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On 'Bunny and the Bull'
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Union Executive still split over pay dispute

LORCAN MULLEN

The ongoing saga surrounding the proposed policy of performance related pay (PRP) for Union executive officers is still creating visible tensions amongst SU leaders. Union President Shane Brogan, who has made this policy something of a flagship of his time in office so far, is encountering a range of obstacles in attempting to pass this reform of executive remuneration.

Shane Brogan
The SU President has called the reforms "a tool for use against underperforming officers"



Brogan justifies this reform as a way of giving students some role in determining the payment of union officers, with a proposed new committee encompassing members of the student representative council (SRC). It is seen as a way of combating underperforming officers, who in past years have effectively coasted through a year's worth of paid work with very little effort or endeavour on behalf of their student electorate.

At the moment the only option students have in combating underperforming execs is removal from office by a vote of no confidence at council, a move President Brogan describes as "the nuclear option". As council largely derives its membership from the same voting blocs held to determine the executive elections (the Christian Union, the Law Society for example), the removal of even the most blatantly ineffective sabbatical officers is almost impossible to achieve. The introduction of PRP would, according to Brogan, offer students accountability while giving underperforming execs ample room to improve throughout the year. The Union president characterises the reform as a simple "tool for future years", and a "tool to be used against underperforming officers."

The executive officers' pay would be measured against the

accomplishment of their own goals for the year, as set out in a document called the Union 'Plan of Work'. Brogan has insisted that "good officers have nothing to fear" from the mooted change.

Out of the current crop of Union sabbatical officers, only Brogan and VP Laura Hawthorne actively support the proposed change. VPs Gareth McGreevy and Susan Kearney are known to support the reform "in principle" but are not actively seeking its passage. McGreevy in particular seems to oppose PRP in practice for fear it will "split the executive".

As the pre-existing splits amongst execs on the issue have been clear to see, this justification for a de-facto opposition may well seem a little weak to the ordinary student. VPs Courtney (Clubs & Societies), Duffy (Education) and Lilly (Equality & Diversity) are opposed to the amendment in absolute terms, rejecting the idea of enforced changes to payment structures mid-contract, while also citing personal differences with the Union president about the way in which the reform has been handled.

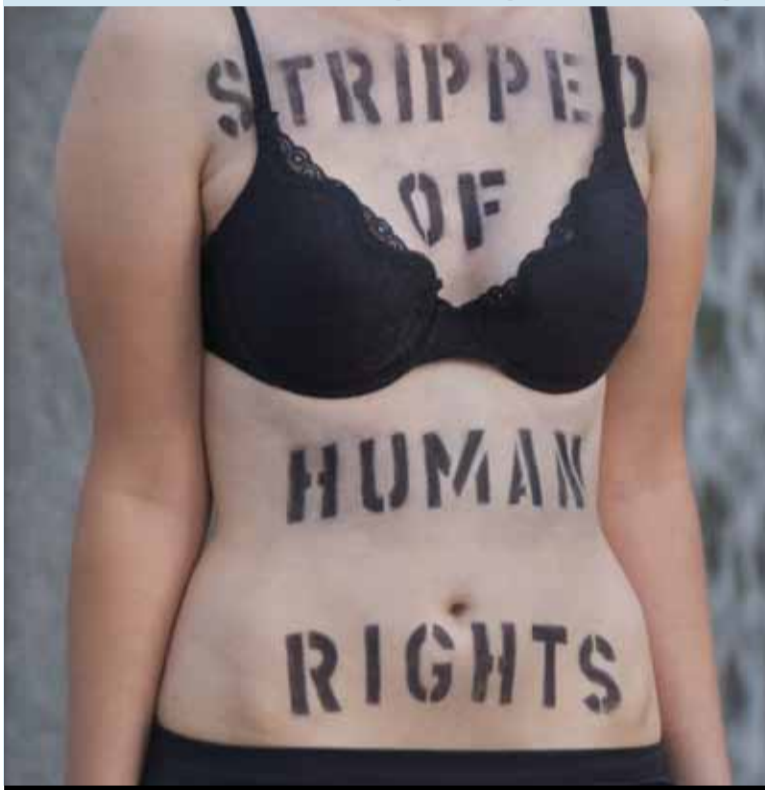
Meanwhile, VP Courtney has explicitly and publicly denied allegations of a push for a pay rise at the last meeting of council.

PRP has now been passed by the Union's Management Board, and will be subject to a vote of council, as a constitutional amendment. As a constitutional amendment requires the votes of 50 councillors to pass many sources within the Union not directly involved in the dispute over PRP have expressed doubts over its chances of approval. One council source has suggested that the influential preponderance of law students and Law Society affiliates will make this passage especially difficult, considering the very clear links between PRP-sceptics Duffy, Lilly and McGreevy and the Law Society in particular.

Deputy General Manager Dominic Doherty said, "I would be in support of measures that ensure that students get the best out of officers. The current team are working extremely hard and none of them would have anything to fear."

