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Fees protests the start of a long battle, says SU President

JAMES DOUGLAS

SU President Gareth McGreevy has said a long battle lies ahead to ensure that higher education is a right and not a privilege. Speaking ahead of student protests in Dublin and London, he said action was vital to ensure that elitist educationalists do not create a two-tier university system.

Tuesday 19 October saw the largest campus protest in over 20 years at Queen's University and student representatives across Northern Ireland now face the challenge of sustaining the momentum of the recent protest.

The student rally at Queen's saw roughly 1,600 protesters, consisting of students, staff and local politicians in opposition to the Browne review. VP Campaigns and Communications, Fiona Kidd said the protest was evidence that "Student apathy is no longer an issue." Kidd stressed the need for students to recognise their political "wielding power" as a resource in the ongoing fight to keep the current



Protests outside Queens University, against the proposition of higher tuition fees

Ireland Assembly calling for the current cap on tuition fees to remain at £3,290. A petition of over 10,000 signatures was presented to the Assembly at mid-day today in a display of student solidarity in opposition to the recent proposals.

Today's 'Students to Stormont' campaign is just one of the numerous initiatives to take place over the course of the next fortnight aiming to pressurise MLAs and MPs alike to oppose Lord Browne's proposals on higher education funding. This coming Wednesday, in conjunction with the National Union of Students-Union of Students in Ireland (NUS-USI), students will travel to Dublin to lobby against an increase in the Republic's university registration fee, currently capped at €1,500. Buses to Dublin will leave Queen's SU on Wednesday at 9.00am.

A week later, on Wednesday 10 November students will continue to mount pressure on politicians further afield, joining representatives from the majority of UK universities at Westminster in a bid to further strengthen the student voice.

Continued inside on page 2

Former SU President fails to top Postgraduate poll in Council elections

KERRI-ANNE CAMPBELL
CONNOR DALY

Former SU President, Shane Brogan, failed to top the poll in the Postgraduate constituency to Student Council. He reached the quota on the third count. Brogan finished third in the constituency poll, losing out to David Trew in first place and second place went to Nuala McAdams. This year's elections witnessed a record number of candidates and votes cast. In the same constituency as Brogan, last year's candidate for VP Campaigns and Communications, Stephen Connolly failed to gain a seat on Council for the second consecutive year.

Initial elections took place on Tuesday 19 October and other ten representatives were elected through open elections the following week. Among those losing out in the open elections were former Westminster candidate for North Belfast, Mar-

tin McAuley and Martin Lilly, younger brother of last year's VP Equality Paul Lilly.

In Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sarah Wright, President of Queen's Politicians Society, topped the poll on the first count, and elected onto Council for the first time was NUS-USI Deputy President Lorcan Mullen from the same constituency. Former Councillor Ryan Cushley failed to win a seat this time around. Cushley was the only student at the recent Union General Meeting to abstain from the vote on the Browne review.

As well as the 28 seats belonging to Arts, Humanities, the break-up of seats was as follows: 18 to Engineering and Physical Sciences; 12 Postgraduate students; 15 from the open and open first year constituencies. The numbers of nominations received for Medicine, Health and Life Sciences were fewer than those initially availa-

ble, and as a result only 12 from the constituency were elected.

Twenty SSCC representatives are expected to be co-opted onto council. As of this year, SSCCs will have both an academic role within the university and a legislative role in the Students' Union.

If such a change is to take place, this will be temporary until Council and a relevant standing committee update the constitution sometime before the Christmas break in order to make it permanent. It is possible that Council will decide to change the number of elected councillors to 120. However, it is also possible that these major changes will be rejected.

The inaugural meeting of Council, to be held on Monday 8th November, will see the election of the committees for the rest of the academic year. The statutory meeting will take place on Thursday 25th November.

Interview with
Not Squares
inside

See page 5



A petition of over
10,000 signatures
was presented to the
Assembly at mid-day

cap on tuition fees. Queen's Students' Union has won the support of several local politicians, with SDLP MLA for South Belfast, Conall McDevitt, working closely with the SU to combat the fees hike.

Today witnessed the beginning of the 'Students to Stormont' campaign, with students from university campuses throughout Northern Ireland having travelled to Stormont to ensure that the student voice is heard. Three MLAs have submitted a motion to the Northern

Breakfast

served until 12.00noon

Lunch Special Menu

£3.50 including £5 Buffet 12-5pm



Al La Carte Dinner Menu

Meal for Two with Bottle of House Wine £29.95
from 5pm-9.34pm

Christmas Lunch/Dinner Menu

from £12.95

TheGown.

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The views expressed within this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors. *The Gown* is based in the Students' Union building, but is independent of both the Union and Queen's University Belfast.

Please recycle this newspaper when you are finished reading it.

