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DIT News, 1st.-31st. of May, 2010

DIT:Students Union

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DIT News
Your independent student newspaper

News
All the latest campus updates and news
Plus: An end of year round up!

Student jailed for over 50 days
Fionnuala Holohan
A 21-year-old masters degree student in DIT was held in jail for 53 days before being released two weeks ago.

According to The Irish Times, Rukiyat Tope Smith was jailed for evading a deportation order made in 2004.

Ms Smith arrived in the Republic in 2002 as an unaccompanied minor, when she was 13, where she was reunited with her mother and sister who were already living here.

She has applied to the High Court for leave to seek an order quashing the decision of the Minister to refuse to revoke the deportation order.

She is also seeking an order obliging the Refugee Applications Commissioner to receive, process and determine her own application for asylum, which she submitted on March 2nd this year.

The court heard Ms Tope Smith was effectively abandoned by her mother in 2005, when she was 16, and was told last year that her mother was dead.

Counsel for the State said Ms Tope Smith had lied to the court about where she stayed from 2005 onwards following her mother’s disappearance.

He also said there was no evidence that her mother had died. Mr Justice Sean Ryan questioned Counsel on this point and asked him to take instructions from the Minister on the matter.

Several stipulations are to be put in place before the proposal is for the policy to be implemented.

In order for the policy to implemented the student body must first agree to the levy by voting in a referendum.

Several stipulations are to be put in place should the levy be imposed; and before the issue is put to a referendum the Student Union must have outlined the exact purpose, structure, legal status and role of any Campus Company that may be established with the funds collected.

Under the proposal the levy applies to all students including part-time and evening students and will be imposed for an agreed fixed period only.

The cost of the levy cannot be increased without the approval of the student population which would be put forward for another referendum.

Students and Alumni of the DIT Breakdancing society celebrating the launch of their annual Skilmasters tournament just days before the event was cancelled due to Volcanic Ash. Chairperson Lukasz Luminiewski said “It’s really upsetting that all our hard work has gone to waste, but next year’s event is just going to be twice as great.”

After a short adjournment, Mr O’Reilly said the Minister would agree to the immediate release of Ms Tope Smith.

The Minister would also consider whether Ms Tope Smith’s asylum application should be considered by the Refugee Applications Commissioner.

Mr Justice Ryan adjourned the application for leave to seek a judicial review.

DIT proposes student levy for Grangegorman student services

The DIT governing council last month passed a policy document which proposed that students should have to pay a levy for recreational services on the proposed new campus in Grangegorman.

The proposal, though still at a nascent stage, suggests that students at DIT pay a levy to meet an anticipated shortfall in the running of recreational services.

It is expected that the levy will be in the region of approximately €36 per student if the proposal is accepted.

Editor

SU win best delegation at Annual Congress
DITSU won best big delegation at the Union of Students in Ireland Annual Congress.

Twenty one students from DIT took part beating out rivals Trinity and UCC.

This is the second year in a row that DIT have won best delegation at USI Annual Congress.

Citywise charity bag next year’s RAG swag
The charity receiving the spoils of next year’s RAG week will be the Citywise Jobtown.

Citywise is a not-for-profit organisation which was set up to run education, sporting and personal development programmes.

The charity specifically deals with educational underachievement of young people living in difficult city backgrounds and was formally established in 1994.

Twelve charities were proposed at DIT Governing Council, with Citywise being chosen on the seventh vote.

President McAleese visits DIT’s islanders
President Mary McAleese travelled to Sherkin Island off west Cork this month to take part in the conferring of awards for the DIT BA in Visual Art Graduation.

The BA in Visual Art is unique to DIT in that it is taught in its entirety on Sherkin Island.

DIT dance soc to hold charity night out
DIT Dance society are hosting their Summer Sessions party at Tripod 26th May.

Proceeds from the event go to the Martin Whitehead Hospital Fund. The fund raises money for Our Ladies Hospice and is run by the family of Martin Whitehead who passed away last November.

For more information or to organise class bookings: Bigory_the_fish@hotmail.com

Sport
All the latest from the world of sport, in DIT and beyond!
A word from the Editor...

Well, welcome to the final issue of DIT News for this academic year and my very final issue as Editor.

This issue we bring you the latest from the glamorous side of DIT; the awards season, we also update you on important campus news and even talk to President of DIT Professor Brian Norton about what lies ahead for DIT.

What lies ahead for me isn’t so definite and I’m going to simply say that those who have helped me, humoured me, supported me, frustrated me, entertained me and sustained me this year know who you are and know I am very grateful I am to have had you as part of an unforgettable year in my life.

Thank you for everything and thank you all for reading.

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It was a good month for
Financial regulator: new sheriff in town
Hubris: Michael O'Leary apologizes to judge
Roads: March safest month on roads since records began
Economy: recovery predictions trickle through
Berlusconi: Freedom! The Italian stallion side-steps a messy divorce.
Iron Man: Tony Stark takes the Box Office by storm
Volcanoes: Making headlines once again. FAME!

And a bad month for
Radio: Gerry Ryan gone too soon. RIP
Iceland: caught in a publicity nightmare, they've got no cash and too much ash!
Airlines: volcanic ash grounds European fleet
Students: exams fast approaching... Eek!
Sean Quinn: no more the mighty
TDs: pension peer pressure
Peter Robinson: first a scandal and now out of the job
Sean Quinn: no more the mighty
Sequels: Anchorman 2 and Zoolander 2 axed by Paramount... RIP Ron Burgandy and Derek Zoolander
DIT Student
Over the Rainbow

Fionnuala Holohan

Emma Warren, a second-year Music student at DIT Rathmines, made it to the final 20 of the televised Over the Rainbow competition.

The competition, which is looking for someone to star as Dorothy in the West End production of The Wizard of Oz, attracted 9,000 entrants in total. 100 of these made it to the auditions in London, and out of these, 54 continued on to a three-day preparation and training event called Dorothy's Farm.

Emma was one of the twenty hopefuls selected at the end of the three days to appear in the first televised show, which meant a further three weeks of intensive training in London to prepare.

During the show, the field was further narrowed down to just ten girls. Unfortunately Emma one of the 10 not selected and she has since come back to Dublin.

Emma plans to complete her studies in Music and hopes to perform in the West End in the future.

“I learned a lot,” said Emma. “It was a great experience and a great atmosphere, and the other girls were lovely. I learned so much and got to meet and sing for Andrew Lloyd Weber.

My favorite part of the whole experience was the first televised show - it was great to perform in front of a live audience and the public.”

To hear Emma speak about her experiences on Over the Rainbow, just log on to ditnewsblog.wordpress.com

DIT student wins ‘Best Fresher’ in Ireland

Cliona Ward

First year Business and Marketing student Steven Pierce wowed judges at the annual Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) National Awards last month and was crowned ‘Best Fresher’.

At the BICS Awards college societies from across the country compete to be named the best in their category nationally and Steven won the award of overall ‘Best Fresher’ for his hard work in a number of DIT societies.

Steven was the treasurer for the DIT Fashion Show this year, while also playing a key role on the PR Team. Steven is also on the committee for the Business and Marketing Society and is an active member of the DIT St Vincent De Paul Society.

According to Anita Conroy DIT Societies Officer “The judges were overwhelmed with what Steven had achieved in his first year in societies. His meticulous accounts and passion for just getting the job done no matter what it was made Steven stand out.”

HEA warns colleges to consolidate

Fionnuala Holohan

Amid rumour that faculties within DIT may merge, a bigger rationalization effort across all colleges also appears to be on the cards.

Last week, Tom Boland, the Higher Education Authority (HEA) chief executive, set out a reform agenda for the country’s third-level system, which will form part of the new national strategy proposal.

Mr Boland warned that Ireland has too many universities and colleges, resulting in unnecessary duplication and in some cases, vacant places.

His reform plan will recommend merging colleges and courses and reforming the system of funding and regulation to support this consolidation.

