



AN FOCAL



THE UL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

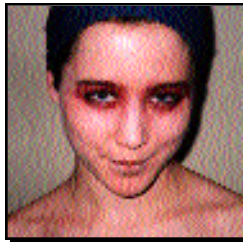
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TERM 2 WEEK 9



**election fever
have your say**
pgs. 11-15



**kollege week
pics**
centre pages



**the hurricane
reviewed**
pg. 19

Election Hustings - Wednesday Wk 9 - 3pm - Jean Monnet Theatre

Inside this week

our bit
pg. 2

why vote?
pg. 5

letters
pg.6

connec-
tions
pg. 8

yo mamma
pg. 9

state of the
nation
pg. 10

dr. zaius
pg. 10

crossword
pg. 18

books
pg. 21

yerma
pg. 20

deb u.
pg. 23

ulfc
pg. 24

socialists
pg. 26

hurling
pg. 27

gossip
pg. 31

EGM Votes In Favour Of Fourth SU Sabbatical

A big step forward was achieved on Thursday of Week 7, when almost 300 students voted in favour of a proposal to split the job of Communications and Education Officer within the Students' Union.

Following the inquorate UGM held the previous Tuesday, the

Students' Union decided to have another go, and the increased publicity, including more comprehensive poster-ing and flyering, flyers in An Focal and in houses and visits to lectures, ensured that the quorum of 200 stu-dents, the number needed to make decisions binding, was reached.

The whole process was reminis-

cent of last term's attempt to get a decision from students as to who they wanted to run the new bar. On that occasion, the SU also held an inquo-rate General Meeting before an EGM was called and students filled the Jean Monnet Theatre to let their voice be heard, with that meeting having a big

contd on pg. 4



The Frames do their thing in the marquee on Monday night

Kollege Week A Great Success

The first Kollege Week of the new millenium rounded up last Friday with happy faces and tired bodies making their way home from the Beach Party in The Marquee and Night Fever in the Stables.

The week saw an increased emphasis on the day time events, in an attempt to increase the amount of money raised for charity. Last year's total was £22,000, and it was hoped that this year's week would up that to £25,000.

A great start was made to

that attempt on the Saturday before Kollege Week began, when 20 students who volunteered to collect in town came back to Castletroy with almost £4,000 for Milford Hospice.

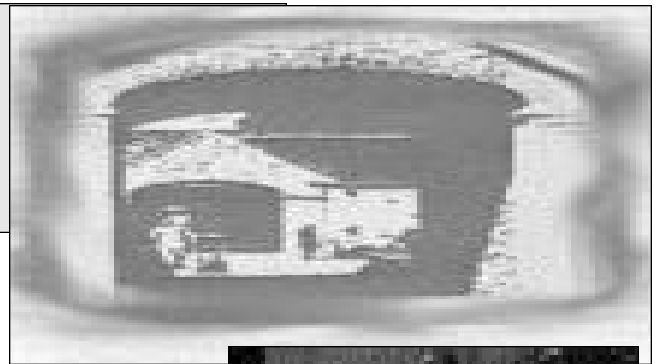
The money has yet to be counted, with all those involved in the organising of the week getting some much needed rest over the weekend, but it is hoped a final total will be announced before Friday.

Thanks to all those who helped collecting, and of course, to all those who gave so generously.

Just To Let You Know.....

A word from the Sabats.

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



e-mail ; union.president@stuliu.ac.uk

and are either pissed off that it's that time of year again where you can't walk safely through the canteen or else you're enjoying seeing what they have to say. Whichever it is, come out and vote on Thursday, even if it is to vote against the candidate who dared call to your door while you were watching Coronation St.

The EGM that we held two weeks ago proved to be a successful one with a quorum being present which allowed us to vote on the proposed constitutional changes. Thanks to all the clubs and societies who brought along their members.

A big thanks to all those who contributed during Kollege Week and also to those who inspired the contributions - thanks Nigel. The week went off successfully and the new courtyard in the Student Centre proved to be a great venue. We'll let you know what the total raised was in the next issue.

Finally, good luck to all the sabbatical candidates.

Pat

Well, a lot has happened since the last issue.

There's now a new sabbatical position in the Students' Union, many changes benefiting clubs and societies have been passed, Kollege Week went off as smoothly as ever, and now we're looking at the prospective new sabbatical officers.

By now you've probably seen all the candidates going for elections



e-mail ; ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

There it goes, another kollege week, done and dusted. i hope yis all had a good

one, and you see someone you know in the photo's in the centre pages.

I had a great time during my last one, even got to get up on stage and sing a bit of a tune with the frames. Lifetime ambition fulfilled and all that. And there i was wondering what i was going to do when i finish this job. Obviously now, the frames are going to want me to travel the world with them. I'll send a postcard.

I have to say a huge thanks to all those who gave their money to charity, and we'll be announcing the

amount raised in the next issue. Also, huge thanks to Nigel, anyone who was in the courtyard on Wednesday during the day will know what i'm on about. Nigel you're a legend, literally, and thanks aswell to those who paid £70 for his boxer shorts in the dodgiest auction ever, aswell as those who paid £40 for Cormacs, (nice one corm) and to the bloke who paid £15 for a ham role bought by a naked Cormac in the SU shop. All of yis are legends.

Thanks aswell to all those who turned up on Thursday of week 7 to make up the quorum, and give us a chance to put the proposals before you that we think will mean you are represented better, and kept informed better in future. You now have a full time Education Officer, a full time Communication and Campaigns Officer, and more effective Clubs and Societies. That means that your education problems will be solved quicker, we can make progress on some of those long standing issues, the paper will get better, you'll know more of what's going on, class reps will be more

e-mail ; deppresident@ulsu.iol.ie

Elections are upon us once again and everyone is faced with the difficult task of choosing our successors. For the candidates this is a long week so best of luck to you all!

I returned from my break to face straight into Kollege Week and what a week!! From Fire Walking to Bungee Jumping it was an eventful week to say the least. It was as also a very successful week for Charities there will be a full outline in the next issue of 'An Focal' of where exactly all your money has gone. Thanks to everyone involved - collectors, crew, Students' Union Staff, but most importantly the students yourselves. Every year it is proven how hard students work for charity then again some of us go a little far - Everyone remembers DAVE'S affection on stage last week!!!!

With regard to other welfare issues, we are kept going. The Outreach Society have Rotaract Membership to look forward to. We are in the process of organising this. Members - keep an eye on your e-mail for more details.

Following Kollege Week and



all its good and bad activities, I am trying to organise a First Aid course - anyone interested?? If you are drop into my office or e-mail me at deppresident@ulsu.iol.ie

Financial Aid is on Tuesdays between 2 & 4 and on Thursday between 12 & 1 (only) with Fr PJ Sommers. Information required on all financial issues can be obtained by dropping in anytime.

If anybody has any questions or is finding the last few weeks a bit stressful drop in anytime - I know sometime it can be difficult to locate me but keep trying!! Enjoy Election Fever and the good weather that we are always graced with at this time.

DeeDee

effective and some other stuff to boot. That's the plan anyway. Not bad for one meeting, and thanks again to all those who put work into that.

How much progress we do make though, depends on you and who you elect. That's right, the elections are back in earnest, with four positions to be filled now, and 11 people running for them. They'll all be approaching you over this week, and they will wreck your head a bit, 'cause there's so many of 'em, but please give them a chance, listen to what they have to say, decide who you think would do the best job, and make sure you vote. It's the only way that progress can be made and things can get better.

Other than that, what's going on. Well, we still want to have a right go at sorting out Student Services. They're

already open a little longer, but we know there's loads of stuff still there that needs sorting. It's something we've been meaning to take on all term, and couldn't get the time to sit down and do it properly, but things are winding down a little now, so we can get stuck into that.

We're also going to keep onto things that got pushed to the side over the last few weeks, like getting the website bang up to date, and getting back in tune with class reps. we're also planning a little something for everyone at the end of term. Just something small to get your minds of the exams for a night. Keep your eyes peeled for Friday week 13. we'll be in touch.

Only one thing left to say for the issue.....who's in the hooouussee?!!!

dayvoh

Student Nurses Deliver 20,000 Signatures Against Fees

By Ron Byrne

In the latest of a series of protests, a group of student nurses delivered a petition containing 20,000 signatures to the Minister for Education and Science last Wednesday, 4th April.

Currently, they are the only full-time undergraduate students in state-funded colleges who must pay tuition fees. The petitions call for the free fees' initiative to be extended to nursing stu-

dents.

The signatures were collected during the student nurses' one-day walk-out protest on Wednesday 22nd of March at venues all round the country. Members of the general public showed their support for the student nurses by signing the petition and calling on the Minister to end this discrimination against nurses. A protest was held outside the Department of Education Offices on Marlborough Street.

"The students believe the 20,000

signatures deserve the Minister's personal attention," said Julian de Spáinn, Deputy President of USI, which has been co-ordinating the Student Nurses' campaign nationally. "They also believe that the Minister is guilty of blatant discrimination against student nurses by levying this £2,000 fee against them. The Minister is well aware of the current chronic shortage of nurses and yet, by imposing this fee, he is actively discouraging students from pursuing a career in nursing."

Teaching Jobs Available In Paris School

There may be students interested in the possibility of teaching computers in a mixed school.

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To see the brochure contact:
ceo@ulsu.iol.ie

UL Students Affected As Bus & Rail Workers Strike

By Ron Byrne

On Wednesday 29th March the country's public transport system came to a halt. In Limerick, this meant no trains, no provincial or local buses, and no city buses.

Iarnród Éireann were forced to cancel services on Tuesday and Wednesday, and some on Thursday morning, due to unofficial action taken by Rail Safety Engineers, who had a disagreement with management over the issue of supervising Esat Telecom engineers who are laying cables along the railway tracks.

Bus workers, members of the NBRU (National Bus & Rail Union), held a one-day unofficial strike in support of their fellow workers in Dublin Bus — who have been engaged in official escalating strike action over the last number of weeks — and also to highlight the terrible conditions under which they must work and the exploitative levels of pay they receive.

The basic wage for a Bus Éireann worker starts at £187 for a 39-hour week, working out at £4.79 per hour. This is less than the £204 paid by Dublin Bus. In order to earn a decent wage a bus worker must work 6 or 7 days a week, and often 12 or 14 hours per day. They have no time for any social or family life.

Bus drivers are also given the huge responsibility of ensuring the safety of so many people who travel on their busses and the stressful nature of the job was also highlighted, being constantly caught up in the traffic chaos of the city.

Even though the dispute in Dublin Bus has been postponed, further strike action among Bus Éireann workers throughout the country looks quite likely. The government shouts that the 20% pay rise sought by the Dublin Bus workers breaks the new agreement, the so-called Programme for Prosperity and Fairness. The NBRU, which is not affiliated to the ICTU, is not a party to the new social partnership agreement, and therefore should not be bound by it.

Ireland has the lowest level of public transport subsidisation of all the EU countries. There are many problems with the CIÉ companies, most of which are due to under funding and bad management. The 'jobs for the boys' approach to selecting managers has led to some disastrous decisions through the years, which account for much of the ills present. But this is often used as a scapegoat in order to side step the issue of exchequer funding. Governments down through the years have used low wage levels as a means of subsidising our public transport system. Proper investment in infrastructure, equipment, manpower and wages would reap its rewards.

But instead of calling for this much needed investment, all the main political parties are calling for privatisation, as if competition is the cure to all ills. The reality is that the private operators would cherry-pick the most profitable routes, leaving those most in need without a service. After all, what private operator would bring his buses into O'Malley Park or Moyross,

just two examples of communities here in Limerick who desperately need a public service and would be most at risk of losing a good service should it be privatised! Would private operators co-operate with the state's Free Travel Scheme?

THE ULTIMATE CELTIC NIGHT

SUNDAY APRIL 30TH

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annual dinner**

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club chairman alan mcdonald
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**MEETING TUESDAY 18TH OF APRIL
CANTEEN 6PM**

EGM Votes In Favour Of Fourth SU Sabbatical

from pg. 1

effect on the eventual outcome of the process to find a bar operator.

There were a number of decisions made, the first being to split the Communications and Education Officer into two separate posts; Education Officer and Communication and Campaigns Officer. It is hoped that students will be represented more effectively now that one person can work full time on the education needs of students, while another can work full time on the college paper, radio station, class reps and will also have the time to improve the flow of information coming from the SU to the student body. It is also hoped that campaigns will now be more effective, with,

for example, the work for a campaign on an education issue being split between two people; the Education Officer doing the research and representation, and the Communication and Campaigns Officer doing internal and external publicity for the campaign

The rest of the changes made on the night mainly concerned the running of Clubs and Societies on campus, with a number of changes being made to the constitution which will give Clubs and Socs greater control to handle their own affairs from now on. The main changes that were passed included a new budgeting procedure, a new appeals system and a shorter initiation time for new clubs and socs on campus.

The one proposed change to be turned down was the proposal that political societies on campus receive a budget. The situation before the meeting was that political societies couldn't receive a budget of more than £1, but could apply to the Special Applications fund to run events during the year. There was strong objection to the proposal to allocate budgets to them from the floor, and a counter proposal was put forward that they don't receive budgets or apply to special apps. However, another proposal was put forward that the situation not be changed at all, and this was the proposal accepted by the meeting.

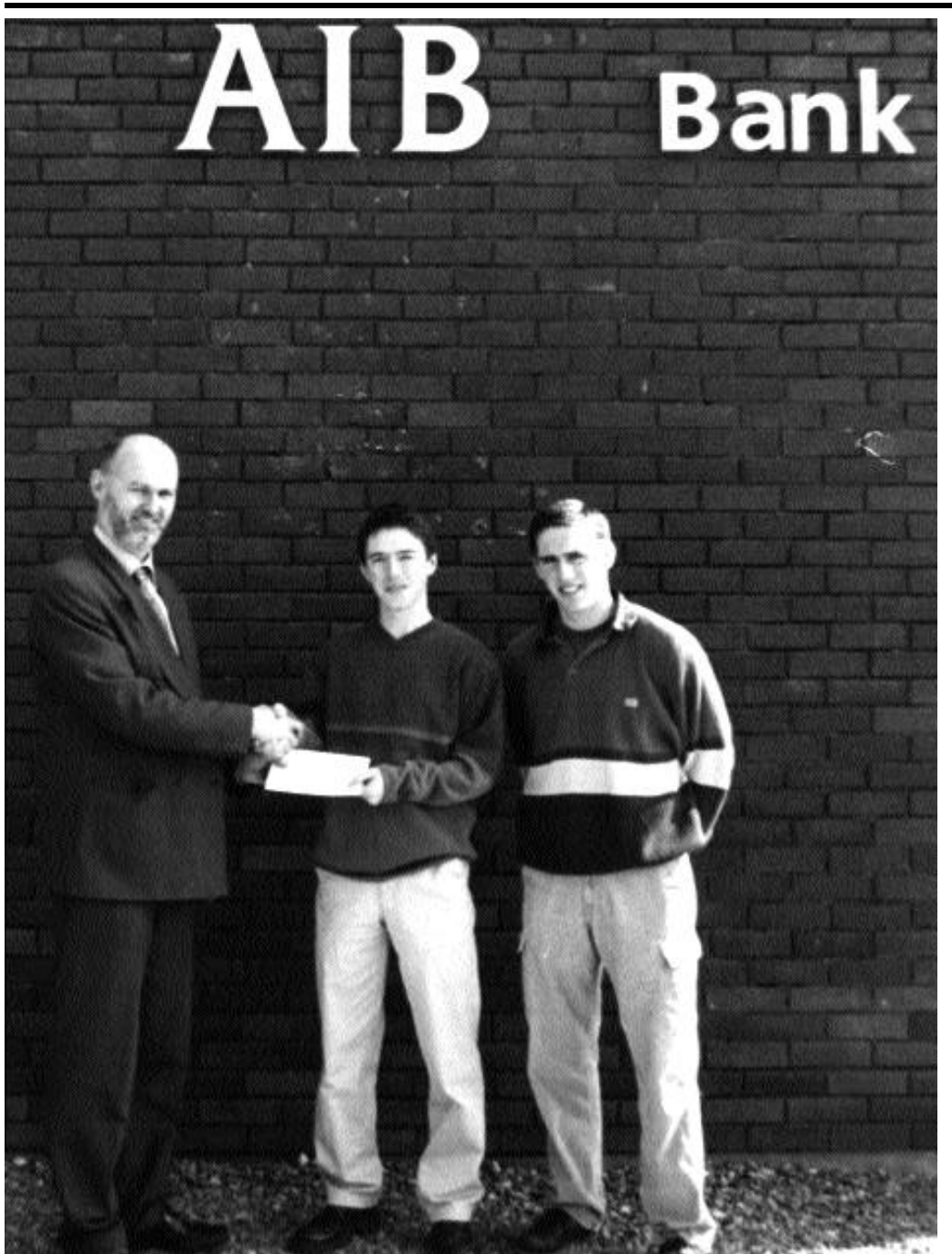
The proposal to split the job of Communications and

Education Officer had been put together by the current sabbaticals over the mid term break, and had been refined and passed at Students' Union Executive and Class Reps Council before going in front of the meeting.

Current Communications and Education Officer, Dave O'Donovan stated that "this was a very important change for us to get through. Until that meeting, we were the only university Students' Union in the country without a full time Education Officer, and without at least one person dedicated solely to the college paper."

He also stated that "the splitting of the job gives the elected person a chance to focus on one job or the other. They are two hugely important but very different areas in stu-

dent lives. It is very difficult to get the best results when you are preparing a paper in the morning, and attending an important meeting that afternoon. I know from doing the job for nine months now that there just isn't the time to do both properly. Now, whoever is elected to the jobs can concentrate on either getting the best for students educationally, or on informing them of all that is happening, continuing the development of the paper, working to improve class reps etc. The Communication and campaigns Officer should also have the time to get into classrooms and be a more public figure, someone everyone can see and approach. In that way, I hope this change will help to further break down the whole 'them and us' idea."



GAA development officer David Daly accepting a cheque on behalf of UL Hurling Club from AIB Manager Niall Donegan, also in picture Hurling Club secretary Eoin Fitzgerald.

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UL GAA Club



'Mock Wedding'

Tuesday, April 25th, Week 11
Ceremony : Sports Building
Reception : Kilmurray Lodge Hotel

Tickets £20
on sale from GAA Office

Your Voice, Your Choice, Use It

Gerard Gill gives a quick run down on why you should vote in the upcoming Students' Union elections and the issues you should be looking for answers about.

Back slapping, back stabbing, deals being struck and broken, empty and sincere promises, eloquent orations and idiotic condemnations, machiavellian spin-doctors and idealistic campaigners.

Yes, it's the time for the UL student union elections, Yeah the time for vitriolic verbal assaults on the values and virtue of rival candidates in a cynical vote gathering campaign. Or is it?

Each year, roughly 10 to 12% of the student body cast their vote in the Sabbatical elections. Is this down to the Students' Union being perceived by many as being a clique, divorced from its membership? Are the candidates considered to be self-serving, brown envelope accepting politicians in training? Is this a fair reflection on the union? But isn't every organisation only as good as its membership? No doubt their have being incompetent social

climbers, not fit to hold office elected in the past, and probably will be in the future. However, it is up to you, the electorate, to choose YOUR representative for YOUR union.