Continued from page 1

Other events currently being organised by Queen's SU and other student bodies include a question and answer session with politicians and a referendum on the issue.

The crucial challenge facing student representatives in the fight against an increase to fees is that of student unification. QUBSU is currently working with St. Mary's University College as well as Stranmillis University College and the University of Ulster to co-ordinate a collective effort, with great emphasis on strength in numbers.

McGreevy said that in spite of Deputy PM Nick Clegg's recent statement that some form of cap on fees would be kept, "The student movement will keep lobbying and protesting in the United Kingdom until the final minute before MPs in Westminster and MLAs in Northern Ireland cast their votes on this issue. Nothing is set in stone."

Deputy President of NUS-UK, Lorcan Mullen, concluded, "There's an awful lot more work to be done, but it will create a direct, tangible relationship of trust between students and those who've come out to support us, while simultaneously casting light on the unpalatable true intentions of others."



Students at Queen's protest against the proposition of higher tuition fees on Tuesday 19th October

University budgets slashed by £2.9bn

JAMES DOUGLAS

Chancellor George Osborne has announced that universities could face teaching budget cuts of up to 40%, from £7.1bn to £4.2bn by 2014. The effects of such cuts will be far-reaching and it is feared this may prove fatal for some universities across the UK.

On a local level, the effects of the planned teaching budget cuts are already being felt. Over the past fortnight it has been confirmed that up to 100 positions will be lost across the various Belfast Metropolitan College campuses. More recent suggestions that this may in fact be closer to 200 jobs have sparked fresh contempt amongst staff. The cuts will also prove a hindrance for the development of two new BMC campuses at Springvale and the Titanic Quarter in Belfast.

There is currently a widespread fear that arts and humanities degrees will be hit hardest by cuts to teaching budgets, as universities are advised to "strategically prioritise" their spending, concentrating on government-supported courses like engineering, maths and the sciences. There are suspicions therefore that arts and



Chancellor George Osborne

humanities may one day be studied only in leading institutions which are known to accept fewer low-income students.

However, in spite of the economic austerity being felt in the education sector, there are plans for a government-funded student loan for mature students wishing to study A-levels, repayable on an "income-contingent" basis.

The main concern for universities over the teaching budget cuts is that they will struggle to maintain the high quality of teaching expected by students in spite of increased tuition fees. Both students and university staff could begin to wonder if the coalition government is underestimating the economic value of third level education.

Widespread concern over the drastic cuts announced by Chancellor Osborne will no doubt result in further unrest among students and academic institutions alike.

VP Community defiant despite lack of weekend events

SEAN ASHFORD

VP Community Jay Downs has responded to criticism over his failure to deliver weekend events at the university, attributing this to "The huge external focus of the job."

In the run up to the sabbatical elections in March, Downs stated that, if elected, students would enjoy a seven-day university experience.

"The university can seem like a ghost town," read his manifesto, and promised that more events would help foster a weekend community. Four months since taking office, however, there has been little movement on the commitment, with the university still lacking sufficient weekend activities for students.

Responding to recent criticism, VP Downs said. "With spending such a large proportion of my time dealing with external community issues such as meeting community groups, being able to devote the required time to having such events has proved difficult. However I have

proposed to change the constitution of the job later in the year so as to refocus it on more internal matters." This alteration, he claims, will make the weekly staging of events a more realistic proposition.

He added that communication is proving to be a key issue. There are plans to collate all the proposed events on a single page, possibly in conjunction with the 'What's on at Queen's' website. Downs' event programme has been rescheduled to begin in the second semester of the academic year, with plans already in place for next year as well.

"It's a long term goal" said Downs, "We're going to use the experiences gathered this year and hopefully we'll be able to provide a regular set of activities for people in conjunction with the clubs at the weekend. The events we have held, such as the dinner for GB students, have been very successful and hopefully by the end of the year we'll have a full programme of events up and running".

Book to launch at Queen's claims hunger strikes continued for political gain

CONNOR DALY
editor@thegown.org.uk

A new book set to launch at Queen's this week claims the republican hunger strikes of the early 1980s continued in an effort at political gain. In *Afterlives: The Hunger Strike and the Secret Offer that Changed Irish History*, author Richard O'Rawe writes that the republican committee involved in the day-to-day running of the fast wanted the hunger strikes to continue in order to have republican candidate, Owen Carron elected in the Fermanagh-South Tyrone by-election following the death of Bobby Sands.

the controversial *Blanketmen* in 2005. Guest speaker at Thursday's launch, 5.30pm at Queen's Bookshop, will be journalist Liam Clarke.

Ahead of the launch, O'Rawe stated "For twenty-four years, the narrative of the 1981 hunger strike had been the property of those in Sinn Féin who had been centrally involved in the day-to-day running of the fast. In 1981, this group had formed a committee which included: Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness, Danny Morrison, Tom Hartley, and Jim Gibney.

