

# Neil Cotter



@NewsNeil13

Not a patient man

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I'M reading Donald Trump's book, *The Art of the Deal*. I know that's enough for some to want to burn me at the stake but I reckoned a little insight never hurt anybody and, sure, knowledge is better than ignorance.

Over a few hundred pages, Donald goes into details about various good deals he made over the years, from Trump Tower to his casino businesses and some New York City hotels. It's not exactly warts 'n' all as he

comes out of it looking great in every single deal he made — obviously, as it's his book and he loves himself.

One area where the billionaire, *right*, did OK is on the Central Park ice skating rink, which was beset with years of costly over-runs and mismanagement by the city until they eventually let Trump take over.

The Wollman Rink was closed in 1980 for a "two-year renovation of \$9.1million" — but six years and \$13million later it was no closer to

completion. Trump stepped in and finished it in months.

All I could think of while reading this was Simon Harris and his pledge to have the National Children's Hospital open by 2021.

It's not going to happen. It never does. It will come in over budget and way behind schedule — if it ever opens at all, that is.

There's so much uncertainty and opposition, I fear this will be Simon's Wollman Rink...



ACRES of news columns and hours of air time have been dedicated to the National Maternity Hospital row, very little of which interests me.

Some people hate the Church, some people love it. For the rest of us, the issue bores us to tears.

I don't care who runs the hospital, as long as it's run by people who know what they're doing.

The State hasn't covered itself in glory when it comes to managing the nation's health either.

Hopefully something else really important happens soon so the broadsheets can move on a bit.



AT LEAST AODHAN DID NOT MISS DO

IT'S not every day you see Fine Gael boss Enda Kenny wielding a dumbbell with a murderous look in his eye.

I assumed it wasn't intended for Richard Bruton, the man responsible for that unsuccessful party heave in the dim and distant past.

The Taoiseach was last week opening the new facilities at Scoil Ui Chonaill, a great northside Dublin GAA club for whom I played with no distinction for years.

Some top players have represented the club over the decades, all the way back to three-time All-Ireland winner Robbie Kelleher, and some awful players too, such as Senator Aodhan O'Riordain.

Enda was joined by a number of local TDs, including Sean Haughey and Finian McGrath, and also Mr O'Riordain, *above*, who has proven as adept at holding on to his Dail seat as he was at kicking points.

## 'Killing it' and me with hip phrases

AS we get older, we tend to lose what little tolerance we have for that which upsets us.

I've never been the most patient man anyway, but the more I listen to people, the more I assume civilization has peaked and we're on a downward slope to somewhere horrible.

Empty vessels are making more noise than many of us can handle, routinely using words or phrases that make us want to hit ourselves over the head with a large frying pan.

Today I'm going to torture myself to bring them to you for your displeasure, and for that I apologise...

**SMASHED AVOCADO:** Is there a food more damaged by association with the much-hated hipsters? If I see this word on a cafe menu I'll walk out. It's simply mashed, or squashed, and saying it's smashed doesn't make it taste nicer. You'd swear those in the next paragraph invented the fruit...

**MILLENNIALS:** I have no time for anyone who refers to themselves as a millennial. They tend to be self-entitled idiots who believe the world was created for them, and always consider themselves better than they actually are. "It's so hard for millennials to buy a home," you might hear a two-year veteran

of the workforce say. Good! You deserve it for wrecking everyone's head.

**LITERALLY:** "I swear to Gawd, I saw him in the nightclub and I literally died," says some empty head. No dear, unfortunately you didn't.

**GOING FORWARD:** "We'd like to make a lot more money, going forward," enthuses the obnoxious banking executive who can smell his bonus. Well, Tristan, I've news for you, unless someone gets the flux capacitor working, forward is still the only way any of us can actually go.

**NOT ONE F\*\*\* WAS GIVEN:** Or indeed "not a single f\*\*\* was given", both equally tedious variations on a theme to display someone's indifference or defiance in the face of usually less-than-overwhelming odds. It can also be used to accompany

a photograph of a person or animal chilling out. And while I'm on this soul crushing theme...

