



theGown

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QUEEN'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER - EST. 1955

FREE

Increase in students running for council while voting turn out drops



Photography: David Kane

EMMA GALLEN EDITOR

Record numbers of students stood for election this year, with 219 candidates vying for 93 places. This is an increase from last year's record breaking 188 students running. The Sabbatical Officers had aimed to get 200 students to run and exceeded this target.

This success was not mirrored in voter turnout. On the first day of elections there were 622 votes cast, down 17.1 per cent compared to 2010's 750. The Open election turnout was lower again. With only 304 votes cast the turnout was down 43.7 per cent compared to the previous year's 540 votes.

Dominic Doherty, Returning Officer, said: "I was delighted by the number of students putting themselves forward as candidates for this year's Students' Union Council elections – this year's figure of 219 candidates was even higher than last year's record of 188 candidates. The fact that so many students want to get involved in the work of the Union at this time is very pleasing.

"Notwithstanding the above, the downturn in voter participation is undeniably a disappointment. The Executive Management Committee has already met to discuss this development and a review is underway to identify the factors that have contributed to this outcome. I can assure the student membership that measures will be implemented by the elected student officers and myself to improve voter turnout in 2012."

In the Medicine, Health and Life Sciences constituency, students only needed one vote to secure a place on council, with some

getting elected on transfers only, having received no first preference votes. Candidates are able to vote for themselves.

If standing in a subject constituency, all candidates with five first preference votes were safe. The highest quota was for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) at 9.87, only a third of the quota for open elections, where 27.7 votes were needed. The highest number of votes for AHSS was the quota for the Open elections. The poll toppers for each election were as follows: Medicine Health and Life Sciences – Paul Fletcher 16; Engineering and Physical Sciences – Paul Walsh 19; Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences – Chloe Minish 27; Post Graduate – Bin Weng (Benson) 21; and Open – Ciaran Madden 33. In all the elections, only a handful of candidates reached quota.

The number of students standing in each constituency greatly differed. In Medicine, Health and Life Sciences 23 people stood for twenty available places, whereas 109 people ran for 28 places in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The Open elections saw nineteen people stand for ten positions. The lowest number of first preference votes was five in this election, which would have been enough to be elected in any of the other constituencies.

Last year's VP Equality and Diversity, Samantha Tan, received four first preference votes, but as she is a member of the Medicine, Health and Life Sciences constituency, this was both over quota and four times the number of votes it took other

candidates to get elected. The VP Clubs and Societies from last year, Niall Bole, received seventeen first preference votes and is part of the Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Nuala McAdams, VP Education, encouraged students to vote for Justyn McKay and Hugh McNulty. SU President Jason O'Neill listed candidates standing and asked if there was anyone else who he'd missed and "liked" the names other people listed. Aiden Hughes showed support on Facebook for Hugh McNulty and Anna Cralwey, both of whom were elected.

VP Equality and Diversity, Treasa Harkin, like O'Neill, presented a list of people who she supported. One of these was Chloe Minish, who VP Welfare Adam McGibbon also showed support for. Minish said: "I'm very happy to have topped the poll in AHSS, especially when competition was so tough. With such an ambitious sabbatical team it's important that SU Council holds them to account to ensure they work to benefit the students of QUB. It was brilliant to have Adam and Treasa's support on Facebook but I feel it was talking to people face-to-face myself which made the biggest impact."

Poll topper Ciaran Madden said he "just encouraged everyone that knew me to vote." He said: "I'm delighted to have topped the poll and I'd like to thank everybody who took the time to vote for me and gave me this great opportunity. However, there's plenty of work to be done and I'm excited about the things we can achieve in the next year."

UCAS applications slump amid fees confusion

BEN FINCH EDITOR

Figures released by UCAS on 19 October show that applications from Northern Ireland have fallen by thirteen per cent compared to the same period in 2010.

This is the worst decrease in applications in the UK, four per cent higher than the total fall. England showed only a 12.1 per cent drop despite the trebling of tuition fees for those domiciled in the country.

1,321 people domiciled in Northern Ireland applied to university for 2012 before October 15.

There are concerns that the confusion and late decision over the fees paid by those from Northern Ireland has led to the fall. It was not until 12 September that Stephen Farry, Minister for Employment and Learning, announced that the amount those from the province would pay would only increase in line with inflation.

The statistics also show that the number of women applying to university has fallen by 10.5 per cent across the UK. This compares to a seven per cent drop for men. UCAS were unable to provide a gender breakdown for Northern Ireland.

Applications to institutions in Northern Ireland increased by one person, or 0.1 per cent. Yet 8.9 per cent fewer people from the region have applied to Queen's and the University of Ulster. Applications to Northern Ireland universities from England, Scotland and Wales

all showed an increase.

The largest increase in people hoping to study in Northern Ireland was from those outside the European Union, a rise of 71% to 171 people.

Adrienne Peltz, President of the National Union of Students and Union of Students in Ireland, said: "It's interesting when you look across men and women that it's females that are down the most. I'm concerned that women are not applying.

"Historically it's women that have been educationally deprived and we need to make sure we don't go back to that.

"Saying that these results are quite unreliable."

A spokesperson from the Department for Employment and Learning said: "The figures released by UCAS on 24 October are the first in a series of statistics that will be published in relation to entry to full-time undergraduate Higher Education courses in September 2012. The figures relate to applicants to Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary courses and all Oxford and Cambridge courses which had a deadline of 15 October 2011. The figures also include some applicants who have submitted early applications for other courses which are covered by a deadline of 15 January 2012.

"It is too early to draw any conclusions from the informa-

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theGown

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The Gown is released fortnightly on a Monday
and is available throughout
the Queen's University campus.

The Hood

So much for student democracy, eh? I hear rumours that it's quite possible to get onto student council, simply by voting for yourself. It must be the easiest way to bolster a CV in the world; vote for yourself and never turn up, you're still a student councillor. Pity the fool who actually does something.

Let's assume that those endorsed by our venerable sabbatical officers will turn up. Surely they're just going to promote people that'll be nice to them and won't ask difficult questions. Shame though that even with sabbs spamming Facebook the still can't get anyone to log into QOL and vote. Real good student officer awareness there. Down by near 50 per cent. Ouch.

I woke up after an intense night out to what appeared to be a date rapist's calling card. Apparently I'd "been bang banged." So it said on one of my pound coins. I was later told that

this was part of the marketing campaign for Evisca by Bang Bang PR. Clearly the whole law about not defacing the property of the Crown means nowt to them. But then it never has to PR shifts, has it?

The socialists keep bang bangin' on about Gregson's £10000 wine allowance. That's nothing. Mine is £40000 and it all goes on the Bucky.

Speaking of socialists, a whole load of FEE ones got on to council. They seem like the type to show up and bitch at the sabbs if they don't do their jobs, just like everyone else should be doing. Maybe it will actually be interesting this year.

Oul Jedi Jim isn't judging the SU Apprentice until the final task. So there's more than just one person to impress before 'winning' two weeks unpaid work with Deloitte. Betcha if I called them up I could get at least a month. Paid.

Editorials:

How democratic are council elections?

EMMA GALLEN EDITOR

The elections for Students' Union Council seem quite unfair. Depending on your subject determines whether or not you can simply vote yourself in or if you need more than an entire tutorial class to vote for you. The constituencies' purpose is clear: it is there to give a balance of students from all areas. But is this fair? Someone with one vote in their subject area can get elected yet someone with four can't in another. It seems especially unfair when you consider how candidates are able to vote for themselves: someone with the support of three other students

doesn't get a place but someone who voted for themselves does. What is particularly startling is the students who got elected with no first preference votes. Why did they not give themselves their first preference?

The other strange aspect of council elections is Sabbatical support. There is a purpose behind the sabbs' Facebook pleas for us to vote and with a selection of candidates to vote for. Firstly, to try and actually get people to vote. This is part of their job, so fair enough. In giving names of people to vote for, the Sabbaticals are getting people's

attention and encouraging other people to say who they know that's running. The more sceptical reason for this is for them to get their friends on their committees and have a more relaxed year. But we'll have to wait and see if they were that devious.

Yet despite all the people who the SU President and the VPs listed as good candidates, the poll topper was not recommended by any. Ciaran Madden simply asked those who knew him to vote for him and lots did. He may be one to watch.

Should we worry that UCAS applications are down?

BEN FINCH EDITOR

Student applications to UCAS are down, severely down, thirteen per cent down in Northern Ireland. This is the worst in the whole of the UK, and our fees will only be seeing a small increase from next year. It is incredibly strange that our drop is worse than that in England where most of the universities are trebling their fees to £9,000. Surely there's something up here.

