

Students disrupted during January due to big freeze

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A number of students returning to college and university this week were without permanent accommodation during most of the month of January after the winter weather wrecked havoc on housing conditions across Northern Ireland.

Over the Christmas holidays and January exam period, students living in Belfast were faced with numerous problems caused by the big freeze and subsequent thaw, including burst pipes, disruption to water supply and power cuts. Resulting damp and other damage added to the delay in students returning to rented accommodation.

Winter conditions over the past month at times brought most of the country to a standstill and has been confirmed as the coldest winter in decades.

Throughout the busy exam period a large number of students were left without water and electricity and some without a roof over their heads. In an effort to help solve the problem, Queen's University accommodated students living in Belfast by providing toilet and shower facilities at the University's Physical Education Centre (PEC) and making water available at a number of collection

Resulting damp and other damage has added to the delay in students returning to rented accommodation

points. The McClay Library and Queen's Students' Union were also available for students to access toilets.

Students' Union VP Welfare, Adam McGibbon has said he was contacted by a number



Winter conditions prevented numerous students from living in rented accommodation

of students in need of temporary accommodation during the break, many of whom were subsequently provided with available rooms at Queen's Elms Village. According to McGibbon this situation has calmed down more recently due to landlords providing tenets with alternative accommodation, though students still without proper housing conditions should contact Queen's accommodation.

According to a member of staff at a local letting agent, this is an exceptionally busy period as many students are still being affected by the problems caused by burst pipes and damp.

English student and Queen's Radio station manager, Ethan Loughrey, is among those who are still without permanent accommodation. He said, "My house mate went up (to Belfast) on New Year's Eve and found the kitchen flooded in a couple of inches of water. He rang me from the house and it basically sounded, down the phone, like he was running a bath."

He added, "All in all it's a bit of a disaster. During exams I

Continued inside on page 2

McGibbon critical of University on Student Support Fund

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VP Welfare Adam McGibbon has welcomed the transfer of the Student Support Fund from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) and has again criticised senior figures of the University, stating "they should be ashamed of themselves" for their lack of input.

In a year which has witnessed a sharp increase in applications for student support, McGibbon described this as "a big victory" for the Students' Union. A total of £300,000 has this month been transferred to institutions for higher education. The Student Support Fund exists to help students struggling financially while at university.

McGibbon has been keen to acknowledge the work of staff at the Student Guidance Centre,

but said that he received "no help at all" from Queen's senior staff, singling out Vice Chancellor Peter Gregson, Registrar and Chief Operating Officer, James O' Kane and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Academic Planning, Staffing and External Relations, Tony Gallagher.

He called into question their commitment to students' welfare. McGibbon has pointed to the failure of senior figures to mention the Student Support Fund when addressing the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) Committee at Stormont on the sources of funding to the university, a meeting held last November. McGibbon branded it "ridiculous" that Queen's representatives "didn't even bother pursuing it."

McGibbon expressed his disgust that a letter confirming the transfer of support funds

was received by the University on Wednesday 22 December but that SU representatives were not notified until almost a month later on Thursday 20 January. Initially received by the Vice Chancellor's office, this letter was subsequently moved on to the Director of Finance at the University before being personally collected by the VP for Welfare. McGibbon described this as "the final insult".

McGibbon thanked several politicians from across the spectrum who had helped to reclaim the funds promised by the DFP since the scrapping of the rates relief scheme in 2009. In particular, he cited the SDLP's Pat Ramsey and independent MLA Dawin Purvis who had asked questions on the issue at Stormont and maintained regular contact with the Union. The SU will now turn to ensuring this delay does not happen again.

Kevin Tracey interview

inside See page 4



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Continued from page 1

was living out of a suitcase essentially, staying mostly in a house on a sofa that was too small for me... I got an extension so I couldn't complain about the School of English but it definitely delayed me writing my essays. It'll be at least a week and a half, more likely up to three weeks before it is fixed."

Numerous students, like Mr Loughrey, are still living in temporary accommodation as repairing work is under way and may have to wait weeks or even months to return. Some other students have not been as fortunate, having had to move out of their accommodation permanently due to the severity of the damage.

Queen's students struggling with their studies as a result of the January situation were reassured and advised by the University to request an extension on assignments and exams. Students still without proper housing conditions are advised to contact Queen's accommodation or other private estate agencies.