Human Rights Special

Marking the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and a report on the forthcoming human rights day at QUB - Page 6



Apathy rules as council meeting is abandoned halfway through

This month's meeting of the student representative council (SRC) ended in confusion and in some degree of recrimination, with a number of important items left undiscussed. Reports suggest that at least thirty councillors missed the meeting without prior apology, with a considerable number of councillors drifting out during proceedings.

Others (including VP Education Barry Duffy) simply forgot the cards identifying them as eligible to vote. The council clerk, Union staff member Dominic Doherty, was forced to literally recount the number of representatives present on a number of occasions before the meeting was abandoned.

If the council has less than 25 members present (a quorum, the minimum number required by the Union's constitution to sit as the council) this situation, 'quorate', is created. This display of widespread apathy amongst elected councillors has not tak-

en place, according to council sources, for at least two years, and such disaffection so early in the academic year is apparently almost unprecedented.

The newly elected Union Speaker, second year law student Alex Redpath, expressed his concerns to The Gown afterwards, stating that he was "very disappointed that this month's meeting ended in quorate" while admitting that the crowded agenda, including an important constitutional amendment, a large number of motions and a series of executive officer reports, meant a drift of councillors was "unsurprising."

He went on to state, "A councillor's duty is to represent his constituents' views on council - if two hours a month is all they can contribute, that's disappointing."

A number of interesting motions came before council before its abandonment, with a proposed constitutional amendment concerning gambling

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In Case of Fire
tickets
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Win MORE
Bad Manners
tickets
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Win AGAIN!
That Petrol
Emotion tickets
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prompting the most discussion amongst councillors. VP Community Laura Hawthorne proposed the constitutional amendment, which would have allowed RAG to hold a poker night on the Union premises to raise money for its charitable beneficiaries. The Union Constitution currently prohibits any gambling whatsoever on the site.

VP Hawthorne stressed that the amendment was for charitable purposes, gave the council a power of veto over any future events and concerned an event that would not give away cash prizes. Council did not have the requisite 50 eligible members to vote on a constitutional amendment. Christian Union members (a bloc with considerable power on council) vehemently opposed the motion on religious grounds.

RAG members, including Union Deputy Speaker Jay Downs, showed a palpable frustration with the failure of the motion. SU President Shane
Continued inside on page 2

The Independent Student Newspaper at Queen's since 1955.

Monday 30th November 2009

The Gown is now available every Monday fortnight across the Queen's campus.

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The Hood...

With thanks to our printers, The Bangor Spectator, our advertisers, and everyone who contributed to the making of this edition.

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Meticulous effort makes for success

Editorial by Catherine Wylie

Last fortnight, The Gown made the comment that the Student Guidance Centre perhaps need to re-evaluate the quality of their services to QUB students. Today's editorial continues in the same fashion as there appears to be an overwhelmingly careless attitude in both the University and the Union, arguably accompanied by focus and energy being put into the wrong things as such. Why was there such a poor turnout of councillors at the last council meeting? I assume they weren't forced to run for council, so surely attending a meeting is something that they would want to do. Also, of the councillors that were in attendance, a number had forgotten their voting cards. It felt as though nobody really cared, that students had just given up

and acquired a blasé attitude.

The Gown team don't take things personally, nor do we criticise or chastise for the sake of it. We try our best to offer students a balanced, but constructively critical idea of what's going on. We have been told by a couple of informed sources that this year's sabbatical team are great in comparison to previous years. That's fantastic for us to hear as they are representative of each student at QUB. However, we would argue that some of their work isn't as beneficial to students as they think. How relevant is it that the SU is included in the Belfast Monopoly board? Is a novelty bus stop really needed to advertise the night bus? The Gown want a highly active fees campaign, a response to the redundancies, and a reaction to the increased cost of living.

Continued from page 1

Brogan, speaking to The Gown a number of days later suggested that objections to the amendment were misguided, reaffirming the charitable nature of the event; "not a casino in the snack bar."

In a separate development presented to council, President Brogan announced a small victory over the unfair practices of the University. Last year, council passed a motion stating that student representatives should not be forced to leave meetings

of the university's overall Academic Board where so-called "reserved matters" are discussed.

In the face of pressure from Union representatives, the University has suspended this controversial policy pending a future review. This has given a boost to the Union's push for an SSCC (Staff-Student Consultative Committee) representative on the Academic Board of each individual school, an effort geared towards ensuring greater transparency and student consultation in school decisions.

Campus fire raises suspicions

A fire took place at the Union Theological College on Botanic Avenue on the morning of Saturday 14th November. The Fire Service extinguished a smaller fire at the college earlier in the morning at 2:30 am. Police are treating the incident as suspicious.

The fire took place in the part of the college known as the Principal's House, a Grade A listed building which had been

receiving a £2.2 million renovation aimed at creating an outreach centre for students at the college. It was set to re-open in January 2010. According to sources these recent events could set the college back around three more years.

Firefighters were able to prevent the fire from spreading to the main college. The college serves as the main learning facility for prospective Presbyterian ministers and serves The-

THE HOOD

hood@thegown.org.uk

Hood's sources deep within the Union's power nexus (in the Bunatee bogs) reckon pint prices might soon be no more than the princely sum of 150p. Hood's none too averse to choking down the odd lukewarm pint of sour Tennants in the Speakeasy if it means dulling the pain of the day-to-day bitching and trivia

of the Union this year. The tension!

