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THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT QUEEN'S SINCE 1955

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Aggressive marketing infuriates Students' Union

JAMES DOUGLAS

Masses of litter and flamboyant club promoters are nothing new to Freshers' Week, but this year's activities witnessed significant tensions rise between Queen's Students' Union and certain external companies advertising in the university area. According to SU Director Andrew Dodge this was due to the notable deterioration in the behaviour of some companies towards new students and passers-by, often to the point where many began to feel intimidated.

Aggressive marketing has this year been employed by various Belfast clubs and businesses vying for the attention of new students at Queen's University as well as the University of Ulster.

Discarded flyers and tickets for nightclubs littered the bustling University Road, an area which at this time of year is usually densely populated by both promoters and students alike. The mess created has meant that the Students' Union has



night of the academic year several students admitted to feeling intimidated by promoters around the Union and general university area and there have been reported incidents of companies relentlessly dogging students, pressuring them into accepting flyers and promotional material.

Speaking on the events of the last fortnight, SU President Gareth McGreevy stated that some promoters were simply "pushing people onto the road", and at one point a student was near hit by a passing car. Partly responsible for some incidents, he said, were the problems caused by "dressed up characters".

The university's accommodation services also experienced trouble during the fortnight. Queen's Director of Accommodation and Hospitality, Caroline Young described events as "an absolute nightmare". There have been reported incidents of advertisers entering the Elms Village area without permission, posing as students to distribute leaflets, drawing on pavements and attaching stickers to property. Numerous complaints have been made to Belfast City Council not only by the university's accommodation services but by local

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The SU believes that the police have not been taking the issue seriously enough.

had to hire additional cleaners to rid the area of clutter. There have also been reported cases of graffiti in the SU's toilets which has proved a nuisance, as well as the fact that the vast majority of advertising is designed to lure students to other venues. Only two companies have been granted permission to advertise within the building, an agreement made on the condition that there would be no graffiti on notice boards or in the toilets.

Throughout the first fort-

Student challenging 2:2 degree should have deferred graduation, says SU President

KERRI-ANNE CAMPBELL
CONNOR DALY

Reacting to the news that a former Queen's University student intends to sue the university after being awarded a 2:2 degree, Students' Union President Gareth McGreevy said that the graduate's challenge was ill-timed.

Andrew Croskery graduated in June of this year with a lower second class degree in Electrical Engineering and claims that, with better supervision he would have received a higher grade. Having already graduated from Queen's during the summer period, Croskery was denied the right to appeal the grade.

Croskery maintains that his denial to appeal is an abuse of his human rights. His barrister, Tony McGleenan has added that Croskery's 2:2 degree has damped his client's career opportunities in today's difficult job market.

Although McGreevy stressed that he sympathises with Mr Croskery's position and shares his concerns with the overall quality of one-to-one

teaching at QUB, he added that a proper appeal should have been launched at an earlier date, even if this meant he would have to defer graduation. In this "one-off" case, the SU President, a former Law student, remains skeptical that the court room is the right place for what he described as "quite an ambiguous area"

Once a student shakes the Vice Chancellor's hand at his or her graduation ceremony, in McGreevy's opinion he stated the student thus accepts the legitimacy of their degree classing. McGreevy went on to say that, in many cases at Queen's, it is only towards the end of a student's final year that help is sought from the university, whether it be from the Student Guidance Centre or other forums offering assistance.

Croskery is currently applying for a judicial review of the grade he received. If a review is requested on the grounds of inadequate supervision, good reason must be provided as to

why action was not taken before completion of the assessment. It may also be argued that action should have been taken sooner.

In an issue which has sparked debate across the UK and beyond, students at Queen's have mixed views on whether Mr Croskery's case is justified.

One final year English student at Queen's said, "Students should not be spoon fed at university. This case should not see the inside of a courtroom."

On the opposite end of the spectrum, however, another current student at Queen's said, "It's about time that students stand up to the university and have their say, especially since we are paying thousands every year for our education. I hope he is successful."

