

# THE IRISH TIMES

## Referenda fiasco a stepping stone to other fiascos

Amid the political fall-out surrounding the recent referenda, the taoiseach has repeated his view that he does not expect coalition members revealing they voted against the amendments to adversely affect relations between the partners.

"The fiasco was a complete success in that it reflected people power at its best," said Mr Varadkar. "The results show that ordinary people can decide for themselves about confusing



campaigns and gimmicky moves to make voting

coincide with International Women's Day."

A Fianna Fáil spokesperson was equally upbeat, saying: "Micheál Martin has already dealt with this matter in a clear and transparent manner by pretending it didn't really happen – which is how he deals with all problems."

Meanwhile, when asked by reporters if she had any personal regrets about how she voted, senator Lisa Chambers said: "Well, yes and no."

### Paschal Donohoe's IMF stitch-up

There was disappointment throughout Europe last night at the news that Paschal Donohoe had appeared to rule himself out of the running for the top IMF job, just because he had been ruled out by the IMF.

Said one shocked journalist: "A reliable source near the top of Fine Gael told me 'Mr Donohoe has a razor-sharp mind and it's a wonder that he has never been taoiseach!'"

In a statement, the minister

praised the current IMF chief, Kristalina Georgieva, saying: "She has done an excellent job – despite the fact that she knows so little about complex financial matters compared with me, myself and I."

"My focus is on continuing to serve with distinction at the heart of Government. And, of course, it's only right that I give way to some other time-server to be humiliated whenever they apply for the next cushy EU job."

### 'LESSONS LEARNED FROM IRELAND REFERENDUMS', SAYS PUTIN

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN HAS SAID HE DREW INSPIRATION FROM THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S RECORD DEFEAT IN RECENT REFERENDA TO HELP SECURE HIS LANDSLIDE ELECTION VICTORY.



"We did all we could to avoid a similar fate. So, sometimes in a free and fair election, the people need a friendly nudge, if you will, from a burly, heavily armed man at the polling station to remind them

how they really want to vote. After all, we don't want anyone ending up like Ms Lisa Chambers, ticking 'Nyet' when they helped remind me of just how thoroughly you can be humiliated when a decision is left in the hands of the people.

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### In recognition of Cillian Murphy's greatness

By All Hacks

Not since Cú Chulainn single-handedly routed all comers in the 41AD Champions League Handball Olympics or since Bono brought peace to Northern Ireland has an Irishman reached the Herculean heights now



attained by our very own Cillian Murphy. (Excellent start - Ed.)

Admirable as America's glory was when it put a man on the moon, it took three of them to do it. But it took just one man from our lovely little speck on the outer fringes of the European landmass not only to reach the stars but to outshine them! (Pure poetry! Keep going - Ed.)

The enormity of this humble children's hospital will be built! (Unbelievable stuff, take Tuesday off - Ed)

And let is not forget the genius of Ireland's film industry that delivered to us, as did a stable in Bethlehem once deliver another beacon of hope, the wonder of Cillian Murphy made flesh. Surly canonisation cannot be far... (Continued inside and for a few more months.)



AFTER THEIR DISASTROUSLY EXECUTED SCHEME WAS UNDONE BY TWO WICKED LITTLE LETTERS, 'N', 'O', THIS MOTLEY CREW ARE LEFT TO PICK UP THE PIECES AND TRY SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF JUST WHO'LL TAKE THE BLAME FOR THIS HUMILIATION.

### PUTIN'S RUSSIA VOTES



# Willie Oh Dear rails against woke

As one of the longest serving moustac – er, members of Dáil Éireann, it saddens me to see my mighty Fianna Fáil bow to the woe-ful woke agenda with a multifarious mix of hate bills, greenways and homespun referendums!



them in the bar with not a knife in a back to be seen. And I doubt any of them would recognise a builder coming to their back door at a quarter to midnight for 'discussions'! Not one of the current party have ever had a brown envelope in their arse pocket, let alone be threatened with jail. It's time we dropped this woke malarkey and got back to what Fianna Fáil has always been good at... (That's enough Oh Dear for now – Ed.)