Have your say

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

NUS-USI continue campaign against prospect of higher tuition fees

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The NUS-USI (National Union of Students and the Union of Students in Ireland) is planning to continue its campaign against the proposed increase to tuition fees during the run up to the Local Assembly elections on 5 May with a demonstration planned for Wednesday 6 April. This will involve the University and College Union as well as the wider body of trade unions in Northern Ireland. It is hoped that 20,000 people will attend the event

While tuition fees will be the main target of the protest it will also address issues such as the looming cuts to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and job losses. According to NUS-USI, there may also be a second demonstration timed to coincide with the consultation on fees by Department for Employment and Learning minister, Danny Kennedy.

The reviewed Stuart Report had been expected to be presented to the Assembly before the Christmas break but was delayed due to personal reasons.

NUS-USI is also considering bringing back the 'Funding Our Future' pledge on fees used by the NUS during 2010's general election campaign to Westminster. It is hoped that local politicians will have learnt from the Liberal Democrats's example and will keep any promises they may make.

The 'Vote for Students' campaign will also be pushed over the coming months. This will aim to register as many students as possible to vote while at the same educating family members about the importance of student funding. By doing this

the NUS-USI say it may be possible to create the largest lobby group in Northern Ireland greatly increasing the pressure on Local Assembly members over fees. It means the cries of "I am a vote" heard during the student protests in Dublin could also be heard during the demonstrations.

The NUS-USI will also be seeking to educate students on the stances of the respective political parties standing for election towards fees in order for them to make an informed decision on the issue, rather than voting along usual political ties.



Students protest outside Queen's in October of last year

£33m spending cuts in store for Queen's

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Queen's is facing £33m in spending cuts following the publication of the Department for Employment and Learning's draft budget on January 10. It is possible that Queen's could shed 300 jobs in an attempt to plug the funding gap and this could leave students receiving a significantly poorer service from the university.

The draft budget states, "It is inevitable... Higher Education must bear a significant proportion of the necessary reductions in expenditure". Higher Education in Northern Ireland will receive a cut of £68m overall by 2015. The cut to Queen's funding is in proportion to the funding it already receives along with the University of Ulster, Stranmillis University College and St Mary's University College.

The draft also states that, "student fees will need to increase if capacity and service quality in the sector is to be maintained". It has been suspected that the current level of fees may rise to £5,500. Lorcan Mullen, Deputy President of the NUS-USI, reiterated the union's opposition to this, saying, "The

NUS-USI cannot accept an increase in student fees". While the draft budget proposes cuts to funding and states the need for a fees hike, separate legislation would be required to pass the Stormont Assembly in order for this to happen.

On top of these cuts there will also be a removal of funding for 300 post-graduate places across Northern Ireland. If this is to be achieved with the same proportions as the £68m cut, Queen's will be left with 145 less post-graduates.

The draft budget also sets out plans to completely remove funding for knowledge transfer in higher education, while funding for widening participation is at risk as well.

The figures in the budget were worked out assuming inflation at 2%. Inflation in the UK is currently running at 3.7%, which may rise to almost 5% by the end of the year. In real terms this would massively increase the cut in funding that universities are facing.

QUB awarded grant for cystic fibrosis research

VERITY CHYNOWETH

Scientists at Queen's University have been awarded a grant of £1.74m to conduct a major study which will seek to improve the lives of those suffering from Cystic Fibrosis.

Cystic Fibrosis affects over 8,500 people every year in the UK and it is one of the UK's most common life-threatening inherited illnesses. This grant is the largest that has ever been awarded in the UK to study the microbiology of the lung disease. The study will be over a period of five years and aspires to involve 450 Cystic Fibrosis patients.

The study aims to look more

closely at the range of bacteria which causes this infection to be inherited from carriers. If both parents are carriers of the disease then there is a one-in-four chance their child will have the disease but a two-in-four chance their child will be a carrier but not have the disease.

Professor Stuart Elborn of Queen's School of Medicine will lead this research. Professor Elborn specialises in respiratory medicine and Cystic Fibrosis and has said this study could lead to patients being "given more appropriate and effective antibiotics which should improve their clinical outcome and quality of life."



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Students' Union launches 'Cab now pay later' scheme

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The Students' Union today launches its 'Cab now pay later' scheme in association with Belfast taxi firm Fona Cab. VP Welfare McGibbon has said that this was one of his biggest manifesto commitments from last April's SU executive elections, saying "No student should ever have to go without a safe ride home due to lack of money."

From now on, using the 'Cab now pay later' scheme a student may now give his or her student card to a Fona Cab taxi driver temporarily as a payment if he or she does not have enough money for a taxi home.

Upon giving their student card to the driver, the student will receive a receipt which will confirm that the card has changed hands.

The taxi driver is then obliged to return the student card to the Students' Union

within 36 hours of the transaction. It will be in the interests of the student to collect their student card as quickly as possible and where they will pay for their taxi fare upon collecting their card from the SU reception.