Croskery's case has recently been adjourned and will continue within the coming weeks. Should he be successful it is possible that this result may open the flood gates to similar cases of its kind.

Interview Inside

Mark Ronson



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Please recycle this newspaper when you are finished reading it.

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residents of the Malone and general south Belfast area.

The DOE was called on more than one occasion to remove promotional balloons and flags from the university area. SU President McGreevy estimated that the PSNI and Belfast City Council had been called on at least five occasions since the beginning of Freshers' week, however the SU believes that the police have not been taking the issue seriously enough.

SU Director Mr Dodge stated that the Union can only influence the actions of advertisers inside the building; anything outside SU premises is beyond its jurisdiction. Dodge stated that this form of aggressive marketing can be intimidating for both students and members of the general public alike, and called for a "coordinated effort" from Belfast City Council, the PSNI and the university if Freshers' Week is not to be spoiled again in the future.

"At the end of the day", McGreevy said "it's a dog eat dog world" in which companies compete for business, but when advertisers' actions threaten the health and safety of students, he said, the Union "can't stand by and let this happen."

Student fears over late enrollment

KERRI-ANNE CAMPBELL
SHONA MARTIN

Student complaints regarding Queen's Qsis administration system occur on an annual basis and this year was no different. A frustrating registration process heightened student worries that some may be charged a fee of £50 if they do not register properly by Friday 8th October.

Qsis opened for students on 8th September to register for the new academic year. As soon as registration opened, however, a considerable number of students faced difficulties accessing the site, thus unable to confirm their details and select the modules they wanted to study.

Some merely managed to reach a certain stage before an error occurred - the webpage advised them to contact their system administrator. Attempting again to log in and continue registering, some were informed that their student number or password was incorrect and were denied access.

Those lucky enough to revert

back onto the proper webpage still encountered difficulties in selecting modules they hoped to study. Information notices of ineligibility to enroll for chosen classes were commonplace and hence these students were instructed to try again.

Using the administration system, certain classes were unavailable online for students to select, dissertation modules being an example. As a result, many students became confused over whether or not their registration had been completed successfully.

The School of English decided to take matters into their own hands and enroll students themselves. On Monday 20 September, Carmel Beaney, School Manager, contacted all English students via Queen's email writing, "Many of you have spent too long trying to enroll for your modules and getting stressed in the process; moreover the School has ended up having to do it for you, which defeats the purpose of having an online enrolment system."

Speaking on the admin-

istration system, SU President Gareth McGreevy, a Qsis assistant during his first year at Queen's, blamed frustrations on certain schools not opening modules correctly. Although accepting the current system is not perfect, he stated Qsis is a far more effective registration method than an endless wait outside the Peter Froggot Centre as employed before 2007.

With the large flood of students attempting to register in the first week of the enrollment period, perhaps it was not surprising that the system either slowed down or crashed completely. After spending hours, even days for some students, trying to register most were largely successful, but others are still waiting.

Have Your Say

Have you any concerns over enrollment? Let us know

www.thegown.org.uk

Application and allocation changes at QUB accommodation

SEAN ASHFORD

Several alterations to the policies of Queen's accommodation services have taken place over the past number of months. The most significant of these changes has been the refinement of the allocation process. Although it has long been policy to positively discriminate in favour of those located furthest away from the university, this year greater restrictions have been put in place.

"To ensure that those students living outside a reasonable commuting distance are accommodated," the policy states that "Students living in the following postcode areas BT1 to BT21, BT26 to BT28, BT36 to BT39 will be placed on a waiting list and will be allocated available accommodation after all other Queen's students have been processed."

This policy does appear to run the risk of deterring students from the greater Belfast area from applying for university accommodation.

When asked about this, a spokesperson for the Queen's accommodation services said, "Although application numbers are down on last year, we have

still managed to fill all available places... a change in the policy of placing the deposit for accommodation has helped encourage more local students, as students living within the aforementioned postcodes do not have to pay the £300 deposit."

