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WHO: Ireland set to be most obese country in Europe



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced that Ireland is set to be the most obese country in Europe, according to a recent study. Europe is set to face an obesity crisis of “enormous propor-

tions” by 2030, according to the Organisation’s experts. Ireland’s obesity levels are set to rise from 23 to 57 percent by this time, which is undoubtedly an extremely worrying figure. Obesity defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI) level of 30 or over, whilst overweight is defined as a BMI of 25 to 29.9. If current trends continue, the level of either overweight

or obese men could rise to 89 percent, with women rising to a slightly lower 85 percent. The HSE has published several reports and information booklets on healthy eating and exercise, but it appears that much more must be done to tackle this growing problem.

- Kate Malone

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New Royal Baby

Last Saturday, the newest member of the royal family was born at 8:34am and weighed 8lbs and 3oz. It wasn't until ten hours later, at 6:12pm, that the new parents and the new princess came outside the hospital for the pictures, with Kate looking surprisingly radiant. On Monday they released the new ba-

by's name, Charlotte Elizabeth Diana. She is named Charlotte after her grandfather Charles, Elizabeth after her great-grandmother and Diana after her sadly deceased grandmother.

Charlotte is the fifth great grandchild of the current queen Elizabeth and only the fourth in line for the throne.

I'm glad she is healthy and can't wait to see her grow up.

- Keelin Burns



Heroic Cork comeback edges out Dominant Dublin

Cork 1-27

Dublin 2-23

The Cork hurlers struck late on to deny the Dubs a chance at a league final last Saturday. The Dubs were dominant throughout, even leading by 2-09 to 0-03 after Mark Schutte and David O'Callaghan finished superbly to the Cork net in quick succession. Schutte was in flying form again, adding to his league tally with another 1-3 from play. Other notable performers in a free scoring Dublin side

included Conal Keaney at half back and inside forward David Treacy, both of whom contributed two points from play.

But Cork weren't going to lie down, and even though they trailed by six points going by the 65th minute, their heads never dropped and they managed to battle their way back into the match. A goal from Paudie O'Sullivan and a few frees from Patrick Horgan cut the deficit to just one before St. Ita's clubman Seamus Harnedy

fire over the winning scores in injury time.

It was a tough loss to take for the Dubs, who as well as losing a big lead also lost to Cork earlier in the league at home in Croke Park. However Dublin manager Ger Cunningham, a Cork man himself, denied claims that it was a big psychological setback for his team saying 'No, no. Not at all....I'd have no worries about that'. We don't know whether the teams will meet again in the Championship, but I

have no doubt that the Dublin players will have these two league games in the back of their mind if they do.

Dublin's next match is against Galway on the 31st of May in the Leinster Championship, while Cork will face Waterford in next week's League Final, before awaiting facing them again on the 7th of May in the Munster Championship.

Brian Coronella

Leinster Lose it Late in Marseille

There was heartbreak for Leinster on Sunday afternoon after they were edged out by defending champions Toulon. Many did not give out of form Leinster much of a chance, with some bookies offering the big spending French outfit as 1-6 favourites. However, they rose to the occasion and came very close to securing what would have been a massive upset.

The Irish province started brightly, controlling the game with an abrasive, conservative style of rugby and had a 9-3 lead after 21 minutes before Leigh Halfpenny landed a long penalty to make it 9-6 at half time.

Leinster fans would have expected an onslaught from Toulon's team of 'Galacticos' but Leinster remained comfortable and kept in touch, the sides were drawing 12-12 when in the 79 minute, Leinster had two drop goal attempts, one from Jimmy Gopperth which drifted inches wide, and one from Rob Kearney which dropped a metre or so short. Then Toulon went up the other end of the pitch and almost stole a win in normal time, when Delon Armitage attempted a penalty from 60 metres. Extra time would be needed to separate the two clubs that combined, had

won five of the last six tournaments.

Things looked bright for Matt O'Connors men as the former All Black Ali Williams was given a yellow card for taking Devin Toner out in the air. It could be argued that this was Leinster's downfall in the end, as Ian Madigan attempted an ambitious pass in order to exploit the one man advantage which was intercepted by South African veteran Bryan Habana who proceeded to score in the corner.

In the second period of extra time, Leinster went chasing the clock, and after a good touchfinding kick

from Gopperth, Leinster's Sean O'Brien went over off a lineout maul. Jimmy Gopperth, who is not the regular place kicker had the opportunity to cut Toulon's lead to three with the conversion but missed and Toulon hung on.

