

2010-2

DIT News, 1st.-29th. of February, 2010

DIT:Students Union

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DIT News

Your independent student newspaper

News

All the latest campus updates and news
Plus: The student union elections explained!



DEnt

speaks to Samuel L Jackson



Sport

All the latest from the world of DIT sport and beyond!



Councils 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 2010/11 onwards. However, students currently in receipt of both will be entitled to retain both for the duration of their studies.

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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 his 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 Brian Gormley, head of campus services, onsite creche facilities are not viable in a multi-campus college.

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Back-peddalling 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

Tania Zorrilla, 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 of the charity event due to ill health. The St Valentine's Day event raises money for the street children of Calcutta.

DIT students in space program

A team of DIT engineering students have had their design selected for inclusion on a space flight, as part of the prestigious REXUS programme. They were one of nine teams to be recommended for the next series of REXUS flights and are the first Irish team to have been selected.



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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 debacle 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.



Ball & Chain! The Bride and Bride, Emma Clarke and Aisling Dolan of LGBT soc's Gay Marriage demonstration have their first domestic!

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.

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.

Packages for 12 months are not currently being offered as a result of the facilities' undetermined future.

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 €300,000 to €400,000

according to Seán Campbell, VP for Services and Trading, and will last for four to six weeks.



The main area affected is the library, and a computer room on the same level. Noise reduction ear plugs

are available at the library counter but staff say that the noise level is not as bad as expected. Students at the study desks reported finding the noise disruptive.

"When it gets too bad, I take a break", said one student, "and it's much worse in the computer room outside the library".



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 low down 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 ~~2010~~ 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!

Cliona Ward

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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 edition 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 could not ignore her recent letter concerning the recent mass demonstrations organised by the Congress of Trade Unions in support of a better fairer way on the island of Ireland.

It the first instance she claims that the DIT Student 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 66% 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 couldn't even deal with a few days of snowfall. We have seen the whole financial industry in the country racked by corruption and lack of Govern-

ment and central bank regulation. We have further seen the cosy cartels of property developers, builders, bankers and politicians lead 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 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 shown to those 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. To further state that trade unions contribute to making life difficult for students is to firmly place yourself on the far right of the political divide and as members of a union, even if it is at stage only a Students Union, I am extremely disappointed that as our president would align DITSU with Government in attacking trade unions whose role in a free society is critical and who as the biggest voluntary organisation in Ireland is attempting to have the current crisis managed in a "Better fairer Way".

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 you can count me out.

Glenn Fitzpatrick,
Aungier St.

Madam,

In response to a letter to the editor in DIT News Dec 2009, from Andrew Purfield, 1st year Business and French, I reply with the following information:

To date DIT:

Has sent information on Pandemic H1N1 (swine flu) to all staff and students in the form of FAQ's. FAQs are also on our website www.dit.ie/safework

Has erected informative flu posters in general areas and in sanitary facilities - cost to Institute =€455

Has set up information points in all main buildings with information

Has placed 100 hand sanitizers in all common entrance, exit, canteen and common areas with information beside each on how to use them, symptoms of the flu etc. These are checked and refilled on a regular basis. Please note that handwashing is extremely important and sanitizers are available in areas where there are no handwashing facilities. Using the sanitizer does not replace handwashing

Staff have been briefed on the flu during all induction sessions and health and safety training sessions

Students have been briefed on the flu at inductions and given information on symptoms etc and directed to the HSE website for information

19-22 October 2009 was Safety Week and the Health and Safety Team visited all DIT Campuses. We gave out complimentary swine flu packs containing a bottle of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and a packet of tissues. We had a stand with information on the flu were available to answer any questions on same.

We have face masks available - cost to Institute =€486

We also meet with a crisis management team chaired by President DIT, Brian Norton and I submit weekly updates on probable swine flu no.s. As of this mail

there have been 82 probable swine flu reports since last summer.

All Offices have been requested to prepare Contingency Plans.

Cost wise - €7, 413 was spent on dispensers and sanitizer and €2,596 free swine flu packs.

We are working to the guidelines for Third Level Institutions issued by the HSE

I regret our campaign has not been perceived as successful but we endeavour to make future campaigns more successful.

I hope this clears up any confusion

Edel Niland
Health and Safety Officer
Dublin Institute of Technology

That time of the month!

Brought to you by Fionnuala Holohan

It was a good month for:

Irish Film: Granny O'Grimm'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: sob

Jedward: 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 Búrca 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, Aungier St

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

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.

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 doctorates," 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



Team Telescope (from left to right) - Jack Keegan, Mark Wylie, Stephen Curran, Paul Duffy and Dinesh Vather

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 is perform child-minding services.

The new single-site DIT campus in Grangegorman will have a creche and Mr Gormley anticipates that students studying 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.

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 Mhurchu, 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 Offices 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.

New Cashback facilities in northside campuses

News Editor

DITSU installed new cashback 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

Mature student numbers to rise by 25pc 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 Nino 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.jdiffe.com or 01 687 7974.



Anita Ekberg wades through the Trevi fountain in Rome in a famous scene from La Dolce Vita

DIT quiz team sought for Kazakstani tv show

The DIT Campus Life team are looking for students to take part in a University Challenge like quiz for Kazakstani tv.

The quiz which will be held in the Oak Room at

the Mansion House next month to coincide with the St Patrick's Day celebration in Dublin.

The winners of the Kazakstani quiz league get a scholarship to University meaning that

standards are high.

The quiz combines general knowledge questions along with challenges of logic and lateral thinking.

If you fancy yourself as a quiz master you can get involved by contacting the societies office at socsoffice@gmail.com or Terry Battles at the international student office.



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T: 01 402 3434 E: postgraduate@dit.ie W: www.dit.ie/postgraduate

DIT Fashion Show courted by last minute Alfa male

Editor

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 Houlihan 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.



DIT's first coming out workshop a success

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 enviroment

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 enviroment 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 students about on coming out on their respective websites and at DIT LGBT Society meetings.



DIT LGBT members Aaron Byrne, Alex Byrne, Emma Mullen, Stephen Gotting, Jess Elmes, Daniel Richmond, Alice Ní Fhlanagáin pose with their 'Homophobia is gay' t-shirts

LGBT make €950 for rape crisis

Jenny Dunne, Aungier St

This years rainbow week raised over three times as much money as last year for the LGBT Societys 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 Livingroom pub opposite Cathal Brugha Street 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 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 acheive 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.