Another major change has been the discontinuation of group applications. In previous years students were entitled to apply in groups of up to six people. However, this year the policy has been dropped, despite this being at odds with a document released only four years ago entitled 'An Analysis of Student Accommodation Management'. This report stated that QUB aimed for an electronic system which would allow group bookings to be in place within the next number of years.

The decision to abolish group applications was taken in response to feedback gathered from the thrice yearly review of student



satisfaction.

When questioned on the new policy, the spokesperson stated that group applications were proving to be detrimental to the social aspect which the accommodation services intended to promote. According to him, students were staying in groups that they had already established and it was proving to have a negative impact on others

living with these groups as they felt alienated and excluded.

Especially with the improvements made to the facilities in Elms Village over the last number of years, he continued, it was felt that there exists enough opportunities available for students to remain in contact without the need for them to live together.



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MI6 book launched at Queen's

CONNOR DALY
 editor@thegown.org.uk

Queen's University and Bookshop on Thursday 23 September hosted the launch of what has been described as a "one-off" investigation into the first 40 years of the British Secret Service.

Over 250 attended the book launch of Professor Keith Jeffery's *MI6: The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909-1949*, an event held in the Canada Room and Council Chamber of the Lanyon Building.

From 1909 to 1949, the book covers almost half a century of SIS history, delving further than ever before into the early progression of the Service and its triumphs, and sometimes failures, during and after the two World Wars.

Keith Jeffery is a Professor of

British history at Queen's University. His topics of research include Irish, British, and British imperial history. Among other titles he has previously authored *A Military History of Ireland* and more recently *The GPO and the Easter Rising*.

Guest speakers at the event were Head of the School of History and Anthropology at QUB, Peter Gray, and Vice Chancellor Peter Gregson.

Speaking after the event, Tim Smyth of Queen's Bookshop described the event as "perfect in every way" and certainly one of the bookshop's most successful of the past 50 years.

Mr Smyth added that Professor Jeffery's appointment ahead of fellow UK historians to write this history is a positive reflection of the History department at Queen's and the university as a whole in terms of research and publishing.



Student disputes with landlords persist

JAMES DOUGLAS

Queen's Students' Union has urged students to exercise prudence when seeking private accommodation in the university area. The warning comes as a result of the recurring problems facing students who rent accommodation in close proximity to Queen's University.

Student representatives frequently find themselves having to enter into student-landlord disputes over various issues, the most common of which being unreturned deposits at the conclusion of tenancy contracts.

Quite often landlords have offered lacklustre excuses for holding on to tenants' deposits and, whilst the SU can and often does step in, the student's desired outcome is not always reached. There have also been reports of international students and undergraduates unfamiliar with the local area being asked to pay extortionate amounts for rent, effectively being taken advantage of.

One possible solution which could bring an end to the issue of unreturned deposits is the introduction of the Housing Amendment Bill by the North-



ern Ireland Executive. This would introduce an intermediary body to deal with deposits, effectively acting as a middle man between students and landlords, ensuring the integrity of the agreement whilst giving both parties peace of mind knowing that their money is safe.

VP Welfare Adam McGibbon states he frequently makes himself available to students to offer advice on lodging, and sometimes accompanies them to property viewings. In addition, the SU Advice Centre also checks tenancy agreements to ensure students receive a fair deal.

McGibbon admits he recently posed as a potential tenant in order to experience the behaviour of landlords at first-hand. He continued to stress that the sabbatical officers at Queen's are "elected by students for the purpose of serving students" and that anyone with queries regarding tenant rights or accommodation deposits should come along to the SU Advice Centre.

McGibbon said Queen's executive team is currently lobbying in favour of the potential Housing Amendment Bill, legislation which he argues would certainly make life a little bit easier for both students and landlords.

