




Stables & Scholars Licenses Granted
Backpage



Gluten Free Meals in Main Canteen
Page 6



World Mini UN Conference
Page 8

INSIDE

New Sabbaticals Elected

NEWS

- Your Letters
Page 5
- Boathouse Referendum
Page 6
- Forum on Europe
Page 7
- UL Against The War
Page 10
- Co-Op In Dublin
Page 11
- Easter 1916
Page 13
- Best Pics of The Year
Page 14-15
- CLUBS & SOCS**
- Clubs & Socs Event Guide
Page 18
- Racing Soc Trip to Cheltenham
Page 21
- James Connolly
Page 24



From left to right: Eoin O'Broin, David Garrahy, Madeline Molyneaux and Sarah Ryan

by Paddy Buckley

This years elections for the Students' Union were the most fiercely contested since 1999/2000, which was the last time all four sabbatical positions were contested. The number of candidates seeking election, allied to the boathouse referendum meant that over 3,000 votes were cast in this years elections, making it the largest turnout ever for elections. The polls opened at 10:00am on Wednesday of Week 9, and remained open until 6:30pm, with the count beginning at 7:30pm. The size of the poll and the number of positions to be counted meant that the final result was not declared until 2:40am the following morning.

All Students' Union elections are run on the basis of Proportional Representation, in accordance with the rules and regulations used to govern Oireachtas elections. This means that positions which are contested by more than two candidates are decided on the basis of transfers from the candidate or candidates with the least votes.

The first position to be counted was that of Communications and Campaigns Officer. This position was contested by two candidates, Miss Sarah Ryan, a 4th year Applied Languages student and Miss Jeannine O'Kane, a 4th year Languages and Cultural Studies Student. The number of valid votes cast for this position was 2914, with 1164 votes being cast for O'Kane. Miss Ryan secured the position with

1750 first preference votes.

The second position to be decided was that of Education Officer. This position was a race between Ian Egerton from 4th year IT & T and Madeline Molyneaux who is a 4th year Languages and Cultural Studies student. This position was the most closely fought in the elections, with only 218 votes separating the candidates, but in the end Madeline Molyneaux was elected with 1528 first preferences.

The next position up for election was that of Deputy President/Welfare Officer. This position was the first to be contested by three candidates: Jennifer Aherne, a 4th year Languages and Cultural Studies student, David Garrahy a 4th year Law and European Studies student and Sarah Staunton, a 4th year

HPSS student. After the first count for this position, none of the candidate had reached the quota, which meant that the candidate with the lowest first preferences (Sarah Staunton) was eliminated and her transfers were distributed amongst the other two candidates. After this process was completed, David Garrahy was deemed elected with a total of 1454 votes.

The final position up for election was that of President. This contest was between Eoin O'Broin, the incumbent President, Ruth Bagnell of 4th year Aeronautical Engineering and Seanan O'Coistin. Eoin O'Broin won by a landslide, winning over 2200 first preference votes. This meant he was over the quota on the first attempt, and was deemed elected without any need for eliminations.

President	1st Count	
Bagnell, Ruth	586	
O'Broin, Eoin	2246	
O'Coistin, Seanan	179	
Deputy President/Welfare	1st Count	2nd Count
Aherne, Jennifer	892	1148
Garrahy, David	1165	1454
Staunton, Sarah	793	
Education	1st Count	
Egerton, Ian	1310	
Molyneaux, Madeline	1528	
Communications & Campaigns	1st Count	
O'Kane, Jeannine	1164	
Ryan, Sarah	1750	

**Stables Club
EGM**

**Thursday Week 12,
in the Stables Clubhouse
at
5:00pm**

President - Eoin Ó Broin

A chairde,

What a year, well 10 months anyway. It doesn't seem like long ago the "yer only man" crew were press ganging people into voting for me. Well my hat went into the ring for a second time and yippee I won again. I can't wait now. I am seriously looking forward to working with the other elected officers David, Madeline & Sarah. We have plenty in common and I am sure that we will support each other to move the Union into top gear.

Its been a good 10 months none the less since I took up office. Highlights were the demos, orientation week and the Union organised debate on the treaty of Nice while low points were Greek Week which never really took off, disunity on the Union executive and the attendance at Class Reps Council. The Council dealt with some important stuff and fair play to all who came along but the absence of huge numbers of Class Reps left a lot to be desired. Roll on next year! We had to deal with some big issues throughout the year; the threatened reintroduction of fees, the closure of the Stables & Scholars Clubs, the boathouse Referendum while we hope Kollege Week lived up to your expectations.

On the fees issue Minister for Education Noel Dempsey has agreed to meet representatives from the Students' Unions of the four Limerick Colleges this Wednesday morning here in UL. There are many questions to be asked, from his attitude to the GATS, to the ending of the Student Summer Work Scheme, to the level of the Grant and of course to his threatened reintroduction of tuition fees. I can't wait for this too. By all accounts Dempsey has proved a formidable debater to all who have tackled him on the subject throughout the year, going as far as to put it to his opponents that they are preventing him from widening access to third level education. We will be hoping to probe him on the contents

of his review of student supports, due for publication in January but which still hasn't seen the light of day. Mary Harneys recent pronouncements on fees are a welcome development too which we will put to him too! Class Reps will be getting a full report.

The Students Union UGM was finally held on Wednesday of week 10. The turnout was disappointing though fairly predictable. Each member of the exec. gave a report of their years work. As the meeting was in quorate no motions were put. Most reports were short and to the point. Gráinne gave a great account of herself putting into words how brightly her star has shone this year. I gave an account of the different committees I have been part of, the campaigns I had undertaken and the priorities I saw for the next few months - implementation of the alcohol policy, development of the boathouse from concept to reality, re writing of Union policies, the anti fees campaign and some more work on community relations. I did however struggle with a question on Student funding of the University Sports Arena so have undertaken to research this and make a presentation at Class Reps on Tuesday of Week 12.

I feel at this point I must respond to the scathing letter from Mr. Paul Ruddy that appeared in the last edition of An Focal. This response applies not just to Mr. Ruddy but to all who use the arguments he uses and to those who have been to the forefront of the attacks on my presidency over the last few weeks. Firstly I would like to point out that I went and spoke at the peace rally in an individual capacity though unfortunately this was not made clear and for this I am sorry. In my view the event was part of an international 10 minute gathering for peace on the day that war started which took place simultaneously all over the World. The fact that the largest Irish walk out for peace took place in UL shows the level of effort that went into organising it. What I did was support

a student organised event on campus that I personally believed in. As to the request to hold the gathering at 8am on a Wednesday morning, yeah right Paul, try holding the Rose of Tralee Festival at 8am on a Wednesday morning and see first how many people attend and secondly how many watch it on TV. Which brings me on to the point about there being only 1'000 (biggest turnout in the country) there and thus there being 9'000 pro war students in UL. The same argument is used to state that as there were only 100'000 people marching in Dublin against the war (biggest march since 1979) that the vast majority of the country must be pro war? Well the answer to these allegations is a resounding no. If 40'000 people attend an Ireland International Soccer match in Dublin how many people are left at home supporting? Anecdotal every person that goes on a protest reflect the views of 10 people who have stayed at home for whatever reasons. Don't take my word for this. Ask the farmers associations. Don't these people look forward to reading about it and seeing it on the news? We can take it further. Only 2,246 (biggest single vote ever) people voted for me as president this year. Does this mean that approx. 7,754 student don't want me as president? The arguments being put forward here are dangerous in that they are attempting to be selective with democracy and also to assume that the ordinary students somehow don't have the intelligence to know what they are doing. These arguments are usually associated with those interested in keeping a clique in control of something and maintaining the status quo. After all only the clique know best. To all the detractors of the peace gathering and the election results I say one thing: The people have spoken and the people are not stupid.

Well thats where I sign off for this year. With all its ups and downs it was still a productive year. Next year is going to be better though. I would



like to give a heartfelt thanks to all those who helped me on the campaign over the few days from leafleting estates, to cycling the tandem, to lecture addresses, to distributing flyers, to painting banners and to printing t-shirts. The late nights and long hours were worth it.

As regards the election itself I was glad to be associated with it. Biggest turnout ever in a UL election (thanks in no small part to the boathouse referendum) and a great variety of candidates who well knew what they were talking about and why they wanted the job. Janines feet were particularly impressive: The count not finishing until 2:40am must be a record too. Thanks to Dermot, Stan & Paul from the Union for officiating and for the class reps from Mary I for counting the votes and running the polling booths. 15'000 votes they had to count!

Lastly to all I have worked with in the Students Union this year who won't be here next year - fair play for all the work you did and best of luck for the future. A learning process for us all!

Slán a dhaoine uasail and thanks for the endorsement!

Eoin

Welfare/Deputy President - Gráinne Heffron

Dia Dhiabh

This is the final edition of An Focal and hence my final piece. The recent elections have caused me to reflect over my year as your welfare officer. It's been an interesting one for me in many ways and I have learned a lot about life and myself. I guess in many ways I have grown up. As I have said before I have been privileged enough in my position to meet some wonderful people whose strength and spirit is an inspiration. I came from a background of Maths and Computers and believe me it's a long way from partial differential equations to here so yes I learned a lot. Of course there are good and bad revelations and you have to take these things together.

This week we along with representatives of the other students' unions in Limerick are meeting Minister for Education Noel Dempsey to discuss his review of 3rd level education and the now much talked about proposed reintroduction of 3rd level fees. Hopefully we can have some influence on the minister's thinking but I think this is an issue

that is not going to go away and students as I have said before need to wise up to this reality. This is the single biggest issue effecting students and I think will be most unions number one priority next year.

This has also been a year dominated by talk and images of war. I applaud those in the college who have done their bit to put their point of view across and stood up for what they believe in. I had never been on a protest march until this year and am glad of the opportunity I had this year to change that.

I wish Dave Garrahy my successor the best of luck in the coming year and would like to thank Tara Curley my predecessor for her availability and advice after she had gone. It's definitely an interesting year and I will have a few tears when I leave. Limerick has been my home for the last 5 years and now it's time to move out into the unknown. Thanks for letting me serve you and I hope that I have not let you down.



Education - Margaret Ryan

Hi Everybody,

Well, we seem to be galloping at full tilt towards the end of the semester, only another 6 weeks left, and then this place will resemble a ghost town.

I hope ye all got over election week without feeling the need to kill democracy. It was great to see 10 serious candidates get out there and try to influence your vote. Congratulations to everyone who had the courage to put their name on the ballot paper, and well done to everyone who won, especially my successor Madeline Molyneaux who I am sure will do a fantastic job.

Exams are vewwy vewwy close now, so it's time to get the head down and really start chewing the books. It's week 11 now, so time for everyone to start studying for the finals - I know, with the fine weather you don't want to do anything like that, but tough - as my mother would say, "is it trying to fail the exams you are?" I'm fairly sure that you've all had enough stuff about how to study told to you over the years, but I'm going to give you the short version again anyway.

Study in short blocks - no more than an hour apiece. Structure your studying - no point in just reading for the sake of it. Make short revision sheets that you can scan before going in to the exam (and make sure you leave them outside - you don't want to face the discipline committee). Take regular breaks - walk the dog, watch the TV, make tea, wash your pet hamster, as long as it's completely different to studying and it's relaxing. Get plenty of sleep. Eat properly - coke and snickers does not a balanced diet make.

I know that's the same as what I wrote two weeks ago, but it still applies. You need to study properly to pass exams and get good grads. And now I'll stop sounding like your mother.

I am told that this is the last issue of An Focal, so I want to say a few thank yous before I leave this place.

First off, thanks to my housemates for keeping me somewhat sane and listening to all the bitching and moaning. Maz, Breda, Emily, Valerie



and Kevin, yis are great.

Everyone on Class Reps Council and Exec. The work you do is fantastic, and it's hugely appreciated.

Gemma, Eamonn, Paddy, Willie, and Simon, for making sure I didn't kill anyone when my frustration levels went through the roof.



UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
TEL: 061 330190
FAX: 061330710
EMAIL: info@scholarsclub.ie
WEB: www.scholarsclub.ie

Breakfasts 9am to 11:30am
Lunches 12 noon to 4pm
Evening Meals 5pm to 7pm

MON PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL

TUES DJ CONOR CRONIN 8PM
HIP HOP, R & B AND REGGAE!!
DOT COMEDY CLUB, DOORS 9PM
WITH **DES BISHOP**
COME EARLY AS CAPACITY IS LIMITED!!


WEDS DJ JAMES KAVANAGH
HOUSE MUSIC FROM 8PM
ESN STUDENT PARTY IN AN PHLUAIS

THURS "ESCAPADE"
LIVE IN THE MAIN BAR

FRI DJ KEITH PIGOTT, 7PM
INDIE & STUDENT ANTHEMS !!
COMPLIMENTARY FINGER FOOD
HAPPY HOUR 5-7PM

SUN BREAKFAST BRUNCH 12 - 4PM
CHILL OUT WITH COMFY COUCHES, CANDLES, FREE SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS !!
AN PHLUAIS AVAILABLE FOR 21ST BIRTHDAY PARTIES,
TABLE QUIZES & CLASS PARTIES

Did you know that you can book 'An Phluais' free of charge?
www.scholarsclub.ie



Every Thursday

Soul Clinic
@
Dolans Warehouse

Doors @ 12am Tickets: €10 Students: €9

Tickets available in advance from Dolan's Pub, 3/4 Dock Road, Limerick
061-314483 / info@dolanspub.com / www.dolanspub.com

Education - Margaret Ryan

John Mulcahy, for being the voice of reason (and not saying "I told you so").

Alice and Kate, for just listening.

The staff of the Union, for making my

life easier.

My family. Because you're all amazing.

All the people in the University who helped me out. I'm afraid to start naming names, because I'll either

leave someone out, or get someone in trouble. So thanks.

Anyone who helped in any way during the year, thank you.

And that's it - I'm out of here. Have a great summer, don't have a heart-

attack over the exams, and if you're graduating, congratulations. You've made it.

Regards

Margaret

Communications - Paddy Buckley

Hi everyone,

Its been a hectic few weeks to put it mildly. First of all, congrats to everyone involved in the boathouse campaign in any shape manner or form. At 6:15 on Wednesday evening, there was still people from the pro-boathouse campaign running around the villages dragging people up to vote. It was an extraordinary achievement to get the referendum passed, especially by the margin they did, and it bodes well for the future of the Students' Union that on issues like this, its still possible to really get the Students behind us. Once again, congratulations to everyone involved in the campaign.

The other major event of the last two weeks that I've been heavily involved in was the culmination of the Stables and Scholars Club license renewal saga. This has been hanging over us all semester, and it is a great relief to all involved to finally be able to put it behind us, at least until next September again. The Club licenses are up for renewal again at that stage, and it is entirely possible that the licence renewal will be objected to again at that stage, so its important that all the work that was done over the last few weeks is kept going. I'll be spending the last few weeks in here setting up a more permanent system then to ensure the issue of membership doesn't become an issue. However, the wider issue of community relations must also be addressed.

The sabbatical elections were also on in Week 9. Congratulations to everyone who got elected, and hard luck to those who didn't.

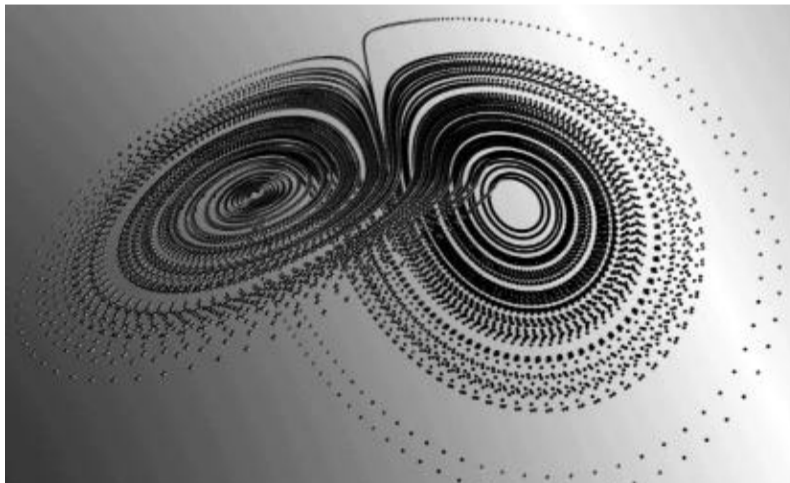
I don't really have a whole lot more to say at this stage. I've done my best in my job this year, and I'd like to think An Focal is better for the year I spent in charge of it. I've always said what I believed in this job, and I've always done my best. I'm going to emulate Tom O'Donovan last year and not thank individuals, I'm just going to say thank you to everyone who helped me out over the last year. You know who you are, and you have my eternal gratitude.

So long, and thanks for all the fish!
Paddy



School of Mathematics, Applied Mathematics & Statistics

HIGHER DIPLOMA IN APPLIED SCIENCE MODELLING AND NUMERICAL COMPUTERS



This one year full-time course focuses on fostering the skills required to analyse and develop leading edge scientific software. Core topics consist of C, C++, Java, Mathematica, Mathematical Modelling, Cellular Automata and Graphical Programming for Windows and the WEB. The course has run successfully since 1991 and graduates have consistently obtained employment through good times and bad. Applicants should hold a primary degree in any area. However, preference is given to those with a science/engineering background and/or a grounding in mathematics or computer programming. Successful candidates in the past have come from physics, biology, chemistry, chemical, electrical and civil engineering, geology, earth science, zoology, mathematics, computer science and many other disciplines.

Each year, KE ConsultingGroup Scholarship worth €3,050 is awarded to a promising candidate taking the course.

