

Irish Examiner Tomorrow



Chic and cheerful
We go behind the scenes to find out why Penneys stores are such a big hit with Irish fashion fans **Weekend**



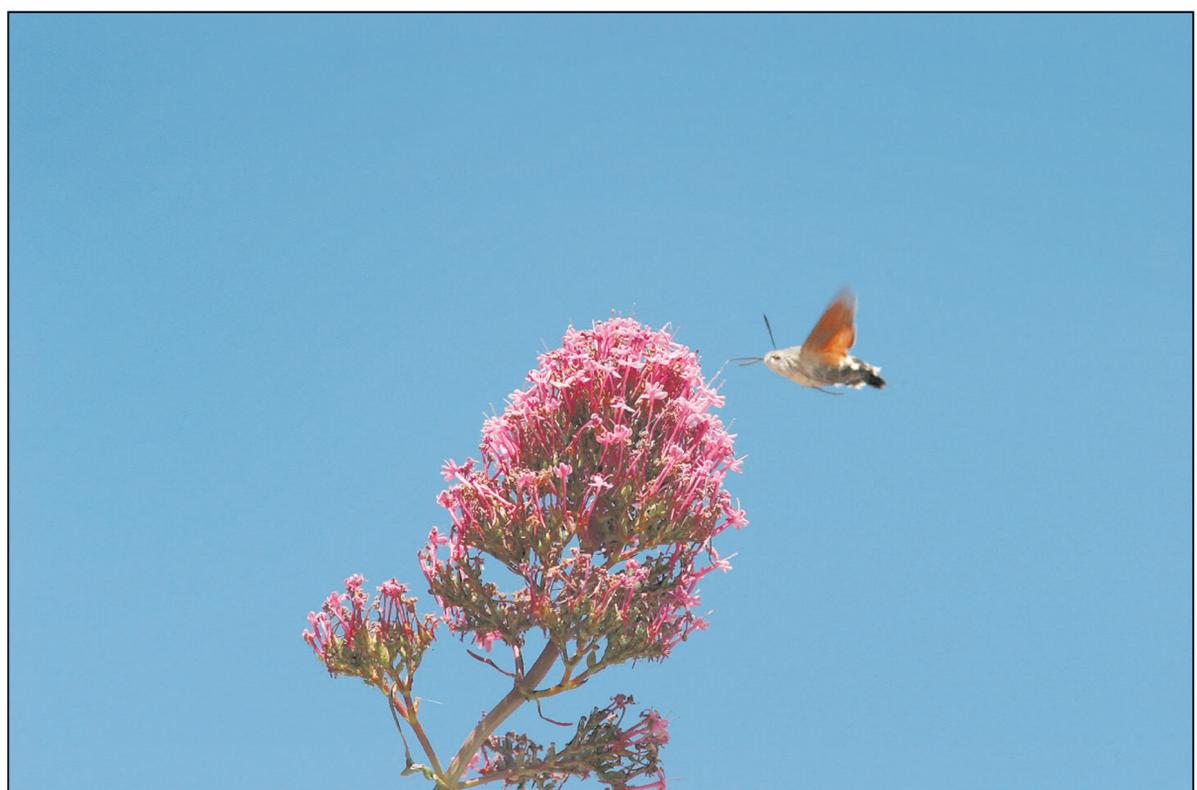
The write address
Lorca and Dali biographer Alan Gibson is selling his stunning home in Andalusia **Property**



Labour-lite
"The work is hard, but there's Brazilians do the worst of it for two euro and our spud-farmer can take five to book an hour in a tan pod" **The Last Word**



The inside view
Mick O'Dwyer writes exclusively on the eve of the Leinster football final **Sport**



Hmmmm: Humming-bird Hawk Moth taken near Dunderrow, Co Cork. These were reported all over Waterford last year. Some hibernate during the winter but the majority fly in from Mediterranean countries between May and September. Picture: Sheena Jolly

Athens dark horse goes for gold tan

GERMANY: An Olympic equestrian has booked solarium sessions to prepare her horse for Athens. German dressage rider Ulla Salzgeber said her horse Rusty needed the sessions to prepare him for the Greek heat. Salzgeber, who's ranked number one in the world, said: "Just like any person he has to get used to the expected high temperatures. I want to make sure he doesn't get sunburn."

RUSSIA: A man was refused a new passport because his 'body' was identified by his blind ex-wife. Oleg Lunkov found out he was officially dead when he went to a police station to pick up a passport. The Muscovite said: "When they told me my wife had identified my dead body I thought it was a joke, because she is blind." His ex-wife, Alla Timofeyeva, from whom he divorced in 2001, reported him missing after a train

bombing, claiming she feared he was killed in the explosion. The explosion on the Moscow metro killed at least 40 people and injured 100 others. He said: "One of the bizarre things is I never travel by metro because I am a cab driver." Police are now investigating his ex-wife on suspicion of possible criminal fraud after she was paid over €15,000 in compensation.