LGBT members Daniel Richmond, Jess Elmes, Paul Butler, Stephen Gotting, and Alex Byrne pose with LGBT rights activist (and celeb) Tonie Walsh

Rainbow week adds colour to first week of term

Aoife Mulford, Aungier St

Rainbow Week which 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 LGB people and consequently may be very isolated

European surveys have demonstrated that levels of violence directed against LGB people are up to three times higher than those experienced by the population as a whole

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 by 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 organised such as a Coming Out Workshop: An interactive session about "coming out of the closet".

In a talk entitled "Revoltng Homosexuals" Tonie Walsh speaks about the use & abuse of stereotypes. The Trans 101 Workshop an interactive session about Transgender people was held with Cat McLlroy. 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.

Awards, scholarships and competitions

News Editor

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 facultyarts@dit.ie.

The National Student Media Awards (SMedia) for 2010 are being held in April and closing date for entries is 10th 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.

Trócaire has launched a nationwide short video competition for third-level communications and multi-media 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 Trócaire to make a short video on the same theme.

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

Hothouse launched its 2010 DIT Inventor Competition at 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 Gaelige have a slew of events and schemes on at the moment.

The Student Residence/Scéim Cónaithe scheme is accepting applications until March 19th, 2010. Students receive €850 towards rent in a shared Irish-speaking house.

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

Students must pay €50 euro and Oifig na Gaelige'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 ditjournosoc@gmail.com by 19th March.

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

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

DIT Society Awards nominations due

News Editor

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

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.

Oifig na Gaelige/Irish Office

News Editor

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 Gaelige will fund half of the cost.

The office also plan to introduce an Irish speakers corner in Aungier Street café area, where Irish speakers can drop in to converse with other Irish speakers.

In addition to the Irish classes, bodhrán and sean-nós classes started in Bolton and Aungier street respectively.

On the first Friday of every month, there is an Irish lunch held outside the college and there are weekly conversation circles every

Tuesday.

On Monday 22nd Feb, there will be a half-day workshop from 1:30 to 5pm for DIT students and staff on basic skills required to produce and present radio program as Gaelige. It's free and organized in conjunction with Radio na Life at their office at 7 Merrion Sq, Dublin 2 : to register contact gaelige@dit.ie,

A weekend away to Donegal gaeltacht is scheduled for Friday 5th March: contact cumanngaelach@socs.dit.ie

On Thursday 11th March, the RITH 2010 race starts. DIT have bought a kilometre in Temple Bar and now all that are needed are participants - running or walking. All proceeds go to supporting and promoting the Irish language and cultural activities.

For closing dates on Gaeltacht scholarships, please see the Awards section on page 3.

For information on any of the above, go to www.dit.ie/gaelige and Printing, the School of Media, and the Conservatory of Music & Drama.

New BA in Creative & Cultural Industries launched in DIT

News Editor

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 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.

St. Petersburg comes in from the cold

News Editor

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 mooted 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 Ioffe 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 fear 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.

Wells for Zoë strives to offer the people of Malawi a hand up rather than a hand out.

With this belief, the charity has invested funds in building a water pump factory in SJOG, Mzuzu. Continuous efforts are being made by the charity to train locals in pump manufacturing and installation.

Without pumps, women and children are forced to walk for hours in search of a clean water supply. A local water supply benefits community as children are free attend school and the women will have more time to tend and irrigate the much-needed crops.

On March 22nd, DIT and Wells for Zoë will be supporting World Water Day with a H2O march.

The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

H2O marches occur globally, but have failed to build support in Ireland.

This year Wells for Zoë will be promoting a march from Heuston Station to The Oireachtas.

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

Student Satisfaction survey

News Editor

The second DIT student satisfaction survey has a prize of an iPhone and/or cash for a random respondent and closes at the end of February.

This is the second ever survey and will be repeated every two years.

Campus Life will publish the results in a newsletter in March and a working group will be formed to address the issues identified. DITSU will represent students in this group.

Around 1200 students completed the first survey, according to Campus Life's Rachel O'Connor.

An earlier survey distributed late last year by the HEA gathered more general information which will also be available to the college.

To complete the survey, students can go to <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s/167023/ditss2010>.

Richard Bruton, T.D. to debate at DIT

News Editor



DIT Young Fine Gael (YFG) is hosting a public debate with Richard Bruton TD and

a yet-to-be-named DIT lecturer on Fine Gael policies on February 18th.

YFG will also outline Fine Gael's solutions to the job crisis for under-25s at the meeting.

YFG chairman, Philip Slattery, said their plans would bring 30,000 young people off the dole via work-share, internship and education and training schemes, while creating 100,000 jobs across all age profiles.

RAG Week launches March 8th

News Editor

Rag Week kicks off on March 8th and this year's fundraising will be for research at the Children's Hospital in Crumlin.

Organizers have events and activities planned throughout the day and are introducing early evening events to maintain the momentum.

The main highlights of the week will be SCAD Freefall, where participants freefall from 150ft into a giant net, and Zorbing on

the Grangegorman site, where participants travel around inside giant plastic balls, but there will be many other events taking place in each campus.



DITSU hope to raise €20,000 this year for the children's charity.

The DIT Fashion Society Fashion Show takes place on Thursday of RAG Week but is in aid of different fund: the Student Assistance Fund.

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 DIT unicyclers 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.ie 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 distribution within the college - too

many systems working independently from each other.

"Google apps could handle everything DIT needs ... I'm sure google would be more than happy to help implement a large-scale system too. They did it elsewhere in the states on large campuses." said another member.

DITSU 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 absobency 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 flared briefly without definitive resolution.

Finally, one of the contributors mourned 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 an 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 fills 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 video: from HD movies and TV shows to podcasts and music videos. 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

iPad runs almost 140,000 apps from the App Store. Everything from games to business apps and more. And new apps de-

signed specifically for iPad are highlighted, so you can easily find the ones that take full advantage of its features. Just tap the App Store icon on the screen to browse, buy, and download apps wirelessly, right to the iPad.

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 everything 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 for 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 aoc.dit@me.com

DIT Alfa Romeo FASHION SHOW

National Student Design Competition

in aid of the DIT Foundation

Semi Final - 15 Semi-Finalists

Thursday 25th of February
Upstairs in the Palace Camden St
Drinks reception and Finger food at 19.00
Mini Fashion and Exhibition starts 19.30

Free tickets available by emailing
ditstudentdesign@gmail.com
More info on www.ditfashionshow.ie

DIT Fashion Show 9th March 2010 in Vicar St



Center Back - Place on Fol



DEBATE

Your Dublin ENTERTAINMENT magazine

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

DEnt Ed

Hello and welcome to the first 2010 issue of **DEnt** 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 **DEnt**

Claire Dent

Ed

Picture Perfect

Showcasing DIT's finest photography talent



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 Swopshop 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 swop

your old clothes for something new every week at a fraction of the price of shops in town. In times of recession, it's great to know that a girl's shopping habits don't have to be put on hold! This project is called "Something Old, Something New".



