

THE IRISH TIMES

Trump announces tariff on tariffs

The markets have been thrown into further turmoil after US President Donald Trump announced an 80% tariff on existing tariffs. The tax is expected to last until at least this afternoon, when the president will most likely change his mind – again.

“For too long the US has been taking advantage of itself with low tariffs,” said Trump in a 3am Truth Social post.

“This is why I’m announcing an 80%



tariff on existing tariffs, which should finally realise my masterplan of turning

America into a total economic basket-case.”

Meanwhile, the response in Ireland has been quick.

“It’s obviously very disappointing,” said Taoiseach Micheál Martin. “I’ve already been in contact with President Trump, who responded by asking ‘Who is this?’ and then promptly hanging up. That marks the first step in our radical plan to react to the tariffs – by doing absolutely nothing.”

Children’s hospital latest!

The Taoiseach has sensationally claimed that the new children’s hospital could be up and running at some stage in his lifetime.

Following the announcement of a 719th delay to the facility opening, hopes were starting to fade about the coalition’s ability to get the medical centre operational.

However, Micheál Martin has



reassured the public of his determination to get the controversial project done and dusted in the coming decades.

“Look, I’ve never been afraid to shoot from the hip, unless it was in relation to the dysplasia scandal. My Government is all about delivery but, fail-

ing that, we’ll just pin the blame on the contractors or Stephen Donnelly. Remember him?”

THAT MARRIAGE REFERENDUM ANNIVERSARY

Exclusive to all papers

IT HARDLY seems possible that today is the day when I’ve been asked to write yet another piece marking 10 years since Ireland voted for marriage equality. Incredibly, it seems like only yesterday that I wrote a very similar story looking back at the emphatic celebrations across the country immediately after the resounding yes result in 2015.

But one couple who tied the

knot say they still face challenges a decade after the landmark vote.

Dublin-based Micheál and Simon, however, are in no doubt about what makes a successful marriage of convenience. Micheál said: “The secret is not to saddle yourself with a petulant non-entity who inspires nobody – and I should know because Simon tells me this 10 times a day”. (*That’s enough anniversary fillers* – Ed.)

Reactions to Qatar’s plane gift to Trump



Michael D Higgins

I think it’s absolutely disgusting that this administration would have anything to do with a deeply sectarian, autocratic regime with a very questionable human rights record. I just hope common sense prevails and the Qataris wash their hands of Trump.



Michael O’Leary

If Trump thinks he’s going to generate some cheap publicity for himself by resorting to

pathetic histrionics then he’s obviously being paying a lot of attention to yours truly. On a separate note, buying your own aircraft is actually a lot cheaper than flying Ryanair these days.



Simon Harris

Why does everyone keep asking me about aeroplanes these days? As I have

previously stated, I have absolutely no knowledge of what a plane is, let alone if they are being used for illegal deportations or transporting weapons for the purposes of genocide...

BONO AND TRUMP TRADE BLOWS



MOTION: IMPASSABLE
SIMON'S RECKONING

HIS ENEMY? THE UN VETO.
HIS MISSION? DESTROY THE TRIPLE LOCK.
AND HE'S GOING ALL GUNS BLAZING.

Coalition unveils campaign to boost school attendance



- Pupils who refuse to attend classes will get a typically tedious lecture from Helen McEntee
- Warn young people about the dangers of ending up in dead-end careers such as politics
- Deal with juvenile delinquents (Government-supporting backbenchers etc)
- Mollycoddle disinterested students as if they were Michael Lowry himself
- Explain to scholars that only TDs can do absolutely nothing for months at a time
- Stress the importance of being able to read and write out expenses claims for the Dáil

ARE LEAVING CERT STRESS STORIES CAUSING STRESS?

by Clare Monger

THERE were scenes of mass hysteria throughout the country yesterday as thousands of students struggled with filler pieces about Leaving Cert 2025.

"Exam-related stress articles aimed at students are worse than ever this year," said an anxious school principal. "It means they have no time at all to use their smart phones or even get around to doing any actual revision."