The fear of being called out by name at a meeting of Council for instance. The VP Clubs & Societies, apparently, does "have a set." Why so defensive Paul? Hood requires proof. Nay, demands it. I'll show you mine...

Anyway, no amount of Rain-crowd-baiting price-slashing in the Union bars could dull the sense of insult I had on open-

COMMENT

Grievances of Split-degree students

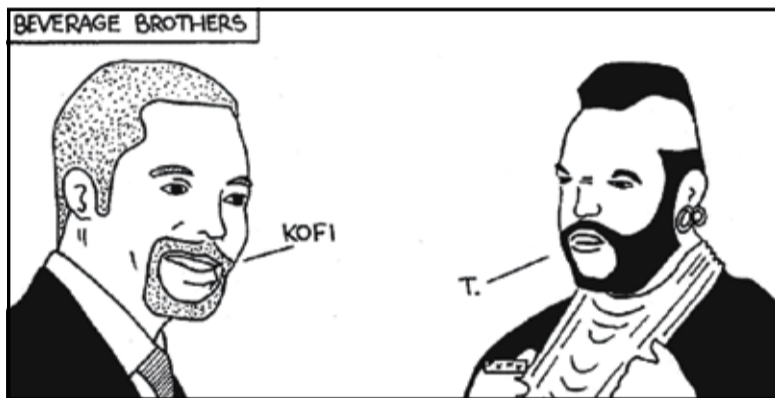
**AOIFE MORRISON
NUALA MCADAMS**

Is it just me or does it feel that students reading either joint or major/minor degrees within the Arts and Humanities faculties are simply in a state of limbo when it comes to grievances? Without belonging exclusively to one faculty there is an overwhelming sense of neglect when seeking advice regarding your degree pathway, which you have paid over £3,000 per annum for.

It has been drawn to The Gown's attention on a number of occasions that feelings of neglect are adamant amongst the vast majority of split-degree students in the Queens University Community. However, there appears to be an underlying concern over speaking out for fear of a backlash from both departments. To put this to the test, we have contacted three of the main providers of split degrees and have received a measly one reply (School of History), despite all three of these faculties having a high percentage of students participating in split degrees.

However, this did contain an encouraging step in the right direction, as one faculty acknowledged this fundamental grievance amongst the student body. The staff response has been to contact your class representative for the issue to be raised at the various SSCCs. However, it has come to the class representatives attention that many students are unaware of who their class representatives are, and are often uncomfortable with conveying their problems to a student they do not know.

Communication between departments is severely lacking across the Queen's campus. On a personal level, when selecting modules within my major/minor degree, my choice was severely restricted, leaving a handful of modules for the autumn semester. It's ludicrous to think that when student fees are continuously increasing, in a university that prides itself on offering joint degrees, that discussion between faculties on timetable scheduling for both semesters cannot occur. The only consequence is to the detriment of the split-subject student.



ology students of all denominations studying at Queen's.

26 students and residents from nearby apartments were evacuated from their accommodation but they were subsequently allowed to return to their buildings.

Two fire fighters were injured by dripping molten metal inside the building, and were treated at the scene. The college

staff have since spoken of their devastation at the damage done by the fire, but also of their relief that there were no fatalities.

Presbyterian Minister Steve Stockman said, "My hope is that it was not a malicious attack on Presbyterians, and we in Fitzroy certainly do not feel that it was any kind of sectarian attack on our Presbyterian community."KAC

ing the long-heralded first issue of the SU Mag. The Hood might just be an eavesdropping sort of gossip-wraith deep in the depths of the SU building, but he does feel some Gownish pride after all these years. Distortion? Democratic process? Get over yourselves. And the oh-so-very-witty 'girl writes in complaining of an STD, signs with the name of the Gown editor' trick? Classy. Or, as VP McGreevy would have

it, "classy!!!!!!!"

And there's just no escaping the damned little glossy feckers. On desks, behind tables, stuffed in the stainless steel toilets on the Union ground floor, strewn across The Space, down the back of the sofa (both sofas) at the Casa De Hood. Such saturation can only be borne of a print budget Rupert Murdoch would blush at, but it's just no Gown is it? No Hood y'see...

Value for Money?

Survey shows QUB deterioration



LORCAN MULLEN

The published results of this year's National Student Survey have cast doubt on Queen's University's claims to a constant state of improvement and development on campus. Figures obtained by The Gown (which can be found in full in SU President Shane Brogan's last report to Council) show deterioration in levels of student satisfaction in a number of aspects of life at QUB, in spite of ever increasing tuition fee costs over the time period concerned.

The National Student Survey (NSS) is an annual UK-wide survey completed by final year students in most universities,

All 22 questions indicate no significant improvement

Shane Brogan
SU President

with approximately 70% of those eligible to take part at Queen's last year completing it.

