsequent opportunity won by Gorman, and the teams separated for half time with Corinthians still 2-0 up.

Costigan and Gorman were at their threatening best after the break, however, linking up well and delivering yet another short corner. Somewhat unsurprisingly, the frontal assault was rebuffed, but this

time the ball was worked back across the circle to Gorman, who finished well.

Only a goal down, one sensed that there could yet be something in this game for the students, but there was to be no grandstand finish: Elliott was kept busy, shutting down a one-on-one with a crunching tackle on the onrushing Corinthians forward. As the pressure piled on, the umpires lost all sense of decency, awarding short corners seemingly at random. None found their mark until Trinity had been reduced to nine players, as Coyle and Caoimhe Costigan both saw yellow in quick succession. By now, even respectable spectators were heckling: "that is absolutely... OUTRAGEOUS", cried one disgusted parent, summoning up the most damning indictment in her vocabulary. The more seasoned tormentors at the far end described it in choicer terms, but it didn't change the result.

Inevitably, the breaks came for Corinthians, and the Trinity defences were breached twice by Carol McGowan and Doireann Bregazzi-Nevin. Deprived of a much-needed morale boost,

Trinity must soldier on; their next league fixture is against that ancient foe, UCD.

*The side will be that bit more confident going into the game, however, following a comprehensive 6-0 victory over Division 2 leaders Genesis in the Jacqui Potter Cup on Sunday 23rd. Goals from from Hearnden, Scott, Danielle Costigan and Murphy sealed an emphatic win; club captain Caoimhe Costigan said after the game that the team seemed to have gotten back into their stride and that "morale is back up" in the DULHC camp.*

THE TEAM

J. Elliott, A. Coyle, C. Murphy, V. Buckley, C. Boyle, C. Costigan, R. Scott, M. Horan, K. O'Byrne, C. Hearnden (c), D. Costigan.
Subs: N. Douglas, C. Coakley, L. Small, I. Gorman.

## Club notes

Matt McGrath

AT AN Extraordinary General Meeting held on November 13, members of the Dublin University American Football Club (DUAFC), Trinity's newest sports club, voted overwhelmingly for a rebranding of the club. The change involves a new competitive name for DUAFC, which has competed since its foundation as the Thunderbolts. The club will now compete as Trinity College with the aim of establishing better name recognition for the team. The Thunderbolt name was originally chosen in reference to a flag football club established at Trinity during the 1990s. The new club, founded in October 2007, has a much more ambitious agenda, namely to establish Trinity College as a contender in the full-contact Irish American Football League, the sport's governing body.

The rebranding will also involve abandoning the club's logo, though a new one has yet to be chosen. The club plans to hold a contest to design the new logo for use on club equipment and promotional materials.

In another decision made at the meeting, the club Committee chose to remain in the IAFL Development League for the 2009 season rather than move to the IAFL's Senior League. Club members decided that the long-term competitiveness of the rookie-heavy club would be best served through an additional season of development. Following the 2009 season, it is the club's intention to compete in the full eleven-a-side Senior League against the best clubs in Ireland.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Results and fixtures to Christmas

MEN'S SOCCER

SAT MAJOR 1D

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.	DUAFC	9	8	1	0	39	7	25
2.	Swords Celtic	11	8	1	2	34	17	25
3.	Brendanville FC	10	8	1	1	26	12	25
4.	Clonee United	7	6	0	1	22	11	18
5.	Templeogue United	8	5	2	1	25	9	17
6.	Dunboyne AFC	11	4	2	5	24	22	14
7.	Confey FC	11	3	3	5	11	13	12
8.	Verona FC	10	3	1	6	23	33	10
9.	Garda FC	9	3	1	5	14	27	10
10.	Boyne Rovers	9	1	4	4	15	22	7
11.	Greenhills AFC	10	1	4	5	19	31	7
12.	Rush Athletic	10	1	3	6	22	32	6
13.	Loughshinny United	8	1	3	4	10	21	6
14.	Rathcoole Boys	9	0	2	7	9	36	2

Still unbeaten, Trinity top the table on goal difference after beating their nearest challengers in Swords two weeks ago.

08/11/08	Swords Celtic	1	2	DUAFC
15/11/08	DUAFC	9	0	Rathcoole Boys

ULTIMATE FRISBEE  
OPEN INDOOR INTERVARSITIES

The women's team, led by Finola Shannon, won their division after a gripping final against UCC. The Open side lost to both their major varsity rivals UCC and UCD to come a somewhat disappointing third.

