



AN FOCAL



THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

e-mail ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

www.ul.ie/~ulsu

TERM 1 WEEK



Morrisey + Chemical Brothers

Competition
Features pgs 13 +15



Welfare Week Time Again

Center pgs.



UL Students Go To Africa

Features pg 14

New Bar Managers To Be Confirmed Today.

The committee deciding on the operator of the new bar re-convenes today to re-interview the remaining candidates, and make a decision.

The committee, which last met on the 6th of May, has been held up since then because of the difference of opinion between the college and the university on who should be chosen to manage the new bar. The decision was made to wait until students came back to gauge opinion on the matter.

Since then, criteria have

been laid down by the students. These criteria were worded for inclusion in the bar manager's contract at the SU executive board, and then finalised by the selection committee, before being ratified at class reps council.

Today sees new presentations from the remaining candidates, focusing on these criteria, and the committee will decide as to who is the best candidate to provide the best service to students and staff.

criteria detailed on pg. 5



who's going to be going in that door?

Date Rape Drug Found In Stables Toilet

by Claire Cox

Two weeks ago, in a cubicle in the men's toilets in the Stables courtyard, the pharmaceutical wrapper of the drug Rohypnol was found empty and discarded on the floor.

The drug Rohypnol is a sleeping pill. It is prescribed as a legitimate drug used in the short-term treatment of sleep disorders. It is the most widely prescribed sedative/hypnotic in Europe but has been abused for more sinister purposes. Like any other drugs, however, when abused, it can be extremely dangerous, and is commonly known as "The Date Rape Drug".

The number of Rohypnol associated date rapes are few here in Ireland for the time being. It's ten times as strong as Valium and is easily dissolved in liquid. Rohypnol is odour-

less, colourless and tasteless.

As of January 1998 stringent controls have been implemented to make it's detection easier in it's soluble form. A blue dye that floats on the top of the drink is now in every "official" Rohypnol tablet. There are, however, black-market tablets in circulation which have not gone through pharmaceutical rigours.

Once ingested it can begin to affect the consumer within ten minutes. Within thirty minutes, depending on factors such as the amount of alcohol and food taken and the metabolism of the person involved, a state of acute incoherence is reached. After the ingestion of Rohypnol the victim will have complete memory loss. They will not remember anything for a period of time. Victims have been known to wake up in unfamiliar surroundings, with complete strangers and have

contd on pg. 3

**Meeting to discuss
An Focal's progress
to date**

*we're looking for opin-
ions, comments, ideas
etc*

Thursday Wk 8

7.00pm

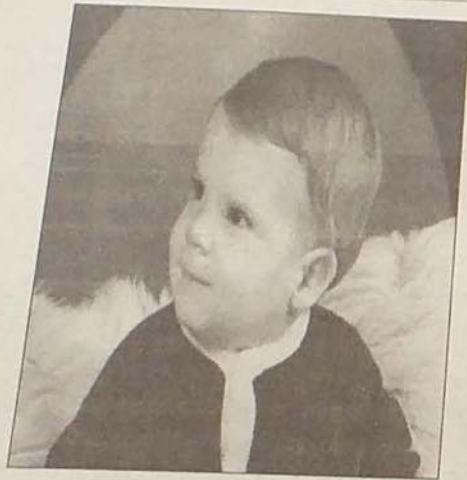
A1051

all are welcome

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

Each issue, we'll give you a quick dose of what we're up to.



Week 8. Another hectic two weeks. Another hectic two weeks. Another hectic two weeks. Another hectic two weeks.

Right, I won't have to say that again for another four issues. We're well settled into our new surroundings in the Student Centre now, and a lot of the past fortnight has been spent ironing out the teething problems that come with every new building.

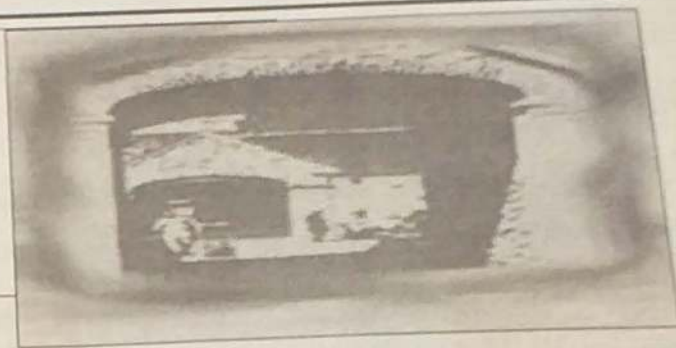
The new bar is coming along nicely and as this is being printed we are interviewing for who is to be running it. People

staff, chefs and so on. This takes time. Like the Stables Club, this new bar will be the premises for a new club called "The Scholars' Club". In order to become a member of this club you must fill out an application form which are available at the Students' Union reception.

I mentioned last week that if your class didn't have a class rep and you want to be one then just drop into the Students' Union and fill out a form.

There is a class rep training day this Saturday in the Limerick Inn which will provide class reps with important information on the duties of a class rep so if you're a class rep or want to be one then call into the Students' Union and sign up for Saturday.

An ongoing issue for a lot of students this semester is that of computer facilities - we're currently looking into it and I'll have more for you on that in the next issue. If you have any problems with anything in the college or outside then please do drop in and



Ahhhhhhhh, it's week 8 already, everybody said it would fly by but I didn't think it would pass this quickly. Welfare issues are many and varied, even my own welfare is going through a dodgy patch at the moment but the less said about the better!!!

The last two weeks has seen the opening of the University of Limerick, 'Silver Apples' Creche, and what a place it is too. The state of the art building is first class all the way and is run by the very capable Mrs Mary Maloney. Best of luck to Mary and her staff. For information on the Creche and Creche payments please call in or alternatively e-mail me at deppresident@ulsu.iol.ie.

Friday last was an eventful day in the area of Rotaract. Members of the Outreach society will know what I'm talking about. I met with John Lantry, head of Rotary in Dublin along with Pat O'Connor and Brian McCarthy members of the Limerick Rotary Club. In the coming weeks the efforts and work of the Outreach society will be highlighted and

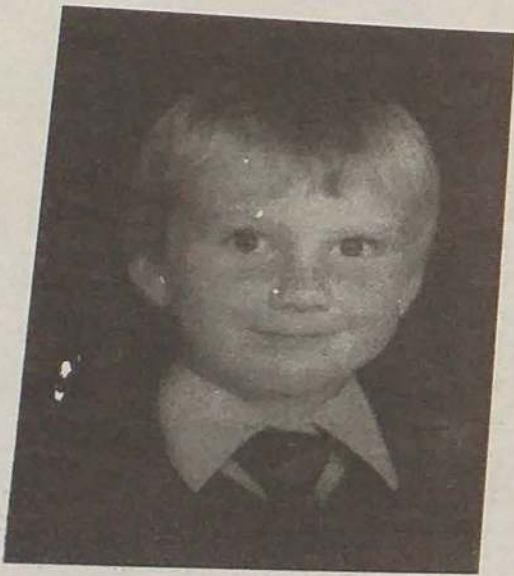


weeks!!

Welfare Days begin next week. Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th will be dedicated to the whole issue of Bullying, all aspects, kinds and effects. There will be workshops held on Tuesday and Wednesday and information stands in the Canteen including Victim Support, Limerick Rape Crisis Centre and The National Rehabilitation Board. Eileen Doyle, a Counselling Consultant and Vivette O'Donnell Head of the Irish Anti Bullying Campaign will speak at 5 o'clock on the respective days. Watch Noticeboards and E-mail for more details.

ings in the Student Centre now, and a lot of the past fortnight has been spent ironing out the teething problems that come with every new building.

The new bar is coming along nicely and as this is being printed we are interviewing for who is to be running it. People are asking, "when's it going to be opened?" and the answer is, realistically speaking, after Christmas. Once the person to run the bar is appointed, then they have to kit out the kitchen, hire



Loads of stuff done over the last two weeks.

For a start, there's thirty six pages in this issue of An Focal, which means that there's a fair bit of work in putting

sign up for Saturday.

An ongoing issue for a lot of students this semester is that of computer facilities - we're currently looking into it and I'll have more for you on that in the next issue. If you have any problems with anything in the college or outside then please do drop in and I'll do my best to try and fix them. Also keep an eye on the web site (www.ul.ie/~ulsu) for information on what we're going to be doing in the near future.

Pat

it all together. But, it's a great way to be. It's great that so many people are writing about so many things. If you can't find something that interests you in this issue, then you're a lost cause.

We're trying to include everything, from all the news we could muster, to reviews of different types of music, film and books, to different features that may be of interest, to as many of the sports and events stories that we had time to get in. Hopefully, some of this will show how much is going on around this little tarmacademed patch of ours. We've started putting the paper around a few places in town as well, to try and let the people of Limerick know what we're up to, and that it's not all

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Friday last was an eventful day in the area of Rotaract. Members of the Outreach society will know what I'm talking about. I met with John Lantry, head of Rotary in Dublin along with Pat O'Connor and Brian McCarthy members of the Limerick Rotary Club. In the coming weeks the efforts and work of the Outreach society will be highlighted and recognised by becoming an official Rotaract Club. Watch this space for more details. Speaking of Outreach activities..... Over the next few weeks the members will be active in the 'One Hour for Children Fund'. Our hope is to encourage students to give £1 of their last grant of the millennium towards this worthy cause so please be generous. We will be supported by Today FM so listen out for the regional reports in the next few

about drinking and falling over.

As always, if you're interested in writing, in anything at all, give us a shout in the office, or e-mail me at ceo@ulsu.iol.ie. No experience necessary, as you'll see from some of the stuff I've written inside. If you'd just like to give us your ideas on the paper, then come along to the meeting this evening at 7pm in A1051, or any Thursday evening that the paper comes out.

One downer over the last couple of weeks was the attendance at the AGM. As Communication officer, it's my job to let people know that these meetings are on. I don't have time to go around every lecture, or put up all the posters myself, so we pay someone

be workshops held on Tuesday and Wednesday and information stands in the Canteen including Victim Support, Limerick Rape Crisis Centre and The National Rehabilitation Board. Eileen Doyle, a Counselling Consultant and Vivette O'Donnell Head of the Irish Anti Bullying Campaign will speak at 5 o'clock on the respective days. Watch Noticeboards and E-mail for more details. This is a topic which effects many of us in different ways, something we should not be afraid to come forward and talk about. By highlighting this issue we can, in some way, move towards eliminating this problem.

As always drop in any time with any problem or issue. Enjoy Dara Breen our FREE Welfare Concert on Tuesday 23rd in the Concert Hall. Watch out for more upcoming Welfare Events!!! Happy Studying, DeeDee

casual labour to do it. But, either you didn't here about it, or you weren't interested. That's something that I have to work harder on in future.

As CEO, I'm also the education officer. Apart from dealing with more individual problems ranging from nurses to me uncle wanting to come back to college as a mature student, we also made some progress on the teaching practice expenses front, in so far as we re-organised the campaign. We've a meeting tonight in the Jean Monnet, so hopefully a lot of education students will be there, and we'll get a plan together. Better let them know about it first though, I suppose.

dayvoh

Problems Prevent The Immediate Improvement Of Castletroy Bus Service

by Gemma Hickey

Staff relation problems within Bus Eireann are preventing four Imp buses, bought and registered in 1997 from servicing the Castletroy area.

The four imp buses were bought to service the Castletroy route by providing a 10-minute service. However, the buses with a passenger capacity of 35 – 29 seated and 6 standing – have never left Bus Eireann's Limerick station because of staff relations problems due to a nationwide reorganisation plan within Bus Eireann. The issue is currently being taken to the labour court.

Mr. John McLoughlin, of Bus Eireann, Limerick, confirmed the situation but added, "The Imps are not a solution in itself." Mr. McGloughlin told An Focal that Bus Eireann realise the requirement of a more frequent and uniform bus ser-

vice for the Castletroy area. Now any new buses are servicing this route, which is a priority route at the moment.

A plan to deal with the issue has been submitted. LUTS – Land Use Transportation Study – is the plan carried out by Buchanan Consultants. The plan proposes bus lanes in Mulgrave Street, Clare Street, a ten-minute service to the Castletroy area, bus activated traffic lights and a direct service from Raheen to Castletroy. The council have also proposed a new road to alleviate some of the traffic from the parkway roundabout. Considering, most of the buses servicing Limerick city are 10 – 12 years old a replacement program has been proposed. Eighteen new buses have been ordered.

Consultants are now looking at the viability of the plan. A commencement date for the plan is still unknown.

Class Reps More Effective This Time Around.

After the marathon session the fortnight before, class reps was a shorter more concise meeting where

Despite the serious shortage of PC's and the chronic amount of projects due, the post-graduates of the college would rather you

Youths Charged After Burglaries And Assaults

A number of youths have been charged for burglaries that took place in the Castletroy area recently. Files are being prepared after four youths were arrested following 4 assaults in The Elm Park Milford grange area on Thursday last, 11th November. There were no serious injuries and the youths were positively identified.

The new Students' Center was also damaged on Sunday night, the 14th of November when burglars broke in and

stole money from one of the game machines.

A garda spokesman has asked An Focal to remind students under no circumstances to leave back windows open while the house is unoccupied. Most burglaries are taking place during the day and at weekends. In a lot of cases the thieves do not have to break or damage the property. So remember to close all windows when leaving

Date Rape Drug Found In Stables Toilet

from pg. 1

no recollection of what happened

As a sleeping pill, prescribed and used correctly, it is extremely effective and recommended by many doctors. Like other sleeping tablets, taken in excess it is unlikely to kill, however overdose can result in harmful affects. When mixed with alcohol it's potency can be multiplied by a factor of ten dependant on the individual.

Buying it on the street as "roofies, rope or ruffies, to name a few of it's many street names, it looks as safe as any painkiller. In most countries in Europe it is a freely prescribed so availability is fairly high.

Rohypnol is a legitimate drug, you could be prescribed it in later years but for now all you need to know is that used incorrectly it has a terrifying potential.

Some useful information websites:

<http://www.poliece.midland.on.ca/rohypnol.html>

<http://www.health.org/pubs/factsht/rohypnol.htm>

http://www.news2.thls.bbc.co.uk/low/english/uk/newsid_72000/72114.stm

<http://www.danenet.wicip.org/dcccrsa/saisues/rohypnol.html>

<http://www.ovid.com>

Benefit Night Organised In Support Of The

Class Reps More Effective This Time Around.

After the marathon session the fortnight before, class reps was a shorter more concise meeting where some real things got discussed.

For a start Pat Mc Carthy gave details of the Class reps training day in the Limerick Inn on Saturday the 20th of Nov. It will only cost £5 per class rep (down from £20 last year) and this gets you food, your bus in and out and free into a nightclub in the city (yet to be confirmed) that night The bus departs from the stables at 10 am and we will be departing the Limerick Inn shortly after 6pm that evening.

Any class rep's who haven't attended meetings, or if you fancy yourself as a class rep, go along to the meeting because the more class rep's we have the more we can do. Christmas parties and free booze came up at the meeting so hopefully we'll hear all about that one at the next meeting. Does anyone remember last year?????

The next big item that came up was computers and the fact that there were no 24 hr labs any more. Well Boys and Girls, believe me that little thorn in our side is well and truly fixed. How do I know??? Because it's 5.44 and they haven't thrown me out of the Vax yet!! The ever busy Pat Mc Carthy is currently looking into the other problems brought up like printers, queues for PC's, screwed up internet access and every other kind of cyber query that you had.

Despite the serious shortage of PC's and the chronic amount of projects due, the post-graduates of the college would rather you didn't use their computer lab's. They have work to do too!! It was noted that everything humanly possible would be done to prevent this kind of computer mayhem happening again...yippee!

A miffed student got on his high horse to crib about the buses, or lack thereof in the route to UL (and rightly so). Motions were proposed, seconded, thirded, fourthed amended then seconded again and finally we got a result.....we're going to write a letter to Bus Eireann and ask them very nicely if we can please have more buses

Application forms for the new scholars club were handed out to every class rep and students are urged to return them to the Students' Union General office ASAP.

Shane Morris made the suggestion, on behalf of the Irish peace Institute that the new Students Centre should be named after Gerry Mc Cabe. Heated discussion ensued (is there any other kind in Class reps??) as Muiris O' Sullivan brought up Mike Sadlier's name came up for the dedication. Class reps are to present proposals over the next few weeks to shortlist a select few to be considered for the honour of having the new Students Centre after them.

The next meeting is on in SR3008 at 6pm on Tuesday the 23 Nov.

rope or ruffies, to name a few of its many street names, it looks as safe as any painkiller. In most countries in Europe it is a freely prescribed so availability is fairly high.

ssues/rohypno.html
<http://www.ovid.com>

Benefit Night Organised In Support Of The People Of East Timor

Last Tuesday saw a benefit night held in aid of East Timor.

The purpose of this benefit night was to raise awareness within the UL community about the crisis in East Timor. More than this, Rory Keane is looking at the bigger picture. It is his opinion that UL students should be taking a more proactive stance with regard to international incidents much like the French university students. He believes that it is our duty to take a bigger interest in matters of importance like this.

It was his tentative suggestion that either a position be created or a provision be made in the Welfare Officer's brief to deal with the co-ordination of the students to raise money for crises like this. Rory stated that UL is as big an institution as any public sector institution and therefore we should have some sort of allowance made within our constitution.

"It's not something "good"

to do, it's our duty" quotes Mr. Keane. He would like to see us take this concept from here and build upwards. When asked if this would mean we would take every lost cause under our wing he stated that naturally there were certain areas which the Students' Union couldn't touch due to their political volatility. "We would have to be selective in picking the causes" according to Mr. Keane this would equate to possibly 2 or 3 events a year.

He stressed that these events didn't always have to be entertainment orientated, food fairs and awareness days would also be viable fundraising options. In the long run it would promote a better identity for the students in UL, and for the University in general showing that we don't just donate to charity during Kollege Week.

All the proceeds from the benefit night in Costellos was donated to the people of East Timor.

Disappointing Attendance At Students' Union AGM

by Sinead Kelleher

The Students Union AGM took place on Wednesday of Week 7 at 6.30pm in the Jean Monnet.

The overall attendance by students turned out to be very disappointing, there was only about 25 in total. The agenda for the meeting was the presentation of accounts, minutes, matters arising, officer's reports, ratification of officers, the scholars club, constitutional charges and AOB.

The chairperson, Aidan O'Gorman, opened the meeting and this was followed closely by the presentation of accounts showing that the Students'

Union is not running on a very profitable basis. It was decided that minutes and matters arising would not be dealt with and they continued on to the officers reports of Pat McCarthy, President, Dave O'Donovan, CEO and Dee Dee Hosty, Welfare Officer, informing students of their plans in relation to teaching practise expenses, the use of the new sports centre, post-grad issues, library, ITD, An Focal, Wired FM, the new creche which has been opened since the 15th November, and nitelink and many more.

Questions from students were asked and answered swiftly. The Scholars' Club was dealt with and then AOB.

New J1 Visa Regulations Announced

America has a long tradition of providing employment for the Irish, particularly students over the summer break.

The US government has always encouraged students to seek employment before travelling to the US, however for the summer 2000, they are tightening their policy on pre-arranged

participants a roster of Bona Fide job listings equal to or greater than, the number of participants for whom pre-arranged employment has not been secured."

This policy has many advantages and ensures that students will avoid the disappointment and financial charges that result in not finding work. With

Progress Made At Student Teachers' Society Meeting

Last Monday's meeting of the Student Teachers' Society saw the re-organisation of the campaign to get expenses for student teachers on teaching practice.

The meeting had promised to be controversial from the outset, with a vote of no confidence being put forward against Paddy Sheelan, the vice-president of the STS, and their representative on the Students' Union executive through his position as Student Teacher Officer.

It was the process of his campaign during the election for the position of STO that led to the call for a vote of no confidence. It had been stated the Mr Sheelan had claimed that an offer of £15 per student on teaching practice had been turned down by the committee of the STS the previous year. Opposition to Mr. Sheelan denied this, and felt that this statement had damaged the election campaigns of other candidates for the post of STO.

At the meeting, Mr. Sheelan temporarily stepped down from his position as chair, nominating CEO, Dave O'Donovan to take his place for that particular agenda item. He stated that he had indeed made these comments, but when he discovered that they were incorrect, he made every effort to find

AOB. Mr. Sheelan returned to the chair, and the discussion turned to teaching practice. Mr. Sheelan suggested that the teaching practice expenses issue should be looked at by a sub-committee of the society to develop a strategy to tackle the question of TP expenses. There were voices from the floor, however, that felt the work done last year should not go to waste, and that all that was needed was to inform all education students of the importance of the issue, and of what had happened to date.

From here it was decided that those classes without reps for the STS should be asked to provide one, and that these reps should meet to receive the information on the process to date. It was decided that new committee members should meet with last years committee to come up to speed on the issue themselves. A meeting took place the following evening between the two committees prior to the meeting of the reps due to take place the following Thursday.

At Thursday's meeting, it was decided to hold a meeting of all education students to inform them of the process to date, and decide on a plan of action to be followed from that date.

This Meeting is to be held in the Jean Monnet at 6pm on Thursday of Week 8. It is hoped that all

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America has a long tradition of providing employment for the Irish, particularly students over the summer break.

The US government has always encouraged students to seek employment before travelling to the US, however for the summer 2000, they are tightening their policy on pre-arranged employment and now require at least 50% of students to meet this criteria.

The new rule as defined by the US State Department reads, "Sponsors shall ensure that not less than 50 percent of their programme participants have pre-arranged employment with a US employer." It goes on to state, "Prepare and provide to programme

participants a roster of Bona Fide job listings equal to or greater than, the number of participants for whom pre-arranged employment has not been secured."

This policy has many advantages and ensures that students will avoid the disappointment and financial charges that result in not finding work. With the advent of the new rulings SAYIT has built up a substantial list of employers who wish to hire Irish students for the summer of 2000.

SAYIT will help you meet the necessary requirements and can therefore increase your chances of a successful application.

Sheelan had... per student on teaching practice... been turned down by the committee of the STS the previous year. Opposition to Mr. Sheelan denied this, and felt that this statement had damaged the election campaigns of other candidates for the post of STO.

At the meeting, Mr. Sheelan temporarily stepped down from his position as chair, nominating CEO, Dave O'Donovan to take his place for that particular agenda item. He stated that he had indeed made these comments, but when he discovered that they were incorrect, he made every effort to find those that he had been speaking with, and tell them that such an offer had never been made.

Having given his explanation, the floor was left open to members of the society for comment. There were a number of comments, all in favour of Mr. Sheelan. The matter was then called to a vote, and the motion was rejected with nobody in favour and no abstentions.

From here, the meeting moved to

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This Meeting is to be held in the Jean Monnet at 6pm on Thursday of Week 8. It is hoped that all education students will attend and air their views on the matter.

UL's student teachers go on TP twice in their four years, and figures show that their expenses can be up to £2,300 during these two periods. These expenses are currently incurred without any financial aid from the college or the government. Questions to the Dail have previously been dismissed.

Protests at Irving war talk in Cork

By Emmet Oliver

There were protests at University College Cork last Monday week when controversial rightwing historian Dr David Irving addressed the student Philosophical Society.

Dr Irving, who has described the gas chambers at Auschwitz as "fakes" aimed at luring tourists, sparked heated debate in 1993 and 1988 when student societies invited him to address them. Those invitations were cancelled after threats of violence were made to the organisers.

Last Monday, Dr Irving addressed the theme of "Myths of the Second World War". The invitation was made three months ago and Dr Irving confirmed his attendance earlier in the week, said auditor Mr Stephen

Vaughan.

The decision to invite the historian was criticised by the Socialist Party TD, Mr Joe Higgins. He said members of his party would be joining a protest by the Anti-Racist Coalition in UCC on the Monday evening.

"Fascists debate not in the nice language of the Philosophical Society but with weapons in hand. Therefore I call upon the Philosophical Society not to be associated with this hatred and ignorance and to withdraw their invitation," he said.

Mr Vaughan said he held discussions with the security office at the college and was assured the meeting would take place without any disturbances. He said the society's job was to "provoke" debate and it was not endorsing Dr Irving's views by inviting him to speak.

"We provide topics for debate and this is an important one," he added.

He said the society was seeking someone to speak in opposition to Dr Irving, but had been turned down by several people. He said the UCC president's office had told him members of the public had lodged protests about Dr Irving's visit. The college president, Prof Gerard Wrixon, was not available for comment.

Dr Irving rose to prominence with his 1977 book, *Hitler's War*, which suggested it was inaccurate to state that six million Jews died during the Holocaust. He claimed Adolf Hitler did not order the Holocaust and many of the Jews who died during the second World War perished from typhoid.

Protest At Speaker Fails To Materialise

By Kate Walsh

A heated protest, threatened to be taking place at a talk given by a leading Basque separatist, failed to materialise last Thursday

This alleged protest was to condemn the talk by a member of the Basque country's left national movement party, Emanol Hesanola. The Spanish and Hispanic Society were to stage this protest but on the night of the speech all was quiet but for the voice of Emanol Hesanola.

The Basque Country is an area that lies near the border of France and Spain and has a different language and culture. The people of the Basque country have, according to Emanol, struggled for 20 years to be recognised for their independent culture. The speaker, who was invited by UL Sinn Fein, said his country had been inspired by the Irish struggle and he felt there were certain similarities. His party, the left national movement are strongly in favour of independence where they would be recognised "economically, socially and culturally"

The only solution to this, he stressed, was a democratic one. He was optimistic as he talked of the current ceasefire agreed to by the ETA.

Muiris O'Sullivan, of the UL Sinn Fein Society said, "the whole idea when UL Sinn Fein sat down 3 months ago and decided to invite a speaker from the Basque country was to promote political awareness".

UL Sinn Fein would like to thank Emanol Hesanola for coming over and speaking to the students of UL.



Emanol Hesanola speaks despite objection from students and staff

courtesy of UL Photo Sec

Hunger Striker Speaks In UL

by Madelaine Leahy

Ex POW, Eoin McCormack, spoke at a Sinn Fein meeting on Thursday 11th last.

