

# SIN

NUAHTÁN SAOR IN AISCE  
VOL.19 ISSUE 7. 23 JAN 2017

# Student Independent News



Co-auditors of NUI Galway Sláinte Society Liezel Ravenscroft and Sally Cahill ready to treat their cuddly patients.

## NO PICNIC – but a doctor’s appointment for 1300 unwell teddy bears

By Martha Brennan

Over 1300 teddy bears that had their stuffing knocked out of them were treated at the annual NUI Galway Teddy Bear Hospital on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 January.

Organised by NUI Galway’s Slainte Society who spent nearly a year preparing for this year’s event, children from over 28 schools across the county presented at the A&E department set up in the Bailey Allen Hall.

Nearly 350 student volunteers from various courses gathered to treat the children’s poorly furry friends, while helping them understand the healthcare system and teaching them to be less afraid of hospitals and doctors’ offices.

With appointments from 10am-1pm each day, the con-

cerned children were taken to the waiting room to await their visit to the consultation area, where they were greeted by their personally assigned Teddy Doctor.

The children were encouraged to hold Teddy’s hand and were rewarded for minding their stuffed friend. Teddy may have needed an injection, a plaster, or perhaps even an elaborate ‘pawscription’ from the in-house pharmacy, supplied with healthy fresh fruit from Fyffe’s and Burke’s Fruit and Veg – who sponsored the event alongside the Medical Protection Society of Ireland.

The doctor explained to the child exactly what was wrong with Teddy and what needed to be done to fix him, be it a broken paw, a sore tummy or even a broken heart. The children

could even listen to Teddy’s heartbeat with their doctor’s stethoscope.

The doctor then brought Teddy for an x-ray in the handmade machines and fixed him up. The relieved children got to enjoy face-painting and a bouncing castle to finish up the day.

Co-auditor of Slainte Society Liezel Ravenscroft said that while the planning for the event may be a massive undertaking, it was always worth it.

“Even though we’ve been planning for this since last year and the few days leading up to the event can be hectic, there’s nothing like seeing the belief and amazement in the kids eyes,” she told *SIN*.

“It’s brilliant, it’s not a very realistic setting but even the older kids get so involved. It helps kids get used to the idea

of healthcare and to know that doctors are there to help and hospitals don’t need to be a scary place. It also really helps parents especially if their kids ever need to go to the hospital.”

On the night before the event over one hundred volunteers helped set up the Bailey Allen performing various duties such as setting up the tin foil x-ray machines or drawing chalk x-rays.

“It’s great to get involved in and it’s not just for medical students, it’s for anyone that likes to help kids and we’re lucky to have such great sponsors every year and willing volunteers,” Liezel said.

“Every year we see how much more we can push it, trying to get it bigger and better. We’ll start planning next year’s event straight away.”

## New NUI Galway president “banging the drum” for more third-level funding

By Sorcha O’Connor

New NUI Galway President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh believes that Ireland is “selling students short” by not investing enough into third-level education.

The former Dean of UCD College of Business commenced his term as President this semester and told *SIN* that he is “banging the drum” for more funding for Irish universities, rather than focusing on ongoing debate on the cost of university fees.