29/11/08	All-Ireland Colleges' League (Round 1)
05/12/08	Welcome to the Cage (Beginners only)

MEN'S HOCKEY  
LEINSTER DIVISION 2

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.	Skerries	4	4	0	0	21	8	12
2.	Clontarf	3	3	0	0	14	3	9
3.	Bray	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
4.	Suttonians	4	2	0	2	15	8	6
5.	Dublin University	3	1	0	2	13	11	3
6.	Avoca	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
7.	Weston	3	1	0	2	3	11	3
8.	Naas	3	0	0	3	1	16	0
9.	Navan	4	0	0	4	3	20	0

The men's side have a chance to stock up on points with games against most of the teams in the lower half of the table before the Christmas break.

25/11/08	Weston	v	DUHC
06/12/08	Naas	v	DUHC
13/12/08	DUHC	v	Avoca

LADIES HOCKEY  
LEINSTER DIVISION 1

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.	Railway Union	7	6	1	0	15	1	19
2.	Loreto	6	3	3	0	16	3	12
3.	Hermes	6	3	2	1	17	7	11
4.	UCD	6	3	2	1	9	3	11
5.	Pembroke	7	3	2	2	11	10	11
6.	Old Alexandra	6	3	1	2	12	9	10
7.	Glenanne	7	2	2	3	8	13	8
8.	Bray	7	1	2	4	6	14	5
9.	Corinthian	7	1	1	5	7	21	4
10.	Trinity College	7	0	0	7	6	26	0

Still without a win, DULHC may be able to get a result against UCD, to whom they lost narrowly in October, but then face a tough trip to unbeaten leaders Railway.

15/11/08	Trinity College	1	4	Corinthian
03/12/08	Trinity College	v		UCD
13/12/08	Trinity College	v		Railway Union



COLOURS VICTORY 2008

# Jebb the hero of the hour

Fellow winger Shane Hanratty’s belated arrival proves decisive as Trinity strike late in a second half utterly dominated by UCD

By James O’Donnell  
Rugby Correspondent

IT WAS a lively opening to a lively affair, as outhalf Andy Wallace had an early drop-goal attempt on the 22 charged down, and though Trinity recovered the ball, they were harried all the way back into their own half. Managing to regroup and claw back some of the lost ground, the pack won a penalty at the breakdown. Facing a target well within range, Chris Jebb had only a slight angle to contend with and slotted the kick easily to give Trinity the spoils of a breathless beginning.

The physicality of both sides in defence was unrelenting in the first half an hour, with most of the play concentrated between the 22s. Brady was on hand to put a stop to Artemiev at the first sign that the left wing was going to give trouble, while Coyle was met on the gain line by the entire UCD back row as he sought to carry. Apart from a mix-up between Hamilton and Cantrell underneath a Garryowen, there were mercifully few signs of nerves and the standard of play was worthy of the occasion.

The first sign that Trinity were out for an upset came around ten minutes in, when Murphy swooped in from the left wing to break clean through the UCD line in a well-worked play off the lineout. With Colclough crowded out, the simple ball into the centre wasn’t on, and he had to look wide for his fellow outside backs. Had the pass gone to hand, a try would have been certain, but it bobbed along the turf, and although Gillespie managed to gather he was grounded a few metres short of the line. With the crowd roaring their approval, the pack tried to muscle away the difference, but were struck down by white line fever. A double movement gave UCD a penalty and a much-needed chance to clear their lines.

Soon after, UCD conceded a penalty at the scrum, causing Dara Geraghty to be called over for a quiet chat with the referee. Jebb popped over the kick to give Trinity a deserved 6-0 lead. But that one penalty aside, College were dominant in the scrum. Hamilton was caught in possession at the base by opposition back rowers half a dozen times over the course of the game, denying Wallace any decent service from that quarter. Crucially, though, he was never once turned over after being snared, always managing to wriggle free or keep his feet long enough for the cavalry to arrive.

The downside to Trinity’s aggressive and passionate play was evidenced again around 20 minutes in, when a deft chip through by Wallace left Artemiev to gather the ball along with three Trinity tackles. A turnover looked inevitable, but two defenders went off their feet in their eagerness to retrieve the ball and the penalty was thumped into the lefthand corner. A prolonged siege followed; Wallace dropped to fullback as Trinity manned the breaches, leading the way with a couple of strong tackles, but eventually the line strayed offside and Lett made no mistake from straight in front of the posts to record UCD’s first score of the game.

