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PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: DOMINIC DALY

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NO MORE 'NO DETRIMENT', SAYS **UCD MANAGEMENT, NEWS**

INTERNATIONAL SMURFIT STUDENTS TOLD IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE MANDATORY IN AUGUST. LECTURER HAS PUBLISHED "THIS WAS NEVER THE PLAN".

NATHAN YOUNG

the Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School were never intended to be taught in person, The University Observer has learned.

According to a timetable given to incoming Masters students studying in Smurfit, which was distributed on the 14th of August has been seen by *The University* Observer, the module in question was to be delivered via "on Campus face-to-face delivery by rota [of] 3 hours per week over 5 weeks and tutorials 1 hour over 4 weeks". No listings for "online synchronous (live) delivery" or "additional online asynchronous delivery" existed for the module, despite being an option. All other modules on the students' timetable had listings in one or both of these categories.

A post by a module coordinator on the Brightspace virtual learning environment, dated as the 3rd September seen by The University Observer stated "Due to Covid-19 this module is primarily delivered remotely utilising Collaborate software. In the course page, you will see a lot of online UCDSU Graduate Officer Carla materials. These include videos which you Gummerson said that business students

MODULES advertised as in person by are to watch in advance of each class". The post goes on to state "It has come to my attention that students have been informed that this course was being offered face-toface and not remotely. Given Covid-19, and the health and safety issues surrounding this, this was never the plan from my side... In formal correspondence I noted the course was to be offered remotely and not face-to-face". Pre-recorded lectures for this module were also shown to The University Observer, and as they were recorded using screen recording software the recording date in June is visible.

> It is understood that incoming masters students, including international students, were informed by the school that their physical presence was required, in part or wholly because their modules required physical attendance. UCD provided the documentation necessary for international students to apply for visas, and a letter stating that in-person attendance was

Speaking to The University Observer,

she has worked with complained about "what they feel is fraudulent and false advertising, essentially", adding that "[certain students] seemed to be quite happy with the course content, but it was the lies that they feel they were told [that caused them to complain]".

"Look, we all know what happened during the summer, management came out with very very optimistic numbers for masters students so I do feel the blame is placed with management in this regard", Gummerson added. "If Smurfit didn't come out and tell the students when they knew that the modules... weren't going to be blended in any way shape or form I feel like they should have told the students. Other schools told their students... Although management has come out with the numbers for both undergrad and masters, some schools took that opportunity to say 'No, look, we're going to be online' and told the students, so that they could be prepared for that.

"That lack of common decency that has been shown to international students is a disgrace. I feel very strongly about this, I've

had I don't know how many international students who are very upset like I don't blame them at all, I'm very angry, that they weren't given the opportunity to make that choice to come here or not to come here and this student that got in touch with me had actually expressed that they had had a letter from UCD to say that physical presence in UCD on campus is required. So they came on that sentence alone... I think that was wrong, I think that sentence should never have been sent out unless they knew for certain. Look it comes down to UCD needing international students, to be honest. That's the baseline for me".

The University Observer has requested comment from the Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School as to how students had been informed in-person attendance was mandatory for classes that module coordinators had been preparing for online-only as early as June, with no plans for face-to-face learning. At the time of publishing, no comment had been



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UCD MADE €11 MILLION EXTRA IN FEES COMPARED TO LAST YEAR

DOIREANN DE COURCY MAC DONNELL

ON Friday, November 27th, a statement was released by UCDSU announcing that the University had made €11 million extra in student fees than the year previously.

The €11 million rise in fees comes at a time when close to one-hundred percent of student tuition took place online, with the exception of mandatory labs. It is understood that this rise in income is reflective of students returning to education during the Covid-19 crisis. Students who enrolled in the University were promised that "40-60%" of their undergraduate learning would take place on-campus, and that postgraduates could expect "75-100%" in-person class time, until September 14th, when classes were initially moved online, before being announced that this would continue for the rest of the trimester on October 6th. The promise to hold face-to-face classes was repeatedly protested by Unions throughout the summer.

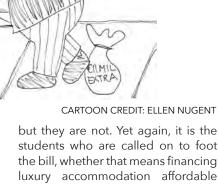
UCDSU President Conor Anderson said; "We are deeply angered by the recent reports of UCD making €11 million more in student fees this year than last. They have made money off students during Covid-19, while the call for reasonable compensation due to the disruption caused by the pandemic has been ignored every time student representatives have raised it".

Many groups of students have to date organized in protest of the fees and conditions they are facing this year. Anderson commented: "We are calling on the University to listen to different student groups and to take our concerns seriously. First the medicine students, the business students and the nursing students who have all organised and presented their needs to UCD".

"Some of the hardest-hit are medical students, who also face yearon-year fee increases. Current fees are €16,290 for Irish students and €55,140 for non-EU students, which represents an increase of €1,000 and €3,000, respectively, since 2017" Anderson said. Graduate Entry Medicine students have threatened to withhold the payment of their fees, demanding better conditions and a lowering of fees: "These students have asked UCD to show where this extra money is going, but no explanation has been provided" Anderson said, "Medical students are telling us that as fees are increasing, so are student numbers, but funding for supports remains static. On top of

that, the available financing for these students caps at €14,000 per year, which no longer covers the cost of fees. Med students simply asked for a halt to these unjustified increases. How are students expected to budget for an extra €1,000 every year until they graduate? When our student doctors are working on the frontlines for little or no pay during a pandemic, the least we can do is freeze the cost of their course. It is putting them under significant undue

It was previously understood that as a result of the pandemic, the University was facing significant financial hurdles. Andersons spoke of his anger that this was not the case: "The unspoken assumption has been that the University is struggling financially, just as so many students are. We can now confidently say that is not the case: we are struggling,



students who are called on to foot the bill, whether that means financing luxury accommodation affordable to only the most well-off or carrying the University through a global pandemic on our backs. This pattern is untenable, and it is incompatible with a society that values a publicly funded and accessible higher education sector.

"It is obviously unfair for us to tighten our belts and eat the cost of these high fees, while the University takes our money to pad their reserves. Many students are unable to get jobs, many have seen our grades fall due to stress and difficulty - we cannot be expected to bail-out UCD by paying higher fees this year. Where's our bail-out? It's our money!"



LOUISE GLÜCK: AMERICAN POET & NOBEL LAUREATE LITERATURE & DRAMA OTWO PAGE 5



OTWO INTERVIEWS: TV PEOPLE MUSIC OTWO PAGE 6

DOIREANN DE COURCY MAC DONNELL

AFTER winning this year's ESB Inter-Colleges Challenge, UCD students Aoife Cunningham, Scott Mulligan, Allannah ENGCOMM 2021.

Coached by Associate Professor Aisling Ní Annaidh, from the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, the Queen's University Belfast and Cork Institute of Technology.

tasked to set out a vision for Ireland's hydrogen economy in skills. Other winners on the day included Waterford Institute of Duffy and Benjamin Fitzpatrick will represent Ireland at the 2030 with a specific focus on transport and moving the country's Technology for Best Technical Solution and last year's overall international engineering and commerce competition, freight sector to net-zero carbon emissions - as the adoption of winners, Technological University Dublin for Best Commercial challenge that each team pitched to the expert panel. I would hydrogen will play a role in Ireland's transition to a clean energy Solution".

team will compete against other universities worldwide at on Thursday 19th November and Friday 20th November, the work undertaken by each of the teams over the two days judges". According to the ESB; "Participants were tested over a well together in different circumstances this year as our event receive placements within ESB.

According to a press release from the ESB:"The teams were full range of engineering, financial, marketing and team working took place online for the first time due to Covid-19.

Marguerite Sayers, ESB's Executive Director, Customer at ENGCOMM 2021." The ESB Inter-Colleges Challenge 2020 was held online Solutions commended participants, saying: "The quality of

"I was hugely impressed by the novel solutions to the like to thank all teams for their participation and wish UCD the best of luck as they represent Ireland on the international stage

Cunningham from Kildare, Mulligan from Dublin, Duffy from ENGCOMM 2021, which will take place virtually next February. as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions. 36 students from nine demonstrates their ability to think critically and creatively about Mayo and Fitzpatrick from Dublin will all be presented with the This is the third ESB Inter-Colleges Challenge win for Assoc Prof colleges across the island of Ireland were required to pitch their the challenges facing Ireland and the energy sector in the prestigious McLoughlin perpetual trophy at a later date - "in line". Ní Annaidh. The UCD team narrowly beat representatives from creative solutions to the question posed to "an expert panel of transition to a low carbon future. Each team worked incredibly with Covid-19 protocols". As part of their win, the team will also

IUA AND IFUT CALL FOR CLARIFICATION SURROUNDING THE SAFETY OF RETURNING TO CAMPUS

REACH REQUIRED STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION, DESPITE FEARS OVER

DOIREANN DE COURCY MAC DONNELL

AS the country prepares to adapt to loosening of Covid-19 possible to improve the student experience at this most difficult General Secretary of IFUT, Joan Donegan, said that "a key issue have to move away from home. maximising the student experience".

following recent discussions with Minister Harris and his beneficial to students if sports and leisure facilities on campus Department which enable universities to plan in a manner that could be made available in a controlled manner." "is best suited to their own context and the requirements of their staff and students...We share the ambition of the Minister activities on-campus where it is possible to do so safely".

restrictions, on Friday, November 27th, the Irish Universities time. Working with staff at a local level, universities are doing is clarity on the two metre versus one metre rule for separation Association (IUA) called for "the safety of staff and students and everything they can to support students and have put in place of students. It is simply not acceptable that some colleges are In a statement released by the IUA, the association incremental increases in on-campus activity and in person reducing separation still further". "welcomed the guiding principles agreed for the sector teaching. Apart from academic settings, it would be particularly

This statement comes just days after the Irish Federation of for a measured and incremental increase in face-to-face University Teachers (IFUT) expressed that a: "Clear national

students alike, citing far greater time required for new teaching subsidiary to clear national requirements and considerations." and study techniques; "Many staff and students have, however had to adapt to this new online reality. Further and additional

"While everyone would prefer a return to on-campus a range of extra supports for student welfare. We are hopeful now proposing a 2 metre distance, others advocate one metre education, to avoid the risk of chaos in efforts to combat that the revised public health guidelines will enable further while yet others define distance on a 'nose-to-nose' basis, Covid, the priority must be to ensure that no staff or student in an individual college is exposed to inferior health and safety protection due to lack of clear minimum requirements at Donegan highlighted that the previous move to online national level. Health and safety in college is not an aspiration, learning required major adaption for university staff and any discretion or flexibility allowed to individual colleges must be

"These issues can only be assessed and addressed through health and safety approach [was] needed for face-to-face pressures from a change in policy mid-stream or a return to a full and open consultation, on an equal and ongoing basis,

teaching in universities" and that an "Ad-hoc approach by a combination of face-to-face and on-line teaching must be among all stakeholders in higher education, to enable a The IUA is the representative body for UCD, DCU, NUIG, individual colleges would 'risk chaos for staff and students alike" identified and acknowledged. These range from issues like sustainable gradual return to on-campus education". NUIM, TCD, UCC and UL. Director General of the IUA, Jim substantial revision of how classes would be delivered to a In a statement released on Sunday, November 23rd, the potential accommodation crisis for many students who will Miley, said: "Our absolute priority is to try to do whatever UCD SCHOOL OF PHYSIOTHERAPY PROMISE THAT GRADUATING CLASS WILL

DOIREANN DE COURCY MAC DONNELL

INSUFFICIENT PLACEMENT SPACES.

A letter was circulated by the UCD BSc Physiotherapy "Physiotherapists play a crucial role on the undertake the required 1000 hours clinical placements radiographers?"

As a class of fifty-four, it was understood by the context, the Covid-19 restrictions have resulted in students that only twenty-nine placement places would an unprecedented disruption to the usual clinical be offered. They called on the UCDSU to help lobby placement provision. Physiotherapy students have "placement sites and relevant higher authorities to been particularly affected due to the reduced capacity ensure we complete our degree in its entirety... As a of our clinical partners to accommodate our students, group of 54 students of this institution, we feel helpless which has been in the main due to social distancing and powerless to affect a change on our own".

and will graduate in a timely manner".

The letter expressed that while nursing, midwifery, radiography and medicine students from UCD have all been granted placements as normal, they had not. The letter explained: "The inability to secure these places is as already a very challenging placement environment recruitment drive by the HSE for The National Health a result of Covid-19 restrictions being used as a blockade for Physiotherapy education providers. UCD and the and Social Care Professions Office "specifically targeted physiotherapists, the personal number of the Practice to our educational requirements. This does not seem to Physiotherapy programme teams have been in regular at 2020/21 physiotherapy graduates". Prof Blake Education Co-ordinator, Dr Sinead McMahon, was apply to other universities or even to other healthcare discussions with the HSE to seek to establish sustainable welcomed the initiative saying: "Providing high-quality included. Prof Blake requested: "Given the personal students in our own university. This is unacceptable. Every clinical education, in addition to securing long-term care to patients is at the cornerstone of Physiotherapy nature of this information, we request that you redact other university in Ireland offering BSc Physiotherapy high-level placement provision for our students, who practice and education. We therefore welcome the these contact details". (The Royal College of Surgeons Ireland, Trinity College contribute to our health system". Dublin and the University of Limerick) have secured the necessary amount of placement hours for every single one of their final year students"

graduating class of 2021 on November 25th, fearing multidisciplinary team in hospital settings and we are that without the required 1000 hours students would extremely unimpressed to be the only cohort of UCD not be entitled to graduate or their physiotherapy healthcare students who have not been facilitated accreditation. Speaking to The University Observer, Prof. with on-site placement, with Medical, Nursing and Catherine Blake, Dean and Head of the School of Public Radiography students all having secured placements Health, Physiotherapy and Sport Science, acknowledged throughout the pandemic. There is a distinct disparity the issues raised and assured students that they would between how we are being treated when compared to facilitate the required number of hours for clinical those who will be our future colleagues. Whose place is placements; "We will ensure all our 2021 graduates will it to say that we are any lesser than nurses, doctors and

> In response, Prof. Blake said: "By way of further requirements on placement sites and also as a result of redeployment of Physiotherapists to Covid-19 related testing and contact tracing.

> "The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated what was

placements in order to be eligible for the upcoming therapists.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: SINÉAD MOHAN

recent recruitment drive for Physiotherapists initiated by the HSE. It has been over a decade since there has Students highlighted the need to complete been specific funding allocated for the recruitment of

As part of the letter from the graduating class of

UCD SCRAPS PROVISIONAL GRADES, CAUSING CHANGES TO GRADE APPEALS

HEATHER REYNOLDS

UCD Management has made the decision to remove the the trimester. As well as this, overall grades can be appealed of the semester. two-week provisional grade window from the grading process, following the release of final grades in February, but this is likely following changes to the semester timeline due to Covid-19. to have to be done immediately following the grades release, This window, where students had two weeks to appeal the rather than students having two weeks to decide whether to and the SU are stressing the importance for students who are provisional grade before the final grade was released, is being appeal a grade and for that appeal to be investigated before struggling or disadvantaged to engage with existing supports replaced by a continuous grade appeals process.

Contrary to previous trimesters, where appeals were made Students have expressed disappointment in this change, at the end of the exam period, UCD has made the decision and how it was communicated, with some believing that to switch to a continuous appeals process, wherein students this was done to make things harder for students who are in accessing supports or communicating with their college can appeal a grade on specific assignments throughout disadvantaged or struggling to be recognised. The typical to reach out to the SU, who can provide both tangible and the semester as they are released, rather than waiting for appeals process was changed without much communication emotional supports throughout the process. the provisional grade to be released following the end of with students to a process that gives them less time at the end

the release of the final grade.

As has been the case throughout the semester, both colleges at the earliest available possibility, and to apply for extenuating circumstances before entering the exam period.

UCDSU also encourages students who are facing difficulties



chaired by UCDSU Welfare Officer Ruáirí Power and UCDSU to just pitch in. C&E Officer Leighton Gray.

'Supporting students on Placement' was held by UCDSU and placements now, saying that it was "outrageous that pay has education". Many students were forbidden from having other Trinity College Dublin Students' Union (TCDSU). Taking place been withdrawn by the government". He highlighted that PBP over Zoom, there were seventy participants. The issue of fair had always campaigned against the notion of university fees infection. pay for healthcare students on placement was discussed, and and now, not only are these students not being paid for working what should be done to force the government to reintroduce on the frontline, but "you're paying for the privilege to do this".

Plunkett echoed the statements of Boyd Barrett by saying Speakers included Richard Boyd Barrett, TD for Dún she was paying for the privilege to prop-up the health service. Laoghaire and member of Solidarity - People Before Profit Plunket felt that the public was not aware of the plight of student peoples' lives in their hands". Bert Flynn expressed her desire understand". Boyd Barrett said "it can be a very frustrating". (PBP), Melissa Plunkett, midwifery student, former SU Welfare nurses and midwives and expressed her 'infuriation' that Officer, and Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly called the placements working, however, pay and conditions mean that no-one can in sending emails, saying "the strength is always in the grass Student Representative on the Executive Council, TCDSU educational. According to Plunkett, the workplaces students are Education Officer Megan O'Connor, and Meadhbh Bert Flynn, in are already "chronically under-staffed, unsafe environments" fourth-year General Nursing student in UCD. The panel was and educational needs cannot be met as students are forced

had been promised to nursing students during the first wave students dropping out of courses as they could not afford argued that it wasn't just the government "not caring for student

ON November 19th, a joint panel discussion titled of the pandemic, will not be available to students on beginning to continue in university; "they are being forced out of their midwives and nurses, but also the patients". jobs while on clinical placements due to the increased risk of

Plunkett emphasised that the system was chronically under- of the evening, by Boyd Barrett. staffed before the Coronavirus pandemic and that Covid-19 only served to highlight this. More is expected of an intern and TCDSU Education Officer O'Connor spoke of the dichotomy yet they are paid less than a Health Care Assistant."It comes Boyd Barrett began by expressing his disgust that pay, which between the national applause for frontline staff and healthcare down to safe staffing levels needed for patients' care", Plunkett

Concluding the discussion, UCDSU asked what would be the most effective way to campaign to have this issue addressed. Plunkett said the reality of what student midwives and nurses Bert Flynn spoke of her personal experience, having face is only conveyed by putting a face to the ordeal. Bert Flynn contracted Covid-19 while on placement in a Covid-19 ward for cited her use of Twitter and emphasised the importance of free. She called for fair pay for internships, which currently earn emailing TDs. O'Connor felt information campaigns are the less money than retail or service jobs, in which students "have" most powerful tool, explaining "People won't care if they don't to stay in Ireland and that she has "really good experiences" place, the Dáil, at times" and commended Bert Flynn's efforts roots". "We need you - don't leave. Let's take this opportunity to transform the health service and society" was the final statement

NEWS

UCDSU CONTINUES FREE SANITARY ITEMS, CONDOMS, AND LUBE SERVICE BY **POST**

HEATHER REYNOLDS

remuneration for nursing students.

UCDSU has continued to provide students with students from getting to campus at all. free sanitary items, condoms, and lube during current restrictions via post. The decision was made to ensure that the union can continue to supply students with by the Union in bulk over the summer months, when students may find the process of calling into the student functions of the Students' Union."

students can freely walk in and request these items as on the service minimally. needed. This process has been rendered impossible

As condoms, lube, and sanitary items are bought essential items it is mandated to provide, free of charge. assurances were given that the campus would be open centre intimidating in a standard year, so it's a positive This service typically runs through the Students' change was made to the order of the items, and the will be an option going forward". Union Office, located in the Old Student Centre, where additional cost of shipping has raised the amount spent

essential staff from accessing work areas, as well as these personal items may impact the number of constraints of public health guidelines, we will seek to current travel limitations which are preventing many students willing to request them, UCDSU Welfare provide these products on campus. In the meantime,

and functioning with up to 70% in-person class time, no development to increase awareness that postal delivery If you are in need of any of the items mentioned in

When asked about how the Union will provide these items going forward, Power replied "Whenever by current Covid-19 restrictions which prevent non- As for whether having less anonymity in requesting a permanent on-site presence is possible within the

Officer Ruairí Power said "Absolutely this is a possibility. it's important that we adapt service delivery to fulfil However, we have sought to accommodate any our mandated responsibilities. Free condom and students who have been in touch with us. Equally, some period product provision is one of the most important

> this article, you can avail of this service by emailing UCDSU, at su@ucdsu.ie, or welfare@ucdsu.ie.

NO MORE 'NO DETRIMENT', SAYS UCD MANAGEMENT

HEATHER REYNOLDS

THE Covid-19 Assessment Guidelines, or No Detriment Policy, as it was referred to during the summer exam period, will not be continuing into the to prepare for remote learning.

due to the last round of end of trimester exams, it came peace of mind. to light in the late summer that this policy was, in fact, a guideline that schools could decide whether or not to advise their staff to adhere to, with some, like the School of Law, choosing to opt-out entirely. Essentially, in contradiction to what the Union and students were told, there was no formal policy, and No Detriment was

In conversation with the University Observer, UCDSU president, Conor Anderson maintains that both the Union and students were oversold this policy and that because of this the impact of the guidelines is hard to current semester. This decision was undertaken as UCD confirm. According to Anderson, UCD Management management believe students to have had ample time claims that with the time given for students to get used to online learning, and with 60% of students seeing their grades increase last semester, the guidelines are Contrary to how the guidelines were presented to no longer necessary. However, the announcement of students, with assurances given that GPAs will not suffer this guideline, as it was presented, gave many students

> Since entering lockdown last spring, students have found themselves working from home, excluding those who have to travel to campus for compulsory labs, or who live close enough to campus to avail of the library study spaces. This was something that was widely acknowledged in how it disadvantaged students who

suddenly found themselves without workspaces, or in was not possible. While the impact of the guideline discounted in how grades, on average, increased in the "Lots of students are still struggling with it."

Anderson does not believe that the rolling back of the quidelines is likely to have a large impact on students, extenuating circumstances and college supports as as, in his words, "We're back to business as usual, but we were kind of already at business as usual", since it more likely they will be to get a favourable outcome was up to individual lectures whether to follow the and to "Engage with existing policies as much as you guidelines, with many deciding against. However, he disagrees with management that students have had ample adjustment time to online learning.

"They weren't given time to prepare for online home environments where extended or focused study learning," stated Anderson, as students were being promised face-to-face hours up until the day before on students in these situations is unknown, many of the semester started, as well as staff being consistently these students expressed a reduction in stress when assured throughout the summer that UCD planned to it was announced, which is a factor that should not be hold in-person lectures and tutorials across all colleges.

> Anderson encourages anyone who finds themselves struggling with remote learning to engage with soon as possible, as the earlier students engage the possibly can". He also encourages students to reach out to the SU with any difficulties that they may be facing, so that they can lend their support.

UCDSU CALLS FOR LEGISLATION ON REVENGE PORN FOLLOWING MASS IMAGE-BASED SEXUAL ABUSE LEAK

HEATHER REYNOLDS

and revenge porn, prompted by the recent discovery campaign for revenge porn legislation. of a server through which over 10,000 sexually explicit images of Irish women and girls were shared without

including the mother of Dara Quigley, who died of to write to Minister Helen McEntee calling for this legislation following their panel discussion on the topic will of as many as possible when communicating with

This letter is to address the specifics of the legislation, as at present Minister McEntee has already stated that she will be bringing forward legislation that will make it illegal to share intimate images without the consent of those involved "regardless of the motivation of the person who passes them on".

Speaking to The University Observer, the UCDSU Welfare Officer Ruairí Power explains the intention of this delay: "It is important that any representations made to the Minister are informed by the content of the discussion first and foremost. We want to use this time to speak to those impacted and follow their guidance on what they need [to be] brought to the Minister. We meet with the activists in order to devise any necessary themselves as minors". amendments to Brendan Howlin's bill."

As it stands, the SU does not have a mandate to support students in calls for such legislation, however, UCDSU Campaigns and Engagement Officer, Leighton

The server holding the images was based on the messaging and media sharing platform Discord and was discovered on November 18th. At that point, the UCDSU joins a multitude of groups and individuals folder in question had been downloaded close to 500 in calling for the introduction of legislation on IBSA, times. It allegedly contained images taken without individuals knowledge in changing rooms, intimate suicide after an inncident of IBSA in 2017. They are images intended for personal use, as well as stolen images from Irish OnlyFans accounts. On Wednesday the 25th it was announced by the Garda Commissioner on December 1st, to ensure that they can represent the Drew Harris that no criminal investigations are currently underway regarding this leak, as no crimes had been disclosed to the Gardaí.

> Since this announcement was made, statements from individuals impacted by this server have circulated online about their experiences attempting to make formal complaints with the Gardaí, who were then told that no complaint can be made without providing a link to the material in question, something which cannot be done as the server has since been deleted from Discord. people.'

When asked about the Gardaí response, Gray responded "The Gardaí response to this abuse is yet another sign of systemic misogyny, and the state once again abdicating its responsibility to protect women from abuse. To say there isn't any evidence is dismissive towards the groups of people giving up to a TB of files will, however, emphasise the need for the Minister to and statements, where victims have identified photos of

> This sentiment is one echoed by many, who maintain that this discovery is emblematic of the nature of sexism in Irish society, with women coming forward with stories of the prevalence of misogyny, sexual abuse, and 'lad

call for legislation on image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) brought forward in council by themself and Power to nonconsensually, and being pressured or blackmailed disappointing, but unfortunately, not surprising. UCDSU fact that, unlike in the UK, IBSA is not a crime in Ireland, with those whose trust and consent was violated." which is one of the theories as to why Irish women were specifically targeted in this server.

> This news also comes alongside a recent press release from Women's Aid Ireland, following a national survey which found that 1 in 5 young women are victims of abuse, and 1 in 2 abused women specifically experienced abuse online including taking, sharing and threatening to share intimate images without their consent, with 51% of young women who experienced abuse being under 18 years of age when it began.

The Chief Executive of Women's Aid, Sarah Benson, said as part of this release "As a society, we cannot continue to stand over a situation where such a significant number of young women, many minors, are deeply harmed and traumatised at the hands of current or former intimate partners. It is not the entry into adulthood that we want or imagine for our young

"We need regulation, we need legislation, we need more in-depth research and extensive education and awareness campaigns - including in schools. Most of all, as a community we need to ensure responsibility lies with the perpetrator and to say loudly and clearly to anyone affected by intimate relationship abuse that yes, it's abuse; it is never okay; it is not your fault, and you will be believed and supported."

When asked about the SU's stance on the leaked images, Gray said "This leak is another stark reminder

UCDSU are to write to Minister Helen McEntee to Gray, has informed the paper that a motion is to be of having intimate photos leaked, having photos taken culture' that still runs rampant in Ireland. It is utterly into taking intimate photos. This is reinforced by the believe the victims of this leak. We stand in solidarity

> If you have been impacted by image based sexual abuse or are struggling, you can contact:

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre: 1800 778 888 Women's Aid 1800 341 900 UCD Student Counselling Service 01 716 3134

COMMENT

THE GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE STRATEGY: OPTICS OVER **OUTCOMES**

KILLIAN CONYNGHAM

KBC

bank

of you

Current Account

Available Funds

Transfer

Details

Killian Conyngham discusses the Irish Government's Climate change approach in light of recent criticisms of the Climate Action Bill.

THE Irish government has not done enough to reductions is far higher than the 7% included in the combat climate change. This should hardly be a ProgrammeforGovernment. The analysis also mentioned controversial statement. The upcoming Climate Action that to be Paris-compliant Ireland would have to achieve Bill is emblematic of the government's fundamental carbon neutrality between 2035 and 2040. In contrast, failure to legislate for a just, effective and timely climate the Climate Action Bill sets out that the state should transition. The bill, included in the Programme for "pursue" neutrality by 2050. And just to clarify, holding to Government, sees a continuation of the business as our Paris Agreement commitments would not be an act usual approach to climate action. The scarce mention of altruistic climate progress on the part of the Irish state. of climate justice and biodiversity loss demonstrates As Professor Anderson explains: "Let's be clear, the a disregard or unwillingness to adopt internationally Paris Agreement is unjust. Holding to 2°C or 1.5°C will agreed-upon best practices for climate action. still see a significant rise in climate-related deaths and suffering across those poorer communities living within

In a statement to the Joint Committee on Climate Action, Dr Andrew Jackson of the UCD Sutherland School of Law described the bill as "very weak when compared to leading climate laws adopted elsewhere". He also mentioned how "to stand a chance of limiting heating to 1.5°C, our emissions need to fall very deeply, very rapidly, starting immediately." It bears

> climate-vulnerable parts of the world". A statement from the Department of the Taoiseach claimed: "The Climate Action Bill will make Ireland a leader when it comes to climate action." In reality, the bill makes Ireland nothing other than complicit in the global catastrophe.

"The important take-

away here is not that

included as part of a

but that they cannot

be solely relied on"

carbon taxes cannot be

broader climate strategy,

The problems of the government's climate change approach go deeper than just this recent bill's failure to set sufficiently ambitious or legally binding targets, however. The fundamental philosophy behind the type of legislation we are seeing from the government flawed. Climate change is a systematic crisis. Resolving it requires a systematic approach and not stop-gap measures. We are yet to see any of the truly transformative policies being called for across the world under banners such as the Green New Deal.

substantial evidence of how inequality, wealth and emissions are related. As our climate efforts get serious, and we are all asked to do our part in the fight for our planet, does it really seem just that those with enough disposable income can simply pay their

that they are regressive, meaning they hit the poorest the hardest. This is almost self-evident, as incremental with legal proceedings. And yet, in spite of this, he notes that the Bill "appears to have been crafted with increases in price are much more likely to be felt by a view to avoiding legal accountability". It would seem those already struggling to pay for essentials such the government is well aware of their failure to rise to as heating and transport. As stressed by an ESRI the challenge of climate change, and this most recent report from 2019 on the effects of raising the tax, it is bill is as much about wiping their hands of the issue as essential that the revenues raised are used on targeted it is about making a difference. As Dr Jackson points redistribution measures to offset this regressive out, however, even this bill cannot prevent the state nature. Although originally not ringfenced, the recent from being sued on the basis of fundamental rights. increases in the Irish carbon tax have been. These revenues have been directed by the government at late - that those fundamental rights infractions redistribution measures such as the fuel allowance haven't already occurred before an Irish government and retrofitting of housing, as well as more general realises a different approach might be in order. green policies such as cycling infrastructure and Electric vehicle grants. It is unclear whether these

measures will result in the overall policy being regressive or progressive as the ESRI study modelled all the revenue being spent on redistribution policies.

The important take-away here is not that carbon taxes cannot be included as part of a broader climate strategy, but that they cannot be solely relied on. The goal of encouraging people to stop driving as much is unlikely to be achieved if public transport options are underfunded or prohibitively expensive. It is not enough to punish emission-heavy behaviour without ensuring there are viable and affordable green alternatives. Carbon taxes may disincentive emissions, but they fail to strike at the heart of the crisis. They fail to address the inherent inequality of emissions, both within Ireland and across the world. They fail to address the fundamental disconnect between large business' focus on short term profits at the expense of all else and a world trying to ensure its continued survival. They fail to recognise that climate change is not just a natural disaster, but a symptom of fundamental flaws in our economic system. And ultimately, they fail to provide any notion of a sustainable future to strive for. In all this, they reflect the government's approach precisely. The Taoiseach is willing to state that climate change is "a defining challenge to Ireland and the world as a whole". And yet, the government is unwilling to legislate accordingly. Rather than the transformative policies that are much needed, all we are seeing is an uninspired approach which tiptoes around disrupting the status quo. Even while that very status quo catapults us towards disaster.

In the most telling part of his analysis of the Climate way to continue living a wasteful, polluting lifestyle? Action Bill, Dr Jackson mentions how there was 97% support from the Citizen's Assembly for an independent More immediately, the issue with such charges is body to hold the state accountable on climate change Let us hope we don't have to wait until it is too

repeating that 1.5°C is not the point at which climate change suddenly becomes bad. Climate change is already affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. 1.5°C is simply the point, as 'The Climate Reality Project' puts it, "where many climate impacts - on balance - go from destructive to catastrophic." Doing our part to avoid crossing this boundary is not just a nice objective, it is a moral imperative. And with the current approach, Ireland won't even come close.

"The problems of the government's climate change approach go deeper than just this recent bill's failure to set sufficiently ambitious or legally binding targets"

In an analysis submitted to the same Committee,
This flawed approach is perhaps best exemplified in Professor Kevin Anderson outlined the emissions Ireland's carbon tax on fuels. A cornerstone of Ireland's reductions Ireland would have to undertake in order environmental policy, the fuel tax was increased to to be compliant with the Paris Agreement. The analysis €33.50 per tonne in Budget 2021. At its basis, this mentions that "As a minimum, Ireland needs to reduce policy is limited as it places money at the centre of its emissions of CO2 by 12% year on year". This rate of the proposed solution, rather than considering the

DO SINN FÉIN DESERVE TO WEAR "THE CROWN"?

BRIANNA WALSH

With Fianna Fáil throwing some shade onto the past of Sinn Féin recently, Brianna Walsh wonders whether Fianna Fáil should pay more attention to their own history

"YOUNG people of Ireland" were addressed squarely credibly tinge perceptions of the murder a different, last week by Fianna Fáil councillor Deirdre Conroy. A more sinister shade. fan of the new series of The Crown released on Netflix, she urged Irish youths to tune into episode two, in If you go back far, or near enough, you begin to lose which the 1979 IRA assassination of Lord Mountbatten track of which came first, the chicken or the egg. One thing was grimly depicted. The planted bombing of the is certain; the events that took place in Mullaghmore, beloved British royal's boat resulted in the death of Co. Sligo 41 years ago stand as a devastating emblem three others, including two adolescent boys. The of IRA cruelty. Nonetheless, the incident occurred in Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for the attack, the height of tension in Northern Ireland, hailing from dubbing the operation as one of the "ways we can bring" a different time and a climate in which these tit-for-tat to the attention of the English people the continuing declarations can become incessant and aimless. All this occupation of our country". Making a second strike in rhetoric does is distract. Warrenpoint later that day which resulted in the murder of 18 British soldiers and one civilian, the terrorist group continued; "The death of Mountbatten and the tributes of their forces."

Twitter, where her frustrations were aired across her the past before bed. keyboard and the youngest of us were beseeched to "try and learn where Sinn Féin comes from instead of Féin set firmly in the knowledge of such history?

Social media swept this discourse into allegations of hypocrisy; a vicious, perpetual circle. The obscenity of as Dan Breen and Martin Corry, both prominent IRA slow murder. A lingering loss. members who each have blood on their hands. Others turned to the fact that the Sinn Féin party as it stands

The enormity of the Troubles is not underestimated,

nor is it forgotten that the conflict only ended around paid to him will be seen in sharp contrast to the apathy the time many of us were born. This may render our of the British Government and the English people to the understanding of the true ferocity of the clash void. deaths of over three hundred British soldiers, and the However, we are not indifferent. We are not ignorant. In deaths of Irish men, women, and children at the hands fact, it could be contended that young people's political will and increased social awareness is borne out of events of injustice. The human cost displayed across the Cllr. Conroy, in recognition of this atrocity and the pages of our history books. The tribulation spelled out outrage it sparked in Ireland at the time, turned to along the creases on our parent's foreheads, stories of

George Santayana noted in the aftermath of the emailing other councillors with your demands". This is Holocaust; "those who do not remember the past are evidently in response to the growing popularity of the condemned to repeat it". The youth of Ireland have left-wing party among Irish millennials, a marked shift in observed the experiences of our ancestors and in their feel most affected and furthest away from Fine Gael I believe that younger and older generations of Ireland political thinking compared to the post-Troubles context support for Sinn Féin, are attempting to learn from them. and Fianna Fáil elitism. In her column she spoke to 47 alike are attempting to emerge. Their vision is clear and of years before. Her accusatory manner sparked debate Perhaps we don't understand the true violence of the year old Jackie Colgan; "Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, they their drive for justice is powerful. They see the past and online, where the "young people of Ireland" stood past, but we see a version of the same monstrosity on have destroyed our country... I have a grown son aged they see the present and they see the same patterns their ground. The question left in their wake? Have we our streets. We see the homeless losing their lives in 30 living with me in the box room. My daughter has of inequality. It is quite easy, especially late at night forgotten our violent past, or is the rise of the "new" Sinn cold, Dublin nights, tents that are homes swept away by a degree in social care and shares a bed in my house scouring Twitter, to get caught up in cyclical disputes litter-clearing vehicles. Meanwhile, private properties with her five-year-old daughter. My other son, who has and cancel culture. But eventually, the wheel must stop across the city lie empty.

We see the impacts of climate change alongside Mountbatten's murder was countered by the force of the ever-growing emphasis on consumption, a planet

Irish Times columnist Kitty Holland went door to door today is distinct from that of the late 1900s; Mary Lou in Clondalkin during the election period earlier this year Whether things will change under a Sinn Féin majority McDonald was only 10 in 1979. Additionally, assertions to examine the working-class suburb, which showed remains untold. What we do know for sure is that the have been made to doubt Mountbatten's character, with strong support for Sinn Féin. It was swiftly revealed that current regime has a dark history too. The legacy of speculation mounting for years around his "perversion" it is not just the "liberal youth" who see these things. the IRA has not slipped our minds either. Much of our for young boys." Claims of paedophilia and abuse could It is those who are on the margins of our society, who precedent stands in the shadows. However, from that,

"Whether things will change under a Sinn Féin majority remains untold. What we do know for sure is that the current regime has a dark history too."

a great job, could never afford a house - even to rent. He turning. We must look to our past while working towards rents a room in a house".

Despite holding no prior interest in politics, 27 year and believe that something new and something better the British side from years prior. The use of children and struggling to breathe as CO2 emissions hit new records old Anthony Rochford, told Holland he started to doubt is brewing. their tragedy to slander Sinn Féin was criticised in the despite Covid-19 lockdowns. We see a health system his ability to ever own a home; "I realised how important face of the Arms Crisis of 1970, where senior Ministers set to crumble amid it all. We see discrimination in direct it was to vote to get change". "We're not all traditional of the leading Fianna Fáil party attempted to smuggle provision, the crippling mental health of our friends and Sinn Féin voters at all" 61 year old Grace Wills explained ammunition to nationalists in the North from Belgium. family, the lack of legislation to protect young women in "but we've had to say to the old guard, they are not fit Further Fianna Fáil figures were brought to the fore, such our country. It may not be as brutal as a bomb, but it is a to govern. People felt by voting Sinn Féin things might change... It wasn't a protest vote. It was a hope vote. Please give us some hope."

our future. In doing so, perhaps it is finally time for a

break away from the administration of the past 20 years

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ALL the way back in April, UCD students experienced something truly rare as UCD Management introduced a policy that actually benefited students! UCD's Covid-19 Assessment Guidelines were introduced, to the joy of many, so that people would not be punished for a drop in quality in their assignments during a worldwide pandemic. The burden that the pandemic, online learning, and working from home were to hold over students had been majorly eased. Students would no longer have to worry about the effect all these things may have had on their mental health. It turned out in the end that this new policy was actually just a set of guidelines, and was "advisory, not mandatory", so plenty of students didn't actually reap the benefits of it through the uncaring nature of some select lecturers. guidelines had actually done nothing at all.

direction for UCD. Maybe now we could believe be the voice of reason in such discussions". This stands that UCD did actually care about giving students an completely at odds with an email he sent to UCD Staff education, and not just bleeding them dry of every on the 18th of March this year where he wrote: "I would penny they could. Even if the guidelines were poorly like to echo the expert advice that COVID-19 presents carried out, it at least left students comfortable that very little personal danger to the great majority of our this situation would be taken into account as lecturers employees and students, and for healthy people of graded everyone's assessments. All students were working age is unlikely to be more severe than a winter rightfully under the impression that while online cold or 'flu'." It seems Deeks has started a new module in learning continued, we would be benefiting from this Revisionist History this trimester. policy. That's why the recent announcement by UCDSU President Conor Anderson that UCD Management had nixed the policy this year was met with shock and anger.

Students Last".

According to UCD, students should have been better prepared this year for a semester online. It's not like UCD kept quiet about the semester being completely online of guidelines was a calculated one from UCD would have "Between 20 and 86%" - all lies so that they from UCD Management. Instead, we've been told by leadership in this country as a whole has been poor. At and blameless groups need to be taught a lesson. could bring people into on-campus accommodation the SU President, almost as if UCD knew there would be a time when even our Government is turning their backs under false pretences. Does UCD Management think absolute outrage at the announcement and didn't want on the youth of this country, there seems to be nobody we're all idiots? Do they realise that people can go back any of that outrage to be shot in their direction. and read the emails they sent out months ago?

"They could not care less about students, and care only about upping their personal profits and the University's reputation."

President Deeks certainly doesn't, as evidenced by The experiences with it amongst students varied, some the email he sent to UCD Staff just last week where he believing they'd benefitted, others believing that the claims that on the 11th of February this year he "pointed out the seriousness of an infectious virus with a case fatality rate (to) the order of 2.5%..." and "suggested In any case, the idea was at least a step in the right that, as a University community, we had an obligation to

Of course, UCD Management doesn't really think we're all idiots. The fact of the matter is that they just don't should we really be surprised? The surprising thing broad No Disadvantage policy stemmed from a fear of over caring for the students they currently have.