So, be aware of the issues that concern you, and whom you think is most suitable to attend to them. Harass, harry, interrogate and annoy the candidates at the Hustings on Wednesday or at their stands throughout the week.

You will be bombarded by slick, polished and/or noisy, tacky campaigns over the next few days. Clever slogans will be spat at you. Some of the issues to look out for in the presidential election include further improvement in student services and in the library service, improved security and extension of opening hours for the core student services. The Welfare candidates may campaign on tackling more individual issues such as an improvement of the Students' Union counselling service and the medical centre.

With the splitting of Communications and Education Officer into two different positions, for the first time this year, two interesting campaigns may develop.

The Communications and Campaigns officer will be responsible for internal and external communications, including Students' Union publications and Wired FM. He/She will also have responsibility for public relations and fostering community relations with the local residential groups. This year's candidates are campaigning on a range of issues including, improving the allocation of airtime for UL students on Wired, establishment of an editorial team for An Focal.

The Education Officer campaigns will focus on issues like lobbying for more teaching expenses and in eradicating problems with the library and computer/internet access. Beware of empty promises. You as the electorate will have to decide if the candidates are

interested in representing you, or in furthering their own political ambitions. You may have to decide if you can separate the candidate from their political party, if they are a member of one. Can you vote for someone who may be running only in attempt to garner favour with their political parties' bosses?

It is not for me or this paper to tell you how to vote, but to advise you to be aware of the issues involved. Each of the Sabbaticals have difficult and time consuming tasks. They are hindered in that they only have a year to put their policies into action. You possibly mightn't know the effort involved in representing the student body, until you have to meet with one of the officers to deal with an individual request.

It is up to YOU to pick the candidates interested in representing YOU and YOUR needs as a student.

Gerard Gill

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Open letter to Students' Union

Dear Ed.

Just a few things to get off my chest.

Elaine Kiely as welfare officer a few years ago came up with the brilliant idea of the night-link bus and full credit to the SU for maintaining it. However:

1. Why is this not advertised in the college or on the bus itself?
2. Why is there no longer a timetable for the service, esp. for collecting people from the estates to college?
3. How many students know this actually exists?
4. How much does this cost the SU each week?

I have been on the bus regularly at various times and there have rarely been over four people on it, apart from ferrying people from the Stables to Kilmurry and I don't think that was its original purpose.

In the wake of the much-cited publicity concerning personal security for students around college, perhaps this vital service should be relooked at.

So just to let people know, the nightlink is that white mini bus parked sometimes outside the Stables with nobody on it and comes anytime after 6 and leaves whenever to wherever and costs us so much every week even though we don't use it.

Could someone in the SU respond in the next edition of An Focal?

**Happy Mothers Day,
Elaine Byrne, ULYFG**

The Nite link Bus Service costs the Student £12,000 per academic year. Advertisement around the College admitted - ly is very poor and I take full responsibility for that. The Nitelink time table is avail - able at the Students' Union Reception, how - ever John the Nitelink busdriver is very accommodating and is prepared to drop you wherever you need to go. The timetable for collecting students and bringing them to the College is something we will look into for next year as Nitelink pick up points will have to be erected in the various estates.

The Nitelink is widely used especially by students in Monaleen and Curragh Birin. The Advertisement needs improvement and this will be looked at immediately. Thanks for your interest.

DeeDee

Welfare Officer/Deputy President.

Trish gets slated

To the power that be:

In response to the inspirational

Letter of the week

Isla's Idol

Dear Ed.

Myself and some of the lads have just read Isla's Eye, "Do you Think you're Better off Alone?" in the Week 6 edition of your paper, and we've come to the conclusion that she sounds a bit sexually frustrated.

So, could you maybe pass on the message that there are 6 engineering students who are just waiting, willing and able to unravel those ponytails of hers and relieve any bottled up tension she's experiencing!! No better men than us to give her what she really, really wants!!

Jayo and his drinking buddies

PS. Is it true she's only a first year? Any chance of gettin her ID number cause she's not on the UL database??

orate supplied to us by Ms. Tricia O'Leary Duane.

Her multi-faceted criticism of the entire UL student body is far reaching, at points scathing and ultimately the standard critique of human nature preferred by those who inhabit the many watering holes of our nation state. Firstly in response to the lady's tragic embarrassment at the tepid attendance at the Nationalism debate. I was there, I saw and heard the pre-rehearsed, pre-conditioned, disturbingly patronising drivel that the so-called "excellent speakers" had in their spiralling rants. Too many students of UL have heard and seen this too many times before. Is it any wonder that the student body is apathetic towards a debate of this format? Five speakers with unlimited time, who will neither acknowledge nor answer each other. In all honesty why bother? - No decisive conclusions, no answers and no review of reality.

I am not a disinterested student or an apathetic individual, having week-in, week-out advertised debates and seen excellent organisational work of a few dedicated individuals being only appreciated by the interested few. Every society that does not involve sweating or physical competition fights an uphill battle to motivate students. The question that the writer of the week last week failed to address was what exactly is the root of the problem? Her letter deftly but patronisingly side stepped the greater issue involved in the problem. Why is it that all students, all 9000, are "boring beer drinking and disinterested"? Ignoring the stereotype, does a university not resemble a micro cosmos of the greater society, within

which it nestles?

It is increasingly evident that the problem is at a national level. With a growing population, why is it that clubs and societies still battle to fund, finance and find people interested enough to care?

Irish people have more money, more free time and less to do than ever. Take the last Presidential election (the 5 Mary's election) as a case in point - less than 50% of the electoral bothered to vote, under half of that 50% voted for the current president. Do the maths! Less than one quarter of the electorate wanted that or any president.

Current disinterest in political scandal also reflects the country's general consensus towards apathy. If there are more jobs, more money, better roads to drive bigger cars and bigger houses no one will care. The greater good is great once it doesn't send ripples across the personal pond. "Nobility, patriotism, pride and power" may be sadly lacking, but nobody wants the death of another patriot. After all who would go to the funeral.

**Yours in disgust
Stevy B esq**

Trish gets support

Dear Ed.

APATHETIC is the word that immediately springs to mind when I consider my own generation.

Please allow me to congratulate Tricia O'Leary Duane on her excellent letter to "An Focal" of Week 6. It did my heart good to read that there is at least one other "thinking" student on campus.

Growing up in small-town Ireland, I had a vision of one day attending a third level institution, where I would be surrounded by developed minds who would discuss and debate world issues, ideas and culture until the early hours. However I struggle to recall a conversation with another student that didn't revolve around going out, drinking, football/hurling, exams or QCA. Maybe I'm not asking the right questions or perhaps I'm talking to the wrong people.

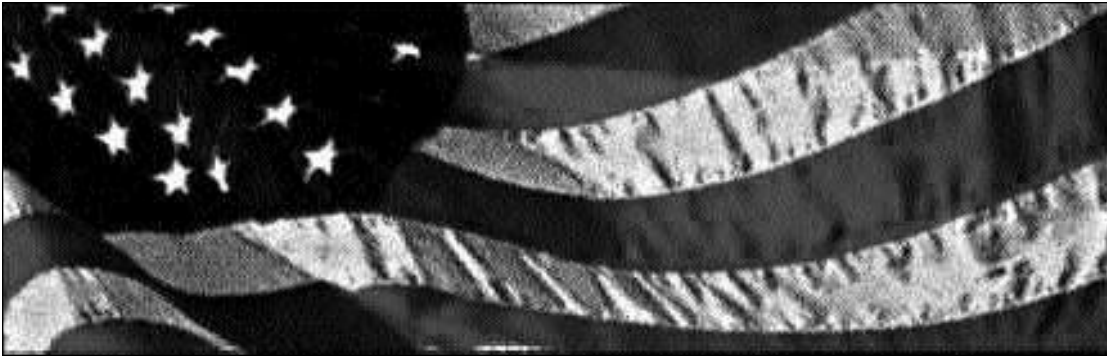
A nation relies on its students to tell it what is rotten at its core, think of the civil rights movement in the States or the fall of Communism in Czechoslovakia. Are you happy to be a citizen of a country whose government seriously considers detention centres for asylum seekers desperately fleeing life-threatening situations? Are you content to live in a world where Mozambique, following its recent flooding disaster, still has to pay over \$1 million every week to service its national debt? Are you looking forward to spending the rest of your working days in a cubicle in an open-plan office as an anonymous cog in the mechanism of a multi-national, to go home to your matchbox house with its matchbox garden surrounded by neighbours that you don't talk to but who can observe the intimate details of your daily life simply by looking out their kitchen windows?

Surely this is not what you're working your ass off to achieve, but it WILL happen unless you start to think for yourself.

It's very simple, just watch the news while you're eating your tea instead of "Home and Away", read the front section of the newspaper as well as the sports pages (and aim higher than "The Star"), start thinking outside the box before you're condemned forever to live and work in one and just stop being so APATHETIC!!!

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

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



American Diaries

there's going to be a pile of people heading off to the states for the summer or on co-op. so, we've extended the real world section to let you know what you're in for, according to ian and margaret, co-op students on the rampage.

MARGARET RYAN IN CHICAGO

Hi again from Chicago,

Well, I got over St Patrick's Day without getting arrested or molested which is evidently an achievement in itself.

It was a busy, busy weekend, and I had a ball. The company party was very stage Irish-y, lots of Shamrocks, lots of little Irish dancers with scary ringlets and \$1000 Irish dancing costumes. A hell of a lot of shamrocks and harps all over the city, come to think of it. The river was indeed green, as was the fountain on front of the Daley Center, which is the Chicagoan City hall. You go there to get Ids, driver's licenses, and all that stuff. Anyhow, at the work party, there was free bar, and free food, but no Guinness! Which I have to admit was a very strange sensation. A St Patrick's Day party with no Guinness? But they had all the requisite stage Irish food, the Ham (no bacon, what they call bacon, we call rashers) and cabbage, Irish stew, Shepherd's pie, apple pie, fish and chips (don't even go there, you'd

return them in the Stables) and shamrock shaped cookies, with green icing. But at least it was free.

From there we proceeded onto Emil's, a bar on North Wacker Drive. Had a few beers, with a fellow Irishwoman, a girl from Cork named Noelle, and my cousin Liz, both of whom also work at Aon. Then back to my house for another St Patrick's Day party. That was great, with 25 or 30 people sitting in my living room, telling tales of when they were growing up that would make your hair stand on end. I'm telling you this much, it's a wonder that my aunt and uncle still have any shred of sanity left. I laughed so hard I had a pain in my tummy for 2 days after. And there was both Guinness and Irish coffee there, so that was all right. It ended at sometime about 2 in the morning, after starting about 5.30 in the evening. Not a bad session all in all. Then the Saturday was my cousin Maura's birthday. There wasn't much in the way of celebrating done for that, but we all had lunch together, and that was fun. That night we went

to a brewery just for a party that my cousin Peggy and her boyfriend Chuck were having. Just for no reason at all, they liked the idea of a piss-up in a brewery, so they had a piss-up in a brewery. And I have to say it was one of the best parties I have ever been to. We brewed three kettles of beer, and they have to be bottled this weekend, (yippee) and I can't wait for that.

St Patrick's weekend in Chicago is definitely one of those strange sensations that I would do again. While it's strange to work on St Patrick's Day, it's worth it for the free beer and food, and the parties are definitely better than the going to the Stables or the Hurlers' for a few pints (/shots/chasers). And while I missed the downtown parade, (the one that Harrison Ford joined in The Fugitive I did get to see the Southside parade, and that was definitely worth it.

So, Paddy's Day in Chicago is not necessarily bigger and better than at home, but it's definitely drunker. And for me that's the essential beauty of the place.

So, I'll talk to you again soon
Margaret

So its Rag Week/Kollege Week/Make Up A New Name For A Piss Up Week and right now you are probably reading this in the Kollege Week An Focal in the courtyard with a cool pint in your hand! Three thousand miles away and I can even smell the rag week battered stables now!!!

What's been happening over here in Boston over the last two weeks? Well Paddy's Day was interesting, all UL people (co-ops and grads) left work early, James and Martin were off skiing (oh by the way it snowed for all of Paddy's day!!!!!!), John had some of his family over and I had a David Gray concert lined up. The concert was very good and it was on in Karma Club which is a smallish club on Landsdowne street, which was class because where ever I was I never seemed to be more than a couple of metres away from him. He played all White Ladder stuff and mixed very well with the crowd, all for nine bucks and fortunately his head hasn't fallen off his shoulders yet!!!

Paddy's day is strange over here, the whole country no matter what your ethnic background goes out and celebrates being Irish! Irish pubs get jammed to the rafters and the more popular ones get to charge ridiculous amounts at the doors. Some places were charging up to fifty dollars just to get in and of course, needless to say, the price of a pint also inflated with this Paddy's day enthusiasm!! Its weird, you wouldn't think it back home where Paddy's Day is sacred to being Irish and in Ireland, but the day has nearly become an

international festival from what I've seen over here. After the gig we went to a place called McGanns which was charging fifteen bucks at the door, but, thanks to Patricia Kelly (an ITT grad) knowing a few bouncers we managed to get in for free and after a few decent snowball fights (I'm beginning to think that snowball fights are becoming an important part of a night on the tear!) it was time for bed and a good night to Paddy's day in Boston. There was a parade on Sunday but despite Eimear O'Connors (Business grad) determined efforts to mobilise the troops, her attempts were fruitless after the late night party (at which there was strange goings on involving two strange ladies who didn't seem to like the heat....!!!) on Saturday left everyone in a senseless disorientated daze in the hangover dimension!

I suppose it is about this time I told ye a little bit about Boston, me being an experienced Bostonian 'nall!!! Boston is really a very picturesque city. Its about the size of Dublin... maybe a little bit smaller and it has all you could want from an American city. The sky skrappers, the big designer shops, the malls. They're all here and, of course, there's food wherever you look! This is certainly one thing to bear in mind if you come over, they said it to us in the co-op hand book and to be honest, I just laughed and didn't believe them, but without a doubt you CAN and WILL heap on weight if you come over. The co-op book said students have been known to put on up to two stone! Now that might be a bit much but without any sort of exercise and on a diet of cheap, very good, plentiful

IAN DEMPSEY IN BOSTON

food and eh plentiful beer, damage will be done to the waistline!!

Obviously you can catch all the American sports, here. In the Fleet Center (I know, I know it should be Centre, but that's the way its spelt here!!!) you'll see the ice-hockey team, Boston Bruins. This is a good ol' game, very fast and skillful but none of us could quite make out the rules and we definitely couldn't figure out what the story was behind the legal fighting!? Last week we went to a basketball game in the Fleet Center aswell and saw the Boston Celtics take on the Minnesota Timberwolves. Martin, John and myself went and we reached the conclusion that all UL co-op students will be banned from the Fleet Center in future because yet again, the Boston team were tragically defeated, with eighteen seconds to go they were three down and scored a three pointer then with point three of second left, Minnesota scored another three pointer!!!! AAAAHHHH!!! We were disgusted!! We couldn't believe it! Anyway I think these two sports are winding up for the summer but the baseball season is starting up.

The people around here are fairly fanatical for the baseball team the Boston Red Sox and of course you have to have a deep hatred for the New York Yankees if you are in Boston!!!

Any J1's that do intend coming over for the summer should probably try and get a job lined up before they come over, because I'd imagine it is fairly daunting

stepping out into the city without having an idea of where to start and go looking for a job... A good place to start looking, while in Ireland, for a job



would probably be the Internet. They are much more web-oriented over here and you are bound to find some job listings at the www.boston.com web-site. As for accommodation from what I hear you'd be coming over at about just the right time because Boston is a huge university town with well over fifty colleges with the big ones being Harvard and MIT, so there would be a lot of student accommodation becoming available but expect to pay over twelve hundred a month for a three bed! And once more I cant stress this enough bring IDs if you are under 21 because there is really little hope of you getting in anywhere never mind getting served! and you definitely need more than a usit card.

But enough of the 'Mommy talk', you say as you lift your seventh pint at two o'clock in the afternoon and the rag week machine begins to get into the swing of the day, and I say fair enough, as I try to figure out how to bring a bit of the sense of rag over to Boston next week....

Ian Dempsey

THE ELECTRONIC WORD:

Bookselling online and the future of the printed word in the digital age.

Surfing the web at the moment it's hard to see why books are still so popular. I mean on the one hand you've got easily accessible knowledge on any subject imaginable on the trillions and trillions of web pages out there. On the other hand you've got you've got literature on almost everything imaginable, which you might be able to find with a lot of free time and a fair bit of luck as well. Unlikely as it is though; online bookshops are some of the biggest sites on the Internet, with **amazon.com** competing against other sites such as Altavista, Yahoo, and Infoseek.

Amazon.com was started about five years ago when the Internet first started to take off with the release of Windows 95. In the beginning it was just a small e-business like River Deep, which was recently floated on the stock market. Now it is the biggest online bookshop in the world with an estimated bookshelf of over 150,000 books. This also puts it in the big league of web sites such as CD Now (**www.cdnow.com**) and The Internet Movie Database (**www.imdb.com**) in terms of both capacity and size. Of

course amazon.com is not the only web-based bookshop out there and these sites are worthy of a little notice too: Internet Bookshop (**www.bookshop.co.uk**), Alphabet Street (**www.alphabetstreet.com**) and BOL (**www.bol.com**).

Web-based sites are not the only booksellers on the Internet however. A lot of reputable bookshops have designed nice big sites where people can come and browse through the many titles in stock. With most of the sites you can buy direct online or you can place an order online and collect it yourself at one of the branches.

Barnes & Noble is a perfect example of this. This US bookseller has been in business for the last hundred years or so and now has met the digital age head on with a site to rival the best of them. For more details visit the site at **www.bn.com**. Once again there are other old-world bookshops whose sites require some consideration such as: Blackwells (**www.blackwells.co.uk**), Mc Gills (**www.mcgills.com.au**), and Waterstones (**www.waterstones.co.uk**).

Shopping on the Internet, whether its for books or music or anyt

hing else can be expensive so there are some sites on the web now which are the equivalent of the combined bargain basements of all the sites listed above. For anyone short for cash or just looking for a bargain, check out: Best Book Buys (**www.bestbookbuys.com**) and Price Scan (**www.pricescan.com**).

There is of course more to books than just bookselling as these next few sites will help to illustrate.

Atomic Books, (**www.atomic-books.com**) is truly one of the weirdest sites I have ever seen. It stocks books which are out there in the extreme. You should only go there in search of, as one customer put it "insane books about every kind of extreme." If that's not weird enough for you, the store has installed a webcam so that you can spy on other customers as you order your books online. For more of these bookstores, visit **www.fringeware.com/shop/**, and **www.loompanics.com**.

One of a growing category of sites is the Internet Public Library (**http://ipl.sils.umich.edu**). Here you can search for and subsequently browse through a world of books, magazines, journals and newspapers. Pretty self-explanatory really.

If you're looking for that extra special book that no other bookshop seems to be able to find, then check out Online Books, (**www.cs.cmu.edu/books.html**). This lists a lot of obscure archives where that elusive title might be lurking. Definitely worth checking out.