"As a consequence of this control, the narrative reflected the view that they wished to present to the world. But it was

a false view. What they wanted desperately to hide was the fact that the British government had made a substantial offer on 5 July 1981 and that the prison leadership (of which I had been a part) had accepted the offer. But Gerry Adams sent us in a communique saying that there was not enough concessions in the offer for us to accept it."

Afterlives features the story of what happened after the release of *Blanketmen*. Witnesses include two former members of the IRA who were close to the IRA Army Council who claim the Army Council were kept in the dark about the British offer to end the hunger strike.

Queen's SU wins evaluation award

SHONA MARTIN

Queen's Students' Union has received an award from the Students' Union Evaluation Initiative (SUEI). The SUEI provides an overview as to how each participating Students' Union impacts upon the student experience. Presenting the award was David Willetts MP and Minister for University and Science.

Sixty-six student unions participated in the scheme and Queen's Students' Union's assessment, undertaken in November 2009, was the ninth of its kind.

The Deputy Director of the Students' Union and project leader for the SUEI activities in the Union, Dominic Doherty

received an award to highlight his own contribution to the Union's achievement.

SU President, Gareth McGreevy said "The award recognises the progression of our Students' Union, recognising us as being a front runner in governance structures and having membership at the heart of everything we do. This is only the small step in a long journey that our Union is undertaking to ensure that we provide the best experience possible. We are striving for the best and rely on student feedback to help improve our focus, output, services and structure."

THE HOOD
hood@thegown.org.uk

Nothing changes around here. The same old chuckle brothers at the Bot. The same lads and lassies on Council. Will-be runners for next year's sabb elections will come into shape as soon as day one. Some incumbant sabb might stick around planetfun for a year after as well. I've seen it

all before. What about that Connolly boy not getting onto Council? Now there's a surprise. He shouldn't have gone against Gown, just look at poor Brogan.

I guess the fees protest brought something new; a crowded Mandela Hall is a rarity these days. Except at Halloween, now that's scary. "Keep the cap" students cried at the gates

to Queen's, in the hope politicians might take them seriously even after their "Freeze fees - yes please" chants.

Visible McGrizzle ain't as visible as he used to be, is he? He's calmed down on the auld Facebook front since the last Gown issue. His verdict on the *X-Factor* each Saturday night keeps me entertained, but I swear that fella tells you noth-

ing. He could be meeting a minister of the cabinet right now for all I know.

Randomers drift in and out but Mike Nesbitt's visit to the Union was as random as it gets. Wondering throughout the building, he'd have more chance of finding a UUP MP in (the) Space than at Westminster; more chance of finding one of Jay Downs' weekend events at

Westminster. Sinn Féin's Gerry Kelly was here as well, and around Halloween that's enough to scare anyone. His mates don't take seats in London either.

It's November now, the real work starts here. Welcome back Council, Gown has missed you. Hood has missed you too, Alexander Redpath. Where art thou Redpath? He hasn't gone away, has he?

FRESHER WEEK

@ BEACH ODYSSEY BELFAST 2010

 WEDNESDAY	<h2 style="color: red;">TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY</h2>	<p>GREEN HUMPS FOR MILES, AMBER APPROACH WITH CAUTION, RED NO ENTRY DOORS 9PM</p> <p>ALL DRINKS £2.00</p> <p>ADM £3 STUDENTS £2</p> <p>COMMERCIAL CHART ROOM 1 OLD SKOOL HOUSE ROOM 2</p>
 THURSDAY	<h2 style="color: yellow;">thirst</h2>	<p>DOORS 9PM</p> <p>ALL DRINKS £2.00</p> <p>BELFAST'S BEST PARTY NIGHT</p> <p>ADM £3.00 STUDENTS £2.</p> <p>BEACH DANCERS FUN AND PARTY GAMES</p>
 FRIDAY	<h2 style="color: black;">SKINT</h2>	<p>DOORS 9PM</p> <p>ALL DRINKS £2.00</p> <p>ADM £3.00 STUDENTS £2.</p> <p>9PM TO 11PM</p> <p>COMMERCIAL CHART AND PARTY GAMES</p>
 SATURDAY	<h2 style="color: red;">SWEET</h2>	<p>DOORS 9PM RATE ON THE GATE</p> <p>£5.00 B4 11PM £6.00 AFTER</p> <p>STUDENTS £3.00</p> <p>COMMERCIAL CHART ROOM 1 FLASHBACK TO THE 80'S AND 90'S ROOM 2</p>
 SUNDAYS	<p>BELFASTS BIGGEST PARTY NIGHT</p> <h2 style="color: red;">REVOLUTION</h2>	<p>FREE ADMISSION B4 10PM £3.00 THERE AFTER</p> <p>BE EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!</p> <p>COMMERCIAL CHART ROOM 1 OLD SCHOOL HOUSE ROOM 2</p>

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Off The Richter Scale... Interview with Not Squares

CHRIS JOHNSON

The electrifying, and often unpredictable, Not Squares have sent shock waves throughout Britain and Ireland over the past year with their primal approach to cacophonous party rock. Having signed to record company Richter Collective, and on the cusp of unleashing their hotly tipped debut album, there seems to be no obstacle in the way of the 3-piece spoke. *The Gown* had a yarn with the band about their back-story and what makes them tick.