This release of information about the abolition



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: DOMINC DALY

willing to stand up and lead a fightback. But I believe

Deeks and his crew of cronies may believe we This pandemic has made it hard for anyone to go out students are idiots, but we're far from it. We need to and protest for their rights. My utmost respect goes direct our outrage straight at UCD management. This out to Debenhams workers who picket the old Dublin care about us. They could not care less about students uncaring group of privileged patricians looking down store of that gluttonous company day and night. But Yes, it's true! This trimester UCD students should and care only about upping their personal profits and upon the lowly plebeian students of UCD and laughing with news of a vaccine that will be made available expect no help from UCD. They are back to their cold, the University's reputation. A University spokesperson as they rake in millions of euro a year in revenue and in the next few months, a wave may be coming. This uncaring, money-grubbing selves once again. And stated that UCD's initial reluctance to implement a do absolutely nothing to improve student life with it. It's country has had enough of being made a fool of by the been written many times before, but once again, cuts establishment parties and the figures within them, and was seeing an ounce of humanity from Management devaluing the degrees that they give out. It's clear from to mental health supports, computers taken away across the same is true of students and UCD management. last year, but this horrible mistreatment of students is in this that what UCD values above all else is its image. campus, the continuation of overly high accommodation UCD would be better off making sure students can't keeping with UCD's years-long policy of "Money First, They care about the ranking some arbitrary index puts rents, ridiculous fees and the outrageous Student Centre get back to campus anytime soon, because as soon as them at so they can bring in more international students, Levy which will continue and only increase in years to we get back to Belfield, the student populace is going come with the building of a new Student Centre thanks to get seriously angry and set up actual protests again. to some large greedy Societies campaigning, and what Not the ineffective, quiet, cold shoulder tactics of the do we actually have to show for it? Nothing! Not an inch past like those used by the previous UCDSU team. We of ground has been given up to Students. And we can need something more, something that can scare these until a week before classes started now is it? Students management. Many students thought up until last only really blame our leadership for this. Misguided at the Opulent Oafs into submitting in some way. It may not got an email from the Registrar just six weeks out from week that these guidelines were still in place, and best of times, UCDSU has done nothing to quell or fight seem that way, but students hold the true power here. classes beginning to say that students should expect "30- why wouldn't they? We've received no email from the back against the wave of hatred that UCD Management. We can and should choose to withhold all payments 70%" of classes to be on campus, and graduate students Registrar letting us know of the change, nor anything sends out at students with every single meeting. Student to the college until things change. These large faceless

LOG OFF; THE CASE AGAINST POSTING

NATHAN YOUNG

With social media taking up more and more of our time and mental energy, *Nathan Young* critiques the popular trend of posting Hot Takes

IT goes almost without saying that politics, like everything else, has been changed utterly by social media. Platforms such as Twitter and Facebook have been used for everything from organising protest movements such as the Arab Springs to sharing racist conspiracy theories with estranged relatives. It would be shortsighted or plain ignorant to proclaim social media has had a wholly negative effect on politics, but it hasn't exactly lived up to the once dreamed of democratising effect of the internet early computer scientists promised,

There is one form of engagement, however, that is both incredibly popular, especially among younger people, and desperately in need of a drastic culling, if not outright abolition. That form of engagement is the Hot Take. Those posts, usually on websites such as Twitter, TikTok, and Tumblr, that consist of a short statement of an opinion. The opinion is always framed as controversial, even or especially when it is popular with the followers of the person stating it, and often framed as a "dunk" on an opposing position. By definition, an attempt at good-faith engagement or nuance is not a Hot Take.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with a bit of media users do it for free. mockery and humour, or statements of opinion, but as it currently stands the purpose of the Hot Take is to prove one's holding of correct opinion, to garner clout from having said something already agreed with by their followers. Serious engagement with good-faith

sole domain of media professionals, of columnists, is impossible. pundits, and talking heads. Between the beginning of radio and television to the invention of social media, unspoken excuse that they are at least getting paid for blanket statements.

"Platforms such as Twitter and Facebook have been used for everything from organising protest movements such as the Arab Springs to sharing racist conspiracy theories with estranged relatives"

their idiotic musings (think of your own example). Social

A common trait of Hot Takes is that they come from a position of woeful ignorance. The end result tends to be that incredibly reactionary opinions are voiced by people thinking that they are oh-so-woke and knowledgeable. criticism, along with nuance does not qualify. People Some examples include the idea that people in their trying to earnestly convince their political opponents of early twenties are too immature to consent to sex with online. Many people posted their unconditional support are what measures success, and that success is used their argument, or understand the criticisms of their own anyone older, that it is racist for a white woman to wear for Phillips, while others stated that while they thought to calculate how often to show a post on other users' argument do not garner the clout that the Hottest Take space-buns, that those convicted of rape should face the NWCI is flawed, Phillips' appointment was a step news feeds. The point of these platforms is to maximise some unspeakably cruel punishment or death, and that towards rectifying this. Some sanctimonious posters engagement so as to sell more advertisements, and white men hold too much social power over women of chose this time as the opportune moment to declare nothing more. Save agreeing to pay a subscription, there Historically, this mode of engagement had been the colour making a truly equal and consensual relationship that the NWCI was always, and will always be, dreadful. is nothing much users can do to change this model.

These 'takes' conclude in prohibitions against having a platform to express one's poorly thought miscegenation and infantilise large numbers of grown out opinions as fact and deflect criticism has been the adults, and endorse medieval understandings of law reserve of a class of "opinion makers" and "thought" and order. All of them are taken from a starting point

To be clear, abusive relationships are all too prevalent in our society, and far too many men feel they are at liberty to treat young women and queer people as either objects or targets. Noble as it may be to try to reduce this, the solution will be not be prohibiting eighteenyear-olds from downloading Grindr and hooking up with older men, nor will it be in any other variation of telling consenting adults that actually their adulthood is not enough for them to make their own decisions. Likewise, racism is not going to be ended or even reduced by puritanical efforts to prevent a warped version of "appropriation" or "fetishisation" from occurring. As for rapists, the abolition of torture and human sacrifice as methods of punishment for crime is an achievement for civilisation, no matter how evil the criminal. Nuanced examinations of the social ills of racism and abuse exist in the media, activism, and academia. People serious about dealing with these issues would do well to focus here instead.

Another issue with the Hot Take is that it can lead to a replacement of real politics. People can easily use having the most correct opinions on all issues as a substitute for having made the most difference. This is not to echo right-wing talking points condemning 'virtue signalling' or 'white knighting'. A post expressing correct opinion without actively engaging in any real solidarity with a victim or cause can be welcome. Critical critical thought around gender or activism. support can also be welcome. Recently the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI) appointed Trans Rights activist Sara Phillips to its Board of Directors, moral failing or even always a bad thing. On social media which was met with a wave of transphobic nonsense platforms 'likes' and 'shares', countable engagements, Potentially true, but not exactly helping the cause of Instead, people should choose between logging off, trans rights which same posters tend to support.

For what it's worth, "men are trash" is woke for "boys" same subjects ad nauseam though ever progressing will be boys" and the latter is deserving of all the same and real ideas. In this, social media may as well be cable feminist critiques as the former. If a woman says it news. leaders". Some of them had the saving grace of being of correctly identifying an issue, applying no reason after being hurt by a man, that's one thing, but when better writers than the average social media poster or understanding of the political and philosophical repeated by men on the internet as a demonstration (Norman Podhoretz is at least literate), and most had the thought existing on the subject, and making stupid of their position of 'one of the good men', it's pathetic. Like other Hot Takes, it's stated to show that one has the

""men are trash" is woke for "boys will be boys" and the latter is deserving of all the same feminist critiques as the former"

None of this is to say that posting Hot Takes is either a or at least trying to read some theory before they post. The alternative is having the same arguments about the

HEAD TO HEAD



collective mental health. We all need this.

WILL YOU TAKE THE FIRST AVAILABLE COVID-19 VACCINE?

MICHAFI TUOHY AND VANSHIKA DHYANI

YES

MICHAEL TUOHY

THE end of the year is fast-approaching and sure it's as dangerous as any cold or flu. pharmaceutical companies and scientists have been working flat-out all through 2020 to develop a safe and effective vaccine for the virus that causes Covid-19. Health officials have said the roll-out of a vaccine is the about where I go, where I eat, keep my distance, wear only thing that can ensure a full return to the normality a mask and wash my hands often, but I still worry about people knew before this pandemic. Although the catching the virus. Not shaking hands was an easy one research is by no means complete, there is a strong sense for me and I hope that habit becomes something you of optimism in the medical and scientific community tell your grandchildren we used to do. Our health care about the prospect of a vaccine in 2021.

US drugmaker Pfizer Inc and German partner people are still dying at an alarming rate. It is up to us to BioNTech SE released final late-stage trial data on help slow the spread of Covid-19 and the regular flu. We November 18th that showed their shot was 95% need to be careful and behave until vaccines are readily effective at stopping Covid-19, the highest efficacy available, but we also need our small businesses to against transmissible infections. While this hesitancy public was inclined towards getting vaccinated. Today, rate so far. The companies are the first to publish final survive. It might be a fine line between staying at home | comes from a shaky hold on science and lack of trust in 77% believe that a vaccine will be approved before it is Phase III efficacy and safety data and plan to apply for an and venturing out, but life does go on. Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) in the United States within days. Interim late-stage trial results for Russia's Sputnik V vaccine were published on November 11th and get a flu shot if you normally do. Be thankful for and showed their shot is 92% effective. On November what we have and think about those less fortunate. Step 16th, US pharmaceutical company Moderna Inc. up when a Covid-19 vaccine becomes available so we released interim data showing that its vaccine worked can find a new normal. We need to get back to our lives. in a large, late-stage clinical trial with a 94.5% efficacy We need our economy to get up and running again, and rate. AstraZeneca said recently its vaccine for the novel small businesses to get going once more. We need to coronavirus, developed by Oxford University, could be see our friends and family again, for the sake of our own around 90% effective without any serious side effects, and Johnson & Johnson says it is on track to deliver data for theirs this year. It is clear that soon multiple Covid-19 vaccines will be ready for distribution. That's the good news; more approved vaccines mean more vaccine doses will be more readily available. The bad news is that vaccines don't stop pandemics - vaccinations do. Now comes the hard work of vaccine distribution, and most importantly, ensuring that people take the vaccine.

Vaccination is one of the top medical discoveries of all time. From the development of the world's very first vaccine for smallpox in the late 1700s to the more recent HPV vaccine for cervical cancer, vaccines have prevented millions of deaths and disabilities worldwide. However, humanity seems to have a short memory. So many crises have happened in just the past 100 years that were solved by important vaccines. I understand hesitation, but a lot of these hesitant members of society are either Anti-Vaxxers spreading misinformation or people that have been misinformed and therefore have a skewed view towards this whole situation.

There are a lot of misinformation campaigns out there that would lead you to believe that the vaccines for the coronavirus will be dangerous. They would have you think that the success rate for vaccinations means if you're in the 5%-10% that aren't immediately sorted by the vaccine, that you're doomed and you'll die from whatever after-effects it may have. They pose questions like "how did this vaccine take such a short time to make when all other vaccines took years or decades?" But teams around the world are building on decades of research, with existing technologies being adapted to target Covid-19. It may seem like they just started doing this at the end of January, but actually, they've been working on it for years. If it's not effective first time round, you'll be able to go get another shot, and hopefully, it'll work that time. It's doubtful the virus will be completely eradicated in the world, but we can control it and make

NO

VANSHIKA DHYANI

When the vaccines are available will you roll up your sleeve and take your medicine? I've tried to be careful

The truth is that it has nothing to do with science and be compromised? everything to do with trust. At the pinnacle of the Antiproviders are getting better at treating people who Vax movement rests a single, big question: Do we trust do catch Covid-19 and the death rates are falling, but Rain and cold weather has arrived, so try and stay safe

> industry and the development of drugs under a conflict registered - skipped Phase 3 trials, casting a shadow on of interest contribute to the ever-growing mistrust in its success rate and side effects. This lack of transparency our system. The European Medicines Agency (EMA), resurfaces my concern about being vaccinated for a The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) disease we don't fully understand. Sputnik V was also and its equivalents in other countries are responsible criticised by America's prime contagious disease expert, for administering public health through evaluation of Dr. Anthony Fauci, who voiced his concerns over Russia's drugs and vaccines before they become available to the hurried production and distribution of the vaccine. public. However, there have been cases, lawsuits and protests where unethical pharmaceutical practices have jeopardized public health, and more than a few times. In is that the developers of BNT162b2 - the brainchild of the past, pharmaceutical companies have manufactured, an American biotech company Pfizer and its German promoted and distributed unapproved drugs to counterpart BioNTech - are seeking an emergency

pain and stiffness due to osteoarthritis. Scientists were the concerning lack of data. concerned about the ill-effects of the drug on the patient's cardiovascular system from an early developmental stage. However, in its new drug application to the FDA, Merck conveniently left out intervention studies based on the possible cardiovascular risk. The drug was a hit in the pharmaceutical industry and was averaging \$2.5bn in its annual sales, while its consumers remained oblivious to the increased risk of heart attack and stroke associated with its long-term and high-dosage use. It wasn't until 2004 after more than eighty million people were prescribed Rofecoxib that the billion-dollar franchise decided to pull the product out of the market. What is to say the same wouldn't be the case for a Coronavirus vaccine?

As the numbers continue to rise, and the availability of ICUs and other healthcare facilities go on shrinking, the importance of a safe and effective vaccine is paramount. I agree that the quicker we have a formula that works, the faster we can manufacture and distribute the vaccine to flatten the curve. Having said that, we must realise that this vaccine is being manufactured under surplus

REBUTTAL NO

I'M not someone who easily buys into conspiracy and socio-political pressure. The stakes are higher than they I'm not sceptical of the science of vaccination. However, have ever been and the whole world is a stage. The I cannot seem to dispel my concerns over the soon to be developers of a successful vaccine will come upon not available Covid-19 vaccine. The vaccine debate has been only a huge sum of money and an incredibly successful around for over two hundred years, what I wonder is why career but also global fame, historical recognition and science hasn't been able to settle this for once and for all? a possible Nobel Prize. In such circumstances is it really

that far from the truth to assume that the vaccine might

Data collected by the Pew Research Center suggests our vaccine developers, our healthcare system, our that only 51% of Americans would definitely or probably government, even after they've failed us over and over get a coronavirus vaccine, while an estimated 49% of the again? Vaccine hesitation refers to anxiety, disinclination adults would definitely or probably not get it. When a or refusal to be (or to have one's children) vaccinated similar survey was conducted back in May, 72% of the the public health system, my anti-vax sentiment stems completely tested for safe and effective use. Nearly 8 in not from a disbelief in the seriousness of the disease 10 Americans are concerned about the vaccine approval and its deleterious effects but from an ill-considered, process being too hasty. Based on this statistical data, it imprudent and impulsive approval of an inadequate is safe to assume that the urgent need for a vaccine may Covid-19 vaccine. Thus, I make my argument not as overpower scientific integrity, and force the public to an anti-vaxxer but as an individual who refuses to accept a substandard treatment that might result in long become a lab-rat for a premature Covid-19 vaccine. term repercussions.

Dishonourable practices in the pharmaceutical Russia's Sputnik V - the first Covid-19 vaccine to be

What adds further to my anxiety about the vaccine the public, by peddling products through doctors. approval of its coronavirus vaccine. Although Phase 3 trials culminated with a 95% success rate, we simply don't For instance, Rofecoxib was circulated by Merck - one have enough data to assume that the treatment is safe, of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world - in addition to being effective. Furthermore, once the in the year 1999. It was marketed as a safer substitute to FDA has approved the vaccine a full-scale production non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication to treat joint and distribution of the will be set into motion, despite

REBUTTAL YES

VANSHIKA DHYANI

I too have been cautious about where I go and where I eat. I have followed the government guidelines for social distancing, and not once have I stepped out of my house without an N95 mask. I sanitize my hands regularly and the surfaces constantly, I don't touch my face and I haven't shaken a hand since March. And still I worry about catching the virus. The fact is that if I get the virus, I might or might not get a bad case of it and even if I do, my chances for recovery would be something I can gamble with. I might have more to lose if I decide to get a vaccine that has not spent enough time in phase 3 human trials and hasn't been evaluated for safe use and long term side effects.

While a Vaccine might be considered the only hope for normality, health experts say that we will be wearing masks and social distancing well into 2022. My rationale is that we wait a little longer and make a global strategic plan to manufacture and distribute the vaccine - our economically and socially vulnerable groups will not be at a disadvantage. This time can be utilized to study the vaccine in adversely affected areas to better understand the vaccine. This will allow them to collect more data and be completely transparent about the safety, efficacy and approval of

The catastrophic events of 2020 caused an economic crisis, a breakdown of our society, and was a major setback for people all around the globe. Be that as it vaccinated any time soon.

MICHAEL TUOHY

new vaccines coming through. All this work that further, and they'd no longer make any money. These would normally take years has been crammed into 10 major companies have already been losing out on months and it's hard to think about how that could be major amounts of cash throughout this pandemic and successful. But at the same time, we have to look at the definitely want the world to go back to how it was so sheer amount of money and hours that have been put everything can stabilise. We all need this to work. into the development of this vaccine. It is completely incomparable to any other vaccine development in the may, compromising our health for a low-grade vaccine | history of science. The eyes of the entire world have just to accelerate a return to normal seems rash and | been set onto this one vaccine, and scientists have misguided. And that is why I will not get in line to be | had years of experience with dealing with viruses like Covid-19 in the past. This is a culmination of those years of experience, coupled with the major scientific breakthroughs that have happened since the SARS

> Alongside this, I agree that it's right to be sceptical of the many large companies that have developed these vaccines. They are all clearly in it for the fame and profit that being the ones to crack the code and bring our world back to normality would bring to them. At the same time though, these companies don't want to be notorious for all the wrong reasons. They aren't going to approve vaccines that don't work or cause major illnesses in people, as if they did they'd be

I completely understand being sceptical of the known as the company that ruined people's lives even

CHRISTMAS FM: STILL BRINGING THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

CAOILFHINN HEGARTY

Caoilfhinn Hegarty speaks to one of the founders of Ireland's only Christmas station to find out their plans for their 2020 broadcast

CHRISTMAS FM returned to Irish airwaves on Saturday

Sponsorship is key for the maintenance of Christmas the 28th of November, kicking off thirty days of festive FM as all proceeds raised go directly to the station's radio on the FM frequency before retiring back to its charity partner of the year. According to Hegarty the status as a digital-stream on the station's website, where idea to "involve a charity element" emerged very early it is Europe's only year-round broadcaster of Christmas in the station's conception, with himself and his fellow music. Walter Hegarty, one of Christmas FM's five co-founders feeling it was "in the spirit of Christmas". Over founders, describes the "Road to Damascus moment" the years Christmas FM has partnered with a range of that led to its conception one August evening more organisations, from those focusing on homelessness, than twelve years ago: "Myself and some friends who such as the Simon Community, to children's charities had been involved in a few temporary license radio like the Make A Wish Foundation. For 2020 the radio stations were sitting around outside a pub in Ranelagh", station will be lending its support to ALONE, a national he recounts, "discussing what our next project would charity which endeavours to provide older people with be, and one of them, Garvan, said 'It's been years since all they need to be able to live in their homes "safely there was a Christmas station in Dublin'".

Once the idea of a Christmas radio station had been isolated, unwell, or suffering from financial difficulties. hit upon, the group's talk turned quickly to the logistical Speaking on their partnership with Christmas FM this side; "many of the temporary licenses [stations] we'd December, Seán Moynihan, the CEO of ALONE, said in done, we'd done at weekends because you can have a statement: "We are incredibly honoured and excited thirty days for a temporary license" Hegarty explains. to be the charity partner for Christmas FM this year. Christmas FM, it was agreed, would have to be Our 'Give the Gift of Home' campaign resonates so "thirty days as a straight run" as opposed to having highly and thoughtfully with what we hope to achieve its broadcast broken up over fifteen weekends, as is through this partnership - raising necessary funds to will certainly be hoping to continue in this vein. They one of the most important things Christmas FM can do common for temporary stations. Since its on-air debut enable older people to stay in their homes for as long may be helped by the fact that, according to Hegarty, this year is "provide a glue for other people, because in 2008, Christmas FM has traditionally broadcasted as they wish". According to figures from ALONE's web "radio is absolutely as popular as it has ever been, there's a lot of other people who are not going to see from the last weekend of November until the 27th of page, in Ireland "29% of older people live on their own". in fact, through the COVID crisis it has become even people this Christmas that would normally be part of December, after St Stephen's Day. Christmas FM "rents The organisation also states that they have received "a more popular". He characterises the radio as being their lives". Elaborating on that he added; "in previous the service of transmitters and sites" annually, and dramatic increase in calls for support in [the] last two "your friend in the corner, it's a comforting voice, it is years Christmas FM, we noted, had become the glue began life as a Dublin-only regional station, but by 2010 years". Hegarty emphasises the impact the pandemic somebody who will talk to you as if it was one to one". was broadcasting to the South East, Cork, Galway, and has had on the situation: "The being trapped in your own Limerick. Kildare was added in 2011, with the North home aspect of COVID becomes all the more intense East and North Midlands joining in 2013, and various the smaller the family you have directly around you". He fortunes in one way, but it has severely curtailed them other counties being added over the years. In order points out that with many older people "their children" in others. "You can't have loads of people in a studio to fund transmission costs, alongside the general day- might have grown up and left the house" and that there the way you did before, it means working remotely, "We believe in it" he says "in the spirit of Christmas. to-day running of the station, Christmas FM relies on are "people who were married or had partners for many and most of the radio stations have done that" Hegarty That's not, to me, the religious aspect, it's the being sponsorship deals, among the ranks of which they can years who are now alone". "The weight of carrying that says. Although what he calls (rather appropriately, together, thinking about peace and goodwill". now count such household favourites as Cadbury and would be quite heavy" he adds. Hegarty feels strongly for a seasonal station) "the advent of technology" has Coca-Cola, alongside Irish stalwarts such as An Post. that this older generation "are people who have done helped in allowing this remote setup; "because that For actual studio space, they are accommodated by the their bit for the country [...] and now when things are has to be paid for, this year we've been forced to use Clayton Hotel in Ballsbridge, where they have "a small getting financially more difficult it would be especially less presenters than we normally would have done". room which we've divided in two to give us a studio cruel to abandon them". and an office space", an arrangement which Hegarty describes as "not a huge space, but absolutely fine for

and securely, for as long as they wish". In particular, ALONE focuses on aiding those older people who are

"the idea to 'involve a charity element' emerged very early in the station's conception, with he and his fellow founders feeling it was 'in the spirit of Christmas'"

As for the actual content of this year's broadcast, "we're not going to avoid the fact of what's going on, To date, Christmas FM has raised over €2 million for because we're bound by it as well, but we'll be looking the various charities it has worked with, and the station to provide relief from it". As far as Hegarty is concerned



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: I AOISE TARRANT

for people sending messages from back and forth across the country, or quite frequently from outside the The Coronavirus pandemic may have boosted radio's country to people in Ireland, and from Ireland to the Irish diaspora". For Hegarty, this sense of connectedness is quintessential to what Christmas means to Irish people.

When President Donald Trump ran his first presidential

campaign in 2016 he deemed the Agreement as

"unfair" and assured his supporters that he would exit if

elected. As promised, the Trump administration formally

applied to withdraw from the Paris Agreement in August

2017. The specifics of The Agreement dictated that

the earliest a country could leave the agreement was

November 4, 2020-a day after the US presidential

election. As the world sat in anticipation, in the chaos of

disease and democracy, Trump quit the agreement. The

news was followed by President-Elect Joe Biden's tweet:

"Today, the Trump Administration officially left the Paris

Climate Agreement. And in exactly 77 days, a Biden

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT

VANSHIKA DHYANI

Under Trump's administration, The United States was the first country to leave The Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Vanshika Dhyani gives insight into what this agreement entails and what it would gain from the USA rejoining.

to the threat of climate change by keeping a global warming. temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 in energy efficiency, along with a 20% cut back on CO2 to 1.5 degrees. emissions.

in New York and was signed by 174 countries. It was sequestration. formally put into action on 4 November 2016, as it was designed so that it could only be initiated once • Finance, technology and capacity-building support: to represent at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gas living to achieve a climate-resilient environment.

to 2100. The participating members have agreed "to technology and renewable energy. achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by

SIGNED on Earth Day 2016, The Paris Agreement is sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the climate action plan to use environment-friendly the second half of this century." Furthermore, the terms measures in order to minimise the increase in global of the Agreement dictate that developing countries temperatures. According to its makers, The Paris receive financial aid from developed ones in order to Agreement aims "to strengthen the global response" level with the rest of the world in its fight against global

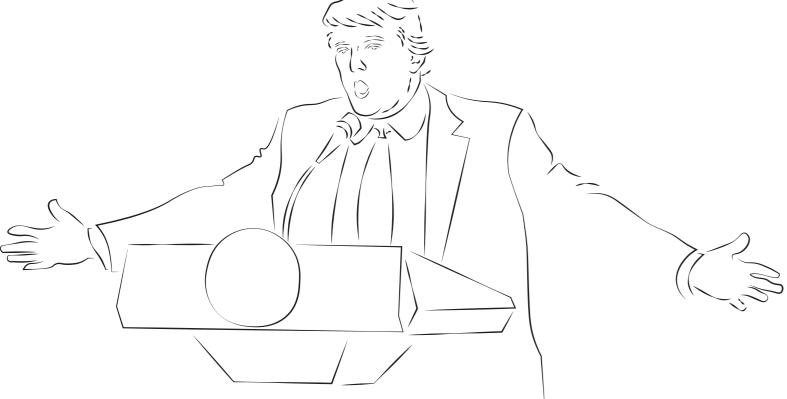
The agreement highlights the following goals:

degrees Celsius." Climate activists have drawn up a plan • Long-Term Temperature Goal: to curb the increase for 20/20/20 targets that will ensure a 20% expansion in global temperature judiciously below 2 degrees the market share of renewable energy, a 20% upsurge Celsius, while working towards restricting the inflation

• Global Peaking And 'Climate Neutrality': to establish Although the Paris Agreement was conceived in 2015 stability between carbon emission and absorption, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference, and to lay the foundation for a system where global the 12-paged agreement went live on 22 April 2016, greenhouse gas emissions are nullified by carbon

it was signed by "at least 55 countries which together finance and promote the use of clean and sustainable

• Climate change education, training, public awareness, On the fulcrum of the Agreement rests the ambition of public participation and public access to information: succeeding at producing "net zero emissions" from 2050 to empower citizens with the working of climate-safe "The specifics of The Agreement dictated that the earliest a country could leave the agreement was November 4, 2020, a day after the US presidential election. As the world sat in anticipation, in the chaos of disease and democracy, Trump quit the agreement".



Administration will rejoin it." The outgoing President defended his stance at the G20 summit commenting that; "the Paris accord was not designed to save the environment. It was designed to kill the American economy." The current administration has been keen on abolishing the country's environment that is responsible for providing the citizens with clean and safe surroundings. Since the beginning of the term, the Trump administration has worked actively to undo various measures for climate protection. For instance, the Clean Power Plan-an initiative by the Obama administration-was dismantled and replaced by an inadequate, poorly regulated scheme with weaker restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, the regulations on restricting blazing methane in public areas and capping methane emissions have been eased.

Climate action will see better days under the Biden administration. Not only did the future President announce that America will be re-joining the Paris Climate Accord but he also pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Biden was one of the first people to advocate climate justice, he introduced the first climate change bill back in 1986. Although the bill flat-lined in the senate that year, he returned in 1987 with the Global Climate Protection Act which was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. He spoke openly about his views on climate change during the Democratic primaries as well as the Presidential debates.

The USA re-entering the Paris Agreement will be a game-changer seeing that it is the world's largest economy. The number of participating members upholding their side of the Agreement will result in global clean energy. Additionally, it will create a new job market for renewable energy. The upsurge in demand for solar and wind energy will be directly proportional to economic growth.

WORKING FOR FREE? THE GENDER PAY-GAP IN IRELAND

AOIFE ROONEY

Irish Equal Pay Day marks the point in the year after which women essentially work for free due to the gender pay-gap. Aoife Rooney investigates the factors that contribute to this pay disparity in Ireland.

In Ireland today there is a 14.4% pay inequality between men and women in the workforce. To represent this, this year's Irish Equal Pay Day took place on November 9th to illustrate that, as a result of the wage gap, women will essentially work for free for the rest of 2020. This date will typically change year on year depending on whether the gender pay gap has widened or tightened. In 2018, November 4th marked European Equal Pay Day, representing a 16% discrepancy in earnings by gender. This day took place seven days later last year on November 11th. In comparison to 2019, women essentially worked two extra days for free in 2020. The pay gap in 2019 was 13.9%, meaning the gap widened half a percent in the past year.

In March, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) released their Women in Work Index, which looks at the female gender gap across thirty-three Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. Their study concluded that in Ireland alone, closing the gender pay-gap would boost female earnings by 8%, or US\$3 billion, and US\$2 trillion across all the OECD countries. This year Ireland saw the biggest drop in the ranking OECD of countries, falling four places. The widening of the gender pay gap was largely responsible for this drop. PwC's internal gender pay gap for employees sits at 4.7% - down from 5.7% in 2019. This is much lower than the national average, which comes in at over three times that of PwC. The company is one of the 'Big Four' Irish firms who are committed to publishing numbers on gender pay disparities in an attempt to highlight and address the problem.

One of the factors contributing to the gender pay gap is connected to workers deciding to start families, as reports find it is women's shoulders that the role of childcare and other domestic work often lands on. One of the barriers to women returning to work after maternity leave is childcare and the significant cost, especially if a household has multiple children to be looked after. In fact, Ireland has one of the highest rates of childcare fees in the OECD. So, unless the work is highly paid, it is often seen as being more financially sensible for one spouse to enter full-time unpaid work in the home. There is an inequality present in this solution, as studies show the majority of mothers will typically choose to stay home, as opposed to a male spouse volunteering to give up work.

The Economist published data which included numbers from Denmark, Sweden, the UK, and the US examining the percentage drop in earnings after the return to work following the birth of a child. While the data did not include Ireland, it did show that after having a baby, men in the U.K suffer a 0% loss of income. Women, on the other hand, earn over 50% less upon their return to work. This could be a result of a more prolonged absence from work and oftentimes women find themselves having to upskill upon their return to the workforce. Companies such as Merrill Lynch and Vodafone offer programmes to accomplish this upskilling process for returning mothers 'while developing Job Readiness'.

"The emergence of remote working as a result of Covid-19 has been beneficial to female employees across the board, with Andrew Brownlee, CEO of SOLAS stating that the ability to work from home has been a 'great leveller'"

study performed by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, results showed that women are the state. The Gender Pay Gap Information Bill of 2019 duties or childcare as a result of this. doing more unpaid work in the home than men. This is intended to amend this aforementioned act in order encompasses duties such as the care of children and to make the publication of a company's 'remuneration On the issue of the gender pay gap, WorkEqual household duties, with women typically completing of their employees by reference to the gender of such founder Sonya Lennon believes that part of the problem twenty hours of housework in a week and men employees for the purpose of showing whether there is that men take up more of the higher-paying, senior completing seven. Despite women performing almost are differences in such remuneration referable to roles, with more women taking up part-time roles. In an three times the household duties that men accomplish, gender'. the number of full-time housewives has steadily fallen in Ireland, with the number of women completing unpaid work in the home on a full-time basis dropping Covid-19 has been beneficial to female employees women is only 45 percent, compared to 61 percent for



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: SINÉAD MOHAN

In a Gender Pay Gap Report published by the Central been a 'great leveller', with the majority of those taking Bank of Ireland in 2019, the difference between a advantage of the flexibility being women. Coming down gender pay gap and unequal pay was described as the tracks in the near future is the amalgamation of such: 'a gender pay gap is not the same as unequal pay. remote working and in-person attendance at the office Paying an individual less than a colleague for the same for most corporate employees. While offices across the job (unequal pay), purely on account of their gender, country are male-dominated in comparison to tertiary is illegal and is outlawed by equality legislation'. The industry work, meaning more men could complete their Employment Equality Act 1998 is currently responsible work in the home, trends have not yet been identified for ensuring there are no occurrences of unequal pay in showing more male involvement in either household

interview with the Irish Times, Lennon gave the figures on how the odds could be stacked against female The emergence of remote working as a result of workers: "the full-time equivalent employment rate for across the board, with Andrew Brownlee, CEO of men. And the working life of women in Ireland lasts, on SOLAS stating that the ability to work from home has average, 34 years - compared with 40 years for men".

IMAGE BASED SEXUAL ABUSE: IRELAND'S DIGITAL PANDEMIC?

BRIANNA WALSH

Brianna Walsh investigates the impact on Irish women and Irish law in response to the recent leak of thousands of intimate images online.

EARLIER this year, young people were being advised the storing and sharing of those images was abusive and underage girls were leaked.

victims of image-based sexual assault.

Linda Hayden of the Victims Alliance described how the voluntary, image-based crime department of the lobby group became aware of thousands of photographs being shared among Irish men across messaging platform Discord on the 17th of November. It began with a file containing 6,000 photographs and quickly escalated into something "bigger than we thought". The group uncovered up to 140,000 photographs, including a folder that they suspected held underage images. The documents were passed on to the Gardaí and now remain in their possession. Hayden assured young women who may be affected to try and remain calm.

The Garda Commissioner Drew Harris has since stated that they have found no images of child abuse, and that gardaí have not received any complaints alleging image-based sexual abuse, coercion or harassment in relation to the Discord server. The Victims Alliance have Rape Crisis Centre."

"even before the leaking, there is a real likelihood that shared over 125,000 times."

leaking, the potential for abuse has heightened."

This summer, the HSE directed those planning on It is difficult to measure the prevalence of image- have considered the fall-out from the beginning, and caught in the business of 'if you can't show a bruise or engaging in "sexting" to check the national youth based sexual abuse in Ireland, as there is little data to avoided showing their face. "It is a variation on 'you black eye, it's not really sexual abuse'... We need to organisation website, SpunOut, in order to find out give a good understanding of it. Blackwell mentions the shouldn't have worn that skirt, had that drink, taken understand what trauma means. We understand war information, and consider "the number of safety issues" common instance where photographs may be shared that photo", says Blackwell, "to be really, really clear, it veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress." involved in the practice. On the site participants were in the context of a break-up. However, in cases such as is a form of sexual activity or communication. If that is "We need to disapprove of anybody engaging in urged to protect themselves while sexting by only the Discord leak, there is the "added complication that consensual it is none of our business in the DRCC. It this behaviour. We need to be open to discussing and sharing images with people they trust, refraining from the abuse is going on without the victim even knowing is the abuse of that consent that makes the behaviour hearing how damaging this is." Hayden reinforced showing their faces, and understanding what may that it is taking place". "People who share will do it wrong." happen if they break up with their partner. Meanwhile, quietly and in encrypted groups because they know there is no specific legislation in place to protect adult it's not something you'd [share publicly]... the secrecy around it has not given victims the opportunity to come out and be scandalised by this behaviour!"

> "If that is consensual it is none of our business in the DRCC. It is the abuse of that consent that makes the behaviour wrong."

since disputed this claim publicly. Speaking before events, perhaps highlighting the prominence of this rapidly take down images through strengthened codes Harris made these claims, Hayden stated "It's worrying problem in Ireland. A petition to criminalise revenge of conduct and obligations on digital providers. for a lot of people. I'm worried myself - but I'm trying porn has amassed over 68,000 signatures, while an not to worry until I have something to worry about. The online "Rally Against Revenge Porn" was organised

to have sex online or over the phone to prevent the behaviour because from what we know, you would have blaming" since the outbreak of these images. This to address the deeper prejudices underlying this issue. possible spread of Covid-19. In November, up to to question how it could have been consensual... now rhetoric tends to occur in cases of non-consensual "There is a certain level at which this is done by young 140,000 intimate and sexual photographs of women for sure, as they are more widely distributed through image sharing, in which the sender of the picture is people who know no better - they literally do not see

> 10 of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person sons. Sit down and have a conversation... think about Act for harassment if there are multiple images of a the impact [of their actions] on the person." victim shared online, Hayden "firmly believes" this exploitation can be attributed to the lack of legislation
>
> The Victims Alliance are developing a 'locker room pointed out the origins of this Bill, a Law Reform take a hard look at how women are treated". Commission Report from four years ago; "A lot of people who had a phone in 2016 don't have the same phone now. The digital world is moving so fast, the Bill account of the world in which we live..."

Blackwell stressed the urgency required to implement Outrage sparked on Twitter in response to these the legislation and ensure social media companies

Hayden welcomed the legislation but argued that it Garda investigation is going to take time, but there are for Saturday 28th November. Figures such as Aileen is "not strong enough in its current form." "There are great supports there in Women's Aid and the Dublin Quigley have also spoken out. Aileen's daughter Dara a number of amendments needed... countries like took her own life in 2017 after a video of her walking Australia and New Zealand have particularly robust laws naked and being detained under the Mental Health on it...[The government] need to talk to victim's groups, Although the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) has Act was captured on CCTV and shared to WhatsApp it needs to be a 360° approach... there needs to be no "special information", CEO Noeline Blackwell noted; by a member of the Gardaí. The footage went on to be consultation with swift action to plug these massive

Hayden emphasised the "huge amount of victim- Both advocates indicated the need for further reform expected to assume responsibility for any recipient's the harm. We all need more education about the actual choice to share it, it being thought that they should harmful impact of sexual abuse of all sorts... we're still

the normality associated with this type of abuse. "You have five hundred guys on a discord server at 4pm on While it is possible to bring a case under section a Wednesday afternoon. Get your brothers, cousins,

specifically criminalising image-based sexual abuse. talk' programme with NUIG, to tackle misogyny in Minister for Justice Helen McEntee intends to bring sporting organisations. Older men will be encouraged provisions before the Government to make the sharing to train their younger peers "in terms of the language of "intimate images" without consent illegal, regardless that they use". The plan is to trial the scheme in a few of the motivation of the perpetrator. These provisions smaller clubs, before consulting the Minister for Sport will be incorporated in the Harassment, Harmful and rolling it out across the country. From there, the Communications and Related Offences Bill, due to be Minister for Education is the next target of the lobby debated in the Dáil in December of 2020. Blackwell group. Hayden concludes; "As a society, we need to

If you, or a friend, are affected by any of the issues hasn't... in reality, we need a new offence which takes discussed, you are encouraged to reach out to the support networks available:

> Women's Aid 1800341900 www.womensaid.ie Dublin Rape Crisis Centre 1800 77 8888 www.drccie Men's Aid 01 554 3811 www.mensaid.ie

ANDREA ANDRES

"This changed world

opportunity to grow

could also be an

and diversify the

way we farm".

2020 will without a doubt be known as a year where many have had to grow and adapt, succumb to new methods of living and change the nature by which we work, live and socialise. We never thought that we'd be able to survive this new normal back in March, however, with 2021 looming we have graciously accepted the challenge and all be it with minor bumps along the way, we have survived. Take from the year what you must, but it

should be seen as a chance to embrace change and with

that, to grow and adapt to a new world.

The discomfort we perceive when new concepts and teachings are brought forward is a normal and now an all too familiar feeling. However, we have seen that new changes can bring about better outcomes and a better way of life, from the reduced time spent commuting, the abundant time spent with loved ones in lockdown, to an alternate and diverse way of farming. We have seen how with the world ultimately coming to a standstill in April as last year. Following this was an improvement in air quality, million for the RDP in Budget 2021. cleaner beaches, and environmental noise reduction. Agricultural work, however, never stopped and nothing can be said about the environment without taking into account the agricultural impacts.

grow and diversify the way we farm. In Ireland, agriculture schemes are being put in place which could generate a accounts for 32% of all greenhouse gas emissions. This stronger impact. Project Ireland 2040, which focuses on With organic farming having firmly grounded a foot is due to the fact that agriculture plays such an important creating stronger rural economies and communities, is in Irish soil, despite low numbers, there is a tremendous role in the Irish economy and the country's lack of looking at building sustainable rural communities, as opportunity to diversify into the sector, with an increase that unexpected change can allow us to grow and diversify heavy industry. Currently, initiatives and environmental they are seen as the engine of economic recovery. This of 34% interest in consumers buying organic and a as a population and a community. This too should be the obligations are being used to combat climate change idea of self-sufficiency goes back to a more traditional 40% drop of emissions in an organic system. At a larger case for sustainable farming. With strides now being taken in the sector and respond to agriculture's role in the view of farming for a community rather than farming for farming scale, more 'out-there' ideas of farming, such as by the government, rural communities are being given situation, from GLAS, CAP, and FoodWise 2025 to the an industry. This project looks to promote and optimise biodynamic and permaculture, may not seem valid or this opportunity. It is now in the hands of the farmer and

and manure management, farmers are now investing This changed world could also be an opportunity to However as important as they are, new and alternative stress and extreme weather.

Nitrates Directives and BPS greening payments. €879 our natural amenities. By investing €1 billion over 10 years reasonable when trying to support a livelihood. Farming the community to be put it into action.

daily carbon emissions were down by 17% on that time million has been put aside for farm supports and €628 this movement will unleash the true potential of the rural like this has made huge strides across Europe, America community, advancing in areas such as organic farming, and in Australia where green pasture movements have permaculture and agroforestry which will not convalesce seen massive changes being taken by a small group of With a 4% drop in emissions related to slurry spreading but thrive and become a normal part of sustainable dairy farmers with a common goal of viable, sustainable agriculture In Ireland. These organic, bio-diverse and low and natural farming. These methods of farming look heavily in low emission slurry spreading equipment which impact farming methods not only work with the soil but to reverse the worst consequences of climate change, will bring about a further and stable reduction in emissions. also create resilience in animals and cropping against biodiversity loss, and polluted waters, while building a stronger community and environment to support future

PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: SINÉAD MOHAN

AGRICULTURE & RURAL

Although change can be daunting, 2020 has taught us

"Born Here, Belong Here" is the new Labour Youth campaign that is making a bid for birthright citizenship to be re-introduced to Ireland. Andrea Andres reaches out to organisers to learn more about this new initiative

THE first sentence of Article Two in the Constitution of Ireland states that: "It is the entitlement and birthright of every person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, to be part of the Irish

But on June 11th 2004, the majority of people in Ireland approved of the 27th Amendment to the constitution through a referendum. This amendment meant that those born in Ireland, unless one of their parents was an Irish citizen or was eligible to be an Irish citizen, would no longer automatically become an Irish citizen themselves. More Precisely, it states that "Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, a person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, who does not have, at the time of the birth of that person, at least one parent who is an Irish citizen or entitled to be an Irish unless provided for by law".

where children who were born in this country and of local Ministers to avoid deportation". have lived their whole lives in this country don't have any pathway to citizenship. They don't even have the option of citizenship. They have lifelong ramifications and the risk of the scenario where they can even face situation where someone who has never even stepped can get citizenship. But someone who was born in this to a country they're almost kind of alien to?" country and has lived their entire life in this country whose parents happened to be immigrants, they don't have the option".

DOIREANN DE COURCY MAC DONNELL

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT: SINÉAD MOHAN

BORN HERE, BELONG HERE; WHY THE CAMPAIGN?

citizen is not entitled to Irish citizenship or nationality, of Ministers Simon Harris and Stephen Donnelly. In a statement by the Labour Youth Chair, Adrian McCarthy said of Eric's case: "Children born here shouldn't have in 2004. Sixteen years later, "we are in this disgraceful situation to rely on high profile campaigns, and the intervention

Donegal with three children, two of whom have special America. Like the idea of terrorism or the derogatory foot in Ireland, but has grandparents that are Irish, they They're obviously Irish. Why are they being deported Amendment."

> Deportation isn't the only consequence of the [Amendment] was introduced; it wasn't a campaign that birth-right citizenship" Kelly-Lyth adds. amendment. As non-citizens, these Irish-born individuals people really knew was going on. A lot of the polls when cannot have an Irish passport and they cannot access they asked if people know a lot about the issue to make

YOUR STUDENTS' UNION - THE ABRIDGED VERSION

"Children born here shouldn't have to rely on high profile campaigns, and the intervention of local Ministers to avoid deportation"

longer to be cherished equally."

The Labour Party campaigned against the amendment

first introduced with all of these just racist arguments it gave the campaign a "sense of purpose and urgency." There are other cases, like a family in Raphoe, being made that were in large part imported from

of 67,000 signatures and caused the intervention all your friends are born in this country? Irish people they never published any green paper on it. They never actually don't want it to be the case anymore."

published any white paper on it. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission asked them to commission a study into whether or not there was an actual problem that existed. They refused to research it. The evidence we do have shows that it's a totally made-up problem. And I think that now people the vast majority of people recognize that."