There are reduced fees for full-time EU students because the course is approved under a major Government initiative to meet IT skills needs identified by the Expert Group on future skills needs. Accordingly EU students paid only a reduced fee of €1,000 (compared with an actual fee of €3,974) for 2002/2003. The reduced fee for 2003/2004 is likely to be higher.

For further information contact: Dr. Kieran Mulchrone, Department of Applied Mathematics, UCC, e-mail: kmulchrone@ucc.ie, phone: (021) 4903411.

Alternatively see the diploma website at:

On Election Tickets

As a fellow student of U.L I feel aggrieved at the manner of which week 9's elections were conducted. Attending the hustings on Monday, I felt that indeed this year the right people to do the jobs would be selected. Unfortunately I was proven wrong. In my opinion only one of the successful candidates is the right person for the job. During the week I made it my business to speak to all the candidates and it became quite clear over this time that there were tickets in progress. Some candidates were quite obviously named dropping and attempting to get other candidates elected. This appalled me, but unfortunately these candidates were successful. If a candidate cannot run a campaign on their own merits and skills they are NOT the right person for the job. It is the students I feel sorry for, as next year they will not be adequately represented and instead will fall victim to the underlying politics that is the students union.

Anne Fitzmaurice.

Response to Paul Ruddy

Sir,

I feel it is incumbent on me to respond to Paul Ruddy's letter as published in the last edition of An Focal. It would seem that Mr Ruddy took great offence at an article I had published in Week 9's An Focal. I welcome debate on the issue of war on Iraq. There are many learned people who hold a sincere and reasoned conviction that this war is necessary and just. Mr Ruddy is not one of them. His criticisms were so baseless, repetitive and poorly argued that it felt as though I had been attacked by a rabid Shih Tzu.

The ongoing debate has been dumbed-down by the lazy, stereotyping that both sides have employed; those who are anti-war are anti-American and those who are pro-war are gun-totting Texan oil barons. In the maelstrom of the muck racking, lies and superficial arguments the more important issues have been overlooked. In everything I have written and said I have tried to steer clear of this distracting sideshow. I have been at pains to emphasise that UL AGAINST THE WAR is not anti-American. In my article of week 8 I wrote, "We are opposed to Saddam Hussein and in no way support his regime... We are not anti-American though we strongly oppose the current US policy towards Iraq. We do not believe that the bombardment of Iraq by a US led force is in the best interests of the Iraqi people, the Middle East or Global security". I'm sure that this did not register with Mr Ruddy. He implores me to refrain from proliferating "anti-American/anti-globalisation hysteria" and in a parting shot he condescendingly pleads with students in UL to "read about the situation". Stirring words indeed.

I have lived in America and I found the majority of people there to be warm and honest with strong moral values. The Bush regime is not indicative of the spirit of America nor does it truly represent the ordinary American people. I, like most Americans, have no qualms about criticising a cabal that is illegally executing another war in which innocent civilians, and most abhorrently children, are being massacred. I will continue to campaign against this war and I hope that UL AGAINST THE WAR continues to be the most successful anti-war movement in UL history. March 20th witnessed the largest ever turnout for an anti-war rally ever in the college. Mr Ruddy in a fit of hyperbolic indignation described it as no less than "an anti-America, anti-globalisation mob meeting"!

UL AGAINST THE WAR has thus far collected over €800 for UNICEF which will go some way towards repairing the carnage being daily unleashed on Iraq. I sincerely hope that students in UL engage themselves wholeheartedly in the debate surrounding this issue and I welcome the views of those who are pro-war. If Mr Ruddy is to be portrayed as the voice of the pro-war camp, then I fear for the level of debate we will have to endure. If he wishes to organise his own coalition, call his own rallies and set up his own information stand then I will take his convictions more seriously. As it stands his criticisms are embarrassingly flaccid.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Hehir.

On Fianna Fail

Dear Editor,

There are liars, damned liars and Fianna Failers. Bad enough that Fianna Fail destroy our economy, our neutrality, our environment and our ethics in public life. Now, add to that list the Clubs and Societies Yearbook 2002-2003. This fine publication outlines the manifold achievements of our clubs and societies - until Fianna Fail turned it into a book of deceit and fraud. Remember how Fianna Fail staged five bi-elections and four referenda in the middle of the week in an implicit bid to prevent the students and young people of Ireland from voting. But remember how a group of enlightened and dignified UL students stood up to this hypocrisy and succeeded in halting this disgraceful policy by protesting when Bertie opened the swimming pool. But if you read Ogra Fianna Fail's review of the year which appears in black and white in the Clubs and Societies Yearbook, they attribute this triumph of democracy to themselves! The very people who gnawed at the fabric of our democracy, the very people who so cunningly wanted to rob you - the student - of your vote, are now claiming credit for the fact that we have secured weekend polling. I have to hand it to Ogra Fianna Fail, to have attained such a mastery of deceit and fraud at a tender age would make even the most seasoned Fianna Fail gangster jealous.

Yours in anguish,

Fintan Tuohy

Thank You From Ruth Bagnell

Election week was an amazing experience. I decided to run about 3 days before close of nominations. There had been talk of a campaign in the previous semester, so we picked up where we'd left off. My fantastic campaign manager, Mr. Fintan Breen, immediately took control of the operation. A plan of action was put into place. Margaret Ryan and Brian Stokes went above and beyond the call of duty with advice and encouragement.

After a few false starts we got a campaign team together. It's a week when one really finds out who their true friends are. John Mulcahy advised from abroad and seemed to know more about events in UL than we did! Louise Ryan and Ashlenn O'Keefe were the designated photocopyers - you were fantastic. It was amazing what they could do with the paper - as was mentioned more than once. Some of the slogans were developed through iterations, although Michelle Daly claims some of them. Cian Davis was the campaign photographer, thanks a million! Posters covered the campus thanks to Damian, Mark, Cian, Daniel, and Conor among others. Thanks to Kevin for the Leaflet Drop.

Over the weekend a team of workers invaded UL to poster, paint and canvas. Thanks to Peter, Gordon, Mary, Catherine, Clodagh, Fintan, Mags, and Shelly. The Moma provided some transport and materials. Banners were made, mobile unions (thanks to Drama Soc) were plastered with posters, ice creams were had and the craic was mighty. Campus Security thought we'd lost our minds all together!

The Monday, and Tuesday evening were spent canvassing. Thanks to everyone who helped out and to all the residents who put my posters in the windows. Sleep wasn't to be had those nights - there was poster to be done. Fintan organised a team to wallpaper the campus.

During the week of elections a range of people manned our stand in the canteen. Thanks to the two Maeve's, Emily, Ella, Norah and everyone else who helped (most have been mentioned already). Ella Daly organised an aircraft for the day of elections. This was a street theatre costume from the Umbrella Project. Peter wore this for a while, but it is quite heavy. He performed some manoeuvres for the Kayaking Club in the Scholars Courtyard. This 'executive jet' (which was more like Flyer 1) was situated in the Plaza for most of the day and was sporting the Aer Lingus livery. Thanks to Not The Moma for transport of said object - which happened to be wider than the car!

The entire week was a fantastic experience. I made new friends and possibly some enemies! It was an exhausting few days coming up to the elections. Unfortunately I was not successful, but we still 'gave it socks' in the words of Mags Ryan! I am very grateful to everyone who helped me in any way during the week. When I felt under pressure or stressed my friends were there for me. Of course winning matters - but the taking part is where the fun is. Now, I get to be leader of the opposition and poke holes in all policies and plans. Any of the candidates who ran this year will tell you that it was a 'learning experience' and that they'd do it over again in the morning (possibly a little different). THANK YOU!

Ruth Bagnell

Thank You from David Garrahy

Being elected Welfare Officer of the University of Limerick two weeks ago was a really humbling experience. Well over a thousand people put their faith in me to do what I promised to do in front of lecture halls, hustings or just person to person. So I have to say thank you to everyone who voted for me and indeed those who voted for my opponents but cared enough to make their statement. I will try my best not to disappoint you.

I have a lot of work ahead of me in the coming year, I am paid to look after the Welfare of each and every student in UL - this is my job. So don't treat me as any kind of demi-god in the coming year, I am just a student like you and I need you to be able to talk to me. I know it can be difficult sometimes to look for help, but I can make things easier for you during your time here so PLEASE, whatever the issue, think of me, approach me and talk to me! Lastly I have to thank all the people who provided so much help and support to me over the campaign. Those who I fought against for the position of Welfare Officer, Sarah Staunton and Jennifer Ahern, your wonderful campaigns makes me sure that both of you have so much to contribute in Limerick and beyond in the future. My class of 4th Year Law who gave me great support and all the friends who did their bit for the cause! But most especially I have to thank a very special group of people who formed my campaign team. I won't name them because I have thanked them all individually already. These people were my rock of strength and worked so hard up to the end that I gained a huge respect for their commitment and dedication, thank you again. Lastly I want to encourage each of you reading this to think for a moment about how the Students' Union could help you with your issues and tell that to us, because that is our one and only purpose - To Serve You.

David Garrahy

Landslide Victory for Boathouse Referendum

by Paddy Quinn

Wednesday the 9th of April 2003 will be remembered as the day the students of UL spoke out in resounding support of the UL Boathouse Project.

With a total valid poll of 3,067 votes, the largest poll ever received in any UL referendum, the students unanimously spoke in unison with an 87% majority in favour of the Boathouse Project. The result, endorsing seven years of hard work and lobbying by many past and present UL Pro Boathouse Students, opens a new and exciting chapter in campus life on UL.

The Pro Boathouse Campaign fielded approximately 20 volunteers primarily from the four clubs involved in the Boathouse project, namely UL Rowing, Kayak, Mountain Bike and Sub-Aqua clubs. The Campaign was launched on Thursday of Week 8 in the SU Courtyard with an "Equipment Stockpile" symbolising the complete lack of secure storage facilities hampering the four clubs now involved in the Boathouse project. Pre referendum rumours were focused on the difficult task of securing the 2,133-vote quorum, 20% of the registered electorate, required for a valid result. Aided by over 5,000 flyers, 1,000 stickers, 200 posters, 300 lollipops, 4 banners, 3 videos, music from UL Trad Society, kayaks, boats, oars, mountain bikes and many more, the campaigners canvassed every student on campus for their vote.

Tensions rose to boiling point on the referendum day when a temporary glitch in the computers tallying the polling booths meant the Referendum Commission could not give an accurate figure on the number of students that had voted. Fearing the worst the Pro Campaign canvassed and lobbied to the bitter end in an exhaustive search for every last vote from the lecture halls and computer labs to the campus villages of UL. Following a four-hour wait, all fear and anticipation was disbanded as SU General Manager Stan Blennerhassett announced the official result "...REFERENDUM CARRIED". With cheers resounding, the Boathouse was finally secured.

In recognition of the work of the Pro Campaign volunteers, Mr. Paul Lee, S.U. Clubs and Societies Development Officer, had this to say, "...this group deserve tremendous credit for their professional and dedicated approach to this campaign..."

An exhaustive list of all who worked for the benefit of the Boathouse project down through the years is



Campaigners for the UL Boathouse during the elections in Week 9

beyond the scope of this newspaper. However, suffice it to say, they can rest assured that their efforts will have an indirect beneficial impact on the lives of all past, present and future students of the University of Limerick.

Securing the Boathouse project has guaranteed the increased success of the Clubs and Societies in UL by allowing them to compete to the highest standards on a national and international stage. In turn, as has always been part of their goal, they can go on and raise the profile,

sporting image and perception of the University of Limerick to new heights. In doing this they will increase the opportunities of one day helping to secure further funding for other essential student projects.

The question on many people's lips is "what happens from here?" so here's a quick rundown on the planned progress. The next step is the selection of an architect for the project from a number of practices. The selection committee will be comprised of chosen representatives of the SU and participating clubs as

well as University representatives. The panel of architects will make a presentation to the committee based upon a design brief for the boathouse. Following the selection process, the research and design stages for the building will take 6-9 months, so the possibility exists for the completion of the structure within two years. Watch out for further updates over the months to come. Thanks again to all who have contributed to sporting excellence and the social amenities of UL and the wider community by making this project possible.

Campbells Catering to offer Gluten Free meals

by Paddy Buckley

Following on from the example of NUI Galway, Campbells Catering in the University of Limerick has announced that it is to begin offering a gluten free meal in the Main Restaurant. This announcement has been greeted with satisfaction by a number of campaigners for this service. Sheila Walsh, of the University of Limerick Alumni Association said that it was "...great that the dietary needs of a substantial proportion of the college are now being looked after". At any given time approximately 1 in 250 people in UL suffer from Coeliac disease, which is caused by the sufferer having an allergic response to gluten. The only treatment for the disease is a strict gluten-free diet, and in this context Campbells Catering must be applauded for moving to address the issue.

Coeliac Disease is a condition in which there is a persistently abnormal immunological reaction to dietary gluten, giving rise to tissue damage in the presence of gluten. In order to follow a strict gluten free diet, a Coeliac must not eat foods that contain any form of gluten, which is found in WHEAT, BARLEY, RYE

and OATS. Eating gluten causes the lining of the small intestine to become damaged thus reducing the coeliacs ability to absorb certain foods. The only treatment generally required is adhering to a strict gluten-free diet for life after a positive diagnosis has been made. "Gluten" is a general term used for a particular type of protein (proline-rich protein, or prolamin) found in wheat.

Coeliac disease is more common than most people realise. Estimates of prevalence have been made by screening various population groups with blood tests for specific antibodies that appear in active coeliac disease. In some studies, screening results have been confirmed by taking biopsies of the

Several such screening studies suggest that between 1 in 200 and 1 in 300 people of northern European extraction have coeliac disease. It has been believed for a long time that Irish people have a higher than average risk of coeliac disease. Research in Northern Ireland (reported in 1998) suggests that as many as 1 in 122 individuals there have coeliac disease. Earlier data from Galway (Gumaa et al, 1997) suggest that the incidence of coeliac disease in children is declining (perhaps due to changes in weaning practices with time?), but that the incidence in adults is increasing (perhaps to greater awareness and increasing rate of diagnosis?). Nationwide figures are not available.

Coeliac disease is under-diagnosed because it is often not obvious. The mainstay of treatment for coeliac disease is to avoid eating gluten-containing foods. Dietary supplements may be recommended, particularly when the disease is not fully controlled or if nutritional deficiencies are found. However, when the condition is under control with adequate exclusion of dietary gluten there should be no need for dietary supplements if a well-balanced and nourishing diet is taken.



small intestinal lining to look for damage typical of coeliac disease.

Memories of Being a Class Rep

by Ruth Bagnell

Starting college is one of those daunting experiences that one finds difficult to deal with. You leave the warm caring sanctuary of your secondary school environment and must start afresh. For some, it's a time to re-invent themselves, for others, a horrific experience. Being dropped into a class of academics who don't live in your parish, don't know your seed, breed and generation and don't know you at all, can be terrifying. How does anyone survive? It's worse if you're one of three girls in a class of 49! Sometimes it's easier to grab the bull by the horns and throw yourself into every club/society/activity on campus.

On the advice of a good friend I decided to put myself forward as Class Representative for 1st year Aeronautical Engineering. To my amazement there was no opposition! I was deemed elected. As the class was greater than 25 students, we were entitled to 2 reps.. A second person never ran for election.

For the first year I made great efforts to get to know my class. The Class Party helped a lot in that respect. Of course I had a class list, but trying to put names to faces was a bit difficult. During the first year the class were just getting to know each other. As a rep I liaised with lecturers and moved exam times and project deadlines, and went to Class Rep's Council (CRC) among other things. At that

time CRC was not like it is today. Attendance was low, location was mobile, and decision-making was relatively slow. As a first year the parliamentary language intimidated me, as did the technical jargon spouted by some of the older reps. Still, I typed up my reports after the meetings and emailed them to the class - who had little or no interest in reading them.

As the years progressed the duties of the class rep increased. Lecturers recognised me in an instant and I was given photocopying duties and emailing tasks. These were relatively rare occasions and were worth the effort for the extra co-operation received in time of need. When a helpful rep approaches a lecturer and requests that a lab/ tutorial/

exam/deadline be moved because the class is under pressure or unavailable, they listen. They realise that the reps are there to help the class and make the journey through college a little less painful. It also reduces the number of requests they receive! A visible rep that has good negotiating skills can be an invaluable asset to any class. Summer time was a busy time for me - I received more emails from failing students in the summer than I did in a semester!

At one stage during my four years in UL, I was class rep (unofficially) for 3 classes. The others didn't have a rep and pushed themselves under my wing. Looking back I probably should have forced them to elect their own - but I'm too nice for things like that! CRC is now an efficiently functioning body within the Students' Union. It has its faults of course, but in comparison to the old days it's fantastic. Attendance is much higher, decisions are made and work is done more efficiently. I still email my reports - but they're shorter and in bullet point form. I do believe the class reads them (although I could be wrong). Class Reps have a training weekend at the start of the semester (to bond and learn the ropes). This helps the adhesion between the reps for the rest of the semester.

I was re-elected (and un-contested) for the position of class rep for my 4 years in UL. I gained a lot of experience from this. I've learned to use my stubbornness for good, how to listen and how to negotiate. I also developed expertise on CRC standing orders and the ULSU Constitution. In the four years I've come up against so many varied situations, from financial difficulties to personal problems to stubborn lecturers!

I will truly miss the friends I've met on CRC and my class. I would recommend anyone who's considering making a difference to become a class rep. It has certainly made a difference to my time in college and I don't regret one minute of it. CRC is the third most power decision-making body in the Union!