**WHAT THE ACTUAL F\*\*\*:** When saying "what the f\*\*\*" just isn't enough. Just imagine it being shrieked by an insufferably nasal BOP (blonde hair, orange face, pink top) from somewhere south of the Liffey. I blame millennials for this too.

**PEOPLE ARE LOSING THEIR S\*\*\*:** Often used by websites run by teenagers to describe a reaction to a new development, product, service or piece of entertainment. In recent months people have lost their s\*\*\* over aggressive seagulls, giant spiders, fearless rats, podcasts, nice phones and anything to do with things from the past being repackaged for the modern day.

**KILLING IT:** "How are you doing?" asks the unsuspecting well-wisher. "I'm killing it," replies the gobshite. The only thing we want to kill is you, my friend.

**THIS:** In the past a rather useful pronoun used to describe anything from a person to a thing in a particular context. Now it's a standalone word used by, you guessed it, millennials to describe in one word something they think is impressive. For example, someone will put a pic on Facebook of the sun coming up and caption it "this" as if we've seen a new masterpiece from Henri Cartier-Bresson.

**WINS THE INTERNET:** Get a life, losers! Four retweets and a few favourites when you finally post the joke you've been working on for ages on Twitter doesn't make you Katy Perry. My blood pressure's hitting dangerous levels as all these phrases spring to mind but I'm going to continue this list if it kills me.

**ALL THE LOLs:** No, not something a three-year-old says as they dribble on to their bib but rather an utterance spouted by someone of limited vocabulary to register their amusement at something. For example: "Me and my bae went to see Amy Schumer's latest movie. All the lol's."

**THIS MESSER:** A guy or girl usually spotted making gestures behind the back of a television presenter doing a live report. "This messer" is a comedian who's rarely funny, a practical joker only in their own minds and those of the spotty teenagers on websites who report it like it's a news story. All the lol's.

While I'm at it, can I just point out that it's pretty much every year now that someone in a Kerry jersey is spotted at the US Masters. Let's not keep making a big deal of these guys who "win the internet" lest they keep turning up for ever more, spoiling the enjoyment of everyone over the age of 30.

As you can see, the world is under attack from imbeciles. We cannot let these people win. Do your bit by not saying any of these phrases and turning your back on anyone who does.

I've literally killed myself doing this list, but hopefully it will help you understand how annoying the world has become, and will help you deal with it. Going forward.

People are losing their s\*\*\*

Not one f\*\*\* was given

All the LOLs



## Audience is not there yet ladies

A DISCUSSION on RTE's Cutting Edge mirrored one I've had with my wife a hundred times — the issue of women's sport on TV.

One female panellist said RTE should be compelled to show a certain amount of coverage, while Fiona Looney suggested that they concentrate instead on keeping teenage girls in sports and go from there.

But money is tight in RTE. Where should they draw the line? They have a public service remit but also a statutory duty to efficiently generate revenue.

There isn't the revenue in women's sport as things stand because the audience isn't there.

RTE screened live Six Nations women's rugby this year and were delighted with the 185,000 peak audience for Ireland vs England.

However, only 61,000 tuned in for the clash with Wales, and 81,000 for the Italy game.

Fiona was right — the more girls that stay in sport, the better the standard will be, and eventually the public will want to watch more of them on TV. Until then, RTE are doing just fine.



CAST THE NET A BIT FURTHER

I'M a fan of the benefit cheats crackdown but would love it even more if Leo Varadkar, *above*, spread the net further.

Great as it is to go after those who scam the State out of the cost of a Jobseeker's, wouldn't it be marvellous if the same efforts were applied to the white-collar criminals who robbed us of billions.

The anti-fraud crackdown aimed at welfare thieves saved the taxpayer around €500million in 2016, and it's good to know something is being done about it.

But it cost €60billion to bail out the banks. Where are the ads on the sides of buses for those bandits?

CHAMP OF THE WEEK

JOSHUA and Klitschko served up a heavy-weight battle for the ages at Wembley on Saturday, so now everyone who missed the fight will be waiting anxiously for a rematch.



CHUMP OF THE WEEK

UNITED Airlines cremated Simon the giant rabbit without his owner's consent. First they kill him, then incinerate his corpse. It hasn't been a great few weeks for the airline famous for dragging well-behaved guests out of their seats.