His talk centered on his prison sentence in one of the notorious H block prisons in the North. McCormack was jailed for fifteen years for murder.

McCormack was arrested in 1976 for the murder of an RUC woman. In prison he was involved in the blanket protest. He stated that prisoners were locked up in a 9 X 8 foot cell for 24 hours a day with no toilet or shower facilities. They survived the bleak winter of 1978 with temperatures of 14C and only a blanket to cover them.

He also took part in the "No Wash" or "Dirty Protest" which ended on

February 28th 1981. The Hunger Strike then began led by Bobby Sands. McCormack was on hunger strike for 73 days before lapsing into a coma. In 1989 McCormack was refused knowledge of his release date, which is by law a basic human right. McCormack was released in 1991.

Mr. McCormack then studied at UCG, and was to be elected President of the UCG Students' Union. After his election, he stated that An Focal wrote an article libeling him, but he would not disclose any more details about this.

Muiris OSullivan, chairperson of UL Sinn Fein, was expecting a large turn out but was disappointed. The poor attendance was put down to an error in advertising, as the Sinn Fein Society failed to put the time of the meeting on the posters advertising the event..

Clubs And Socs Finance Committee Begin Work

On Tuesday of Week 6 it was proposed and passed at Clubs and Societies Council that a committee be established by this Council to investigate and report on the current financial procedures employed by the Students Union in allocating money to Clubs and Societies.

The somewhat controversial questions that were asked concerning the allocation of budgets to clubs and societies led to the setting up of this committee.

The committee has sat three times and has invited proposals from clubs and societies on how they feel things should be changed or improved with regard to clubs and societies finances. The deadline for these proposals was Wednesday of this week and the committee is sitting again to consider these proposals. The committee shall then, based on the pro-

posals received, make a recommendation to the next meeting of Clubs and Societies Council.

Some of the issues that the committee have discussed include the timing of budget allocation, selection criteria, and comparisons with details in other Irish universities.

The Clubs and Societies Finance Subcommittee consists of:

Pat McCarthy - President ULSU (Chair/Non-voting)

Paul Lee - Clubs and Societies Development Officer (Non-voting)

Neasa Fahy-ODonnell - Sports Administrator (Non-voting)

Muiris OSullivan - Societies Officer

Declan Burke - Clubs Officer

Niall Dunphy - Postgraduate Student Association

Claire Cox - Debating Union

Keith Piggott - Mens Hockey Club

Mary Smith - Womens Hockey Club

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February 28th 1981. The Hunger Strike then began led by Bobby Sands. McCormack was on hunger strike for 73 days before lapsing into a coma. In 1989 McCormack was refused knowledge of his release date, which is by law a basic human right. McCormack was released in 1991.

Mr. McCormack then studied at UCG, and was to be elected President of the UCG Students' Union. After his election, he stated that An Focal wrote an article libeling him, but he would not disclose any more details about this.

Muiris OSullivan, chairperson of UL Sinn Fein, was expecting a large turn out but was disappointed. The poor attendance was put down to an error in advertising, as the Sinn Fein Society failed to put the time of the meeting on the posters advertising the event..

Clubs And Socs Finance Committee Begin Work

On Tuesday of Week 6 it was proposed and passed at Clubs and Societies Council that a committee be established by this Council to investigate and report on the current financial procedures employed by the Students Union in allocating money to Clubs and Societies.

The somewhat controversial questions that were asked concerning the allocation of budgets to clubs and societies led to the setting up of this committee.

The committee has sat three times and has invited proposals from clubs and societies on how they feel things should be changed or improved with regard to clubs and societies finances. The deadline for these proposals was Wednesday of this week and the committee is sitting again to consider these proposals. The committee shall then, based on the pro-

posals received, make a recommendation to the next meeting of Clubs and Societies Council.

Some of the issues that the committee have discussed include the timing of budget allocation, selection criteria, and comparisons with details in other Irish universities.

The Clubs and Societies Finance Sub-Committee consists of:

*Pat McCarthy - President ULSU
(Chair/Non-voting)*

*Paul Lee - Clubs and Societies
Development Officer (Non-voting)*

*Neasa Fahy-ODonnell - Sports
Administrator (Non-voting)*

*Muiris OSullivan - Societies Officer
Declan Burke - Clubs Officer*

*Niall Dunphy - Postgraduate Student
Association*

Claire Cox - Debating Union

Keith Piggott - Mens Hockey Club

Mary Smith - Womens Hockey Club

New Bar Managers To Be Confirmed Today.

from pg. 1

Selection Criteria

The following is a list of criteria that the interview committee will be taking into consideration when making its selection. Each applicant will be asked to demonstrate how they propose on meeting these criteria.

1. Experience

The experience of the applicant in the management and operation of similar premises. (bar/restaurant)

2. Business Plan

The outline business plan submitted by the applicant to demonstrate experience

and knowledge of the financial accounts of a similar premises. (bar/restaurant)

3. Management Fee

The proposed management fee of an applicant.

4. Sponsorship

Proposal for the sponsorship of clubs and societies on campus to be factored into the projected accounts with a possible monetary value.

5. Members Discount Times

Proposal for "Happy Hours" including the types, times and frequencies of discounts.

6. Entertainment

Proposal for entertainment budget and

type of entertainment. (Will Students' Union input into selection of entertainment be accepted?)

7. Food Service

Applicants to provide priced sample menu (daily or weekly) for the food operation for different times of the day. (e.g. Is breakfast to be available? Lunch menu, tea/dinner menu?)

8. Quality (Q) Mark

It is the wish of the club to obtain the Quality (Q) Mark from the National Standards Council. Applicants should state their opinion on this objective and how they would propose to obtain same.

9. Beverage Selection

Whether the manager proposes to provide the full range of alcoholic beverages/beers.

10. Drink Sponsorship

Proposal from applicants as to how they would distribute/dispense complimentary kegs from suppliers to clubs and societies. (e.g. Would there be restrictions on distribution times?)

11. Premises Security

Proposal from applicants as to how they would provide for the security needs of the club premises at particular times. (Would students be employed or Students' Union involved?)

12. Environment

Proposal from each applicant as to how they would address environmental issues.

A Word In Everyone's Ear

Let everyone know what you're thinking, about anything. The best letter each week will receive a clean, crisp ten pound note. Easy money!

Community Relations

I have recently been elected Community Officer of the Students' Union. I have received many comments, concerns and questions from members of the Castletroy community. Both students and the more established residents of the Castletroy area have highlighted the following issues. I will summarise the main points.

People have been playing football and hurling at night. I can understand these complaints, as people have to be up for work and lectures early in the morning. I know that playing certain games at night can be fun but try to keep noise to a minimum.

Houses are being broken into. This criminal activity is the scourge of Castletroy and is on the increase. I personally believe that the people committing these crimes should be made clean ever inch of Castletroy with a toothbrush. Be good neighbours and get to know the people next door, look out for each other, and if you see any scumbags hanging around acting suspiciously call the Gardaí.

Garden fences and car mirrors are being broken. An incident occurred two weeks ago where people coming home from the lodge used a Hurley to break a garden fence. It's no joke if the Gardaí ask you what the hell you're doing with a piece of wood at 3 o'clock in the morning. Damage to property of any kind is not acceptable, this is our community and we should respect our new home.

Glass is being broken and thrown around estates. This is very dangerous both for young children and for those who own cars and bikes. A flat tire when

Letter of the week

Good Advice

Things to do while having coffee in the stables.

1. Join up all the freckles on your friend's arm and make a picture.
2. Stare at a person of opposite sex at the next table until you get their attention and then with your mates, laugh evilly and point.
3. Ask people if you can "borrow this stool?" continue the process until you've got loads of stools and hide them so everyone has to stand.
4. Wait until a queue has formed at the food counter, and rob sandwiches and cola from the stand - economic.
5. Stand at the door and tell people there is a £2.00 entry fee, which is in aid of Alcoholic's Anonymous. Continue until you feel suspicion mounting and then spend the money getting loaded.
6. Borrow someone's mobile, ring your next door neighbour and demand your lawn mower back which they borrowed 6 months ago, even if they didn't.
7. Stand on one of the stools you've previously robbed, and declare in a loud tone "I love myself" 5 times to the pub and run around kissing strangers.
8. Leave before you ever have to do any of these things you bored freak.
9. Bring a bag of mugs from your house and confuse John the cup collector guy by reproducing multitudes of mugs.
10. Take the name of a drink e.g. Budweiser and make a sentence from the letters e.g. But U deserve what every individual should enjoy regularly.

Things not to do in the Stables

1. Don't piss, spit or drop a tampon in your mate's pint.
2. Don't bring your banklink card, it's dangerous.
3. Don't put on dodgy music on the Jukebox, if you're unsure, just play Steps - Dave O'Donovan will be your best friend.
4. Make friends with the black Labrador and don't give him food, he does have a home you know.
5. Don't get so drunk that you fall off the new rafters.
6. Don't abide by the dates of the posters for events - you can not travel back in time.
7. Don't wear a skirt if you're going to the stables before you go out. This is not Mary I.
8. Don't talk to any Mary I. students. If you mistake some as not being a Mary I student and then learn who she really is, run, run very fast. And be afraid.
9. Never leave the stables to have coffee in the Paddocks - you should never mix your drinks!!!! If you have a grudge against the Stables, don't be fooled, the same person owns the Paddocks.
10. Never reveal the truth of the Stables to your parents, never show them the Stables, remember you're still their darling innocent child.

all, it is his job.

Dave said earlier that "openness" was one of his key aims or was that just on some matters. And they called this an AGM. I just hope that the next one is somewhat more on the concept of an AGM.

Sinead Kelleher

Not Alone

You may have thought you were the only one, that there was no-one else like you in the college? Well you're not, there's lots of us, going about our daily business and getting on with life.

University life is, for many people, the first time they get to be themselves. If you are gay or whatever (labels don't help), you may think that there is no real social outlet for you in college - you wouldn't be far wrong. We are in the process of re-activating the LGB Soc. to make it a bit easier on gay people in UL - no-one likes feeling isolated.

Being gay does not mean you need help, a ghetto, or a frock! Everyone comes up against their fair share of abuse or worse for being themselves. Don't let THEM tell you how you should love another person - it's YOUR HUMAN RIGHT to BE who YOU are.

So if you are interested in setting up a new committee and a new LGB Soc. e-mail us on <heaven_ul@hotmail.com>.

name with editor

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Glass is being broken and thrown around estates. This is very dangerous both for young children and for those who own cars and bikes. A flat tire when you are rushing to make that one important lecture isn't nice. The UL Students' Union will soon be initiating a "Clean-up Crew" to help keep the Castletroy area a clean one. This crew shall visit the estates in Castletroy and remove litter that is visible in public areas throughout.

If you wish to contact me on any issues relating to our community, then leave word in the SU offices. Alternatively you can ring the Community Help-line on (061) 202977 and leave a message. I will return your call within 24 hours. You can send e-mails to 9641718@student.ul.ie.

Alan Ryder

Not Impressed

The Students' Union AGM held in the

7. Stand on one of the stools you've previously robbed, and declare in a loud tone "I love myself" 5 times to the pub and run around kissing strangers.
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Compiled by the creators: -
Studly "Trigger" Ryan
And Arocative

Jean Monnet on Wednesday of week 7 was not my idea of an AGM.

I had the idea that it was held for students of UL so they could find out just what the Students' Union was there for and so they could ask questions of the officers, Pat McCarthy, President, Dave O'Donovan, CEO and Dee Dee Hosty, Welfare Officer. I'm not so sure now.

Though the attendance was poor there was students there that wanted answers. But there just wasn't enough time. Obviously Aidan O'Gorman, the chairperson, was in a hurry somewhere, as he

could not move fast enough. And as for those students who were lucky enough or fast enough to get a question asked, hands were still being raised to ask more questions when you would find the next item on the agenda was being dealt with. The answers left a lot to be desired. This is definitely the part these officers don't like.

Questions were fired at Dave about Wired FM and the lack of communication about the AGM and previously about the new bar meeting and as Dave pointed out, he just does not have the time. I am sure he is very busy but after

business and getting on with the University life is, for many people, the first time they get to be themselves. If you are gay or whatever (labels don't help), you may think that there is no real social outlet for you in college - you wouldn't be far wrong. We are in the process of re-activating the LGB Soc. to make it a bit easier on gay people in UL - no-one likes feeling isolated.

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So if you are interested in setting up a new committee and a new LGB Soc. e-mail us on <heaven_ul@hotmail.com>.

name with editor

If you've got something to say, or even nothing to say but you can say it in a clever way, drop us a line in An Focal. You might get it printed, and you might just win yourself £10.

Either drop it in to Dave in the office, the girls in the General Office, or e-mail to Dave at ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

the real world

Each issue, we'll have a look at the life of some UL students who've finished college, and are now living and working abroad.



You know, I never really appreciated Halloween that much in Ireland and most years it goes by without even being noticed.

But after seeing how the Americans celebrate it, I've realized that we just don't do it justice! Here in NYC Halloween is a completely different ball game – it's kinda like one big Marde Gras style, fancy dress street party.

Everyone dresses up for the party and there is no expense spared - New Yorkers are serious about their fancy dress. Last year, I spent Halloween in Salem, Massachusetts, famous for the Witch trials of (circa) 1648, but October 31st this year, we hit Manhattan.

Nicola Connolly writes from New York

Vampires, Angels, Genies; it really was amazing.

We settled ourselves on the terrace of a bar in Soho, entertained by all the lunatics walking past and drank into the night (again!!). At about 2am, we ended up at this roof party on 5th Avenue and 26th Street (complete with free beer in kegs) where they played an odd melange of D&B and that crap Abba-style party music, into the wee hours of the morning. At 8am, with my battered Black Angel wings we all strolled to the early house for more beer! Nobody knows what time we made it home.

Apart from Halloween night, this month has been pretty quiet compared to others. Work has taken a front seat now; I'm organizing the company Christmas party, and the annual Kick-off meeting, and yesterday I found myself in the World Bank of Japan, down in the Financial District in Manhattan assisting my boss with some business!!!!. Last Saturday night we went to an ice-hockey match in NJ and all got free pucks on the way out. Thursday we've booked ice-

Snotty + the Bull write from Amsterdam

All right, Scholarly type people, oh how oh how i wish i was among your type right now.

What am i raving about I hear you ask but when you get up and it is -5 Degrees on you way to work you long for the days that you can just decide F**k it there is no way i am getting out of lovely warm bed for that boring lecture, yea you know what i am getting at. You all have them, the dreaded lecture that even after a dose of speed you fall asleep. Shit I am Ranting, well that is because i am writing as much as i can as i am F-F_F_F_F_F_F_--f-f-f-f-f- REEEzzzzzz, ea i am bloody cold. It is that time of year, from now on till march Amsteram gets really cold (Except for the you know what, that never gets cold). OK, so the place gets cold but still it is beautiful. The whole place is covered in Rusty leaves blowing everywhere, you trip over them, slide on them, throw them at your friends and kick them up as high into the air as you can on your way through the park. It isreally amazing as there seems to be so much more than i ever remember at home, i dont know or understand why (Even with my Biology degree).

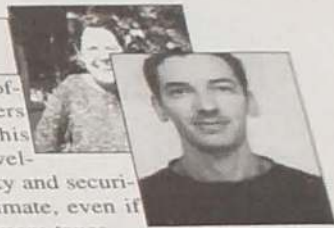
The whole city has quietened down so much duringf the week, the tourist season has hit rock bottom and the place is so cool, the bars are back to regular trade, regular customers and bigger, cheaper beer. The ice hockey is starting to rear its head in the many parks around the city, which is strange as anywhere that you get an open square area out come the skates. Well as regards life with us things are a bit quiet so i will just fill you in on one of the many Questions you all want to ask!!!!

out. Respectable coffee-shop owners cheered this approach and welcomed the stability and security of being legitimate, even if it meant paying more taxes.

For the trainspotters, today there are 294 coffee shops in Amsterdam; around a quarter of the total in the whole of the Netherlands. The Parool, Amsterdam's leading newspaper, asked the mayor in a recent interview how much a gram of marijuana costs in his city. '∞15 a gram,' he answered. In other countries people would be surprised that the mayor knows how much a bag of weed is, but in Holland, the man shaping an intelligent drug policy knows the facts.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world continues its unending 'war on drugs.' Last year it was French President Jacques Chirac who blamed Holland for its drug troubles, even though, according to Time magazine, Holland has fewer addicts per thousand than France and supplies fewer drugs to France than Spain, Pakistan and Morocco.

This year it was the U.S. drug-czar Barry McCaffery who came to town to celebrate America's successful drug policy. Although one may have expected him to be curious about coffee shops here, he found no need to visit one because it was a 'bad photo opportunity.' He went even further, calling Holland's progressive drug policy 'an unmitigated disaster,' citing higher crime in Holland as the proof. Huh? I don't know what he smokes, but this country is safe, and there is no place in the western world with more



Everyone dresses up for the party and there is no expense spared - New Yorkers are serious about their fancy dress. Last year, I spent Halloween in Salem, Massachusetts, famous for the Witch trials of (circa) 1648, but October 31st this year, we hit Manhattan.

Our first sight of disorder in the city was in Grand Central at about 8pm on Saturday evening; 6 twentysomething guys decked out as huge M&M's, trying to get through the Subway turnstiles and on to the S train to Times Square! Thousands of people wandered about the streets as whoever they wanted to be for the night; Storm Troopers, Pokemans, Teletubbies,

and the annual Kick-off meeting, and yesterday I found myself in the World Bank of Japan, down in the Financial District in Manhattan assisting my boss with some business!!!!. Last Saturday night we went to an ice-hockey match in NJ and all got free pucks on the way out. Thursday we've booked ice-skating in Central park, my parents are visiting the following Monday, then I've four days off work for Thanksgiving and I'm still making plans for my Birthday in two weeks!!!!

It's non-stop now till the New Year so I'm getting plenty of sleep in the sleep-bank.

P.S Hope the study is going good.....N

The whole city has quietened down so much during the week, the tourist season has hit rock bottom and the place is so cool, the bars are back to regular trade, regular customers and bigger, cheaper beer. The ice hockey is starting to rear its head in the many parks around the city, which is strange as anywhere that you get an open square area out come the skates. Well as regards life with us things are a bit quiet so i will just fill you in on one of the many Questions you all want to ask!!!!

What is the story with the Dope and the Coffee Shops????

Pt. One

Few insiders, let alone outsiders, know the real dope on Amsterdam's marijuana scene. In 1976, the Health Ministry of Holland decided that the crime around selling drugs was a greater threat than the health problem caused to the drug user. So in order to separate marijuana from the underworld, they decriminalized it and cannabis became tolerated - but not technically legalized - by the government. Many coffee shops opened up, and in 1996 the first real licenses were given

This year it was the... McCaffery who came to town to celebrate America's successful drug policy. Although one may have expected him to be curious about coffee shops here, he found no need to visit one because it was a 'bad photo opportunity.' He went even further, calling Holland's progressive drug policy 'an unmitigated disaster,' citing higher crime in Holland as the proof. Huh? I don't know what he smokes, but this country is safe, and there is no place in the western world with more violence than America. But I guess when you're fighting a 'war,' the truth sometimes has to be suppressed. Besides, Holland makes such a nice whipping boy.

So in a bow to foreign pressure, the government reduced the amount of soft drugs an individual can possess from 30 grams to 5. But maybe Holland should go further. If they recriminalize drugs, maybe they can wipe them out altogether, just like France and America. While we're at it, maybe France can give us some advice on how to end strikes and reduce unemployment, and the U.S. can give us a few pointers about stopping violence in schools.

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Triona Hourigan writes from France

We've all been going to lectures now these past few weeks so by this stage we have a pretty fair idea of what college is like in France.

If you think it's bad having to start at nine o'clock in the morning in UL then pity the poor French students - lectures begin at 8am and go on until 10pm!! Unlike universities in Ireland there is no main campus community here. Students go to their classes and back home again! There is no such thing as a college bar and many of the societies have mainly an academic focus.

I have to study four modules over here. I have two modules of translation which I find good for grammar and vocabulary. Then there is a compulsory module for all Erasmus students - this basically centres on written and oral French. All of these classes are graded from an exam which we all had to sit a few weeks ago. My fourth module is called Civilisations Celtiques and is by all means the most difficult!! We are all in with 2nd year French students and it's quite hard to understand the lecturer as he speaks really quickly! All in all I have eight hours of lectures a week, which was a bit

the real world contd.

We've got this series running with UL students who've finished college and are living and working abroad. Now, Erasmus students are getting in on the act.

of a surprise as we normally have thirteen hours per week in UL.

Meanwhile, we have found a lovely little Irish pub called The Claddagh Inn. The owner, Dan, is Irish. We were there one night when a band was playing some traditional Irish and Breton music. Bars close in Rennes at 1am usually but there are some bars open until 3am and even 5am! One thing I've noticed is that the French don't seem to drink half as much as the Irish. Everyone seems to drink half-pints over here and it's rare that you would see someone with a pint in his hands!

November 11th was Armistice Day. Just by chance we stumbled upon a military parade in the Mairie. It was really amazing! There were many different troops and batallions all dressed in vibrant, colourful uniforms. French flags flew proudly and the Mairie looked fantastic. Pink and yellow flowers tumbled from its iron balconies. All of the troops marched in, including a cavalry of police motorbikes. There was an army band which played the national anthem. Tubas and trumpets glistened in the early morning sunshine. We saw the elderly veterens march in, each car-

rying the French Flag. Everyone stood in silence and listened to the sombre tolling of the Mairie bell. It was a moment that will always haunt me. The music of the bells pierced the crisp, morning air and time stood still as memories of the war atrocities flooded the Mairie.

In the afternoon, we took a train to Mont Saint Michel in Normandy. This was also breathtaking! Unfortunately the Abbey was closed due to it being a national holiday in France. We were disappointed but there was still plenty of exploring to do. All of the shops and restaurants in the village were open and it was packed! The village is medieval and has lovely, winding cobbled streets. Everything is built on a slope so you have to do a lot of climbing!!! There was a refreshing coastal breeze blowing and the views of the surrounding area were fantastic! We visited two museums which were really interesting. I would definitely recommend going there-it's truly an amazing sight!

Well, that's all my news from Rennes! In town the Christmas lights are being put up at the moment so I can't wait to see the streets when they are all lit up for Christmas! So until my next report I'll bid you all adieu.

Have You Nothing Better To Do?

You know those headwrecking e-mails that you get from people with nothing better to do. Now and again though, a good one turns up. We're going to see if we can find one a fortnight. Tough task. This issue, we've got the form of all forms for you to fill out. (I think this is the business.)

Thank you for purchasing a McDonnell Douglas military aircraft. In order to protect your new investment, please take a few moments to fill out the warranty registration card below. Answering the survey questions is not required, but the information will help us to develop new products that best meet your needs and desires.

1. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss
Lt. Gen. Comrade Classified
Other

First Name:

Initial:

Last Name:

Password: (max 8
char)

Code Name:

Latitude-Longitude-Altitude:

2. Which model aircraft did you purchase?

- F-14 Tomcat
 F-15 Eagle
 F-16 Falcon
 F-117A Stealth
 Classified

3. Date of purchase (Year/Month/Day):

19...../...../.....

4. Serial Number:

5. Please check where this product was purchased:

- Received as gift / aid package
 Catalog showroom
 Independent arms broker
 Mail order
 Discount store
 Government surplus
 Classified

6. Please check how you became aware of the McDonnell Douglas product you have just purchased:

- Heard loud noise, looked up
 Store display
 Espionage
 Recommended by friend /
relative /ally
 Political lobbying by manufacturer
 Was attacked by one

7. Please check the three (3) factors that most influenced your decision to purchase this McDonnell Douglas product:

- Style / appearance
 Speed / maneuverability
 Price / value
 Comfort / convenience
 Kickback / bribe
 Recommended by salesperson
 McDonnell Douglas reputation
 Advanced Weapons Systems
 Backroom politics
 Negative experience opposing one in
combat

8. Please check the location(s) where this product will be used:

- North America
 Iraq
 Central / South America
 Iraq
 Aircraft carrier
 Iraq
 Europe
 Iraq
 Middle East (not Iraq)
 Iraq
 Africa
 Iraq
 Asia / Far East
 Iraq
 Misc. Third World countries
 Iraq
 Classified
 Iraq

9. Please check the products that you currently own or intend to purchase in the near future:

- Color TV
 VCR
 ICBM
 Killer Satellite
 CD Player
 Air-to-Air Missiles
 Space Shuttle
 Home Computer
 Nuclear Weapon

10. How would you describe yourself or

your organization? (Check all that apply.)
 Communist / Socialist
 Terrorist
 Crazy
 Neutral
 Democratic
 Dictatorship
 Corrupt
 Primitive / Tribal

11. How did you pay for your McDonnell Douglas product?

- Deficit spending
 Cash
 Suitcases of cocaine
 Oil revenues
 Personal check
 Credit card
 Ransom money
 Traveler's check

12. Your occupation:

- Homemaker
 Sales / marketing
 Revolutionary
 Clerical
 Mercenary
 Tyrant
 Middle management
 Eccentric billionaire
 Defense Minister / General
 Retired
 Student

13. To help us understand our customers' lifestyles, please indicate the interests and activities in which you and your spouse enjoy participating on a regular basis:

- Golf
 Boating / sailing
 Sabotage
 Running / jogging
 Propaganda / disinformation
 Destabilization / overthrow
 Default on loans
 Gardening



A fortnightly look at the Internet with Fergus Keely

With the recent release of *The Blair Witch Project* in cinemas, the online movie industry has grown in ways that were considered previously impossible.

The hype that surrounded the film before its release here and in the UK was caused by the film's site (www.blairwitch.co.uk). Now for the first time, the Internet became the primary advertising force behind the film industry. There had been hints of this during the summer when the web site www.countingdown.com was used to promote the new *Star Wars* film and when films such as the *Matrix* had such huge fan followings on the Internet.

