

Thousands rally at Westminster against Browne review

CONNOR DALY
editor@thegown.org.uk

An estimated 50,000 students last Wednesday took to the streets of London to protest against government proposals to cut education spending and raise tuition fees. Students throughout the UK joined together to march from Whitehall to Downing Street and on to Parliament to mount pressure on MPs to vote against the Browne review.

Around twenty students and student representatives from Queen's University made the 16-hour journey to London, trav-

Wednesday's march coincided with question time in the House of Commons

elling to Stranraer by ferry and on to London via bus.

Protesting last Wednesday, VP Campaigns and Communications, Fiona Kidd said "The whole nation are saying the same thing; students united will never be defeated." Condemning violence which saw a group of protesters smash windows and doors of the Conservative Party headquarters and set fire to placards, VP Kidd said these actions were not representative of NUS but of a "lunatic fringe" which had purposely set out to ruin what was a "fair, legal and safe" demonstration. Student participation in opposition to the government's proposals continues to break record after record and the vast majority want a peaceful solution.

NUS-USI Deputy President Lorcan Mullen said the media will always face huge temptation to show images of such senseless behaviour, but this ultimately works to tarnish most students.

Mullen said that while Wednesday's attendance was

not as high as that of the anti-Iraq war demonstration in 2003, the turnout was important due to the fact it concerned domestic and not foreign policy. If the Browne proposals were to be defeated at Westminster, Browne in Northern Ireland would become a "non-issue", he said, and NUS-UK in the coming weeks will seek to encourage Lib Dem rebels to vote down the review.

Drums, trumpets, whistles and bagpipes signalled the beginning of the 'Demolition day' march at 12.30pm under the NUS banner 'Unity is Strength'. Thousands chanted "No ifs, no buts - no education cuts," "no to sky high fees" and called on the coalition not to cut women out of education. Students throughout the UK and Ireland were present, "Remember the Irish students" and "Clegg, fa dive ya hink ye are?" were among the placards, as well as "The future's a race - Wales now last place."

More and more students joined the march throughout the afternoon, together chanting "Nick Clegg, we know you - you're a Tory too" and "Teach us, don't leave us" as they passed parliament. Wednesday's march coincided with question time in the House of Commons where Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg came under fire from the opposition on his party's u-turn on tuition fees.

As the march came to an end, a demo took place comprising of figures from NUS and the University and College Union (UCU). Stretching from Milbank Street to as far as Westminster, protesters listened to calls for Liberal Democrat politicians to keep the tuition pledge they made in the run-up to this year's general election.

UCU general secretary, Sally Hunt said the current

Continued inside on page 2



Students protest against tuition proposals

Belle & Sebastian competition

inside See page 4



Orchard Cafe 3 Malone Road
Warm Chocolate Brownie & Ice Cream
£2.50 with this voucher 9am - 12pm 2pm - 4pm
This voucher is not available with other offers and cannot be exchanged for money. The Orchard Cafe reserves the right to run similar offers without vouchers.

McGreevy says Queen's "pulling the wool over Joanne Stuart's eyes"

KERRI-ANNE CAMPBELL
news@thegown.org.uk

SU President Gareth McGreevy and other student representatives from across Northern Ireland met with Joanne Stuart last week to voice their concerns over higher education funding. Also present were members of the DEL Committee. The meeting at Stormont coincided with the student protests against the Browne report in London.

McGreevy expressed his concern at the meeting that funding for higher education in Northern Ireland, despite the recommendations of Joanne Stuart, is being contextualised in terms of the Browne review. Stuart's review, which has proposed to keep the current cap of £3290, McGreevy recently claimed is being completely ignored at meetings he has attended.

Stuart is currently re-examining her original findings, as requested by former DEL minister, Sir Reg Empey. At Wednesday's meeting, Stuart insisted that her initial review was evidence-based and that she still has concerns over student satisfaction.

McGreevy claims that Queen's are "pulling the wool over Joanne Stuart's eyes", that she has been led to believe that Queen's provided funds for the new McClay library and the £1 million refurbishment of the Students' Union. McGreevy maintains that this was incorrect as the McClay library was funded by private donations and the SU took out a loan to pay for the refurbishment.

During the meeting, student representatives raised the issue that not only will students be severely affected by an increase

to fees, but so will their families and, for McGreevy certain politicians are not looking at the full picture: "They aren't taking maintenance and student living costs, hidden course costs and student welfare into account."

During the meeting, SDLP MLA Dolores Kelly raised the issue of suicide and self-harm in relation to higher education in the province. McGreevy said, "It is a sad state of affairs. Higher education in Northern Ireland should be based on the ability to learn, not the ability to pay. How can a student at 18 years of age be ready to mortgage their future, with debts of up to £50,000 or more?"

There will be public consultations after the Christmas period and Stuart's report is expected to be finalised before the next local elections.

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

The Independent Student Newspaper at Queen's since 1955.

Monday 15th November 2010
The Gown is available every Monday fortnight across the Queen's campus.