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 see's 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 Kathryn 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 *An Education*. For the first time, an Animated Feature has been included with Disney/Pixars *Up*. Completing the list is American drama *The Blind Side*, the Coen Brothers *A 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 Explosives Ordinance Team. The stunning *Avatar* however could 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 looks 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 George Clooney I believe is due an Oscar for his portrayal of an isolated Career Transition Councillor 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 gay 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 a great chance of scooping the award for his role as South African rugby player Francois Pienaar in *Invictus*. Competition includes Woody Harrelson, Christopher Plummer, Stanley Tucci and Christoph 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 mother 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 making 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 her undoubted versatility with yet another nomination in *Julie & Julia*. Penélope 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. Maggie Gyllenhaal is also well within reach of winning as is debutante 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 naïve young boy, a talking dog and a hilarious female exotic bird named "Kevin". 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 smaller 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 v Bigelow. Tarantino, Lee Daniels for *Precious* and Jason Reitman for *Up in the Air*

complete the list. Though *The Hurt Locker* edges out *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, Bigelow'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 it can still lose out to Disney/Pixar for *Up*, *Inglourious*, *The Coen Brothers* Jewish themed *A Serious Man* and *The Messenger*. Though *The Hurt Locker* is my pick, it is however very close to call. 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 7th 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 82nd Academy Awards will be broadcast live on Sky Movies Premiere for those lucky enough to have it and the all important determination to stay up all night. I know I will!

Dent Rant

'Trapped in a Box'

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 them in.

Unfortunately, I am not 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

show, the hype is lost on me.

Settling into a relatively warm bed on a Sunday I pondered upon what the internet can offer a young male still wide-awake at two in the morning; step forward Brendan O'Connor. Watching 'The Saturday Night Show' can only be called repugnant to what any man/woman should be doing at any point in his/her life... ever. RTE's I-player is the healthiest investment the state broadcaster has made since asking Charlie Bird to go it alone across the water.

However, its brief history has already been tarnished by the apparition of the gurning, gormless, static, mutton-headed Cork man. For a person who took such pleasure for so many years in wantonly attacking minorities it is only appropriate he fall from his undue pedestal with all the grace of a drugged up, disgraced television personality picking a fight with the already mortified father of

Lucan'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 Enda 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 'Skins'. I sometimes wonder whether the girls down Bolton St. are anything like Effy and her cohorts... the Aungier St. one's don't seem to be. Effy's mates have parties that last for five days. Effy's mates willingly mount any chap who claims to know who Yeasayer are and Effy's mates say things like "come see my masterpiece, it's going to make Damian Hirst 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 'Skins' is devoid of any semblance of realism. Still though, it'd be nice to meet an 'Effy'.

Apple at the core of innovation

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 iPad 16GB WiFi and 3G enabled 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 that 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.

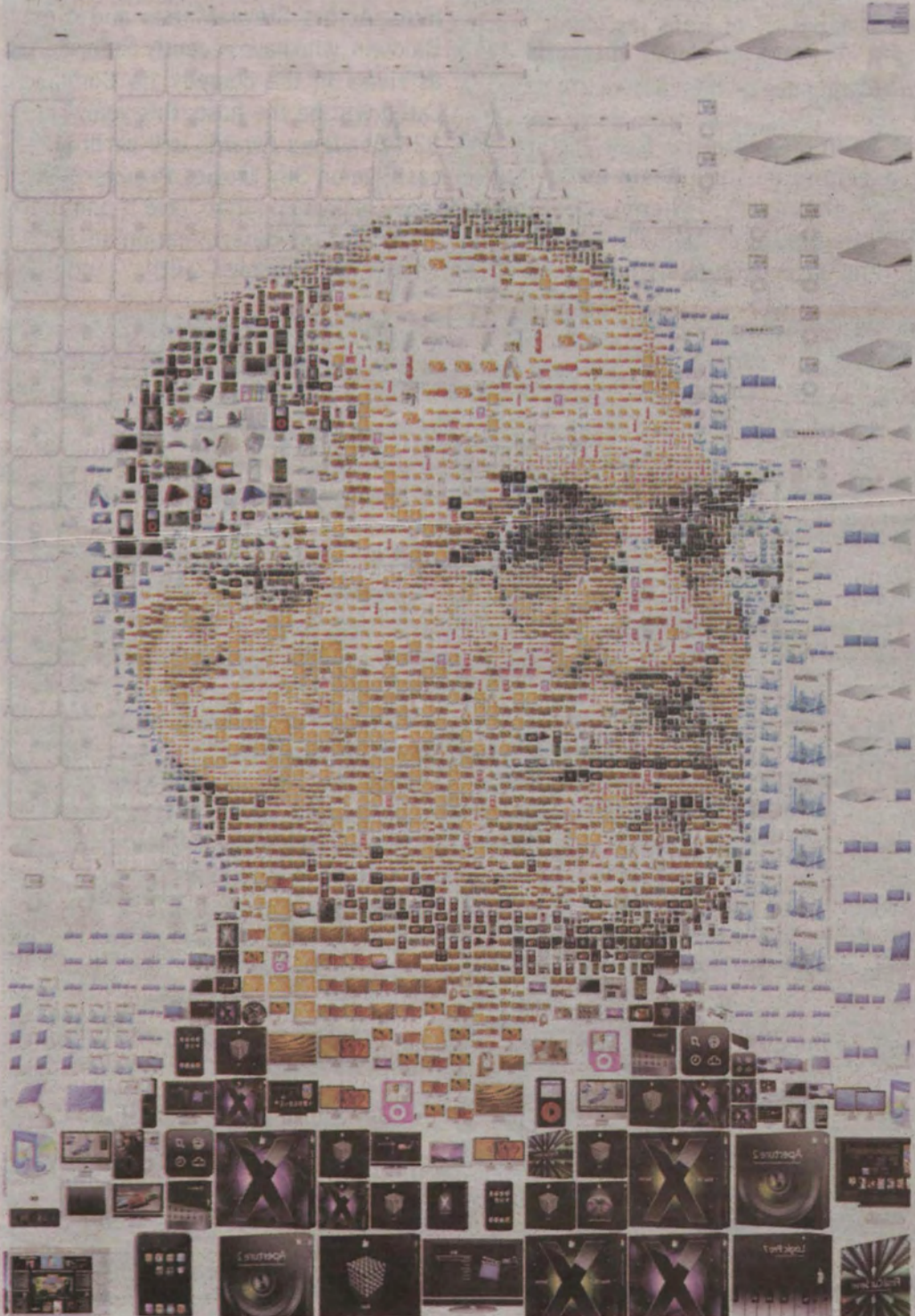
Size matters. The Sony is a comfortable 361 grams, not bad considering a standard novel weighs around 300 grams (roughly the same weight as three mobile phones). It has a 7" touch screen with a "paper-like display", utilising 'E-Ink' technology to make it feel more like reading from actual paper than 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 copy of the New Oxford American 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, all 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.