Now, Labour Youth has taken up the mantle by launching the "Born Here Belong Here" campaign to reintroduce birthright citizenship in Ireland. Kelly-Lyth says that: "The campaign is about advocating for the automatically have no problem accessing that. So, it's reintroduction of citizenship. So, that takes the form this feeling of unfairness." Kelly-Lyth recalls the words of raising awareness among people who may not be Labour Senator Ivana Bacik in her letter to the editor familiar with the issue and trying to convince people the Irish Times: "If the amendment is passed, two who may know about the issue, but think that it shouldn't children born side by side in an Irish hospital are no be reintroduced. And it's about lobbying politicians to try [and get] this legislation to pass."

The plans for the campaign were conceived in May. But when the Black Lives Matter movement occurred there was "an increase in the urgency to launch". The "What you saw in the 2004 referendum when it was movement didn't prompt the start of the campaign, but

"If we want to talk about standing up for one ethnic needs, who are also facing the threat of deportation term "anchor baby". There was actually no evidence minority, one of the number-one best things that we deportation," says Cian Kelly-Lyth, the Labour Youth to China. Kelly-Lyth adds that these cases did "raise of that at all. There's never been a single piece of can do is extending citizenship rights, increasing rights Campaigns Officer. "We're now in sort of a bizarre awareness among people and a lot of people who empirical research to show that terrorism was an actual in terms of, like, ability to stay in the country and be able were familiar with the issue said these children are Irish. problem that existed in Ireland before we had the 27th to live a normal life (...) so many people, including a lot of migrants, were coming forward with their stories of facing injustice in Ireland. One of the best pieces of Kelly-Lyth adds: "I also think that when the 27th small changes that we can make is just to reintroduce

Kelly-Lyth feels that this is a "good time" to launch Kelly-Lyth cites the case of Eric Zhi Ying Mei Xue, a tertiary education in Ireland. But there's also what an informed decision, a tiny number of people replied the campaign. "I think that people have changed their young student from Bray who was born in Ireland to a Kelly-Lyth describes as "the feeling of belonging as because there wasn't really any consultation around the minds about a whole load of social issues now. And this Chinese mother but is not a citizen despite never having well. Can you imagine being a teenager and being in referendum process. The government kept on saying is definitely one of them. I think it's been a sufficient left Ireland at all. He faced the threat of deportation until Ireland your whole life and essentially still not be given that people were coming here, pregnant women were amount of time since we had that referendum for a large campaign by his school garnered the support a pathway to citizenship when all your classmates and coming here just to give birth and exploit the laws, but people to make an assessment and decide that they

NITRATES DEROGATION - IS IT HERE TO STAY?

SHANE DOLPHIN

Shane Dolphin examines recent changes to the legislation surrounding the protection of water quality from pollution by agriculture.

THE EU Nitrates Directive is 29 years old this month and was first adopted in 1991. Its aims are to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources leaching (polluting ground and surface waters) and by promoting the use of good farming practices to improve water quality.

Each EU Member State is required to prepare a Nitrates Action Programmes (NAP) that outlines the management and application of livestock manure and other fertiliser. Ireland's first NAP came into operation in 2006, which gave effect to the Nitrates Directive which was supported by national regulations. Irelands fourth and current NAP was granted in 2017. Each Member State's NAP must include

the land each year

• set periods when land spreading is prohibited due total land area devoted to agriculture. • a set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure.

devoted to agriculture."

farmers. In 2018, 6891 intensively

In 2020 the number of derogation applications fell breached. These violations and bending of the rules to a four-year low. This is a noteworthy drop especially with the rapid expansion of dairy since the abolition An approved derogation (exemption) gives the of EU milk quotas in 2015. The fall in applications to negotiate in Europe. In May 2019, An Taisce stated and livestock not being allowed to walk through opportunity to farm at higher stocking rates (up to comes as farmers availing of the derogation face its belief that Ireland's nitrates derogation is propping 250kg organic N/ha) but are subject to additional tougher conditions following a review of the initiative, conditions designed to protect the environment. The published in 2019. Tighter measures include further Foodwise 2025 strategy in a statement "without drastic

strengthening the protection of watercourses, where the report states "Water quality improvements are required by approximately 50% of rivers, lakes and and non-derogation farms". estuaries that are impacted by pollution". According to Teagasc, recent declines in water quality and increases in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and Ammonia Emissions will make it more difficult to secure future derogations. It is vital that Ireland retains the Nitrates Derogation to allow for sustainable farmers to remain intensive, but also efficient in their nitrogen management to prevent

For intensive farmers not in derogation, many export derogation is an important facility for more intensive
Quite often some of this slurry is not exported to stocked farmers other farms and the potential leaching depletes our farmed under derogation, which is 11% of Ireland's is where chemical fertilizers are purchased but not Applicants must complete a minimum of 20 grass make for retaining the derogation much harder for include the fencing-off of all watercourses, ensuring the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

measures to reduce the pollution caused by the intensification of bovine farming on both derogation

The 2019 Nitrates Derogation Review stated that:

The UCD Students' Union Constitution sat in 1975, a successor to the Student Representative Council. Doireann de Courcy Mac Donnell has created a guick need-to-know guide to your UCDSU Constitution.

The Independent Appeals & Disciplinary Board There is an Independent Appeals & Disciplinary Board (IADB) which acts as the final tribunal appeal within the Union. It is the "final interpreter" of the Constitution and is made up of two former UCDSU sabbatical officers,

solicitor or barrister independent of the Union and

two former members of the Union who have not been

The Members of the Union:

• All persons registered as students with University College Dublin who are pursuing recognised degree or diploma courses of the University at its Dublin

members for at least three years.

• All members of the Union Executive

 All persons who are registered as a student with the University who are pursuing recognised degree or diploma courses of the University who ordinarily do so at its Dublin campuses but who are temporarily studying elsewhere

•The IADB may grant membership of the Union for the current academic year to any person who has previously been registered as a student with the University and a member of the Union, but who has taken from their specific programme of study during the current academic year

The Fundamental Rights of Membership

•Every Union member is entitled to all the rights and freedoms as set out in this Article without distinction

• Every Union member shall have as far as is practicable, the right to equal access to facilities and services of the

• Every Union member shall have the right to freedom of opinion and expression

• Every Union member shall have the right to freedom of peaceful association

• Every Union member or officer shall have the right to appeal decisions of the Union, or any officer or organ of the Union, in such manner as is laid out in this Constitution. The foregoing is without prejudice to the right of any other officer or individual to appeal a matter through similar means.

The University Observer

•As part of the UCDSU Constitution, there should be a newspaper published at least once every four weeks during the ordinary teaching term of the University, and should publish news online consistently throughout the year. Importantly, the newspaper shall be guaranteed full editorial independence.

THE UCDSU COUNCIL

(CEO and chief spokesperson of the Union) Conor Anderson

The Union Executive

Welfare Officer Ruairí Power Education Officer Hannah Bryson

Leighton Gray Graduate Officer Carla Gummerson

Oifigeach na Gaeilge Irish Language Officer

College Officers

Ag, Food & Vet College Officer Lucy Reid

Engineering & Architecture College Officer

The UCDSU President

Sabbatical Officers

Campaigns & Engagements Officer Entertainment Officer Sarah Michalek

Tadgh Ó Maoldhomhnaigh

Law College Officer Míde Nic Fhionnlaoich Arts, Humanities & Social Science College Lauren Maunsell and Sophie O' Leary Business College Officer Liam Coyle

Science College Officer Emily Moore

Health Science College Officer Marta Geszczak

The Class Representatives

The UCD students have elected 146 class reps to represent them for 2020/2021.

The Campaigns Forum The Gender Equality Coordinator The Environmental Coordinator

The Mature Students Coordinator The LGBTQ+ Coordinator The Disability Rights Coordinator The International Students Coordinator

The Students Residences Coordinator The Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator The Mental Health Coordinator

The Entertainments Forum

The Production Officer The Promotions Officer The First Year Promotions Officer The Non-Alcoholic Events Officer The Entertainments Rep Coordinator The RAG Committee Coordinator

The Objectives of the Students' Union:

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors provides advice to the President

and Executive Council on all financial matters,

commercial activities, employment and management

and corporate governance.

• To act as a representative body for its members and other persons registered as students of the University

• To act as the recognised means of communication between the members of the Union and the University

• To promote the welfare of students and to adapt to their evolving needs, to enhance their university

• To promote the practise of democratisation at all levels of higher education through collective and individual participation of the members of the Union

To provide and manage social, recreational and commercial services for the benefit of its members

• To promote discussion and research on all matters of interest to the Union, and particularly on matters pertaining to the education and welfare of the members and other persons registered as students of the University.

• To assist clubs, societies and other student organisations within the University where possible

•To seek to promote the objectives of the Union through developing and maintaining good relations with students and student bodies in other higher education nstitutions, both within Ireland and elsewhere

• To develop and maintain good relations with the University where consistent with the best interests of the members of the Union

 To secure and defend the fundamental rights of its members set out in Article 4 of this Constitution • To promote the Irish language among its members,

and throughout the University

Referendum

Referenda of all members of the Union are used as "the supreme authority" on all matters relating to the governance of the Union and can be held under four categories: Constitutional Referendum, Policy Referendum, Consultative Referendum and Impeachment Referendum

"Over 445,000 hectares are farmed under derogation, which is 11% of Ireland's total land area

• a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to availed of the derogation. Over 445,000 hectares are water quality. Another anomaly that is farmer-caused must also attend an environmental training course.

leaching into watercourses.

accounted for properly as fertilizer by some farmers, so 'on paper' the chemical fertilizer limits are not being up the unsustainable and environmentally damaging

"Careful management of livestock, manures, slurries, and fertiliser application can significantly reduce both point and diffuse sources of these nutrients leaching into water bodies". Derogation farmers must now adopt a farm scale liming programme, all slurry on the holding from the 12th of January 2021 must be spread by LESS (Low Emissions Slurry Spreading). There must be a slurry 'on paper' to remain under the 170kg of N limit. reduction in Crude Protein percentage of concentrate

meal fed to dairy cows of grass, with a maximum of 15% measurements on PastureBase Ireland. All derogation farmers must include clover in seed mixes. In October of this year, additional rules were also published. These all water troughs are 20m away from watercourses, watercourses. All these measures were proposed to improve water quality and to allow for us to retain derogation into the future.

THE GEOPOLITICS AND GROWTH OF RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE

NOEL BARDON

Russian agriculture is continuing to undergo immense changes in structure and productivity that began with the collapse of the Soviet command economy. Noel Bardon

DOMESTIC food sources have taken an increasingly important role in Russia with import substitution and changed export dynamics strengthening the sector since 2014. March 2014 saw the first 'restrictive measures' taken by the Council of the European Union against Russian political and economic interests. This move was the first in response to the Federations' destabilisation efforts in Eastern Ukraine, which would culminate in the annexation of the Crimean peninsula and Russian military support for separatists in the Donbas. The Russian Federation retaliated to the

"One of the main contributing factors in the 2015 reopening of EU dairy intervention was the surplus supply of dairy products in Europe post-sanctions. A 25% cut to farm gate milk prices across the Union resulted from the import ban".

restrictions with import bans in August of that year effective over a range of products and commodities on the countries supportive of the Ukrainian position. These measures continually extended, remaining in

Whilst only an estimated 4.2% of the Union's agrifood exports were affected by the initial embargo, member states on the Eastern flank of the Union were harder hit. The Russian market accounted for 60-70% of the Baltics' agri-food exports in 2013, according to the European Parliament's briefing on the issue, and certain enterprises were significantly affected. Dairy products, fruit, and vegetables were among the foodstuffs most reliant on Russia for export. The Union responded by providing alternative markets to producers and by introducing market support measures for commodities which were now in oversupply. One of the main contributing factors in the 2015 reopening of EU dairy intervention was the surplus supply of dairy products in Europe post-sanctions. A 25% cut to farm gate milk prices across the Union resulted from the import ban.

Russia had been dependent on the EU's agricultural sector for the import of foods approximating €11.8 billion in value. Also included in the embargo were the US, Australia, and other non-member Western European nations. A large supply deficit had to be filled domestically to feed Russian consumers. The import of many products, mainly wheat and meat, were successfully substituted. The Russian Federal State Statistics Service puts the proportion of food consumed by citizens coming from imports as having fallen from 43% in 2013 to 25% in 2017, a claim apparently supported by metrics relating to food exports. The Federation remains a net importer of food.

"The acreage farmed in the country has yet to return to the peaks reached during the Soviet era. The sheer area of land available for expansion is also increasing due to warming in Siberia".

The wheat industry, which accounts for two-thirds of the cereal output, has moved from reliance on outside in the early 2000s. This growth has come from increased currently lying vacant. Some of these areas, however, markets for the commodity, to becoming a net exporter yields, with lower numbers of livestock helping to reduce domestic demand for the grain.

This drop in livestock numbers has been somewhat reversed in recent years, with the sector gaining more importance in the post-EU import era. Poultry and swine have been the industries regaining the most strength, relative to Soviet output. An expansion of pig production has occurred mainly in the East, in response to the pork-hungry consumers of South East Asia. The country has yet to gain access to the Chinese pork market, being blocked after ASF hit Russian producers, but negotiations are ongoing. The swine industry

that has emerged in recent years is one of immense conglomeration, with the top 20 producers controlling 70% of production. This will undoubtedly be an asset to the nation in responding to future biosecurity hazards and in tailoring production to the uniformity demands of modern markets.

The acreage farmed in the country has yet to return to the peaks reached during the Soviet era, however, Russian agriculture still owes many of the opportunities presented solely to the vastness of the nation's geography. The sheer area of land available for expansion is also increasing due to warming in Siberia. Without a significant change in the rate of global temperature change, up to 4 million square kilometres of the far North and East of the country will thaw and expose lands of suitable enough grade to grow cereals. Although, these gains will be offset by increasing moisture deficit pressure in the semi-arid plains to the South. 94 million hectares of productive agricultural lands, either those abandoned or those requiring only minor development, are also estimated to be such as the Tuva Republic, the region that saw the greatest decline in area farmed since Soviet times, have najorly underdeveloped infrastructure and are likely to yield lower than the current land base, meaning the elationship between land area and output may have diminishing returns.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION: INTERVIEW WITH VICE-PRESIDENT ORLA FEELY

JADE NORTON

In conversation with Jade Norton, Vice-President of Research and Innovation Professor Orla Feely discusses her thoughts on Higher Education, the importance of research, and the role she and her team play in UCD.

with a degree in Electronic Engineering from UCD School of Engineering when there were very few high commendation as the Top Graduate Thesis, winning the DJ Sakrison Memorial Prize. When asked about life as a scientist in the 80's she muses that life was significantly different from the present day, as teaching has changed and the breadth of knowledge

Additionally, up until the last few decades, there were very few funding opportunities available in Ireland and many people who wanted to pursue advanced research had to go overseas. Nowadays there is much greater global research and collaboration that allows researchers to have the flexibility to work in their home country or move to others of their choosing, which she describes as a "sea-change in our capability". Also, Prof Feely welcomes the fact that students get the opportunity to experience studying abroad much more readily: "It's brilliant how many of our students get to experience that "broadens your horizons in so many and therefore into successful research programmes".

She particularly praises the passion of researchers in in research income from external competitive research UCD who try to empower their students in new ways in grants and over the last three years over €120 million their lectures and use the love they have for their subject euro has been brought in annually to support research to influence their teaching. She strongly believes that in UCD. Her team "has oversight over all the research "the key to teaching is to know that the knowledge you and innovation activities including commercialisation are imparting is not just about your work but about the and spin-out companies" and describes the breadth of achievements of future generations"

This knowledge comes from personal experiences as, after her PhD, she returned to lecture in UCD for several years before achieving a professorship. Through this in advancing its research expertise whilst working she became more interested in research policy and before her appointment as Vice-President, she worked in UCD has developed the university's wide portfolio to become appointed chair of the Irish Research and this is reflected in its teaching. The blend allows for Council, a board which aims to enable and sustain the informed research that helps lecturers stay in the loop research community in Ireland and has "system level of all the latest developments and this gives students oversight and support for research internationally and more confidence in the information that they are being in universities in Ireland such as UCD".

The Research and Innovation team in UCD, led by Prof Feely, supports researchers in a number of ways and she encourages anyone who is curious or with research and research collaboration both globally

PROFESSOR Orla Feely is the current Vice President https://www.ucd.ie/research/portal/. The main focus of Research and Innovation in UCD. In conversation of The UCD Research and Innovation Services is to with The University Observer, we talked about her accommodate researchers when they have an idea experiences coordinating research and development in for research. They can introduce them to prospective UCD as well as her thoughts on teaching and research partners and give information on potential funders. Once this has been identified they then give advice on creating the most competitive application to give Prof Feely started her career in the 1980s, graduating the researchers the best possible chance of being successful in their endeavour. The application is then submitted through the Research and Innovation Office women that studied engineering, which she deems as and they coordinate the grants if successful. There "an experience". After graduating, she moved onto UC are also facilities available that provide resources Berkeley where she completed her PhD and achieved for upskilling such as research impact training. Prof Feely reveals that this process helps them "turning

> "The key to teaching is to know that the knowledge you are imparting is not just about your work but about the achievements of future generations"

spend time abroad and in other universities" as it is an [researchers] ideas into successful grant applications

Last year UCD researchers brought in €122 million research as "mindblowing".

Her current position as Vice President is one of her proudest achievements as she gets to oversee UCD with "extraordinary people". The research undergone given. She expresses that the partnership seen in research helps to "empower students in new ways"

COVID-19 has also increased the challenges of a research idea to visit their online research portal and at home. She welcomed the response of the UCD



own staff who helped run testing labs. There have also in the NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competition. been new projects ideas, as researchers looked at how their research could help the national effort such as Wim Meijer research monitoring sewage to look for the sars-cov2- virus, to 3D printing of PPE, and looking at the hands. Even despite some long days over lockdown societal and economic impact of COVID-19.

talking to your professors, is very helpful to give you advancing humankind". a broader view of your subject of interests whilst also building your network. She did, however, stress that having an extensive network as a student is definitely not necessary as "you're only building your career . and the more you build, the more doors that can open". In particular, she expressed enthusiasm for students

community to COVID-19 saying it was "really indicative" who get involved in innovation mentioning, a recent of the type of community that we have", as researchers innovation spin-out from the School of Engineering. from all schools offered their help, particularly from the This project, Joyst, was a development of a music biomedical domain as they sent PPE equipment down controller, thought of by students during their final year to frontline medical staff and even sent some of their project in UCD and was furthered by their involvement

Prof Feely speaks frankly about her passion for her job coordinating research she still holds the importance of a work/life balance as key to her day-to-day work. When asked about her advice to students currently She references the importance of her team and how studying in UCD she encourages students looking having an amazing team to work with makes any to make a difference in more administrative levels of profession more enjoyable. With science and research science is to get involved during college. Becoming becoming more relevant every day, she firmly believes involved in activities, such as attending conferences and that in higher education: "research is the foundation for

IRELAND'S LOSING BATTLE TO BE CLIMATE NEUTRAL

JADE NORTON

Jade Norton examines Ireland's latest Climate Bill and discusses some of the causes of carbon emissions and ways to offset them

all by 2050. It contains systems that if enacted properly will bring carbon emissions to an all-time low within 5 Climate Bill is 'weak' and not urgent enough to achieve nations contribute. its goals. In the bill, there are no legal obligations which require the Government to ensure that carbon budgets adopted carbon budgets" Jackson states. The climate with other EU states. Currently, Ireland is one of the to be aiming to change that.

"Currently Ireland is one of the lowest in the EU for meeting its 2020 climate and renewable energy targets and this bill does not seem to be aiming to change that"

As of 2019, Ireland had the highest per-capita emissions of any member state due to its failure to decarbonise sectors such as dairy farming and road transport. It has also been required to pay for the states' excess carbon emissions which amounted to €150 million in 2019 at a rate of 100 euro per excess tonne. Ireland's emission reductions are all done under the EU Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) which aims to relates to an 11-20% reduction per country during

IRELAND'S Climate Bill aims to cut emissions and Climate Action Bill aims to perform under the objective deliver a climate-resilient and climate neutral economy specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the parent of the 2015 Paris Agreement whose aim is to cap the global average years. But, in response, an expert environmental and temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial planning lawyer in the UCD Sutherland School of Law, levels. All these objectives are set to culminate in the Dr Andrew Jackson, has delivered a verdict that the achievement of a climate-neutral EU by 2050 if all

Activities that are climate neutral do not put a and targets are met, or "there is equally no obligation" strain on the climate, they do not create greenhouse to ensure that climate action plans are consistent with gases. As many industrialised processes have high emission levels, these are often offset by individuals plans need greater action and understanding in line and organisations by supporting international climate protection projects. Offsetting is a term for measures lowest in the EU for meeting its 2020 climate and that can be bought to compensate for emissions that renewable energy targets and this bill does not seem are unavoidable. For individuals in applicable European countries, this involves purchasing certified emission reductions (CERs) which give money directly to gas mitigation projects in developing countries allowing the individual to claim their environmental benefit to offset their own. These projects reduce emissions with a variety of methods including replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy, reducing energy consumption, and capturing already released carbon. This scheme is not currently available in Ireland but there are organisations that you can donate to that will plant trees on your behalf as a measure of carbon offsetting.

> The offsetting of carbon emissions has come under certain criticism as some believe that the system can encourage a mindset of buying-away your environmental responsibilities and offsetting to validate your behaviour. Producing excess greenhouse gases will always be detrimental to the climate and rather than fixing the hole after it has been created, it can be more beneficial to prevent its initial formation that may have other detrimental side effects that high emission activity

Greenhouse gases include Carbon Dioxide (80%), which is commonly formed from the burning of fossil fuels, solid waste, trees, and other biological materials.

Methane (10%), which is released during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil as deliver a 10% reduction in total EU emissions, which well as from livestock and other agricultural processes. Nitrous oxide (7%) from the combustion of fossil fuels 2013-2020 and ~30% from 2021-2030. The 2020 and solid waste and during the treatment of wastewater.

"As of 2019, Ireland had the highest percapita emissions of any EU member state due to its failure to decarbonise sectors such as dairy farming and road transport."

Fluorinated gases (3%), which are synthetic gases from industrial processes such as refrigeration and semiconductor manufacturing which is essential for

These gases can stay in the atmosphere for anything ranging from a few years to up to thousands of years. As they remain in the atmosphere these gases become mixed, meaning that their measurements in the atmosphere are consistent around the world, regardless of the source of the emissions. These gases affect the climate by absorbing energy that would otherwise be released into space, in the same way that a blanket keeps warmth in at night. But, depending on the thickness of the blanket the level of warmth will change and this is the same concept as the atmosphere that is around the Earth. The global warming potential of gases vary depending on how long they stay in the atmosphere and their potential to absorb energy, for instance, fluorinated gases in the atmosphere can have global warming potentials over 10,000 times that of

The results of the Environmental Protection Agency to the changing climate and hopefully prevent more 2020 Emissions Report show that Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 4.5% during 2019. This is the



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: SINÉAD MOHAN

largest reduction in emissions since 2001, however, this igure will still exceed Ireland's annual emissions target by 6.98 Megatonnes which is equivalent to 1500 wind turbines running for a year. The EPA does not believe that Ireland will reach its 2020 targets either, despite the impact of Covid-19, as the main contributors of high emissions have not been largely affected.

Agriculture, Energy Industries and Transport make up 70% of all Ireland's emissions and these are industries that often require the push of legal obligations for change to occur. According to the EPA, current plans will expect to show a significant reduction in the energy industry by 2030 due to the movement towards renewable energy. The transport industry is set to reduce emissions by 38% if the aims of the climate action plan are enacted which would lead to almost 1 million electric vehicles in circulation by 2030.

The current Climate Bill may not specify how it will reduce emissions, but it does aim to complete the aims of Article 2 and honour the Paris Agreement. Despite a weak start, there is still room for amendments as the bill requires annual climate action plans that will adjust

DEMRES - AN INSPIRED ENERGY APP.

DOIREANN DE COURCY MAC DONNELL

Representing Ireland in the Red Bull Basement Global Final in December, UCD Engineering Graduates Ben Ralph and Tadgh Crowley spoke to Doireann de Courcy Mac Donnell about their app, ambitions and Red Bull Basement final.

DEMRES, an amalgamation of the words Demand-Response, is an app thought-up by UCD Mechanical Engineering graduates Ben Ralph and Tadgh Crowley. Yielding from Bray, Co. Wicklow and Clonakilty, Co. Cork respectively, the pair have been selected to represent Ireland in the Red Bull Basement Global Final.

The app is designed to give power back to the consumer by allowing the user to switch on smart devices and appliances connected to smart plugs when there is peak renewable electricity on the grid, and prices are cheaper. This not only allows the consumer to access the cheapest rate of electricity for tasks such as using a dishwasher or charging a laptop but also to deliberately use renewable energy; "For years generators all over Ireland [have been] generating electricity and [these] generators have to put out a power-output that matches the demand constantly. If we don't match the demand crazy stuff happens.. It would cause a massive blackout" Crowley explains. "The demand controls how much power these power plants were generating. DemRes gives control back to the individuals, back to us. We get to choose when we put on our electricity and we get to help balance out the load, instead of it always being given to the power generator side... What DemRes tackles is [that] we look at when there is going to be peak renewable [energy] on the grid and we have an app that connects with your devices in the house. We'll be able to tap into your devices at home, your smart plugs, your dishwashers, anything that's smart, and turn them on when there is this peak renewable generation and when electricity is

generation will be based on renewables like wind and will power to be most advantageous to you, both solar" Ralph continues. "You don't have any control over those. They can be intermittent, the wind doesn't always blow, the sun isn't always there. Also, there's no massive storage available yet to take in energy whenever it's abundant and to return it back to the grid whenever renewables aren't there. If you have a device or an app However, there are some trials for varied rates taking like DemRes that will automatically turn on devices during the day whenever the demand is there, you an unrealistic aim to work with. "Basically, if you pay override the need for any storage. It's a very important a certain amount of money per kilowatt of electricity, thing, otherwise, there's no use for renewables because there are some places in Dublin and maybe in the other you don't use them".

over-generating" Crowley concurs. "There's a HVDC "DemRe's would come into it then because the prices, cable that goes from Ireland to the UK and there's like the stock exchange, would be constantly changing electricity being constantly moved across that, from the for electricity and you would want to be able to see UK to here and from here to the UK. There are plans when it's at its lowest and when its at its highest and do to do one between France and Ireland as well now to basic things like charge your laptop, turn on your space combat Brexit... Other than that, when renewables [are] being over-generated the energy is just kind of wasted. Whereas with DemRes you can monitor it". Crowley think about DemRes [they think] there's a standard rate spoke about the potential their app could have when of electricity. But [the] smart meters coming around linked with new technologies which are beginning to the country - that's what we need... we will build on appear; "there is new technology being brought into top of Smart Meters. You need that real-time data and homes. You have Tesla power banks and other variations electricity" Ralph added. Simply put by Crowley, "we're that are these kinds of wall batteries that you store in taking the real-time data and trying to optimize it". your house... Say renewables are at peak generation, and electricity is super cheap, why not just charge your electric car then to save you money. The same with that could arise. "There's something blocked when When the electricity is cheap, why don't we just charge to focus the electricity onto all these things when the devices it doesn't work on properly yet". "Another good renewable generation is at its highest".

doesn't matter when you turn them on during the idea [like] your dishwasher" Ralph continues. "You the codes that allows our interface to work with their could pack that in the morning and then you basically interface. It's something we have to look into yet. Smart say to the app 'I want this to go on at some point plugs at the moment are fairly customizable, you can during the day' so that whenever it sees renewables work with them easily enough with app software, it's it will turn on. If renewables don't get to a sufficient those devices we're not sure about at the moment". level, it will turn on anyway, when ... the electricity is Both then launched into a funny anecdote about

"What DemRes tackles is [that] we look at when there is going to be peak renewable [energy] on the grid and we have an app that connects with your devices in the house. We'll be able to tap into your devices at home, your smart plugs, your dishwashers, anything that's smart, and turn them on when there is this peak renewable generation and when electricity is cheapest".

"Basically - we're going into the future now - our cheapest... No matter what, it will turn on and it economically and environmentally".

Crowley and Ralph recognised that the app is a project for the future. Electricity rates in Ireland are static, and a basic rate is prescribed to consumers. place at the moment, and so the pair don't feel it is major cities as well where you can have a rate that changes to three different rates per day, like a night rate, "You have to export them a lot of the time. We're and they're trailing real-time pricing" Crowley explains. heaters, all that stuff at home.. when it's at its lowest value". "Generally, whenever people who own houses

However, the pair were not oblivious to other hurdles that when you have these power banks at your house. it comes to your oven" Ralph explains, "you can't override the settings you have to put into it. You can't then. That's what DemRes is focussing on - being able turn the dial to 180 through an app. There are certain example of that is, let's say, we have a Toshiba Smart washing machine" Crowley adds. "To be able to have "It's for appliances that are kind of flexible, that it contact with that you would have to have some sort of

keep in mind" Crowley laughed.

"At the moment though, DemRes is a concept and a developer" Ralph explained.

The Red Bull Basement Global Final has launched the DemRes app from an idea to something palpable. "It is a atform for student innovators to collaborate on things easily, and their enthusiasm and excitement was gether" Ralph explained. "Red Bull put us in touch with NTT [to] help us with any programming. There is also Huawei and HONOR, other Tech brands, so they're studying a Masters of Science in Sustainable Energy elping us develop the app. So generally you have your — Technology at TU Delft in the Netherlands. I asked them own mentors. At the Global Finale in December there 'What's the dream'; "I want to work on it together first, are experts and tech leaders who will give keynote develop and see how far we can get with it. I really want speeches, so that will be cool. And generally, we just get to develop it as much as we can first" Ralph responded. o network with people from around the world". "And "Same, I'm really excited", Crowley said. "Out of all the get DemRes on a global stage" Crowley added. "You misery that is college at the moment it's the only fun never get an opportunity like this where you get an idea 👚 thing that's actually happening. Me and Ben met on the that comes from the James Joyce Library and a [shared] first day of college, we were in the same Peer Mentor and] visionaries DemRes and we get to show them in about making an impact. We selected this stream (I still the best way possible through presentation. You just have a bit of fossil fuels, Ben's completely green) that don't know where it could go after that, once the idea is we're doing to make an impact. We grew up with 'An put out there. It will just be a fantastic opportunity, even Inconvenient Truth' and the Paris Climate Agreement to represent Ireland. It's crazy... Even just to be selected and Extinction Rebellion. All these things have had a is a massive honour and the potential of our idea seen... massive impact on us and we want to be able to make a

we could gamify it" Ralph says. "You would compete with that". against friends and family to reduce your carbon



(ILLUSTRATED ABOVE) TADGH CROWLEY .BEN RALPH. ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: LAOISE TARRANT

the Tesco air conditioning system being hacked and footprint as much as you can. Then we would have money subsequently stolen from the Clubcard scheme local businesses on the side, like a noodle bar, and through their air conditioning!" Ralph exclaimed. "So they would give discounts if you get to a certain level" there are things like that we have to look out for and $\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,$ of carbon [reduction]. So by putting a social spin on it, it incentivises people, students, to get more involved".

"I think it would be a social movement as well" Ralph we're working on it for the RedBull Global Final. We're continues. "You see people out on the streets and both flat out at the minute [with college]... We're just they're happy to go out and protest against climate rying to brainstorm. The idea is there and we see it to change and Trump but apart from striking there's not e a fairly good one" Crowley says. "I'm prototyping the much tangible difference you can make. But, if you app at the moment, wire-framing it. We have an AWS have this you can actually change when energy is being cloud product architecture that we're hoping to use if used and save megatons of CO2 every year". "Yeah we do develop it in the end. We have everything in the like everyone's accumulative efforts, we could save background ready to be programmed, it just has to go megatons" Crowley seconds. "Through the app, you will be able to monitor your progress so you would be able to see the difference you've made"

The conversation with Crowley and Ralph flowed infectious. Crowley is now pursuing a Masters of leDoc shown on a global stage. We get to show $\,\,$ group and we became buddles... The reason we did difference and leave a planet at the end of the day that our kids and kids' kids can live on. I suppose it's clichéd As part of the competition, the app should have a but there's a drive there to make a difference, and we student-centric aim intertwined; "We're hoping that believe that DemRes is somewhere where we could go

SFI FRONTIERS FOR THE FUTURE: THE UCD RESEARCHERS PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

AELA O'FLYNN

Aela O'Flynn takes a closer look at the UCD researchers awarded funding under the 2020 SFI Frontiers for the Future programme

LAST year, the Science Foundation of Ireland (SFI launched a new research programme for independen researchers to fund progressive and unconventiona research in Ireland. In November, SFI announced the details of its 2020 'Frontiers for the Future' grants, which have a cumulative value of €53 million and will fund 231 research positions over 71 projects. The scheme is composed of two branches. The project branch will fund "high-risk, high reward" projects to facilitate pioneering propositions, while the award branch will fund innovative and collaborative research with the capacity to significantly impact on society or economy.

An interesting change to the application process of this year was the introduction of a gender strategy. The SFI is aware of gender disparity in their applications and awards. They receive more applications from male than female applicants and, on average, female applicants ask for and receive smaller awards than their male counterparts. To address this, SFI actively encouraged female researchers to apply to this scheme, and when deciding which applications would be successful, priority was given to a female candidate over a male if two applications received the same final score. 45% of the 2020 Frontiers for the Future grants were awarded to projects led by female researchers, an improvement on the gender balance of the previous year.

In particular, nine researchers from the award branch and six researchers from the project branch were headed by UCD researchers, which culminated in a total of €10.2 million in funding. These research projects span across an incredibly wide breadth of topics, from

"9 of the selected awards and 6 of the selected projects are headed by UCD researchers, to a total value of €10.2 million"

medicine and health to nanotechnology in space and mammals. even geophysics. To understand the true diversity and innovation of research on campus, it's worth delving deeper into some of the specific projects chosen.

In medicine, there were a number of really interesting projects to discuss. The largest financial award was granted to Professor Wenxin Wang from the Charles Institute of Dermatology. Professor Wang's research group is investigating a specific treatment for a subtype of epidermolysis bullosa (EB), a rare group of genetic conditions. EB, often called butterfly disease, is an extremely debilitating condition that causes painful blistering of the skin and internal linings of the body with even the most minor trauma. Patients with EB heal very poorly due to the fragility of their skin and membranes, and often need to wear bandages over most of their body to cocoon them from damage. The aim of Professor Wang's research is to alter the genes of patients with EB to improve their biological capacity to heal wounds and blisters

Another fascinating project is LongHealth, led by Professor Lorraine Hanlon, former Head of the School

Outside of the health sphere, Dr Shane Donohue, Associate Professor in the School of Civil Engineering, received recognition for the GEOTECS project: Geophysical and Earth Observation Tools for Evaluating the Condition of Slopes. Man-made slopes, such as news of these types of scientific grants is not only dams, are frequently damaged by extreme weather, exciting for researchers, but for all of us. The Frontiers for or even natural disasters. The tools in the GEOTECS project will carefully track how slopes are affected think laterally and seek funding and recognition for the by these events in order to identify which repairs are exploration of cutting-edge treatments, technologies, necessary to strengthen the integrity of the slope and avoid future failure. The project will be multidisciplinary, landscape. This scheme is exciting as it draws our inviting scientists and engineers from multiple sectors, as well as key industry figures, to future proof manfrom the brightest Irish scientific minds. Finally, this made slopes for a climate that is becoming increasingly scheme is exciting for Belfield because such significant

Some projects even breach the frontiers of space! future

Professor Emma Teeling. A lecturer in evolution and genetics at UCD, Professor Teeling's research was Space Science and Technology, is the Lead Professor published on the cover of Nature earlier this year for a paper on the genomic evolution of bats. Bats are EIRSAT-1 (Education Irish Research Satellite 1). a unique species in many ways, most notably due to science as this will be Ireland's first satellite launch. their exceptionally strong immunity and extremely long life span. Teeling's research involves mapping the evolutionary characteristics of bats that led to these Agency 'Fly Your Satellite' programme. The project that extraordinary genetic advantages and the results of this is being funded by the SFI Frontiers for the Future will work could further inform future models of expanded build on what has been learnt so far about EIRSAT-1, 'healthspan" amongst other species, particularly other and more broadly investigate the role that may be played by nanosatellites in space research and space science on a global scale.

> In addition to the four discussed here, grants were awarded to eleven other UCD-led projects that are wide-reaching, fascinating, and have the potential to make significant leaps in their respective fields. The the Future scheme gives researchers the opportunity to and theories which look beyond the current scientific representation for UCD in boundary-pushing research is hugely encouraging for students past, present and

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LAW AND POLITICS

VOTER TURNOUT: AT HOME AND ABROAD

KATIE LARKIN

On the foot of the high turnout in the recent US election, Katie Larkin examines how we can create a more accessible voting system in Ireland.

America saw its highest turnout since 1908, with 65.1% of the population voting for their chosen candidate. 31.3 million views in total. The election was intensively covered by the media and is possibly one of the most important elections in healthcare, racism, climate change and Covid-19 were

particular, due to the coronavirus pandemic. 65 million ballot with the caption #voteBLUE. Kloss has ties to the Americans posted by mail, according to pewresearch. org. This astronomically high number led to a positive result for the Democratic candidate and President-Elect, Joe Biden. Americans can vote by mail without Donald Trump. any justification as to why in most states.

53-55% of 18-24 year olds also voted in this election, media to get out and vote such as #GenZForBiden, a presence and topics such as climate change, racism and

THE 2020 Presidential Election in the United States of popular hashtag on the content sharing app TikTok. The hashtag was used by many big-name creators and held

Many celebrities also expressed their encouragement modern American history. High-stake topics such as for people to vote, such as Disney actress and singer Selena Gomez, who held an Instagram live stream with central issues in the run-up to the election, and explain Vice President-Elect, Kamala Harris. Other celebrities why the US saw a record-high turnout of almost 150 included Beyoncé, who posted an image with the hashtag #VOTE, actor Timothee Chalamet who posted to his Instagram story stating "Vote that fucker out", and A hot topic throughout this election was mail-in controversially, model Karlie Kloss posted a photo on ballots. Mail-in voting was popular in this election, in Instagram, sporting a Biden-Harris mask, along with her Trump family, she is married to Joshua Kushner, brother of Jared Kushner, who is husband to Ivanka Trump and Senior Advisor to the President of The United States,

When looking at the US election in comparison with Ireland's 2020 election, we had a similar turnout the highest ever in modern politics, according to Simon of 62.1%, but this was a decrease from 2016 of 2.2%. Rosenberg, president of New Democrat Network It is hard to tell why there was a decrease, perhaps (NDN) and the New Policy Institute. 65% of this bracket 2016 held higher stakes with issues such as Brexit. The voted Democrat. This high number of young voters younger vote from people aged 18-24 was vital in the can be tied to the large stakes involved, as well as the lection as well as the US election. Younger voters large media presence that was seen in the run-up to tend to vote for left-leaning parties, such as Sinn Féin the election. There was an incredible pressure from the and the Green Party. This is likely because of their media

"Ireland has an awful long way to go, but hopefully we will see a more accessible voting system in future elections to come"

women's rights being constantly talked about on sites such as Instagram on Twitter.

However, Ireland seems to have a lower turnout than some other European countries with similar election practices. Ireland has no mail-in voting option, and elections take place all on the one day. It is also near impossible for Irish citizens living abroad to vote unless they are present at a polling station. Many young people documents which must be printed off and filled out can

be difficult to find online and also must go to a Garda station for approval, which often consisted of a long wait. They then had to post it by a certain date. All in all, the registration process was probably harder than picking a candidate to vote for. Anecdotal evidence shows there are people who didn't bother voting as the registration process was too arduous.

When comparing Ireland to Belgium, it's difficult to understand why Ireland's registration process is so complicated. In Belgium, once you turn 18 you are automatically placed on the Register of Electors. This avoids a large hassle for first-time voters. Belgium requires all citizens to vote in elections and is punishable by fines if unjustified abstention takes place. Though, Belgium has had a fairly complicated government of late and only recently formed a 7-party coalition after 653 days of negotiations.

Austria allows for mail-in voting without justification, similar to the US. They have allowed this since 2007. In 2017, 15% of votes were mail-in and the country saw an 80% turnout. Maybe the key to higher turnouts is by making voting more accessible in the first place.

In challenging times such as these, it is important a trusted government is in power, whether it be a single voting for the first time in the February election found party or a coalition. Ireland has an awful long way to it really difficult to register to vote in the first place. The go, but hopefully, we will see a more accessible voting system in future elections to come.

THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN POLITICS

GRACE DONELLAN

With four years of a Biden presidency on the horizon, Grace Donnellan discusses where American politics is headed



election, a myriad of narratives have emerged. As the democracy, it is still important to examine what the full this would be another victory for Trump. In the weeks following the election, Trump's campaign team have Progressive measures on the ballot in a number of clutched at straws in order to change the story to one states did surprisingly well. In Florida, where Trump of election fraud. However, looking at the final results it succeeded, 61% of voters supported a measure to is clear that Biden won the election with an impressive increase the minimum wage to \$15. The historically total. Biden clinched 306 electoral votes to Trump's red states of Montana and South Dakota voted to 232, the exact same margin by which Trump beat Hillary legalise recreational marijuana, with Mississippi Clinton in 2016. After the 2016 election, there was a lot supporting a measure to legalise marijuana for those of soul searching, with many wondering what direction with a prescription. Oregon, a state with a reputation for

IN the aftermath of the results of the US Presidential paint a more positive picture of the state of American

America was heading in. While November's results being left-wing, voted to decriminalise a wide variety of

addiction treatment. In another red state, Colorado, voters approved the creation of a family and medical leave system. It is apparent even in deep-red states that progressive ideas resonate with voters, and yet, the Democrats did not perform as well down the ballot as anticipated. Entering the election, some optimistically believed that Democrats could take control of the House and Senate. However, the GOP firmly held on to their House majority. The fate of the Senate lies in a January runoff election in Georgia, where the best possible outcome would have the Democrats winning the two seats up for grabs and gaining a very slim majority in their coalition with Independents. While a lot of the post-election discussion has revolved around how to make the Democratic party a place where Trump voters can feel they belong and what the best ways to reach out to them are, it may be a doomed strategy for Democrats to move further to the right. There is an obvious appetite for progressive proposals across the US. Ilhan Omar decisively won her seat, with many crediting her for getting the Democratic vote out in Minneapolis. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez has received consistent support from her constituents and Stacey Abram's efforts played a large role in turning Georgia blue. This best strategy for the Democrats, when looking to the 2022 midterm elections, could be for them to listen to these elements of their party.

drugs and use the law-enforcement savings to support

This election also revealed a changed electoral map. Previously, Ohio was considered a major swing state. 2020 was the first time since 1964 that the state did not vote for the eventual President-Elect. This seems to symbolise a gradual reddening of the state. Florida is another stereotypical swing state. In the runup to November, both the campaigns and the media put a huge emphasis on the state. Many anticipated a Biden victory. However, the state voted once again for Trump. In contrast, Georgia, a state that has voted for the Democratic candidate only 3 times since 1972 when a southern Democrat was on the ticket, swung for Biden. While Texas did not swing Democrat, it showed promising results for the Democratic party, with many urban areas moving firmly to the left. It is likely that when the 2024 election rolls around, the money and energy pumped into states such as Florida and Ohio may be a thing of the past. Instead, Georgia and Texas may have become the swing states of the future. With 38 electoral votes, Texas is an important player in Presidential elections, making it one to watch over the

Despite a Biden campaign heavily focusing on voters in the historically white suburbs, these demographics seemed to have endorsed the Republican party. While there was a shift left in some suburbs, compared to Clinton's performance in 2016, this was not enough for Biden to win states such as Ohio and Iowa. It was Black voters, particularly in states such as Michigan, Arizona and Georgia who gave Biden the edge he needed to win the election. Many of these Black voters supported Biden despite reservations regarding his political record and support of busing during the Civil Rights Movement. These Black voters will be essential in order for the democrats to win the Presidential election in 2024. While Biden has pledged to tackle the problems stemming from racial inequality in the US and explicitly thanked black voters during his victory speech, it will be interesting to see how much he will actually listen to the very real concerns and demands of Black voters.