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<p>FRIDAY</p>	<p>SKINT</p>	<p>DOORS 9PM ALL DRINKS £2.00 ADM £3.00 STUDENTS £2. 9PM TO 11PM COMMERCIAL CHART AND PARTY GAMES</p>
<p>SATURDAY</p>	<p>SWEET</p>	<p>DOORS 9PM RATE ON THE GATE £5.00 B4 11PM £6.00 AFTER STUDENTS £3.00 COMMERCIAL CHART ROOM 1 FLASHBACK TO THE 80'S AND 90'S ROOM 2</p>
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Interview: Mark Ronson

"I don't really want to hear that shit either!"

BEN FINCH

Mark Ronson distanced himself from *Version* and his celebrity lifestyle in an interview before playing MTV Presents...at the Waterfront Hall, a concert that can be seen as an unofficial confirmation that the MTV Europe Music Awards will be hosted in Belfast in 2012.

Blonde haired and speaking in a mid-Atlantic accent, Ronson was rushed and looked a bit stressed as his soundcheck had run late, but he still found the time for a quick chat about celebrity, music and his hair.

Ronson's new album with the Business Intl., *Record Collection*, sees him move away from the sound that people are used to hearing.

He says that "For four or five years I was entrenched in sixties and seventies funk and soul..I became too comfortable with that sound and it seemed a good time to switch."

And switched he has. The eighties keyboards and relaxed breakbeats of 'Bang, Bang, Bang', and 'The Bike Song' freewheel along without a care in the world, while the frantic Gameboy pop of 'Circuit Breaker' comes attached to a period *Zelda* video.

He's fully aware of this as he claims "I've moved ahead ten years but I'm still thirty years behind."

The distance between the sound of *Record Collection* and *Version* is not just that between eras, as Ronson points out some of the covers are "a bit clunky with some heavy drum loops I never want to hear again".

He also states that "DJ's aren't meant to make cover records, it's a bit of an anomaly, it came out of the success of 'Just' really".

Ronson is clearly trying to reinvent himself with his music and blond hair ("It was inspired by Kirk Brandon") and there

seems to be some desire for anonymity too.

When asked about reports that Ronson's record label, Columbia, had refused to allow his name to be removed from the band's he said "I guess I was running away from the press, I feel oversaturated in the UK and don't want to be known as that dickhead falling out of clubs every night." It seems that Ronson just wants "to make pop songs that people like."

// I've moved ahead ten years but I'm still thirty years behind

It would also appear that *The Business Intl.*'s carefree sound took much more work than it seems; "There were times when I had sleepless nights thinking



'How am I going to write songs as good as Morrissey or Radiohead', but when asked if it was his best so far Ronson simply said "I think so".

Ronson's attitude to *Version* was a bit ambiguous during the interview, he said "Some of the tracks have been rearranged to fit the new sound" when played live but, when standing at the

decks during the aftershow party, thirty seconds into massive hit 'Stop Me' he cuts the record and says "You know what, fuck it! I don't really want to hear that shit either!" Mark Ronson clearly wants to concentrate on the here and now, even if he is playing music that could be thirty years old.

Reviews

Check out more reviews on www.thegown.org.uk

Album
Oh Yeah Contenders:
New Sounds From Belfast Volume 1

You wait for ages then two come along at once, there must be another



just round the corner. *Oh Yeah Contenders...* is another excellent showcase from the best bands of the local scene, and it shows just how strong and diverse music is in Northern Ireland.

A Plastic Rose take their epic post-hardcore to a level that, honestly, could fill stadiums, and *Here Come the Landed Gentry* sound like they've sold their souls to the devil at the crossroads to create the howling blues of 'Badboat'.

Farriers 'The Fires Burn' is a stomping piece of country that would put those Yank upstarts playing the Open House in their place, while *The Wonder Villains'* cute and naive electro-punk makes 'Ferrari' easily one of the catchiest and best songs of 2010, it's guaranteed to bring a massive smile to your face. *Oh Yeah's* contenders are more than fighting, they're punching well above their weight.

BF

Album
Skibunny
Hugs

If you don't know who Skibunny are and you've been about Belfast for a



while then you've clearly been in a hole somewhere.