According to the Irish Independent, the strategy group is also considering the provision of new employment contracts, ending a number of programmes and courses; and more effective monitoring of academic staff.

Mr Boland is calling on third-level institutions to take the lead in strategic collaboration with partner institutions.

Following on from the future regarding the awarding of firsts last month, Mr Boland is also calling for colleges to enter into a more contractual arrangement with the State, where funding would be dependent on specific deliverables.

Mr Boland also stated that the country could no longer afford “the long lock-up of expensive facilities during summer”. This will require reform of employment contracts, he added.

At present, there are 40 State-funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). These include 14 institutes of technology, seven universities, seven colleges of education which train teachers, seven other State-funded colleges such as the Tipperary Institute, and five recognised colleges of the National University of Ireland such as the National College of Art and Design.

Full-time student numbers are now projected to grow from 155,000 at present to almost 190,000 within five years and to 270,000 by 2030 – a 75pc rise.

Meanwhile, the HEA chief executive also called for a single body to award higher education grants, to address the delay in grant processing by local bodies last year.
Awards season

DIT rewards active students

Fionnuala Holohan

A first for this year was the introduction of Student Recognition Awards, where DIT students are nominated by members of DITSU for their contribution to the college community.

The awards were held in Gleeson Hall in Kevin Street on 26 April, with comedian and actor Frank Kelly as guest speaker.

And the Award goes to:

Best Newcomer - Eoin McAfferty

Best Site Event - CBST RAW Session

DIT socs make big waves at BICS

Editor

Though Stephen Pierce grabbed gold for DIT at this year's BICS National Societies awards there were many DIT societies who only just missed the medal.

The DIT Fashion Society were runners up in the category Best Event for the DJT Alfa Romeo Fashion Show held in Vicar St on March 24th. The DJT only losing out to Trinity by 3.24 points.

The event was held in the n the Hudson Bay Hotel in Athlone

The Societies awards night was held in the Hilton Hotel on 25 March and nine of the winners on that night went on to represent the college at the Board of Irish Colleges Awards (BICS) in Athlone in April, where Stephen Pierce from DJT won the national Best Fresher Award.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Best Fresher - Stephen Pierce
Best Individual - Ian Fox
Best On-Site Event - CAFA Society Pancake Tuesday
Best Civic Contribution - Liam Stewart
Best Poster - DJ Soc Spin Off
Best Photography - DJT Juggling
Best Society - DIT LGBT
Best New Society - DIT Art and Design Society

The following people were also recognized as outstanding contributors:

Claran Nevin
Liam Stewart
John May
Ena Quinn
Acife Np Ghilacon-Riain
Susan Mc Daid
Sarah Casey
Conall O Cofaigh
Michael Birt
Cecily Quetin-Weeks

The number of students and staff choosing "green" methods for getting to college has risen by 7% in the last four years, according results from the DIT Smarter Travel Working group Travel survey.

The survey was conducted in January 2010 and shows that 87% of students and staff now use sustainable methods of travel.

The percentage of students and staff using cars to get to work has dropped significantly - for students it has fallen from 14% to 6%, and for staff, from 31% to 19%.

More DIT staff now cycle to college that drive -30% compared to 19%.

The Smarter Travel Working Group activities have led to more covered bike parking in DIT Rathmines, new free bike parking facilities in the O'park car park beside DIT Cathal Brugha street, and in the Drury St car park near Asminder Street, and the provision of several Cycle Maintenance and Cycle safety classes across DIT.

Staff or students who are interested in getting involved in the Smarter Travel Working group should e-mail Sinadh McDonlly ditt.ie
Quiz team becomes Kazakh celebrities

Frankie Whelan

Three teams of DIT students took part in the Kazakh based quiz show “The IQ Games” recently.

The television show, also translated as “The Intellectual Olympics”, is one of Kazakhstan’s most popular television programmes and features teams of three students competing in a quiz based on lateral thinking.

The regular programme features students from Kazakhstan competing for an education scholarship, but special editions of the show feature competitions between Kazakhstan and an international selection of colleges.

As part of a European tour, the show arrived in Ireland just in time to sample the atmosphere of St. Patrick’s Day.

The crew filmed Dublin “postcard” that will also be used throughout the series. The Mansion House hosted the quiz and the DIT teams participating.

The DIT teams fared quite well in the competition, with two teams just shy of claiming maximum points.

The result of the quiz will not be known until the filming of the Kazakh leg of the competition, but fingers crossed for a DIT win.

The producers were keen to stress that there was no competition between the two nations.

Fourth year Tourism and Hospitality Marketing student Tim Sultanov worked with the International Office hosting the crew.

Originally from Kazakhstan Tim says: “It was an amazing experience! It was a great chance to show Ireland to the IQ Games crew and for DIT students to find out more about Kazakhstan.”

Feedback biggest gripe in Student Satisfaction Survey Results

Fionnuala Holohan, News Editor

Timely feedback on performance is one of the main areas identified for improvement in the recently published DIT Student Satisfaction Survey results.

Students wanted a quicker turnaround on assignment feedback, a more engaging teaching style and better visibility of overall performance during the terms to identify and address students at risk.

Students also asked for greater access to computers, longer library opening hours and a reduction in printing costs.

The survey found that 82.5% of students would recommend DIT to a friend, with 84% stating overall satisfaction with their course and their student experience.

Participation in volunteering activities has jumped from 23.5% to 29% in the last two years.

Satisfaction with IT facilities have also improved. WiFi and printing access facilities have both moved from being rated unsatisfactory to satisfactory, and students are slightly more satisfied with email access this time around.

This is seen as a reflection of the replacement of the infamous squirrel mail with MyDIT email.

Overall, students felt that staff were helpful, with the Library and the Mature Student Support Office scoring exceptionally well in this regard.

There were 1,610 fully completed responses, up from 1,200 in the 2008 survey, and 733 partially completed surveys. This equates to a combined response rate of 12% of the student population.

The survey is intended to cover all aspects of the student experience in DIT and is conducted every second year. This is the second year since the survey was launched.

In their responses, students register their satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 4, where 2.5 is the mid-point. Anything above is rated as Satisfactory. Anything less than 2.5 is unsatisfactory.

College management will review the results on May 19th, and a representative working group will be formed to identify the improvement steps. Budget constraints and cuts are expected to affect the types of solutions chosen.

Brian Gormley, Manager of Campus Life, said: “We’re delighted with the response to the Student Satisfaction Survey.”

It was great to see the areas where students seemed happy with the service they were receiving, but the most important part of the survey report is where students have identified areas that they’re not satisfied with.

This means we can focus our resources on areas that will make a real difference to DIT overall for the coming year. We’d like to thank all the students who took the time to fill out the survey.”

The winners of the prize draw for filling out the survey will be announced within the next two weeks.
has been an interesting year in DIT, what have been your highlights?

The highlight of every year is always seeing the students’ success; success academically which we have are very proud of, also, students’ sporting success, but also the success of students in terms of how they serve their community which has been a particular focus this year.

I think always the highlight of every year is the diversity of student success in so many areas, which confounds the rather lazy, lazy stereotypes of students and that is one for me the highlight, and this year no exception and particularly given all the challenges of this year, all the more remarkable.

Volunteering numbers are up this year, do you think how can we better cooperate with a view to providing opportunities for students who are going to the fund.

It is something I strongly support and I can’t see any reason why it shouldn’t happen very quickly. The usual issue is making sure that there is some form of appropriate supervision.

In terms of social activities, clubs, societies, sports etc. Success in these contexts and an ability to reflect on those experiences and judge what they would have got the mechanism to bring things that are going to please are any easy solutions.

I would have more students and less Euros

grant could not gain access to the fund.

Are there proposals to change this policy?

There are various things under discussion, but they are still in discussion and I don’t know if I could make any useful comment on that, there are with all these things pros and cons but if we can find a solution that works for the students and doesn’t break any rules that we have to observe then we should do it.

