Counsil misinform students on grant changes

Some county councils have incorrectly informed students in receipt of both the BTEA and the maintenance grant that following recent legislative changes, one or other grant will be removed.

The new legislation concerning the grant and BTEA states that only new applicants will not be entitled to apply for both from 2010 onwards. However, students currently in receipt of both will be entitled to retain both for the duration of their studies.

Student misses exam due to creche crisis

A first-year student was left stranded outside the Aungier Street campus with her 18-month-old son after being told by her creche that it was closed due to a burst pipe.

She could not attend her exam and had to return home. She will re-sit her exam in September. According to Belinda Gormley, head of campus services, creche facilities are not visible in a multi-campus college.

Back-pedalling in DIT pool bike scheme?

The implementation of the DIT Pool Bike Scheme has been delayed. The scheme, which was officially launched on 29th October 2009 at Aungier Street by the Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey, is being held up by technical issues involving liability and insurance.

DITSU and Campus Services are working through the outstanding items and anticipate that solutions will be finalized soon.

Aungier St student replaces Miss Ireland

Tanja Zorzi, a DIT student at Aungier Street and first runner-up at the Miss Ireland pageant in 2009, stepped in for an indisposed Miss Ireland to participate in a charity mini marathon in Calcutta last week.

Miss Ireland Laura Patterson had been forced to pull out due to ill health. She will re-sit her exam in September.

Fit2Go club back on track

Sam Kirwan

The Fit2Go Club gym and swimming pool facilities in DIT Kevin Street campus have reopened following an employment dispute that left the college's only remaining gym facility closed since October.

However, uncertainty still remains among many sceptics in DIT as to how long the gyms will continue to operate on account of poor funding.

The gym and pool officially closed on October 13th last year, due to the enforcement of a staffing embargo imposed by the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

The legislation effectively meant that part-time staff had to be let go, leaving the Fit2Go club without qualified staff to run and maintain the facilities.

In early July, it emerged that no staff would be protected from the embargo, leading to the closure of the facilities at the beginning of the academic year.

The legislation has since been revised, allowing the facilities to reopen providing they generate a continuous stream of revenue. There are now three full-time staff members, and a number of part-time staff also.

The Fit2Go, which is classed as a student service in other third level institutions, is a membership paying service for students at DIT.

Though students must pay for usage of the facilities, the cost is much lower than that offered at private gyms. A three-month package for students at the Kevin St facility costs €45 while a six-month package costs €80.

All-inclusive packages allow students to use the gym and pool, along with the option of participating in a variety of health and fitness programmes.

Classes are to be held in Kevin Street sports hall and pool, and at the north-side location in Larkin College Sports Complex.

Work begins on Bolton Street roof after four years of leaks

News Editor

Work started this week on fixing the problems with the Bolton Street roof, which has had significant problems with leaking for the last four years.

Workers have started to remove the pebbles from the top of the roof, via roof-to-ground chutes, in preparation for the new roofing.

The work is expected to cost €500,000 to €600,000 according to Sean Campbell, VP for Services and Trading, and will last for four to six weeks.

The need to maintain a constant income at the facility may potentially cause further employment problems as many staff and students have already opted to join gyms elsewhere.

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Classes are to be held in Kevin Street sports hall and pool, and at the north-side location in Larkin College Sports Complex.
A word from the Editor...

Hello all, welcome to the first issue of DIT News of the decade.

We’ve packed this issue full of interesting news and features. Catch up on all of the campus gossip you missed while munching on mince pies this holiday.

Get the lowdown on the Student Union elections, who’s running, what they stand for, and how to vote!!

Get the lowdown on all the goings on in the world of DIT sport.

And read the latest issue of where we speak to none other than Hollywood legend Samuel L. Jackson and to the Queen of the Dublin Drag scene Davina Devine.

Hope the exams went for everyone and that you enjoy your first issue of semester two!!

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It is the policy of DIT News to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. Any corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next editions of the newspaper. It is also the policy of DIT News to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by any comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments to the Editor.

Letters to the Editor...

Madam,

It is not my intention to get into a correspondence course with Tracey Flinter, the President of the DIT Students Union but I cannot ignore her recent letter concerning the recent mass demonstrations organised by the Congress of Trade Unions in support of better fiter pay on the island of Ireland.

It is the first instance she claims that the DIT Students Union are there to represent students regardless of how big or small the issue. It seems to have escaped Ms Flinter that Ireland is presently in an unadulterated mess. As students we have faced ongoing cut backs and an increase of 46% in our registration fees, threatened introduction of further college fees and already 60,000 students have emigrated in the past year.

The Public Services which most ordinary working people depend on are in disarray, the country’s finances are a shambles and we have a Government that could I even deal with a few days of snowfall. We have seen the whole financial industry in the country broken up by corruption and lack of Government and central bank regulation. We have further seen the cosy cartel of property developers, builders, bankers and politicians feed the country into financial ruin.

The response from this Government has been to shift the blame away from them and put the blame on ordinary public sector workers and on social welfare recipients.

None of the developers or the bankers have been held to account or have been sent to jail and in many cases the people largely responsible for the mess we find ourselves in are still in situ.

It may come as a surprise to Ms Flinter but for thousands of students the impact of the above issues makes their daily life extremely difficult and it should not be too much to expect some support in combating the forces responsible from the Students Union. It also needs to be borne in mind that for thousands of students they depend on their families support in order to attend college and in many cases that support comes from parents who work in the public sector and/or are in receipt of some element of social welfare benefit. The cuts imposed on those elements of society by the present Government therefore have a direct affect on thousands of students who DITSU purport to represent, and I would be interested to know how you believe the lack of support you have shewn to these elements of society in anyway assists the students who depend on their funding from those sources.

Ms Flinter’s letter was difficult enough to take as she attempts to distance students from their families and communities and some how place them in an ivory tower oblivious to crisis affecting our society, but to have her join with Fianna Fail Ministers in blaming the present mess on public sector workers and trade unions is a step too far. It is absolute nonsense for her to state that it is the public sector that they are trying to convince to open up our facilities.

The public sector does not decide on the levels of funding to education in this country. That is a matter for Government and it is the Government that we should be trying to persuade to open up our facilities and not the poor, unfortunates who try to earn a living in operating those facilities.

I regret our campaign has not been successful. It is the policy of DIT News to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. Any corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next editions of the newspaper.

I hope this clears up any confusion. It is the policy of DIT News to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. Any corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next editions of the newspaper.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Editor

Nature-lovers: humpback whale

Footprint editor @dit

Greeks: beware of international bankers bearing gifts

The response from this Government has been to shift the blame away from them and put the blame on ordinary public sector workers and on social welfare recipients. None of the developers or the bankers have been held to account or have been sent to jail and in many cases the people largely responsible for the mess we find ourselves in are still in situ. It may come as a surprise to Ms Flinter but for thousands of students the impact of the above issues makes their daily life extremely difficult and it should not be too much to expect some support in combating the forces responsible from the Students Union. It also needs to be borne in mind that for thousands of students they depend on their families support in order to attend college and in very many cases that support comes from parents who work in the public sector and/or are in receipt of some element of social welfare benefit. The cuts imposed on those elements of society by the present Government therefore have a direct affect on thousands of students who DITSU purport to represent, and I would be interested to know how you believe the lack of support you have shewn to these elements of society in anyway assists the students who depend on their funding from those sources.

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Finally Ms Flinter states that the street protests would not achieve anything and therefore would seem to suggest that there isn’t any point in students protesting. Students throughout history have had a proud tradition of making their voices heard on the streets and through other forums. It now seems that the DIT Students Union no longer sees the benefit of such protests but rather sees itself as a voice for Government against working class people, welfare recipients and trade unions.

If that’s what DIT Students Union is all about then I would be interested to know how you can count me out.

Glen Fitzgerald, Asuger St.

That time of the month!

Brought to you by Fionnuala Holohan

It was a good month for:

Irish Film: Grammy O’Grinn’s Sleeping Beauty animation short nominated for Oscar
Northern Ireland: Justice and policing powers devolution agreement reached

Conspiracy Theories: Charlie Bird home early from Washington, George Lee available for work... coincidence?

French Rugby: scrum

Jobward: 2 become (number) 1
Van Morrison: who’s not the daddy

And a bad month for:

Iris Robinson: private lies
Greece: beware of international bankers bearing gifts
Fine Gael and Green Party: Lee and de Brúin exit public stage

Alexander McQueen: Oscars night will never be the same again, RIP

Pedestrians: ice, snow and now lumpy persistent sandy grit
Nature-lovers: humpback whale breaches off Co Wexford
DIT students in space program

Jenny Dunne, Augier St

The REXUS / BEXUS programme is realised under a bilateral Agency Agreement between the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the Swedish National Space Board (SNSB).

The team, consisting of postgraduate students Mark Wylie, Paul Duffy, Stephen Curran, Dinesh Vather and Jack Keegan, returned last week from the Esrange Space Centre in northern Sweden where they were preparing for the launch of their experiment in March 2011.

Undergraduate engineering students Richie Phelan and Barry O'Donnell were also involved in the project.

The experiment consists of a new kind of telescopic boom system explained Mark Wylie, the team’s project manager.

The Swedish share of the payload has been made available to students from other European countries through collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA).

The common areas is also being fitted out with new furniture.

The facility will be available in Mountjoy Square in about two weeks time.

Team member Paul Duffy explained that ordinarily, when probes are deployed from a rocket, they expand in a manner similar to an umbrella.

The team’s experiment consists of a probe which deploys telescopically like a television aerial when the rocket reaches its target height. When this style of probe is used less space is taken up within the rocket and the probe can also expand further than a traditional probe, allowing for a greater range of measurements to be taken.

Last week, the team travelled to the Swedish Esrange Space Centre, which is located within the Arctic Circle, where they attended talks and workshops on various aspects of experiment design.

They also consulted with the other teams to ensure there were no conflicts between the various experiments which will be on the rocket launched in 2011.

“We received a lot of positive feedback, as well as some negative feedback about things we have to change”, said team member Dinesh Vather.

In three months’ time, the team will submit their critical design review to the launches organisers. Both the REXUS organisers and the team themselves will engage in further testing before the launch in March 2011.

“The project is being undertaken by the team in addition to our academic work for our doctorate,” said Mark Wylie. “Most of the other teams are receiving academic credits for their work, we’re doing it in our spare time”.

Funding is being provided by DIT and Enterprise Ireland. Irish aerospace companies have also offered services and advice.

The team can be contacted via Facebook: Rexus DIT or via email at spaceresearch@dit.ie

Creche crisis

News Editor

>> continued from page 1

Thirty-five students currently receive childcare assistance and it amounts to a spend of around €120,000 per year. This can be paid not only to creches but to relatives who perform childminding services.

The new single-site DIT campus in Grangegorman will have a creche and Mr Gormley anticipates that students availing courses in childcare and related disciplines will be able to work in the creche on placement.

New tuck shop for Portland Row

News Editor

Portland Row now has a new tuck shop, courtesy of Funky Foods, who service the campus from 12:30 to 2pm each day.

The Row has never had on-site catering so this is a significant improvement for the students.

The common areas is also being fitted out with new furniture.

