



We Grew Up In The Golden Age Of Animation. Why Cartoons Are Akin To Time Travel. Page 8.



Exam Special: Just Another Reason To Read An Focal. We've Got You Covered. Pages 21, 22 & 23.

# DALAI LAMA VISITS UL

Written by **Darragh Roche**,  
Deputy Editor

THE DALAI Lama, one of the world's renowned spiritual leaders, delivered a speech about the importance of compassion for humanity on Thursday, Week 12. His Holiness addressed a crowd of more than 3,100 people in the University Arena during an event entitled "The Power of Forgiveness".

The Dalai Lama is on a brief trip to Ireland in support of the charity Children in Crossfire, the founder of which, Richard Moore, is a long time personal friend.

Mr Moore was blinded by a rubber bullet in Derry in 1972. His assailant, with whom he has reconciled, was in the front row and the Dalai Lama called him up to the stage and joined the two men's hands to bales of applause.

UL President, Professor Don Barry appeared on stage to introduce His Holiness wearing a white scarf that the Dalai Lama had just given to him. He praised the Buddhist leader for his involvement with Children in Crossfire and his efforts to improve people's lives.

"It is fitting that His Holiness should come to UL. We are committed to making our university pioneering and connected," Prof Barry said. "Improving the lives of others is something we also have in common with Richard Moore.

It is an understatement to say that we live in troubled times but the insights of the His Holiness will help us," he added.

See An Focal's full coverage,  
Pages 10 and 11



Founder of Children in Crossfire, Richard Moore (left) and UL President, Professor Don Barry (right) join hands with the 14th Dalai Lama just moments after his helicopter arrival at the UL running track. Image: UL Press Office.

## PSA PRESIDENT ELECTED

Written by **Rachel Dargan**

THE Postgraduate Students' Association (PSA) has formally welcomed its President Elect, Sarah Jane Hennelly. The election for PSA President took place on Monday of Week 11, and saw two candidate contest the position. Candidate Marie Casey took 97 votes while Ms Hennelly got 181. The total number of votes cast was 278. The quota (the point at which one is deemed elected) was 139. There were no spoiled votes.

The contest, which was the first PSA election to happen online, broke two records. Not only did the election

feature the highest number of votes ever, it also recorded the greatest victory by number of votes. The PSA has said both candidates ran strong campaigns. The organisation currently caters for approximately 2,500 taught and research postgraduates enrolled in the University. The handover will take place in June.

Current PSA President, Dan Comerford said "Each candidate had different backgrounds. Ms Hennelly has had a big PSA background, being the Events Officer this year and AHSS Faculty officer for the PSA. Ms Casey

has had huge campaign experience in SU elections and has been a Class Rep for the SU. It was interesting as an observer to see who prevailed."

"I hope the PSA will continue to grow," he continues. "I hope Postgrads will continue to use its services and facilities and that they keep bringing issues forward. I believe the association will continue to grow as it has done over last few years."

## SU ADDRESSES ACCOMMODATION WORRIES

Written by **Darragh Roche**,  
Deputy Editor

THE SU has issued a warning that there have been numerous complaints relating to landlords or their agents taking advantage of student panic to source houses for next year.

In a release issued by Welfare Officer Derek Daly, students have been advised that there is no shortage

of accommodation in Castletroy. "Students should wait until the accommodation list becomes available and should also think about renting accommodation outside of the usual student estates," said Mr Daly.

Read the full release on [www.ulsu.ie](http://www.ulsu.ie)

## News

## THANK YOU

I wish to put in writing a very special thanks to all who have contributed to An Focal throughout the year.

Thanks also to the year's Editorial team – News Editor, Colm Fitzgerald; Features Editor (and incoming Communications Officer) Kelly O'Brien; Sports Editor, Mark Connolly; Entertainments Editor, Caitriona NiChadhain; C&S Editor, Róisín Peddle and last but not least, Deputy Editor, Darragh Roche. Your talent, dedication and enthusiasm never stopped amazing me this year.

**Contributors, please note:**

If you would like copies of your published work, there is a limited number of An Focal newspapers from the year available in the Communications Office. Please enquire via [sucommunications@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunications@ul.ie) so we can have your request ready for collection before you arrive.

Le gach dea ghui,

Finn McDuffie

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**1. Contributors please note:**

All submissions to An Focal are greatly valued. If you have submitted an article which has not been published in this issue, it is very likely that your piece has been retained for publication in future issues. If you are concerned that your article has not been published, please say so.

**2. Editing:**

If you are unhappy with how your article appeared in An Focal, please discuss this with the Editor. A number of strict guidelines are followed in the production of An Focal, which means some articles may be altered to allow them to fit on the page and to improve readability.

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Finn McDuffie, Editor

## EDITORIAL

WE always need someone to blame after something goes wrong. It's human nature and it's vicious. But it also serves a purpose. In vindicating who's to blame, we can figure out what went wrong and how, enabling future evasion of similar mishaps. We can put to bed uncertainty.

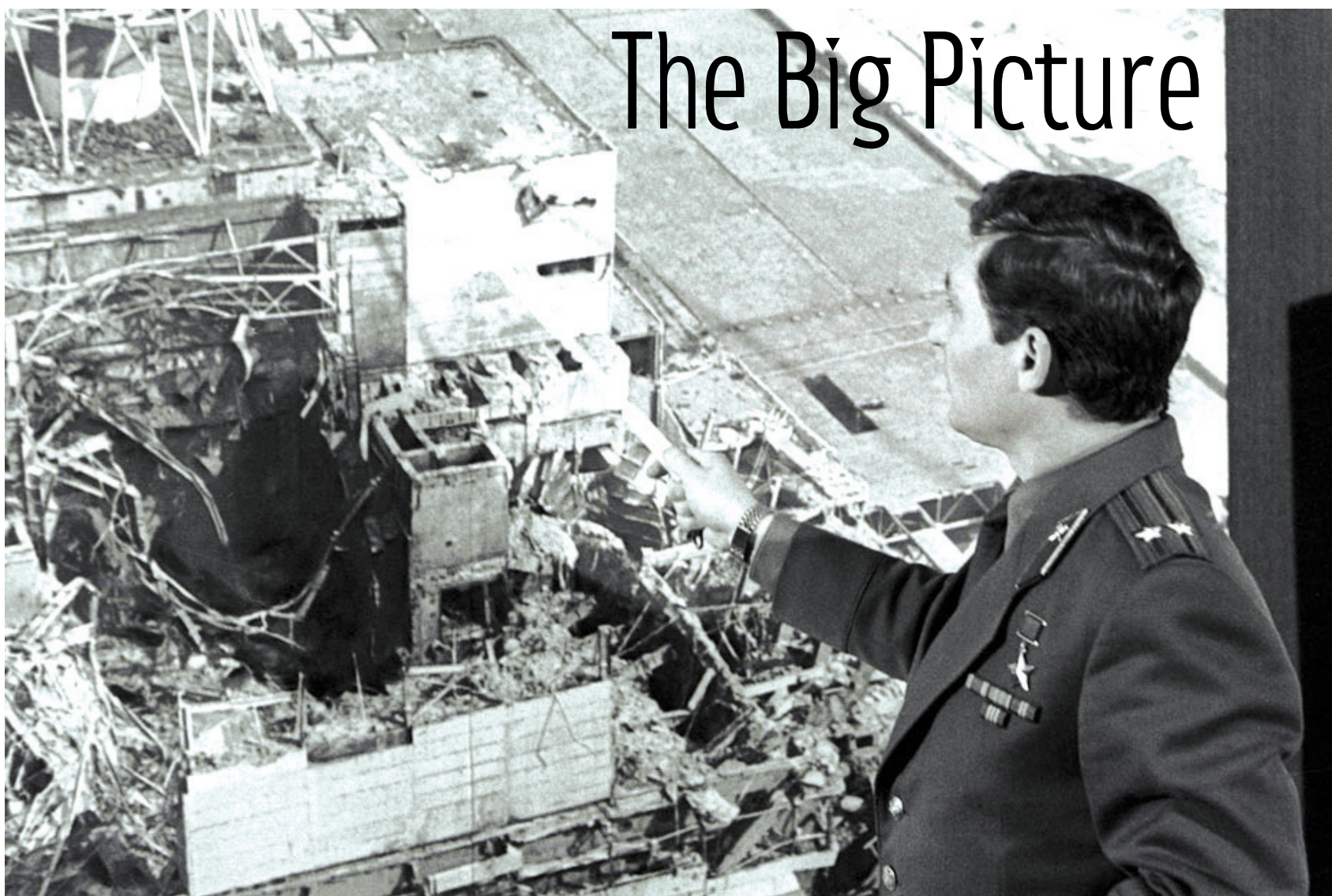
But after last week's publication of the Nyberg report into the causes of the Irish banking crisis, some of us walked away just little bit peeved.

You see, we didn't get to find out whodunit. Not really, anyway. "Don't expect to be able to point a finger of blame after reading the report" said The Irish Times. The report tells us

what we knew already; people are dumb, numerous and unaccountable. The only difference is the context. It says the banking crisis is the fault of hundreds of thousands of individuals who followed a herd instinct which led the banks to mimic the risky Anglo Irish model. This simple idea is framed nicely in the report's table of contents, which accommodates four neat categories. First, we have the token bad guys; "Flawed Lender", Anglo Irish. Next comes a gormless stampede; "The Herd" also written in the Report as "Other Banks". The herd is the most interesting creature in the report, for it was entranced by a compulsory

positivity where naysayers inside the banks and the authorities were forced to conform or were silenced by the unrelenting success of the property market. This isn't a new idea.