In England a decision on the funding of Higher Education was arrived at within a matter of months, Scotland and Wales took a similar amount of time. In

Northern Ireland it took the executive four years, yes four years, almost a whole term of government to come to a decision. There were two separate reviews each costing a considerable amount of money and the final decision for next year was only taken as UCAS opened for applications.

Is it any wonder that people from the North aren't applying to study when everything is such a mess. I spoke to some sixth year pupils in a school in Ards this week. None of them are even considering applying to university. It's not because they don't want to go

but because they are so confused by everything that is going on. This needs rectifying.

On top of this I've heard rumours that the fee structure to be implemented has no legislation holding it up. The whole shebang may be based on a gentleman's agreement with the universities to charge £3,465. Recent guidance from the department had the word "unlimited" were that figure should be. New legislation to fix the universities to it can't be brought in for two more years, but Farry may as well start another review now.

Competitions

Win a copy of Tucker & Dale vs. Evil

Don't misunderstand us when we say 'yoh got ah chainse tah ween' as we've not spent too long propping up the Union bar, but got our hands on a couple of copies of the hilarious gross-out comedy Tucker & Dale vs Evil to give-away to our readers.

For your chance to get a copy of the movie on DVD, all you have to do is nose around the Tucker & Dale vs Evil Facebook page (at <http://www.facebook.com/TuckerAndDale>), then Like it to find the hidden 'TRIVIA' question in with the photos, then pop back here and select your answer:

- Fish
- Bees
- Bears

Win Relentless stuff

The Gown has a crate of 12 tins of Relentless, plus a Relentless goodie bag, featuring a 'Lives of the Artists' DVD, its soundtrack by UNKLE and 'This is the Order', a book chronicling art, music sport and photography, to give away. All this lovely merchandise has been provided by www.relentlessenergy.com

If you need a some extra caffeine to get you through the first couple of weeks of studying then send an email to thegown@hotmail.com with your contact details and the correct answer to the question, who collaborated with UNKLE to produce the record Psyence Fiction?

Is it;

- DJ Sammy
- DJ Shadow
- Mix Master Mike

Winners will be selected at random for both competitions after the closing date, Tuesday 15th November.



GB students could receive up to £2,500 per year from Queen's

BEN FINCH EDITOR

Queen's University Senate announced a series of measures to entice GB students to the university on Friday 28 October. These include awarding annual scholarships of up to £2,500.

GB students will be charged £9,000 per year but those who come to the university with AAB at A-level will receive the maximum scholarship of £2,500. Those who achieve the grades that they were offered will receive £1,250. This is essentially a fee waiver for students and is similar to action taken by other universities.

These scholarships are not available to those planning to study Medicine, Dentistry or Nursing.

There have also been similar measures announced for students from Northern Ireland. The top fifty students on a STEM course will receive £1,000 in their first year. 33 students with the highest academic achievement at A-level or equivalent will also receive a £1,000 Eliahou Dangoor Scholarships. These students are required to

be studying an approved STEM course or receiving an Institutional Bursary.

Jason O'Neill, President of Queen's Students' Union, said: "It's not ideal that GB students have to pay more but the proposals seem quite clever. From what I hear they will be quite attractive compared to what other Russell Group universities are offering."

The measures have come under criticism from Basil McCrae, who thinks that the university is not doing enough to attract GB students. He said: "Although this is a step in the right direction, I am disappointed that more could not be done to encourage students from the rest of the United Kingdom to study in Northern Ireland."

"Leading academics agree that a diverse student population enhance the learning experience, and gives Northern Ireland the opportunity to create long term relationships with people who will be influential in the future."

"Significant differences in tuition fees throughout the United Kingdom will create

unpredictable student flows, putting huge pressures on the higher education sector. I fear we will have to revisit the issue next year, but in the meantime I hope that our universities will actively sell Northern Ireland as a destination to students living in Great Britain."

Adrienne Peltz, President of the National Union of Students and Union of Students in Ireland, said: "The proposals laid out by Queens to attract students from the rest of the UK are simply a re-working of the National Scholarship Program that is being enforced by the current Coalition on all institutions charging the maximum £9000 tuition fees.

"These partial fee waivers are at best a poorly designed policy that rather than creating an enticing package for students, will create discord and confusion for students in the application process and portrays yet another example of lack of transparency. At worst, this system takes no heed of students socio economic backgrounds and the dynamics of the fee waiver system are such

that they are likely to never become an actual realised benefit to the students unless they are both large and offered at an institution where graduate earning paths are unusually high.

"These are notional savings-as opposed to the real "money in your pocket" bursaries that we have seen in previous years. The upfront costs of university fees are the real deal makers and breakers, and continually been shown to improve participation in education and ensure students are able to keep up with the often extreme costs of living.

"Unfortunately neither of those criteria are met, and most worryingly the focus of this move is on the recruitment of the tantalising AAB student. Students and families struck by harsh economic times need to see access agreements that consider more than grade requirements, and promote entry of all types of students from every section of society."

A statement released by the university reads: "In welcoming the decision by the NI Executive and Assembly to maintain

public support for higher education in Northern Ireland and to protect places for local students, Senate, the governing body of Queen's University, has approved student fees for 2012-13.

"The 'made in Northern Ireland' solution to higher education funding means that the fees charged to Northern Ireland students will remain at their present level, subject only to inflationary increases. Furthermore, the number of places available to Northern Ireland students will be protected and increased, as GB students will no longer count towards the MaSN control total.

"The funding package agreed by the NI Executive is based on the Northern Ireland universities charging differential higher fees to students from Great Britain. Queen's remains committed to attracting the brightest and best students and, to compete in this extremely competitive market, it is offering a range of targeted scholarships to achieve this objective."

RAG RAISES £75,000 FOR GOOD CAUSES



An amazing £75,000 was raised by Queen's Students' Union fundraising team RAG in the last year.

RAG, which stands for Raise and Give, is a group run by Queen's students who organise events throughout the year to raise money for charities. Aidan Hughes, Vice President Community has seen RAG grow and develop into one of the most recognisable groups on campus. "RAG has improved a lot in recent years due to the amazing work and commitment of the RAG volunteers. Every year, more and more people benefit from the fundraising efforts of RAG."

Some of the events organised by RAG include its infamous 'Freshers' Pub Crawl', pub quizzes, an abseil of the old Library Tower, jailbreaks, and intensive fundraising during RAG Week. The group also raises money through its popular joke magazine

PTQ - which has been running for over fifty years!

Last year around 50 RAG volunteers joined up with children's charity Childreach to trek Mount Kilimanjaro and raised an impressive £54,000 to help children in developing countries.

Every year, four charities are selected by an all-student vote to benefit from RAG's fundraising efforts.

Last year money raised went to NI Cancer Fund For Children, Multiple Sclerosis Society NI, Depaul Ireland and Carers NI.

This year RAG chosen charities are Autism NI, Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Stroke Association and Youthlife - a charity for young people have suffered bereavement in North West of Ireland.

When you see the RAG skull and cross-bones, dip your hands in your pockets and give to a worthy cause!

Aidan encourages all students to get involved in RAG. "This year we're going to and continue to improve and make RAG better than ever before." If you are interested in getting involved in RAG, contact: su.rag@qub.ac.uk

Follow the final seven apprentice candidates as they battle to make it to the final boardroom, where they will meet their biggest challenge - Jedi Jim Eastwood!

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UCAS applications slump amid fees confusion

BEN FINCH EDITOR

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tion that is available and these figures should not be taken as an accurate predictor of the final figures for applicants in 2012. Year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle.

“More comprehensive statistics will be available in the new year once the mid-January closing date for applications to the majority of full-time undergraduate Higher Education courses has passed.”

The UCAS report stated: “Year-on-year changes for all

courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle. It is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward.”

Queen’s University and the Students’ Union declined to comment.

Increased fees for GB students passed despite UUP challenge

BEN FINCH EDITOR

Students who live outside Northern Ireland could be charged as much as nine thousand pounds per year to study in the province the Committee for Employment and Learning decided on 25 October.

This is despite an attempt by Basil McCrae and the UUP to block the proposals meaning that GB students would have been charged the same as those from NI, £3,465.

Adrienne Peltz, President of the National Union of Students and Union of Students in Ireland, said: “Who are we to be setting up these barriers. There might be serious implications down the line.

“However, this is a protectionary measure to ensure Northern Ireland students are able to get into university. There is absolutely no need for universities to charge so much.

“If these fees went through we would see unprecedented demand, there’d be a massive effect on entrance requirements; there’d be immense pressure coming from across the water.”