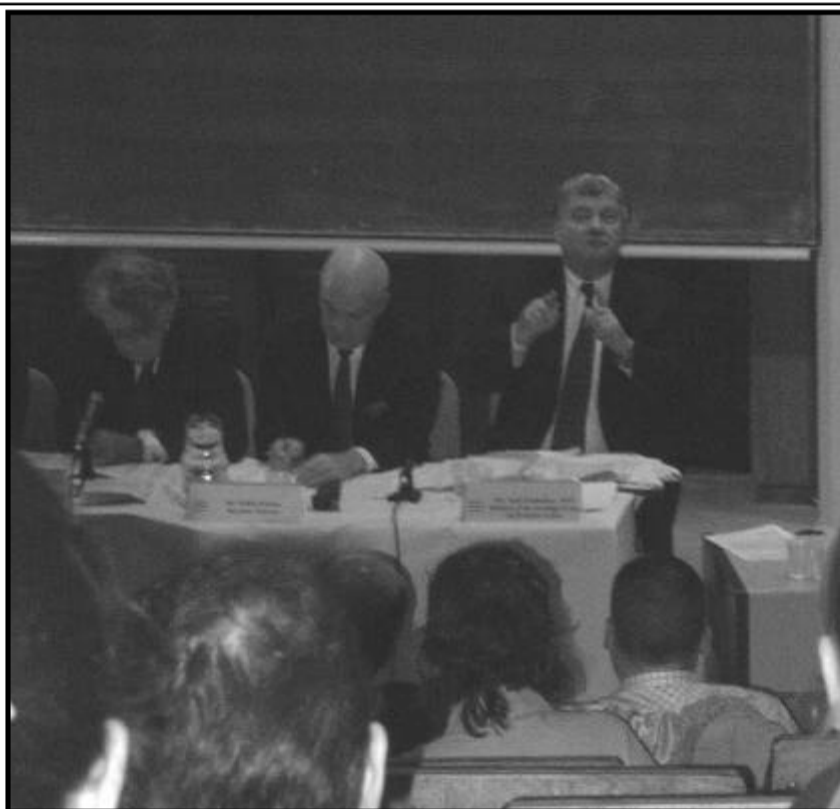
Forum on Europe

by Elaine Byrne

The Forum on Europe sat in the Jean Monnet on Monday Week 8. In attendance were the Minister of State on European Affairs, Dick Roche, Irish Government representative to the Convention on the Future of Europe, John Cushnahan, MEP and European Parliament to the Convention and Labour Party representative, Mr. Tony Browne. Senator Maurice Hayes chaired the Forum. The attendance was comparatively large with respect to previous regional meetings and comprised of the student body with both the SU and PSA presidents present, members of the teaching staff and the public at large. The meeting was preceded with an entertaining 15-minute video by Hector which outlined the basics of the Convention. The meeting was very much participatory with ample opportunity given to questions and comments from the floor which ranged from the Nice Treaty, to the general competencies within the Convention and to the technicalities of the Convention itself.

The Forum

The Working Group on Justice and Home Affairs at the Convention on the Future of Europe published its report last month, setting out its recommendations for change in how the EU does its business in these areas. The report touches on areas of great importance to citizens, including crimes such as drug trafficking, illegal immigration and crime using and abusing the Internet. Other areas dealt with by the report include the threat of terrorism, asylum policy and control of the Union's external borders, as well as provisions for police cooperation, judicial cooperation in civil matters and for mutual recognition of judicial decisions in other Member States.



Speakers at the Forum on Europe in the Jean Monnet

In this regard Professor Finbarr McAuley, Jean Monnet Associate Professor of European Criminal Justice, University College Dublin elucidated his concerns at the recent Forum meeting. Namely that Ireland was not consulted in advance about the contents of proposals for the European arrest warrant, which was agreed last December by the Council of Ministers. It must now become part of Irish law and be operational by the end of 2003. Our very own Prof Dermot Walsh of the University of Limerick has publically said that such proposals as the European Arrest Warrant normally come from a member-state or the European Commission. In this case it was the Commission. "Normally they would consult widely in a measure of this nature. That would be taken for granted. They would consult extensively with senior government officials, lawyers and academics in the member states. "How could they

possibly construct a measure of this nature without discussing it with Irish experts? "Once they get over this initial stage there is consultation with member states. But by then it's too late. The proposal is already framed and the decisions have already been taken. If you're not in at the start you're not shaping policy."

As stated in previous articles to An Focal, the Convention will hit us like a John Kelly try in the dying minutes of a Munster V Gloucester game in Thomond park. In other words, we won't know what's happening because it will have happened so fast... It has happened already.

The Forum is meeting again in Dublin Castle on April 10th. The speakers are Baroness Patricia Scotland of Asthal QC, Ivana Back of Trinity College and Niall Crowley of the Equality Authority.

World Mini UN Conference

by Karen Mary Ferris

The Harvard-hosted WorldMun UN Conference 2003 in Heidelberg - what an amazing experience. From March 22nd-29th I had the honour of representing the University of Limerick at a model United Nations Forum in Germany. This annual forum brings together hundreds of students from universities around the world, from Salamanca in Istanbul to the military cadets of West Point in the USA, acting for one week as delegates to the UN.

Each university represents a particular nation and their students participate in the various associated committees. As the 'right honourable delegate from Kazakhstan' I was excited, as a Masters Student in Peace & Development Studies, to take on the portfolio of Development Officer at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Committee. The UNDP turned out to be one of the largest committees, with over a hundred participating delegates. I was intimidated and impressed on the first day with the formality of the occasion the rules of procedure, the call to vote, the allocated speaking time... it was like being at the real UN!!

We were given the task of drafting a resolution on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and I soon discovered that as much of the work took place outside the committee as inside. I quickly aligned myself with a block of countries from the former USSR and we worked early mornings and late afternoons hammering out a common position paper and negotiating with other countries on a draft resolution. Students took their positions very seriously arguing passionately over the issue of sanctions in Iraq or equal rights for women and I became used to calls of Kazakhstan as I walked through the corridors, people identifying me as



Delegates at the World Mini UN Conference

my country above my name.

There were some brilliant and some light-hearted moments during committee sessions, such as the Cuban delegate requesting permission to smoke a cigar, arguing infringement of his rights as a Cuban national or a passionate exchange between the Israeli and UAE delegations re equal rights for Palestinian citizens! We finally managed to pass a resolution during our last committee session, after numerous amendments. Voting procedures involved locking the doors and the raising of country placards. It was an amazing spectacle as I looked behind to see a line of black cards held high above me.

The whole week was an incredible and amazing experience. It provided a fantastic insight into the workings of a UN Committee and an opportunity to understand some of the wheeling and dealing that goes along with it. It was also an excellent opportunity to meet and converse with fellow students from around the world, working in similar fields. I want to

thank the University, particularly the Department of Government & Society for providing me with this opportunity and hopefully other Irish students will continue to participate in this event for years to come. Fraser will give a further description of WorldMUN from his experience.

Arriving Heidelberg on Saturday before my colleagues from UL, I wandered through the 'Olde Towne' with its cobblestone streets meandering alongside the Neckar River in awe of the beauty of the place. Almost every building was adorned with gargoyles and statues and set with red tiled rooftops, behind which the forest covered hills surrounded the small city. Spring was blossoming with myriad colours and students from all parts of the world were mixing and chatting at every outdoor cafe, all dressed in black suits and the typical business attire of UN representatives. Heidelberg beer (dating back to 1603) was flowing with the conversations, and talk of the illegal US led war on Iraq was heard everywhere.

I was on my way to the Universitiplatz for early registration when I suddenly became aware of a massive red-stone fortress set ominously on the hill overlooking the city not 100 meters above me. The magnificence of Heidelberg Castle was overwhelming and I found myself winding my way up the narrow pedestrian streets until I reached its massive ramparts (sincerely promising to quit smoking, yet again!). I would compulsively make this trip two more times in the following days.

Sunday evening, after the opening ceremonies in which we were hospitably welcomed by the Mayor, a Global Village of delegate nations evolved from the sharing of various national foods/drinks into a disco extravaganza. The next morning, as

every morning that followed, I found myself racing into the New University at 8:59 (along with the other delegates who managed to wake after the nights intense revelries) fixing my tie as I joined the 80 delegates on the International Security Committee.

Our task, to negotiate a resolution on the United Nations response to terrorism. The challenge, to create a consensus that would be acceptable to the majority so the resolution could be passed and implemented. As the honourable delegate from Kazakhstan [the 4th largest nuclear power on Earth until 1994, home to the Russian space program, and most successful extractor of oil from the strategically paramount Caspian Sea (rumoured to possibly have more oil under its waters than in all of Saudi Arabia!)] I began to realize the difficulty of putting my personal opinions aside in order to properly represent "my nation". Heated debates, negotiating various national interests, and compromising under the weight of powerful states was to define our working days together for the remainder of the week.

At nights however, this international consortium of young thinkers and future diplomats transformed into wild and wanton partygoers. Scandalous debauchery in elegant garments would define our evenings in fabulous venues like the Schwetzingen Palace, the German version of Versailles. Having brought our tuxedos, and black dresses, we attended the WorldMUN Ball alongside West Point delegates in their military dress and courtesan dancers in 17th century garb. Great discussions ensued in the very same paths, grottos, and gardens where the likes of Voltaire and others strolled and taught the German royalty. These are the memories that will last a lifetime!

On that note we would like to offer our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, Professor Roger Downer, President's Office, Professor Kevin Ryan, Vice-President Academia, Professor Nick Rees, Dean Graduate Studies, Professor Edward Moxon-Browne, Centre for European Studies, Ian O'Donohue, Plassey Campus Centre, without whom there would not have been a UL (the only Irish university in attendance) delegation to this prestigious academic event.



The UL Delegates to the World Mini UN Conference

Alcohol Abuse

Can I ask you a very direct question that you'll hopefully answer truthfully?

Have you, as a result of drinking alcohol, experienced any of the following problems:

- Performed poorly at school or work
- Damaged objects or clothing
- Lost money or other valuable objects
- An accident or injury
- Hospitalisation
- Quarrel or argument
- Problems in relationships with friends
- Problems in relationships with parents
- Problems in relationships with teachers
- Scuffle or fight
- Victimised by robbery or theft
- Trouble with the Gardaí

If you answered yes to any of the above, don't worry, you're not alone.

In a major survey undertaken in 1999, students throughout Europe who were born in 1983 (i.e. those aged 16 years, approximately) were asked about a number of specific problems they might have experienced because of their past alcohol use. From an Irish point of view, the results were quite alarming.

In relation to TEN of the twelve problems outlined above, Irish students consistently outscored their European counterparts (by over 200% in the case of many of the problems). In relation to the other two problems, (which were 'hospitalisation' and 'problems in relationships with their teachers'), the Irish students were equal to the European average. In no case was the Irish score lower than the European average.

In the same study, approximately 20% of Irish

students were quoted as being drunk 3 times or more in the previous month, while approximately 33% had participated in binge drinking during the previous 30 days.

The above results were provided by secondary school students three years ago. These were students who more than likely were in the same school year as some of you and who went on to do the Leaving Cert the same year as you did. Now that many of these students will, no doubt, have gone on to Third Level Education, and are more mature and have more experience of life, do you think they might have learnt from their past difficulties and moved away from the practice of "getting in as much drink as I can".

Maybe they have - maybe you have as well.

However, there is evidence of growth in recent years in a culture of binge drinking and drinking to get drunk amongst young people in Ireland (indeed, this culture is not unique to Ireland). That is why the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), UL and MEAS, the newly formed Social Responsibility Organisation, are undertaking a national campaign to highlight the risks run by excessive alcohol consumption. And while the focus of the campaign is on such risks, USI, UL and MEAS also note that those young people who drink in moderation consistently point to the positive attributes of alcohol:

- the fact that a few drinks allows them to unwind and relax in the company of friends
- how they can go and have a great night out, any night of the week, and still be in a position to get up the next morning for lectures without the ill effects that are so commonly associated with getting plastered
- how they don't have to put up with the

embarrassment that others suffer when reminded (since they can't remember) of how they were spotted puking, urinating, fighting or of even being arrested on the streets at 3 in the morning

- and finally, how those that drink in moderation gloat about how they are able to come home after a great night out and still perform in bed (to a high standard) unlike their drunken colleagues whose sex hormones, specifically testosterone, are reduced as a result of increased blood alcohol concentration levels.

The message from UL, USI and MEAS is clear and straight forward: 'You can have a great time while respecting alcohol and respecting yourself'.

This message challenges today's youth to take the lead in not entering into practices that bring about the excessive consumption of alcohol, and not to contribute to the consequences that directly and indirectly ensue as a result of this abuse. By respecting alcohol, today's youth are directly respecting themselves and the people and environment that surround them.

The "Respect Alcohol Respect Yourself" campaign is to be promoted through the use of posters, articles, radio and TV interviews and even a competition (contact the Welfare Officer, Gráinne for details) and is to be undertaken at all third level institutions in the coming weeks, so please keep a look out.

For further information in relation to the campaign please contact your Student Union Welfare Officer, Gráinne Heffron or relevant Students Union representative. For further information in relation to MEAS, please log on to www.meas.ie or email info@meas.ie

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

Have a FREE* Software upgrade done on your phone and receive a FREE* NOKIA HEADSET

CSS LTD

- Free* Nokia Mobile phone repairs
- Are you having problems with your mobile phone i.e. Dropping calls, poor signal, powering off, blank screen's, etc....

Free* Nokia Headset With all software upgrades



Located at the Nokia Desk in the Students Union office.
Opening Hours Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm Friday 9am-12pm



NEW 24 HOUR* TURN AROUND FOR ALL SOFTWARE UPGRADES AND REPAIRS.

* Subject to terms and conditions.

UL Against the War

by Aidan Hehir

The war on Iraq has been swiftly won though no one ever doubted the outcome once mobilisation began. The consequences of this war will be felt for decades to come and this 'liberation' may well signify a turning point in humanity's future. In all of human history no political entity has been as powerful as the United States. It is unquestionably the dominant force in international relations and occupies a position of unrivalled supremacy. This political and military primacy, coupled with

increasingly isolated and reviled empire. Its present foreign policy and economic system are unsustainable.

This war has taught children throughout the world that violence is an acceptable way to get what you want. It has, through its sanitised portrayal in the media, inured many people to the horrors of war. It has strengthened the resolve of the extreme right in the Bush regime, such as Richard Pearle, who welcome the demise of the UN and would happily extricate the US from all legally binding treaties. This war has spread yet more anti-western

been on a global scale that few could have predicted. In Ireland, hundreds of thousands turned up at demonstrations throughout the country to show their opposition. To raise awareness of the issues at stake and mobilise support for the anti-war movement UL AGAINST THE WAR was established in the college. We been incredibly successful and achieved more than any anti-war movement ever in UL. On the day war broke out over 1,000 students and staff came out to our rally. We have held information stands every week where we have collected many hundreds of

Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney are the architects of humanity's future we must continue to oppose self-serving military aggression. This war has ignited a global movement that will not be dissuaded from its goal of a more ethical, altruistic and compassionate world order and we are proud to have played a minor role in it. Humanity's future cannot lie with those who happily maim, dismember, burn and obliterate innocent men, women and children to increase their material wealth. While we are saddened by the scale of destruction wrought by the US and Britain, we are confident that there now exists a



The Anti War protest in UL organised by UL AGAINST THE WAR

vast financial resources, imbues the US with the authority to manipulate global events and affords it the power to shape world affairs without contention. While many welcome this, history shows that unrivalled power is inherently untenable and will eventually corrupt those who wield it. The present Bush regime, of dubious democratic origins, driven by the interests of the few, is displaying all the classic traits of an over stretched, over confident and

vehemence across the Middle East and driven angry, vengeful young men and women into the arms of Al Queda. It will inspire others like Russia and China to disregard international law and use military might to further their aims. This war represents the triumph of the gun over the pen and is a victory for might and aggression over reason, compassion and diplomacy.

Opposition to the war on Iraq has

signatures for our anti-war petition. Over the past six weeks we raised over €800 for UNICEF's aid work in Iraq. We have been a constructive voice of dissent.

The military success of the US and Britain in Iraq has not shaken our convictions. This war was illegal and immoral and will negatively impact upon global security. The ease with which military domination was achieved in no way vindicates its instigation. Isolated scenes of rejoicing at the arrival of US Marines are symptomatic of a hatred for the old regime rather than a love for the US. When British troops moved into the Bogside in Northern Ireland they were initially welcomed by the nationalist community. Time will tell how well received the massive US military presence in Iraq will be.

Those politicians and journalists who supported the military campaign in Ireland have wasted no time in proffering their righteous condemnation of the anti-war movement. No doubt many in UL feel the same. We in UL AGAINST THE WAR are proud of our efforts and while we may have had a negligible impact on the warmongers, we did not remain silent while carnage was wreaked across Iraq. Unless we are to accept that men like Donald

global momentum that is capable of preventing US global hegemony.

With events having now moved beyond the possibility of stopping war, we feel our coalition has run its course. Our activities will now be centred on fundraising for UNICEF and we will be holding a raffle soon. We wish to sincerely thank all the hundreds of students and staff who have supported our campaign and given so generously to our UNICEF collection. I would personally like to thank all those who came to our meetings and gave so selflessly of their time. I have been continually heartened by the level of commitment shown and I hope that the inspiring momentum created can be reactivated again in the future; sadly with Syria now being groomed as the next target I fear this is only a matter of time. Thanks once again to all who participated in this campaign..... Our efforts were not wasted.