Samuel L Jackson

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-racking 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 suave 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 the 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 Ronan 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 shake 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!

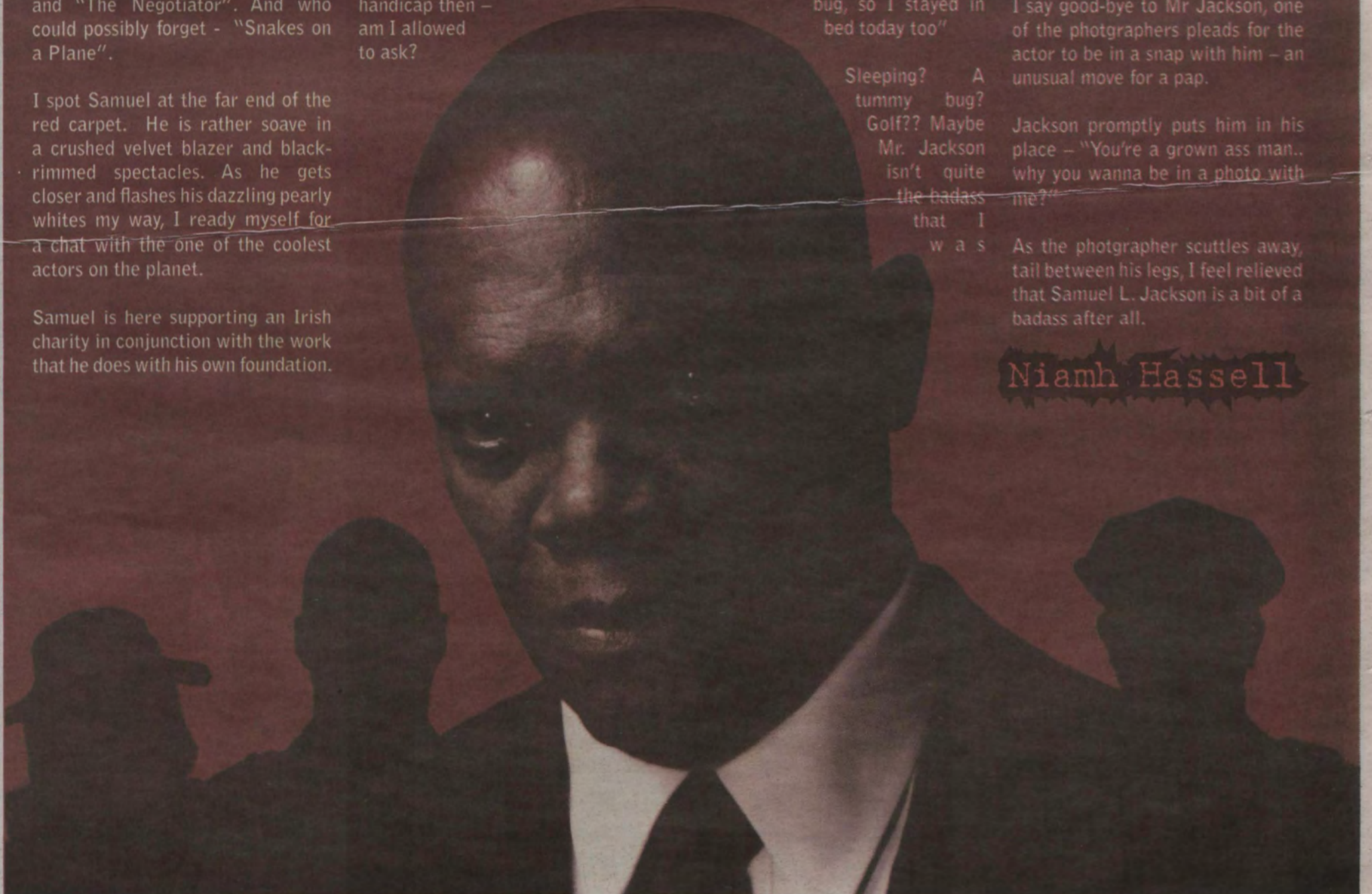
I dunno, everybody feels about if differently, I don;t know why he wouldn't. I am sure that there are times that he sits down and he watches his films and that he's very critical of em, or maybe he just, I dunno how he judges whether he can act or not, but thats Johnny!"

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 grown ass man.. why you wanna be in a photo with me?"

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

Niamh Hassell



Irish Cinema - an industry in bloom

Lights, Camera, ACTION

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 Syracuse, 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 all captured by McDonnell and Gunn. The film's focus on the microcosmic 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 Horgan 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 hold 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.

Panellists include director Conor Horgan (*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!!!

Film Review – A Prophet Rating: 18A

By Patrick Gormley

'A Prophet', set in a French prison, tells the story of an eighteen year old, Malik El Dejebena, a North African emigrant who is just beginning a six year prison sentence. His vulnerability inside the prison walls soon attracts the attention of Cesár, a Corsican mobster with the guards in his pocket – masterfully played by Niels Arestrup. Placing Malik in a no win situation, Cesár orders him to murder a fellow inmate, who was due to give evidence

against members of Cesár'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



Life's a drag for Davina Devine



By Jenny Dunne

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 amateur, 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 it just grew from there, I was like a newborn baby, and then I 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...eurgh...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 like 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 ask 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 a kinda of 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 granddad nearly every day, my granddads 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'd 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 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 Sasha 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's just 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 could I 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 I 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 it 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

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DIT Foundation

Features

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.

'Doppelgänger' 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



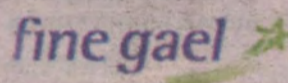
A misguided facebook doppelganger profile photo. Note the complete lack of contact with reality

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.

"If 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.



By Kevin Donnellan

Ever got involved in a conversation about politics and found yourself nodding vaguely?