Editor: Connor Daly
editor@thegown.org.uk

News Editor: Kerri-Anne Campbell
news@thegown.org.uk

Arts & Entertainment Editor:
Ben Finch
arts@thegown.org.uk

Features Editor: Emma Gallen
features@thegown.org.uk

Sports Editor: Damien Edgar
sport@thegown.org.uk

Design Editors: Niall Mooney & Rose Kelly
design@thegown.org.uk

Business, Advertising & Marketing Manager: Niall Crozier
advertising@thegown.org.uk
Catherine Arrell
Nina McKeag

Contributors (Print and Online):

Sean Ashford
Dimitris Asvestas
Basil Babu
Wendy Browne
Catriona Burns
Stephen Conlon
Eamonn Cunningham
James Douglas
Hannah Goodall
Daniel Grant
Maria Griffiths
Katharine Holland
Chris Johnson
Lee Kerlin
Zosia Kuczynska
Heather Kitt
Sarah Laverty
Janette Loughlin
Shona Martin
Aime McKernan
Matthew McKernan
Kathryn McFall
Matthew Miskimmin
Andrew Moore
Danielle Neeson
Matthew Robb
Laura Shearer
Mark Stevenson
The Auld Wan...
The Hood

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

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

government's proposals are a threat to social mobility: "Education is not something this government is going to take away from us; is it any wonder young people don't trust politicians anymore?"

Frances O'Grady of the Trade Union Congress addressed the crowd, reiterating the determination of students and of workers not to put up with "half truths and lies" and called on the coalition to punish bankers for the economic crisis, not the working classes; "Don't dare tell us we're all in this together."

NUS President, Aaron Porter called on students to defend the education system and an attack on every student, lecturer, college and university throughout the UK. An attack on one is an attack on all and students will not tolerate one generation passing debt onto the next. Porter stressed Wednesday's demo is the beginning of the Fund Our Future: Stop Education Cuts campaign; "Students must go back to their homes and prepare to organise; join us in the fight and we will keep fighting."

In December two NUS activist development days will take place in Leicester and London to recruit more students and organise continued resistance.



Protests against the Browne review on Wednesday 10 October moved from Whitehall to parliament

Holylands video goes viral online

KERRI-ANNE CAMPBELL
news@thegown.org.uk

A Youtube video posted on Saturday 6 November, entitled 'Morning after night out in Belfast, Bot, Rain, Holylands' received almost 50,000 views in just 5 days. The animated video, created by a Queen's University Law graduate, features a "typical" conversation after a night out in Belfast between two male students.

Topics the characters discuss include university sports, drinking, the opposite sex and hangers. Links to the video continue to be posted on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

According to the creator, the video received 50 hits in the first hour and when checking again that night, he noticed that this had increased to 500. By the following night it had soared to 3,000. Figures show that 70 per cent of the hits to date are due to links posted on Facebook.

The Law graduate stated that the dialogue in this video is a culmination of various conversations he had heard between friends during his time at university.

He said, "It was just some-

thing I did when I was bored. I didn't expect it to be as popular as it was. Links were posted on Facebook and all of a sudden there were thousands of views.



'Morning after night out in Belfast' video

I can't believe it myself."

A similar video by the same creator entitled 'Belfast Holylands Students Talk Shite' was uploaded on Tuesday 9 November. The video has subsequently inspired others of its kind, including 'Typical Jordanstown Day.'

THE HOOD

hood@thegown.org.uk

I'm an anarchist at heart, you know. I've long felt that a point is heard better at the end of a fire extinguisher than off the top of a placard. You can be assured that had I been in London that day the Hood would have been the first one into Tory HQ. I'm still after that milk they took from me as a child.

It was nice to see the muppets assembled in the QFT last Wednesday, a sign of how far Norn Iron has come. The Sesame Street characters were good fun as well. I'm surprised the Socialists weren't invited. I sure hope they got their money back from Ulster Bank the other week, it'll hopefully go some way towards paying back their student debt.

I thought Halloween was

over till I saw Ryan Cusley back on Council. Having lost twice in the elections, one would have considered him dead and buried but his return through the SSCC back door rule was impressive.

What about Redpath – writing that the SU sabbs should get real? That got them reeling, boyo. Some sabbs left the country because of it. Redpath, you should write for The Gown. The status quo's not enough you say; try telling that to Tom Elliot

Nice to see Lorcan Mullen on Council this year. Love you, Lorcan. Miss you loads.

Council was light work to be fair but councillors can't complain with their CV building committee roles, they were handing these out like free pizza. Here's to a more productive Council than last year, let's show up at least.



R & B Proofreading and Copywriting

Our services include: Proofreading to remove errors, Copy editing to make language more academic, Typing up written work, Formatting and checking references & Checking and designing CVs

Email: rbproofandcopy@gmail.com

Web: www.randbproofreadingandcopywriting.com

Call: 07922 762349

Council elects former SU President Brogan to Senate

KERRI-ANNE CAMPBELL
BEN FINCH

Former SU President, Shane Brogan was elected onto Senate at this year's inaugural meeting of Student Council, held on Monday 8 November. Brogan's candidacy was seconded by current President, Gareth McGreevy. Other candidates were Ruth Wilson and Matthew Hunt.

Speaking before the election, Brogan emphasised the complex issues raised at Senate meetings which he had dealt with during his time as SU President, issues he said which affect every student and stressed the vacancy as providing a back up for the Students' Union President.

The evening saw Joe Corina run unopposed for the position of Speaker, and various Council committees who hold the sabbatical officers to account were also elected.

All candidates proposed for the Education and Welfare, Campaigns and Communications, Community, and Equality and Diversity committees were elected without voting. A vote

was held for the Clubs, Societies and Student Development Committee, there were 12 proposed candidates for 10 vacancies.

There were six candidates for the three vacancies on the Management Board and elected were Paul Fletcher, Lorcan Mullen and Jason O'Neill. An election was held for the Environmental Committee as there were six proposed candidates for four vacancies. The Officer Review Group was formed without a vote. Further elections were held for positions on the Academic Council and Academic Board.

Gareth McGreevy said Council was not to be "a talking shop", urging all members to work vigorously on behalf of Queen's students over the next year.

The issue of tuition fees was a talking point of the evening and saw McGreevy and Ciarnan Helferty, President of the NUS-USI, explain how Queen's SU proposes to defend students from increased fees.