Stephen Farry, Minister for Education and Learning, said: “Once a decision was taken to freeze tuition fees for local students in NI universities, the introduction of differential fees for GB students becomes an inescapable responsibility for the Assembly, if it wishes to protect the Higher Education capacity here for NI students and sustain

our participation rates for them. “To do otherwise would risk a flood of applicants from GB based students to local universities largely motivated by cost, effectively squeezing out local students from places. “This would disproportionately impact on students from lower socio-economic groups forcing them out of Higher Education altogether or requiring them to seek places in GB at a much higher cost. “Already competition for places here among local students is expected to be tough, without making things much worse. “Our local decisions around fees are a clear demonstration of devolution in action. The Executive opted to freeze fees because it wanted to maximise local students going to local universities without being deterred by the prospect of debt. We have an imperative to upskill the workforce of the future and to retain our talented young people to be part of a growing, dynamic local economy. Not giving the universities the power to charge differential fees would be most counter-productive to our economic strategy.”

Basil McCrae MLA, who voted against the measures and chair of the committee, said “I was disappointed that the committee chose to support the proposals. Sinn Fein members repeatedly make reference to equality, but apparently not for

everybody. Meanwhile DUP members have voted to discriminate against fellow citizens of the UK, failing to recognize the long-term damage that this does.

“Some have tried to argue that we have no option but to pass this legislation to protect NI students, but even if this legislation is passed, there will still be huge pressure on places next year. Many students not going to GB will seek places here, students from ROI will be much more attracted to here and rising youth unemployment will create unprecedented demand.”

Mr McCrae added: “Rather than attempt to apply a sticking plaster to a difficult problem, the Executive should have attempted to reduce differentials between different parts of the UK with a modest increase in fees and used the money to provide additional places, to meet the expected demand, and targeted bursaries for those most in need.”

“The basic issues of fairness and equality remain unresolved and it appears illogical that we can charge students from the UK £9,000, but people from the ROI will be charged £3,375.”

“Universities have a pivotal role to play in how they address this issue. The statutory rule must be brought again to the committee and I shall be watching with interest how they react.”

Queen’s Students’ Union declined to comment.

Conservative MP visit prompts protest

JANETTE LAUGHLIN FEATURES EDITOR

Members of the Queen’s University Free Education for Everyone (FEE) campaign staged a protest outside the Vice-Chancellor’s office in the Lanyon Building on 26 October. It unfolded that Minister of State and Minister for Europe, David Lidington, had been invited by the university to speak about job opportunities within the EU for students from Northern Ireland.

Beginning their protest at 12.30, ten to fifteen members of the FEE drew attention to their cause with foghorns and placards, chanting: “Tory scum, hear us clear: we don’t want your cutbacks here!”

There was a strong QUB security presence, despite the few attendees at the protest. The protest caused disturbances for classes taking place within the Lanyon building, and at one point a lecturer complained about the noise levels of the protestors. Participants ignored this complaint and continued chanting and sounding foghorns. Kevin Mulhern, Head of Communications and External Affairs at Queen’s, described the protest as “just another day at the university.”

In the official press release from Queen’s university, Dr Stephen Farry, Minister for Employment and Learning, stated: “I am pleased to support this event and its rationale to encourage students to consider a career in the EU Civil Service and, to hear about education

and employment opportunities throughout Europe.”

By 13.00, the protestors had been dispersed by Queen’s security staff, and a security presence remained outside the McClay library until later in the afternoon. The protestors had a discussion with Basil McCrae MLA regarding the incoming fee structure. A spokesperson for his office said: “He thinks he brought them round to his point of view.”

There are reports that a member of the security staff policing the protest began haranguing McCrae about the issue of the marching season.

Fionntán Hegarty, a member of FEE, said: “David Lidington was at Queen’s to talk about job opportunities for student’s in the EU, presumably because there will be none left at home by the time the current government’s term in office expires.

“We are currently in the midst of an economic crisis when a social safety net is most urgently required. At a time when his government is involved in shredding that safety net and every public service from health to education.

“The University officials thought it would be appropriate to invite him to Queen’s. The protest was organised to show whatever the University’s official position might be, David Lidington and his ilk are not welcome and will be actively opposed by the student’s.”



Man attacked on Fountainville Avenue

EMMA GALLEN EDITOR

Detectives in South Belfast are appealing for information following a serious assault at the Fountainville Avenue area, just off University Road, in the early hours of Friday 28 October.

Shortly before 1:40am, it was reported that a 29 year old man was stabbed in the back. The man was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment to his injuries. At this stage, it is not clear

as to the extent of his injuries. A short time later, an 18 year old man was arrested at the Claremount Street area on suspicion of attempted murder. He is currently helping

police with their enquiries. Anyone who has any information is asked to contact Musgrave Street CID on **0845 600 8000**. Or, if someone would prefer to provide information

without giving their details, they can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers and speak to them anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

Allister: not enough Protestants studying in NI

BEN FINCH EDITOR

North Antrim MLA, Jim Allister has forced the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) to release statistics regarding the religious background of students in Northern Ireland. He said these show that only one third of students in Northern Ireland are Protestant.

Allister has taken the figures to mean that not enough Protestants are being encouraged to study in Northern Ireland. The figures are representative of the population demographics concerned.

His main focus of concern was the University of Ulster, particularly the Magee campus where one fifth of the popula-

tion is protestant.

NUS-USI President Adrienne Peltz, said: "The numbers are actually equal in proportion to the population. I think it's quite sad that in 2011 this is still being used as an argument.

"I'd rather see how many of these people are coming from deprived backgrounds and what is being done to ensure those from poorer backgrounds are able to make it to university.

"We need to be focussing on pockets of deprivation."

Stephen Farry, DEL Minister, said: "Universities are open and accessible to all within our society. I am committed to widening participation in higher

education and Northern Ireland has the best record in the UK in terms of access for all students including especially those from low income backgrounds. I am determined to maintain that position.

"It is important to look at the statistics in the round, it is incorrect to say that only one-third of students in higher education are Protestant, it is closer to 40%. Chill factors within education and training provision are something that I would not tolerate."

Queen's Students' Union declined to comment.

Students protest over "militarisation" of students by Officer Training Corps

BEN FINCH EDITOR

Members of the Republican Congress and Eirigi staged a protest over the "militarisation" of students by Queen's University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) at Queen's on 26 October.

About eighty members of the organisations gathered outside the Students' Union before marching to the UOTC base on the Malone Road.

Arriving to a large police presence the protestors picketed

the base before being addressed by Eddie Molloy.

The protestors have set out their demands in a letter published in today's Gown.

Queen's Students' Union declined to comment.

QUB Apprentice launches

EMMA GALLEN EDITOR

VP Community, Aiden Hughes' brain-child "QUB Apprentice" has started. As we go to print, the video of one of the final seven getting fired has not yet been posted.

The first task took place on Wednesday 26 October, and there will be a task every Wednesday until the finale on November 23. The final will take place in the Space at 7pm and will be open to the public.

Sixteen 'elevator pitches' were put online for students to watch and then vote for their favourite candidates. Over 1200 votes were cast, meaning more people voted for their QUB Apprentice candidates than their student councillor.

Various campaigning methods were used by the sixteen

shortlisted, including free breakfasts and free entry into night clubs.

Hughes said: "We had over 30 applications. The elevator pitch maybe put some people off, however I don't regret putting it in as the quality of people it attracted was great. Everyone can put in a CV but it is only really dedicated and serious people who put in a camera application. If we didn't receive a CV and a video it wasn't counted as a complete application.

"I'm really impressed with how the QUB Apprentice is going to date. The standard of candidates the competition attracted was really high and the diversity of degree classifications and backgrounds shows that it is bringing people together un-

der an entrepreneurial umbrella, helping create that sense of internal community that I hoped it would.

"The biggest student issue is employment and the Students' Union through this competition is increasing interest in our Enterprise activities, reaching out to more and more students letting them know how we can help them boost their CVs through the various opportunities that we have to offer."

The final seven are Declan Whiteford, Mogue Lawless, Conal O'Hare, Nicole McShane, Owen McMeel, Luke McCann and Andrew Gordon.

Episodes can be watched on YouTube.

Automatic feedback for School Of English

ADAM MORTON

The School Of English is implementing a new system that will provide students with feedback on marked essays automatically.

The new system, known as 'universal feedback', will streamline the process of feedback ensuring all students who submit assessed work will receive feedback automatically. The School Of English are proud to note that they are the first to adopt this system within Queen's.

The implementation of the system comes following issues regarding the lack of feedback received on marked essays and coursework by students studying English in previous years.

Under the old system students had to request feedback by completing a self-reflexive statement that, according to the Director of Education of the School of English, Dr. Eamon Hughes, the school hoped, would encourage students to "engage with feedback".

However, this system does appear to have failed students undertaking the module, ENL 2002, last semester. One disgruntled student candidly noted that: "it has been four months since students applied for feedback and they still haven't got any."