What is happening is nothing short of neglect turning to tragedy! Where is our party's tradition and culture? I see colleagues making grandiose speeches and promises without a finger crossed behind their backs! I see

# What think-pieces tell us about referendum analysis

In the rush to understand the overwhelming No vote in the recent referendums, there has been a glaring oversight of key factors, most notably the inherent Catholic conservatism of the current liberal epoch. In his influential post-modernist text, *Hopelessly Pretentious*, US academic Trevor Trendy contends that modern progressive politics is mired in psychosomatic didacticism.



such points have merit. But there are other factors at play in the current hellscape of recondite post-woke neo-Maoism. In a recent *New Yorker* piece, respected journalist Mike Hack argued that

in 21st century Ireland, post-Dada rhetoric had been usurped by pre-Raphaelite absurdism.

As the struggle continues to decipher such analysis, there can be no doubt of the imminent emergence of retrograde futurism.

Certainly, as I – and those other *Irish Times* hacks I'm leaving behind – try desperately to explain the referendum results,

See inside for more takes from Batty Sheridan, Goona Bullally etc.

# IRELAND COLLECT TROPHY

The Irish rugby team recently received delivery of the Six Nations trophy, which sports-writers everywhere are now

considering an annual guarantee. Details of next year's collection date and time are to be confirmed.

# HARRIS IN FIRING LINE

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris has found himself embroiled in a new row, after a 24-hour period elapsed with no fresh Garda controversies. With no gardaí suspended for removing bikes from their local station or for any other offence, calls have grown for Harris's resignation as the force threatens to implode due to an unprecedented period of stability.



"We are in danger of looking like a competent police force here," said one Garda insider. "However, the message to the public is to rest assured the usual series of controversies and debacles will be resumed shortly. We remain determined to avoid the kind of competency and efficiency that might give the wrong impression of Ireland having a proper 21st-century police force."

# New royal photo drama

The royal family are at the centre of fresh uproar after a heavily doctored image was sent to photo agencies.



Suspicious were aroused after it was noticed that the picture showed Kate Middleton and her children on the moon.

"Like everyone else, I try my hand at amateur photo editing," said Middleton in an X post. "In the process of tinkering with this specific photo, it

unfortunately ended up showing us on the moon.

"There has also been a photo doing the rounds of us in a heavily guarded South American compound, but that was due to an everyday mix up involving various intelligence agencies, the American and British governments, and North Korea.

"Hopefully that puts an end to these outlandish conspiracy theories."

# IRISH WIN BIG AT OSCARS



# THE ADVENTURES OF FESTY O'SEMTEX



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Craic & Codology ... Craic & Codology ...



WE NO LONGER USE BULLETS, INSTEAD WE SHOWER YOU WITH HURTY WORDS

### STAKEKNIFE REPORT UPDATE

by Hans Wringing

The bombshell report into the activities of British Army double-agent Freddie Scappaticci, code-named Stakeknife, has uncovered widespread wrongdoing linking him to countless murders during the 1980s.



“But now that Freddie has sadly passed away, there is simply insufficient evidence to prosecute anyone. So we can consider this tragic matter closed forever and get on with forgetting about the whole unfortunate business.”

whole unfortunate business.”

**REPORT FINDINGS (IN FULL)**

1. This must never happen again
2. Scap wasn't a terribly nice man
3. British duplicity at every turn
4. This must never happen again

“The notorious Stakeknife case shows us just how dreadful things were back then and that something really should have been done at the time,” said Chief Constable Jon Boutcher, author of the €50m inquiry.

### HARRIS FACING CALLS TO GO AFTER LATEST GAFFE



### Dr Leo's guide to measles



As a doctor I'm often asked to explain complex medical conditions in a simple-to-understand manner.

This week I'll be talking about measles and the devastating

impact it can have on political leaders.

Measles attack the body in the same way that the average Fianna Fáil politician attacked yours truly after the recent referenda.

Like the odious virus, these Soldiers of Destiny really know how to get under your skin and leave you looking red-faced.