On the Internet now, web sites concerned with films can be divided into three distinct categories. The first and most obvious one is the review category whose sites feature news, reviews and gossip. The second category is the clip category whose sites feature clips from the movies, interviews and trailers. The last category is the movie archive category whose sites are like search engines for movies and actors featuring reviews, synopses and other trivia. Though this last category sometimes clashes with the first, it generally tends to feature older films than new releases. It is also the first one which I will speak about.

The biggest archive for movies on the Internet is undoubtedly the Internet Movie Database (www.imdb.com). This allows you to search its database of 150,000 movies by title, actor, director or producer. You can restrict the search by setting the time parameters for a certain decade. If you search for a movie it returns the cast, the crew, the country of

origin, the certification and a brief synopsis. If you search for an actor, it will give you their entire filmography including film roles, recurring TV roles and guest TV roles, as well as their character's name in those roles. It also gives you a picture of the cover of the video (if there was one) to make it easier to find that elusive rental.

Another movie archive worth checking out is the All Movie Guide (www.allmovie.com). It features reviews and synopses for thousands of movies. Although not quite up to IMDB's standard, it will give you the information that you require.

The last site worth checking out in this category is the Cinemachine (www.cinemachine.com). It serves as a search engine for movies and has a database as big as any of the other search engines such as Altavista or Google. The only problem with this site is that it takes you to the original site where the information came from so you might want to avoid it if you are just looking for a good movie to rent over the weekend. On the other hand if you are researching a project on a film or a genre of films, then this is right up your street.

By far the biggest category of film web sites is the review category. These films tend to contain reviews, synopses, news and gossip about the latest film releases. The most popular of these web sites nowadays is E! Online (www.eonline.com). This site contains everything you need to know about the new films in the cinema or what is happening in Hollywood at the moment. If you are looking for a good movie to see

in the cinema this is indispensable, but if you are looking for a classic film noir or something to rent for a cold Christmas night go someplace else.

For the inside track on new movies go to Dark Horizons (www.darkhorizons.com). Its perfect for spoiling somebody's evening by revealing the most crucial part of a film but it's not so good for reviews.

One of the top print sources of film information, *Empire Magazine*, has finally made it online. Check out the site (www.empireonline.co.uk) if you are planning a trip to the UK and are staying in a cinema because that is about all this site is good for. It has news and reviews on films currently showing on the UK which isn't that helpful for Irish readers. For all the news on the latest Hollywood releases check out *Movies.com* (www.movies.com). This tends to be biased in favour of Touchstone in particular but it does come up with some interesting news stories.

For purely tabloid takes on the movie industry and all the new releases go to *Hollywood Reporter* (www.hollywoodreporter.com). It has stories that no other web site will have although they may not always be true.

One of the best sources of news for films on the Internet is *Showbizwire* (www.showbizwire.com). This site acts like your own personal press agent for films. Whenever a studio releases a press statement, this site has it. It collates news from 50 different sites around the world to bring you the freshest news. It is also helpful for news on music, theatre, celebrities, TV and video.

The last site in this category worth

checking out is *Mr Cranky's Movie Reviews* (www.mrcranky.com). He mightn't know much about film but he certainly knows what not to watch. His rating scale goes from 1 for almost tolerable to 5 for so godawful that it ruptured the very fabric of space and time with its mediocrity. Films on his hitlist include "Scream 2", "I Know What You Did Last Summer", "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" and of course "Spiceworld" which was unrated.

The last category that I will review for today is the clip category. Now that we have become a brainless generation and require TV to sell a movie, the number of these sites has grown such that to list them all would be impossible. These however are the best of the sites.

The movies site (www.movies.com) which I mentioned earlier is about the best place to go for clips of up and coming movies outside the studio's own site. It features minute-long sample clips of movies and sound clips of interviews with the stars.

Another good place to go is (http://dir.yahoo.com/Entertainment/Movies_and_Film/Multimedia). This is a link site with just about every clip site known to the human race.

That's it from me for this week. Next week I'll have a report on the holy war in computing between PC & Mac, Netscape & IE, and Linux & Windows in light of the landmark Microsoft ruling two weeks ago.

Once again anyone with computer problems or comments on this weeks issue can e-mail me at fk1121@ocean-free.net.

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BICENTENNIAL MAN
MISSION TO MARS
GONE IN SIXTY SECONDS

Diary Of A First Year

Mairead Moriarty gives us the low down on what it's like to be walking round this place for the first time.

(ps go on the Kingdom!)



I've spent the past few weeks freaking out! You know what I mean - college just eventually gets to you!

Lectures, tutorials, exams, presen-

tations, how are you? Did you ever experience such pressure?! "Yes", I hear those fourth years crying out. Now, I know that ye have FYPs to prepare and all that, but try to remember what it was like being a naive, little first year.

First of all, I have to get used to being away from home, without parents or two little dogs to keep me company. I have to fend for myself in this big bad world that is UL. I have to get used to

new surroundings and new people and face up to the fact that not everyone here is willing to talk to me! I have to put up with wood-be wood scientists taking the piss out of my Kerry accent. Look, I swear I don't have one!!

Then there's the whole exams and pressure business! I mean, who are we to know that we actually had to study for the first six weeks of the semester?! I was sure that it was still Orientation Week! And then : BANG! There's the first ever college exam that you haven't prepared for. Well, I suppose life must go on!

But so far college has been a ball! (Apart from the exams, of course!) At least, I've managed to build up a fairly wide social circle; from doing the "Irish Times" crossword with the bouncer in the Stables, to the ULSU President

knowing me by name! Mind you, naivete has managed to get the better of this Kerry chick! For example, if some guy from Leitrim tells you that the DJ is Gerry Wilson from 2FM, do not, I repeat, do not believe him! And take no notice of the Mayo dude who swears he was in the FCA!!

Surprisingly enough, some things have improved since week four - e-mails have been set up and timetables have been sorted. But the queues at Student Services seem to be getting longer and longer. And the Stables scenario is beginning to become a little too familiar. By the way, when is the new bar opening?!

Anybody want a scary thought? I'm here for the next four years! Aaaggghhh!!!

An article on what I ask me?

Life in general?

Life in UL or indeed an event which has occurred. Well, is it another stabbing, another murder or just another drunken night in the Lodge where pleasure makes way for profit and youths crawl over each other. Floor space is expensive you know.

Indeed, it seems that once a student, a lot is expected of you. Great QCA. Good cook. Better drinker, friend, lover, colleague, guest and most of all strong human being. Am I right? No of course not, this thing known as peer pressure prevents me from being so. I'm wrong of course, because I'm mad. At least in the eyes of my own people, my own society. I dive in and drown.
What the hell am I writing about?

Is it junk, is it coming from my heart, is it coming from the bounds of a life once experienced and once nurtured to become something so special that of course it cannot last.

Will not last, Murphy saw to that.

So he did.

Where will I go now?

Will I carry all this through life in an attempt to be normal, and yes, to be normal you have to experience pain in the first degree? The very first.

As the Backstreet (whatever that means) Boys wail in my ears and the iron heats, up I can only wonder what my life would be like if I failed to conform. Failed to shape up, ship out and generally became a degenerate drunk that staggers into trendy coffee shops to

be laughed at by all and sundry. And even this kind of company he thinks he needs.

Conformity, after all, is just what it attempts not to be. For a life to be lived successfully conformity seems to be the key. Yes I know, and yes the Backstreet Boys' song is just finished, but why bother conforming at all?

To be normal, what is that anyway, one should ask Martina Devlin from the Irish Independent. She seems to have a fair grasp on what normal people are like. Well normal Dublin people at least, running away from the house from hell where the heating works only at irregular intervals, if at all, and where fix-it-all men are so hard to find that they really should be on strike with the nurses roaring for more cash. But then again, that wouldn't be normal now would it? A fix-it-all mens' strike! Ha

My friend in the local told me once that we are all here for a reason. And recently I've added my own bit to the end of that, but that's my own, and 'm sure you have yours, weather you admit it or not.

To conform or not to conform that is the question...or is it?

A deeper meaning lies beneath that word you know. Yes I am talking complete..., but I don't give a continental if anyone ever reads this. It feels kind of good punishing this keyboard...for being a gateway...heeehee oh sorry, have I infringed some copyright thing somewhere? Did I just not conform? I

wonder.

Another song now fills my brain. And yes, I know it is a miracle that I can still hear after many a night in that place so lovingly known as the Lodge. However, this new song, (we're not talking metaphorically here) is about crying.

Another taboo for the average Irish male. It can be lumped in there with actually having any feelings at all. After all, big boys don't cry. Well I do. Oh deary me, aren't I in for a slugging, by my peers. Yes and you can see the words " doesn't give two shits" etched on my forehead, in blood of type O negative most probably

(Notice the non-conformist position of the full stop) This wonderful Microsoft Word program is about to move me onto another page, and yes, I am as surprised as you to see the words wonderful and Microsoft in the same sentence, but sure ya'll have that.

Now for all my ranting and raving and wondering trains of thought, one would think that I am not a conformist. Well I have conformed. I do conform a lot of the time, and indeed, sometimes it feels good to be anonymous, just another student doing as we do, and looking like everyone else. Unhappy.

Well I have been there, I go there sometimes, and indeed, I'm not quite sure if I'm there right now. Maybe Ronan Keating will know, he seems to know everything else. Well Yvonne, does he, or maybe we should ask Brendan?

There goes that non conformist finger of mine typing such slander. Ah well.

I refuse to talk much about Ronan, as everyone else does enough of it, however he provides me with a perfect example. He's perfect. Am I jealous? Perhaps, in fact sometimes I am and then as I sit and caress a cup of the Plaza's finest coffee, I pity him. Such a façade has he built and such a huge image has he nurtured, that to maintain it requires planning of the multinational merger type. He knows this and I'm sure pays a lot of people handsomely to know it for him, so he can get on with being perfect. One thing bothers me about Ronan though. His happiness now, is such that it cannot last. Nothing good ever does.

I'll just pray, (yes I do pray, and yes people have laughed and of course I don't give a damn), anyway, I'll just pray that he has built around him people on whom he can rely. Friends of the hardest kind to find. Those who know you truly, and still are your friends.

So from conformity, peers, intuitive Backstreet Boys and indeed the God I pray to, this flow of emotion has really been about the meaning of our lives. Profound, yes I am aware of what I type. However, as each day passes this year I'm sure that each of us searches profoundly for one thing and one thing only.

Love.

Eric McDonogh.
October 1999.

Voice Of The Ages

A word from a young fella who's been around this place longer than most

I picked up a couple of old copies of An Focal there last week, I went as far back to the first editions.

The one thing that struck me looking at the old editions (1992, 1993, 1994) was how little things have changed. Six years on and nothings changed we're debating the same issues, pissed off by the same old things, having the same arguments all that's changed are the faces and the names and in some cases even those havn't changed.

So what is it (I hear you ask) that hasn't changed –

- The residents still don't really like us.
- The Schuman Building is still as ugly

as ever.

- We still have to do nasty exam things, but at least its twice a year now and not three times like it used to be. Wouldn't college be a much better place without them.

- The Stables cutlery is still going missing at a rate of knots (either there's a lot of magpies out there or we're thieving bastards)

- Student Services are as bad as ever – we've been complaining about them since time immemorial and will that ever change?

- The Cranberries are gigging, back then it was a fiver to see them in the Two Mile Inn now its 20 something quid at

Milstreet.

- The Kayak Club are still kayaking in a sea of beer. (witness sore heads in the Stables last Sunday)

- An Focal is still a Students' Union propaganda sheet (according to those that know), but now we've got that truly "independent" voice "Scaoil Amach E" to fill us in.

- And finally you'll be glad to know the Students' Union are as bad as ever. They're still steeling our money, taking bribe, lying to us and generally failing to represent us. Or so we're told by, as ever, half a dozen or so people who all know how to do things better. Do us a favour lads – go Get Elected !!!!!!!

So basically nothing much has changed just the faces. But that's kind of reassuring everything else around us is changing at such a pace it's good to see that some things will never change, and if they do, it's going to take a long time.

Still on the subject of An Focal one thing that has really changed is the size of An Focal. The old saying says that size doesn't count (that's something us boys say), but it definitely counts for something. An Focal will this week

amount to the grand total of 36 pages.

That's a lot of work and in my mind heightens the need for a full time sabbatical with sole responsibility for An Focal. If An Focal is going to develop at the rate that it is currently developing then it needs someone solely devoted to it. Splitting up the Communication and Education portfolio would also allow the union to have someone working full time on the Education portfolio an area where UL Students' Union have let their students down over the years. Despite the problems we have on a local and a national level ie TP, Student Services, Co-Op etc we have no formal education policy, no document that states what our position is on these issues or what we are looking to do to improve our situation. Dividing the position into two will give the elected sabbaticals the chance they deserve to 1. Develop An Focal as the real means of communication between ULSU and students. 2. Develop an education policy that caters for the needs of UL students but that's enough of the politics. Tune in next week for some thoughts on stuff that's nothing to do with politics

Trinity News

Student newspapers don't always get the credit they deserve.

The Best In Student Journalism?

Michelle Daly takes look at Trinity's independent newspaper, Trinity News, after their nominations at the Gaurdian Media Awards.

When is a student paper not a student paper? When it's Trinity News. This broadsheet form, college paper has been in existence since 1967. This year the paper was nominated for no less than three Guardian media awards. This was an honour for any paper, but for a college medium, an astounding achievement.

In the 27 colleges and universities in this country, only a select few can claim to have truly classy outputs such as our An Focal. Some of the larger more well established colleges have even got two papers such as UCG's', with

folks – they can't play sports for shite (no offence lads).

Should Trinity win the awards, it will be the first Irish University to do so. Never has any Irish University done so. But never has any University paper so resembled a mainstream paper. Trinity News is professionally run and assembled, though the papers main input is by students at the college. It is edited by Damien Conran, another Trinity student and it's published by The Irish Times. Unfortunately, not all University papers enjoy the patronage of so esteemed a publishing house and perhaps Trinity News could set the standard for Irish

struggle against or for the norm, that is where there is none to establish it, and where there is regulation to rebel against it. And as it is, our media forms reflect it. When anti-SU feeling is high, they express it and so will the reverse. Trinity News doesn't. Perhaps it is regarded as exceptional in its field because it does not behave as other student newspapers do.

Trinity News, on quick perusal does sometimes seem impersonal and full of well written articles by articulate and talented journalists, but often on topics that may be beyond the realm of experience of most students. For example the UN's role in Bosnia could be relevant to the journalist that wrote it or to the editor who feels it will bring a serious note to the paper. But is it considered necessary reading for your average 'joe student'?

Probably not, most students read their college's particular rag (enter An Focal) in order to ()

while now I can safely say Trinity News alludes to grandeur a little beyond its station.

I do believe it is a role model, which other younger papers could follow, but perhaps they may not dissolve their college identity as much. These nominations are truly an astounding and well deserved accolade for Trinity News as a paper. Neither one nor other thing could take such a great and very distinguished honour from them. However, love it or despise it, you have to regard Trinity News as, rather than the exception that proves the rule, the exception that is clearly exempt from the rule.

I hope they do take the gongs, for at last student media will perhaps be given the recognition that it deserves, particularly in Ireland. And I do, despite my observations and reservations about Trinity News' habit of being lamb dressed as mutton, wish them every success in the future.

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When it's Trinity News. This broadsheet form, college paper has been in existence since 1967. This year the paper was nominated for no less than three Guardian media awards. This was an honour for any paper, but for a college medium, an astounding achievement.

In the 27 colleges and universities in this country, only a select few can claim to have truly classy outputs such as our An Focal. Some of the larger more well established colleges have even got two papers such as UCG's', with 'Coolchaint' and the more recently established 'University Independent'. However few of even these smooth and sassy publications can claim to be on a par with Trinity's 'Trinity News'.

As with their Balls, their Fresher's Week, their society events, anything the rest of us do, Trinity has to do it better. "No wonder they are all such smug bastards"-I hear you say, true but remember

folks - they can't play sports for shite (no offence lads).

Should Trinity win the awards, it will be the first Irish University to do so. Never has any Irish University done so. But never has any University paper so resembled a mainstream paper. Trinity News is professionally run and assembled, though the papers main input is by students at the college. It is edited by Damien Conran, another Trinity student and it's published by The Irish Times. Unfortunately, not all University papers enjoy the patronage of so esteemed a publishing house and perhaps Trinity News could set the standard for Irish college papers in this regard.

This also distances the paper from the infighting and S.U or anti-S.U themes that usually take the form of debate in the genre of student newspapers. Whether we like to believe it or not, student life and student politics is very much coloured by individual policies, beliefs and regularities.

All students are united in their

News doesn't. Perhaps it is regarded as exceptional in its field because it does not behave as other student newspapers do.

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Probably not, most students read their college's particular rag (enter An Focal) in order to (a) ascertain what's going on around college, (b) see where the action is on Thursday night or (c) have a good laugh at the humorous/funny or deliberately misleading articles. More likely than not, they won't want an in-depth review of the weeks stock market action. I could be wrong there perhaps. Having been a subscriber to Trinity News for a

their college identity as an outstanding and well deserved accolade for Trinity News as a paper. Neither one nor other thing could take such a great and very distinguished honour from them. However, love it or despise it, you have to regard Trinity News as, rather than the exception that proves the rule, the exception that is clearly exempt from the rule.

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On a last word, let such great an award inspire all of us at An Focal to work harder on bringing UL's students their very best information.

Who knows next year it could be An Focals turn?

Michelle Daly

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State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

Do you remember when Ireland had the British King as its head of state for over eight hundred years, and when in this century part of Ireland got rid of him and elected an Irishman in his place.

Well, down in the southern hemisphere the Australian people had a chance, this month, to expel her majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors as head of state of that country. In what the Irish did through bloodshed and revolution, the Australians could have done by the simple means of casting a vote.

On 4 November the Australian voters voted in a referendum, on pain of a £25 fine if they didn't, to amend their constitution in two significant ways. The first, and most notable, was the abolition of the British monarchy as the head of state of Australia and the election of a president in its stead. A majority was needed in each of its six states, in order for the referendum to pass into law. The motion was defeated by a majority (54%) of Australians.

Does this mean that the Aussies are a bunch of God save the Queen, cup of tea, upper-lip monarchists, but with an Australian accent? Not so say many commentators, who put the failure of abolishing the monarchy down to those republicans who differed in opinion on the way the president would be elected. The prime minister, Mr. John Howard MP, was much criticised

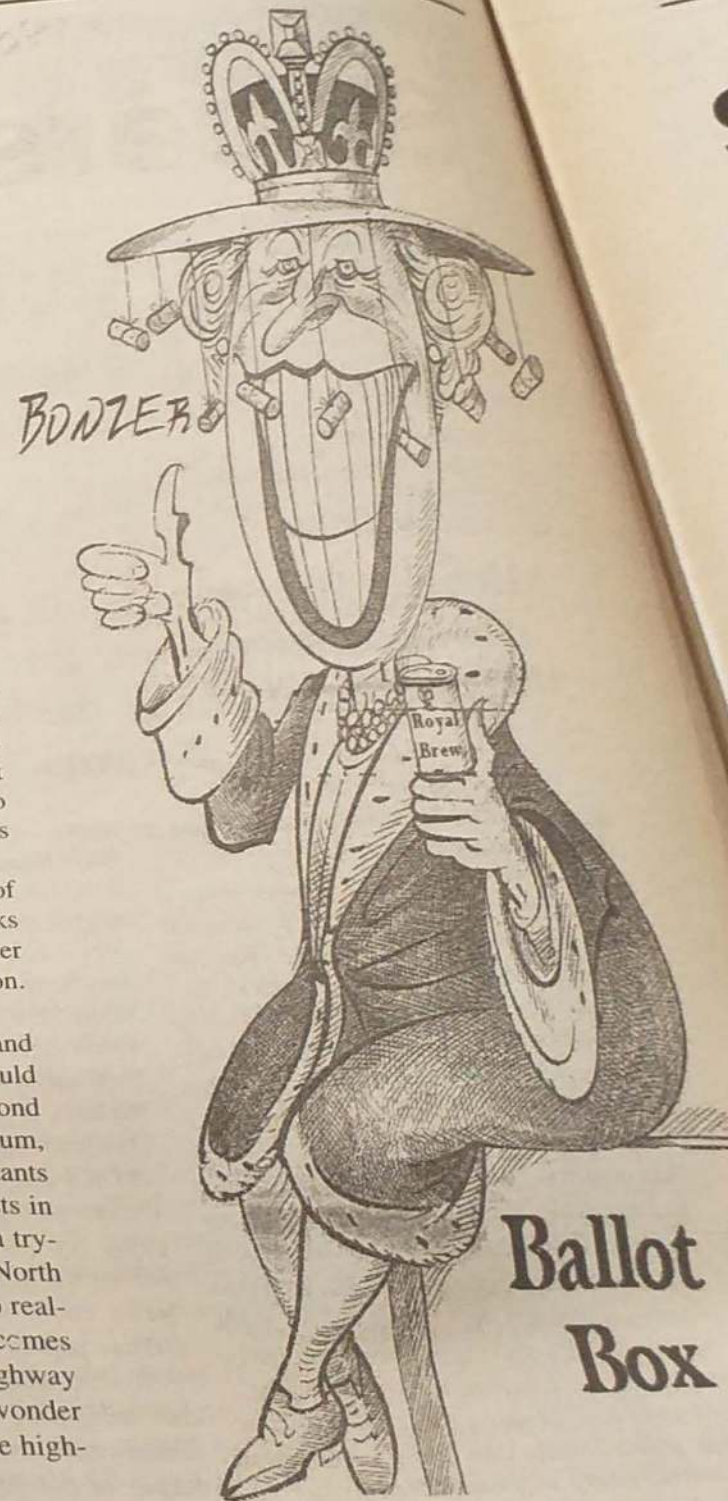
with the stand he advocated which stipulated that the president would be elected by the members of the Australian parliament. In 1998 a constitutional convention advised the parliament that this was the best system. It is said that most Australians are in favour of a republic but want the president elected directly by the people, as is the case in this country. So, they argue, Australia voted on the type of republic they wanted and decided to keep the status quo until such time as they got a system that allowed for a directly elected president. However, that being said, the history books will say that in 1999 the Australian electorate voted to keep a monarch that lives 8,000 miles away, in a different country and visits occasionally.

But God love her! What a job she has to do. Not

being a royal watcher or anything, but I noticed that on a recent trip to Ghana, accompanied by 'her' Foreign Secretary Mr. Robin Cook, the Queen delivered a speech to that country's parliament, which caused a bit of a fuse. Before I go on, I should say that Ghana is under the rule of Lieut. Gerry Rawlings [actual name] who has lately announced his retiring from dictatorial politics and handing back power to the people. The Queen who was reading from a prepared foreign office speech said she anticipated the return of Ghana to democratic rule. Suddenly the parliamentarians started jeering and/or cheering [it is not know which]. Just imagine the scene, the dictator sitting beside her, wondering, should I kill her now or poison her at the state banquet later, and the cheers and jeers erupting all around the assembly. They jeered because it is not known if he will actually hand over power. She didn't know what to do. She looked at the assembly in a bemoaned, half-smiling look and decided to push on in standard British practice. What she had to say, later, to Robin Cook is another matter. Lets just say that the poor civil servant who wrote the damn speech won't be getting a raise in the near future or an OBE for that matter. Politically she was in Ghana for one reason: to voice the opinion of the British Foreign Office. This she did, like a bull in a china shop.

The Queen is like Bosco, a puppet in the hand of the British government. She says, does and thinks nothing that she's not told to. Only the affairs of her family is she allowed to conduct in her own fashion. And she's not doing a very good job there either.

So what can I conclude about the monarchy and Australia. Well I think the Queen and her family should permanently reside in Australia, where, in the second matter the Australians voted upon in the referendum, rejected that the Aborigines were the first inhabitants of that country. This would mean that the Unionists in the North would be away for so long in Australia trying to see her that there would be nobody in the North to argue with, except maybe Dr. Ian Paisley, who really doesn't like the Queen anyway. Of course she comes in useful when he argues "that the Queen's highway will be walked by the Orangemen of Ulster." I wonder do Australians know that the Queen owns all the highways in Australia? Well, Ian can tell them.



The Diary of Doctor Zaius.

This week, the people's republic of UL seems to have suffered an epidemic.

Yes folks, its flu season again, yet another reminder that our puny earthling scientists cannot find a cure for the common cold. It seems we are doomed to an apocalypse of disease which will only leave the strong behind, and the weak in the VAX till 04:00. So remember plenty of zinc and protein in your diet.

UL must be more socially disjointed than my writing, what kind of a gig are you plebs waiting for? The Walls were a stunner on Thursday 4th, and the Carrolls improv. team were funnier than a video of a man getting it in the groin with a football, although there was a funny crowd there as well. Kudos to the guy who made the headlines with pro-lifers protest

funeral. If you don't know what's happening next week, ask someone.

Last week was also marked as the week we were all signing each other into the Stables Club. Personally, I'd sign wanted criminals' names in, so, if the Gaurds check the list, they're bound to head in for a friendly pint.

Whats the score with signing up for membership to the new bar? You're probably wondering why we all have to nominate and second each other (any one I believe can do either)? Well wonder no more; you see us popular cheerleader/porn star types don't, like, need the weight of the some of the more academically/chess club inclined to eat all the social atmosphere. In other words we want everybody to have at least two friends on this overpopulated planet before they can become a

member. However, if you're two friends are your pet hamster and you dead mother, then that's acceptable, as it also is if your friends are your right hand and your left hand. I dont know who's going to process all this information, but lets hope it's not Student Services.

Finally what about that karaoke on Wednesday? Class or what! Nothing says tasteful like a good dose of Aga-doo-doo-doo push pineapples, shake the tree, aga-doo-doo-doo

Zaius



**"Sing it with feeling, Aga-doo-doo-doo"
Michelle Read at the Carrolls Comedy Club**

Courtesy of UL Photo Soc.

“We get to go all around the world with our tracks.”

Superstar DJs, here we go!

The Chemical Brothers play the Point this Saturday. The phrase from strength to strength comes to mind. Jim Carroll speaks to 'em.