A favourite of John Peel's, they used to run a clubnight in the Limelight which, it seems, everyone went to. 'Hugs' is a record that's perfect for rainy autumn days; the sunny melodies of 'Aah Ooh' and 'Remember Me' bring to mind the Balearic pop of Delorean. Their chilled beats and soaring vocals create a legal feeling of bliss, while all the time staying playful.

Where the comparison falters is in Skibunny's pop hooks and choruses that make songs immensely danceable. A perfect example of this is 'Remote Control', it builds and breaks like waves lapping on the morning shore until the drums kick in, driving the song into the darkness of a club and 'Milez Iz Ded' plays with the sleazy electro of early Goldfrapp ("Don't forget the alcohol, ooh baby").

It's not all perfect but 'Hugs' is just that, a massive embrace to get you through the come-down after the summer before.

BF

Theatre
A Night with George

On the surface, 'A Night with George' is a pointless experiment but the thin premise provides a hilarious, emotional account of Northern Ireland. Sectarianism, homosexuality, liberal feminism and teenage pregnancy are all examined by writers Brenda Murphy and Donna O'Connor in this unique one-woman show.

"Ballymurphy girl" Bridie Murphy reveals her personal journey from seventies Ulster to present day, from a young lover to young parent, to dealing with her husband's incarceration for IRA activities and inability to take part in the Hunger Strikes. It covers the complex emotions experienced at the time of the ceasefires and Good Friday Agreement

In 'A Night with George' Bridie addresses concerns about identity and female independence, the bare set is emblematic of Bridie's past and Northern Ireland: a work in progress.

If one criticism can be made against this play, swearing and slang is relied upon too much and drowns many of the issues Murphy and O'Connor address. Still, when the trade-off is a complex exploration of Bridie Murphy, these minor grievances are easily ignored. SC



Film
The Town

Building on the success of 'Gone Baby Gone' comes Ben Affleck's follow-up, 'The Town', in which he stars. Based on the novel 'Prince of Thieves', the story opens in the troubled Boston district of Charlestown, where Affleck and his modest band of bank robbers pull off their latest heist. Affleck's Doug inadvertently pursues a romantic relationship with the only witness to the crime, much to the dismay of his partner (Jeremy Renner).

'The Town', unfortunately often appears two-dimensional in comparison to other films, like Scorsese's 'The Departed'. Performances from the cast were entertaining but their characters could be filed into stereotypes. Current favourite leading man Jon Hamm ('Mad Men') had little time to see his character develop and Blake Lively steals the show as a trashy drug addict.

'The Town' at best is a competent and intimate crime thriller, perfectly paced and contains some highly entertaining performances. At worst, a bleak, grossly unoriginal entry, riddled with cops and robbers clichés. Whatever happened to the friendly Boston, where everybody knows your name? AM



Film
Tamara Drewe

The graphic novel 'Tamara Drewe' is brought to life with Gemma Arterton playing the title character.

Based in a small town in the English countryside it's very easy to see its critical relation to 'The Archers' and, as a fellow critic commented, it's like that but with sex and violence. In other words, 'Tamara Drewe' is an absorbing melodrama with lots of gossip, just what the original comic intended.

Screaming idealism and vitality and shot with honesty, the cinematography is stunning. It's an odd mix between realism and a pop-art aesthetic, but this isn't the film's focus. Two teenagers develop a vendetta against Tamara when she beds their beloved Ben and they dish out their own form of punishment.

Easy to relate to and a joy to watch, the supporting cast create a wonderful atmosphere and drive events. Enjoyable subplots blend together perfectly; enigmatic characters are well presented and are signs of a decent treatment of the original source. Scandals abound as life in small-town England becomes increasingly suffocating for villagers. It's a very clever comedy and genuinely entertaining.