For those of you who like to keep

up with what's happening in the world of books, check out Pure Fiction (**www.purefiction.com**). This site is the e-online equivalent for books. It features all the latest news from book previews to author interviews plus it has some great tips for any aspiring writers out there. It should get you well on your way to publishing your first best-seller.

One of my favourite sites has to be Urban Legends (**www.urbanlegends.com**). This site is dedicated to sorting out the truth from the rumour behind these popular folk myths. To rip off the Austin Powers ad, if you check out only one site go to Amazon.com but if you go to two go to Urban Legends.

Finally one of the most creative literature sites on the Internet is The Yarn (**www.theyarn.com**). This site features a story. It's not just any story though, at the end of each chapter there are two options to follow. You'll either go on to a new chapter or be invited to contribute your own. It really is worth checking out but only if you have a fair bit of time to kill.

Well, that's it for another week. Next week I'll be enjoying the lighter side of life with a look at the best of the comedy sites on the Internet. As usual you can contact me at **fk1121@oceanfree.net** with all your questions and comments on the Internet and computers.

Connections

A fortnightly look at the Internet with Fergus Keely



Diary Of A First Year

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

(ps up the Kingdom!)



Well, the past few weeks have been eventful to say the least.

Another venture into Dolan's to see the infamous Soul Clinic converted me into a true fan. Surprise, surprise! Mind you, it was with much persuasion and encouragement from a fellow "An Focal" reporter! And that's just the beginning of the saga!

Here's the rest. As you can imagine, it was an adventure to be reckoned with. First of all, I had to drag my mates in to let them experience the

wonderfulness that is Soul Clinic. After the first night, I didn't know what to expect, but I actually really enjoyed it. The music was great and the DJ was mental!!!! I'll be back.

Rag Week. Kollege Week. Whatever the hell you want to call it – it was great. Working on the Ents Crew gave me ample opportunity to really appreciate all the goings-on in the Marquee in the Scholars' Courtyard! Went to the Frames on Monday night – oh what a night – as Dave can vouch for! Apart from the fact that I was being absolutely squashed to the front barriers by some inconsiderate yobbos trying to make everyone else's night misery! But a great night was had by all – as far as the eye could tell. And I

even made the opportunity to speak with Glen Hansard – the man himself. But my only complaint regards the playlist was that it failed to include the legendary "Downhill From Here" – classic! But that's between me and Glen – I'll have words to say to him, let me tell you!

So then, I was working the rest of the week and I must say that the Crew crowd is amongst the soundest people I've ever had the pleasure of working with. Much fun and frolics were had by all – even if I did have to put up with constant bother from drunken males going in and out of the bathrooms – and females who offered their souls to go into the gents' to avoid the queues at the ladies'! And telling people that there was no entry this side of the courtyard – that they'd have to go around to the front archway! Like, do people ever listen?!

But it was all worth it in the end – as we will see when the crisp cheque is lodged into the bank accounts. Saturday night saw the Gallery in town play host to the complimentary Crew piss-up, where much scandal was the

topic of conversation in the Scholars' on Sunday night! Needless to say – I myself was included in the piss-taking chit-chat, but we won't go there!!! And for fear that no-one believes me – there are scars there to prove the fact that the night was an extremely eventful one!

All in all, a mighty week! Between the wonderful world that is the Frames and the free vodkas and red bull on Saturday night – it's gonna be hard to forget such a week! But sure – it could be worse! We might have seen Nigel in the nip every day of the week! Thank god it was only once! And I actually passed him one night in the Marquee and he didn't even bat an eyelid at the fact that a stranger was saluting him!

Next week sees the start of the annual Election Campaigns – and I'm sure that all contestants will be delighted to hear that I am not declaring support for any one of them until I see what exactly it is that they have to offer us for the next twelve months. But still – best of luck to all contestants – and as the old cliché goes – may the best man or woman win! Talk soon.....

Have You Nothing Better To Do?

You know those headwrecking e-mails that you get from people with nothing better to do. Now and again though, a good one turns up. We're going to see if we can find one a fortnight. Tough task.

Meant to put this one in before **Mother's Day**, but forgot, so i guess it'll have to do after the day in question.

So FAT.....

Yo mamma so fat, her nickname is "DAMN"
Yo mamma so fat she went to the movies and sat next to everyone
Yo mamma so fat you have ta roll over twice to get off her...
Yo mamma so fat she was floating in the ocean and spain claimed her for the new world
Yo mamma so fat when you get on top of her, your ears pop!
Yo mamma so fat when she has sex, she has to give directions!
Yo mamma so fat she goes to a restaurant, looks at the menu and says "okay!"
Yo mamma so fat when she wears a yellow raincoat, people said "Taxi!"
Yo mamma so fat she had to go to Sea World to get baptized
Yo mamma so fat she got to iron her pants on the driveway
Yo mamma so fat she got to pull down her pants to get into her pockets
Yo mamma so fat when she tripped over on 4th Ave, she landed on 12th
Yo mamma so fat when she bungee jumps, she brings down the bridge too
Yo mamma so fat when she sits around the house, she SITS AROUND THE HOUSE!
Yo mamma so fat her neck looks like a pair of hot dogs!
Yo mamma so fat she looks like she's smuggling a Volkswagon!
Yo mamma so fat when she plays hop scotch, she goes New York, L.A., Chicago...

Yo mamma so fat I had to take a train and two buses just to get on the bitches good side!
Yo mamma so fat she wakes up in sections!
Yo mamma so fat she sat on a quarter and a booger shot out of George Washington's nose.
Yo mamma so fat she rolled over 4 quarters and it made a dollar!
Yo mamma so fat when she bungee jumps she goes straight to hell!
Yo mamma so fat when she jumps up in the air she gets stuck!!!
Yo mamma so fat she's on both sides of the family!
Yo mamma so fat everytime she walks in high heels, she strikes oil!
Yo mamma so fat even her clothes have stretch marks!
Yo mamma so fat she broke her leg, and gravy poured out!
Yo mamma so fat when she fell over she rocked herself asleep trying to get up again.
Yo mamma so fat the Aids quilt would n't cover her
Yo mamma so fat she left the house in high heels and when she came back she had on flip flops.
Yo mamma so fat she uses redwoods to pick her teeth
Yo mamma so fat she stepped on a rainbow and made Skittles.
Yo mamma so fat that when she was born, she gave the hospital stretch marks.
Yo mamma so fat her blood type is ragu

So STUPID.....

Yo mamma so stupid it took her 2

hours to watch 60 minutes
Yo mamma so stupid that she puts lip stick on her head just to make-up her mind
Yo mamma so stupid you have to dig for her IQ!
Yo mamma so stupid that she tried to put M&M's in alphabetical order!
Yo mamma so stupid she thinks a quarterback is a refund!
Yo mamma so stupid she got stabbed in a shoot out.
Yo mamma so stupid when you stand next to her you hear the ocean!
Yo mamma so stupid she thinks Fleetwood Mac is a new ham burger at McDonalds!
Yo mamma so stupid she jumped out the window and went up.
Yo mamma so stupid she put out the cigarette butt that was heating your house.

So UGLY.....

Yo mamma so ugly when she joined an ugly contest, they said "Sorry, no professionals."
Yo mamma so ugly she looks out the window and got arrested for mooning.
Yo mamma so ugly they push her face into dough to make gorilla cookies.
Yo mamma so ugly they didn't give her a costume when she tried out for Star Wars.
Yo mamma so ugly when she walks into a bank, they turn off the surveillance cameras
Yo mamma so ugly her mom had to be drunk to breast feed her
Yo mamma so ugly she made an onion

cry.
Yo mamma so ugly even Rice Krispies won't talk to her!
Yo mamma so ugly Ted Dansen would n't date her!
Yo mamma so ugly she turned Medusa to stone!
Yo mamma so ugly The NHL banned her for life
Yo mamma so ugly people go as her for Halloween.
Yo mamma so ugly that when she sits in the sand on the beach, cats try to bury her.
Yo mamma so ugly she scares the roaches away.



anyone recognise their momma?

Family Values

My mother and I share a troubled relationship. Its been two months since I last saw her. We didn't have a major argument, a falling out or attack each other with carving knives as is often depicted on 'real life' dramas.

Basically, I just don't want to go home because i am enjoying my freedom, plus the bus journey from Limerick to Cork is possibly the most depressing two hours a person could endure. Of course I have spoken to her, although my mobile phone was broken for two weeks, during which time I forgot to notify her. I was confronted one morning with an email bearing the message "R U alive or dead?, would appreciate notification to cancel funeral arrangements", to which I hastily responded that I was indeed alive and well (at least in body) and apologised for forgetting about her.

The thing is, I moved out of home quite some time before I even started college because I needed my own space and my independence. We live in a small village near Youghal, and the only way of getting into town is by car as there is no bus service. Of

course I could cycle and indeed I have occasionally, but my bones are getting weary in old age and its not always practical (a tame way of saying, i couldn't be bothered). So I have to rely on my mother to drive me to town, which means my social life is dependent on whether she can or will be bothered to drive me in and collect me. This invariably leads to friction which is understandable.

To resolve this I moved to town, that way I wouldn't have to depend on her and treat her like a taxi service. My method of moving out did leave something to be desired however, I got my uncle to come over and help me load his car with my stuff and then he brought me to my new apartment, all while my mother was away for the day. I then casually informed her by telephone that I was living in town and that i would support myself from now on, thank you very much. That was the first definite snip off the ties that bind us. But at least she said she preferred it that I had moved out before she had kicked me out (not that she would have, at least I don't think).

The one major thing that we fall out about and that we keep coming back to is money. Money is the cause of all our grief and angst. I don't like to ask her

for money but sometimes I do and then I get an earful because it seems to be the only reason i ever go back to her or ring her. Which is also very understandable but not completely true. She is usually the last source I will go to for money because I know she hasn't got much, she's a student herself in Cork and she has to support my sister. But occasionally I do have to ask her and then the sparks fly. At least I've been relatively self sufficient since Christmas, although now with 'Kollege' week coming up, I can foresee a pass machine statement in the near future, "Your balance is: 0 pounds, equivalent to 0 euros".

Despite all this, myself and my mother are the best of friends and when monetary issues are put aside we do get on extremely well, until my sister arrived when I was seven it had always just been the two of us living together on our own. Its a love/hate relationship, and if it means we will always have a knife hidden behind our backs then that's the way its got to be. At the time I am writing this, Mother's Day is just round the corner, the perfect time to make up and send her a card, now what was her name again.....

By Brendan Gregoriy.

A Rapid Reaction Force or a European Army?

What is happening to the Irish nation? A country that is crying out for a debate on our foreign policy and more specifically our neutrality and our future within the European Union.

With the government trying to keep cool and hope that it will all blow over until the next general election and an opposition who come up with policies on the issue, but fail to instigate debate. Are we living in a country full of selfish parasites that only look at the four green fields and even then walk with their hands behind their backs and their eyes shut? It sure feels like it sometimes.

We have no foreign policy, no direction, and no focus in international affairs. We walk blindly into United Nations meetings and watch as countries line up on issues and us standing in the corner asking ourselves should we be here at all? The same is true on a European level. We don't know what role we want to play in a Common Foreign and Security Policy and how we would fit into it. And what is it that causes this ridiculous situation? A weakness by politicians and the Irish people to demand and implement a policy on foreign affairs and our relationship within an enlarging European Union. And everybody knows it, including one Dr. Javier Solana, the EU's de facto Foreign and Security minister.

In a recent article in an Irish newspaper, written by Solana, which had as its header Ireland must support EU reaction force, the reader was informed that Ireland was needed to be part of a unifying force to bring security, stability and prosperity to Europe. It was the most open assault in the informal debate that is taking place on neutrality by a leading European figure. He cites Ireland's exemplary record in peace-keeping and humanitarian duties abroad and simply states that a European reaction force of 60,000 personnel, which could be maintained in the field for a year, would have a similar if not identical mission. It

State Of The Nation

the opinion of David Fleming

is this type of reaction force that would mount large-scale rescue missions in places like Mozambique and presumably would step into crises such as the Balkan Wars or the Kosovo War instead of Nato.

But there lies the contradiction. Would a European reaction force displace Nato as the policeman of European security or would it be yet another branch of Natos army along with Pfp? And of course the question remains whether the reaction force is the precursor for a European army? Common sense might suggest that yes we are looking at the beginning of an armed force within Europe made up of the military contingents of member states. It is only logical, when our economies had been integrated, our fiscal arrangements decided in by a European Central Bank and most of our domestic actions decided by one EU directive or another. The only place that the EU can look for new areas of integration is our justice and policing systems, and our foreign and security areas. And like it or not Ireland along with all other member-states agreed to the Treaty of Amsterdam which initiated moves towards a common foreign and security policy.

If Greece was attacked militarily tomorrow, Ireland and the other member states would be obliged to come to the aid of its partner. Where does Irish neutrality leave us then? There is a glaring conflict of interest which is facing the Irish nation. On the one hand we have agreed to negotiate a European foreign

and security policy. And yet we tell the world that we are neutral, that we want nothing to do with the military happenings of the world and we don't want to be even consulted about it, so leave us alone, and let us focus on our immigration problems, etc. etc.

Ireland cannot afford at this stage of our independence to be left aside in international affairs. Our armed forces are stretched across the world in a peace-keeping capacity, while our politicians do everything they can to avoid even discussing international issues.

Ireland must shed its facade of neutrality and must have a foreign policy, endorsed by the people, and must be prepared to take a more active role on the international stage. And although we are a small country, we still have our voice and our skill at bull-shitting our way through any matter, whether that is at the County Council level or at a diplomatic level.



Dr. Javier Solana, the EU's de facto Foreign and Security minister.

The Diary of Doctor Zaius.

I'm quite sure that Guinness is part hops part barley and mostly water all with a little bit of 'Black Mamba Snake Poison' to make the entire experience more costly to ones general health and productivity.

I relish evenoming myself in a semi tribal cult of urban apaches. Man has tinkered with mind-altering drugs ever since the first simian decided to overcharge for the privilege of drinking the byproduct of a fungus. Thus a whole or perhaps unwholesome industry was engendered. So where are we in the evolutionary process now? Well the best we can come up with is the Lodge. Well, as the song goes 'If you like disco dancing.....'.

But despite all this very 'Bucks Fizz' frivolity in hotel nightclubs across the island, I still end up, after a haze of hooch and hormones, in places with names like the Glen Royal or the Lodge. Why? I'll tell you, and bare in mind I have researched every psychological venue on this one.

Everyone in the Lodge has either; one, seen or spoken to Elvis, or two, been abducted by rock and roll luv'in' aliens. Conclusion; were all an assemblage of Hillbillies and cousin marrying Rednecks.

Welcome to the country, grab a beer hop in your pick-up, and load your un.

Not that the most sophisticated shindigs are without their share of debauchery, but at least you feel like you're the privileged and obnoxious rather than some sort of rebel without a clue. The modern man about town always has a certain essential agenda when in the libidinous Bad Lands, something similar to the local gentry of yore seducing, local peasant girls with their beguiling Irish charm and talk of running away.

Back to the plebes, the lads night out according to the FIFA rules shall consist of, one exhaust burning curry (the hotter the better), Beer, more beer, vodka and an energy drink (to give you energy, duh!), beer, some sort of conversation about (a) a sporting event, (typically a team sport, not mixed tennis doubles), the rougher the better. (b) The quality/taste/price of the beer. And (c) their failed career in amateur porn or how many women they've bedded. All thought provoking stuff. Beer, a different type of beer. Shouting and roaring. Beer. More piss-coloured vodka and energy drink. Beer. A conversation to/at a posh leggy bird about how lovely her blouse would be if she was wearing one, a quick execution by the leggy bird.

Beer. A conversation with one of the rougher women about her ex-boyfriend, leading to a go ugly before the rush, suck lips, face, neck and other parts of the body that's forbidden in public, (unless it's the Market).

Lastly taxi home with pass out and vomit default setting. All of this is of a fiercely competitive nature as to who can do all of it the fastest.

Did I mention beer?

Zaius



Students' Union President

Candidates ; Claire McCarthy, Nora Lawton, Mike Phelan, Muiris O'Sullivan, Conor Ryan



Hi I'm Claire McCarthy,

I'm a 4th year Law & European Studies student from Bandon, Co. Cork & I am asking you to vote for me as your Students' Union President.

I am seeking your support because I have the experience & the ability to strongly communicate to the University on your behalf & to make your voice heard.

As a student, I have represented the University of Limerick at national & international speaking forums & have always argued on behalf of students.

With the development of the campus there are many issues at stake for all students.

Among the issues I will represent you on are:

Safety on Campus:

- Speed ramp at the Schumann Building
- Bicycle lanes
- Better publicity of Nite-Link timetable
- We have the lights, lets make sure they work.

Wednesday Afternoons:

- The excuse used by the authorities to take our Wednesday afternoons was a lack of space.
- We now have new buildings & more space, their excuse is no longer valid.
- This is just a matter of more efficient timetabling.

Regulation of Academic Appeals:

- Presently students are denied representation when before Departmental Board.
- I will ensure that students have full representation when before this body.
- At the moment the only full set of Departmental Board regulations are in their meeting's minutes. I will ensure that these are published.

Medical Centre:

- It is ridiculous that Castletroy, which is the size of Nenagh, does not have a medical centre!
- It is time to work with the community to establish a local government funded medical centre which can be used free of charge by students.

Car Parking:

- Having limited where students can park, the college now propose that students with cars pay for parking.
- We will ensure this does not happen by taking direct student action if necessary.

Anonymous Marking:

- Lack of anonymity leaves students open to discrimination when papers are graded.
- We have I.D. numbers, lets get them put to use.

With my experience in Clubs & Societies & my belief in putting students first, I ask you to give me the chance to represent you on the issues mentioned above & those on my manifesto.

If you have any queries or comments please call to my stand in the canteen or e-mail me at mccarthyelection@ireland.com

All the best,
Claire McCarthy.

VOTE CLAIRE MCCARTHY # 1 FOR PRESIDENT

Issued by Marcus Lynch Campaign Manager

"AUNION FOR ALLSTUDENTS"

NORALAWTON

Background:

My name is Nora Lawton. I am from Barryroe in West Cork. I am 21 years of age and I am a third year student of History, Politics and Social Studies.

After three years here, with one of those years being completed on Co-Op I have experienced many difficulties within the University. Each student shares each of these difficulties. I feel strongly enough about the dire need to solve these problems to run for Students Union President.

Since I have entered the university in 1997, I have been involved in many ways with Clubs and Societies, with student union activities and also with various university events.

- During 1997-98 I was President of the radio Society, and was a member of the Executive Board of Wired FM.

- For the academic of 1998, I was Class Representative.

- I have been a member of the Radio Society, History Society and the Windsurfing Club during 1997-98.

When elected as President of Students' Union, my main focus will be to make the Students' Union more open and accessible for all students.

My Manifesto:

As Student's Union President the issues I will tackle are as follows.

Anonymous Marking. Each student has an ID Number, which should be sufficient identification for us. Yet when completing any papers in the University each student is required to include their name. This leads to prejudice if a tutor or lecturer knows or doesn't know you.

Internet access: There is a definitive need for Internet access on all computers in the University. At present this is restricted to the Library and a small section of the Vax. This needs to be rectified.