Interview courtesy of www.muse.com

Ed and Tom look as sulky as you would expect two late twentysomethings to look if they were parked in a room for a full day to talk to the world about themselves.

There is food, there is drink, there are comfy cushions, but there is no Number One. Instead of the superduper blast of futuretense technopop that is "Hey Boy Hey Girl" sitting smartly at the top of the tree, a song by a wally about sunscreen is squatting at Number One instead. Maybe this explains the duo's reticence at being here. Or maybe they feel the music can speak for itself. And certainly if "Surrender" could speak, it would have plenty to say. Here is an album that twists and shouts in a manner that suggests that the end of the world may be nigh, but that we still have time for one more circuit of the dance-floor and mind the dresser as you go.

Chockablock with incendiary heads of techno, house and the sort of

pop stars," states Ed eagerly. "I always take pop stars to be someone that people are very interested in their lives, in what they do and what they say. That's something we've circumvented. What we do is not based on the cult of personality like Robbie Williams or someone like that." No Fatboy Slims, then.

"I remember Norman saying that he was going down the shops one Monday morning to get some bread and milk and there was this guy taking a picture of him from a hedge or something," Ed recalls. "Norman thought this was kind of strange and then he realised why the guy was doing it. At that stage, you could be forgiven for getting a bit paranoid." "I don't think you could do an exposé shocker on me or Ed," Tom adds, "we don't have any skeletons in our cupboard."

What they do have in their rather large and spacious cupboard is a collection of superstar collaborators (as opposed to superstar DJs) waiting for their call to the microphone. Noel "Yah"



talk to the world about themselves.

There is food, there is drink, there are comfy cushions, but there is no Number One. Instead of the superduper blast of future tense technopop that is "Hey Boy Hey Girl" sitting smartly at the top of the tree, a song by a wally about sunscreen is squatting at Number One instead. Maybe this explains the duo's reticence at being here. Or maybe they feel the music can speak for itself. And certainly if "Surrender" could speak, it would have plenty to say. Here is an album that twists and shouts in a manner that suggests that the end of the world may be nigh, but that we still have time for one more circuit of the dance-floor and mind the dresser as you go.

Chockablock with incendiary shards of techno, house and the sort of beats which many would class as big and others would class as extra-large, "Surrender" makes "Exit Planet Dust" and "Dig Your Own Hole" look primitive by comparison. It's state of the art and what an art it is. So when Ed and Tom slowly answer questions and present long pauses instead of coherence, you are tempted to wonder why they bother at all. Are we in the presence of the Faceless Men Of Dance (TM) or pop stars? "It depends on your definition of

thing we've circumvented. What we do is not based on the cult of personality like Robbie Williams or someone like that." No Fatboy Slims, then.

"I remember Norman saying that he was going down the shops one Monday morning to get some bread and milk and there was this guy taking a picture of him from a hedge or something," Ed recalls. "Norman thought this was kind of strange and then he realised why the guy was doing it. At that stage, you could be forgiven for getting a bit paranoid." "I don't think you could do an exposé shocker on me or Ed," Tom adds, "we don't have any skeletons in our cupboard."

What they do have in their rather large and spacious cupboard is a collection of superstar collaborators (as opposed to superstar DJs) waiting for their call to the microphone. Noel "Yah" Gallagher on "Let Forever Be", Bernard Sumner on "Out Of Control", Mercury Rev's Jonathan Donahue on "Dream On", Mazzy Star's Hope Sandoval on "Asleep From Day" - how much do you pay them? And are you overawed by them? "With Bernard Sumner, it was someone we liked and admired when we were teenagers, so that made it a little special. When you're that young, people who make music seem so far away or you just encounter them through the radio. Once you start making music, it becomes a lot closer. But when Bernard walked into the studio, it was a bit different, he's someone who is like a real hero for us, but once you start working, that goes away. The same with Noel Gallagher and Jonathan Donahue; they're all people that we are fans of and to get to work with them is amazing."

And that these icons want to work with the Brothers is both testament to their talents and to the position that dance music finds itself in at the cusp of



the next century. What was underground is now mainstream and the Chemical Brothers are part of that transition. Ed doesn't view this as a deliberate process. "People aren't tailoring records towards the mainstream, but I think it's very exciting that records which are big club hits go on to be big radio hits and they don't have to be made in a certain way to do that. "Stardust" or "Rockafeller Skank" weren't made to be played on the radio but radio DJs also picked up on them. You wouldn't get that in America; it's what makes the scene here so exciting. "When we did our first single "Song To The Siren", a lot of people couldn't see how that would work in a club - it was too slow, it was breakbeat-driven, whatever - but we have carved out a niche so that such records can exist. A record like "Hey Boy Hey Girl" wasn't made to sound big beat or eclectic, it was something that house DJs could play. We were going to a lot of hard house nights and really liked the energy

from those records, so we wanted a tune that could fit into that company." And there is more to come. The next few months see the band touring and promoting around the globe, more meeting and greeting, more interviews. And more rooms like this. Ed sees it another way. "It's five months of going to places to play our music so we don't feel hard done by at all. Some people only get to play in England after all; we get to go all around the world with our tracks. We get to go to Australia and Japan and America, and a lot of people who make great music just don't get that opportunity at all."

"SURRENDER" is out now on Virgin Records.

WIN TWO TICKETS TO THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS THIS SATURDAY IN THE POINT.

WHAT IRISH DJ ID SUPPORTING THEM ON THEIR EUROPEAN TOUR?

First correct answer to Dave in SU office wins two tickets.

"I remember Norman saying that he was going down the shops one Monday morning to get some bread and milk and there was this guy taking a picture of him from a hedge or something,"

VOLUNTARY WORK IN AFRICA

When Trevor, Colm and James volunteered to work in Africa they never expected the reception they got.

Trevor takes up the story

Imagine the effect of a welcoming party of two hundred singing and dancing African schoolchildren on a group of travel-weary Europeans!

To say we were overwhelmed would be a rather mild way of describing our feelings. We had just reached our destination, Kasana, a poor town in the heart of the Luwero district of Uganda. What, you might ask, were three UL students doing in this remote Third World town during our summer break? Why were these children and community leaders giving us such a heart-warming welcome?

Well, strangely enough, what brought us to Uganda last August was voluntary work. We were among a group of 25 university students and young professionals from Ireland, England, Spain, Kenya and Uganda who were taking part in a Third World rural development project. These projects are run each summer by CODEP (Claraun Overseas Development Projects). The

lated and easily maintained housing for cattle.

We had undertaken to construct a zero-grazing unit in Kasana, a rural town in the midst of the 'Luwero Triangle', the location of the 1982-1986 bush wars, which left the region with an estimated 250,000 dead. Because of Uganda's troubled history and the presence of the AIDS epidemic, the country has a large number of orphaned children. The zero-grazing unit that we built over three to four weeks will help the local community in Kasana to support, feed and educate the orphans in their area.

Regardless of what hardships the Ugandan's suffer in their lives, it seemed to us that their happiness and cheerfulness always survives and endures. We were amazed as to just how friendly the locals were. From the very onset of our arrival, we were given an unprecedented welcome into their lives. As we left, we all expressed the hope that, should the Ugandan economy



Harris Kirumira, 3rd year veterinary medicine student at the Makerere University in Uganda, and Trevor Clancy, 3rd year Industrial biochemistry UL.

1999 project involved the building of a 'zero-grazing unit' in an effort to generate income to care for a great number of orphans in the local area.

What is a 'zero-grazing unit'? I hear you ask. Well, in a nutshell, it's a cowshed. It houses five cattle and helps the local population deal with the difficult problems to do with grass yields, grazing ground, hot climatic conditions and diseases transmitted by the tsetse fly. The zero-grazing technique entails the development of spacious well-venti-

gated the Ugandan economy ever grow to western standards, the friendliness and sense of charity of their culture would not be lost or tainted.

Our motivation to do a good job in completing this project was fueled by the community spirit and the charm of the locals. A rota was organized among the local farmers to supply our food every day, and women in the town took it upon themselves to cook it.

Everywhere we went in the Kasana region we were bombarded by screams of 'yee ba-zungu' ('hello, white

men'), coming excitedly from the children. The local adults would greet us warmly and tell us 'webele ssebo' ('thank you, sir'). They made it plain that they greatly appreciated our coming. This naturally made us all work harder.

Our voluntary work consisted almost entirely of manual labour. We were unskilled, but we learned new skills through the supervision of Irish and Ugandan builders. Before long we were mixing concrete, laying foundations and brick-laying. This was all rather distant from our courses in UL, namely Industrial Biochemistry, Law and European Studies and International Studies.

When the time eventually came to say goodbye, we realized we had learned so much. I believe that all the Europeans who took part gained a deep understanding about life in the Third World. The fetching of water several times a day from well or bore hole, the constant threat of malaria and poor health care, the dismal educational possibilities for young people, the minimal job opportunities for college graduates, made us realize just how much we take for granted at home.

Also, the opportunity to work, socialize and live alongside students from other parts of Ireland, from England, Spain, Kenya and Uganda, for several weeks, helped us all foster life-long friendships. We learned how to work as a team across boundaries of

"We were among a group of 25 university students and young professionals from Ireland, England, Spain, Kenya and Uganda who were taking part in a Third World rural development project."

country and tribe, we had a unique cultural experience together and, most of all, we had the time of our life.

CODEP gives university students the opportunity to participate in these workcamps every summer in Uganda. If you are interested in experiencing what Africa is really like (not a 'plastic' tourist experience) and while doing so, contribute to a worthwhile development project, why not contact CODEP at the address below?

Cleraun Overseas Development Projects; 90 Foster Avenue, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin;

Tel: 01-2881734

E-mail: cleraun@eircom.net

Web page: <http://home.page.eircom.net/~univcentres/cleraun>

Trevor Clancy



some of the local school children performing.

Morrissey Graces UL

Sunday 28th November sees the Mean Fiddler present Stephen Patrick Morrissey at the UL Concert Hall.

For music lovers this is indeed a unique opportunity to witness one of the most enigmatic performers of our time. Author of a book on James Dean and another on the New York Dolls he also played briefly in a band called the Nosebleeds and was a veteran of such groups as Sister Ray and Freaky Party, before Johnny Marr approached Morrissey to form a band in 1982 which became one of the most significant English eighties bands.

An avowed celibate whose lyrics disclosed a sexually ambiguous point of view, Morrissey was given to controversy, whether advocating animal rights or trashing Margaret Thatcher and disco. However in

1987 following the release of the UK top ten single, "Sheila Take a Bow," The Smiths disbanded after eight albums.

Following on from the premature ending of The Smiths, Morrissey has since released five albums each of which continues in a similar vein through his eloquent hesitancy, to his previous efforts. His solo career has attracted a rabid cult following in the U.S. which has seen him playing sessions with Bryan Ferry, Talking Heads, the Pet Shop Boys, and Billy Bragg. Marr served for a while with the Pretenders, The The, and Electronic.

Morrissey is hypersensitive, painfully shy, aggressively vegetarian, supposedly celibate, verbally unfettered, incurably tuneless and articulate. His current 48 date tour began in Arizona on October 5th and

finishes in Las Vegas on December 20th, and somewhere in between on November 28th is a lone date at the UL Concert Hall. It should be great!

Limited number of tickets still available from the Concert Hall box office

**TWO TICKETS TO MORRISSEY IN THE CONCERT HALL.
WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE SMITHS FIRST ALBUM?**

answers to SU reception along with name and contact no.



Pulp Fact. An Afternoon With Jarvis

Dan O'Boyle from Liss Ard.....

A field near Skibbereen in West Cork may not seem like the most likely venue for an interview with a world famous pop star.

Yet here I am sitting on a deck chair in the centre of a field behind the main stage at LissArd 99 waiting for Jarvis Cocker to come back from the bar. He promised he would be back at 8.30pm. It was now 8.05pm and I have to admit that my inclination was that I wouldn't see him until 9pm at the earliest. I was amusing myself by listening to the Afro-Celt Sound System who were onstage in the huge big-top tent that housed the main stage when at exactly 8.15pm, Jarvis appeared from behind a tree to the right of the tent.

Dressed in his usual attire consist-

best method to give up that I've ever come across. The trouble is now, I only seem to use it just after I've had a cigarette which is not exactly what it is supposed to be used for." Pulp are certainly not a band who can lay claim to having achieved overnight success. In fact it wasn't until 1994 that they, facilitated by the emergence of Britpop as a sub-culture set up to combat the grunge scene in the U.S., were bounced to the forefront of the European music industry on the back of their 'His and Hers' album. Almost nineteen years and seven albums down the line from their formation in 1981, does Jarvis feel he needs to take a break from the 'biz more often now than before?

"Well I don't really like the business side of things anyway. I sometimes go

those places. I think security just wind people up and they just want to have a go at you." reveals Cocker. "Security is supposed to protect you but in a way it just draws attention to you and people think "God he must think he's really good cause he has to have security, and they get pissed off by it. I don't like the idea of it really. I mean if I,m going to walk around with anyone it,ll be my mates."

The previous night Pulp headlined the main stage with what can only be described as a blinding performance. Obscure as it may sound Pulp chose to hide themselves behind a large Venetian blind placed at the front of the stage for the first half of the set leaving the audience confused and irritated to say the least. So what could be the reasoning behind the blind?

And despite the varied reactions to the previous nights gig the audience who watched Jarvis' DJ set earlier in the afternoon were unanimous in their response stating that it was of a different class,. So could Jarvis Cocker be the Carl Cox of the future? (I know, I know. I'm working on it!)

"Well, I do it just for fun really," he exclaims ,, Somebody wanted to represent Steve and myself but I think it would take the fun out of it if we did it professionally. I just quite like playing records. So I do it for the laugh."

So what records does this singer turned spinster like to spin?

"I really liked today's set because I could play much more mellow stuff than I could normally get away with. That's what I like to do really. I can play at parties and sometimes people



Jarvis. He's the one who's falling over.

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Dressed in his usual attire consisting of a corduroy suit and red transparent summer sun visor, he greets me warmly and we sit down. Though he may give the impression that he is really laid back he is as punctual as any person I have ever met and despite recent media reports claiming that he is shying away from the press of late he is both friendly and enthusiastic.

Once we are seated, he reaches into his black business-like carrier bag and pulls out a Nicorette inhaler which he begins to suck on profusely. Sensing that this apparatus could be used to perform the same task as a bandaged arm or leg in the Leaving Cert. oral French test I ask Jarvis if he uses the inhaler more to start conversations than to actually give up smoking? "No, I did stop smoking earlier this year and I wish I could have kept it up but I wasn't strong enough," he admits, "I'm not sponsored by Nicorette or anything but for me, it's the

best method to give up that I've ever come across. The trouble is now, I only seem to use it just after I've had a cigarette which is not exactly what it is supposed to be used for." Pulp are certainly not a band who can lay claim to having achieved overnight success. In fact it wasn't until 1994 that they, facilitated by the emergence of Britpop as a sub-culture set up to combat the grunge scene in the U.S., were bounced to the forefront of the European music industry on the back of their 'His and Hers' album. Almost nineteen years and seven albums down the line from their formation in 1981, does Jarvis feel he needs to take a break from the 'biz more often now than before?

"Well I don't really like the business side of things anyway. I sometimes go to my sisters house in Sheffield for a break," laughs Cocker, but mostly I really like going to strange places where there's volcanoes so I've been to Iceland and Hawaii and I'm hoping to go to New Zealand soon. This place though is definitely the most relaxed festival I've ever been to. I like it because things get done, it's just that nobody seems to get in a panic about it, which is quite good."

Some of the more well known artists who played LissArd this year were relieved by the lack of security present. Fans at the festival can openly mingle with the musicians at all times. This is something, which Jarvis seems happy about. "I think it's nice. I've really noticed it here because last week I was performing with another band at Reading and Leeds and even though I never really have security with me anyway (because I find it a bit embarrassing) you do tend to get hassled more at

those places. I think security just wind people up and they just want to have a go at you," reveals Cocker. "Security is supposed to protect you but in a way it just draws attention to you and people think "God he must think he's really good cause he has to have security, and they get pissed off by it. I don't like the idea of it really. I mean if I'm going to walk around with anyone it, ll be my mates."

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"There is a story behind it," Jarvis reveals. "It's because we played in Venice and so we thought a Venetian blind would be appropriate in Venice. It was a kind of an art thing. We weren't sure whether people would be bothered about watching us so we felt that if we played behind this blind people wouldn't be sure when the gig had started. We wanted to intrigue people by not letting them see us. The idea was that we would be gradually revealed to the audience. And because it worked there we did it in Edinburgh and then here. The trouble was that people knew we were going to play here and I think they thought it was never going to be raised up."

Apart from playing gigs with the band, Jarvis has branched out into the crazy world of beats and beeps that is DJ land, performing sometimes with Steve (Pulps bassist) at parties and festivals.

And despite the varied reactions to the previous nights gig the audience who watched Jarvis' DJ set earlier in the afternoon were unanimous in their response stating that it was of a different class. So could Jarvis Cocker be the Carl Cox of the future? (I know, I know. I'm working on it!)

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So what records does this singer turned spinster like to spin?

"I really liked today's set because I could play much more mellow stuff than I could normally get away with. That's what I like to do really. I can also play at parties and sometimes people do dance but this DJ thing of saying that record will fit after that one because it's got the same BPM or something, I've no idea about those sort of things. I can't see me getting on a Ministry of Sound compilation or anything like that."

Are there records that keep cropping up time after time?

"Yeah, well I always finish with the same song called 'And the Birds are Singing' by Sweet People, which was a hit in 1978. It's this semi-ambient music with all these birds singing over it. It was very appropriate here because of playing outdoors where there are lots of trees and everything."

And speaking of trees, the head of the LissArd foundation Mr. Turske began calling to Jarvis from behind a ditch to go and, inkeeping with the tradition, plant one. Weird or wonderful you can decide for yourself.



Jarvis. He's the one who's falling over.

Ella Daly's Really Thin Gossip Column

David Fleming, the block on which the UL History Soc is based, is in trouble this week as it emerges that during his first year up from the wilds of West Cork, he had an illicit affair with a 16 year old school girl. Miss W has since started at UL, and has sold her heart rending story to An Focal for the princely sum of £10 and free tickets to the Walls. A counter offer made by Scaoil Amach E of 50p and a tryst with Niall Dunphy was rejected. It has emerged that while Mr Fleming was a lowly HPSS fresher he lodged with a family in a Limerick suburb. He proceeded to use his landlady's young daughter to gain access to her 5th year class in a local all-girls school, where upon he attached himself to one young innocent. I have it on good account that he promised her unlimited History Soc access, while sending her love letters on History Soc headed note paper, signing himself "Your's in history and in conflict, snugglebuns". Then having tired of his game, he "Fecked off to Boston with out so much as a goodbye". Shame on you Mr Fleming.

Dave O'Donovan, ULSU CEO, is this week playing down rumors that he was discovered in an incestuous

Now that the hour has gone back and the evenings are getting dark, this is just a note to remind people to take extra care when walking home in the evenings.

If you are going to be cycling (or walking) then remember to wear reflective clothing so that others can see you. For those of you who dont know, there is a free nitelink bus service which runs between the University and the Castletroy estates and also to Annacotty and Parkway. Apart from been a safe way of getting home, it is also faster and warmer. You can pick up a timetable for this service in the

Students' Union reception.

For those of you living in the Castletroy area, you may be aware that there have been a number of burglaries in the past few weeks and the Gardai would like to inform people to make sure that when they are out of the house or at night time that all windows and doors are kept securely closed in order to prevent break-ins. If you wish to report anything to the Gardai whether it be a burglary or otherwise, you can call Henry St. Garda Station on 414222 or call to the Students Union on a Tuesday evening between 7.30 pm and 8.30 pm to talk to a Guard. Alternatively you

can call to the Students' Union at any time and make the report there and it will be, if requested, passed onto the Gardai. All reports will be dealt with in strict confidence.

Finally, if youre living in rented accommodation then remember keep around the outside of your house tidy. Dont overfill your bins. And put them out on the day of collection. The County Council can present you with a spot fine, which is shortly being raised to £75, if there is litter in your front garden or even on the footpath in front. Its your house, your estate, and youre the one who has to live in it. Keep it clean!

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meeting of
Alcoholics Anonymous
every Thursday
in room E0019
at 6.30p.m

If you want to drink that's your business, if
you want to stop that's ours.

Has your life been affected by
Alcoholism, Violence, Gambling Or
Any other addiction or dysfunctional behaviour.

If so
You are welcome to meetings of Adult Children of
Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families.

When: every Friday Night
Where: Bishops Place,
Nicholas Street, Limerick.
Time: 8.30p.m

...ing.

Dave O'Donovan, ULSU CEO, is this week playing down rumors that he was discovered in an incestuous lesbian threesome clinch with an An Focal news editor and her leading gossip columnist sister. It is alleged that Mr O'Donovan, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was discovered trussed up in the back of the elder sister's Ford Fiesta, dressed in drag, and speaking as one eye witness so eloquently put it "as if he'd just stepped off the set of 'Priscilla, Queen of the Desert'." Mr O'Donovan, who has asked to remain anonymous, initially tried to deny the allegation, but was later eager to brag, "Yeah, I had em both". When questioned by police as to how he managed this astounding feat he simply replied, "Lie down, I think I love you."

In related news, a little birdie told me that *Tim McAuliffe* is actually a woman. Tim, who has spent the last 6 years hiding out in UL Drama Soc, and using an "artistic temprement" to hide his PMS, is actually a 32 year old American national called Bridget Acquilliers (thats right folks, the lovely Christina's illegitimate older sister) It would appear that Bridget (or Bridie, as she is known to her friends) spent a couple of years as the Coney Islands Freak Show Bearded Lady, before deciding to up sticks and start life afresh as a male UL student.

Finally, UL's rumor mill has been going at light speed these last two weeks with the notion that Photo Soc will be credited for there photos in An Focal. Tell us davyo, can this be true?

...op.in
If you want to drink that's your business, if you want to stop that's ours.

When: every Friday
Where: Bishops Place, Nicholas Street, Limerick.
Time: 8.30p.m

Name The New Student Center

Give us the name that you think suits the new student center the best, and you might just see it in bronze over the main entrance.

Suggestion for name ; _____

Why you think this should be the name for the student centre ;

Your own name ; _____

Your ID No. ; _____

Your year + class ; _____

drop your suggestions into the main reception in the Students' Union

ULSU ENTS PRESENTS

THURSDAY WK 8

James Brown Tribute

+

Link

Dolan's Warehouse £3/£4

WEDNESDAY WK 9

VIVID + Mo-Wax present

James Lavelle

(unkle, scratch perverts etc.)

+

Skinny Boy Jazz

Gallery £4



James Lavelle

(unkle, scratch perverts etc.)
+

Skinny Boy Jazz
Gallery £4

WEDNESDAY WK 11

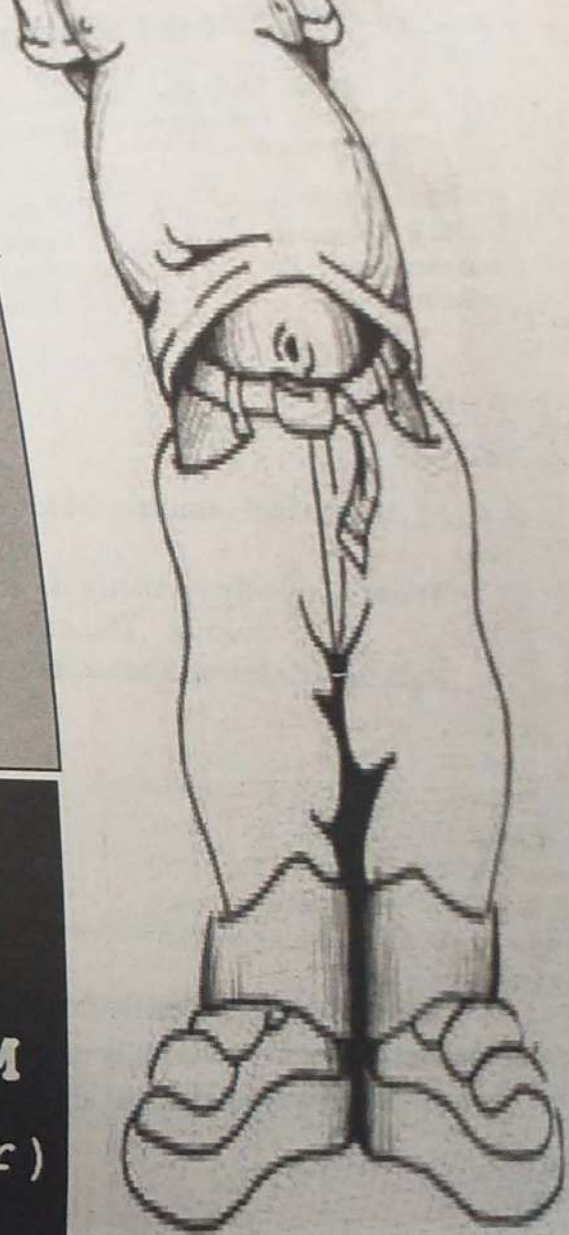
The Frames

+

loads of other stuff
Jean Monnet £5

Be There!

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!!! FROM
NEW ENTS OFFICE (newstudentcenter)**



Welfare Days 1999 Bullying

Definition of Bullying:

One of the basic human rights of an individual is the right to be treated with dignity and respect. When a person behaves in a manner that is likely to deny this right to another individual this right, their behaviour could be termed 'Bullying'.

Bullying behaviour is offensive, abusive, intimidating, malicious or insulting and is likely to be persistent. It may involve the abuse of power by those in authority.

Bullying is the persecution of one individual towards another.