He continued: "It is a major disgrace that QUB places such high importance on feedback,

and yet the School Of English isn't able to provide feedback in a quick way. It's bad for student confidence and it's bad for the School Of English."

Dr. Hughes does acknowledge that problems were apparent in the system, but claims that as far as he is aware there "were no problems such as is suggested with feedback" he claims to only have knowledge of "one case where a misunderstanding unfortunately delayed feedback, which has now been supplied".

He noted that there was a deadline for feedback requests and "students who requested feedback after this deadline could not necessarily expect to receive an answer."

He continued by expressing his disappointment that as Director of Education in the school he had not, "received any complaints from students and I would hope and expect that I would be the first port of call for students in such cases so that the matter can be resolved as quickly as possible: it's what I'm here for."

Dr. Hughes urged any student who completed their feedback request within the deadline and have still not received feedback to contact him via e-mail at e.hughes@qub.ac.uk or via telephone on 028 9097 3320/3319.

Students call for Sunday pharmacy openings

PRIYA BIRING ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In the Queen's area there are seven pharmacies. These include two on Botanic Avenue, two on Lisburn Road and also on Ormeau Road, Stranmillis, and Dunluce Avenue.

However, none of these pharmacies are open on a Sunday. Sunday opening hours are essential for many students who find themselves in crisis situations. This is especially a concern for International and GB students. VP Welfare, Adam McGibbon, suggests that Sunday opening hours needed to be enforced, and that it was unacceptable in case of emergency.

He also stated that he had recognised this problem earlier in the year and there should be some movement in the near future. Such drugs as the morning after pill can be ineffective if taken too late, and a trip to Boots pharmacy, in the city cen-

tre, could leave some students in impossible situations.

In the Queen's Student Union, many mistake the health and beauty Medicare as a pharmacy. McGibbon stated that 'legal implications' prevent a pharmacy to exist in the Union building, although it would be useful. Other services available to students after hours, in case of emergency, include: Belfast City Hospital, the after-hours University Health service hotline and 24 hour service of NI Lifeline.



Useful Contacts:
028 9079 6220 - After hours
helpline at Queen's
0808 808 8000 - Lifeline
helpline

Arts & Entertainment

Noah and the Whale

LEE BRADY

After soaring demand, forcing the entire gig to be moved from Mandela Hall to the Ulster Hall to accommodate the interest, it's fair to say that expectations were high for Noah and the Whale. With another successful album release and chart riding hits 'L.I.F.E.G.O.E.S.O.N' and 'Tonight's the Kind of Night', the band descended upon Belfast in typical high-fashion.

The night kicked off with opening act Bahamas, whose sense of melody and all things peaceful set an odd tone of calm among the audience. Maybe not the sort of thing you'd expect to hear from a gig of a top-selling pop act – true – but it worked well with the surroundings. With anticipation building, the crowd was set alight as the band hit the stage.

What followed was a spectacular array of showmanship. The band opened with the always catchy 'Give a Little Love' from their debut album and continued with a great mix from all three albums, without skipping a hit single for any part-time fans or uninterested tag-alongs.

On stage, Noah and the

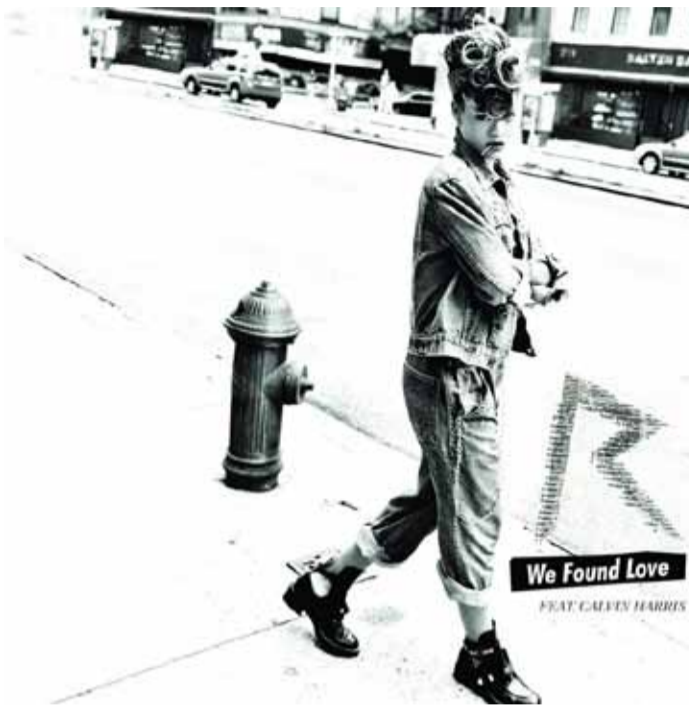
Whale were great. Lead singer Charlie Fink had enough humour in him to make any audience member feel comfortable, with enough dramatics to involve everyone in the songs offered. The rest of the group interacted with each other with the height of professionalism and truly looked like they enjoyed playing each song, an important factor in any performance.

As the night progressed, having worn through most of their set, the crowd anticipated the hits they had been waiting for. And so they came. 'Tonight's the Kind of Night' pumped the audience up, '5 Years Time' had them jumping and yelling the lyrics at the top of their lungs. After an extended interlude with live gem 'Jocasta' and 'Waiting for my Chance to Come', they rolled out 'L.I.F.E.G.O.E.S.O.N'; and the hall shook with the audience's joy.

An encore of 'Our Window' and second album opener 'The First Days of Spring', and the gig was over. A fantastic evening, a fantastic band and if the opportunity ever arises to see them, don't turn it down.

"Gerroff moi land" – We Found Love

BEN FINCH EDITOR



That video that made a local councillor famous around the world for all the wrong reasons has been the talk of Twitter because finally we get to see what caused such a stir.

It's a great video, but a mediocre song. The footage adds so much more to the track than is actually there. It has a narrative, is beautifully shot and happens

to feature Belfast. The song is out of the box, catchy but cut and pasted together by Calvin Harris, which is a shame because Rihanna is so bloody talented.

Music videos should complement a song visually, rather than improve them. Maybe that's why such a fuss has been made about the premiere on her website. Maybe Rihanna and

Def Jam know it's balls but that it will still sell like an illicit substance.

Such substances are obviously the metaphor supposed to fit the video. The problem is that those from these parts could well read it a different way. Those that have seen the tower blocks and bleak expanses of city, the spides down the gammies pumping pound after pound into puggies in hope of winning a twenty, the puritan farmers that paint bible verses on their barn and shout at celebrities for being in their underwear; they know there is some truth to this fusion of words and images.

At least it shows that we can have fun, even if it is to a soundtrack by Calvin Harris, while people vomit around us.

Belfast is no longer a hopeless place. It used to be, and the video shows the remnants of days that we like to think of as long gone. They're not yet. So let's enjoy a banal four minutes and thirty seven seconds of Rihanna, maybe somehow we'll find love in our hopeless place.

Jape - Spring and Airbrake

JANETTE LAUGHLIN FEATURES EDITOR

Coinciding with the release of their fourth studio album, Jape are currently on tour to promote their latest release *Ocean of Frequency*. Walking onto the stage with an air of casual cool, the Dublin-based band brought some techno-laced fun to the Spring & Airbrake.

Opening with 'One of Those Days That Just Feels So Long', front man Richie Egan leads the way with shimmy-shake dance moves in time to a rattlesnake percussion. Mixing screeching synth scales with flamenco guitar sounds, any gaps in the music were bridged perfectly with

these blending techniques.

'Streetwise' begins with a unique guitar sound, achieving its full effects using hammer-on and dampening techniques. 'Graveyard' mixes shrill arcade sounds with funky techno, sounding by now more like a DJ than three piece band. Depicting a sensual al fresco experience in a graveyard, Egan matches his lyrics to playful, demonstrative hand gestures. The instrumental transitions between verses and chorus consists of what could be described as "dolphin song synth".

An abrupt change in tone

brought the dancing crowd to quiet attention again with track 'Lying on a Deathbed'. Mellowing the mood with this stripped back acoustic number, Egan brought everyone to a standstill with his mesmerising vocals and emotive lyrics. Never fully settling into one particular mood, Jape quickly changed the tone of the performance again by switching back to turntables and keyboards.

By now, the entire room was charged for a rave rather than a gig. Carrying into another song, Egan and his bandmates, led the crowd with a drawn-out percus-

sive intro that built up gradually. Starting with a sample from an iMac, Egan and Glenn Keating (bass player and all-round electronica genius), played drumsticks to initiate and lead a heavy drum beat. Complementary rhythms began to fuse together and Egan switched back to his guitar, taking the song to another level and finally revealing it as 'Floating'. The lyrics cut right through the music at times, and then left it again, producing a psychedelic, Eastern feel to the song.