New Cashback facilities in northside campuses

News Editor

DITSU installed new cash back facilities in Cathal Brugha this week.

The facility will be available in Mountjoy Square in about two weeks time.

This facility is only available in the SU shops.

There are no plans to roll this out in any other campus as they all have ATM machines.

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Councils misinform students on grants

News Editor

>> continued from page 1

The new legislation concerning the grant and BTEA states that only new applicants will not be entitled to apply for both from 2010/11 onwards. Students currently in receipt of both will be entitled to retain both for the duration of their studies.

A clarification has been sent to all councils, said Bob O’Murchu, the DIT Mature Student Support Officer.

Students who are in receipt of the BTEA and grant for a level 6 or 7 programme and who wish to progress to a level 8 may not get the grant, as they have to apply for a different grant to study a level 8 and hence would be considered “new” applicants.

Exam results will not be withheld from students still waiting for grants to come through.

Following discussions with DITSU and support staff, the Department of Academic Affairs has agreed that students should not be denied their exam results based on a situation beyond their control, in this case slow processing of grants.

The Department has contacted the Exams Office to request that all results be released to students.

Students who have yet to be approved for a grant are in danger of having their webcourses and library access privileges removed on February 16th.

Support staff are working to make sure that students shouldn’t be denied access to services due to circumstances beyond their control.

Mature student numbers to rise by 25% next year

News Editor

According to figures releases by the CAO, the estimated increase in mature student registrations for 2010/11 is between twenty-five and forty percent.

More precise estimates are not possible yet as the percentage increase in applicants doesn’t necessarily translate to a corresponding increase in successful registrations but even a 25% increase over the 2009/10 numbers represents an overall 75% increase on the 2008/09 numbers.

Brian Gormley, Head of Campus Services, said that as more non-traditional students enter college, there will be different demands placed on college services in areas such as study skills, careers advice and financial support, especially support requiring one-to-one assistance.

This year, 40% of the student assistance fund has been used to help mature students - those 23 years old or over - who make up approximately 10% of the student body.
College orchestra living La Dolce Vita

DIT News writing staff

As part of this year’s Jameson Dublin International film festival (JDIFF) and in celebration of the 50th anniversary of La Dolce Vita, the DIT Symphony Orchestra are performing an evening of music from world-renowned Italian composer, Nino Rota.

From La Dolce Vita to The Godfather score, Oscar winning composer Nino Rota has written some of the most memorable film music of the last century.

The DIT Symphony Orchestra, in association with JDIFF and the National Concert Hall, will perform some of Rota’s best-loved works including: La Dolce Vita, The Godfather, La Strada, Fellini’s Waltz, The Leopard and Prova d’orchestra.

On the night the DIT Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by one of Ireland's leading conductors - DIT’s very own David Brophy.

According to Dr William Halpin, Head of Orchestral Studies, DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama “DIT is delighted to be invited to participate in this concert.

“Our talented young musicians will have an enlightening and rewarding experience performing Nina Rota’s music and members of the public will be treated to the most enchanting evening of music from an astonishingly gifted and prolific composer.”

Tickets for La Dolce Vita: Celebrating the film music of Nino Rota are available from www.jdiff.com or 01 687 7974.

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH AT DIT

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- Conversion Masters programmes
- PhD & Research opportunities

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Tuesday 2nd March, 3 pm – 7.30 pm

Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street, Dublin 2

For further information contact: Postgraduate Admissions Office, Dublin Institute of Technology T: 01 402 3434 E: postgraduate@dit.ie W: www.dit.ie/postgraduate

DIT Fashion Show courted by last minute Alfa male

The DIT Fashion Society were given an economic boost when car manufacturer Alfa Romeo signed on to be come the annual DIT Fashion Show’s title sponsor, just four weeks before the show.

The newly retitled ‘Alfa Romeo DIT Fashion Show’ is to be held at Vicar St on March 8th.

It costs approximately €40,000 to host every year and is run entirely by DIT students who are members of the Fashion Society.

The sponsorship deal secured by top members of the Fashion Society and show directors Rachel Lenny and Sarah Hoolihan eases pressure on students struggling to fund raise for the event.

Alfa Romeo take over from Toyota who were the event’s title sponsor last year.

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Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street, Dublin 2
The DIT Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Society held a coming out workshop in Aungier Street on the 4th February as part of the Rainbow Week program of events.

The workshop was led by Laura Finlay the LGBT rights officer of the USI, who said "The idea of the workshop is to help people who haven’t come out yet, or those who have come out but aren’t having an easy time of it.”

Students discussed their own experiences and concerns about coming out with the group. A first year student who attended said that he felt the the workshop really helped, as coming out is “something that you go over and over in your head, but you don’t actually get to talk about”. He welcomed the opportunity to discuss the issue with people who had had similar experiences to himself, in a closed, safe environment.

Pointers on the coming out process were given to the group by the facilitator, and they discussed these as a group.

Laura Finlay said that "the workshop in DIT went very well, as everyone was incredibly open and honest with their stories, concerns etc, and the peer support throughout was great”.

DIT was considered a supportive environment to come out in, one student said that the “LGBT Soc is really helpful, the people who run it are brilliant”.

The LGBT and the USI provide resources for student about on coming out on their respective websites and at DIT LGBT society meetings.

This years Rainbow Week raised over three times as much money as last year for the LGBT Society based charity, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.

Jenny Dunne, Aungier St

This year’s rainbow week raised over three times as much money as last year for the LGBT Society, chosen charity, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.

Jess Elmes, LGBT Society President said "we made about three times the amount of money that we made last year, just over nine hundred and fifty euro”.

The society raised the majority of the funds from the table quiz they held in the The Living room pub opposite Central Bank of Ireland campus. Ms. Elmes said “the table quiz was brilliant we had to bring in extra tables and chairs for that and everything, we raised about three hundred from that alone”.

T-shirts with the slogan “Homophobia is Gay” were the big hit of the week, “The amount of people I saw walking around in the the t-shirts was a bit of a surprise, I didn’t think that they’d sell that well”, she added.

The t-shirts also helped the LGBT Society achieve their aim of raising awareness for gay rights. Ms. Elmes said “the aim of rainbow week was to raise awareness more than anything else, in the past its been a small LGBT society based event, this year everybody knew what was going on with the t-shirts and everything”. The society hope to improve again next year on funds raised. Ms. Elmes said that they plan to have more fundraising events next year, and also more open events so that people who are not in the LGBT society can participate in Rainbow Week.

"The wedding was done on the stage, and that was the only public event we really had, next year we’ll have more stuff on the stages and more stuff people can just stroll on into”, she said.

DIT LGBT members Aaron Byrne, Alex Byrne, Emma Mullen, Stephen Gotting, Aoife Mulford, Jenny Dunne, Daniel Richmond, Alice Ni Fhlanagain pose with their ‘Homophobia is Gay’ t-shirts

A study conducted by GLEN the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network entitled “A study of the mental health and well being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people” showed that from the early age of 12, youths can become aware that they are LGBT. Seventeen is the most common age to start coming out as LGBT which means that there is 5 year gap in between, “knowing” and “disclosing” their LGBT identity.

The five year gap could be due to the reaction these youths feel they will experience when they come out, 60% of youths surveyed reported homophobic bullying in their secondary school. 50% had been called abusive names relating to their LGBT status by their peers and a disturbing 35% reported homophobic comments by teachers.

Staggering statistics such as these do not encourage the LGBT community to feel safe and secure; they are made to feel like hiding their true identity will ensure a more comfortable position in society.

The aim of Rainbow Week is to inform and educate students on the issues that negative attitudes such as homophobia can have on the LGBT community and that there is no reason to label anyone as different. Events were organized such as a Coming Out Workshop: An interactive session about “coming out of the closet”.

In a talk entitled “Revolting Homosexuals” Tonie Walsh speaks about the use & abuse of stereotypes. The Trinity 101 Workshop an interactive session about Transgender people was held with Cat McIlroy. While Labour Senator Ivana Bacik spoke on gay rights & the law and the legal restrictions on members of the LGBT community.

Rainbow week activities and events such as these are aimed at aiding the LGBT community but also informing the general public about the effects homophobia can have.

LGBT make €950 for rape crisis

Aoife Mulford, Aungier St

Rainbow week adds colour to first week of term

Rainbow Week is an annual event run by the LGBT society of DIT aims to raise awareness of the issues faced by the LGBT community on campuses across the country.

Studies in the UK show that while 68% of the general school going population has suffered from bullying at some time in school, a higher number of gay and lesbian pupils (80%) have experienced name calling and 69% have experienced open ridicule by other pupils and occasionally teachers.

LGB people face specific challenges, for instance difficulties coming out at school, peer group responses to homosexuality and particular vulnerability if parents react adversely to a young person’s identity as lesbian, gay or bisexual.

There is a clear lack of positive images and role models and unrelenting pressure from peers and society in general to be seen to be “normal”. Individual young lesbian, gay and bisexual people may experience great difficulty in making contact with other young LGBT people and consequently may be very isolated.

European surveys have demonstrated that levels of violence directed against LGBT people are up to three times higher than those experienced by the population as a whole.
Awards, scholarships and competitions

Several new competitions and awards launched this semester:

The Arts@DIT is a €5,000 bursary award for students from the School of Art, Design and Printing, the School of Media, and the Conservatory of Music & Drama.

Collaboration across faculties is encouraged.

Students can find more information on http://arts.dmc.dit.ie/ or by emailing facultyart@dit.ie.

The National Student Media Awards (SMedia) for 2010 are being held in April and closing date for entries is 16th March.

There are 32 distinct categories from traditional print media (news, sports and features writing, magazines) and broadcast (tv and radio production) to new media (web design, animation) and creative arts (photography, short films and scriptwriting).

Brand new for this year is the ‘Blog of the year’ category.

Students must pre-register at oxygen.ie.

Trocaire has launched an animation short video competition for third-level communications and multimedia students to raise awareness over growing world hunger, where 1 in 6 people do not have enough food.

The prize includes the opportunity to travel overseas with Trocaire to make a short video on the same theme.

Students must submit their entries by post in high resolution DVD format to Trocaire, Marywood, Co. Kildare by March 16th 2010.

Hothouse launched its 2010 DIT Inventor Competition as an Innovation event in DIT last week.

It is open to all staff and students and has a prize fund of €2,500, distributed across 3 categories.

The closing date is the 7th May 2010 and further details are on their website www.hothouse.ie.

The Bolton Trust/Hothouse €12,000 Student Enterprise Competition is open to all DIT undergraduate and postgraduate students who believe they have a significant and viable business idea.

Closing date for the submission of business plans is 18th February 2010.

Oifig na Gaeilge have a slew of events and schemes on at the moment.

The Student Residence/Seiclim Conaithe scheme is accepting applications until March 19th, 2010. Students receive €550 towards rent in a shared Irish-speaking house.

The Gaeltacht Scholarships/Scolaireacht Gaeltachta are accepting applications until 12th March (Easter) and 1st May (summer).

Students must pay €50 euro and Oifig na Gaeilge’s scholarship will cover the balance. This includes food, accommodation and tuition costs.