With the HEA staffing the admin staff have been under increased pressure this year, and this has been the presence of most of the complaints we hear from students like long waits for exam results. What is the college doing to improve the service?

It isn’t too much this day the employment control framework would have more or less identical to the employment control framework we had major cuts in the amount of money available, there’s a very direct relationship there, and that can’t continue.

I think the nature of our budget going forward has to be looked at I mean we are increasing student numbers and the budget, in absolute terms, is going down and the student numbers are going up so the average per student is going down even further.

We are attempting to reorganise our staffing, we have an excellent administration project which is attempting to do that.

We are also trying to deliver student services whenever possible from a one-stop perspective and that is one place to go for something that is often that place is online, and that’s good for some students particularly those returning and it doesn’t work for new students because they’re not able to get online because they haven’t gotten a student number yet.

But we are confronted with very difficult problems, I would be dishonest to say that the problems are going to go away, we are publically funded organisation and as is widely known, the government wants to reduce spending in the public sector, so they’re the pressures that we’re under so we’re trying to deal with I wouldn’t say it’s easy and I wouldn’t say there are any easy solutions there that are going to please everybody, because we do have more students and less Euros in absolute terms.

So we’re facing further cuts next year?

Depending on the budget, I mean if the budget we receive is cut then yes that knock on happens.

Where areas will be cut?

It isn’t as simple as that, our policy for example is to get out of leased buildings, but that depends on when the leases come up, also, where you might have similar modules in different parts of the country and the question of what should be delivered together where the students permit.

That is not without its problems but if I can’t say that I am happy with the government because it isn’t as simple as that, our policy is to get out of leased buildings, but that depends on when the leases come up, also, where you have similar modules in different parts of the country and the question of what should be delivered together where the students permit.

A lot of people are working very hard at that, agonising around all those different issues, this really is a very large complex organisation and the obvious is sometimes not as obvious as it might appear.

In DIT in deficit?

Deficit? We’re not in deficit. Unlike other people we’re not allowed to get into deficit and we never have, I don’t know why people believe that we are in deficit.

That is not to say that at the end of this year it will be very tight, there won’t be reserves left and it gets increasingly pertinent, unless other institutions in this city we don’t carry any debt. There are obviously small debts from time to time but overall as an organisation we are not in deficit and never have been.

The grade inflation report was devasting for some students who are now worried that their degrees are not worth what they used to be. How is tackling this issue?

There is no statistical evidence to demonstrate that that is an issue in DIT, there would be particular programs at particular times that would have more firsts or less firsts or whatever but that’s not unusual in other institutions but I think the level at which we’ve been making awards has been pretty consistent and there would be nothing to support the view of grade inflation as such, it’s not there in our statistics.

Will DIT achieve university status?

It’s interesting how you pose the question, because I don’t think actually status is the issue, I know this might sound like a very technical point but I think it’s a matter of designation. Status implies that we lack status, and actually what I think is the issue around university designation of DIT is the correct description of DIT.
Cathy Davey
No more Missus Nice, the songstress lets loose on our Culture Ed

Festivals
From Oxegen to the O2, a look at less commercial summer fun

Fashion
All the newest styles and trends in our lastest photo shoot

Plus a look at photography and movie reviews
Hello and welcome to the final issue of DEnt magazine for 2010.

I think the magazine has been a great addition to the DIT News brand, we’ve managed to get at least one celeb cover star a month (does Noam count as a celeb?) and the content has been stellar, thank you to the very talented writers in DIT.

I hope DEnt lasts long after I’m gone!

So, this month we have the seemingly sweet but self-titled bitch Cathy Davey, she talks to Dave Phelan, our Culture Editor about her latest album and even rips him a new one... page 4

We also have another extended fashion section. As we head into the summer we have a SUMMER IN THE CITY themed photoshoot...

There’s a look at the box office smash Iron Man 2... page 3

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 from a class full of budding paparazzi ...

And we give you the latest trends courtesy of our very talented Fashion Editor Sibbhan...

For a look at fashion, photography, art, food, music, movies, theatre, culture and more here’s DEnt

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This month’s featured photographers are: The 3rd yr BA photography students

These photos come from Full Spectrum—an exhibition of works by 3rd Year DIT Photography students, featuring the works of twenty five emerging talents from one of the most influential photography programmes in Ireland and UK.

The exhibition will open with a wine reception on Thursday 20th May at 6.30pm at Mill Street Studios and Gallery, Dublin. We look forward to welcoming you to this event, which will showcase a great diversity of displayed works and form.

It’s a great chance for the student body to experience other aspects of the studies available in DIT and the work that is produced.

For more information, we encourage you to visit our website for directions to the gallery and other opening times.

The website is also an online showcase of the variety of work produced by the 3rd Year students.

www.
Iron Man 2 Review

Undoubtedly the most anticipated sequel of the year, Iron Man 2 has some shiny metal shoes to fill and doesn’t disappoint.

The sequel picks up mere seconds after its predecessor left off, as the titles flash we hear Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) at the post disaster press conference announce to the world media that he is Iron Man — overheard by embittered physicist Ivan Vanko (Mickey Rourke). Vanko believing the Stark family to have been the source of all his hardships concocts a devastating plan to destroy Tony and his reputation.

Stark’s troubles are stacking up; he has a newfound nemesis, the military are demanding he hand over the Iron Man technology, his industrial competitor Justin Hammer (Sam Rockwell) is breathing down his neck; his best friend Col. Rhodes (Don Cheadle) is losing faith in his ability to play superhero, his relationship with long suffering sidekick Pepper Potts is being strained by the appearance of sexy new assistant Natalie Rodman (Scarlett Johansson) and to top it off he is secretly dealing with the fact that the arc reactor keeping shrapnel out of his heart (see the first installent of the franchise) also poisoning him.

For a sequel the character development is exceptional. Director Jon Favreau and screenwriter Justin Theroux (Tropic Thunder) went the extra mile and added believable personal conflicts to the lives of all main characters. Robert Downey Jr. steps up his game as the tortured Tony Stark, cramping under pressure and facing his own mortality. Equally the smitten and on-again Pepper Potts of the original is given more depth as she takes on more responsibility and Don Cheadle’s ‘Rhody’ no longer hero-worships Stark and all his exploits.

Robert Downey Jr. is phenomenal as Tony Stark, playing with him the same sexy swagger as before but with a touch of humanity as he struggles to tell Pepper about his worsening condition. He easily shits at the senate hearing where the cocky Stark, impeccably down-played by Downey Jr., claims to have privatized world peace and argues that since he is Iron Man he can hand over the suit to be “taken to indeterminate servitude or prostitution”.

This reiterates the committee and Senator Stern to Paul Gajosky levels garnering the reaction “Fuck you Mr. Stark, fuck you buddy”.

To Favreau’s credit, though the eponymous hero is at the centre of the cast, even secondary characters, are given due respect and development. The support cast is solid. Scarlett Johansson doesn’t have a lot of screen time but when she does appear she sholts. Her scenes as Stark’s assistant are a little laughable but dressed as her alter ego Black Widow (oddly, perhaps, never referred to as such) she kicks ass, and in a powerful no-nonsense kind of way.

Though the material was juicy, a few members of the cast failed to shine through. Oscar winner Palottro’s paltry attempt at softening the now-powerful Pepper Potts fails miserably, and despite the fact that you know our hero belongs with her, she just cannot make her character in any way likeable.

Equally Don Cheadle’s attempts to take over the role of Col. Rhodes from Terrence Howard’s doesn’t work well. There is nothing wrong with Cheadle’s performance; his timing on screen just lacked the chemistry which Howard and Downey Jr. originally had in the 2006 film.

Mickey Rourke also failed to impress as Whiplash, his menace was rooted in his grubby appearance and scary tattoos while his Russian accent had hints of Sesame Street about it, “Vos, Two, Three Iron Drones, mwaah all ah.”