CRY WOULFE - THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE OIREACHTAS IMPEACHING A JUDGE

MEGAN SKINNADER

In light of the controversy surrounding Séamus Woulfe, Megan Skinnader explores the process involved in impeaching a judge and why the Oireachtas may be hesitant

LAST month, RISE TD Paul Murphy stated he is set to move forward the motion to impeach Supreme Court Judge Séamus Woulfe in response to his attendance of the infamous GolfGate dinner and a number of other Covid-19 violations. According to Article 35.4 of the Constitution of Ireland, a judge 'shall not be removed from office except for stated misbehaviour or incapacity'. This leaves Justice Woulfe's fate between a rock and hard place; Leinster house and himself.

Woulfe can decide to resign. This has been the course of action of judges in similar situations previously. Three times in the history of the state have the words 'impeachment' and 'judge' been thrown around together. Firstly, in 1941, there was a motion of removal of Edward J. McElligott, a Judge of the Circuit Court on the grounds of incapacity which later was withdrawn as he resigned. In 1999 there was a motion of removal considered for Mr Justice Hugh O'Flaherty and Mr Justice Cyril Kelly amid the Sheedy controversy, but again both resigned. Lastly, in 2004, a motion of removal was initiated against Judge Brian Curtin. A report by a joint Oireachtas select committee was set trickiness of impeachment lies in that 'stated before he decided to resign.

situation as "completely fake, overblown".

"If the motion for removal goes ahead, the outcome will set somewhat of a threshold for which judges may be impeached and for this reason causes the Oireachtas hesitancy"

to be presented and debated in the Dáil a few days misbehaviours' have never been judicially interpreted. The vagueness of 'stated misbehaviour' is very possibly Despite Chief Justice Frank Clarke's strong advice to intentional to maintain judicial independence and Justice Woulfe to resign, Woulfe has maintained that ensure judges are not removed for judgements that his actions do not warrant a resignation, describing the conflict with the interests of a particular government. This, however, gives no clearer an idea of what qualifies of Appeal and multiple other judges of the Supreme welcome change to avoid conflict on the separation of as an impeachable misbehaviour.

With a resignation unlikely, the tricky process of For inspiration, we can look to other countries. impeachment begins to go through the motions. The The Solicitor General of New Zealand defined

and improper that it demonstrates that a judge lacks is fair and are unlikely to take any action beyond that. the integrity to continue to exercise judicial office'. In India, 'proved misbehaviour' has been interpreted in the Judges Inquiry Bill as 'wilful or persistent conduct of a judge is moved to a House of the Oireachtas, bringing dishonour or disrepute to the judiciary, failure the house may then either reject or appoint a select to perform duties of a judge and/or abuse of judicial committee who take evidence. The government have office, corruption, lack of integrity or committed an already formally proposed that no further action be offence involving moral turpitude'. The Attorney General taken on the removal, but any TD can initiate the is being consulted and this will then be decided by the process. It is up to the Oireachtas, not the government.

Considering the rise of populist governments and motion" active efforts in Poland and Hungary to undermine the independence and authority of the judiciaries,

resolutions to remove a judge. The Irish Constitution considered also in 2002, to switch the process to more assigns this power to the Houses of the Oireachtas and like the impeachment of a President. The possible no other body. Chief Justice, President of the Court departure from removal by resolution will likely be a Court have commented that Judge Woulfe caused powers 'irreparable damage to the judiciary'. This may have bearing on the legislature's decision, but the Courts

misbehaviours as 'conduct that is so morally wrong may only intervene to ensure the impeachment process

Standing Orders state that when a motion of removal Following the process of taking evidence, the Select Committee must furnish its report to the Dáil where A precedent has never been set for 'stated it may be published and presented. A debate would misbehaviours' in Ireland. Thus if the motion for ensue with "due observance by each member of the removal goes ahead, the outcome will set somewhat Constitutional principles of fair procedures", and "the of a threshold for which judges may be impeached right of the Judge and his or her legal representatives and for this reason causes the Oireachtas hesitancy. to be heard prior to any vote on the said Article 35.4.1°

If the resolution passes, the Taoiseach notifies the this is an issue to tread delicately on, especially as President, gives them a copy of the resolutions and the Irish judiciary is renowned for its strong judicial the President then removes the judge in question from office. If the resolution does not pass and no changes are made, we are likely to see the issue repeat. This can In any case, it is the job of the legislature to pass any be avoided by a constitutional amendment, something **BUSINESS**

THE SILVER LINING OF REMOTE WORKING.

RORY CLARKE

As we near a year since the Covid-19 pandemic hit Ireland, Rory Clarke examines whether there are any positives to our enforced shift to remote working.



ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: SAMANEH SADEGHI MARASHT

AS we pass the one-year anniversary of the first diagnosed case of Covid-19 in Wuhan, much and more generally) condemned as a matter of public discourse. has been written about the difficulties presented by enforced remote working. Far from our minds when we a negative shock factor that they could not understand were celebrating New Year's Eve in packed bars and clubs, toasting Valentine's Day in heaving restaurants, and even dreaming of busy St.Patrick's Day parades, remote working has become an unfortunate everyday pints seemed insanity incarnate. However, we must reality. Even with a potential vaccine on the cards early next year (testing the glass-half-full perspective to its being deprived of their entire social network and a limit!) it seems likely that remote working will retain its substantial place in the workplace from some time to

However, how sustainable is the narrative that remote working is inherently, inevitably and incontrovertibly bad? Whilst undoubtedly costly to social wellbeing and emotional and organisational supports, there is a case to be made that the opportunities it presents have been marginalised in a desperate and ardent competition to compare its most pernicious effects.

Even before the pandemic, there had been uptakes in flexible working schedules, which generally incorporated a degree of remote working. To those pre-pandemic advocates of remote working how strange it must seem

To most people, the sudden enforced shift created such why any rational person would elect to work remotely. Deliberately isolating yourself, excluding yourself from office anecdotes and gossip and missing post-work remember that this shift also coincided with workers

"This gives employees the opportunity to live and work with the companies they always wanted and live in the places they always wanted."

should not mean we automatically condemn it.

Here are 3 reasons why remote working presents ong it stays with us!

1. Jobs 'abroad'

One of the best possibilities that remote working UCD work from there. offers is to improve job prospects, both in number and geographic spread. We are no longer confined to jobs which are either already in our locality or in places which are in our financial gift to move to. Previously, with traditional working patterns, the companies you rut. Whether it is due to financial or geographic could work for are limited to those incorporated within convenience, established work social networks or a commute - be it reasonable or often not. Additionally, otherwise, it can be very hard to face up to the prospect many people incurred significant financial debt to move of changing career. Remote working facilitates this out, to move to a different country and culture just for choice in two different ways; by allowing you to work on a job. This can be severely debilitating in the longterm, as people are tied down having made a move. This system didn't make any allowances for mistakes, changes-of-mind, or career pivots.

With remote working, however, all of these situational challenges can be overcome. For example, there are fact (and rather unfairly), whilst most employees have anecdotal stories of new US Embassy officials 'in Dublin' working whilst Stateside. This is particularly the case most are expected to stay beyond these when extra as more and more employers begin to permanently work is required of them. Conversely, remote working facilitate remote working. Rather than negotiating adhoc remote working arrangements, employers are rather than time. Thus, at home, if you have little or no beginning to offer jobs which are entirely remote. This work to do on a given day, this spare time can be applied nave dreamt of previously. These workplaces are those allows greater flexibility for other work, be it freelance, which never had offices locally, never recruited globally personal interest or otherwise. or never contemplated remote working, even where it would have been easily achieved. This enables upward career development without running the risk of financial prolific, more and more specific jobs, designed to be nsecurity. Companies such as Facebook, PayPal and done remotely, will crop up. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Salesforce have all begun to offer permanent remote computer and tech-heavy careers are coming to working opportunities, with some civil services doing so the forefront as they are jobs which rely on internet too, for instance, EU Court interpreters, usually based in connectivity, a keyboard and not much more. As

2. Jobs at 'home' but work abroad

This one is pretty much the inverse of jobs 'abroad'. Consider this; you are in a remote working position from your home in Dublin, whilst the rain pours down, excel and those who struggle. your extortionate rent continues to rise and chances of returning to the office grow ever more slim. Why stay irrelevant, once it works.

months and taken the opportunity to fly the nest and reality. From the chance to work for dream international set up in sunnier and cheaper shores. Once a Wi-Fi companies, live the dream working on a sunny coast or connection is strong enough, and the time-zones aren't changing careers completely, remote working does not too debilitating, there is no reason remote workers deserve all the flak sent its way.

general (and understandable) emotional downturn. The need to stay near their company's 'base'. This gives circumstances which led to this mass remote working employees the opportunity to work with the companies they always wanted and live in the places they always wanted. There's no compromise, no deadweight of time, location, or employment satisfaction. The main opportunities, rather than just difficulties. Some are risk is isolation from organisational peers, but remote practical, some are more substantive; all will hopefully workers generally interact with each other through enable us to get to grips with remote working, however online mechanisms anyway. It is the modus operandi for the company, for both social and professional engagements. A great example is UCD students who were meant to go on foreign exchanges this year, who have gone to the country anyway, completing their

Many people find themselves stuck in an employment multiple projects at once, and easily facilitating up-andcross-skilling to make career pivots more achievable.

Many office-based jobs require employees to be in the office for certain fixed hours, regardless of how much work is required of them on a certain day. In mandated minimum hours when the business is quiet, generally measures employee productivity by task nables people to work for companies they could only to other projects, either personal or professional. This

Secondly, as remote working becomes ever more your existing career becomes ever more reliant on technology and atypical working styles, you may realise that it's the technology itself which interests ou. If you're in that position, reskilling for remote technological work doesn't necessarily require going back to college - it's not that sort of skill they're looking in Dublin, having previously worked in the office for. Know-how and quickness of thought and typing can in-person. You've lived in Dublin throughout your all be easily gained online, and that's what differentiates employment with this company. You continue to work one remote worker from another, between those who

Remote working has undoubtedly presented serious in Dublin? There's no mandated attachment anymore issues for many employees and employers. However, whether your Wi-Fi signal is Irish or otherwise is much of the negative narrative and commentary has been unfortunately conflated with the negativity surrounding the lockdown as a whole, when there Many people have begun to realise this in recent are in fact several key advantages to our new working

THE BUSINESS-CASE FOR SHOPPING LOCALLY AT CHRISTMAS

ANDREW NOLAN

As Christmas draws near, Andrew Nolan discusses the importance and the benefits of shopping locally.

WITH Christmas rapidly approaching, both business and online storefronts have seen a drastic surge in footfall. Every year, Christmas time sees a spike in consumerism, but given the context of the pandemic and the adverse effects on businesses forced to close, the public has been repeatedly urged to adopt a more considered approach. The concept of shopping locally to pool money into the economy is something that has been spoken about in detail recently. People are being encouraged to shift their support from larger, nondomestic companies to smaller, local enterprises, who are often in greater need of said support. That such ideas have become common discourse is undoubtedly positive. However, the conversation surrounding 'shop local' often devolves into an antagonization of the larger corporations, inadvertently taking the focus away from the aim at hand. A more pragmatic approach to encourage supporting smaller businesses should be to highlight the multitude of positive impacts that shopping locally can have on the economy, environment, and for the consumer themselves.

The creation of local businesses and, in turn, local employment opportunities play a key role in the maintenance of an established system of economic dynamism. This relies on the inherent innovation and competition brought on by newer businesses finding their feet. A growing local economy both incentivises and encourages the establishment of companies by presenting a feasible means for them to thrive in. A cycle begins where competition, and, as a by-product, quality, sees a sharp incline on a local level, meaning a potential for more jobs to be created, and the balance shifting in favour of local producers and manufacturers of goods. The circulation of money on a local level would result in the creation of a plethora of smaller companies in the area. The effect that this would have to sustain Irish jobs cannot be understated. A study showed that in the United States, during the recession of the mid-2000s, younger companies played a huge role in maintaining a source of net employment growth nationwide. During this time, companies younger than five years old, with twenty employees or less, maintained a net employment growth of approximately 8.6%. Comparatively, older, more established companies saw more jobs being lost than generated during the same period. The report emphasises the significance of small businesses on a country-wide basis, as it states that companies less than a year old have accounted for the creation of an

average 1.5 million jobs per year in the U.S. over the past three decades. Given the current estimate for how badly jobs will be affected by the current pandemic, a surge in focusing money on a more local scale would inevitably provide security for a significant number of jobs throughout the country.

The visible impact that a thriving local economy has for towns and villages cements its importance. Local establishments are pivotal in building a unique sense of character to an area. You need only see how stores like

"According to smallbiztrends. com, roughly 85% of small businesses get customers through word of mouth. Given the sheer value hanging on providing good service, many of these companies prioritise customer satisfaction above much else."

Lucy's Lounge and the Jam Art Factory in Temple Bar help preserve an artistic flair prevalent in this vibrant nook of Dublin City. Such individuality helps build the foundations of a locality, which can result in boosts like touristic incentive to the pricing of houses in the area. A 2013 study in the UK found that residential prices in areas near high-streets with burgeoning independent businesses rose an average of £40,000 higher in the previous decade than areas with proportionately fewer ndependent traders. Implications of a higher cost of



2 billion kilograms of this ending up in a landfill. atmosphere as part of the returns process. Fashion much else. outlets are particularly culpable; many companies find it cheaper to simply dispose of returned goods rather than sort the damaged merchandise from the re-salable ones. A local fashion retailer where the consumer can consumers. Making the effort to shop on a local basis try on clothes negates the need for these returns. As reaps a plethora of positives for the local economy, an additional bonus, businesses sorting goods locally environment, and ourselves as shoppers -something to would see a decline in the air miles otherwise necessary consider in the coming weeks when thinking of what to to create goods.

For the consumer, there is a great quality to be found in local businesses. Shopping in small establishments is a vastly more personal experience. An independent business, ergo one operating free of a chain system, has

housing aside, this demonstrates the massive impacts —less need to mass produce as many goods as a reseller that stem from a more conscious attempt to shop locally. operating a multitude of stores nationwide. With a more focused and dedicated demand, this allows for Businesses thriving on a more localised level also meticulous work to go into each piece of merchandise. carries a significant environmental impact. Shopping This isn't to say that purchasing from chains inherently online from international companies is something means lesser quality, but producing goods on such of a juggernaut in current times, and global online a scale grants a much larger margin for error when retail is projected to reach an immense £3.65 trillion—looking at the quantities involved. By shopping locally in 2021. The environmental implication of this is grim, (economic and other such considerations aside) the particularly when faced with how returns and waste potential for satisfaction is rather high, given the are often handled during such transactions. Optoro importance of each sale to the business. According to estimates that nearly £250 million worth of goods smallbiztrends.com, roughly 85% of small businesses are returned in the US on a yearly basis, with roughly get customers through word of mouth. Given the sheer value hanging on providing good service, many of Approximately 13 tonnes of Co2 are released into the these companies prioritise customer satisfaction above

> There is a vast benefit to be found in taking a more focused approach to where we shop for our goods as get for that Secret Santa you signed up for.

I ndiaidh cothrom céad bliana Domhnach na Fola, tuairiscíonn Shane MacDomhnaill faoi conas a mhairceáiltear an ócáid thragóideach seo, plé ar poipíní agus comhrá pholaitiúil in Éirinn.

imirt in aghaidh Baile Átha Cliath i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. lucht féachana, iad ag faire go ghéar ar an gcluiche mhór céad bliana. seo. Agus an cluiche á n-imirt, rinne na Dúchrónaigh ruathar ar an gcluiche, ag scaoileadh ar imreoirí agus ar an lucht féachana a bhí ag déanamh iarracht éiliú. Laistigh de nócha soicind, bhí an scaoileadh thart, agus ceathrar déag sínte ar thalamh Páirc an Chrócaigh. Maraíodh Mick Hogan, taca Thiobraid Árainn, chomh maith le triúr déag a bhí sa lucht féachana. Íospartaigh neamhchionntach ab iad na daoine seo, a ndearnadh faic seachas freastal ar cluiche. Is é lá dubh do mhuintir na tíre seo é an lá seo, lá a ghlaofar "Domhnach na Fola" ar. Ar an 21ú Samhain, tugadh ómóis don lá dorcha seo, ní hamaháin i stair an Chumann Lúthchleas Gaeil, ach i stair na tíre i gcoitinne. Ar cothrom céad bliain Domhnach na Fola, an bhfuil sé soiléir dúinn cén éifeacht a bhí ag an eachtra thragóideach seo ar cúrsaí na tíre in dhiaidh?

Tá sé inglacadh go ndearnadh damáiste do h-údaráis na Breataine in Éireann i ndiaidh Domhnach na Fola - de bharr maruithe na h-Oifigigh Briotánacha agus an ionsaí ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh araon. Mhéadaigh tacaíocht an t-IRA chomh maith. Mhéadaigh an teannas freisin idir an Chumann Lúthchleas Gaeil agus na h-iarrachtaí ar son an neamhspleáchas in Éireann agus ainmníodh staid Uí Ógáin i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i ndiaidh Mick Hogan, imreoir Thiobraid Árainn a mhairítear san eachtra.

Gabh ar aghaidh céad bliain. An deireadh seachtaine thacaíocht de chuid an IRA i ndiaidh na h-eachtra. seo chaite, chonaiceamar an méid a thit amach i bPáirc an Chrócaigh agus Páirc Uí Chaíomh ó thaobh ómóis a léiriú don eachtra. Chuir Stephen Cluxton bláthfhleasc i gcúinne Pháirc an Chrócaigh roimh tús cluiche ceannais á dhó ann chomh maith. Is é an cluiche i bPáirc Uí Chaíomh a tharraing an suim agus an spéis is mó, áfach.

SHANE MACDOMHNAILL

SEANFHOCAIL NA H-IRISE

DÉ Domhnach a bhí ann, agus Tiobraid Árainn ag Sweeney, d'éirigh le Thiobraid Árainn a chéad bua i gCraobhchomórtas na Mumhain a aimsiú le cúig bliain Cluiche dúshláin á n-imirt acu, agus Tiobraid Árainn ag is ochtó anuas agus na gheansaithe omóis ó 1920 á iarraidh a rian a fhágáil in aigneacha seaimpíní Laighin. gcaitheamh acu. Mar a tharlaíonn, is iad na foirneacha Cathair buailte ag teannas ab ea phríomhchathair na ceannann céanna sa leathchraobh Uile-Éireann is a bhí tíre an maidin sin, i ndiaidh ionsaí ag an IRA, faoi stiúr ann sa bhliain 1920. Is é Thiobraid Árainn a tháining Micheal Collins, ar Oifigigh Airm na Bhreataine mór amach go buacach an bhliain sin, i ndiaidh dóibh gorta thimpeall na cathrach. Maraíodh cúigear déag ar maidin, de cúig bhliain is ochtó a bhriseadh ar cothrom céad agus bhí muintir na cathrach ag fanacht go haireach ar bliana Domhnach na Fola, tá seans, más seans bheag, fhreagra na Bhreatine. Bhí breis is cúig mhíle duine sa acu an sliabh a dhreapadh den chéad uair go ceann

> "Chun aibíocht a bheith againn mar náisiúin, is gá go mbeimis ábalta dul i mbun chomhrá faoina leithead gan ligeann den phlé sleamhnú isteach ina argóint."

Lasmuig de cursaí spóirt amháin, bhí an-éifeacht ar Domhnach na Fola ar treocht na tíre. Tharla an eachtra le thús go deireadh. linn Cogadh na Saoirse. Is téama é tríd stair na tíre le linn an fichiú aois go ndearnadh Rialtas na Breatine trioblóid mhór a chruthú dóibh féin in Éireann. I ndiaidh Éirí Amach 1916, de bharr an slí go gcuireadh na ceannairí chun báis, rinneadh mairtéirí dóibh. D'fhás tacaíocht ar son an neamhspleáchas sa chás sin - áit nach raibh tacaíocht ollmhór ann roimh ré. Sa chás seo, ní mairtéirí a dhéanadh as an gceathrar déag a mhairítear i bPáirc an Chrócaigh, íospairtaigh iomlán ab ea iontú. D'fhás

D'aithin gnéithe de shochaí na tíre seo an ócáid ar gcothrom céad bliana Domhnach na Fola. Rinne an CLG Domhnach na Fola a chuimhniú go cuí le Chraobhchomórtas Laighin, agus ceithre lasair déag h-ócáidí éagsúla thar an deireadh seachtaine sin - ó nach féidir a cháineadh - cén fáth nach gcaitear sa thaobh an sibhialtacht is an daonnacht chomh maith. gheansaithe Thiobraid Árainn go aitheantas a thabhairt do na íospartaigh. Rinneadh clár faisnéise a chraoladh Le spleodar a leithidí Micheal Quinlivan agus Conor ar RTÉ an seachtain roimh ré a bhí bunaithe ar leabhar

cumann na scleas luit nzaedealac (GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION)

GREAT CHALLENGE MATCH (FOOTBALL)

AT CROKE PARK ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1920

MATCH AT 2.45 P.M

ADMISSION

Náisiúin fíor-dhifriúil ab ea Éireann sa lá atá inniú ann, áfach. Gach bhliain tá orainn éisteach le plé leamh maidir le bpoipíní. Is tríd an fráma seo a bhfeicimid cothrom céad bliana Domhnach na Fola i mbliana. slí céanna le stair na tíre seo? Ní cheist pholaitiúil í an ábhar seo i mo thuairimse. Níor chóir go mbeadh cuimhniúcháin ar ócáid stairiúil ina ráiteas pholaitiúil,

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE GAA MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE AT

Michael Foley, The Bloodied Field, leabhar den scoth a nó ina phointe thacaíocht nó cáineadh ar dhream ar dhéanann an lá stairiúil, thragóideach sin a sholáthar ó bith. Chun aibíocht a bheith againn mar náisiúin, is gá go mbeimis ábalta dul i mbun chomhrá faoina leithead gan ligeann den phlé sleamhnú isteach ina argóint.

Tá a lán feicthe ag muintir na tíre seo thar tréimhse céad bliana. Táimid i ndiaidh neamhspleáchas a fháil ón Bhreatain agus muid féin a streachadh as a chéile Déanann an phoipín céanna baill d'Airm na Breataine ar feadh tréimhse fhada ón uair gur aimsíodh é. Tá an ón gCéad Chogadh Domhanda ar aghaidh a chuimhniú ghunna imithe ó pholataíocht na tíre le tamaill anuas, inár throid na mílte Éireannaigh mar atá ar eolas ach is minic a bhris béal duine a shrón. Tá sé thar am againn. D'fhéadfá a nochtadh, áfach, gur chóir an dá dúinn mar tír dul i mbun cainte lena chéile. Tá sé feicthe rud a chuimhniú agus a chomóradh, más ceann amháin againn sna Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá cad a thiteann dóibh. Ar an lá stairiúil seo ní raibh gíog as Rialtas na amach nuair a thréigtear an caint is an plé. Ná bímis hÉireann i leith Domhnach na Fola. Cé go bhfuil baill cosúil leis ár gcomharsan thrasna an Aigéin Atlantaigh. den rialtas céanna atá sásta poipín a chaitheamh chun Is minic a rabhamar mar eiseamláraí a leanann tíortha Airm na Bhreataine a cheiliúradh - rogha pearsanta eile - sa litríocht, mar shampla. Bímis mar eiseamláraí ó

"Níl saoi gan locht."

(daw / odd /law / tog-an/ ee-ha)

1. Tá brú uaireanta a bheith foirfe i ngach imeacht a ghlactar páirt ann inár sochaí. Ná déan dearmad gurb iad na daoine a dhéanann botúin gurb iad a dtagann an rath orthu sa deireadh.

triail as arís. Teip arís. Teip níos fearr.

Már a deir Samuel Beckett: Bain trial as. Teip ort. Is cuma. Bain

No man is wise at all times.



HARPY

WHERE'S WOULFE? SEAMUS WOULFE FORGOES SUPREME COURT NOMINATION AFTER RE-TAKING NATURAL FORM.

FRANCIS STEAMY SESHINGTON

SUPREME Court judge nominee will no longer be golf club on Wednesday night between Mary-Boo- Woulfe loitering in the car park of Dáil Eireann. McEnteeeligible for Supreme court nomination after re-taking McDonald, Vice-Taoiseach Mehole Fartin and Leo box denied these allegations, claiming that it was simply his natural form as a werewoulfe, Minister for Injustice Nosvaradkar. After discussing the issue at length, the a sheep in Woulfe's clothes. The RTÉ reporters were and Corruption Helen McEntee-box has confirmed. three party leaders agreed to travel by broomstick to the satisfied with the explanation and went home to get McEntee-box spoke to The Harpy outside the Dáil on Hellfire Club. Upon arrival, the three leaders cast spells, ready for a massive retirement shindig. Wednesday to confirm the reports. She said; "Mr Justice stirred a cauldron containing the broken promises and Werewoulfe is currently somewhere in Connemara asked for the Archbishop Diarmuid Shartin's blessing hunting small children and livestock".

McEntee-box went on to say that Mr Werewoulfe had been turned back into a Werewoulfe on a permanent

to have Mr Woulfe turned into a Werewoulfe on a permanent basis".

While giving her speech McEntee-box was hounded had kept since entering government. basis. "An inter-party meeting was held at the castle by RTÉ reporters. They claimed that they could see Mr

The spells cast were a tremendous success. The Green Party leader, Eamonn Tryin', welcomed the move. He claimed that the reintroduction of Woulfes to Irish society was the first election manifesto promise his party

UCD CALL CENTRE TO HIRE CASUALISED PHD WORKERS AND CHILDREN

ERNEST RIMMINGTON

The UCD call centre has changed its hiring practice charitable "donations" of either one's life savings or the is understood that these changes are being made as to focus on unpaid postgraduate workers and soul of the alum's firstborn. impoverished Victorian orphans, The Harpy has learned.

Foundation for Unethical Currency Collection UCD stated: "Moloch would run a less cruel university". Inside, (FUCC UCD). According to their website, their mission it is stated that "As PhD students are already beholden is to "foster a sense of fealty and devotion among to the University Management Team subcommittee on alumni". Located in the lower dungeons of the Tierney Exploitation, they are far cheaper than part-time staff Building, their strategy is to phone alumni to requisition with contacts who can avail of minimum wage laws". It

The new HR policy book for the Call Centre was The UCD call centre is owned and run by the leaked to The Harpy by a disgruntled academic who

Conor Anderson, CEO and President UCDSU Ltd. told The Harpy "I'm pretty sure our employment practices are all above board, or at any rate anyone who did have a complaint has since been fired".

A spokesperson for the UCD Postgraduate Workers previous employees have either died of consumption Alliance stated: "This dreadful behaviour means we or found less miserable work as chimney sweeps or simply MUST change our name and organise a meeting. Postgraduate workers have been exploited too much

for us to not organise a meeting and change our name".

CARTOON

ELLEN NUGENT



IT has been a long time since I was forced to learn the unfortunate enough to have a child like I was, they can have to learn this? I knew that English and Maths had students already take up specific languages late in their | convoluted than that and perhaps that's the problem. value, my lived existence was in English, most of the schooling. culture I interacted with in books or on television was in English. Not necessarily the Queen's English, but something very similar to it, even if poorly spelled. need to know it, I reasoned petulantly.

As I have gotten older and in particular as I've travelled, I have come to understand that the Irish identity. The vast majority of the citizenry can barely speaking the language for the pure joy of it. speak a word of it and for many of them, the primary shared reference point with respect to the language is the shared misery of having had to do it in school.

I am tempted to go further and say that the Irish language has been co-opted by nationalistic forces like Sinn Féin and Aontú which seek to emphasise our differences rather than what binds us to the world. That same self-harming rhetoric of Brexiteers. All that is needed to build a nation are shared values and a valid way to communicate those values. There is no need to have a special language to do it in. If anything, this desire that nationalist parties have for a widely spoken Irish language reveals a tremendous insecurity they have about our status as a nation.

So, how do we save the language without alienating a good proportion of the population? Well, maybe we can start by removing it from the compulsory school curriculum. Allow people to come to the language freely and in their own time and maturity. This is not to say that the option to learn the Irish language in school should not exist, it absolutely should, it just should not be mandatory. Similar to how many families choose to opt-out of specific forms of religious education, you may be able to replace instruction in the Irish language with a curriculum that introduces students to the idea of languages themselves and teaches basic vocabulary in many languages.

Ideally, you create a situation where parents get to choose what level of emersion their child has in the language (hopefully with feedback from the child). If parents want to, they can bring their kids up with the Irish language spoken at home and send them to Gaelscoileanna. If they don't feel that learning the Irish language is of value to their child or they are

Then you could change the emphasis of the language. You can market it as a fun or interesting thing to learn. Maths I understood as what smart people were good at Subsidise teaching adults the language. Support and smart people got jobs. The only jobs people could publishing new Irish language literature or making the tell me that Irish was necessary for was a national school classics of the Irish language canon freely available to teacher and civil servant. National school teacher upset all, schoolchild and adult alike. There's plenty that can me the most because of the ridiculousness of it. If we be done, plenty that is being done, that can benefit from did not have to learn it then the teachers would not more funding if people have a non-antagonistic attitude

view of the importance of the Irish language is just against vast categories of opinions, personality types or form of communication, though it is no worse than most, think they should want to is a dubious moral position or the offender, so both posts are often abandoned. but because art exists that was created in the language to take. Allow everyone to choose their relationship to and we do not want to lose the nuances within that art. I the language and you might find people who would reject the idea that it is a necessary part of our national otherwise have been scarred by the teaching of it

"Do you want to catch up this evening?"

"I can't, I'm busy"

Busy often becomes a synonym for hurt, angry or just not interested. I've noticed how easy it is to betray language in friendships.

anymore? How do you know when you have a toxic

Everyone knows there is a disconnect and real-life friend? Or when you are the toxic friend? The answers But ultimately, it's also the liberal thing to do. Your | to these questions are not clear cut and probably vary

FRIENDSHIPS

ADESEWA AWOBADEJO

Friendship has become the new word for networking know ourselves and our desires. where we associate with people purely for professional or personal gain. We are encouraged to literally consume human beings based on what they have to needed, now more than ever. Some of my best and offer us, while at the same time we are told that we don't worst memories have been anchored by friends. Life owe anyone anything. Inevitably, something is bound to hinges on paradoxes. I'm teaching myself not to place go wrong somewhere, and it does.

identity upon you. Interests and boundaries change, relationships. Those threatening aspects for the fact and you find yourself growing apart from people you so that relationships are therapeutic. It's easy to become casually promised to always be friends with.

"Best friends for life." "I'll always be there for you."

Once again you betray language but this time, fate laughs at how fickle language might actually be. As much as you want to stay friends, you just can't. Maybe this is life's way of showing us that desire has limitations. I remember falling out with someone I was friends with for over 8 years but how I was still determined against the limitations of desire to stay friends. One part of me felt like a fraud while the other part of me felt like a saint, upholding promises seemed like such a godly and divine thing to do at the time.

Memories and nostalgia play an interesting role in heartbreak. The tension between nostalgia and reality is confusing. The construct of this imagined world is almost taunting, but sometimes comforting. Whether it is a slow death or a dramatic end, the aftermath of heartbreak is always certain - no matter how good you are at practising detachment. I still don't understand the science behind why we try to avoid the inevitable. And why we do anything to fight against fate even if it means holding back parts of ourselves in hopes that self-sacrifice would atone.



I don't want to be your friend anymore. Those words It sounds like the plot of a depressing rom-com but Irish language in school. And for many of those years choose to participate in the general language class don't easily roll off the tongue and they're not any easier that's the point. Romantic breakups are more broadly learning it, and since, I have had a bitter hatred of all instead. And if any child would like to, they can take it to type out and hit 'send'. I don't think we should be accepted. It seems juvenile to be upset that you're no things Oirish. Learning Irish in school felt so inauthentic as an option at any time during their schooling. Maybe | friends anymore. I don't imagine it's any easier to hear | longer friends with someone and it makes sense that to even a 7-year-old me. I would constantly fight with you would create particular stepping on points like those words. Relationships, particularly friendships, someone would invest so much into a romantic partner, my parents, asking them what use was it? Why did I junior infants, first class, first year, fourth year etc. Many | never really end in such a sober way. It's always more but why would you do the same for a friend? While I would assert that it is possible to navigate life without a particular love interest, I don't know if the same can be

said about friendships.

Media plays an interesting role in this. Sitcoms and movies, especially chick-flicks, are filled with the typical 'best friends' trope. They often symbolise the importance of female friendships, in particular. There are two main tropes, we either see competitors masked as friends who secretly hate each other and feel threatened by How do you know when a friendship isn't working each other, or the unrealistic BFF / ride or die trope. friendships rarely occupy either trope.

I'm interested in the disconnect and the nuance that language has value. Maybe not as a primary spoken an opinion. Forcing others to do things because you temperaments. No one wants to be the offended friend perhaps isn't portrayed through media. There are things no one expresses and things no one teaches about friendships. We say "do what's best for you" when it We live in such a capitalist society that measures comes to handling friends but is this not more confusing people's worthiness based on what they can give or do. than empowering as it exposes how much we don't

> Friendships are a gift, and they are desperately my dignity in the institution but to somehow remember that is important. I'm merging personal autonomy I'm learning that adulthood will literally force a new and agency against the fact that we only ever exist in disillusioned in ourselves but possible to find our reality in relationships, particularly friendships, as a place where we discover and reinvent ourselves.

THE PLIGHT OF WORKING AS A POSTGRADUATE IN UCD

UCD POSTGRADUATE WORKERS ALLIANCE

further precarious working situations. Many will give up on their research or leave teaching because they cannot meet Academic workers must come together, for better

Credit is also due to those elected representatives, quality of the marking, feedback, and student education. not included us. This unfair pay is unsustainable as it leads including Paul Murphy TD of RISE, who have raised this issue recently in the Dáil. Murphy put questions to Taoiseach

facing most of the workers engaged in research and Recently, a new Department of Higher Education has most of which are on massive salaries and long-term to join or support a trade union or a campaign group teaching at third level education. They have also long been been established with Simon Harris of Fine Gael at the helm. contracts themselves. Nevertheless, we think it is time and direct your energy at those university managers aware of the limited employment opportunities open to At least one of the third level trade unions that represent academics at different levels of this unsustainable structure responsible for the situation. We have been atomised them and the scarcity of stable employment guaranteed academics have taken a naïve approach in welcoming reflect on this situation. Many academics at the lower rung by this system, now is time to join forces in solidarity. by permanent contracts. Postgraduate workers are used to this development. We would do well to remember how of this hierarchy have internalised the logic of the market keep the cost of teaching low. PhD researchers are treated Harris handled the trolley crisis, the state of the HSE, the and compete with one another in a ruthless race to the as 'students' rather than as workers, thereby justifying cervical smear scandal, and, most recently, the bungled bottom. Although some senior staff, with secure contracts, their low stipends (as low as €500 a year, often including response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Harris will be no offer solidarity to those below them from time to time teaching work). They are struggling to make ends meet on friend to workers. His promise of a €250 compensation in solidarity which we always welcome and seek to strengthen low pay, and carrying out unpaid work, kept silent by the student fees during Covid has already proven vague and - others have unfortunately remained silent. It is the labour promise that this will eventually lead to better conditions, does not address the reduced quality of education moved of those below that allows many of the senior staff to gain and a contract of employment. For most, it only leads to online with little to no support to teaching staff or students. their own personal funding, recognition and publications.

their basic costs. University managers do not mind, they will working conditions and fair pay. Green shoots exist in would find themselves in a quandary if tutors decided to sell the same promise to another group of workers and get the form of various campaigns groups (like ourselves in withdraw their labour or to sabotage examination grading, another few years of cheap labour out of them before they UCD-PGWA, Postgraduate Workers Alliance Galway, and especially during this end-of-term period. The one or two too start to question whether they can survive in academia. the TCD PhD Workers' Rights Group) that have sprung up organically on various campuses. These groups are correcting hundreds of papers. It would be unmanageable. In recent weeks, a welcome in-depth investigation by attempting to push back and get organised against. The loss of pay would not even be that great for tutors since, Noteworthy, the investigative arm of *The Journal.ie*, shed the unbearable situation academics find themselves again, the pay for correcting mid-terms for hourly-paid cold light on this intolerable situation. We, members in. If you're reading this as an academic on a campus, it workers can be as low as €2 per paper, meaning tutors can of UCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance (UCD-PGWA), is likely one of these groups already exists: join it and make as little as €6 per hour for grading three papers, and welcome the new media focus on the conditions faced contribute! If not, talk to your colleagues and form one! would barely meet the minimum wage for correcting 5 of by academics throughout the country. Furthermore, If you are a student and reading this, it may shock you to them. Indeed, the rates for hourly-paid work were cut in we salute those academics who spoke to Noteworthy; learn of the situation faced by those who teach you and 2011 as part of the austerity measures in the public sector it is not easy to poke your head above the parapet. mark your work. At UCD, as little as €1 is paid per essay and never restored, although a process of pay restoration script, which unfortunately has an inevitable effect on the for public sector employees has taken place, which has

The Noteworthy article reports disturbing cases of Micheál Martin in the Convention Centre and received exploitation of teaching and research staff. Overall, we predictably mealy-mouthed platitudes in response. We believe this situation ought to be viewed within the context

ACADEMICS on campuses throughout Ireland, and received the message loud and clear: the government will of the corporatisation of university campuses in Ireland and who unfortunately face the consequences of this globally, have long been aware of the dire conditions not act to resolve the issues facing postgraduate workers. adoption of the gig-economy by top brass on campuses, system while paying ever-increasing fees, we ask you

Most importantly, university and college managers lecturers on a module would be faced with the prospect of to unreliable and improper grading of students' essays.

For those like us who are underpaid, and to students

EDITORIAL

groups asking for more recently, from Nurses and midwives example of the wealth of UCD as a corporation, funded by stranded students. UCD is. seeking fair remuneration, Physiotherapy students calling for the everyday, struggling student. placements to Graduate Entry Medicine and Smurfit students demanding to have their excessive fees reduced.

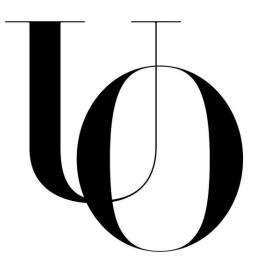
We at The University Observer stand with the students who

have keenly felt the pressure of finances and online college forced to choose between paying to stay in a city they need that the University is not facing the same reality, and in turn learned that some Smurfit students were told that in-person their education and world a better place. that this extra money doesn't seem to be tangibly trickling classes were mandatory, despite module coordinators down through the system. When the figure of €11,000,000 knowing they would be taught online. Despite the warnings is compared to the paltry €2 a postgraduate student receives from the trade unions, staff, and UCDSU, it was at one point to grade an exam paper, it is difficult not to feel disgusted. still possible to believe UCD genuinely planned on teaching From the money poured into elitist and luxurious student some things face-to-face. With these latest revelations accommodation and the proposed star-chitecture of the concerning a faculty with a disproportionate number of

We at *The University Observer* stand with the students Fulcrum Centre for creativity, to the €7.5 million spent to international students and the recent financial reports, it is fighting for more. There has been a deluge of courses and year renovate the office of the UCD President, this is just another clear that government lockdowns are not responsible for all

We at The University Observer stand with the victims of the horrific image-based sexual abuse, a scandal which has We at The University Observer stand with students who rocked the notion of a progressive and feminist Ireland to its have been stranded in Dublin based on false information. very core. We encourage all our friends and fellow students to are struggling financially. As a student-run newspaper, we It was dreadful seeing students in private accommodation, support changes in social attitudes and the law to prevent this kind of violence from happening again, commend all those among all our staff and readership. It is cruel to discover not be in or lose their deposit. But, even worse, we now have who have already fought so hard, trying and fighting to make

We at *The University Observer* stand with students.



EDITORIAL

TALLEYRAND

CHARLES MAURICE DE TALLEYRAND-PÉRIGORD



What ho ye saucey youths,

again for my final printed installment before the Ah well, not my problem. frivolous and sanctimonious 'joy of Christmas' gets all too much and I retreat to hibernate in the UCD tunnels

And now my friends I will leave you with a rousing tune until the sickly lights and ghastly carols disappear for I heard while on my daily stroll through the basements another nine months. Though I have to say Father of Ardmore House. Christmas has granted me my yuletide wish with a juicy story of monetary scandal. Deeksy weeksy has once again plundered students' fees to write himself a big fat Australian cheque. With €7.5 million he redecorated his office, perhaps €11 million will service his car? With €11 mill, our resident Ozzie could afford to give every student €350, but why would he do that? Isn't Simon the Vampire Harris already forking out a supposed two hundred and fifty yoyos.

As was to be expected UCDSU CEO Andy-Pandy saved the despondent and impoverished student populace with a strongly worded email.

To give credit where credit is due, all the sabbatical team seem to be busy and pretending to be working hard. UCDSU should give module credits to sabbaticals as part of a University Management course. Our favourite gingers have teamed up in an alliance, with the Layiton Grey and Bore-y Powerless hosting events to listen to the concerns of students, without having the means or impetus to fix any of their concerns. Bravo, my friends, a masterclass in running UCD.

Sarah MissedaLecture seems to have finally reared her head and begun running events. Maybe she found the time to read her work contract rather than just the handover notes from her predecessor and discovered that being an all-round legend wasn't sufficient. In awkward silence, we watched her make a hot whiskey - with no instructions, just watched. And while speedthanksgiving quizzing makes me want to swap places with the stuffed turkey, at least it was something.

Speaking of turkeys, our favourite sabat Bummerson was so busy running to and from SMURFIT and GEMs that she nearly didn't have time to show off her Christmas Jumper. I have to remark, though, it is a pity there is no member of the Students' Union team dedicated to helping the hordes of students with educational issues and the abandonment of the No It is I, Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord back Dim-wit policy. If only education was some fools remit.