The scheme is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland and will run indefinitely. Similar projects exist at colleges and university in the south of Ireland, including University College Cork and at the Institutes of Technology in Galway, Mayo and Sligo respectively.



VP Welfare Adam McGibbon

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A year is a long time in student politics. Students were carrying placards last year just to make friends. We saw a sabbatical resign at the SU and one of their top men go to war on the press – it's just like the ConDem coalition, though I'd rather have Vince Cable round for a cuppa than Mr Dodge.

I lost count of the pickets last year, not organised by the SU mind. Where are our protests? I do love a good protest. I don't think anyone else round here does though. We love the thought of extortionate fees. Greggers is laughing I bet.

Its election time again. Will McGrizzle run again for Prezle? Probably on the Pizza Party ticket if there is one. I'd love to know how Pizza with the President went. He's full of surprises that boy, remember the Clegg visit? Suited and booted to shake hands with the man who'd triple tuition fees - sounds about right. In McPrezle we trust.

So Downs is running for

gaffer whether McGrizzle's running or not - probably on the promise there'll be weekend events if he wins. It worked for him last year so it's worth a shot. Good ole McGibbon will be back on the ballot paper again, you can bet your life on that. He's gettin' you the pint support fund sure, and a lift home after. You can't complain with that.

Campaigns will be good. Looks like it's Mullen versus Kidd for that one. Where's my "SU Monthly? Where's my SUTV?" That's what they'll ask. Come to think of it, where is my SU Monthly and SUTV? I'm just kidding, I know I they don't actually exist. Bring back Stephen Connolly for Campaigns. Third time lucky, eh Stevo?

We're still waiting on the Law/GAA ticket to pounce, that will be interesting. It's about time they produced another Barry Duffy and Paul Lilly, or maybe that's what they're afraid of. Things can only get better, boys.

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Shoot for the Stars...

An interview with Kevin Treacy

SCOTT MCWHINNEY

Everybody has dreams, but few people have the courage to live them. This is not the case with Kevin Treacy. Born and raised in Belfast, he has moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the film industry. Reflecting on his beginnings as a child actor, Treacy pinpoints the start of his attraction to the limelight at his role in *Love Lies Bleeding*. Despite only being paid a Bart Simpson rug for his participation, he believes that this was the moment where he uncovered his passion for the craft:

"[I] had to stay up all night in a trailer before my tiny, tiny scene was ready to shoot and pretty much just watched the madness unfold through the window . . . I was probably hooked then but didn't admit it till much later."

Treacy moved behind the camera, a position he has occu-

pled throughout his time in the States, in his sixth year of secondary school to help a group of friends with a media studies project. Despite his own subjects being Ancient History, Biology and Modern History, his interest in film drew him to the project. He says that it was during his work on the A-Level project that he "learned the strange power of cameras."

After studying International Politics and Economics in America and Paris, Treacy moved to L.A. to start his dream job. He arrived not knowing anyone or, by his own admission, anything but quickly managed to find work. He views his non-native status as a positive, due to the large number of Europeans already in the same line of work.

In an age when nearly every movie comes out with a 3-D version available, it is fair to say that new technology is a valuable resource to a director.

Treacy fully appreciates this aspect of his work, commenting that "the marriage of technology to story is the most compelling thing about film as an art form and is to me the most fun part of the process." He admits that he loves to "push the envelope technically" but that his ideas have not always been a success. In one incident an underwater tank exploded, flooding the soundstage and, to add insult to injury, the shot they had used the tank for was useless. However, this is to be expected with innovation. Working with new equipment is like getting a new puppy: you enjoy it, learn its character and hope it doesn't make a mess.

Treacy is currently working on two very different projects. The first sees the director going on set in Utah to shoot a music video for the band Holy Water Buffalo. This will be the second video which he has done for the



Kevin Treacy with Martin Moody

band. Called 'I'm Alright (It's Heavy)' it can be accessed via YouTube. The second project is the editing of a movie he shot in December. It is a 95% dialogue free experimental movie revolving around "a lonely deaf black girl who is fatefully found by her motorcycling guardian angel in the strangely beautiful/quasi-

underwater ghost town of North Shore on the Salton Sea."

Within five minutes of talking to Treacy you know that he is doing what he loves and that he is in the right place to do it. The opportunities are endless, and we can expect to see great things from this young visionary in the future.

Reviews

Check out more reviews at www.thegown.org.ukFilm
Black Swan

You may love Darren Aronofsky's films or hate them, but you can't ignore them. With 12 BAFTA nominations, *Black Swan* will definitely be one of the most talked about films this year.