However, the show stealer was Sam Rockwell as Stark’s kooky bff Justin. His impeccable sense of comedic timing and off-the-wall energy provide comic relief but also add an unhinged and terrifying element to Hammer’s character.

Sammul L. ‘Just-make-sure-the-cheque-clears’ Jackson is back after his post-credit sting with a sustained cameo as Nick Fury. It’s a minor role but his main purpose seems to be to drive Internet fanboys wild in speculation and anticipation for what lies ahead in the Marvel world. The now-conformed Avengers film featuring Iron Man, Captain America, the Hulk, and Thor usually referenced throughout; both Captain America and Thor are overtly discussed in the film, hardly since a film on each hero is due out next year.

Though this can be seen as needless plugging of upcoming Marvel projects it actually adds to the film, creating a rich, layered and believable world where superheroes exist; the use C-SPAN, CNN news updates and even a Bill O’Reilly rant add to the authenticity of Iron Man’s world. It also makes me for one anticipate upcoming Marvel projects with more relish, presenting fans with the (super) nerdy challenge of spotting in-house references and jokes. Similar to a Discworld novel, when characters events and places crop up across the franchise it enriches the audience’s knowledge and experience of the diegetic world. But I digress...

Favreau has really upped his game on this film, with the direction taking on some fun quirks. A high-speed airborne Iron Man chase is interspersed with still shots of a car park where each passing metalman sets off a medley of car alarms. Even the exploration of Tony Stark’s character is wound up, a POV sequence is used at the beginning of the film (complete with regal cameo) to give the audience a taste of life in Stark’s playboy world. Favreau’s creativity even sees his own character, driver Happy Hogan, pressed between Scarlett Johansson’s thighs (if得起 bring the boys its perks).

It is refreshing to watch an action movie that doesn’t take itself too seriously and Iron Man 2 has the perfect balance of action and comedy. Packed full of break-taking CGI (though there are still shots where the gleaming suit looks a bit more realistic) packed full of witty dialogue, and with compelling performances (apart from the woefully woeful Paltrow) Iron Man 2 effortlessly plucks away from the pack of mediocre superhero films and takes its place as one of the best action films of the year.

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The alternative festival guide

By Dave Phelan

Indipendence Music Festival 2010, July 31st- August 1st:

Mitcheltown, Co. Cork plays host to the Indipendence music festival over the duration of the August bank holiday weekend – an instant pro given the hangover factor.

Unlike the big two, Indipendence focus on bands on the cusp but they have also dug deep to bring in the likes of White Lies, Duke Special and Alabama 3.

On site you’ll find a spa, whiskey tasting sessions hot-tubs (clothing is allegedly optional...).

At only €99 per weekend camping ticket, you could find worse ways to spend a weekend. Visit www.castlepaloza.com for further details.

For more information visit www.spraoi.com.
The Delicious Ms. Davey

By Dave Phelan

"Sorry, I'm coming down the stairs from the toilet," there are some things, a journalist should never divulge to his subject. Cathy Davey chortles awkwardly while I fidget with my phone making unfunny jokes regarding my technological limitations.

Finally, after some small, aimless talk a question wriggles out of my mouth, "So Cathy you were dropped by Universal?..." "Parlophone, I was dropped by Parlophone," she says sweetly but with enough force that she expects you'll remember.

I adjust myself and query whether or not the absence of major label demands affected the recording process for her forthcoming third album "The Nameless". "No, I made this album the exact same way as the last, at home, at a rented house and in a different country - so they couldn't get at me".

"They" are 'the man', the folk that place pressure on an artist in the hope of maximising return on an investment but Davey isn't bitter about being dropped instead she comes across sympathetic and understanding, "they [Parlophone] were going to shit, everyone was being fired or merged into other companies and only a couple of people were kept on, with the machine in djaray there's going to be casualties".

Davey has toured relentlessly since the release of her second album "Tales of Silversleeve", currently on her stripped-down Bare Bones tour she acknowledges both the demands and advantages that playing without a full band offers.

"It's completely different, the full shows tend to be about making the songs as true to the album as possible but the bare bones is very much about creating something that's more suited to an intimacy," she tells me. While Davey's music is adaptable to the stripped-down, acoustic format, it's the full shows that bring the crowds in.

On one of her several tours of the last five years Davey recruited Bell X1 frontman Paul Noonan and Conor O'Brien of then recently defunct rockers The Immediate and now of holy tipped Villagers, to play drums and guitar respectively. With that much musical fortitude in her band one would imagine it'd be hard to keep tabs on those more accustomed to the free-reign of their day jobs, "everyone has their own style of play and nuances but I try to beat that out of them," she says with a chuckle, "I want it to sound like the record so if I find it more distracting if people go on and play it a different way,' Davey adds.

For the duration of the interview Davey has conveyed an unagitated sense of confidence and self-belief, her forthright nature has blown any notions of her being a 'nicey-nice' type character out of the water and into the great beyond.

When asked if she's had her fill of people who think she's that twee girl-next-door type she says, "I'm going to change all that...I don't know what other people say about me, I'm sure it annoys the people that know me. I have quite a lot of bitch in me".

There's a tendency to lump all people with breasts into the one..."

Davey's ire is raised when asked if "The Nameless" has the potential to throw her into the melting pot of pop-stardom à la Florence Welch and Amy Winehouse - queue disgruntled intake of air - "This is coming down to the point of view that because I'm a female I should be in with the others. That's the mistake people are making by regarding 'female' as a genre, there's always an explosion of female artists because there are always female artists if it wasn't me or Amy Winehouse it was someone else," she exclaims.

Embarrassed, ashamed and apologetically I agree but Davey has class, she knows when she's angry and she knows how to rectify what may have been an unnecessary outburst of agitation, "I just think that there's a tendency to lump all people with breasts into the one but you know my breasts are very different to theirs," she says with a soft laugh.

Before we part Davey voices her fears about the Irish Music Rights Organisation's (IMRO) decision to seek a blanket fee from music bloggers who feature IMRO affiliated artists on their sites "I don't have enough info but I find it scary. Shane [Culloty] of Torture Garden does a lot for Irish music and gives artists exposure they wouldn't get otherwise. If it's going to discourage him from doing that Irish music will be fucking".

It's nice to think that Cathy Davey cares about the humble blogger, it's nice to think Cathy Davey cares enough about her show to bully established artists into playing the way she wants them to play and it's nice to think she cares about my opinion of her.

"Sorry for having a rant about the female thing, it's just my one buttons that gets pushed and you were just on the receiving end of that" but best of all it's nice to think Davey isn't as nice as you thought.

'The Nameless' by Cathy Davey is released on the 7th of May on Hammer Toe Records.
Those pint-sized Olsen’s are at it again, not content with their wildly successful clothing ranges they have created a jewellery range.

They enlisted the help of jewellery connoisseur - Robert Lee Morris and the range will sell under their label Elizabeth and James. The collection has two distinct it, THE BAR focuses on simple silver & gold pieces whereas the CREST collection embraces kaleidoscopic prints.

The jewellery collection is launching this month in Bergdorf Goodman & with plans to launch the collection here soon after...

This month we love...

Presents FASHION EVOLUTION 2010 - Ireland’s 3rd Ethical Fashion Week. Re-Dress is non-profit organisation which “aims to revitalise the spirit of the Irish fashion industry”. FASHION EVOLUTION runs from the 4th - 8th of May and includes fashion lectures from legends such as KATHARINE HAMNETT and workshops galore - like how to make your very own French knickers and all the while sipping a cosmo! For more information and to book tickets click on www.re-dress.ie

May

FASHION NOTES

This month's top TRENDS and UPDATES from our fashion editor Siobhan Lam.

The most anticipated fashion & movie event of the year is FINALLY here!!!

SEX AND THE CITY 2 is released nationwide on the 28th of May. Since watching the first movie, I, like women all over the world have been waiting with bated breath for the second instalment - the backlog of episodes have made the wait bearable but the wait is over!