Different forms of Bullying:

There are numerous different ways in the manifestation of bullying, but in general they can be classified under the following headings:

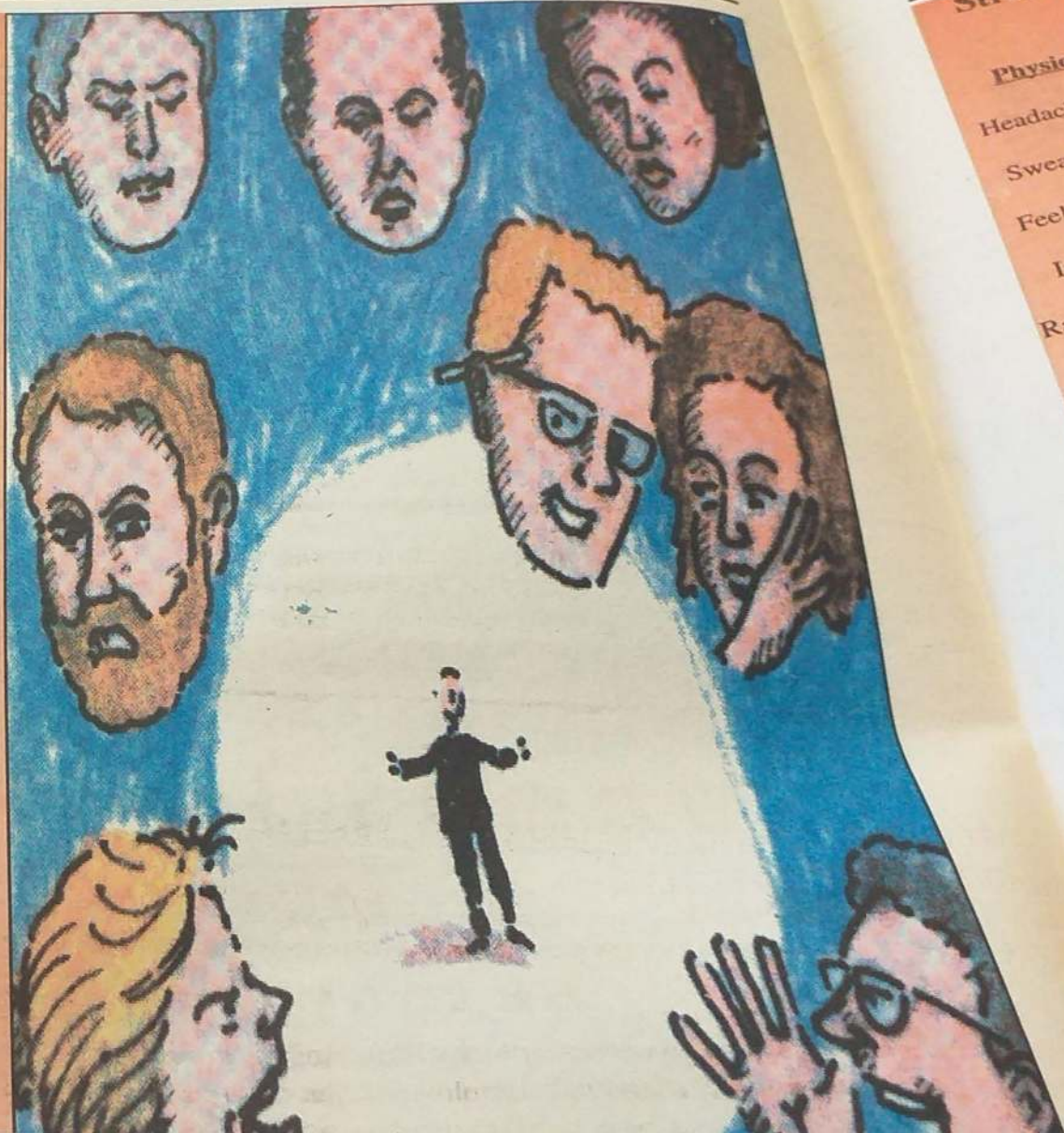
Physical/Sexual:

The use of force

Psychological:

Mind Games/Rumour

Emotional:



Stress is a
Physiolog
Headache
Sweating
Feeling
Irrit
Raise
In

Different forms of Bullying:

There are numerous different ways in the manifestation of bullying, but in general they can be classified under the following headings:

- Physical/Sexual:
- Psychological:
- Emotional:
- Verbal:

- The use of force
- Mind Games/Rumour
- Rejection/Ostracise
- Threats/Shouting



The Bully:

Likely to feel insecure, lack self confidence and have poor self-esteem, therefore when they feel threatened they respond in a bullish manner by being aggressive, sarcastic, malicious, etc.

Those who bully normally do so in the company of others, this is to show that they consider themselves to be powerful and command respect. The exception to this seems to be the violent partner in the home (street angel, house devil).

Bullying is a learned behaviour and so those who bully are likely to have been socialised in an environment in which they witnessed, or were victims of such behaviour.

The Bullied Person:

All individuals are open to the threat of being bullied.

Those who are persistently being bullied lose whatever self esteem they may have as well as their dignity and respect. While they are in constant danger from the bully of being physically abused, for many it is the psychological abuse that can do the most harm. People who are victims of this type of abuse are at high risk of suffering stress, which, if not treated, can pose a serious threat to one's health including nervous breakdown, heart attack and suicide.

Stress is associated with a range of ill-health effects both physiological and psychological.

Symptoms to look out for include:

<u>Physiological</u>	<u>Psychological</u>	<u>Behavioural</u>
Headaches/migraine	Anxiety	Becoming irritable
Sweating/shaking	Panic attacks	Becoming withdrawn
Feeling/being sick	Depression	Becoming aggressive
Irritable bowel	Feeling of dread	Increased consumption of tobacco/alcohol, etc.
Raised Blood Pressure	Tearfulness	Obsessive dwelling on the bully and seeking justice or revenge
Inability to sleep		

Bullying affects not only the individuals involved but the organisation/work area/family/social circle as a whole since people working/living in a climate of fear and resentment do not give their best.

Bullying Environment:

It is at home, as a child that one may experience bullying for the first time.

Early childhood may see the child witness bullying, and later they themselves may become victims or perpetrators.

Bullying Environment:

It is at home, as a child that one may experience bullying for the first time. Early childhood may see the child witness bullying, and later they themselves may become victims or perpetrators.

Bullying at work is still largely unrecognised as a problem. It is regarded as something which occurs only in the school playground. Employers are reluctant to admit that bullying might take place in their own organisation and victims of bullying are often unable to recognise and put a name to the unfair treatment they are receiving. Bullying may just be called a personality clash, harassment or inability to manage people.

For these reasons, people find it very difficult to complain about bullying. The main problems in trying to raise the issue are:

People find they will not be believed.

People are afraid that their complaint will be dismissed as their inability to cope.

If the bully is in a position of management over them they do not know who to complain to and are reluctant to take their complaint to more senior management who they think will take the bully's side.

Individual incidents often seem trivial and people are reluctant to raise them for fear of looking silly.

Men may be reluctant to complain because it does not fit the macho image.

People are afraid to complain in case they are made to suffer even worse forms of bullying, disciplinary action or even dismissal.

Bullying often occurs when there are no witnesses around and so it is just one person's word against another's.

When there are no witnesses to bullying people are often afraid to offer support to the victim in case they are labelled as troublemakers or become the bully's next target.

When aggressive management is part of organisational culture people are unwilling to challenge individual bullying behaviour.

Questionnaire on Bullying

Please fill out the following questionnaire and drop it into my office or alternatively, for those who wish to remain anonymous, leave it in the 'An Focal' box in the Students Union Reception.

State what form it took _____

You may indicate more than one reason if appropriate

ARE YOU BULLYING NOW:

IF YES WHO:

Family (state relationship) _____

School Colleague _____

Work Colleague _____

Club Colleague _____

If other please state _____

If you read the above information on bullying it may help you identify what type: You may indicate more than one where appropriate.

If reported was it acted on:

Yes/No

If Yes what was that action:

Have you ever been bullied?

Yes/No

Are you currently being bullied?

Yes/No

IN WHAT WAY, IF ANY HAS BULLYING AFFECTED YOUR:

Health _____

Family _____

Work _____

Friends _____

Other _____

Please state how it has actually affected you: _____

DID BULLYING STOP:

For Good _____

Short Period _____

Prolonged Period _____

No Change _____

WOULD YOU LIKE HELP TO STOP Yes/No

IF YES, WHO:

Parent _____

Teacher/Lecturer _____

Friend _____

Club Leader _____

Work Colleague _____

Work Supervisor _____

Counsellor _____

If other please state _____

IF YOU HAVE PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING BY:

Place a 'P' on the appropriate line if it was in the past

Place a 'C' on the appropriate line if it is current

Please use both 'P&C' if you have been bullied in the past and you are currently being bullied.

WHERE:

Home _____

School/College _____

Club _____

DID BULLYING INTENSIFY

Yes /No

WOULD YOU ACCEPT HELP IF OFFERED Yes/No

IF YES, WHO:

Parent _____

Teacher/Lecturer _____

DID YOU CONFIDE IN ANYONE

Yes/No

IF YOU HAVE PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING BY:

Place a 'P' on the appropriate line if it was in the past
Place a 'C' on the appropriate line if it is current
Please use both 'P&C' if you have been bullied in the past and you are currently being bullied.

Work _____
Friends _____
Other _____

Please state how it has actually affected you: _____

WHERE:

Home _____
School/College _____
Club _____
Street _____
Workplace _____
If other please state where _____

DID YOU CONFIDE IN ANYONE
Yes/No

IF YES WAS IT:
Family (state relationship) _____
Teacher/Lecturer _____
Friend _____
Superior _____
Club Leader _____
If other please state relationship _____

IF NO WAS IT:
Afraid you would not be believed _____
Too Embarrassed _____
Believed nothing would be done _____
Afraid situation might be worse _____
It's acceptable/expected _____
Other reason please state _____

TYPE/Form

Verbal _____
Physical _____
Psychological _____
Emotional _____

Prolonged Period _____
No Change _____

DID BULLYING INTENSIFY
Yes /No

WOULD YOU ACCEPT HELP IF OFFERED
Yes/No

IF YES, WHO:
Parent _____
Teacher/Lecturer _____
Friend _____
Club Leader _____
Work Colleague _____
Work Supervisor _____
Counsellor _____
If other please state _____

HAVE YOU BULLIED IN THE PAST
Yes/No

IF YES WHO:
Family (state relationship) _____
School Colleague _____
Work Colleague _____
Club Colleague _____
If other please state _____

WOULD YOU LIKE HELP TO STOP
Yes/No

IF YES, WHO:
Parent _____
Teacher/Lecturer _____
Friend _____
Club Leader _____
Work Colleague _____
Work Supervisor _____
Counsellor _____
If other please state _____

Any Other Comments

If you are or have been a victim of any type of Bullying please contact any of the following:
DeeDee Hosty, Welfare Officer, Students Union -Phone Number: 202519
Jill Tynan, Student Counsellor, SPS, - Phone Number: 202151
Sabina Christensen, Student Counsellor, SPS, - Phone Number: 202151
Declan Aherne, , Student Counsellor, SPS, - Phone Number: 202332
Val Burns, Student Counsellor, SPS, - Phone Number:202447.

Now Hear This.....

We'll review the albums + singles that you might like to spend your grant on



Aim

Cold Water Music

Watching the MTV awards over and over again at the weekend showed me again how bad music has gotten on television.

It showed me how little there is to it and made me glad that I like different music to that shown on MTV or played on the radio. It made me glad that Donal Dineen has his own show on the radio to introduce me to people like Aim.

The first time I heard Aim was towards the start of the summer. 'Just Passing Through' eased through my headphones. The track isn't on this album, but is probably my favourite track of Aims. It made me want to find out more about the Grand Central Records hip-hop merchant. So, I bought the album the second it came out and then put it on tape. It hasn't been out of my walkman since.

There are four types of song in here. There's your up beat, funky, hip-hop

low, off-kilter drum beat, floaty vocals and a sparse bass and bass drum. It's a great start to the album. It's quickly followed by 'The Force', one of those up-beat, funky hip-hop numbers, with great vocal and piano samples thrown in at different stages. Perfect for the funkier of dancefloors or the smokiest of rooms.

There's more funky hip-hop with 'Ain't Got Time To Waste', as well as 'From Here To Fame', which closes the album. Balancing this is the slower 'Sail', with it's 'Rae and Christian'esque vocals, and the best in soul crooning in 'A Tree, A Rock and A Cloud', looping and sampling to beat the band. That is, all the bands at the MTV Awards.

'Diabolique' is a nasty piece of work, dropping dialogue from the 'Hallowe'en' movies over 'horror movie' violins and slow, menacing drums and base, with an 'Omen' like choir serving as a chorus, before the violins and dialogue give way to church bells to finish out the track with the drum and the base. As it says on the sleeve notes, don't listen to this one on your own.

So that just leaves the quick drums. 'Downstate' is a cracker of a tune. The intro is stopped by a sampled voice, before a quick pause, and that voice again telling us to "hit it". The drum returns with some more of that funky base which Aim's got down to a tee, as well as a little guitar work for good measure. This is joined by more effects, before it cuts again to more floaty vocals and violins, this time used in a completely different way to previous tracks or tracks to come.

classic corner

Each Issue, Brendan Gregory will take a look at a classic album from the 70's, 80's or 90's.

This issue.....

Led Zeppelin Physical Graffiti

When former Yardbird's guitarist Jimmy Page was first introduced to young, vibrant vocalist Robert Plant, history was made and Led Zepelin were born. The line up was augmented by the phenomenally talented John Bonham on drums and the multi-instrumentalist, John Paul Jones on bass. A year later, in 1968, Led Zeppelin I was released to an unsuspecting population who were suitably impressed by the fresh vigour and energy of this band, so obviously ahead of their time, though still able to conform to standard blues and rock formats and yet elevate them to hitherto unheard - of plateaus. With each successive album, II, III, IV and Houses of the Holy, their style evolved considerably seemingly improving with each effort, breaking new boundaries. The latter two albums paved the way for Physical Graffiti, a monolith of musical saturation spread out over a double album format. Released in 1975 this album displayed the band at their musical zenith. All of their carefully honed and individual traits are present along with a broad range of



Though each and every album is equally impressive, Physical Graffiti wins through with its sheer volume and its broad, diverse cross section of musical styles. Their latter albums, 'Presence' and 'In through the out door' showed no signs of weakening as they explored even more new territories.

On listening to this album the influence on subsequent acts is clearly evident. Perhaps the world may have been a different place if their career was not cut tragically short by the death of Bonham in 1981. Though Page and Plant have reformed the original spark of the band is unfortunately absent.



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There are four types of song in here. There's your up beat, funky, hip-hop that's way ahead of the one beat, one baseline, boring rap stuff that you hear from most acts other than Tribe Called Quest, The Pharcyde or The Roots. There's your faster drum beats, your slower drum beats and then a couple of dark tracks for effect.

The title track is the first dark one, a cold echoey piano, filled in with a hol-

...erent stages. Perfect for the funkiest of dancefloors or the smokiest of rooms.

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When you think of Britney, Whitney, Busta, Marilyn, Norman and the rest, try and take Aim instead, if you know what I mean.

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Though each and every album is equally impressive, Physical Graffiti wins through with its sheer volume and its broad, diverse cross section of musical styles. Their latter albums, 'Presence' and 'In through the out door' showed no signs of weakening as they explored even more new territories.

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Physical Graffiti may well be one of the most definitive albums of the seventies, if not the latter quarter of this century. An epic to inspire many long after the bands demise, it still manages to sound vibrant as the day it was released.


By Bren.



Co.UK - Sick of you


Though the band has picked up phenomenal press in the UK and was nominated as best new band in the Hot Press Rock Awards, they sound somewhat tiresome despite their

energy. Basically the melodies are just too run of the mill to merit them with any long-standing lastability. Musically they weigh in as a cross between a very poppy therapy and Picture House with a dash of alternative angst for good measure. Though it is very unfair to judge a band on the strength of just one single it still does not bode well for their forthcoming album.



Muse - Muscle Museum

Muse strike me as being surprisingly mature in the execution of their troubled brand of alt. Rock. Though they tread on much trodden territory they bring with them a fresh sense of urgency and an apocalyptic edge previously displayed by the like of Soundgarden Live and Jeff Buckley. Though comparisons can not easily be made, they do exhibit traits of each of these bands. Vocalist, Matthew Bellamy's style is reminiscent of a second rate Buckley, while the music incorporates Eastern trills much favoured by Live, and the bass lines hark back to Soundgardens heydey. This single is taken from their debut album 'Showbiz' and is accompanied by two additional tracks, 'Do we need this?' and an acoustic version of 'Muscle Museum'. Muse may well be a band to watch out for in the future, at least on the strength of this stage.



David Gray Please Forgive Me

Right, no room left. But, you know the score on this boy anyway. You probably know the track. But what you don't know about is the wicked Paul Hartnoll (Orbital) remix on this single. First time I heard it, I hated it. Second time, I loved it. Dirty, dirty beats. Get it, or you'll never know what you're missing. God bless the beeps.

DAVID GRAY
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
MUSIC EDIT

**The Frames
'Rent Day Blues'**

Cast your eyes to the name of the band on this otherwise normal single and the reason there are two reviews for it should become clear.

Aha, as if I'd leave "dayvoh hansards" incredibly biased hands on this alone, out of whose mouth the word 'Glen' is frequently followed in swift succession by 'God'. So basically, I stepped in to offer a completely neutral analysis of this single, which is especially unbiased, as I have no previous experience of the Frames.

Rent Day Blues is the second single from the Frame's new album "Dance the Devil...". The single is a new version of the album track and is accompanied by two new songs 'Taking the Hard Way Out' and 'Country Song' as well as a demo version of album favourite 'Perfect Opening Line'.

What follows now, however, will differ little from dayvoh's review as I too found the single exceedingly good. Maybe I shouldn't even bother going on, do you really want to read the same thing twice. Maybe I should just leave the rest of the details to dayvoh.

"Heartfelt vocals", blah blah blah "Subtle Melodies" blah blah blah. You get the picture, but just for the sake of it, I'm going to dig out the tiniest details and criticise them. Has anyone notice the theme for 'Perfect Opening Line' is a dead ringer for "Soma" from the Smashing Pumpkins" or the uncanny resemblance between the Frames new direction and Belgian band dEUS. But enough of that, without further adieu, I shall leave you in the capable hands of the Frames freak.

Bren



**The Frames
'Rent Day Blues'**

Well, Bren's already explained why there's two reviews on this one.

No-one in here trusted me to give an honest and objective review of this single released by the greatest band ever!

But, as you can see by what he's written, I was right all along. I tried to tell yis. The Frames are the kings, and that's all about it. But, and yes there is a but, they just can't seem to put their best work down on a recording.

Don't get me wrong, the music on this CD is some of the best you'll ever hear. 'Rent Day Blues' is a great little tune, sampling Kool and the Gang, and making you feel like it's summer all over again. 'Perfect Opening Line' does exactly what it says on the tin. It opens the album, and rolls in as track three on this ep. It's one of my two favourite songs on the album, and this ver-

sion is even better, being a little bit closer to the original demo version.

And this is exactly what I'm getting at. It's only because I'm such a big fan that I notice it, 'cause I've got tapes of this stuff at home that were recorded ages ago. When I first got the demo of 'Perfect Opening Line', I played it over and over again. When I heard the version on the album, I was almost disappointed. The bite was gone. Whatever made it such a special song on the demo, wasn't on the album. And I can't understand that.

The Frames should be huge. I don't think the fact that they aren't has anything to do with the fact that all the best versions are in my bedroom. But it can't help. As I said, this is still amazing music. You won't hear better. But 'Country Song' was brilliant with a harmonica and a bit more speed. I love it, you better go and buy it, but I've loved 'em more before.

And whatever you do, go and see them in the Jean Monnet in December. You won't see anything like it again. Live, they sound exactly like they do on my tapes. If only they could put it on records. If only Britney didn't win awards.

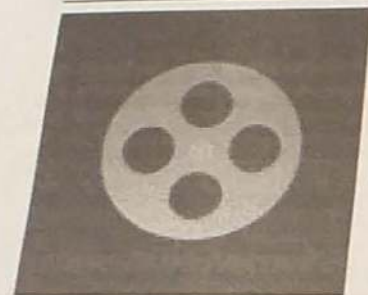
dayvoh

The Reel Thing

Each issue, we'll take a look at some of the films available on both the big and little screen, to make sure that you're not wasting valuable time watching films like 'the Avengers'



- Unmissable *****
- Excellent ****
- Watchable ***
- Below Average **
- No Thank You *



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Unmissable *****
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"PS.....We've got a video review in this one as well, we're really pulling out all the stops."

Fight Club *****

Directed by : David Fincher

Starring : Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, Helena Bonham Carter, Meatloaf

Oh man! I dont know where to start with this one. So much happens in the first twenty minutes.

The very first scene, coming in from the credits, begins at the start of a sweat gland and follows the gland through the body to come out through the shin, showing a gun in Ed's mouth. At least, I think that's what was happening. Then you get a wire going through buildings to homemade explosives, shot in the same inch-by-inch style, as is a shot coming from the middle of a bin out to the room in who's corner its sitting. Then, a little later, something different, with the decoration of an apartment, filmed while sweeping around the room, with furniture appearing complete with its price tags and information, like pictures out of a catalogue. Its all very different and very interesting and you know straight away that youre not watching your normal "going through the motions" film. And thats the way it turns out for the next two hours.

David Finchers previous films, "Seven" and "The Game", have been a little off the beaten track, but

this one heads into a place where there haven't even been footsteps before.

Edward Norton plays a bored, materialistic, white-collar, insomniac who attends support groups nightly for everything from TB to testicular cancer. (see, off the track already). The support groups are an outlet for him, helping him to get rid of his own pain by crying on other peoples shoulders. By chance he meets Tyler Durden (Pitt), on a plane journey, and Tyler's the first person he calls when he returns to his apartment and finds it blown up. (The blowing up is another brilliantly shot scene, by the way. Look out for the plane crash as well.)

Anyway, the two soon form a support group of their own. Fight Club allows you to release your pain by beating and getting beaten. It's basically ruthless, bare knuckle fist fights in the basement of a white trash bar. Word and scars soon spread and in no time Tylers a legend and there's Fight Clubs all over America. This is where it all begins to get a bit ridiculous, but never less interesting.

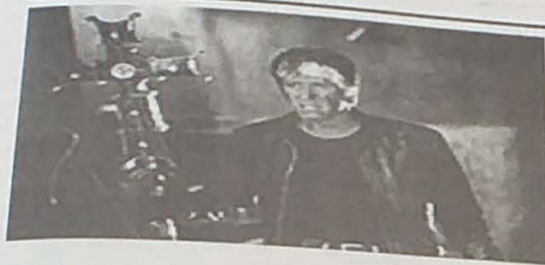
All of a sudden, Durden has an army and a plan. Toughened men all over the country are willing to go through his initiation and obey every word from his mouth, until, just like that, you've got a Nazi army standing in a kitchen with Meatloaf lying on a table and blood pouring from his head. Youll see what I



mean.

And from here it starts to get strange again. The last half hour leaves you wondering what the fuck is going on before answering some questions before the end, when everything blows up of course.

Go to see this film because its different, 'cause the stories strange, 'cause the actings brilliant, 'cause the filming's clever. I'ts not about what you think it's about. Go to see it for the twist which changes the way you look at the whole film. And when youve seen it, go see it again, cause when you know whats actually going on, it'll be like watching it for the first time.



Vampires ***

Directed by ; John Carpenter
Starring ; James Woods, Daniel Baldwin,
Sheryl Lee, Thomas Ian Griffith
**A reasonably ok film directed by John
Carpenter (Escape From L.A.).**

It's set around New Mexico where a group of slayers go around clearing out vampire nests headed up by the cooler than cool Jack Crow (James Wood). He and his crew go around to deserted, unused buildings, go in, pop a steel wire in the hemophiliac loving guys asses and yank them out into the sun to dry.

Crow's team is made up of a bunch of rugged looking rednecks who have some really cool chrome type weapons. Daniel Baldwin (the beefier member of the brothers), stars as Crow's best bud who kinda falls in love with a half-vampire hooker played Sheryl Lee

Crow and his team are funded by the Vatican, which is quite an interesting touch that allows them to keep a priest in tow in their quest to purge the land of its evilness and I'm not talking about Chris Evans!!! Being the gore fan that I am, I was satisfied by this in that sense-it's ultra gory. On the other hand the plot is really scathy with Crow's ultimate goal being to slay Valdeck (Thomas Ian Griffith) the king/master/really cool vampire. The end is also quite weak.

Griffith really adds a gothey feel to the film which I'm sure all you vampire wannabe closet goths out there will love. Vampires also kind of has a bit of a 'Dusk 'till Dawn' feel about it but it was in no way in the same league as the said, aforementioned, excellent vamp film.

I suppose if you're too broke to have a proper night out on the tiles and you couldn't be arsed to stay at home and do your damn sociology project, then haul your ass to the omnplex and pay this film a visit, otherwise wait until it comes out on video. Anyway, I'm too tired to write anymore so I'm off to bed.

C Ya L8r
ADO

Sixth Sense *****

Directed by ; M. Night Shyamalan
Starring ; Bruce Willis, Haley Joel Osment,
Toni Colette, Olivia Williams

I hadn't talked to too many people about this movie and went to see it with no pre-conceptions whatsoever.

Having seen it I can honestly say it's a classic. I can't say too much, it even seems unfair of me to say that the twist makes it, because now you'll be looking for the twist, but this is one hell of a movie.

Bruce Willis, who so often lumbers himself with the "I don't have to act" rolls, really shines here and it goes to show that if he gave himself half a chance with some decent scripts he wouldn't be so underrated.

Haley Joel Osment, despite his name, turns in an excellent and gives so much more than you normally get from the run of the mill cutesy child actors. Toni Colette as Osment's mother is unrecognisable from her previous role as Muriel in "Muriel's Wedding"



But back to the film in hand, Willis plays the part of Malcolm Crowe, a gifted child psychologist. He and his wife have a run in with an ex-patient who commits suicide in front of them. Racked with guilt Crowe takes on a new patient, a disturbed seven year old - his problem being that he sees dead people everywhere. If I tell you anymore I'll tell you too much so get ready for a great twist and some real spooks (at one stage everybody, including me - Jumped)

This is a must see. It's got everything and it gets the thumbs up from the An Focal jury.