ROMANIA: A judge resigned after he was filmed showing his backside to his neighbours. Judge Florea Visan lowered his pants during an argument. He was also shown urging his children to shoot the neighbours. Judge Visan was said to have personal problems. One of his colleagues said: "He was a nice man and we showed him all our respect. He never had any negative behaviour at work. It was a real shock for us to



worldapart

hear and see what he could do."

BRAZIL: A man failed in an attempt to sue a friend who persuaded him to join an orgy. Luziano Costa da Silva said he only agreed to take part because he was drunk. But a judge in Goias ruled he joined the orgy of his own free will.

The judge said: "If someone agrees to take part in an orgy, he or she cannot complain about it afterwards. Whoever takes part in an orgy knows what is coming and does not have the right to complain later."

USA: A tiger that escaped from the Florida home of a former Tarzan actor was shot and killed. ABC News said officials had to ferry Steve Sipek's neighbours in Loxahatchee to and from their houses as they searched for the 270kg animal for 24 hours. They had hoped to tranquillise the tiger after spotting it in thick fog but the animal lunged at an officer and was shot. A wildlife official said: "Our officers unfortunately had no choice but to use lethal fire and shot the tiger. We're very sad to report the tiger is deceased." Sipek appeared as Tarzan in two films in 1969 and 1972.

GERMANY: Female German politicians tabled a motion demanding footballers be allowed to show off their bodies without getting a yellow card. MPs Evelin Schoenhut-Keil and Margareta Wolf got involved after watching Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo get booked for whipping off his shirt during Euro 2004. After heading the goal which brought a 1-0 victory for Portugal against Holland, Ronaldo pulled off his shirt. The referee showed him a yellow card — saying his show of skin was un-sportsmanlike conduct. The Green MPs decided to make a stand against the punishment. Thousands of German women have already backed the Green MPs' petition to change the rules. In an open letter to the German Football Association, the MPs wrote: "Get rid of the yellow card and let players show their athletic torsos."

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Prepare to be shocked and awed

DON'T you love the whole cinema ritual? The popcorn, the rustle of sweet-wrappers, the sticky carpet, the endless trailers with the growling voice-over, and then sitting back in the dark and letting the main feature take you on a cinematic magic-carpet ride.

I've spent half this week at my local multiplex. It started well — Bad Education — got even better — Shrek 2 — but tonight was the night. Tonight was when the entire adult audience of a packed local cinema burst into thunderous applause when the film — a documentary, of all things — ended.

People were clapping their hands off. Loads of people were in tears, myself included — and I haven't cried at a film since Lassie fell down a well in 1972.

The audience stayed on its feet, rabbits in headlights, until the last credit had rolled, and the last bars of Neil Young's Rocking in the Free World played out. Outside the cinema in autumnal drizzle, people stood about in clumps, comparing notes, chatting animatedly, getting tangled up in the squeeze of crowds queuing to see its next showing.

If you don't see another film for the rest of the year, go and see Fahrenheit 9/11. Take your preconceptions, your misgivings, your doubts and your cynicism, buy them all a big box of popcorn, and prepare to be Michael Moored. He lures you in with laughter — the opening shots of Bush, Cheney and Condi Rice being preened for the camera are hysterical — then just as your sides start to ache, it's rabbit punch after rabbit punch to the solar plexus, as Moore blanket-bombs his audience with the kind of editing mix you'd normally associate with million-quid-a-night DJs. Shock and awe? You betcha.

Of course there are detractors — apart from the American right — who'd love to see Moore blasted into outer space,



Suzanne Harrington
The Last Word

there are the snooty, complacent media pundits, who carp and sniff that he's emotive, he's random, he's single-agenda, he's blah blah blah whatever.

But sitting in that packed cinema tonight, being machine-gunned with clips about the Bushes and Bin Ladens, about Saudi Arabia possessing 6% of the US economy, about the masterminding of populist terror, about US working classes used as Iraqi cannon fodder, about Halliburton and the US billions being made from Iraqi reconstruction, about money, power, greed, and corruption — well, let's just say it's what you may have suspected all along.

And because it's Michael Moore, the film — despite the footage of screaming bloodied Iraqi children, of sobbing Iraqi grannies, of bewildered US troops, of the bereft mother of a dead US soldier — the film does the impossible. It makes you laugh in the face of darkness. John Kerry should be on his knees in gratitude.

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