Library: UL is a Copyright Library. Thus it is entitled to a copy of each book published in Ireland each year. At present it does not enforce this right. Also many of the books in the library are outdated and old. Access to the Special Collections in the library is another major problem.

Medical Centre: At present the medical centre is understaffed and lacks resources. Opening hours, staff numbers and access to the medical centre has to be drastically improved.

Student Services: The issues that need to be addressed in this area include funding, inefficiencies and the problems facing students with Co-operative Education, Teaching Practice Expenses and students going on Study Abroad programmes.

As president I plan to focus on improving the amount of information available to Students and the communication process between the student's union and all students. I propose to publish through An Focal, Scaoil Amach E, and the public folders on the Internet, an exact rundown of each Sabbatical Officers activities during that specific time in question. Through Class Reps Council and the medium of e-mail, much more information will be available to each student on Student's union goings-on than ever before.



Muiris O'Sullivan

<http://osullivan.csn.ul.ie> sully@csn.ul.ie

This is where I'm supposed to tell you why I'm brilliant and all the other candidates aren't and you should just vote for me. But that wouldn't be the truth. The truth is that there are several capable people running for the position of SU President and, in truth, if anyone of them were to win the ULSU would fair well.

But if I'm running for president I obviously believe I'm the best candidate for the job. I have served as a Class Rep for four years, on the Societies Executive Committee for one year, as Societies Officer for a term, and on the SU Executive for the same period. During that time I have achieved what I like to think are many worthwhile goals. I was one of the original proposers and drafters of the amendments to the ULSU constitution which has made a huge difference to Clubs and Societies, I proposed and then served on a committee that gave a badly needed overhaul to the financial procedures for Clubs and Societies, and I initially proposed that ULSU policy should be to provide a service to get students registered for postal voting which it now does.

But there were things that I believed should have been done but weren't because people were afraid to rock the boat. It is said that to see wrong and to do nothing is want of courage; although I have many flaws, want of courage is not one of them. I believe that the students of UL should vote for me because I am prepared to rock the boat if necessary, I am prepared to fight the case of students, and I'm not prepared to accept second best.

My advice to the discerning voters of UL after they pick up and read all the manifestos and read about the issues is to go to each candidate and ask them one question 'HOW are you going to change this?' Once you have heard them all answer or attempt to answer, then make up your mind and vote.





My name is **Mick Phelan**. I am a 4th year Applied Maths & Computing student from Clonmel, (yes, the home of delicious Bulmers Cider apples) Co. Tipp.

In 1st year I joined the UL Music Society and became its president in 2nd year. While I was president, we started the Monday night sessions in the Stables and I am proud of the fact that they have since become an overwhelming success. The society's image was greatly improved and it continues to be very active on campus. I also organised "The Great Gig In The Sky", the first music intervarsity of its kind, with proceeds going to the victims of the Omagh bombing.

Last September I was elected onto the Societies Executive Committee. This time I organised SoUL week. I did, however, have to overcome some problems with the University but we got there in the end! SoUL 2000 turned out to be a great success for all involved.

I am a member of a number of committees and have had dealings with the University before. All these experiences have taught me that a more forward approach is needed with them. I believe that it's now time to tackle the University, as the representative of all students on campus. And remember, that's all the Student Union President is, no more, no less.
The power lies with you, the student.

For too long now the powers that be in the University have enjoyed the status quo that exists. Mick will demand answers to the questions the University does not want asked.

- Why are students only entitled to three out of seven representatives on the Stables committee, even though we comprise over 90% of its membership?
- Why are student teachers put in the impossible situation of having to pay rent for two houses, while receiving no income on teaching practice?
- Why are Clubs and Societies in Trinity allocated close to half a million pounds while in UL we receive a mere £240,000 (approx.)?
- Why are there no specific student car parks - especially now with the proposed introduction of clamping?

Mick will

- Keep the pressure on crucial student facilities to provide student's with the service they are entitled to.
 - Co-op Office
 - Student Services
 - Medical Centre
- Demand improved research facilities and material in the library.
- Demand fair access for all students to the new Sports Building and prevent unjustified price increases. After all, we paid over £4million for it.
- Computers are a fundamental part of a student's academic life. Why don't we have proper access?
 - Demand adequate profile storage space.
 - Demand individual departments to provide FYP labs.
 - Demand increased lab opening hours and Internet access.
 - Demand a complete revamp of the UL web site to make it more accessible and informative.
- At present, if a 4th year student has to repeat a module for any reason, including illness or family bereavement, they are not eligible to graduate with their class in September.
 - Push to ensure that the present 4th years will be the last affected by this intolerable situation.
- Clubs and Societies are an integral part of University life and are the backbone of the Student's Union.
 - Lobby the University to provide the necessary funding they need to become more competitive.
 - Strive to re-instate the almost forgotten half-day on a Wednesday to facilitate more participation in Clubs and Societies.
 - Push for a greater emphasis on introducing students to Clubs and Societies - after all, we're paying for it!
- To date, Class Reps Council has been a largely ineffective, non-functioning body and it needs to be rebuilt from its foundations.
 - Seek to contract a professional independent consultant to analyse this problem and implement their recommendations.
 - Students need to realise the importance of Class Reps and Class Reps need to realise the importance of their role to students. Mick will start the rebuilding process so the current first years won't have the same problems we had.
- The SU is generally perceived as being unapproachable and has to shed its negative image among students. It is Mick's aim to build on the progress of the current SU to bring the Union to you.
 - Create an information pack detailing all your rights. For example, did you know that an SU solicitor could represent you? These packs will be distributed to all students, including overseas students, along with timetables at the start of each semester.
 - Create an "open afternoon" in the canteen where you can talk to him in a more familiar setting.
 - Push hard for the introduction of Internet Voting for SU elections to increase accessibility for everyone.
 - Increase the SU's presence on the Internet, and lobby for the employment of 1 co-op student every semester, whose responsibilities will be to update the SU/Clubs & Societies website on a daily basis.
 - Focus on providing more diverse entertainment on campus such as lunchtime events and alternatives to the Lodge.
 - There is also a need to promote student provided entertainment within the University.

Remember, it is your Union and can only ever be as powerful as you want it to be.

Mick's history in UL

- President Music Society
- Organised a 24 hour Music Marathon
- Organised UL Music Intersivity "The Great Gig In The Sky"
- Founder Member and President OMEGA- UL Maths & Stats Society
- 4th year Class Rep
- Member Societies Executive Committee
- Societies Officer
- Organised SoUL 2000
- Member Financial Review Committee
- Member Constitutional Review Committee
- Member Students Union Executive Committee

NO SUBMISSION WAS RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CONOR RYAN BEFORE THE PRINT DEADLINE

POLLING STARTS AT 10AM IN THE CANTEEN THIS THURSDAY POLLS CLOSE AT 6.30PM

ELECTION HUSTINGS JEAN MONNET THEATRE 3PM, WED. WK 6

THE POSITIONS YOU'RE VOTING TO FILL

- STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

-DEPUTY PRESIDENT / WELFARE OFFICER

- VICE PRESIDENT / EDUCATION OFFICER

- VICE PRESIDENT / COMMUNICATION AND CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

Deputy President/ Welfare Officer

Candidates ; Alan Ryder and Siobhan O'Connell



My name is **Alan Ryder** and I'm running for the post of Deputy President & Welfare Officer.

The Students' Union currently defines the role of Welfare Officer as follows: "The Deputy President & Welfare Officer shall be responsible for the development and promotion of Union welfare policy."

I believe this means that The Deputy President & Welfare Officer shall assist students' with problems in the areas of accommodation, access, childcare, study, health, finances and general well-being. In addition the Welfare Officer is also responsible for allocating the Students' Union hardship fund to students who need a little extra cash.

I want to be the type of sabbatical who is seen, who is approachable and who will answer questions, straight, honestly and to the point. I believe that listening to students is vital, so talk to me, ask questions and give me your opinions.

My Background in UL

I'm a 4th. year Business Studies Student from Tuam, Co. Galway. For the past year I have been your Community Officer. A lot of people don't quite understand what the position of Community Officer is all about, to put it simply the role of Community officer is to act as a liaison between students and residents.

The role of Community Officer is centred on communication. With this in mind, upon becoming Community Officer, I set about developing a means of communication to the Students through An Focal and Scaoil Amach É. I received much positive feedback for this initiative. However, I am aware that not every student reads these papers, so I created a web page. This web page allows me to convey information relevant to the students of ULand become interactive with the student body.

Also as Community Officer, I sit on the executive of the Students Union. As an executive of the SU, I have been asking questions on your behalf all year, particularly in relation to Wired FM and the student centre. Yes, there are things which need changing, such is life. Students need more accountability and information.

I know that some candidates will promise the sun, the moon and the stars to be elected, but I will only promise what I can deliver.

Welfare Officer Web Site

This is similar to the site I introduced for the Community Officer, the Welfare page will allow me to convey information relevant to the students of UL.

Student Counselling

Over your years at college you are bound to encounter problems of one kind or another. The job of the welfare officer is to help you with whatever problems you might have no matter how big or how small they may be. I have a certificate in Para-Counselling, but I may not be able or qualified to help with everything, after all I'm a student just like you, but I will put you in touch with the right people who can help.

Housing

This is a huge area, and one that concerns all students. I want to insure that students are informed of their rights. For example, landlords have a legal obligation to provide students with rent books. There is a need in Castletroy for the Students' Union to take action on the issue of student housing.

For students going on Co-Op and Teaching Practice, the accommodation office provides a list of landlords around the country who have accommodation available. If elected I will publish this list on the new Welfare Officer Web Site. I believe this is a practical and simple approach, which won't cost an arm and a leg.

Student Voice

The most important voice in the students' union is that of the student body. The only way to be an effective Sabbatical is to be in touch with all students. I plan to have my door always open and to hold a sabbatical question and answers night twice a semester. This and the constant day to day contact with students will allow me to be a real student representative.

Students with Disabilities

It is important that we realise that the demands of people with disabilities are not about exceptions or special treatment, but are about the fulfilment of rights, especially the right to respect and to participate.

ULhas had an Access policy for the last 5 years, however the right to participate for students with disabilities has been difficult. People with physical disabilities are denied physical access due to steps, lack of ramps etc. e.g. there is only one door in this college, which a person with a physical disability can open automatically. This is a very discriminatory situation, and one I will address.

Help a Friend Scheme

Similar to the Outreach Society, however this scheme will encourage students to give one hour a week to help students who have a learning difficulty or students who have a disability. I believe such a scheme is important, as it's an aid to breaking down barriers and creating links between all groups of students.

Internet Access

The queues in the Library are long, but providing Internet access in the other Labs will not solve this. Why? Because the other labs are used for teaching up to 6 p.m., while the VAX is seen as a typing room for projects such as Final Year Projects.

Simple solution, give 24-hour Internet access to those who need it. All fourth years should have 24-hour access, which is simple to implement as we all have unique key codes, our Student ID's.

Financial Aid

The Deputy President sits on the Financial Aid Committee. Furthermore, this year the Minister for Education is allocating an additional fund to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds. I want to make these funds known to students.

Security

The university has grown larger and larger each year and is set to develop even further. ULis an open campus and to keep this campus open and friendly, there is a serious need to continuously monitor and improve security. In the last two years the additional Lighting, CCTV, Campus Watch and Nitelink have greatly improved security, but we can not afford to become complacent.

Limerick

It's time to develop links with the other third level institutions in Limerick. There are issues, which all the students in Limerick have in common, such as ever increasing rent charges. With a collective Limerick voice we can better lobby the government to take action.

Some other issues

- I propose the setting up of WELFARE WORKSHOPS. These Workshops will entail a series of talks and discussion groups on topics such as racism, equality, discrimination etc., hosted by independent experts from various organisations.

- Crèche Facilities: we need to take all reasonable measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of all children attending the crèche.

My name is **Siobhan O'Connell** and I am final year Law and Accounting student. I am from Clonmel in Co Tipperary and I am asking you to elect me, Deputy President, Welfare Officer of the Students Union. As a final year student I have been in ULnow for four years and I know what goes on. I know what annoys us students and I have often wondered why many of even the smallest of problems can't be sorted out.

If elected I will do everything I possibly can to address your issues as well as the issues that I have in my manifesto. I will be there to meet people and to listen to what you have to say, and I will always do my very best to help.

The voting takes place on Thursday of Week 9 in the canteen, and I'd appreciate your vote.



Safety First!

The university is growing at a remarkable rate, and with it grows safety issues. The specific concerns at the moment include:

-The Nitelink

This service is invaluable for student's safety, eliminating as it does, the need for any student to be faced with walking home alone. However, there is a definite need to improve the reliability and punctuality of the service. Also, it is absolutely essential to ensure that it is funded again for next year, and to push for permanent funding.

- CCTV

There is a need for camera security in certain areas around the college. One such spot is the bus-stop, where students often have to wait alone for a bus.

- Campus Watch

There is a general lack of awareness of the activities and services provided by the Campus Watch. It is unknown to most students that Campus Watch monitors all safety issues on campus and reports those issues to senior University committees who are then obliged to act on their recommendations. Students should be provided the opportunity to contribute to this committee and to have their issues addressed.

- Medical Centre

The Medical Centre...what can I say? It's all been said before...the need for improvement and investment is well overdue. The facility is just not adequate for a University of this population. Unfortunately, it cannot be transformed over-night, but the University must be actively pushed to address the situation. I would make the medical centre a major issue during my term of office, and ensure that progress is finally made.

- Crèche Facilities

It is essential, with the ever-growing population of students, and the increase in the number of mature students returning to study, that the proposed extension to the crèche goes ahead.

Computers

- More Internet Access

The queues for the computers in the library could be eliminated by having day-time Internet Access on computers in other labs. This is something that, in such a technologically advanced University, will simply have to be demanded

Doing your bit for Society...

- The Out-Reach Society

This is a voluntary organisation where students take time out to go and help people to read and write in some of the more disadvantaged areas in Limerick city. I would like to see the activities of this society expanded. For example, to arrange that sport-enthusiasts could give swimming lessons, or musical students could give some music lessons, and open the opportunities for students to participate, and "do their good deed" for the week.

Graduations

- Fourth years with i-grades

Are you being discriminated against on one of the most important days of your life?? It's time to change the rule that students with i-grades or f-grades are not allowed to graduate with the rest of their class in September.

Problems with your Landlord?

Too many of us have had problems with landlords, and the complaints are on the increase. Jobs don't get done, deposits don't get paid back...let's face it, there are landlords out there who seem to be just waiting to take advantage, and give grief to students.

I propose to reform the current "University Approved" system. Complaints will be recorded, and if problems persist and reoccur with certain landlords, the landlord's house will be taken off the University Accommodation list. This would encourage landlords to treat the students with more respect.

- Accommodation during Co-Op & Teaching Practice

Any of us who have been on co-op and on TPalready know all too well that its hard enough to get organised without the additional worry of trying to get accommodation. This can be made easier by creating a database, which will give information on housing available in the various work-placement locations. The system will be designed so that students log in once during their placement to complete a questionnaire. It will give details of the address; rent; landlord's phone no.; and other information, which will be used in a standard rating system of the accommodation. The database will be accessible to all students, and as the finishing term for one set of co-op students coincides with the starting term of the next set, it will work perfectly!

- Housing for International & Erasmus Students

A database similar to the co-op and TPone could be set up for the foreign students too as more often than not, these students arrange accommodation before they arrive in Ireland.

-Some Other Proposals..

- The Soft Seats in the canteen..

All I can say is they must come back!! The canteen just is not the same without them!

- 24-Hour Entrance..

The only 24-hour entrance is at the furthest point away from the only 24-hour computer lab. Everyone finds it annoying to walk the whole way around...wouldn't it make so much more sense to have a 24 hour entrance beside the Vax??

- Disability access

Speaking of how annoying it is to have only one entrance at night - imagine if we only had one entrance all the time....yet there is only one automatic door to the main building for people with physical disabilities. This must be changed -and in the very near future.

Vice President/ Education Officer

Candidates ; Aidan O’Gorman and Tom O’Donovan



The recently created post of Vice President-Education Officer will have responsibility for developing and implementing Union education policy and for keeping the student body informed of it. This role will allow the SU to focus more on its primary and most important duty, that of representing students needs

Aidan O’Gorman is a 21-year-old and hails from Birr in Co. Offaly. He is in 4th year and is studying computer systems. He has the experience, drive and determination to ensure that the inaugural Education Officer will lay the foundations for an effective and successful Education Post in the ULSU.

He has experienced the Union in action through being a class rep and attending clubs and societies council. As chair of class reps he was a member of the Union Executive committee. He firmly believes that Class Reps council who are given real power and that has a clear understanding of its role will make a stronger Union.

The students’ union is in effect the main link between the university authorities and the student body. The Union can only work effectively if it has the support of the students and a good working relationship with the college authorities. In order to gain the full support of the student body the Education Officer should ensure that everyone knows all developments that affect their academic lives. Aidan will do this through using An Focal, by regularly updating the Union web site and by utilising every communications tool available. This policy has been shown to work in that past. All class reps meetings chaired by Aidan this year were well attended. The last one had over 90% attendance. Through keeping every one fully informed interest and support grows, Aidan will ensure that there is Real Union between the SU and students.

Aidan will develop relations with all levels of the University hierarchy to ensure that students individual problems can be dealt with quickly, efficiently and professionally. It is unfortunate that many staff are not aware of the Union’s role in representing students. Aidan will change this.

Aidan will develop the Real Strength of the Union in representing students educational needs. As this is the first year for a dedicated Education Officer it gives a great opportunity to tackle on an on-going basis many of the issues that have been affecting ULstudents for a long time. Aidan will develop and implement a consistent policy on issues that affect students. He will use his position on academic council and its sub committees and on faculty boards to show Real Strength when dealing with education needs. There are many issues that need to be dealt with and Aidan is determined to represent you.

* **Library facilities.** Longer opening hours, greater access to books and project reports and greater availability dedicated study rooms to create a better work environment are a priority

* **The Student Services and Co-op office.** It is great the opening hours have recently increased. However this is of little use unless the service is improved. All students should receive notice of job interviews by email as well as on the notice boards.

* **Why has the SU ignored the educational difficulties experienced by our student nurses?**

* **Student teachers.** Aidan will work in conjunction with the Student Teachers Society, other executive members and the University authorities to ensure fair treatment for Student Teachers.

* **Exams.** Students in UL are put under great exam stress. Our exam results can effect our job prospects after we graduate. Why should we have to do 2 exams in the same day when better planning can alleviate this problem? 4th years doing repeat or I grade exams in September should graduate with their friends and classmates. As a fourth year, Aidan has great empathy with this issue. The current marking system is unfair and can lead to discrimination (The saying “an A for a lay” has embedded itself into ULfolklore). Aidan will fight for anonymous marking. The Freedom of Information Act, when it comes into affect for universities, will be used to see that marking schemes for exams are made available to students.

* **Teaching Quality** - It is not just good enough to have Class Reps nominate the best and worst lecturers. Ridiculing poor teachers solves nothing. Aidan will highlight the need to fully implement the legislation in the new Universities Act in relation to Teaching Standards. He will work with all university authorities in order to ensure that we receive the best possible education.

* **2nd Hand Bookshop** - The Union did this before with great success. With the extra facilities offered by the new student centre, why not again

* **24 hour photocopying suites** - Photocopying units distributed around campus available on a round the clock basis will alleviate queues approaching exam time.