Given the space restrictions of the Spring & Airbrake stage,

Jape easily danced and manoeuvred around all their equipment, swapping synth for bass and back again, never missing a beat each time. The strobe lighting effects and the use of smoke machines lifted the performance to Shine-tastic heights. Whether it was intensifying the mood with a screeching bass line, or fine tuning the percussion to get people dancing just a little bit more, Jape remained in control of the crowd all the way through their set. Now that's what I call beat control.

Emmy the Great at Limelight

RACHAEL O' REILLY

It is only to be expected when a musician calls themselves "Emmy The Great" that an audience will have high expectations. In this case, the audience was not disappointed.

The performance began with support from Belfast band, Katie and The Carnival, who impressed the audience with musical stylings that could be

described as Florence and the Machine meets Mumford and Sons.

After a short interval, Emmy appeared on stage. Without any introduction or acknowledgment of the audience, she began to sing. She performed 'Eastern Maria', a track with a haunting quality which immediately entranced the audience. The

second song performed, 'Dinosaur Sex' is from her new album *Virtue*. The clever lyrics argue that "dinosaur sex led to nothing but we will lead as far as we can lead". At this point, Emmy had grasped the attention of everyone in the room.

Addressing the audience, Emmy said: "I love Belfast- we say that everywhere we go, like,

'It's great to be here in... Eger-ton?' but when I'm in Belfast, I mean it!" Filling the stage with her quirky presence, Emmy continued, saying: "This is our second last day of tour and we're thinking we might just miss tomorrow. We love Belfast- we might just go out tonight!"

A thoroughly enjoyable set followed, including a notable

cover of Weezer's 'Island in the Sun'.

If you enjoy the music of Laura Marling, Polly Scattergood and Kate Nash, it is extremely likely that you'll appreciate Emmy The Great- a talented singer/songwriter who can truly entrance an audience.

Arts & Entertainment

Mastodon - The Hunter

LEE BRADY



You've probably decided pre-emptively whether Mastro-

don, who have a name so metal you can taste the rust, are a band you could find yourself liking. If you like metal, you may be drawn into checking out their new album, *The Hunter*. Though honestly, if there were an album for those who are not into metal but who could be into metal given the right entry point, *The Hunter* could be that key you needed.

There's a lot to admire in the

album, even if metal isn't your favourite genre of music. Strong song structure, pop sensibilities, catchy choruses, addictive hooks; things that many metal bands are missing these days. Just because metal requires you to kick-ass twenty-four hours a day doesn't mean you can't make your songs pretty, and that's exactly what Mastodon do.

Each track individually has enough appeal and catchiness

to be separately enjoyable, but as a collective piece they sound even better. The singles blend into each other perfectly. The prong-tinged 'Black Tongue' gives way to the hard rock 'Curl of the Burl', in turn flowing into the folk-influenced 'Blasteroid.' This is all effortlessly achieved without losing momentum.

The album includes harmonies reminiscent of early Alice in Chains, tied with solos that

aren't just impressive but also catchy. All in all, a trimmed, cut and refined, neat little package of relentless metal bliss. There's not a bad track on the album, in fact there's many great tracks. When a group can write a song called 'Stargasm' with sincerity and still make it sound great, it's bound to be worth looking into.

Sinner Falls

MICHEAL BAKER

Sinner Falls are a refreshing-ly unassuming three-piece band with leanings toward progressive and psychedelic rock. Expect lots of surprises in the development of rhythm, key, time signature and just about everything else. This is a band for anyone who enjoys the heavier end of progressive rock, without the many-minute solos and general showing off.

The drumbeats are in time, the melodies are generally of a very high standard and flow well. Unfortunately, as with all good melodies, they can be obscured by the acoustics of a small venue. It felt somewhat like being an art lover forced to view paintings through frosted glass. If you are going to see Sinner Falls it cannot be stressed enough that you should go to the largest venue, with the best acoustics.

As for influences, singer/bassist Steve displays almost worshipful deference to Devin Townsend. Conversely, singer and guitarist Lorcan sports an eclectic range of inspiration

from literature – Huxley fans will be pleased by the song 'Centrifugal Bumble-Puppy'. Both seem to contribute almost equally to the singing which allows for a lot of vocal variation. This does somewhat diminish the sense of direction, but this is to be expected seeing as the current line-up is fairly new, with Steve having joined Lorcan and drummer Dave less than a year ago.

An overall enjoyable experience with well written and thought-out music. This is a band that will entertain on the multiple fronts of melody, stylistic variation and general excitability. The lyrics are intelligent and make enough references to amuse a literature buff, without excluding the rest of us.

SINNER FALLS

Marcus Foster - Nameless Path

DARREN MCCULLINS



Marcus Foster is a budding talent, finding his feet in a genre that is overflowing with mediocrity. If you've had a hard day of lectures or just arrived home after trudging through Belfast's wind and rain, Foster's debut album may be just what you need to make things seem okay.

Released under the Communion label, *Nameless Path* has been highly anticipated by those lucky enough to have caught Foster live. Sadly, it's a record that many unfortunate souls may pass-by unknowingly.

The 24 year old Londoner may be widely unknown to the public, but there is a lot of ex-

citement brewing in the music scene around his rusty and unique voice, a voice that sounds a veteran to a million cigarettes. Foster masters a number of instruments from piano and guitar, to the banjo and mandolin; he can even play the little known 'strum stick', an interesting sight if you ever come across someone playing one.

Nameless Path is as organic as a 21st century album can be. Foster said that he wanted his record to sound like 'people having fun, in a room, making music', mission accomplished, but with a splash of gentle genius.

If you close your eyes and listen to every word beautifully croaked in each song, by the twelfth track, you will find it impossible to describe where the tracks have just taken you. The collection of much travelled songs mixed with the new is inspiring. 'Old Birch Tree' a new addition to Foster's collection, opens the album with an upbeat demonstration of his musical abilities. 'Shadows of the City',

follows by raising the hairs on the back of your neck and forcing your foot into a rhythmic tap with its haunting wiry echoes and Buckley-esque guitar plucks.

Lyricaly, the album also hits the spot. Songs such as; 'I Was Broken', 'I Don't Need To Lose You To Know' and 'Memory Of Your Arms', portray a genuine sense of anguish and longing. These are just examples- do not fret, that's as depressing as it gets.

Nu-Folk? No folks. It is almost impossible to place Foster into a genre, he could be found anywhere from a smoked out jazz bar in New Orleans to a gospel hall in the 1950s. This is a good thing; he goes where his music takes him and Communion allow him to do this, rare in the cut-throat industry of today. Hardened critics may argue *Nameless Path* is 'too loose' and 'without a set course', but each song tells its own story and we should let them.

We Need to Talk About Kevin

ROMANO MULLIN ASSISTANT EDITOR



The colour red is everywhere in Lynne Ramsay's adaptation *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, by Lionel Shriver. Eva (Kevin's mother, played by Tilda Swinton) spends her days scoring red paint off her house after an act of vandalism. The opening scene shows us Eva bathed in the red juice of tomatoes during a Spanish festival; and towards the end of the film we finally see

what we've been terrified of seeing all along - the red blood of two of Kevin's victims. Red becomes a symbol of Eva's shame, and one of the film's most potent motifs.

Ramsay has had to condense Shriver's epistolary novel, and the film is told through a series of disjointed, often disconcerting flashbacks and day-dreams. Eva wanders through her tortured present as the mother of a mass murderer school boy by re-living the past. Swinton does not give into the urge to play Eva as an emotional wreck. We see no public outbursts or tear-filled breakdowns. Instead we see one woman's slow burning

confrontation with herself, and that unsettling question: who is to blame for Kevin's actions?

Kevin himself, played eerily well by the captivating Ezra Miller, is barely visible at first. Initially, we catch only glimpses of him, or see him from behind a closing door. It is not until Eva begins to confront her own demons and her own detached parenting that we see the full gamut of Miller's acting ability. He has a force to match Swinton's own, a precise and unnerving ability to linger long in the scene even after he has left the shot. Kevin is not a Damien-esque monster, but more of a quizzical sociopath.

In one memorable scene when Eva asks her toddler son about his personality, he answers chillingly 'What personality?' Kevin's shadow is long, and Miller excels in filling the spaces it covers.

Fans of Shriver's novel may be disappointed to hear that the infamous eyeball denouement has been cut, and that Eva's pre-Kevin life has had to be minimised to make room for the main body of the film. However, these omissions do not take away from the power of the film. Ramsay has not diluted the raw energy of Shriver's novel, or the striking relevance of the difficult questions it asks.