Scenes from anti war protest in Berlin

I Remember that Summer.. Co-Op in Dublin

by Anne Sheridan

I took it as an ominous sign of things to come when, upon arriving in Dublin I was greeted by two nuns. What was meant to be a liberating experience in the big city began by teleporting me back to my youth. Or to be more specific my school days in secondary school - in a convent. For the first two weeks of my co-op "work experience" I stayed in a Dominican hostel in D4 run by two nice, but very scatty nuns. Smoking was strictly forbidden, as were male visitors (single sex no less) at any time of day or night. To satisfy my urges towards the former, I had to smoke out the bedroom window at night in blind fear that the intercom bell would suddenly sound off and say "we know you're smoking, girl in 5C, we are coming to get you . . .". Luckily that never happened, and if it had it would have been nothing compared to the embarrassment the Nigerian girl endured when they made a bid towards pronouncing her name. As for dealing with the latter scenario, well what's two weeks anyway . . . ?

Well, the first two weeks of work experience proved to be anything but short. A typical day began with reading any new emails, receiving phone calls from my unfortunate counterparts in the other offices to discuss where we are going to have our morning coffee break, lunch break and afternoon break. And it is now 9.30. When you look around at the other girls in the office you can nearly see an imaginary rope tied around their neck from the sheer boredom of it all. Seemingly, the purpose of work experience for humanities students is not to give them "work experience" which could be classified as actual work or even relevant experience, but to show them what job they don't want to have after college.

When you yourself go on co-op take a word from the wise and pay a visit to the photocopying room - hardly a task that would make your toes curl in enjoyment but when you walked into that room it was like being teleported from your isolation cell of an office to outer space. One could only marvel at their genius style of information management (filing as it is more commonly known) - with shelves marked out as "Thingy ma jigs" and "Yokey ma bobs". To the average unorganised student it was nothing short of utopia realised. Added to this was the fact that they were "allowed" music in their office (Bob Marley) and there was even the distinct smell of funny cigarettes, followed by loud coughs whenever an outsider entered their haven. The co-op office had made their most erroneous placement decision in history to date. Who knows I could find myself there yet and shock



Street Scene, Dublin

shock horror horror one of them men in the office actually has a degree in History & Politics! Aaaaaaaahh!

It seems that in Dublin every rose has a thorn stuck firmly in its side from the overwhelming amount of homeless people, to crime rates to the exorbitant price of a pint in Temple Bar. So being a Kerry girl in Dublin an old friend agreed to show me the hot spots and get me settled. Needless to say semblance of home I did not get. Then again how many Kerry fans would you expect to find in places like oh . . . The Front Lounge, Out On The Liffey, Mezzanine, GuBu and the one radar pub and club for all gay men near and far - The George. Watching Shirley Temple Bar playing bingo in The George was hardly what I imagined my first night out in Dublin would be like. Nevertheless my competitive streak won me over and as quick as you can say BINGO! I was racing through bingo cards like Elton John on crack.

As the gay cabaret began, my "tour guide" informed me that most of the men up on the stage dancing were ex - Billy Barry kids, if only their ma's could see them now. . But despite all the razzmatazz by the end of the night watching gay men bump & grind to "Private Dancer" and "It's getting' hot in herre" proved a bit much to take. I eventually made my escape just as Paulette* began her encore of Three little maids from school are we. .

Nevertheless, conform I did. Not towards any latent gay/lesbian tendencies but towards Dublin in general. Many hate it but many also love it. And bit by bit I was edging closer towards the latter. Whenever you hear anyone say no way could they live in Dublin it's generally part of an unconscious refusal to conform to, what they believe to be the "other side". Again it's part of the whole Lipset-Rokkan cleavages theory i.e. - the Capital versus the rest of the country, or even the culchies versus the jackeens. Figment of the imagination this is not. Talking to another Kerry girl living in Dublin, she said "the difference is truly startling. Take the cinema for example. At home, My Left Foot and Beethoven II

are treated as classics and are shown throughout the year alongside new releases".

The nightlife is another obvious divider. So far (and so good) I haven't been to a Dublin nightclub, where Chesney Hawkes' "I am The One and Only" is played religiously. On one return trip home, wearing my newly acquired three-quarter length jeans and hooker boots à la Kylie, looks certainly could have killed. Fashion conscious Dublin maybe but the Dubs aren't by any means fashion police. At home, on the other hand, one glance up and down (always from a girl) feels like you are being strip-searched. Maybe Lipset & Rokkan have gotten it all wrong, maybe it is the rest of the country struggling to mark the great divide and not the Capital.

Indeed there is a sense of unease when one is living here. You get the impression that something is quite amiss, that maybe the Auld Dubalín Townen has lost its homely charm. Perhaps because it is trying to be something that it's not. To paraphrase what Glen Hansard (The Frames) said on Young Dubliners, the documentary broadcast on TV3 last week - Dublin at the moment is like a young teenage girl who doesn't know where she is going, or even where she has been. She is trying on her older sisters' clothes and sometimes that sister often transpires to be London. Indeed they are clothes that don't seem to fit her very well. This might not necessarily be a bad thing. Dublin is only adapting to her ever-changing environment and some of us happen to be lucky enough to witness this important transformation, as it will no thought produce ripples of similar change in the rest of the country. But you can rest assured that wherever you are from, be it Bally-go-backwards or Ballymun, before long you will even have acquired that luscious Dublin brogue littered with "lovelieeeeeeeeeeees" and "bleedin scarlea's" as if you were born and bred in Bawnogue.

Yet regardless of what side of the Pale you come from, one must be living in a vault if they do not notice

that deja vu feeling you get by living in Dublin. Funnily enough this feeling coincided with any time I walked into a Spar or Centra shop and certainly every pub. Hairs would literally stand up on the back of my neck. It was like the Father Ted episode with the old Chinatown area and Sean (!) Wong as its main spokesman. Or the ad for crackers on the telly with Chinese people in the market stall shouting their wares - "bananas three for a pound . . . howrya doin there gorgeous". It was the English eight hundred years ago . . . now the Chinese! So much so that a pub in Clondalkin, The Lough & Quay, has been renamed by the locals as The Wok & Lee. Yet they have settled seamlessly well into the fabric of Dub society, even if they have not been wholly integrated as such.

Yet any Dublin taxi drivers I met were less enthusiastic about this Asian saturation. And it has to be said that these taxi drivers have the most curious flow of thought progression of any people on the face of the earth. Yet they are a breath of fresh air compared to Limerick taxi drivers constantly complaining about wheelie bins being knocked over in Curragh Birin.

Our conversation began with him talking about his dog. Out of absolute nowhere and without any interruption from me, being too puzzled to say anything, he launched into his own Hamlet style soliloquy - "Me dog died there recently . . Labrador she was . . only a pup really. . .wife was mad about her". But before I had a chance to mutter my condolences he started talking about Spain, and how Santa Ponsa was only another Ballymun, just in the sun. Seemingly, any small comment about the weather to a taxi driver is like letting a bull loose in a China shop, you are giving them an unconditional free rein to say whatever they like.

He then launched into his raid of the Chinese. As he was getting more worked up by the second I shuddered that he was going to echo Father Jack's three infamous words about the Japanese being like rats (Fr. Jack's words, not mine). Sheer relief washed over me as my male companion in the car was half-Chinese, just not so much that the taxi driver would notice.

He concluded just as I left the car that living in Dublin today is like being on holiday all year round because every pub you enter there will be a Manuel and not any ordinary Manuel, but his Chinese sidekick. "Can- I - have- a -pint-of-Guin-ness-please" thus becomes the longest sentence in the English language. Taxi drivers eh . . . "For The Times We Live In".

Truth- The First Casualty in War

by Anne Sheridan

If history has thought us anything it is man's inability to learn from the past in order to build on the future. In recent weeks there has been no clearer instance of this than the war fought in Iraq. It is a repeat of every past misdemeanor on the part of statesmen who have begun these wars and indeed the journalists who have reported on them. The war currently being fought in Iraq has resulted in nothing more than that overworked idiom, the fog of war.

Selective news reporting, which is a major feature here, adds to further sensationalize violent events and distort public perceptions on the war, as well as creating psychological hysteria, emotional contagion and panic. War as a media controlled event becomes a manufactured spectacle, a 'pseudo-event', a figment of the imagination and certainly a very distorted one. News reporting from Iraq does not represent a window onto the world but a carefully managed mouthpiece of the government and military. So much so that US Defense Secretary of State, Donald Rumsfeld, stated on the media spectacle during the week, by saying that "there will be things that you see and things that you don't".



Donald Rumsfeld

But he carefully omitted the context in which this was meant. On March 26th we found out. During the night the main Iraqi television station was bombed, in what was described by the International Federation of Journalists as an attempt at further censorship. Amnesty International stated that it could be a breach of the Geneva Convention, while its General Secretary, Aidan White, dismissed any claims that the station could have been a military target. He reasoned that if this were the case it would have been targeted earlier. Seemingly he has forgotten the adept powers of the American intelligence forces in locating nuclear weapons, the catalyst of this whole war.

Our fears have been confounded; the reportage of the war in Iraq is a complete regurgitation of that of the Gulf in the 1990's. It has become

one of many media fumbles in a long line of war coverage throughout history, from the Falklands War in 1982 and even as far back as the Crimean war 130 years earlier. Vietnam reeled us in with reports straight from the battlefield, the Gulf with vivid pictures of mass destruction. And Iraq? Stephanie Lyle, wife of a US Tank commander, speaking to CNN by telephone, as she watched her husband's tank division storm through Iraq, remarked "I've been taping it. I can't believe we're able to see this on TV. It's great".

The incorporation of the media into modern warfare has proved in the past to be a highly dangerous game, not only because of media leakages of military plans, but more importantly because as Douglas Hurd, British Foreign Minister in 1993, stated all too accurately "the public debate is run not by events but by the coverage of those events". Evidence of this is that American support of the war has risen to an overwhelming 70% since coverage began.

Yet the American media in particular has always been especially selective in its coverage of news stories. The Iran-Iraq war received relatively little media coverage in the West as there was no clear good guy /bad guy in the conflict. In contrast, the Soviet backed Afghanistan war received a substantial amount of coverage, that was until, of course, the Soviets withdrew from the conflict. In the minds of the American people with regards to Iraq there is no doubt who holds the role of good guy / bad guy. Whether or not the war is just is another matter for discussion, but what is unjust is the absence of any professional body solely concerned with critical analysis of the war. Instead the thread linking all these bodies together is their almost exclusive reliance on U.S. government officials as sources of information and their reluctance to question so-called official pronouncements.

Not only are the media performing a disservice to their own reputations and that of corporation that they represent, but more importantly they are constructing an injustice to the whole war effort, as they deem actual events inconsequential to the more favourable media construct of events. Will the real truth of the Iraqi war ever become known? Just as was with the Gulf War all we saw were the famous blue domes, believed to be part of a mosque, but in actual fact were the blue domes over the pool of the luxurious Dhahran Hotel. One has to ask realistically what are the chances of that happening when even British PM Tony Blair is in on the act. The war monger George W. Bush could be excused for such acts, but when the

leader of the Labour party condemned Saddam for the execution of two North London soldiers in order to gain popular support, when they had actually died during battle, is a new level of the increasing 'info'tainment nature of war in the media.

In a bid to counteract the one-sided treatment of the war in Iraq, President Jacques Chirac has instructed his government to create a satellite TV network that would offer an alternative view of current events in what he terms "the battle of footage".

'Freedom' is unlike the Gulf war in that this time the Iraqi oil fields have not been bombed". One wonders why? On a similar note, she earlier pointed out that the Iraqi war would be distinct from all other wars as civilian casualties would be kept to a minimum. While the casualties of the coalition forces are broadcast to the world at a moments notice, Victoria Clarke noted on Iraqi casualties by saying "I just don't think we have them at the moment . . . It's very hard to tell". Furthermore news accounts that the Iraqi PoW's are being treated humanely and decently, are placed alongside



"Shock and Awe" over Baghdad

Yet battle of footage this is not. If there was then at least there would be at least one interesting aspect of this excruciatingly boring war. Every day we are bombarded with images of royal marines carrying the coffins of one of their comrades, US marines carrying a wounded Iraqi girl or British troops distributing aid packages in Basra. During the Gulf War cameras were actually mounted on top of the bombs but the signal was dropped before the bomb exploded. It appears that inspite all the media build up and shocking unilateral pronouncements of George W. Bush, what we witnessed in the months leading up to the war was just the storm before the calm and not the other way around. Now there is nothing except a faint feeling of anti-climax and disinterest. Indeed these saccharine coated good deeds on the part of the coalition has proven very hard to swallow, not least because we do not know what terrifying reality may very well exist behind the iron curtain of secrecy in Iraq. Because quite simply we are not being told.

Victoria Clarke however, Pentagon spokeswoman, believes otherwise. She stated during a press conference on 31st March that " 'Operation Iraqi

accounts that the Iraqi forces could be using torture chamber against the coalition forces. Just who is telling the truth here?

Columnist Sydney Schanberg warned way back in '94 that "we Americans are the ultimate innocents . . . desperate to believe that this time the government is telling us the truth". Yet even inspite of the horrifying events of September 11th, and one would have believed those to have been an eye-opener it seems that precious little has changed. The bubble has yet to burst.

After the Gulf a complaint was submitted to the International War Crimes Tribunal by the War Crimes Commission of Inquiry and it read: "President Bush systematically manipulated, controlled, directed, misinformed and restricted press and media coverage to obtain constant support in the media for his military and political goals. The American people were seduced by deliberately spread false claims of chemical warfare threats, deaths of incubator babies and threats to the entire region by a new Hitler". How history has repeated itself!

Easter 1916 - Where have the ideals gone

by Donal O'Driscoll

It's that time of year again lads. The chocolate is being eaten, the subsequent stomach cramps are on their way, stations of the cross are being said, yes Easter is here! However for us in Ireland, easter has, or at least should have, a wider significance. It was on Easter week 87 years ago, that about 2000 Irishmen, led by Clarke, Connolly, Ceant, MacDiarmada, MacDonagh, Pearse and Plunkett, took to the streets of Dublin to rally behind the cause of Irish freedom. Other smaller engagements occurred in Cork, Wexford, Meath and Galway among other places, these battles and their leaders such as Mellows, Ashe and so on have been, perhaps unfairly, overlooked as regards Easter Week. However we must primarily focus on the action in Dublin, to get the symbolic importance of what happened, that fateful Easter weekend. Pearse read aloud the proclamation of the Irish Republic, promising an independent, sovereign Ireland based on national and social justice. The short but crucial uprising had begun.



Irish prisoners after the 1916 rising

But what relevance has this proclamation got for the current Irish state. It SHOULD have immense relevance, but somehow I don't think most people in modern .com Ireland would see it the same way. The proclamation was a crucial document, and one which all freedom-loving people should cherish and be incredibly proud of. When pearse called all 'Irishmen and Irishwomen' to arms on the steps of the GPO, an Ireland was espoused which all people on this island could feel a part of. The document promised an Ireland which would 'cherish all the children of the nation equally' and 'civil and religious liberty'. The open, inclusive Ireland endorsed here, of course was influenced by the great Irish Socialist, James Connolly, who no doubt would have not endorsed a document promising merely a 'diddly i' Ireland. However I for one am sick of the Padraig Pearse bashing that has gone on in recent years. Padraig

Pearse may have had notable faults, his often self absorbed nature, his flowery use of language, which has allowed him to be interpreted as various things ranging from a blood and soil nationalist to a paedophile following his stupidly worded poem entitled 'little boy of the tricks'. However, pearse was in reality a good man who loved the Irish people and loved teaching his students. This contention that somehow Connolly represented the Socialist and Civil libertarian aspect, while Pearse was a supremacist nationalist, is grossly unfair. Pearse was, by his own admission, no Socialist, but he did share the values of social justice and integrity, espoused by Connolly. Infact when Bulmer Hobson attacked the Socialist values of James Connolly, Pearse was quite defensive of the basic right of ordinary working people to control their destiny. His belief in altering the 'Murder Machine' education system, demonstrates to me, what a believer in personal and civil liberty he was. When I hear the likes of Kevin Myers describing Pearse as a proto-fascist, three words, quite frankly that instantly come to mind, are Pot, Kettle and black! All the men and

women of Easter week, at least symbolically sought an Ireland which was inclusive and truly free, it should be acknowledged however, that many of those same men and women were instrumental in building a state which fell well short of the goal. Nevertheless, the Irish state did take a partial step in that direction, in so far as there was a 'caring conservatism' in place. However the Iron fist with which the catholic church ruled the people of Ireland, (and let's face it for a long time, they were the real leaders) blocked the road towards that envisaged, glorious Ireland which would cherish all the children equally.

Essentially, the proclamation was the mission statement of any future Irish state. It was a document which in my view was more important than Bunreacht na hÉireann, historically, though obviously not legally. If this is true and the proclamation of Easter week is a mission statement, then has this mission been achieved?

Surely the answer has to be No! While I would believe Ireland to be one of the more democratic of modern liberal democracies, being one of the best of a bad bunch does not mean a true and fair democracy. Oh Sure, Bertie might take advantage of the fact the rising happened eighty seven years ago and say someting Linconesque like "Four score and seven years ago, Pearse and his comrades went out to fight for an Ireland which cherished all it's citizens, etc etc. But will he really mean a word of it? Three years ago, we had the unique(I'm not sure how many times it has happened) occasion of Easter falling on the exact same date as in 1916. On that Easter, John Carthy, a man reaching out for help from an Irish society, largely deaf to the concerns of those who suffer from depression, was gunned down. Is this what Connolly et al had in mind for Ireland? Cherishing all the children of the nation equally indeed! The growth of capitalism in Ireland, which took a lot longer than in other countries, has shown that we do not need the Brits to oppress us, because in the name of the almighty Euro, we will gladly oppress ourselves. Indeed even those of us who despise capitalism, are sometimes lured into its trap by the very fact that it exists! Idealism is no longer admired in Ireland, because Idealism on the Macro level, doesn't create profit and on the micro, more human level, doesn't pay the bills. To be perfectly blunt I am sick and tired of all this anti-republican crap! Of course you do not have to support either Sinn Féin and the IRA (and it's perfectly natural for people to be repulsed by some of the actions of the IRA, during the troubles) to be a republican, but why is it that we have this constant drum banging about SINN-FÉIN/IRA?