* **Larger profile space** is needed to ensure that students can fully utilise computers when doing assignments.

* Where the education officer can make a real difference is in helping and representing **individual students** who have academic problems. Aidan is very approachable and has the qualities needed to best represent anyone who is in need of support when in difficulty.

Many issues have remained unresolved for a long time. It is certain that the same things have been repeated many times in this issue of An Focal. What you have to decide is who is the best person to deliver and to represent you. Aidan feels that he has the experience, drive, determination and record to ensure that the inaugural Education Officer sets the standard and can make a lasting improvement in conditions for all students in this college. He has a proven track record of communicating with those he represents. He asks for your support. If you feel that any issues need to be highlighted please tell Aidan. Whether elected or not he will ensure that all concerns raised are passed on to the proper authorities so that they can be investigated immediately. Make sure that you vote. You can make a difference.

TOM O’DONOVAN #1 FOR EDUCATION OFFICER

Next Thursday, Students of U.L. will elect for the first time an Education Officer to their Union. This post is vital for all students, in that it allows them to be fully represented on all Educational issues both collectively and individually.

My name is **Tom O’Donovan** and I am asking you to support me as your new Education Officer. I believe I have the

- Maturity
- Responsibility
- Experience

to get the job done properly on your behalf.

Please look at the issues I have highlighted. If you feel that they apply to you, ask yourself one simple question-What kind of candidate do you think will best represent you on these serious issues? I believe I have the attitude and ability to get results that are meaningful to all students on campus.

I have returned to third level education after working in managerial positions all over the world, and am acutely aware of the problems all students are facing at present, having faced many of them in my three years here.

Please read my manifesto and decide for yourself if the issues I have highlighted are worth fighting for. If you believe they are, then put in a candidate who also believes they are too.

A few weeks ago, the position of Education Officer was created within the Student’s Union. The Person elected to this job is responsible for the development and implementation of Union Education policy. If elected, my policy will be simple- I want to ensure that every U.L. Student is given every opportunity to get the best education that they can.

- The best education that a student can get not only depends on the student’s efforts, but also on the efforts of the university to provide adequate facilities. These facilities include adequate computer resources, fair access to library books and space on campus to study (We all can’t afford single rooms!). I will work on behalf of students in every faculty to ensure that these resources are maximised to the benefit of all students.

- The only way that all students can ensure that they get the resources that they deserve is to work with the education officer throughout the year. The obvious way to achieve this is through Class Representatives Council. I will work with Class Reps to ensure that the difficulties student’s face, are brought swiftly to my attention and to the attention of Faculty Boards and Academic Council.

Academic Council of the University look to Class Representatives to nominate the best lecturers in the college. If this group of students are smart enough to pick the best, why are they not asked to single out the worst? I will not tolerate low academic standards for our students.

- Academic Council of the University and its sub-committees are constantly changing the environment that we study in. They decide what we study, how we study and even what happens to us if we fail in our studies. This powerful board needs to have a strong Student Voice. If elected I will use my experience and determination to argue clearly and vigorously on behalf of all students.

- Student Nurses and Teachers are not treated equally on this campus. This applies not only to fees, it also applies to basic course materials. If elected I will make it my priority that special resource centres are created on Campus for these students so that they can get every chance to get their education

- The campaign to give student teachers money for teaching practice must be escalated. However, the way that teaching practice is graded also has to be examined. Why do some teachers do poorly in their practise after good reports during the placement? If elected, I will fight to see that Education Students are fully aware of how they are expected to perform.

All Students are at their most vulnerable when in academic trouble. This includes student status committees, appeals of results, awards and teaching practice. Give me the chance to ensure that all students are fully represented at these meetings by the education officer who will be an informed ally on your behalf. I will not let any student go into these meetings alone and unaware of his or her rights.

- Fair access to Library Books is a right of all students on this campus. Yet because of the actions of Staff Unions, Library hours are cut to a minimum at the weekend. In effect it is often not worthwhile for students to use the Library on Saturday morning as it only opens briefly. Give me a chance to allow the Student’s Union to assert itself on this issue and put our education ahead of staff squabbles. We are after all the customers, and our needs are not a priority when opening times are being arranged. I will remind the staff unions of this priority on your behalf.

MATURITY-RESPONSIBILITY-EXPERIENCE

VOTE TOM O’DONOVAN #1 FOR EDUCATION OFFICER NEXT THURSDAY



VP / Communication + Campaigns Officer

Candidates ; Tim McAuliffe and Fergal Fennessy



Vote # 1 Tim McAuliffe For Communications & Campaigns Officer

Hi. I'm Tim McAuliffe, currently in my fourth year of Electronics Manufacturing. This year I'm running for Communications and Campaigns Officer (CCO).

During my time in UL, I have become interested in the manner which Public Relations are conducted within the Students' Union. With the creation of the new sabbatical position of CCO, I foresee many challenges and possibilities. For example, furthering the evolution and development of Wired FM and An

Focal. These I feel I can meet. In addition, the initiation of the new campaigns portfolio that I have outlined in my manifesto.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet with most of you to discuss my ideas. Feel free to approach me at any time over the coming week.

My Policies

Campaigns

Under this portfolio I intend to lobby for improvements in student life. Examples being expenses for teachers on Teaching Practice, enforcement of our libraries copyright entitlement, an increase in availability of study space/computer access with adherence to the code of conduct in these areas. I shall also canvass for an upgrading of the services provided by the college, such as the Medical Centre, Co-Op Office etc. As regards Students' Union meetings and ENTs, I aim for a wider proliferation of advertising and information. Additionally I will campaign with the SU Executive and other nursing colleges to eliminate fees for nurses.

Wired FM

Wired FM is not reaching enough students (despite the new transmitter and frequency). It is my goal to make Wired FM the background music in all public areas within UL. It is my view that the distribution of hours on Wired FM correlates with the provision of funds from each of the member colleges. To increase listenership more broadcast hours are needed along with scheduling changes to ensure that students can listen both at home and in college. For students who are away from UL, Wired needs to be broadcast over the Internet from its Web Site.

An Focal

It is my considered opinion that the establishment of an Editorial Team will ensure that An Focal remains a high quality newspaper. Concerning additions, most students will welcome the revival of sections such as the classifieds and completions. My printing policy will be that of no censorship, however, personal attacks will not be tolerated and a right to reply will be provided. No articles will be printed without the provision of the author's name, which can be withheld by the editor on request.

I have deliberately kept this piece short in consideration for you and my fellow candidates. For more information you can view my manifesto at <http://tim.csn.ul.ie> or you can e-mail me at tim@csn.ul.ie. If you wish to talk to me about anything please feel free to come to me at my campaign stand in the canteen anytime during the week.

Yours,

Tim McAuliffe

Candidate ^ Communications and Campaigns Officer



Hi there, my name is Fergal Fennessy, and I'm a post-graduate studying for a two-year Masters in Quality Management with Information Technology and I did my undergraduate studies in UL.

I'm running for the position of Communications & Campaigns Officer. I feel I have the necessary background, if elected, to serve the student body in a manner that that this new position demands.

I have seen the workload necessary to carry out this job, as I have been working closely with Dave O' Donovan, the current CEO, over the past year. I have seen that it was necessary for the job to be split into the two new Sabbatical positions of Education Officer and the Communications & Campaigns Officer that I'm running for. I'm also aware of the workload that this new position will encompass but then again I'm no stranger to a heavy workload, especially between my FYP last year, my post-graduate course this year, plus being the current Club's Officer on the SU Executive and also organising this years Kollege Week with Keith Piggott.

If elected, I will continue the work carried out by the previous CEO and make An Focal, as entertaining and informative as it is now, whilst improving the communication of the Student's Unions policies to the student body. This would be achieved by allowing me to devote a lot more time to the paper, and other SU publications, than is currently happening due to the education brief included in the CEO's workload. Some of the Improvements that I wish to make to An Focal are

1. Publish the paper on the SU Web-site and also include a Web-forum for you, the student, to air your views on college & SU policies and also to discuss all issues effecting student life.
2. To publish a summary of the minutes from Class Reps Council in An Focal and any decisions the SU Executive make to allow you the students to be informed of all matters relating to the SU and the College.
3. To publish an "Out & About" section in the middle pages, this section will include pictures of UL student's doing what they do best, & that is to party. The pictures will include class party photos, pictures from both bars & from the soon to open, Bohemians Bar in the new Sports Centre, in the lodge and in town. The rest are included in my web page and manifesto.

The improvements to Wired FM I wish to make if elected, involve getting more students listening to the station, involved with broadcasting on the station, including clubs & societies. This will be achieved by extending the broadcasting hours, from 1pm-10pm Monday -Thursday to 8am-12pm Monday-Thursday and 8am - 4pm on Fridays. Also I wish to implement full web broadcasting of wired fm on the UL radio society's Web Page in conjunction with the UL Computer Society SKYNET PROJECT. This would be available to UL Students 24hrs a day due to fact the site will be accessed over the Internal Network. I would also be organising events that promote Wired FM and the UL Radio Society in the college bars and clubs that the student population go to on nights out. I will also pledge to broadcast these events live on Wired FM as we've just had successful testing of the stations Outside broadcasting equipment during Kollege Week 2000 with "Shine" & the "Rag Ball" broadcasted live to the entire Limerick Region on Wired FM 96.8 & 106.8 FM.

I will also be co-ordinating all the campaigns that the other sabbaticals will be instigating, for example Fee's abolished for Post-graduates (PSA President), Improved Campus Security (Welfare & President), Teaching practice expenses paid & Student Nurses Fees & expenses paid (Education).

I also vow to improve the state of the notice boards and to use Campus TV's in the canteen to improve event publicity.

For a more complete manifesto please view my web-site fergal.csn.ul.ie and I will hopefully be seeing you all on the campaign trail over the next the week, along with my campaign team.

PS I hope you all enjoyed Kollege Week 2000, see you all week & Does anyone know where Nigel Is???????



Kollege W

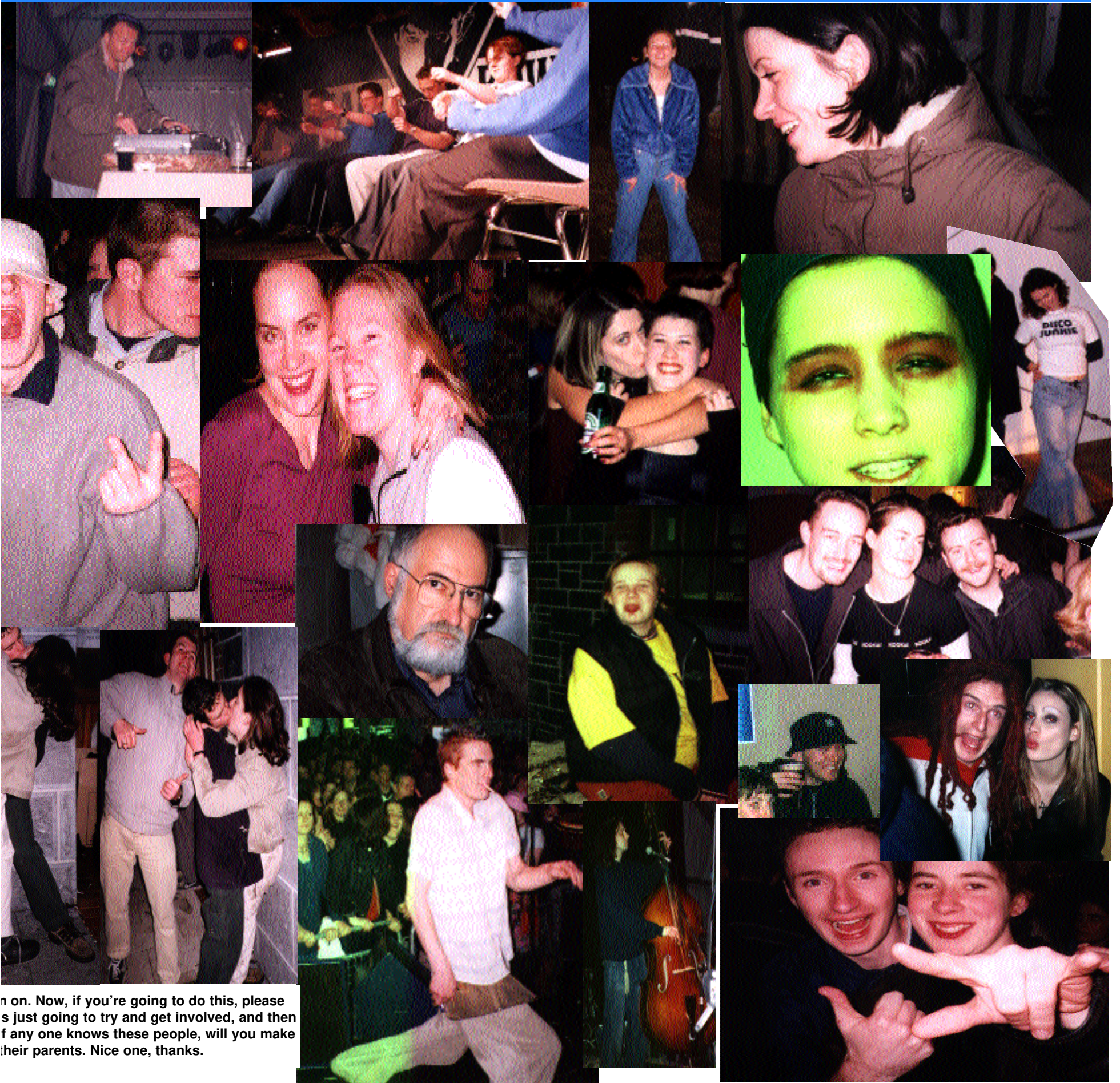
Here's just a few of the pictures we took during the week. In the ne
we'd also like yis to write in what you all thought of the week. If it'
drop a few lines to ceo@ulsu.iol.ie and let us know wha



These are the only ones we'll put a captio
don't do it outside our office, otherwise Pat
we'll never get any work done. By the way,
sure you show the photos to

Week 2000

Next issue, we'll have reviews of the gigs and some more pictures, but as the fire walking, or Back Alley in the Stables, or Nigel the Legend, what you thought. 'Til then, see if you recognise anyone!

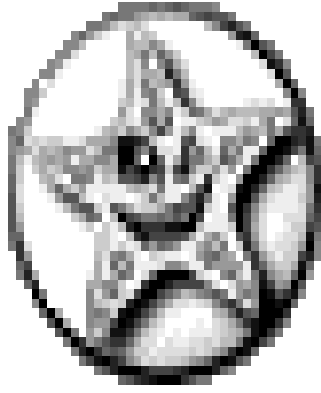


on. Now, if you're going to do this, please
s just going to try and get involved, and then
f any one knows these people, will you make
their parents. Nice one, thanks.

It's in the Stars

so it must be true

Mystic Moriarty tells you what you're in for



Aries 20 March – 18 April

Things at work don't seem to be going your way – maybe it's time for a change?! Perhaps a night on the beer with a few pals might solve a few problems you've been having recently. You probably just need time to think it over!

Taurus 19 April – 19 May

Work matters are improving as you've finally realised certain things that you had always expected to be true. A smart one by you this week, Taureans! Just be certain that you don't get over – excited and lose your head – no job is worth that!

Gemini 20 May – 20 June

You need to decide what it is you want and whether it's worth working for or not. Listen to your heart – it may be telling you the right thing for a change. Know that you are the only one that can make the decision.

Cancer 21 June – 21 July

You're beginning to learn the meaning of respect for others as you decrease the amount of crap that you dish out to those around you. Remember that not everyone is out to get you!

Leo 22 July – 21 August

Stress is still a major factor in your life – but the sooner you learn to deal with it effectively – the better! For it not just you that is effected – those around you too!

Virgo 22 August – 21 September

Your energy levels are low this week. A little rest and recreation wouldn't go astray, whether on your own or with a special someone.

Libra 22 September – 22 October

Life looks good as your academic affairs seem to be going according to plan! A little hard work goes an awful long way! And I'm sure you feel better about yourself too.

Scorpio 23 October – 21 November

A recent flush of money seems to have brought you some very good luck. But be sure that you don't go absolutely crazy and spend it all in the one shop!

Sagittarius 22 November – 20 December

The love – life seems to be going pretty well lately, much thanks to the change in your attitude towards the opposite sex! Have fun but don't do anything I wouldn't do!

Capricorn 21 December – 19 January

With the recent improvement in your love life, you can only be expected to be in great form over the next few weeks! Enjoy it while it lasts because it may not last long.

Aquarius 20 January – 18 February

Academic affairs need to be sorted fairly rapidly. You've been partying way too much and the signs are showing now. Settle down and all will be well.

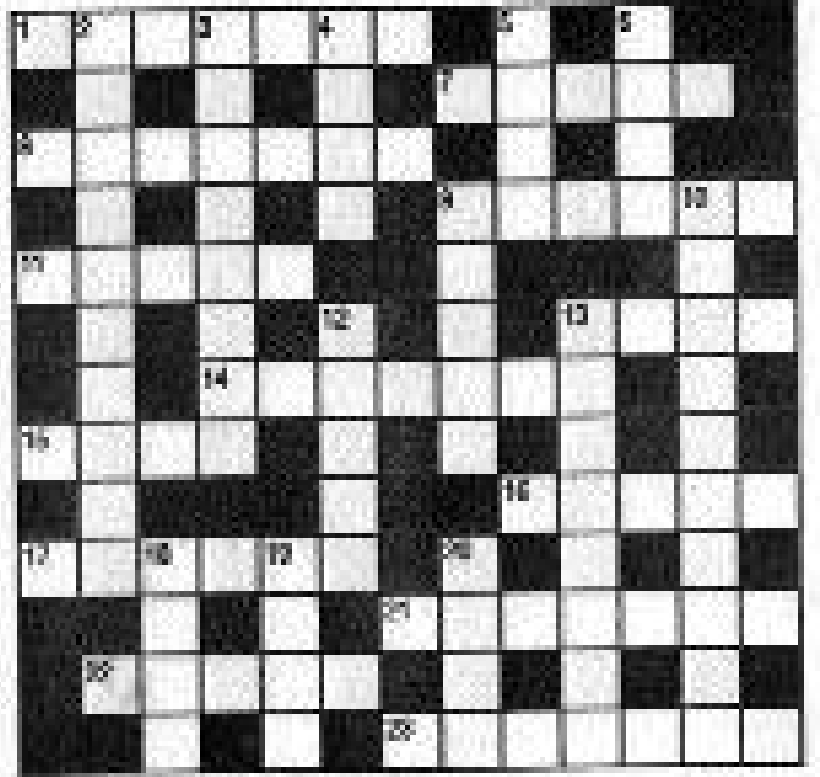
Pisces 19 February – 19 March

Things have been going pretty well lately but as always – all good things must come to an end. This bad streak won't last long but it will put you off certain things for a while!