It took a combination of dire and wonderful play to produce the first try; no UCD player claimed a pretty standard restart, leaving them with a pressure lineout on their own 22. The clearing kick was fielded by Gillespie in his own half, and off he went: the crowd leapt to its feet at the sight of the full back making light work of two chasing UCD backs, sailing around their entire pack and drawing the last man, before passing inside to Shane Young, whose run in support was so well-timed that he was able to touch down unopposed to finish off a wonderful try. Jebb converted; at 13-3, the Trinity



support dared to believe.

With UCD missing a near immediate opportunity to pull three points back, they began to look increasingly uncomfortable on the ball. Poor passing from Geraghty and a shoddy up-and-under from Conor Quinn came either side of a crunching hit from Coyle on captain Michael Hastings. Young was everywhere; one particularly impossible break saw him throw a blind-side dummy to nobody to canter into the 22, and it took a good cover tackle to deny the supporting Jebb another try. A grim-looking Bobby Byrne headed down from the stands to join the rest of the UCD coaching staff for an urgent conclave.

No tactical wizardry was required, however, as the referee’s whistle kept UCD from conceding more. The award of several penalties allowed them to work their way back into the game and put an end to Trinity’s best spell of the game. Some superb last-ditch tackling from Richard Brady kept them at bay, while his opposite number Niall Kearns helped out by ignoring a huge overlap in the left during one attack. The Belfield side had to content themselves with three more points from the boot of Lett and a 13-6 half time margin.

After the break, it was clear that the initiative had been lost, and UCD inched their way into a position of dominance as the penalty count continued to mount in their favour. For all their possession, there were plenty of unforced errors for the white shirts to capitalise upon, while a tendency to attack too narrowly made life easier for a fired-up defence. Young

was a white-shirted whirlwind, pulling out turnovers with impunity, aided and abetted by Coyle.

The chances came nonetheless; a hospital pass to Conor Colclough in his own 22 allowed Lett to hack through, and only a desperate, semi-legal intervention from Cantrell on the try line prevented the centre from regaining the ball. After ten minutes of increasingly frantic defending, UCD finally threw the ball wide. The backline flew up, but the pass to Artemiev was faster – the winger burst onto the ball, hugging the touchline before stepping inside and rolling over Gillespie’s tackle to touch down. A tough conversion from Lett left the scores tied at 13 all with fifteen minutes to play.

A deflated Trinity went back to work; Tony Smeeth emptied the bench, even withdrawing Young as he sought to rejuvenate his side. It all looked a bit ominous nonetheless, as a confident Dublin 4 side pressed for the win. All the play was in the Trinity half, and when the lineout misfired for the first time Lett was kept out at the expense of a scrum close to the line. Trinity were shoved relentlessly backwards, and when it went to Hastings a huge gap was only just closed in time. Where he failed, the hulking Brian Cawley succeeded – when the ball was worked out to the left touchline once again, no power on earth could have stopped the second row from bulldozing over.

Although the conversion was missed, it seemed like business as usual at the Colours game with UCD in the lead, 13-18.

Wallace’s poor kickoff, only half-heartedly chased, seemed to signal that the heads had indeed dropped. It was booted back to substitute Shane Hanratty on the left wing, making his first appearance of the season in the first team after a prolonged spell out injured.

In that context, it was rather unexpected to see the former Gonzaga man field the ball, elude three tacklers by dint of sheer pace and throw a pass off the deck to John Byrne, galloping up the touchline in support. The ball just, just, *just* went to hand; still juggling with it, the flanker put the head down and ran the last 20 metres for the most important try he’ll ever have scored. Almost as incredibly, Jebb, radiating nerves, converted from the acutest of angles to make it 20-18 with just two minutes to play.

They were two minutes of pure hell for the Trinity support. UCD threw caution to the winds; after a great Hamilton break, they regained possession and ran straight through the midfield; Lett found Cian Aherne, who brought play into the 22. Nails were crunched around the ground as the pack followed up; the weak of temperment closed their eyes; then, a blessed penalty! Even that couldn’t end the drama - Wallace somehow sliced it and gave UCD one last shot. To lose the game at that point would have been monstrously cruel, and thankfully fate concurred – Artemiev was unceremoniously dumped, a backline colleague pinged for holding on, and as soon as the kick left Wallace’s boot en route to touch, the celebrations began.