Ever spoken angrily about the big bad Government without being quite sure who they are?

Ever gone into a voting booth and picked the candidate with the nicest face?

If the answer to any of these questions in yes then this cut out and keep political party guide is for you.

In no time you'll be able to make strong political statements and wild allegations about our political system!

Fianna Fail

Leader: Brian Cowen

Minister for Education: Batt O'Keefe

Dáil Seats: 75

What they say to students: We are committed to investment in education... while also achieving real value for money.

Which means: There could be fees on the way, but we're not mentioning it out loud at the moment.

Do Say: It was all the bankers fault.

Don't say: How are you guys still in charge?

If Fianna Fáil were a celebrity they would be; James Blunt. Huge success over the last decade, but strangely no one admits to actually liking them.

Green Party

Leader: John Gormley

Spokesperson on Education: Paul Gogarty

Dáil Seats: 6

What they say to students: We'll increase funding in education and give students interest free loans to help them through college.

Which means: We

have big ideas but they mightn't happen, we're quite small.

Do say: Climate change is the greatest challenge we face as a society.

Don't say: This global warming stuff is just a big myth.

If the Green Party were a celebrity they would be; Heather Mills. Into a lot of good causes but still not very popular.

Fine Gael

Leader: Enda Kenny

Spokesperson on Education: Brian Hayes

Dáil Seats: 52

What they say to students: We do not believe that graduates should bear the full cost of their education at third level. We propose a graduate contribution scheme.

Which means: No fees,

but you could have to pay up once you're in a job

Do say: Enda Kenny is the right man to lead us out of this crisis.

Don't say: Enda who?

If Fine Gael were a celebrity they would be; Jedward; really big at the moment but will it last?

Sinn Fein

Leader: Gerry Adams

Spokesperson on Education: Pearse Doherty

Dáil Seats: 4

What they say to students: We want more money put into third level education and more opportunities for those from disadvantaged areas

Which means: Big ideas like the Green Party but also small. Plus the other

parties don't like us that much.

Do say: Sinn Féin is the only All-Ireland party but, like, they're into other stuff too.

Don't say: Do you think I can touch Gerry Adams's beard?

If Sinn Féin were a celebrity they would be; Vinnie Jones. A bit of a rough past, but now trying for respectability with mixed results.

Labour

Leader: Eamon Gilmore

Spokesperson for Education: Ruairi Quinn

Dáil Seats: 20

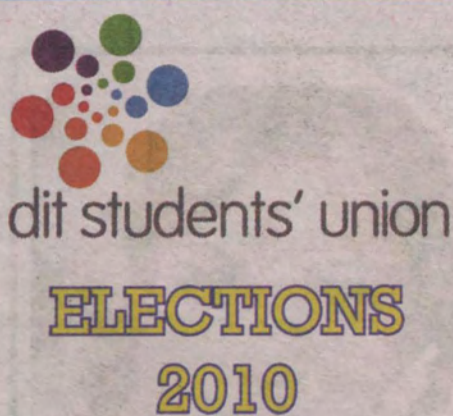
What they say to students: Labour believes that increasing educational investment at third level across Ireland is not only socially just, but vital for stimulating the economy back to growth.

Which means: More money for third-level, but you might pay for it in taxes in years to come.

Do say: We can build a better, fairer Ireland

Don't say: But first comrades we must crush the capitalist machine.

If Labour were a celebrity they would be; Joe Pesci. Never in a lead role, but decent as a sidekick. Also slightly angry.



Why we need to vote

Fionnuala Holohan

2010 will be a critical year for the economy and there are few signs of a quick recovery.

Colleges will feel the pinch in funding and difficult decisions will have to be made on how to make the best use of the resources we do have.

It is critical that the student voice is heard during that decision-making process and it is important that we vote for the representatives in the student unions who will represent us best - at president, vice-president and class rep convenor levels.

There are two candidates for DITSU President, three for VP of Services and

Trading, two for the VP of Academic Affairs and eight candidates for the six campus class rep convenor roles.

Five of the campus roles have only a single candidate; the sixth, Aungier St, being contested by three candidates.

Voting takes place on the week of the 22nd February. The profiles below summarize the candidate positions on a range of issues but you should be able to catch them live in the election hustings over the next week.



Sean Campbell

Seán 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-criticized DIT mail application, Luminis
- promote more student involvement in all areas

In his opinion, 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.

He lists his achievements as being part of the effort to get Gyms and Swimming Pool back open, getting the Bolton library roofing work started, cheaper gig prices, Insomnia Coffee and Tea Machine in all of our SU shops, including Cathal Brugha and organised the only Fresher's week that ever lasted 2 weeks!

Seán is 30 years old and a graduate of the 2 strong leader for the very rocky road ahead Electrical Services and Engineering Management course in Kevin Street.

'The students in DIT are the Union. So it's really important that students get involved. I want to push student participation even further. I want even more students getting involved and having fun, whether it's within the union or having a laugh in clubs and societies' said Sean.

Who will be our Mister President?

coverage:
Stephen Bourke
Graham O'Maonaigh
Fionnuala Holohan



Ciaran Nevin

Ciaran Nevin says his key policies are to:

- Bring about unity and a sense of belonging to DIT is my number one policy objective. We need to change the mentality of students so that they actually see it as one 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 elected officers of DITSU. We have lost some of our democratic edge and need to work at getting back to the grass roots. We have leaders but no army at the moment.

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.

'USI is a big area in terms of value for money. We need to look at getting greater value for money; demanding it. We give them €6600 a year of capitation fees and another €20,000 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 when 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 your preferred candidate A over candidate C over candidate B, then you 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.



Vice-President for Services and Trading



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 hour, the library facility in general, better printing facilities and better Wifi 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'



Eric Fitzgerald
Journalism with German

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



John Wade
Product Design

- Lower prices for students in the canteens, 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

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 scene in DIT can still be improved greatly through the use of better cross-campus communication and events.

'Every campus deserves lunchtime entertainment and savage nights out!'

Vice President for Academic Affairs



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

I also want to work with the other Sabbaticals to reinstate the RAG trip and I would like to see a more lenient alcohol policy in DIT.

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.



John May
Environmental Health

He'd like to:

- address health and safety policy. H&S is always nowhere to be seen when it comes to the basic needs of the students. I want student welfare to be a genuine concern of management
- get in talent from across the water and provide a forum for the stars.
- Get more the students' involvement.

He says he's willing to push the boat out further than any Vice President of Services and trading in terms of what I will demand from management while recognising the financial situation.