Ramsay strays away from fo-

cusing on the gory side of Kevin's actions, or from allowing the film to become a vehicle for an ideological standpoint. Instead, she concentrates on the essence of Kevin and Eva's relationship: it is a love story and one that is all the more compelling because it is about the absence of love, and the damage that parents inflict on their children, and the evil that children may be capable of.

We Need to Talk About Kevin is alarming in its sincerity, and its tense, uneasy watchability. This is a film that audiences will not forget about quickly, and is possibly one of the most important films of the year.

Arts & Entertainment

Nicola Roberts - Cinderella's Eyes

LEE BRADY

Those with the misfortune of having heard Nicola Roberts' opening track 'Beat of My Drum' should be informed that the album gets better. Where 'Beat of My Drum' is an over-produced, techno nightmare with a chorus that isn't very catchy; the rest of the album is just standard Girls Aloud pop. That's not to say the album isn't listenable, just plain.

Most of the production is

flawless, but the album lets itself down by misunderstanding its own audience, and its lyrical faults. From the aforementioned track, it seemed that Roberts' solo career was going to be a clean affair for the 'Whip My Hair' generation. But Roberts repeatedly makes an effort to be passionate, by unnecessarily swearing. The effect isn't so much passionate as it is jarring. The clash between pop and

swearing gives the impression that Roberts is trying too hard to excite an older audience.

The lyrics in *Cinderella's Eyes* are generally mediocre, until the sixth track 'I'. A track that gives away the game more than it changes direction. At first it comes across as the strongest song lyrically, giving hints of personal experience. However, it soon reveals itself as the album's biggest flaw. She complains over

the inability to be commercial in fear of being rejected universally. A comment on how musicians are shunned for being honest becomes a reality that haunts Roberts' debut: censorship.

Her experiences are thrown into question, removing all personality from the lyrics and leaving a simple, superficial dance track. On this frivolous level, half the tracks may sound decent enough and could per-

form admirably in the charts, but from a musical standpoint there isn't much substance. With more creative freedom, perhaps *Cinderella's Eyes* could have been stronger. As it stands, it's just a decent pop trinket. But hey, some people like trinkets, so maybe that's alright.

Lifestyle & Features

Living on a shoe string

MICHAEL BAKER

We all know that the last thing on the mind of a new student is the construction of a budget. Although, what most do not realise, is how easy budgeting can be and how little time it consumes once the right set of numerical skills are learned. All you need to do is to break down the calculation of personal spending into a set of skills.

Starting with a very simple example – estimation of spending. If you know how quickly you have spent money in the past, it can allow you to see clearly how quickly you will

spend in the future. Start by making a diary of everything you spend. It is very important that every purchase you make is included, no matter how small. At the end of each week add up the weekly total and regularly keep a total of totals. Whenever you need to know your rate of spending, just put your total of totals into a calculator and divide it by the number of weeks you have kept the diary. You now have your mean average spending per week.

The only problem with taking a mean average alone is that it does not tell you how

your personal spending is being spread out. Irregular spending can be a problem, because it will make your future financial state unpredictable. To find out how regular your spending is, write all of your weekly totals in a column. Now subtract the mean average you calculated from each one to form a second column. Now multiply each number in the second column by itself to form a third column. Remember if the number is negative, the result will still be positive. Add up all the numbers in the third column to get a single number. Divide this number by

the number of weeks. Now take the square root of the result. You will need a calculator, as it is very unlikely that the number will be whole. The number you now have is called the standard deviation. Anyone with A level Maths will know this.

It would take a lot longer than this article to explain exactly what standard deviation is. A very simplified explanation is that it aims to show how far on average you are from the average itself, so if your standard deviation is nearly as big as your average, your habits are not very consistent. This does not have to

be a bad thing. You may, for example, decide to save for a long time for a one-off treat, leading to a high standard deviation in your budget. If your standard deviation does look rather high, you can look back through your diary to find the particular occasions on which you spent a lot more or less than usual, and consider why this happened.

Keeping track of your finances now provides the skills that you will need for the rest of your life. In the next issue we will look at choice of products and general shopping tactics.

Pop matters

LEE BRADY

What makes for a quality pop song today? Maybe it's the 'sleep all day, and party all night' feel of the songs. A question which may leave you wondering what exactly is cheery about "Jar of Hearts" by Christina Perri, a song as jaded as it is infectious. Perhaps a pop song comes from having a mind-numbingly catchy chorus? Quite possible, though quite a few electro-funk-jazz-rock songs have choruses that would have you humming the tune for a year straight, and they're not exactly pushing a million singles a month. No, what makes a great pop song is how it expresses its appeal to the average, work-a-day person. The greater amount of people who can relate to your song, the greater amount of people likely to buy a copy from you.

So are pop lyrics underrated?

The Gary Barlow-written Matt Cardle song 'Run For Your Life' opens with "You need someone who likes themselves, who lives for life and never calls for help," a somewhat touching line trying to persuade a loved one they can find someone better. One place above in the charts is LMFAO's 'Sexy and I Know It' which features a beautifully-written bridge section consisting of the word "wiggle" repeated ad nauseam.

The relevance of any given lyric and its importance to a particular person is purely personal, so the debate would be far too open and opinionated to make any coherent conclusion.

The better question to ask: are pop lyrics relevant? Yes. And what are the people of our generation most interested in? Sex, drinking, dancing, arrogant celebrities and dated pop referenc-

es. These are the general themes in most recent UK Top 100 almost constantly. Oh, and love, lest we forget. There's always a little love in there.

Pop lyrics and their accompanying music have always given an insight to the times, or at least the general aspirations of the people of those times. Rock 'n' Roll, hippie rock, punk rock, metal, disco, hair metal, grunge, Britpop, pop-punk, cheesy-late-90s-cartoon-pop, rap, RnB; all echo the changing attitudes of the people buying them. Those who couldn't handle anymore same-y, family-friendly rock 'n' roll got into punk. Those who couldn't handle the over-saturation of hair metal got into grunge, and so on.

Not only do the lyrics change, but also the sound. At present, the general sound seems to be big beats and a lot of over-

production, due to the massive draw of the 'clubbing' scene. Lyrically, people want to hear songs that reflect what could happen in the club, so you get your casual dancefloor sex (or at least metaphors for sex through dancing), your need to drink twelve times your own body weight in alcohol and, of course, your need to dance.

Even today you can see a shift in the attitudes of the people. Suddenly boy bands are back with One Direction, hybrid rock-dance songs featuring Maroon 5's Adam Levine are dominating, a return of classics like Goo Goo Dolls 'Iris' and The Calling's 'Wherever You Will Go', and a return of the genuine angry piano song in the aforementioned 'Jar of Hearts' or any song by Adele shows a shift in public perception. Sure the dance tunes still make up the

majority, probably will do for some time, but the quality and effort is improving.

There are other factors that affect the public's attitude, be they political, social, or commercial. An example at the moment would be the cultural phenomenon known as The X Factor, which is wholly responsible for the reappearance of 'Iris' and 'Wherever You Will Go' as well as fuelling sales of Matt Cardle's debut album. However, strong influence though it may be, the top five songs in the charts at the moment have nothing to do with X Factor. Two dance songs, two rock-dance songs, one piano break-up song; all reflecting the attitudes mentioned earlier. And while they may not be to your individual taste, they do let you know something about the kind of people surrounding you, if nothing else.

Lifestyle & Features

Careers for the clueless - final year fear

SARAH NELSON

There is no denying that university life can be full of challenges and obstacles. As students we're forced to endure the righteous rants from The Jeremy Kyle Show repeats, make the difficult decision as to which flavour of Pot Noodle is particularly appealing this evening, and sit through lectures in spite of the pounding of our hangover headache.

Nevertheless, as surprising as it appears to be, the real hard work only truly begins as our chosen course comes to a close and we are welcomed into adulthood with a large dose of reality. Now instead of occupying our time with liquid lunches and 'study breaks', we are forced to tackle that dreaded yet inevitable final year question: what am I supposed to do with the rest of my life?

For those fortunate few students who appear to know what they're doing, the answer is easy. They have entered university with a one-track mind, never wavering from their chosen career and knowing exactly the route in which they wish to pursue their future. But for the majority, the decision isn't just as

simple. Their university course instead provides a platform for finding themselves, never being quite sure of how their future lies, or more importantly, where they want their future to lie.

For example, a previous interest in Business and Economics may result in a hatred for anything maths or finance related, except of course for that lovely new loan of ours. Likewise, a teaching degree may be replaced with a sudden desire to take up catering following an addiction to one too many episodes of Come Dine With Me. On top of this, the difficulty in translating our degree into the real world, coupled with the current economic climate and lack of jobs, makes the decision making process that bit more intimidating. However, for those unable to step immediately into a job position following graduation, all is not lost as there are many alternative options. Further education in the form of a Masters or a Post Graduate Diploma is available, offering us more time, while travelling and gaining worldly experience is just as beneficial, if not more so. Of course, let's not forget that this costs at

least three grand.