Not Squares started off as four people; four people, drummer Keith Winter says, "Who needed to start a party band. We knew each other from being in previous bands and through the scene here and we all wanted to try something unknown to us and it has been exciting since day one. We try not to get bogged down on what music we should be making and rather what music we would like to hear or see played at a party or intimate gig. This in turn became the music we should be

making. It's very satisfying."

When asked to describe their sound, Winter said "I guess we are a dance rock band that use electronic instruments with live drums and bass with vocal chants, rants and the melodic truth. Our influences are too many, really. It's weird because our sound gets labelled with all sorts of things that we would never think ourselves as. I don't think one band has really a profound influence on us, but rather a collection of everything we have absorbed over the years. But to get a feel of what we listen to, check out our Facebook page as we post Spotify playlists every couple of weeks. We enjoy making them up; it's like a Not Squares radio show."

Winter says that a lot of the band's music simply comes through improvisation, and its success from the ability to create songs quickly. "We have a tight set up and it's great for playing off each other and a lot of our songs just arrive from the ether at practice. Other songs come from messing round with

ideas on our computers using synths, loops & drum machines at home. We take these ideas into the practice space and jam until they blossom or mutate into something else."

The band's latest single, 'Release the Bees', was released in September and clocks in at over 7 minutes. They disagree with the idea that this is not a conventional single. Winter added, "We certainly didn't set out to create a long song, it's just the way it turned out. We have a radio edit version for the radio, but we prefer the full-unedited song."

"There are a few long songs on the record; it just feels right to go long sometimes. We have been labelled wacky and weird by some people but that really says more about their own taste and record collection than our music. To me it means we're doing it right. Who wants to listen to safe, conventional music unless it's done really well?"

The Belfast scene is currently brimming with local talent and Not Squares point out



how diverse it really is. For Winter, "There's a lot of interesting music being made here and that's a great thing. I think there is a lot more ties between Belfast and Dublin which is something that was definitely lacking some years ago. This is pushing bands further than it used to. Belfast bands are getting out there and doing it more now."

However, there is no distinct "Belfast sound" and Not Squares are proof of this: "It's

always been our belief," says Winter, "that we shouldn't be tied to one place just because we live there. Our music certainly doesn't translate as being from Belfast. Why let geography dictate music? I guess this is why we tend to do more shows in other places."

The band's proudest moment, Winter admits, will come with the release of their debut album *Yeah OK*, due early November. "It's really taken shape, and I can't wait to get it out there."

Reviews

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

Album
Captain Kennedy
See You When I See You

Captain Kennedy's *See You When I See You* is a satisfying concoction of memorable melodies, raw vocals and honest lyrics. Stumbling upon this is like finding the perfect pair of jeans: it isn't going to let you down.

From the easy going 'Bring it all Home' to the haunting 'Burn it Down', Ciaran Lavery's voice enters with poignancy, gently exploring subtle chord changes and echoing rhythms. The light hearted beats of 'Sweetest Friend' ooze a lazy summertime feel, and the edgy guitar riffs of 'Roll Ramona' hark to a vintage era.

The darker atmosphere of 'Stretch that Penny', released as a single earlier this year, wouldn't seem out of place in a dodgy den of debauchery, its delicious melody remains in the memory long after.

'Suppertime', with its genuine lyrics, determined percussion and Irish melodic undertones is notable; this is a track from the heart. Captain Kennedy are not a band to be overlooked by fans of Paulo Nutini or The Script, and *See You When I See You* is perfect for a gentle autumn stroll or a lazy summer afternoon. **SL**



Film
Vampires Suck

For all those who are fed up with lovelorn teenage vampires taking up valuable screen space, this timely spoof of the *Twilight* films saga finally reaches a cinema near you.

Unfortunately it is wasted. Unlike previous vampire spoofs, *Vampires Suck* cannot rely on horror conventions and resorts to the overused basics of high school already established by *She's All That* and *American Pie*. Popular culture gags are the heart of this film, but are never cleverly exploitative or memorably quotable.