Quietly in the corner sit the other two "groups" partisan to our recent national experience: "The Silent Observers" (External Auditors) and "The Enablers" (Public Authorities). Meanwhile "a national speculative mania" grips the country. The report is all melodrama and excuses. Worse, it is cowardly, choosing not to name and shame and instead to excuse the unforgivable greed and ignorance that has shamed us all. No more of this. We need closure.



On this day in 1986, the Chernobyl fourth reactor exploded, killing 31. Pictured is Lt. Colonel Leonid Telyatnikov, Head of the Pripyat Fire Brigade which fought the Chernobyl blaze, pointing at a photograph of the power station's damaged fourth reactor following the April 26, 1986 nuclear accident. The reactor has since been entombed in concrete. Telyatnikov, 36, was hospitalized for two months with acute radiation sickness and was twice decorated for bravery.

## LIMERICK LEADER EDITOR STARTED IN NIHE

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald,**  
News Editor

Alan English started journalism career at "Kampus" magazine.

AN FOCAL hosted an interview with Alan English, the editor of local newspaper the Limerick Leader on Thursday of Week 10.

A crowd of 19 students gathered in the John Holland where Mr English detailed his early journalistic career, current work at the Limerick Leader and the future of print media.

Mr English studied European Studies at the National Institute of Higher Education (NIHE) and became involved in "Kampus" magazine, which was co-ordinated by Ber Angley. After 10 minutes he became the new editor, and compiled the publication by means of photocopied pieces, which were typed by a typist in Caherdavin. After a short stint in

the Limerick Leader he worked in the Western Morning News in Plymouth before working in the Sunday Times. He became editor of the Limerick Leader in 2006.

Despite a perceived difficult future for the media, Mr English was certain of a continuing demand for "quality journalism". "It's never too late to get involved", he said, and "there's a niche for everyone".

He also encouraged people not to "turn their nose up" at tabloid newspapers, as contrary to popular belief, they also offer some of the best journalism and quality of publication.

"I can see there not being a printed Limerick Leader in maybe 20 to 30 years' time but I can still see it being online", Mr English said.

## RESIDENTS COMPLAIN TO HEA ABOUT ROWDY BEHAVIOUR

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald,**  
News Editor

University's poor academic ranking blamed on "privileged brats"

REPRESENTATIVES of the Plassey Residents Association have complained to the Higher Education Authority (HEA) about rowdy student behaviour in Castletroy estates.

The association, which represent residents in Milford Grange, Milford Close, Elm Park and Hazelwood, claim students have made residential areas "look like slums", particularly following Charity Week and the recent good weather.

Chairman of the association, Mr Joseph O'Shea said, "They are rowdy, destructive and threatening as they head out around 10pm and are worse on the way back. They then feel free to urinate and defecate in public, to strip aerials, hubcaps, and mirrors from cars, remove street signs, overturn bins, throw eggs at cars and houses,

smash bottles and drink glasses on the road and litter the place with takeaway containers and used contraceptives".

The association went on to claim that students, who they described as "privileged brats and thugs" were not aiding UL's poor academic ranking.

"At present UL rates on academic performance as the worst in Ireland, it is difficult to see how the students can perform to be best of their ability when a culture of binge drinking and an abuse of alcohol have been allowed to develop", added Mr O'Shea.

The SU undertook many initiatives this Charity Week including setting up a text service whereby residents could report any serious issues where action was needed. This provided residents with instant response to issues, as they arose. Students also provided patrols of estates in an effort to curb unwanted behaviour.

# AN FOCAL WINS PEOPLE'S CHOICE AT SMEDIAS

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald**,  
News Editor

Trinity take home a third of 32 available awards

AN FOCAL won the "People's Choice" award at this year's Student Media Awards. The awards, commonly known as the "Smedias", were held on Wednesday of Week 11 in Mansion House, Dublin.

This is the second consecutive year An Focal has won the People's Choice as a result of votes cast on the oxygen.ie website by members of the public. An Focal also won the award in 2005.

Editor of An Focal, Finn McDuffie said, "We're delighted to have won the People's Choice.

This is An Focal's second award this year and a testament to the talent and dedication of the student volunteers and sectional editors who create the newspaper. They put in so much time

and energy. The award is their legacy and their inspiration." This year An Focal saw a revitalisation, with an entirely new design conceived by graphic designer Cassandra Fanara, along with a switch to Berliner format and full colour print. The fortnightly publication won the TV3 Tonight with Vincent Browne "Student Newspaper of the Year" award in late 2010. Students of Trinity College Dublin (TCD) were overall presented with 33% of the other awards. The University Times won newspaper of the year for the fifth year running, while its editor, Tom Lowe, was awarded journalist of the year. Trinity News also won three awards. The awards were sponsored by Bus Eireann, The Irish Times, The Irish Film Board and The Irish Examiner, among others.



## UL LIPDUB EVENT POSTPONED

Written by **Rachel Dargan**

THE much acclaimed Lip Dub, which was to take place on Wednesday, Week 12 with more than 250 confirmed participants, has been postponed until Fresher's Week (Week 1) of next semester due to poor weather conditions.

The route and song 'mash ups' will not change. A Lip Dub is made by filming individuals or a group of people lip synching while listening to a song or any recorded audio then dubbing over it in post editing with the original audio track. UL will be the first Irish University to produce a Lip Dub, with the concept already popular in America and Europe. The unofficial record for the most people taking part was 5771 people in October 2010, however this record is not recognised by Guinness

World Records. UL's LipDub will be a 'mash up' of Hanson's "Thinking 'Bout Something" and Chris Brown's "Yeah 3X" Practise sessions ran on Monday and Tuesday of Week 12 for people participating in different sections of the video. The organisers had hoped to use it for UL promotion videos in September.

The planned route begins on Plassey Green (in front of the White House), through the Millstream Courtyard on to main plaza, past the library towards the

Stables, through the Stables Courtyard and on into the SU Courtyard for the finale. It takes a total of seven minutes' walking time, but the video will be six minutes in length. One organiser expressed disappointment at the postponing, but said the Lip Dub will be used to involve incoming first years in Clubs and Societies, when September comes.

## UL OGRA FF RAISE €5K FOR WORTHY CAUSE

Written by **James Crowe**

ON Thursday, 31 March UL's Fianna Fail Society (Con Colbert Cumann) hosted a fundraiser in the Stables Club in the University and raised over €5,000 in aid of the Cian Cleary Benefit Fund.

Mr Cleary is a graduate of the class of 2010 with a Bachelor of Business Studies in Economics and Finance from the Kemmy Business School. On his way home from the end of exam celebrations, Cian suffered severe head, neck, and spinal injuries in a freak accident at the Schumann Fountain beside the Kemmy Business School.

While Mr Cleary has made considerable progress in recovering from the head and neck injuries sustained as a result of the accident (which included operation to repair injuries sustained to his neck), he still has significant spinal problems. As a

result he faces the prospect of lifelong wheelchair dependence. Mr Cleary is due to return to his home in Kildysart County Clare in the next couple of months.

A benefit fund was set up in order to raise money to adapt his home with the necessary facilities to meet his basic needs and also to assist with the ongoing care that he will need for the foreseeable future.

Following approval from the Cian Cleary Benefit Fund committee and weeks of preparation by the Cumann, a fundraising night was held in the Stables. There were bands, a late bar, DJ, finger food and raffles kindly sponsored by local businesses in Limerick.

An auction was the centrepiece, and bids were placed for a rugby ball signed by the Munster team and a signed Tipperary hurling jersey. These

"The funds raised will assist Cian's family with his on-going care"

raised €500 and €190 respectively. The night raised over €5,000 which will assist Cian's family with his on-going care.

Cumann Chairman Gerard Fogarty congratulated and thanked the Cumann and Cian's friend Sean Clancy for their hard work and all in attendance and particularly the Stables and other sponsors for their sincere generosity.

## UCD GRADUATE TO CYCLE 17,000M FOR CHARITY

Written by **Darragh Roche**,  
Deputy Editor

A GRADUATE of UCD who has worked in UL as part of ReachOut.com and PleaseTalk will cycle 17,000m from Alaska to Argentina to raise money for the Carers Association of Ireland. Ian Lacey and his friend Lee Saville aim to raise €10,000 for the organisation and complete their journey in 350 days. Their expedition is called 350South.

Mr Lacey acted as a carer for his late grandmother until 2008 and attributes her 90 years to the care she received. He now wishes to highlight the importance of carers and raise money for them by cycling the Pan-American Highway from the most northerly point to the most southerly. The trip will also involve making a documentary film on Irish people living abroad and will discuss their experiences of being Irish

abroad. Mr Lacey and Mr Saville will also encourage the Irish people they meet to cycle south with them. The trip will take the men through 15 different countries, beginning in the USA and progressing through Canada, Mexico and others before eventually arriving at Tierra del Fuego in Argentina. Mr Lacey spent five years at UCD before moving to Colorado to work for a non-profit organisation called the Wilderness Society. The journey was inspired by Swedish adventurer Göran Kropp who cycled from Stockholm to Mt Everest. Mr Lacey and Mr Saville will begin their journey on 15 June and encourage as many people as possible to donate by going to their website at [www.350south.org](http://www.350south.org) or searching them on Facebook and Twitter.