Ultimately, we must not forget that as confusing and complicated our futures appear to be now, it isn't the end of the world. Career advice is readily accessible online and through our university to help us discover our desired direction in life. This final year fear is a common occurrence and not only are there many others in the same boat as you, there are in fact enough clueless students to sink a few ships.

We will all eventually find our way in the end and remember, if all else fails, there's endless episodes of The Jeremy Kyle Show available to watch online.

Visit <http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/careers/> to find out more from QUB's careers directorate or ask in the Student Guidance Centre

Feeling sad or SAD?

JIRHE

Fellow students, with the cold and dark winter months approaching, your health is of upmost concern. Apart from freshers' flu and the effects from those oh so frequent nights out, there is one condition that you may not have even heard about, SAD. SAD? Well, it is a sort of ironic acronym and stands for Seasonal Affective Disorder. It's a type of winter depression which is estimated to affect around seven per cent of the UK population every winter between September and April, in particular during the darker months of December, January and February. Even though SAD can begin at any age, the main age of onset is between 18 and 30.

Now for the science part. It is caused by a biochemical imbalance in an area of your brain due to the decrease of daylight hours and the lack of sunlight in winter. For some, SAD can be a seriously disabling illness, preventing them from functioning normally without continuous medical treatment. But for most, it is a mild but debilitating condition causing discomfort but not severe suffering. The most common symptoms of SAD are things such as: tiredness, lethargy, sleeping and eating problems

and potentially mild depression and anxiety. However, if ignored it could lead to severe depression, eating disorders, weakened immune system and a whole host of other issues.

However, it is not all bad news. As you might expect, the symptoms of SAD tend to disappear in the spring, either suddenly within a short period for example, four weeks or gradually. This depends on how intense the sunlight is in the spring and early summer. The most common treatment for SAD is called Light Therapy. This involves shining a very bright light directly at the individual and it has been shown to be effective in up to 85 per cent of cases. The treatment exposes light for up to four hours per day and the light is at least ten times the intensity of ordinary domestic lighting. The light treatment has to be used daily, starting in early autumn when the first symptoms appear. Treatment is usually effective within three or four days and the effect continues, provided it is used every day.

If you are concerned that you may be starting to develop symptoms of SAD, contact your local GP. More information on SAD can be found at: <http://www.sada.org.uk/>

To strip or not to strip

KATHLEEN PEDERSEN

Is pole dancing a career suitable for students? It emerged that John Specht, the vice president of the pole dancing club Spearmint Rhino, felt that poorer students should fund their way through university by working at their clubs. This has unsurprisingly caused a lot of controversy, with the NUS women's officer, Estelle Hart referring to Specht's claims as "quite upsetting".

There are certainly lots of contrasting views on this subject, but what is the reality of working for Spearmint Rhino, and studying at the same time? An employee from the company was willing to speak about the various issues that have been raised.

In reaction to John Specht's comments, she agreed with his claims that the clubs can be seen as "a fun, safe environment". The security at the clubs is of a high standard, and there are many staff employed just for this purpose. However, she did mention that like any other club there can be problems, such as fights be-

tween the customers. Also there can be issues with some of the customers not knowing the limitations of the profession, and attempting to ask the dancers to prostitute themselves.

There are not only misconceptions made by the men that attend the club, everyday people make assumptions that there is a fine line between pole dancing and prostitution. The employee of Spearmint Rhino could also not emphasise enough how she does not feel the need to make herself sexually available during work, or outside of that environment.

When faced with the comments that Estelle Hart had made, she did agree that: "I suppose you have to look a certain way, like a sales rep, you're not selling a product, you're selling the dance." The dancer from Spearmint Rhino also explained how she got into the business, she said it was through a friend who also worked there, suggesting she should try for an audition.

When asked about her own financial situation, the employee shared that she was lucky as her parents had set up a savings account for her growing up, though the significant amount of extra money she has earned while working at the gentlemen's club has made her a lot more comfortable in her finances.

While she is studying for her life sciences course at university, she only works one or two weekends a month, making sure her studies are a priority. She was also clear that this was not going to be her lifetime career. She said: "This job is helping me pay my way through university so that I can graduate and get a career that I love."

Obviously a career that involves dancing for men and taking your clothes off would not suit everyone, but it does seem that certain people are able to reap the financial rewards of the job during their time at university.

Picture:



Abseiling down the old library tower, as part of RAG's annual event

Photography: David Kane

Lifestyle & Features

This is Hallowe'en

RACHAEL O'REILLY

The 31st of October is approaching and it's all too easy to become wrapped up in a world of orange and black, pumpkins and fancy dress parties, but where did this concept of Hallowe'en begin? Is it simply a spooky party that fills the void between the long lazy summer days and the warm cinnamon-scented Christmas evenings?

The simple answer is no. As a matter of fact, we invented it. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, ghosts and ghouls, this frightening fête has its origins on our own isle. Hallowe'en began as

the Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced "sow-in"), a festival which celebrated the end of the harvest season. In ancient Gaelic culture, this time was used to stock up supplies for the long winter ahead. Orange and black became Hallowe'en colours because orange is associated with harvests, and black is associated with death. They also believed that October 31 marked the day that the gap between the world of the living and those who have passed away dissolved. It was believed that the ghosts of the deceased returned and wreaked

havoc - causing sickness and damaging crops. The ancient Irish wore masks and costumes in order to settle these evil spirits or to mimic them. So, that's something to think about when you're going out with a bed sheet-with-eye-holes-cut-out ghost costume over your head this Hallowe'en.

What about our friend Jack O' Lantern? According to Irish folklore, a drunkard and swindler named Jack tricked Satan into climbing a tree. He then carved an image of a cross in the tree's trunk so that Satan could

not come back down. Jack made a deal with the devil that if he would never tempt him again, he would promise to let him down from the tree. After Jack died, he was denied entrance to Heaven because of his evil ways, but he was also denied access to Hell because he had tricked the devil. So Satan gave him a single ember to light his way in the dark. This spark was placed inside a hollowed-out turnip to keep it glowing longer. When Irish immigrants moved to America, they found that the good oul' turnip had to be replaced by the

pumpkin as it was more readily available.

What about trick-or-treating? It started as a practice of visiting the neighbours' houses and asking for treats such as money, baked goods, cheese, eggs and milk in preparation for the festival of Colmille.

So, the next time someone walks up to you in the street and asks "Where does Hallowe'en come from?" you can proudly exclaim, "We invented it!" and have a very happy Hallowe'en/Samhain/Festival of Colmille.

Letters

Boycott Israeli Universities

Dear Editor,

We Palestinian students of the Gaza Strip wish to send a message to all European student groups in solidarity with the Palestinians to do all they can to increase Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions of Israel this academic year.

We also reiterate our support for the recent call by Palestinian Civil Society, of which we are a signatory, to end all collaborative research between European Universities and Israeli universities. Research centers in Israeli academic institutions are actively involved in fuelling Israel's huge weapons industry and tools of its military occupation and siege. It is this apparatus of violence that makes studying in Gaza so difficult, not to mention the daily toils and tragedy of Israeli apartheid policies. We, therefore, call for an end to this compliance on all campuses with those directly complicit in the war crimes and colonial subjugation of us the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank, '48 Palestine and throughout the Diaspora.

These are crucial times as we youth in Gaza are seeing glimpses of the kinds of mass international movement that we are certain will one day bring us the liberation, justice and equality expected by others but denied to us for so long. Each university that boycotts, divests and sanctions from Israel's apartheid regime is standing on the right side of history, just as students played a huge role in boycotting South Africa's ugly and similarly

racist apartheid regime until it fell in 1994.

Yet apartheid against Palestinians since then has only become more entrenched. In response, our call for boycott from over 170 organisations from Palestinian civil society in 2005 has been a lightning rod for others who can relate to our plight. When endorsing the successful boycott and ending of ties between the University of Johannesburg and Ben Gurion University (BGU) this year, the first of its kind, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said:

"While Palestinians are not able to access universities and schools, Israeli universities produce the research, technology, arguments and leaders for maintaining the occupation. BGU is no exception. By maintaining links to both the Israeli Defence Forces and the arms industry, BGU structurally supports and facilitates the Israeli occupation."

There was no negotiating with such oppression based on race - there was only one word: BOYCOTT. Just as students around the world were banning Barclays bank from campuses for their investment in South African Apartheid in the 1980s, this year we call on you to take similar steps to end Israel's systematic brutality. To say, "We will no longer be complicit!", in the decades of ethnic cleansing, military occupation, medieval blockade that has led to so much tragedy and broken dreams for our youth and students.