KP

.....And Straight To Video



lovely wife to be, Kyle still sets sail for the desert city. From here on things start going very wrong in a hysterically, hilarious, homicidal kinda way.

The stripper/prostitute /babe, who Boyd (Christian Slater) hires for Kyle, gets killed while consummating her 'love' for Michael (Jeremy Piven). The guys led by the cool, calm and collected Christian Slater then have a little '1051b' problem to deal with. With this starts the gruesome rollercoaster ride of pure, unadulterated black comedy.

This film really does have some excellent performances from the likes of Christian Slater who becomes posses with the notion of 'tying-up loose ends' in an extremely cool, calm and you might say well rehearsed manner. Cameron Diaz also gives a great performance in her characters obsessiveness with having a wonderful white wedding at any cost.

Finally guys, as it is fairly evident, I really thought that this film was 'da bomb' but I'm sure that it wouldn't be everyone's cup of tea. So, if you're into the black comedies go and rent this film now!!!! I'm sure that it'll pass away two hours for less than the price of a box of Marlboro Lights.

C Ya L8R
ADO

Very Bad Things

From the director's chair of Pete Burg this is one 'kick ass' film. If you like black comedies then this is unmissable.

It's basically about Kyle Fisher (Jon Faureau- who most of us mortals would know as Monica's mega-rich ex boyfriend, you remember him, the guy with the \$10,000 tip). Anyway he and his friends head off to lovely Las Vegas for a stag night. You see Kyle is set to marry Laura (Cameron Diaz) who during the run up to the wedding has become pretty much obsessed with the perfectly, pleasing, wonderful white wedding. Despite a lot of persuasion from his

type weapons. Daniel Baldwin (the beefier member of the brothers), stars as Crow's best bud who kinda falls in love with a half-vampire hooker played Sheryl Lee Crow and his team are funded by the Vatican, which is quite an interesting touch that allows them to keep a priest in tow in their quest to purge the land of its evilness and I'm not talking about Chris Evans!!! Being the gore fan that I am, I was satisfied by this in that sense-it's ultra gory. On the other hand the plot is really scathy with Crow's ultimate goal being to slay Valdeck (Thomas Ian Griffith) the king/master/really cool vampire. The end is also quite weak.

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<i>The Sixth Sense (15)</i>	14.20, 16.35, 18.50, 21.05; Fri/Sat 23.20	<i>Bowfinger (15)</i>	14.20, 16.30, 18.40, 20.50; Fri/Sat 23.20
<i>Fight Club (18)</i>	14.50, 17.40, 20.30; Fri/Sat 23.15	<i>All About My Mother (n/a)</i>	14.10, 16.30, 18.50, 21.10
<i>Ride with the Devil(15)</i>	14.15, 17.15, 20.15; Fri/Sat 23.15	<i>Tarzan (Gen)</i>	14.05, 16.15; Sat/Sun 12.20
<i>The Blair Witch Project (15)</i>	14.10, 16.20, 18.30, 20.40; Fri/Sat	<i>Vampires (18)</i>	18.55, 21.15; Fri/Sat 23.30
23.25		<i>Big Daddy (12)</i>	14.15, 16.35, 18.55, 21.20; Sat/Sun 12.05
<i>American Pie (18)</i>	14.20, 16.45, 19.10, 21.35; Fri/Sat 23.30	<i>Runaway Bride (PG)</i>	15.00, 17.40, 20.20; Sat/Sun 12.20
<i>The Out of Towners (12)</i>	14.45, 16.55, 19.05, 21.15; Fri/Sat	<i>Analyze This (15)</i>	19.15, 21.25
23.25			

Walking the Boards

In the Belltable, Limerick has one of the best theatres in the country. We'll have a look at what is going on in there in each issue.

This issue, Ella Daly is highly impressed by Island Theatre's latest production, 'Carolans Farewell'.

This weeks offering at the Belltable is Island's 'Carolans Farewell'.

Told in a series of flash backs it is the story of Kevin Carolan, excellently portrayed by Gary Lilburn, a man who has returned to his native Belfast to kill himself. It is a play which brings the reality of the troubles in Belfast shockingly to life, as we see how any and all actions in this divided city can have paramilitary repercussions. The play is co-narrated by Kevin's ex wife (played by Mairead Devlin - 'A Bottle of Smoke') and is represented as his life flashes before his eyes prior to shooting himself. Kevin's attempt to remember the good things is disturbed by the appearance of his



Gary Lilburn, with Mairead Devlin as his wife

dead mother, who claims to have breast fed him till he was 4 years old, his sister who died 20 years before and his father who is dying from alzheimers.

While telling a story we've all heard before (the "troubles" are a popular theme these days), 'Carolans Farewell' avoids all the major pitfalls. It neither judges nor glorifies either side. It doesn't fall in to sentimentality and it keeps you entertained while challenging preconceptions.

'Carolans Farewell' also featured new and local talent with the character of Rosie being played by a graduate of Dublin Youth Theater. This young actress showed great promise, managing to hold her own on stage while portraying the role of a rape victim with just the right amount of dignity to stir up the audience- an unenviable task.

'Carolans Farewell' also starredin the role of Kevin's mother andButler as his father. Both characters were excellently developed, and if you want an extra slant, go check out Pdraig Butler's son in UL Drama Soc's 'Once a Catholic' and 'Puppet Strings'.

I can't go without a quick word about the set, which was as usual excellent. Imagine, if you will, clear perspex rectangles suspended at the back of the stage and spray painted in red with a street map of Belfast, a table and two chairs. It let you know where you were without detracting from the actors or the story. It just goes to show that good drama is in the mind of the audience



Gary Lilburn as Kevin Carolan.

and not in the doors, windows and fireplaces.

'Carolans Farewell' ran for two weeks and will, I have no doubt, be back for a second run in the spring, so if you get a chance, give it a look

Written by Jerome McCann and Isabel De Basio and directed by Terry Devlin ('Pig Town' and 'Borrowed Robes'), it has been criticised as failing to meet the standards set by Island's last three plays. However, you have to take into consideration that Island's last three plays, 'Borrowed Robes', 'A Bottle of Smoke' and 'Pigtown', have all been locally set. 'Carolans Farewell' is set in Belfast and it is harder to make a completely alien setting come to life than one which is totally familiar. Perhaps Limerick audiences have become too accustomed to seeing themselves on stage.

and all actions in this d... city can have paramilitary repercussions. The play is co-narrated by Kevin's ex wife (played by Mairead Devlin - 'A Bottle of Smoke') and is represented as his life flashes before his eyes prior to shooting himself. Kevin's attempt to remember the good things is disturbed by the appearance of his



Gary Lilburn, with Mairead Devlin as his wife

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THEATRE
Saturday 20th November

Sunday 21st November

'Looks Like Thunder Feels Like Rain'

'The Governess'

Choreographers: Mary Nunan,
Yoshiko Chuma, Paul Johnson.

UK/1998/Sandra Goldbacher

8 pm Tickets £7 and £5

8pm Season Ticket £26 (concession
£20) Guest Tickets £5 plus nightly
admission £3

ART
Continuing - Saturday 27th November

*For further information please contact
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Very Well Read.

Darragh O'Donoghue reviews the books that might be worth reading



Patrick
McCabe

The Dead School by Patrick McCabe

'The Butcher Boy' was a very successful novel (and indeed it became last year's best Irish film). The Dead School will appeal to fans of McCabe's earlier book. It's written in that same engaging style and features McCabe's unique humour.

If you have ever read one of his books then it may not surprise you that he has published stuff for children. He's a great storyteller and tells his tale almost as though it was a fairy story. The first line: "Boys and girls I hope you are

well." But what follows here would not make suitable reading material for kids. The story revolves around two teachers at a prestigious Dublin Catholic school, each one from a different generation. The inevitable clash between these two men proves disastrous for both.

Headmaster Raphael Bell is the older. A man of the old Ireland, who early in his life witnessed his father's murder at the hands of the Black and Tans. He aspires to DeValera's vision of the nation, with the Irish speaking comely maidens and all that. For years, he's had St Anthony's School under his control and earned it its high reputation. But then along comes the 1960's and a new teacher, Malachy Dudgeon. This new arrival is a chancer, with none of his older colleague's idealism. When he begins teaching at the school, things go pear-shaped. A few mental breakdowns and a hell of a lot of paranoia later, McCabe's novel heads for a dramatic conclusion. It's dark, it's twisted and it is consistently entertaining.

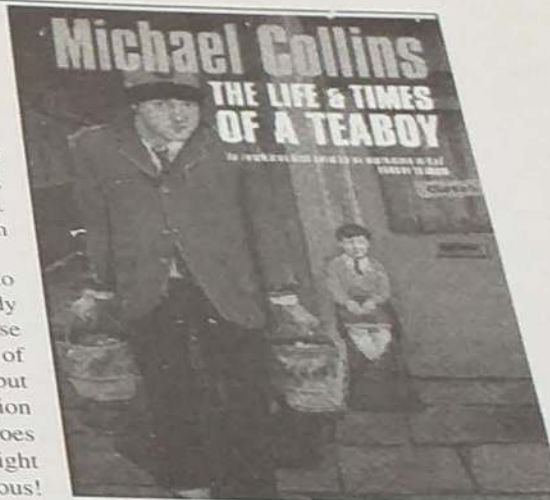
The Life and Times of a Teaboy by Michael Collins

Here is a book that made me angry. The initial attraction was that the story is set in Limerick. Books aren't cheap and if I am to be persuaded to be parted with the guts of a tenner on an author I have never heard of, well there had better be a good reason for it. In this case it was the Limerick connection that did it.

Lots of cities have fine writers to romanticise them. Dublin has say Roddy Doyle, Edinburgh has Irvine Welsh. These writers hardly painted glowing pictures of life in the cities concerned. Far from it, but the point is that their memorable fiction added to each city's allure. And who does Limerick have? Frank McCourt. You might say, "isn't 'Angela's Ashes' world famous! Isn't there a movie adaptation due out soon!" But it's not straight fiction, so it just can't cut it as the Great Limerick Novel.

'The Life and Times of a Teaboy' is straight fiction but as it turns out, it's a pain to read. Michael Collins' book won't do our town any favours, but not because the Limerick he writes about is dark and depressing. It's because it will bore the reader to tears.

OK, maybe trying to find a Dostoevsky to represent Limerick is asking for a bit much. I am sure there are apartment blocks in other parts of the world with more inhabitants than this town. But even if I'd never heard of the place, 'The Life and Times of a Teaboy' would still have disappointed. It involves a certain Ambrose Feeney, a boy born just after the war into a household that endured the grim fatalism



before having a nervous breakdown. We leave him on page 242 when he has just decided to write a book. And that's pretty much it. Leave out the bit about the breakdown, and what you have is more a CV than a novel.

But the mood is so goddamn grim and everyone is miserable. For no good reason, Ambrose's head is full of pain and bitterness. He hates his pious mother, and occasionally obsesses about some bodily function. Here is an extract, (our hero is on the toilet): "Ambrose's eyes filled with tears, the absurdity of himself squatting over the place where his family planted their arses and shit out the digestion of their days, feeling his own long coiling intestines connecting into the pipes running down the back of the house and into the secret underground life of the city sewers." Lord bless us and save us!

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before having a nervous breakdown. We leave him on page 242 when he has just decided to write a book. And that's pretty much it. Leave out the bit about the breakdown, and what you have is more a CV than a novel.

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Whatever about the unrelenting grimness, Collins does have a fine prose style. He has obvious talent as a writer, if only he'd lighten up!

PATRICIA CORNWELL

UNNATURAL EXPOSURE

WITH SCARPETTA

This is not Cornwell's latest novel: in fact it is out about two years old at this stage. But here is one thing to spark an Irish reader's interest: the story begins in a bedroom of the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin. Here is where the crime-solving pathologist Dr Kay Scarpetta is staying during an Irish lecture tour. However a few pages in and Scarpetta is back on her native soil in the States, and there is nary a further mention made of the Irish trip. It's not as though tales about the Irish crime underworld were on the cards but more time spent in Ireland could have been fun. Patricia Cornwell dashes off a Scarpetta novel

about once a year and there is about ten so far in print. Fair play to the woman, she's nothing if not prolific. She's also managed to become the American top seller in the serial killer thriller genre. In 'Unnatural Exposure', a grisly find is made at a rural Maryland landfill site: a partially dismembered body. So Scarpetta begins an investigation. Next thing the killer is e-mailing taunts to Scarpetta under a pseudonym and using smallpox to kill victims.

This is a thriller so I'd better not give too much away. It's not a bad old read actually, ideal for reading on long bus journeys. Or at the back of maths

tutorials. But it is more Murder She Wrote than Silence of the Lambs, and, on the whole, is pretty forgettable. You might not want to be eating anything if you do read it though, since descriptions of post-mortems can get a little gory.

What is striking about the novel is that all of the significant characters are female. The men just annoy or get in the way. The only two sympathetic male characters here are classic wimps who take turns breaking into tears and taking emotional support from the stiff-upper-lip Scarpetta.

Unnatural Exposure
by Patricia Cornwell

The Walls Were Stunning!

Tomas Finneran reports back from The Walls in Dolan's, on a rainy night in Georgia, Limerick.

Limerick's Heineken Weekender and monsoon season kicked off in style on Thursday 4th November with another great Ent's gig at Dolan's.

Those who managed to make it into town amid the deterrent of the worst rain this semester has experienced certainly got what they deserved: another great gig (and very wet).

Battling through Bangladesh style floods, I missed my taxi, as the Stables became a temporary island. However, I wasn't going to be deterred from what promised to be an essential experience. From the award-winning band The Stunning, brothers Joe and Steve Wall and their band, The Walls, promised and delivered a highly enjoyable show preceded by the ever-popular Catcher and the Rye.



Catcher's Sabina Sheehan

courtesy of UL Photo Soc

The variety of pleasant sounds from Catcher and the Rye were delivered using a welcome and refreshing formula which included the silver tongued voice of Sabina Sheehan and a delicate balance of acoustic and electric. After leaving prematurely, the band returned to the delight of the growing audience. Their professional and creative style was very much appreciated and future international success seems inevitable.

Even so, it was to the

eerie blue light that the night really took off as The Walls made their entrance with their debut single "The Night I Called It A Day". From this impressive foundation The Walls presented almost 90 minutes of top class live entertainment. You couldn't be but satisfied as the four piece took you on a journey of interesting but consistent music. Each new track brought the last back down to a more consistent, yet still appealing level.

While the musical variety was not as party-styled as perhaps recent gigs, the floor was always occupied and all were having a good time. This is not to say the gig didn't 'uns' as they say in Plassy. 'Butter Fingers' was one of the most feel good songs I've heard in some time. With its impulsive chorus and effective use of guitar it was enough to say "shag off, we're going to party" to any wet night whilst 'Love Eluded Me' could be described as a notable cool and smooth number.

The encore was even better as Joe and Steve led the band with John Lennon's 'Remember' to the delight of all around us. Meanwhile, those in front of stage were equally impressed as the final cords of 'Remember' introduced the wonderful 'Escape'. One thing that didn't escape was the weird but wicked sound of the keyboard on this track. It was moments like this that epitomized and identified The Walls. There was only one way to finish and 'Brewing Up A Storm' was it. This stunning (yeah okay) classic was like the final firework of a spontaneous light show. You could feel your heart dance as the band really seemed to enjoy their finale, as did everyone.

Shortly after the gig, a relaxed Joe Wall kindly offered to sign...well, almost anything. He commented that he really "enjoyed" the gig but expected "a bigger



Steve Wall takes center stage

courtesy of UL Photo Soc

crowd." This, I suppose, was understandable considering the band had packed Dolan's last year. This year, they had to contend with Mother-in-law Nature, and bearing this in mind the attendance was impressive. Joe also said he was looking forward to their new album which should be on release next February.

There's more to the Walls than that Guinness commercial and that's for sure. If you're one of the many who were impressed you can keep in touch with the band at www.thewalls.ie <<http://www.thewalls.ie>>. Of course, where do you get access to the net anymore?...ah!, I'll leave that to another article.

CARROLLS

Just For Laughs!

Tom Finneran's still picking up his sides after the Carrolls Campus Comedy Tour.

It's not everyday you get an opportunity to see a live comedy show. It's not everyday you get to see a show that is on a parity with the hysterical TV show "Whose line is it anyway?" It's not everyday you get this experience for absolutely nothing, for free!

That day was last Thursday. The John Monnet Theatre played host to the "Carrolls Comedy Club", a unique brand of free form and game-based improvisation. For over six months The Comedy Improv have been inspiring, shocking and surprising audiences nationwide. Some of the most familiar comic names have joined the team including Sue Collins from The Nualas, Eddie Bannon who gave a hilarious performance at the stables earlier this semester and the 'sophisticated and clever' Dara Ó Briain who you all know.

Not all went so smoothly on the night however. As an impatient audience arrived outside the John Monnet, FBI style officials explained that nobody could enter yet. A well-known hairless fresher who announced that sound checks were the reason for the slight delay quickly dispelled rumours of an alien autopsy or a top-secret human cloning project.

Brendan Dempsey who many recognised from "Waking Ned", Michelle Read and Joe Rooney (aka Father Damo) and Paul Tylac who both starred in TV3's "Messers Tylac and Rooney".

This was a fast show. Without any extended introduction the audience were roughly divided into three groups (Left side, middle and right side...brilliant!). Invitations to shout out movie types resulted in everything from good old-fashioned Westerns to the more innovative suggestion of Porn by a front row lollipop licker? The result was sidesplitting. Michelle Read sat off stage calling out the various genres of films as the others acted out these styles continuously. A seamless production was the result, where you could expect to move from a tense thriller to a romantic drama (almost) unnoticed.

Next we were treated to a freeze frame type of act where each comic could interrupt the other at any time during an act. As you would expect, the outcome was a very unusual scene where the actors didn't always fit their roles perfectly.

It got better though. A chemist scene suggested by one audience member and a page number of a book (page one was the suggestion by one obviously very

Eventually, the doors were opened and a healthy crowd entered in January Sale style. Within minutes, the dynamic Improv team were announced:



imaginative and deep thinking student) were utilised by the improv team for another scene...don't ask!

We continued our night of madness and mindless idiosyncy with a poetry show and News show which reported on Bertie's Fish fetish, a graveyard where dead bodies were found and a pro-life demonstration at a Leitrim funeral. It was all a bit bizarre.

To finish the night, our comedy team preformed Jack and the Beanstalk in only one minute...then in 30 seconds...then in 15 seconds and finally faster again! The John Monnet was overwhelmed as grown men cried in sheer amusement. As if this wasn't enough, the team presented "Brunaldo", the most dramatic and shocking talk show you'll ever see. The line-up was very well received. In the cosy and intimate John Monnet the audience interaction worked very well. Afterwards, I spoke with a busy Paul Tylac. He wished to thank the audience for the great reception and said he had "good crack" here at UL.

The rest of us returned to watch the disappointing MTV Music awards. (The John Monnet was far more entertaining) After such an exceptional night only one question remained: "Who paid for it anyway?"



Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Socs on campus. Take a good look at 'em, and if there's anything you think you'd be interested in, then give Paul Lee a shout in the Heineken Clubs and Societies Office in the new Student Centre, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.

UL Wind Surfers Take A Trip To Crookhaven

With a gleam of hope in our eyes we took to the road, but disaster was not long in coming "sorry lads, no drinking on the bus".

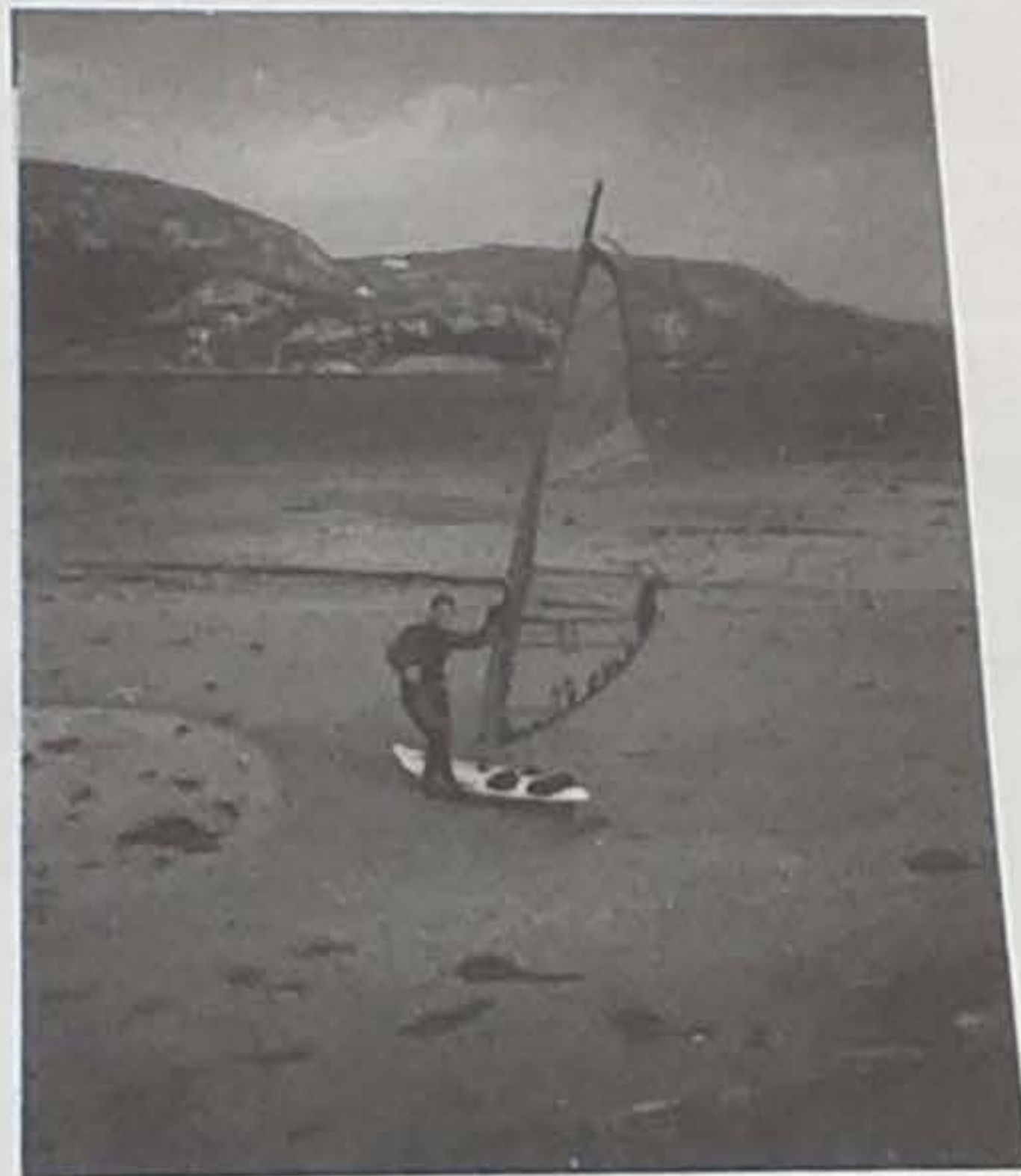
Obviously a cunning plan was needed, only a scheme of Machivellian proportions would deliver us from a bitter end "We won't drink but can we stop at this place for five minutes?"

Incredibly the bus driver who had already said that the journey would not only be long and bumpy but dry as well felt that a shop with a big neon "Fine Wines" sign would not be a threat to the group's sobriety. For the first half an hour we were confined to drinking in the shadows. Twenty minutes later and the toilet possibilities inherent in the bus side window were looking very promising.

Our first morning in Crookhaven and the wind was, well, just plain scary. Conversation was limited, as in those conditions, just like in space, no one could hear you scream. Despite several spectacular storm inspired incidents every one managed just about to make it back to the pub.

The second morning brought new challenges new goals and surprisingly few hungover heads. The beach beckoned and incredibly it was just as windy. Unfortunately it was so windy that an unfortunate damsel became very distressed, fair enough really considering she was floating out to the sea.

The ensuing rescue operation required skill, courage and, above all,



some sadly lacking common sense. "Someone's in trouble, quick lets help her by marooning ourselves on those jagged rocks" being the order of the unfortunate day but thanks to some not quite so quick thinking it all turned out right in the end.

There should be another expedition away soon so keep an eye on the old notice board in the canteen. We would formally like to announce the birth of a healthy baby windsurfing web site that's currently napping smoothly on the U.L. homepage (lots of info, contact numbers are found therein).

Last and most definitely least Happiest of birthdays to Diarmuid" 7'5 are really small "Boyle.

And Then UL Kayak Club Take A Trip To Lahinch

Togs check, wetsuit check, towel check, slab of Heineken check, that was everything packed for the Kayak Clubs annual trip to the west coast of Clare.

The thoughts of decent surf upon which we could get mangled kept us in buoyant mood along with numerous bottles of Heineken. The first night entailed everyone getting assigned a room though some were to neglect their assigned leaba for someone else's later in the night. Following that a mad break was made for O'Looneys purveyors of the finest beers, spirits and wines in Lahinch. After numerous drinks onto the Claremont nightclub... not a lot of scandal to report from this except a deal being struck between 2 senior Kayak Club members that if one dropped his trousers the other would flash her tits, both duly complied.

The next morning with hangovers abound, up we got with the thought of glorious waves and a good fry up driving us on, unfortunately for us the weather decided to become our enemy and gusts of wind blew what would be great waves into mere bowls of soup. Some of the more senior paddlers then remember the existence of shit creek a small alcove that was sheltered from these gusts. Away, we went and got in a decent 30 minutes of surf when a thundering hailstorm put paid to our best efforts. Somewhat disillu-

sioned, we retired to the sports complex in the village, if we couldn't surf we were damn sure going to get in a good swim, sauna and jacuzzi. Climbing up on and falling off a huge inflatable crocodile in the pool resulted in warnings of the severest kind from the local lifeguard.