## News

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## TRINITY ELECTS NEW PROVOST

PROFESSOR Patrick Prendergast has been elected the new provost of Trinity College, Dublin. The provost is the president of Trinity and is elected by fellows and academics of the college. Prof Prendergast is the professor of bioengineering, he is Trinity's 44th provost and the youngest elected since 1758. He was the favourite throughout the contest, which saw several high profile academic from TCD and beyond campaign for votes. A professor of history, Dr Jane Ohlmeyer, was another serious contender for the position and was the first woman seriously considered to lead an Irish university. The position comes with a salary of €200,000 and the most prestigious address in the country, No 1 Grafton St.

## KENYAN AMBASSADOR VISITS

KENYAN Ambassador, Ms Catherine Muigai Mwangi visited UL during March. On her visit she met with UL President, Professor Don Barry and also the UL International Education office. Ms Mwangi was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kenya to Ireland in 2007. She is the first resident ambassador to Ireland and has over 25 years' experience working for various local and internationally recognized organisations. In the past she has provided high level professional services in strategic management, marketing, public relations, communications, brand formulation and development, operations and strategic planning. Kenya became independent of the British Empire in 1963 and is one of Africa's most stable nations.

## SU PRESIDENT'S GRANDMOTHER TURNS 105

SU President Ruán Dillon-McLoughlin celebrated his grandmother's 105th birthday recently. Mary McLoughlin turned 105 on Mother's Day. She celebrated with her 10 children, 28 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was born in Caltra, Galway in 1906 and spent 12 years in the US before returning to Galway to marry Patrick McLoughlin and settle down on a farm. Mrs McLoughlin's birthday was reported in the Irish Independent on 4 April.

## SEMINAR ON MAGDALENE LAUNDRIES

MEMBERS of the Limerick branch of Sibéal Irish Postgraduate Gender and Women's Studies Network have organised a seminar and art exhibition on the subject of the memory of women incarcerated in these institutions, "Memories of the Magdalene Laundries: Feminist Dialogue, Debate and Action". This event will take place on Wednesday, 27 April 2011 at 2pm in the UL Concert Hall building (FB028 and exhibition area basement floor). The seminar will feature speakers from Justice for Magdalenes, Dr. Mary McAuliffe (UCD School for Social Justice) and London-based Labour councillor Cllr. Sally Mulready (founder of Irish Women's Survivors Group, London) and Limerick School of Art and Design postgraduate student, Evelyn Glynn. The seminar will be followed by a reception and exhibition of Evelyn's photographic work, which focuses on the Clare Street former laundry in Limerick.

## CO-OP ABROAD LEADS TO TEACHING COMMITMENT



Written by **Tamar Keane**

THE UL chaplaincy held a fundraiser for three students on Wednesday, 13 April. One of the students, Ms Van Der Kooij plans to spend two and a half months teaching English literacy to the people of Abee, a small, rural village in Ghana. The cause was accompanied by tea, coffee and cakes, and the helpful hands of Sr Sarah O'Rourke, Fr John Campion. Sarah Dolan and Edith Carroll, second year students, plan to travel to Brazil. Ms Dolan and Ms Carroll are both studying PE Teaching. The money raised will go towards the cost of Ms Van Der Kooij, Ms Dolan

and Ms Carroll's trips, and the materials they need to teach. Director of Student Affairs, Bernadette Walsh attended the event to recognise the strategic alliance between UL and NUIG. The chaplaincy teams in both colleges have formally collaborated on a single project of students travelling under the auspices of the charity SERVE, which donates €1m, along with many volunteers to developing countries in need.

The project this year is in North West Brazil and it involves work on community development, and the provision of water and sanitation.

Ms Van Der Kooij had spent five months last semester in Ghana on her Co-op, teaching English in the same area. "My heart is still there" Ms Van Der Kooij said. "I didn't feel like I had finished teaching them there, so I decided I would go back and continue what I was doing before."

Ms Van Der Kooij believes there is nothing she has not gained from her experiences from her Co-op in Ghana. "I definitely came out of my shell. I know how to express things to people, how to talk to people [...] It just makes you want to appreciate the littler things

in life that are not materialistic." The fundraiser helped raise awareness about Ms Van Der Kooij's trip, but she plans to do more. Though she feels the day was a huge success, Ms Van Der Kooij plans to raise more money before her trip next June. Students can apply for Co-ops abroad with Gerry Cronin in the Co-op Office.

## TWO UL STUDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIPS

Written by **Tamar Keane**

TWO scholarships have recently been awarded to two UL law students. On Thursday, 24 March Paul Egan, from Tralee won the Paul Tansey Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

On Monday, 4 April Susan Rohan was awarded with the highly esteemed Holmes O'Malley Sexton scholarship. The scholarship is awarded every year to the student who completes their third year with the highest grades of the LLB in Law and European Studies or the BA in Law and Accounting.

Holmes O'Malley Sexton is a Limerick Based firm, and can give students who win the scholarship higher chances of securing solicitor traineeship contracts and greatly

assist their future careers. The Paul Tansey scholarship is awarded every three years to a PhD research student intending to enrol at the Graduate Centre of Business at the University. The Graduate Centre of Business has more than 80 postgraduate students pursuing Masters and doctoral degrees.

Ms Rohan was presented with her award by High Court judges Mary Finlay Geoghegan and George Birmingham. Mr Egan was pictured with Irish Times Editor, Geraldine Kennedy and broadcaster Olivia O'Leary. The title of Mr Egan's research document is 'China's exchange policy and economic issues with the European Union'.

## STUDENTS URGED TO BECOME ORGAN DONORS

Written by **Karen O'Connor Desmond**

COLLEGE students nationwide are being encouraged to become organ donors by the Union of Students Ireland (USI). The requests for help follow a significant drop in Irish organ donations last year, according to the Irish Kidney Association (IKA). The call by the USI coincided conveniently with Organ Donor Awareness Week 2011, which ran from 2 to 9 April. In response, stands were set-up on campuses around the country, allowing students to avail of organ donor cards. Special talks took place in colleges to promote the benefits and importance of organ donations. Posters supporting the cause were also displayed. Students' attention has also been brought to the new organ donor E-Card. This smart phone application allows for the individual to keep their completed donor e-card on their smart phone.

USI president, Gary Redmond said "it is a sad fact that while medical science and surgical techniques have become so advanced, there are still hundreds of people on the organ transplant list. The number of organ donors in Ireland

is on the decrease and this is something that we need to change." The Organ Donor Awareness Week campaign was launched for the first time on Tuesday, 29 March 2011. The campaign wishes to raise awareness about the rising need for organ donation and transplantation in Ireland. It also seeks help from the public, encouraging people to become organ donors and to discuss the issue with loved ones.

This year, an estimated 58 deceased organ donors allowed for 151 transplants to take place. This figure represents a startling 35% drop in the number of organ donors compared to last year. The USI said that its focus is to raise awareness concerning the increasing need for organ donations and transplants amongst students. Mr Redmond continued "Becoming an organ donor is a very selfless act, which allows sick people like these a chance to live healthy, fulfilling lives."

There are more than 650 people in need of life saving organ transplants in Ireland. This includes heart, lung, liver, kidney and pancreas.

# NATURE SOC HOLDS GREEN CAMPUS WEEK



Ted Cook pictured with members of UL's Nature Society during his Shannon "Walk and Talk" .

Written by **Ed O'Callaghan, Yvonne Fogarty, James Moloney Quinn**

UL's GREEN Campus Week began on Sunday, 27 March with many of the college's leading clubs and societies teaming up for a massive Spring Clean of the University's stretch of the Riverbank.

For the Riverbank Cleanup, more than 40 volunteers combed two kilometres of riverbank and canals as part of An Taisce's National Spring Clean. 157 bags of litter plus an estimated tonne of illegally dumped household wastes including bikes, beds and metal scrap were collected from the banks of the River Shannon. Following the cleanup the ground volunteers and the kayaking club met in Dromroe Village to assemble all the rubbish collected.

On Monday, the society hosted a 'Walk and Talk'. One of the principal aims of the Nature Society is to get members of the college and local community more informed of their local natural environment, and with the 20 nature enthusiasts who showed up, Ted Cook's identification and exploration of our rich local biodiversity certainly helped to raise the profile one of the university's newest societies.

"Protecting our Roots" was the theme of the talk and was also aimed at marking UN's "Year of the Forest." Mr Cook posted the Nature Society review of his talk on transforming Ireland from

a country rich in its own biodiversity to one largely cleared and replaced with foreign tree species that have a weak association with our unique local fauna.

Green Campus Week finished on Tuesday with the Energy Society's 'bicycle cinema' event in The Stables. Members of the Energy Society and passers-by cycled six bikes in order to power a showing of "Anchorman" and was sponsored by the Stables and five bikes were lent by Unicycle. The event was organised to raise awareness of the Energy Society, founded this year to provide a forum for those interested in renewable resources, innovative business design and other energy concerns.

UL's Green Campus, an umbrella committee of environmentally aware clubs and societies at the college including the staff's very own Environmental Committee is currently working towards obtaining Green Campus status, an environmental management system for Third Level Institutions. The Green Campus Week events were the first in a series of activities which will be undertaken by the University in achieving this goal.

## JESSIE J "SHOCKED" BY BEHAVIOUR AT TRINITY BALL

Written by **Josh Lee**

BRITISH pop star Jessie J has expressed her shock at the behaviour of some students after this year's Trinity Ball which took place in the college at the end of Week 11.