Since 2006, final year graduates surveyed at Queen's have reported a decline in the quality of assessment arrangements, marking, feedback (on which Queen's scores lowest), contact with staff and the level of organisation within and between schools. While the variations in score have been slight (typically only 0.1-0.2 in a score of 1-5), the link with the dramatically increased cost of learning in the intervening time casts serious doubts on the prevailing university establishment logic that larger annual fees are reflected in an infinitely better student experience.

As Union President Shane Brogan states in his report to council: "Last year's participants were the first to reach final year since the introduction of top-up fees in 2006, and the scores across all 22 questions indicate no significant improvement, and in fact some deterioration in the quality of teach-

ing and student experience at Queen's since the survey was started four year ago."

Other major points discussed in Brogan's report are: the breakdown of modules affected by recent teaching redundancies, relations with QUBSU's sister unions at St. Mary's and Stranmillis College, and a series of meetings with South Belfast MLAs.

With regard to cuts announced in the University's highly controversial Academic Plan (passed by Senate this summer), the School of English has lost two part-time optional modules; History & Anthropology five; Law two optional and Politics one optional. The School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeocology has been revamped, with one compulsory module and five optionals facing the chop.

A new working group has been set up to establish a greater deal of co-operation between the SUs at St. Mary's and Stranmillis. Co-operation between QUBSU and Stranmillis Union is expected to be particularly important considering the pending merger between the two institutions.

Brogan and the SU VP Community Laura Hawthorne have also met with South Belfast MLAs Alex Maskey, Alasdair McDonnell (also the constituency MP) and Anna Lo. Discussion reportedly centred on potential co-operation on mooted new student fees legislation (the DEL review into fees is currently doing the rounds at Stormont) and the tendency of some local MLAs to make sweeping "derogatory statements" about the QUB student population in the wake of instances of anti-social behaviour.

What do you think?

How do you think Queen's is performing? Have you noticed any improvement in teaching quality? Let us know at www.thegown.org.uk

“ Just recently Queen's hurlers were forced to compete in another club's jersey - an abrupt reminder of the harsh financial realities facing hurling this term.

Connor Daly looks at the current problems for QUB's hurling squads.

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“ The slow, heartfelt procession of the song combined perfectly with the Attic's low-rent lighting, reflected off the dance floor's almost apologetic disco ball and the stage-side emergency exit door.

Lorcan Mullen reviews a recent 'Cymbals Eat Guitars' performance

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A load of bull?

Simon Farnaby speaks to The Gown about his latest cinematic venture, "Bunny and the Bull"

ORLA MACKLE

Mighty Boosh fans waited with baited breath for the release of Paul King's follow up film release 'Bunny and the Bull'. Those wanting to see the film on the premise of being bombarded by an hour and half long of utter "booshism" will be sorely disappointed. Yes it centres on the same cult "comedy of the absurd" material, but it ventures away from this to address more serious issues such as mental illness and isolation. Described as a "Whitnail and I for the mentally insane", The Gown spoke to comedian, wizard of weird, and the film's lead actor Simon Farnaby, for a fast track on the goss from behind the scenes.

No stranger to Belfast shores, Farnagy has lived here for the past three months working on "Your Highness" and enjoying "the odd pint in McHughs and a bit of Seafood in Tedfords".

This is not the first time Simon has given his all in the name of laughter with Peter King, having worked with him on many occasions and most notably in the Boosh series. Many critics have looked at King's ability to re-define the road movie genre, something that Farnaby strongly denies.

"I mean I like a drink and like to head down to the bookies afterwards, but I'd like to think I'm not quite as selfish as Bunny."

"I think if you ultimately want to redefine anything you're going to fall flat, Peter wanted to do something different and I knew given the budget (King

spent a measly £750,000 on the production) we weren't going to be doing anything scenic!"

The sets used in the film are extraordinary, one such setting sees the viewer gorge their eyes on a cinematic delight, a fair-ground made out of clocks and Finaghy is quick to point out that the inspiration for these marvels is from his theatri-



cal background and love of the imagination.

"I always loved watching shows and how the stage was used, how an ironing board can all of a sudden become a space rocket, it just fascinates me really."

King has been known to have said that Bunny, Farnagy's character, is a portrayal of some of his own characteristics. Given that Bunny is a sex-obsessed, boisterous, compulsive gambler of a booze head, it is hardly surprising that this is something he vehemently denies.

"God I wouldn't like to think so, maybe the worst parts of my character combined, I mean I like a drink, and like to head down to the bookies afterwards, but I'd like to think I'm not quite as selfish as Bunny."

Surely being around comic greats such as Julian Barrett and Noel Fielding, it would be hard not to get a fit of the giggles from time to time in this bizarre world of dog-milking and bull-fighting.

"I'm quite good friends with Julian anyway and those guys are a lot of fun to work with. Yes we messed about a lot and crept away from the script, but it's amazing what happens when you do that, a lot of the stuff we filmed that wasn't scripted ended up being thrown in anyway."

See Simon in his latest venture on BBC2 this coming year in sit-com "The Persuasionists".

See a review of 'Bunny and the Bull' on page 5.

GownGiveaway

Win! In Case of Fire and Bad Manners tickets!

In Case of Fire are set to play at the Limelight on 17th December. Courtesy of CDC Leisure, we have one pair of tickets to give away for the gig!