DIT Society Awards nominations due

The annual DIT Societies Awards take place on the 25th March in the Hilton Hotel in Dublin.

The event is a major highlight in the college society calendar and will include an address from a high-profile guest speaker; who has yet to be announced.

Societies must nominate themselves for inclusion in the awards in the following categories: best society by campus, best event by campus, best New Society, Best Drama, Most Improved, Fresher, Most Improved Society, Best Poster, Best Photo, Best Website, Best Individual, Best Event, Best Civic Contribution and Best Society overall.

Nominations should be submitted by mid-March - the precise date will be confirmed shortly.

Following the awards events, the winners in each category will be put forward for the National Board of Irish Colleges (BICS) awards, which take place on the 13th and 14th of April.

New BA in Creative & Cultural Industries launched in DIT

A new three-year honours BA program in Creative and Cultural Industries was launched in DIT this year.

It is already available on the CAO and is generating a lot of interest, said Kieran Corcoran, the assistant head of the School of Art, Design and Printing.

The program of study is intended to produce graduates capable of managing the production of a cultural event. The Arts Council indicated in a recent report that this area will be a significant growth area in the years ahead.

DIT has a large student body studying music and arts and the students on this new course will work alongside these practitioners and will be expected to put on a public cultural event while in college.

Prior to the the introduction of this program, anyone interested in pursuing such a career would typically have completed a Bachelor of Arts and an MA in Arts Administration, and have had several years of practical experience in the field.

The course has the educational support and involvement of the Schools of Media, Art & Design, and the Conservatory of Music and Drama.

Any student wishing to transfer onto the program should go through the normal transfer procedures for advanced entry.

Oifig na Gaeilge / Irish Office

The new season of 6-week Irish language courses started on the first week of term, with approximately 150 students and academic staff signing up for joint sessions at various levels.

This is the first year that staff and students have attended the same course and they run in either Bolton Street or Aungier street.

Students on the courses may go on to take the TEG language competency exams and Oifig na Gaeilge will fund half of the cost.

The Gaeltacht Scholarships/Scolaireacht Gaeltachta is accepting applications until 12th March (Easter) and 1st May (summer).

Students must pay €50 euro and Oifig na Gaeilge’s scholarship will cover the balance. This includes food, accommodation and tuition costs.

Society Competitions

The Journosoc society has kicked-off a “Skills to Win the Bills” feature-writing competition with cash prizes.

Entrants must submit an original non-fiction feature article with a maximum length of 1,000 words.

Students must email their entries to dtpianemosoc@gmail.com by 19th March.

The Film Society is looking for students to submit short films for a special screening event in the Lighthouse Cinema at the end of the year.

Students can contact the society at ditfilmnsoc@gmail.com.

St. Petersburg comes in from the cold

The DIT Finance faculty signed a new agreement of co-operations with Russia’s number one university, the St Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance, in December last year.

Opportunities flooded for co-operation are dual academic awards, where a student can gain a qualification in both states; lengthy student exchange programs of up to a year and, of course, joint research programs between the faculties.

The Russian universities benefit in having exchanges with western universities, particularly English-speaking, European ones.

DIT already has Russian students studying here, though not through this program.

Irina Joffe is studying for her MSc in Finance in DIT and came to Ireland seven years ago from St Petersburg.

She chose DIT for her MSc as she thought it was a “very strong program” that would give her “real-world practical knowledge and skills” to help her in her career.

Ms Marie O’Flynn, Head of Department of Finance, said that the agreement would help continue to build the reputation of DIT as the university of choice.
Malawi March
Cassie Delaney, Aungier St

As fears of a national water shortage loomed, many a panicked Paddy Irishman filled every accessible pot, pan and pint glass with water.

"Emergency supplies" sat on counter tops around the concerned country.

The fear was evident in supermarkets nationwide, in a crisis that may go down in history as the "Battle for Ballygowan."

Frank McDonald, Environmental Editor of the Irish Independent wrote about being in "the grip of a water crisis".

Fortunately, this country has only seen a fraction of the harrowing effects of water shortage.

For the people of Malawi, the access to safe water is a daily struggle.

Next month, a small group of DIT students will travel to Malawi with Wells for Zoë.

The group, led by Elaine Bolger and Liam Stewart, was selected after an application and interview process in early December.

Wells for Zoë is a small Irish humanitarian organisation. Set up in 2005, the organisation concentrates on low cost, small scale, appropriate and sustainable water technology.

The aim of the march is to highlight the strive to access clean water.

This year Wells for Zoë will be promoting a march from Houston Station to The O'Connell.

The aim of the march is to highlight the efforts made by women globally, each day, in the strive to access clean water.

The march will be promoted around colleges closer to the date.

For more information regarding the march or Wells for Zoë contact Elaine at elaine@bamsoc.ie

Unicycle basketball tournament
News Editor

Ireland is holding its first Unicycle Basketball Tournament in Belfast on the 19th-21st of February this year and 25 members of the DIT Circus and Juggling society will be there.

Some of the unicycles attending are newbies who only learned to unicycle in October, said Cecily Quetin-Weeks from the society.

The society trained in the YMCA last week and are hopeful of success in Belfast.

Unicycle basketball is played using the international rules for regular basketball with a few changes.

For instance, the player can only play the ball while mounted on the unicycle and not touching anything else for support, however, players may jump off the unicycle for slam dunks and to block shots, as long as the player is aware of where the unicycle will end up and that it will not cause a safety hazard.

Each team consists of 5 players and 3 substitutes.

Running alongside the tournament is the Belfast Juggling Convention, which will feature workshops and training on all aspects of juggling.

Boardtalk
News Editor

A big topic on the boards is DIT section this month were the exam results.

Specifically, not knowing when they were going to be available.

"My pet peeve is the lack of communications, no word as of yet as to what our results are or when they are coming out. Same thing happened with the repeats which over half my class were doing... people were back 2 weeks before being told they could not progress to 4th year" said a member.

Most exam offices have now posted their schedule for the availability for exam results, which varies across courses and campuses.

The DIT Mail system came in for some criticism as did the overall system for information, and a debate on whether having exams in January is a good or bad thing thrived briefly without definitive resolution.

DITU are actively progressing this issue with IT.

Other issues included the lack of toilet rolls in Bolton Street (thanks for the helpful suggestion as to increasing the absorbency of DIT News), the noise level in Kevin Street library, and a debate on whether having exams in January is a good or bad thing thrived briefly without definitive resolution.

Finally, one of the contributors managed the lack of a date for Valentine's day...
Much ado about the iPad

Eoghan Geoghegan

All of the built-in apps on iPad were designed from the ground up to take advantage of the large Multi-Touch screen. And they work in any orientation. So you can do things with these apps that you can’t do on any other device.

Safari

The large Multi-Touch screen on iPad lets you see web pages as they were meant to be seen — one page at a time. With vibrant color and sharp text. So whether you’re looking at a page in portrait or landscape, you can see everything at a size that’s actually readable. And with iPad, navigating the web has never been easier or more intuitive. Because you use the most natural pointing device there is: your finger. Scroll through a page just by flicking your finger up or down on the screen. Or pinch to zoom in or out on a photo. There’s also a thumbnail view that shows all your open pages in a grid, to let you quickly move from one page to the next.

Mail

See and touch your email in ways you never could before. In landscape, you get a split-screen view showing both the opened email and the messages in your inbox. To see the opened email by itself, turn iPad to portrait, and the email automatically rotates and fits the screen. No matter which orientation you use, you can scroll through your mail, compose a new email using the large onscreen keyboard, or delete messages with nothing more than a tap and a flick. If someone emails you a photo, you can see it right in the message. You can also save the photos in an email directly to the built-in Photos app. And iPad works with all the most popular email providers, including MobileMe, Yahoo! Mail, Gmail, Hotmail, and AOL.

Photos

With its crisp, vibrant display and unique software features, iPad is an extraordinary way to enjoy and share your photos. For example, the Photos app displays the photos in an album as though they were in a stack. Just tap the stack, and the whole album opens up. From there, you can flip through your pictures, zoom in or out, or watch a slideshow. You can even use your iPad as a beautiful digital photo frame while it’s docked or charging. And there are lots of ways to import photos: You can sync them from your computer, download them from an email, or import them directly from your camera using the optional Camera Connection Kit.

Video

The large, high-resolution screen makes iPad perfect for watching any kind of movies and TV shows (in both standard and high definition), along with thousands of podcasts and millions of songs. Preview songs before you buy them. Or just sync iPad with the content you already have in your iTunes library on your Mac or PC. Switch between widescreen and full screen with a double-tap. Because iPad is essentially one big screen, with no distracting keypad or buttons, you feel completely immersed in whatever you’re watching.

iPod

With the iPod app, all your music is literally at your fingertips. Browse by album, song, artist, or genre with a simple flick. To play a song, just tap it. iPad even displays album art at full size. Listen to your music with the powerful built-in speaker or with wired or Bluetooth wireless headphones.

iTunes

A tap of the iTunes icon lets you browse and buy music, TV shows, and podcasts — or buy and rent movies — wirelessly, right from your iPad. Choose from thousands of movies and TV shows (in both standard and high definition), along with thousands of podcasts and millions of songs. Preview songs before you buy them. Or just sync iPad with the content you already have in your iTunes library on your Mac or PC.

App Store

iBooks

The iBooks app is a great new way to read and buy books.1 Download the free app from the App Store and buy anything from classics to best sellers from the built-in iBookstore. Once you’ve bought a book, it’s displayed on your Bookshelf. Just tap it to start reading. The high-resolution, LED-backlit screen displays everything in sharp, rich color, so it’s easy to read, even in low light.

Home Screen

The Home screen gives you one-tap access to everything on iPad. You can customize your Home screen by adding your favorite apps and websites or using your own photos as the background. And you can move apps around to arrange them in any order you want.

To check out the iPad four yourself log onto apple.com and ALSO to avail of DIT’s discount on all things apple log onto www.apple.com/ie/aoc or drop, Eoghan, your Apple on Campus rep a mail on ddn@me.com

Much ado about the iPad

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App Store

iBooks

The iBooks app is a great new way to read and buy books.1 Download the free app from the App Store and buy anything from classics to best sellers from the built-in iBookstore. Once you’ve bought a book, it’s displayed on your Bookshelf. Just tap it to start reading. The high-resolution, LED-backlit screen displays everything in sharp, rich color, so it’s easy to read, even in low light.

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To check out the ipad four yourself log onto apple.com and ALSO to avail of DIT’s discount on all things apple log onto www.apple.com/ie/aoc or drop, Eoghan, your Apple on Campus rep a mail on ddn@me.com
Mr Jackson I presume?

We speak to screen legend
Samuel L Jackson

Queen Dee
Drag artist Davina
Devine is crushing on
Alan Carr

Plus a look at Irish cinema & an Oscar preview
Hello and welcome to the first 2010 issue of Dept magazine...

Well we've a great mag to kick off the new year with...

Who better to grace our first cover of 2010 than Hollywood powerhouse Samuel L Jackson! Read the chat he had with our reporter Niamh Hassell on page three...

We also have an interview with the delightful Davina Devine, dublin Drag extraordinaire who was one of DIT LGBT rainbow week stars. Read it on page five....