With our days surf being blown away by the wind we decided to make the best of things and get set for a big hooley. Later that night it was back to O'Looneys for a few games of Fussball (that last goal was definitely offside Eamon) and several pints of Arthur's best. Not a lot to report from this night either, other than one of the boyz discovering that he had a girlfriend that he never knew about!! A local party was gatecrashed and a few members of the club did not arrive back until the early hours of the morning and beyond (heh Jimmy, nice pair of boots)

The waves the following day were not much better than the previous days, but at least they were surfable. Yours truly managed to get convinced to go for a Sunday morning swim in the Atlantic Ocean, a mental activity that was one enjoyable experience though the water was cold enough to freeze the proverbial balls off a brass monkey (and before you ask they are still intact!!) A great weekend was had by all and hopefully next year the weather might do us a favour.

Your man in Lahinch
H.

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And Finally, UL Celtic Supporters Take A Trip To Glasgow

On November 29th – 31st last, the University of Limerick Celtic Supporters Club embarked on yet another journey of hope and discovery, when they travelled to Glasgow for the Celtic V Kilmarnock match.

A coach load of eager, drunk and slightly psychotic supporters left the Stables on the Friday evening not to return until 9 o' clock the following Monday morning, 2 stone heavier, a good bit sleepier and three points richer.

As per usual, the craic was ninety all the way up to Belfast, beer was drank,

songs were sung, beer was drank and beer was drank. Despite the dodgy forecasts the ferry sailed on schedule and before we knew it we were hassling the receptionist at our accommodation to give us some rooms. By this stage the whole of Scotland knew about one of our Celtic newcomers, the irrepressible, unbelievable and absolutely mad Big D! If ever a man summed up all that is good about these trips it was this bloody lunatic.

Fast forward to 3.55 that Saturday afternoon, one – nil down, playing like the local u-10's with no hope whatsoever. One lad was so pissed off he went for a bag of chips, when he

came back we were 3-1 up after a Mark Viduka hatrick. A goal from Ian Wright on his debut and a typically clinical Craig Burley strike had left us absolutely elated at the final whistle, 5-1 to the Bhoys.

The match was over, but the fun was only beginning. Bairds, the Hoops Bar and, of course, The Brazen Head experienced the U.L. Celtic Supporters at their most vocal. The longstanding tradition of our uncontrollable alcoholism lives on. Hail Hail to our amazing stamina.

Despite the cancellation of numerous ferries on the way back, we found a lovely little drinking establish-

ment in Stranraer, which was only too happy to double its profits for the year by welcoming us in with open arms. Long live the Jazz Bar and all who drink like fish there. We finally arrived back on the Monday morning, tired, but happy and rearing to go again.

The University of Limerick Celtic Supporters Club would like to thank McNulty coaches, Stena ferries, the David Naismith Centre in Glasgow and of course all in Celtic Park for yet another unforgettable experience.

Hail Hail!
On behalf of the U.L.
Celtic Supporters Club,
Daragh Kennedy

Aeronautical Society Visit Shannon Airport

Members from Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering visited the ATC tower in Shannon Tuesday of week 4.

This was a trip organised so as we could investigate the reality behind working in the control tower. We were welcomed into the control room under the tower. From there our enlightening tour began. The equipment in the tower has to be seen to be believed! Here we met the people responsible for all air traffic between the US and Europe. Lives of passengers and crew are in their hands. At any one time there is an average of 75 aircraft in their airspace.

The men and women working there were very friendly and helpful. They dis-



Claire Shyrane, Niall McGeorge, Diarmuid Boyle, Fernando Diaz Barajas, Alan McClafferty

played experience and professionalism in everything they did – even those relaxing with their fee up! Aero Soc. plans to visit the ATC tower, Shannon again in week 8 with a group of students from Queens University Belfast. All members are also invited to attend our industry trips in week 8. Watch the notice board for details.

A Message From UL Ladies Gaelic Football Club

The club wishes to welcome everyone back after a great Summer, and we hope that all ye footballing girls out there were well rested and are ready to help us t put U.L. Ladies Gaelic football back on the map, by reclaiming the prestigious O'Connor Cup this year.

A good season was has by all last year, but the

year is outstanding. So if you've any worries about the club, registration, training, or any questions you would like to ask, do not hesitate in contacting any of the following, who will be more than happy to answer your queries.

History Society's weekend away in Kilkenny

Once again the History Society hit the road and ventured to the historic city of Kilkenny.

Spirits were high on the bus, helped in no small measure by choice of music. The itinerary was quite relaxed as the group wandered through the streets of this medieval city.

A visit to Kilkenny Castle is a must. Many readers may have vague memories of Kilkenny Castle from primary school tours, but it has undergone extensive renovations to restore it to its former glory. Renovations on the West wing are still ongoing and

the whole project will be finished early next year.

The group also sampled the fare at Kilkenny's historic pubs including Kyeteller's – where a previous occupant was the subject of a witch trial. It's a flimsy excuse to go out by any excuse would have done us. We also visited the Dunmore Caves and we were lucky enough to examine various artefacts from the Viking era, which had been very recently discovered and had not yet been examined by the National Museum. This was the culmination of a great weekend for the History Society and we look forward to the next one.

UL commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall

The History Society and the German Society jointly held a commemorative talk on the 10th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. A crowd of 70 people attended the talk last Tuesday 9th of November.

Joachim Lerchenmuller delivered a very informative talk. He pointed out that although Berlin was celebrating the

anniversary, there is still a lot of hardship in the former East. Since the fall of the Wall, Western politics have dominated Germany and an indication of this is that no representative of the former East Germany is speaking at the official celebration in Berlin.

The talk was followed by a wine and cheese reception – with a distinctly German flavour.

A Message From UL Ladies Gaelic Football Club

The club wishes to welcome everyone back after a great Summer, and we hope that all ye footballing girls out there were well rested and are ready to help us t put U.L. Ladies Gaelic football back on the map, by reclaiming the prestigious O'Connor Cup this year.

A good season was has by all last year, but the only team to have silverware for their efforts were the freshers, who successfully, claimed the Shield, in the Freshers Tournament, which was finally held in Maynooth at the beginning of this year. The winning team which consisted of, Barbara McElvaney, Sinead Gordan, Caroline Burke, Libby Duffy, Edel Madigan, Michelle Lavelle, Edel McGuane, Charlotte Skelly, Kate Newman and Sheila Sexton. Some of the praise for this victory, however must go to the management team of Cian O'Neill and Noreen O'Connell, who put the team through some extremely vigorous training sessions!! This had the girls well prepared for the tough opposition provided by both teams from U.C.D. and St. Patrick's College.

The Leagues also went well for both the Intermediates and Seniors, so grateful appreciation must go to their coach for the year, Liam Gleeson and the girls fitness trainer, Noreen O'Connell for their dedicated commitment throughout the whole season. These were aided by an excellent committee panel, who, under the watchful eye of Chairperson, Emma O'Malley, ensured that everything ran smoothly throughout the year. Emma would like to thank all who helped with the Committee, especially Jean Lonerhan and Dara Sugrue.

Talking about Committees, leads us up to the people behind the scenes this year. I've heard, from a very reliable source that the organisation in the club his

year is outstanding. So if you've any worries about the club, registration, training, or any questions you would like to ask, do not hesitate in contacting any of the following, who will be more than happy to answer your queries.

Majella Griffin (Chairperson) 9738428@student.ul.ie
Caroline Burke (Secretary) 9850708@student.ul.ie
Elaine Griffin (Treasurer) 9727019@student.ul.ie
Sinead Gordon (P.R.O) 9850791@student.ul.ie
Noreen O'Connell (P.R.O)
Noreen.O'connell@staffmail.ul.ie

So, you've heard about the great club, so why not be a part of the best club in U.L????? We are always looking for new members, so why not come along to training to see if you'll enjoy it? We know ye will!!!! Training times are as follows:

Monday's (Astro-Turf) for all Feshers and Beginners from 7.15-8.15. Wednesday's (Pitches) Freshers and Beginners from 4.00-5.00. Seniors & Intermediates from 5.00-6.00 (Astro-turf) If the pitches are unavailable, 5.45-6.45. Thursday's (Astro-Turf) 5.00-6.00

We're not all about training though, the Ladies Gaelic Football Club, are renowned for their hectic socialising, it's a hard life, but sure somebody has to live it. We know it's difficult to head for the Stables every night after training, so we try to keep it to twice a week!! And as for after matches, it's unheard of any of the footballers to be thrown out of the Lodge-(We leave that to the Camogie Club!!!!) It's a great club for making new friends and getting drink free, yes I did

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The talk was followed by a wine and cheese reception - with a distinctly German flavour.

say FREE DRINK (bet that got ye interested) so why don't ye come along for the laugh and see if ye like it.

Speaking of drink, I have to mention our drink sponsors for the following year. Guinness has decided that we would be the perfect Club, for promoting their relatively new drink Breo. So after fighting off much competition from other interested parties (honest!!) we decided that Guinness could definitely do with our help. We still need a few more pints, to make sure it's exactly, the taste we're looking for, but no doubt Darragh Duggan, that brilliant and most helpful Guinness Rep in the College (not to mention the only) will be able to help us out there. We must thank him for his time given already, in helping us to get everything sorted out, hopefully it's the start of a new and beautiful relationship. And by the way the fact that we made him an honorary member, the only fella, to ever achieve such an award from the Ladies Football Club has nothing to do with this!!!!!!

So, for the rest of ye out there, who know everything, about the BEST club in U.L, we will be looking for your support throughout the year. So if ye see anyone selling tickets, give generously. Remember anyone is welcome at training, So come along and be part of a winning team this year.

ENVIRO SOC CALLS FOR GROUPS TO JOIN THEM SAYING NO TO THE WTO!!!

November 30th, 1999 - A Global Day of Action, Resistance, and Carnival Against the Global Capitalist System

Activists from diverse groups and movements around the world are discussing, networking and organizing for an international day of action on November 30th. On this day, officials of 150 governments will meet in Seattle for the 3rd conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO). At this conference, they will decide on new policies that will further escalate the exploitation of our planet and its people by the global capitalist system. Thus, there will be attempts to push through a new version of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), to roll back environmental regulations, to strengthen intellectual property rights, and to further neoliberalization through a new round of free trade talks.

Since its creation in 1995 the WTO has made over 100 judgments, all of which have been anti-worker, anti-environment and pro-maximum profit. The WTO only serves the interests of multinational corporations, it is not democratic, yet its policies impact all aspects of our society, our planet and our lives. The WTO's dispute panels (which generally call for the abolition of domestic laws that are "barriers to free trade") consist of three trade bureaucrats who are not screened for a conflict of interest.

The WTO has refused to address the impacts of free trade on labor rights and human rights. Potential solutions to abuses have been blocked by the WTO which has ruled that is is illegal for a government to

ban a product based on the way that it is produced (child labor) and that governments cannot take into account the behavior of companies that do business with vicious dictatorships. They have consistently ruled for profits over people!

The WTO has also consistently ruled for profits over our earth. The WTO has dismantled parts of the US Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, and demanded that the EU lift its ban on beef with artificial growth hormones in it or face extremely prohibitive tariffs—all as 'barriers to free trade.'

A coalition of radical activists has been formed in Seattle to stage actions against the conference, and activist groups around the world are planning to converge on the city. Also, the international Peoples Global Action (PGA) network and the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) are planning actions against the WTO around the world. Meanwhile, many grassroots groups are preparing to take action in their own parts of the world in recognition that the capitalist system, based on the exploitation of people, societies and the environment for the profit of a few, is the prime cause of our present social and ecological troubles.

Our simultaneous transformation of the capitalist social order around the world - in the streets, neighborhoods, fields, factories, offices, commercial centers, financial districts, etc. will contribute to the process of bringing separate struggles together and building alternative social and economic structures based on co-operation, ecological sustainability, and grassroots democracy.

This call is made in the spirit of continuing the process of building a strong, bold, and creative grassroots movement against the economic, social, and political institutions of capitalism.

As we realize that all issues are interrelated, be they exploitation of workers, the peasant farmers going bankrupt, the indigenous peoples getting displaced by "development" programs, human rights being waived, or our environment being destroyed, we also realize that we must act together and unite our struggles. Only a strong and united movement of grassroots groups who struggle independent of these institutions and seek to effect change directly through their own autonomous action can dissolve their power and build a better social order.

With this in mind, the UL Environmental Society is proposing that a coalition of groups, representing diverse focuses, come together to plan our own show of resistance to the WTO and what it represents for all of us-exploitation in the name of profit. We invite groups from the university as well as the surrounding community to plan an event in Limerick for 30 November 1999. There will be a planning meeting for this event on 22 November 1999 at 8:00 PM in the Canteen. Please come and share your ideas, concerns and energy. Hopefully this can be another step in building bridges between people with diverse interests, as well as a strong show of local resistance. People before profits. Fair trade before free trade. Solidarity forever.

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The UL Folk Group hit Spanish Point

Spanish what??? Spanish Point is a peaceful town at the western edge of Ireland in the sweet Co. Clare.

Its people live in peace and harmony for most of the year but we, the University of Limerick Folk Group, decided to go down there twice a term and harass those peaceful villagers.

At the end of Week 5, we piled ourselves, the food, luggage, and instruments into a handful of cars and headed west. After a two hour drive, we arrived in the hostel where preparations for the first supper were already underway. With our stomachs filled but yet rather unsettled, we then decided it was time to pay a visit to the staff and customers at the Bellbridge Hotel twenty minutes down the road. (They never know what hit em). Soon there was a mad sing song going that, strangely enough, involved sunglasses and a Limerick man putting on a Jamaican accent to sing a famous U2 song! Huh?!?

The luck must have been on our side that night, for the bar didnt stop serving DRINK until the small hours of

the morning and so it wasnt until about 3 o'clock before everybody had found their way back to the hostel. Just how come that it took us so much longer on the way back? Didnt it just take us 20 minutes to get to the pub so why did it take us 40 or more??? Doesnt matter. Back in the hostel, Tomas had already put on chips and sausages for our traditional midnight feast, which were gobbled up fairly fast by the starving crowd.

Strangely enough, only very few people were physically able to force themselves to get up early the next morning to go down to the beach. In the afternoon, however, almost everybody joined us on a trip up to the Cliffs of Moher. After arriving there on the car park, we experienced fierce problems trying to open the car doors because of the strong wind. Once outside, it proved even harder to try and walk against the wind without being blown back a couple of feet with every step we were taking. Despite sand, water and stones, that decided to attack our faces we fought the forces of nature and made it as far as OBriens Tower where the wind blew



strongest. Two of our members are currently grieving about the loss of one beloved glove and one highly cherished scarf that simply took off into the wind. It was a truly amazing experience to see the strength of the wind as it blew the sea water from 200 feet below onto the cliff.

After this rather exhausting excursion and a flat tyre on the way back, we decided to stop in Lahinch for a cup of tea or even a glass of hot whiskey to warm us. Some went back to the hostel early in order to prepare dinner for 25 hungry souls and Maria and my lovely self shed tears over chopping the onions, cooked and fried and did our best to come up with delicious Spaghetti Bolognese.

Later on that night, we headed down to the Bellbridge for yet another sing-song and returned to the hostel early the next morning. As we hadnt

been to the local night club, some decided to go dancing on the big wooden kitchen table. For a while there was upheaval when it was discovered, that one of our members had gotten lost on the way back. Fortunately he appeared again shortly after. That particular person had been spotted peeing through the kitchen window in utter amazement at the dancing on the table.

On Sunday evening, after another delicious meal, we again piled ourselves, the remains of the food, the luggage and instruments into the cars and headed back to Limerick. As usual, that weekend was over too soon and we are looking forward to going down to Spanish Point again from Dec 10 until Dec 12. We invite anybody who wants to join us to come along on Thursdays at 8.00pm in the Salesian Hostel. You wont regret it!

Stephanie Roever

Winning Start To Irish Senior Cup For UL Ladies Hockey Team

UL 4 : 0 Muckross

by Mary Smith

Saturday 6th November was indeed a historical occasion for UL womens hockey club, when they



Eveanne O'Reilly in action.

courtesy of UL Photo Soc

defeated Leinster Senior Club Muckross in the Irish Senior Cup first round.

This was UL's first time playing at this level and they were indeed a credit to their coaches Catherine Bird and Sarah Devane.

Brid Kilbane who was celebrating her 19th birthday opened the scoring about 5 minutes into the game with a fine goal from play. UL were camped in the Muckross half for the next 10 minutes, and some fine keeping denied them another score until they were awarded a penalty corner and a well practiced set piece yielded goal number two from right wing, Eveanne O'Reilly. Two up, not so bad, and still only half way thru' the first half. UL kept up the pressure and played lovely hockey with Therese O'Keeffe and Rachel Brophy outstanding. Just before half time they were awarded another penalty corner and got themselves goal number three from a very elated Eveanne O'Reilly. Muckross did not know what hit them and really came back at UL in the second half, but the UL defence, marshalled by team Captain Sally Ann McAuliffe



At the start of a historic day

courtesy of UL Photo Soc.

and keeper Ciara Ronan, ensured a clean slate. 20 minutes into the second half Rachel Brophy scored UL's fourth goal and the writing was on the wall for Muckross.

It was a very proud day for all of us and the level of support from UL students and staff was magnificent. Our minors excelled in their PR job of looking after the visiting team, their President, invited guests and umpires. Club president, Dermot Coughlan had worked tirelessly behind the scenes all week and we are very grateful to him for his support and encouragement. He made presentations to mark the occasion to Muckross President, Mary Prenderville and local Hon Life members of ILHU, Lillian Sullivan and Cecil Reid. It was also a very special day for Cork umpire, Mary Power, who is the

first Irish woman to be appointed to umpire at World Cup and Olympic level, and Dermot also honoured this announcement.

We also acknowledge the work of the grounds staff and the sports administrator, Neasa Fahy O'Donnell, who had the pitch in fine fettle on the day. We thank Tony Leddin who acted as team photographer on the morning of the game, the photographic society for their action shots during the game and the Examiner for sending their reporter Rory Noonan to cover the game.

UL's second round of the Irish Senior Cup is against Portadown in Portadown on 11th December, and the girls have just left for Intervarsities (Chilean Cup) in Jordanstown so we wish them well.

UL Ladies Start Basketball Season With Back To Back Wins

On Monday, the 8th of November, the UL ladies basketball team started their season with a win against UCC.

In front of a packed gym, (thanks to all the supporters), UL started with Grace Jordan dominating the boards which lead to some excellent scores from Frances Shiely, Eimear Kyne and Marie Moriarty this quickly saw UL in front. UCC were slow to start due to the excellent defense played by UL and so they were held to 14 points. At half time, UL led by 37 points to 14.

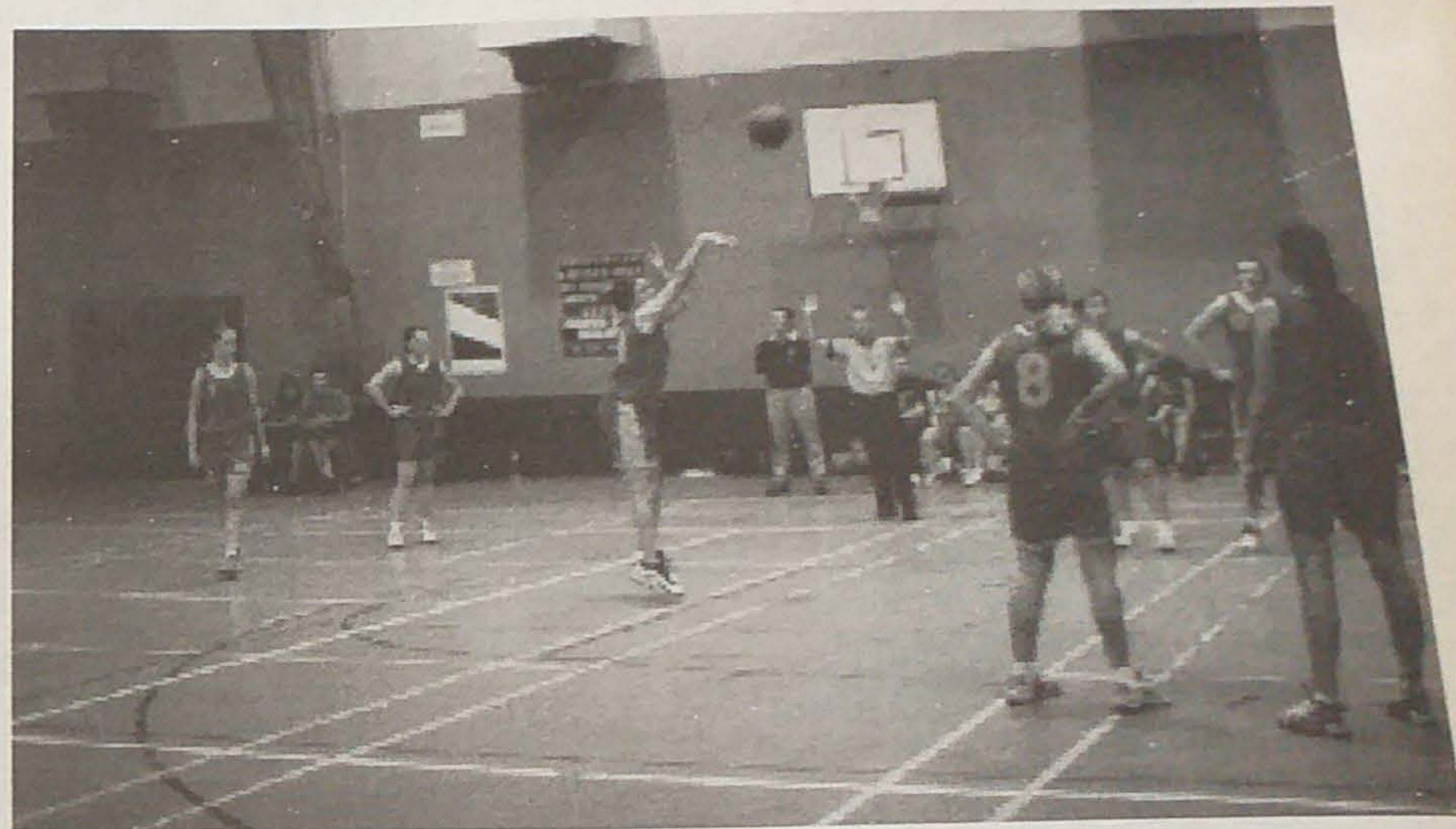
Start of the second - half and again with some quick baskets from Fiona Larkin and Emily Bryan, UL pulled away from UCC and ran out easy winners on a final score of UL 57 - UCC 34.

Best for UL were Frances Shiely 12 points, Marie Moriarty 11 points,

Eimear Kyne 10 points and Fiona Larkin 9 points.

On Wednesday, the 10th of November, UL traveled to DCU to take part in the 35 Trophy. Last year DCU were runners up in the intervarsity competition, so the ladies team knew the task that lay before them. UL started well with some scores from Margaret Daly and Cliodhna Murphy. UL were up 22 - 17 at half -time.

Start of the second half saw some excellent scores from Emily Bryan and Fiona Larkin including a three pointer from each. This saw UL pull away from DCU. The home team did not give up easily, and started to claw their way back into the game, but were in UL excellent form from the free throw line, scoring the last 8 points from there through Marie Moriarty, Ciarda O Connell and Eva Galliant. UL came out



Eimear Bryan scores from the free throw line

winners 46 - 32.

Best for UL were Cliodhna Murphy 11 points, Margaret Daly and Emily Bryan 7 points each.

Team against UCC : Fiona Larkin, Michelle Hynes, Emily Bryan, Marie Moriarty, Eva Galliant, Eimear Kyne, Kathy O Byrne, Frances Shiely, Laura Connolly and Grace Jordan.

COACHES : Paul Whealan & John

Glesson.

Team against DCU : Ciarda O Connell, Eva Galliant, Fiona Larkin, Emily Bryan, Margaret Daly, Marie Moriarty, Cliodhna Murphy, Suzanne Wall and Laura Connolly.

UL IMPRESSIVE AGAINST MAYNOOTH IN LEAGUE

UL 3 - 1 MAYNOOTH

The University of Limerick Men's Soccer Club recovered well from the defeat by Trinity last week, to record a fine, triumphant win against a good Maynooth side in front of a sizeable crowd.

The team saw a few changes to the team that lost to Trinity. In came Fresher's goalkeeper, Niall Cahalan who turned in a fine and confident display on his debut. Veterans Mervyn Farrell and Gary O'Donovan returned to the side



Jason Carey in full flight

after missing last week's game due to study commitments. The addition of these two players added experience and stability to the side, which was lacking against Trinity. Jason Carey also made a return to the line up, to appear for the last time in a Budweiser League match for the college and did not disappoint with a fine and instrumental display.

The opening fifteen minutes saw UL enjoy most of the possession but at times lacked accuracy in their passing to give away cheap possession to Maynooth. This was vital when UL failed to clear and gifted the ball to the Maynooth left winger who cut inside two UL players to finish impressively into the top corner giving Niall Cahalan no chance at all.

For the next 15 minutes the sides were evenly matched. Great build up work from the improving Peter Murphy down the left, led to a free kick outside the Maynooth box. The free kick taken by Jason Carey found Mervyn Farrell at the back post, who made no mistake from close range. UL were now getting the better of Maynooth who found it hard to handle the ever running Jason Carey and Oran 'Trigger' Weldrick up front. These two combined to give UL their second. Eoghan Poil did great work down the right hand side to force a

UL corner. Jason Carey, deadly from corners, took it and whipped a ball with pace and accuracy to the front post. Gary O'Donovan flicked on and the inrushing Oran 'Trigger' Weldrick finished with a powerful header from six yards. This goal gave UL a 2-1 halftime lead.

The second half started with UL dictating the game from the start. Mervyn Farrell and Ciaran McElwaine dealt excellently with Maynooth's three-man midfield. After a shaky start, the UL defence of captain Scott Brady, Hugh O'Loughlin, Denis McCarthy and Gary O'Donovan dealt brilliantly with anything that Maynooth had to throw at them. Maynooth rarely threatened the goal of Niall Cahalan in the second half.