The plot is a combination of the *Twilight* films and moves quickly. It does show how simplistic the saga is, but the runtime is still a struggle. It's a decent effort in light of the perfect location shooting and lacklustre elements that make up the world of Becca Crane.

The film's humour relies on the viewers' knowledge of *Twilight* and it becomes merely an odd homage to the teen culture that has created the saga's empire. A rough and ready mesh-up, it's one of those comedies where you only need to see the trailer to get the full benefit, if there is any. **LS**



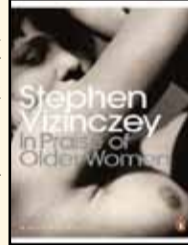
Book
In Praise of Older Women
Stephen Vizinczey

This is a novel which certainly does not lack controversy. Vizinczey's scintillatingly sexual text is a quasi-autobiographical account of a young Hungarian man's carnal experiences, spanning from the life-changing to the downright dull.

Originally published in 1965, it has this year been re-released by Penguin as part of their 'Modern Classics' range. The book makes no effort to mask its nominal subject; sex. Its opening address states: "This book is addressed to young men and dedicated to older women."

The novel has long been hailed as a must-read for any young male making the transition to manhood. As the title suggests, the story and its protagonist, a young man with whom we grow up, place great value on the life experience of older women. It is through the sexual experiences of András Vajda with these women, as well as others of his own age, that he learns and grows as a man.

Whilst dealing with secondary topics such as war and totalitarianism, it is without doubt a book primarily about sex. It does exactly what it sets out to do and is in fact an exquisite read for any young male and well worthy of their time. **JD**



Concert
Kate Nash
Speakeasy

An over-four-teens' gig you expect to be a bit tame, but not Kate Nash. Her language was filthy and her costume x-rated. The

poor parents watching from the side lines can't have been too pleased. However, the small but loud crowd of adolescents loved shouting along to such poignant lyrics like "stop being a dick-head."

Early headache may have occurred due to the over-enthusiastic lights that accompanied the first few songs but that calmed down. Unfortunately the crowd didn't, even though the show was mundane.

Nash was self righteous, preaching feminism and eating - not that she looks like she eats in her skin-tight catsuit, allowing the audience to see a bit too much. Her vocal style is very Lily Allen with that Mockney accent, but Nash is overambitious and tries to sing like Regina Spektor, resulting in a fake London accent repeating lots of vowels.

Her short back catalogue meant she could have perfected the performance, but instead it was only 'Merry Happy' and 'Birds' that sounded more than someone singing in your old school's music department. **EG**



Theatre
National Anthem
Baby Grand Theatre

Colin Bateman's *National Anthem* provides a characteristically comedic meditation upon the Northern Irish identity.

Washed up poet, O'Hare, (Miche Doherty), and mercenary composer, Miller (Stuart Graham) are back in Northern Ireland, charged with writing a unifying national anthem.

Banter about what makes us Northern Irish bounces around. The jokes, laboured at times, contain revelations from the "other side". Soon O'Hare's retort, "We don't exist," broaches the issue permeating the production. Is this anthem for Northern Ireland, or for the north of Ireland? For Ulster, or for the six counties?

National Anthem speaks to the younger generation. The climax demands that the older generation exorcise its demons, and the young to keep them that way..

Bateman knows the best bridges built are out of laughter; the theatre swelled with patriotic music as the audience stand in unison to its new national anthem, the unifying tenet; regardless of political agenda "We are Northern Ireland, so we are". **WB**



Remember, remember, the month of Movember

CATRIONA BURNS

The moustache is reminiscent of the eighties and inextricably linked with colossal spectacles, patterned shirts and Tom Cruise movies. Fast forward almost two decades and the moustache is back again and at the centre of one of the world's most successful prostate cancer charities—Movember.

Mo, slang for moustache, and November have been coming together annually since the idea was sparked in 2003 in Melbourne, Australia when a group of friends decided to reignite their upper-lip whiskers as a joke whilst doing something to promote men's health. The idea of Movember is simple yet quirky: start off clean shaven on the first day of November and grow a moustache for the rest of the month, and in the process raising as much cash for sporting those prickly little hairs as possible.

The charity challenges men

not only to change their appearance but the face of men's health as well. No money was raised in 2003 but the men recognised the potential their growing stubble could have in generating discussion and raising funds for men's health, and thus decided to create a global charity focused on the number one cancer affecting men—prostate.

In 2009 alone, a total of twenty-six million pounds was raised for Movember's global beneficiary partners, with the funds raised through the UK campaign benefitting the Prostate Cancer Charity - the UK's leading prostate charity. Money is also generated through various events held worldwide through gala evenings hosted at the end of the month of November and Northern Ireland is no exception.