We also have a look at the upcoming Academy Awards and explore why it is we love a little gold man named Oscar...

There's the usual array of reviews and previews, treats and rants...

We bring you some more of DIT's finest photographers, with a delightful spread right here on this page...

And we have a look at the thriving Irish film industry ahead of the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival...

For a look at fashion, photography, art, food, music, movies, theatre, culture and more here's Dept Ed.

This month's featured photographer is: Rachael Hegarty

For these pictures second year photography student Rachael asked her friend Kim Davitt to model two of her own outfits and two outfits borrowed from Swapshop in Temple Bar.

The idea behind the photographs was to show that you don't have to spend loads to get a beautiful new outfit and you can swap...
Oscar Wild!!!

By Oisin Gregorian

Yes it's that time of year again! The time when the cream of the crop of the movie world descend on the Kodak Theatre in Downtown Los Angeles for the 82nd annual Academy Awards. Last year saw the fairytale of Slumdog Millionaire, which scooped 9 awards and completely dominated its closest rival The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. This year sees the main two contenders for the highly coveted Best Picture gong go between two Hollywood blockbusters - Avatar by James Cameron and war thriller The Hurt Locker, ironically directed by Cameron's ex Kathrynn Bigelow. Irish recognition this year is up from the previous, with 5 nominations in Best Animated Film, Best Animated Short Film, Best Short Film (Live Action), Best Visual Effects and Best Sound Mixing.

In a change from previous years the Academy of Motion Pictures and Science (AMPAS) have decided to widen the race for the "Best Picture" award. Quentin Tarantino's Inglourious Basterds got the nod for a nomination as did small British Film In the Loop. For the first time an Animated Feature has been included with Disney/Pixar Up. Completing the list is American drama The Blind Side, the Coen Brothers Serious Man, Precious based on the novel Push!, District 9 by Peter Jackson, Up in the Air starring George Clooney followed by the main front-runners Avatar and The Hurt Locker. I believe this is a close two horse race and will be dubbed "the battle of the exes". But to choose one I would have to go with the brilliant The Hurt Locker, set in Iraq which follows the day to day actions of a US Army Ex-Ordnance Team. Ordinarily Avatar could however still pip it but in the spirit of the Best Picture award the film needs to tick all the boxes, get nominations in acting and writing whereas Avatar failed to and The Hurt Locker did. Avatar has the look but its plot and length (touching 3 hours) is much to be desired despite it now becoming the highest grossing film of all time.

In the acting categories films like Up in the Air, Invictus, The Hurt Locker, Precious and Inglourious take most of the nominations. In the Acting Category George Clooney I believe is due an Oscar for his portrayal of an isolated Career Transition Coordinator who, on his travels, philosophies with those he meets. He faces still competition from veteran Morgan Freeman's Nelson Mandela in Invictus, Colin Firth as a sky university professor in A Single Man and Jeremy Renner for his lead role in The Hurt Locker. In the supporting role area Matt Damon stands are great chance of scooping the award for his role as South African rugby player Francois Pienaar in Invictus. Celeste and the includes Woodrow Wilson, Christopher Plummer, Stanley Tucci and Christopher Waltz in Inglourious, who could be the dark horse.

She won the Golden Globe for best actress and in the best actress category Sandra Bullock's role as a woman who takes in an athlete who has for many years struggled to find a real home in "The Blindside" stands out. Bullock is powerful in her role and is the early favourite for the prize. I can see the brilliant Helen Mirren, who plays Sofy Tolstoy, the wife of Russian writer Leo, in The Last Station as Bullock's main threat. Two actresses are давно a debut at the Oscars in this category. Carey Mulligan from an Education and the fairy-tale story of Gabourey Sidibe, who in Precious, is playing her first major role. Meryl Streep shows off he undoubted versatility with yet another performance in Julie & Julia. Penelope Cruz is on a mission to defend her Supporting Actress crown in Nine and I believe she has more than a chance of doing so. Up in the Air boasts two nominations in this category with Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick going head to head. Maggiewyhlenhaal is also well within reach of winning as is deboutante Mo'Nique from Precious. This category seems the closest out of the lot and on the night could go to anyone.

In my books there can be only one winner in the Animated Feature - Up, the story of an old man, trying to fulfil his late wife's dream, accompanied by a naive young boy, a talking dog and a hilarious female exotic bird named "Keviin". In Up the folks at Disney/Pixar have set the bar so high, the likes of Fantastic Mr. Fox, The Princess and the Frog and small films like Coraline and the Irish made The Secret of Kells just can't reach it. Thus, re-affirming Disney/Pixar's dominance of this category.

As in the battle for Best Picture we seem to be stuck again in the battle of the exes, Cameron vs Bigelow. Tarantino, Lee Daniels for Precious and Jason Reitman for Up in the Air complete the list. Though The Hurt Locker edges Avatar in the Best Picture for me but I can see Cameron and his Avatar claim the Best Director. Avatar was Cameron's brainchild for 13 years after his Titanic success and for all the movies attention to detail and in the way he created this unbelievable planet Pandora and finally turned it into a stunning 3-D feature showed his desire and grit. The Academy will surely recognise this and give him the award.

For writing and firstly in the Original Screenplay Bingewell's The Hurt Locker is my firm favourite. Creating a war story set in modern day Iraq like the way writer Mark Boal did was truly an amazing feat. However I can still lose out to Disney/Pixar Up, Inglourious, The Coen Brothers Jewish themed A Serious Man and The Messenger. Though The Hurt Locker is my pick, it is however very tight.

In Adapted Screenplay Precious seems to be the early favourite from the likes of District 9, An Education, In the Loop, and Up in the Air. I believe this will be between Precious and An Education.

So now with the nominations named the build up begins to Oscar night on the 7/3rd March. In the coming month the stars will start to get ready, have vital beauty treatments, buy that special dress, write speeches and all the likes. Actors Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin, who have recently been seen as rivals in the comedy Its Complicated will be the hosts this year. The academy Awards will be broadcast live on Sky Movies Premiere for those lucky enough to have it and all the important determination to stay up in the air.

Lucas's most famous sons.

GEORGE FLEE!, 'BYE GEORGE' they screamed via the medium of print. "It's not for me to say," was his answer to Dobbo's totally unforeseen question regarding the competence of Eddy Kenny as leader of Fine Gael. George Lee appeared composed on the 6.1 news.

He was back in the saddle, back where he belonged, there to wrestle RTE from the evil grip of David McWilliams. Having decided he is in fact a Fianna Failer (see what I did there?) George strolled out to Donnybrook and stuck his head in and about the house to see if anyone was around, they evidently weren't.

And like he never left, sat at the right hand of Brian to explain he wasn't given a fair crack of the whip and he's very sorry and he'd like his old job back please. Who says the art of self promotion is dead?

Skinny girls, Topman models on MDMA and a fantastically crafted soundtrack, why it could be Crawdaddy of a Wednesday but it's not, it's 'Skin'. I sometimes wonder whether the girls down Bolton St. are anything like Eddy and her cohorts... the Angler St. one's don't seem to be. Effy's stars will start to get ready, the parties that last for days. Eddy's mates willingly mount any chap who claims to know who Yeasayer are and Effy's mates says like things "come see my masterpiece, it's going to make Damien Hurst cut his cock off and pickle it!"

We can only pontificate upon the existence of people with such a penchant for promiscuity and an admiration for the finer points of the English language. However, what can be confirmed is that 'Skin' is devoid of any semblance of realism. Still though, it'd be nice to meet an 'Effy'.

By Dave Phelan

The annual dirge of confused people, who lived on an island, then left the island and finally came back to the island shot back to our screens this month like a friend who's reluctant to leave if you invite him in.

Unfortunately, I am amongst the blessed few who pretend to understand 'Lost'. To me it has always seemed like the bastard child of 'Castaway' and 'Sophie's Choice', and a child who maintains an unhealthy obsession with Back to the Future. To use a pun as bad as the
With the recent announcement of the coveted Apple iPad, Sam Kirwan decided to see how it stacks up against its closest market rivals.

Anyone interested in technology in any way will have heard about the Apple iPad. Months before the company’s CEO Steve Jobs announced it in another of his famous Keynote speeches, rumours had been circulating about it; what it would look like, what it would do, and so on. Now that it has finally been made public, we have all the real answers as to its appearance and functionality. The media covered it in as much detail as possible—even The Irish Times gave it front-page priority (Jan. 27, 2010). Every effort has therefore been made to avoid rehashing information about the iPad in the following piece. Instead, the comparison will be made with two of its most popular market rivals: the Sony Reader, and the Amazon Kindle.

There are a few different models of all three products named above, and so to clarify, the models in consideration are: the Sony Reader Daily Edition, the Amazon Kindle DX, and the Apple iPad16GBWiFiand3Genabled model.

The reason for such specific choices is the fact that they all fall into a similar price range, and are designed to perform similar functions. Bear in mind the Apple iPad is not actually available to buy yet, but of course its features and prices are being boasted proudly on the Apple website already.

In terms of price, the Sony Reader Daily Edition is the cheapest, costing roughly €290. The Amazon Kindle DX is priced slightly higher at around €360, quite surprising seeing as the Sony is the better of the two devices in terms of functions and appearance. The iPad is priced the highest at €460 for the 16GB 3G model.

One massively impressive feature which is common to both the Kindle and the Sony is the availability of free 3G internet access. This allows users to access online content on the go without having to be in a WiFi zone. Using 3G on a mobile phone is generally very expensive, and so having it for free is a true luxury. The iPad also has 3G built in, but the SIM card slot suggests that it will require a 3G network SIM card such as O2, and so will not be free. While it will have WiFi as an alternative, this restricts full mobile online access, which is not very impressive.

Size matters. The Sony is a comfortable 361 grams, not bad considering a standard novel weighs around 300 grams (roughly the same weight as three mobile phones). It has a 7” touch screen with a “paper-like display”, utilising ‘E-Ink’ technology to make it feel more like reading from actual paper than from a screen. The Kindle is slightly lighter at 290g, despite its larger 9.7” screen, also ‘E-Ink’. The Kindle unfortunately does not have a touch screen. Apple’s new toy is a much heavier 725g, owing to its aluminium back and heavier components. Its 9.7” touch screen uses In-Plane Switching (IPS) technology. In English, this means you can use many of Apple’s multi-touch gestures seen on iPhone and modern MacBooks such as pinch-to-zoom, and three-finger swipe to navigate forward and back on web browser Safari. Sony and Apple added virtual keyboards to their devices, which appear on the touch screen when needed. The Kindle has a rather awkward looking keyboard built in below its screen, with fiddly-looking little circular buttons. So, ergonomically, all three are relatively similar, except the Apple iPad is twice the weight. Each of the three devices can be used in landscape or portrait mode, and will switch automatically from one to the other thanks to built in accelerometers.