We also have one pair of tickets for Bad Manners' gig on 12th December in Spring & Airbrake up for grabs.

To enter the competition, just email us your name and mobile number to info@thegown.org.uk, with 'In Case of Fire' or 'Bad Manners' in the subject line. We'll pluck a lucky person at random for each of the performances.

Competition closes on Friday 4th December 2009 at 9:00am.

Cymbals Eat Guitars Rock Auntie Annie's

LORCAN MULLEN

Cymbals Eat Guitars, an alternative rock, four piece from Staten Island, New York, played to a sparse crowd at Auntie Annie's on Sunday 15th November. The turnout however, did nothing to tarnish an exquisite performance from the band. CEG have already received rave reviews from the likes of NME, Pitchfork Media and Drowned In Sound so far this year. The BBC are hailing their debut album 'Why There Are Mountains' as a "game changer" for their genre.

Their sound skilfully blends the thoughtful lyrics, scratchy guitar squalls and winding song structures of early-90's indie heroes, Pavement, with the innovative spikiness of early Modest Mouse records, whilst also finding room for the moody, quiet-loud dynamics and vivid instrumental soundscapes of bands like Mogwai and Explosions In The Sky. The fact that

this diverse combination retains its coherence on record, and forms its own unique identifiable sound, points to a band with an impressive musical maturity at an average age of just over 20 years.

"I cannot muster the requisite superlatives to explain how good it sounded live."

A brief mention should be made of the support band, North Atlantic Oscillations, who never really transcended their quite limited sound, one not unlike that of David O'Doherty's impromptu keyboard, lost in a sea of Death Cab For Cutie sonic ennui. Not recommended in the slightest.

The band opened with '... And The Hazy Sea' which surpassed even its impressive incarnation on record, displaying their capacity for reflective

tenderness and creative, unpredictable catharsis straight from the start. 'Cold Spring' continued in this vein. The sight of an inspiring guitarist, CEG front man Joseph D'Agostino, pouring heart and soul into his playing was greatly enhanced by the accompanying bathos of a member of bar staff carefully sweeping up the broken glass and spilt drink only inches from the neck of his instrument.

The band fully revealed its talent on album track 'Share', with its searing, shimmering guitar play and pounding drums, creating an unexpected, low-key romantic atmosphere. The slow, heartfelt procession of the song combined perfectly with the Attic's low-rent lighting, reflected off the dance floor's almost apologetic disco ball and the stage-side emergency exit door. It was an oddly impressive, singular experience in such a small venue. Closing song 'Wind Phoenix' simply blew the place apart. I cannot muster the requisite superlatives to explain how



good it sounded live. Almost, but not quite up there with the best I've ever seen live, from Arcade Fire or Muse. They were truly phenomenal.

The band's drummer and co-founder, Matt Whipple, seemed in great spirits, saying that the band relishes the chance to play such small, intimate venues, where they can feel more comfortable playing songs like 'Share', 'Tunguska' and the Elliot Smith cover 'Ballad Of Big

Nothing.' Whipple also promised that the band would return to Belfast in February, and would be playing "all the festivals." I would definitely advise you to go and check them out for yourself. They won't disappoint.

What do you think?

Can you muster the requisite superlatives to describe the latest gig you've attended? Let us know at www.thegown.org.uk

Arts & Entertainment

GownGiveaway

That Petrol Emotion Tickets!

We have a pair of tickets to see the band on 7th December in Spring & Airbrake to give away, courtesy of CDC Leisure. To enter, email your name and number to info@thegown.org.uk

Reviews

Up to Now

Album
Snow Patrol
Fiction/A&M



Ever wanted all your favourite Snow Patrol hits on one CD you didn't have to make yourself? Their latest record is exactly that.

'Up to Now' is a must have for every Snow Patrol fan, featuring well known tracks like 'Run' and 'Take Back the City' alongside rare covers like Beyoncé's 'Crazy in Love', and some of their extremely beautiful early material including 'An Olive Grove Facing the Sea'. If that isn't enough to make you want the album then the fact that their extremely catchy and uplifting new single 'Just Say Yes' also features as one of the brand new tracks. In the run up to Christmas this album will make the perfect present for fair-weather fans and hardcore patrollers alike, and is undoubtedly set to top the album chart. HG



Jennifer's Body

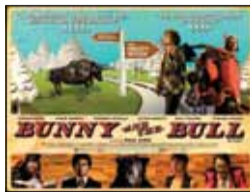
Film
Karyn Kusama
Dune Entertainment

Diablo Cody's horror/comedy follow-up to 2007 Oscar winning 'Juno' leaves the viewer with a deep seated feeling of disappointment. Megan Fox stars as the flesh eating cheerleader Jennifer, whose craving for man meat develops after being sacrificed to Satan. The plot is fantastically warped and serves as a smirk-inducing satire of hormones and teenage transition. Cody's script is where the real strength lies, but it's the scares, or lack of, which prevent 'Jennifer's Body' from joining its influences, i.e. cult classics like 'The Lost Boys' and 'An American Werewolf in London'.