This cinematic adventure takes us from Abu Dhabi to ....Aidan Shaw, and drips with excessive couture fashion. So grab a friend, strap on your Manolo.....Buffalo’s and get thyself to the cinema!

The most renowned and groundbreaking woman in fashion, Coco Chanel, is looked at by our Fashion Editor Siobhan Lam.

Read her feature on the next page...

Always at the fore of fashion, TOPSHOP launch their very own make-up range on the 8th of May at the flagship store on Grafton Street. The Make-up collection was designed specifically to work with their current fashion collections, they define the range as “catwalk inspired make-up but at high street prices.” Remember your student card for your 10% off!!

Re-Dress presents FASHION EVOLUTION 2010 - Ireland’s 3rd Ethical Fashion Week. Re-Dress is non-profit organisation which “aims to revitalise the spirit of the Irish fashion industry”. FASHION EVOLUTION runs from the 4th - 8th of May and includes fashion lectures from legends such as KATHARINE HAMNETT and workshops galore - like how to make your very own French knickers and all the while sipping a cosmo! For more information and to book tickets click on www.re-dress.ie
Corset Tulle Dress by Awear £50, Pearl Necklace by Topshop £50, Dog by stylist's own.

Black & White Blazer by Topshop £145, Lace Dress by Awear £50, Studded Belt by Topshop £57.
Cameo Print T-shirt by River Island £23, Skinny leggings by River Island £15, Shoes stylist's own, Multi Charm Necklace by River Island £23

Yellow Print Dress by River Island £67

Sequin Fitted Blazer by Anwar £60, Cream Embellish Tunic by Anwar £50, Shoes stylist's own

Nautical T-shirt by Topshop £39, Denim shorts by Topshop £43, Straw Hat by Topshop £30, Floral Bag by Topshop £55

Dot Playsuit by Penneys £15, Blazer by Topshop £49, Vintage Sunglasses
DIT Societies Office is looking for interested students and staff to set up the DIT Debating Society.

It is one society that is really missing in DIT. Why not volunteer to help co-ordinate high-profile guest speakers, competitions, trips away and workshops?

Contact the DIT Societies Office:
anita.conway@dit.ie or 01 402 7123
Style and fashion are not the same.

Steban Lev, Fashion Editor

In recent times, style as an attribute has become more relevant than weight, beauty or youth. Sure in an ideal world, we would all have delicate features and slender yet curvaceous bodies but that's the point of perfection if we don't know how to present it properly.

Style brings your personality to the face and defines who you are; that's why it is so important. It is entirely innate and different for each individual. This is an indescribable element that makes style so enviable and our pursuit for it so releting.

As a nation of media-savvy fashionistas, we are expected to receive certain people for their sense of style. These individuals usually include Chloe Sevigny, Diane Kruger, Kate Moss, Rachel Bilson - basically aesthetically pleasing celebrities which are frequently referred to within fashion spheres.

Dr. Philip Johnson, head of English and Language studies in my former lecture on the all that is good about Spanish poetry is just that help. He responds immodestly to my pathetic, pleading e-mail saying he would be happy to meet me. I grab the opportunity, fill both hands and feel a little less nervous. Only, mind you, a little.

Dr. Johnson, arms folded, leans over his table and I feel compelled to lower my back. This is a man with presence, the kind of presence and indeed the kind of voice (Dr Johnson is a Belfast man and has a timer in his voice that would transmute your small Dublin twang to dart) that are made for reciting poetry. The "gift of a good poet" he tells me is "to be able to express human experience and common emotion using his or her advanced vocabulary and lyrical skills" I scribble furiously all these gems of information and feel the toil becoming altogether bigger that I had imagined.

I ask him whether length is important. Naturally I don't want to be there any longer than I'm needed. But I'm not sure if I want to be there any shorter... again. The best poems are brief. Shakespeare's sonnets are the example. One is long and is still hugely memorable. Point taken; but Shakespeare was good at poetry. Before I leave, Dr Johnson mentions to me that he is a great fan of Sammie Henney, especially his rural poems! He says: The man he worries about everyday rural life, I think, really excellent.

I thank Dr Johnson profusely and leave. Rural? I grew up in the isolated Wicklow countryside. I can definitely do rural. It's time, I decide, to take a trip home.

The idea of something creative coming from my being here seems to qualify the visit somehow, like some sort of pride of pointing at what I've written and say to myself... It may not be good, but at least it's mine.

Tuesday comes and I make my way to the riverside. I hover outside at the window looking into an almost deserted Anseo. The staff are outnumbering the customers and I am left waiting with calm. This was not the resulting crowd of poetry buffs I had prepared myself for.

An eclectic group of six people all inside the door. They are exactly the mix of characters one would expect to make up a poetry group. Denise, a swivel rock chic 'mamma' in her mid thirties welcomes me warmly and we chat briefly.

After five minutes it is decided that seven people is probably a success in terms of attendance and we begin. Simon, an outgoing self confessed 'trekkie' in his thirties get us started with the spunky little number entitled 'Biosapien to the supermodels of the world and team your lead. It's a breeze. A woman is sharing her memories of pride looking at what I've written and say to myself... It may not be good, but at least it's mine.'

This hill owns my memories,
young as they are.
It shows them to me.
In fits and starts.

My uncle in snow,
on a homemade sled,
trying to warm young hands.
To get the blood back.

This hill owns my memories,
of reaching its peak,
as the lake in the distance.

Dark, grey, and sulking.

She came this way,
She made me come too.

I break from what woke her.

At six in the morning.

This was her pleasure.
She liked each part.

She soaked it all in.
Gorse spat at the car.

It welcomed back,
So glad to return.

This hill owns my memories.

David Fallon

Golden Hill

This hill owns my memories,
young as they are.
It shows them to me.
In fits and starts.

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To get the blood back.

This hill owns my memories,
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David Fallon

From bum to baird

David Fallon

He went to the library to check Facebook and came away a poet. Here, David Fallon, traces the transition from internet slang to amateur bard.

I sit at the chunky, scraped and battered wooden table looking sideways around me. My days of free online internet connection are over. Some things, it turns out, are too good to be true. Kevin Street public library, where I am sitting now, provides free wi-fi connection and is called to me like a siren.

The chains of the Windows jingle cuts through the calm of room. I earn some sort of caution or at least some disappointing stars over the tops of glasses. Nobody has an eyeglass. The library shelves from shelf to shelf filling empty spaces and the man in the corner continues to doodle constantly on a football. John Wayne's biography lolling in his hand. Using the library for anything other than reading or borrowing books fills me with an unpleasant sense of middle class guilt. As I am writing for my settings to know that I notice a 'for the table beside me. 'Poetry readings in Anseo every Thursday - bring your own glass and chat with creative like minded types. Call Denise on 086...''

The idea of something creative coming from my being here seems to qualify the visit somehow, like some sort of pride of pointing at what I've written and say to myself... It may not be good, but at least it's mine.'

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So glad to return.

This hill owns my memories.
And now for something completely different...

Tracey Flinter, DITSU President

What has been the highlight of the year for you?

There have been many highlights, I have loved working for the students of DIT.

Every day there is something different happening, it’s hard to remember everything but definitely running the first ever Student Recognition Ceremony - I was delighted to have students thanked for giving back to the community and DIT. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes that no one knows about. It was great to have it finally recognised.

Fee’s not coming back in, getting DIT back up and running with regards to classes and services, inductions with over 4000 students, campaigns, running DIT’s largest and biggest ever event with our first ever International act Calvin Harris. I have too many to mention.

What has been the low point?

There have been no low lights as such but it was very tough this year with regards to lectures and labs closing down, the gym and swimming pool closing and not having enough space for students to sit in class rooms were a low points. This, however, turned into a highlight as we as the CPT team worked hard on a campaign to push this both with the HEA and the Government Ministers, and we got classes back up and running and the sports service back to its normal hours in DIT.

What are your short and long term plans now?