Of course, while size and appearance are very important, features are one of the main push factors when buying. The Sony and Apple models read PDF and Microsoft (MS) Word documents, but the iPad can also read MS PowerPoint slide shows, and a selection of photograph formats including JPEG and .gif formats. The Kindle can only display PDFs, and its mp3 player is only in ‘experimental’ phase and so cannot really be classed as a selling point. A plus for the Sony Reader is that it has a full dictionary, Second Edition, built in as standard, which many people may find appealing. Apple iPad has a new application simply called Books, Sony Reader has the ReaderStore, and the Kindle Store. None of which is a particularly imaginative name, but each one does exactly the same thing: provide downloadable books at varying prices. That said, the three have access to Google Books, Google’s online catalogue which has over one million books in its database, all readable online for free.

For music-lovers, the Kindle is at a disadvantage. It can play back mp3 files, but as aforementioned, this feature is in an ‘experimental’ stage, and is nowhere near as advanced as its counterparts. The Sony plays MP3 and AAC tracks, which covers most audio files, while the iPad plays MP3, AAC, and even Windows WAV files. The iPad also provides access to the iTunes store, where users can sample and download new tracks directly.

So, how does the Apple iPad stand out, what makes it better and more appealing? First and foremost: the svelte, curved shape of it and of course the Apple logo. There, it’s been said. Other than that, the fact that it just does so much more than the others.
Red carpets are scary. You stand at the end of a long line clutching a microphone hoping beyond hope that the celebrities prancing along in all their finery will stop for a moment and give you an interview. It's quite a nerve-wracking process.

Tonight is no exception. In fact, tonight is exceptional. One of the biggest stars in the world is in Dublin to lend his star quality to Irish Autism Action for a few hours, and I am about to meet him.

Samuel L. Jackson is the King Midas of Hollywood. Whatever he stars in turns into box office gold. His films have grossed more money than the work of any other actor in cinematic history.

His breakthrough came in Quentin Tarantino's cult masterpiece "Pulp Fiction", and has since then carved out an impressive name for himself in Tinsel town, starring in blockbusters such as "Die Hard: With a Vengeance", "Star Wars" and "The Negotiator". And who could possibly forget - "Snakes on a Plane".

I spot Samuel at the far end of the red carpet. He is rather sparse in a crushed velvet blazer and black-rimmed spectacles. As he gets closer and flashes his dazzling pearly whites my way, I ready myself for a chat with one of the coolest actors on the planet.

Samuel is here supporting an Irish charity in conjunction with the work that he does with his own foundation.

He has said in the past that he would call himself a storyteller because of his acting.

Does he consider himself a change maker by using his notoriety for creating awareness for charitable causes like Autism Action?

"We do our best to create awareness and give something back to all the people that support us and this is one of the ways that we can do that supporting supporting charities and supporting children that need our help.

We spend a lot of our energies going to underdeveloped countries and doing things for people and we kind of forget that there are people who are very close by that need our help also, so this is a good thing for me to do."

But it wasn't all work and no play for Sammy. Inbetween interviews, dinners and gala events, he managed to squeeze in a few rounds of golf with Roman Keating at the K Club. So what about his handicap then - am I allowed to ask?

"You're allowed to ask, I dunno if I am supposed to tell! But six." And who won?

"I have no idea who won, because I was not part of the competition. They made me play with a lot of people, so I didn't actually get to keep score. I played well actually. I had a good time that day. It wasn't as cold as what I thought it would be and the golf course is challenging. I'll be back in June or July to play again."

Of course, this wasn't Samuel's first golf outing in the Emerald Isle. When filming in Liverpool, he popped over on the ferry and played a few holes before skulking away again, un noticed.

I wonder if he managed to enjoy some Dublin nightlife incognito on this visit.

"No I have not. We had a dinner the other night, it lasted kinda late, so I went in, got some sleep and today I had a little stomach bug, so I stayed in bed today too."

Sleeping? A tummy bug? Golf?? Maybe Mr. Jackson isn't quite the badass that I was expecting! He is super smooth though, and when I ask him if he is ever going to shave off his cool guy image, he throws his head back and chuckles.

"Thank you - I dunno, in four more years I might be too old for it... we'll see what happens."

How about watching himself in movies? He's said in the past that he loves seeing himself on the silver screen, and that anyone who doesn't is a liar. I mention to my new friend Samuel that Johnny Depp has said that he can't watch himself act.

"Maybe he should get another job! I dunno, everybody feels about it differently. I don't know why he wouldn't. I am sure that there are times that he sits down and he watches his films and that he's very critical of them, or maybe he just, I dunno how he judges whether he can act or not, but that's Johnny!"

And on that note, the camera bulbs begin to flash and my time is up. As I say good-bye to Mr Jackson, one of the photographers pleads for the actor to be in a snap with him - an unusual move for a pap.

Jackson promptly puts him in his place - "You're a good ass man, why you wanna be in a photo with me?"

As the photographer scuttles away, tall between his legs, I feel relieved that Samuel L. Jackson is a bit of a badass after all.

Niamh Hassell
\textbf{Irish Cinema - an industry in bloom}

\textbf{Lights, Camera, ACTION}

\textbf{By Cliona Ward}

On the eve of the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival (JDIFF) Dent provides you with a preview of some of the finest Irish film talent.

Neil Jordan returns to Irish screens with the European premiere of his latest Ondine airing at the JDIFF. Starring Colin Farrell, Ondine is a fantasy tale of how a mysterious girl is rescued from the sea in the fishing nets Farrell's Syracuses, a loner fisherman who begins to believe that the exquisite stranger has been sent to him to change his life with love and hope.

On his return to Irish film Jordan explains “During the writer's strike a Hollywood project fell through... I went back to Ireland where I have a house in West Cork and wrote this fairy tale, which could be shot entirely within a radius of five miles from where I live.”

He contemplates the draw of a fantasy film like Ondine, “These stories feed on local legends; sea creatures, seal creatures, selkies. How they only have a certain amount of time on land. How they fall in love with their rescuer... the whole thing develops into an impossibly romantic love story, in which real humans insist on turning their lives into a fairy tale”.

Moving from the escapism of Ondine comes His & Hers. The film is the first feature by documentary short filmmaker Ken Wardrop. Inspired by his mother's life, Wardrop interviews women from across the midlands of Ireland to get an honest and revealing insight into life in the country.

From one-year-olds to octogenarians, the interviews are frank, funny, gracious, perceptive and moving. Wardrop presents to us a narrative of life, from cradle to grave, in an inventive and original way. The film has already been selected for this year's Sundance Film Festival, spreading a true sense of Irish identity across the globe in the face of Leap Year's fiddle-dee-dee-ing.

In a drastically different step, Irish film-makers Carter Gunn and Ross McDonnell chapter the lives of several American beekeepers during the economic downturn in Colony. While filming, the bee population of America plummeted by almost a quarter; a drop off of science fiction proportions and a sad indicator that when the pollinating bees are in trouble so too is society.

At the centre of the film is the Seppi family, newcomers to the beekeeping world whose near economic collapse spreads tension through the family as captured by McDowell and Gunn. The film's focus on the microscopic scale of the beehives has you fearing for the bee's survival as well as the survival of a fractured society.

One Hundred Mornings is the film-making debut of Irish director Conor Morgan that is set in a post-societal world. In the film, two young couples are forced to live in a lakeside cabin for survival and cracks soon begin to appear; a suspected affair begins to drive a wedge between them all that could prove their downfall.

Poorly equipped to cope in a world without technology (listen up facebook addicts!) and holding contrasting world views everything they hold dear begins to disintegrate. A cautionary tale as much about the current climate as it is about the importance of co-existence One Hundred Mornings is hailed as one of the finest Irish debuts of recent years.

This year sees the JDIFF host a special event exploring cinematic perceptions of Ireland. Ireland on Screen is a panel discussion about Irish film and its place in the international cinema landscape and how the Irish are portrayed and depicted on screen.

Panelists include director Conor Morgan (One Hundred Mornings), cinematographer Kate McCullough (His & Hers), actor Darren Healy (Savage) and Trevor Groth the Director of Programming for the Sundance Film Festival. The event is chaired by Irish Film Board Chief Executive Simon Perry, and better still it's FREE!!!

\textbf{Film Review – A Prophet \hfill 18A}

\textbf{By Patrick Gormley}

'A Prophet', set in a French prison, tells the story of an eighteen year old, Malik El Debebena, a North African emigrant who is just beginning a six year prison sentence. His vulnerability inside the prison walls soon attracts the attention of César; a Corsican mobster with the guards in his pocket masterfully played by Niels Arestrup. Placing Malik in a no-win situation, César orders him to murder a fellow inmate, who was due to give evidence against members of César's gang, or be killed himself. On completing the order, Malik is tentatively welcomed into the Corsican gang and the protection it entails. But Malik has big plans and as he slowly rises through the ranks of the Corsican mob, everything falls into place for the film's explosively excellent ending.

From French director Jacques Audiard (A Self-Made Hero) and The Beat That My Heart Skipped') 'A Prophet' is a relentlessly brutal but gripping prison drama with superb performances all round. The central performance by newcomer Tahar Rahim, whose intense portrayal of Malik from brooding, frightened new inmate to self-assured, dangerous gangster is in particular quite outstanding. The film, which is nominated for a Best Foreign Picture Oscar, may not be to everyone's taste, but fans of such films as Goodfellas, Scarface and The Godfather Trilogy, should not be disappointed.

A Prophet is currently showing at the IFI, Screen and the Light House cinemas in Dublin.
What first attracted you to drag?

Well I think it was just the whole kinda fabulous aspect of it, yeah everything about it is fabulous, the performance aspect attracted me, the glamour, it's a very visual thing, and I really respond well to visual things. So yeah that's really what attracted me.

So, describe your first show?

My first show was very amateurish, but everyone's got to start somewhere, but it was fun and even then I knew I had something to work with. Even when it was bad, I knew I had something to work with. And then just grew from there, I was like a newborn baby, and then it just grew into a whopper diva!

Where was your first show? It was in Mayo, I can't think of the name of the place...er...Ballina! It was in Ballina, and it was seven years ago, actually eight years ago now. It was at a group called Out West, it's a gay group for the West of Ireland, and they basically have no money, like they have no funding, so they couldn't afford to hire somebody, a friend of mine was involved so I just offered my services free of charge just to do something you know, and that's how I got into it. And then it just grew from there, because a guy from Limerick who owned a club was there, and he offered me a gig there and it just kind of grew that way.

So that was your big break? That was my big break! Yeah, Ballina was my big break!

Did you perform in the club in Limerick for long?

No I only did one show there, and I did one show in Galway and I literally worked the West of Ireland, and that was like practice, then I was ready for Dublin. It's quite intimidating, the Dublin scene is quite intimidating, so that kind of built my stamina a little bit and then I was ready to take it on.

So how did you get into the Dublin scene? Veda has a show every Wednesday at the George, I saw newcomers coming and going, a friend of mine said he'd asked Veda could I do the show, I just went along one Wednesday, and I just knew, this is where I'm meant to be, and that was it.

If you weren't doing drag what would you be doing?

I don't really know, like I don't define myself by just saying that I do drag, because I work in MAC, I'm a makeup artist in MAC as well, I DJ, I promote my nights, so I suppose I'm kind of a club promoter. So when people say what do you do for a living, I don't necessarily say I'm a drag queen, because I don't think that's all I am. It depends on my mood, I'll say I'm a makeup artist, or I'm a DJ. It depends who I'm speaking to, but I don't feel defined by that. Drag queen, I think people think that it is a bit one dimensional and I don't want to be like that.