Taking to social networking site Twitter after the gig, Jessie J— real name Jessica Cornish—tweeted "Just came off stage at Trinity ball. Probably one of the hardest gigs to date."

Describing the situation she added "to see so many people so drunk they couldn't even stand. Girls unconscious and [students were] literally trampling on each other. It wasn't easy."

After receiving criticism for her comments, with one fan reported as saying "Just be thankful you were performing on stage to your fans."

"I was just shocked at how intoxicated they were and I was genuinely worried for them. I'm not used to it. That's all. And it's not just in Ireland, it's everywhere. As a non drinker, I just want to spread the message that binge drinking is dangerous," Ms Cornish said.

"I had a great time in Ireland and met some incredible fans, but this Twitter is about a journey so I'm not going to ignore things that bother me."

Ms Cornish, who doesn't drink because of a medical condition, took to the stage along with a host of other acts including Bell X1, The Streets, Fight Like Apes and Limerick comedy duo the Rubberbandits.

## EXTERNAL INVESTIGATION FOR GMT PLAGIARISM ROW

Written by **Conor Forrest**

GALWAY Mayo Institute of Technology (GMT) has launched an external probe into an incident of cheating at the college, and how this incident was dealt with by the schools concerned.

The governing body has invited a UCD academic, barrister and mediator to conduct an independent investigation into the incident, which has already been the subject of three internal inquiries. GMT has already taken action against the lecturer involved and has announced the development of a new "quality improvement plan" in order to raise standards at the college.

The incident involved a final year student in the School of Business who gained access to a password protected instructors manual, containing sample answers for assessment questions. It is alleged that a lecturer at the college provided the student with their

password. The student involved had marks deducted but graduated last autumn. Investigators will conduct a review of senior personnel in the college, including Heads of Department and members of the student disciplinary committee. The panel will also assess whether any member of staff was involved in suppressing or concealing the incident. Recent inquiries found that the School of Business treated the incident as a "minor" case of plagiarism whereas it should have been considered "major", and dealt with by management at a higher level.

The report into the college is expected to be completed by the end of the semester. The college's academic board has already recommended the dissolution of a board which reviewed suspect student performance before and during exams.

## UL TO HOST EUROPEAN PREMIÈRE

Written by **Annie Dillon**

UL HAS been selected as the host of the European Première of Burzynski: The Movie. The movie Director, Eric Merola, will attend alongside Dr Greg Burzynski. Founding President of UL, Dr Ed Walsh is also expected to attend.

Winner of the Humanitarian Vision Award at the Newport Beach Film Festival 2010, the movie chronicles the story and legal battle of a medical doctor and Ph.D biochemist named Dr Stanislaw Burzynski, who won the largest, most convoluted and intriguing battle against the Food and Drug

Administration in American history.

Dr Burzynski's battle centres on his gene-targeted cancer medicines. The medicines, called Antineoplastons, are currently in the last phase of testing before general, worldwide release.

When approved, it will mark the first time in history a single scientist, not a pharmaceutical company, will hold the exclusive patent and distribution rights on a paradigm shifting, life-saving medical breakthrough.

Antineoplastons are responsible for curing previously thought incurable forms of terminal cancer.

Burzynski takes the audience through a treacherous, yet victorious, 14-year journey. According to event organiser, Susanne McAllister, "The only reason you have not seen this on CNN is because 'cancer is big business'".

**26 April, 7pm, Jean Monet Theatre, Tickets Free & Bookings Required. Contact burzynski\_themovie@ireland.com.**

## UCD BALL DEBACLE CAUSES EMBARRASSMENT

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald, News Editor**

UC SU claims the university "reneged on their commitment", Alternative arrangements made.

UCD students were described as aghast and disheartened following the unexpected announcement of the cancellation of this year's UCD ball. But it later emerged that the event will take place on 23 April.

It is understood the initial confusion arose after UCD authorities were unwilling to restrict access to the campus after 1pm which was a condition laid down by the Gardaí in order for a license to be granted. Sources claim this is the same arrangement which was in place at last year's ball.

UCD Authorities claimed access could not be curtailed as the veterinary hospital and National Virus Reference Library were to remain operational

during the event. The student body initially assumed the function had been called off as headline acts had not been confirmed, and that there were issues with the performers. But this was not the case, as UCDSU has confirmed it intended to announce the line-up in the immediate lead up to the event.

Confirmed acts included Republic of Loose and Fight Like Apes. It is understood a clause in the contract between UCDSU and the acts stipulated that they would not be paid if the necessary license for the event was not obtained. The ball will feature two main stages and a silent disco. An alternative date has been agreed upon by the university and UCDSU. This has been ratified by UCDSU class reps in an emergency meeting. The only compromise agreed was a reduction in capacity from 6500 to 4999.



## Opinion

# GIVE ME YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS OR I'LL RAPE YOU

Written by **Colm Fitzgerald**,  
News Editor

WE often have reason to complain about our national police force. As a nation, we regularly claim the Gardaí don't take proper action to curb drug use, catch drink drivers, get youths off streets and so on. Often though, these may well be petty concerns for which there are no proper grounds for complaint. We've all heard of someone who's given a Garda the bitter argument: "you issued me with a speeding ticket but what about that driver who has a kilo of cocaine in his boot". But recent allegations have given genuine and perilous cause for complaint and indeed gross concern about the Gardaí. Evidence uncovered from a hidden video camera revealed members of the force were considering threatening a woman with rape if she did not impart her personal details.

Rape is a surreal and terrifying threat, but it's a threat amplified immeasurably because it was potentially going to be issued by two members of the Gardaí. The woman appeared to be causing a nuisance of some sort of at a protest at the controversial Corrib Gas Pipeline in Mayo, and the Gardaí were naturally required to intervene.

It was utterly disgraceful, sick and perverted behaviour. Painting all with the same brush, it can be said such guerrilla behaviour has put the force to shame. Of course, we must consider different perspectives. The Gardaí are at work and are entitled to make a joke if they see fit; after all, a light hearted atmosphere at work surely makes one more productive. In this case though, jokes of rape toward a woman who they described as "a f\*\*king yank

or Canadian" are wholeheartedly unacceptable, inappropriate and downright criminal. We must consider where this has placed us. Any progress as regards rape prevention has been suddenly undermined by a body we are encouraged to trust. Gardaí external to the station these perpetrators are based in are to launch an investigation into the facts. In the interest of returning the force to the summit of its credibility, it would be somewhat helpful if the Gardaí were to issue a public apology, and the offending members dealt with to the fullest extent possible. These events will certainly cause many to err on the side of caution when dealing with Gardaí, and not without due cause.



An Garda Síochána: Keepers of the peace? Image: Finn McDuffie

## HEAD TO HEAD

### SHOULD IRELAND USE NUCLEAR POWER?

If you would like a topic discussed here,  
please email [sucommunications@ul.ie](mailto:sucommunications@ul.ie)

Written by **James Bradshaw**

## YES!

IN the light of the crisis in Fukushima, it seems almost perverse to argue that Ireland should opt for nuclear power. That is, until you start examining the facts. In 1978, musicians such as Christy Moore staged a series of open-air concerts in Wexford. They aimed to increase the opposition to the then Government's plan to construct several nuclear power plants at Carnsore Point. The Three Mile Island accident contributed to the growing opposition, and in the early 80s, the proposal was shelved. And where are we now? Ireland has the highest electricity prices in Europe, almost twice as high as France, where nuclear power generates almost 80% of the country's electricity. Without large domestic sources of oil and gas, we rely on the dictators

and Islamists of the East and Middle East to keep our homes warm and our lights glowing. And because of the lack of domestic production, we now import a large amount of electricity from Britain, about 20% of which is generated by, you guessed it, nuclear power. But that hypocrisy is fine. At least we don't have to lie awake at night worrying that ESB Homer will fall asleep on the job, thus triggering an explosion that will kill everyone. Because nuclear power is dangerous, right? Wrong. The aforementioned Three Mile Island accident killed nobody. The Chernobyl accident touched Irish people deeply, hardening many hearts against nuclear power. Yet, according to a 2005 report by the WHO, "as of 2005, fewer than 50 deaths had been directly attributed to the disaster." Those deaths were indeed tragic, but their number pales in comparison to the hundreds of people killed in oil field and refinery accidents, not to mention the

thousands who die mining coal. In Fukushima, despite the hysteria, just two workers have lost their lives. Both were killed not by radiation, but by the tsunami. Considering the death toll in Japan stands at over 10,000, this figure is, if anything a vindication of the safety standards in modern nuclear plants. So, you ask, would I willingly expose the Irish people to radiation by building a nuclear facility here? Well, yes. Across the world, millions live in the shadows of nuclear facilities, and that number is increasing as more and more countries begin building new plants. There has yet to be any credible study that suggests nuclear plants are dangerous to one's health; if they were, would 80 million tourists visit France annually? There's been alarmist talk about radiation exposure, yet we use X-ray scans, mobile phones or microwave ovens. It's time for Ireland to stop avoiding the tough decisions. It's time we joined the nuclear family.