## MATCH STATS

SCORE	
DUFC	20
UCD RFC	18

DATE  
14 NOVEMBER

VENUE  
DONNYBROOK STADIUM

REFEREE  
DUDLEY PHILLIPS

- TEAM
15. PAUL GILLESPIE
  14. CHRIS JEBB
  13. CONOR COLCLOUGH
  12. RICHARD BRADY
  11. COLIN MURPHY
  10. ANDY WALLACE
  9. EDDIE HAMILTON
  1. TRISTAN GOODBODY
  2. MARK MURDOCH
  3. JAMES GETHINGS
  4. PATRICK DANAHY
  5. COLIN MCDONNELL
  6. MAX CANTRELL
  7. SHANE YOUNG (C)
  8. BRIAN COYLE

- SUBSTITUTES
16. S. HANRATTY
  17. B. JOHNSTON
  18. J. ILIFF
  19. E. MOLLOY
  20. J. BYRNE
  21. A. MATHEWS
  22. P. MCCABE

COACHES  
TONY SMEETH  
HUGH MCGUIRE

MAN OF THE MATCH  
SHANE YOUNG

## THE BUILD-UP

Some had “had enough of this shite” even before kick-off



WHEN THE Trinity News team arrive - at 18:05 for a half six kick-off – the greater part of the humanity on the terraces was orange-clad stewardry, with twenty or thirty chilly supporters scattered around the stadium. Among them, looking particularly unhappy with the temperature, are half a dozen French girls. Rugby fans, are we? And are ye here for the play or the players, wha? “The play”, says the chilliest-looking, giving me a matching look. “It’s a more friendly atmosphere than soccer”, explains another. Dead right, although at the moment any atmosphere at all would do.

The rowdy legacy of Colours lingers on, though: dozens of stewards and a couple of guards have set up a sort of no-mans-land in the middle of the terraces in order to separate the rival supporters. Going on quarter past six, they considerably outnumber the fans, which is a good start when it comes

to crowd control. One middle-aged gentleman seems intent on disturbing the peace, however, picking his spot right in the middle of the cordon, and won’t move on even when cordially requested to do so. Despite valiantly questioning the logic of setting up no-go areas in a near-empty stadium, the argument is unwinnable, and having “had enough of this shite”, he storms off home, leaving Donnybrook that little bit emptier.

Wandering by the warm-up, Trinity are practising Garryowens, while UCD hit the pads in an altogether more physical way. Surely not a sign of things to come? The back pitch actually has grass on it, which would have been unheard of when I last graced this arena with his presence. Nothing but the best for these boys, it seems.

The place starts to fill up, and it’s time to hit the press box. Dean of Students Gerry Whyte arrives during the hugely satisfying process of getting

into the stand for free. What are Trinity’s prospects, Professor? “Well, I’m not au fait with the rugby scene, but I gather that if we win it’ll be, it’ll be...” “Monumental”, pipes up the esteemed Honorary Secretary of DUCAC at his elbow. Well in, Mr. Guildea. The rest of the DUCAC brigade, fresh from a pre-match lunch, take their places moments later, although Dr. Trevor West appears to have been misplaced in the confusion of the transfer between bar and stadium.

There’s a sizeable crowd now, enough to welcome the teams onto the pitch with a bit of volume. Director of Rugby Tony Smeeth arrives on the sideline, points, winks, smiles like a presidential candidate as people call out to him from the stands. A minute’s silence for Shane Geoghegan, tragically killed in Limerick the weekend before, ensues, and we’re off.

(Stephen Grant)

“We were very fortunate”, says relieved Smeeth

## POST-MATCH SKETCH



A GOOD old-fashioned pitch invasion rolls over the celebrating players, adding hearty back-slapping to the meaty hugs already much in evidence. Tony Smeeth, shaking hands with his opposite number, is magnanimous in victory: “We were very fortunate”, he says modestly. “You deserved it”, retorts his vanquished rival. “We were fortunate”, repeats Tony, a man out to get his way to the last.

Jubilation reigns, the delerium of the deserving much evident on the faces of the players as the last of the adrenaline runs its course. “Fantastic turnaround”, says a beaming Provost. Good to watch,

eh? Yes, “quite a physical game, it was great”. The elation even gets to your reporter, whose attack of excitement-induced Alzheimer’s renders the rest of Dr. Hegarty’s contribution illegible. Ah, the hell with it, he never says anything good.