So what's a typical day for you? Eh a typical day would be, wake up, probably late. Then go to the gym, then have breakfast. I visit my grandmother nearly every day, my grandad 87, and we're really close, he's a great, great guy. And then I just prepare, I might learn a song, mix songs at home, something work then I'll head in to get ready, paint my face.

So how do you get ready for a performance?

It's about a two hour process or so, some people can do it really fast but I really get into it. I'm really experimental with makeup, so I like to try things out, I get an idea in my head and then I just go with that. I sit down at the table, then I'm in the zone. Then it's get into the clothes, then onto stage.

What would your career highpoint be?

My highpoint? Probably performing at electric picnic was really good, that was 2008 and 2009, both years. There's so many really!

Career low point?

I remember when I just started and I felt like it just wasn't really going anywhere, like you know writers block? I had tranny block.

Like it felt like I didn't know what kind of songs to do, how I was supposed to look, I just felt, this isn't going anywhere, and then I finally got, then I kind of got a little boost and then I was off again. That was about a year after I started.

What's your biggest career ambition?

I have so many, I don't know I'm really ambitious. I have a really deep ambition line in my hand I've been told, I don't know, I want to do it all, I want it all. I want a TV gig, I want a radio gig, I want something. I want a makeup line, I want a fragrance, I want it all! I think if you want it all, you'll get something, I'll get something I know that. And it's fun to dream you know?

Who would be the performer that you most admire?

I draw a lot of inspiration from all the female pop stars, you know Beyonce, Lady Gaga, all those really fabulous, strong women. They're just really fabulous, you know fierce, ferocious. They inspire me, it's the whole Sashae Fierce thing, it's really, I think amazing!

So how do your family feel about the whole drag career?

We don't really talk about it, I think it's just not an issue. They don't go ooh what look did you do last night. It just seems like a normal job, like there are other things that I do, so it's not just like I'm standing around, in a wig with big diamond earrings, I'm DJ-ing. It's a million times more fabulous than their dreary lives!

What advice would you give to aspiring drag artists?

Be yourself. Because that is really important. You know there are so many fabulous drag queens out there, it's very easy to see them, and really admire them, and say I want to be them, and you lose yourself. It's like copying someone's dress sense, you can't just copy someone. If you can't take something from yourself and make something of it, no one's going to buy it you know, you've got to be yourself in everything that you do. I think, you have to have that personal touch, you'll stand out much more than if you don't.

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a teacher. Now looking back I don't know why I wanted to be a teacher, I think it was maybe the control thing, getting to be in control of a group of people. That I think is what it boils down to, the psychological thing. And I always wanted to use the dusters, I was obsessed with them, I used to beg the teacher I could clean the board, that was my goal. How things have changed, how things have changed!

Favourite thing to do on a day off?

They're few and far between but what I do is veg, I literally don't leave the house, I try and stock up the day before on food and stuff, so I don't have to leave the house. There's just nothing like it, because I very rarely get to stay in, for like a whole day, so I catch up on my TV that I have on like sky digital and that is really it, it's very unexciting, unglamorous, very normal.

Who's your celebrity crush? Oh there's so many of them as well! Eh...I think my celebrity crush would be...I don't know actually...maybe Alan Carr! Cos he's f*ing hilarious!

Where's your favourite place to perform? The George of course! That's like the mother ship, if it's all going wrong, get your ass on the stage in the George and you'll feel much better about yourself!

If you could live one day over, what day would you pick?

You know it would probably just be a normal day with my family, I love being around my family, and spending time with them, and doing normal things. I love that, I love my job as well, but there's something that doesn't feel very real. I like that, I like when it feels real.
DIT Alfa Romeo Fashion Show

rock revolution

ELECTRIC DAYS METALLO NIGHTS

Tuesday

09 March

8pm, Vicar Street, Doors: 7.30pm
Tickets: €25/€20 (student)
For more see
www.ditfashionshow.ie
Doppelganger delusion

Sinéad Love, Aungier St

People really do have strange opinions of themselves these days. Especially the Facebook people.

"Its Doppelganger Week: Change your profile picture to someone famous you have been told you look like. After you update your profile with the photo, then cut/paste this to your status." Since the end of January, students around the country have spent far more time Googling their celebrity lookalikes online than they ever had studying for any January exam. But let’s admit it; it was so worth it.

‘Doppelganger’ is a German word referring to any double or look-alike of a person. The word is also used to describe the sensation of having glimpsed oneself in peripheral vision (a trip to Specsavers is clearly long overdue for many of our fellow Doppelganger enthusiasts).

Doppelganger week has been the catalyst for many an entertaining conversation amongst the public.

With over 6,000 Doppelganger fans in Ireland alone, there have been plenty of pictures to spark a good discussion of “Can you actually see that resemblance?” and shrieks of “they wish!” in most of our classrooms and households.

One or two lecturers were even spotted looking on in amusement in our classrooms as they caught sight of one hopeful’s ‘lookalike’.

Doppelganger weeks comes shortly after the the bra colour status updates to raise awareness about breast cancer. The trend picked up very quickly and left many men perplexed over the colour updates, as only women were targeted and informed. However, as Doppelgangers were targeted at both men and women, it was much more amusing.

Undoubtedly, Doppelganger Week was an interesting one. We’ve seen faces that only a mother could love transform into supermodels within seconds and supermodel lookalikes turn into some of the strangest little creatures to ever grace our TV screens.

But the scariest thing of all? Some people actually do have a double in the form of some of our celebrities. Either that or Photoshop has been very generous.

A misguided Facebook Doppelganger profile photo. Note the complete lack of contact with reality.

"I fail my degree I’d like compensation from Facebook." The person who created this group (Doppelganger: Kermit the Frog) has never spoken a truer word. However, I'm reliably informed that the resemblance between myself and Kate Moss is SO uncanny.

Of course, the obligatory “Doppelganger week is over. That was last week!” page has by now been created. Facebook rolls on. That essay can wait.
Sean Campbell has three main priorities for his campaign.

He'd like to:
- move exams before Christmas instead of having them in January
- install gmail as the DIT mail service rather than the current much-criticised DIT mail application, Luminis
- promote more student involvement in all areas

In his option, he has done a lot as VP this year and therefore has a proven track record.

He says there is a very rocky road ahead and a strong leader is needed to tackle the issues head on.

Ciaran Nevin says his key policies are to:
- bring about unity and a sense of belonging to DIT
- ensure value for money from DITSU and USI and ensuring that the services we have are the ones we need.
- overhaul DITSU - I want a directly-elected part-time Leader of the Opposition to keep checks on the selected officers of DITSU.
- make sure DITSU is a big area in terms of value for money. We need to look at getting greater value for money, demanding it.
- bring about unity and a sense of belonging to DIT
- bring about unity and a sense of belonging to DIT
- bring about unity and a sense of belonging to DIT

Turnout was only 16% last year, so the political environment of DIT doesn't engage the wider student body. You're not representing the people.

He thinks he is the right man for the job because he has been involved in the SU right from first year - either as a class rep or a governing council. He is also a director of the company DITSU Ltd., which runs the SU shops, so he has some business expertise.

'SU is a big area in terms of value for money. We need to look at getting greater value for money, demanding it. We have more 6600 a year of capituration and another 220,000 going away to the National Congress. However, at the moment an awful lot of people don't even know what the USI is or even name the president,' said Ciaran.

Who’s afraid of the Single Transferable Vote? Graham O’Maonaigh

Popular belief in DIT holds that the student union elections operate on the same system as the General Elections or Local Elections in Ireland.

The Proportional Representative – Single Transferable Vote (PR-STV) is used where there are multi-seat constituencies to be elected.

The Student Union elections can be more accurately compared to the Presidential Elections or a By-Election.

The system used here is the Single-Transferable Vote (STV) in that there is only a single seat up for grabs.

Each student will be given 4 ballot papers: One for President, the two Vice- Presidents and the Convenor for their relevant site. You mark each ballot paper in order of your preferred candidates.

If you prefer candidate A over candidate C over candidate B, then your put a 1 next to candidate A and a 2 next to candidate C and a 3 next to candidate B. You can continue your preference all the way along up to the total number of candidates on each ballot. If there is 10 candidates then you have 10 preferences and can vote 1, 2, 3 etc all the way along to 10.

The importance of the STV voting system is that it yields the fairest outcome and is much more beneficial to the First Past the Post system used in the United Kingdom Westminster elections.

STV means all votes are counted and no vote is a wasted vote.

In the next issue I’ll outline how the votes in an STV election are counted using the DIT Student Union election results as illustration.
BARRY DRAKE

Electrical Services and Energy Mgmt

Wants to change life for the entire student population and to

• make improvements to the DITSU shops - better cheaper products for the students across all campuses.
• bring back some sort of a Mystery trip for DIT - one of my fondest memories as an apprentice in DIT.
• improve library opening hours, the library facility in general, better printing facilities and better Wi-Fi facilities.

He says he best person for the role as he has the utmost dedication, pure determination and pride to serve as your VP.

'And I am a wicked man to organize a party!

Clare Cullen

Journalism with Irish

I hope to make DIT a more student friendly place with more affordable student accommodation and more fun activities.

I want to make DIT greener with energy saving initiatives and more recycling bins

In this role you’re helping people find accommodation and finances -- things I had a lot of trouble with -- so I can empathise with the people I’m helping.

I'm the only girl running for a sabbatical role, and if I don't get elected the boys will just take over the show and we can't have that.

Siobhan Abrok

• Improve facilities maintenance
• Library hours review in Aungier St and Temple Bar
• improve participation in Aungier St and Temple Bar SU
• Increase participation of Mature, Part-time and International students
• Better awareness of services available to students

Aungier St

I am passionate and committed to the Students’ Union but most of all to students within it

Darren Bates

• The increased level of free ON SITE Entertainments and cheaper offsite
• Library. Hours protection
• Lecturer quality assessments

I am an honest, hard working man who’ll do the best he can for his fellow students. I've no hidden agenda - my only agenda is that Aungier Street and Temple Bar are looked after!

Aungier St

• more class parties - a class that parties together sticks together
• wide range of events aimed to raise money for our chosen charity throughout the year,
• improved site cleanliness

Conor Thompson

With four years experience in student politics, I believe I am the strong voice needed.

Aungier St

Suzann Totty

Environmental Planning and Management

Bolton St

• full integration with full time and part time students
• Class Raps in all classes

I have the experience and the energy to put in 110%

Seona Dunne

Nutraceuticals for Health and Nutrition

Cathal Br St

• Increase awareness of and engagement in MT in CBIST
• Negotiate better prices for students locally e.g. shops and deals with all matters arising efficiently

Kieran Keane

Innovate and Farmace Design

Mountjoy Sq

• to give 100% to the students of MJSQ and PR
• I am approachable, knowledgeable, responsible, resourceful and I listen!

Graham Hayes

Computing

Kevin St

• increase in democracy in KST

I am approachable, knowledgeable, responsible, resourceful, and I listen!

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Computing

Kevin St

• increase in democracy in KST

I am approachable, knowledgeable, responsible, resourceful, and I listen!