The New 95FM Student Talkback Crossword

Student Talkback every Thursday 9pm

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



ACROSS

1. (7) Starts by dubious means (7)
7. Wind (5)
8. Shaving wood (7)
9. Section with a melody (6)
11. Woman's name (Limerick) (5)
17. Cough to attract attention (4)
14. Brief access of book (7)
15. Head (4)
16. Long narrow piece of wood (5)
17. Resonance (6)
21. Keep within bounds (7)
22. Road leading to house (5)
23. Went on a demonstration? (7)

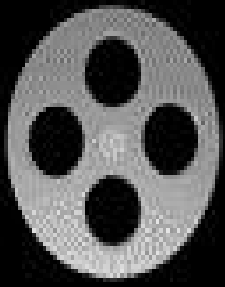
DOWN

2. Lighter (3/6)
7. Declared void (8)
4. Conscience (4)
5. Lay hold of (4)
6. Mobe (4)
9. Long weapon (5)
10. Type of orange (10)
12. Animal resembling weasel (5)
17. Fit and strong (8)
18. Cereal growing on cobs (4)
19. Star starting up (4)
20. Working crystals (4)

le scribble box

Last weeks answers

ACROSS: 1. Henley, 7. Pencil, 8. Argot, 9. Basso, 10. Dazzled, 14. Dole, 18. Lovers, 17. Sky-dive, 20. Reheated, 23. Doves, 24. Biscuits, 25. Toot.
 DOWN: 2. Hound, 3. Kelp, 4. Kings, 5. Hives, 6. Addition, 7. Aardvark, 9. Tapes, 11. Yacht, 13. Dole, 15. Mind, 16. Locket, 18. Broom, 19. Hives, 21. Aardvark, 22. Doves.



The Reel Thing

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

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

Erin Brockovich***
 directed by Steven Soderbergh
 starring Julia Roberts,
 Albert Finney, Aaron Eckhart, Marg Helgenberger
 duration 126 minutes



The (true) story rolls like this. She was a divorced mom of three with few employment prospects, one who talked her way into a job at a law firm, began an investigation on her own initiative which took on big business on behalf of the little people...

And if you're Julia Roberts, you want to stretch your range after a couple of no-brainer smasheroos that have returned you to the top of the Hollywood pile but you don't want to do another Mary Reilly. If you're Steven Soderbergh, however, you want to keep your stock high after two massive critical successes - 'The Limey' and 'Out Of Sight' - and hey, it wouldn't be too nasty to shoot a movie that people actually went to see. And whadaya know? A heavenly box-office match (\$75m and rising in

the US) is made.

A thoroughly well-built piece of savvy film-making if ever there was one, Soderbergh takes an appealing and audience -rousing tale and tells it properly- after the visual excesses of recent past, he's playing it straight here. The true star here, though, is Roberts' cleavage, making a serious comeback after years out of the spotlight. Enough, already.

This is an old fashioned star vehicle du jour, with solid, none-too-threatening male support (fine work from Finney and Eckhart) and several grandstanding moments for its toothy diva to shine. And it works, dammit. Think lo-cal Silkwood meets A Civil Action in a Wonderbra, and you're about there.

A pleasingly minor work from an increasingly major film-maker, a major return-to-form for the biggest female star in the biz... And a solid night out at the 'plex, kids.



Love, Honour and Obey*
 directed by Dominic Anciano and Ray Burdis
 starring Jonny Lee Miller, Jude Law, Ray Winstone, Sadie Frost
 duration 102 mins

Directing duo Anciano and Burdis had already established their rep with acclaimed BBC spoof docu-series Operation Good

reviews courtesy of derek o'connor, www.muse.ie,
www.doras.ie/movies

Guys when they made their feature debut with last year's Final Cut.

The result, a near unwatchable pile of improvised, self-indulgent toss that managed to extract appalling performances from the cream of the Brit Pack. So how do you follow that? By doing exactly the same thing again, with the same cast plus additional unfortunate talents like Denise Van Outen, that's how. Once again, it looks like everybody had a ball. Once again, somebody should've buried the results before they escaped. And escaped into a cinema, if you don't mind. Quick question: at what point exactly did this seem like a good idea? And whose was

Hurricane***

directed by Norman Jewison
 starring Denzel Washington,
 Vicellous Reon Shannon, Liev Schreiber, Deborah Unger
 duration 145 mins

If you've been out to lunch these past few months, you might have missed the considerable controversy surrounding **The Hurricane**.

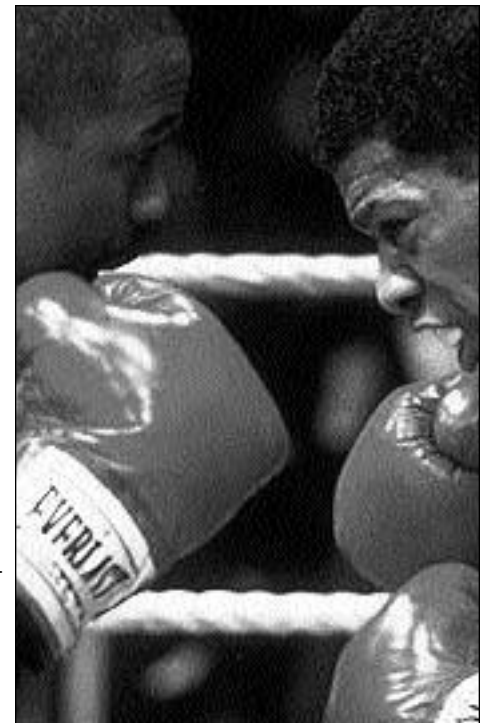
Indeed, the considerable liberties director Jewison has taken with the - rather astonishing - true story of boxer Rubin 'The Hurricane' Carter's life damaged the film's US box office and most certainly cost Denzel Washington the Oscar for Best Actor.

Jewison's mistake? An old-skool liberal film-maker of the finest order (this is the man who made *In the Heat Of The Night*, remember), this is an audience-friendly tale of redemption and triumph over adversity, where it could have - should have - been a portrait of a deeply complex, not necessarily sympathetic individual.

Carter, who served 19 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit, was clearly a victim of institutionalised racism of the highest order. Here, he suffers at the hands of a single racist cop (Dan Hedaya) who has hounded him since childhood. The efforts of a commune of Canadian house-builders (Schreiber, Unger and an unfortunately accented John 'Mr. Benn' Hannah) and their adopted ward (Shannon) lead to his

it?

Jonny (Lee Miller) is a courier keen to make a bundle who duly approaches best mate Jude (Law) with an idea for knicking credit cards. Jude introduces him to his uncle, gangster boss Ray (Winstone), and soon Jonny's an established part of Ray's firm. But things are too quiet for the lad's liking - Ray is more concerned with his wedding plans to soap star Sadie (Sadie Frost) than organising the next heist - so Jonny pulls off a few jobs of his own. And at the expense of a rather nasty South London gang. A violent feud ensues, until Ray and his opposite number decide to put a stop to Jonny's shenanigans for once and for all. Please note at



release, and the whys and wheres of their involvement are indeed a remarkable twist of fate - except the characters are ill-defined, vague at best. And did they really succeed where all those lawyers failed?

You could have a field day tracing the various arguments and revelations swarming the net at the moment (starting at www.thehurricane.com).

One thing remains, indeed towers over the proceedings - Washington. The man is astonishing, and his unforgettable performance goes a long way towards making the movie's flaws disappear. He makes this a must-see... but it could have been so much more.

this point that I've made the plot sound a hell of a lot more (a) lucid and (b) interesting than it actually is. Maybe I should become a screenwriter...

An astonishing waste of time and effort, Anciano and Burdis (who also feature onscreen to devastatingly unfunny effect) manage to draw woeful performances from the likes of Sean Pertwee, Rhys Ifans and poor Cathy Burke, whilst throwing half-assed post-modern winks to the (presumably non-existent) audience at a terribly tiresome rate. If Law wants to keep his promising Hollywood career on the up, he might want to issue an apology for this presently. Really really really not very good at all.

Treading the Boards

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

The Trickster Island Theatre Company

by Ella Daly

The latest offering from Limerick's own Island Theatre Company is a light-hearted adaptation of Moliere's *Les Foubierres de Scapin*.

Adapted by Harriet O'Carroll and directed by the excellent Terry Devlin, this much talked about production is a little disappointing.

The play, though entertaining and well produced, falls short of the very high mark Island have set for themselves with previous performances. We see none of the humour and wit we saw in "Pigtown", though it may be unfair of me to compare two very

different plays. I just felt that this wasn't their best work and that it would have benefited from having been bigger in all aspects. Bigger play on the Punch and Judy theme, bigger gags and generally more of the salon farce feel it's supposed to have.

Having said that, the play has many, many things going for it not least of which is the wealth of acting talent starring in it. There were excellent performances from Fiona McElroy in the role of Zerbinetta and Jim Queally in the role of Argante, not forgetting of course Termod Nagirra as the nurse.

The rest of the cast included Limerick's own John Butler and

Liam O'Brien, Judith Ryan, Cormac Costello Dermot Arrigan and Brendan Conroy, last seen here in the role of Tommy Clocks for Island's Pigtown.

The costumes and set are fabulous with authentic wigs and lots of bodices for those of you who are into that sort of thing. The lighting work done by Gerry Meagher is fantastic and the pigeon gag is probably worth going to see on its own. I know my date for the evening was mightily impressed but you know simple things please simple.

So, go and see it if you can, but go in with your eyes open this is light entertainment at its lightest there is no deeper meaning!!!!



by Ella Daly

'Yerma' is the tale of a young woman unable to have a child in a time and environment where this is her only purpose in life.

Set in turn of the century Spain, it is a deep and moving play and a must for all female theatre goers. 'Yerma' delves into the deep issues surrounding woman's primary purpose in society and discusses the effects of being unable to fulfil this purpose.

Through the plight of Yerma, a young Spanish woman, we see how being unable to have a child eats away at her soul and destroys her relationship with her friends, family and husband, eventually driving her to drastic measures. We see the lengths to which this woman is willing to go to conceive and are asked if this is a rational expectation? Is procreation worth the loss of a mother's peace of mind?

As though evoking as the subject matter are

Yerma Gallowglass Theatre Company

the company's choice of dramatic tools. Though set in turn of the century Spain all characters held an inner city Dublin accent, a device, which worked surprisingly well by giving a sense of a closely-knit community. The lighting was warm and bright, excellently evoking the Spanish sun with costumes of white and black suggesting tradition mixed with the rough hewn colours of the countryside. The most surprising device employed however has to be the use of puppets to increase the cast size. Far from bringing the play down to the level of children's entertainment as you would imagine, the puppets were a master stroke more than doubling the cast without detracting from the overall effect. Sheer genius, which must in part be credited to the casts expertise in handling them.

The point of all this being a recommendation to go see Gallowglass' Yerma. Heading to a theatre near you, get down there and book your seats 'c'ause it's a play not to be missed.

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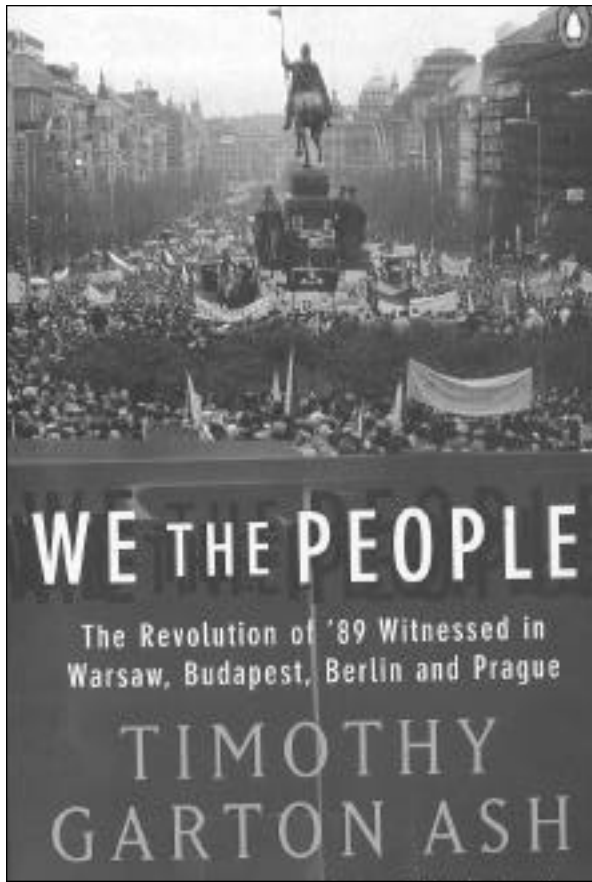
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Very Well Read.

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



We The People:

The revolution of '89 witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague by Timothy Garton Ash (Penguin)

Who could forget 1989? On this side of the crumbling Iron Curtain we were bombarded with pictures of cranes dismantling the Berlin Wall while cheering onlookers opened champagnes bottles, massive crowds of demonstrators in Prague, all jingling their car keys, and later former dissidents becoming presidents and ministers in their countries' first free elections.

It was a year of tremendous importance in European history. It shattered the Cold War world order and changed the system of states in Europe.

'We The People' is a first hand account of the revolutions, witnessed on the street of Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague. Timothy Garton Ash is an Oxford historian and journalist who has had an interest in Central and Eastern Europe since long before the Wall came down. He was in East Germany in the 1970's sending back articles to various newspapers and magazines - and he had to do it under a pseudonym to fool the Stasi, the GDR's secret police. For years he witnessed and wrote about the lack of freedom behind the Iron Curtain. When freedom came he had enormous enthusiasm for it, and his enthusiasm is contagious.

Ash had the knack of being in the right place at the right time. He was in Leipzig, East Germany

to witness the street demos for change and later saw the Wall come down with his own eyes. In Czechoslovakia, he met Vaclav Havel, a former dissident, and future president of that country. During the 'Velvet Revolution' in Prague he was in the Magic Lantern Theatre, the base of operations for Havel and the Civic Forum. At this time, he contributed the quip: 'In Poland it took ten years [for revolution], in Hungary ten months, in East Germany ten weeks: perhaps in Czechoslovakia it will take ten days!' Ten days was a little over optimistic, the actual revolution unfolded over a number of weeks. But the change did come, and like the revolutions in other countries Ash described, and despite their enormous historical significance, it came with remarkable peacefulness. Very little blood was spilt in 1989. Things turned out differently elsewhere in Eastern Europe, Romania for example. But there was no Tianamen Square.

If I have any quibble with this little book, it is that Ash always puts himself in the centre of the action in such a way as to suggest he actually influenced events. He describes the way in which he found himself giving a speech in Poland and endorsing a particular candidate shortly before the first free elections there. In Prague he knew Havel well and tells us how he talked to him during the vital days and nights of November 1989. But at least he admits to his vanity. It is part of his surprise and enthusiasm for the events.

Late last year, the tenth anniversary of the 1989 revolution, our newspapers and TV screens were full of pictures of then and now. The media here celebrated the end of the Cold War and the dismantling of the Iron Curtain. They also gave us a picture of life in Central and Eastern Europe a decade on. The path to the free market, democracy and the rule of law has not always been easy and some sectors of society have been disproportionately affected by the changes wrought. This book was re-issued late last year as part of the tenth anniversary, with an extra chapter 'Post Script: Ten Years On' added by the author. Things might not have worked out for some people over there but much has been gained.

To quote Toni Halliday, 'Things will never be the same again.'

supported by

UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
BOOKSHOP

O'Mahony's Bestseller List 13 April 2000

Paperback Fiction

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. <i>Never Look Back</i>
(Penguin) | Lesley Pearce |
| 2. <i>Man & Boy</i>
(HarperCollins) | Tony Parsons |
| 3. <i>The Testament</i>
(Arrow) | John Grisham |
| 4. <i>The End of the Affair</i>
(Penguin) | Graham Greene |
| 5. <i>The Beach</i>
(Penguin) | Alex Garland |

Paperback Non-Fiction

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. <i>Cooked in a Flash</i>
(Appletree) | Jeremy Bristow |
| 2. <i>Angela's Ashes</i>
(Flamingo) | Frank McCourt |
| 3. <i>This Great Little Nation</i>
(Gill & Macmillan) | Gene Kerrigan |
| 4. <i>Easy Way to Stop Smoking</i> Alan Carr
(Penguin) | |
| 5. <i>2000-2001 Money Pension and Tax Guide</i>
(Tab) | |

Original Fiction

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. <i>The Brethren</i>
(Century) | John Grisham |
| 2. <i>Something for the Weekend</i> Pauline McLynn
(Headline) | |
| 3. <i>Fortune Rocks</i>
(Abacus) | Anita Schreve |
| 4. <i>Monster</i>
(Little, Brown) | Jonathan Kellerman |
| 5. <i>Last Chance Saloon</i>
(Poolbeg) | Marian Keyes |

Hardback Non-Fiction

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. <i>Tis</i>
(HarperCollins) | Frank McCourt |
| 2. <i>Mankind</i>
(HarperCollins) | Mick Foley |
| 3. <i>Beowulf</i>
(Faber) | Seamas Heaney |
| 4. <i>Irish Times Book of the Century</i>
(Gill & Macmillan) | Fintan O'Toole |
| 5. <i>Delia's How to Cook: Book 2</i>
(BBC) | Delia Smith |



Heineken Clubs and Societies pages

Over the next few pages is reports and previews of what's happened or is happening with Heineken Clubs + Socs on campus.

Take a good look at 'em, and if there's anything you think you'd be interested in, then give Paul Lee a shout in the Heineken Clubs and Societies Office in the new Student Center, and he'll point you in the right direction as to who to contact to get involved.

Outdoor Pursuits Club Win Climbing Intervarsities In Belfast

On Sunday, the 5th of March 12 students from the University of Limerick managed to prove themselves as the best young climbers in the country.

The weekend began with the team meeting in Shannon Airport to get our AerLingus sponsored flights to Belfast. On arriving it was straight to the Climbing Wall in the Ozone Leisure Centre. The final of the Irish Bouldering League was taking place at the same time as the qualifiers for day 2 of the intervarsities. The wall was pretty packed with almost 200 climbers. Everyone had 3 hours to attempt as many of the 20 routes as possible. Points were awarded with 10 points for a successful 1st attempt, 7 for a second and 3 the 3rd time. After a few stretches it was time to figure out how we were to get to the top of what at first glance looked mighty difficult or even impossible. But determination or even sheer stupidity helped us to the top of many routes. Once all the climbing was over and we were nursing sore muscles the results were announced. This was mostly to do with the IBL but it did sort out the qualifiers for the next day. And the gang from UL did pretty well on Spot prizes at this stage. Then it was to the Pub and from there a late night Party.