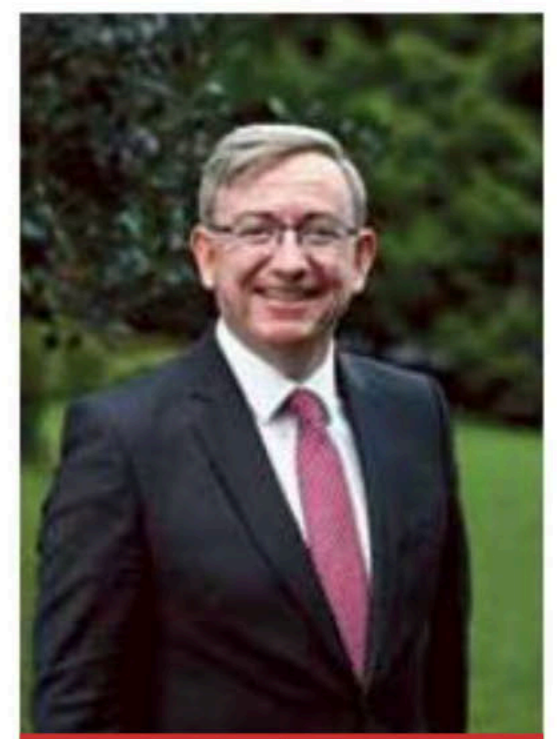
His predecessor Dr James Browne was in favour of a loan system for students and deemed the idea of “free” or subsidised fees as “naïve”, while USI organised a protest against the introduction of student loans in October last year.

“I am inclined to think that the issue is funding if we talk about fees ... if we think universities are important for society, which they are, then they need to be properly funded. On an international level, universities here are less funded and therefore I think we are selling students short. Compared to other universities that we are internationally competing with I think we should be fair to the current generation and invest in the future,” said Professor Ó hÓgartaigh.

“I don’t know if fees are the answer because I think there are other ways such as state funding, which is done in other countries internationally, philanthropy, and other means.”

“I’m not necessarily banging the drum for fees – I’m banging the drum for better funding. And I think students have been quite vocal here on the issue.”

He questioned whether graduates had a role to play in funding current students, as a



Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh

means of repaying institutions for the education they received.

“I am struck by the idea that there has been twenty years of university graduates out there ... how will that group of people pay back, as undoubtedly university gives you better opportunity for employment and better earning opportunities. And I think that is another question, how do that group pay back to the university, through philanthropy or otherwise?” he said.

The new university chief was very positive regarding the progress made in the institution regarding gender equality, saying current policies in NUI Galway were “more proactive than any other institution I have been in before.”

Pressed on whether gender quotas were a fair system to have in place, he said he believed that a quota was a short-term corrective measure to “change mentalities” and did not put gender before merit. He also pointed out that in the last round of promotion in the university, 58pc of promotions to senior lecturer had gone to female staff members.