This weekend we experienced a lot of this. At the Ard Fheis of the Repressive, sorry I mean Progressive (lol) Democrats, Mary Harney blathered on about we are sick of reading between the lines, while Michael McDowell, exposed us to the usual PD nonsense about the evils of Marxist-Leninism! I'm sure Gerry and co are quaking in their boots "ooh the PDs are after us!" The PDs know that despite having less seats, Sinn Féin have a higher support base and that the PDs supremacy in terms of Dáil seats, was manufactured artificially, through cute hoorism and electioneering. They want to scare people off SF, but the reality is that only people who already detest the shiners, listen to them anyway. SENATOR Brian Hayes in the one time pro-republican Ireland on Sunday, wrote about the need for the IRA to declare the war was over and spoke of how Sinn Féin were sexy in the eyes of the media now and once the IRA disbanded, "Sinn Féin would be nothing without

the IRA". Ahh poor Brian, perhaps during the writing of this piece he was reflecting on a time, when he was Brian Hayes TD, before losing his seat in Dublin South West, a constituency in which the poll was topped by Seán Crowe a member



Alan Dukes

of... yep you've guessed it, Sinn Féin. On Monday night at a fine gael public meeting here in UL, which was meant to be attended by UUP MLA Steven King, despite having no nationalist representation, (Alan Dukes doesn't count) Alan Dukes spoke of how if the IRA stopped all violence apart from punishment beatings, no matter how repulsive, that those activities shouldn't hinder the setting up of the executive. Am I missing something here? Haven't punishment beatings been the sum total of IRA activities since July 1997? Now while I must confess I found Mr Dukes to be a quite charming man, that was one of the most mind boggling statements I have ever heard about the peace process. Shouldn't our leaders focus more on building an Ireland we and all the brave sons who died in 1916 and later can be proud of, rather than engaging in anti-republican histrionics? All parties, including Sinn Féin, have to try to establish a truly just society on this Island and yes, that includes the six counties that the UK have been keeping warm for us (although they did try to break them a few times)

Best of the Year



Christmas Days in the Stable, Week 11 Semester 1



Clubs & Socs Village, Orientation Week



Fees Demonstration, Week 2 Semester



Fees Protest, Week 3, Semester 1



Irish Peace Society, Week 5 Semester 1



The 35's, Week 7, Semester 1



The Halloween Ball, Week 6 Semester 1



The walk for the Children of Chernobyl, Week 7 Semester 1



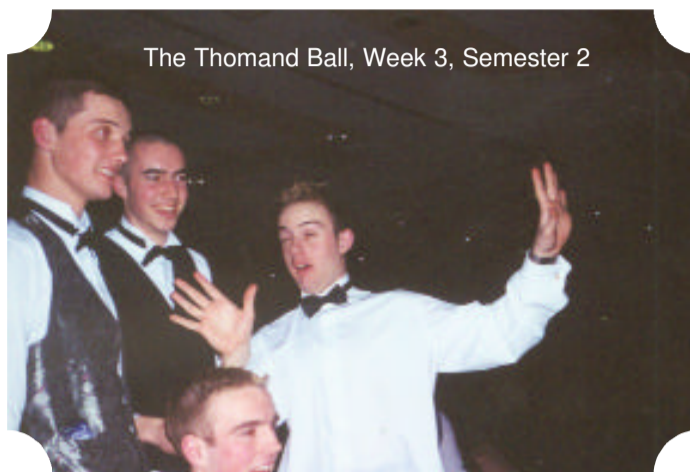
Class Reps Presentation, Week 12 Semester 1

Best of the Year

National Student Race Day, Week 1, Semester 2



The Thomand Ball, Week 3, Semester 2



Drummers in the Courtyard, Week 5 Semester 2



Martial Arts Demonstration, Week 7 Semester 2



Martial Arts Demonstration, Week 7 Semester 2



Rag Week, Week 8 Semester 2



Enjoying the sunshine, Wednesday Week 8



YOUR WEEKLY NIGHT OUT- WEEK 9 & 10

Wednesday Nite @ Docs

ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM STUDENTS' UNION
RECEPTION FROM THE MONDAY OF EACH WEEK @9AM

Thursday Nite @ The MARKET

THE MARKET

U.L. Semester 2

Wednesdays: FREE ENTRY B4 12am

Karaoke in Bar @ 10pm

Thursdays: Official U.L. Party Night

Dance/Chart Main Room

Disco Inferno Upstairs

- Tickets from SU, Buses from 11pm

Fridays: Bump'n'Grind R'n'B/HipHop

Saturdays: Dance/R'n'B/HipHop

Disco Inferno Upstairs

Doors open @ 10pm

Promotions Every Night : Pre-Club Party in McDaid's

Review of the Field

by Donal O'Driscoll

From March 24-29, UL was treated to the spectacle of John B Keane's *The Field*. Nearly a year after his death and some months after the death of Limerick's own Richard Harris, who was so impressive in his portrayal of the bull in the big screen adaptation, it was fitting that Limerick be treated to this literary masterpiece, by one of Ireland's most influential writers.

The thing to be mindful about when watching the play (which is the genuine John B article) is that it is NOT the film, and while the film is of course based on the play, I found that having only seen the film before, I was not prepared for what the real essence of the play was. Even from hearing other people talking after the play, it was clear that many others had also come expecting to see the film on stage and were surprised that they had not. This was by no means a bad thing as both film and stage performances were magnificent in their own way.

Of course in order to do justice to such a great play and a great writer, you have to have a great cast, this Machine theatre group production had this in abundance. The principal actors were everybody's favourite soap couple Biddy and Miley (Mary McEvoy and Mick Lally). Mick Lally was frightening in his portrayal of the Bull McCabe. If there was ever a man you didn't want to meet in a dark alley, the Bull is certainly your man. Lally, so renowned for being the kind, generous, if a bit dithery Miley Byrne,

was stunning is his portrayal of the intimidating Bull McCabe. This is one of the things that amazed me as I must admit in the film, I felt quite an amount of sympathy for the Bull, the Bull depicted by Mick in this production was certainly harder to sympathise with. There were moments of humanity however in the Bull, especially when talking to his son Tadhg before the fight, and at the very end, when he shows a tangible sense of regret. Mary McEvoy was wonderful as Maimie Flanagan, the long suffering wife of Auctioneer and publican, Mick Flanagan. McEvoy was full of humour and fun, especially when fantasising about the young son of Neville the solicitor. However there was a real strength of character in Maimie and it was clear how strong her maternal instincts were when talking to her son Leamy,



Mick Lally in "The Field"

whom she tried to protect throughout the play. Her disdain for the Bull was quite evident but so too was her equal sense of disdain or at least resentment for her husband Mick, with whom she had mothered nine children with another on the way.

Paschal Scott gave a very strong performance as Mick Flanagan, a man who could be very domineering yet at the same time knew where his bread was buttered. Paschal, who some may remember as the Garda Superintendent in Fair city and the Father of the Bride in Bachelor's Walk, among other Television roles, made the role of Mick his own. The way he spoke to his wife was that of a man who was very much a business man first and a husband and father second. His Business sense was also very strong when talking to Mrs Butler about the sale of the field. However when confronted by the Bull, he was very reluctant to defy him. Mick Flanagan had a very difficult balancing act to achieve between his professional duty and his need to keep on the right side of the Bull.

One man who must get a mention here is Brendan Conroy who was breathtaking as the Bird O' Donnell. The Bird was one character who was every bit as enchanting in the play as in the 1990 film version. The chief proponent of comedy in the play, Conroy, who played a similar type of character in the Irish RM and who some long time followers of Ros na Rún may remember, brought down the house with laughter several times during the performance. Bird was a

man who while being seemingly quite simplistic, was no fool. He knew he had to stay loyal to the Bull, as much for his own sake as for any sense of friendship. The bird was a character who had it all, his many chats with Maimie Flanagan, were hilarious, while at the same time, his contribution was essential to the moving on of the plot.

Other good performances came from Luke Hayde, whose portrayal of seargeant Leahy is intense and passionate, creating a character totally different to the quite timid garda played by Malachy McCourt. Garrett Lombard was superb as Tadhg, a character who was again, far stronger emotionally than that played by Seán Bean in the film, who was really tormented inside. Gabrielle Hyland as Mrs Butler, Noel O' Donovan as Dandy McCabe, Sheila Flitton as Mrs McCabe, Michael Patric as William Dee, Gerry Walsh as the Fiery Bishop and Donagh Deeney as Fr Murphy were all fantastic. Special mention has to go to Conor Madden, a Transition year student from Clare, whose performance shows that he will be an actor to be reckoned with in the future.

The special effects were incredible, especially the rain effect done on stage during the fight scene. The cinema presentations done to introduce each scene were also very appealing. All in all, it must be said that the Machine/Liam Rellis Arts presentation, more than did justice to the late great Kerryman, who would be smiling down on them.

Review of the National Symphony Orchestra

by Brendan Curran

Recently, the National Symphony Orchestra came to University Concert Hall as part of the Irish Times tour. The concert took on a Russian theme playing pieces by Prokofiev, Khachaturian and Mussorgsky, which was conducted by Alexander Anissimov and featured violin soloist Sergey Khachatryan. Anissimov, who is the principal guest conductor, or conductor emeritus, of the NSO studied in Leningrad and Moscow. He's no stranger to U.L. having taken on the mammoth task of performing Wagner's epic "Ring Cycle" of four operas with the National Youth Orchestra here last August.

The concert begun with Sergey Prokofiev's Symphony No 1, which is modelled on the works of Joseph Haydn. At first, I'll admit, I didn't know when to clap, because the music would stop at the end of each movement, but nobody would clap. I just followed their lead and I copped on pretty quickly. Boy, would've my face been red if I started clapping on my own. Anyhow, the music continued on to Khachaturian's 'Violin Concerto.' Khachaturian was born 100 years ago this year and wrote the famous Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia, which you'd probably recognise if you heard it, but paper is not the best medium for

trying to get someone to think of a piece of music, as you'd guess. It was time for the violin soloist, Sergey Khachatryan, to come out. Khachatryan is a compatriot of the composer, hailing from Armenia. Khachatryan is an amazing violinist, and it was incredible just to see and hear him play. He played a 40-minute, highly complicated, concerto without looking at a piece of music. Imagine remembering where to put your fingers, how to hold the bow, which direction to pull it, where to come in with the orchestra, all by heart. Now imagine playing it superbly. Now imagine playing it when you're just 17 years of age, because Khachatryan does it all. There was some reaction from the crowd, knowing that what he had done was no mean feat. It wasn't a surprise when I learned that he had one a list of competitions as long as my arm.

After a short interval, it was back to the orchestra on their own to play Modest Mussorgsky 'Pictures at an Exhibition.' The inspiration for this magnificent piece came from a memorial exhibition of paintings and drawings by Mussorgsky's close friend Victor Alexandrovich Hartmann. The piece started with the well-known 'Promenade,' a piece that repeats itself several times in different tempos for different effect. Each movement "paints" a picture that Mussorgsky saw at the

exhibition. The programme had a description of all the different pictures featured, and it is easy to see what Mussorgsky is getting at. The best "picture" in my mind was Catacombae (Sepulchrum Romanum). The original picture was of Hartmann himself inspecting the Catacombs in Paris, and in respect of this, the music was slow, eerie, in fact a very slowed down version of the promenade theme, a fact I wouldn't have even known if I didn't read it. The finale was a fitting end to the evening, a dramatic climax, with all the orchestra joining together with

plenty of banging from the percussion section.

You might think that this sort of music sounds pretty boring on the radio, but live is completely out of this world. You can feel the raw energy around you, and the music entering your body, not just through the ears, but through your feet and legs as well. Talking to someone after the concert he told me that he doesn't usually like that sort of music, but when it's in a live concert, he likes to take a look. People were pretty awe-struck (not in the U.S. shock and awe way) at the NSO's excellent performance on the night. It was also nice to see the musicians smiling away to themselves during the performance, because there aren't many people who can say they love their job. Or get a three-minute standing ovation at the end of the day for that matter. You couldn't call Anissimov wild in his conducting, but he certainly was using a lot of energy confined into decisive movements. A good night was had by all.

Lastly, I'd like to recommend Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, which is on at UCH on 16th April. I can't make it myself, which is a bit of a kick in the teeth, but that's life. You'll recognise it from old Old Spice ads, and it should be an excellent experience.



Anissimov Alexander

Clubs & Societies Events: Week 11

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT/SUN
Aikido Training, PESS, 8:15 - 10:00pm Fianna Fail Meeting Room 4, 6:00 - 7:00	Volleyball Training, Arena 9:00 - 11:00 UL Kickboxing Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building St Vincent De Paul Homework Club St Marys Com Center 3:00 - 4:30 St Vincent De Paul AGM SU4 7:00 St Vincent De Paul Meeting SU3 9:00	Aikido Training, PESS, 7:30 - 9:00pm St Vincent De Paul Homework Club St Marys Com Center 3:00 - 4:30	Volleyball Training, PESS 9:00 - 11:00 Social Dance Club Irish Dancing Kilmurry Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 8:00 UL Kickboxing Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building Ladies Rugby Ladies Intervarsity Annacotty 11am -5pm St Vincent De Paul Homework Club St Marys Com Center 3:00 - 4:30 St Vincent De Paul Swimming Club Arena 4:30		Social Dance Club Gradings Kilmurry Village Hall Beginners 1:30-4:30

Clubs & Societies Events: Week 12

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT/SUN
Aikido Training, PESS, 8:15 - 10:00pm Fianna Fail Meeting Room 4, 6:00 - 7:00	UL Kickboxing Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building	Aikido Training, PESS, 7:30 - 9:00pm	Social Dance Club Irish Dancing Kilmurry Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 8:00 UL Kickboxing Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building Fianna Fail Vist to Dail Eireann All Day		

Social Dance Club Report

by *Giulia Baldisserri*

The UL Social Dance Club continues to celebrate dance.

We recently participated in a Cork's workshop given by Claudio and Veronica Rosario, world renowned professional dancers from Argentina: we then enjoyed a very exciting party night of Tango Argentino to the music of Piantao Latin orchestra. The crack was great.

The Celtic Classic World Ballroom and Latin championships were our next venture. The event was as popular as ever, the hotels in Tralee being booked out for the entire weekend Thursday through Sunday.

We saw some amazing dancing: top world professionals took part and there were seven internationally

recognized adjudicators on the floor at any given time. We plan to compete in some of the events in 2004.

We are now preparing for this year's grading/certification in Dance. This is an internationally recognized award given for the competence and skills attained by our members. The grading will be presided over by Mary Morisini Whelan, a fellow of the Irish Association of Dance Teachers who is held in very high regard both nationally and internationally.

Mary has presided over the grading for the Club in the past and we are proud to say that she had reason to award top marks to our last group of candidates: all were commended or highly commended and two merited a score of one hundred percent.



UL Social Dance Club

This prestigious occasion will be followed by our Gala Night where the certificates of those who took part in the grading will be handed out and we will all let our hair down and celebrate the conclusion of a very successful year.

You can find us every Thursday at Killmury Village Hall from 7pm; dances include, in Ballroom,

Slow Waltz, Foxtrot and Quickstep and in Latin Jive Samba Cha Cha Cha and the latest craze, Tango Argentino. Some Formation Dancing is also taught. Membership for 2002/2003 is full but look out for our stand in week one of next semester.

If you want to meet new people, have fun and get some great exercise join our friendly group! No partner required, though desirable. For further information please contact socialdance@ul.ie or visit our web page at www.ul.ie/socialdanceclub.

Rowing Club Report

by *Ronan Ivers*

It's been a busy time for the Rowing Club. Our recent trip to Castlewellan for the University Championships of Ireland and Queens Regatta's, coupled with the triumphant passing of the boathouse referendum saw the greatest occasion in the clubs history transpire this past week.

The successful referendum on the boathouse ensures that within 3 years, the Rowing Club, Kayak Club, Sub-Aqua Club and Mountain Bike Club will have a multi-million Euro boathouse to call their own! On behalf of all the clubs associated with this great cause, we would like to thank all those people that voted (Over 3 thousand of you!) on Wednesday. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Colin Byrne
Daire Cronin
Ronan Ivers
Paddy Quinn
The Students of U.L!

As mention earlier, we had successful outings on the 11th and 12th of April, on the 6-lane, 1500m

course at Castlewellan. Our Varsity men once again impressed with 3 victories in total: Novice Men's 8+ (stroked by Conal Horgan) and 4+ (stroked by Conal Horgan for the Varsities and Ronan Higgins for Queens), beating crews from Trinity, Galway, Belfast, UCD and Cork with ease.

Moreover, our scullers (Rory O'Donoghue and Cathal "The Legend" Moinahan) impressed once again. Ronan Egan of ULRC won the sculls category last year and the Club was eager to see the title stay in Limerick. With first and second positions respectively and a victory for both in the doubles race in the Varsities, we are needless to say very proud of their accomplishments and look forward to seeing more friendly competition between these two.