Short term, I am off to America for the summer to live it up. I have applied for a Visa and myself and some mates are heading to San Francisco. Long term, I’ll be looking at doing a Masters and getting some work experience with regards to the area of marketing and sales. I’m waiting on word from a couple of graduate job prospects. So hopefully I will have good news to return to.

Sean Campbell, DITSU VP Services and Trading

What has been the highlight of the year for you?

Raising and Giving (RAG) week, was the highlight along with the big day out and the big night out, Calvin Harris and the Coronas, Dead Flags etc, epic nights and day. Thanks to everyone how helped and to the Eteam who volunteered. Great bunch of people and a great year to boot. We got every committee filled and the clubs and soe guild working properly for the first time ever.

What has been the low point?

Losing the elections by 6 votes, but that’s life eh? Also the fact that students in Kevin St suffered for so so long in Gleeson Hall, while there were free rooms across the road in Aungier St, that were supposed to be booked but weren’t. I went and walked around the colleges with a pen and paper and found a load of rooms free and this is why we finally got the first year students rehoused into lecture rooms.

I don’t want to see that happen again.

What are your short and long term plans now?

I had an interview with the ESB for summer work and I am looking at studying in DIT next year in the Energy management. I am looking long term at becoming a charted Electrical Engineer.

Jen Jordan, DITSU VP Academic and Student Affairs

What has been the highlight of the year for you?

I think the highlight of my year is hard to choose. So much happens throughout a sabbatical term. Freshers week does stand out in my mind though, meeting and greeting so many new students eager to get stuck in to student life is savage. SHAG week is probably the next one, I was so delighted with the media coverage we got for the national launch of the campaign and the buzz about sex education is always fun too. Also hearing from the porters in Aungier Street that they knew my name because they heard I had been “spitting fire at the president in academic council” was pretty cool! I pretended I was all embarrassed about it when they said it first but it was actually shuffling that word had spread so quickly that I was trying to kick some arse... (it was about the embargo and what students were perceiving as DIT doing nothing publicly, and as a whole, to fix it.)

What has been the low light?

It has been a tough year, I can’t really say there have been many low points though. I suppose the toughest days for me have been the ones where I found I couldn’t help someone as much as I had hoped to mainly when it came to exams or money problems. In the majority of cases we sort people out, and I always did my best for any student that came to me in difficulty but there are some cases that came to us a last resort and even when people know that it’s still so tough to tell people sorry, there’s nothing more I can do.

What are your short and long term plans now?

Well I am always the best person I know for procrastinating re: my academic work and at the moment I’m putting off writing my CV as it means my year as vice president really is almost over! Hopefully I’ll get an event management or PR job somewhere around Dublin for the rest of the calendar year and my plan is to go travelling sometime in the new year. I’d love to work permanently in Event Management, corporate and social events mainly, (even though my degree is in property economics!) so I guess that’s my long term plan.
At 6'4" and captain of the victorious Fresher's football team, Aidan "O'Shea stands out from his fellow students in DIT Aungier Street.

Though only 19, he carries himself with the innate confidence unique to top-level sportsmen. He walks on the balls of his feet like a boxer, his hunching athleticism palpable to even the untrained eye.

The Mayo forwards is one of the most highly-rated footballers of his generation, and it is easy to see why he has puppies praising him, as well as admirers from further afield (Aidan was approached by Aussie Rules talent scout Ricks Nixon and went for a trial with the Western Bulldogs in December.)

"Yeah, Australia was a great experience," he said. "The training was fairly intense to start with, but I have a duty entry after one of the sessions that says 'the worst day of my life'. But I mean, being exposed to training of that level is certainly not going to hinder my preparations for this year's football.

Bulldog coach Rodney Eade and Nixon will keep a close watch on O'Shea over the year, and they will decide if an offer is to be made in towards the end of the year. If the scouts were casting an eye over this year's victorious DIT Fresher's team, they couldn't help but be impressed. O'Shea captained the team, and led from the front, as the team overcame CIT in the final.

"Yeah, winning the Fresher's is a fantastic achievement," O'Shea said. "The Fresher's championship is a once off and to have a chance to win it is great. As well as that, there is a great sense of satisfaction winning with guys that you go to college with every day.

One of the keys to this years success was the massive job done by Darragh Biddlecombe and the lads in recruitment.

There were 7 or 8 senior inter-county players on the team and the rest of them are on panels there are senior Sigerson teams that don't even have them. There are lads from all over Ireland on the team, and it shows the effort that the lads are doing behind the scenes.

The Cork team we played in the final only had players from Cork and Kerry, so I think the lads deserve great credit for the talent they attracted to DIT.

Our manager Billy O'Loughlin has been involved with the Fresher's for a long time so he knows the score, and we also had Alan O'Moore and Paul Clancy who won 2 All-Irelands with Galway, so we had a great team behind us.

It augurs well for the Sigerson over the next few years especially with next year being the centenary year of the completion, and it would be great to represent the college in Croke Park next year.

Away from the din of the Fresher's win, O'Shea was quickly brought back down to earth when he was asked if he would have wanted to win this year's football. O'Shea tries to pick the positives out of the defeat.

"We have to try and make the most of it. It was only my third time playing there, so we have to take the experience. We were looked at as being relegation candidates at the start of the league, so even reaching the final has to be a positive.

We have a lot of young faces in the squad, and they want to see. They wanted to see me moving, and coming forward and that's what I did tonight. We should have pressed the attack a lot earlier and we could have got the knockout, but Shane Mosley is a tough customer and he is one hell of a fighter.

The lazy cliches of Mayo's constantly blowing big-games is one chucked out by backs after games like the Cork defeat. It fails to realise that guard by raising his left hand for the rest of the round. As round two continued, Mayweather's defensive adjustment proved unfathomable as Mosley clocked him with two further thumping right hands that visibly shook Pretty Boy Floyd.

At the interval between the second and third round, Mayweather's corner men kept advising him to just go out and "box the motherf**ker*. For the anticipating crowd that was as good as it got as Mayweather began to control the fight. Throughout rounds three and four and Mayweather landed a few punches on the tiring Mosley who lacked the intensity he had shown in the second round.

The same theme was set for the middle rounds of the fight as Mayweather maintained his dominant stance in this contest. Mayweather used Mosley with a stiff right hand in the eighth and by the latter rounds of the fight Mayweather was continually landing shots on a rapidly tiring Mosley.

Mosley carried on the fight but by the time it reached the twelfth round and the final bell went; the decision was never in doubt. Mayweather won on all three judges scorecards; 119-116, 119-116 and 115-110 respectively bringing his record to 41 straight victories and zero defeats.

Commenting on the fight afterwards the outspoken Mayweather said: "I gave the fans what they wanted to see. They wanted to see me moving, and coming forward and that's what I did tonight. We should have pressed the attack a lot earlier and we could have got the knockout, but Shane Mosley is a tough customer and he is one hell of a fighter.

While Mayweather was full of praise for his vanquished veteran opponent, the argument has been made that this fight should have happened years ago when Sugar Shane was in his prime. He is currently 38 years of age and had not fought prior to this fight since January 2009. Although on his last outing Mosley disposed of Mexican Antonio Margarito with a ninth round stoppage.

Hand selecting opponents has been a criticism that has consistently been leveled at Mayweather. Regardless of opinions on this issue and though out a particularly juicy character, he is an incredibly talented fighter and Filipino Manny Pacquiao is undoubtedly the only opponent around that could take his scalp.

For the minute, the possibility of this mouth-watering encounter occurring is remote. The proposed fight fell through in January following a disagreement between both camps over drug testing methods. The self-regulating Mayweather insisted that any contract for this fight should include random drug testing through blood samples up to 14 days lead in to the fight. Pacquiao's team rejected this suggestion and insisted that the only doping rules they would follow were those established by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

In the aftermath of this victory over Shane Mosley, Floyd Mayweather maintained the stance he held in January about a possible matchup with Manny Pacquiao. He said: "If Manny Pacquiao wants to fight, it's not hard to find me. If Manny Pacquiao will take the blood and urine tests, we can make the fight happen for all the fans. If he doesn't, we don't have a fight. I'm not going out chasing fighters. If the fans want to see that happen, I want to make it happen but we have to have a level playing field. If every athlete is clean in the sport of boxing, take the test."