LS



Features

But inside I'm screaming

EMMA GALLEN

features@thegown.org.uk

With the days becoming shorter and the weather increasingly worse, the term "depressing" is often bandied about. But this isn't depression. The bad weather might look like an excuse to stay in bed, but when you are depressed there is no need for an excuse. Even the energy to get dressed escapes you. Statistically one in three people will face depression at some stage in their life, depending on genetics (it can be three out of five) and with repeat cases in the course of a life time.

Modern day science has taught us that there isn't just one type of depression. Statistically, women are more likely to self harm, seek counsel and take medication whereas depressed men are most likely to kill themselves.

The Student Guidance centre at Queen's provides its own counseling service. Out of the near seven hundred students that used the service last year, 33% were men. The counseling service claims this to be slightly higher than the national average

for men, but it is still evidence that men are unwilling to talk to professionals about how they are feeling. Senior counselor, Nuala Quirley stresses the point that needing the service is not a sign of weakness and it shouldn't be seen by students to be neither strange nor wrong. The counseling service at Queen's covers a range of issues including addiction and self harm.

John Hale, founder of the 'It's a Wonderful Life' project says that men often don't want to open up, to talk about feelings, for fear of being seen as weak. Truth be told, it is stronger to admit to what is going wrong and ask for help.

Hale says, "The project is not a help-line. We are here to encourage young people to interact with other young people who are finding their lives complicated by depression and maybe thoughts about suicide. We aim to get young people involved in activities such as sport, music and the arts, and hopefully in this way we can help them back onto the path to recovery." They are currently looking for student volunteers, so if you want to help raise awareness of the

issue of suicide and depression, get involved.

Mr Hale started the project following the suicide of a friend. He remembers the friend as fun, outgoing, always up for a laugh and no one knew what was going through his head. That's depression. It is transient. Some of the awareness projects describe themselves as "suicide prevention", but this doesn't help matters. Suicide is dying of an illness. It isn't necessarily incurable, but it won't be cured by an individual. It takes friends, family and medical support. This is what they are here for.



The Auld Man

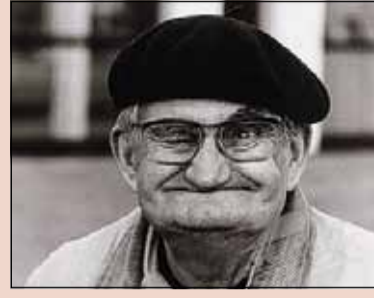
The anti-athletes

When I began my life at Queen's I started into running and decided to buy a track suit for those winter runs. The only style available was in plain colours – no stripes or logos. Then gradually I noticed some of my fellow gym users were coming in with sweatshirts bearing the name of a famous London boxing gym – Lonsdale.

Little did I know it but this was the start of a trend that became a multi-billion pound industry. For a few years the widening choice of colours and the growing range of suppliers remained the province of those who played sport regularly. Only those who represented their country got access to anything other than the stuff available in sports shops.

Then those countries themselves succumbed to the three white stripes and they dressed their teams in the kit of Adidas, Umbro and Puma – and thus was sports sponsorship born.

But now the whole thing has turned on its head and where once the track suits and sweatshirts were filled with the mus-



cular bodies of the fit they have now become the everyday dress of the anti-athletes.

Look around you as you walk the streets of Belfast or lean against the bar in the Bot or the Eg. 'Just do it' – now means order another shot before the happy hour ends. The last thing these guys are going to do is to sweat into their sweatshirts, and their trainers will never be used for training.

"Let's Dance. Put on your red shoes and dance the blues."

REBECCA CUNNINGHAM

David Bowie was onto something: these red shoes symbolize the dance floor passion, fire and flare of dance. Researchers in Northumbria University have pursued the secret to male dance floor success, and they think have found it.

A variety of dance moves were compared, and contrasted, with the key word paradoxically being 'variability'. As the proverb goes, "Variety is the spice of life". Upper body movement surpassed the stereotypical fancy footwork element of dance, and the key successful attractions were noted to come from the neck, trunk and left shoulder. In addition, the speed of the right knee was found to have a positive impact on the dancing flair.