Until next time. CMdTP x

Jingle Pockets, Jingle Pockets, students come to me, Oh what fun it is to be rich, when you get it all for free

Jingle Pockets, Jingle Pockets, eleven million more Oh what fun it is to, it is to steal, from the ugly and from the poor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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newspaper and online are welcomed

pertaing to articles published in this

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SPORT

EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE AND THE END OF DOMESTIC **FOOTBALL**

RONÁN DALY

Ronán Daly examines the potential fall-out of the proposed European Super League which has the FIFA and financial backing to change the landscape of European football immeasurably

IN October it was revealed that both Manchester United and Liverpool had shown interest in being united and Liverpool had shown interest in being involved in a new European Super League which would change the world of football as we know it. With the backing of Wall Street bankers, JP Morgan, and interest shown from a number of teams across Europe's 5 biggest leagues (England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France), a project that has been speculated about for years looks closer to happening than ever before, and that's not necessarily a good thing.

Talk of a European Super League isn't something new, it's an idea that has been around since the '80s and was part of the reason the European Cup was rebranded and reformatted as the Champions League in 1992. The change to European football in the '90s was also met with much scepticism, yet it fails to compare to the proposed changes and disruption that this new Super League would cause. The Champions League itself would most likely be replaced by this new European Cup and plays into a fear that football fans have had for years, that clubs from countries of lesser football pedigree are being squeezed out of Europe's elite competition. Just 2 years ago UEFA changed the qualifying system so that the topped 4 ranked leagues in Europe (England, Spain, Italy and Germany) all got

4 automatic qualification spots, taking up exactly half of the spots in the competition. Of the 32 teams that currently qualify for the champions league only 6 qualify via the play-off route, the other 26 spots are automatic spots given to Europe's best performing and wealthiest

For the wealthy owners of these clubs, this new competition makes sense from a profit standpoint, as to showcase the best of European football you want the best playing against the best. But a new Super League would exclude smaller sides even further in a system where making it to Europe's elite is already a nigh-on-impossible task. It would also be a move which would hurt fans of these clubs, particularly in the Premier League where season ticket prices are already extortionately high, and many fans are from working-class backgrounds. It would be inconceivable for the fans to be able to afford to follow their side in the way they currently do with this proposed increase in the number of games being played abroad.

In terms of structure, the new Super League would consist of 18 teams in a round-robin that would proceed to playoffs. With both the Glazers and FSG, the owners of Man United and Liverpool, being American it isn't surprising that this new format takes influence from American associations such as the NFL and the NBA, who decide the title in a similar fashion. This also plays into the idea of these clubs putting profit before fans. Both these clubs have previously had to make changes to ticket pricing structures as a result of reactions from fans and faced backlash because of their spending and investment policies. Not only does this new format try to create exclusivity in Europe's elite, but it is also doing this solely for profits from advertising rather than cultivating the spectacle of European football.

In the last decade viewership of the premier league has grown 74% in the USA and the number of people playing soccer in the USA is growing an average 1.75% a year. When you see how American fans interact with sports, with the mass consumerism and sponsorships that NBA and NFL players get and the grand spectacle of the Super Bowl which acts as a shrine to advertisement, it's clear that in trying to make the change to a European Super League these clubs are trying to emulate the profit models of American sport.

England's so-called 'Big 6', (Liverpool, Man United, Man City, Arsenal, Spurs and Chelsea), already own the lion's share of the wealth in England making it extremely

hard for teams outside the Big 6 to get a coveted top 4 spot and avail of the riches of the Champions League. When Leicester won the league in 2016, they were the first team outside the Big 6 in England to qualify for the champions league group stages since Newcastle in 2002-2003. The news of Liverpool and United supporting the European Super League came only days after their proposal for 'Project Big Picture', which would have seen the Premier League reduced to 18 teams and would have given the Big 6 all the voting power for any proposed changes to the league.

We shouldn't be surprised by the greed of the wealthiest member of the football family - every year football becomes more and more about the money, but hese changes represent a new danger of completely killing the game for fans in favour of a more marketable product for TV audiences. Talk of a European Super League has been about for decades and they won't go away any time soon but hopefully these proposals don't come to fruition and match attending fans don't lose the game they adore.

DISAPPOINTING END FOR UCD AFC BUT PLENTY OF POSITIVES

CAHAL MCAULEY

Cahal McAuley summarises UCD AFC's 2020 season, which came to a disappointing conclusion but from which many positives can be taken for Andy Myler's young side.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: CAHAL MACAULEY

UCD AFC's season ended in a devastating play-off defeat to Longford Town but their emergence as the league's most dangerous attacking outfit and high retention of players for next season gives fans plenty to be hopeful about when looking to the future.

After a disastrous 2019 season in the Premier Division which saw them relegated and set unwanted club records of 12 consecutive losses and a 10-1 defeat to Bohemians, UCD were attempting to dust themselves off and return to the top flight at the first time of asking. The Students came into the season in a period of transition which saw manager Collie O'Neill replaced by Andy Myler, who began his League of Ireland career

UCD made an encouraging start to the season with a 1-1 draw away to Wexford followed by a 1-0 win at

home to Cobh Ramblers, leaving the Students third in scoring hat-tricks. the table after two games.

Any ambitions UCD had of taking early control of the title race were quickly dispelled as they suffered a humbling 5-1 defeat away at Drogheda United. The Students did not get the chance to make a quick recovery as on March 12, the league was suspended to the chance to the second of the state of the second of the seco due to the emerging coronavirus pandemic in a season quite unlike any other. After a hiatus just short of five months during which the season at times seemed unlikely to resume at all, UCD reopened their account in the now shortened league format with a scoreless draw against Longford Town, a result which left the students outside the play-off spots for the first time in the season.

Myler had used the break to implement a new formation using three centre-halves and wing backs in order to be able to quickly switch between a back three and five, with the wing-backs being able to either provide more width going forward or more defensive cover, depending on the opponent. After a 3-1 win to Shamrock Rovers II and a 2-0 defeat to Bray Wanderers, the formation change seemed to be paying dividends as UCD won four of their next five league matches, scoring 19 goals in the process.

A fiery 2-1 victory over Athlone Town in which three red cards were shown was followed by a 3-0 win away to Cabinteely, marking the students first away league win in over two years. UCD gave a good account of themselves in defeat to Premier Division side Sligo Rovers in the FAI Cup second round, which stimulated a response of three league wins on the trot. This included their biggest ever league win in an 8-0 drubbing of Wexford F.C. with Colm Whelan and Yoyo Mahdy both

UCD's winning run came to a disappointing end as they fell to a 3-0 defeat to Galway United in what was their first home defeat of the season. However, they bounced back with another emphatic victory, this time a 6-0 away hammering of Cobh Ramblers.

In the seven games since the resumption of the league UCD had gone from a team struggling to find the net, with three goals in their opening four games, to the league's most dangerous attacking unit. With Mahdy scoring nine times and Whelan chipping in with seven.

The Students could not maintain this level of consistency however, as they suffered their only back-to-back defeats of the season against Drogheda United and Longford Town respectively. The defeats both to promotion rivals, were especially difficult for Myler's team as they had relinquished the lead on each

With their title hopes fading, UCD's best chance of promotion was through the play-offs and they returned to winning ways with another high-scoring victory, this time a 5-2 win over Shamrock Rovers II. After a 3-1 defeat to Bray Wanderers, UCD's third in four games, the Students were left in the play-off positions only on goal difference with three games to play. It was vital that UCD picked up full points in their next two games and they did just that with a 4-2 win over Athlone Town and all but secured their play-off spot with a 5-1 victory against fellow play-off hunters Cabinteely.

The Students secured a 2-2 draw away to Galway

United in the final game of the season. Drogheda United secured the First Division title and UCD advanced to the play-offs along with Bray Wanderers, Longford Town, and Galway United.

UCD would play against Longford in their semi-final and although they had failed to beat the midlands side in two attempts, Longford had been struggling for form with only one win in their final four league games of the season and UCD would enjoy home advantage.

However, it was not to be for the Students after an absorbing encounter where Longford snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, twice coming from behind and scoring late goals in regular time and extra time to claim a 3-2 victory to condemn UCD to First Division football next season.

The feeling of such a painful defeat will still be raw for everyone involved in the UCD setup but there is plenty to be optimistic about going into the new season in February. The Students finished as the league's top scores scoring 44 times, with Mahdy and Whelan finishing first and second in the golden boot race respectively.

After the tumultuous 2019 season UCD needed to steady the ship and rebuild and Andy Myler has done just that. If the Students can maintain their attacking prowess and at the same time tighten up at the back, UCD will certainly be one of the teams to beat next

CLUB FOCUS- UCD MOVEMBER: A VERY SPORTING CAUSE

CHRISTINE COFFEY

Christine Coffey talks moustaches, 'Coldvember' and men's health with one of UCD's Movember ambassadors, Rory O'Neill

November is a remarkable month for many reasons - it gets dark before five, Christmas jingles prematurely slip into television advertisements, and the annual Movember campaign sees Irish men join their international counterparts in a thirty-day attempt at growing a 'Mo for a Fellow Bro'. Inspiration is drawn from iconic 'taches, everything from classic Charlie Chaplin to a more contemporary Ron Swanson in Parks and Rec, all in the name of raising both awareness and funds for men's health. At the time of writing, members of 'The UCD Challenge' have raised €57,889 and covered over 10,500km in a concerted effort to add their personal motivations for addressing this important issue to those of this international charity.

There was really only one way to kick off the interview with Rory O'Neill, one of UCD's Movember ambassadors pledging to run 10km every day for the month to go with his moustache. When asked what he was aiming for on a scale of Eddie Murphy to Ron Burgundy, O'Neill jovially responded "I wish I could be Ron Burgundy... there can be lots of competition around [who has the best moustache], but it's supposed to be a bit of fun. By December 1st my moustache will be well or truly gone, or my girlfriend might break up with me". He is one of 280 participants in the 'UCD Challenge', the official combined endeavour of the university this month. "UCD have been great. Everyone wanted to rally behind this, and they were willing to share [social media posts]. [UCDSU Welfare Officer] Ruairí Power put us in contact with Georgina Dwyer [of UCD Sport] ... they were a massive help. I can't speak highly enough of them...Last year's nationwide total for the students of Ireland was €60,000 and UCD are on course to break that alone this year".

Growing a moustache isn't the only way of getting involved in Movember, and O'Neill was quick to point to the significant contribution of the 'Mo Sisters' of UCD Clubs and Societies participating for their brothers, fathers and friends. 'Move for Movember' challenges people to run or walk 60km over the month, "60km for the 60 men we lose to suicide each hour". Several of the UCD clubs, such as UCD Sailing, are taking part in 'Coldvember', and many of those committed to braving the wintery elements to go for a swim every day for the month are female teammates. When talking about the sense of community amongst clubs this has engendered, O'Neill remarked: "That's the biggest factor in the clubs. If I didn't have people getting me out of the bed to get into the water, I wouldn't be doing



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: UCD MOVEMBER

it". "Two of our biggest fundraisers, the Canoe and Surf Clubs, both have women as captains - Maeve Lynch and Eithne Boyle. Eithne is also the largest individual raiser in UCD". O'Neill also goes into detail about the part played by Jessica Brady, ambassador for UCD's societies, such as C&E and UCD Science Society, and their substantial efforts. He also mentions that the 'UCD Challenge' figures don't include that of the Sub-Aqua team, who have raised €4046 and covered over 470km in a substantial solo effort.

When asked about the different motivations behind participating in Movember, O'Neill discussed reservations in social interactions commonly associated with men, but more generally applicable to most groups; "in the way they act, the way they look after each other. A lot of the time you don't want to be prying, but it is important. We as men don't talk about things and don't check up on our friends and family as much as we should. I'm bad for it myself". Suicide prevention and awareness around cancer are cited by many of the students as their reason for getting involved this year. Some of the statistics O'Neill mentioned over the course of the interview included "one [man dying] every sixty seconds from suicide", "three in every four suicides being men" and "testicular cancer being the most common cancer in young men" as real causes for concern. Much more concrete for UCD's Movember community were the 'people behind these statistics' that O'Neill brings up, including members of the UCD Canoe and Sub-Aqua clubs' communities that were lost only months ago. O'Neill praised their ability to rally in the face of tragedy and the positive impact they are trying to have as a group.

O'Neill explained the 'three pillars' of men's health that

constitute the central focus of Movember, namely mental health, testicular cancer and prostate cancer, and the way the organisation tackles pervasive stigmas around each of these issues. Early detection and innovations in treatment remain crucial, and a significant proportion of the money raised by Movember is dedicated to funding research projects and international collaboration in the field of both testicular and prostate cancer. The charity also creates online resources such as 'True North' and 'Forward Momentum' to support patients, for its property of the charity and control of the charity and the charity a families and friends faced with navigating through their prognosis. Just this month, Movember announced they are making €309,000 in grant funding available in Ireland alone to help improve first responder mental health programmes. Amidst the clamour of well-meaning champions of various social issues, there's a simplicity to the messages surrounding Movember, an authenticity attached to the flipping of the symbolism associated with the moustache, a vulnerability in this quiet, unspoken display of support that transcends the gimmick of growing facial hair. There is something tangible about to 60km target for the one man that dies from suicide every 60 seconds, something proactive in the way physical check-ups are encouraged, something inherently positive about the discussions it starts among people. Mo Bros and Mo Sisters are keenly aware of the importance of these conversations and how the money raised is distributed to go beyond the important and difficult to quantify aim of 'raising awareness' to also help put structures in place to help those that need it

The November sky might seem to get a little darker bit earlier this year and the Christmas jingles might not have the same kitschy and nostalgic sheen, but the will to check in on friends and family is more apparent than ever. How far the UCD Movember team get on their month-long journey towards Tom Selleck or Hulk logan levels of facial hair renown, or what remarkable istance they can combine to cover over the thirty days, belies their more humble ambition to be but a small part of movement affecting concrete and measurable nange for the ever-pressing issue of men's health.

For Cathal, Declan and all those lost to suicide.



Interior Design 2020
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Banshee Press
//

Do shows/ films require
"shippable" characters?
//

Alcohol free allternatives
//

Staff Writes: Local business
to support this Christmas
//

Pictured Above // Banrion
Credit // Anna Heisterkamp

OTwo Interviews

Banríon

Ellen Duggan

Video shoots, performing, and a makeshift recording studio in Connemara: Ellen Duggan speaks with Roisin Hackett of Banríon



I have known Banríon frontwoman, Roisin Hackett, since the tender age of 12. When attempting to produce my (severely lacking) music on Ableton, Roisin was the only person I would send any .wav files to. When she would play the guitar and sing Lana del Ray in music class with a humble composure, I would unite my hands together to make a little love heart shape- beaming it directly at her.

When my friend and I moved in together 3 months ago, into a house on a road approximately 4 minutes away from Roisin's, I dreamt of her arriving at our door at 11 am, a coffee in her hand for me, dressed in a pastel blue shellsuit tracksuit, looking like Tony Soprano making a break out of his compound to do some light community service. And that is exactly what happened for her arrival at our garden for this quick interview (socially distanced

On the topic of dreaming things into reality, the concept of manifestation is no stranger to Roisin. In an interview with Cailean Coffey, posted on SoundCloud shortly following the release of Banríon's first EP, Roisin spoke about the gift of an electric guitar for her twentieth birthday and the subsequent days and nights she spent dreaming of playing and recording with others as one big, beautiful machine.

Five months after the release of their EP Airport Dads, Banríon, the big, beautiful, machine-like group consisting of Roisin, John Harding, Michael Nagle and Ivan Rahkmanin - friends who found each other as students of Trinity, each hungry to make music - are scattered around our locked-down Country. This can easily be seen in a way that may feel unconducive to further recording, but it is propitious to creative reflection.

Much music has been attributed to the liminal space of the 'Airport', but little to its paternal figures. Despite common queries, Roisin insists the title is not addressing Brian Eno, Sully or Michael O'Leary, but speaks to many band members' familial connections to airport occupations

This common generational link, a fact that is sat upon and augmented with the title- seems to utilise the same muscles of introspecting that are employed directly in Banríon's single 'Yesterday's Papers' from the EP.

They are not interested in providing themselves or listeners with answers concerning the past, or its connection to today, but are interested in presenting the link between the two and beautifying it sonically, for our ears. As she sings in 'Yesterday's Papers': "I wanna know about yesterday,// I wanna live, slightly, out of date."

I spoke with Roisin, in order to meet her in this space of reflection, and give consideration to all that Banríon has achieved in 2020.

Couldyou speak a little bit about your and your bandmates' musical background and how you all magically merged into one big beautiful machine?

Michael and John are both jazz musicians. They're incredibly talented and they both write their own stuff too which is sick. Ivan is newer to music like myself but is like a machine with it, he has such a maths brain with it all which is so opposite to me but it's ultimately why I think we're a good guitar team. Ivan is taking time out of the band so my wonderful friend and musical influence Robbie Stickland is stepping in. Michael, our drummer and producer, is also leaving the band after Christmas which will be a huge loss, as he shapes so much of the music. I'm not too sure about what that means for the future of the band or if it'll become more of a solo project.

I remember seeing images you shared of the beautiful and impromptu studio Banríon set up in Connemara during the recording of 'Airport Dads'. There was something so beautifully comfortable in how makeshift everything was. Could you speak a little around the recording of your EP?

I think those couple of days recording were my favourite days of 2020, it was just a big sleepover with my best pals. We had just had a spell of gigs over a couple of weeks and were all really in tune with each other, I think I had seen the boys every day for about two months. We decided about two weeks before that we would record an EP in Michaels's house in Connemara without giving it much thought at all. We forgot lots of equipment, and it took us like 7 hours to get there on public transport, in the middle of this enormous storm and our bassist John had to go back to Dublin 24 hours later for college. We had a little duvet fort for recording vocals, pillows stuffed up the chimney, and an entire dishwasher worth of dirty cups. It was totally manic but I think it was the most productive I have ever been in my entire life.

Please tell me a little about the 'Yesterday's Papers' video! What was the creation process like, what were your influences?

It's hilariously corny to say but that is how I met my girlfriend Anna Heisterkamp so it's so special to think back on the creation process. She shot, edited and directed it. When I met her first, she had a completely different interpretation of the song's meaning to me and such a clear idea of how the song looked like in her head, so I was so happy for her to take the reins on that, as the only idea I had to offer is that I wanted a shot of myself sitting in my old wheelchair being pulled by an army of small dogs. We thankfully scrapped that plan. She showed me a couple of visual prompts like some of Daniel Arnold's photos and some photo of a guy on a motorbike carrying a mirror and I was like "sweet let's do it". We shot half of it in my garage and half in the Featherbeds in the Wicklow Mountains with the help of our dear friend and dedicated assistant Charlotte Keegan.

You've spoken about not feeling like music notation is your strong suit and members of the band picking up on what you're playing to meet you where you are musically. I love the idea of you all in a non-verbal state and everyone in the band having a magical ability to 'morph' to what you're playing. How much do you all communicate whilst playing together?

When we're writing something new, I start playing the bones of the song on guitar and the boys start messing around on top of it. That's my favourite point of songwriting, when you can see it take a bit of shape and you're all giddily looking round at each other like "oooh we gotta keep that bit!" There's also lots of what I call "mouth guitar" where I'm scream-humming notes at the guys for riffs, "it sounds like DOOOO, NOT DOO!" It's an entirely inefficient way of working and I need to get guitar lessons pronto, but I will say that it is very funny to listen back on in recordings of practice.

There's also lots of what I call "mouth guitar" where I'm scream-humming notes at the guys for riffs, "it sounds like DOOOO, NOT DOO!"

Although you are frequently described as a 'composed' person, I personally find you to be quite crazy and gutsy. Corny., but I am constantly in awe of your bravery and 'I like this... let's do it!'-ness. I know you have spoken a bit before about tuning in to performance anxiety and 'working on it! What are some things that you have found have helped you deal with this?

No joke, I watched the Nasty Cherry documentary on Netflix and it genuinely changed how I viewed music and performing. They all just upped and left their jobs to start this band (with the help of LOTS of Charli XCX funds) but almost all of them were brand new to music and really had no idea what they were doing, but were just doing it anyway. I saw myself in that. I had been letting being nervous actually make me worse at performing which made me more nervous which made me worse. So I came back after Christmas and was like "f that! I'm not good at this yet but I'm definitely not bad anymore" and just channelled some Nasty Cherry rockstar energy.

It was such a push in the right direction about seeing a bit of value in the stuff I was writing and that it's worthwhile to put them out there into the ether

In 2018, you released the track and accompanying music video for your song 'Bins', which was a solo Project. Could you speak a little about the recording of 'Bins' and the role of your magical uncle?

I had just gotten an electric guitar for my twentieth birthday and had written a handful of songs, which I had only shown to one or two people. Last year, my uncle, who is a sound engineer, was over at our house and I was asking advice about how to record electric guitar. I showed him some little demos and he really liked 'Bins' so said we could record it in his studio in his house. It was such a push in the right direction about seeing a bit of value in the stuff I was writing and that it's worthwhile to put them out there into the ether, and then the reaction to that little SoundCloud song is what got me my first gig - making me ask around for people who would play the gig with me and ultimately form Banríon.

I know you and your bandmates are scattered around the country a wee bit. Have you been cooking up any projects during lockdown? What are some of the first things you all want to do when the vaccine hits the shelf?

The first thing I wanna do is play a big sweaty gig. As far as projects go, I've been cooking up some songs over summer and I'm thinking of recording a solo EP early next year. I'm also working on two collaborative songs with other artists, so that has been a cool way to branch out of our genre

Before we finish off and she walks the two-minute journey home, Roisin speaks of how her lockdown album was, unequivocally, Kate Bush's 'Hounds of Love'. If there was only one surviving vaccine in the world, she states she would gift it to Phoebe Bridgers and finally, unprompted, she launches into a speech concerning Paul Mescal and the joys of supporting Irish Musicians; 'On a scale of 1-100, I love Paul at a 110' she says whilst putting on her coat. She continues: 'During level 3, I would literally book a table at a restaurant for my girlfriend and I under the moniker "Paula Mescal."

'Airport Dads' is available on all good streaming sites.



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OTwo

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Nurina Iman Nizam chief of videography for arts and culture //

Phillip Du Moulin

chief of podcasting for arts and culture // | Matthew Tannam Elgie



Howyis all doing,

Welcome back for Issue Four of OTwo! The semester is nearly up, and soon enough it'll be time to veg out with your feet up for the Christmas Break. We've all had to put in a shift this semester, so take it easy once the break comes. You've earned it boss, make it a mission to do as little as is humanly possible. It'd be a nice change of pace for us all.

After all this time, we're finally starting to get a lick of good news. The good people over in Pfizer have been working on a Covid vaccine, and given the efficacy they're stating things are looking really good! I'm not a gambling man, but I'm sticking good known for one particular thing: his immense charitable money that the bulk of it is just Sudocrem and flat 7up. Ah contributions throughout the years. sure look, on a serious note though this is a brilliant thing to see after the past few months. It won't be long now until we're all back out in the likes of bars and cinemas again. Going out to see friends again, imagine! Heading out to easy, but we are all in the same boat.

With the end of the trimester approaching we know that means the workload comes with it. End of term essays and exam preparations have us all exhausted at this point, and the novelty of online classes wore off months ago. The one good side to this is that we're nearly finished up! Obviously with Christmas soon after comes the New Year and we can with Christmas soon after comes the New Year and we can all leave the mess that was 2020 behind. It's been a heavy year, I'm pretty sure that goes without saying at this point, but we're nearly there now. Congrats for making it through, it definitely wasn't easy but you did it all the same. That's support. A video of this can be found on his YouTube

recently publicised leaking of intimate images in this In 2019, to celebrate his wedding, he and fiancé Amine country. These images, often taken and all shared without Gulse vowed to pay for another 1,000 life-changing consent, have highlighted gaps in our legislation that desperately require our collective focus and united effort Mesut Özil heart of gold shows a more human side to in bringing measures that could prevent such invasive and those in the game today and is a shining example of traumatising experiences from occurring again. Our action and activity are deeply needed, as well as our support and kindness towards one another during times of difficulty. Love your friends enough to correct them when they display behaviour you disagree with, reach out for support and remember to always look after yourself. And we mean that lads. Seriously, call out your mates. It doesn't matter if they're your "boy", that behaviour cannot be tolerated, and holding your friends accountable is vital in making sure that this never happens again.

Thanks again for reading the OTwo for another semester. We hope you enjoy the issue, and we hope that the approaching holiday season is a good one!

Take care, and mind yourselves,

Mesut Özil: heart of gold

Andrew Nolan

Being an Arsenal fan these days can be almost torturous at times, and I reference the recent 3-0 game against Aston Villa. It's still painful. One of the club's highest points in the last decade came 7 years ago when they managed to sign one Mesut Özil. His omission from the current squad has raised questions, but Football aside, Ozil is

all levels have been financially impacted significantly, and Arsenal is no exception to this. Since August, the club has Going out to see friends again, imagine! Heading out to cafés with company in person rather than seeing them in all their 1080p resolution glory - what a concept. God love our social batteries after this readjustment and please remember that with any change, comes a healthy dose of fear; acclimating to the big bad external world may not be fear; acclimating to the big bad external world may not be club. At this point, Özil, who is contracted to the club until the end of the season, offered to pay Quy's salary for as long as he is an Arsenal player. This, thankfully, resulted in Quy getting his job back. Now, seeing it get to this point presents its own issues, but Ozil's kind actions were not missed on the community.

See, it isn't out of character for Özil to act charitably. He is an ambassador for the charity Rays of Sunshine, where they help grant wishes for ill children. His 30th birthday something to be proud of.

Before we get out of your way, it feels impossible to address our readers without directing our attention towards the our readers without directing our attention towards the land of the same of t

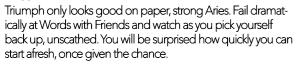
Mystic Mittens

Good things come to those who wait and you are nothing if not a perfectionist. If you can resist opening the oven every three minutes, your perfect soufflés will rise to greatness.

Although Saturn may have taken the mental form of a pessimistic stranger in your bed over the past year, try and understand that this stranger may simply have needed the offer of coffee and a cold shower. Open yourself with humour and kindness to the gift of the new, Capricorn. Love is waiting for you at the other end, ya beautiful specimen!

Lose yourself in the joys of organisation. Delete phone notes that no longer serve your greater purpose. Waking up from a dream in which you cut and bleach your hair does not mean you must do exactly that, but perhaps that you need to shed some internal weight and let yourself shine a little brighter.

There is a strong chance that the Banking 365 chat bot may not love you back, sensitive Pisces. Download Bumble and match with every self-proclaimed 'agnostic', 'liberal' or 'frequent drinker' in the greater Sandymount area. Allow for romantic ambivalence to be the strongest weapon in your arsenal this season.



"Cozy" may be your favourite state of being, but please tell me what precisely is cosy about the tea stains on your shag rug, or the water-diluted radox on your shower shelf? This festive season is a time for you to separate comfort from complacency.

Andy and Ellen x



It's time to embrace your inner emo, double-faced gem. Turn your apps to night mode, bring your SAD lamp to your office Christmas party and introduce it as your "better half", enter an off licence wearing the night vision goggles you ordered from wish in 2017 and let your inner voice be the sommelier.

Such comedically dark allure may just save you.

Not everything you read in emails is true. Your once adored youthful outlook has been exposed as naivety after your recent sizeable donation to the 'stranded' Dr Nigel in Zambia. Live and learn faster, Cancer.

Don't let your new preoccupation with home yoga workouts and the recent switch to Diet Coke put you under any false illusion that you are above the rest of your friends. Remember your roots.

The enlightened aren't always the most liked but they are categorically the most intelligent! Believe Mystic Mittens, this month you are going places.

This month brings with it some extreme cravings for accep-

tance. External validation is a virus in and of itself, dear Libra. Try looking inwards to scratch that itch.

Scorpio

Not everything is as it seems, dear Scorpio. If today's frog is tomorrow's prince, try leaving your lover's message on read, and come back with the response on rested eyes tomorrow.

art & architecture

An 'ugly' UCD building explained : The James Joyce Library

Laura Kenny

Laura Kenny discusses the UCD James Joyce Library

The James Joyce library could easily be cast aside as one of UCD's ugliest buildings. This would come as no surprise, given the associations students might have of the monolithic concrete fortress. It is where many have chained themselves to a desk for days on end to graft their way through exams and assignments. The library is also just like all the other 'ugly' concrete blocks that form the distinctive civic crust of UCD's Belfield campus. On closer examination, a different story can be told.

Designed in the early seventies by Sir Basil Spence Glover & Ferguson, the James Joyce library was conceived as the geographic centre of the Belfield campus and is books onto the building's structural web. strategically placed beside the main lake, which serves the university as a vibrant social epicentre. A raised concrete-

The Royal Institute of

the Architects of Ireland

Conference 2020: a success.

Doireann de Courcy Mac Donnell

Doireann de Courcy Mac Donnell

takeaways from the event and speaks to

Excellence Award for Architecture 2020

The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI)

Conference 2020 was uplifting and optimistic. Drawing in

speakers with a plethora of experiences and motivations,

rather than a conference about what Irish architecture is,

it was a conference about what Irish architecture should

be; sustainable, thoughtful, and for people. The annual conference was held on Tuesday, November 24th, and,

like so many facets of our lives this year, the conference

was held online. Hosted by Architect and broadcaster

Róisin Murphy MRIAI, the conference was split into seven

sessions discussing themes of Climate Change, the

Future of Cities, Housing Innovation, and Architecture

and Diversity. Key speakers included the revered Dutch

Urbanist Jan Gehl, Professor Ricky Burdett CBE, German

Architect Anna Heringer, DOCOMOMO Co-Founder Wessel de Jonge, and David Mikhail, Stirling Prize Winner.

Each speaker was accompanied by panellists to discuss

As part of the conference, there were addresses from the

Taoiseach Micheál Martin and the Minister for Housing,

Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O' Brien. Their

asked why all houses are built as though they have been

stamped by the same cookie-cutter, with no emphasis on

the talk, their own work, and to pose questions.

discusses some of the stand-out

winner, Eoghan Smith.

properties of the concrete waffle-slab ceilings provide the strength required to carry the weight of students and

of cookie-cut builds.

engagement was welcomed by the RIAI but their input—sentiments of Burdett. Burdett used graphs and maps to

Claire McManus, the RIAI Housing Spokesperson. She sector". Finally, McManus pointed to the issue of planning.

houses and the most minimal spaces. Adapting the how our architectural landscape will be able to improve.

jarred with their hopes for the future when compared show the direct impact that local authorities and proper

university's student population.

mass is held up by structural pilotis that create a covered ability to harmonise with the characterful neighbourhood

portico and a welcoming access point over the building's

Intelligent circulation design continues upon entry at the ground floor. A seemingly free-standing staircase and

ramp welcome and direct occupants between academic study on the floors above and social and convivial spaces

below. The escalator system, located at the centre of the first floor, works as a vertical spine to enable movement

between the different levels. Generous horizontal planes pivot around this spinal passage on each level

to accommodate for swathes of desks that attentively prioritise scholastic activity. Bookshelves, bathroom

facilities, meeting rooms, group workspaces and printer

facilities are carefully embedded in clusters around these areas to complement and aid the academic needs of the

The library's thick, grey, and heavy material palette has the

potential to be regarded as one of its ugliest and most

prison-like features. Interestingly, this intervention further

exemplifies the architect's effort to sensitively address the

needs of student scholars. The external downward-facing

louvres filter natural daylight entering the library, which

keep the interior temperate and create a quality of light

appropriate for cerebral activity. The durable and robust

generous and thoughtful architectural intent.

nain entrance. Simultaneously, it forms part of the circulation route that is created by the sheltered arterial walkway from the restaurant building to the blue chapel. The library's strategic placement and engineered effort to collage together different areas of campus life is an act of

> The library's thick, grey and heavy material palette has the potential to be

jagged Irish landscape and the low-rise quality of Dublin The age-old sentiment that beauty is found within could not be more applicable to the designed resolve of this regarded as one of concrete bastion. The James Joyce library is architecture's rendition of a gentle giant in need of defence and its ugliest and most understanding. The James Joyce library is an emblem of a concealed scholastic world that stimulates a focused and calm sense of productivity. Ingeniously, the lake works in prison-like features. parallel to occasionally draw students out onto the steps, where the social ingredient of student days is what forms the warm and magic memories of university life.



CreditEoghan Smith

The conference concluded by announcing the RIAI prizes minimum standards won't help unfortunately - Mc Manus for 2020. Prizes included the RIAI Future Award Winner, believed this would only serve to create a new collection which was awarded to Jane Larmour, of Arigho Larmour Wheeler, and Thomas O Brien, TOB Architect, both McManus pointed to three direct examples of how graduates of the UCD School of Architecture, with O'Brien now also as Design Fellow in the school. UCD graduates Irish building can be easily improved. Referencing the Goldsmith project discussed by Mikhail, she wondered Darya Protsenko, Jeff Berry and Aisling Mulligan were all selected for exhibition by the RIAI. Other prizes included whether a loosening of certain regulations in specific the RIAI Rising Star in Architectural Technology Award and cases would lead to more thoughtful and considerate architecture. Next, McManus explained that architects the RIAI Student Award for Sustainable Design. The RIAI are needed in local authorities. She used the towns of & Architecture Ireland Student Writing Prize 2020 was

The RIAI Scott Tallon Walker Excellence Award for to the succinct autopsy of why Ireland is the way it is by governance can have; "positive impacts through public Architecture 2020 was awarded to UCD Masters of Architecture Graduate 2020 Eoghan Smith for his The majority of planning offices have no architects or project titled: "Constructive Assembly: A building for designers to consult, and in turn, planners themselves the Irish Citizens Assembly as a symbol of participation verges, the street, or trees? Deducing that all ills return to the developer seeking the cheapest option, Mc Manus

have no formal design training. Our current national building prerogative seems to result in mundanity and observer, Smith explained: "This thesis began with an explained that the cheapest option returns the smallest sprawl. Until these issues are solved it is difficult to see interest in the areas, and institutions in Dublin which have stimulated the social and cultural life of the city - and a

concern for the increasing exclusion of such venues from the city as a result of more and more homogenised patterns of land use and development. The project proposes an architecture for the Irish Citizens Assembly - one of our country's most important institutions for civic participation - in which inclusive, deliberative dialogues in the democratic process are facilitated, and celebrated through its architecture". Mirroring the musings of McManus and the place of the public sector in creating place, Smith explained: "The thesis questions the role which government and its buildings should play in encouraging civic participation; exploring how they can foster an inclusive and participatory relationship with the city. To give form to such a building, I drew from buildings and structures symbolic of public gathering in our cities as my starting point - where the assembly of structure becomes symbolic of the assembly of people: from tented, tensile structures, to stages, bandstands, theatre canopies, market halls, and stadia. I ask: how should we imagine places in the city in which citizens feel they have a contribution to make? We belong to the city, but how can it belong to us?"

<mark>Credit</mark>Doireann de Courcy Mac Donnell

of adjacent geometric and planar blocks. This closely

entangled group of buildings project a robust and rugged beauty that is an evocative modern nod to the

It is clear the work taking place in UCD's School of Architecture in Richview is reflective of and building towards the sustainable aspirations of the RIAI. "The thesis studio this year decided to take on many of the issues surrounding climate change, and the responsibility of the building industry in tackling this" Smith explained. My interest in this subject lay not only in the serious environmental threat which this poses - to which the built environment contributes significantly - but in the socioultural effect of the destructive, economically oriented building activity which is going on across the city today... Having grown up in Dublin, I wanted to contribute to the y's future - and I hope this will not end with this thesis".

his opening address, RIAI President, Ciaran O'Connor pemoaned the paltry media coverage of the Pritzker Prize awarded to Grafton Architects, Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara. If it was the National Soccer Team or a prize for literature, every paper and magazine would have written about it O'Connor said. The apathy shown towards such talented and successful women, representing Ireland and creating places of beauty internationally lays bare the sometimes forgotten place of architecture within Irish society. However, from the wisdom of Gehl to the inspiration of Herringer and the bright future of Smith, we can rest assured that Irish architecture is something to be proud of and only growing stronger.

Interior Design in 2020

Sinéad Keating

Sinéad Keating looks at the defining interior style of 2020

From commercial to residential interior design trends, the Seventies are back. Instagram and design magazines are flooded with pink and green velvet, round frosted glass lights and everything arched. Animal prints, fringing, house plants, warm oranges and yellows all define interiors in the Seventies and they are coming to replace the Scandinavian minimalism that has dominated the world of interiors for the past several years. Maximalism has taken hold once again.

The grey-on-grey of recent popularity is beginning to subside to warmer tones and bold colours. The fear of creating a dark room, especially in dull Irish weather, has been replaced with a desire to use dark tones to create dramatic, cosy, rich spaces. The formal separation of spaces is staying in the past as the large open plan kitchenliving-dining room continues to be a top priority. This big bright main room lends itself to having an opposite in the house, a dark moody living room or adult entertaining space. With this, patterned wallpaper is having a moment again, with Seventies chintz and strong tropical patterns dominating the scene. The current popularity of house plants and warm tones leads naturally to wicker and rattan furniture gaining favour among designers. The increasingly popular tubular form of sofas and furniture edges are coming from the Eighties. All of these compound into what is taking over design magazines and Instagram. Elements of this style were born with the rise of social media allowing for the sharing of personal interiors. This has caused increased popularity of certain objects because they photograph well, or because they reach an enormous audience online; an abundance of house plants, for example. Interiors become the backdrop for any kind of post, which makes good interior design more accessible to the average person, as examples of good colour choices and room composition are shown to 2020 style. This playful, mint tiled restaurant earned KLD paintings, panels and more. The white subway tile, which



Clonakilty and Westport as examples and echoed the awarded to UCD Graduate Gary Hamilton.

As Ireland emerged from poverty in the late 20th century, interior design became more accessible to more than just projects in Ireland are Kingston Lafferty Design (KLD), timeless or more calm aesthetic for their homes. based in Ballsbridge. They design both commercial and residential projects, with the Cinnamon restaurant in The arch is a defining component of the current style Ballsbridge being one of the strongest exemplars of the and features heavily in recent KLD designs in mirrors,

expert in Interior Photography, having worked in Ireland of the mint leather booths and the dark stained dining colour and texture to a space. Small mosaic-like pieces tables with mid-century low backed chairs compliment embedded in smooth cement give flexibility in design and the circular wall art of frameless mirrors and round velvet application. Again, an ode to the Seventies, it was seen as panels. It has the popular round frosted glass light overdone in the nineties, but sufficient time has passed fittings and a snug with rich tropical wallpaper. While for it to rise to the top once more. No longer confined the rich, popularising the idea of employing an Interior it may be overkill to experience this space every day in to floors, its contemporary use spans countertops, sinks, Designer to deliver a fully finished room or building. a domestic setting, Cinnamon is a stylish delight to bathtubs and smaller decorative pieces. Irish interior design companies are being recognised for dine in. Commercial projects often allow for a stronger their contribution to the profession. Taking on high-end embodiment of the style, as people choose a more. No style is ever truly timeless, but the trends this year have

people daily in their personal feeds. Good photography a place on the Emerging Interior Designer of the Year is verging on becoming overused, is being replaced by

colourful tiles in daring shapes of hexagons, scallop, fan, circular. This is another favourite of a KLD project, and of the Irish-owned Bryan O'Sullivan Studio which operates in London and won *Interior Designer of the Year* at the Elle Decoration British Design Awards 2020. Another one to watch is Design Seeker in Monkstown, who specialises in period homes and blending old and new.

As sustainability is constantly rising in importance, the desire for vintage and second-hand furniture increases, offering the perfect opportunity to reach back into the Seventies and Eighties to update a space. Older pieces are paired with clean straight lines help to maintain the contemporary feel, which has been commonly done recently with crittal windows and doors. Originally Victorian, they are simple black metal framed doors or windows, with horizontal lines breaking them into several large horizontal panels of glass, framed in black. Close vertical lines in tiles, ribbed glass, curtains and wood screening or panelling add a contemporary touch.

On a student budget, Instagram is your friend to see how the right accessories with a little paint can achieve a dramatic transformation. Paint is very much having a moment, delivering bright fresh blush pinks or dark, cosy emeralds. No surface is off-limits for paint: contemporise a second-hand piece of furniture or paint the door and frame to blend into the wall. Another option is painting an arch of colour behind a chest of drawers or a bed to create a statement. Adding DIY rattan elements to pieces like headboards, side tables and tray tops is significantly cheaper than buying them premade, especially considering that all it takes is a sheet of rattan and some strong glue. Terrazzo patterned storage boxes and plant pots are more affordable. The Renaissance creation of is noticeable and Ruth Maria Murphy is Ireland's rising longlist for the 2020 Dezeen Awards. The curved edges terrazzo in Venice is a simple yet effective way of adding

proven that if you wait fifty years, it all comes back round.

literature & drama

Banshee Press

Anna Blackburn

Anna Blackburn takes a look into literary journalism and publishing at Banshee Press in conversation with author, editor, and publisher Laura Jane Cassidy.

Literature greatly contributes to tourism and the economy in Ireland. Writers like James Joyce and W.B. Yeats fashioned their art in a way that allows readers around the world to appreciate the simple beauty that encompasses Ireland. Inspirational writing is not limited to the great authors in Irish history. New authors are continuously emerging, and literary journals are becoming a popular way for the voices of new writers to be seen and heard.

At Banshee Press, founders and co-editors Laura Jane Cassidy, Claire Hennessy, and Eimear Ryan strive to expose new authors and their work in their literary journal, Banshee. In 2014, during the resurgence of literary journals in Ireland, Cassidy, Hennessy, and Ryan created their publication, and since then it has grown immensely, giving opportunities to many writers. The publishing company is based in Co. Kildare and publishes Banshee twice a year. I sat down with Laura Jane Cassidy to talk about Banshee Press and how she and her co-editors started their company.

Before Banshee, Hennesy and Cassidy were both authors of several young adult novels and Ryan had worked with other literary journals. Cassidy attended Trinity College Dublin until her career as an author took-off and led her to publish her first YA novel, *Angel Kiss*. Since then, Cassidy has thrown herself into her work and her writing. Through mutual friends, blogs, and Twitter, Cassidy met her business partners - women who shared her taste in fiction, short stories, and poetry. Cassidy said that they "swapped stories and critiqued each other's work" which helped them familiarise themselves with each other's

Cassidy, Hennessy, and Ryan created this opportunity for themselves and set a strong example for women in publishing.

Meade at the Stinging Fly was very supportive," stated Cassidy. "We were so lucky to have their support and if anyone came to us, we would offer them the same." Cassidy said that the most challenging thing about starting their company was the time-old cliche of time challenges with commercial publishing is that there are so and money. Fortunately, in 2015 they received the Artistic Entrepreneur Bursary Award from Kildare County Council, which covered the cost of printing their first issue, and they have received funding from the Arts Council every

Council Funding".

literary journals, and the three publishers decided they

wanted to create something new. While there are several

to be run exclusively by women. When asked how they

came up with the idea to start their own literary journal,

Cassidy described it as "a lesson in not limiting yourself."