Continued on page 2

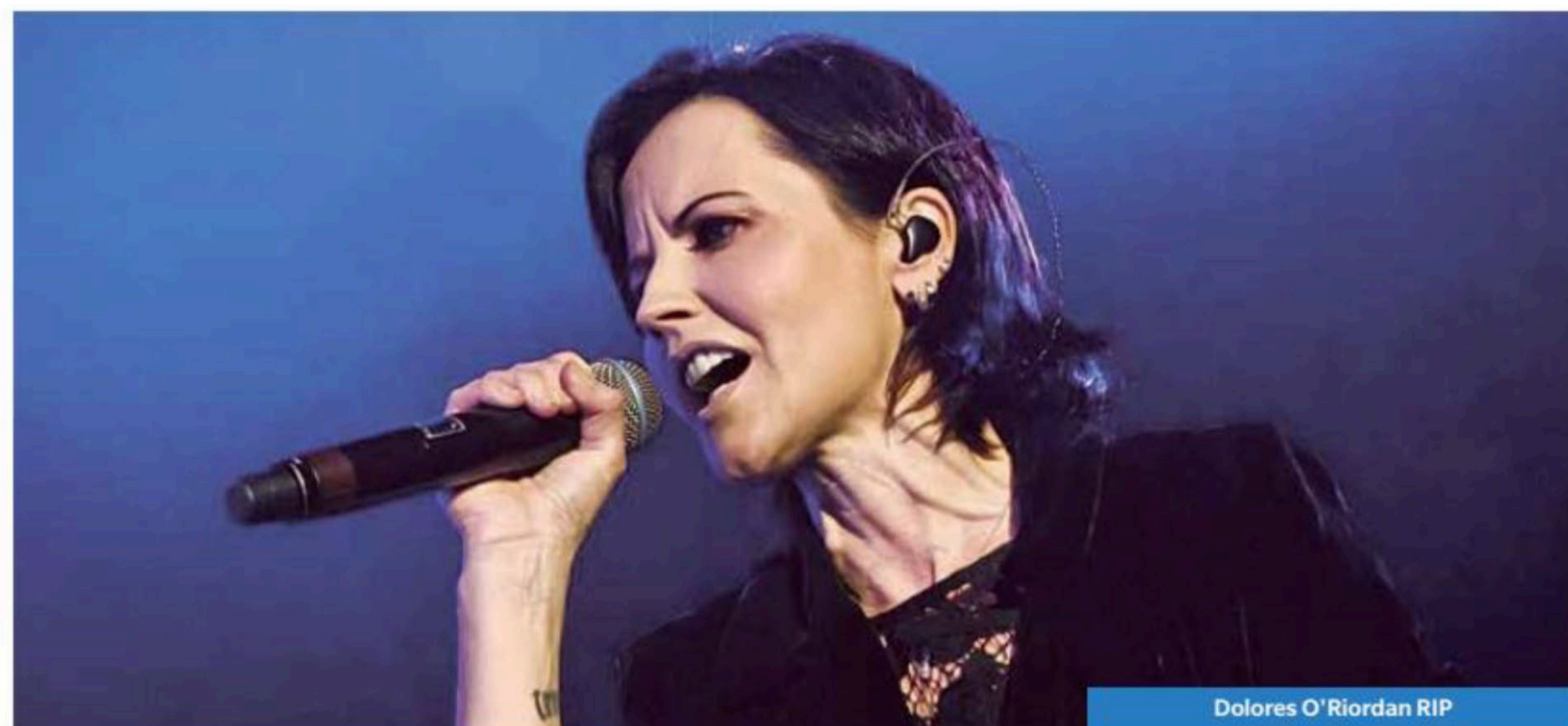
# A tribute to Dolores O'Riordan

By Tarryn Maguire

Lead singer of the Cranberries Dolores O'Riordan has died at the age of 46. The Irish musician's sudden death was confirmed by her publicist on Monday, who released a statement saying:

"The lead singer with the Irish band The Cranberries was in London for a short recording session. No further details are available at this time. Family members are devastated to hear the news and have requested privacy at this very difficult time."

Dolores was born in September in 1971 and was brought up in Ballybricken, in County Limerick, Ireland. The youngest of nine children, she was a tomboy, and spent most of her time with her heavy-metal-loving brothers. Although her mother bought her dolls and flowery dresses, the dolls would usually end up being buried in the back garden. Dolores also played the organ in church and spent many weekends practising. The influence of her church music and the heavy rock she heard at home encouraged her to join "a band with no barriers, where I could write my own songs" and her wish was granted.



Dolores O'Riordan RIP

At 18 she landed a job with a Limerick group called the Cranberry Saw Us by playing an early version of a song she had written "Linger". Having written her own songs since she was 12, she showed off to the group with both her lilting vocals and her ability to pen melodies and words for their demos. This particular song, "Linger" was inspired by Dolores' first kiss when she was just 17.

The group changed the name to The Cranberries and they were taken on by the Smiths' former manager, Geoff Travis, and courted by 32 record companies. Dolores strong interest in both rock and

Gaelic folk music gave her voice a startling and steely sound which gelled uncommonly well with the band's melodicism. With her Doc Martens and spiky-hair, she began overshadowing the rest of the group entirely.

But by 2003 the band announced that they were taking some time off to pursue other opportunities. O'Riordan grabbed at the chance to pursue a solo career and released the albums *Are You Listening?* and *No Baggage*, before the band reformed in 2009.

The band was not the only thing that she would have to be proud of however as on 18 July 1994, O'Riordan married Don Burton, the former tour manager of Duran Duran. The couple then proceeded to have three children, Taylor, Molly and Dakota. However, she and Burton split up in 2014

after 20 years together, and subsequently divorced.