Natalie Portman plays Nina Sayers, a ballet dancer striving for perfection as the Swan Queen from 'Swan Lake'. Her dance instructor, Thomas (Vincent Gallo), thinks she's perfect, but too restrained to play the dark alter ego, the Black Swan. Desperate, Nina must find her inner sensuality and soon her fractured sense of self manifests in several, increasingly sinister, hallucinations.

It's surprising *Black Swan* is so mainstream, it looks like an art film, but is very audience-friendly, complete with an unambiguous ending and oddly predictable narrative.

Black Swan is astounding; both beautifully lurid and hauntingly sinister. The ballet sequences are immensely involving, maintaining discomfort and eeriness throughout.

In a way, *Black Swan* is both a summary and introduction to much tougher art films. It doesn't quite break new ground for Aronofsky, but is a bold film nonetheless. **MMK**

Film
The Dilemma

What could be funnier than a rom-com about two businessmen going for the biggest deal of their lives, while one struggles to tell the other that their wife is cheating? As it turns out, a punch in the face would make you laugh more, much more.

Vince Vaughn takes no risks whatsoever as the fast talking, everyman Ronny Valentine stuck with the dilemma of telling best friend Nick Brannen (Kevin James). Because Valentine has a skeleton or two in the closet he needs to find proof, resulting in hapless attempts at spying that usually result in him getting hurt. There's not really much to it, the plot's as thin as a wafer.

On top of that it's incredibly misogynistic; man is good and well meaning, woman is a lying, cheating, hurtful bitch, or in the case of Queen Latifah's (token) character, a borderline sex-pest. The only female character shown positively is Jennifer Connelly's Beth, who happens to be the woman Valentine's in love with.

Quite simply *The Dilemma* is just plain rubbish and there's no moral quandary over that. **BF**

Album
The Decemberists
The King is Dead

Some things' wrong here, The Decemberists used to write rollicking sea-shanties. Their ballads could have been sung by eighteenth century American immigrants pining for lost loves. Songs started quiet and built into massive, pained epics and themes that ran across whole albums.

On *The King is Dead* Colin Meloy's nasal vocals are still there, and so is the lush instrumentation. But these aren't the folksy ballads found on *The Crane Wife* or *The Hazards of Love*, rather it's country and Americana that Nashville produces by the bucketload. 'Rise to Me' is the perfect example of this; lyrically it looks over great expanses of American wilderness, but there is nothing expansive about the melody or slide guitars swaddling it. Even when they pick up the pace on 'Down by the Water' they're still making heavy weather of it.

The King is Dead is the sound of a band that seems to have run out of ideas. Unfortunately, changing their sound hasn't given The Decemberists any new ones and they've ended up taking a massive step backwards. **BF**

Album
Cold War Kids
Mine is Yours

Cold War Kids' new LP witnesses a transition, instrumentally and vocally, from their first album, *Robbers & Cowards*. Nathan Willett's vocals are no longer whiny, but polished. The music itself isn't so disjointed, but reaches a new harmonium with the use of instrumental layering and builds. A step away from their 2008 release, *Loyalty to Loyalty*, this is not a statement piece. The opening title track plays on poetic lyrics and repetition, setting the standard for the rest of the album.

Some may view tracks as generic and overdone in the indie-pop music climate of now, but Cold War Kids have only adjusted their sound. Influences can be heard all the way from Placebo to Vampire Weekend. 'Royal Blue' begins with a seductive bass which is carried on through the melody with layered drumbeats, catchy guitar riffs and lead solos. 'Bulldozer', full of atmospheric builds and strong vocals lifts the album out of any generic-rut. A step-away from the loud, pounding beats found throughout 'Loyalty to Loyalty', *Mine Is Yours* is centred around a more subtle sound. It works, but it maybe just doesn't everyone's meet expectations. **JL**

Book
Peter Hain
Mandela

Mandela is a very simple book. It is a simple tale of Nelson Mandela's life to date; his life as a lawyer, a protester against racial inequality, and a prisoner of the apartheid regime.

Its few chapters provide an insight into Mandela's life, from his younger days in the village of Qunu to life in Johannesburg. Here in the South African capital, "the gun and the knife ruled at night" and police raids were commonplace.

It was the blatant deprivation of the black population that would galvanise a previously non-political Mandela. Author and life-long anti-apartheid activist, Peter Hain, provides an excellent account of Mandela's joining of the African National Congress (ANC) and the beginning of the long road to freedom that would transform Mandela into an international icon.