The losing side are devastated. Perhaps the most redundant sentence in all of journalism, but its hard to concentrate with our friendly rivals from the Record flouncing around, brandishing their dictaphone. No sign of them at any of Trinity’s previous games, mind you, while honest reporters like yours truly were out in College Park soaked to the skin. Anyway, it seems that this reliance

on technology doesn’t necessarily bring home the bacon, given that they went on to report that Johnny Iliff, rather than John Byrne, had scored the winning try, so we’ll stick to good old-fashioned pen and ink over here, thanks all the same. Seamus Conboy watches his minions indulgently, no doubt wondering why nobody makes such a fuss over GAA.

Captain Fantastic himself plunges past en route to mopping up the rest of the congratulations. He’s feeling “unbelievably ecstatic, man”. You don’t get this kind of a buzz from history essays, that for sure.

(Conor Vella)





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Kay Bowen of DUFC raises the Colours trophy following the team’s 20-18 win over UCD as the victorious players celebrate around her. Photo: Jessica Pakenham-Money

# “Brute beauty and valour and act”

- » Passion and belief give DUFC Colours victory
- » Captain Young in powerhouse performance
- » Jebb converts late try to win the day

IT’S ONLY natural to have mixed feelings about a team who put you through the wringer for 80 minutes, even if they do eventually provide enough euphoria to power a small town come the final whistle. You love them and hate them in equal measure. But when Shane Young received the Colours trophy from DUFC President Seamus Consideine and called his team up to share the moment, we forgave them everything, for what this DUFC side pulled off at Donnybrook last week, in this most significant of fixtures,

will deservedly rank among their finest achievements in a long and proud history. The game itself was the story of two great contributions, those of Richard Brady and Shane Young. The inside centre’s defensive performance was outstanding, and included several try-saving tackles made at full stretch. That UCD didn’t make several line breaks in the first half - as opposed to zero - was entirely down to him. Young, the Trinity captain, gave an inspirational display.

He was colossal right from the off, first to every breakdown, turning over ball, making huge tackles, scoring his side’s first try and taking man of the match hands down. Colours is ever a game full of sound and fury, and it signifies everything. Donnybrook was by no means full, but so compelling was the encounter that crowd couldn’t have kept back from filling the night with its cries even had it wanted to. We were pretty damn fired up in the press box too; the solitary professional journalist, eyes glued to his laptop, wasn’t particularly impressed. But it was impossible not to jump out of your seat when Colin Murphy broke the line, to dance a merry jig as Shane Young scooted in under the posts, to slam the little desks in frustration at another penalty

conceded, to howl in disbeliefing rapture at the sight of John Byrne cantering down the line to win us the game. The best thing about the display was the pride and commitment on show. Although this was a match between two Dublin universities, it was more akin to a Munster match than anything you’d commonly see in Leinster. For those on the right side, it was rather like watching the Munster-All Blacks game, played a week later: not a perfect game, by any means, but made more than the sum of the skills on display by one’s emotional engagement with the heroic underdogs. Trinity defended like their lives depended on the outcome, rucking themselves raw, covering across with energy born of desire and tackling like men possessed.

It didn’t seem like it was going to be enough. As UCD took a stranglehold on the second half and the penalties against us mounted, it looked like it was going to be just another brave yet ultimately doomed performance by the perennial underdogs. When Brian Cawley, who epitomised the sheer strength the Belfield men possessed up front, finally broke down the Trinity resistance towards the end, our hearts sank. In an instant, all Trinity’s efforts were as nothing, all our jubilation soured; the very contemplation of victory over these behemoths seemed to mock us, and add bitterness to the cup. Shane Hanratty, thankfully, had other ideas; he’s had some great days at Donnybrook before, and doubtless will again, but few will linger in the memory

so long as his first touches on that Friday night under the floodlights. The winger had *no right*, in the words of Tony Ward, to scoot around the chasers with such ease, to get his pass away, to see Byrne hold onto the ball; if the flanker had trimmed his fingernails that morning, the chance would have been lost. Gerald Manley Hopkins, a rather sickly Jesuit priest, wouldn’t have been a big rugby fan, but he could have been watching this match when he penned the line that now sits as our headline. No doubt the team have already sat down to examine the video of this game, seeking way to improve upon their performance in games to come, but for us in the captive audience it was all about emotion; about pride and self-belief; about doing themselves, and their college, proud.

