



'NOT BLACK'... Dolezal

WHITE LIE PROBED

ONE of the more bizarre stories of the week has surely got to be that of Rachel Dolezal.

A prominent mixed race civil rights activist in Washington state, has been revealed (by none other than her own parents) to actually be white.

Dolezal, who is a professor of African Studies at Eastern Washington University, where she specialises in Black Studies and African American culture, has regularly spoken out on local media about racial injustice.

And she must have felt that her opinions would be taken more seriously if she was a black woman herself.

But photos released by her parents reveal her to have been a blonde, freckle-faced child of German and Czech ancestry. She has apparently been using tanning products, hair dye and a perm to achieve her African American look. I'm genuinely lost for words!

MAIA'S FAVE

OH yes, it's Bloomsday this Thursday! From literary pub crawls to an evening with Stephen Fry, I adore the uniqueness of the celebrations.



OVERRATED... happy face

NEGATIVE OPTIMISM

I STUMBLED across a book this week called *The Power of Negative Emotion*, and although I only skimmed through it, I may take a closer look... as it seems right up my street.

The recent trend of mindfulness is ubiquitous, and although I've tried my best to jump on the bandwagon, it's nice to sometimes be reminded that worrying, snap decisions and mistakes have their place.

All things I just happen to do very well!

Mindfulness is a great thing (well, so I'm assured, I have yet to master it), but to be mindful all the time about everything seems as exhausting as not being mindful at all.

So as much as I would ultimately like to be a calmer, more in control person, I reserve the right to be a negative, guilt-ridden mess if the mood takes me.



Tough, outspoken and sharp

MAIA DUNPHY

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WE'LL NEVER FORGET THE TEAM THAT JACK BUILT...

OH how I love the nostalgia of the 25th anniversary of Italia '90!

Even being a fair weather football fan, I remember it well.

I was 14 and on holiday with my family in France, pining after boys who wouldn't look twice... but I digress.

We must be the only country that produces newspaper supplements

and commemorative programmes for getting to a quarter-final.

But we don't care what people think — we still love Packie, Left, Stan, Big Paul, Razor, Aldo, Big Cas, Quinny, etc.

They were our halcyon days, our golden era of football — and our commander-in-chief was big Jack Charlton. And so, despite the

snoozefest of last weekend's Ireland versus England friendly at the Aviva Stadium, how lovely it was to see him honoured and given a standing ovation by both sets of fans at the match.

Was that a tear we saw in your eye Jack? Because we had rivers in ours.

All together now: Ole, ole, ole...

True meaning of feminism is lost

THE hashtag 'FeministFutures' went viral this week thanks to an online campaign by the National Women's Council.

I was happy to join in the conversation — some of it serious, some more light-hearted — but was disappointed to see quite a tangible backlash amidst all the positivity.

The mere mention of 'feminism' turned much of my Twitter feed into a septic tank.

Admittedly, the majority of the negative comments were posted by the now omnipresent anonymous trolls, hiding behind unidentifiable accounts and questionable avatars.

The feminist discussion is no different to any other debate about equality. And can we please just remind ourselves (for the umpteenth time) that that is what femi-

IT'S ALL ABOUT EQUALITY

nism means — equality. It doesn't mean man-hating, nor does it mean that women want special treatment. There are many undeniable, indisputable truths about gender. But equality is not about being the same, rather it is about treating people with fairness whilst respecting those differences.

That is what the marriage referendum was all about last month, and, indeed, every other struggle for equality since time immemorial.

The feminist dialogue is important and valid. The facts are there for all to see — women and men in similar roles don't get paid equally, many women are forced out of the workplace due to issues of parenting and childcare.