As it stands the wait continues and it will be a while before boxing fans see a sustained display of fisticuffs that produced by Shane Mosley in the second round that nearly had Floyd Mayweather on the canvas for the first time in his career. In this game money talks and Floyd "Money" Mayweather will eventually get into the ring with Manny Pacquiao when the price is right.
Well it was tough weekend for Irish rugby, with both Leinster and Munster returning from fruitless trips on the continent, after having their Heineken Cup dreams dashed at the semi-final stage by illustrious French opposition.

And spare a thought too for a brave Connacht outfit, who also fell victim to the French and exited the Amlin Cup in the first round, after a close contest at the Sportsground in Galway.

Those French have really got in the way of our fun over the last few months. Without wishing to mention any names, Thierry Henry and Morgan Parra have been in the bad books round these parts for a while. Party poopers.

And now they are joined in said bad books by the entire Toulouse and Biarritz squad, coaching staff, groundskeepers, tea ladies and all their family members. I'm even thinking of giving up Sauvignon Blanc and crème brulee for at least the next couple of weekends.

And I'll not even entertain the slightest possibility of watching anything starting Gerhard Deulofeu for quite some time, fine actor and all that he is.

Although such acts of vengeance may stunt the growth of their economy in the short term, it will do nothing to change the fact that it's to be an all-French Heineken Cup final by the banks of the Seine later this month.

After consecutive Irish victories in the competition (and three wins inside four years), the provinces were brought back to some hard cold reality last weekend.

Strangely enough, however, Munster and Toulouse were not universally undone by a great degree of flair, which would always be associated with French sides playing at home.

Both put up very creditable displays, only losing out by ten points and 11 points respectively, in games which were highly competitive and more notable for their physical intensity than for flowing running rugby.

In both cases, the battle was really lost up front, and particularly in the set piece. Leinster's scrum went backwards all afternoon in Toulouse.

Neither could they secure their share of possession at the breakdown. Though they stayed doggedly with the three-times champions for most of the game, mounting pressure eventually told, and when Toulouse did bring out that bit of flair it proved very telling.

Yannick Jauzion and David Skrela went over for two quick-fire tries after some classy build-up play, and that was effectively enough to seal the deal.

Munster's loss down in San Sebastian was that bit more disappointing, given that it had the look of a more winnable fixture. Their first-half try from Keith Earls oozed with quality as the ball shuffled through several sets of hands before the young winger raced over.

But stared of set piece possession and unable to retain the ball for any kind of sustained spells after the break, they never built on that score, and were outmuscled and outmanoeuvred by the men from the Basque country.

The slightly scary figure of number 8 Imanol Harinordoquy, a brute of a man complete with facial mask and an incredible lust for battle, was a constant thorn in Munster's side.

Reared on by a rapturous home support, which drowned out the sizeable travelling red army, Dmitri Yachvili gave a masterclass in scrum-half play (even eclipsing the efforts of veteran New Zealander Byron Kelleher for Toulouse the previous day), always probing around the fringes, taking all the right options, and coolly landing the six penalties which took his side into the final.

On reflection, the loss of Paul O’Connell to injury was costly for Munster, who needed all their competitive spirit and tactical astuteness on the day. The absence of Doug Howlett’s experience and hardnosedness on the wing also was to their detriment.

For Biarritz, it was sweet revenge for their painful loss to Munster in the 2006 final in Cardiff. For Munster, it means there will be no third European Cup in five years. That dream has died. And more poignantly, it could be the end of the road in the competition for a few of the old guard. The mental resources required to picture the likes of John Hayes or Alan Quinlan back in a final cannot be found here.

Without wishing to begrudge Toulouse or Biarritz, for they clearly deserve their spots in the final, one does wonder about the wisdom of out-staging semi-final games at neutral venues.

That may have produced a more favourable outcome for the Irish sides, but with the success we’ve had over the last couple of years, I guess we can hardly complain.

So, the power has quite definitely shifted back in favour of the French, both in the international scene and in club matters.

Ah well, c’est la vie.

For the record, I fancy Toulouse to take their fourth European title on May 22nd with their superior running game.

And if this column is to bow out along with our rugby heroes – then what can I say, it’s been emotional!

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**Fresher's Football Division 1 Final**

**Paul McNulty**

**DIT 2-14 CIT 2-8**

DIT’s Fresher football team lifted the Fresher’s football title with a dominant six point victory over CIT at Garda College, Tempelmore this month.

There were a plethora of inter-county footballers on show, with DIT fielding footballers from eleven counties over the course of the game. In contrast, CIT were restricted to players from their immediate hinterland, eleven counties over the month.

Kerry represented.

Another of DIT’s Offaly contingent Graham Earls oozed with quality as the ball shuffled through several sets of hands from DIT, who entered the game as odds-on favourite with the bookmakers. Offalyman Bernard Allen scored both, but CIT were quick to respond with points from Dineen and Kelly.

This was as close as the Cork side were to get to DIT, as the Dublin side quickly took control of proceedings.

DIT’s interplay and strong midfield dominance began to take hold, and a blistering fifteen minute spell left Billy O’Loughlin’s men nine points ahead.

Andrew Tomalty fired a leaping ball from the impressive Bernard Allen to the CIT net to raise the green flag for the first time. This as followed in quick succession by a woodpecked goal from DIT vice captain Ciaran Martin.

The DIT centre-back ran fully forty yards through the heart of the CIT defence, pneumo-ning around CIT midfielder Kelleher before ending his barnstorming run with a blistering shot to the roof of the net.

CIT’s heads did not drop however, and they rallied with an immediate goal of their own. Simon O’Brien slotted the rebound from a Ciaran Sheehan shot past Collins in the CIT goals to leave six points between the sides.

DIT lead at half-time by seven points on a score of 2-7 to 1-4.

Another of DIT’s Offaly contingent Graham Earls continued his form and early on for DIT, and the score was followed by further impressive scores from Tomalty and Allen.

CIT were never allowed a foothold back into the game, and their new forwards into DIT territory were marked by wasteful finishing. In fairness to the Leesiders there was a controversial moment after fifteen minutes of the second half. Referee Derek O’Mahony adjudged that a shot from CIT substitute Pa Ely hit the post, to the consternation of many CIT supporters who felt the ball hit the inside stanchion and that it was a legitimate goal.

DIT continued regardless and with scores from Reddin and Allen again.

CIT substitute Hodnett scored a late consolation goal for the Corkmen after a speculative long-range effort ended up in the DIT net.

DIT run out impressive winners, and team captain Aidan O’Shea LIT’s Dit of DIT’s Fresher’s Championship in three years.

Team captain Aidan O’Shan said the win augurs well for a Future Sigerson push. "It’s up to this generation to carry on and develop.

It’s been an honour to captain this group of lads and it’s a chance for us to show that football in DIT is progressing well."

Team manager Billy O’Loughlin congratulated his troops for defeating the Corkmen. "We were well-deserving of the win, we just battled and kept going, and for their lucky goal at the end it might have been more. We had a serious panel this year, and they all deserve credit, from the players to the lads behind the scenes."

In both cases, the battle was really lost up front, and particularly in the set piece. Leinster’s scrum went backwards all afternoon in Toulouse.

Neither could they secure their share of possession at the breakdown. Though they stayed doggedly with the three-times champions for most of the game, mounting pressure eventually told, and when Toulouse did bring out that bit of flair it proved very telling.

Yannick Jauzion and David Skrela went over for two quick-fire tries after some classy build-up play, and that was effectively enough to seal the deal.