In Belfast, one of the Movember galas is being held at Citi Golf where prizes are awarded for Mr Movember and indeed Ms Movember. There is also an

auction and ballot held on the night. Last year an over-night stay in the Fitzwilliam hotel and pole dancing lessons were among prizes up for auction. The evening raised over five hundred pounds.

Image is crucial to this campaign and each year Movember takes a different stylistic approach to the return of the moustache. This year, it is all about the modern gentlemen. This year's Movember stipulates: "A well maintained moustache is the symbol of the modern gentlemen." Think Tom Selleck from *Three Men and a Little Lady*, or Clarke Gable for a retro approach to the look. Whatever style it may be it will raise awareness and hopefully funds for prostate cancer charities. Citizens of Movember, must wear the crest and moustache with pride and join together for another "humdinger of a campaign." Snickers have a more direct calling: "Get some nuts-grow a mo."

Model behaviour

DANIELLE NEESON

The ever expanding fashion world of Northern Ireland has been given a helping hand from PR expert Cathy Martin. Belfast fashion week was full of glitz and glamour and *The Gown* was given an exclusive insight behind the scenes of the fashion world.

The amount of time and effort that goes into just one forty five minute show is astonishing. Belfast-based stylist, Eve Brannon styled the opening show of this year's event which took place in the car park of Victoria Square, consisting, said Brannon, of "Putting together one hundred and sixty outfits, so you can imagine how many items of clothing and accessories that would include, not mentioning the pairs of shoes".

Showcasing all of the latest style available at Victoria Square, this edgy show wooed all who had turned up. Eve was also the backstage manager for the rest of the shows in Fashion week which involved making sure all clothes fitted the models and also having to work with the retailers if another size was needed.

Eve and her team had to work with models closely and to dress those into different looks with maybe only a minute and



a half to spare, ensuring all accessories were on the models correctly and no labels were sticking out. When you think about how many times people go through their everyday lives with jumpers on back to front, t-shirts on inside out and price tags sticking out, this is quite a challenge.

Those responsible for hair and make-up also have a task at beautifying twenty models before the show begins, meaning they may have to start getting the models ready six or seven hours beforehand. Last but not least the poor models have a role to play, strutting down the catwalk flaunting the latest fashions.

We all think it's the easiest job in the world, putting on gorgeous clothes and showing them off to the world, but this is not the case. Male model Sam,

from Dublin, has been modelling for three years right across the world. Although he loves life as a model, his aim in life is to be a patisserie chef creating cakes and pastry, and in his own words, "works of art." Sam has modelled for Next, Debenhams, Adidas and www.My-Wardrobe.com. He also appeared in Alesha Dixon's music video for 'To Love Again'. "Having people touching you everywhere (when you are getting dressed for catwalk) is not very nice" is Sam's downside to the industry.

L'Or, a female model originally from the Congo, but living in Dublin, has been a model since the age of 16. Having modelled for Chanel, Marc Jacobs and Diane Von Furstenburg, now at nineteen years old she is preparing to move to the fashion capital of London next year to make her mark on the British model market. Although L'Or loves modelling it has its downsides too, "I never tell anyone I'm a model, I just tell them I work in Topshop or something," this is because of the "dirty looks you get... Some Irish people are so begrudging; it's so much more accepted in London." The world of the catwalk is such a high pressured job for everyone involved, and for those aiming to become involved it will be a matter of blood, sweat and tears, literally.

Everybody in glove (put your hands up)

HEATHER KITT

Sex. Everyone's doing it. But when it comes down to it, are we making responsible decisions about our sexual health?

At the beginning of September, *X Factor* runners up of 2008, JLS announced the release of their very own condom range in partnership with Durex, to



encourage us all to "Just Love Safe". This range of extra safe condoms features four alternate packets, each one branded with a band member's face in JLS colours.

In a press release the band explained that they "Came up with the idea as they wanted to send a clear message out to fans that are over 16 and sexually active - to always use a condom during sex."

Safe sex should be high on all our agendas. Young people are those most affected by sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). We account for 12% of the UK population but more than half of all STD diagnoses. In light of these statistics and attitudes, are pop star branded condoms enough to tackle the irresponsible sexual practices which have resulted in a 607% increase in syphilis infections over the last ten years?

Obviously something must be done, however JLS have arguably put these condoms onto the market without the neces-

sary support nor the education in place to make a meaningful change. Yes, if you are going to have sex it should always be practiced safely, but condoms aren't effective if they aren't used properly, nor are they the only form of sexual protection. Surely young people should be empowered to have open, honest and informed conversations about sex rather than JLS's vapid sound bite approach in simply informing us to "put your love in a glove".