## ATHLETICS

# New season, new runners for DU Harriers

By Neil Cullen

THE 15<sup>TH</sup> of November saw Dublin University Harriers and Athletics Club (DUHAC) take on their first competitive event of the year in the form of the Intervarsity Road Relays, held on the South Campus in NUI Maynooth. Traditionally, this competition is used to test early form, to put the early season training to use and to give some new members a taste of Varsity competition. Captains also get an opportunity to see how club members are running and, for some, it was their first attempt at organising teams and ensuring the experience is both competitive and rewarding for all involved. The format of the event involves a team of four for Ladies and five for Men. Ladies start off with a mile leg, followed by two 2-mile legs, and finishing with another mile. Men also start with a mile and continue with 2 miles, followed by three, then another two miles, and ending with a final mile leg. Many miles! The shape of both the Ladies’ and Men’s teams were unfamiliar. Naturally for

University sport, there is a high turnover of players, or in this case, runners. This, coupled with the loss to injury of the likes Becky Woods and Sean O’Heigheartaigh for the Ladies and Men respectively, would also prove to be a body blow. That said, DUHAC are a group of people and a club that always give everything and this event would once again prove this long-standing reputation. The gun went off for the Ladies’ race at 1:15pm with three Trinity teams involved under the leadership of Ladies Harriers Captain Bryony Treston. Louise Bernard led off for the A team in a time of 5mins 58secs, a considerably better time than her previous year’s effort of 7:14, a testament to how hard work in training really does pay off. Louise passed on to the skipper Treston who led by example with a time of 11:57 for her two miles. Aoife Byrne, racing for the first time for Trinity in the third leg, worked her way impressively through the field gaining five places and putting Trinity in 4<sup>th</sup> with one leg to go, her time a very impressive 11:04, the second fastest in the third leg. The A team was led home by Ciara McCallion. Traditionally a 400 metre



Bryony Treston and Simone Grassi in action at Maynooth. Photos: DUHAC

runner, Ciara stepped up and dug deep to run 5:45 for her mile. The A team would finish 5<sup>th</sup> overall, an efficient performance. The B and C teams were made up of a mixture of new and continuing athletes and would finish 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> respectively, putting in credible performances and a good platform from which the athletes can kick on. The new-look Men’s team was spearheaded by Joe Barry. Normally a 100m sprinter, Joe was trying his hand for the first time over a mile and worked hard for a time of 5:41. Joe can be proud of his performance but will agree that the experience of a middle distance runner



may have been more profitable. Ed Montgomery took over and gained 6 places in a time of 10:43 over two miles, having run the three-mile leg in ’06 and ’05. He then passed on to DUHAC’s marathon expert Simone Grassi. 3 miles is practically a sprint for a man who’s used to 26.2 and Simone’s time of 15:52 is to be hugely admired. Simone, incidentally, ran the New York marathon two weeks ago in a time of 2 hours and 43 minutes, an average of 6mins 14secs per mile, another fantastic achievement. Chris Bracken then took over in his first ever outing for Trinity and held Trinity’s

position of 13<sup>th</sup> in a time of 10:17. Tim Harnedy, also a first-timer, brought the team home for a placing of 12<sup>th</sup>, recording 5:18 for his mile. DUHAC also sent along a Men’s B team containing some more new faces as well as the the likes of Sean Flynn and Darragh McCashin who were continuing their return from injury. They finished 17<sup>th</sup> overall. Overall, the Maynooth Road Relays were a marker in what is an upward learning curve for all DUHAC members. Established members continued their great service to the club and hopefully the debutants have whetted their appetites for some more competition and training. Members should be encouraged to keep up their training as it is still early in the season and it has been proven that those who train hard reap the rewards. Our next competition will be the Indoor Intervarsity Track and Field on February 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> where we hope to continue to improve and bring home some medals. The website [www.duhac.tcdlife.ie](http://www.duhac.tcdlife.ie) contains fixtures and training times; new members are encouraged.

### MAYNOOTH RESULTS

Ladies Road Relay:

DUHAC A (L. Bernard, B. Treston, A. Byrne, C. McCallion): finished 5th of 15 in a time of 34:44.00

DUHAC B (A. O’Brien, E. Grace, M. Mahoney, M. McMorrow): 11th in 38:17.00

DUHAC C (E. Flynn, F. Freigang, C. Eberle, S. Rath): 12th in 39:01.00

Men’s Road Relay:

DUHAC A (J. Barry, E. Montgomery, S. Grassi, C. Bracken, T. Harnedy): finished 12th of 24 in a time of 47:51.00

DUHAC B (A. Reilly, M. Ondrej, S. Flynn, D. McCashin, S. Conroy): 17th in 51:46.00