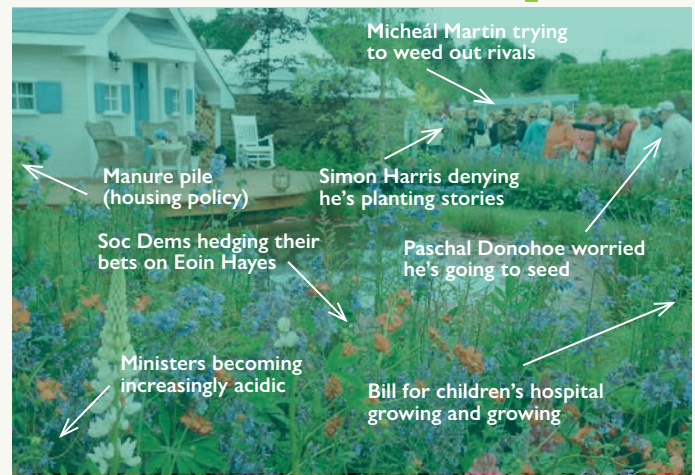
One stressed out mother commented: "These alarming articles are crammed with tips warning traumatised teenagers to stay completely calm while they're having panic attacks."

"Vulnerable young people are being constantly pressured into reading depressing stories about soaring CAO points and how the Leaving Cert will totally ruin their lives. No wonder they keep falling asleep."

INSIDE

- Really scary 'burnout' stats – p3-9

Bloom's best plot



O'LEARY INTERVENTION A 'TURNING POINT' IN THE WAR, SAYS RUSSIA

Delighted Russian war officials have welcomed a recent drone attack on Ukrainian airport directors by Ryanair guru Michael O'Leary and claim the onslaught could mark a "major turning point" in Russia's efforts to decimate Ukraine's resistance to the invaders.

The Irishman's droning included dropping bombshells about "very" lazy Ukrainian officials not getting "off their fat arses", which subsequently exploded on to the



front pages of several newspapers.

"Comrade Mikel's constant droning is well known and feared throughout the world", beamed delighted Russian general Begor Tisyerself-see on the frontline.

"Just the sound of Mikel starting up yet another drone about landing spaces, baggage fines or refund applications cause many people to lose their will to live. We expect Ukraine to surrender within a week."

STARMER HAILS HISTORIC TRADE AGREEMENT

Keir Starmer has hailed the landmark trade deal between the UK and EU, with both sides agreeing they never want to discuss Brexit ever again. Starmer insists the deal will transform both the EU and UK beyond all recognition, as well as earning him and Ursula von der Leyen lots of column inches.

"This spectacular fudge has all of Europe alive with indifference," said Keir. "It marks



another seismic moment as my Labour government reaches historic levels of unpopularity and slides inexorably towards electoral oblivion."

EU-UK deal key points

- No one mention war in Gaza
- At least one Premier League club to be allowed back in Champions League final next season
- Eurocrats to keep earning massive amounts of money.

GOVT QUESTIONED ON HOLIDAY HOME ROW



THE ADVENTURES OF FESTY O'SEMTEX

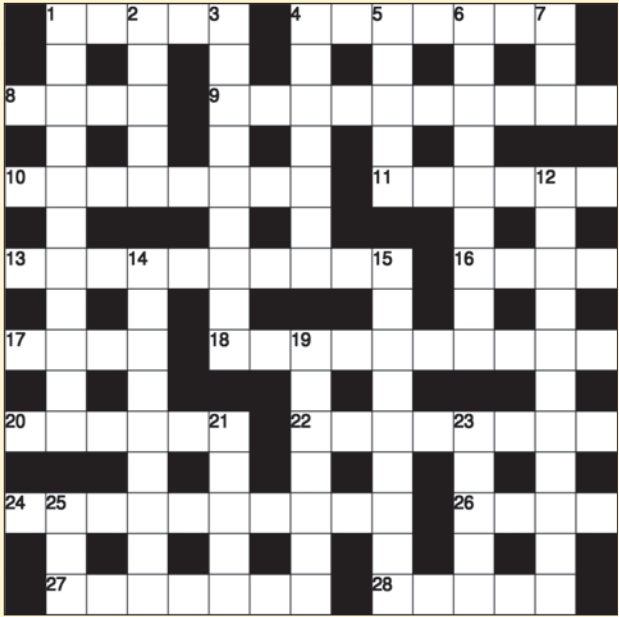




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Irish Pens
THE WRITER'S CHOICE



Crossword by Procrustes

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Scientist's dish of chopped tripe might be full of germs. (5)