Kieran Keane

Innovate and Farmace Design

Mountjoy Sq

• to give 100% to the students of MJSQ and PR
• I am approachable, knowledgeable, responsible, resourceful, and I listen!

Eric Fitzgerald

Product Design

John Wade

Journalism with Irish

My main goal is to reinforce the mantra of “participation, communication and information”.

Students across all campuses are still oblivious to the services and their entitlements. Participation within the Union and communication throughout DITSU and DIT needs to be improved, just as information on the services and resources available needs to be communicated effectively to all.

I want a chance to give back to the student body for all that I have gained and experienced from it. Through my involvement in the Union and the Academic and Student Affairs Sub-Committee I feel I have gained invaluable experience and that I am the best for the job.

As a final year student John values getting involved in every aspect of student life as college is about much more than just attending lectures and exams! He feels that the social scenes in DIT can still be improved greatly through the use of better cross-campus communication and events.

Best prices for students in the cantoons, SU shops, and coffee shops on all campuses.

Working computers, keyboards, mice, desks, printers, scanners and up-to-date software

Access to working printers outside of library opening hours on every campus

'Every campus deserves life-time entertainment and savage nights out!'
DIT hurlers were devastated after a late CIT equalizer ensured the points were shared in a thrilling Fitzgibbon Cup clash at Mohib Road.

DIT, coming off a heart-wrenching defeat to NUIG in their first game, again started poorly. After only twenty minutes CIT led by 1-8 to 0-2, with Morgan causing severe trouble for the DIT backline scoring a blinding goal after 14 minutes to rattle the side.

After this lacklustre start, the DIT men were roared by an outstanding individual score from Paul Ryan. He received the ball around 50 metres from the goal, and while running away from goal, managed a miraculous over-the-shoulder shot that went over the bar for what has to be one of the scores of the championship.

Despite this score, DIT trailed at half time by 9 points, 1-12 to 0-6. DIT’s dominance was illustrated by points from Maloney and Ryan left the deficit at four points with only 8 minutes to go.

DIT’s backline scoring a blistering goal after 14 minutes to rattle the DIT backline.

The game was played in wet and blustery conditions at NUIG’s Daingean ground and this led to a low-scoring, hard fought game.

NUIG raced into a four point lead after five minutes and led by six points at the break with Coone and Galway centre back John Lee picking off some great points. Points from Joe Clark and free taker Paul Ryan just about kept DIT in the game.

The DIT men emerged after Michael O’Keefe’s team-talk like men possessed, and limited the Galwaymen to a single score from play in the entire second half.

DIT’s dominance was illustrated by points from DIT’s Kilkenny star Willie O’Dwyer and Harry Keogh. Paul Ryan blasted a goal from the edge of the square to put DIT into the lead for the first time in the game and it looked like a dramatic comeback was on the cards.

A tense finale ensued, with DIT having two good chances to equalise. A superb Ryan effort from a free on the touchline from the 65 agonisingly hit the post. The ball dropped in the square and the referee blew for full time.

Disappointed DIT manager Michael O’Keefe said afterwards, “we were always playing catch-up after Galway raced away to a fast start, and at this level you can’t let teams build up a lead like that.”

DIT: F McGarry; E Costello; T Brady; P Lynch; M Maloney (0-3, 3f); J Walsh; P Phelan; C Corry; T Murphy (0-2); Subs: L McGoughan (0-1) for Corry 37 mins; P Kelly (0-1) for W Lynch 52; M Dolly for D O’Dwyer 33.

NUIG: D O’Donovan (0-1), J Lee (0-2) , P Kelly; D O’Dwyer (0-2) ; P Morris, H Kehoe (0-1), P Ryan (1-4, three frees). Subs: F Cullen for Phelan (33 mins); D O’Dwyer for Morris (44 mins); D Treacy for Kelly (41 mins)

The CIF are in a difficult position to retain their title, two frees from Finian Cooney in the last quarter put Galway ahead by a point in the final stages.

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DIT GAA star hits the right notes

by Paul McNulty

The world of hurling and show business are oil and water. It's unusual for these disparate worlds to intersect, but DIT student John Walsh is attempting to cross the divide.

Hurling is a stoic, taciturn environment, dominated by men like Brian Cody and Ger Loughnan, men's men, who are not easily swayed by the frivolities of the media world. Despite the hundreds of thousands who watch the game, it is rare for any player or manager to stand a head above the parapet.

Walsh is the centre-back on this year DIT Fitzgibbon hurling team. The 24 year old Laois native has been amongst the teams top performers in this years campaign, and combined hurling with a Master's degree in Engineering as well as being a wildcard semi-finalist in this years All-Ireland Talent Show.

It's an unenviable workload, and DIT hurling manager Michael O'Keeffe is full of praise for his defensive lynchpin.

"John is a great lad-he has juggled exams, auditions and training for us. He was injured around the Christmas, and it would have been auditions and training for us. He was injured but some of us due to exams in January, but now fully into the swing of rounding up the votes.

"The lads have a Transit van branded with our image urging the locals to vote for us. It was weird at the start to be campaigning like this, but the reaction of the local people has been incredible. People we don't even know are coming up to wish us the best of luck, and in that way, it's not too far removed from the hurling-there's a fierce amount of local pride involved."

Walsh has been a stalwart of DIT hurling for the past 5 years. 2007 was a momentous year for the Ballinalick(Lois) clubman as he was named a Fitzgibbon all-star, marking DIT's first appearance in the semi-finals of the prestigious inter-varsity hurling competition. He believes this year's side have been unlucky in their 2 Fitzgibbon games so far.

"We just need to look forward to our next game against UCD, and concentrate on getting immediately O'Callaghan again converted a free as UCC relied heavily on dead-ball situations to get on the scoreboard but Paul Cunningham levelled proceedings once more after latching on to Reilly's cross-field ball.

Cork man David Gould once again edged the home team in front but in the 25th minute John McGrath ensured it was all level at half-time.

DIT's defence were well on top of their Cork counterparts but their problems lay in attack as they lacked the imagination and creativity that was required to break down a sturdy rearguard.

Dublin forward Dan O'Donnell put DIT 3 points in front for the first time with a free one minute after the restart and he quickly doubled that advantage. However, after that DIT's defence failed to maintain and held DIT scoreless for 24 minutes.

In the meantime, UCC set about turning the tide but they too found it difficult to create genuine chances. O'Callaghan slotted his third free and in the 42nd minute David Kearney got his side's first point from play after he evaded Johnny Gallagher and curled over.

After John Buckley found room to edge UCC in front, David Hughes made two full length saves but the Dublin college as UCC outscored the home team in the extra period as DIT faded.

No final repeat as Sigerson team fall at first hurdle

by Alan O'Mara

DIT 0-7 (After extra time)

DIT's Sigerson Cup hopes were dashed last Wednesday in Cork as they succumbed to a five-point defeat to UCD in the first round after extra-time.

Having been beaten in the final last year, DIT were keen to go one step further this time around but it wasn't to be as they ran out of steam in extra-time and slipped to a disappointing defeat.

The game itself was a scrappy contest and a score-line of 0-6 apiece at the end of normal time showed the quality of the encounter.

Neither side looked anywhere near their best in the attacking department and the wide count was high. That said, it was competitive throughout and only on one occasion in normal time was there more than one point between the sides.

Scores were slow to arrive and thirteen minutes had elapsed before UCC took the lead through David O'Cullaghon but Martin Reilly replied immediately O'Callaghan again converted a free as UCC relied heavily on dead-ball situations to get on the scoreboard but Paul Cunningham levelled proceedings once more after latching on to Reilly's cross-field ball.

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DIT Hurling Club centre-back John Walsh. Looking to hurl into the bigtime with his new club.

GAA president hails hurling club

Paul Mc Nulty, Sports Ed

GAA President Christy Cooney called the growth of hurling in DIT "essential to the GAA's long-term goal of developing the game in the capital."

"I make no bones about stating that the GAA want Dublin to be winning titles in hurling. DIT hurlers are going from strength to strength, as in hurling in Dublin in general.

There are 63% more hurlers registered with Dublin clubs now than there were ten years ago, and DIT play an integral part in that", Cooney said at the launch of DIT hurling club's new sponsorship deal with Setanta Homes.

"We see DIT reaching the latter stages of the Fitzgibbon and winning the 2009 Funches league as a great sign of progress, and it is testimony to the vision of Aon Murphy and Herbert Mc Clelland, who set up the club in 1988," Cooney said.

The sponsorship deal is one with deep-rooted DIT links. The Managing Director of Setanta Homes, a self-build construction company, is Trevor McGrath.

"The involvement in the sport from both a personal and corporate level from my perspective is one which I hope will continue for many years to come," he said.

Mc Grath, who hails from Co. Wicklow, is a former DIT student and captained the Fitzgibbon Cup team in the 90's.

Cooney praised Mr McGrath for his commitment to the GAA and his alma mater, and said, "The GAA is the greatest business tool this country has produced. The links that people make on the field are unbreakable. If you are a GAA man, or a GAA woman, then dealing with likeminded people can only be a good thing, there is an immediate trust implicit in the GAA, and that carries through to the business world."
Well, unfortunately the words of "old blue eyes" are not ringing quite so true this time around. Yes, we may have had a very good year as Frank Sinatra said, but we are most certainly not loving Paris in the springtime.

Not that we ever really had any major love affair with the place down the years. No Irish rugby players collaborated in the original penning of that song. And there are no plans afoot for the side of 2010 to release their own catchy little remix after last weekend's misadventures.

OK, we know we never win down there. We've beaten the French once in their capital in the last thirty-eight years, Drico's magical hat-trick a decade ago providing a brief moment of triumph to punctuate years of savagery, heartache and, let's face it, oftentimes all-out humiliation.

Oh yes, that curious case of déjà vu hit like a thunderbolt.

But this was supposed to be different. Things had been going so well, possibly too well for us to see this coming. And on Valentine's weekend too. There we were, all love-struck and excitable, doing and saying all the right things, putting in major ground work, investing all our hopes into this, the big one. Sparks could fly and we'd get that fairytale day that dreams are made of, we told ourselves. They do call it "the city of love" after all.

But we were led right up the old garden path. Hopes dashed in the blink of an eye, our dalliance with potential greatness snuffed out just as it was about to take flight. This was tough to take, something promising so much turning oh so sour.

So, as that smart young chap put it to George Best in another bedroom far far away - "Where did it all go wrong?" Well, when the game was competitive and very much up for grabs in the first half, our boys didn't do themselves many favours. Cian Healy was rightly sin-binned for a professional foul on rampant scrum-half Morgan Parra. Jerry Flannery, fortunate to escape the pleasures of an early bath, was even more culpable when he gave winger Alexis Palisson the kind of treatment more usually reserved for the wee small hours outside Liverpool nightclubs and kebab shops.

Gordon D'Arcy was also crucially denied a favourable bounce of the ball which might possibly have altered the game and cast some doubt in French minds. Les Blues then seized the momentum and - as it has always been against them - it was a tide that could not be turned. Our forwards were outfought at virtually every turn and Rog, Drico and co were left to live off scraps.