It is clear that early into the film the studio and director haven't given Cody's vision the manifestation it deserved. Tipped as one of the hottest films of the year, this viewer felt that its allure fizzled out as soon as the titles started rolling. JG

Bunny and the Bull

Film
Paul King
Warp X Productions



'Bunny and the Bull' is the tale of two best friends on a whirlwind trip around Europe. So far, so dull, but when you discover that this is a comedy from the genius minds of the actors and director from 'Mighty Boosh', then it becomes a must-see film. Stephen Turnbull is on a mission to rid himself of the agoraphobia that has gripped him for a year, and the film pieces together scenes with shut-in Stephen and retrospectives on his European travels with the gambling-addicted Bunny and crab waitress Eloisa, to make us eventually understand how he has come to seal and file away jars of his own urine, and why he can't leave the house. With sets designed out of origami, clock parts, and newspaper, it's visually arresting and hilariously written. One caveat: if you fear seafood, beware. RS

The Men Who Stare At Goats

Film
Grant Heslov
Momentum Pictures



This film is based on actual CIA mind-control experiments in the 1980's, and the all-star cast, idiosyncratic title and fantastic plot give this film a lot of promise. Our initial introduction to straight talking, no nonsense reporter Bob Wilton (McGregor) allows for Clooney to indulge and go over the top in his portrayal of the eccentric retired Special Forces agent Lyn Cassidy. This pairing sees brilliant moments of comedy ensue within the confines of the well-worn road movie scenario. However by the time the viewer reaches the final act, the whole point of the film is exhausted and the story becomes very thin. Fans of 'The Big Lebowski' will enjoy Jeff Bridges' return as the anarchic hippy general, but it is Clooney who undoubtedly steals the show. BQ



Upcoming Events

Albums
3OH!3 - Want (07/12/2009)

30 Seconds to Mars - This is War (07/12/2009)

Alicia Keys - The Element of Freedom (14/12/2009)

DVD'S
The Hangover (07/12/2009)

Inglorious Basterds (07/12/2009)

GI Joe: The rise of Cobra (07/12/2009)

FILM
Me and Orson Welles - 04/12/2009 (QFT)

Planet 51 - 04/12/2009

The Red Shoes - 11/12/2009 (QFT)

CONCERT
The Pogues (02/12/2009)
St George's Market

Florence and the Machine (06/12/2009) Ulster Hall

White Lies (08/12/2009)
Mandela Hall



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The CRC- Protecting Children's rights since 1989

As the CRC reaches its 20th Anniversary, Nathan Bee explains the important role the Convention has played in ensuring children's rights have been properly protected.

Twenty years ago world leaders recognised that children needed a charter of rights. Neglect, abuse, and poverty meant an untenable condition of living for children across the world, particularly in developing countries. Thus, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was born. This year on the 20th November, Universal Children's Day, the CRC celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The CRC was the first treaty recognising that children needed a special convention just for them because people under 18 often need special care and protection that adults do not. It was also the first treaty that made sure children's rights were considered legal, and legally binding. The convention emphasises that children are no longer regarded as the property of their parents, but as right-holders themselves who should be able to participate actively in their family, social and cultural life.

The CRC includes children's rights to physical and personal integrity, and outlines obliga-

tions for the state to protect them from "all forms of physical or mental violence", including sexual and other forms of exploitation, abduction, armed conflict, and inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment. It also obliges the State to enact preventive measures and ensure that all child victims of violence receive the support and assistance they require

The Convention on the Rights

Many countries still fail to provide the basic standard of education, protection or provisions for their children

of the Child is almost universally accepted. It has 193 participants, more than either the UN or the Geneva Convention. Of its 193 subscribers, only two countries have not ratified the Convention: Somalia and the United States of America. Although the USA did not ratify the treaty, the US Supreme Court abolished the death penalty for juveniles, which is illegal under



the CRC, in 2005. In ratifying the treaty, each country agrees that all actions and policies that are in the best interests of the child must be implemented, and progress and adherence to the CRC is strictly monitored by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Despite the fact that the CRC is accepted in nearly every country on this planet, there is still much to do to ensure that children's rights are guaranteed. In 2006 the United Nations Study on Violence against Children

reported that between 80% and 98% of all children experience physical abuse in the home. Many countries still fail to provide the basic standard of education, protection or provisions for their children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child has had a huge impact on the official policies of many countries and has helped the world to realise that children need special care and that their rights need special affirmation and protection. But it is clear that the UN's work is

not finished yet. Dan Seymour, Chief of the Gender and Rights Unit of UNICEF's Policy and Practice Division, emphasises this by his statement that, "We cannot claim that the Convention has achieved what needs to be achieved. [...] This 20th anniversary of the CRC reminds us, most of all, of what we have left to do."

More information can be found on UNICEF's website.

www.unicef.org/crc/

Right, Lets Get Human!

Free film, free coffee AND freedom of expression? Students are set to be spoilt for choice at the upcoming Human Rights day in December at QUB.