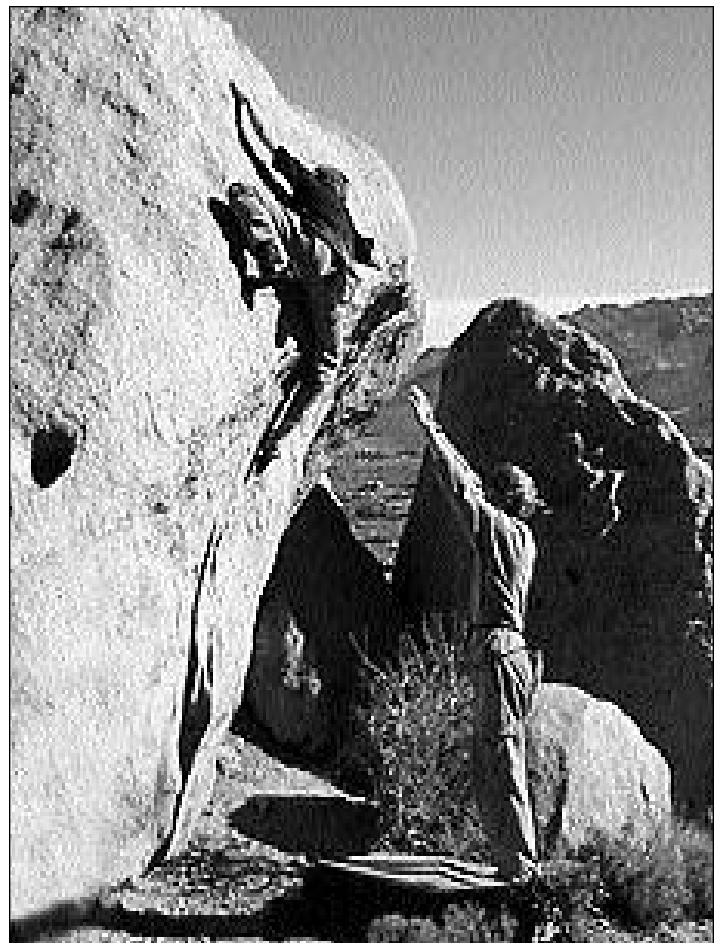
The next morning it was to the climbing wall in the Queen's University, Belfast. With sore heads from the night before, we examined the routes that we had to attempt. The points system was the same as the day before but the

routes were longer and roped. It took a good few bottles of the free Lucozade to get most of us going but then it was to the wall. Barry Watts from UL took an impressive fall in which he narrowly missed giving a large group of spectators a "hair cut."

Soon after the climbing had finished the results were announced. Winners of Male A, Female A and the beginners sections were announced and prizes awarded. And then it came to the overall team winner. It was announced that Queen's and UL had drawn. There was talk of a climb-off between the best climber from each university or examining the scores in more detail. But then a climber from Queen's pointed out to the judges that her score-card had been added up wrong. And from then it took only about a minute for UL to be announced the winners. We were presented with the trophy, which is a (very heavy) piece of engraved granite.

That night was one long celebration, which dragged on long into the early hours of the morning. And then it was that we had to get up and get the AerLingus flight back to Shannon and return to Limerick victorious.

Also on the Sunday Catherine Quinn won



not quite belfast, but you get the picture

the Hillrunning Intervarsities. It was held near Powerscourt in Co. Wicklow and the course was 9km long with almost a 500-metre climb. All in all it turned out to be a great and very successful weekend for the Outdoor Pursuits Club.

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UL Debating Union Give War A Chance



U.L. Debating Union Intersvarsity
By Vladimir O' Grady

Heated argument, verbal abuse, drunken debauchery; not words that one would normally associate with debating societies, yet anyone who attended the recent intersvarsity held by the U.L. Debating Union, can attest to their aptness at describing the Ericsson Debating Intersvarsity 2000.

Not content with having achieved monumental success in national and international competitions this year, the U.L. Debating Union recently held a hugely successful tournament of its own.

The inaugural Ericsson Debating Intersvarsity was attended by teams from Ireland, the U.K., the U.S. and continental Europe, making it easily the most high profile competition of its kind in Ireland in recent years. The tournament organisers have already been praised for the professionalism, smooth organisation and generous hospitality that characterised the Ericsson Intersvarsity.

The tournament began on Friday 24th of March. All teams took part in five run-off heats, before the semi-final and final stages of the competition. Teams competing in the final were Oxford Union "A" (Michael Birshan & Ewan Smith), University Of London Union (James Probert & Darragh Grant), Loyola University "A" (Denis Delja & Joe Anderson) and Oxford Union "B" (Matt Taylor & Stephen Hickey).

Before the final began, private members time was opened during which the Auditor, Michael Hourigan was subjected to a litany of abuse by so-called "friends" Barry McLoughlin and Keith Pigott, who among other things questioned Mr. Hourigan's parentage, his appearance, and the exact anatomical whereabouts of his vibrating mobile phone.

As main debate began, Oxford Union "A" had the task of proposing the motion "That this House



The real meaning of the Debating Union in UL.....getting the chicks hammered



the finalists in the UL Debating Intersvarsity, along with Mike Hourigan (far right), the smile on whose face obviously answers the question posed by Keith Pigott and Barry McLoughlin as to the location of his vibrating mobile phone

would give war a chance". They argued that we must "give the war against sex tourism a chance", proposing that perpetrators of sex-crimes in third world countries be prosecuted in their countries of origin.

Loyola continued the case, but the opposition of ULU and Oxford Union "B" contended that such a proposal was utterly impractical and skewed the idea of individual nations possessing sovereignty.

As the competitive part of the debate came to an end, the judges retired to consider their verdict and the audience of just over two hundred spectators were given the opportunity to discuss the motion.

After considerable deliberation, the judges returned to announce that ULU had won the team prize and that Ewan Smith of Oxford Union "A" had taken the individual prize.

Adjudicating the debate were Mr. Padraic O' Halloran, Mr. Colm Flynn, Mr. Mark Dowling and Cllr. Diarmuid Scully. The adjudication panel was chaired by Dr. Simon Mills. Chairing the debate itself was Mr. Michael Hourigan, Auditor of the U.L. Debating Union.

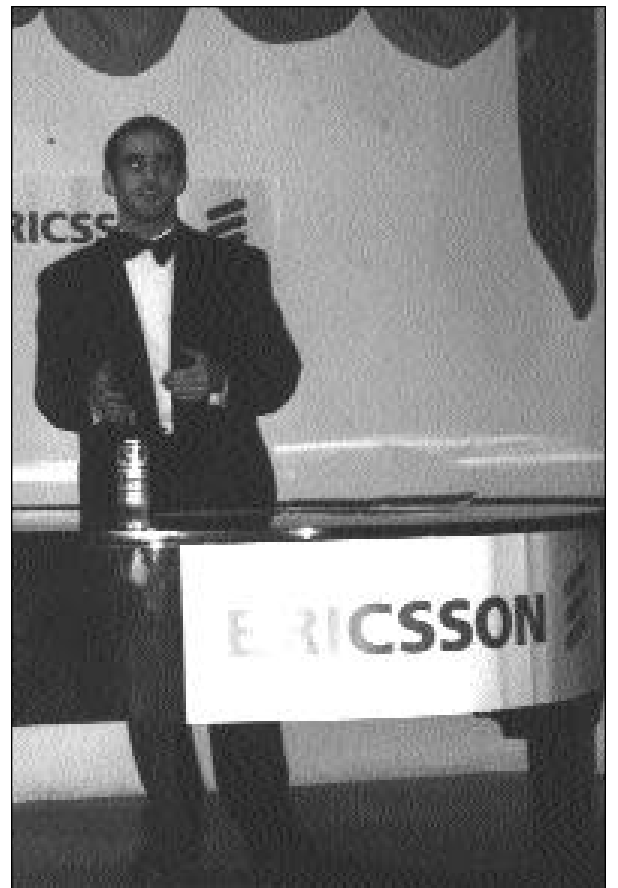
Before calling the motion to a vote and closing the proceedings, Mr. Hourigan thanked all those who had taken part in the competition and extended his appreciation to Ericsson and The University of Limerick Foundation, without whose assistance the tournament would not have been such an enormous success.

Needless to say, none of the competitors could be allowed to leave U.L. without having first sampled our legendary hospitality, so considerable festivities were organised for all involved. The shenanigans continued well into the night with Michael Hourigan subjecting the revelers to his Johnny Logan set. Our European friends were less impressed with his efforts than those of his mentor and should he ever enter the Eurovision, it is unlikely that he will garner the accolades attained by the said Mr. Logan. Such was the flow of the "hospitality" after the final that before long, the Oxford delegation found the courage to begin chants of "God save the Queen" and "Rule

Britannia". This in turn was met with the good-spirited intoning of "If you used to have an Empire, clap your hands" by the Irish speakers.....and god bless their hearts, they did clap.

Full results of the competition are available at: <http://www.britishdebate.com/ivs/limtab.htm>

A more comprehensive report, including photographs will be available shortly at the society's own homepage: <http://www.csn.ul.ie/~debates/>



Michael Birshan, pretty sound for an Oxford PONCE!!!!!!

UL Football Club Set To Lose Coach

The University of Limerick Football Club is set to lose the services of FAI Senior coach, Jason Carey.

He is due to finish his PE degree at the end of this semester, results pending.

Jason is the youngest and one of the best FAI Senior coaches in the country at the moment. In his four years at the University, Jason has made a huge impact on the Men's and Ladies Clubs, both on and off the pitch. He has had remarkable success in coaching teams in both clubs getting to four intervarsity finals. This is some achieve-

ment, considering where both clubs stood when Jason came to the University.

Jason has brought new and impressive ideas into the club, where now the club is as strong as ever due to very good foundation work done by the likes of Jason and co.

Jason's talent for coaching and getting the best out of teams he has coached has been finally recognised nationally, as now he is the coach of the Ladies Combined Colleges team.

UL FC will sorely miss Jason and his coaching. The club would like to wish him all the best in his bright future.

UNIVERSITY PROFILE OF JASON CAREY

1996/97 Coached the Freshers team to a Harding Cup final. Also played.

1997/98 Coached the first team to a Collingwood Cup final with manager Paddy Gunnigle. Also played in the tournament.

Coached the Ladies team to an intervarsity final in which they won.

1998/99 Played for Slippery Rock in the States.

1999/00 Coached the first team to a Collingwood Cup with manager Stephen Driver. Also played in the tournament.

Coached the Ladies team to an intervarsity final with manager Regina O'Reilly.



Jason Carey, in action for UL FC

History Society present "Sex and Violence in Early Ireland"

The History Society organised a lecture on Wednesday of Week 6 given by Liam Irwin from Mary Immaculate College on the fascinating topic of Sex and Violence in Early Ireland. This lecture focused on the laws in Gaelic Ireland governing war and sexual relations and that society's attitudes towards these topics.

The annals of Irish history are littered with references to war. While it is generally felt amongst historians that the wars referred to in the seventh and eighth centuries were seldom more than glorified cattle raids, the ferocity and scale of these wars increased after Viking incursions into Ireland over 1000 years ago.

The Brehon Laws laid down the laws governing the taking of hostages. After the Viking invasions, the practice of "blinding" hostages became more prevalent. Not only did this include the gouging of eyes, but also included castration and other mutilations. It was also true that the Church played a big part in these wars and often hired mercenaries to fight for them, although the Abbott of Mungret was killed in a battle in west Limerick in the course of a war with a powerful family.

As the twelfth century progressed, war in Ireland proliferated and Victorian and Unionist historians in later years used this to "prove" the Irish were incapable of self-government!

The lecture then progressed onto the sub-

ject of Sex. It appears that Gaelic society had no concept of illegitimacy for the purposes of inheritance. The purpose of much of the Brehon laws on this topic was to safeguard the welfare of any children and to ensure another generation was produced. Polygamy was acceptable at the time, although it was only men who could marry more than once. Added to this were the rather liberal laws on divorce. A man or a woman could obtain a divorce for many reasons such as; the taking of a second wife, keeping a mistress, homosexuality (only a man could be accused of this – it would appear that Gaelic society, like Queen Victoria could not contemplate such a thing as lesbianism). An example of the focus on producing children is shown by the fact that a woman could obtain a divorce because of her husband's infertility, or if he was "unarmed" (this was explained to mean impotent, although a certain member of the History society wondered how this would be proven). Another bizarre ground for divorce was if the husband was excessively fat!!

Despite the liberal laws on divorce, Mr. Irwin assured us that Early Ireland was not a promiscuous society. Rape was frowned upon and an offender would be obliged to pay a heavy fine based on the honour price of the victim's husband/father. Indeed, Mr Irwin finished his entertaining talk by stating that it was the church who introduced the concept of capital punishment for certain crimes into Ireland.

Hockey Girls Continue A Great Season

Seniors

With league fixtures coming to a close, UL Seniors had a great result on Sat 25th March when they held League Leaders Church of Ireland scoreless in Cork. Playing a tactical game UL showed true grit in keeping C. of I. scoreless. In defense, Sally Anne and Mairéad Murphy had an excellent game while Lorna Kingston was best of the upfront players. They play Belvedere on Saturday 1st April at home in UL and finish the league on Sat 8th April against Bandon also in UL.

Minor A's

Minor A's travelled to play Harlequins on Saturday last, and while rugby has its Brian O'Driscoll, UL Hockey has Claire Delaney who scored a hat trick on Saturday last for UL followed by a fourth goal by centre forward Darina Drumm. TP has taken its toll on this team, and with one game to play in the league against Belvedere on Sunday next in UL, it seems they have to be content on coming second in the league which is no mean achievement.

Minor B's

Minor B's played Mallow in the semi-final of the Munster Cup on Sunday and this game was a cracker. Mallow, a very strong team, really made UL work for their victory and the game went to extra time. The excitement was unbelievable as UL were up and down the pitch and fine keeping from Deirdre Ryan in goals and Eavan Monahan and Claire Ryan in the backs kept their hopes alive. Susan Fingleton, Carolyn Aherne, Emily Pickering and Edwina Frawley had superb games. Tension was high as we approached the the second period of extra time still scoreless but Leftie assured us that his team's fitness would tell in the end. Edwina Frawley broke the deadlock with about 6 minutes to full time and found the net with a fine shot. With about two minutes to go, from a fine pass from Louise Smyth, Janet Ryan (Captain) made it goal number 2 in what was a very exciting encounter. TP student Iseult Glynn travelled from TP in Tralee to add her expertise and Toni Rossiter was ever vigilant in the centre. Opposition and venue for the Cup final on April 9th is not known as we go to press.

Law Society Moot Trial exposes SU antics

Calamity struck in week 5 as the SU's finest, Pat McCarthy and Dave O'Donovan, became embroiled in scandal.

It came to the attention of the Law Society that Mr. McCarthy and Mr. O'Donovan have been liasing with the same whore while posing as English aristocrats (?) from the sixteenth century (??). The evil duo thus contracted the clap, and in the events ensuing, were to be responsible for infecting the unsuspecting and philandering Keith Piggott, aka

King Henry the Eighth. Poor King Piggott's own nefarious deeds were soon to be uncovered by his wife as she too contracted the clap. Events soon came to a head as the King found himself on the wrong end of a suit for divorce.

Fine performances were given by council for King Piggott, Declan Hogan KC, and council for Mrs. King Piggott, Barry Fitzgerald KC. However, King Piggott was to rule the day as judicial bias came to the fore in the judgement of Mr. Justice Eoin Quill.

The Law Society Moot Trial was brought to a close with a sympathetic rendition of Monty Python's "My Syphilitic Friend", performed by Barry Fitzgerald KC along with Joe Coonan, who likes to dress in women's clothes and pretend he has no head. Odd.

For legal reasons it must be clarified that Mr. McCarthy, Mr. O'Donovan and Mr. Piggott have received medical treatment, thus receiving the all clear to partake in any form of bodily contact that may be required of them.

Not to be outdone by the

events of SoUL Week, week 6 welcomed the Annual Law Ball. This year's ball was held in the Castletroy Park Hotel and was sponsored by Guinness. A charitable element was lent to the ball as all proceeds of the raffle were donated to the Aljeff Alcohol Treatment Centre in Limerick. Aubars, The Jasmine Palace, Little Italy and The Locke Bar donated prizes for the raffle. As usual, the Law Ball attracted a variety of styles as the gorgeous ladies dusted off their stunning frocks, while the gentlemen looked very pretty

too. The band Jaf provided music on the night and Keith Piggott brought the evening to a close. Since the ball, law students have been keeping quiet about any scandal, but Fiona Earls (second year Law and Accounting) would like to clarify that she was not, I said NOT, drunk at the ball.....honestly she wasn't.

P.S. Watch out for the following: ELSA Kollege Week Raffle, Careers Nite on April 12th and elections for next year's committee!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

African Society Calling!!

Fellow students and staff, we seek to provide an opportunity to experience and know Africa from a more close range through the African Society.

Ireland is fast becoming a multicultural society and so is the University of Limerick. That means we are invariably meeting people with different cultures and backgrounds, which in itself is a wonderful thing. On other hand, it could be scary if very little is 'known' about them. How exciting then would it be to know what these new 'people', especially our African brother, stand for and bring with them. This calls for more socio-cultural interaction and integration to promote a unique understanding of various ethnicities. In a snapshot, do you want to know more and experience the richness of African culture?

Why don't you join us and be part of this new and budding society on Limerick campus and be part of this exotic culture. Everyone is warmly welcome in the real sense of the proverbial African hospitality to be part of this society, so don't be a drop out. Be involved, learn and experience what Mother Africa has for you and you'd be glad you did.

Does it sound interesting? You aren't heard nothing yet.

Contact Will Owusu-Ansah on the phone (061) 202656 at the Graduate Centre (F2) or just drop a mail at Wilberfor.Owusuansah@ul.ie for more details.

UL Physics Soc. Host Irish Physics Student Association Conference

"For doubt can only exist where a question exists, a question only where an answer exists, and an answer only where something can be said"

Ludwig Wittgenstein.

The I.P.S.A. 2000 Conference promises to provide quite a few answers, when it arrives in the University of Limerick, Friday 14th to Sunday 16th of April.

I.P.S.A., which stands for the Irish Physics Student Association, is a conference, which welcomes young physicists and those with a general interest in physics. The first I.P.S.A. Conference was held by U.C.D. in January 1966, and has grown year by year. This year, the U.L. Physics Society and the Department of Physics launch the Conference into the new Millennium. The event promises to be not only enlightening, but mighty craic as well. Consider it as a rejuvenation of the brain cells after the severe alcohol damage they experience during Kolledge Week.

Friday evening begins with a demonstration lecture, which introduces some interesting fibre optic displays among other dazzling effects. The evening is rounded off by a wine and cheese reception in the Scholars

Club, which allows the delegates to become acquainted.

Saturday provides an illumination of the mind with five exciting lectures, ranging from the intricacies of X-Ray lasers to the Physics of Beer. Should be interesting!

Amidst this hoard of intellectual stimulation, there will be a student lecturing competition, and an informative talk on the rapidly growing industry sector.

Tell Mammy no packed lunch is required, as food will be provided throughout the day. This includes a lavish Conference dinner in the Scholars Club that evening. Then off with the specs, on with the shades and strut your stuff on the dance floor all night. But save some of those brain cells for the final event of the weekend, the Intersociety Table Quiz, on

Sunday.

This is the first year that the University of Limerick has hosted this Conference, lets hope it's the beginning of a beautiful friendship. A lot of organisation and time has been dedicated by many people to make this weekend a success. A major thank you goes out to all those involved especially the sponsors who make this weekend possible. Our extended gratitude goes out to Analog Devices in Raheen, who contributed more than generously to the conference costs. For further information on booking details and events, check out the website, <http://physics.csn.ul.ie>.

It promises to be a weekend to remember in U.L.

Christine Walsh,
P.R.O., U.L. Physics Society.

Meeting to discuss An Focal's progress to date we're looking for opinions, comments, ideas etc Thursday Wk 4 6.00pm new student centre all are welcome

UL Sailing Club Report On Their Inter Varsities

After weeks of training with new coach and star team mate, Patrick O' Driscoll, ULSC set out with high hopes for Schull on Wednesday afternoon.