The book also provides an insight as to how the struggle impacted upon Mandela personally, his long removal from family life due to hiding and eventual imprisonment. In the face of hardship strength prevails, as does this man's courtesy for even his enemies and willingness to build a better South Africa. **CD**



Features

Not the 10 o'clock news

MATHEW MISKIMMIN

British television enjoys a fine tradition of pitch-perfect political satire, ranging from Sir Humphrey Appleby's world-weary manipulation of logic in *Yes, Minister* to Brass Eye's razor-sharp dissection of tabloid media hysteria. In recent years this impressive lineage has sadly collapsed, perhaps with the exception of *The Thick of It*. Modern satire more often than not equates to Frankie Boyle telling tired, mean-spirited gags about Gordon Brown's eyesight, or Russell Howard reminding us all that George Osbourne looks like a schoolboy.

Unthinkably, the US now appears to lead the way, with nothing in the UK to match Jon Stewart's excellent *Daily Show*. Stewart entertains, but has also actively challenged the increasingly hysterical religious right, promoted serious debate and interviewed the likes of Barack Obama and Gordon Brown - probably all in the same amount of time it takes *Mock the Week*'s Andy Parsons to tell a joke.

Channel 4 deserves credit for recognising this sorry state

of affairs, although it will take a generation of innovative and original programming to compensate for *Frankie Boyle's Taramadol Nights*. Their response *10 o'clock Live* made its debut this past fortnight, hosted by media heavyweights Charlie Brooker, David Mitchell, Jimmy Carr and Lauren Laverne. Critics have questioned Laverne's contribution, but without her one suspects the show might have become a weird left-liberal version of *Top Gear*, featuring a trio of opinionated middle-aged men.

The trio each played to their respective strengths. Jimmy Carr delivered a quick-witted summary of the week's news, although if the new Shadow Chancellor wasn't called Ed Balls one wonders where his one-liners might have come from. Mitchell then gave an entertaining monologue on plans to reform regional television, although if the Culture Secretary wasn't called Jeremy Hunt one wonders where his laughs might have come from. Charlie Brooker's contributions could have been lifted straight from *Screewipe*, which of course is no bad thing. He also

looked exasperated throughout, which is how Charlie Brooker should look.

The show featured some interesting guests. Mitchell led a discussion of the 'bonus culture' with bankers and politicians, demonstrating that he has the potential to become an entertaining and incisive interviewer. Later Carr chatted to an intriguing environmentalist with some unorthodox ideas on how to save the world. The final guest was David 'two brains'

Willetts, the minister responsible for higher education, with interviewing duties again given to Mitchell. The conversation itself was a fairly benign affair, the host choosing to raise most of his most combative points regarding tuition fees in a round table discussion after Willetts had left the stage, giving the distinct impression of a missed opportunity.

Bearing in mind the calibre of its hosts, it would be tempting to label *10 o'clock Live* as

a missed opportunity, but this would be a hasty judgement. It may be guilty of trying to combine too many styles (and egos), as almost every segment was cut frustratingly short, but it shows promise as a platform for entertainment to be reconciled with serious discussion of current affairs. This is certainly a welcome challenge to the current dominance of identical panel shows, in which identical comedians make identical jokes about the same easy targets.



10 o'clock Live cast: David Mitchell, Lauren Laverne, Jimmy Carr and Charlie Brooker

Lies, Camera, Action!

EMMA GALLEN

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The movies are guilty of an awful lot of unrealistic expectations women now have about men. Not just the idea that he will save your life, but the more subtle ideas that translate into everyday life about how he will love and care for you no matter what.

Disney is the number one culprit for creating these idealistic little girls. Not all girls will be able to marry a Prince like Kate Middleton, and most don't even expect it. But Disney still has ingrained certain ideals and principles like he will provide you with somewhere to live. *Beauty and the Beast* is particularly appealing to all bookworms who not only expect a castle, but a full library as well. In reality though, if he can make an Ikea bookshelf or put up a shelf then you have a winner.

Dirty Dancing is a double offender. First that he will stand

up to anyone for you. Even your dad. But really, you don't want your boyfriend giving your dad any cheek. *Grease* taught the true message: "the only guy a girl can ever really trust is her daddy." Secondly *Dirty Dancing* seems to think that boys cannot just dance but they will teach the awkward girl how to. Really if he can dance and fails to notice the lack of rhythm then let it remain unnoticed.

Whether or not men and women can just be friends isn't the message I came away with from *When Harry Met Sally*. The real message is that he will love all the idiosyncratic things that you do and will tell you so in a romantic setting. In reality, if he declares his love for you in anyway then that's a step in the right direction.