4 For female mathematician finding botanical specimens missing article of her underwear. (7)

8 When business leader absconds, extra performance-related pay actually becomes a burden. (4)

9 Make a statement confirming how legitimate a party member in UK is. (10)

10 Tough guy cooking chicken in beer was eventually done for cooking the books. (2,6)

11 Surrenders to the Spanish, interrupting the insulting of the Jews. (6)

13 The badger I injured was spared as I am a really magnanimous and generous type. (10)

16 In Cork, we are told to take cover right away, near small sea inlet. (4)

17 This also has marine connections, is also in Cork we are told and holds sales we are told. (4)

18 Arrange for treatment of anaemic pet, and it's free! (10)

20 To break bread with her around is a desirable thing for a really cool guy. (6)

22 Was he the undisputed genius of the troubled nineties? (8)

24 It will take a lot of guts to wear a Versace tie knotted so. (10)

26 Its abundance may be why no Sahara-like deserts were ever seen in Terra Incognita. (4)

27 You just cannot not be able to understand my point. You have to go to new Star Wars film! (4,3)

28 Take a quick drink from the bottle, about mid-morning, and hang for it! (5)
- 1 Would golfer use platinum tee, but strangely enough, only at the 17th hole? (11)

2 A new make of car causes the least trouble. (5)

3 Ask about soft drink with top removed being sacrosanct. (9)

4 Non-specific sickness occurring in metal processing. (7)

5 Gentle getting round Dalai Lama starts to act in a somewhat divine fashion. (5)

6 Two obligatory items on afternoon tea tray join and contribute to optional floral display. (9)

7 After Queen of Scots was beheaded, her remains were scattered over part of Scotland. (3)

12 Let nasty vigilante do some pigeon following, without being seen, fitting in seamlessly. (11)

14 Employ foul-mouthed expression when you hoist sail in stormy conditions. (9)

15 Name a talking horse that turns around fairly quickly to those holding the booze. (9)

19 Did the dame sing "We'll Meet Again" in an era that was just not exceptional? (7)

21 Right slippery ones for anglers to get their lines on, or for dancers. (5)

23 There are twelve inches in a foot, but only seven of these. (5)

25 With energy and enthusiasm, Caesar put half a dozen before a thousand. It's cleaner. (3)

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LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION:

Across: 1. Cheap. 4. Tobacco. 8. Slay. 9. Rhinestone. 10. Protocol. 11. Dulcet. 13. Infatuated. 16. Need. 17. Otis. 18. Epsom salts. 20. Adonis. 22. Omnivore. 24. Peccadillo. 26. Glen. 27. Melanin. 28. Split. **Down:** 1. Chlorinated. 2. Egypt. 3. Parachute. 4. Triplet. 5. Bread. 6. Catalonia. 7. Own. 12. Ejector seat. 14. Arsenical. 15. Dominions. 19. Swollen. 21. Sedan. 23. Vigil. 25. Elm.

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Aileen Freyne, Glenageary, Co Dublin

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



"I'm working from home"

KEY POINTS OF THAT UK-EU TRADE DEAL

Fisheries: UK government will continue to be all at sea

Migration: Tories worried about voters going to Farage

Security: UK and EU's support for Netanyahu indefensible

Pet passports: Brexit now generally seen as a dog's dinner

Erasmus: Labour's policies looking increasingly academic

Trade: Keir Starmer worried he'll get what's coming to him

Energy: DUP guaranteed to start having a meltdown

Soc Dems bill to reduce voting age

The Social Democrats have come up with the brilliant idea of a referendum to reduce the voting age to 16 years.

Said Deputy Aidan Farout: "This totally new and original system is already happening in Scotland and is being considered by the UK government. My party colleagues believe that this radical proposal will be welcomed by a whole generation of apathetic young adults who don't believe in anything – particularly voting."



"Let's face it, the country's other political parties are totally behind the times and have no understanding whatsoever of Tik-Tok, AI robot music or watermelon-flavoured vapes."


"The current old-fashioned voting rules are unjust, unrepresentative and, above all, unfair to the hip Soc Dems, who have been languishing in a blaze of obscurity since Holly disappeared without trace on maternity leave."

NEW HOLIDAY HOME BOYCOTT OUTRAGE

TDs have reacted angrily to a proposed boycott of holiday homes, with many insisting such action would mean their second and third homes would never see use. Deputies have insisted they are being unfairly targeted for wanting to holiday in exotic five-star resorts.

"All I want is a lavish break in an exclusive continental hotel with my mistress," fumed one deputy. "If my various holiday homes have to lie idle, so be it. Whenever I do take a break down the country in Ireland, I do my bit for the local economy by running up massive expenses at various restaurants and pubs, so it's time people laid off the criticism."

Scribble Box



COLM & LUCY

IN THE MORNING

A SLICE OF FUN FROM 6AM

