

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TD

IT MAY BE JUST A COUPLE MORE DAYS TO THE WEEKEND, BUT, FOR A TD, WEDNESDAY IS THE BUSIEST DAY OF THE WEEK

9.00am

Sarah arrives on her bike at Leinster House, The place is already buzzing. Coffee in hand, she heads straight up to her office.



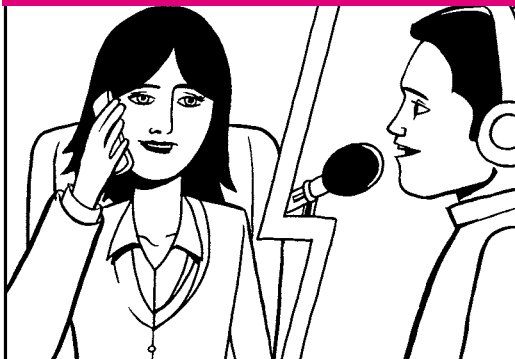
10.30am

It's a full house in Dáil Éireann. Sarah gets to ask the Taoiseach, as part of the Order of Business, about government aid to the developing world. She used to work with a development agency in Asia, so has got a keen interest in the area.



12.15pm

Sarah checks in with Alex. He tells her that a local radio station want an interview with her in 20 minutes about the announcement of a new swimming pool in her constituency, for which she helped to campaign. After a quick look through the project file, Sarah does the interview from the phone in her office.



2.30pm

A new technology company has just announced it is setting up its headquarters in Sarah's constituency. That means 250 new jobs in the area – great! It's another interview, this time with the TV news.



9.15am

Sarah goes through her diary with her parliamentary assistant, Alex. A meeting with a local group to discuss plans for a new skate park, lunch with Senator Joe Monroe to talk about his suggested changes to the new climate-change bill, preparing a speech on road safety that she's making in the Dáil that evening – there's a lot to get done.



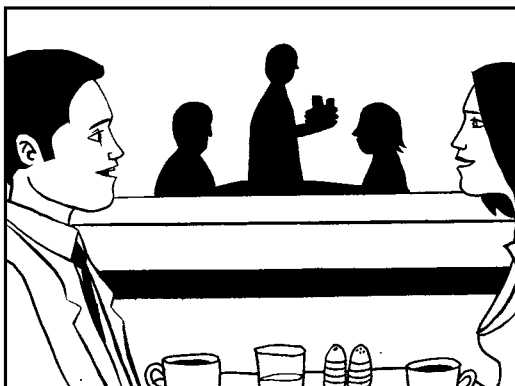
11.30am

Sarah has to head off to a meeting of the Foreign Affairs committee, just one of the committees of which Sarah is a member. Today her old colleagues in Asia Aid are coming in to brief the committee on the human rights situation there.



1.20pm

At lunch, Senator Joe Monroe explains to Sarah that he'd like them to arrange for a press conference on the proposed amendments to the climate-change legislation by . . . tomorrow morning! It'll be a late night for Sarah. But it's all for a good cause.



4.00pm

Back to the office for Sarah to make phone calls to constituents about various issues, such as housing grants and medical-card applications. She also gets down to drafting some notes for her road safety speech.



5.00pm

In the Dáil, Sarah's party are putting forward a new law about speed limits. It's a good debate and the Minister for Transport agrees to take on board many of the points that Sarah and her colleagues are making. Outside the chamber, a journalist tells Sarah a clip of her speech will be on the late news.

8.30pm

It's back to the Dáil chamber for Sarah to vote on Private Member's Business.

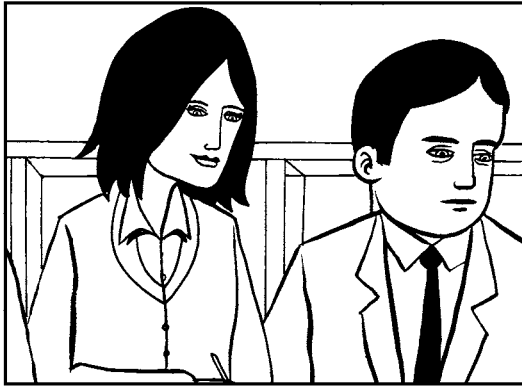
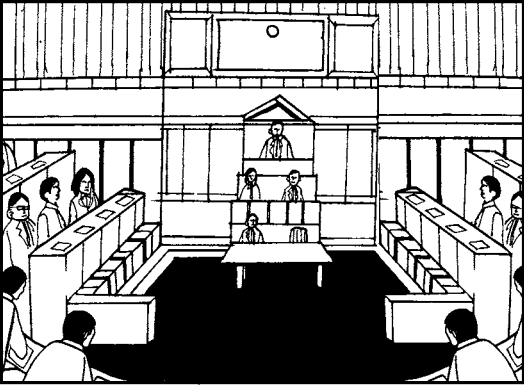
1.00am

Having cycled home, Sarah puts the kettle on and settles down with the climate change bill. So much for an early night!



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6.00pm

Sarah switches on the TV news to watch her interview from earlier. 'Good stuff', says Alex.

10.00pm

A tired, but happy, Sarah heads over to a nearby restaurant to help Noel Heffernan, who joined the party at the same time as Sarah and who's just been appointed Chief Policy Advisor to the Party Leader, celebrate his promotion.

useful links

www.oireachtas.ie

www.skool.ie

www.learningireland.ie

www.teenspace.ie



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