Furthermore, our novice crew once again represented admirably. An easy second place in the invitational fours and a narrow defeat in their heat in the highly competitive 8+ proved yet again that this crew is improving rapidly and will no doubt be a force to be reckoned with during the regatta season.

The women's crew who were in

action on the Liffey the previous weekend and gained valuable racing experience to prepare them for these Intervarsities were unfortunately beaten to 3rd due to strong competition from UCC and NUI Galway. Both scullers, Kasey O'Shea and Noreen Stokes competed in the novice sculls, however only Noreen made it through to the final as Kasey picked up an injury.

It is sometimes too easy to forget the coxes contribution to the crew.

Although, most resemble midgets, there is no doubt that they play a mammoth and crucial role in the performance of our crews, so a big thank you is owed Grainne Varin, Pa Meskell and Mary Liddane.

We also like to take this opportunity to thank The Lodge Niteclub for hosting the recent 'Rowing Club Night' to celebrate our recent victories both on and off the water...long may it continue.



The UL Mens Team

you could be here
half an hour after
leaving work

Club
Sailing

Coastal
Cruises

Beginners
&
Advanced
Courses

Staff
Alumni
Research
Postgraduates

University of Limerick
Staff Sailing Club

Sailing for 2003
commences this month.

First beginners course
starts April 15th

Visit our web site at

Rugby Club Report

by Caroline Mahon

Ladies Trip to France - Planes, Trains and Automobiles

The title of this article sums up the exploits of the ladies trip to France for the International colleges 7's competition very well. In fact you could also add in taxis, buses and, naturally, by foot. One could also title the article, "Unbeaten in France" or "We are the Champions of Europe" but we're a modest group and we wouldn't do that. The planning of the trip was ongoing for a number of weeks before the trip but all arrangements went out the window when the baggage handlers in France decided to go on a one-day strike on the very day of our flight. Trip cancelled, or so I thought. Some resourceful work by Dee O'Brien on the Internet and the phone, Róisín Mc Nulty and Emma Stanley in USIT and Sinéad Glackin in the SU office meant that the trip was back on. Twelve of us left Limerick at lunchtime in cars, collected Kate Canty in Portlaoise, barely made our flight, which was delayed (Thank God) and arrived in Brussels later on in the evening of Thursday the 3rd of April. From there we had to get to Paris. With only one train left to leave that day, we got taxis to the train station and grabbed the train to Paris, still not knowing how we'd get from Paris to Beauvais (the venue for the sevens competition). Fiona Coghlan (who didn't travel) got in contact with the organiser and told her of our adventure and she agreed to collect us at the train station. So eventually we arrived in our accommodation (a gym, sharing with approx. ten other teams) at 2am in the morning. The next day began at 7:30am with registration; breakfast (i.e. bread) and then we proceeded to the main attraction - rugby. On Friday, we played three games. Sevens games are short (7 minutes a half) but are fast games and tackles have to count so for each game under the instruction of "Mammy" (Caroline Mahon) the thirteen of us warmed-up well before each game and cooled down afterwards. In the first game we scored three tries and conceded one. That one try became the only try that we conceded in the whole competition. Expectations were not high for UL to win the competition but following the first day of rugby, we became hot favourites. Even our coach (who also couldn't travel due to other commitments) was confident that the experience would be good for the 10 freshers who travelled and a great learning experience. It was such a pity that he was not there to witness the display of rugby by two experienced players and eleven

players who barely have 6 months rugby playing experience. No one in France could believe that our out-half, Carol Dunning had barely played for a month and a half and that our tri-scoring full back, Mairéad Kelly, first picked up a rugby ball in October. Her over the head try will be remembered and so will Carols runs through the defence. Those innocent spectators, who witnessed a flying French girl come their direction, will remember Deirdre O'Briens Frisbee tackle. Eilish Mc Nulty put her judo skills to good use by getting very low to tackle and actually throwing the players over her head. Her sister, Róisín, won't live down being the most sunburnt on the way home. Her face wasn't quite as embarrassing as walking around with cotton wool stuffed up your nose - Sinéad Glackin. Kathleen Finn will be remembered for trying to remember everything and not lose stuff, which includes Orla King in a maul at the concert. Laura Real defied her coach i.e. Mammy by staying on the pitch after getting injured and then to rub Mammy's nose in it, she scored a try. The baby of the group, Fiona Mc Sherry put her football skills into play by proceeding to clear up any high balls when on the pitch and still be able to be on the wing to score a try a while later. Following a storming performance in the final game when UL defeated Nantes, we were lucky to come home with Kate Canty who was being nabbed by a French coach from Rennes for a scholarship. Thanks for deciding to come home with us Kate. The UL team had a brilliant experience while winning the competition. We also learned a lesson about sportsmanship from the French when the three runners up teams made a circle around us after we received the cup and made an effort to join in with our rendition of "Ireland's Call".

UL Freshers defeat closest rivals

The UL Freshers rugby side finished their season with an excellent 19-0 victory over the Auld Enemy LIT on a sandy Fitzgerald Park on the 8th of April. Although officially a Freshers fixture, the rules were bent a little in the match to allow some players slightly above the Fresher age group to play as neither team had a hope of advancing to the O'Boyle Cup final which was fought out on Thursday the 9th of April in Dublin. UL benefited from this greatly with the inclusion of out-half and captain Tony Hall in its ranks. Tony, a sprightly 9th year, ran the cutter superbly with a number of slashing runs and well placed kicks. He topped off the fine performance with a run away try under the sticks in the final minute of the game. Jubilant hooker Paul McCarthy who banged over an ugly yet effective conversion to much mirth from his



UL Bohs in action

teammates added the extras. It was definitely a case of saving their best for last for the UL side who's dedicated forward pack gelled brilliantly to produce a solid platform for the backs to work their magic with. Everyone up front contributed to the sterling effort, none more so than second rower Steve Roicroft who put on a powerhouse display which was rewarded with a super try 5 minutes after the half time. His partner Dave O'Shea continued his progress this season with a solid game in the tight while the back row of Dave Hare, Kevin Dinan and N0. 8 Gary O'Driscoll were rampant for the full 80, cutting down opposition backs and turning over possession for UL at will. O'Driscoll showed typical heart, continually taking it to the opposition, despite a shoulder injury in the first minute of the game. UL's best player though was scrumhalf Ben Hale who made acres of ground with his dynamic runs from the base of the scrum and maul, setting up his captain outside him superbly all day. Inside centre Mark Adams was another top performer on both attack and defence despite playing out of position -- he's normally a prop. Fullback Dave Harnett had his best game of the season, as did winger Mark McQuaid. The front row of John McVinue, McCarthy and Billy Mulcahy ensured the scrum never went backwards while left wing Donagh O'Sullivan and outside centre Stephen Roaches had some fine moments. Stephen Shallow and David Gallagher both made impact when they came on at second row and full back respectively midway through the second half.

All and all a performance out of the top drawer from a UL side that makes up for in spirit what it lacks in experience.

Congratulations

Congratulations to UL boys Breffni O'Donnell, Ronan Loughney and Frankie Leonard on the Irish U-19 squad for the World Cup which is being currently played in France. (Pictured below) Also a word of congrats must go to the all the UL girls past and present who competed in the AIL Division 1 final last Sunday in Nenagh. UL Bohs. won the game after extra time against near rivals Shannon. The final score was UL Bohs. 13, Shannon 3. UL Captain, Lynne Cantwell got two tries in second half of extra time to seal the game for UL Bohs.

Good Luck

Best wishes to the Ladies team who will be competing in the Intervarsity to be hosted in UL on Thursday the 24th of April. It promises to be a great occasion and hopefully the team will win another consecutive varsity win. After the disappointment in the league the girls will surely want to get vengeance.



Breffni O'Donnell, Ronan Loughnye and Frankie Lenard

OPC End of Year Report

by Jennifer Ryan

Let's face it you don't get much for your Euro these days. Yet somehow I managed to buy myself a whole new set of friends and experiences when I parted with my five quid back in September. Having attended NUI Galway last year for a brief (very) period I felt I had sufficient experience to survive making it through the main canteen without being robbed by clubs and societies. Naturally I was wrong. I joined two clubs, hockey, which I'd played for years and the Outdoor Pursuits Club. I did hesitate though when I was told to join the OPC would set me back 5 quid. For 5 quid I expected to be carried up Mt. Everest, I questioned the girl behind the stand as to what exactly the club had to offer me, after all I could have joined 5 other clubs for that price. Eventually I realised I was making the girl uncomfortable so I lost the run of myself and handed over the cash. Which in retrospect was probably the most productive thing I did all year.



Mt Brandon

I had a little experience of hill walking and rock climbing before joining the club and became intimidated listening to others talk about all the stuff they'd done. However all was well when that same week I went on my first trip with the club, we ventured to the Burren. Some went rock climbing, most hill-walking and a few caving. I opted for the hill walking and had great craic with the crowd in that group. (The walk wasn't bad either). By the time I got home that night I was shattered but definitely hooked.

Over the next few weeks I became more involved in the club and gladly took a place on the committee when it was offered to me (o how naïve). Trips included the Knockmealdowns, Mt. Brandon, the Galtees, Carrauntuohil along with caving and rock-climbing in the Burren. The more trips I went on the more people I met and the more people I met the more trips I went on, so things worked out good. A very-merry Christmas indeed was had by all who attended our festive weekend trip to Doolin. We managed to get in a Christmas dinner, some caving, rock-climbing and even a spot of night golf! The January holidays saw a group from the club head off to Snowden in Wales for a week of mountaineering in snow and ice. By the time you read this 8 of us will have represented UL in the national student-caving forum. Caving is amazing; everybody should at least try it once!

The big news in the club this year was the Aconcaagua Expedition that saw 7 lads push themselves to the limits to conquer the highest peak of the Western Hemisphere. For those



The OPC in Aconcaagua

of you who haven't heard about the expedition, it was a roaring success, with 4 of the 7 lads reaching the 6,962m summit. A big congrats to all involved, in particular to Frank Cox who worked tirelessly to achieve what had started out as a dream. The award for Best Event acknowledged this achievement at the Clubs & Socs Ball. It is true we are going from strenght to strenght. Next year we

plan to expand our boundaries even more and get orienteering up and running in the club. So come next September if you find yourself confused by the extensive choice of clubs, give the OPC a shot, and if you are unhappy by the end of the year we will give you your \$5 back*. Anything is possible in the Outdoor Pursuits Club.



UL Outdoor Pursuits Club
*Rockclimbing, Hillwalking,
 Mountaineering and Caving*

website at <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~opc/>
 email opc@csn.ul.ie

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!!
 VISIT THE CLIMBING WALL IN THE OLD SPORTS BUILDING
 OPENING HOURS: MON, TUE & THUR 7-10PM

Racing Society Trip to Cheltenham

by Julie-Anne Hannon

The 26 lucky punters in the Cheltenham group had an early start on Wednesday 12th March leaving at 2am from the stables. Reaching Dublin, we checked in at the airport at 5.30am and departed for Bristol on the 6.55am flight. After checking into the hostel in Bristol, breakfast was in order before the race goers took the train for the Queen Mother Chase day in Cheltenham. Moscow Flyer and Libermann were in top form on the day and did us Irish proud by winning their races. All had a good day's punting. While some of the group decided to make a night of it in Bristol, the 21 Club in Cheltenham was top of the list for many of the others. It was the early hours of Thursday morning before a bed was seen.

Bright and early Thursday morning after a full English breakfast, there was a serious buzz around for the big



Ruth Cassidy, Tony McCoy & Julie Anne Hannon at Cheltenham

one, Gold Cup Day in Cheltenham. On arriving at the racecourse, the place was thronged as early as an hour before the first race. Beef or Salmon was the Irish hopeful for the

day, but much to our dismay he hit the deck along with a few others in what is one of the toughest annual races in England.

Disconcerting as it was, we didn't let it dampen our spirits and continued our holiday in true Irish Style. Some of us were lucky enough to bump into top jockeys such as Norman Williamson, Ruby Walsh and Tony McCoy. A night on the tiles was enjoyed both in Cheltenham and in Bristol, and all on Friday had a well-earned rest. The group flew home on Friday evening and landed in Dublin with perhaps not as much energy as at the beginning of the journey, but in great spirits. It was a serious week and without a doubt, the racing society will keep the flag flying for Cheltenham 2004.

Softball Intervarsity

by Anthony Kirpatrick

The weekend of the 5th and 6th of April witnessed the University of Limerick Softball Club host the annual Intervarsity tournament for the first time in its illustrious history. In a sport largely recognised for growing in popularity throughout both Ireland and the world, mainly due to being a hugely enjoyable co-ed game, the Intervarsity tournament continues to be a success every year.

The increase in popularity of the sport was fully demonstrated when the fixtures were compiled for this event, as our own U.L squad was large enough to contain two extremely strong squads. This seemed to have shown up our U.C.D counterparts, who appeared to have their one and only team drafted in from the elite Pawtucket league in the states!! First baseman Emmett Byrne rapidly placed a player from the defending champions on the disabled list with a broken finger however: with an 'accidentally' misplaced throw prior to a semi-final clash, breaking the player's finger, and thus providing the much needed fear of god in the team from the capital. Advantage U.L!!

Waterford I.T also made the journey through the province to participate in the tournament. Having drawn with us one game apiece last semester in a friendly, the confidence was excessively over elaborating on their part: Nothing a 'minor' water fight couldn't solve!!

The duration of Saturday was consumed by a double round robin group stage, involving each of the four teams. The weather over the entire weekend was absolutely fantastic, and although it was a tad damp in the mornings due to the fog, conditions were immaculate for softball.

Three great memories left with us on the Saturday. The first was the game between U.L (2) and Waterford I.T. This was the first game of the tournament: nerves were high and expectations were running wild. U.L (2) displayed a magnificent

performance, not only defeating Waterford I.T 9-0, but also managed to produce a perfect game from pitcher John 'the Fluffer' Babyface Panda, with no earned runs to his name (and his numerous nicknames also!!). All credit to Waterford though, in the return game that afternoon, they ran U.L (2) extraordinarily close. When they didn't get their way though, the water started to fly!!

The second great memory from the first day of play was a game once again involving U.L (2), this time against defending champions U.C.D. After receiving a defeat in the morning game at the hands of our Dublin rivals despite a late rally, revenge was on our minds more than the threat of receiving hypothermia due to the severe soaking Waterford I.T brutally carried out on certain members of our team!! Within the first two innings of the U.C.D game, the bullying from Waterford had obviously reached Fluffer, who was finding it difficult to pitch the ball to the correct side of the player!! Eventually though, we settled down to our game plan. A late rally almost stole a deserved victory for us in the match, but the all-star U.C.D players proved increasingly stubborn when at bat, running out 17-16 winners in a heartbreaking finish for the Limerick team.

At this point of the day, it appeared that U.L (1), who had beaten everyone and lost once to the defending champions, were on their way to achieving victory in the group. It was our job as U.L (2) to prevent this from happening in the concluding game of the day!!

The first three innings of the game saw the group leaders take the narrowest of leading margins. U.L (2) rallied back into contention, when the third great memory from the day visited us: Every male player running from the field in pursuit of thieves who had taken a fancy to our softball bats!!

A swarm of blue shirts ran towards Elm Park, regardless of fatigue and injury. It was our moment of feeling like the boys from the A-Team: except our posse was fifty times that of the TV heroes!! Eventually one of



UL B Team

the culprits was caught, and our equipment rescued. We all arrived back to the pitch with a rapturous and heroic reception. Pity our U.L (2) team had to forfeit the game though! Now we'll never know whom really is the better team representing the University at softball!!

Sunday: the decisive day. The winners of the two semi-finals were to play in the afternoon cup final; the losers were to play for pride in the plate final.

U.L (1) ran riot in their particular semi-final against Waterford I.T. Despite a rather brief scare at the beginning, they ran out comfortable winners, courtesy of valiant pitching from Kristen, and remarkable fielding from the foul ball king Connell Dempsey. They awaited either U.C.D or U.L (2) in the cup final.

A double revenge was in mind in the semi-final versus U.C.D. Being run so close and losing 17-16 on the Saturday certainly annoyed the other team members and I on U.L (2), but unfortunately, we were quite simply outclassed on Sunday by the 2002 champions. Their experience and fantastic fielding put us out of the cup on the day: deserved winners really in my mind.

And so onto the finals!! The plate final was a rather relaxed affair up until the final inning of game two. The Waterford girls thought it appropriate to confiscate our entire water supply and drench us in it. These bully tactics took us off our stride, losing game one by just one run. In game two however, U.L (2) needed to win by two runs to lift the plate and gain a triumphant, respectable victory over Waterford. It went down to a tense and agonising final inning. But, courtesy once again of Fluffer's exquisite pitching, and some no-nonsense fielding, we were victorious by the narrowest of margins. We now consider the plate our stepping stone to the cup next year, and perhaps a world series the year after!!

The cup final was also an extremely tense and nail-biting affair. The lead changed hands several times over the two aggregately scored games. Kristen, the U.L (1) pitcher, kept her cool in the final inning to close out the

champions, thus leaving it up to the foul ball king Connell and company to finish the job at bat: and that they most certainly did. Connell ironically scored the famous winning run with his now trademark superman dive over home plate. But for the record, he's still to be known as the foul ball king, not superman!!

On a serious note though, it was an extraordinary team performance by U.L (1) to win the game, thus making them Intervarsity champions for the year 2003. Congratulations to everyone on the victorious team, and to everyone else who took part over the weekend.

A big thank-you must be conveyed to the entire softball committee for organising a fantastic weekend. The weather was brilliant, the new people we had the privilege of meeting and playing also wonderful: an incredibly enjoyable weekend out!!