He also has experience as Aungier St. Class Rep Convenor

Election Timetable

Presidential Debate
Thurs 18 Feb 6pm, Venue TBC

DITSU & USI Hustings:
Mon 22 Feb Gleeson Hall at Gov Council

Election Dates:
Mon 22 Feb Temple Bar & Portland Row
10a.m. - 4p.m.
Tues 23 Feb 2010 ***
Wed 24 Feb 2010 ***
Thurs 25 Feb to 11.00a.m. (all stations)

*** Polling stations will operate as follows:
8.30a.m. To 8.30 pm in Aungier St,
Bolton St , Cathal Brugha St , Kevin St &
Mountjoy Sq .
9a.m. to 5p.m. in DIT Rathmines Rd.

The Election Count;
Thurs 25 Feb 2p.m. Bolton Street
Public counting of votes & announcement
of winners
All welcome

Class Rep Convenors

Siobhan Abrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	Suzann Tutty <i>Environmental Planning and Management</i> Bolton St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full integration with full time and part time students • Class Reps in all class <p>I have the experience and the energy to put in 110%</p>
Aungier St	I am passionate and committed to the Students' Union but most of all to students within it.	Seona Dunne <i>Nutraceuticals for Health and Nutrition</i> Cathal Br St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of and engagement in SU in CBST • Negotiate better prices for students locally e.g. shops • Upgrade SU area in CBST <p>I am committed, a problem solver, organized, confident, approachable and friendly</p>
Darren Bates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increased level of free ON SITE Entertainments and cheaper offsite • Library Hours protection • Lecturer quality assessments <p>I'm 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!</p>	Graham Hayes <i>Computing</i> Kevin St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase in democracy in KST <p>I am approachable, knowledgeable, responsible, resourceful, and I listen!</p>
Aungier St		Kieran Keane <i>Interior and Furniture Design</i> Mountjoy Sq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to give 100% to the students of MJSQ and PR • deal with all matters arising efficiently • increase the amount of onsite entertaining <p>7 years of union experience!</p>
Conor Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>With four years experience in student politics, I believe I am the strong voice needed.</p>	Gareth Walker <i>Music</i> Rathmines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repairs on the campus • overcrowding in the canteen • the organisation of more of such events <p>My enthusiasm and passion for improvement</p>
Aungier St			

Senior Hurlers denied by last-gasp equaliser

Paul Mc Nulty, Sports Editor

DIT 1-14

CIT 1-14

DIT hurlers were devastated after a late CIT equalizer ensured the points were shared in a thrilling Fitzgibbon Cup clash at Mobhi Road.

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

After this lacklustre start, the DIT men were roused by an outstanding individual score by 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 defence got on top in the second half and limited the Corkmen to 2 points in the entire second half. John Walsh and Dublin star Brady were in inspirational form, and drove the rest of the team on. Points from Maloney and Ryan left the deficit at four points with only 8 minutes to go.

Dublin star David Treacy came off the bench shortly after half-time and his influence was noticeable. The All-star nominee set up Kehoe

with a clever handpass, who blasted to the net with a low shot to the bottom corner. The rampaging Treacy grabbed the next ball and slotted it over from forty yards to tie the score.

The momentum appeared to be with DIT at this stage, but CIT substitute O' Loughlin slotted over to give the Leesiders the lead by a point with only minutes remaining.

The frenetic pace didn't drop, and DIT equalised with a fine point from substitute Kelly, before the outstanding Ryan knocked over a free to give DIT the lead in the final minute.

The CIT keeper got the ball into play quickly, and after a period of scrappy ground hurling, the referee blows for a free to CIT after Costello was adjudged to have been fouled. The free was 65 yards out, and on the touchline.

Patrick Horgan, CIT's star man, who had tormented the DIT backs in the first half, stepped up to slot the ball over the bar, and ensure the points were shared.

After a topsy-turvy game, DIT manager Micheal O'Keefe said, "CIT played top-notch stuff in the first half, but we showed fantastic commitment and spirit to come back. We were unlucky not to win, but we have to look forward to the UCD game next week."

The draw does not kill off DIT's hopes by any means. Victory against UCD would leave them on 3 points, and in with a chance of even winning the group.

DIT: F McGarry; E Costello, T Brady, P Lynch; M Maloney (0-3, 2f), J Walsh, P Phelan; F Cullen, P Hartley; R Butler, W O'Dwyer (0-2), J Clarke; P Ryan (0-6, 3f), D O'Dwyer, H Keogh (1-1). Subs: D Treacy (0-1) for Clarke 37 mins; P Kelly (0-1) for W O'Dwyer 51; D Molloy for D O'Dwyer 53.

CIT: J Condon; C Murphy, E Dillon, J O'Callaghan; L Desmond (0-1), R Cashman, S White; B Lawton (0-1), S McDonnell; P Gould (0-1), B Corry (0-1), A Mannix; P Horgan (1-7, 2 65s, 3f), C Cusack, T Murphy (0-2). Subs: L McLoughlan (0-1) for Cusack 36;



DIT despair at Daingean defeat

Eoghan Costello & Paul Mc Nulty

NUIG Galway 0-12

Dublin IT 1-8

A dramatic last-minute free from NUIG captain Finian Cooke defeated a brave DIT team in their first match in the Fitzgibbon Cup group stage.

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.

DIT's backline were as dominant in the first half as the Galwaymen were in the first. John Walsh and Paul Lynch were leading the charge from the back.

The goal seemed to reignite the Galway challenge and two frees from Finian Coone in the last quarter put Galway ahead by a point in the final stages.

A tense finale ensued, with DIT having two good chances to equalise. A superb Paul Ryan effort from a free on the touchline from the 65 agonisingly hit the post. The ball dropped in the square and the and after a scramble, a 65 was awarded to DIT.

Wing back Mick Maloney stepped up to take the long range attempt with a strong cross field gale blowing. The ball dropped agonisingly short 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; C O'Shaughnessy, T Brady, E Costello; M Maloney, J Walsh, P Lynch; P Phelan, J Clarke; P Kelly (0-1) , P Hartley, W O'Dwyer (0-2) ; P Morris, H Kehoe (0-1), P Ryan (1-4, thee frees). Subs : F Cullen for Phelan (33 mins); D O'Dwyer for Morris (44 mins); D Treacy for Kelly(43 mins)

NUIG : D Tuohy; D Nash, P Nihill, N Casey; D O'Donovan (0-1), J Lee (0-2) , P Kelly; D Connolly, S Hennessy (0-1); D Barrett (0-1) , K Keehan, K Heagney; G Kelly, F Coone (0-6, three frees), J O'Gorman (0-1). Subs : S Quinlan, P Gordon, E Noone.