Our spirits have been raised by the BDS efforts so far in European Universities, exemplified by Kings College where students and academics have begun a campaign against the research collaboration between their university and Ahava, the cosmetics company based in an illegal settlement. Such long term campaigns are what is required, the cutting edge of international resistance. We ask you to do whatever it takes to isolate and hold Israel to account until it abides by international law and accepts basic premises of human rights and equality for all, including us Palestinians.

This year it is in your hands to see that the tide finally turns across the campuses in Western countries that most enable the Israeli regime's crimes against us to continue. We hope you put BDS at the forefront of your campaigns and join together for the Israeli Apartheid Week, the pinnacle of action across universities worldwide. And while the walls around us stop us from meeting in person, we have many students and youth happy to participate in skype conferences and other collaborations. We give you all our solidarity and send you our dearest wishes to do us proud this year.

Palestinian Students' campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel

Troops off campus

Dear Editor,

The purpose of education is to develop the individual to their full potential, to cultivate their virtues and to polish the rough points of their character. In short, it is to create intelligent, critical free thinkers who can empathise with their fellows. The reality is that our education is a system of indoctrination designed to curtail free thought and to inculcate young people with the values of a vicious, greedy elite, to churn out drones that can competently carry out the tasks assigned to them by that elite. The most blatant example of this is the Officers Training Corps (OTC) at Queen's University. The corps styles itself as being little more than an outdoor adventure club where students can relax for the weekend on camping trips and the like. The reality is much more sinister. The OTC is in fact the means through which the British Army grooms and corrupts members of the student body into becoming the uniformed thugs that murder and intimidate those whom London deems a threat to wealth and privilege.

The record of the British army is well known. It is one of the most violent institutions in human history. It has raped, robbed and murdered for centuries. It continues to do so today. Whether in Ireland, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya or wherever the next unfortunate target of her aggression happens to be, the British Armed forces are

actively bombing and shooting away any man, woman or child they see as an obstacle. It is a travesty that Queen's University, an establishment which is ostensibly predicated on increasing and deepening human knowledge and understanding, is instead being used to promote militarism, imperialism and murder. It is a travesty that the university allows the OTC to target vulnerable students facing cash shortages in what amounts to little more than economic conscription. The OTC website describes how "Queen's UOTC members are paid for the training they undertake (the current rate is about £40 per day) - and it beats many a part-time job as a means of assisting with the financial pressures of student life."

Education should be free from militarism. A university should be a place where everyone should feel welcome. The presence of the British war machine on campus ensures that that is not the case. Queen's needs to act now. The OTC needs to be shut down and the RIR, which has regular recruitment stalls on campus, needs to be barred.

The Campaign to Demilitarise Education would like to invite all progressives opposed to militarism and imperialism to join them and demand an education free from both.

Signed on behalf of the Campaign to Demilitarise Education:

Edward Molloy
Claire Heaney
Fionntán Hargey
Gerry Carroll

Sport

Rugby Club kick off new look Dub

COLIN WILLIAMSON SPORTS EDITOR

With building work all but complete, the facilities at Queen's revamped Malone Playing Fields site are starting to see their first competitive action.

Queen's Rugby 1st XV were the first team to play on the

new Arena Pitch on Saturday 22 October and recorded a comprehensive 30 – 11 win over Greystones from Wicklow in the Ulster Bank All Ireland League 2.

The impressive new club

house and seated stand at Upper Malone was buzzing with excitement, as invited guests and sporting stars such as Jack Kyle, David Humphries and Gary Longwell helped celebrate the occasion along with students

and staff from the University.

The Official Opening of the new facilities will take place later this year with other scheduled matches planned on the Arena Pitch for Queen's Soccer Club and Queen's GAA over the



coming months.

Tevez vs. Mancini

COLIN WILLIAMSON SPORTS EDITOR

Carlos Tevez potentially refusing to come off the bench for Manchester City is a new low for the Argentine and for the City manager, Roberto Mancini.

Tevez's refusal to play for City as they were 2-0 down to Bayern Munich has ignited a united front among all football fans of outrage and anger, one City fan even taping a flag saying "Tevez you're a disgrace" to the footballers multi million pound home

Carlos Tevez, since the incident, has stressed that it was a mere breakdown in communications, a misunderstanding. However Mancini saw the farce in a more straightforward sense. Mancini has stated that if he were the manager for as long as Tevez stays at the club, he could not envisage Tevez playing again for Manchester City.

The fallout has resulted in, ostentatious, to say the least, offers of loan moves for Tevez from West Ham and, more importantly, Irish Premier League local club, Limivady United.

The saga that has followed is going to end with a job lost, whether Tevez moves or Mancini leaves, if Mancini follows through and never plays Tevez again.

This is the disappointing thing about modern football, players are worth too much. Tevez currently earns a mammoth £250,000 a week. His wage has been suspended for two weeks while the incident is being investigated but he is likely to receive it again after the review into the incident.

So why not just sack him then? After all if any of us were to not do our job or do something which so clearly affronted our bosses we would be gone quicker than we could even say Tevez. And we'd be earning a bit less I would speculate.

Well, Tevez's contract binding him to play for City is worth around £47 million to the club. Although they are unlikely to get that, or near to it. This is especially true now. Brazilian side, Corinthians have withdrawn their £35 million interest in the

striker. This possible loss off income from releasing could burn the pocket of even the wealthiest club in English Football. Happily if Tevez is proved to have refused to come off the bench this would facilitate a breach of contact and he would potentially have to pay £47 million for the shambles.

This, therefore, could be a source of tension for Roberto Mancini as he manages his team from now until the transfer window of January. Tevez was filmed in the match against Bayern Munich seeming to be complaining about Mancini's decision making in the game, undermining the manager by potentially doing so.

Graeme Souness described Tevez as a "bad apple" character, whose opinions could be at detriment to the team at large, a team which has had its notable ego problems already.

Handbags between Kolo Toure and loan Adebayor along with Balotelli's perpetual troubled streak which has been doted with scraps with Jerome Boateng and one unfortunate training bib which Mario could not figure out how to get on, have left Mancini stripped of the statesmanlike aura of other top team managers.

Mancini has had to deal with embarrassing questions surrounding Balotelli's infamous back-heal against L.A. Galaxy, preseason and, worst of all, had to reply "I don't know" when asked if Tevez was coming back to Manchester following an interview on Argentine Television in which Tevez stated he would never go back, which he did, also in preseason. Managers should not have to do that, especially ones that have delivered Champions League football and an F.A. Cup win.

Fundamentally Tevez has not done his job and therefore should be kicked out ferociously, that is clear. But bottom line players need to have respect for their manager if they are to be successful as a unit. If they don't Mancini maybe should leave City. However what everyone really wants is Tevez out, and playing for Limivady.

Results roundup

COLIN WILLIAMSON SPORTS EDITOR

Queen's Ladies Hockey 1st XI suffered a 2-0 home defeat to Ards, leaving them 6th in the ONE1918 Premier. With no game this week due to inter-provincial competitions taking place, the girls will have to wait a while before getting their season back on track.

Queen's Men's Hockey 1st XI seem to be finding form after a slow start to the season, with a

2-2 draw at Newry Olympic last week being followed by a first league win of the season, 3-1 at home to Bangor. This improvement in fortunes moves the men up to 6th in ONE1918 Senior 1.

QURFC continue to impress in Ulster Bank League Division 2A, their recent home win, 30-11 against Greystones, leaving them in 1 point off the

lead with a 100% record. They did suffer a setback in the Senior Cup, losing 28-26 to local rivals Instonians.

QUFC claimed a 2-1 win over Ballyclare to continue their push for promotion from IFA Championship 2. The win moves the Queen's men to 15 points from eight games, one behind leaders Coagh.

Editorial:
Sports films

COLIN WILLIAMSON SPORTS EDITOR

Sports films can be a strange genre. Most follow the tried and tested 'zero to hero' format, charting the rise of the plucky underdog to victory against the odds. These films can while away a couple of happy hours, they can even motivate you to hit the gym once in a while, but depth is not their defining feature.

However, occasionally a sports film will transcend its

natural habitat and sit among more 'serious' cinema. Senna is one such film. A fascinating insight into a sport and the life of a legend, back when Formula One was a competitive affair and talent prevailed over technology.

Sport is often maligned as a sideshow, but it holds a great importance to its participants and its followers, so who is to judge if it is a sideshow or not?

Who is to judge what we hold to be relevant in our lives?

Bill Shankly's much over-used, and often misquoted, line: "Football is not a matter of life and death...it's much, much more important than that" was slightly off the mark. Ayrton Senna, and the tragic demise of Dan Wheldon and Marco Simoncelli, have proved that sport is life and death for some.

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