Helferty gave a presentation, describing the proposed changes

as "the most significant assault on students and their families in a generation". Helferty urged councillors to break party ties in the run up to the Assembly elections.

Helferty expressed his confidence in the campaign against fees. He said, "We have researched, planned and coordinated so we know it is going to work. It can be the most significant and successful campaign run by students."

Both McGreevy and Helferty questioned why QUB Vice Chancellor, Peter Gregson, has shown no support for the Stuart review while Richard Barnett, his University of Ulster counterpart, has openly claimed the increase in fees to be "the agenda of a select elite". Barnett also made the headlines earlier this year as he accepted a 5 per cent pay cut.

Have your say

Have you any concerns with the issues raised? Let us know www.thegown.org.uk

Students' Union admits DARE Facebook advertisement misleading

KERRI-ANNE CAMPBELL
news@thegown.org.uk

Queen's SU Clubs and Societies director David Bradley has admitted that the Union's Clubs and Societies Facebook group was misleading in its statement that British band The Streets would be playing in Mandela Hall last Thursday. Instead one member of the band, Leo Ihenacho, was due to present a DJ set.

The Facebook page stated "DARE! THURSDAYS PRESENTS The Streets supported by the Wideboys" and the band's 'Dry your Eyes' music video was uploaded onto the page. This gave students the impression that the entire band would be playing on the night for a £4 entry fee.

Bradley, explained, "Leo Ihenacho is playing The Streets' set. He comes with the name (The Streets). We have permission to promote it that way." Bradley did admit, however, "it



Leo Ihenacho from The Streets

is a bit misleading and I will certainly change it".

VP Clubs and Societies, Niall Bole had no knowledge of the mistake and said; "It must have just been a typo. It has been updated since."

Cannabis seized in Holylands

JAMES DOUGLAS

A cannabis haul of approximately £225,000 in value was made on University Street on Friday 5 November. The man involved, aged 44, was tried in court on Monday of last week and is currently awaiting sentencing.

The seizure comprised 450 cannabis plants, and took place at an unoccupied house in the

area on Friday evening following reports of suspicious activity.

On the accused, the PSNI would not disclose details of his profession and whether or not he was a resident or student. The PSNI stressed that anyone found to be in possession of illegal substances without a prescription will be dealt with severely through the courts.

University Challenge team selection

Candidates are needed for the 2011 Queen's University Challenge team.

A meeting and team selection will take place on Wednesday 17 November between 4.30pm and 6.00pm, club room 5 in the Students' Union.



Notice

The Gown has retracted an article published on our website on 8 April 2010 entitled 'Queen's Canoe club suspended after allegations of discrimination' and offer a sincere apology to Mrs Sonya Forsythe.

The article concentrated on the thoughts of one Canoe club member in relation to allegations made against the club while the story could equally have focused on Mrs Forsyth's thoughts also. It was presumed at the time of publishing that this particular member was the club's official president, however, subsequent to the article

being published it has come to this year's *Gown* team's attention that the student interviewed was not in fact recognised by Queen's University as holding any official position within the club, thus rendering the opinion stated unrepresentative of the club.

The *Gown* team has judged appropriate the removal of the article from the our website. We would like to apologise to Mrs Sonya Forsyth for not offering her a right of reply to the comments made by the club member before this article was published and for any discomfort the article may have caused.

STEPHEN VIZINCZEY In Praise of Older Women

'Has long been hailed as a must-read for any young male making the transition to manhood' *The Gown*

'You cannot put it down: witty, moving and it is all about sex. Truly original' Margaret Drabble, *Guardian*

'Refreshing, individual, forthright ... It is, in an important way, a post-pornographic book' Eliot Fremont-Smith, *The New York Times*

'A sort of *Tom Jones* or *Felix Krull* set in post-war Budapest, and very funny. If you were compiling an anthology of foreign-born writers who make the English writer canon, he would belong, and he is one of very few who would' Norman Stone, *Spectator*

'A masterclass in the politics of men and women ... an essential handbook for the modern man. One day sex itself may be this good!' Patrick Kielty

'Luminous and enlightening ... In a voice free of vanity and subterfuge, the writer tells a story of the worst of times, and the ever-shifting truths about girls and youths, men and women, and their sexual connections – and misconnections' Paula Fox

'Let us now praise Stephen V for writing a happy book about sex' Arthur Zeldin, *The Varsity*

Over 5 million copies sold worldwide



MODERN CLASSICS
www.penguinclassics.com



HEALTH and Crystal Castles at Mandela Hall

BEN FINCH

Confrontation is always interesting, even if at times unnerving and scary. Seeing people squaring up to others outside the pub is never a nice sight, but when it's for artistic purposes, when someone or something shouts "I am here. I am different. Look, acknowledge and think about me!" it can become something far more powerful than a simple fight. HEALTH and Crystal Castles are two bands well known for such an in-your-face (ear?) approach to music, though it has led to one being significantly more successful than the other.

Starting slowly, HEALTH took to the stage looking variously like they could be in Blink-182 or, in John Famiglietti's case, Sadako from 'The

Ring'. Suddenly all instruments are dropped, bright white light scorches the audience and distortion screams out of the speakers. Then bass drums pound, industrial electronics are unleashed and guitars jar atonally, leaving many of the cool kids who've heard Crystal Castles on Radio 1 squirming. There is no break, there is a continual wall of noise tumbling from the stage. Songs are constantly moving, thirty seconds of one bit, then thirty of another. It's like listening to Girl Talk, but with noise.