Let's give due credit to the French though. They played with that supreme authority and dismissive swagger which only they can bring to the game. At full tilt, with their back row in command, their halfbacks pulling the strings, and running "par excellence" from the likes of Yannick Jauzion and Clement Poitrenaud, they were simply awesome.

The point was repeatedly made post-match that no side in world rugby would have beaten the French at home in that form. That assertion, a convincing one, does provide some sort of solace going forward in the championship. We are not suddenly a bad team overnight, nor, more soberingly, were we perhaps quite as brilliant as last year's exploits had us believe.

England's poor showing as they laboured to victory over the Italians in Rome should also give us encouragement heading to Twickenham next weekend. Of course that promises to be another big challenge, but on the evidence to date, it's a game we can win. Declan Kidney - despite a few injury concerns - still has a good settled experienced squad at his disposal, as against Martin Johnson who is still finding his way at the helm.

Thankfully, Kidney subscribes to that same school of thought as did Fred Jung (brilliantly played by Ray Liotta) in the film 'Blow': "Sometimes you're flush and sometimes you're bust, and when you're up, it's never as good as it seems, and when you're down, you never think you'll be up again, but life goes on."

But it simply wasn't to be this time. The misery was compounded by the result lightening my wallet to the tune of fifty big boys.

Oh yes, that curious case of déjà vu hit like a thunderbolt.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art &amp; Design Society</td>
<td>Workshops - bi-weekly</td>
<td>Mountjoy Sq</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td><a href="mailto:socs@dit.ie">socs@dit.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Belver Loverworld</td>
<td>Meeting / Guests Speaker</td>
<td>Bolton St Room 121</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16.00</td>
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<td>Breakdance Society</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Kevin St</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>17.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Galtee-Ch</td>
<td>Meetings and Guests Speakers</td>
<td>Aungier St Black Box</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christain Union</td>
<td>Meetings and Guests Speakers</td>
<td>Larkin College</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Dance Society</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>17.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>DJ Soc</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Aungier St Black Box</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Drama Northside</td>
<td>Workshops and Rehearsals</td>
<td>Bolton St</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Society</td>
<td>Screening &amp; Discussion</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19.30</td>
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<td>Games Society</td>
<td>Workshops and Competition</td>
<td>Portland Row</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<td>Games Soc Port Row</td>
<td>Workshops and Competition</td>
<td>Aungier St Black Box</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gig Soc</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Bolton / Aungier</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Guitar Soc</td>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>Aungier St</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Rehearsals</td>
<td>Aungier St</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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<td>Intercambio Soc</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>Bolton St</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>LGBT Society</td>
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<td>Life Drawing Society</td>
<td>Life drawing classes</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Media Society</td>
<td>Film Screening</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Music Ensemble Soc</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Poker Tournaments</td>
<td>Various</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roaring Water</td>
<td>Life drawing classes</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Workshops/Movie Nights</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign Soc</td>
<td>2 sign language classes</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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<td>Rehearsals</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>SVP Society</td>
<td>Soup Runs and Age Action</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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Flyn hid his time, and his debut for the Monaghan first team came against the champions-in-waiting UCD, following an injury to his DIT comrade Mc Mahon.

This injury provided Flynn with a prolonged run in the first-team and he grabbed this opportunity with both hands. United went on a great run to end the season and saw them positioned as the firm team in the highly competitive First Division with Niall an ever-present at the heart of a defence.

The performances of the teenager did not go unnoticed with numerous cross-channel clubs alerted to the promising youngster. This did not surprise his teammate. "Since I've been playing beside him, I don't think I've ever seen a full-back outpace him, and that combined with his aerial ability, means he can go as far as he wants in this game," said Mc Mahon.

This interest culminated in an end-of-season trial with Wolverhampton Wanderers, training with the reserve side and participating in challenge matches with the first-team outfit of the Premiership side.

"The games were fierce sharp alright, but I thought there were plenty of lads over here in our leagues that are every bit as good if they would be given the same opportunities as the lads over there. It was a great opportunity, and if that wouldn't inspire you then nothing would."

Flynn is full of praise for Mc Mahon, who has been playing for Errom Lego since 2006, despite the slaming. "You could say he is a bit of a mentor to me. I mean he is a great communicator on the pitch, and he makes sure we all keep in check. I see him captaining Monaghan United for years to come, as he's a natural leader.

He is a great captain for this team, and it would be an honour to play alongside him in a CUFL final."

The final is against a much-vaunted UCD side who demolished UUJ in their semi-final by 6 goals to 1. This will surely provide the Flynn and Mc Mahon with one of their toughest assignments to date.

"It's great to reach the final, but we have to concentrate on our own game, and not worry about UCD," said Mc Mahon.

The reason clichés become clichés is because they have a kernel of truth to them. DIT have only conceded 3 goals in 8 games this season, so it will be a case of the invisible wall meeting the irresistible force, with DIT's defence up against the vaunted UCD offensive.

Here's hoping that the old nugget about defences surviving championships is proved true again after the upcoming CUFL final against UCD.

The final takes place at 3:30 pm, Wednesday 24th of February in Tolka Park, Richmond Road, Drumcondra.

A free supporters bus leaves Aungier St. at 6.30, and Bolton St. at 7. For a place on the bus contact John on 086 7954371.

Cheltenham Preview

James Sheridan

It's nearly here. The last few trial races are being wrapped up and the shadow that has been cast over the entire jump season will finally recede when the tapes go up for the Supreme Novices Hurdle on March 15th and the Cheltenham festival gets underway.

This build-up to this year's four-day carnival has been dominated by the clash of Denman and Kauto Star who will meet in the blue riband of the jump season, the Cheltenham Gold Cup. The two Paul Nicholls trained chasers have won the last three renewals of the race between them and their meeting in the final day showpiece is the most anticipated clash since Arkle took on Mill House in the same race 46 years ago.

Some extra spice has been added to the occasion as arguably the two best jump jockeys of all time will be riding the two chasers. Stable jockey Ruby Walsh had the enviable task of picking which of the two to ride and when he chose Kauto Star last week, the thirteenth times champion McCoy was the obvious choice for Denman.

The race could potentially split the two with Paddy Power offering 11/8 on the 2007 and 2009 champion Kauto Star with the 2008 and 2009 champion Denman at 2/1 unless last Saturday. Denman was pushed out to 3/1 and Kauto cut to 4/5 after Denman unseated the untried Meade's charge Mc Coy in a worrying performance.

For the record the Willie Mullins trained Coodins is third favourite at 11/1 but he will have to improve beyond belief to trouble the big two. Let the battle commence.

The Champion Chase also sees a pair of Nicholls runners at the head of the betting as Master Minded aims to win the race for the third year in succession with the rejuvenated Twist Magic next best. Master Minded looked invincible for the past two years but a defeat in Cheltenham in November and a subsequent injury has given his rivals some hope.

Of the three showpiece races the most open by a long way is the Champion Hurdle. Barry Geraghty said at Leopardstown last Sunday that any one from the top ten in the betting was capable of winning it and it is hard to argue with him.

Last year's champion Punjabi will be back to defend his title along with the second and third from that race Celestial Halo and Bivouac. However the form of the 2009 Champion has been getting knocked heavily all season with the three struggling to get back to the heights of their form from last year.

Binocular went off a short priced favourite to win the 2008 winner Denman at 2/1 until last Sunday that anyone from the top ten in the betting was capable of winning it and it is hard to argue with him.

Another juvenile winner from the 2009 festival very much in the picture is Punjabi's stable mate Zaynar who took last year's Triumph hurdle as well as Nigel Twiston Davies Khyber Kim who has won twice at Cheltenham already this season.

The one for me is the Charles Byrnes trained Sobhiti who will be ridden by Davy Russell. He has done nothing but improve over the last two years, has won five if his last six races, all grade ones, jumps well and with a perfect mix of speed and stamina having won on the flat and also over two and a half miles he has everything you need in a Champion Hurdle winner.

Ireland has a strong hand on the Champion Hurdle for the best part of a decade but after two English trained winners in the last two years Sobhiti could be the one to bring the prize back across the Irish Sea.

This months recommendation is Sobhiti priced at 4/1 with our sponsors Paddy Power. For all the latest tips straight from the horses mouth check our Paddy on Facebook - facebook.com/paddypower.

Cheltenham Preview

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Eoin Kavanagh takes the second penalty of the game (above)

DIT Soccer Club. The team are in action again against Letterkenny IT in the Umbro Cup quarter-final next Wednesday where they will hope to advance to another semi-final in what is proving to be a historic year for the DIT men.


Sport 16

few times on which goalkeeper, Craig Hyland, was called upon he was equal to AIT's best efforts. The game became quite disjointed which allowed DIT to close out the match and protect their revered place in the Colleges and Universities Final.

UCD will provide an even sterner test in the final and DIT will need all of their players performing to their highest level to bring home some long-awaited silverware for the Twenty minutes of the first period had elapsed when DIT finally made a deserved breakthrough. Another smooth passing move saw the ball fed into the AIT penalty box where it was casually handled by the AIT left-half back.

Eoin Kavanagh took the responsibility and calmly slotted the ball to the keeper's left. Having gained the crucial lead, DIT inevitably dropped their level of play somewhat. Kavanagh's goal forced the Athlone team to attack to restore parity but they never created any outstanding chances as the DIT rearguard held firm.

After what was a scrappy first half, DIT came out refreshed for the second period. AIT had abandoned their previously rigid formation and came out searching for an equaliser which left them vulnerable to the counter-attacking DIT forwards.

Despite a large amount of possession, the Athlone men did not manage to trouble the DIT goal. Michael O'Connor and Richie O'Farrell tormented the midlanders on the break, with their incisive running and intricate wingplay a feature of the assured DIT display.

A rare AIT attack was quickly snuffed out by the DIT midfield and a short passing move found Richie O'Farrell in the box where he was awkwardly brought down by the luckless AIT left-half who conceded his second penalty and presented DIT with a golden opportunity to extend their lead.

Once again, Eoin Kavanagh stepped up and this time rifled the ball high into the top-left corner leaving the AIT custodian with no chance.

Having secured the two-goal lead which they craved, Craig Hyland, was called upon to equal AIT's best efforts. The game became quite disjointed which allowed DIT to close out the match and protect their coveted place in the Colleges and Universities Final.

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DIT booked their first ever appearance in the Colleges and Universities Final with a spirited display against Athlone IT (AIT) in Home Farm's Whitehall Pitch. The squad will now face high-flying UCD who defeated University of Jordanstown 6-1 in the day's other semi-final. The win ensures DIT's historic progress continues, as the team have never before even got to a semi-final.

DIT started the game at a quick pace quickly settling into their usual slick passing game. AIT were chasing shadows in the early exchanges as the central midfield trio of Craig McDonnell, Michael O'Connor and Sean Fitzgerald dominated the possession. DIT made all the running but struggled to break down an AIT side who had reached this advanced stage with the concession of only one goal.

DIT were without striker Steven Roche, who was injured during a recent trial with a professional American club, and also missing Niall Flynn, who twisted an ankle in the quarter-final defeat of LYT. The injured players were admirably deputised by O'Sullivan and Sean Bonner, with Bonner in particular having a strong influence.

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