DC and Marvel were meant to appeal to boys but for girls who also enjoy comics, they built up some high expectations. Aside from the obvious points of him saving your life/

your family/whatever you are passionate about, there's this ridiculous implication that you will love all sides of him equally. Lois Lane loved Superman and Clark Kent. Mary Jane loved Peter Parker and Spider-Man. There is no need to love the idea of him going out at night and not knowing where he is or what he is doing. But upside down kisses are a plus.

Julia Roberts misled ladies into thinking that not only will he go shopping with you but that he'd pay for it. If one or the other happens you are in the minority. The real message is one echoed in many other movies. Take *Goodfellas* - not even a girly movie and it reinforces the idea that if you want shopping money you need to get down on your knees. But it is *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Moulin Rouge* that share the true message of *Pretty Woman*: if you want to find true love, become a prostitute. Perhaps movies aren't the best guide to love after all.

Step into Spring

EMMA GALLEN

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Stepping into its eleventh season is Northern Ireland's leading Fashion event, West Coast Cooler FASHIONWEEK. The launch party was 20 January in the new Lost Society on Botanic Avenue.

The event starts on Wednesday 9 March in Victoria Square, first with a House of Frazer show, followed by other top stores, such as Cruise and Urban Outfitters.

The next night, the runway is moved to the Europa for a night of local designers and boutiques. Una Rooden, Grianne Maher, Zoe Boomer and Lizzie Agnew will all showcase their new collections. One of the highlights will be X Factor Judge, Dannii Minogue's Project D collection making its catwalk debut in Ireland as part of Blush's showcase.

Friday 11 March is high-street night, showing off a wide range of stores (who tend to give student discount). French Con-

nection, Exhibit, Lippy and Hot Diamonds are all taking over the runway as well as Castlecourt stores- Miss Selfridge, New Look, Dorothy Perkins and Designers at Debenhams. Tempest will also be showing some of their leading brands including the Irish store A Wear.

The finale is on Sunday 13 March and there are three events to choose from. Schwarzkopf are having a hair show in the evening, Love Souk - recycled clothes will relocate to the Europa for the day. James Street South restaurant will be hosting the Style Sunday event - a three course luncheon accompanied by trend forecasts and seasonal style tips.

Show Tickets, £12 or £20 for front row seats, are available from the Belfast Welcome Centre on 0289046609 or www.belfastfashionweek.com.

The Style Sunday event is £45 per person. Places can be booked directly through James Street South restaurant on 02890434310.

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Queen's and Jordanstown both eliminated from McKenna Cup as Derry reach final

DAMIEN EDGAR
CONNOR DALY

The Mc Kenna Cup got underway for Queen's Senior team on Wednesday 19 January when they travelled to play Monaghan in their opening game.

Queen's made a perfect start to their campaign, emerging 0-13 to 0-9 winners over a Monaghan side that impressed in the last year's Championship season. Both teams were to finish with 14 men, Monaghan's Francis Caulfield was sent off in the first half and QUB's Joe Ireland received a straight red card towards the end.

Next Queen's were faced

with a real test against Derry. This game ended with a comprehensive victory for the county team, their established stars leading the way in terms of scoring and making light work of a young Queen's team. The final score was 2-15 to 0-6 in Derry's favour.

Derry were leading 1-4 to 0-4 at the break and showed class and composure in pulling away in the second period. Queen's started well, with Niall Mc Kenna grabbing the first score of the half, but they would go on to claim just one more point in this period.

Paddy Bradley scored a for-

tuitous goal shortly afterwards for Derry and the county team and from here went on to dominate the game.

In their final fixture of the competition, Queen's Seniors suffered defeat at the hands of Cavan in what was the first game ever to be played at Cavan's new ground, Kingspan Breffni Park.

Although Queen's laboured to impose themselves on the game, Cavan's superior experience was evident as they finished as 0-12 to 1-4 victors.

Meanwhile, University of Ulster Jordanstown (UUJ) suffered a narrow four point defeat

to County Tyrone on Saturday 29 January, losing 1-18 to 2-11. This was Tyrone's third successive victory in Section A and will now face Cavan in the semi-finals. On the same day Derry became the first team to reach the final of this year's competition after a 2-14 to 0-14 win over county rivals Antrim.

Queen's University and UUJ will now turn their attention to the Sigerson Cup. QUB travel to face Maynooth NUI in their first game of the competition, while UUJ will face Cork IT at a neutral venue due to be confirmed. Both game are scheduled to take place on Thursday 17 February.



Paddy Bradley leads Derry to victory over Queen's

Cricketers miss out on semi-final spot at Indoor Intervarsities

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Queen's University cricketers missed out on a place in the semi-final of the recent Indoor Intervarsities competition held in Galway.