Midway through the second half saw the introduction of Dermot Phelan. On the verge of an Irish Junior International call up, Dermot Phelan performed well when called into the fray. This move saw Ciaran McElwaine go to right full and he slotted in there with ease, turning in a fine display of defending. UL went looking for their third goal, which would see the game over as a contest. With 20 minutes left on the clock, Jason Carey took a quick free just outside the Maynooth box. He put 'Trigger' Weldrick clean through and



from 14 yards he made no mistake to score his second and UL's third. Gary Gorman and Kevin Murphy were introduced as UL played out the remainder of the match without a threat from Maynooth.

A good result for UL, which sees them record their second win in the league. The management team of Stephen Driver and Mike Keane know that this performance can be vastly improved but will be very pleased with the result.

Guinness Ireland, Analog, Esat, The Stables Club and ULSU proudly sponsor the UL Soccer Club for the coming season.

Historic Success For UL Women

The women of UL Athletics Club made history this year by winning the Road Relay Intersarsity in Maynooth for the first time ever.

Eighteen athletes, two men's and two women's teams competed for UL in this the first athletic Intersarsity of the year, last Saturday 13th in Maynooth. The competition had it's biggest turnout ever with approximatley 180 athletes competing and was a high class field with a number of internationals competing.

The somewhat quiet team were able to travel in style that morning with the help of the much needed sponsorship received from the 'Lodge Nite Club'.

The ladies race was the first to start with Tracey Roache taking a convincing lead and spreading out the field. This brilliant run from Tracey was the beginnings of U.L's dominance of the race.

Noa Orizales, who ran the next

two mile leg of the relay, ran an excellent steady run, however the strengths of the other university teams showed, with Trinity College taking the lead as the baton was passed over to Rosemary Ryan.

Rosemary undoubtedly ran the best 2 mile leg of the competition by destroying the field and opening up a gap which would ensure U.L's victory.

But that's not to forget Eliz Egans magnificent final 1 mile leg which brought the team to victory for the first time ever. Eliz ran a fast, powerful leg, showing her to be a key member, U.L. Athletics Club have depended heavily on her over the years.

But not only did the women's first team take the cup, but our second team also finished strongly to take sixth place, no minor feat in such a high class field. The members of that team were Elaine Donoghue, Kelly Heaney, Eimear Martin and Anne O'Leary.

The men's first and second teams



Tracy Roche hands over the baton to Noa Orzelais

also competed very well running against very strong opposition. Nevertheless they all ran good races with exceptionally fast runs from a few of the lads.

Undoubtedly the best mid to long distance squad U.L. has seen in a long while, all the athletes were in praise of their coaches Danny Rutar and Patrick Cross, and the work they put into UL Athletics.

All athletes are now looking forward to the Cross Country Intersarsity which will occur later in the year. Our athletes are bound to do well in these completions and may even result in the World Student Cross Country this year.

Again UL Athletics Club would like to thank its sponsors, 'PKS SI LTD'

who kindly sponsored the athletic jerseys and The Lodge Nitto Club who have enabled us to bring the Women's Road Relay Cup to UL.

Congratulations to the UL Athletics team who competed in DCU last week in the 35's Trophy. Both the Men and Womens teams won their races, earning maximum points for UL. Hopefully the team will maintain this good form for their indoor Track and Field Intersarsity, in Nenagh December 3rd & 4th. UL Athletics Club would like to congratulate all those who competed in the 35's and say a special thankyou to those involved in the running of the competition. A great day was enjoyed by all!

Allez Les Bleues

The UL Hockey Clubs Take Belfast By Storm

Allez les Bleues

The much awaited Hockey Intervarsity (by us anyway) took place in UU Jordanstown last week and proved to be both a success and a disappointment.

On Monday last, 18 young (and old) men set forth on a journey in which they hoped to return draped in glory. Whilst they're performances merited better results they had to make do with the semi-final of the plate and been beaten by the old enemies UCC. None the less a good week was had by all and we even managed to play some quality hockey along the way. The following is an account of that week, read on if you are interested.

The Action

Daytime

We entered the fray on Tuesday morning with a match against RCSI. It was the group match that we had pinpointed as essential to win. We started well and went in at half time with a two goal lead thanks to the splendid skills of Antoine Duboise (Allez les Bleues) and the deadly marksmanship of Alan Swanton. A two-nil lead looked enough but the Surgeons came back in the second half and with about 15 minutes left pulled back a goal. This seemed to wake up the UL team who proceeded to take hold of the game once more and whilst we did not score again, Surgeons never looked like they would score again, thanks to solid defending and UL ran out winners 2-1. A good start, next up UCD.

The match started to the sound of the Trinity cheering on UL and singing that perennial intervarsity favourite "UCD wank, wank, wank." That seemed to have an upsetting effect on the boys from UCD. What was even more unsettling from them was the unrelenting pressure that UL were able to exert over them. But we were unable to convert that pressure and it proved to be our downfall. They scored a goal against the run



UL Mens Hockey Club, proudly sponsored by the Irish Times. I bet the Times are sorry now.

a chance. Sadly they scored early in the second half and added one more before the end. But even though we came off the pitch having lost 3-0 we knew we had played some of our best ever hockey and had been beaten by a better team. That fact was reinforced when we received a standing ovation from UCD in our warm down. It was a disappointing result but between the Surgeons result and the performance against UCD we knew we had set decent foundations and were set for a good tournament.

Wednesday arrived too soon judging by some of the heads on various members of the team, but our match wasn't on until after lunch so we had plenty of time to prepare and to recover. We went out to the second venue, Mosley Hockey Club, to watch the UL Burds versus DCU. Loyalties were divided (Do we cheer for our BURDS or do we cheer for the Burds

whether we would be playing in the plate or in the cup and 2. It was a 35 trophy match.

DCU had been building up good momentum with easy wins over Surgeons and UCD so it was always going to be tough. They put us under intense pressure from the start. Our lads looked tired having played two tough matches the day before compared to their one and it showed as we went in two down at half time. UL dug deep in the second half. DCU scored one more but had a much tougher time of it, as UL's TIGER spirit shone through. It finished 3-0 again and so it was the plate versus UCC for UL.

Thursday morning and arch enemies UCC lie in wait. It was the one match we really wanted to win, the Munster Cup Final. We had most of the possession but yet again failed to convert it. UCC had very little possession but with 15 minutes left on the clock scored the

...and the deadly marksmanship of Alan Swanton. A two-nil lead looked enough but the Surgeons came back in the second half and with about 15 minutes left pulled back a goal. This seemed to wake up the UL team who proceeded to take hold of the game once more and whilst we did not score again, Surgeons never looked like they would score again, thanks to solid defending and UL ran out winners 2-1. A good start, next up UCD.

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a chance. Sadly they scored early in the second half and added one more before the end. But even though we came off the pitch having lost 3-0 we knew we had played some of our best ever hockey and had been beaten by a better team. That fact was reinforced when we received a standing ovation from UCD in our warm down. It was a disappointing result but between the Surgeons result and the performance against UCD we knew we had set decent foundations and were set for a good tournament.

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whether we would be playing in the plate or in the cup and 2. It was a 35 trophy match.

DCU had been building up good momentum with easy wins over Surgeons and UCD so it was always going to be tough. They put us under intense pressure from the start. Our lads looked tired having played two tough matches the day before compared to their one and it showed as we went in two down at half time. UL dug deep in the second half. DCU scored one more but had a much tougher time of it, as UL's TIGER spirit shone through. It finished 3-0 again and so it was the plate versus UCC for UL.

Thursday morning and arch enemies UCC lie in wait. It was the one match we really wanted to win, the Munster Cup Final. We had most of the possession but yet again failed to convert it. UCC had very little possession but with 15 minutes left on the clock scored the decisive goal. We went close to equalising a couple of times but it never looked like it was to be our day. When the whistle blew the UL players were gutted, the effort had been immense but things just didn't go our way. UCC went on to play Queen's in the final where they put up an excellent performance but lost 1-0. It was all over for UL men and our disappointment was further compounded by the fact that the "BURDS" had lost to UCD in the Cup semi. There was nothing for it but to go drinking but that's another story!!!!!!!



Half-time in Belfast, and not an orange(man) in sight.

The eventual winners and loser were -

	Winners	Losers
Mens Cup	Trinity	UU
Mens Plate	Queens	UCC
Womens Cup	Trinity	Ucd
Womens Plate	UCC	Queens



Uncle Garvan (Team Manager! / spiritual advisor) takes a nap

Intervarsities for UL in 2000

In a dramatic turnaround at the IUHA AGM, UL were invited to host the Hockey Intervarsities in the year 2000. When it became obvious that UCG would be unable to fulfil their slot in the rota, the overwhelming body of opinion was that people wanted the event to be staged outside Dublin and Belfast. UL delegates seized the opportunity and they received unanimous support from all present when they offered to stage the next Intervarsities.

The Hockey Intervarsities are a major event on the University sporting calendar with both men's and women's events being held together. The hockey is combined with a great social schedule that makes them enjoyable for everybody involved.

There will be close to 400 people in Limerick for that week so as well as injecting life into the campus you can be sure that Limerick City will enjoy the financial spin-off of the Intervarsities too.

The Intervarsities were last held in Limerick in 1994 and proved to be a massive success. Work has already started to ensure that they will be even more successful this time around and help increase the profile of hockey on campus and show off our new sports facilities on a national level.

Thank You - To Our Sponsors

UL Mens Hockey Club would like to thank our sponsors without whose generous financial help we would have been unable to travel to Belfast or fulfil our extensive league Programme.

They are- The Irish Times
Coors Light
The Stables
Red Bull

Our thanks also goes to ULSU who supported us and helped us in every way possible.

The Night-time Action

And so, to continue the story. Monday night proved to be a chill out night, a couple of pints (optional) and then back to the hostel where Whitey and Swanton proceeded to clean up in 110.

Whitey won 16 pints whilst Swanton won 8, the main losers were the GKU (Goalkeepers Union) but, as I said, a quiet night was had by all as we prepared for the following days exertions.

Tuesday night was a different matter altogether. No match till after lunch the next day we decided to partake in some Northern hospitality. First stop "PizzaHut" to enjoy the "£4.95 all you can eat deal" it only runs on a Tuesday and guess what? it was Tuesday!!!! The managers face dropped when he saw us walk in. I can honestly say we ate them out of everything they had if you hear of PizzaHut Ireland closing down, now you know why.

On to the Bot. where we stayed for the night and drank for the night. Much lineout lifting was done and Uncle Garvan managed to join us which meant that the

nicked by the end of the night. Before we hit Ballymena for the night we had a meeting of our Fines Committee, where numerous players were fined for various indiscretions during the week. Numerous fines were dished out and much fun was had but duty called and off we went to the Banquet in Ballymena. It was indeed a splendid affair and will be remembered for our headwear, Diarmos big Gaffe, and a wee bit too much throwing up and about from the women. The sooner Keely Cantrell learns that wine bottles are not in fact grenades and M16's the better.

But enough of this, we had a great week. Belfast is a cool city despite everything that's going on there and by the end of the week, I came to the conclusion that the UL Hockey clubs know how to enjoy themselves. We even had fun at the EGM of the hockey club which was held in the lobby/foyer of the Linen House hostel at 3am on Friday morning and finished five hours later. In the middle of the EGM, Bradbury the nearly man of UL Hockey, finally scored whilst the previously mentioned Richie managed to score too with that Aoife Burd from DCU. There were healthy discussions, heated exchanges and a couple of reports of "flying boots" (in jokes again Ed.-sorry), but all in all the night went smoothly and the train journey home wasn't too bad either. Roll on UL 2000.

I said, a quiet night was had by all as we went to bed, as the following days exertions.

Tuesday night was a different matter altogether. No match till after lunch the next day we decided to partake in some Northern hospitality. First stop "PizzaHut" to enjoy the "£4.95 all you can eat deal" it only runs on a Tuesday and guess what? it was Tuesday!!!! The managers face dropped when he saw us walk in. I can honestly say we ate them out of everything they had if you hear of PizzaHut Ireland closing down, now you know why.

On to the Bot. where we stayed for the night and drank for the night. Much lineout lifting was done and Uncle Garvan managed to join us which meant that the drinking really started. We danced our socks off except Whitey because he always keeps his socks on (sorry for the in jokes Ed.) But we still got home early thanks to the bizarre laws that dictate everything closes up at one. We trotted off home, with as few stop offs at petrol stations for some line out lifting and sweeties for the lads.

Wednesday had been a bad day because we lost to DCU and because of that there was a definite desire to hit the town but we knew we had to face UCC in the morning so most people seemed more sober than the previous night back at the hostel. One reason for the sobriety might have been the price of Red Bull at £2.40 a bottle, but that didn't stop certain members from consuming a years supply of it washed down with vodka. Everybody got back to the hostel in one piece and settled in for the night. That was after a sing song where Richie played the drums with an empty coke bottle and ruined any chances he had of scoring with that Aoife one from DCU or so we thought. Despite the club paying good money for hostel beds some members chose not to sleep in them ,I wonder why that was?

Thursday night came and UL Mens Hockey Club went out in style bedecked in a range of millinery never previously seen at any intervarities. All players were required to wear a kiddies hat ranging from Firemans Helmets, Builders helmets, Marine Helmets to cops helmets. They were undoubtedly the stars of the ball, judging by the amount of hats that were

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The League

Whilst the Intervarsities have been the focus of our last couple of weeks we have also had to concentrate on three important league fixtures. Two weeks ago we played Bandon at home and ran out easy winners 5-1. It was an excellent overall performance and for once we seemed to have no problem finding the back of the net.

On the Sunday before the Intervarsities we played host to Ashton. Despite the fact that we enjoyed the lions share of the possession, we were at the wrong end of a 1-0 scoreline. It was not ideal preparation for the Intervarsities but we made the best of it and put the lessons learned to good use in Belfast.

Last Sunday we travelled to Cork for a league match against a very experienced Harlequins team. We were all pretty knackered after the week in Belfast thanks to playing, travelling and drinking in that order. But despite this we still managed to dominate the game but still could not score. When just after half time we went 1-0 down we started to get a sense of deja-vous, but thanks to some gutsy hockey and a great goal from the super sub Padraic Cournane we came away with a more than deserved draw. Our next match is away to Belvedere in cork this Sunday.

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They are- The Irish Times
Coors Light
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Our thanks also goes to ULSU who supported us and helped us in every way possible.

sponsors corner (like the zoo)

THE IRISH TIMES
ON THE WEB

Coors®



**Red
Bull**

ULSU

UL Rowing Club: THE BOSTON TRIP.

James Finucane reports back on what he can remember

Long tiring erg pieces, cold wet morning spins, and gruelling cal's session U.L.R.C. is firmly back to earth after its travels.

But before we delve into the pits of pain and torture that is winter rowing training, give us a moment to remember our wonderful journey across the water to Boston.

It all began with a rendezvous with Timmy O Toole, our team mascot and bouncer, and Evan's sister, a wonderfully helpful Aer Lingus airhostess who packed us all off to Boston to row in the 1999 Head of the Charles regatta, the biggest rowing event in the world.

We arrived in Boston on Wednesday the 20th of October and after settling in headed off to our local Irish pub finishing the night taking over a drag show in a local disco (Paddy and Des ya sexy beasts ya). Thursday morning we made our way to Union boat house who had kindly offered us the use of two boats for the two events we were entering, the mens club eight and the championship doubles. Union boathouse was amazing, the fantastic equipment and number of boats showed us once again how under-funded rowing is in this side of the Atlantic.

Training on Thursday and Friday on the Charles river was fantastic. As we rowed down the coarse with the Boston skyline at our backs, we passed some of the most famous boathouses in the world. On Friday night we were invited to a dinner at the home of a fanatical rowing fan. There was a heavy garda presence at the party to prevent any

shenanigans between members of U.L. and the Trinity women. The guards did an excellent job, well done lads and prevented any craic from taking place. Even Timmy O Toole was kept quite. Finally, Saturday race day arrived. Conditions for the race were pretty rough as the gusty winds were whipping up the open river. With over a mile of very rough water to row tensions were high, but a great coxing job by Amy 'Arrow' Fitz settled the crew and we were all ready to race.

The starting line up was incredible. With over eighty crews entered, the river was covered with seventy foot, eight man boats. We met a few of the other Irish crews at the start which settled us, but unfortunately received a speeding ticket from the Garda Siochana who had set up a speed trap near the start. As the stewards began calling number 34 and 35 we knew that U.L. Ireland no.40 would soon be racing. Then we were called to the start. U.L. 200mt to the start 150..100...50.. University of Limerick Ireland you are racing.

The race itself was unbelievable. As each commentator announced our crew "All the way From Limerick Ireland, University of Limerick", there was a huge roar, to hear such support four thousand miles from home was amazing. Rowing really well, rating 29, we were holding our own, but with about a mile to go two crews approached and passed us. Not in any way disheartened, and with a mighty effort we fought back at the two crews and with half a mile to



UL Rowers, stuffed crotches and all. Allegedly.

go began to catch them. As we entered the last 500meters our cox Amy Arrows screamed "#### were catching them, lads were catching them". With every stroke we edged closer. 400meters to go the finish line in sight the stroke ups the rate. We take the first crew with eight mighty strokes. 300meters to go and we dig deep and find something extra. Driving for the line we take a man with every stroke crossing the finish line just ahead of both crews. U.L.R.C. held its ground in Boston.

Overall we came a very good 53rd out of eight crews, which was great considering our novice status. Well done to those brave men of the Garda Siochana who finished an excellent second the best result ever for an Irish crew in the event. The Trinity Women also rowed very well.

After a messy pasta party we headed out to The Irish Embassy Pub to dance and entertain the women of Boston and Trinity. Sunday saw Mr ULRC himself, el-presidente Colin 'Bighair' Byrne and our club captain Evan 'Worms' Ryan compete in the mens championship double sculls. The lads rowed really well and in a very experienced field managed to beat three crews. All bears well for the upcoming

season for this double scull.

Our final night in Boston began in that well known family food chain Hooters. Unfortunately, Amy didn't enjoy the Mac Hooter family meal as much as the thirteen lads who had to be asked to leave at closing time. Then onwards to the Cosmopolitan Club, where there was a disco for all the rowers competing in the Head. Monday saw some shopping and an evening flight back to the Emerald Isle.

Once again cead mile failte to our sponsors Siemens International, Spar Ireland, Logica Aldiscon, U.L. Students Union, U.L. Sports Department and local Limerick businesses Finucanes Electrical and La Piccola Pizzeria. Special thanks to our main sponsor for the year, Software Architects International, located in the National Technological Park in Plassey. Without their support we could never have rowed the Head. To all members who did not go remember train hard, win by lots and you will be there next year. Lash it out.

James Finucane P.R.O.
irishjames@hotmail.com
U.L. rowing webpage at
www.ul.ie/~ulrowing/

a drag show in a local disco (Paddy and Des ya sexy beasts ya). Thursday morning we made our way to Union boat house who had kindly offered us the use of two boats for the two events we were entering, the mens club eight and the championship doubles. Union boathouse was amazing, the fantastic equipment and number of boats showed us once again how under-funded rowing is in this side of the Atlantic.

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**UEFA
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE.**

Amstel Champions League Competition

Win yourself a 5 litre keg of
Amstel to get you through the
next Champions League game.

1. Who scored Bayern Munich's goal in last years champions league final?
2. How many times have AC Milan won the European Cup?
3. What teams did Manchester United face in their first round games in this season's competition?

Drop your answers into the main reception in the Students' Union, in the new Center, along with your name, ID number and a contact number.

It's in the Stars

so it must be true
Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



Scorpio

23 October - 21 November

Recent times have proved successful for you as regards academic and financial affairs. But now is the time to start thinking about that special someone, and whether it's all it's cracked up to be. Maybe you just need time to think about where it's all going.

Sagittarius

22 November - 20 December

The cold weather seems to be getting you down. Don't worry, however, there will soon be someone to keep you warm. All you have to do is relax and take things as they come.

Capricorn

21 December - 19 January

You can't take everything at face value. Some things need to be investigated further in order to discover their real potential. There's someone who seems an unlikely friend, but you have to give them a chance.

Aquarius

20 January - 18 February

Romantically, things look good. But certain issues need to be addressed; sooner rather than later. If left unsolved, you could be left high and dry before the end of the week.

Pisces

19 February - 19 March

Finally, things seem to be going your way. See how far a little bit of organisation will get you? Now, all you have to do is continue the hard work and dedication. And who knows? Maybe finances will even improve!

Aries

20 March - 18 April

Don't let others get to you over the next few days. Just because they're having problems, it doesn't mean that you have to get too involved. The only person



The New 95FM Student Talkback Crossword

Student Talkback
every Thursday 9pm

Fill 'em in, drop 'em in, + win yourself a couple of CDs

1	2		3		4		5		6
8						7			
11						9			10
					12			13	
15			14						
17		18		19			20		16
						21			
						22			
							23		

ACROSS

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20 March - 18 April

Aries

Don't let others get to you over the next few days. Just because they're having problems, it doesn't mean that you have to get too involved. The only person worth living for is you!

Taurus

19 April - 19 May

The next few days is a time for surprise and spontaneity. You need to be unpredictable, even to those who know you the best. Do something that you normally wouldn't do - it can be very therapeutic!

Gemini

20 May - 20 June

You seriously need to get things sorted. Your life is what you make of it. If you don't seize the day, no-one will! You have to make things happen or you'll get nowhere. Remember that some things get drawn out for too long!

Cancer

21 June - 21 July

The love scene hasn't been great lately. But you've been far too occupied with other things to worry about that. Other pressing matters need to be dealt with, such as academic and financial commitments.

Leo

22 July - 21 August

Romance looks good - but don't get too enthusiastic - there's still a lot of work to be done yet. You may even have to make the first move! But remember not to neglect academic affairs.

Virgo

22 August - 21 September

A recent flush of freedom has led you onto the bigger and better things of life. You finally decided exactly what you wanted. Well done! But beware of possible future financial upsets! They could lead to ruin!

Libra

22 September - 22 October

Do you ever get the feeling that life is becoming tedious? If so, try to do something different each day for the rest of the week. This way, you will achieve some fresh excitement, which will help in various areas of your life.



ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Significant (7) | 2. Got in the way (10) |
| 7. Cricket cross-pieces (5) | 3. Charging with a crime (8) |
| 8. Clairvoyant (7) | 4. Pork joint (4) |
| 9. Flinch (6) | 5. Summon (4) |
| 11. Use levering action (5) | 6. Tribe (4) |
| 13. Hair preener (4) | 9. Draw blood from (5) |
| 14. Of the centre (7) | 10. Addictive (10) |
| 15. Adult male deer (4) | 12. Search about (5) |
| 16. Row as an individual (5) | 13. Very good (coll.) (8) |
| 17. Plug for goods (abbr.) (6) | 18. Hour (4) |
| 21. Come back to (7) | 19. Small brook (4) |
| 22. Grin (5) | 20. Used to be (4) |
| 23. Small hounds (7) | |

Last weeks answers

ACROSS:- 6. Misinterpret. 8. Evacuee. 9. Novel. 10. Sail. 12. Office. 14. Quiff. 15. Humbug. 16. Glib. 19. Usher. 21. Ioniser. 22. Appendectomy.
 DOWN:- 1. Escapism. 2. Snout. 3. Beret. 4. Spin-off. 5. Derv. 6. Meerschaum. 7. Elderberry. 11. Jug. 12. Off. 13. Illusion. 14. Quarrel. 17. Windy. 18. Snick. 20. Hope.

A Few Announcements



AIESEC

What happened when you worked abroad this year?:

- I got lost at the airport
- After a week, I got a flea infested room
- I worked in a sweat-shop factory
- I couldn't mix with the locals

- I was met by locals at the airport and brought to a party
- My flat was organised for me
- I worked in a leading firm, in a job relevant to my degree
- I made lots of new friends

**THE DIFFERENCE:
AN AIESEC Traineeship**

Interested?:

Meeting: New Student Center, Wednesday Week 9
Contact: Aideen – 9856641@student.ul.ie
Patricia – 9847057@student.ul.ie

THE SCHOLARS CLUB

IF YOU HAVE NOT FILLED OUT AN APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW CLUB (SCHOLARS CLUB) THEN YOU CAN DO SO AT THE STUDENTS UNION RECEPTION.

UL Radio Soc. presents

KICKBACK

in Java's, Catherine St., Limerick

Every Thursday evening, the UL Radio Soc present the best in Soul, Hip-Hop, Drum + Bass and laid back beats from Wired FM DJ's.

- I made lots of new friends

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**UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
CELTIC SUPPORTERS CLUB**

IMPORTANT MEETING

**THURS 18th (WK 8)
MAIN CANTEEN @ 6p.m.**

**ALL INTERESTED IN HIBERNIAN MATCH
MUST ATTEND**

UL Music Society

would like to thank Peter @ Steamboat
Music
for all his help in supplying equipment
to the society this year

**Remember!!! Discounts are available to
all music society members when pur-
chasing equipment at Steamboat Music**

**(To join the music society drop into
Patrick in L1020)**

Due to the successful response of the advert placed in a previous issue of An Focal the Sub-Aqua Club has reached its limit for training in novice divers and unfortunately cannot take on anymore for the foreseeable future.

If however you are a qualified diver you may join and be crossed over to the CMAS recognised and required standard of the University of Limerick Sub-Aqua Club.

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KICKBACK
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*Every Thursday evening, the UL Radio Soc
present the best in Soul, Hip-Hop, Drum + Bass
and laid back beats from Wired FM DJ's.*

*Taking place upstairs in Java's from 12 - 3am, kickback is the
perfect afterclub session. Get yourself a bottle of wine, a coffee,
and a toastie, + sit back and enjoy the atmosphere.*

Every Thursday, with Cody + Link

University
of
Limerick



Celtic
Supporters
Club

PROUDLY PRESENT
THE CLARE CELTS

(IRELANDS NUMBER 1 CELTIC BAND)

**LIVE AT
THE HURLERS**

WEDNESDAY 24th NOVEMBER
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER
OR FROM THE STALL IN THE CANTEEN ALL WEEK

DOORS OPEN 8 p.m.