Written by **Aoife Coughlan**

## NO!

THE Fukushima nuclear plant was dangerously harmed during the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan. This natural disaster led to the partial meltdown of the power plant's reactors 1, 2 and 3. Days of nervous tension followed as the world waited to with baited breath, hoping the situation would be stabilised. Fear coursed through workers on the ground, the citizens of Japan and people all across the world, including us in Ireland. As we cross our fingers and hope for the best one must question the object of our fear. Nuclear is once again the word on everyone's lips. In my opinion nuclear power should not be a potential source of energy. If we allow it to be used as a source for our power, we also allow it to hold the balance of power. We cannot

control it, it controls our sense of fear. I am against using nuclear energy as an alternative to finite fuels or renewable resources. In the debate surrounding nuclear power one could toss around facts and figures for either side of the argument. I am not attempting to justify my argument with these. That which can be said can be contradicted.

Science is fickle. Instead I implore you on emotive grounds. Basically, the question is not if we want nuclear power for Ireland but do we want the insecurity that nuclear power involves.

The pervading image of nuclear power for me is not of an efficient, clean and economically viable system. I see the product of nuclear power, and by the product I do not imply the glowing lights bulbs or humming household appliances. I see children without arms or legs, facial deformities and disfigurements. I see the cold, bare wards of sub-standard hospitals, the unacceptable

conditions of orphanages and I see the pain etched on parents, nurses, and aid worker's faces. I see Chernobyl. Twenty five years ago it was the setting for the worst nuclear disasters the world would see.

Twenty five years on and it is still suffering from the effects of the explosion. Nuclear energy was not a positive force, but a force condemning the people of Belarus to lifetimes of agonizing pain.

Nuclear power does not come with a guarantee; neither does it come with a promise of disaster, but that does not make it worth the risk. Can Ireland really play ethical roulette with the safety of our citizens?

It only takes an internal accident, environmental problem or act of terrorism or malice to catapult us into the same situation as Chernobyl. In the era of nuclear power the only thing certain is uncertainty.

## Opinion

# EMBRACE OUR EUROPEAN IDENTITY

Written by **Darragh Roche**,  
Deputy Editor

THE Roman philosopher Seneca once wrote, "Live with the conviction: I am not born for this place, the whole world's my home country". In the 21st century of cheap air travel, European unity and integrated transport systems, Seneca's advice has never been easier to follow. More importantly, we have never been more able to joyously embrace this idea.

Despite all the psychological baggage that being Irish entails, it also has some distinct advantages for anyone with itchy feet and a lust for adventure. As European citizens, we're free to travel to anywhere in the European Union without the tedious need to apply

for a visa. This opens up a gateway to a continent of culture, diversity and brilliance that has informed and enriched Irish culture since time immemorial.

But are we truly European or are we merely a peripheral group on the edge of a much larger and potentially alien culture? The truth is that though every nation in Europe is unique and there are many beliefs, cultural differences and languages, all Europeans share a common heritage which is grounded in rich culture of the Roman Empire and the unifying theology of the Christian religion. Though only remnants of both these mass movements survive

in modern Europe, they have created an identity that does not subsume a national one but is a layer on top of it that makes us something readily identifiable to all non-Europeans as a distinct, but not homogenous, culture.

If you choose to be a European, if you choose to embrace the commonality that all people from Galway to Krakow share, then you are a citizen of Europe. Walking through the streets of Edinburgh, Cologne or Amsterdam is an experience I would highly recommend. You don't feel like just another tourist or some foreigner wandering idly through the streets of an alien city because you are a European. The streets and

avenues, the boulevards and piazzas of Europe are places where we should all feel at home. Never forget that it is Europe that is the world's centre of culture and sophistication, which has a distinctly international flavour.

It was Europeans who lead the Renaissance and the Enlightenment and brought forth the Industrial Revolution and commercial society: when you walk the streets of Brussels or London you are breathing the air of uncounted generations of men and women who led the way and made not only this continent but the whole world what it is today. Though Europeans are far from sinless, the world is far improved

thanks to our influence. That should be a source of pride for all of us with 12 stars on our passport.

European unity is more important than ever in these changed economic times. If we can see our common identity, then we can begin to rebuild Europe once again. We must put the crimes of past generations behind us and embrace all that is good, all that deserves to be called European.

## INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION IS JUSTIFIED

Written by **Dafydd Phillips**

ON 19 March, international military intervention in Libya began following the passing of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. The resolution was passed in response to the on-going struggle of rebel forces to topple Gaddafi's regime. The allied offensive, primarily consisting of British, French and American forces, has established and maintained a no-fly zone over Libyan airspace. The coalition has also been targeting Gaddafi military units in an attempt to neutralise Gaddafi's capacity to retake rebel held areas.

The international intervention in Libya has come under considerable criticism from numerous sources. Many have compared the intervention in Libya to America's and Britain's misadventures in Iraq and Afghanistan. It must be stressed that the situation in Libya is fundamentally different. The desire for regime change stems from the people of Libya rather than being an outside imposition. International forces are defending and assisting a rebellion commenced by the Libyan people and Western involvement has helped prevent a humanitarian disaster.

Critics of the intervention in Libya point out that Western states have historically not troubled themselves with assisting rebellions or intervening

for humanitarian concerns. Citing the various examples of when the West stood idly by while humanitarian disasters unfolded, Rwanda being an apt example, critics argue intervention in Libya is hypocritical. I concede this point, but argue that accusations of hypocrisy do not form a compelling argument against intervention. It is true that Western national interests too often takes precedence over justice in global politics, a case in point being Western silence on pro-democracy protests in Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, the blatant hypocrisy does not take away from the fact that Western intervention has improved the situation in Libya.

I would not be presumptuous enough to assume that the long term impact of international intervention can be predicted. The rebel forces comprise of vastly diverse groups with various conceptions of Libya's future post-Gaddafi. I would, however, argue vehemently that the situation in Libya has been stabilised by international involvement. Had the West not intervened rebel militants and pro-democracy supporters would have been slaughtered by Gaddafi's superior military force.



Libya: stabilised by international involvement.

## NOT ONE RED CENT TO THE BANKS



Written by **Cian Prendiville**,  
Chairperson of UL Socialist Youth

IT'S either Frankfurt's way or Labour's way, so they say.

Well, only a month in power and the new government has already settled that question; Frankfurt's way it is: the way of Fianna Fáil and the IMF. The way of cuts for public services, stealth taxes for workers, job cuts for public servants and bailouts for the rich.

After all their talk of how the bank bailout was 'economic treason' and the need for 'burden sharing' the new government is now pumping a further €24bn into the banks. That is about two thirds of the entire income of this state. The very people who caused this crisis will be bailed out.

This policy has failed. When the bank guarantee was announced, Brian Lenihan spoke of "the cheapest bailout in the world so far". If Labour and Fine Gael have their way there, since Lenihan made that statement, we will

have had five separate 'bailouts' over two and a half years, costing a total of €70bn. That's almost €20,000 of extra debt that every man woman and child is now burdened with, to pay for the private gambling debts of private institutions for private profit.

Not only is there a moral argument to refuse to pay their gambling debts, there is an economic necessity. We cannot afford to pay. The IMF/ECB deal will only drain the lifeblood from working people and the economy and postpone the inevitable. Even with some 'negotiation' the state could still end up paying around €10bn a year in interest alone: about 1/3 of the income of the state! And with this comes savage austerity measures. There will be a further €15bn taken out of the economy over the next years in cuts, stealth taxes and job cuts. In total, this would mean an almost halving of government spending over six years; something never tried before, which will, in fact, further worsen the crisis, and push the country towards bankruptcy.

But there is an alternative. We should refuse to pay the bad debts of the banks. Speculators who gambled on Irish property and Irish banks should take their losses. Of course, any small shareholders should be compensated on the basis of proven need, but the indications are that the bondholders are major investment bankers, whose job it is to speculate. They should get real jobs. One lesson of this crisis must be that the banks have huge power over the economy. Therefore, having scrapped the bad debts, the banks could then be taken into democratic public ownership, run as instruments of investment, not for profit. This could be the first step towards taking the key wealth and levers of the economy into public ownership, so they can be used for investment and growth, rather than lying idle. This bold move of refusing to pay for the crisis caused by the rich would spread across Europe, like the revolutions in the Arab world, allowing us to break the dictatorship of the markets once and for all.

## Features

# TOM, DICK, AND JERRY

Written by **Barbara Ross**

TIME travel is impossible. It is just something that scientists and sci-fi enthusiasts dream of one day achieving. But cartoons have always been the gateway to childhood. Once you catch a glimpse of your favourite animated friend or you hear those opening bars to the familiar theme tune, you are instantly transported back in time.

As kids of the nineties, I think you'll agree cartoons were better back then. The era we grew up in has been described as the golden age of cartoons and how can anyone disagree with such genius as The Animaniacs, Dick Dastardly and Tom and Jerry to keep us entertained.

Our cartoons are classics that stand the test of time. They are just as funny when we watch them now as they were when we rushed home from school to see them.

Unfortunately, many of the younger generation will never hear or recognise iconic lines such as 'Gee, Brain, what you wanna do tonight?' The internet has allowed us to be transported back to our childhood at the click of

a mouse. Many successful cartoons of this period were made into films including Doug, Rugrats, Hey Arnold and X-Men. While the cartoons may not have transferred excellently onto the big screen, their brilliance wasn't damaged.

The fan base is still as big as ever for all these classics as it has never changed it has just gotten older.

The most successful cartoon that can be turned into feature length films and still keep its magic has to be Tom and Jerry. This was always a favourite among kids and adults alike. Tom's elaborate plans of catching Jerry that fail miserably every time captivates those of every age.

And you can't help but love both of them because deep down you know they are best friends. This message was so good that we had three cartoons that followed the same formula, Tom and Jerry, Tweety Bird and, of course, the Roadrunner.