The games were played on wooden floors usually reserved for basketball and team member Chethan Nagarajappa claimed that it was partially as a result of these conditions that the team fell short. The team won two of their matches, but lost three over the course of the competition.

Their first match was against National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG), the hosts of the competition, which Queen's lost. A defeat at the hands of rivals

UUJ followed in their second outing. However, despite these setbacks, the team went on to secure a victory against RCSI of Dublin. QUB Cricket then faced NUIG for a second time, with a place in the semi-finals at stake.

Despite a very close game, it was NUIG who progressed, a marginal victory by 11 runs sending them through. The close result was a demonstration of QUB's improving form, which was compounded by another victory over RCSI in their final fixture.

Queen's Cricket will be taking part in the outdoor intervarsities competition at the end of April and will hope to use what was ultimately been a disappointing experience as motivation to succeed.

Busy semester ahead for Queen's Swimming

The Re-freshers' Bazaar on Wednesday 2 February will be the beginning of a busy semester for Queen's Swimming, Waterpolo and Lifesaving club.

Ahead of this week's Bazaar event in the Students' Union, club Chairman Mark Oliver has made it clear to students that it is never too late to join, saying the club caters for all levels. The club will be taking part in

a swimming gala seven days after the Bazaar. Already this academic year the club has won both the swimming galas which they have entered.

Following the next gala the club have planned two weekends away, one for the upcoming swimming intervarsities in Kilkenny and the other for waterpolo intervarsities also to be held in Dublin.



Swimming, Waterpolo and Lifesaving Club

Strength and conditioning with Mike McGurn at the PEC

CONNOR DALY
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The former Head of Strength and conditioning for the Irish Rugby team, Mike McGurn will be a key speaker at a masterclass to be held at Queen's PEC on Saturday 12 February at 10.00am.

As well as working with the Ireland Rugby team and a number of Rugby clubs, Mr McGurn has in the past acted as Performance Director of both Fermanagh and Armagh County Gaelic football squads respectively and has worked with individual athletes including Irish professional boxer Bernard Dunne.

Queen's students and staff are invited this masterclass free of charge. Places can be booked at Queen's Sport reception.



www.thehubelfast.org

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Home of the Methodist and Church of Ireland Chaplaincies, QUB Belfast

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Then call into the recently refurbished Hub Café on Elmwood Avenue! This week we will be serving *free cappuccinos and lattes* between 12pm and 1pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (1st - 3rd February). With free Wi-Fi, food at prices you can afford, good music and even the odd game on the Wii the only question to be asked is - why wouldn't you be there!?

For questions of greater complexity why not visit the www.butgodwhy.com web-poll and vote for the questions you would most like to ask God. You will have your questions, we have ours... have a look and let us know what you think.

While you're online look up www.thehubelfast.org. On it you'll find out about who we are, along with details of upcoming events. If you are a CS Lewis fan, love the Narnia books or films then you'll especially love our *Imagine There's No Heaven* nights when Michael Ward, author of *The Narnia Code* comes to muse on Narnia, Lewis, life and the cosmos (21st & 22nd Feb 6pm). The only problem about looking us up online is this - we can't serve you a free coffee! So call in sometime - we'd love to meet you.

Letters to the Editor

TheGown.

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'Cab now pay later' scheme will work for students

The 'Cab now pay later' scheme launched by VP Welfare Adam McGibbon and the Students' Union today means that students can temporarily pay for a taxi with their student card until they collect their student card at the Students' Union reception desk within the next day or so. VP McGibbon has described this as one of his biggest manifesto commitments and today's launch is an important one.

'Cab now pay later' can only be a success. For the moment it will run indefinitely but there seems little reason why students should not choose to use the service. Students will no longer journey into Belfast City centre or meet up with friends in the local area at night with the fear of having to walk home alone.

Students are now guaranteed a safe taxi home and do not have to pay for it if they cannot afford to at the time. It is now important that students are made aware of this service, a service that should go a long way to easing the worries of students and parents alike. The more students are aware of 'Cab now pay later' and the more students using the service then higher are the chances that they will avoid any harm when making their way home. It is an excellent project and one that will work to the benefit of all students.

Dear Colleagues,

I along with fellow members of the Northern Committee of The Irish National Teachers Organisation yesterday (Saturday 29th January) attended a demonstration organised by NISA against the removal of EMA and education cuts in general. These students are to be congratulated for making a stand and are an example to us all in leadership roles. For as long as they continue to organise the INTO will be proud to support them and will not be drawn into the spurious remarks made by the QUBSU President on UTV that followed their last demonstration on December 9th. At a time when

education is facing the biggest attack in over a generation students need unity, strength and leadership not division, squabbles and attack from within.