Sports shorts

A peek at what the smaller sport's teams are up to...

Paul Mc Nulty, Sports Editor

In karting news, Aron Smith kept his nerve and passed Willie Coyne of CIT on the final lap to take the win for DIT and his first Irish Championship win of the year at the first round of the Irish Intervarsity Championship in Formula Karting in Newry. The club are in full preparation for the for the John Hanrahan Memorial Cup in Tenagh Co. Galway. This track is the biggest outdoor track in Europe, and the event is scheduled to go ahead in early March.

The Ladies footballers reached the final of the Division 2 League Final where they were defeated by an extremely strong Mary Immaculate side, featuring multiple All-Star Juliette Murphy. Despite the best efforts of Rachel Bagnall, Jane Golan and

Michelle Kearney, the Mary Immaculate side won by 5-10 to 0-7.

Herbie Mc Clelland is running for a non-academic position in the Governing Council. Herbie, praised by GAA president Christie

Cooney at a recent event in DIT, is aiming to provide a voice for sports on at the executive level.

The senior camogie team have reached the finals of the Purcell Cup after defeating Trinity College in the quarter-final. They have now qualified for the finals weekend which will take place in CIT.

Ireland call-up for DIT quartet

by Conor Mc Mahon

Following on from a set of competitive trials held before the Christmas break, four DIT players have been selected on on the Irish Colleges (CFAI) team for the coming season.

The quartet selected for the main squad are Eoin Kavanagh, Sean Fitzgerald, Stephen Roche and Conor McMahon and these four will hope to be in the starting line-up when the

serious business begins later in the year.

This means that for the second consecutive year, DIT are the best represented college on the final squad with five players having made last year's squad.

David O'Sullivan and Dean Zambra, Integral squad members a year ago, miss out due to a combination of injuries and other commitments with Dean having to settle for a place on the stand-by squad for the time being.

Under the tutelage of manager Danny Crowley the team will play two highly competitive games against the Defense Forces and the Irish Universities Team.

DIT GAA star hits the right notes

by Paul McNulty,

The worlds 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 Loughnane; men's men, who are not easily swayed by the fripperies of the media world. Despite the hundreds of thousands who watch the game, it is rare for any player or manager to stick a head above the parapet.

Walsh is the centre-back on this years DIT Fitzgibbon hurling team. The 24 year old Laois native has been amongst the teams top performers in this years campaign, and combines hurling with a Masters 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 Micheal O'Keefe 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 easy for him to use that as an excuse, but he worked unbelievably hard to get back, and you have to respect a lad like that."

Walsh admits his DIT teammates have taken full advantage of his new found fame. "Ah yeah, I-get plenty of slugging, the lads have been slating me about showing up to training with make-up on after the trials."

The All-Ireland Talent Show is the latest in RTE's string of curiously successful reality cabaret-style shows where each province nominates acts to compete in a national final.

This years competitors include a 6-year-old Freddie Mercury impersonator, multiple troupes of gymnasts, as well as Walsh's Na Fianna, a traditional group.

This final selection process is judged by the weatherman from TG4 Daithi O Se, jovial middle-aged radio personality John Creedon, ex-Afternoon Show presenter Blaitnaid Ni Chofaigh, and the ubiquitous Keith Duffy.

Ireland's parochial nature means that these competitions are marked by frenzied and passionate local campaigning. Walsh had to miss some of this due to exams in January, but is 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 that, 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, its 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 Ballinakill(Co Laois) clubman as he was named a Fitzgibbon all-star, marking DIT's first appearance in the semi-finals of the prestigious intersarsity 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



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

a better start than we have in our previous games. The group stage is still up in the air, all teams could end up with 3 points, so it's just a matter of doing our best in that, making sure we get a win, and the group will look after itself".

It promises to be a big week for Walsh, with Na Fianna making their next appearance on the silver screen on the wildcard show of The All-Ireland Talent Show on Saturday the 21st at 6.30 pm.

"There will be posters up around college all week, and I'll be trying to drum up as much support as I can." For a man who has done so much for DIT, from captaining the team to being the Hurling club chairman, it's the least that we can do as a student body, to send a text on Saturday to see one of our own through.

GAA president hails DIT 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 is 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 Freshers league as a great sign of progress, and it is testimony to the vision of Ann Murphy and Herbie Mc Clelland, who set up the club in 1986," 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 Mc Grath 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."



(l-r) Trevor Mc Grath, Professor Norton and GAA president Christy Cooney,

No final repeat as Sigerson team fall at first hurdle

by Alan O'Mara

UCC 1-10

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 UCC 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'Callaghan 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.

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 at 0-3 apiece.

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 Diarmuid Connolly put DIT in front for the first time with a free one minute after the restart and he quickly doubled that advantage. However, after that UCC's defence started to dominate 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,

diving blocks to keep DIT within touching distance and they proved to be crucial as they drew level in injury time. Martin Reilly was the man to end the mini-scoring drought when he lashed over a fantastic point from out on the right wing to force extra-time.

However, it was all downhill from there for the Dublin college as UCC outscored the visitors by a point in the first period of injury-time. Daniel Graham got DIT's sole score and that proved to be their last as the Cork outfit hit 1-02 in the last ten minutes to run out comfortable victors.

The introduction of O' Driscoll for UCC turned out to be crucial as the substitute hit 1-1 in the extra period as DIT faded.

DIT: E. Summerville, J. Gallagher, K. Duffley, E. Naughton, D. Graham (0-1), R. Glavin, D. Hughes, J. Coughlan P.Cunningham (0-1), C. Mackey, E.O'Reilly, K.McLoughlin, M.Reilly (0-2), J McGrath (0-1), D. Connolly (0-2f) Subs: A.McLaughlin R.Tierney, N.Coughlan, A. Nestor, S.Bergin,

Up the jumper

with Conor Ward

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

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 elegance" 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.



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

What will you do this week?
Here's 27 ideas!

Over 600 students participate in the regular weekly activities...