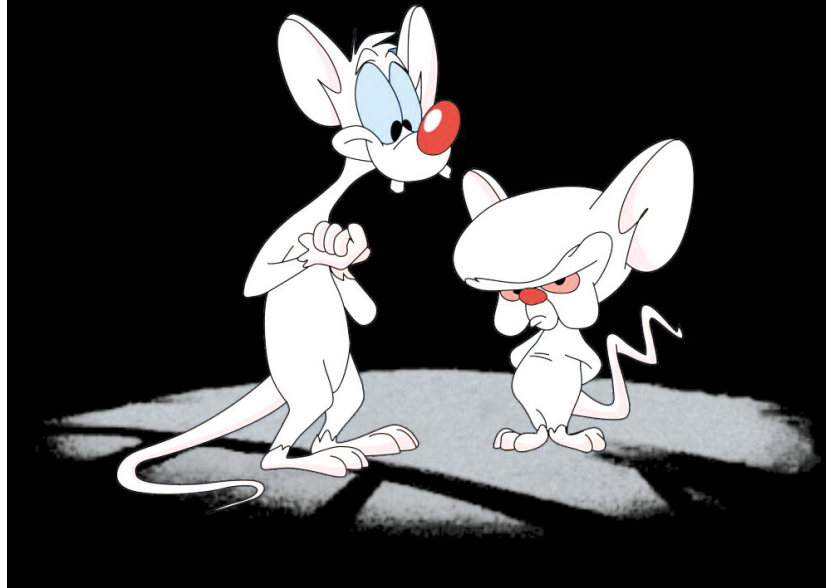
The nineties was also the start of adult cartoons such as Beavis and Butthead, Daria, Southpark and to some extent the Simpson's. However, without the

classic cartoons that we all loved, these would never have evolved. The nineties was a time of experimentation for animators. For example, the ever popular Ren and Stimpy was one of the most neurotic cartoons ever to hit children's screens.

When the show first aired, it was described as frightening and often violent. When the show came back in 1993, it was re-formatted to suit the masses, and eventually led to four years of success. The duo returned to television briefly in 2003, only to be removed once again as the plot-lines were considered to be "too adult" for television.

Perhaps the reason adult cartoons evolved was because of our generation's refusal to leave our childhood behind. So, I urge you, return to the innocence of your childhood. Watch your favourite cartoon and remember the joy of the simple things in life.

"The era we grew up in has been described as the golden age of cartoons. Our cartoons are classics that stand the test of time."



# US SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS CHOOSE UL

Written by **Huntley McGowan**

EACH year, American universities offer more scholarships and financial aid in order to allow students the opportunity to study in another country for a semester or for a year. Research shows that an increasing number of students are taking advantage of the chance to experience another culture and study in a new and exciting environment. Increasing aid and scholarships have helped two students in particular continue their experience overseas at the University of Limerick.

Second year student Taylor Burley from Jackson, Mississippi began her yearlong study abroad experience at UL in the fall of 2010. After meeting with the International Office, Burley plans to graduate in May 2014 from UL, rather than returning back to her home place of study at the University of Alabama.

"I've known I wanted to stay at UL since last semester, but I didn't think it would be possible because of the cost," Burley said. "I tried to put the idea of staying in Ireland out of my head but I couldn't stop thinking about how much I love UL and all the friends I have made here. When I found out it was possible for me to stay, the decision was a no-brainer."

Katherine Davis, a second year student from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, studied one year at Fitchburg State University before studying abroad at UL and deciding to transfer as a full-time student. Davis will also be graduating in May 2014 from UL after working hard with the International Office to become a permanent student.

After a year of going to Fitchburg State University, Davis could tell it was not the school for her. She decided to do a year abroad and then see what happened from there. After spending a great deal of time at UL, Davis realised how much she loved it here. She asked



herself why she would bother finding another school when she already knew how much she wanted to stay at UL. Dropping everything and transferring full-time has not come without hardship for Burley and Davis however.

The fact that both of the girls will have to repeat their first year sets them

back a full year from their anticipated graduation date back in the U.S. Both Burley and Davis agree that transferring to UL as a full-time student is what will make them most happy and allow them to get the most out of their undergraduate studies. While transferring to school across the Atlantic for all four years

may not be for everyone, studying abroad can be an affordable and eye opening experience for those wishing to jump out of their comfort zone and explore something new.

## LEAVING UL

Written by **Sinead Keane**

FOUR years seems an incredibly long time. I remember my very first night as a college student, sitting on my newly made bed in Dromroe surrounded by bags and boxes. I remember being both incredibly excited and extremely terrified at the same time at the concept of being a totally independent individual. Four years later, with graduation and the 'real world' within reach, I'm amazed to find that I am experiencing exactly the same mixture of feelings today.

It's taken me a long time to get my head around the fact that within the next four weeks, I will no longer belong in UL. The thought of not being part of college life here anymore is one I have struggled with for months. The world I have spent four years creating for myself seems to be slipping away; friends I never thought I'd have to say goodbye to are gone or preparing to leave forever. My life here in UL is coming to an end and that terrifies me.

All this said, I've been feeling restless in the last few weeks. I've grown up a lot in the four years here in Castletroy. The underage, naive kid that arrived in UL for the first time seems an age ago; I'm a very different person now. Despite my struggle with the idea of leaving Limerick forever, I think I'm nearly ready to go. Maybe I'm just old for my age, or maybe I'm just over college life. Whatever the reason is, I'm starting to feel like I don't belong here anymore.

But I don't think my restlessness is a bad thing. I'm excited to leave; I'm looking forward to starting again and creating a new world for myself somewhere else. It's exactly the same as when I started here: I'm terrified of what lies ahead, but I'm also excited for it. Whatever happens to me in the future, I just hope that I have as much fun as I've had here in UL.

Go raibh maith agat, UL, as ceithre bliana dochreidte!



Letters

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Editor, UL Students' Union, Castletroy, Limerick.  
T: 0860435304 E: sucommunications@ul.ie  
W: www.ulsu.ie An Focal endeavours to accommodate all letters as far as legally possible. All parties have the right of reply to letters printed herein.

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Sir, - Congratulations on yet another major triumph for An Focal – you are really on a roll. This award is further recognition of the wonderful job that you and your team do in producing such a high quality and interesting paper. It brings great honour to UL and please pass on my thanks and congratulations to all involved.

Best wishes,  
PROFESSOR DON BARRY  
President  
University of Limerick

LETTER TO THE DEPUTY EDITOR

Sir, - Just thought I would write and congratulate you on your article on business studies and philosophy in An Focal (Volume XIX, Issue 13, Page 6). I completely agreed with it.

As luck would have it I read it just before doing a fourth year tutorial on Alasdair MacIntyre's After Virtue. MacIntyre makes similar arguments about the failures of managerial expertise. I used your article as a prop in the discussion.

Anyway, loved it!

Yours, etc,

DR LUCIAN M. ASHWORTH  
Politics & Public Administration  
University of Limerick

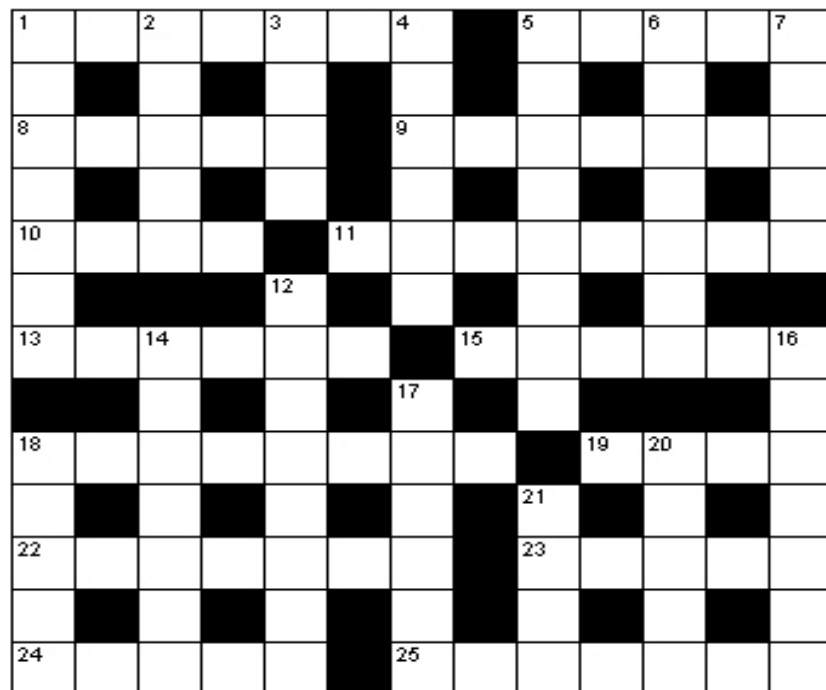
CLUES

Across:

1. Pre-determination (7)
5. Animal with two feet (5)
8. The man from Alabama had one (5)
9. Feelers (7)
10. Professional cook (4)
11. Delight (8)
13. Second book of the Bible (6)
15. Semi-precious stone (6)
18. A guitarist is one (8)
19. Cab (4)
22. Roman messenger god (7)
23. Similar (5)
24. Fishing basket (5)
25. Reverse image (7)

Down:

1. Fiasco (7)
2. It is common (5)
3. It's in the blood (4)
4. Every 365 days (6)
5. Treachery (8)
6. Emperors of Antarctica (7)
7. Cover by cloth (5)
12. Without tardiness (8)
14. Watch closely (7)
16. Symbol of Barbados (7)
17. Legal advocate (6)
18. Copy closely (5)
20. Nimble (5)
21. Young whale (4)



ANSWERS (For The Previous Issue)  
 1. GELID  
 2. LEADS  
 3. DISCERN  
 4. PENCIL  
 5. SHELL  
 6. ENTICED  
 7. MEANT  
 8. BANJO  
 9. AVENUE  
 10. ASIA  
 11. ILICIT  
 12. TALENT  
 14. RIDDLE  
 18. DUCTILE  
 20. IRRED  
 1. DESTINY  
 2. SENSE  
 3. IRON  
 4. PUNCTUALLY  
 5. BETRAYAL  
 6. PENGUIN  
 7. DRAPE  
 8. ALIEN  
 9. XODUS  
 10. OBSERVE  
 11. PLEASURE  
 12. MUSCIAN  
 13. GARNET  
 14. DELTA  
 15. IDEAL  
 16. ENDLESS  
 17. MERINO  
 18. INTENSE  
 19. CELLO  
 20. COSTS  
 21. KINGS  
 22. MERCURY  
 23. ALIEN  
 24. CREEL  
 25. REFLECT  
 1. DEBACLE  
 2. SENSE  
 3. IRON  
 4. PUNCTUALLY  
 5. BETRAYAL  
 6. PENGUIN  
 7. DRAPE  
 8. ALIEN  
 9. XODUS  
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 17. MERINO  
 18. INTENSE  
 19. CELLO  
 20. COSTS  
 21. KINGS  
 22. MERCURY  
 23. ALIEN  
 24. CREEL  
 25. REFLECT

The Blinded

Written by Gina V. O'Brien

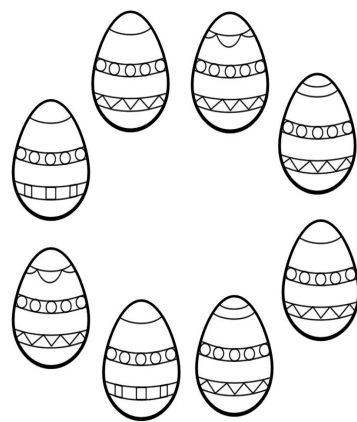
Oh my son, dear Apollo great!  
I care not for your condescending company you know.  
It would really do you well to be considered late,  
By way my hard found happiness might ebb slow.  
You hunt and chase my bliss from me;  
Dazzling characters and would-be truths

cast in shadow by your core.  
I'm burnt by the ways that truly be  
When your majesty distinguishes lies from lore.

Trail me with that sight-affirming torch of yours,

Like some gnat under my skin,  
itching me onto the deeper problem.  
I get off light; incinerated are the wrongdoers.

Perhaps next trip you may begin to singe at my light-inflicted cynicism.



FIND THE IDENTICAL EGGS

QUITE INTERESTING

THE MOST POPULAR GAME IN THE WORLD

More Monopoly money is printed every day than US dollars. Monopoly was invented by Quaker Emily Magie and was intended to teach people about the evils of greed and the dangers of bankruptcy. It has often been claimed to be the most

popular game in the world, with more than 500 million players since it was marketed. Monopoly is also famous for its mascot, Rich Uncle Pennybags, who wears a monocle and a top hat.



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## Dalai Lama

# "WE ARE BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE ARE THE SAME"

Written by **Darragh Roche**,  
Deputy Editor

His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama speaks to UL

A STANDING ovation greeted the Dalai Lama in the University Arena and he received four further standing ovations throughout the morning as he addressed the crowd on the topic of compassion and the nature of humanity. The 76-year-old chose to stand during his speech so that he could "see more faces", a sentiment the crowd approved of. "We are brothers and sisters," His Holiness said. "We are the same, we are the same human being. Mentally, emotionally, physically, we are the same. Yes, there's different faith, different colour, different nationality—that's secondary. I think a lot of the problem we are facing is due to way too much emphasis on that secondary level." The Dalai Lama stressed the unity of humanity and the need to be less selfish. He criticised modern society for focusing too much on sensory pleasures and money, which he said do not bring inner peace.

"When, in yourself, you have a more compassionate mind and happiness, the whole atmosphere changes" he said. "Compassion doesn't come from religion. Dogs or cats or birds have affection and a sense of concern for their offspring. Any person or animal that shows appreciation for affection also has the ability to show affection."

An inter-faith musical performance preceded the Dalai Lama's arrival and noticing the diversity on stage, His Holiness outlined his views on religion: "All teaching, all faiths have an emphasis on the importance of love, compassion and tolerance. We have the same compassion, the same potential to transform the human being."

Performers from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, local children and Jewish and Muslims singers all performed at the event.



A key moment: The Dalai Lama joins the hands of Richard Moore and Charles Inness, the ex-soldier who shot and blinded him as a child. The pair have since become friends. Image: UL Press Office.

## WHO IS THE DALAI LAMA?

THE Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader and the head of state of Tibet, a country which is occupied by the People's Republic of China (PRC).

He is the leader of the 'Yellow Hat' branch of Buddhism and his followers believe that he is the reincarnation of an enlightened being embodying compassion. This Dalai Lama is the 14th since the 16th century.

The Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959 following a Chinese invasion and a local uprising. Since that time he has lived in India but has travelled widely

spreading a message of peace and tolerance and campaigning to end Chinese rule and human rights abuses in Tibet.

His visits have been controversial since the United Nations recognised the PRC in the 1970s and expelled the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The Chinese government has often criticised and condemned the Dalai Lama and many countries do not recognise his temporal authority or that Tibet is an independent country. The Dalai Lama received the Nobel

Prize for Peace in 1989. The award was controversial as he joined such recipients as Mother Theresa and Martin Luther King on the list of Nobel laureates.

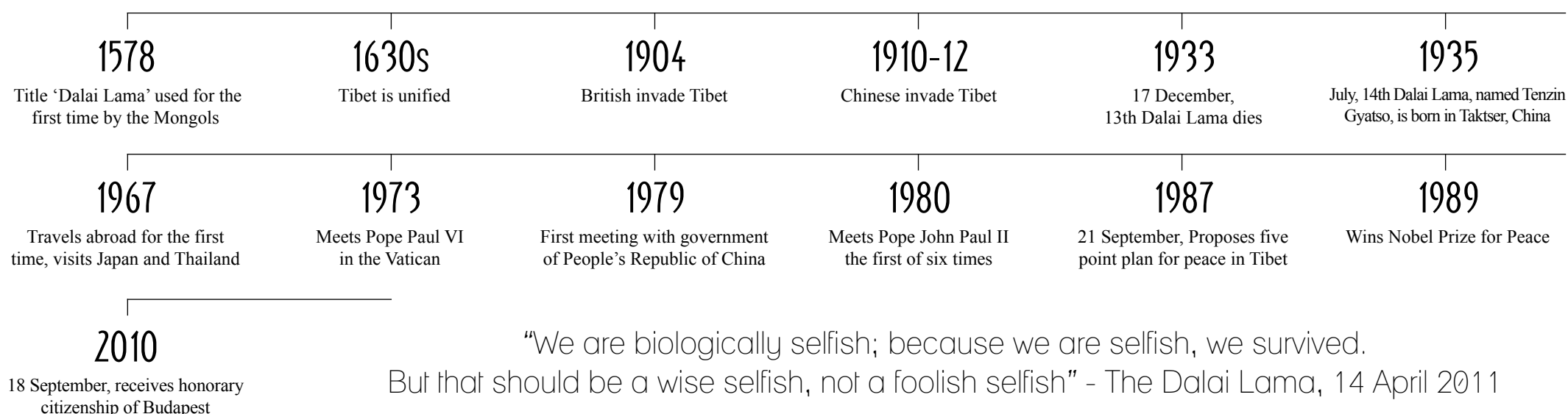
The Dalai Lama visited Ireland in 1991 when President Mary Robinson caused controversy by meeting personally with him against the express wishes of the government.

As a religious leader, the Dalai Lama has sometimes been criticised for his stance on homosexuality and his relationship with the CIA and the Indian government. In 2011, he denounced his political role in the Tibetan government in exile.



An audience of 3,100 attended the UL Arena's biggest ever seated event. Image: UL Press Office.

## DALAI LAMA TIMELINE



## Dalai Lama

## A WELCOME LIFT IN TROUBLED TIMES

Written by Owen Hickey

THE clock had just passed 10am on a clammy spring morning, when a pair of helicopters swooped in from the skies and descended on the sporting fields of the University of Limerick. A flurry of photographers dashed across the grounds, eager to capture the man everyone was here to see setting foot on Limerick soil for the first time. The 14th Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, had arrived.

Flanked by the founder of the Children in Crossfire charity and close friend Richard Moore, along with the President of UL Don Barry, the Buddhist monk shuffled to the Arena, where over 3,000 people were waiting. Inside, the hall was a frenzy of excitement, where every last seat was filled by the buzzing crowd, who sat in anticipation having queued long before the doors even opened.

His short walk was interrupted briefly by a pesky earthworm, who bucked the trend and decided he wasn't going to step aside to welcome this magnificent leader just because everyone else had done so. Once a recipient of the Nobel Peace prize, the Dalai Lama again displayed his appreciation for life of all forms and was careful not to tread on the worm; in Buddhism the death of an animal is considered equal to that of a human.