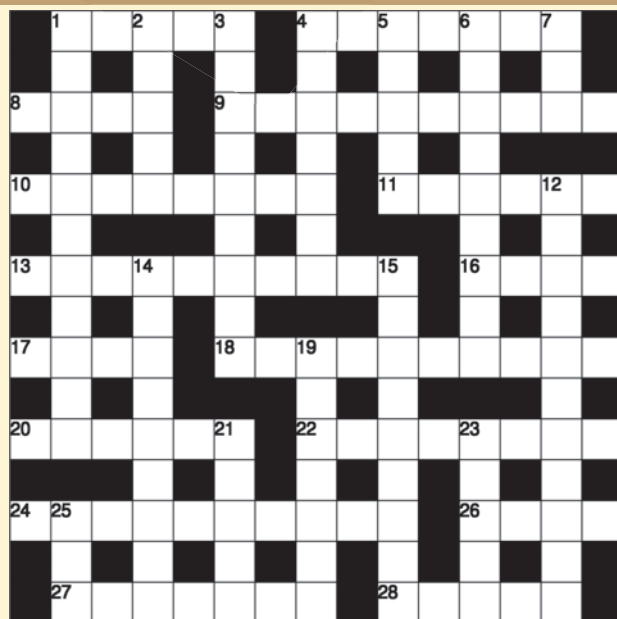
Other symptoms include whooping about being on the losing side of something and causing a tremendous pain in the posterior for your coalition partners.

The best method to combat this dreadful affliction is to just ignore the terrible noise and hope you'll get your reward in heaven or, in my case, the European Commission.

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Crossword by Procrustes

**ACROSS**

- 1 Seriously bogged down like a doctor with a degree of pent-up anger inside. (5)
- 4 What Poppy did when Battle of the Somme ended with blood all round. (7)
- 8 Disturbance in the country around Vientiane – it's as well. (4)
- 9 Such greeting is of just medium value in a radio or TV broadcasting hub. (10)
- 10 Beside which, it'd be like giving a person in charge of the music at a rave a little money. (8)
- 11 After last month, drawback is it's a definition of fraud or duplicity. (6)
- 13 Neck-warmer has no right to lead IT file holder ever higher up outside of building. (10)
- 16 Trust the fact that losing the head was never a problem for pre-Iron Age Homo sapiens. (4)
- 17 Record the fact that explorer is the first to find new place, thing or fact? Over and out! (4)
- 18 Type who omits abuse of any substance is crazy to be one of only two to keep his vowels in order. (10)
- 20 Have a new piece of equipment fitted, coming from Dublin's Tallaght area. (6)
- 22 There's a real chap in it but it's really more like one of the Na'vi out of Avatar. (8)
- 24 Stop Old Rob going crazy for hunting, shooting, bear-baiting, cock-fighting, dog-fighting and the like. (10)
- 26 BI is not what you take for your soft tissues and organs. (4)
- 27 Those with flocks to attend to find a way through the mountains around a small hill. (7)
- 28 Send message in the old way that League leaders are following taxi. (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 It's a curse how father, uncle or brother say the words, but not mother, aunt or sister. (11)
- 2 In famous carnival city, visitor from Berlin is positive the wine is not local. (5)
- 3 How strange enema's odd effect has on Shakespearean character who meets a sticky end. (9)
- 4 Did not come in time in bed and sent apologies several days after they ought to have been sent. (7)
- 5 Went for leading troublemaker in important opinion piece by non-staffer in newspaper. (5)
- 6 Having encountered a fishy type, I conclude it's worth several of them in the hand! (9)
- 7 Find there's a pair of them in the beginning of the first part of the small intestine. (3)
- 12 In US, cocaine abuse is viewed with a certain lack of concern, a certain nonchalance. (11)
- 14 Ace of suit being played by flippant one who is one of only two to keep his vowels in order. (9)
- 15 By involving him, curate develops an unhealthy fever. (9)
- 19 Get to Hogwarts and similar places in trains. Or coaches. (7)
- 21 Rope found in Dallas' Southfork Ranch would go well with JR's cowboy hat! (5)
- 23 Back up article on familiar old shilling and how it led to him being a rich and powerful man. (5)
- 25 Struck with open hand, then sped away to run just once around the track. (3)

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LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Declan McAteer, Ashford, Co Wicklow