The University of Limerick Softball Club practices every Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 2 and 3:30, and also on Tuesday evenings at 6:00. Any interested parties would be invited to check out the website on www.csn.ul.ie/~softball



UL A versus UL B

Kayak Club End Of Year Report

by Seona Dillon McLoughlin

What better way is there to spend weekends other than ripping it up in the Atlantic Ocean on one of the many beaches the West coast of Ireland has to offer? ULKC members have surf fever at the moment. Every weekend an entourage of cars, loaded with kayaks, gear and surf-crazed paddlers search for the best surf along the coast. The most popular spots being Lahinch, Spanish Point and Dougmore.

The hype for the weekend usually begins to show on the message board of our website on Thursday and by Friday afternoon the plan is finalized. Two weekends ago we were out at Spanish Point. We arrived quite late in the afternoon but that wasn't stopping any of us. As usual the more experienced paddlers wasted no time and got straight in the water. Spins, flat spins, cutting and carving could be seen from every corner of the beach. The less experienced paddlers like myself dawdled on the beach looking in apprehension at the size of the waves until guys like Homer and Graeme persisted in us getting on the water! Taking on the smaller waves, our confidence grew and we too caught the surf fever.

Last weekend we graced Dougmore beach with our presence. To make the most of the day we all left the store by 10.00 Saturday morning. On arrival we were greeted with the sight of about 20 surfboarders all getting ready to get on the water. However this didn't put us off and we too got ready to hit the surf. We didn't see sight or sound of some of our paddlers on the shore, as they were too busy ripping it up outside. Homer, bored with surfing with paddles decided to do some handsurfing! Seemingly, no problem to him though! The biggest story of the day was that Loraine rolled for the first time in "non-pool water" as she put it! Nobody witnessed it the first time,



Surfing the Waves with UL Kayak Club

however she managed to show us her rolling skills several times even after getting completely milled by nasty, dumping waves. Well-done Loraine!! No longer can you be classified as a beginner! After a few hours on the water, we all began to get cold. We had some food and many of us chickened out and got changed, while the more enthusiastic people stayed out. Eventually darkness got the better of us and we decided to hit the road satisfied after an eventful days surfing. After my experience of surfing the waves on the West coast of Ireland I definitely can't imagine what better way to spend a weekend!

Safety has always been an important issue within the club. Two weekends ago a Rescue, Emergency, Care course was organised. 12 people participated in it. It was a two day course which involved a basic first aid course and also dealt with rescue scenarios with an emphasis on kayaking rescue situations. This was a really informative and more importantly practical course. Prove of this was when, on the day the course finished, a group of us traveling back from Spanish Point came across a nasty car accident. Due to the



The UL Kayak Club in the Alps

the pool sessions at night. With all this special training they'll all be prepared for a mad two-week trip with plenty of hair-raising stories to tell!

All members of the ULKC would like to thank all the students of UL who voted yes in the boathouse referendum. We apologise for harassing you all day Wednesday! At the end of the day each and every one of your votes helped us to secure funding for the construction of a boathouse. A special thanks to Daire and Jenny for all the hard work they put in behind the scenes. A huge thanks to Paddy Quinn, who put in an incredible amount of work for the campaign. Thanks also to Paddy Buckley, Paddy McHugh and Paul Lee and not forgetting the other members of the Kayak club, Rowing club, Mountain bike club and the Sub-aqua club who all contributed to ensure a success. I know I've forgotten to mention a lot of people but you know who you are and so, thank you! This project will have such far-reaching effects that we can only begin to imagine, so well done and congratulations too all who were involved in the campaign.

brilliant training we had just received we brought the situation under control until medical services arrived. This showed us how vital having first aid actually is. On the issue of training courses in two weeks time a level 2 instructor course is being run which will give members a chance to upgrade their certificates as well as learning to teach people the basis of kayaking.

On the 26th and 27th of April a canoe polo competition is being held in the Sports Arena. Teams from Dublin and Cork are entering it. ULKC have 2 teams entering in division 2 and division 3. This is the first competition held in the Arena where teams from all over the county can compete in so it should be a really entertaining weekend. If you want to come down and support us you are more than welcome to!

After all our hard work during the campaign ULKC have decided to organize the greatest table quiz ever held in UL. This won't be any normal, boring table quiz, us kayakers will bring mayhem and madness into the quiz. Teams of 4 at 20euro a team means its only 5euro per person. This will be a night you do not want to miss so come along with all you friends to the Scholars function room at 7.30 Wednesday wk 11!

University of Limerick Kayak Club



Pool Sessions:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10-11 in the University Arena.

or visit
<http://kayak.csn.ul.ie>

As a result of the success of two previous Alps trips a club trip is being organized this summer to the Alps again. 12 members are going including 4 first years so the stories they'll have to tell on return should be interesting! The group is leaving on June 2nd and they will be braving the wild waters of the Alps for two whole weeks. Special training is taking place for the less experienced members who are going. This involves safety and river running training on the Shannon in the evenings and expert instructing at

On a sad note I would like to say goodbye to the 4th years of the club who will be leaving us at the end of the year. It was you who helped bring the club to where it is today. The club wants to thank the old committee for all the work they put in the past year. The new committee have a lot to live up to! Best of luck in whatever path life takes you. We'll all miss you and we hope you will stay within the circle of our club for the years that follow.

Biography of James Connolly - Labour Youth

by *Manus Bree*

James Connolly was one of the greatest political thinkers to emerge in the early twentieth century. He was a soldier, labourer, cobbler, journalist, trade union leader and organiser, committed socialist, republican and patriot, intellectual, historian, and military tactician. He was a devoted husband and father to his wife and their six children. With the support of his wife he worked unceasingly in the struggle for national freedom, socialism, and international working-class solidarity, despite the poor circumstances in which he and his family lived in the typical working-class conditions of that time.

Connolly was a man who lived his life according to the dictum of Karl Marx: "The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point, however, is to change it." He set about trying to change the world for the betterment of the working class and the peoples enslaved by imperialist power. Connolly wrote pamphlets, articles, plays, poems, and songs. He was an accomplished public speaker and went on lecture tours in Scotland, England, and the United States, a reflection of the esteem in which he was held in the international labour

movement.

Connolly was born in Edinburgh in 1868 of an Irish Catholic working class family. At ten years of age he left school and got a job with a newspaper cleaning inky rollers and fetching beer and food for the adult workers. Aged 14, he joined the British Army in which he was to remain for nearly seven years, all of it in Ireland, where he witnessed first hand the terrible treatment of the Irish people at the hands of the British.

Having being politically active in Scotland with the Independent Labour Party, Connolly was offered a job in Ireland as paid organiser of the Dublin Socialist Club. By 1898 he co-founded and became secretary of the Irish Socialist Republican Party and while establishing Ireland's first socialist paper the *Workers' Republic*. In 1903 Connolly took his family to America to live, where he was a founder member of the Irish Socialist Federation while in 1908 he was appointed the organiser for the International Workers of the World (the Wobblies) and between 1908 and 1909, he spent his time trying to expand support for all socialist groups in America.

Connolly returned to Ireland in 1910 and became Ulster organiser of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union which was headed by James Larkin. In 1912 Connolly successfully moved the resolution at the Irish Trades Union Congress calling for the establishment of an Irish Labour Party, which he co-founded in 1912 in Clonmel with James Larkin and William O'Brien.

Connolly left Belfast for Dublin to help Larkin in the epic struggle that had begun when the Dublin bosses locked out thousands of union members in an attempt to break the ITGWU. After a banned meeting in Dublin where he addressed hundreds of workers he was arrested and was given a three-month prison sentence. That night the police baton-charged Dublin workers who

were congregated around Liberty Hall, head office of the ITGWU. Hundreds were injured, and two young workers were killed. Within 3 weeks over 25,000 workers were locked out and families of these men, numbering up to 100,000, faced starvation. While in jail he went on hunger strike, the first Irish political prisoner to use the hunger strike as a weapon of protest. After a week he was released.

The Dublin lock-out which lasted 8 months was one of the greatest industrial struggles in western Europe. It proved the point that working people gain little, and hold on to little, unless they fight for their rights. The brutality of the police towards the workers led to the founding of the Irish Citizen Army of which Connolly was commandant.



James Connolly

On Monday 24 April 1916 the Irish Citizen Army, Irish Volunteers and Cumann na mBan marched out to challenge the might of the British empire commencing a turning point in Irish history, 'The 1916 Easter Rising'. Connolly was one of the 7 signatories of the 1916 proclamation and was commandant-general in Dublin leading the assault on the General Post Office during Easter week, where he was severely wounded. Following his arrest and court martial, he was taken by ambulance from Dublin Castle to Kilmainham Jail, where he was carried on a stretcher into the prison yard, strapped to a chair and executed by firing squad on May 12th 1916. This man who played a significant role in changing the course of Irish history in the twentieth century wrote one month before his execution:

"The cause of Labour is the cause of Ireland; the cause of Ireland is the cause of Labour. They cannot be severed." For socialists today the struggles that Connolly fought are still with us nearly 90 years later. We still continue to fight against imperialism, inequality, poverty and to bring about justice, liberty and democracy. This week 87 years ago James Connolly died to free Irish people from British imperialism and the Irish working class from poverty and deprivation.

Labour Youth will be celebrating his life by walking the route originally taken by James Connolly and the ICA from Liberty Hall to the GPO, while on May 1st we will be holding a number of events on campus to celebrate International Workers Day and the struggles the Labour Movement have endured to bring about rights and conditions we take for granted today and to show solidarity with workers in less fortunate corners of the world where their struggle continues.

Irish Peace Society

by *Marijke Keet*

On invitation by the Irish Peace Society, the Pakistani Ambassador, Her Excellency Mrs Rifat Iqbal, held an interesting presentation on the role of Pakistan in deterring terrorism on 11 April, with a lively discussion with the large student body who attended on this sunny Friday afternoon. Mrs. Iqbal accentuated two different aspects of terrorism: first, in a worldwide context and the Pakistani contribution on the 'war on terrorism', and the second part was focussed on the protracted conflict in Kashmir.

A problem in general when talking about 'terrorism', is its flimsy definition: concepts of terrorism are not only widely used for political ends, subject to one's own definition accordingly, but even academics cannot agree on what constitutes terrorism. Iqbal refers to terrorism as "senseless acts of violence", where the idea of 'senseless' is subject to one's own definition. A similar problem arises with 'innocent victims': can a person be truly innocent, or are there different

degrees of culpability? Another aspect she stressed is the present link, expressed by certain politicians and media, between terrorism and religion, Islam in particular, as a clash of civilizations; this interpretation is wholly incorrect. In, say, the 1980s, it was commonplace to link terrorism to the Red Network (i.e. Russia being behind all terrorism). Who knows, maybe in 10-15 years people look back on these times as 'ah, yes, the subjective interpretation in that era of terrorism was to link it to religion'.

Notwithstanding definitions, Iqbal identified the root causes of terrorism as "deprivation, denying people their basic rights, oppression, sense of despair and foreign occupation", which will need to be addressed to combat terrorism. Parallel to these long-term goals, it is an imperative to "eliminate the terrorist menace" and to "win the war against terrorists" on a short term basis. Pakistan was suffering from retaliation by Al-Qa'ida before 9/11 (which she linked to the 2 million Afghan refugees residing in the country) and with extra resources offered by the US afterwards, Pakistan, having 7000 troops deployed for this purpose, has

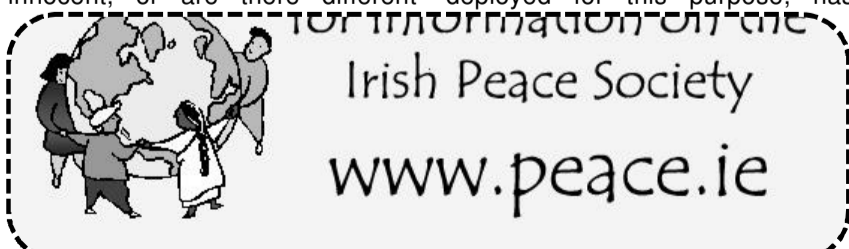
captured 420 Al-Qa'ida members.



Kashmir

The second tier of the presentation was about the Kashmiri region, as "the root cause between Pakistan and India", where Iqbal made a clear distinction between terrorism and freedom fighters: Pakistan denounces terrorism, but does provide political and moral support for the Kashmiri struggle and places an emphasis on the requirement to implement existing UN resolutions related to the conflict, which has not happened as of yet, as well as the wider UN resolution (General Assembly Resolution 3103) on the right to self-determination and independence, which is, from the perspective of Pakistan, applicable to the Kashmiri struggle.

Overall, it was an honour to have hosted her Excellency's first visit to UL and it was a stimulating presentation with an equally interesting questions and answer session afterwards.



Equestrian Club Report

by Patricia O'Neill

The Equestrian Club is pleased to announce that the club is back on track once again. With the committee members settling into their new roles and a new constitution drawn up regarding the running of the club, we were ready to rock UL once more!

After much turbulence and frantic organising, the first UL equestrian club Beginner's Day finally came into being. A gloriously sunny day dawned on Wednesday of week 5, perfect encouragement for all the new aspiring riders! We gathered at the east gate at 3pm, and a general feeling of excitement and expectancy prevailed. In fact, everything was going extremely well.....except for the small and trifling detail that the bus was missing. Hmmmm. It turned out that our driver was suddenly unable to make it, so, with the hardworking PRO on the verge of stroke, another driver had to be recruited - within ten minutes. In our desperation and panic we considered begging

Gan Ainm

by Aodhán Ó Domhnaill

Its been a great year for Gan Ainm, the best new society on campus, and its not over yet! Since our foundation back in October weve been very busy have had a lot of success also so this is our chance to say thanks to everybody who helped us during the year.

First off we would like to thank our main sponsors, Donal and all at the Sports bar. The sessions there were a great success all year and hopefully they will be back next year.

Also we would like to thank Paul Lee and all in the Clubs and Socs office for all their help during the year.

Micheál Ó'Suilleabháin is our Honorary President as you know so we would like to thank him and all at the I.W.M.C. for their help and support during the year. Actually the national radio programme Ceilí House was in the I.W.M.C. on Tuesday last on which Gan Ainm members performed and well done to all involved!

The Committee were very busy this year and have done a great job all year, so thanks to all involved. A special word of thanks also to Aislinn Gigliardi who wrote our previous article, but I think that a different name was listed so an apology as well!

Gan Ainm have plans for all of the summer too. Plans include trips to the Fleadh Nua in Ennis, Provincial Fleadhs, Drumshambo Festival, Glencoulbkille Fiddle week, Blas Summer School, Ballyshannon Folk Festival and of course the All-Ireland Fleadh, at which trad soc will be performing on the gig rig, a great honour for the society or indeed any musician in the traditional arena.

Well we will see you all next year, so here's wishing yis all a good summer, study hard and don't forget to strike up a tune when you get the chance!

Paul Lee to drive us (we were hoping to bribe him with the irresistible offer of a free ride on a horse). However, Paul was able to stay comfortably ensconced in his office for the rest of the day (much to his relief) as the PRO's marvellous negotiating skills won through once more when she managed to persuade a (professional!!) bus-driver to drive us out to the promised land of Adare.

So, we were finally on our way! and we arrived at Clonshire Equestrian Centre on time. The staff there were wonderful, assisting us in getting people up on horses and getting the lesson well and truly under way. Besides some slight misunderstandings -

Instructor: "Forward to trot!"

Beginner: "Forward to where??"

(the hard-core equestrian people among you will get that one) everything went swimmingly, with the new riders showing surprising amounts of confidence and skill.

All in all, apart from the chairperson losing pounds as she ran frantically from place to place, and our unfortunate PRO spending a small fortune on tobacco and being up to her ankles in cigarette butts, the day passed off extremely well, to the happiness of all concerned. We gathered in the stables afterwards for a friendly chat, with one of the riders generously treating the committee members to drinks as a show of appreciation for



The UL Equestrian Club Showjumping

our efforts (thanks Anna!!).

Subsequent Beginner's Days have gone from strength to strength, with the riders returning each week proving eager for more!

There is a darker side to this bright equine picture however. In stark contrast to the success of the Beginner's Days was the less than enthusiastic response from our more seasoned riders to the riding lessons. This scenario reached an all-time low during Kollege Week when not a single rider turned up. While the committee were expecting low numbers due to the club's No Alcohol Consumption Three Hours Prior To Being Around Horses policy (yes, it's quite a mouthful, isn't it), we were not expecting such a dismal turnout. The time had come when we knew we had to do something drastic, and this decision manifested itself in the change of riding schools. Much as we regretted leaving behind Adare Manor's fantastic horses and quality instruction, we also realised that we could not expect the destitute and (cough cough) diligent UL student to pay €15 per lesson, so instead we decided to go seven miles in the opposite direction to Clonlara Equestrian Centre, for only two thirds



UL Equestrian Club Beginners Day

the price. (For those of you bad at maths, that's €10). The first lesson took place on Monday of week 10, and this time a full complement of riders turned up. Yippee! The day went extremely well, with our gamble paying off as those at Clonlara proved that they too could provide top-class horses and instruction. Hopefully, the lessons, like the Beginner's Days, will go from strength to strength from now on.

With the Stables Club and Sports Bar sympathetic to the fact that riding is hungry work, they have kindly agreed to sponsor us with food after our events, so now €10 not only gets you a new and novel experience, but lunch as well! With all these temptations, who will be able to resist the fatal charms of the Equestrian Club?? (mwa hahaha)

Anyway...nowadays sees us busy planning for next semester's activities, with a special emphasis on Greek Week. We hope to include speakers as well as usual events on our list of activities for that week. This week has also seen a survey go around to all our members in order to provide the committee with feedback on the events the members would like to see taking place next year. With all this activity the future is looking very promising indeed and it looks like we'll be galloping into next semester with our tails held high!

