

News

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Keeping Limerick Posted

It's looking good

ONE of the last monuments to dereliction in Limerick city is about to undergo a highly significant transformation.

The Dunnes Stores building on Sarsfield Bridge with its vacant facade has been a source of irritation for the past decade as it defied the recovery that has been lifting the rest of the city.

And while many believed that a new retail offering was the best solution for the site, the news of what will now happen is in another dimension altogether.

The University of Limerick are now truly bringing its campus to the city in an innovative and imaginative way that shows they are thinking outside every box.

The site will become the Future Skills Academy, a facility that will produce the kind of graduate that will be needed as Limerick expands and attracts new investment.

For a city that has for far too long been the subject of negative press, Limerick is now wrapping itself in the good news banner.

First we had the opening of Gardens International and then confirmation that the Opera Centre is to become subject of a development planning application.

In the last week alone, Edwards Lifesciences turned the sod for their new 600 job facility at Castletroy while Johnson and Johnson announced that they are taking on another 100.

These are the calibre of employers who are looking at the city and liking what they see.

Having a campus in the very heart of the city, addressing the kind of qualifications these top employers need will only add to Limerick's attractions for foreign investment.

And it's not just young undergraduates who will benefit as there will be an active approach to up-skill adult learners.

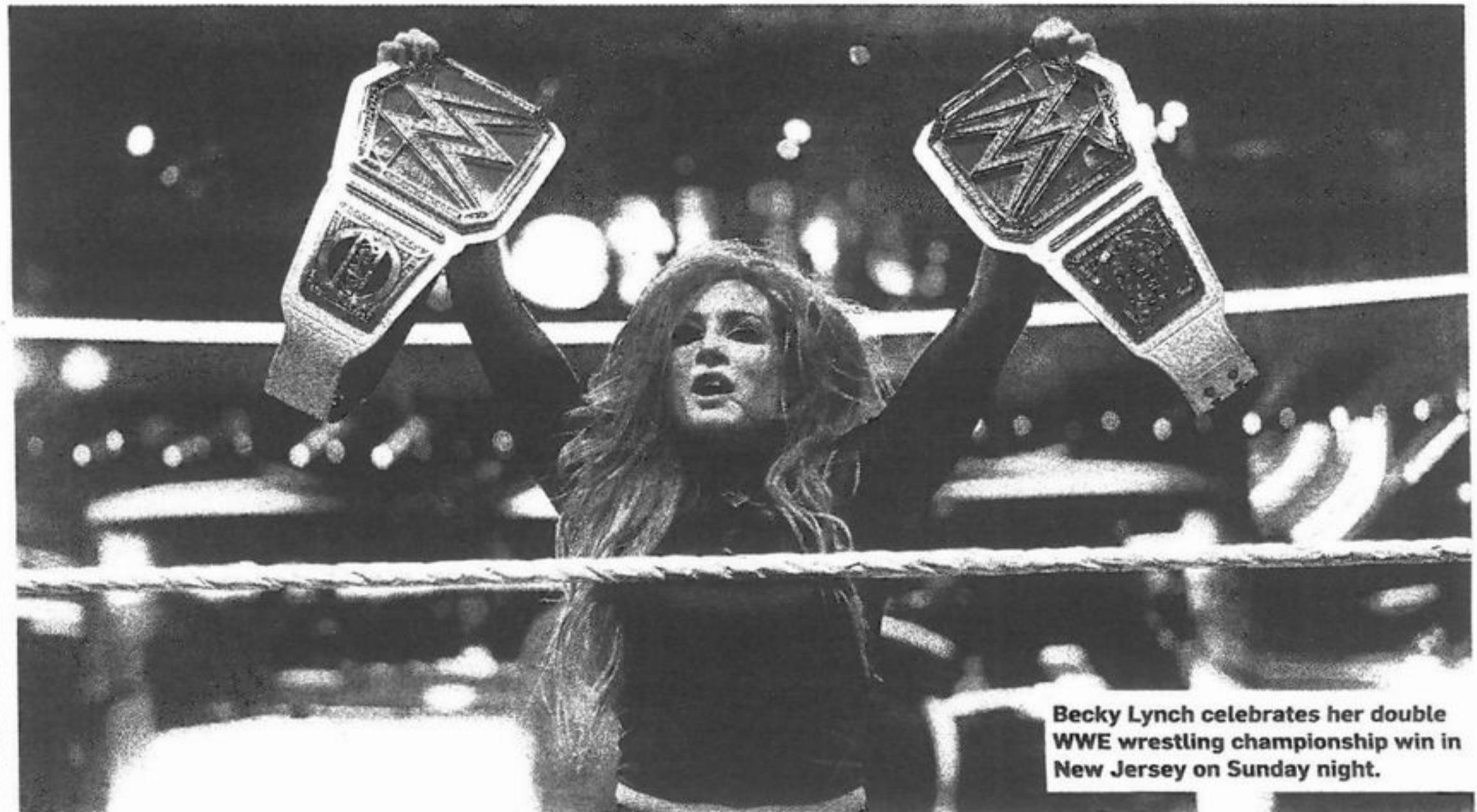
But more than the qualifications, the exorcising of the ghost of dereliction on the site and the attractiveness of such a facility for employers, is the human presence.

Students will bring vibrant energy to the heart of the city which, in turn, will kick start so much more positivity.

There is now an opportunity to make Limerick a living city after dark, an energetic, European university city, with more spending, more business and more jobs being created.

ENTERTAINMENT

Becky 'The Man' storms to summit of world wrestling



Becky Lynch celebrates her double WWE wrestling championship win in New Jersey on Sunday night.

by **Andrew Carey**
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SHE may have failed PE in school and had a career ending injury, but Limerick-born wrestler Becky Lynch rose to the top of the class at the weekend when she was crowned double WWE champion at Wrestlemania 35.

32-year-old Becky created sporting history when she defeated former MMA fighter turned wrestler Ronda Rousey and Charlotte Flair in the first

ever all female headliner in front of 80,000 excited fans at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

The Sunday night spectacle was watched by a worldwide television audience of several million.

The flame-haired grappler, whose real name is Becky Quin and has the nickname "The Man", took the WWE Raw Women's Championship and the WWE SmackDown Women's Championship.

She started wrestling as a 15-year-old but was forced to take several

years away from the sport after she sustained a serious head injury at 19.

After working as a cabin crew member with Aer Lingus and studying drama at the Dublin Institute of Technology, she eventually returned to the ring and signed a contract with WWE five years ago.

"I was once told that it's nice to dream, but be realistic and I'm happy that I didn't take that advice", Becky told fans after the win.

"It's so overwhelming. I have worked for this my entire life. I have dreamed and obsessed about this moment and I never knew how I was going to feel.

Speaking before the championship clash, she explained how her family found it difficult to understand her chosen career.

"My mum very much always wanted me to be normal, she'd always be saying: 'Why can't you be normal' And all I could say back was 'I don't know what that is, Mum'" she said.