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If you're fairly sure you're human, and have strong feelings of entitlement, then you shouldn't put down this paper just yet. The 10th of December is a day especially set aside for people who like you, value their rights and are interested in dedicating some time to celebrate. Luckily, the Human Rights group here at Queen's are doing just that in over a week's time by devoting a whole day to 'Appreciating Your Rights'.

Organised by students predominantly from the Human Rights Master's in the School of Law, this promises to be a good opportunity to meet fellow students and learn a little on the side. The day will kick off in the Peter Froggatt Centre with a representative from NICCY (Northern Ireland Commission for Children and Young people) opening an exhibit comprising entries from a children's art competition, and secondary school age creative writing competition emphasising the impor-

tance of Human rights for the younger generation. These competitions reach across all levels of the local community and provide a fun, whimsical way in which to learn about Human Rights. Another exhibit in the

The QUB Human Rights Group aims to raise awareness about Human Rights, and bring to life the relevance of Human Rights in society

foyer of the SU will focus on past and present Human Rights issues, both in Northern Ireland and abroad.

On a university level, the Human Rights group have been out and about around campus recently getting your views on

your rights and the results of their survey will also be exhibited. Following the exhibit opening, a Human Rights workshop will take place, run by a local community group yet to be announced. The workshop is open to anyone interested in participating, and you can either turn up on the day, or email kmclaughlin31@qub.ac.uk to book a place in advance.

So, after you've perused the (free) exhibits, with your (free) Clement's coffee in hand (it's Fair Trade, you know), you can dander along to the afternoon events including the (free and incredible) Oscar-winning film 'The Lives of Others' in the PFC, G07 at 3pm. A fantastic film and one not to be missed.

The various activities of the day lead up to the main event, a panel discussion with Anna Lo MLA, Brice Dickson, Director of the Human Rights Centre at Queen's who will chair the discussion, Aoife Nolan from the School of Law, and a representative from the Pat Finucane Centre. As well as being the highlight of the day, these



people are experts in Human Rights affairs, so this is your best opportunity to ask all those burning questions and get good answers in return.

The group's captain Karen McLaughlin says their main aim is "to raise awareness about Human Rights and really bring to life the relevance of Human Rights in society". Considering the importance of the proposed Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, which the group are also highlighting, this is a worthwhile event for everybody at Queen's and in the wider com-

munity. And it's free! Now that's community service.

Get Involved

For more information on Human Rights Day at Queen's, and a unique explanation of your Human Rights, visit www.thegown.org.uk

You can also join the Queen's Human Rights group on Facebook.

Get involved in the QUB Human Rights group by contacting kmclaughlin31@qub.ac.uk

Season of discontent for Queen's Hurlers

CONNOR DALY
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A troublesome season lies ahead for Queen's hurlers; despite an impressive recent cup victory over St. Mary's, it seems that the annual University grant just isn't enough to provide for our clubs and societies. That our hurlers are yet to accept this grant further adds to their tale of financial woe.

So far this academic year, QUB Hurling has recorded over 100 registered members. For the first time in Queen's history, there now exists three independent hurling squads to represent the University in all High Education leagues, championships and blitzes across Ireland. While its Gaelic football counterpart has in recent weeks secured the fiscal backing of two sponsors, the Hurling sector is forced to advertise for sponsorship through The Irish News.

Queen's GAA Academy was set up in 2004 as a united entity to secure funds for the University's Gaelic clubs. In recent times however, it appears this joint front has fell by the wayside; today a dogfight exists for potential sponsorship within

the Gaelic sector. QUB Hurling chairman, Ciarán Reid, admits that his club may not be as lucrative a sponsorship option as their Gaelic football counterparts.

"We definitely feel that we are the poor relation. In terms of grants, we're pretty well looked after, but that's where it ends," Reid claims. Surely Queen's

"We definitely feel that we are the poor relation."

Hurling Chairman Ciarán Reid

must now assist our Hurlers in finding external funding, to save their season, and prevent this downward spiral.

Disillusion surrounds a deprived QUB Hurling association; fundraising is tough, team bills are rising, and kit suppliers await payment. Just recently Queen's hurlers were forced to compete in another club's jersey - an abrupt reminder of the harsh financial realities facing hurling this term. Without a sponsor there appears to be no end to our hurlers' plight. Queen's Hurling's crisis deepens



amid the laissez faire mindset of the very institution its players strive to represent.

Club chairman Ciarán Reid suggests that it is not just QUB Hurling that suffers but that the aspirations of Ulster Hurling hang in the balance also. A severe lack of backing for young Ulster hurlers certainly does not spell success for a province which continues to underachieve at the All Ireland stage.

Grants are just not enough in today's game. The recent trend of lending team kits from Castlewellan HC and other

clubs cannot continue. Squad numbers are high, but funds are low; surely Queen's must assist its clubs in finding additional funds. It seems unlikely that Queen's GAA Academy will protect its "poor relation" this season, or any other season for that matter.