Hidden under much of the noise spewing out of the speakers are tuneful melodies. At the few times when the pace drops, HEALTH are almost sweet and when they're playing nice it stands out so much it's beautiful.

Now, Crystal Castles have

shared a split album with HEALTH, and their debut was full of screeching electronics and GameBoy bleeps, tied to crushing techno beats. However, they are now almost family friendly. On a sparse stage Ethan Kath creates the beats, hiding behind a bank of synths, and Alice Glass screams over the top. Except she's not screaming over the top, her vocals are lost in the sound. Whether by accident or design, much of their power is dissipated. But this doesn't matter to the crowd as the 'Popcorn'-esque bleeps of recent single 'Baptism' kick-start a rave while Glass fades in and out of the lights.

She's certainly energetic, surfing along the top of the crowd, still emptying her lungs over the microphone. Yet the crowd is not, when the beats

aren't pounding, neither are their feet and the music Crystal Castles are pumping out is all sounding the same (sounding like my granddad, but it genuinely does). Clearly they aren't DJs, if they were there would be variation but there is none. It begins to sound like one long electro tune. Brilliant songs like 'Crimewave' and 'XXZXCUXZ' disappear into the indistinguishable sound. The best song off *Crystal Castles II*, 'Empathy', is about the only thing different because it's downtempo and the vocals can be heard.

During their performance at Electric Picnic this summer Riggy tweeted 'Why are people still listening to them?' The answer: Crystal Castles are now a sanitised version of themselves. They used to be cool, different and properly experimental. This has

turned into same old same old. It may be a drive for commercial success based on their reputation or it may be there is just no confrontation left in them. Crystal Castles won't be dragging you across the pub because you were slagging them off, instead, they'll be having a quiet argument amongst themselves about the merits of the ZX Spectrum compared to an Amiga.



Reviews

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

Compilation
Radio One
Live Lounge Volume 5

Live Lounge is back. Yes, the eagerly awaited annual release by BBC Radio 1 arrives with many treats to please fans of UK chart music.

Unsurprisingly packed with instantly recognisable songs, starting with Tinie Tempah's 'Pass Out' by Plan B, a smart rendition that is sure to please fans of both artists. Some songs will be returned to time and again, especially Paloma Faith's 'New York' with her impressive display of vocal talent. Roll Deep's cover 'Telephone' has a startling difference of meaning and style, while bearing a strong resemblance to the original.

Despite the positives this is not without dud tracks. The Saturdays' 'Ego' being little more than a badly sang version of their own song. Kids in Glass Houses present a version of Marina and the Diamonds' 'Hollywood' that could be heard on any street corner.

Live Lounge: Volume 5 provides a unique blend of music interpretation, with some impressive songs whilst others prove uneventful. However, the good songs far outweigh the bad.

AM

Album
N.E.R.D
Nothing

The always flamboyant N.E.R.D are back with new album *Nothing*. It's been two years since the disappointing *Seeing Sounds* hit the airwaves, and the pressure to produce fresh material has been looming over Pharell and the gang ever since.

So, does *Nothing* deliver anything? The stylish, slick and smooth beats resonating from start to finish mean loyal fans will not be disappointed, but the most notable feature of this release is the shift from the rock infused beats of the past to a funk based endeavour.

The album opens with the catchy 'Party People', with a Stevie Wonder bassline and TI yelping over the top. It's followed by the slick Daft Punk produced 'Hypnotise U'. However, from an early point the album meanders somewhat, with occasional surprises (and disappointments) scattered throughout.

The song title 'Help Me' says enough and 'Hot N Fun' is completely destroyed by Nelly Furtado. What could have been a damn funky tune is horribly warbled over. While fans will be pleased with *Nothing*, those of you not familiar with N.E.R.D should stick to Akon and Lil Wayne for now. CC



Album
Charlotte Church
Back to Scratch

Charlotte Church spent much of her childhood trying to sing like an adult, with the result that she sang so far down the back of her throat she sounded like Miss Piggy being garrotted.

However, now she's an adult she seems to be trying to turn back the clock and sing like a precocious 12-year-old again. Yodelling uncomfortably between airy-fairy falsetto, Britney Spears-esque lower-register grovelling and forced warbling, the only good thing about Church's latest offering is that she is at least no longer murdering the classics.

Instead, she has filled her album with samey, boom-chika-boom-backed melodies which have all the imaginative flair of a Kate Nash filler track, only without the redeeming catchiness.

As for the shameless exploitation of her personal life in the lyrics, the less said the better. Heaven help the elderly female relatives who find this album in their Christmas stockings this year. Quite frankly, athlete's foot would be more appealing as a stocking-filler than this utterly talentless drivel. ZK



Comedy
Scott Capurro

Otherwise known as "the man who dressed Robin Williams as a woman in Mrs Doubtfire," Scott Capurro took



to the Mandela stage in a flurry of racism, anti-Semitism, explicit homoerotic imagery and numerous other themes which could not possibly be mentioned in print. Explicit to the extreme, Capurro's charm and flamboyancy leaves even those offended by such comments laughing. Capurro has refined his timing to perfection and handles hecklers seamlessly as though they were pre-rehearsed.

That is not to say he lacks spontaneity; indeed we were introduced to many new audience friends, providing Capurro an opportunity to show his impromptu skill. One young man, Jonny, even got a special invitation back to Capurro's dressing room for "some fun". For those easily offended it may be wise to avoid this comedian, who includes in his opening lines: "What is racism really, other than funny?"