Munster’s loss down in San Sebastian was that bit more disappointing, given that it had the look of a more winnable fixture. Their first-half try from Keith Earls oozed with quality as the ball shuffled through several sets of hands before the young winger raced over.

But stared of set piece possession and unable to retain the ball for any kind of sustained spells after the break, they never built on that score, and were outmuscled and outmanoeuvred by the men from the Basque country.

The slightly scary figure of number 8 Imanol Harinordoquy, a brute of a man complete with facial mask and an incredible lust for battle, was a constant thorn in Munster’s side.

Reared on by a rapturous home support, which drowned out the sizeable travelling red army, Dmitri Yachvili gave a masterclass in scrum-half play (even eclipsing the efforts of veteran New Zealander Byron Kelleher for Toulouse the previous day), always probing around the fringes, taking all the right options, and coolly landing the six penalties which took his side into the final.

On reflection, the loss of Paul O’Connell to injury was costly for Munster, who needed all their competitive spirit and tactical astuteness on the day. The absence of Doug Howlett’s experience and hardnosedness on the wing also was to their detriment.

For Biarritz, it was sweet revenge for their painful loss to Munster in the 2006 final in Cardiff. For Munster, it means there will be no third European Cup in five years. That dream has died. And more poignantly, it could be the end of the road in the competition for a few of the old guard. The mental resources required to picture the likes of John Hayes or Alan Quinlan back in a final cannot be found here.

Without wishing to begrudge Toulouse or Biarritz, for they clearly deserve their spots in the final, one does wonder about the wisdom of out-staging semi-final games at neutral venues.

That may have produced a more favourable outcome for the Irish sides, but with the success we’ve had over the last couple of years, I guess we can hardly complain.

So, the power has quite definitely shifted back in favour of the French, both in the international scene and in club matters.

Ah well, c’est la vie.

For the record, I fancy Toulouse to take their fourth European title on May 22nd with their superior running game.

And if this column is to bow out along with our rugby heroes – then what can I say, it’s been emotional!
Karters claim club of the year

Cliona Ward

The DIT Karting soc claimed top prize at the 13th annual DIT Sports Awards ceremony last month, winning the coveted Club of the Year Award.

The awards have been running since 1998 to recognise the talents and accomplishments of DIT students who dedicate their extra time to improve DIT sports and enhance their college experience.

This year’s guest of honour was Brian Kerr manager of the Faroe Islands national football team, and former Irish football manager.

This year has been a triumphant year for DIT sport, the Shotokan Karate club won the O’Connor Cup, the Archery club won 5 intervarsity titles, the ladies water polo team are Irish University Champions and the hockey girls won the CUSAI League.

The champion of this particular night was however the DIT Karting Club. Boasting more than 565 members, an active calendar of events, the top spot in the CUSAI Intervarsity and having secured both 1st and 2nd place in the Drivers Championship it was no surprise that they were declared DIT Club of the Year.

The awards not only acknowledged clubs but the individuals who make them function; this year honours were bestowed on Sinéad Ahern from the DIT Ladies Gaelic Football Club, three members of DIT’s Soccer Club – Stephen Roche, Davy O’Sullivan and Conor McMahon, Steven Duffy of the DIT Swimming & Water polo Club, Aron Smith of the DIT Karting Club and Martin O’Leary of DIT’s Sailing Club.

Though in its 13th year the DIT Sports Officer, Caragh O’Buachalla, was keen to introduce a new “Scholar of the Year” Award.

The award was introduced to acknowledge students who have demonstrated outstanding performance both academically and athletically.

The inaugural award of DIT Female Scholar of the Year 2010 went to Irene Walsh of the DIT Swimming & Water polo Club while the title of DIT Male Scholar of the Year went to Graham Higgledypan of DIT’s Karting Club.

The all-stars from this year’s ceremony will now join DIT’s sporting hall of fame which includes an illustrious list of previous award winners like David Gillick, Mark Vaughan, Eamon Zayed, Steve Collins, and Shane Horgan.
Premier Soccer Preview

- Its Chelsea's to lose.....

by Paul McNulty

It has been the most fascinating Premier League season in years, but as the championship enters the final straight, the league's two heavyweights are fighting for the title yet again.

The inconsistency of the teams at the top, the increased number of defeats and their early European exits suggest standards have dropped, but whatever has gone wrong, the championship has been all the better because of it.

This season more than ever, clubs will be reflecting and thinking 'what if?' A host of teams will feel that they should be far better off. Points have been thrown away by the likes of Arsenal, Manchester City and Liverpool at places one would never expect.

It has been a topsy-turvy campaign but for many the race has already been run. Chelsea will feel the hard work has been done having disposed of a non-existent Liverpool team at Anfield. 'Local hero' Steven Gerrard even gave them a helping hand by passing the ball straight to Didier Drogba and leaving him one on one with 'Pepé' Reina.

Incidentally this is the third time in his career than the Liverpool captain has performed exactly this calamity. Against France in Euro 2004 and in a Premier League game at Highbury in 2006, Thierry Henry was twice the beneficiary.

This game was deemed the toughest of Chelsea's run-in but the Reds were brushed aside with ease. Manchester United's conspiracy theorists will have no doubt suggested foul play as they searched for a record 19th championship, but in reality Chelsea have a superior team to Liverpoo and were never going to lose that match.

The Blues have a 100 per cent record against the 'big four'. United, Arsenal and Liverpool have all been beaten at home and away, conceding only one goal in the process. For that reason alone, the Pensioners will be worthy champions next Sunday.

Added to that, Carlo Ancelotti's team have spent more time on top than anyone this season. Failure to back up their victories over the big boys with consistent form against the rest has left us with this last day drama, which surely should never have come about.

Now all Chelsea need to do is exact their revenge upon Wigan, who bent the Blues 3-1 at the DW Stadium back in September, and the trophy is theirs. Wigan's inconsistency, poor away form and lack of any real objective means Chelsea couldn't have handled more ideal opponents. Only nerves and pressure can stop them now. United have a similar routine task at home to Stoke City, but another performance like that at Anfield, or that against Stoke at Stamford Bridge the previous week, and the result will take care of itself.

As the three relegation places have already been filled, by Portsmouth, Burnley and Hull City, only one other major issue needs to be decided. Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City are now the only competitors for fourth place and the final Champions League place, as Aston Villa and Liverpool's challenges are over following last weekend's results.

City and Spurs meet on Wednesday night at Eastlands in what should be a straight shoot-out for that coveted European place. City realistically need to win the game, therefore their attacking quartet of Emmanuel Adebayor, Craig Bellamy, Carlos Tevez and Adam Johnson will really need to earn their money.

A win for Spurs at Eastlands will guarantee fourth spot, but they would also happily take a draw, as they have only a trip to lowly Barnsley to come.

Whoever comes out on top in the race for fourth will no doubt spend big in the summer in order to avoid the misery suffered by Everton in August 2005. Having reached the promise land, the Toffees fell to Villarreal before the main event.

Both clubs, however, have already been the biggest spenders in the league over the past year, in order to avoid the misery suffered by Everton in August 2005. Having reached the promise land, the Toffees fell to Villarreal before the main event.

Both clubs, however, have already been the biggest spenders in the league over the past year, so they will be primed come August's qualifying rounds.

The Rojiblancos, on the other hand have played their way back from the brink of relegation. The romantic will say it is meant to be a miracle. Fulham's journey has been miraculous due to the manner of their come from behind victories, and Atleti's because they've scraped through on away goals in the last three rounds winning only one solitary game.

The fact that both clubs have got this far has been a miracle. Fulham's journey has been miraculous due to the manner of their come from behind victories, and Atleti's because they've scraped through on away goals in the last three rounds winning only one solitary game.

The romantic will say it is Fulham's destiny, that it is meant to be. and Hodgson's tactical nous will win the trophy. As a United fan, I have to say I am not too surprised by their run. the Red Devils have kept quiet with a much better than expected season.

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