Cassidy, Hennessy, and Ryan created this opportunity

for themselves and set a strong example for women in

publishing. Seeing the influx of women emerging in

publishing at the time gave the creators of Banshee the

It took only one year to get Banshee off the ground, from

their first meeting in September 2014 to the print release of the first issue in autumn of the following year. As with any new idea, Banshee started as a lot of bullet points

written onto documents, questions, and pages upon

pages of ideas. Their previous work in publishing gave them a great start, and for their other questions, they

reached out to other literary journal publishers: "Tramp

Press were quite generous with their advice and Declan

confidence to start their own publication.

The initial support for their journal came from writers and others who worked in literary journals. When they called for entries for the first time in Spring 2015, Banshee received hundreds of submissions. Since then their readership and number of applicants have continued to increase, receiving over one thousand pieces for their emerging voices," said Cassidy, "for our first issue we were incredibly blessed to publish the work of writers such as turning up at the desk". Nessa O'Mahony, Jessica Trainor, Lucy Sweeny Byrne and many others." The first issue of Banshee also included Banshee Press is currently working on putting all of their Sinéad Gleeson's first creative nonfiction piece, Hair.

Lucy Sweeny Byrne's work has continued to appear in several issues of Banshee, and she became the author of Banshee Press' first book. When asked how Banshee Lit turned into Banshee Press, Cassidy said that it had always been the plan to publish books, but it never seemed to be the right time. Then one day, Byrne sent Banshee a collection of her work asking if they had ever considered publishing books, and suddenly it seemed like the right time; "We felt it was like a sign. She didn't even know we had been talking about her and were wanting to publish a book with her, so it was definitely the right time". In 2019, Banshee Press released Paris Syndrome by Byrne, a collection of autofictional short stories. Cassidy described Byrne's writing as "sharp, funny, and very current".

Cassidy wanted a career in editing and publishing but Banshee Press has recently released their second book, feared the lack of job offers due to the fact that she had Gold Light Shining, a collection of poetry written by Bebe taken a step back from college to focus on her writing. Ashley, another writer who has appeared in their journal. In 2014, a new wave of popularity began surrounding The book was released two months ago and was followed by their first virtual book launch on Thursday October 29th, with special guest Stephen Sexton. The launch was literary journals in Ireland, Banshee is the first journal a success, and featured Ashley reading her own work and described the nature of her poems as "the nostalgic relationship that comes with youth and celebrity" and "a treasure hunt of Harry Styles references."

> patience, positivity and consistently turning up at the desk.

Small publishing houses in Ireland are able to work on a freelance basis, allowing them to work with experts in the field such as Cormac Kinsella, who manages their publicity, and Brookside Publishing Services, their sales many books being published at the same time", resulting in those publishers not having the opportunity to spend as much time with each story. She then noted, "whereas in a small independent press, you have the luxury of year since 2016; "We couldn't operate without the Arts fewer titles and you are able to give all your time to them". Banshee Press publishes only one book a year, but this way they can provide so much more attention to a single author and make the book the best that it can be.

Submissions for Banshee are open twice a year and Cassidy, Hennessy, and Ryan always encourage new writers to send in their work. Writing is a great challenge, especially when inspiration is hard to find when you're most recent issue. "We include both established and stuck at home, but Cassidy says the best way to develop turning up at the desk".

> publications online and their website also features their first web-only issue, #9.5 Banshee: a lockdown journal. You can find more information about Banshee Press and their publications at www.bansheelit.com.

book nook :

Moominland Midwinter by Tove Jansson (1957) Translated by Ernest Benn

Aífe Kearns-McHugh

Aífe Kearns-McHugh dives deep into Jansson's fictional world of Moominland and the hidden messages behind the

Moominland Midwinter is a book about insomnia.

Tove Jansson's Moomins are some of the most iconic children's characters of all time. Readers might recognise the soft marshmallow-hippo-looking creatures from comics, cartoons, puppet shows, or charming tote bags

The Moomins and their friends are comforting characters to look at and to read about. They live in a valley to the far north in the wilderness of unbounded forest, where strange neighbours live in strange harmony. Jansson was an anarchist and it shows in her writing, where the homeless wanderer who camps by the river is a good and wise friend and where, if a child is happier living at a friend's house than their own, they can simply move in. And her further exploration of self-professed politics, and allowing for fluid family definitions reflect those politics, adds another level to this stunningly complex children's series.

The actual stories of Moominland are secondary to the mood they create. Moominland is a place of wild adventure and consistent, cosy comfort. A child's land: a safe place to play and learn and grow. Tove Jansson is not afraid of throwing darkness in there, either.

In Moominland Midwinter, Moomintroll wakes up in the middle of his usual winter hibernation and he cannot get back to sleep. His parents don't wake up when he calls. He looks outside and discovers winter, like an invading nation, has changed Moominland beyond recognition. The sun does not come up. Everyone he knows is asleep or far, far away. In this scary new world, he must find his own way, all alone and in the dark

darkness and desolation of winter. The Moominland of old-fashioned cadence of children's books - reminiscent this book is an uncanny inversion of the Moominland we of Enid Blyton. know. "It wasn't green any longer, it was white. Everything that had once moved was immobile. There were no living sounds. Everything angular was now rounded." and complex topics are alluded to, all hurts are soothed Moomintroll is lonely, out of place, and very, very unsure. and all worrying meditations are put to bed. Yes, this is

or hiding under sea ice to avoid annoying neighbours. to learn.

what to read

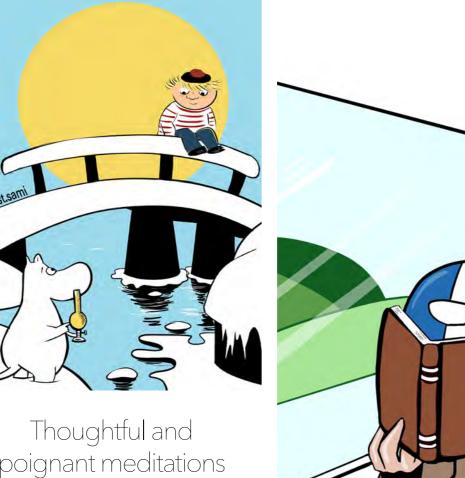


Thoughtful and poignant meditations on surviving the harshness of winter are interspersed with wonderful nonsense..

Written in 1957 and translated into English by Ernest A Swedish-speaking Finlander, Jansson understood the Benn in 1958, Moominland Midwinter is told in a polite,

This is not a challenging book. While bad things happen a book about a scared and lonely child, but this scared Moominland Midwinter teaches us how to make peace and lonely child makes new friends and finds new safety. with darkness and loneliness. It also teaches us how Moomintroll learns to cope with the bad and roll with the to avoid someone who wants to bring you skiing. good. He finds a way to survive, if not thrive, in a season Thoughtful and poignant meditations on surviving the far harsher than he has ever experienced. He does this harshness of winter are interspersed with wonderful while everyone he loves is temporarily lost to him. So no, nonsense, like a squirrel so obsessed with his own fluffy this is not a challenging book. But winter is a challenging tail that he cannot keep an unrelated thought in his head, time. And this book contains lessons we could all stand

where to read it



I recommend reading this book in a park at 10 a.m. Buy a pastry (they're less than a euro in Tesco) and bring a flask of tea from home. You'll need to wrap up warm, so you can sit on the ground. I would never recommend you ignore a sign which specifically forbids people from climbing the rocks, so you can perch on the outcropping which catches just a drop of golden sun. However, if you do happen to do such a morally dubious thing, it would be understandable and, I imagine, a pleasant experience.

Try and read something new. I suggest Moominland Midwinter, in the cold and clear winter sunlight, when it's just cold enough that your fingers are getting stiff, and just bright enough that you are grateful for the light and touch of warmth.

But winter is not always so idyllic.

. let this book hold you in a half hug and tell you about the beauty of winter.

You may find yourself awake at 4 a.m. with your bed too warm, the air too cold and everyone in the world asleep

You may feel all alone in a world, during the darkness you were made to sleep through. You may hear the soft breathing of nearby sleepers and resent their easy rest.

When your phone is too bright and the night too dark, you can find great comfort in lighting a little lamp and holding a hardback book in your hands. When your body is too tired and your brain too busy, the delicate ink drawings and softly serious words of Moominland Midwinter is the perfect thing to look at with your tired, burning eyes.

This is a kind book: a book about a little troll waking up in the middle of winter and feeling very afraid. He makes friends. He feels lonely. He muddles through. But spring does come in the end. When you're all alone and everyone you love has fallen into a deep sleep or is far, far away, let this book hold you in a half hug and tell you about the beauty of winter. It's not beauty despite pain, or beauty because of pain - just beauty beside the pain.

Louise Glück: American Poet & Nobel Laureate

Anna Blackburn

Anna Blackburn *discusses* the inspiring work of Louise Glück, winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Each year the Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded to "the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction". On October 8th, Louise Glück was honoured with the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2020 at age 77 "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal".

American poet and essayist Louise Glück was born in April 1943 in New York and grew up on Long Island. She is currently an adjunct Professor of English and Rosenkranz Writer-in-Residence at Yale University in New Haven,



Connecticut, in the United States. Glück has won many awards and grants for her outstanding work in poetry and was the Poet Laureate of the United States from 2003-2004. She was also appointed a Chancellor for the American Academy of Poets in 1999 and held the position for six years.

Glück's most noteworthy awards include the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for The Wild Iris (1992) and the National Book Award for Poetry for Faithful and Virtuous Nights (2014), both collections of poetry. In addition to these, Glück was presented with the National Humanities Medal by former President of the United States, Barack Obama, in 2015. Since then, she has continued to

Nobel Laureate upon her presentation for the Nobel Prize in Literature this past October. She is only the third American woman to have received this award, after Toni Morrison in 1993 and Pearl S. Buck in 1938.

Firstborn, her debut collection of poetry, was published in 1968 when she was only 25 years old. She subsequently published twelve collections of poetry including The Wild Iris (1992), Averno (2006), and Poems 1962-2012 (2012); multiple chapbooks; and several volumes of personal publication, American Originality: Essays on Poetry (2017).

While Glück has had a lifetime of achievement, the value of a writer's work is not measured by how many comes from the heart of the author and is sustained through the impact their work has had on others.

The first two lines of her poem "Telescope" read: "There is a moment after you move your eye away/when you feeling far away and small in a vast universe, but her poem, and this quote in particular, are a reflection on her own work. Glück's poetry is so relatable and engaging that the first line of nearly all her poems creates an instantaneous emotional connection with the reader. It pulls you in from the start and envelops you with a sense of familiarity shared between Glück and the reader. You are able to lose yourself so completely in her colloquial diction and subtly complex settings that her work

win awards and most recently has received the title of transforms you into the unnamed subject of every poem.

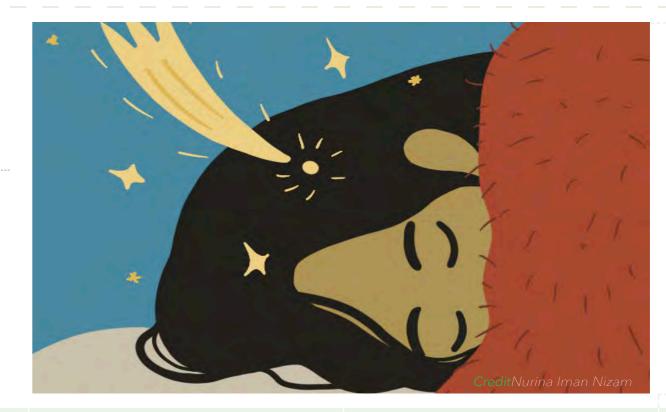
There is no one way to describe her poetry, but what connects all of her work is the immortality created through the way: "she engages exquisite sensitivity in timeless topics such as isolation, relationships, and confrontation with death" (Nobel Prize). Her poetry is raw, real, and matures alongside her. One of her collections, *The Wild Iris*, published in 1992, personifies a garden of flowers which individually represent the differentiating factors of life brought together by similar human experiences, essays: Proofs and Theories (1994) and, her most recent like that of isolation and personal relationships. Then, in one of her later collections, The Village Life (2009), she more directly considers the concept of death and leaving this world in "Crossroads": "My body, now that we will not be traveling together much longer". Upon the awards they have won. These rewards simply act as recognized public adoration shared by other prominent she has lived. Much of her work has been categorised figures within the field. The value in any piece of writing as auto-biographical, and although this has not been confirmed by the poet herself, the Chairman of the Nobel Committee, Anders Olsson, wrote: "In her poems, he self listens for what is left of its dreams and delusions, and nobody can be harder than she in confronting the illusions of the self. But even if Glück would never deny forget where you are". On the surface, this poem is about the significance of the autobiographical background, she is not to be regarded as a confessional poet".

> There is no doubt that Louise Glück is well-deserving of this incredible award. She has dedicated her life to her work, and her poems continue to inspire people of all ages around the world and will continue to do so for a very long time.

Lockdown Inspiration

In a time of isolation, it's difficult to feel inspired, so these students shared with

us their secrets to what inspires them to write and keep going.



that comes out of nowhere, makes no sense, yet has the ability to connect all the dots.

It's something

Inspired by The Arts

Lauren Cassidy

Inspired by Nature

Killian Conyngham

Inspired by YouTube

Andrew Nolan

Inspired by Time Fleeting

Hannah Browne

Lockdown has been mentally, physically, and creatively I can remember it well. It was the first lockdown, and In theory, a country-wide lockdown should have been a the Arts. The closure of galleries, theatres, and museums to from the winter months. The setting sun painted the with it, this should have been our time, right? earlier this year left me lacking any sort of creative inspiration. Art helps us to understand the past, to convey anxieties about our present, and to shape the trajectory of an ambiguous future.

In these particularly strange times, many cultural Culture allows users to travel around the world, visiting attractions like New York's MoMA and the Acropolis of Athens. Art helps me transcend my bedroom's four walls, chipping away at claustrophobia, and creating a liminal space in my imagination. Consuming art is a liberating act, catalysing simultaneous emotions of wonder, unease, and sublime inspiration.

I think that the creative process is a little symbiotic; we often draw our inspiration from the inspiration of others. I have indulged in these new digital curation projects - many of which I did not have access to before the pandemic. This practice helps calm my thoughts and allows me to let them out on paper. Art is never stagnant but created in the encounter between it and its spectator. In a historical moment when time itself is stagnant, it's important to keep creating, and inspiring others with our creations.

otherwise monotonous housing estate and some far off birds chattered. Things felt manageable. I got home and wanted to write, if only as an attempt to capture a slice of existence at random.

institutions have adapted, making their resources Suddenly it was summer, and I was able to go all the way available online. The National Gallery of Ireland has to Phoenix Park to meet some friends. We sat in the grass introduced a new virtual tour. Similarly, Google Arts and and watched the clouds swish by, discussing nothing at length. The weather was unpredictable and the tree we took shelter under felt enormous. On my cycle home, I had to stop by the canal to scribble notes and watch the swans. Too many words and phrases scrambled in my

Then, last week brought more bad climate change news

I stepped out into the back garden in a well-practised processing mechanism. The wood pigeon cooed as I stared out into the greenery for movement, wondering where the neighbourhood fox might be hiding. Stepping inside after; I was able to communicate my disappointment, frustration and sense of powerlessness far better. It doesn't have to be grand vistas all the time. Sometimes a chirp or a tree is enough. If not only for inspiration, then for urgency.

to maintain motivation for college work. As an English Literature student, I draw considerable inspiration from and so the air was far warmer and crisper than I was used

In need of inspiration? Ah, I'm sure you have a minute mate, read a book or something. But even in our passions, boredom will set eventually. To try to make something of the time I had, I turned to sources I wouldn't normally associate with inspiration.

providing a wholly unique experience on the platform. I and ponder the different aspects of life. It also gave me What makes these stand out isn't necessarily the content of the story, but rather its presentation; the reading of | how it affects people. During lockdown, nearly everyone the piece, and the accompanying minimalist graphics or | was reminiscing about the times before social distancing animations provide an atmosphere distinctive to that of a traditional novel. Channels like Pursuit of Wonder and Exurb1a and their means of storytelling have become something of a genre in itself.

Now, there are probably some that will laugh at this one, but with all that time I played a lot of old games namely Silent Hill 2. Not without fault, the 2001 classic It's made me ask so many questions and reflect on the not only holds up today but narratively cut so deep that | concept of time more. What does time mean? Have I many still resonate heavily with its themes today. Ask its spent my time in lockdown well? Do I spend my time well fans, or those offering four-hour long dissections of its 🗎 in general? How would I feel in that situation? It's given me metaphoric presentation online, and many will argue | a lot to explore creatively. Something so intricate deserves that this game, in particular, makes a genuine case for to be mirrored in writing. It's something that comes out of games to be considered in the conversation of legitimate nowhere, makes no sense, yet has the ability to connect

My inspiration for writing came from the realisation exhausting for everyone. Personally, I have found it difficult I was going for a stroll within my two kilometres. It was lot easier on writers. Many complain of wanting to write of how fickle life really is and how often we take it for granted. Wishing each day away into the next, we hope for lockdowns and social distancing to become things of the past, while others pray each day won't be their last in a hospital ward. Upon discovering the health status of mily member. I felt motivated and inspired to wr simply because I didn't understand how I felt at first, and writing helped me deal with these unprecedented

> It gave me inspiration to write and really appreciate everything life has to offer. The feelings I had were strong Unbeknownst to me, YouTube is chock-full of writers and the only outlet I had was writing. I could express myself time and interest to research what cancer actually is and and wanted so desperately to return to normal.

> > Although Covid-19 captures every headline, it seems to have taken precedence over other major issues which remain, such as the prevalence of cancer. We seem to have forgotten about the constant disease and tend to focus on the virus.

all the dots.

Holiday Literature

Natalia Duran

Natalia Duran shares her warm holiday memories, her thoughts on Holiday literature, and what to read this season.

The cosiness of the holiday season is unbeatable. Filled with warmth and joy, family gatherings and wonderful feasts, music playing, and the twinkling lights. It's that time of the year that brings the world together, and thus, stories are shared. From the beginning of cultural development, humans have been known as storytellers. All the way from Ancient Greece to today's multicultural world, stories have been and continue to be heard, passed on, and shared once again. Storytelling is something that has brought us all together, regardless of geographical or linguistic differences. The same stories can be translated today into various languages and be shared across the globe. And the holiday season, a time of sharing and surrounding yourself with loved ones, has become a popular time for storytelling, and with that, holiday literature has emerged.

family and I celebrate it every year in grandeur. One of time of the year because it brings people together. and instead, finding joy within one's self and others. every year in her living room, and share stories all together.

...people have gathered and heard the same stories for years, unified by a single narrative.

the most vivid memories from my childhood is gathering Its popularity continues to increase through cultural Dickens' holiday narratives sparked cheer and love to sing with family and read a story together at my and religious traditions shared during the holiday for the season and, like several of his other stories, grandmother's before feasting on tamales and ponche (a season. Religious beliefs have been shared throughout were created to remind people of the holiday spirit. traditional Latin-American holiday dish). My grandmother storytelling; it is what has made each religion grow and always thought it important to share time with loved ones, expand. Ideologies were shared, tales delivered globally. especially during the holidays, and so we would gather No matter where you stand in the world, religious the same stories for years, unified by a single narrative.

> being a great novelist of the time, has also been to the new urban way of living, festivities were forgotten of simplicity and humility that sparks immense joy. over work and financial stability. Many suffered poverty alongside Dickens, which inspired what is still known to The Holiday Season falls upon all of us, no matter if

around the world. It delivered the message of unity,

I have always loved the holiday season. In Guatemala, my Holiday literature holds an important role during this moving away from financial hardships and consumerism,

A personal favourite of mine has to be J.R.R Tolkien's Letters from Father Christmas. Inspired by Tolkien's stories are still heard and they bring people that share tradition to write his children a letter every Christmas, similar beliefs together; from family and friends to this book is filled with experiences of that year and life complete strangers, people have gathered and heard lessons to meditate upon. Tolkien's Christmas narrative represents his sense of gratefulness and consideration for others: "I (and also my Green Brother) have had to Over the years, holiday literature has evolved and begun do some collecting of food and clothes, and toys too, to separate from its origin of religious beliefs to unite for the children whose fathers and mothers and friends even bigger groups of people during the festivities. cannot give them anything" (Tolkien, 1976). The holiday The seasonal stories were modified and adapted to season in my family has always been celebrated as a time fit popular themes of society. During the Victorian era, of gratitude, a time of reflection, and a time of helping holiday literature took an exceptional leap in becoming others; 'delivering joy to the hearts of others' as my a worldwide favourite. Charles Dickens, known for grandmother used to say. Tolkien's holiday tale is what holiday literature is all about. The intention of speaking recognized in an article by The Guardian as a "revivor" about the kindness and holiness of sharing is understood of the holiday spirit during 1843" (Laverne). In a time by all humankind, but most importantly, the intention to where the population of England was accommodating bring back consciousness into the holiday spirit's purpose

be one of his most popular stories, A Christmas Carol. it is filled with twinkling lights around the Christmas Dickens' instant hit was an attempt to revive and bring tree and Santa's presents, if it's Menorah candles that the joyfulness of the holiday spirit back into society. The burn for eight nights, or if it is celebrating Kwanzaa, story of ghostly visits and the redemption of miserable dancing to the rhythm of drums. It is this time of the Ebenezer Scrooge from his greed built a sense of year everywhere, that Holidays storytelling brings communal sharing which resonated with people all us all together, all under one single Holidays spirit.

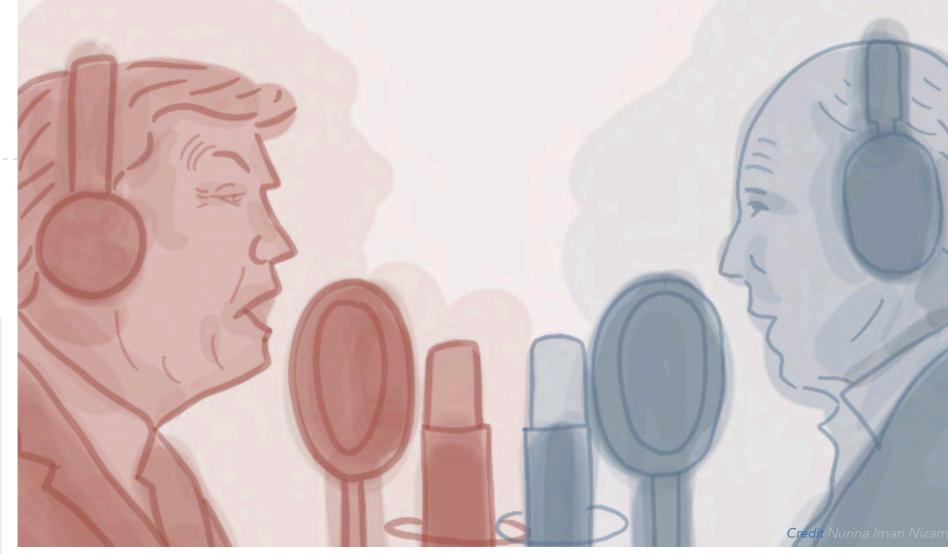
music

The 2020 'Party in the USA'

Aoife Rooney

Aoife Rooney looks at the recent US Election and its musical influence.

> So many people out in the streets, congregating in outdoor areas, dancing and singing along to songs that for them symbolise the start of a new chapter in American politics and democracy as a whole.



Monumental shifts in the governmental makeup of landscape that led up to both the 2016 and 2020 countries such as the U.S. will always have inadvertent presidential elections, it made more of a statement if ripple effects, both politically and otherwise. With the prominent voices from social media platforms and the The song fleetingly saw the number one spot on iTunes securing of Pennsylvania as a blue state, therefore entertainment industry did not voice their support for a on Sunday, November 8, and was downloaded over confirming former Vice President Joe Biden as President- candidate, most likely the Democrat on the ticket. Within Elect and running mate Kamala Harris as Vice President- the echo-chamber of music, film and entertainment, of cities across the country celebrating Joe Biden Elect, Democrats took to the streets of many major cities the overwhelming support that most users will see is surpassing the necessary 270 electoral college votes. to celebrate the win. Music was heavily involved in these Democratic, and for many living outside of the States, gatherings, with many taking to parks and congregating it was a surprise to see just how tight a race it was. in the joint act of dancing and general celebration. With regard to the choice of music, many songs saw major spikes in popularity in the weeks following, now heralded as outdoor areas, dancing and singing along to songs that, soundtracks of the Democratic win. Some of these include, "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus, "FDT" by YG and Nipsey Hussle, and "Celebration" by Kool and The Gang. All saw for many. It is all the more unique when these videos are

not a novice concept. In the political and social media party was used extensively throughout the most recent

for them, symbolise the start of a new chapter in American triple-figure percentage increase in streams compared to pre-election buzz. Cyrus's album has re-entered the iTunes top 200 as a result, rocketing 810% in the charts. when Trump ran for the first time. The song, which Celebrity and artist involvement and convergence is understandably offends supporters of the Republican

run-up to the election among voters, signalling a way of differentiating voters based solely on music listenership. 3,000 times, according to Billboard, as a result of residents

Music plays an interesting role in politics, with many nstances of song use at party rallies being contested by the artist if they don't align with the party themselves. With regards to Republican rallies held by the Trump campaign, artists such as R.E.M, The Rolling Stones, Adele and Rihanna have all issued cease-and-desists to the for many. It is all the more unique when these videos are campaign after they chose to use their music. Whether or

Album: Power Up Artist: AC/DC

that rock fanatics can savour. Balls-to-the-wall action, rip-Johnson's well-worn, well-torn vocal cords. If there was miserable temperament of the year. After that, memorable long since forgotten. However, when that recipe includes keep asking for yet another helping. In Power Up, the old the same raucous feel to each tune. formula proves its remarkable timelessness once more,

same way that radioactive material secured Marie Curie's with it. In short, vintage AC/DC. What else do you want? legacy, but also ended her life, the rock music that the band had promulgated for so long had begun to break them down physically. Symptoms included, but were not limited to: a deafened lead vocalist, a retired bassist, and a drummer under house arrest. Not to mention the late rhythm guitarist.

Left alone, still in his iconic schoolboy uniform, lead guitarist Angus Young faced an uphill battle like never before. However, incredibly, the band was strung back together. All members were convinced to return (with together. All members were convinced to receive technological marvels to thank for Lead singer Johnson's restored hearing), and Malcolm and Angus' nephew Stevie was brought in to play rhythm guitar.

The results are everything you could expect from AC/DC Loud, proud, and built for a (socially distanced) crowd, at the peak of their powers, a noteworthy achievement for AC/DC's 16th international release, *Power Up*, defies a band that has been all but hung, drawn, and quartered almost insurmountable odds to deliver a familiar package in recent years. The standout songs include 'Shot in the Dark', the lead single, which rolls by in a relaxed and roaring, explosive guitars, and the iconic shrill of Brian feel-good manner perfectly at odds with the otherwise any other band in the world who did nothing but serve tracks include the more militant "Realize", which contains up a familiar recipe for the past 45 years, they would be an anthemic chorus built to be sung by large crowds, and "Demon Fire", which draws us in with Johnson's gripping two measures of loud, a tablespoon of explosions, and lower range, before giving way to a classy guitar riff. All a hearty dolloping of fast, it's not hard to see why we told, the tracks here are notably consistent in quality, with

despite the loss of the man who once served as head chef. And therein lies the usual criticism of the band. The songs are fun, but "they all sound the same." I can't argue that In the wake of their most recent tour, AC/DC seemed all there isn't a formula to a typical AC/DC song, but I will but broken. The band's co-founder and rhythm guitarist, argue that it's a damn good formula. Power Up is about Malcolm Young, had retired in 2014, having been as apologetic, soft and thoughtful as a car bomb, and hits diagnosed with dementia, and passed away in 2017. In the you over the head with monster chords until you agree

Credit Nurina Iman Nizam



Post Human: Survival Horror

Andrew Nolan

Album: Savage Mode II Artist: Bring Me the Horizon



many, with the track's mellow chorus being assaulted by significant injuries is a telling and positive note for many. an upsurging breakdown towards the end. Much of the album's content follows this trajectory. Already expecting a heavier experience, I sat to listen through track-by-track one gripe I had with the album and others of its kind. *Post*

While some may expect a band to bow to a fanbase metalcore album more than justifies itself.

Bring Me the Horizon have been nothing short of a benchmark for other metalcore bands in how to evolve at the context surrounding Bring Me The Horizon. A both within and beyond a genre. Take someone who has common issue amongst bands of the genre, Oli Sykes, only ever listened to the likes of amo, and try to explain the band's vocalist, has very publicly suffered vocal cord that the same band produced the likes of Count your ruptures throughout the years. Their softer sound, while Blessings. How one band can be their own antithesis on still a creative choice, of course, inherently compensated such a scale is beyond me. Having softened their sound in more recent albums, their latest release *Post Human:* for this. Surprising to some, there is a lot of technique involved in developing those harsher vocals, and if Survival Horror is something of a return to true metalcore a band starting in their teens eager to make a name for themselves engage in this sound without proper technique it can cause a plethora of issues down the road. Fans were aware of this shift from some of the singles Vocalists like Danny Worsnop of Asking Alexandria have released, which presented a sound that hadn't been faced similar issues too, with their sound also altering as synonymous with them in years. 'Ludens', written for a result. Whether you're a fan of their earlier deathcore the soundtrack of Kojima Productions PlayStation title entries or found yourself more gripped by their take Death Stranding, in particular, caught the attention of on amo, seeing a vocalist come back strong from such

on its release. Even with this knowledge in mind, the Human is closer to an EP, having a song total of 9 songs. first song titled 'Dear Diary' blew my expectations out of Prior to release, 4 of these were released as singles. I'm the water. Detailing a man losing his sanity in isolation, fully willing to admit that it's a personal pet peeve and a relatable idea in today's context, the whole song is a nothing more, but I can't help but feel that songs like fast-paced and heavy ordeal, with the song's peaking 'Parasite Eve' would have been so much more effective crescendo enough to make you put a brick through your own windows.

had they been a surprise, like the aforementioned 'Dear Diary'. Regardless, BMTH's return to their root genre is a spectacular one, and its entry as a predominantly

OTwo Interviews

TV People

Isabella Ambrosio

Isabella Ambrosio sits down with rising Dublin act TV People to chat about their new single 'String' and what the band wants from the future.

In 2019, a new band hit the Irish scene running. Gaining support from the likes of Huw Stephens on BBC Radio 1, Steve Lamacq on BBC 6 and promotions from Spotify and the legendary Abbey Road Studios, TV People have already proven themselves to be a Dublin-based act to follow. The four-piece is a collection of musicians that draw on their indie and garage rock musical influence.

I sat down with three of the members of TV People, who delivered thoughtful answers, building a harmonious conversation about mental health, inspirations and influences, as well as the struggles of being a new band, especially during a pandemic.

The members of TV people consist of vocalist and lead guitarist Paul Donohoe, Rob Kavanagh on bass, rhythm guitarist Len Rochford, and Brendan Clarke on drums. With Donohoe's smooth vocals and the recurring slow guitar lines, TV People's genre seems to almost float between a slight punk influence, whilst also dancing delicate lines of the indie genre. Their recent single 'String' discusses mental health with the use of beautiful metaphors, but ultimately, a cohesive dialogue about one's mind not being in the best state. It felt relevant to touch on, with the month of November this year being used to bring attention to men's mental health, and given the refreshed focus on men's mental health, the track is made all the more poignant.

When I asked if this recent surge in conversation led to the creation of their single, Donohoe was eager to answer; "Talking about mental health related stuff amongst ourselves is very normalised, anyways. So, that's something we've always done amongst our group of friends, we'd be very open about our mental health. I don't know if it was necessarily a really conscious decision to be like 'We're going to shine a light on mental health'. It's speaking what we kind of know already. But, definitely, it's a very beneficial thing to do, as you said yourself, there is a stigma about talking about it, particularly amongst Irish men. If it has any positive effect coming out of that, that's brilliant".

"I think we're very lucky that we have that mentality that we're quite comfortable talking about mental health amongst ourselves and personally, myself and my wider group of friends, it is quite normalised and mental health issues are ubiquitous. Half the people I know are on antidepressants

So, if you're in a position like ours, where [mental health] [is] normalised and you feel comfortable, it's nice then to be able to write music about it and talk about it a little bit because it honestly just gives people who listen or follow the band, a bit of comfort, you know?

or something else. So, if you're in a position like ours, where it's normalised and you feel comfortable, it's nice then to be able to write music about it and talk about it a little bit because it honestly just gives people who listen or follow the band, a bit of comfort, y'know?" Clarke added.

Although humble, they are no strangers to success. They received notable recognition from their single 'Nothing More', which collected praise from BBC Radio 1 and BBC 6, 'Kitchen Sinking' earning a spot on receiving heavy promotion from the notorious Abbey do, it's a very expensive hobby and it's well worth it, but Road Studios. The list of mainstream Irish supporters it's a shame that it's hard to make money from it at the



"It's been a weird one obviously, this last year, because As an up and coming band, influences and inspirations with Covid, you envision in your head, you start getting are always a conversation that others seek to begin and big UK radio play and features, so you know, 'next time often finish themselves. With labels concerning genre we're going over, we're playing big gigs' and we can't or specifically impactful musicians being stapled upon even play a gig in Dublin right now, and it's been a lot everything within a second of its conception, often before of radio play and press coverage. We can't really do it has time to speak for itself. Speaking on their influences, anything..." Donohoe trails off and Clarke picks up right where he left off, "You can't cash in on the success a little bit, you know? In normal times, if you get on BBC or "Initially, when we started, I knew Len [Rochford], who get a big feature in a big magazine, you might be able isn't in the meeting right now, and Brendan [Clarke] for to translate that into ticket sales or something like that. a few years, and we were really into this American band But, I guess we've been just trying to sell merchandise and build a following on Spotify and things like that, but it's tough and it's difficult to know what to do next".

Kavanagh was guick to comment as well, "The timing on, the range of influences that each of us in the band as well was kind of unfortunate, as we would have been have and are kind of pulling inspiration from are so far giving it a lot, and it would have been great to feed off apart that it's kind of a melting pot of ideas. And there's the success of the last two singles in the form of gigs obviously a lot of great music coming out of Ireland

smiles with a sigh; "It's always a tough question because, talent from so many different people from different for us, the main barrier to releasing music is the money, backgrounds and completely different influences from all really. We're obviously an independent band, so basically, around the world coming in and it's incredibly inspiring whenever we come up to the release of the single, and to be around and to be involved in any sort of music we're mixing and mastering it, and we're putting money in Ireland at the moment. It really makes you think that into the release of it; where for about a month or two, anything is possible and it keeps you going, you know" we're all absolutely skint and we're loaning each other money back and forth and trying to figure out how we With the inspiration and momentum TV People can fund everything. Something like an EP or an album appear to have garnered, it's easy to get excited is definitely on the agenda, long term...". He adds, "But, about one of the most interesting acts in Dublin. f anyone who reads the interview and wants to throw Building a harmonious conversation about personally us a €1,000 to get it recorded, that would be great", and collectively important topics, whilst layering the band laughs and I can't help but laugh as well, masterfully notated fragments of their own inspiration sympathising as a broke college student. Clarke opens up and influences, is a talent they achieve effortlessly the conversation further on the financial side of creating music; "I'm not sure people really know that independent $\;\;\;$ The trajectory of TV People is well worth looking out for musicians spend all of their cash on music. Like, obviously and supporting. Spotify's 'An Alternative Éire' playlist and 'Time Eats Up' it's a passion and something we're all very willing to

to name a few. When I asked how such praise has, if at do big tours in huge venues and stuff like that". They all, impacted them as a band. Paul pensively states: remarked about having an EP in the future afterwards.

and getting over to the UK to do a gig, it's a shame. at the moment like in hip hop and R&B and rap and But, hopefully, we won't have to wait too much longer". always been this misconception that Irish acts couldn't With the support and their success, I asked the burning do that well unless they went abroad and somewhere question; "EP or an album? And when?" and Donohoe else, whereas now you're seeing so much homegrown

6

much more to offer than the MAGA ideology.

Born to Run

Bruce Springsteen

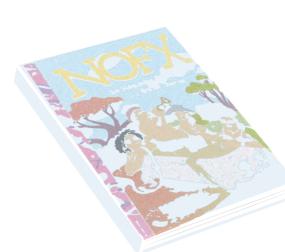
Music Biographies

Mike Stebens recommends music biographies that might come in handy this festive season to help fill those Christmas stockings.



Other Stories

NOFX



The Hepatitis Bathtub and

What Does This Button Do? An Autobiography

Bruce Dickinson

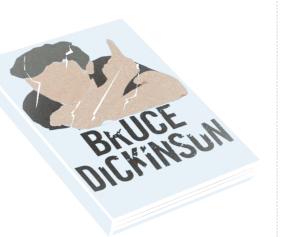


show host, motivational speaker, author, fencer and beer

brewer. Dickinson lays out the details of each of these

Anarchy Evolution. Faith, Science, and Bad Religion in a World Without God

Greg Graffin



CreditLaoise Tarrant

Bruce Dickinson is the singer of one of heavy metal's most achieved bands of all time - Iron Maiden. Besides that, Dickinson is also an airline pilot, historian, radio old and immediately made a name for itself in L.A, the old and immediately made a name for itself in L.A, the epicentre of the Southern California punk scene which, at the time, saw bands sprout from the ground almost every day. Bad Religion went on a hiatus in the middle brewer. Dickinson lays out the details of each of these vocations at great length. He explains how it came to be that he ended up flying *Ed Force One*, the Boeing that takes the band around the globe when they are on tour, himself. Or how he, a problem child in school to say the least, still went on to study history. There is one formula that Dickinson applies to all of his work – 'If you dream something, it might happen. If you never dream it, it will never happen'. Whatever he is currently pursuing in life, Dickinson puts his mind to it and aims to excel at it.

at the time, saw bands sprout from the ground almost every day. Bad Religion went on a hiatus in the middle of the 1980s as Graffin decided to pursue a career in academia. He studied at UCLA and later received his PhD in evolutionary biology from Cornell University where he still occasionally teaches as a professor - when he is not on tour with his band.

In *Anarchy Evolution*, Graffin both recounts anecdotes

In Anarchy Evolution, Graffin both recounts anecdotes What Dickinson does not deliver with this book are the from Bad Religion's long career as well as illustrating his philosophical viewpoints on life. This strange mix which intertwines biography and more scientific writing needs some getting used to. While the book is a must-read for Bad Religion fans, it can also be of interest for anybody interested in what a punk professor has to say about religion and science, and how he draws meaning from life. It effortlessly makes the case for a naturalist and humanist view of the world, guided by science instead of religious beliefs. Graffin never comes off as arrogant or as someone who knows all the answers and manages to hand out enough food for thought to cover the holiday season. His optimism and positive attitude is something everybody can enjoy during these times.

Bruce Springsteen has just a little while ago released NOFX's band autobiography stands in many ways in total his last album 'Letter to You', on which he is looking contrast to Springsteen's book. For anyone who has heard back at his life and reflecting on his journey to this day. about the L.A. punk rockers, it comes as no surprise that a Thus, it makes for a good occasion to revisit his 2016 autobiography 'Born to Run'. Springsteen has written lot of weird, shocking stories are told in this tell-all piece. The line between hilarious and funny, and distressing and a candid memoir, or in his own words: "The writer has unsettling is often crossed. At a first glance, the stories made one promise, to show the reader his mind". Yet the about disgusting habits of some band members and book also promulgates the nearly mythical America that seriously insane pranks seem to disqualify the book and also features in many of his classic songs. Springsteen's make it seem a waste of time for those used to higher own background and his vision of America coalesce and standards. However, the band's complete honesty can be become indistinguishable: tales of hardworking people captivating. living simple but happy lives, people who are materially

poor but emotionally rich. Springsteen also does not shy Moreover, the tone frequently shifts from silliness to away from taking the reader to the darkest moments of seriousness, which is made possible by the way the band members tell their story individually. Évery small chapter his life and detail his personal struggles that have haunted is written by a single band member, meaning the point him at a later stage of his life. It is hence also a story not to of view is shifting constantly. This way, one band member give up hope nor stop dreaming when times seem dire. may recount terrible stories of suicide or addiction to be 'Born to Run' is not a typical rock star autobiography followed by another explaining his preference for certain where stories of wild parties and drug excesses are retold.

It holds many valuable insights of an author who is not only recapitulating his life but also trying to distil the life While this book will leave many of its readers revolted, it presents the possibility to gaze at unusual paths of life lessons he learned along the way. Springsteen manages to draw the reader into his story as he teaches us his and evolving philosophies diverging greatly from all social version of the American Dream and what it means to be norms. Read with an open mind, it can enrich the reader's American. It is an essential reminder that the USA has own horizon. At the very least, you will read stories that you never thought possible to have taken place. And you will be left wondering how all of the protagonists are still alive.

typical stories that make up a rock star autobiography. Instead, it is much more of a detailed description of hi career. This can make the book seem cold and impersonal at times and it means that the reader will get a picture of Dickinson, and only Dickinson, as personal relations to

Most inspiring of all is the story of his personal struggle with cancer. A tumour was found at the back of Dickinson's tongue in 2015, seemingly devastating news for any singer. However, Dickinson approached it with the same attitude he has handled previous challenges in life. He saw fighting cancer as just another project that would need his full attention and where he would eventually succeed. Luckily, he was right, or this book would not have



Ethical consumer or ethical brands?

Caoimhe Mahon

Does the fashion industry's journey towards sustainability lie with the individual consumer's choices or those of major fashion companies? Caoimhe Mahon explores issues of sustainability facing both the consumer and big brands and where the responsibility lies.

> ...it is the responsibility of the fashion company to continue the process by providing the consumer with ethical options.

When we consider fashion our minds automatically jump to the latest trends, the popular brands and what's new and in style. However, what if we made a shift in how we think about fashion? What if we became more concerned with ethical consumption and sustainable clothing, and less concerned with providing a thriving market for 'fast fashion.' With a growing awareness of climate change and a desire to slow global warming we must begin to re-educate ourselves and make the necessary changes to play our part in saving our planet, including changing our fashion habits. However, if each of us has a part to play then surely the fashion companies and brands have just as significant a role, if not a more important one to play than the individual consumer.

Walking down any city high street or scrolling through an online shop, it is hard to avoid mass advertisements for new fashion trends, competitive sales and of course the, 'last chance to buy,' statements. As consumers, we buy into all of these sales tactics. However, not only are we filling our wardrobes more and more, but we are also filling landfills at unprecedented rates, with Britain placing a staggering 300,000 tonnes of unwanted clothes in landfill each year. As consumers, we are buying more clothes more frequently and cheaply making clothing which is essentially disposable to many. This is largely due to our growing accessibility of clothing, where often cheap clothes of poorer quality are readily available in highly stocked stores.