The under pressure head coach Matt O'Connor will be happy with what he saw from his team but disappointed they could not progress to the final where Toulon will play Saracens in Twickenham.

- David Molloy

Tim Sherwood: Comedian or Tactical Genius?



Tim Sherwood's appointment at Aston Villa was looked upon as a gamble by most when he initially signed but the former Spurs boss has silenced his doubters with an inspired managerial display in his opening two months in charge. When Sherwood took over, the Birmingham club were languishing in 19th position in the Premier League table and looking down the barrel at relegation. They had an outside chance at the FA Cup by being in the fifth round. Since Sherwood has taken over the club now sit relatively safely in 15th place and look as if they will survive relegation. They also have a huge FA Cup Final to look forward to on the 30 May against

Arsenal having fended off much more fancied Liverpool in the semis last weekend.

Sherwood was seen as an unstable manager and this despite his record at Tottenham Hotspur being respectable. He was never really in contention for keeping his job for more than the five month temporary charge he had over the London club last year. Even his press conferences resembled a man who was not in full control and was seen as quite cocky and brash with some of his responses to questions from respected Journalists. Despite this no one has ever really analysed his tactical style and it seems with his overall managerial record that he certainly is a lot more than all talk.

The secret behind Sherwood's success may be the fact that he is getting the best out of star striker

Christian Benteke who now has 11 goals in 8 starts since the managerial change. Under former manager, Paul Lambert, the big Belgian striker could only muster up four goals from the start of the season until Lambert's departure in mid-February. Also, Sherwood seems to be a master at getting the best out of some players with misfiring Gabby Agbonlahor and Charles N'Zogbia now playing with a spring in their step and appearing very threatening to most Premier League defences.

However, it is not just a few improved players who have changed this club around but the increased level of belief and freedom throughout the team that has led to a surge in goals and an improved performance from Villa. Under Lambert, the team had only previously netted 14 times in 26 games in all competitions this season. Scoring a

goal was a collector's item for the Villa fans who have now undergone four years of turmoil and depression since the departure of now Ireland Boss, Martin O'Neill.

Even before their great day out at the National Stadium last Sunday against Liverpool there was a huge sense of optimism and hope at the club and a belief to win. The style of football played by Villa reflected that as they were inventive and creative and blew Liverpool away completing a shock 2-1 victory having come from a goal behind. The West Stand behind the Villa goal was bellowing with sound and enthusiasm and really captivated the whole spirit of the club since the now adored Villa Manager, Tim Sherwood took over.

- Andrew Blair White

Quote Corner

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default.

- J.K Rowling



Capital Punishment

After ten years in a Bali prison, two Australians, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, were executed, by firing squad, on charges of drug trafficking. Their deaths have revived the discourse on capital punishment and provoked new campaigns attempting to ban the practice. Seemingly, these campaigns, past and present, have worked: 103 countries have abolished the death penalty and 50 more have abolished it *de facto* – meaning they have not used it in at least ten years. The United Nations have taken a formal position against capital punishment – adopting non-binding resolutions “calling for a global moratorium on executions”, with further hopes of total eradication, and restrictions on the practice have been written into international law.

But, over 60% of the global population live in countries in which the death penalty is practised, including the four most populous nations in the world: USA, India, China and Indonesia, along with at least 32 others. Iran, Saudi Arabia and Sudan still carry out executions on people under the age of eighteen and controversy and debate is rife.

The execution of criminals has been practised by nearly all societies. From the

ancient Greeks and Romans using the death penalty for a particularly wide range of crimes, to Europeans in the Middle Ages executing who they suspected to be ‘Satanic Witches’. Capital punishment is not uncommon, nor is it in its infancy.

Perhaps it was the particularly violent 20th Century that caused widespread disagreement on the death penalty. The first half of the century saw two horrific wars and an unknown number of executions as a consequence. From the Turkish assault on the Armenians, to Hitler’s attempts to exterminate the Jews, to the Tutsi massacre in Rwanda, genocide seemed frequent. During those periods of war and conflict, the death penalty became only more stringent. The Soviet Union executed 158,000 of their own soldiers for desertion and Nazi Germany employed three different types of executions: firing squad, hanging or decapitation.