I was astonished that there wasn't one banner, placard or representative from QUBSU on the demonstration. I'm addressing my concerns through the Gown because QUBSU is by far the biggest Students Union representing over 20,000 students.

Is the QUBSU leadership aware of the budget cuts? Are they aware that fees are going to increase to £9000? Are they aware that over 8250 students in FE colleges are going to lose their EMA? Are they aware that hundreds of lecturers are going

A chara,

Sinn Féin's position remains clear, we are opposed to student fees. In fact we are the only party to oppose any increase in student fees in line with inflation in the Assembly.

The introduction of tuition fees was a step which increased debt for students and their families and deterred many from disadvantaged and low income backgrounds from taking up higher education. Sinn Féin feel is totally unacceptable that the ability to pay for higher education has now become the benchmark for accessing educational opportunity.

The recent Brown report, which sought to further increase Student fees, essentially transferred the responsibility for paying for higher education from the government onto student's

graduates and their families which would burden them to a much greater extent.

In some instances the amount of debt gathered by a student, studying an extended course, would amount to a significant part of, for example a young persons mortgage. This is wrong and hardly a way to build a productive and prosperous society.

It is worth remembering however, that the Stuart Review, which was commissioned by the Minister of Employment and Learning's Department recommended that fees should not be increased here and the Vice chancellor of the University of Ulster has stated their should be no increase either. There is also no provision in the budget that would indicate an increase in tuition fees for students of third level education.

Minister Danny Kennedy must take the responsible attitude to this issue. Sinn Féin have called on him to once and for all rule out any increase and we will, as a party, oppose any intentions to see the cap on tuition fees raised. He always states that he believes that DEL is the engine room for economic recovery, well if we dont have the right engine ie educated workforce, how does he see this happening.

Sinn Féin firmly believe the university campus should be a learning place not a market place. We believe that education is a basic right. Education must be based on the ability to learn and not the ability to pay.

Is mise le meas,
Sue Ramsey, MLA



Pressure on Fine Gael's Enda Kenny to debate. Illustrator Brian John Spencer

to lose their jobs not to mention thousands of primary and post primary teachers? If this isn't enough to move the Student Union leaderships into action and mobilise students what is?

I have since visited the QUBSU website to find out what campaigns or demonstrations are being organised to fight the cuts. I learnt about some fashion event and a refreshers bazaar (both worthy causes I'm sure) but nothing about the cuts except a petition to gather names with which to lobby politicians!!!

Yesterday saw a very successful demonstration in Manchester organised by students and supported by the TUC. The

TUC have thrown their weight behind the student's campaign largely because the students have shown a willingness to fight these cuts through their militancy. IF the Student Union leaderships here were to start showing a modicum of leadership instead of walking stuporously with their eyes wide open into the fire perhaps this would be the spark that would ignite the rest of the trade union leadership including the teaching unions into action.

Complacency, ineptitude, torpor and petty squabbling isn't an option anymore. Our education system is being decimated and if the Tories and their enforcers in Stormont have their way educa-

tion will be the privilege of the elite few. The time has come for us to fight these cuts together and the QUBSU leadership has a duty to future generations to lead the way. We look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Mary Cahillane

INTO Northern Committee
and INTO Central Executive
Committee District 1

THIS MONTH... BOMB BLAST IN UNIVERSITY STREET, Thursday 22 January 1976

Four students in the Queen's House at 33 University Street had a narrow escape on Wednesday 7th of January when a ¼ pound bomb exploded with warning, demolishing almost entirely the adjacent premises occupied by the G.P.O. and Waring and Co. Ltd.

The students had been playing cards in their front room when their front room when the windows were shattered by a small bang. Fortunately the glass fell outwards into the street.

Half a minute later the army arrived, decided that the build-

ing was in a 'structurally dangerous' condition and moved the students out.

They were allowed to return to the house later that night after it had been given the all clear and by which time the Housing Executive workers had boarded up the window framers. The

glass was replaced the following morning by the University.

Commenting on the security situation around the University a police spokesman said that the 'entire area is under constant patrol by members of the security forces.'

QUEEN'S

STUDENTS' UNION ENTERTAINMENT



Queen's Students' Union



CARA DILLON

SAT 12TH MARCH
MANDELA HALL

JOSH RITTER

AND THE ROYAL CITY BAND

WED 13TH APRIL
MANDELA HALL




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Saturday 19th February
14+ Show
Speakeasy, Doors 3pm



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WED 16TH FEBRUARY
WED 2ND MARCH
WED 23RD MARCH
WED 6TH APRIL
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FUTURES

Wednesday 23rd Feb
14+ Show
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