However outrageous, it is clear Capurro's remarks are not borne out but are purely for comic effect, and he dares to say what others are thinking but would never utter aloud. SL

Theatre
Black Watch
Baby Grand Theatre

Based on Scotland's regiment, Gregory Burke's *Black Watch* moves between a local pub and Iraq, and captures soldiers' accounts to a journalist. The production is an exhilarating blend of words, music and movement. In an intimate setting the audience feel the soldiers' pain whilst sharing their highpoints.

An officer's poor treatment of his soldiers demonstrates a callous character. Yet two soliloquies, revealing his anxieties to his wife, force consideration of the families' torment watching the news, praying their relatives won't die next.

Jack Lowden performs perfectly the despair of a soldier who, after seeing colleagues killed by suicide bombers, questions an "illegal war". Ian Pirie is commendable as an officer burdened with the impossible task of expressing to his men a validation of actions which he himself does not believe.

The climactic encounter between them leaves a new respect for soldiers. One quote stands out; "We were only doing our jobs." Regardless of one's opinion of the war in Iraq, *Black Watch* is humbling for everyone. EA



Win two tickets to see Belle & Sebastian at the Ulster Hall

The Gown has two tickets to give away for the Belle & Sebastian concert in the Ulster Hall on Wednesday 1 December. To

enter email arts@thegown.org.uk with your name, contact details and the correct answer to the question.

The closing date is Sunday 28 November. The winner's name will be pulled out of a hat and will be informed by Monday

29 November.

What is the name of Belle & Sebastian's cult first album?



The cost of working through your degree

MARIA GRIFFITHS

In today's economic climate new surveys say 78% of students undertake paid work while studying at university. With employers boasting a host of benefits for students such as exam leave and flexible contracts, it is understandable that students should take advantage for the extra cash. The reality is that many employers fail to implement these benefits.

Many leading supermarket chains employ students offering to operate around their student lifestyle. However, this is far from the truth.

One student who works for a large supermarket, who wished to remain unnamed, said that since she started university, every time she applied for study leave to attend an exam her request was denied. She said that "For the last three years I have had to use a holiday or take unpaid leave to attend my exams even though I had applied for study leave 6 weeks before the exam... When I requested time off for my graduation and offered to get someone else to do my shift I was refused. In the end I had to phone in sick."

Many retail companies lure students in with flexible or zero hour contracts reassuring students that they will only work hours that suit them. These contracts allow employers to pressurise students into working excessive amounts of hours. Employers take advantage of this flexibility to force students into working up to 30 hours a week, insisting that if a student does not agree to this then they will be disciplined or could even lose their job.

One student said when he objected to extra hours due to his studies, the management only offered him one four-hour shift a week, which meant he was not earning enough and had to look for another job.

Within the retail sector there seems to be a complete disregard for students needing to study. A female student left her job because her manager disciplined her for not agreeing to shifts because they clashed with her classes. She said: "My manager basically issued me with a warning for attending my classes, even though I had told her during the interview when I would be able to work. I ended

up leaving."

According to the NUS survey, covering 3,145 students, 45% reported that holding a part time job while at university had a negative impact on their studies. This statistic is reaffirmed by a survey carried out by the Independent Institute for Employment on behalf of the Department for Education and Skills, which found that 58% of those working throughout their university life received a first or an upper second in their degree compared to 71% of those who had not undertaken paid work during their studies.

The NUS survey found that 46% of students work throughout their studies because basic living costs exceed their loans. Students need to have an extra income to pay for basic utilities such as rent and household bills.

Many students feel pressurised into shifts they would not agree to out of fear of losing their job, with an increasing number of employers offering graduate opportunities, students feel more secure applying within a company they have been working for, rather than a new company.

The Auld Man

Did the baby boomers steal your future?

University fees are set to rise to seemingly cruel levels under the new two-tier-of-Tory government. In a recent Channel 4 debate it was suggested by one of the younger members of the audience that the baby boomer generation had had it all their way and were now going to deprive current and future students of their right to a university education.

Baby boomers, those who were born 1945-50, are now at or near retirement age and for them the future seems somewhat rosy – university education supported by student grants and assured pensions based on final salaries. The future for today's young people looks like it will be monstrous debt as they leave university; no chance of saving up for a mortgage deposit; and pensions that will be subject to the vagaries of the money markets. Plus the fact they will probably have to be 75 to get one.

So, whose fault is this? Have your parents or grandparents pulled up the golden ladder behind them? As a baby boomer myself, I don't think so. First of



all, it was the generation before mine that made the rules for the welfare state. It was their naive optimism and poor maths that came to the conclusion that today's workers could pay for today's pensioners. That's all very well when both groups are the same size but not suitable for ageing populations. In shifting to the current system things are ultimately more logical and fairer – aren't they? Well, at least for us.

Have your say

What do you think of The Auld Man's comments?

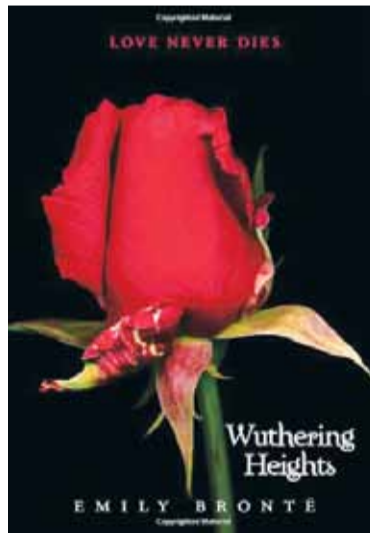
Contact us at www.thegown.org.uk

Eclipse-ing Heathcliff: the Twilight of the classics

ZOSIA KUCZYNSKA

So *Wuthering Heights* has been given a *Twilight*-style makeover by Harper Teen. Ack. In the top-left-hand corner glows the Lloyd Webber-esque tagline "Love never dies", while in the centre, a giant, red rose is on the verge of blooming against a black background. In the right-hand-corner – wait for it – is a seal of approval proclaiming "Bella & Edward's favourite book". It's not the sexing up of the classics that is so wrong here. After all, *Wuthering Heights* is a deliciously over the top Gothic mash-up of a book, and

has just as much claim to the oversexed teenage imagination as anything Stephenie Meyer could churn out. In fact, Meyer's prudish, abstinent vampire and drippy, passive heroine are laughably tame compared to the destructively obsessive characters, demonic overtones, wild settings and sado-masochistic necrophilia to be found in Emily Brontë's work. No, what is so sick-making is the fact that *Wuthering Heights* is being marketed as a piece of tie-in merchandise for the so-called *Twilight* "saga". What's worse is that two other books, *Pride and*