The death penalty also became a means of political oppression. Stalin’s purges saw over one million people executed, most by a bullet to the back of their head. Mao Tse-tung publicly stated that 800,000 people has been sentenced to death and executed since the Communist Party took power in 1949. It was

out of widespread wrongful execution that compliance with human rights was called into question and the movement for abolition began.

Immanuel Kant said: “Even in a civilized society, the state has the right to punish the individual”, and this is what capital punishment originated as: a punishment for criminals. The practice is based on the idea of retribution and “an eye for an eye”, is often quoted to support it. The death penalty has the advantage of arguing it betters societies: few people want criminals to begin with, and even fewer want the possibility of them being released on parole, or sooner with ‘good-behaviour’.

Similarly, dying is one of the most prevalent fears in the world and by practicing the death penalty the state is essentially using it as a deterrent for crime.

The legalisation of capital punishment appeals to people’s sense of safety, but at the expense of human rights. These rights are valued and upheld by many societies and individuals - when they are used in the favour of someone they deem innocent, but facing a convicted murderer, the hypocrisy is evident. “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” and “everyone has

the right to life”, states the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Imprisonment is a punishment; death is a violation of rights.

The implementation of the death penalty also gives governments significant power over their populations. While death sentences are usually reserved for the most ‘serious crimes’, it is the government who decides the definition of that term, which has seemingly come to include blasphemy, renouncing of faith and sorcery, apparently worthy of beheading.

The death penalty “is killing people who kill people to show that killing is wrong”(Anon). At best it makes a society feel safer (omitting the estimated 4% of wrongly executed prisoners and the studies showing the influence your race has on your sentence, regardless of innocence or guilt), but in reality, it is a practice that allows one to have only the rights their society or government deems them worthy of.

- Lili Mae Boorman

MAYWEATHER VS PACQUIAO REVIEW: THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY.

On the 2 May 2015, at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, what was being called ‘The Fight of the Century’ was finally happening. The two fighters had been trying to organise the fight for over five years. In February 2015, Mayweather finally confirmed that the fight would take place in May.

Mayweather won the fight by unanimous decision. The judges scored

it 116-112 and 118-110. Mayweather fans were disappointed regardless of the win because they felt that it was a boring fight. Mayweather’s defensive strategy was thought of as negative and was thoroughly disappointing to the millions watching around the world. Many believe that Manny Pacquiao deserved to win the fight. Although Manny lost the fight, he still took home a large pay

check. Social media have figured out that for every punch Manny landed on Mayweather, he took home \$1.4 million, while Mayweather is estimated to have earned close to \$200,000,000.

- Adam McCoy Smith



Keep love in you heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when all the flowers are dead.

- Oscar Wilde

2015 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation was established in 1983 by the leading artists in the music world. The main aim of the foundation is to recognise those who have played a vital role in the evolution, development and perpetuation of rock and roll by inducting them into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

There are four different categories into which a person can be inducted. These categories are Performers, the Ahmet Ertegun Award, Early Influences and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Award for Musical Excellence.

In the category of performers an artist only becomes eligible 25 years after the release of their first record. The criteria include the influence and significance

the artist has had on the world of rock and roll.

Each year, the foundation's nominating committee selects a number of nominees in the performer category. Ballots are then sent to an international voting body of over 600 artists, historians and members of the music industry. The performers who receive the highest number of votes are then inducted. The foundation normally inducts between five and seven artists each year.

The Ahmet Ertegun Award is presented to Songwriters, producers, disc jockeys, record executives, journalists and other industry professionals who have had a major influence on the development of rock and roll.

Early Influences is a cate-

gory which honours artists whose music came before the time of rock and roll but had a huge influence on the evolution of Rock and Roll and current leading rock artists.

The Rock and roll Hall of Fame Award for musical Excellence is presented to musicians, songwriters and producers who have spent their life creating important and memorable music. Their originality, impact and influence have changed the course of music history. These artists have achieved the highest level of distinction and their music has stood the test of time.

In the first half of every year the inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame are revealed. This year the eight honorary inductees are, former Beat-

les drummer, Ringo Starr, The "5" Royales, The Paul Butterfield Blues Band, Green day, Joan Jett & The Blackhearts, Lou Reed, Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble and Bill Withers.

The 2015 nominees were inducted on the 18th of April. All the nominees were introduced by either Paul McCartney, Patti Smith, Peter Wolf, Fall Out Boy, John Mayer, Steve Cropper and Miley Cyrus.

- Rupert Zarka