The club is currently looking for a web-master to join the committee. If anyone is interested, please contact 0134678@student.ul.ie.

French Society

Week 11 : Wed. 23rd April:
Presentation on Brittany
6.30 pm in A1067

Particularly interesting for future coop and Erasmus students.

Week 12 : Wed. 30th April:
Musical evening
6.30 pm in A1067

Environmental Society Report

by Delia Howe

It's the end of the semester. This is sad but we won't be quiet during the summer! First off at the start of June is the G8 Summit in Evian, France on the beautiful majestic Alps. G8 stands for the 7 richest countries (UK, USA, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada) plus Russia whom the others need for their valuable resources. These world leaders formed the WTO and IMF. They favour corporate globalisation and exploitation, keep the 3rd world countries in debt and come together every year to ensure we adhere to the laws they put down.

A few of our green army will be heading out to Ukraine in August for Ecotopia-an annual event held in a different European country (last year it was in Scarriff, Co. Clare!) This is a congregation of hippies, krusties and any other bloody weirdoes among you all!! Seriously, it's a temporary community who are interested in sustainable living, a non-hierarchical system where everyone is equal and a mutual way with nature so that whatever is used/broken down is recycled and reused. Or you can get

naked in the sweat-camp (man-made sauna) and drink in the eco-bar like we did last summer by the lake! The Ecotopia in Finland, they took advantage of the hot geysers/springs there. Basically everyone is welcome to enjoy nature and indulge in healthy vegetarian food J.



Faslane

Last Sunday St. John, Natalie, Dom, Shane, Rachael and a few other brave heads left for Faslane, Scotland. Located there is a nuclear submarine base with Trident missiles, which were used to bomb Afganistan in 2001 after September 11th. That's if you can remember and keep up with all these wars that the US/UK inflict on the Middle-Eastern countries. Anyway our comrades will

shut down this plant peacefully for a few hours of sanity today, Tuesday 22nd April starting at 7am. These guys will have non-violent direct action training so it's all very professional and have reliable lawyers if anyone does happen to get arrested. It is actually the English government that is breaching international law because Trident is illegal as it would kill millions of civilians and the manufacture of it pollutes the environment with deadly radiation. It also takes millions of pounds away from housing, hospitals and schools- déjà vu? Well that's because we can relate all these facts with Sellafield.

Here's Ailbhe now to take it away:@)

Tháinig 75 fir agus mná le chéile i Prague, idir an 17ú - 22ú Márta, chun freastail ar comhdháil "Car Busters". Bhí scoth na daoine i láthair idir óg & aosta, ón Eoraip chomh fada leis na Stáit Aontaithe & fiú an Afraic! Daoine a raibh staideár críochnaithe acu le árd - chaighdeán eolais faoin timpleallacht chomh maith le daoine a d'oibrigh ar páigh íseal ar son an paisean a bhí acu don timpleallacht

álainn atá muid ag scríosadh! An príomh aidhm atá ag Car Busters ná chun an gluaiseacht idirnáisiúnta saor-charanna a mhéadú agus é a choimeád. Cuireann an grúpa seo obair isteach i scéimeanna agus poiblíocht chun cuidiú le daoine a bhfuil suim acu tabhairt faoi faidhbe truailliú caranna agus atá ag iarraidh bealaí maireactála difriúla a chuir chun cinn. Tagann an foinse is mó truailliú ar domhain ó caranna agus is iad an chúis is mó le scríosadh timpeallachta. Ídionn (consume) caranna beagnach leath an méid iomlán de pheitreal- mór-chúise (major cause) an chogadh san Iaráic. Tagann leath an aer toiceachas, 1/3 den toitcheo (smog), agus ar a laghad 1/3 de na gasanna teach gloine ar fad ó truailliú caranna.

Chaith muid an tseachtain ag éisteacht le léithreoirí difriúla, ag roinnt smaointe agus machnamh, ag tacaigh le preasagallamh agus lá oifigiúil poiblí, agus ar ndóigh ag siúl timpeall an cathair dochreidte seo. Ba é tráthnóna Déardaoin buaic (highlight) na seachtaine dom nuair a bhailigh muid le chéile don "critical mass bike ride". Thaisteal suas le 100 againn timpeall na cathair ar rothair, ag stopadh aon car a tháinig gar dúinn. Bhí tiománaí nó dhó nach raibh ró-shásta áfach, agus a thriail fataí bruitín a dhéanamh dhúinn, ach is mó sceitimíní a bhain siad asainn! Ach nuair atá deá-scéal is minicí atá droch scéal! Cuireadh in eol dúinn gurbh í Éirinn an tír is measa san Eoraip ó thaoibh astúcháin (emissions) CO₂, ag seasamh breá ard ag 40% an dhuine. Déan comparáid idir é sin agus an 18% an duine san Bhreatain? Sílim go bhfuil sé in am do muintir na tíre seo dúiseacht suas agus a súile a oscailt!

We have been plane spotting in Shannon Airport 3 times now-watch out for the army! The progress on the Irish Bet is nearing conclusion and we hope to put a recycling box for old newspapers in O'Mahony's.

"Caged birds sing of freedom, wild birds fly"

The society has gone from strength to strength this year. With membership numbers nearly double that of last year and sponsorship at three times the sum! The Society's website is being nominated for a BICS award this year. More activities are planned for the coming weeks - check out www.csn.ul.ie/~aerosoc for details.

Aeronautical Society Report

by Ruth Bagnell

Queen's University Belfast Aeronautical Society visited on Friday Week 10. QUB Aero Soc is a relatively young society. They were invited to visit UL Aeronautical Society and Shannon Airport as an inter-society event. A group of 4 aviation enthusiasts arrived after an exhausting drive from Northern Ireland

The group combined with UL Aeronautical Society to listen to a talk by Ex-RAF pilot Gerry Humphries. He gave a fantastic talk about his experiences in the past. Mr. Humphries was a Harrier Pilot with the Royal Air Force during the Gulf war. He explained all about the Harrier jump jet, how it flies, how it lands and how it takes off. With some

brilliant pictures, that really was a talk not to be missed. He described the different methods of camouflaging the jet during combat and the whole group thought it was amazing.

A night out in Limerick on the Friday raised spirits as everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. New links were established with the QUB Aeronautical Society, members made great efforts to improve cross-border relations. Thanks to The MARKET for providing the group with discounted tickets.

Saturday morning, 14 members of the UL Aeronautical Society and the members of the QUB Aeronautical Society descended upon Shannon Airport. With high spirits and great expectation the group was taken around the airfield. The initial plan was to visit Volga Dnepr. The

company was carrying out engine runs on one of its AN-124's so it was not possible for the group to visit. Thanks to quick thinking and a good contingency plan alternative arrangements were made. Aer Lingus Maintenance Manager, Mr. Liam Bagnell guided the group through the Aer Lingus Maintenance Hangar. Unfortunately there was not an aircraft undergoing maintenance there. Two CFM engines had been removed from an Airbus A330 and were sitting in the hangar.

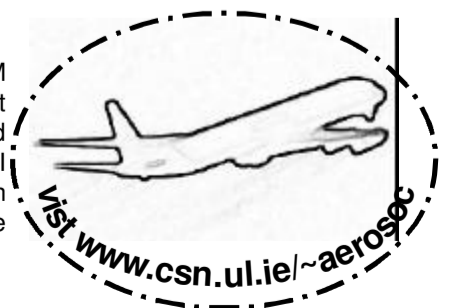
Aviation enthusiasts were thrilled to be able to watch the activities on the airfield. An Air France B747 (jumbo) landed as we reached the windows. The noise and sheer mass of the aircraft surprised some. The group supervised other day-to-day airport activities. This was a unique experience for many society members.

Mr. Bagnell explained how the JAR-145 maintenance facility operated. He described how the manuals worked and how defects were recorded. He discussed the dangers of bogus parts and general airline operations.

The group were shown the CFM engines in detail. Some difficult technical questions were asked and well answered by Mr. Bagnell. I believe a certain student got help with his Final Year Project with the information he gleaned that day.



UL Aeronautical Society at Shannon Airport



An Bainisteoir

An Bainisteoir has an exclusive story to reveal for all dedicated readers of An Focal; Blair Witch Project 3 is due to go on release soon, but the makers have been wrangling over the title, and would like to convey the notion of a big bollocks rather than a witch as the main character. An Bainisteoir was tipped off last week when Biffo Cowen rang to say he was going up to take part in the filming the outcome of some project, in the middle of Co. Down, involving Blair. An Bainisteoir put two and two together and figured why else would Brian Cowen be asked to appear other than to scare people? But not only will the Biffo Army Leader be used to scare people but as the Down countryside was adjudged too welcoming to be scary, a specially manufactured Bush was flown in from America to really scare the shit out of cinema-goers! No exact details of the mock Bush could be ascertained by An Bainisteoir but it is believed to be a state of the art scary movie feature, with no expense spared by its wealthy oil company executive backers. It is widely believed tests were carried out in Afganistan first and after limited success, another series of tests in Iraq have proved much more successful. However, there were some drawbacks for the manufacturers of the Bush as two of the leading contenders for the witch, or "big bollocks" part, Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein haven't been seen since the tests were carried out. Nevertheless, the main man behind the project, Blair, said that he knew a friend of Bertie's in Dublin who wouldn't mind filling in the breach, and that's how Biffo got the part as the main bollocks, with Bush combining roles as the most scary feature, and it is rumoured the manufacturers have a lot more people available to play the parts of all the other bollocks' in the film.

The phone didn't stop ringing all last week, and Bertie rang An Bainisteoir to air his grievances over the inadequacy of the government jet. Yet again Bertie was left red-faced when the jet incurred a delay of forty-five minutes last Wednesday week, when departing for a London meeting with Blair. Indeed, it's not the first time the Taoiseach has been red-faced, and it has become a feature of the Taoiseach of late to be in such a bright facial colour-although it could be just Celia overapplying the blusher on Bertie, as the bill for makeup for the year did come in to the hundred thousand figure mark. One party insider has put it down to the fact that Bertie's (expanding) belly is causing untold pressure on his cardiac system, what with all that fence-sitting combined with the heated competition with Biffo Cowen over the biggest belly in Fianna Fáil. (Jackie Healy-Rae was booted out to Independent FF as he was annually taking the title by a country mile). Bertie badly needs the new jet ahead of Ireland's presidency of the EU. It is estimated that he and the Minister for Foreign Affairs will be attending at least 500 dinner parties in the process and by 2004, the current jet definitely won't be able to take the combined belly weight of Ahern and Cowen.

Last Wednesday proved to be a big occasion in the Premiership title race, as Manchester Utd and Arsenal played out a 2-2 draw. No doubt both managers had mixed feelings about the result, but pub owners were delighted as pubs were packed for the full ninety minutes, which is quite unusual for games involving United, as fights among fans normally break out before half-time over who's hair best resembles David Beckham's. With Beckham not starting on Wednesday, fans were left glued to the box in an effort to find out who else played for 'their' team. In any case, most brawls of this nature can be quelled by changing the topic of conversation to shagging posh!

An Bainisteoir was shocked at the news last week that Marty Whelan has been dropped as the host of the Rose of Tralee this year. Marty is somewhat of a legend around campus, with his legendary moustache appearing daily on Open House, a programme which has filled the void in many student's afternoons all year. Sadly, Open House has also finished its current run, so it was a double-blow for students last week, but especially for Public Admin and HPSS students who regularly find themselves with more episodes of Home and Away to watch each week than lectures to attend. Rumour has it that there has been sheer 'shock and awe' among students, over what to do between Dallas and Judge Judy. With the exams coming up, An Bainisteoir thought it might be a good idea to prepare for the written onslaught. Firstly, make sure the fingers are nice and loose-ideally roll your own fags than buying a pack of B&H. (If in need of an improvement in the level of concentration, roll a joint!). Secondly, work on the main writing fingers-the thumb and the first two fingers-by holding your pint with only these fingers. This exercise will also be effective in improving the elbow snap-the move at the start of any exam when pens hit paper. (Ideal for any exam involving essays, which need to be written very fast-Law students take note) Finally remember that the most effective way to study is in small segments of time. Say twenty-five minutes represents one unit of study. Then, as an incentive, reward yourself for every unit studied with the consumption of the equivalent number of alcohol units.

Your Stars

by Mystic Meg

Aries: (March 21—April 19)

You've been feeling bad about wasting your life, but there's really nothing useful you could have done with it, anyway.

Taurus: (April. 20—May 20)

The inexplicable rain that always pours from underneath your umbrella will finally stop, moments before your hair catches fire.

Gemini: (May 21—June 21)

The search for meaning in life is a worthy pursuit, but the search for meaning in your particular life is a real waste of time.

Cancer: (June 22—July 22)

You've asked the man in the mirror to change his ways, but he only responds by howling like a fiend and force-feeding you shards of broken glass.

Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)

This is a great time for romance to bloom at work--a fact you won't realize until it's no longer a great time.

Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)

You will remind many of Abraham Lincoln, with your oratory gifts, dedication to equality, and habit of getting shot in the head at theaters.

Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)

You will still have no idea what makes women tick, despite having asked literally hundreds of watchmakers.

Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)

You'll finally be contacted by your long-lost birth parents, but the nine signatures on the letter only brings more questions than answers.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)

Your natural stubbornness comes in handy when your opponent's arguments turn out to be supported by logical arguments, hard facts and credible evidence.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)

You are destined to become a major sex symbol, just as soon as societal attitudes toward sex become far less healthy.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)

Most of the people who told you to "just believe in yourself" didn't realize that you think you're the illegitimate son of Osiris and the Michelin Man.

Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)

It turns out that your weakness isn't the color yellow after all, but bullets, knives, and angry packs of dogs.

An Focal Contributors

Editor

Paddy Buckley

Writers

Donal O Driscoll
Anthony Kirpatrick
Elaine Byrne
Bernadette Sexton
Mike Slattery
Lorcan MacCurtin
Paul Dowling
Laura Greer
Bredan Coffey
Brendan Curran
Timmy Hennessy
Ronan Ivers
Barry Walsh

Adrian Crowe
Helena Walsh
Patricia O'Neill
Aidan Hehir
Aidan Holmes
John Hickey
Aoife Nagle
Patricia Moriarty

Proofreading

Marie-Claire Butler
Simon Renardson

Photographs

Ella Daly
UL Photographic Society
Patricia Moriarty
The Internet

Stables and Scholars granted Licenses

by Paddy Buckley

The long running saga of the renewal of the Club licenses for the Stables & Scholars Club came to a conclusion on Wednesday of Week 9, when the appeal against the decision made in the District Court was heard in the Limerick Circuit Court by Judge Moran. The Stables and Scholars Club were seeking to overturn a decision made by Judge O'Reilly. Judge O'Reilly found that the Stables and Scholars Clubs were in breach of their own rules with regards to the admission of members, and refused to grant the Clubs their licenses.

Since Judge O'Reilly's decision in the Circuit Court, a concerted effort had been made to address the concerns raised by Judge O'Reilly. The most visible example of this has been an overhaul of the procedures used to enroll new members, and the production of a new Club Card. These procedures will be in operation from now on, in order to ensure the continued future of the two Clubs. In addition, a number of rule changes have been proposed for consideration at the next Stables and Scholars Club EGM in order to ensure the Club's rules are as tight as possible.

The Stables and Scholars Clubs were represented in court by Pat

Barriscale of Holmes, O'Malley and Sexton. The College Court Residents Association which brought the objection was represented in court by Miss Anne Sheahan. Amongst the witnesses called to the stand were Brian Hand, Chairman of the Stables Club Management Committee, Patrick Buckley and Eoin O'Broin for the Students' Union and Declan Collins and Micheal Dolan for the Stables and Scholars Clubs respectively. A representative of the Garda Siochana was also asked to take the stand.

Most of the courtcase again revolved around the finer points of Club law. The issue of membership was not a major issue in the appeal, due to the work done, however other issues such as advertising and the precise nature of the relationship between the Clubs and the University of Limerick were raised.

After hearing the evidence of the witnesses, the Judge spoke of the "eternal conflict between town and gown". Citing as his primary reasons for reversing the decision as the Gardai not wanting the Clubs closed down, the services and employment provided by the Clubs and work done on the membership issue since the District Court hearing, the Judge then granted the Clubs their licenses. He also spoke of the need for all parties involved in the dispute to attempt to



The Stables Club and Scholars Club received their licenses back

address the concerns raised by the College Court Residents Association outside of the court, and in particular directed that the Residents Forum be attended regularly by all parties concerned.

The Stables and Scholars Clubs licenses will be up for renewal again in September.

In a separate development, the Commission on Liquor Licensing has

recently released its final report. One of the recommendations which has been included in this report is a change to the current regulations to reflect better the special circumstances that registered club in third level institutions operate under. This recommendation was originally proposed by the Stables Club Management Committee, and received backing from other 3rd level institutions around the country.

THE MARKET

U.L. Semester 2

Wednesdays: FREE ENTRY B4 12am

Karaoke in Bar @ 10pm

Thursdays: Official U.L. Party Night

Dance/Chart Main Room

Disco Inferno Upstairs

- Tickets from SU, Buses from 11pm

Fridays: Bump'n'Grind R'n'B/HipHop

Saturdays: Dance/R'n'B/HipHop

Disco Inferno Upstairs

Doors open @ 10pm

Promotions Every Night : Pre-Club Party in McDaid's