Prejudice and *Romeo and Juliet* – apparently the "inspiration" behind *Twilight* and *New Moon* respectively – have been given similar treatment.

Shakespeare's play is "The original forbidden love" – fair enough – while Austen's book is, bizarrely, "The love that started it all". As if further evidence were needed of a shameless marketing ploy, this last tagline makes sense only when referring to the first book in the *Twilight* series. It is final conclusive proof that the motive behind these copycat covers is as far from a noble attempt to

get teens reading the classics as Bella Swan is from being a well-rounded female character.

In short, Harper Teen, you can sex up the classics all you want, and gladly. Indeed, anyone who has ever seen Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet* knows that, more often than not, the classics benefit greatly from a sexy, modern twist. However, though you can change its cover, you can't change the book; and no matter how hard you try to market Brontë as an accessory to Meyer's wishy-washy, Mormon vampires, you will never Eclipse Heathcliff.



www.thehubbelfast.org

The Hub Café
22 Elmwood Avenue
Open: Mon-Friday
9am – 3pm

Serving good food, good conversation and making good connections

Free Wi-fi

Present this advert for a free hot or cold drink when you purchase a hot meal, Panini or toastie!

The recent film by David Fincher, *The Social Network*, is more than a fictional depiction of the rise of Facebook – it is a sociological commentary on the first decade of the 21st century. Life is now all about connection – getting connected and staying connected. The Hub is a place of connection. So, what is The Hub?

The Hub is a café, formerly and lovingly known as the Oasis, serving good food and free Wi-Fi for students throughout term time. The Hub connects the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincies, bringing two communities together in a new era of connectedness and collaboration. The Hub is a venue, hosting social events, music nights, and is used by a wide variety of groups. The Hub is a place for spiritual connection, for thinking, questioning, and discovery on issues of faith, belief, and who we are as human beings.

Most importantly, The Hub is a place of welcome. Unlike *The Social Network* we hope The Hub will be a place where you can make friends without the enemies. So call in sometime, for food, conversation, for a chat with either of our Chaplains, Barry Forde or John Alderdice. The full details of 'What's on' can be found on the new website www.thehubbelfast.org. Become a friend of The Hub on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. We look forward to making the connection with you.

GAA Freshers set to put league behind them and focus on Championship

DAMIEN EDGAR

sport@thegown.org.uk

Queen's Freshers' team will hope to put a disappointing league campaign behind them as they begin to focus on the Championship at the end of January.

This year's league campaign has seen the team sustain a 3-7 to 2-7 defeat at the hands of DIT in their first match. Although this was followed by a heartening 0-13 to 0-7 victory over fierce rivals St. Mary's, the team were beaten in their final game by another local rival, UUJ scoring 1-15 to QUB's 0-8. As a result of this Queens failed to progress to the quarter final stages of the competition.

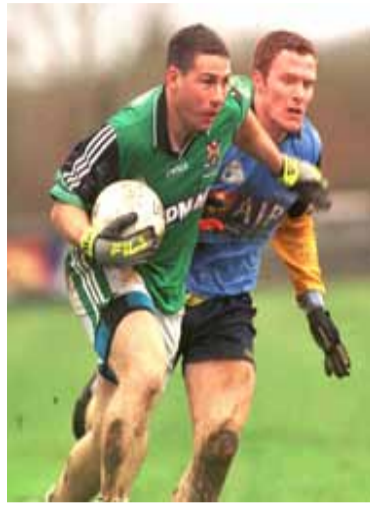
According to the Freshers' team manager Anthony McGrath, though, the players and coaching staff remain upbeat. he told *The Gown* that both the players and coaches had decided at the first team meeting in September that the Championship should be their priority for the year.

Queen's will look to take the positives from their league campaign, with the score lines so far suggesting they are certainly

within touching distance of the teams in their division.

Speaking to *The Gown*, McGrath acknowledged this year had seen a poor league campaign, but he did declare his satisfaction with the fact that Queen's had used over 30 players across their 3 league games. This, he said, ensured all squad members a chance to play football. He went on to say that things could only improve with key players set to return from injury or club duties, citing Andrew Murnin, a former All-Ireland minor winner with Armagh, and Donal O'Hare being another example.

There were some stand-out performances from certain players in the league campaign, and the manager was keen to highlight the progress and performance levels of Sean Warnock, the team captain and a Tyrone Minor. McGrath also picked out Chris McGuinness, a current Antrim U21 player, Colin Stevenson, a Hogan Cup winner with St. Colman's and Steafan Tierney, a recent All-Ireland winner with the Tyrone Minors, as players that had excelled throughout the three games.



The Freshers last week undertook a fitness test and this will be followed up by an intensive fitness regime. McGrath expressed his belief that the training regime, coupled with the return of these key players and the chance to work with the team over the winter period in which several challenge matches have been lined up, would all prove crucial factors in the drive for Championship success: "The QUB Freshers will be a well prepared outfit come January."