This easy access to fast fashion feeds the cravings to match the latest style trends and gives birth to a fashion culture where clothes are discarded after a few wears. This unhealthy culture is propped up by the media and the increase of fashion bloggers who feed into a culture of buying more and wearing less often.

Therefore, with these fashion habits in mind, it is clear that, as consumers, we have an important role in the Perhaps passing them along to a younger relative ethical consumption of fashion. There are a number when they no longer fit or donating them to a charity of steps we can take towards becoming more ethical shop to ensure that their use is prolonged even further. consumers. Rather than purchasing a number of items

As consumers

we are buying more clothes more frequently and cheaply making clothing essentially disposable to many.

which lack quality and necessity, a fashion purchase Of course, the biggest impact a consumer can make should be something that is viewed as an investment. is buying sustainably from the outset and, therefore, Therefore, before we purchase an item we must consider beginning the fashion cycle of that consumer ethically. if we need it, if we will wear it, and if the quality is This may involve using charity shops, thrift stores or even good enough that it will last. By following this thought sourcing items from sustainable sections of your favourite process we are purchasing fewer clothes less often fashion company stores. However, if the consumer makes and therefore, reducing the amount of waste from this ethical choice to shop in this manner, then it is the garments. Furthermore, when it comes to disposing of responsibility of the fashion company to continue the certain items, sustainable changes can also be made. process by providing the consumer with ethical options.

As a consumer, I often find that many popular fashion companies lack sustainable options in their stores and online. Of course, fashion companies want to continue making a profit and growing their businesses, however, as distributors it is crucial that they play their role in ethical sales and sustainable fashion. Perhaps the biggest pressure placed on the consumer is the idea of the, 'latest and hottest trends,' which they feel pressured to keep up with.

What if fashion companies defined what it meant to be fashionable, and thus, reverse this trend of buying and discarding fashion at unprecedented rates? Fashion companies could produce less clothing less often, reducing the amount of waste left on unbought hangers or in warehouses forgotten about. Consequently, there would be fewer trends for consumers to, 'keep up with' and therefore, less disposable clothing. Some stores are already making changes with clothing rentals now available on high streets and online alike. Clothing rentals allow an individual to mix up their wardrobe or rent an outfit for a one-off occasion without purchasing the outfit and, in turn, reduces the quantities that the garment is produced in. It is therefore crucial that fashion companies begin to prioritise the planet over monetary gain, as sustainable fashion must involve the entire supply chain.

Although there are some options available in popular fashion companies, many sustainable options within these brands are more expensive and thus act as a deterrent. In order to achieve the best results, a balance must be achieved between quality, cost and sustainability where the producer, company and consumer are all taken into consideration.

It is evident that changes need to be made within the fashion industry in order for fashion to become more ethical and sustainable. Of course, this responsibility must be shared between both the consumer and the company as a collective effort. Although the consumer must themselves make a conscious effort to shop ethically, this would be made a lot easier if there were more options available to the consumer, particularly in popular fashion companies like Topshop or Zara. Furthermore, if fashion brands were to become completely sustainable, fulfilling the responsibility of the company, then the consumer's responsibility to be more ethical would be made a lot easier. Clearly, moving towards more sustainable fashion is a journey that must be taken collectively involving all in the supply chain and promoting ethical choices.

Sweater Season

Ellie McCreanor

Entering the winter months means layer upon layer of knitwear. Ellie McCreanor offers an alternative to the highstreet this festive season.

The days are getting colder, the nights are getting longer, and it can only mean one thing; sweater season. Instagram feeds everywhere are littered with some form of knitwear, from classic roll necks to on-trend knit vests. Coming into the winter nights and festive season we all want to get our jumper fix, but, this year, consider supporting local. The cardigan in our wonderful fashion shoot (above) is an amazing example of handmade sustainable Irish knitwear by Hope Macauley. Supporting small, Irish brands like this can make such a difference. High street shops aren't jumping up and down when you purchase one of their jumpers, but an independent business owner just might. Furthermore, handmade pieces make truly unique gifts.

In my opinion, vintage shops take the lead when it comes to all things knitwear. If what you're after is the Bella Hadid sweater vest then look no further than your local vintage shop. Sweater vests, ski jumpers, and sweatshirts were rife in the 1980s and 90s, and vintage shops are crammed full of them. Christmas, and the festive season in general, can put pressure on people to overspend on gifts, and many feel that they must gift new. How about a good quality vintage or handmade gift instead? They're probably more likely to last, and can actually appear more personal and thoughtful than something from the high street. So this sweater season, stop before you spend and think about supporting local.



Coming into the

winter nights and

festive season

we all want to

get our jumper

fix, but, this

year, consider

*Above*Credit ModelAnna Ní Chiaruáin PhotographerEva Ní Chiaruáin StylistHope Macaulay Anna Ní Chiaruáin Photo Editor/IllustratorLaoise Tarrant



supporting local

film & tv

Rebecca vs Rebecca

Odin O'Sullivan

Odin O'Sullivan finds out if the new Mrs De Winter measures up to the Original

Du Maurier's original novel. So much so that often when Rebecca is mentioned, or its oft-quoted opening line is uttered, it is the 1940 film they are referring to as opposed to the novel. The original adaptation is so lauded that one would have to be mad to attempt to remake it. But as we all know Netflix has more money than sense, so in a year of little to no cinematic releases, we got Rebecca (2020). Directed by Ben Wheatly, who sadly seems to have been prevented from doing what he is usually capable of by Netflix, and featuring Armie Hammer in a banana coloured suit and Lilly James just Lilly-Jamesing all over the place as Maxim De Winter and the unnamed protagonist respectively.

The story centres on a naïve and insecure woman who is whisked off to the wonders of the aristocratic experience by the older and wealthier Maxim De Winter. After a whirlwind romance in Monte Carlo, our protagonist arrives in the cavernous halls of Manderley where the exceptionally dour Mrs Danvers (Judith Anderson [1940], Kristen Scott Thomas [2020]) begins to pick away at her insecurities, and where the memory of Maxim's first wife Rebecca still lingers. The original film takes this premise and builds upon it with clever production design, such as Manderley's doorknobs all being shoulder height for our heroine, making her seem even smaller than white, the original film conveys character not through bland colour palette and costuming choices. I have already mentioned the banana coloured suit but that is choices. Set in the same period as the original, 1938, clothing. After all, Maxim is supposed to be a millionaire,

the second Mrs De Winter, wife of millionaire aristocrat Maxim De Winter, wearing a jumper last seen on your are so garish and their cut so strange that Lilly James and her aunt-chic can blend into the background.

The word "miscast" has been thrown around by the critics in their reviews of the remake, but I would say it is "woefully miscast." Armie Hammer, usually quite a strong actor, cannot seem to get a grasp on the character of Maxim De Winter. Played by Laurence Olivier in the original, Hammer cannot come anywhere close to the wonderfully morose histrionics Olivier exhibits as the brooding Maxim. Add to this a particularly slippery British accent, and the charming, mysterious Maxim becomes simply a handsome but boring man in a very loud and ill-fitting suit. Lily James too seems out of place, and not in the way her character is meant to. What in the original was naive and charming about the unnamed heroine becomes grating in the remake. Her constant bumbling and her willingness to forgive Maxim without question at every turn is honestly nauseating, especially considering Maxim is a distant and inattentive husband that she met less than a month ago. There are only two actors who seem to have grasped the essence of their characters, and they are Kristen We also need to discuss the key differences in the film's Scott Thomas, who works with limited material to give us a chilling update to Mrs Danvers, and Sam Riley, who relishes his small amount of screen time as the charming and campy rogue Favel. But the most important character, semi-present in the remake. In the original, the memory The original Rebecca, directed by Alfred Hitchcock, is layer of dust the new Mrs De Winter just cannot brush considered an iconic example of the female gothic. For away. In the remake, she is more of a light inconvenience

Armie Hammer cannot come anywhere close to the wonderfully morose histrionics Olivier exhibits as the brooding Maxim

The ugly room in question is one which Mrs Danvers keeps exactly as it was on the day Rebecca died. A totem for her the large house already makes her. In sharp black and to sit in and reminisce. If this is sounding kind of gay to you, then you would be correct. The original film was notable colour but through strong costuming and makeup. This for its later feminist and queer readings, particularly the and unsure of her new husband, she dwells under the minute episodes. contrasts strongly with the remakes lurid but strangely reading of Mrs Danvers as a lesbian. When watching the original, the subtextual homoeroticism is clear between Danvers and the memory of Rebecca, and it makes the that doesn't work, she begins to mimic the original. merely the key offender in a myriad of bizarre costume film even richer when viewed through a contemporary lens. I had presumed that the remake, coming out a full one would be forgiven for expecting period-correct (and eighty years later, would have perhaps furthered this well-predecessor isn't dead and the insecurity this generates considering the money Netflix has) expensive-looking established reading, with Kristen Scott Thomas being can be felt in every single frame. It constantly refuses allowed to lean into the long-presumed gayness of Mrs association and self-consciously attempts to disassociate and in the original, he looks as such. In the remake, Danvers. I was wrong. Somehow this remake is less gay itself with the original through its design, costuming, and

Autumn/Winter 2018 collection. It's quite jarring to see performing Danvers as more of a motherly figure. Choosing to make Danvers more motherly than sexual. more normative than transgressive, prevents this film from well-to-do aunt as she steps out of a beautiful period- updating the original at all. And why remake a classic when correct automobile, but thankfully Hammer's suits you can't even offer a contemporary interpretation or push the boat out a little further than was allowed back in 1940?

> Somehow this remake is less gay and less sexy than the 1940 version

climactic moment (for those of you who don't want an eighty-year-old spoiler, consider this as your warning). In the original, as Maxim confesses to our heroine that in fact, he never loved Rebecca, that he hated her, the cabin the one we never see, Rebecca, is ironically enough, only they stand in, where Rebecca had her extramarital trysts with Favel, is heavy with her presence. As Maxim describes of Rebecca lies heavy over the whole house, like a thick the night of her death, the camera follows an empty space, as if she were there. The power Rebecca has in the original, the power to direct our gaze away from Maxim all intents and purposes, it is a masterful adaptation of signalled by some poorly CGI'd birds and her ugly room. and to where she once stood, is completely absent in the remake. The moment so weighted with significance in the original plays out rather quickly and without any real gravitas or pay off. In the original (novel notwithstanding) Maxim admits to fighting with his wife over her infidelity, but does not admit to killing her, insisting she fell and hit her head before he covered it up with a fake shipwreck. Since he never loved her, she was evil, and he didn't actually kill her, our heroine falls into his arms and does everything she can to make sure he is proven innocent. This all seems a little too easy in the original, so I presumed they would update and rectify this in the remake. In a sense they did, but somehow they made it worse. In the remake, Maxim actually admits to killing his wife but our heroine simply does not care. She throws all her weight behind proving him innocent, but in this case, it all feels a little off. The fervour with which she defends her wife-murdering husband is distasteful, to put it mildly.

it somehow manages to be less progressive than a Hitchcock film from the 1940s. That takes skill. Not only does it fail to realise that Rebecca must die because she transgresses the laws of femininity and refuses to be a powerless and doting wife, but it also provides Maxim with a newer, younger, obedient wife to replace her after she is killed. The only interesting aspect of the remake is in long shadow cast by her predecessor, attempting to impress with new visually stimulating material. And when The remake can change the ending, it can provide a pretend happily ever after, but the fact of the matter is its everyone looks like they're wearing Marks & Spencer's and less sexy than the 1940 version, with Scott Thomas lurid visuals, but it all pales in comparison to Rebecca.

over rated

Merry Happy Whatever

Robyn Murphy

Robyn Murphy makes the case for why this christmas set series is underrated

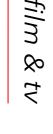
With the festive season well and truly underway, there is an abundance of Christmas films and television series available to viewers at the click of a button. As a result of the sheer amount of options available, some great shows and films get lost in the pack. One such series is the Netflix family sitcom Merry Happy Whatever, which has been vastly underappreciated since its release last year.

The series centres on Emmy (Bridget Mendler) and her boyfriend Matt (Brent Morin), who travel to Philadelphia to spend the holidays with Emmy's deeply close-knit family. Headed by patriarch Don (Denis Quaid), the Quinn family value tradition, loyalty, and conservative religious values. Vastly different from the family life he has known, Matt struggles to fit in and spends much of the series, often hilariously, trying to impress the Quinns and acclimatise to their ways.

What sets the series apart is how progressive and inclusive it is

The remake is an astoundingly conservative film in that What sets the series apart is how progressive and inclusive it is, and how it handles interesting and complex themes. Don struggles with grief over the loss of his wife, and nis family's desire to stray from her Christmas traditions. Oldest sister Patsy (Siobhan Murphy) is struggling with nfertility, middle sister Kayla (Ashley Tisdale) is grappling with the end of her marriage and her sexuality, and it's how closely it mirrors the plight of its protagonist. Insecure | all handled delicately and humorously in just eight 30

> The series is an instant feel-good hit and is progressive in how it deals with contemporary issues that many families deal with over the Christmas season. While it may get lost amongst the barrage of Netflix Christmas rom-coms it is well worth seeking out. The series demonstrates that while tradition may be important, familial love, bonds, and appreciation will always triumph.



Do shows/ films require "shippable" characters?

Liam Ferguson

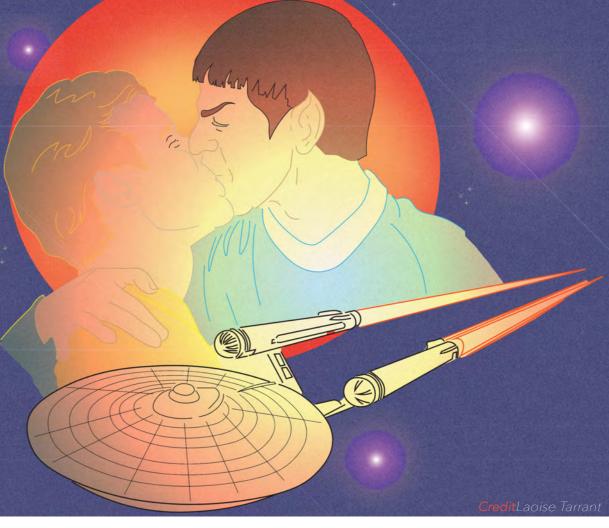
In the wake of Supernatural confirming the heavy "shipped" romantic relationship of Dean and

Castiel, Liam Ferguson looks into the history of the phenomenon and asks whether shipping is integral to a film or shows success.

With the recent canonisation of Supernatural's long gestated ,Destiel' ship (the romantic coupling of main characters Dean and Castiel), certain sectors of the internet were set ablaze with joy and memes. This sudden explosion of Supernatural on our timelines in 2020 was unexpected, to say the least, and raises larger questions around the culture of shipping for films and television. Even those who were never fans of Supernatural found it easy to enjoy the tidal wave of victory felt by longtime and childhood fans when the episode aired. While, obviously, plenty of shows and movies do not rely on shippable characters, it is clear that it can be beneficial for some franchises or series with large followings or fandoms to provide ,shippable' characters or have characters shipped by the audience make reference to it.

The concept of shipping first came about in the public conscience with the mid-70's shipping of Kirk and Spock in the original Star Trek. Many fans clamoured for the pair to get together romantically, and the first signs of the popular ,slash' in reference to male ships was developed with their ship name, K/S. Although shipping is associated with the LGBTQ community, as in many ways the first ship was a homosexual one, the actual term ,ship' first became mainstream in reference to Scully and Mulder of The X-Files, with fans who wanted the duo to couple up calling themselves ,relationshippers' before settling with the simple ,shippers'. As stated by the Oxford English Dictionary, the oldest recorded use of "ship" in this context dates back to 1996 posting on a Usenet group. With these early fandoms, it is clear that shipping predates the internet at large, but the advent of the web has only accelerated the phenomenon.

The popularity of shows aired on the CW Network, part due to the ships and the subsequent audience term ,ship' in the show itself multiple times, as well as engagement generated by their respective fandoms. The aforementioned ,Destiel' ship that seemed like a pipe dream to fans becoming canon has many who have not watched the series in years erupt with excitement and provided a massive pay-off for people that have been



fans that wanted the duo to couple up calling themselves "relationshippers" before settling with the simple "shippers.

such as Supernatural, Riverdale or The Flash is in large only for them to reunite tearfully. It also has used the fandom, in a lot of cases, lives and dies by shipping gain, it absolutely plays a role in the continued success. absorbing shipping names such as "Bughead" (Betty and lead to reactions such as what was seen with ,Destiel'. Jughead) or Varchie (Veronica and Archie) and having the characters refer to themselves and their friends by these names. CW is very good at promoting their series this way, amassing huge and engaged followings. With a CW episodes, a show such as Riverdale will have a character it on for the superhero action, but you stick with it for get with someone they were not with the previous the constant change in relationship dynamics between

fan favourites. Without a doubt, shipping culture is of extreme importance to the soap opera-esqe CW shows.

into anime. Shipping and anime go together like hungry to ship various Avengers together. The films tend bread and butter, especially those that dominate the to not acknowledge this in their marketing or execution, mainstream such as My Hero Academia, Tokyo Ghoul or with the possible exception of the Hulk and Black Widow Neon Genesis Evangelion. Anime lends itself to a massive briefly becoming romantically involved. Romantic amount of shipping as fandoms for these series often relationships simply do not take precedence in this grow extremely large on an international basis. Fanart universe, yet fans still clamour for Captain Marvel to get of characters together is often retweeted by the original with Valkyrie, or The Falcon to get with The Winter Soldier. authors, cosplayers go through elaborate photoshoots It adds to the overall fun surrounding the film's massive with one another to see their favourite ships come to life, releases to speculate about characters in this manner. and then there is the fanfiction...oh God the fanfiction. These films, clearly, have immense stan followings It is impossible to scroll for over a minute on websites built onto their success and, just like anime, it leads to such as Wattpad without finding anime fanfics. Many a deluge of fanfiction, art and cosplays around them. stores in Japan have entire floors dedicated to selling While monolithic pieces of media that do not market fan-made manga from various properties. The anime or feed into ship culture and do not rely on it for any culture, and the inevitable finality of relationships can

huge motivator for success in cinema. I would like to pose Whether it is completely embraced by the creators like in a few questions: are you Team Edward or Team Jacob? CW series and young adult novel adaptations, distributed enjoying the show for the last fifteen years. Every few series like The Flash, for example, you know you're turning Do you want Katniss to end up with Peta or Gale? Do through avid fandoms such as anime, or massive film you ship Feric or Frake? Many of these questions would franchises, it is seemingly ever-present in anything that lead to full-on internet war a number of years ago, and gains popularity. As evident by the concept dating back episode to build tension and a consistent supply of certain characters. One can Google any show airing even though the books were there in all of these cases to to Star Trek, it is clear that it is not going away any time , will they, won't they's for audiences to speculate over. on the CW followed by "ship" and find a slew of fanart, provide definitive answers, fans were not stopped from soon and is an inherent part of TV and film culture, Riverdale also has a tendency to break characters up, discussion boards and Twitter threads regarding many speculating and fighting over whose ship may emerge particularly in long-running and successful franchises.

rictorious in the movie adaptations of these YA novels. Over this year's quarantine, there has been a Renaissance of interest in Twilight, especially with Stephanie Meyer's new tie-in novel alongside a raised public interest in Robert Pattinson due to his casting as Batman. This has, naturally, led to many renewed discussions around Team Edward V. Team Jacob in a much more comical sense, as many fans of the series are now in their twenties. That does not change that a large part of what makes those films special to many is the relationship drama present throughout the entirety of them. There is no denying these YA adaptations thrived as a result of shipping culture, largely present in Tumblr threads and blog posts.

On top of all of this, ,stan' followings play a large part in the development of shipping. People almost religiously follow or ,stan' actors, musicians, films, TV, and anything in popular culture. Take the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) for instance; almost every character has been

The anime fandom, in a lot of cases, lives and dies by shipping culture and the inevitable finality of relationships can lead to visceral reactions such as what was seen with "Destiel

Moreover, I could not discuss the culture without delving paired with one another in the eyes of fans, with people

In conclusion, shipping plays a vital role in many fanbases and properties in the media sphere, and it can, in certain Outside of the realm of TV, shipping can prove to be a cases, contribute to a piece of fiction's success and long evity.



Jennifer's Body

Eoin O'Gaora

With Jennifer's Body having a cultural resurgence Eoin O'Gaora revisits the much derided cult-hit.

When Jennifer's Body released in theatres in 2009, it was pretty much universally considered mediocre at best: Critics gave it on average a five on a ten-point scale, and audiences, usually more forgiving than the critics, generally only gave it a C- when polled. Nobody was expecting it to reappear over ten years later, revisited by critics who called it "exactly the delightfully campy feminist black comedy I thought it would be" where it had once been described as "a sloppy episode of Buffy the Vampire." To me, the film is much more the former than the latter.

The film's original marketing goes some way to explaining why the film flopped. The original trailer ogles Megan Fox's body, full of long takes that focus on her bare waist and exposed chest. Watching the trailer, you could be excused for not knowing Jennifer is supposed to be a monster. The trailer is entirely a product of the male gaze, catering to a male audience who want a chance The practical aspects of Jennifer's Body are all middle of to stare at Megan Fox for an hour and three-quarters. the road: The cinematography won't blow your mind, but This was no accident, and the film's writer Diablo Cody it's clear and comprehensible enough to tell the story. has described in interviews since, how studio executives insisted on marketing the film "to boys who like Megan Fox" rather than her intended female audience.

Since then, however, the film has gradually overcome these early marketing mistakes and found a cult following with its intended (predominantly female) audience. These fans see in Megan Fox's Jennifer not a monstrous woman to be reviled or afraid of, but a symbol of female resistance to unwanted male attention. When the band Low Shoulder try and sacrifice Jennifer to Satan as they mistakenly believe she is a virgin, it is Jennifer's sexual agency, the fact that she has made a choice to have sex, that prevents her from dying; the opposite of what usually happens in body horror cinema. The men might get their wish of fame and fortune, but they also create their reckoning in Jennifer. Jennifer becomes a succubus after their attempted sacrifice, and she uses this power not at random, but to mete out justice on male characters. She meets the male gaze with violence. Colin, one of her early victims, has a fixation with Jennifer that is entirely physical, and even when Colin is on the verge of death and about The soundtrack was hardly memorable at the time, but to be eaten, he is almost too fixated on Jennifer's body now features a myriad of pop-punk classics. The acting is to notice. The male gaze here then is changed, not good, but nobody (possibly with the exception of Megan dangerous to Jennifer, but dangerous to the gazing men, as all the men who ogle at her are eventually devoured.

transforming Megan Fox from the tired trope of the monstrous female to a sexually liberated agent of female revenge

The male gaze here then is changed, not dangerous to Jennifer but

dangerous to the gazing men

Fox and Adam Brody) gives a particularly memorable performance. The renewed popularity of Jennifer's Body then can only be explained by the themes of the film resonating with its intended audience. Maybe in the wake of the MeToo movement, the film's themes of female empowerment, and especially female characters striking back against male character's unwanted advances, become especially relevant. Jennifer's Body then is in the same vein as something like Teeth, a film released a year earlier which contains many of the same themes, of a young woman meeting unwanted attention with violence. Jennifer's Body simply steps it up a notch: where Teeth's main character responds to male aggression with violence, Jennifer preempts it, as she seduces and devours man after man. Jennifer's transformation from the object of the male gaze to a horrifying, knife-toothed monster is important also. Seemingly, it is the common trope of the monstrous female body as something revolting and to be feared. In horror cinema, the monstrous female is a repeated trope in which a woman's body and normal bodily functions become twisted into a horrifying image for the purposes of the story. Think of Carrie, when the onset of her period sets Carrie White on the path to being a mass murderer who punishes innocent and guilty alike. Think of *Aliens*, where the only 'mother' we see in any great detail is the Alien Queen, the normal act of reproduction made into a horrific affair. Jennifer's Body is a modern updating of this horror film formula, Jennifer's sexual energies portrayed as desirable, as her sexual confidence attracts man after man to her. Jennifer's agency is what sets her apart from previous horror heroines like Carrie White. Where Carrie is a natural disaster, Jennifer is in control of her own desires, seducing and murdering the men she chooses to, biting back against the male gaze that devalues her to the position of an object.

revisited

games

Are games consoles still worth it in 2020?

Liam Ferguson

With the growing popularity of gaming laptops and computers that are cheaper and better than game consoles, and the rise in Netflix-style subscription services for games, Liam Ferguson investigates whether game consoles are still worth the extortionate prices gamers will have to pay to get the newest generation of consoles.

Next-Gen is finally upon us! Sony and Microsoft have it worked. It rendered at 480p, but it was mostly playable, unveiled four shiny new boxes for us to stick in our running at a steady framerate and rarely buffering. It, of entertainment centres and then complain about in a few course, wasn't ideal in any way, and I would not want years upon the launch of the next console. The rampant to play games in that state for an extended period of games" by many, Game Pass has become a juggernaut of console wars are as ridiculous as they were seven years time, but it showed the raw promise of cloud gaming if ago, as gamers on each side try to jump through hoops to someone with internet like mine could even kind of play undermine the people not getting the same plastic box an online service like Destiny through the cloud. Maybe I they are. However, this generation has posed a question; would use it if I had a more reliable connection, but that well for those blessed with great internet speeds, there do we really need games consoles anymore? With PC presents the larger issue of cloud gaming in its current Pass and upcoming cloud streaming services, there are services, was dead in the water from launch. Requiring you PlayStation 5 and its various accessories, but there is still a offers a better proposition with a more standardised litany of reasons to purchase a new console.

Firstly, cloud gaming simply is not where it needs to be. There is no denying that the prospect of being able to connect a controller to your phone and play a round of Halo on the commute to work or school is a promising one. It's an exciting future that almost sounds too good to be true and for many, it is. The internet is a cruel mistress; connection speeds could be ridiculously slow in your own house but amazing in the one a few doors up from you. Not every area supports 5G or fibre gigabit speeds that would be required for cloud gaming to feel as seamless as having any given game downloaded to an SSD. Although, there is no denying that we're close. I, personally, have awful internet capping out at 20 MB download at best



many reasons pointing to why we should or why we to buy each game individually at full price for the ability to agenda of games consoles more than they let on. Maybe have with various other projects, all your money spent m just trying to defend my own recent purchase of a would go down the drain. Amazon's Luna seemingly nuch money, but the jury is still out on that platform. With a PC, most need

number of years, and a

decent one for modern

is little reason not to own an Xbox itself right now. Even gaming, the incredible value of services like Xbox Game state: value. Google Stadia, the most prolific of these if you don't spring for the five-hundred-euro Series X, getting the cheaper Series S and a subscription to Game Pass Ultimate is a no-brainer. For a low, monthly fee, should not invest in a five hundred euro box every seven play them over Google's servers was a detriment. You do access is granted to hundreds of games, ranging from years or so. However, I believe there is truly a place for not own your games in any capacity if you were to invest slop like Disneyland Adventures to critically acclaimed console gaming in this modern market and the reasons I in Google Stadia. If Google's servers crashed for a day or titles like Doom Eternal. Microsoft is building an incredible listed above, while contradictory at first, push forward the the company decided to pull the plug on Stadia, as they ecosystem around its family of consoles that you would be hard-pressed to pass on from sheer value alone. Additionally, there is an argument to be made for building a PC, particularly against buying an Xbox as Game Pass subscription service, so if that fails you won't be out too $\,$ has a slightly stripped-down PC variant. However, PC gaming is extremely cumbersome in comparison to cannot believe, until games get more innovative and have to push the systems to their limits in a few years' time. their parts upgraded every With a PC, most need their parts upgraded every number of years, and a decent one for modern gaming costs you around one-grand, if not more. While a PC is a hub for, of course, anything and everything to do with the internet, a console is dedicated to gaming, and as such will always gaming costs you around be optimised for that. You do not need to look at specs of different graphics cards with a console, you pay upfront

Microsoft's Xbox Game Pass Cloud Gaming service, on the

Game Pass subscription service. Touted as "Netflix for

value in the industry and seems Microsoft's primary profit-

focus for this generation instead of traditional hardware

sales. While it seems their Cloud Gaming service works

other hand, is bundled in with their excellent value Xbox

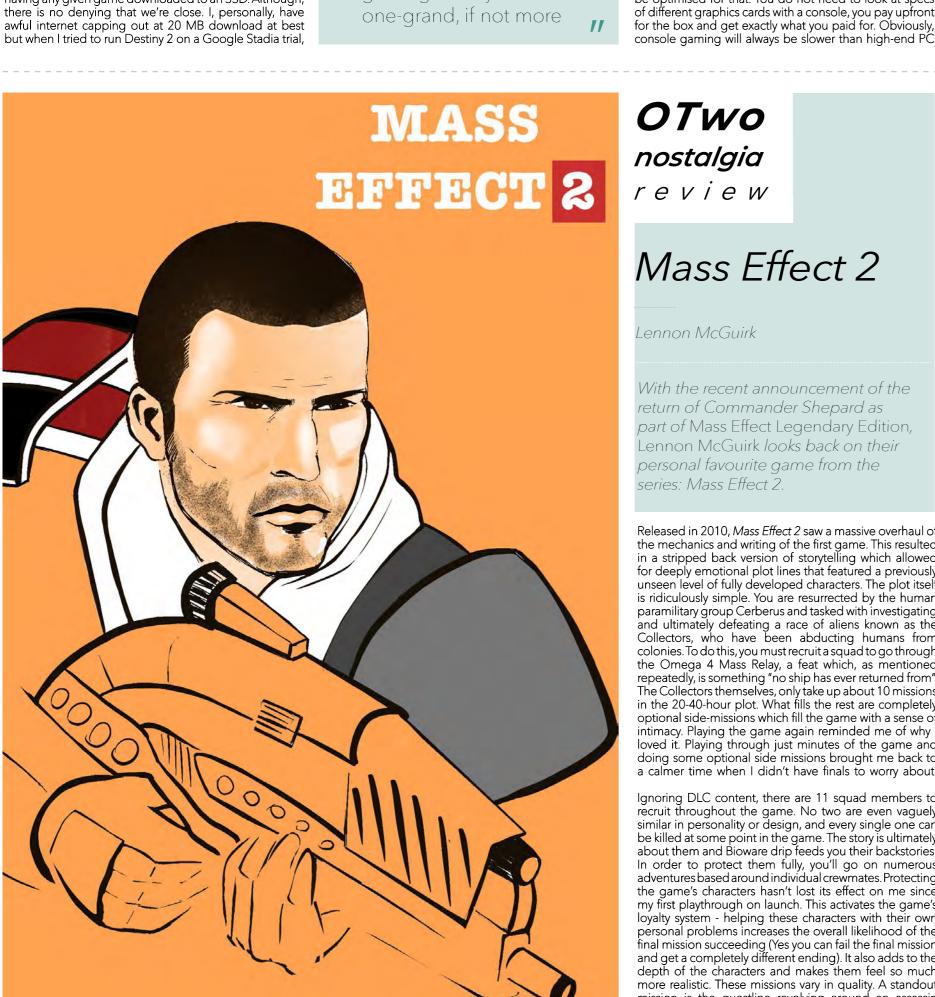
With a console, you buy it and you know exactly what you're getting; a fivehundred euro plastic box that will play games at speeds and resolutions you cannot believe, until games get more innovative and have to push the systems to their limits in a

few years' time

gaming, but that in no way negates its value and the ease of setting up and buying a console in comparison to a PC.

On top of this, more-so regarding PlayStation, console gaming hosts a wide branch of top-notch exclusive experiences. Generation defining games such as Marvel's Spider-Man, God of War and Bloodborne are available only on the PlayStation family of consoles and for many, are system sellers and do more than enough to justify the purchase of a new shiny box. There is a constant aura of excitement around PlayStation's diverse library, with many just as excited for Spider-Man Miles Morales as they are for Demon's Souls or Bugsnax. While a few of these exclusives such as Horizon Zero Dawn have made their way over to PC, most of them stay on PlayStation where, with Sony's upcoming Dualsense controller, they are played at their best.

n conclusion, games consoles still hold a place in the homes of many gamers. We can see this evidently with the chaos that surrounded the pre-order process for console gaming. With a console, you buy it and you know Xbox Series X/S and PlayStation 5 and the sigh of relief as exactly what you're getting; a five-hundred euro plastic people have begun to get their hands on the consoles. box that will play games at speeds and resolutions you While I am, of course, buying a piece of hardware at



OTwo nostalgia review

Mass Effect 2

ennon McGuirk

With the recent announcement of the return of Commander Shepard as part of Mass Effect Legendary Edition, Lennon McGuirk looks back on their personal favourite game from the series: Mass Effect 2.

Released in 2010, Mass Effect 2 saw a massive overhaul of the mechanics and writing of the first game. This resulted in a stripped back version of storytelling which allowed for deeply emotional plot lines that featured a previously unseen level of fully developed characters. The plot itself is ridiculously simple. You are resurrected by the human paramilitary group Cerberus and tasked with investigating and ultimately defeating a race of aliens known as the Collectors, who have been abducting humans from easy-to-pick-up third-person cover-based shooter and it colonies. To do this, you must recruit a squad to go through the Omega 4 Mass Relay, a feat which, as mentioned from The enemies are extremely varied from planet to repeatedly, is something "no ship has ever returned from". planet as well. At one stage you'll find yourself fighting a The Collectors themselves, only take up about 10 missions in the 20-40-hour plot. What fills the rest are completely

Other times you'll find yourself in more small-scale fights, optional side-missions which fill the game with a sense of or fighting a mixture of the colourful alien races in the intimacy. Playing the game again reminded me of why I game such as the Krogan, massive hulking brutes. The loved it. Playing through just minutes of the game and one pitfall that this game has is boss fights. They generally

Ignoring DLC content, there are 11 squad members to the only way I ever found these challenging was through recruit throughout the game. No two are even vaguely playing on the hardest difficulty which again, just adds similar in personality or design, and every single one can more health. The world design, however, is amazing. be killed at some point in the game. The story is ultimately

Every setting is different from the last, but regardless of about them and Bioware drip feeds you their backstories. whether you're in the main hub or exploring any of the In order to protect them fully, you'll go on numerous colourful planets, they all feel like they belong to the adventures based around individual crewmates. Protecting same universe. These colourful and exciting battles really the game's characters hasn't lost its effect on me since added to my enjoyment of the game as a kid, and as a my first playthrough on launch. This activates the game's college student, they still stand the test of time fairly well. loyalty system - helping these characters with their own personal problems increases the overall likelihood of the In terms of graphics, the game still looks and runs great final mission succeeding (Yes you can fail the final mission for a 2010 release. It's still easily playable in its original and get a completely different ending). It also adds to the state besides a few minor bugs that were never patched depth of the characters and makes them feel so much out. I cannot recommend this game enough to anyone more realistic. These missions vary in quality. A standout who has not experienced what is arguably one of the best mission is the questline revolving around an assassin games of its generation, so make sure to pick up a copy named Thane, who has been diagnosed with a terminal of the remaster next Spring.

illness and is trying to guide his son onto a better path. The openness of ME2 also allows for some interesting options throughout, for example, if you found yourself disliking a particular crewmate, by deliberately avoiding areas of your ship, they could easily be dead by the end of the game. Bioware meticulously makes your choices matter and offers different endings based on them. My playthrough this time may not have had the same ending as my first, but the game is still as enjoyable, if not more as I can really appreciate how well the game runs in 2020.

There are numerous dialogue options throughout every conversation and the game relies heavily on a paragon/ renegade system where you can choose the morals of your character. You get complete control. Maybe you want to save a young adventurer from getting himself killed or maybe you want to push a mercenary out a window for back-chatting you. The initial Shepard that you are presented with is a completely blank canvas for you to play with. I have personally played this game fully over 20 times and there are still dialogue options that I have yet to explore. The game really allows you to feel like you are the protagonist. This is furthered by the complete customisation options of your character. Although I highly recommend choosing the female option, as Jennifer Hale really excels in her role.

Every setting is different from the last but regardless of whether you're in the main hub or exploring any of the colourful planets they all feel like they belong to the same universe

The gameplay itself is snappy and fast-paced. It is an offers multiple weapons and ability load-outs to choose Thresher Maw, a gigantic burrowing worm-like creature. doing some optional side missions brought me back to a calmer time when I didn't have finals to worry about.

consist of just a normal enemy type who has been given more health and are never actually difficult to deal with. This leaves boss fights feeling underwhelmingly easy, and

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The endurance of the Legend of Zelda

Sophia Finucane

The Legend of Zelda series has been adored by fans worldwide since its release in 1986, but how has the game remained so popular for almost 35 years? Sophia Finucane discusses why fans love the series, from the most recent entries breathtaking graphics, to the cultural and historical value each game hides in the story.

Debuting in 1986 for the Famicom, and breaking gaming ground with titles like 1998's Ocarina of Time for the N64, he Legend of Zelda is one of Nintendo's most beloved franchises. With the series' 35th anniversary approaching, the release of Hyrule Warriors: Age of Calamity, and the approach of the sequel to the venerated Breath of the Wild, I think I, who only played a Zelda game for the first time a year and a half ago, ought to speak on it.

No, in all seriousness though, therein lies one of the brilliant things about this franchise: its accessibility for newcomers like me, especially with games like A Link to the Past. Never having imagined that 2D gaming could be so immersive to a new gamer in 2020, I found this 1991 game to be an excellent introduction to the classic principles of gaming and a lot of fun. Ocarina of Time, however, was my first introduction to Zelda, and I became hooked initially due to how endearing I found the characters and how something about Koji Kondo's score made me nostalgic, despite having not grown up with the game. There was a massive physiological effect but also lasting emotion in the experience of playing that game, despite the Neverland-esque Kokiri Forrest that introduced me to the world having trianguloid graphics from 1998. In fact, somewhat in spite of it. By the time I got to Breath of me choked-up, so I cannot imagine what it must be like for those who played the games from early childhood.

games are all the story of a young knight who must save at different times, in parallel universes, and so it always By the time I got to Breath of the Wild, hearing motifs from Kondo's score almost had me choked-up, so I cannot imagine what it must be like for those who played the games from early childhood

makes an excellent canvas for very intricate plots, with whole background narratives developed for the different races in the world. There is also plenty of room for really unique side quests, which sometimes even make up whole games, like the much celebrated, darker sequel to Ocarina of Time, Majora's Mask. In fact, the only issue I would ever endeavour to take with the storyline of Zelda games is perhaps the 'save the princess' trope, which feels quite dated. However, it gets better with each instalment in the series, and the discourse on the upcoming Breath of the Wild sequel looks particularly optimistic on this front. I don't know if I can encapsulate what it is about Zelda

that garners such a fan reaction, 35 years since the release

of the series' first game. There is most certainly a shared consciousness to be felt on what the game does to your emotions, and one needn't look any further than You Tube analyses of the series to figure this out. However, I think to a degree 'the Zelda experience' is subjective for every player, and so I will outline what is notable about it to me. Beginning Breath of the Wild over the summer, upon reading an essay on myth and gender in Irish drama and understanding how the mythical texts of the East and West consider the significant drama to lie in material that is already familiar to the audience, drawn from myth and legend, I immediately thought of Zelda and its lore. I am of the party who thinks that the timeline connecting the events of the games should not intercept the quality of gameplay; I will not write-off Breath of the Wild because it does not sensibly fit into the timeline, as some fans may. However, I cannot help but realise that the games being out of sequence, linking up through little references and Easter eggs, adds to the emotion that motivates me to play - like when I see familiar faces popping up through the generations of the games. Ocarina of Time may have been revolutionary in 1998 for its 3D world and Z-targeting combat style, but games on every platform have caught up with that now. There are games as open-world as Breath of the Wild and even games that take a leaf out of Zelda's book in terms of respect to nature. I do think, even 35 the Wild, hearing motifs from Kondo's score almost had years after its debut, that the Zelda franchise still stands out due to this specific lore and literal 'legend' it has created, in the manner of ancient Greek or Hindu pantheons.

the veneer away to suggest that any of this happened or as a citizen, but I do not doubt its effect on Nintendo, the other games. But this mythology remains unbridled by a princess from the evil Ganon, King of Thieves, or some could happen in our world, unlike many games released vague incarnation of that. Basic, I know, but each main today. There is nothing wrong with realism, but the basic title in the series presents its own version of this story, and apolitical morality of Zelda is still the escape to countless works of Japanese art that we as Irish observers the greatest gaming franchise of all time should be left to nature in the back pocket of the metropolitan dweller that are clueless to, however many popular works that have someone more experienced than I, but the games in the



..Zelda is still the escape to nature in the back pocket of the metropolitan dweller that creator Shigeru Miyamoto originally intended

what is going on in the real world, or how much the to continue innovating. As explored in certain art forms a major corporation like Nintendo can do no wrong, since the 1940s, such as the Alain Resnais film Hiroshima but Zelda at least doesn't feel propagandistic in its mon Amour, Japan has been through nationwide trauma wholesomeness. The creators have made their own in a unique way as the only direct victim of the atomic For anyone who doesn't know, The Legend of Zelda It also frames this in a totally escapist world: nothing pulls bomb. I cannot begin to understand what this feels like a company already drastically changed since 1899 by the politics of real mythologies' links to amoral religious or Japan's globalisation and tech boom. No doubt there are manages to seem fresh. The simplicity of this story actually creator Shigeru Miyamoto originally intended, no matter spread to the West - the works of Studio Ghibli, popular series are certain to have a lasting impact on any player.

anime and The Legend of Zelda to name a few obvious examples - have exhibited a certain respectful portrayal of the aesthetic beauty and ever-pressing profundity of the natural world. To be criminally simplistic within the confines of an opinion piece, Japan has experienced the pinnacle of the industrial age, both in its technology sector and its fate as the result of the atomic bomb. The history of Shintoism in Japan has also likely had an effect on the country's popular art. The combination of these things creates a regard for nature that can be felt strongly when running around the locations in a Zelda game, and an incomparable wanderlust and solace in the player.

In this way, Zelda feels like an indulgence earned; something innocent made by people who understand player may have grown up. However, Zelda does manage that the world is not that. I am not so naïve as to say that legend and mythology, solidified by the ancient ruins feel of *Breath of the Wild*, which takes place 10,000 years after colonial behaviour. Perhaps the question of whether this is

Rage Quit: Bloodborne

Rory Galvin

Despite countless amounts of rage guits, some games are worth retrying and trying again. Rory Galvin looks at one of the finest examples: FromSoftware's 'Bloodborne'

When it works, you feel like the ultimate badass, rolling under the swings of a saw or shooting someone at the exact right time to trigger a visceral execution... But when it doesn't? Nothing is more infuriating

I'm back in Central Yharnam killing enemies in one fell swoop, when only a few hours before they could have done the same thing to me. Bloodborne is a game consisting of equal parts skill and patience. Within the first minute of starting, a great bloody werewolf is likely to tear you apart while your measly fists do little to no damage. You wake up in the Hunter's Dream and are told to get back in there, without dying this time. Choose a weapon, spawn back in, and slay some beasts (or, you know, attempt to at least).