This all sounds a bit complicated so let's break it down. Vigorous, but not crazy, variable movements, with smooth delivery create flow and style.

Is dance floor action only useful in making a play for a partner because of the laws of attraction? No. Success does not rely exclusively on physical attraction but they reveal all

round health and well being. Not only does dancing show signs of health, it is also a means of staying fit.

The National Osteoporosis Society have been working alongside Strictly Come Dancing star Camilla Dallerup in promoting awareness and education about bone health, and how dance can improve this.

As well as increasing bone strength, helping to maintain a healthy weight, and flexing bones, muscles and joints, dance also goes beyond the aesthetic and health aspects. It works to help our mind and soul; it releases endorphins (happy hormones) via the exercise stimulation on the body, and it helps create self confidence. Through dance the effects extend from the physical to the mental, being able to overcome challenges when learning new routines makes overcoming challenges in other aspects of life seem possible.

Do the D.A.N.C.E, and reap the benefits from head to toe. Boogie for your bones and dance like the right person is watching.

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Hurling given a new lease of life at Queen's University

SEAN ASHFORD

A year on from financial woe which marred an otherwise impressive season for Queen's Hurling club, massive steps have been taken in rejuvenating the club and capitalising on their on-pitch success.

A lack of a sponsorship for a chunk of last season had left the club unable to purchase a new kit and sufficient equipment necessary. However, with the beginning of the new academic year, the club's financial situation appears to have improved dramatically. A new sponsor has given QUB Hurling the impetus it needs to evolve into one of the best run sports clubs at Queen's.

Over the last number of years hurling at Queen's has expanded rapidly, evolving from one senior team to a position where it can field a senior, second and freshers' team. This remarkable turnaround may have brought pressure upon the off-field management, but for club Secretary Ciarán Reid last year's lesson has served to strengthen the club's position.

"In terms of finances we seem, at this point, to be in a far stronger position, with one sponsor already secured and others hopefully following."

Reid continued, "For a number of reasons last year we were unable to secure sponsor-



ship, however this year a strong incumbent committee plus the addition of some hard working people to the committee has led to Queen's hurling hopefully being in a better place and we hope to continue this. A point where we maybe failed last year was the ineffectiveness of our own fundraising. Leading the way in terms of this was the

football club with massively successful nights, so we would hope to emulate their success in that respect."

Reid went on to say that "This year we've had a lot more help from the PEC etc, mainly as the committee is now familiar with the setup within Queen's. Having the PEC helping out with things such as O'Neill's jerseys and pitch allocation is a great benefit.. At times before maybe we felt we were on our own, but now it's clear that Queen's in general has a great support network for its clubs if used properly."

QUB hurling certainly continues to maintain its high standards in producing quality players, this year's All-Ireland finalist John Mulhall to name just one. With a strong committee equipped with experience and a sufficient plan for the club's finances, perhaps some other sports clubs at Queen's could emulate the QUB hurling approach in reviving a club and providing sporting opportunities at the university.

Brawl in the Hall

DAMIEN EDGAR

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QUB Boxing club have been working over the summer months on organising a 'Brawl in the Hall' night that promises to be the showpiece event of the club's year. The glitzy night will take place in the Students' Union's Mandela Hall and will aim to promote the best boxing talent at the university. Although the event was provisionally planned for December of this year, according to club members it is more likely to take place in late January or early February 2011.

The event will take on a Vegas theme and is expected to feature approximately twelve bouts. Club members state that the night will be very much about entertainment, as opposed to intense face-offs, although the boxing promises to be closely contested.

Bouts early in the night will be contested by fresh faced members, while the latter stages of the event will be reserved for the more experienced. Paddy O'Shea, a prominent member of Queen's Boxing Club, has said that he aims to provide a show

not unlike the big Vegas prize fights, with smoke machines, bright lights, a tuxedo-clad MC and ring girls between rounds.