The Championship draw is set to take place on Wednesday 8 December in Croke Park.

Queen's Soccer firsts look to build on positive start to season

DAMIEN EDGAR

sport@thegown.org.uk

After seven games, QUB firsts occupy seventh place in Ladbrokes.com Championship Division 2. With 11 points from a possible 21, QUB sit 8 points adrift of the league leaders, Tobermore United, after a perfect start to the league campaign, a 7-0 home win against Lurgan Celtic. With 24 league fixtures left, QUB have plenty of time to improve their position, and attempt to challenge for honours.

Connor Mulholland sits atop the QUB scoring chart, aided by his hat-trick in the first game of the season against Lurgan Celtic. QUB have had a horrendous run of injuries as of late, deprived of Paul Mc Donald and Tony Tumelty for key games, as well as goalkeeper Gerard Duff. Two among the injured, Tony Tumelty and Gerard Duff, have recently signed from Distillery seconds and Bambridge Town respectively.

Meanwhile, QUB have not fared so well in the cup competitions so far this year. They suffered a defeat on penalties at the hands of Killyleagh YC, 3-2 the

outcome of the shootout, and a 5-0 rout by Glentoran in the CIS Cup second round. The team, however, will have the opportunity to put these losses to bed when they compete in the third round of the Irish Cup on the Saturday 20 November, and no doubt the team will be itching to set the record straight.

It would seem that if Queen's are to progress further up the league table then they will need to rely on the sterling work of their defence, whilst asking key players Connor Mulholland, Tony Tumelty and Paul Mc Donald to continue with their goal scoring exploits. The season has a long way to run and QUB will hope to find their form over the coming games to be in the running for honours come the business end of the season.

P	TEAM	PTS
7	Queen's University	11
8	Knockbreda	11
9	Moyola Park	8
10	Armagh City	7

A month of bronze medallion courses with Queen's Swimming, Waterpolo and Lifesaving

CONNOR DALY

editor@thegown.org.uk

Over the next few weeks Queen's Swimming, Waterpolo and Lifesaving Club will be offering members the chance to take two bronze medallion courses to achieve life support and life saving qualifications. The courses began on Monday 8 November and will last a month in total. On completion will enable the club to enter teams into upcoming lifesaving competitions and events.

The club has ran two bronze courses already this year with another course set to begin after the Christmas period. So far 20 club members have obtained their bronze medallion which allows them to become beach lifeguards with the option of training for lifeguard. A recent fundraiser at the Students' Union saw the club raise substantial funds to pay for this month's bronze courses.

On the competitive side, QUB Swimming club has this year entered the all-new all-Ireland Swimming league Up against Trinity College Dublin in the first round, QUB came away with all the points and now sit at top of the league table.

The club's next league fixture is against Blanchardstown IT.

Later this month will see the Waterpolo intervarsities held at Trinity College. Taking place on Saturday 27 November, club members will avail of the opportunity and spend the weekend in the city.

Including this month's Waterpolo intervarsity competition, the Swimming club expect to compete in six major events this year and three weekend trips have been organised.

Although the season has officially begun, club chairman Mark Oliver encourages students interested to contact the club. A successful start to this season's Swimming league should certainly encourage would-be QUB swimmers of all levels to become involved.



engineers without borders uk
belfast branch

Engineers without borders (EWB) is an international charity that works in some of the most deprived countries in the world.

In the UK there are branches at over 30 universities.

The EWB branch at Queen's was set up last year and offers the opportunity for students from all faculties to get involved in research, outreach work and overseas placements.

Throughout the year the society will be running information evenings on renewable energies and relief work. Also at the moment, a trip to Romania is being planned for a team to go out with Habitat for Humanity for 10 days this summer to build houses.

If you are interested in finding out more about the upcoming EWB events or wish to join the committee then email your contact details to ewbb@qub.ac.uk

or join our Facebook page.

Letters to the Editor

TheGown.

Queen's University Belfast
Students' Union
University Road
Belfast
BT7 1NF
t: 028 9097 1057
e: info@thegown.org.uk
www.thegown.org.uk

Violent scenes undermine fees campaign

Well over 80,000 students have taken to the streets over the past fortnight in the UK and Ireland to protest against increased fees in higher education. Students of both states have joined in solidarity with their neighbours in hope they can remind politicians that it was not students who caused the current economic crisis. Like the recent protests at Queen's Students' Union and at Stormont, the vast majority of demonstrators since the launch of the campaign have gone about their protest in a civil manner.

It is unfortunate that students have been tarnished with the same brush as those who set out to ruin the peaceful protests in Dublin and London over the past fortnight. In both cases students travelled from near and far to have their voices heard and to plead with politicians to save their education. Instead it has been the work of others which has made the headlines. It would be fair to say that student officers have been fighting day and night since the release of the Browne and Stuart reviews, from carrying out the smallest of tasks in sending letters to organising trips for students to voice their opposition to the proposals.

The campaign against increased fees will continue and minorities will likewise set out to damage these peaceful demonstrations. Student representatives can take comfort that the vast majority of students at these recent protests have openly condemned the acts of violence which have taken place.

Students who voted for Nick Clegg's Liberal Democrats in May's general election have a right to be furious with the party due to its u-turn on tuition fees, but not all politicians keep rank with their respective parties. The onus is on student representatives and their constituencies to continue their good work, to hassle their MPs and encourage others to join in on the fight. Students have proved a point to the UK and Irish governments that they won't stand idly by. They have proved that apathy is not an issue. The campaign continues the moment after every protest, and representatives will organise their electorate right until Westminster votes on the Browne review. Students are angry, they feel betrayed by the Lib Dems' false advertising of a new politics, but the vast majority will fight their corner in the peaceful manner in which they have done since the start of this campaign.