While her musical ventures thrived, adjudicating RTE's *The Voice*, and her children were the light of her life, the singer was battling depression and mental health troubles for years. Having faced depression, anorexia and later being diagnosed with bi-polar disease, the Limerick star's personal life was not always as it seemed to the public. However, her family, she said, were her "salvation".

Over the past few days celebrities have flocked to Twitter to pay tribute to the talented Irish singer. Duran Duran said that they were "crushed" following the star's sudden death. Many others such as Hozier, James Corden and Jim Corr have all paid their respects to the legendary Dolores O'Riordan.

## TWOS company

By Michael Glynn

Speaking to Sean Keenan, lead guitarist and singer of NUI Galway band TWOS, it would be easy to believe he's no newcomer to the Galway music scene - in fact, the band is little over a year old.

A chance encounter in Supermac's after a night out led to Final Year student Sean from Drogheda to meet future-bandmate Lorcan Donnellan from Glenfin, Co Donegal and when the two found a mutual interest in music, TWOS was born. While sharing the responsibilities of guitar, bass and vocals, Lorcan's friend Mayo man Kevin Gunnigan was brought in to complete the line-up on drums.

"Lorcan and I never actually crossed paths even though we're both practically in the same course, and then one night we were in Supermac's coming out of the toilet and he was wearing a band top and I commented on it," explained Seán.

"We started chatting about music and stuff and it kind of just came together."

The students are under no impressions however when it comes to mixing college and music. With all three of them hailing from different parts of the country and one of them being in a different course, they know the future is uncertain, so they're prepared to make the most of it while they are here together in Galway for university.

The boys have sussed out the Galway music scene and are eager to carve their own way through it. Not satisfied with a multi-band booking as is often the case in the city, TWOS prefer to organise their own night like they had in the Róisín Dubh last September.

"We've got this little niche event that we've designed," said Seán.

"Like what attracts the crowd? Good DJs and good bands. So basically, it was two live acts and then two DJ acts and I think there was like five or six hundred in the door, it was ridiculous."

When asked if the band will keep trying this type of event, Seán said they had some "big ones in the pipeline". The band also branched out to the Eastern coast of the country with a successful gig in Seán's hometown in Co Louth over their Christmas break.

Now back to the books for their second semester, the band are working on their original material which they record themselves with their own equipment.

"We record our own stuff as well, we do it all ourselves, we have all the equipment, so we've got a song ready to go, already recorded, but we're going to release this one with a music video."

Their new track "Sad Fags" is set to be released across streaming platforms on an unconfirmed date later this month. The song written by Lorcan is a piece of work that explores the idea of falling into a bad habit such as smoking for the sake of helping a friend.

"It's about comfort cigarettes, smoking to ease whatever pain you're going through. I wrote it after something bad had happened to my friend, I thought I was in a way supporting him by smoking with him," explained Lorcan.

"It doesn't really make sense but we were 16 and in some weird way, I thought I was helping I suppose."

With a strong history of successful musicians such as The Stunning, The Saw Doctors, and more recently The Clockworks emerging from the west - and indeed sometimes NUI Galway itself - keep your eyes and ears peeled for more from the TWOS boys in the near future.

NUI Galway Students' Union

Seomra Cótaí SAOR IN AISCE Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn



# SU CLOAKROOM

**FREE** | **OPEN** Thursday & Fridays  
09:00-18:00 Only  
Ar Oscailt Déardaoin agus Aoine 09:00-18:00 Amháin



NUI Galway  
Students' Union  
Comhaltas na Mac Léinn  
OÉ Gaillimh

www.su.nuigalway.ie



facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion



twitter.com/NUIGSU



**SHARING IS CARING**

Pitcher of Foster's  
& Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza

**€15.00**

**SULT**  
EAT · DRINK · PLAY