Have your say

What do you think about this issue? Visit our website and let us know.

www.thegown.org.uk

Roundup

UPC Nine-Ball Championships, 4th-6th December

HESPEC Snooker Intervarsities, 5th - 6th December

Knockbreda vs. QUBAFC, 5th December

Queen's Soccer Firsts make play away from home in this exciting fixture of the IFA Championship 2

QUB Rugby VS. NAAS, 12th December

Queen's hope to build on a strong campaign in their AIB League home clash with the boys from County Kildare

TAE KUP Grading, Sunday 13TH December

Fancy a game of five-a-side soccer at the PEC?

Meet new friends and show off your skills. Email your name and phone number to sport@thegown.org.uk

Lacrosse fun

CONNOR DALY
sport@thegown.org.uk

Who says students don't express themselves? Another fortnight witnessed the birth of yet another sporting club at Queen's, thanks to support of the Students' Union Council. Behold QUB's first Lacrosse club.

It is a little known fact that Ireland has enjoyed Lacrosse since as early as the seventeenth century, and it's a big shock that it has taken so long to establish a club at Queen's. QUB follows academic counterparts DCU and Trinity College's 2008 official inauguration of respective Lacrosse societies.

Lacrosse is a mixed club, with both a men's and women's team. Those unfamiliar with the sport need not worry about their first training session; club captain Jonathan Burke has repeatedly embraced the idea of new players and the potential of the sport's upcoming stars.

Recently at this year's Freshers' Fair event alone, with the help from National Team player Siobhan Carroll, the QUB's provisional association had already signed up 12 new male players



and 12 new female players, and the Lacrosse club even challenged the University's Hurling club to a competitive match.

The sporting group takes part in the Irish Lacrosse League which consists of four other teams throughout the island. Among other exciting events, April 2010 promises big things with the taking place of Europe's largest lacrosse tournament, Dublinfest.

The prospect of quick progression and January trials for the Irish national developments squads should certainly lean students towards the club. Even if students choose not to perform at a competitive level, Lacrosse

welcomes those open to trying new experiences, new exercises and socialising with students.

Training for Queen's all-new Lacrosse club takes place every Wednesday at The Dub between 3-5pm, and behind the PEC on Saturdays between 2-4pm.

Despite the winter nights, every week it seems more students are determined to break with the old and express themselves in ways never before seen at Queen's; already this academic term has seen the creation of a boxing and an all-new softball society.

Fun And Fitness At TaeKwonDo

Queens TaeKwonDo club meet at Studio 4 in the PEC each Monday 18:00-19:30, Thursday 18:30-20:00 and Sunday 14:30-16:00

STEPHANIE KELLY

As a first-timer you may feel intimidated by the more qualified martial arts members but you might just impress yourself.

TaeKwonDo instructor, Glen Culbert, began the class with a swift warm up. Members were under very little pressure as they only learned the necessary moves - kicks, blocks and

"If breaking concrete can't bring a weary smile then nothing will"

punches via group drill demonstrations. Practicing one-on-one with members, old and new, was definitely a highlight.

Martial arts tutor, Damian Duffy has been involved since being a member himself in 1986 and he recognises the difficulties newcomers face during those first nerve-wrecking



weeks. "Building confidence is key to progression; if breaking concrete can't bring a weary smile then nothing will."

TaeKwonDo at Queen's focuses on enjoying the sport and motivating all participants. Unlike most societies, members regularly update their website, displaying details of results, upcoming events and reasons to come along.

It offers the perfect chance to gain confidence and work your way up the martial arts grading ladder. If smashing concrete is your thing, this club is definitely for you.

Did we miss anything?

If you have any news, entertainment, or sports stories that you think deserve attention, let us know. www.thegown.org.uk

RADAR LIVE

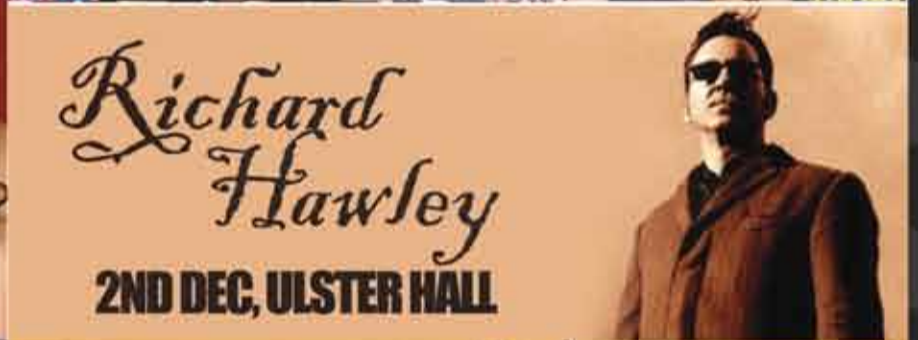
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Rodrigo y Gabriela
1ST DECEMBER, MANDELA HALL



YOU ME AT SIX
27TH MARCH 2010, MANDELA HALL



Richard Hawley
2ND DEC, ULSTER HALL



WHITE LIES
8TH DEC, MANDELA HALL



MODEST MOUSE
9TH DEC, MANDELA HALL



Enter Shikari
11TH DEC, MANDELA HALL



Horse Feathers
12TH DEC, SPEAKEASY



The XX
15TH DEC, SPEAKEASY



LISA HANNIGAN
18TH DEC, MANDELA HALL

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