Dear Sir,

When this letter is published Remembrance Sunday will have passed. The last post will have sounded, the ode of remembrance will have been said and the poppies will disappear for another year. What will not have disappeared will be the thousands of army families who have lost a loved one to war. These families look to the Royal British Legion for support not just for their material needs but for the crippling emotional pain that results from the death of their loved one.

The RBL Poppy appeal is the principle means by which funds are raised for the vital work of the RBL. That is why QUBSU permit the sale of poppies over Remembrance Day.

In their recent letter, Anonymous challenged the sale of the poppy in the SU building, citing the need to maintain a neutral environment. This proposition is based on the false premise that the RBL poppy is a political symbol, something which it definitely is not. The RBL does not seek to glorify war. It seeks to honour the sacrifice of those who have sacrificed their life to protect the UK and its armed forces. Honouring these troops primarily consists of commemorating their memory and caring for the family they have left behind.

I'm glad that anonymous does not advocate the sale of the Easter lily as well as the poppy. This suggestion which was proposed at the University of Ulster SU would undoubtedly lead to a massive upsurge in sectarian tensions as it has done in UUSU. That is because the RBL Poppy and the Easter lily cannot be equated. One is a symbol of remembrance for a national armed service. The other is the symbol of a terrorist organisation which deliberately murdered civilians, many of them Queen's Students, as part of a concerted terror campaign.

I hope that QUBSU continues to sell the RBL poppy. To cease to do so would be an act of cowardice which shows that we are prepared to forget the sacrifice of the armed services because some misguided individuals think that to remember and honour their sacrifice is to promote support for all the UK's wars. The poppy is ultimately about remembering individuals who for the purest of reasons laid down their lives for the good of us all.

Alexander Redpath, Young Unionists (UUP) Universities Officer

Dear anonymous,



Illustrator Brian John Spencer

In response to your article in 01/11/10 edition of *The Gown*, regarding the sale of Remembrance Day poppies and Easter lilies in the Students' Union as "perpetuating segregation", I find that offensive. As the son of a former military soldier who fought overseas for his country and who is now currently serving in Afghanistan, I find the statement that the anonymous writer has made that selling Remembrance Day poppies serves no purpose other than to "enforce political power through the use of force" is extremely offensive and very ignorant.

Surely, if this were contributing to segregation, as the writer has foolishly and inaccurately suggested, then one could argue that the sale of O'Neill's and Canterbury sportswear to be segregating. Or indeed, one could argue, according to the original letter's nonsense statement, that hurling and camogie shouldn't be offered at the university, as predominantly culturally Irish games, they might be seen as "perpetuating segregation".

Evidently, the original poster is clearly mistaken and deluded in their opinion. I am angered and enraged that this sort of absurd and ridiculous drivel has been published in the university newspaper that I have come to know and love for its intellectually stimulating content. Benign expressions of cultural identity are perfectly acceptable and not in any way sectarian or segregating. This is a response from a sincerely offended student of Queens University, Belfast.

Yours,
Craig Edwards

Dear Mr Editor,

I would like to ask the readers of *The Gown* what they were thinking when they mindlessly filled in the application for their student loans? Did they think, 'I'm best not going to university with this £20 000 debt?' If so, why do they go out and waste it on alcohol and kebabs? What is the difference in a large debt and a small debt? I believe that once you reach large figures like that they all merge into one.

I hear from parents complaining against having to pay for their children, but why should they? Surely it would be a better idea for student loan companies to give out larger loans (yes I know this is how we got into the current situation), but realistically, students should pay off their own loans in small installments. It will simply become another figure like a mortgage or a hire payment on a car.

Maybe if students actually valued the education they are getting or have received for free for their first 18 years, they would rate it higher than getting a mortgage? Look at third world countries; families are more than willing to save money in order to teach their children to read!

Yours sincerely,
Secret sceptic

THIS MONTH... GRANTS RALLY TODAY, November 1973

Protest marches from all local colleges will congregate outside the Art College, Belfast, at 1.00pm today, Queen's University students will meet on the Union steps at 12.15pm and march to York Street, joining up with Stranmillis College and the College of Business Studies

on the way.

An SRC representative emphasised the need for full Union attendance at the rally as important decisions on the Grants campaign will be taken.

Although the Academic Authorities are in sympathy with the student demands at the

time of going to press they had not approved the cancellation of 12 o'clock lectures. This would have ensured that every student in the University would have been free to attend the rally.

The meeting will be addressed by speakers from NUS, USI and NIRSO. A rep-

resentative from the Northern Ireland - Trade Union movement will also be present. All decisions will later be presented to Lord Belstead, the Northern Ireland Minister of State for Education. It is planned that a comprehensive document will be prepared, including all grants to

date.

The delegation will probably be composed of both NUS and USI. John Randall and Jeff Standforth are possible candidates for the group. Both have experience in dealing with the Department of Education.

QUEEN'S

STUDENTS' UNION
ENTERTAINMENT



HOLY F*CK

SPEAKEASY, THU 18 NOV



YOUNG GUNS

SPEAKEASY
SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER
14+ SHOW



THE TALLEST MAN ON EARTH

MANDELA HALL
TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER



BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB

MANDELA HALL
TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER

TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS AVAILABLE FROM QUEEN'S STUDENTS' UNION,
TICKETMASTER.IE & ALL TICKETMASTER OUTLETS.



WWW.QUBSU-ENTS.COM