Violence against women, under-



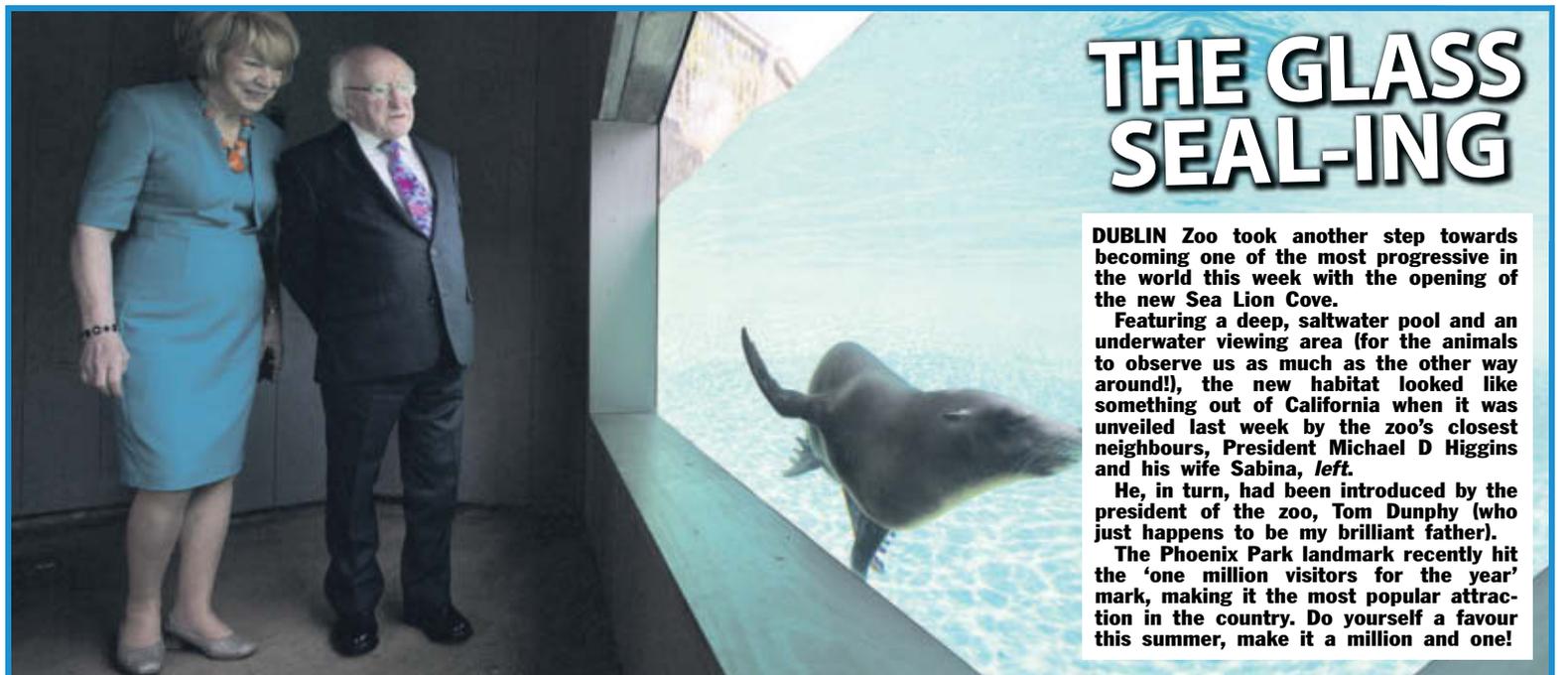
BUILDING RESPECT... women want fairness

representation in many fields... the list is long. There are so many negative words that tend to only be directed towards women — bitch, nag, etc. If you were to replace the

word 'woman' in many pejorative discussions, you might hear or read a word signifying someone of a different culture, sexuality, or race (even jokingly). It would be completely unacceptable, so why we think it's still OK to put women down in this way is beyond me.

The very people who roll their eyes at the word feminism are often women themselves (who either misunderstand the meaning, or are afraid of being thought of as over-reactionary) or men (who usually have lots of women in their lives who they love and respect).

Let's try and uncross these wires and get back to the true meaning of the word so we won't be so ambiguous about something so important.



THE GLASS SEAL-ING

DUBLIN Zoo took another step towards becoming one of the most progressive in the world this week with the opening of the new Sea Lion Cove.

Featuring a deep, saltwater pool and an underwater viewing area (for the animals to observe us as much as the other way around!), the new habitat looked like something out of California when it was unveiled last week by the zoo's closest neighbours, President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina, left.

He, in turn, had been introduced by the president of the zoo, Tom Dunphy (who just happens to be my brilliant father).

The Phoenix Park landmark recently hit the 'one million visitors for the year' mark, making it the most popular attraction in the country. Do yourself a favour this summer, make it a million and one!