**DO YOU?
Get Involved!**



Contact the Societies Office:
Anita Conway
Head of DIT Societies Service
01 402 7123



James Costello
DIT Southside Societies
Development Officer
01 402 3172



Teri O'Boyle
DIT Northside Societies
Development Officer
01 402 4142



facebook.com/ditsocs
Email: socsoffice@gmail.com

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

Society	Activity	Venue	Day	Time	Contact Email
Art & Design Society	Workshops - bi-weekly	Mountjoy Sq	Wednesday	18.00	socsoffice@gmail.com
Beliver Loveworld	Meeting/ Guests Speaker	Bolton St Room 121	Wednesday	16.00	socsoffice@gmail.com
Breakdance Society	1 Class	Kevin St	Wednesday	17.30	socsoffice@gmail.com
Cumman Galeach	Meetings and Guest Speakers	Aungier St Black Box	Varies		socsoffice@gmail.com
Christain Union	Meetings and Guest Speakers	Various	Thursday		socsoffice@gmail.com
Dance Society	2 Classes	Larkin College	Wednesday	18.30	ditdancesoc@gmail.com
DJ Soc	Classes	Black Box	Tuesday	17.00	ditdjsoc@gmail.com
Drama Northside	Workshops and Rehearsals	Bolton St	Varies		socsoffice@gmail.com
Drama Southside	Workshops and Rehearsals	Aungier St Black Box	Varies	19.00	socsoffice@gmail.com
Film Society	Screening & Discussion	Aungier St	Thursday	19.30	socsoffice@gmail.com
Games Societies	Workshops and Competition	Various	Varies		ditgamesoc@gmail.com
Games Soc Port.Row	Workshops and Competition	Portland Row	Varies		socsoffice@gmail.com
Gig Soc	Workshops	Aungier St Black Box	Thursday	18.00	gigsocdit@gmail.com
Guitar Soc	Classes	Bolton / Aungier	Thursday		ditguitarsoc@yahoo.ie
Fashion Soc	Rehearsals	Aungier St	Wednesday	18.00	ditfashionshow@gmail.com
Intercambio Society	Meetings	Aungier St	Varies		socsoffice@gmail.com
Juggling Society	1 Class	Bolton St	Wednesday	18.00	socsoffice@gmail.com
LGBT Society	Meetings	Various	Varies		lgbtdit@gmail.com
Life Drawing Society	Life drawing classes	Portland Row	Monday		socsoffice@gmail.com
Media Society	Film Screening	Aungier St	Varies		socsoffice@gmail.com
Music Emsemble Soc	Rehearsals and performance	Kevin St	Mon-Weds		socsoffice@gmail.com
Poker Soc	Poker Tournaments	Bolton	Tuesday		socsoffice@gmail.com
Roaring Water	Life drawing classes	Sherkin Island	Wednesday		socsoffice@gmail.com
Sequential Arts	Workshops/Movie Nights	Mountjoy Sq Rm 204	Tuesday	18.00	socsoffice@gmail.com
Sign Soc	2 sign language classes	Mountjoy	Tuesday		socsoffice@gmail.com
Soul Patrol	Rehearsals	Cathal Brugha St	Thursday		socsoffice@gmail.com
SVP Society	Soup Runs and Age Action	Various	Varies		socsoffice@gmail.com



Get Involved

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Duo hoping for CUFL glory

Paul McNulty

Every wizened old sports hack will tell you that defence wins championships. If that is the case, then DIT stand a great chance in the forthcoming CUFL final.

The DIT defence is marshalled by Conor Mc Mahon and Niall Flynn. The duo are not just colleagues with the college, but are also teammates at Monaghan United, who they guided to a fifth place finish in the League of Ireland First Division.

Mc Mahon is the elder of the two, aged 24, with five years experience here at DIT. Flynn is the young Turk at 19, and there is an elder brother element to the pairs relationship.

"Ah, Flynnner is some man for sleeping," Mc Mahon laughs. We have a car-pool and every time I ring him to collect him, he's in the leaba. But, in all fairness his progress over the past twelve months has been unreal."

"Yeah, I don't spend half as long in bed as you do on your hair," Flynn retorts, not letting his elder get the better of him.

Flynn, a Leisure Management student, had spent his entire football career playing for his hometown club Monaghan United. Despite continuing to impress locally, he received little representative or national recognition during his formative years.

At the beginning of 2009, he was yet to force his way into the Monaghan United senior team, and was playing with the second-string here in DIT.

Flynn bided 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 end of season run which saw them positioned as the form team in the highly competitive First Division with Niall an ever-present at the heart of a miserly 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 forward 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 are 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 Eircom League football since 2006, despite the slugging. "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 immovable object meeting the irresistible force, with DIT's defence up against the vaunted UCD offence. Here's hoping that the old nugget about defences winning championships is proved true again after the upcoming CUFL final against UCD.

The final takes place at 7.30 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

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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 jumps 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 thirteen times champion McCoy was the obvious choice for Denman.

The bookies could barely split the two with Paddy Power offering 11/8 on the 2007 and 2009 champion Kauto Star with the 2008 winner Denman at 2/1 until last Saturday. Denman was pushed out to 3/1 and Kauto cut to 4/5 after Denman unseated the much-vaunted McCoy in a worrying performance.

For the record the Willie Mullins trained Cooldine is third favourite at 12/1 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 inmates 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 Binocular. However the form of the 2009 Champion has been getting knocked badly 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 then but has only managed to win once this season and that was in a three horse race at odds of 1/7. Punjabi and Celestial Halo have also struggled since last year but their Champion Hurdle experience will stand to them on a track where course form is a big plus.

The Supreme Novice Hurdle is always a decent guide and last year's winner Go Native will be chasing a £1million bonus if he wins the champion after taking the Fighting Fifth hurdle at Newcastle and the

Kempton Christmas hurdle. Noel Meade's charge could well be the one travelling best turning in but may find one too good up the hill.

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 Solwhit 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 had a stranglehold on the Champion Hurdle for the best part of a decade but after two English trained winners in the last two years Solwhit could be the one to bring the prize back across the Irish Sea.

This month's recommendation is Solwhit, priced at 4/1 with our sponsors Paddy Power. For all the latest tips straight from the horses mouth check out Paddy on Facebook - facebook.com/paddypower.

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Kavanagh pens final draft as DIT beat Athlone

DIT 2
AIT 0

Conor Mc Mahon

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 LYIT. The injured players were ably deputised by O'Sullivan and Sean Bonner, with Bonner in particular having a strong influence.

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 rashly handled by the AIT left-full 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-full 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, DIT again slowed the pace of their play and invited AIT to attack.

However, AIT lacked the guile required to break down a determined DIT defence and the



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

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 coveted 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

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.

DIT : C Hyland, E. Cavanagh, K Gallagher, C. Mc Mahon, S Bonner, C. Mc Donnell, R O'Farrell, S. Fitzgerald, D. Soon, D.O'Sullivan, M. O'Connor.

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