This July, UNAids published ground breaking data showing that the transmission of STDs, especially HIV/Aids, are greatly reduced (12% in the last year) in 16-24 year olds when they are engaged and learning about safe sex from other young people. As young men in the public eye JLS are well placed to make a difference in this vein, however these should be one part of a strategy aimed at changing attitudes rather than being the full picture. Putting a famous face on a condom box and changing the colour is not going to lower teenage pregnancy rates nor alter young people's sexual practices. As it stands this campaign seems one-dimensional and more about the band's own media exposure rather than supporting young people.

Free condoms (of the non-JLS kind) can be obtained from the SU sabbatical officers on the second floor of the Union or from your local GP.

Have Your Say

Have your say on the issues raised in *The Gown*.

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Queen's Gaelic football squads confirmed for the year ahead

SHONA MARTIN

Queen's Gaelic have set out most of their squads for the competitive year after a long period of trials.

Over 120 first years signed up to for the Freshers' Intervarsity Gaelic football squads. Students from other nations were sought to try out a sport that they may only have seen previously on T.V. This range of players from different countries included former rugby players from Newcastle, an Australian Rules athlete from Sydney and an ice hockey player from Canada.

All recruits, old and new, are put on trial which involves 7-a-side and regular 15-a-side matches. Judging from these games, the manager and coaching staff will select a smaller squad of 70 players. Due to the fact that most recruits for the university are still required by their local clubs to train on weekdays and compete at weekends, the numbers for Gaelic squads are much higher than at other clubs.

After local Gaelic leagues come to an end in November the university football squad will be reduced once more, cutting the squad from 70 to 40 players. Players have thus far been training twice a week at Queen's Gaelic football as well as playing a match, usually taking place during midweek, with all hoping to secure their place on the team.

Queen's have two Gaelic football teams this year; the first team plays in Division 1 of the All-Ireland league and the second team in Division 1B. Division 1 includes DIT, who are the reigning champions, as well as QUB's fierce rivals St. Mary's and Jordanstown. The 2nds face a more densely populated division, with all of the aforementioned colleges as well as UCD and DCU among the competition.

After the successes of last year, when the freshers' team reached the All-Ireland semi final, Queen's Gaelic will want to achieve the same again this year, whilst ultimately hoping

to go one step further.

Anthony Mc Grath, the freshers' manager, has stated his belief in the players at his disposal, saying, "This year's Freshers crop are a solid bunch. They are working hard so far and I have no doubt that when we step things up in terms of preparation then they will respond positively. They have a positive winning attitude which is a good start. I have no doubt they will represent the university well and do themselves justice along the way. We will prepare as good if not better than any other team and when we travel to play Championship football in February then we will be a formidable outfit!"

The QUB Sigerson Cup team has been selected for the year ahead and two squads have now been picked to proceed all competitions. The Sigerson Cup competition will take place around mid-March, and with players such as David Burns and James Kieft they certainly hope that they too will be in with a shout for silverware.

Success for Queen's Fencing

DAMIEN EDGAR

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QUB Fencing celebrated success early this year at the North West Fencing competition in Derry.

Queen's Fencing took part in the North West event on Saturday 23rd October. New members were introduced to the competitive side of the sport. 15 members in total participated in the competition, ranging from newcomers to QUB's more experienced. The event itself was held in Foyle and Derry College and proved to be a huge success for the club. In the Men's Sabre, Queen's James Nicholl took a gold medal with a first placed finish, whilst in the Men's Epee, Felix Yim won bronze, as did Jo Simpson, herself in the Women's Sabre event.

What makes this medal haul all the more impressive is the fact that the North West is an event open to all fencers, not just university students, and

there was a record turnout on the day. For QUB Fencing's Jo Simpson, the event will prove to be a learning curve for all members in what was the first of four competitions in the lead up to the intervarsities in February of next year.

Moving on from the North West, Queens, this will be platform for improvement for the rest of the year, and an event to inspire more confidence amongst all newcomers at QUB. If results continue to prove as impressive as this event, Queen's Fencing should have no problem putting all other rivals to the sword.

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Momentum essential to freeze the fees campaign

In an age where cynics are so keen to point to student apathy, the fact that well over 1,200 students turned up for the Union General Meeting on Tuesday 19th October to protest against the Browne proposals showed that students aren't going to watch tuition fees increase without a fight. The protest passed off without incident. Student representatives showed real leadership on the day and this must also be commended.

Sadly, Northern Ireland students cannot halt an increase in fees with just one protest, and it is crucial that momentum is maintained until next year's elections to the local Assembly. Student representatives now must move on from the triumph of that Tuesday and continue to motivate their electorate into action. Representatives have been encouraged to miss class for protests, and have been offered free transport to demonstrations. It has been so far and will continue to be a campaign of strong words. Students have been encouraged to "Stand up for yourself your families and your communities," emphasising that the campaign does not end with elected officers.