With such a big venue booked, the Boxing Club have set themselves quite a high standard. This event will mix both the sporting and social aspect of the club. Although Paddy O'Shea admits the club is still very much in its infancy with regards to these types of events, it is clear that QUB Boxing look set to raise the profile of the club in the coming months.

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Students and non-students targeted at this time of year

Each year local businesses illustrate the growing importance of students to the Belfast market. In a challenging economic climate, nightclubs and other businesses will aim to ensure their message is spread and their brand is the most attractive, but at what cost?

Vandalism has been rife throughout the first weeks of term and not entirely at the fault of students. Student and residents' freedom to privacy is disrupted at this time of year by pressure from those who aggressively seek their business. Although not on the scale of the past fortnight, this behaviour may continue throughout the coming weeks. It is important that a common approach is sought by the university and student representatives to ensure that students and non-students can go about their business without disruption.

MI6 book something to be proud of

The recent launch of Professor Keith Jeffery's *MI6: The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909-1949* was a tremendous success. QUB has persistently failed to reach a spot in the top 100 universities listings but will celebrate the publishing of unique research in Professor Jeffery's book. The book launch and signing was the first event of its kind to be organised by the university and Bookshop this academic year.

Over 750 pages, Jeffery's book is one of a kind, filled with significant inside information never before accessed by any member of the general public, or any historian outside the Service for that matter. Future school-leavers can have even more confidence in the academic ability of the History department at Queen's. It is doubtful that a more comprehensive insight into the first forty years of MI6 will follow.

THIS MONTH.....

STUDENT PROSTITUTION?

OCTOBER 1993

Fears are growing that today's cash starved students may be acting as prostitutes to supplement their grant. The role of students in the English sex industry has been chronicled before but it appears likely that the world of escort agencies, massage parlours and prostitution may now be involving Belfast students. Information given to The Gown indicates that at least one student is possibly engaged in such activity.

How many students are forced to pay rent in this manner? No-one can answer this question with certainty, however it is a problem that the Students' Union is taking seriously. Joanne Richards (VP Welfare) told The Gown she would not at all be surprised if students were involved in prostitution at Queen's. In light of what is happening in Britain she warns against complacency, stating "I see no reason to believe that it does not also go on in Belfast."

Yet again it appears that the smug views of many, that there are "higher moral standards" in Northern Ireland has been proved wrong, however Ms Richards did state that she has not come across any specific cases as yet.

Lack of respect

A lot of effort seems to have gone into the recent 'Respect' campaign, but how much of an impact will new leaflets in the Holylands have? So much money has been invested in Holylands CCTV in previous years as well as other methods to clamp down on unruly students, but anti-social behaviour persists. Whether these 'welcome packs' will persuade certain individuals to respect their neighbours remains to be seen. I lived in the Holylands last year. Some neighbours were fine, others the complete opposite. I'm glad to say I went home on for St. Patrick's Day and missed everything. New mechanisms are needed if university students are to lose their bad name. It may be a minority who regularly cause these disruptions but they are a loud minority.

Laura



Illustrator Rose Kelly

Qsis steps not so simple

Thinking I had properly enrolled, I found it hilarious reading Facebook statuses about friends' difficulties with Qsis. Having picked my modules at the end of last term I thought it would be a stress-free start to the year. Unfortunately when I logged on to Qsis I found that I hadn't been enrolled at all. Being a returning student and having selected my modules, one would think that the 10 "simple steps" would already have been updated also. Is it not generally common sense for students to sign up to modules after their information is complete?

Ryan

Socialists the best promoters of all?

With regards to the recent visit of the socialist MEP Joe Higgins to Queen's, I feel compelled to remark upon the apparent activity of Queen's socialist and anarchist societies. There can be few of us who have not seen a poster from these societies around the campus, despite the fact that possibly none of us have ever had the opportunity of meeting any of these convinced anarcho-socialists. Is it possible that these organisations are actively hiding the true extent of their membership, and should we be worried?

J McCarthy

Want to have your say?

Let us know what you think about the issues raised in this edition.

editor@thegown.org.uk



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Sunday 10th October 2010
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