After some minor confusion with busses and a small bit of a rush, we arrived in Schull to the state of the art National Sail Training Centre for a short familiarisation with the facilities, boats etc. and then hurriedly onwards to the Bunratty Inn.

We arose bright and early Thursday morning and were relatively happy with our draw for the league stages. After a short postponement due to weather UL were on the water pitched against NUIG and we were quietly confident but after some of what only can be described as disasterous sailing, attributed mostly to nerves, we lost race one narrowly. Now somewhat more settled, we stepped up a gear and comprehensively beat NUIG in race two. Race three saw UCD step up to the plate and UL won two nil things were finally beginning to look up for us. Due to fading light we called it a day and after the opening ceremony hit the pub after some delicious chicken courtesy of Moriarty Chickens. After a brilliant night out and little scandal for once bar some nudity (men-



Back row left to right: John Fitzgearld Patrick O' Driscoll, Paul Ruddy
Front row left to right: Clodagh Cavanagh, Eoghan Moriarty, Pat Moriarty
Also Laura Greer hiding behind.....

tioning no names) we all retired to our beds.

Another Eight O'Clock start and a tough day ahead with some extremely difficult opposition in the form of CIT UCC and PBS saw UL only snatch one race after some painfully close races lady luck failed to favour ULSC and we hit the shore somewhat dejected, but little more could have been expected against such stiff opposition.

Day three and with a few rough heads after the previous nights dinner, ULSC found we had been seeded straight through to the Semi finals of our group to face UCD (Eventual winners) and UL. Race one saw some exquisite sailing by UL and a narrow victory was gained. Race two saw UL being heavily penalised with 360's and 720's and UCD clutched victory and overall victory by one point. Heart bro-

ken, it took quite some time to console the lads, but thanks to our fantastic team of supporters we mustered up some smiles and dragged ourselves to the prize giving and the closing ceremony.

As this is one of our last outings as a team we were admittedly disappointed not to receive silver ware but UL were delighted to get confirmation that they will be holding the Munsters next year and undoubtedly will have success in the future.

We would like to thank our sponsors Eps Environmental, ACC bank Nenagh, Abbey Farm Machinery, Piers Consultancy, Maxwell motors, The Stables club and everyone who sailed with us so far this year. Remember, we will be sailing every Wednesday until the end of May. 'Check the notice-board'

Socialist Party.....What they stand for

- *A guaranteed right to a job or training with decent wages and full workers rights
- *£5 per hour minimum wage tax free now, as a first step towards the IR£8 per hour EU decency threshold
- *Democratic Trade Unions to fight in the interests of their members on pay and conditions
- *32 hour working week without loss of pay
- *Full pension, sick pay and holiday rights for all workers, whether full time, part time or on contracts
- *A major campaign to unionise all workers and to make it illegal to sack workers for engaging in union activity
- *Increase the tax eligibility level to £10000 per year for a single worker
- *No worker to pay PAYE above a 25% rate
- *No more tax amnesties for the rich - make them pay their full share
- *No to local charges - no double taxation in any form
- *A minimum basic social welfare payment of £150 per week for the unemployed, pensioners, widows and those on sickness and disability benefit

- *A properly funded public health care system to put an end to waiting lists
- *No to a two tier health service
- *Free and comprehensive health care, with clinics in all areas to provide primary medical services
- *Change the law and court procedures to protect the victims of violence
- *The provision of refuges, financial support and counselling services to help those suffering from domestic violence
- *An end to all forms of chauvinism and sexual stereotyping in the media, advertising and in schools
- *Increase student grants to at least the same level as social welfare
- *Full grants for all third level education, including Post Leaving Cert and Further Education courses
- *Abolish fees for evening students and postgraduate students
- *Proper student facilities. An end to shortages of books, library spaces, canteen spaces, computers, photocopiers, etc
- *The Socialist Party is opposed to all criminal and anti-social behaviour, and supports democratic community action to tackle these problems

- *Cut across drug related crime and the power base of organised crime by providing treatment, maintenance and counselling facilities for all heroin addicts, including support services for their families
- *Treatment centres to be established with the agreement of the local community, treating addicts from the local area, with a proper monitoring system for the local community
- *Community control of the Gardaí to ensure they work with and implement the policing priorities advocated by the communities
- *Take economic power out of the hands of the bankers, speculators and wealthy industrialists and transfer it to those who do the work and create the wealth: working class people
- *Public ownership and democratic socialist planning of the key areas of economic activity
- *The Socialist Party advocates a socialist Ireland, and a socialist federation of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, on a free and equal basis
- *Working for an agreed settlement on the

national question, including tackling issues such as unemployment, poverty and social deprivation throughout Ireland

- *The building of a mass socialist party to unite Protestant and Catholic working class people to fight for a socialist solution

TDs in the other parties are going to vote through a 30% wage increase for themselves. They are already paid more than twice the average worker's wage of £16,000 a year. Many working people don't even earn anything approaching that figure.

The Socialist Party believes that it is not possible for TDs, and indeed Trade Union leaders, to stay in touch with, and understand the problems of those they represent if they are earning two or three times the wages of ordinary people.

Joe Higgins, the Socialist Party TD, lives on the average workers salary of £16,000. The rest of his salary goes towards the building of the Socialist Party and to other campaign groups fighting on behalf of ordinary working people.
sp@csn.ul.ie, <http://socialist.csn.ul.ie>

UL Volleyball Club Win VAI Tournament

On the 26th of March, the UL volleyball club sent one men's team to compete in the Volleyball Association of Ireland's millennium competition in the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology.

Traveling up we knew we were up against it, as we would be facing some of the best University teams in the country, such as UCD, DCU, Trinity, and a very successful Laois team.

In our first round robin on Saturday we walked on against the DCU division 1 team cold, stiff and just in the door from the long drive. Still, we rose to the occasion and gave what could be described as our best performance all year. Despite the close sets, we won the match, a 'best of 5' affair, by a score line of 3 to 0.

The next match to be played was

DCU versus Trinity, which DCU won 3 – 0. This gave us a false sense of security, as many of us viewed our next game against Trinity as a bit of a one sided affair. The Trinity team disagreed however, and went on to beat us 3 games to 1. Despite this setback, UL still came out of the group in first position as each team had won a game, but we had the most sets.

Saturday night all the players from both the Senior and Junior competitions met up to party the night away. A great time was had by all, despite a pub that was commonly referred to as a dive, and the teams Cork man once again complaining about the lack of Murphy's.

Sunday morning, bright and early, we played our semi-final. Each player, his position now fitting him like a glove, played out of his skin to win the match 3 – 0. This just left the final.

Once again we met Trinity College Dublin, who had beaten us in our last game. The first set was very close, but we managed to scrape through to take it. The second set didn't go quite as well, as we began to let small errors creep into our game, and Trinity punished us by taking the second set.

Now, at one set all and fearing a repeat of the last match's 3-1 score line, we once again dug deep, cut out the unforced errors that had plagued the second set and won the third by a fair margin. The fourth set was going very well, with UL 17 – 14 up, when Shane O'Sullivan pulled up with a knee injury. As we had no substitutes, he had to play on, but UL now had to try to beat this experienced Trinity Division 1 side with what was essentially a five-man team. Trinity failed to take advantage of this situation however, and a couple of unforced errors on their part

and some good hitting on ours brought us to 22 points. Though Trinity started a strong fight back, bringing themselves to 18 points, some great play by our setter Gerald and our three (still functioning) hitters, gave us the three points we needed to win 25 – 18.

The team was Gerry Reynolds (captain & opposite setter), Gerard Conway (setter), Olivier Mellin (center), Mike Hanlon (center), Shane O'Sullivan (wing) and Jonathan Collins (wing).

On another note, the Volleyball club now has a website online at <http://volleyball.csn.ul.ie>. It's got news about previous matches, matches and games to come, and pictures of us. Why not check it out?

University of Limerick Hurling Club Fitzgibbon Hurling 1999/2000

UL Hurling- Lost at sea

The twister. August in South Carolina and Florida brings the dreaded hurricane season. The hurricane will be forecast in advance, usually by a week, sometimes a month. All precautions are taken. Hatches are battened down, water piled up and lumberyards entertain queues as long as the dole in Ireland's mid-eighties. Every once in a while a twister will emerge, unnoticed until it's almost upon you. Now a twister will destroy everything it comes into contact with, eating and devouring, destroying and thrashing all that has the misfortune to get in its way. A feared and dreaded phenomenon. You'll get a warning. You'll be told to go into the smallest room in your house – usually the closet. You'll bring water and turn off the lights. You'll wait there in fear and apprehension, not knowing what the twister will bring. The minutes will pass into hours and at the height of your fear you will think that you are entering a new world. Suddenly shouts of joy will emanate from around as news spreads that the twister has not hit – it has passed by or stayed out at sea and all is safe for another while. When it hits it hits but when it misses it leaves a trail of laughter, relief and knowledge that one could have been devoured.

Indeed quite similar to UL hurling. The story. Another year has passed with huge expectations fading away into the slow days of Semester two. Same old story. New trainer. Good league run. Wins against Mary I and Tralee. Draw with CIT. Defeat to UCC in a man's game. Usual challenges with Athenry, Birr. Christmas training. Even the President came. Exams. Session. Break. First round. Looking good. A frightening, awe-

some display. UCD in turmoil – seeing a new world before them. Suddenly the pangs of laughter abound as UCD go home in the relief and knowledge that they should have been devoured. The twister had stayed at sea again.

The serious stuff. Ciaran under pressure. His third year at the helm, what more can he do? Ger is learning and believes that he has cracked it. Enter Gilly – the final piece in the jigsaw (and Clancy the ice)? Hopefully. But what will he achieve that his illustrious predecessors couldn't? He has the youth, the respect, and the Fitzgibbon experience. He does well. He tries but he loses. Clare drops him, momentarily. UL - a poisoned chalice? No - an enigma.

The black stuff. But there was fun. No Charleville or Lahinch this time – the City of the Tribes instead. We learned Brendan Ryan can't sing. Madden can. Monty can. Healy can't drink. Neither can Gant. But Geary and Gilly can. So can Mad Mal. And Bugs and his sojourn through a bush of flailing hurleys – tough Clareman. Fordy snares a Rabbitte. As for the DIY boys.....but no more of that – Maddens doing the pen pictures. By the way Madden, where were the kegs? Mullane wouldn't have been happy.

Important stuff. Once again thanks to John Lenihan for his help and sponsorship. To the club, especially Paul McCarthy – fine chairman, and Eoin Fitz, good year for Cork. To the sports department, cheers to David Daly, you'll do a fine job. Just pretend you're mad or do you need to? And who will enter the fray next year – hard to get better than Ger or Ciaran or Gilly. But who will solve the enigma. Not very exoteric unless you drive a transit van. By the way, I wrote it My Way. KQ – always at sea.

UL Badminton Club vs. Castleisland in Haynes Cup Semi.

On March 23rd Castleisland of Kerry came to play the UL badminton club in the semi-final of the prestigious Haynes cup.

Castleisland, the cup favorites, have seven of the Kerry senior squad on their team, so we knew we were in for a really rough time. This match had a special significance for Eric and Alan Nelligan, our first men's pairing, as they are both from Castleisland and would like nothing better than to put one over their home club.

This they did, as they went on to win their first men's game against an extremely impressive first men's from Kerry. Though they lost the first set, they came tearing back to take the second and the third by the same margin, 15 – 12. The first ladies, playing at the same time, did not fare quite as well. Darina Doyle and Karen Kennelly played very well but were outmatched by a very experienced duo, and were beaten in two sets.

Next up came the second men's game, UL being represented by John Doyle and Shane O'Sullivan. They got off to a great start taking the first set, but lost the second. The third set seemed to be over with UL having a 12-4 lead, but the Kerry men really turned on the style to come back to win the last set and take the match. The second women's went the same way as the men's with the pairing of Mary Brosnan and Fiona Farrell losing out in a hard fought match. Special mention must go to Mary who played on a painful ankle injury to help us make up the numbers.

The four mixed games were a bit of a let down to us as we were depending on them to give us the games we needed to take the match, but our performance never reached the level that took us to the Intervarsity final this year. In first mixed Eric Nelligan and Karen Kennelly lost, as did John Doyle and Darina Doyle in second mixed, Alan Nelligan and Fiona Farrell in third mixed, and Shane O'Sullivan and Mary Brosnan in fourth mixed.

The match never really lived up to its promising start, and the final score line of 7-1 was a far wider margin of defeat than we could have expected. Still, all the games were very competitive and most of them were very close, a fact not reflected in the final score.

**Ryan
Air**



A Few Announcements

Kollege Week

we're looking for pictures and articles (especially of and about Nigel) on the week to put a good review together for the next issue

if you have pictures that you'd like included, or if you like to write something, then we'll print it. send it to ceo@ulsu.iol.ie, drop it into dave in the office or leave it at main reception.

see yis in the paper

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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

UL RADIO SOC

would like to thank all those who participated in kollege week radio

Thesis / Essays

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a

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The Celtic Road Show



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GENUINE DRAFT

MILLER GENUINE DRAFT
"GO STATESIDE"
FINALISTS

SCHOLARS CLUB FINALISTS THURSDAY 13TH APRIL		STABLES CLUB FINALISTS FRIDAY 14TH APRIL	
WEEK 3	MARGARET LANE ROSS GERAGHTY DAVE KENNEDY ANN MARIE McDONNELL MICHAEL McDONNELL SEAN LYNCH	WEEK 3	DEIRDRE CRONIN NIAMH QU Aid CORNELIA KELLEHER MIRIAM O'REILLY STEVE SHEPPARD
WEEK 4	ANNE DUNNE PAT O'CONNOR CATRIONA NOONAN ARLENE MURPHY NOREEN HICKEY JACK SLATTERY	WEEK 4	CAROLINE FRAWLEY IVOR CASEY LOUISE KENNEDY DAVID NOONAN TONY McMAHON
WEEK 5	SINEAD O'DRISCOLL JOHN GARRY MAIREAD O'SULLIVAN STEVE SHEPPARD GRACE WALLACE AILEEN PHILPOTT	WEEK 5	NOEL MORAHAN AIDAN McCARATHY IMELDA O'SULLIVAN ANGIE WHITMORE TONY FINNIN
WEEK 6	CARINA MOLONEY VANESSA McDONAGH MIRIAM McCARATHY SEAMUS NOLAN EDWARD FITZGERALD CATHAL McHUGO	WEEK 6	FIONA FLAHERTY JENNIFER DUNDON MICHAEL STACK MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN ALAN HICKEY TOMAS WINSTON
WEEK 7	KAREN REGAN LORRAINE MURPHY CLARA MALONE LEE BRAZEL DEIRDRE RAFTERY MARY DEERY	WEEK 7	JOE MOLLOY TONY FINNIN DAVID McSWEENEY BRIAN GALLAGHER LISA MALL EN CAROLINE HENNESSY

WIN 1 OF 3* FLIGHTS TO THE USA PER VENUE
6 MORE CONTESTANTS TO BE DRAWN ON FINAL NIGHTS
ALL FINALISTS TO RECEIVE 'BRANDED' PRIZES
AND MUST BE PRESENT ON THE NIGHT

*FLIGHT VOUCHER VALUED AT £300 FROM "USIT NOW" UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Ella Daly's Really Thin Gossip Column

Hey hey are we all enjoying rag week? I know I know you, ll enjoy it a lot more when you have the gossip column to mull over.

Well, what have I got for you lot this week. Lots and lots, where to start.

I'm sorry I missed the Deb Union intervarsity. I hear our very own Mike Whoreigan decided to act on Keith Pigott's earlier public announcement that he and Mike were partners and serenade Keith in the scholars function room on Saturday night. Why he choose eurovision star Johnny Logan's "Hold me now%o we'll never know"

There's a scandal brewing in Fianna Fail with evidence being uncovered of a possible change of sides for Alan Ryder. It would appear that Mr Ryder signed into the last clubs and socs meeting as a Fine Gael rep.

Clubs and Socs Diva, Ms Claire Cox was spotted around Dublin at the weekend "Saving Private Ryan". Saving him from what, I don't know, but she seemed to be doing a pretty good job as the two could be seen marching up lower Gardner Street in the early hours of Sunday morning.

There were great shenanigans on Tuesday last at the Ten Forward showing of Stargate, when some cheeky ensign rented out the Swedish Porn version of the movie instead of the original I don't know who exactly made the switch but Niall from Cavan did look particularly guilty when questioned.

Before I go, I can't go another week without commenting on An Focal gig reviewer Tommy Finnernan's blossoming relationship with Author of the first year Diaries (up the kingdom!!!) Mairead Moriarty. TOMMY CLAIMS TO HAVE TAKEN Mystic Moriarty out and given her an "education" which he claims left her "fulfilled". Far be it from me to read anything into this or to take things out of context but that pretty much speaks for itself so it does.

That's all for now. Tune in next time for the breaking scandal involving Members of the secretariat and the SU president. Monica and Bill haven't a patch on Pat and Dave, but I'll say no more now.

And the Award goes to.....

Some of ye might have missed the recent awards ceremony, not to worry, you missed nothing much.

One of the more obscure, but worth noticing awards however, was that of "best attitude adjustment in a local club", (it comes just before 'best shoe repair in a foreign film' and just after 'best use of an ATM card'). The award went to Baker Place.

The new Sheriff, (known 'round the corral as Mr. New Manager Bloke) starting with his plans to make the whole place more student friendly (i.e. The Wicked Chicken, the main bar and the club). This man is fast becoming your best mate whether you know it or not. Not only has he made it free (yes that is nil punts) to get into the club Sun-Weds for girlies who happened to be drinking in the bar, he was also the bloke who managed to get the Radars (the best thing to come out of Limerick since Paddy Sarsfield, and that includes the Cranberries) to play there on Paddy's night. No mean feats I may add.

The new Sheriff is also making Baker Place a funky place to be. Lined up for 14th April is a veritable feast of funk and dance set to be the grooviest night for fields around. Starting with Limerick's own First Man of The Decks, Skinnyboy Jaz, who'll be giving it bundles in the main bar.

Then once you've got your groove on, skip downstairs for the main event, no less than Liam Dollard, the first ever resident of the Kitchen, ready to keep you bouncing all night. Now, if that isn't exactly what the doctor ordered, then you're not sick! According to my sources our man is not anywhere done, so don't stick a pitchfork in the place just yet, more goodness is yet to come.

So Kids, don't feel if you missed the award ceremony, it was too late for you anyway, but don't however, miss the reason why it was awarded, get yourselves down to Baker Place - Academy Award Winning Club!

The An Focal team

editor and late night stayer-upper *dayvob*

news collectors/gossipers

musos *des the dock, bren g.,*

film freaks *kp, aodain*

book worm *daragh*

features *n, snotty, bull, denise, dave, mystic, mcgell*

show me the money *becky*

c + s (m+s, s+m, b+h etc.) *p lee, + mates*

phancy photo's *willie + co.*

poets *pinky*

gig goers *tommy f.*

Kollege Week 2000

Just a taste, for more of the same, see centre pages



“All in a days work”
 Thank You
 you are a legend