It will take a lot more than the heads of NUS-USI and the Students' Unions to combat tuition hikes. As the campaign continues to take shape in solidarity with other universities across the UK and Ireland, students from all over will come together to oppose any attempt to lift the cap on fees. Buses to Stormont and the ferry to London will provide students the opportunity to mobilise.

It is crucial that real pressure is brought to bear on MLAs when they come to vote on recommendations to education funding. Consistent turnouts at Stormont, Dublin and Westminster are in the interests of students and school-leavers if their voices are to be heard. Momentum is key to the campaign. It would be a shame to see last month's rally at Queen's go to waste. United in protest, on the day a real sense of community was evident among students, staff and some politicians. More mass movements like this could prove the cynics wrong.

Poppies and lillies perpetuate segregation

Recently, while shopping in the Students' Union shop, I noticed that poppies were on sale as a part of this year's poppy appeal. This disappointed me greatly; the active and visible participation of the Students' Union in this appeal is damaging to the neutral environment within the Union, and will be seen as offensive to a sizable number of students, and is not in the spirit of a progressive student community.

I have not written this letter from a political standpoint; I am not concerned with the typical political arguments for and against. I write solely as a Queen's student concerned for the development within the student community of a neutral, respectful atmosphere, as we should all be seeking throughout all spheres of life in post-troubles Northern Ireland.

While I acknowledge that many people feel it is important to remember the sacrifices of the army, I believe that we must keep firmly in mind that its purpose remains, for right or wrong, to enforce political power through the use of force, often deadly. That such an institution should be celebrated as part of tradition in any society will always be of concern to some. However, our particular circumstances here make it imperative that we do not unquestioningly accept this practice.

Although some may suggest offering the Easter lily for sale in the Union also, I think this would deepen rather than resolve the problem; it would simply cause offence to more people, and perpetuate the perception of segregation.

Here in Northern Ireland we have an opportunity to use the lessons we have learned over the past forty years to build an inclusive, progressive, human-rights conscious society, and I believe the Union should aim to be at the forefront of this transformation, and should use this opportunity to make that intention clear to all.

Anonymous



Illustrator Brian John Spencer

Fees hike inevitable

Oh how I would rejoice but to have the most sliver of opportunities to stand in front of the supposed 1,200 protesting students with nothing but my soothing voice and a speakerphone. "Why?" I hear you scream, "Why would you like to rally the troops, create a ruckus and let our cause be heard?" Why yes Mr. Gown, yes I would like to create that ruckus, but not for the reasoning of the aforementioned. You see, I don't care about the raising of fees. In fact, I probably care about the raising of fees about as much as I care about that cheeky kebab at 3.00am while stumbling home from a heavy session in Rain. I'm a final year student, and I'll be long gone before the fees should be raised. "What about the kids, you selfish man?" What about the kids indeed, Mr. Gown. Regardless, as romantic as the idea is that students will be heard and fees will stay put, the cynic in me can't help but use my wonderful crystal ball to predict the inevitability of higher fees, and as a result, making the whole state of affairs rather pointless.

Mark Robinson

THIS MONTH... CLINTON VISIT CLOSES QUEEN'S, November 1995

President Bill Clinton's visit will effectively close the University and Students' Union from mid-afternoon onwards when he arrives in Belfast on Thursday.

The most powerful man in the world will be at the reception in the Whitla Hall on Thursday evening after turn-

ing on he Christmas tree lights in Belfast City centre. Queen's University and Students' Union staff are being sent home at 3.00pm, when all the surrounding buildings are like to be subject to security searches. The President is expected to arrive at Queen's at around 8.00pm

for the reception, which will last until 9.30pm.

The route the cavalcade will take from City Hall to Queen's will be closed shortly before the President leaves the City centre and re-opened after he arrives at Queen's in order to keep traffic disruption to a minimum. The

Presidential visit is expected to attract one of the largest ever Press contingents to Northern Ireland with around 150 members of the White House Press Lobby accompanying the President.

On top of this around six hundred more journalists will

be travelling independently to the province from all over the world.

Security arrangements for the visit to Queen's are still under wraps but the RUC will be liaising closely the Special Service.



Tuesday 2nd November 2010

Mystery Jets

Tickets: £17 at SU, booking fee elsewhere

Sunday 21st November 2010

Young Guns (14+)

Tickets: £7.50 at SU, booking fee elsewhere

Thursday 18th October 2010

Holy F*ck

Tickets: £12.50 at SU, booking fee elsewhere



Sunday 21st November

Gogol Bordello

Tickets: £27.50 at SU, Ticketmaster

Tuesday 30th November 2010

The Drums

Tickets: £12 at SU, Ticketmaster

Friday 10th December 2010

Imelda May

Tickets: £18.50 at SU, booking fee elsewhere

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