What makes *Bloodborne* worth playing in the first place is its extremely fluid combat. This entry, unlike other Soulslike games, is very fast and rewards aggression. You can't really hide behind a shield, and instead have to face your enemies head-on and dodge their attacks. When it works, you feel like the ultimate badass, rolling under the swings of a saw or shooting someone at the exact right time to trigger a visceral execution.

That's when it works. But when it doesn't? Nothing is more infuriating. Your timing could be off by nanoseconds: a missed dodge or one attack too many means death.



Whenever you're slain the massive 'YOU DIED' that appears on the screen is a brutal reminder to do better.

You might even go through some stages of denial as you about some BS hitboxes, or swearing your weapon did more damage than that.

Starting out in *Bloodborne* is what's going to cause you to switch off your PlayStation in anger. You're quite weak, you don't have a lot of stamina and you haven't learned the full level layout and what creatures are lurking behind each corner. The icing on the cake is that the first boss you encounter will be one of the toughest challenges in the entire game considering your early loadout. What's worse is that the camera (infamous in most FromSoftware games) is terrible: hooking onto walls, clipping into characters when something is in your way and constantly moving to keep you disoriented. The bridge you fight the boss on is so narrow that the lousy camera only adds to the difficulty and frustration.

After more than five attempts, a quick rest mode and possibly too much patience, I only then learned that the Cleric Beast was completely optional. By the time I did beat the hulking monster, I checked the trophy I earned to see that only half of the people who owned the game also got it. That's 50% of the player base that never got past the first area. How many of them rage-quitted too?

Any piece of progress in the game is wholly satisfying, but balanced with that comes the crushing defeat of being on the cusp of moving forward, only to fall back to where you began. The lamps you light to establish a new spawn point are few and far between, so the relief you have when you find one soon turns to despair when you realise how long it will take to find the next respite. Shortcuts can be unlocked, weapons can be upgraded, and your soul feels slightly less dark - until you reach the next roadblock.

One annoying thing about the game is how items work. You refill your health with blood vials you pick off enemies, but keeping an inventory of them is entirely up to you. Unlike *Dark Souls* where you can run back to a bonfire to reinstate your life points, the onus is to build a collection of these blood vials so they'll be waiting for you next time you inevitably die. The same situation stands with the silver bullets: ammunition for your gun necessary to parry and stun enemies. When you run out of these things making any kind of progress in later areas is an issue, and you'll usually have to resort to grinding away at weak enemies from previously visited places for the chance of sweet pickups. It's not exactly "fun" when the challenge is taken out of a challenging game.

Bloodborne is a weird one. Yes, it's incredibly difficult, and will guarantee you a few rage-quits, but, for some reason, keep coming back. Maybe it's the incredible gameplay held back by an infuriating camera, the mesmerising world with confusing, maze-like level design, or the exhilaration of progress with the mundaneness of rolling back. A game with the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, but definitely something you will brag about once you reach the peak.

If you're looking for a real challenge, Bloodborne is the way to go. It's on the PlayStation Plus Collection for PS5 owners, so there's no better time to jump in. Just try not to break too many controllers along the way.

travel

The adventure of a lifetime and how to plan for it

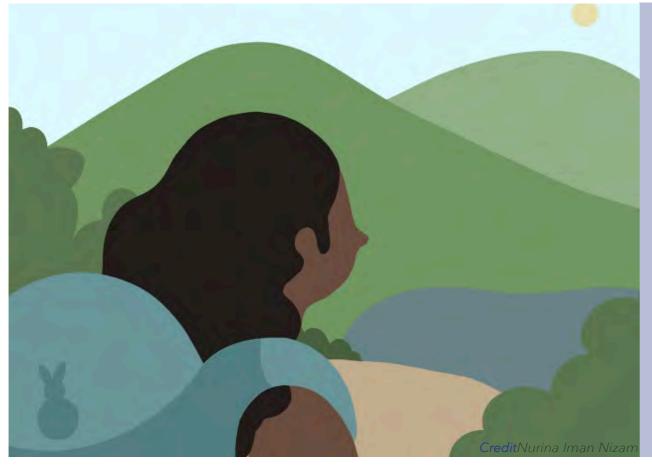
Nicola Kenny

Nicola Kenny reflects on past adventures and offers advice for planning fulfilling and beautiful trips.

With many restrictions still in place, it seems like regular travel is still a long way off. However, even if the pandemic stops us from embarking on any sort of physical adventure, it does not shut us out from our most valuable travelling resource, imagination. The relaxed pace of life and the new availability of time that has emerged during the pandemic may provide the perfect opportunity for you to plan your next big adventure.

During my years as a university student, travelling has meant everything to me. In the summer of 2019, I set out on a great, rolling adventure. And though I did not know it at the time, this journey would come to be one of the most important experiences of my life so far. Following an increasible difficulty par on a presental level at LICD. I set out most important experiences of my life so far. Following an incredibly difficult year on a personal level at UCD, I set out for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for a month, opening myself up to the world once again. One thing led to another, and in a pleasant twist of events, I found myself with newfound friends travelling to other various festivals in Ireland and abroad as an artistic contributor. Before knew it, another friend pointed me in the direction of a Swedish Community Farm, where I subsequently lived for a few months. During this adventure, I regained my voice and discovered a sense of purpose and connection with others that I had thought was gone forever. Little by little and then all at once, everything was okay again. While we can no longer travel as freely and enjoy these kinds of experiences, I hope to share with you what I have learnt about the process of planning and undertaking such a trip.

Initially, organising a big adventure can be overwhelming. However, breaking things down and creating a solid foundational plan will allow for organic and meaningful experiences to unfold as you travel. While everyone is different, finding a clear purpose for your travels will provide guidance in your planning. As you start out in the process, there are some big questions to ask. What kind of trip do you want this to be? Why are you going? Mapping out some of these ideas in a notebook can be a constructive place to start. On my big adventure, travelling was about reaching out to others, venturing outside of my comfort zone, and getting in touch with who I was. We live in the age of information. Why not use this to your advantage as you look for inspiration?



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"

food & drink

socialise alcohol-free

Mocktails

Nathan Young

Alcohol-Free Alternatives

Drinking is foundational in the social lives

of many, but plenty of people choose to abstain from it too. Andrew Nolan and

Andrew Nolan

Drinking is something of a societal backbone for many people. Even as we've grown out of drinking in

parks and the like, a huge amount of people seem to bank on bars and nightclubs to make up much of their social habits. Clocking out of work, or finishing that

essay, and following it up with a few pints is a familiar

ritual in most adult age groups. Even with bars closed,

the cementing of Zoom drinks as a practice highlights

how far-reaching alcohol is for many. It's interesting

to see just how ingrained the pastime is in our social

lives. Thankfully, there are plenty of means to go or stay

alcohol-free without having to sacrifice our social lives.

The opening of bars like The Virgin Mary will play a

huge role in changing the social narrative. I remember

personally reading confused comments surrounding

the venue when it opened, the most prominent being

"A bar with no drink? What's the point?" And on a very

surface level approach, the question can be justified. But

it cannot be understated what a venue with this setup

can accomplish. Remember, you're not going to be sat

in a café or a youth club; this is a bar. The appearance,

atmosphere, culture, it's all there. Places like this not

only give people another option but provides a setup

already familiar with many of its attendees. This opens up

an experience welcoming of not only those abstaining

from alcohol but their friends who aren't. Some people

enjoy getting drunk, that's fair enough. But by providing an establishment so familiar it becomes a lot more

accessible for a group of friends to spend their night

here, without it being too dissimilar and jarring for those

used to bars. Now, charging pub prices for non-alcoholic

drinks is an argument for a different day, but nonetheless,

the bar is promising for many who don't favour a drink.

This might be cheating because the venue does sell

alcohol, but it is far from the focus. Token is an arcade just

off the Smithfield Luas stop, and it's a personal favourite

spot of mine. I've been a plethora of times, but I've never

actually drank there; the vast collection of old arcade

games is more than enough. And a few games with friends

s something everyone can get on board with. Put simply,

'm not inviting you to Token for a session, I'm inviting you

so I can smoke you on Mortal Kombat, alcohol be damned.

Establishments shifting away from alcohol as their selling

point will have a ripple effect on how many of us socialise.

Even without quitting entirely, these options becoming

normalised makes it much more viable to ditch drinking

as a social crutch. Like I've said, there's nothing wrong

with an occasional pint, but being able to socialise

without it not only allows for a healthier outlook on

alcohol but allows our abstaining friends to not feel so

isolated as they sit with us in the same pub each weekend.

Nathan Young discuss ways we can still

Nathan Young cracks out his cocktail kit to show us how to keep mocktails exciting,

Personally, I enjoy drinking immensely. From a glass of something with a meal to the heavy session of a

birthday, alcohol is my drug of choice. I have long held,

however, that a good shindig is one where everyone

has a good time, and nothing more. Therefore, whether

it is for just one person, or everyone in attendance,

having non-alcoholic mocktails on offer is vital. Friends

and comrades may wish to avoid drinking for a variety

of religious and health reasons, and it's good form

for you, as a host, to accommodate these people.

The price of booze being what it is, fresh, high-end

ingredients still work out cheaper per drink for mocktails

than mid-tier ingredients do for a cocktail. Take advantage

of this! Make fresh Orgeat syrup at home by blending 200g

almonds and 660g hot rose water, straining the solids

out through a cloth, before blending again with 500g

sugar. This can be shaken with homemade lemonade

and served over ice, or used as an amaretto substitute

for more desserty drinks. Make berry syrups by adding an

equal part of raspberries or blackcurrants to your sugar-

water solution and boiling it before straining. These can

be used either as substitutes for liqueurs or to add colour

and flavour to other drinks. The trick is by preparing

ahead of time fresh syrups and juices, your mocktails can be as delicious and beautifully crafted as your cocktails.

Some of you are aware that Shirley Temple said, later in her life, that the mocktail named for her career as a child

star: "The saccharine sweet, icky drink?...all over the world,

I am served that. People think it's funny. I hate them. Too

sweet!". This shows the difficulty in relying on juice and

syrup to make up for the lack of booze-some people just

prefer sour or bitter things! A good response is to make

a muddled cucumber drink of cucumber and oregano,

add a pinch of salt, some honey and much more lime

juice. Shake well, and serve. Voila, far less sickly-sweet.

Finally, there is always the option of simply making

virgin cocktails or classic recipes without the booze. Be

careful here, as the flavour of most spirits is an important

part of the drink, and missing it will make the whole

thing unbalanced. The best two classic candidates for

the Bloody Mary. Without the spirits, these drinks

become a tropical slushie and a chilled spicy tomato

soup. Both of these drinks are so old that there are a

thousand variations online, so why not find new ways

to spice them up and give them that extra something?

rather than an afterthought.

You can dip into podcasts, books, and conversations, drawing ideas from what is happening around you. Be open to whatever comes your way. Looking away from devices and social media may enable you to form your own ideas and create an authentic adventure. Remember, this should be an enjoyable experience for you. Allow yourself to search widely and dream big.

Once you have discovered your purpose, you can start to think about where you are going and how you will get there. In an age of environmental consciousness, why not think about visiting places closer to home and adopting new forms of travel? This summer past we had the opportunity to experience the joy of travelling within Ireland, appreciating the beauty of what exists on our own shores, and in some cases, neighbouring European countries. Boats, trains, and buses make this kind of travelling affordable, accessible, and environmentally friendly. They may even allow you to bring a bike on board. These options become favourable when you consider the time spent waiting around in queues at airports. Apps and websites such as Trainline, Rome to Rio and Omio are excellent planning resources. For quite some time, I have personally been baffled by fellow students opting to travel long-distances in the pursuit meaning. The costs associated with experiences such as the J1 alone are difficult to comprehend. Why not reframe the core of the journey to be about the process,

and pleasure can be appreciated with this approach.

one place for some time rather than moving around all over the world. The nature of the festival encouraged regularly. This is a positive from an environmental perspective, and also offers a unique opportunity to others, making dear friends along the way. There were truly embed yourself in a community and experience also plenty of opportunities for downtime. Amidst the truly embed yourself in a community and experience the culture. Websites such as Airbnb and WWOOF the culture. Websites such as Airbnb and WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) provide useful information on this. When you are considering who you would like to travel with, you may need to think back to your travelling purpose. While adventuring as part of a group offers the opportunity to share collective memories, solo travelling allows you to open up to new backgrounds, pushing you beyond your comfort zone. My experience staying on the farm in Sweden taught me this. Here, I lived with a Steiner community, working in the fields and foreign by the day before gathering. in the fields, and foraging by the day before gathering by the fire to share stories at night. It was through this immersive experience that I grew, forging close bonds with others as we formed something of a collective. The ideal situation for me has been travelling alone, finding places where there are opportunities to stay for extended and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again, and as soon as we can get moving again. periods and get to know people on a deeper level.

One of the most exciting areas to think about when mountain is waiting...so get on your way." planning your big adventure is the itinerary and activities. f you are going to stay put for an extended period and take the time to enjoy the experience that is the very nature of your adventure? From my experience, beauty work and support your travels on a budget. During my

Another important consideration in planning is big adventure at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, I gained accommodation and company. When choosing where employment at a local Arts Centre where I was able to to stay, it may be worthwhile considering settling in see shows for free while working alongside people from conviviality. I stayed up all night chatting and dancing with madness of the world's largest arts festival, my new friends and I spent our days cycling out to the sea and heading off on hikes. It was magical. Of course, what you do will

> we will. And when this time comes, as Dr Seus would say: "You are off to great places! Today is the day! Your

> For Brosnan and Rodoreda, adaptability seemed to be the name of the game. Rodoreda explained: "I



pretty much found out everything in September, so I didn't even know I was accepted until mid-September, so like a week before I actually left, which is kinda crazy." Brosnan too mentioned: "I think we booked everything within two weeks". With restrictions and cases If I didn't changing every day, it's unsurprising that a degree of flexibility and willingness to act fast is necessary. move over Getting settled in and meeting people was the next I'd literally surprised; "I did feel very much at home immediately .] I thought it would be more difficult, but then again obviously living with 5 other people it is so much be doing the easier. [...] I am quite lucky, in that sense." Whooley too mentioned how having a large flat with new faces helped, even though "getting to know [her] classmates same thing and stuff is harder" as she has only met most of them over zoom. Brosnan spoke about how having friends from her course as flatmates, as well as having some but in my

> All three had their fair share of misgivings with online lectures, as we all do. However, I did get a sense that being in a new environment helped provide some muchneeded novelty. From Brosnan's perspective, the case was clear: "I find it a lot easier to do online lectures here because I'm pretty bad at procrastination, so when I was at home last semester I found it so difficult to study. But I think just being here with a different atmosphere, like, I'm in a different room, I have a more set schedule [...] it's much easier just for me to stay focused"

local contacts, helped smoothen the adjustment.

Not all was rosy, though. Brosnan expanded on a particular personal frustration: "What is kind of annoying more so than anything is that we're literally over here, we're a 15 minute walk from the college we are supposed to be attending and we're not able to." Christmas and the holidays in general also seemed to be a sore spot, with Whooley saying: "That's [the] kind of stress that I just keep putting to the back of my mind" and mentioning "I'm just kind of like accepting that Christmas is going to be completely different this year". Rodoreda explained too: "It's just uncertainty I would say, I mean no one can plan anything. If I were to go home, I would probably have to book it a few days ahead or a week ahead."

Speaking of the future there seemed to be mostly high ropes. For Rodoreda, looking forward meant excitement and anticipation for the time he would get to spend in Ireland: "It is nice to know that there is still so much of the country that you will still be able to experience which ou aren't right now". Brosnan too was optimistic, looking rward to next semester where she will be attending he University in Toulouse. Whooley found it difficult to even imagine what things might look like after Covid, mentioning: "I always kind of wonder what it's like [in Glasgow] wॅhen Covid isn't around".

When asked whether they would do it all again, if given the opportunity, the responses were unanimous:

om Rodoreda: "Yeah, fully. So far, I don't regret anything. .] Even with all of this stuff happening I am super grateful be here, so I would definitely do it again."

rom Brosnan: "I am just really enjoying myself here. It's a brilliant opportunity. I am kinda thinking that if the other people in my course decided to come over, they would

And from Whooley: "Definitely. It's just like If I stayed [in Dublin] it would have just been kind of letting Covid-19 have a massive effect on my life. I mean, it does have a massive effect on everyone's life, but I am just trying to continue with my life as normally as possible."

It seems that while travelling for quick stints and holiday breaks may be off the table for now, moving for college during a pandemic can be both a realistic and enjoyable

CreditNurina Iman Nizam

Studying abroad in a time of Covid

Killian Conyngham

Killian Conyngham spoke to three students who have recently moved abroad to discuss the challenges and rewards of studying elsewhere during a pandemic.

Many plans of mice and men have had to be cancelled or postponed this year as we all come to grips with the current pandemic. The world has kept spinning, however. Some have persevered through Covid and its accompanying travel restrictions. I spoke to three students over the past few weeks, who all moved abroad for college at the beginning of this semester, to see how their experiences of moving have been shaped by this extraordinary time.

Ben Rodoreda is a first-year. He finished school in Germany over a year ago now. This September, after a gap year interrupted by the breakout of Covid-19 he came to study here in Ireland. For him, whether he was moving abroad was never even a question. He told me: " always knew I wanted to study somewhere else. [...] I just like living in a different, completely new country, which is kind of something that I am always drawn to."

I don't regret anything. [...] Even with all of this stuff

happening lam super grateful to be here, so I would definitely do it again.

Ailish Whooley is an Architecture graduate of UCD, who moved to Glasgow for the fourth year of her architecture diploma. She mentioned how the decision felt straightforward enough: "If I didn't move over, I'd literally be doing the same thing but in my bedroom in Dublin where I've been for 22 years". For Doireann Brosnan, things were a bit more complicated. She was supposed to do a year-long exchange in France as part of her course, Law with French

bedroom in

I've been for

22 years

Dublin where

Law. After this exchange was cancelled, then reinstated and then cancelled again, Brosnan and some friends decided to move to Toulouse in France on their own accord. She felt there were advantages in moving abroad, even if she would be taking UCD courses online. Along with avoiding putting her family at risk if she did have to commute, she explained: "I was thinking, well listen, If I go abroad it's cheaper than renting in Dublin [...] and then I'd learn a bit of French as well". For Brosnan, a strictle form of the properties of the propertie particular frustration was the uncertainty concerning her exchange and whether UCD would be online throughout the Summer: "I think I contacted roughly about 10 different groups of people just asking and asking and asking and it was just really difficult to get an answer."

The moving process itself, however, seemed less difficult, with Brosnan mentioning: "It was really easy to move over, I thought that it would be kinda more stressful but not at all". Whooley echoed this sentiment, mentioning however that somé found it harder: "It wasn't too bad for me anyway... Some of my flatmates had to [...] have somewhere to stay for 2 weeks [...] when they went over". For Rodoreda, while the moving process was mostly smooth, he did find the Irish green-list system confusing at times, mentioning how Germany was moved onto the green-list as he was moving over and how he felt the government recommendations were at times unclear as to how someone in his position should

proceed during the 2 week self-isolation period on arrival.

No-fuss bolognese

E. Keogh

Whether you have a date, a party, or someone to impress, it's handy to have one go-to recipe that you have down, something that is sure to make an impression. E. Keogh discusses theirs.

There's only one meal that I am certain that I can do wonders with, and that's spaghetti bolognese. It's by no means difficult to make, the bolognese is notoriously low effort, but it tastes fantastic regardless. From my own experience here, you can find all the ingredients you need, and then some, for under 10 euro quite easily. And let's be honest, you don't need to be the next Master Chef, or even have lots of pots or pans at your disposal to make something special. They're welcome of course, but you can keep your minimalist traits in tow and still cook a lovely meal.

I'm not the best chef if I'm being totally honest; my expertise is more on the basic side. People know me for my speciality of my world-famous cornflakes with milk.

itself out as you're now looking after the mince. Get the mince, or your friendly alternative, and a pan. Set

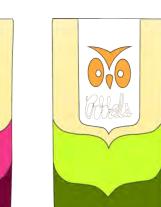
Fresh garlic (1-2 cloves)

Butter (or dairy-free substitute) One crushed clove of garlic

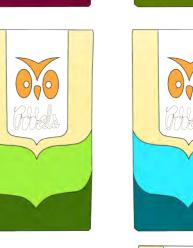
the onion and throw it into a bowl. Next, you're going to the butter to melt. cube the tomatoes, these can go in the same bowl the onions are in.

crush it with a knife. Once crushed, dice the garlic to get Take the bolognese off the heat, and pour it on the pasta. it to mix with the sauce. Chuck it in with the veg once Serve the garlic bread with it and voilà! A gourmet meal it's diced. Once these are all prepped, you can leave the for under 10 euros.

Next up is getting a start on boiling the pasta, standard mentioned is particularly inaccessible; adding the likes of stuff. So, what you want to do is to use a dash of salt in the chilli flakes is a reasonable shout no matter the dish. But







Cupboard Love: Shortbread

Doireann de Courcy Mac Donnell

With the Great British Bake Off Final still

Courcy Mac Donnell talks us through the

As said by our Food and Drink Editor, "Cooking is an

intrinsically nourishing activity, even before you bite into

the end-product. It's a creative, meditative act of self-

care". Cupboard Love is designed to discuss how the

most basic of staples of your larder can create the most

delectable of culinary experiences. So far this volume

we've had a dalliance with salted caramel, a love affair

with tinned tomatoes and even a foray into the world of

fancy instant noodles. However, for this issue, I'm bringing

If you have white flour and some butter in your kitchen,

don your Chef's hat - the culinary world is your oyster. You

can make a tasty roux to turn into a béchamel - add a little

dill and salt and chopped smoked salmon you're ready

for a tummy-hugging seafood spaghetti. Keep it simple

with some parmesan and a hint of nutmeg and you

have your white sauce for a lasagne. If you were feeling

particularly brave and are suffering withdrawals from the end of another season of The Great British Bake Off (the

brightest light in my life for the last couple of months

as the world continued to implode. And Peter won?

Undoubtedly deserving but Dave was just so likeable)

you could even try your hand at some Choux pastry and

Perhaps one of the easiest things to make if you have

flour in your cupboard, butter in your fridge, and are

schlepping around the house in your slippers on a

Sunday atternoon wondering what to do betore it's an

acceptable hour to vegetate on the couch, is shortbread.

The Scots really know how to make a simple biscuit that

The recipe is one part white sugar to two parts butter to

three parts flour. After letting your butter soften (just leave it sitting on your counter for an hour - it shouldn't be

melted), you chuck your three ingredients into a decent-

sized baking bowl and rub between your fingers until

they come together in a breadcrumb-like consistency.

It's a therapeutic and tactile task and shouldn't take

breadcrumbs you combine the mix together in your

hands to form a ball of dough. Since it is a 'short' biscuit

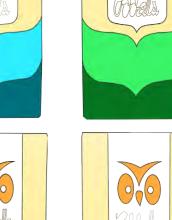
serve up some fancy-pants profiteroles or cream buns.

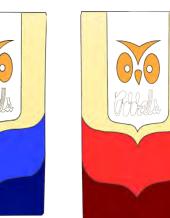
it back to basics - white flour.

resh, in this installment, Doireann de

simple task of making shortbread.





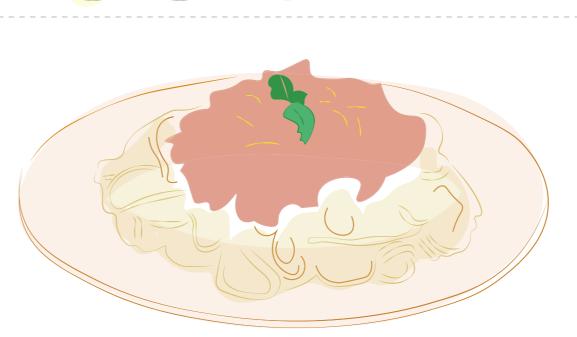


- in this case butter - to flour, and results in a rich crumbly bake) it can be difficult to gather it all into a single ball of dough. I find it easiest to put the dough which you brought together on a sheet of cling film plastic wrap and then tip the breadcrumbs of mixture which have escaped on top. After washing your hands - which will be a little greasy from all the butter rubbing - you then use the cling film to wrap it into one nice ball. Pop the dough in the fridge for about twenty minutes.

I'm a traditional gal when it comes to biscuits. Usually when I'm baking shortbread I go for the standard rectangle with little pricks along the top. To do this, I roll a thick wad of the chilled dough out and use a pizza slice to get nice lines. I then go along with a fork and prod little dots along each piscuit. Another quick and easy shape to make is to roll some dough into a golf ball in your hands before placing on your lined baking tray, and using the palm of your hand to press down and squidge the dough into round biscuits. Be sure to leave plenty of space between biscuits on the tray as they often spread a little. The biscuits can take anything from fifteen to twenty minutes in the oven, but be sure to keep an eye from fifteen minutes onwards. It only takes a minute or two to go from the perfect biscuit with a snap Paul Hollywood would be impressed by, to a biscuit which has caught a little and tastes slightly funny. Once you've taken the biscuits out the oven let them cool and harden for at least ten minutes.

There are many ways to spruce up a good ole shortbread biscuit. Using one of our previous Cupboard Love recipes, you can lather a tray of shortbread in caramel, spread melted chocolate on top and slice it up for decadent Millionaire's Shortbread. Since we're approaching the Christmas season, you can mould your shortbread into festive shapes and decorate with simple royal icing. I find it easiest to first outline your edge with a tiny piping bag and then flood the interior with runny icing. Once it has set, you have a lovely base to add detail too. Although, plain and simple shortbread is an equally lovely gift this more than five minutes. Once you're happy with your Christmas.

(a short mixture is one which has a high proportion of fat Bakers, you have one hour. On your marks, get set, Bake!



This recipe serves 3-4 people, what you'll need is:

400 grams of minced beef (or meat-free substitute) Tomato purée 2 medium-sized tomatoes One-quarter of an onion, thinly sliced A pinch of basil A pinch of salt A sprinkle of pepper Chilli flakes (to your own discretion but I recommend teaspoon for that little extra kick) Pasta of your choice 100ml of water

Optional Extras (for the Gordon Ramsays among you)

Any bread of your choice (baguettes work best) Oregano for the bolognese sauce

Firstly, you're going to chop the vegetables. Thinly slice

your hob to a medium heat to cook the mince, making sure to stir it regularly so as not to burn it. Once the mince is fully cooked, making sure that none of it is left pink and raw, you can introduce the vegetables and garlic (I try to make it a rule to add veg to whatever meal I'm cooking, your health is your wealth after all). Next, you add the tomato purée, making sure to stir it into the mince well.

While stirring, now is the time to add your money makers; the chilli flakes, the salt, the pepper, and basil, as well as 100ml of water, to make the sauce. Oregano is optional, but it really works for filling out the flavour. Oregano can be quite strong so make sure to only add half a teaspoon at first and taste the sauce as you add marginally more each time. Do the same with the chilli flakes as too much can mean ruining the dish. Though I don't write the rules. Go on, throw a full teaspoon of oregano in, you little rebel.

Once you bring the sauce to the boil, lower to the heat and allow it to simmer. This is where you can start the garlic bread. With a precooked baguette, cut diagonally into oval shapes, making sure to leave each segment still attached. Prepare one clove of garlic with a knob of butter. This will allow for a better spread of the flavour. Once the garlic is sufficiently mixed with the butter, spread it into the gaps between segments. Spread as evenly as possible before putting the cooked baguette in the oven to melt the butter. I will only take around 1-3 minutes for

Once the pasta has been boiling for around 10 minutes (take a bit out to eat and make sure it's not still too chewy. The garlic needs the skin removed, and then you can Or chuck it off the wall. Classic.) and then drain the pasta.

Reading this, you've probably noticed that little that I've water, then put the pasta in and let it boil. That will sort these finer details are really what makes a meal come to life. In isolation, it might not seem like much, but these

details combined make up a wonderful final picture.

staff writes Warmest Christmas musical memory



Ellen Duggan

My warmest Christmas song memory is a harrowing tale. The tale is harrowing as it involves the first time I heard 'Have a Cheeky Christmas' by the Cheeky Girls. Cheeky and harrowing may not be two words you would normally connect together, but somehow, these women managed it with this Christmas single.

I cannot remember what age my friends and I were when we were first introduced to this song, but if anyone has yet to hear it I will include some lyrics, as no explanation can do it justice: "Life is good/We all go crazy/Light the fire/ and come with me/Dancing at the Christmas party/Lots of wine/And the boys get cheeky".

I don't think any of us, in our tinted seasonal glasses, had ever imagined that the festive season could be so full of mischief. Excited by the prospect of an uncensored and cheeky Christmas, we would huddle together in the yard during our final days before Christmas break, gathered around my friend's pink LG slide as she played the song in a youtube to MP3 download format.

On our last day before we parted for Christmas, just as we were exiting the class wearing Christmas hats and large hand-me-down duffle coats, my friend waved goodbye to our teacher, who was standing kindly at the door waving us off and told him to "Have a Cheeky Christmas".

I cannot remember if that Christmas was, in fact, cheeky, but I still love that song.



My warmest (Christmas song memory? For me, the best Christmas song is 'Fairytale of New York'. Sure, all Christmas songs are overplayed in my retail job, and by Christmas, I develop a fight or flight response to any note Paul McCartney sings. The Pogues are different.

My Dad lives up in the North, and every year we'd make the long journey up on St. Stephen's Day. As a kid, I had no real perception of time passing, and there were only so many DS games I could play before getting bored. It was also a tiring journey for my Mam to drive, as it took nearly 2 hours to get there. Near the border, when we were both just anxious to get there, 'Fairytale of New York' would start playing on BBC Radio One. Shane McGowen's drunken voice and the instrumentals at the beginning of the song are unforgettable. My Mam and would belt out the song, her taking Christy MacColl's parts and me taking Shane McGowen's, doing my best to sound as drunk as possible.

The song's meaning wasn't apparent to a younger me, but that didn't really matter, all I knew was it was a classic that used to make the borning, cold car journey up the north a whole lot more bearable. Every year from then on, we'd make sure to stick it on at some point and scream 'til our heart's content. I knew when I heard that song that I'd be nearer to sitting down and having my Grandad's gorgeous Christmas dinner, with the whole family in tow.

Nathan Young Raised as I was in the Anglican Communion, my warmest memories of Christmas music are those of Carols, sung in churches by whole congregations. Nowadays I have no supernatural beliefs or Divine support, but I remember well that I once had. On Christmas eve each

year, my family and I would attend a Choral service in a small church outside any village. The old stone building would be freezing at first, but between the tightly packed congregation, the large jackets, and the general merriment, the place would warm up.

As a former service worker, I think Christmas pop music can get stuffed, but the sound of 'Oh come all ye faithful' or 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' send shivers through my entire body. In mid-December, once it's actually appropriate to celebrate Christmas, I start listening to The Oxford Trinity Choir and similar. Oddly, I find this music slightly too good. Part of the feeling is the sense of community found in communal Choral singing, and the bad singing is part of it. Not that a bad choir on Spotify would end these woes either, now that I think about it.

Last year, I attended the LGBT+ choral service in the Unitarian Church on St. Stephen's Green. I still feel slightly out of place in churches due to my lack of belief, but the inclusive nature of the event and the Unitarian's lax attitude towards actually believing in God made me feel far more comfortable. I am eternally grateful to them for allowing me to relive my churchy memories without fear of judgment.



Martin should not have anything to do with Christmas, that his commercial sell-out of a band should stick to the popstar script and leave the sacred institution of Christmas to normal folks (and Michael Bublé). Generally, agree with these fervent condemnations of Chris and his too-good-to-be-true rainbow trousers and boyish charm.

However, and inconveniently for me, it is a Coldplay song that I stick on come December 24th, 25th and beyond into January if my luck holds!. More than anything else it is this song that evokes in me that most elusive of emotions - 'Christmassy-ness'. For me, mince pies and mulled wine have nothing on Martin in this department.

For me, 'Christmas Lights' is inexorably associated with some of my warmest Christmas memories. In particular, the song was sung repeatedly, with many demanded encores, at the final Christmas Carol Concert of my school days. Arm-in-arm with some of my best friends, we, along with some of the more game teachers, belted out the choruses and mumbled through the verses. Drunk, on Christmas, if not the watered-down mulled wine, we sang, we sang and we sang. As we poured out of our school's lino-floored and tinsel-bedecked hall, the tune stuck in our heads for days to come, the words on our lips, we had collectively experienced what a singular joy Christmas music can be.

Even during this most troubled of years, the song's maxim rings true; while the Christmas lights 'keep shining on' all your troubles, will, even temporarily, be gone.

The plague of the Next! Big! Young Adult! Novel!

Caoilfhinn Hegarty

I'm scrolling through my Instagram when I see it: a glossy, hyper-cinematic shot of some twenty-something model's unreasonably symmetrical face gazing intensely at the middle distance. The backdrop is dark and gloomy, possibly with flames or lightning. The caption identifies the figure as the protagonist of a 'MUST READ thrilling new series for Young Adults!'. 'People

are calling it THE NEXT HARRY POTTER!' it screams.

The next Harry Potter? Well, I can't ignore that. I spring into action and whip out my to-read list, entitled 'Books that are the next Harry Potter', to add this crucial new addition. It's so lengthy at this point that when I unfurl it, it rolls right out my bedroom door, down the stairs, out of the house, and across the street, where the sheer weight of it knocks an unsuspecting pensioner over, killing them stone dead. Job done, I reel my list back in and carefully replace it on my shelf, which is groaning under the weight of other equally massive scrolls bearing titles such as 'The Next Twilight!', and 'The Next Hunger Games!'.

Ladies, gents, and gentlefolk, I am tired. If I see one more ad-campaign for a YA novel that hinges entirely on how similar it is to a previous YA novel, I'm going to chalk this whole reading thing up as a bad job. Jared (19) was onto something. I don't know what it is that prompts publishing houses to market this way. Maybe it's the fact that their target audience of Gen Z's and young millennials have been defined by their characterisation as nostalgia obsessed perma-kids. Maybe they're trying to follow the wider trend in pop-culture, with its

apparent hunger for remakes, reboots, prequels, and sequels, instead of new material. Maybe they're just kinda bad at their jobs. All I know is that in an algorithmdriven world, where ads, headlines, and content are picked out for me based on my past likes, this is just one more feedback loop I could definitely do without. I might mind less if they tried to be a little more imaginative. Twilight might be undergoing a renaissance of interest, but it's decidedly tongue-in-cheek - no one actually wants new material. Harry Potter was a mainstay of all our childhoods, but Rowling is fast killing off the goodwill. Back in the day, The Hunger Games was barely off the shelves before it began to spawn a whole host of underwhelming dystopian-teen knockoffs (Divergent being the most audacious). If advertisers are going to insist on linking new titles to old favourites then they had better start switching the game up. I want a broody ad campaign for a YA book series critics are calling 'the next Horrid Henry' in time for Christmas season 2021.



recommends

Staff Local Business to support this Christmas:

Andrew Nolan: Heartbreak Social Club

Tattoo shops faced some of the harshest brunts of regulations

imposed upon non-essential services. Forced to close in March,

they were one of the last to eventually reopen, but, again, one of

the first to shut their doors with the reintroduction of restrictions.

While an unfortunate turn for everyone involved, the timing was

especially rough on Heartbreak Social Club. Their new store,

opened up on Drury Street, was only allowed to open for one day before they had to close again. The planned conversion of

their original store to a piercing parlour has been delayed, and will open its doors for the first time when the regulations ease.

Primarily a tattoo studio, Heartbreak Social Club is multifaceted in

what they offer. When the stores are able to reopen, both tattoo

and piercing services will resume. With this, they also offer a range

of handmade jewellery, including rings, bracelets and necklaces,

though, these will only be available in store. In the meantime,

they have an online store where they stock different types of

clothes. As well as this, vouchers are available to order through

the online storefront, redeemable once these services resume.

Odin O'Sullivan: Books Upstairs

Christmas is approaching faster than usual, as the stores which can open lash up decorations to entice the very bored populace into beginning the stressful ritual of Christmas shopping. This year, it's integral to support small businesses that have been forced to close for long periods of time. Christmas should be used to support these independent businesses in order to make sure they still exist once the pandemic ends.

Books Upstairs is the oldest independent bookstore in Dublin, and it is a treasure trove of Irish literature, second-hand books, political papers, periodicals, journals, and pretty much anything else you can read. The staff have always been incredibly kind and helpful with a broad knowledge of books. Although they can't open, they are still selling excellently curated book bundles via the link in their Twitter bio. The perfect gift for the readers in your life, the bundles' themes range from new Irish fiction, to children's literature, to politics and philosophy.

Their upstairs (yes, I know the books are downstairs and their name is Books Upstairs. They do not laugh if you point this out) is a wonderful café which is, in my opinion, one of the best spots in the city. Once they're open again, I highly recommend getting a coffee and cracking open a new paperback there, but until then, make sure to grab a book for a loved one from this Dublin city staple and give them the support they need.

Laoise Tarrant: Anam Coffee

Every Christmas, since I was about sixteen, I buy coffee themed presents for my family. It's become a bit of a run-on-joke with my brothers (how many Chemexs does one person need?), but | still maintain that you can never go wrong with buying a batch of nice coffee for someone.

I make a concerted effort to choose local roasters, and you'd Thate a contented enor to choose local locaters, and you denotestly be surprised with how many there are in Ireland. The more well-known roasters are 3fe, Badger and Dodo, Cloudpicker, and Silverskin. Then some roasters are harder to come by, such as Calendar Coffee, Urbanity, and Bell Lane Coffee. This year, my brothers will find their stockings filled to the brim with coffee beans from Anam Coffee.

Anam Coffee is a small speciality roaster in the Burren, County Clare. They roast organic and ethically sourced beans from Brazil, Columbia, Honduras, Peru, and El Salvador. They roast in small batches, delivering a consistently high-quality bean. True to its name, each blend is full of soul. I highly recommend the Christmas Blend, which has such a rich and chocolatey taste to it, that you'd swear you were drinking a mocha in the form of an

Although I have yet to see Anam Coffee in Dublin, you can order from their website. For the seasoned coffee drinker in your life, you can order a coffee subscription from them. And, yes, you are right in thinking that this is a very dedicated hint at whoever is buying a Christmas present for me.

Sinéad Keating: Jam Art Factory

My favourite discovery from this Autumn is Jam Art Factory, a small Irish business set up in the Liberties in 2011 to showcase and sell Irish prints. They have a second shop just off Temple Bar square, a tiny bright green shopfront on the arty Crown Alley. It has become my go-to for Christmas shopping this year because I have found something to everyone's style, whether they would appreciate a pretty print or one that gives them a chuckle whenever they see it (those two are not mutually exclusive, of

Jam Art stocks a huge variety of prints with one popular theme being the geography and history of Ireland, with an interactive map on their website to easily find prints of a particular area. Other themes are films, music, pop culture, popular phrases, abstract concepts and so much more. You can find very minimalist contemporary prints, ones printed on old book pages, laser-cut pieces and plenty of photography too. It is not just limited to prints either, with books, laser-cut wooden notebooks, printed tote bags, cards, and Christmas decorations also stocked

All of their stock is on the website and you can order for home delivery or go for click and collect in the Temple Bar shop. My personal favourite prints are Marta Barcikowska's playful and surrealist collages. Like many other prints on offer, her Á4 prints are only €18, a small offering for a unique piece that supports Irish artists and Irish businesses.

Having visited for both tattoos and their clothing, I genuinely cannot recommend them enough. The work they produce is fantastic, and everyone in the shop is as sound as they come. No matter your style or preference, the artists there will have you sorted. With plenty on offer, I'd say that Heartbreak Social Club is more than worth a shout this Christmas.

AGONY

Dear Joanne Joanne,

So I'm a guy who's interested in guys... But I have a problem. I'm really not interested in butt stuff. And I keep seeing it in porn and stuff, and other gay people talking about it and I really just don't like the idea. It sounds painful and disgusting. I'm fine with other people liking it but... I can't help feeling there's something wrong with me? Like is it usual for a gay man to not like butt stuff? Will a guy sleep with me if I'm not into it? Am I even properly gay if I

friends that you're not really gay unless you've been streaming Future Nostalgia every day since it came out, but there's no real truth to that and your sexuality isn't determined by something that superficial.

If done properly, anal does not need to be painful at all - as long as both parties are preparing well (using lube) and being safe and responsible (using lube that doesn't burn you), it's very possible to do it in a way that's a fun time for everyone involved. I think I understand what you mean by saying it seems disgusting, but the wonderful thing about asses is that they can be washed - I encourage everyone to wash theirs regularly.

All that being said, I am sure you can still find someone to sleep with even if you're absolutely not comfortable with any backdoor activity. As art teachers all over the world would say, some people are just better with their hands - use your imagination! Get creative! Go stupid!

Dear Joanne Joanne.

How do I get my partner to put on a maid dress and let me make a Tik Tok out of it? They're not cooperating no matter how much I bring it up. Send help!

As an attention-loving beast I cannot relate to not wanting to have a cute look shown off on social media, but I have been told that camera shyness is a real thing and not a medical myth from the 1850s. It's also very possible that they aren't sure specifically what kind of maid costume you are talking about. Personally, I only caught on to the sudden popularity of maid costumes on the internet in the past few weeks, and I was shocked to see it was a trend - I've owned a black and white pinafore that makes me look like a mid-1700s farm hand for about two years and only NOW is it catching on. My time has come! I can churn butter without judgement now!

Maybe if you showed them examples of the maid costume you're thinking they might be able to make an informed decision? I feel like it's easy to hear "I think you should put on this maid costume" as "I want you to abandon technology and sell Bertha, our finest cow, for five dollars or we won't be able to eat for three months". Common misunderstanding, I hear it all the time. It's also possible they just do not want to do it - maid costumes are for everyone, but some people are simply allergic to fashion. If they're really uncomfortable, you should probably just let it go.

Or you could get them a maid costume for Christmas. 'Tis the

That's all from me this time! I got a lot of submissions for this issue - more than I could answer in one go - but if your question wasn't answered this time don't let that stop you from sending them in! If you would like to ask for my advice, you can find the link to my Tipbox on the UO's "Contact Us" page and their social media pages. You can find me (and the link to the Tipbox) on Instagram at @joannesquared, and you can catch me on Saturdays downstairs in the Newman Building eating a Petit Filous in the corner between 4 and 5am.



Hello! My name is Joanne Joanne - drag legend, eleventime Grammy winner, full-time resident of the tunnels in the Newman Building. This is the first instalment of what will be OTwo's best ever Agony Aunt column - that's right, the good people at The University Observer saw the way 2020 has gone, thought about who can be there as a light in the dark for the struggling students of UCD, and settled on a twenty-year-old drag queen from the backarse of County Wicklow. I'm as delighted as you are! I'll be answering your questions on love, sex, college or anything else via submissions in my Tipbox - do send your questions in! Nothing is too weird! I am incredibly nosy!

Let's get one thing straight (ha) - if you are a guy who's interested in guys, you are not any "less gay" just because of what you're not comfortable with sexually. I joke around all the time with my friends that you're not really any unless you're hope attracting