On this, the last stop of his two-day visit to Ireland, the Dalai Lama's mood, much like his colourful attire, was glowing. Arriving on stage to a standing ovation and a deafening applause which boomed around the vast hall, his Holiness beamed from ear to ear, acknowledging the warm welcome.

Perched on the middle of the stage were a couple of chairs, which his Holiness and Moore occupied when they emerged. Up to the podium stepped Mr Barry, draped in a white 'kata' scarf; a symbol of respect, goodwill and compassion - which had been presented to him by the Tibetan.

Expressing his gratitude to the Dalai Lama and Moore for visiting the University, a proud Barry felt that "it is an understatement to say that we live in troubled times, however I feel sure that the wisdom and insight that we receive from his Holiness in his address, will serve us well in the challenges that we will face together".

Not forgetting Moore and his bravery, Barry showered praise on the Derry man for the courage he showed to forgive Charles Inness, the former British soldier who blinded a then ten-year-old Moore when he shot him in the face with a rubber bullet in 1972.

It's clear that Moore has become accustomed to events such as this and many would be forgiven for thinking he performs as a showman in his spare time, such was his comfort on stage. In a witty speech sprinkled with humour, he gave the audience an insight into the close relationship he enjoys with the Buddhist leader; a bond so strong that the pair regularly poke fun at each other.

Shorn of his sight, Moore recognises his friends by touching their face; he says he can always tell when his Tibetan pal is around because of the sheer size of his nose; a joke met with warm laughter by the light hearted audience and even the Dalai Lama himself. Moore continued to amuse those watching when his microphone began to act up and he was presented with another. After declaring "the last time I was handed one of these I thought I was being asked to sing", echoes of laughter filled the arena.

Moore then spoke of Inness, who he has since befriended, and it was at this point that the most touching moment, which captured the atmosphere of the event, occurred. Stating that Innes was in the front row, Moore began to tell the audience of the history between the two men. The Dalai Lama rose from his seat and grasped the hand of Innes, led him to Moore and united the pair, in a show of solidarity.

Moore had said enough and it was now the turn of the Tibetan leader, who he described as a man of "great humility and compassion", to woo the crowd. And woo he did. He began by springing from his seat, with an energy which defied his wily old age. Preferring to stand throughout his speech so he could "see more faces", he spoke with a passion and sincerity that gave everyone a sense that this was a man worth listening to.

Religion is certainly close to his heart; Buddhism is what he has shaped his whole life on. And it is a strong faith which he feels is the reason his compatriot overcame the pain he felt as a child. Gripping Moore's hand, he turned to him: "Your mother is very religious minded. When you are faced with tragedy, you can handle tragedy more positively", before addressing the rest of the room: "Look at Richard's face, there are no signs of anger or tragedy."

Animated throughout, words of wisdom flowed effortlessly from this inspiring figure. What may have come as a surprise to many given his own standing within Buddhism, was his willingness to embrace other religions.

"If you have too much attachment towards your own faith you cannot see the value of other traditions. You should be faithful towards your own traditions but you must open your mind to other traditions. All these major institutions inspire different philosophical views. They all have different teachings and big differences. But they all teach about love and compassion."

Optimism has become associated with Irish life in the last decade but when thoughts turn to future prospects nowadays, the only feelings are ones of fear and negativity. Recognising the country's troubles, the Dalai Lama offered (with great emphasis) some words of encouragement. "Remember one thing. No matter how difficult it is, you should not give up your hope."

Colourful performances from the University's Irish World Academy Ritual Chant programme, as well as contributions from Jewish, Western Christian, Russian and Greek orthodox traditions and Islamic members of society lit up the stage prior to the Tibetan leader's talk. This cultural global mix was welcomed by Director of the Irish World Academy Mich el   S uilleabh ain, who was in buoyant mood.

"It's great for the University, it's great for the staff and the students and it's great for the vision, the ethos, of the University itself. The key note really of today is an interface, the way that the issue of forgiveness shoots across the different traditions and finds a commonality."

In a rousing finale, children of the Irish Chamber Orchestra Children's Regeneration Choir sang to the Dalai Lama, a gesture clearly appreciated by the Tibetan Leader. Joined in the chorus by the 3,000 strong audience, it was a powerful moment in what was an uplifting experience for everyone present.

As his Holiness departed, the hall burst into life once again. For an hour and a half, a hush had fallen over our great sporting arena, a silence which had never been seen since its construction. A huge commotion had greeted this immense figure's arrival earlier that morning. He did not disappoint.



The Dalai Lama thanks schoolchildren who sang following his address. Image: UL Press Office.



Live video streamed across the world via [www.ul.ie/dalailama](http://www.ul.ie/dalailama). Image: Finn McDuffie



SU President, Ru n Dillon McLoughlin; UL President, Professor Don Barry; Former British Soldier, Charles Inness and Mayor of Limerick, Maria Byrne admire the Dalai Lama from the front row. Image: Finn McDuffie

1939

14th Dalai Lama officially recognised

1939

Dalai Lama arrives in Lhasa, Tibet, aged four

1950

17 November, is enthroned aged 15

1950

Chinese occupation of Tibet begins

1959

30 March, flees to India following Tibetan Uprising

1963

Promulgates democratic constitution for Tibet

1991

Meets President Mary Robinson on visit to Ireland

2006

Receives honorary citizenship of Canada

2007

Receives US Congressional medal

2008

Violent protests in Tibet against Chinese rule

2009

Receives honorary citizenship of Paris, Warsaw, Venice and Rome

2010

18 February, meets US President Barack Obama

"If you feel that each point I mentioned is not much relevant to your daily life, that's fine"

- The Dalai Lama, 14 April 2011

2011

Gives up political role in Tibetan life.

## Union

THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
COLUMN

Written by **Ruán Dillon-McLoughlin**, ULSU President

A FINAL farewell to UL!

My second term as SU President is ending. It was an immensely enjoyable two years. How we and our country have changed over the last six years! From Celtic boom to Celtic bust, two spectacular sides of the spectrum. One thing is for sure: we Irish don't do things by half measures!

I have noticed over these years, a constant air of positivity amongst students. Everyone seems to have kept pretty upbeat. Most have accepted emigration as a real option. Everyone wants to make the most of it.

Positivity is the key to a happy life. Unlike physics, positivity will attract positivity. So be positive and you will find yourself surrounded by positive people and success won't be far behind.

We are the new generation and we have been tasked with fixing the mess left by those before us. Not an unsurmountable mountain by any means, but a challenge nonetheless.

I would like to thank you all for your fantastic support over the last couple of years and I would like to wish you all well into the future.

Go n-éirí an bóthar leat.

WELFARE  
WATCH

Written by **Derek Daly**, Welfare Officer

I CAN'T believe it's the last An Focal already! While it's been a busy year for us here, I'm sure you're wondering where the year went. Whether you're in first year looking forward to next year or a teary-eyed fourth year reminiscing on four or more great years in UL, it's a reality that our lives often overtake us and we don't take time out to do the things that we really want to. We have to be here, or there, or it's our turn to cook, or we have an assignment due in the morning that we only started 20 minutes ago before finding ourselves on Facebook talking all about the assignment, but not actually doing it.

Modern life is full of distractions: traffic, women, men, TV, internet, email. So my message to you this week with exams coming up is to take some time out, relax and remember something you used to do before the internet and life were distractions for you. Feed the ducks, roll down a hill in a park, get in touch with friends.

Release your inner child!

As always, I am here if you need me. E: suwelfare@ul.ie

ENLIVENING  
EDUCATION

Written by **Aoife Finnerty**, Education Officer

Best of luck in your exams!

See Pages 21, 22 and 23 for bundles of advice!

Hey everyone!

If you need to contact me for any reason, you can get me by email on [Aoife.Finnerty@ul.ie](mailto:Aoife.Finnerty@ul.ie) or [sueducation@ul.ie](mailto:sueducation@ul.ie) and by phone on 0860435302 or 061213491.

Lots of advice can be found in the special exam pages of this issue of An Focal. I am here to help, so if you need me, please call in!

As always, we're running exam support throughout the exam weeks. This includes free tea, coffee, sympathy, massages and other nice things. So call into us in the SU Photocopying room.

CAMPAIGNS  
BRIEF

Written by **Vivion Grisewood**, Campaigns and Services Officer

SO exams are here and I'm sure everyone is focused on passing those awkward 100% ones which you always leave to the last minute. We in Union will be running the free tea, coffee and massages in the SU print room all through the exams. Call in for a chat to help get your mind off of things exam related!

Equality week was brilliant, and I'd like to thank our excellent Equality Officer, Niall Curry, for all the work he put into the week. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who helped out as well as the Cubs and Socs who helped out.

As this is the last An Focal of the year I'd like to thank everyone who got involved this year in the Union. Your help with all of the campaigns, protests, petitions, surveys, community clean ups and Charity Week was invaluable. Without all of your help the year could not have been as good as it was. Best of luck to all of the incoming Sabbats for next year. I have every confidence they'll do a brilliant job!

Adios Amigos!

WORDS  
FROM THE  
PSA

Written by **Dan Comerford**, PSA President

HERE'S your final instalment of Words From The PSA for this year.

Well, God hasn't that gone fast. And what a good year we've had. I have enjoyed my year immensely as I hope you all have too.

I am delighted to announce that the PSA Election was a huge success. It broke two records, the highest number of votes in any PSA Election and the largest number of votes for any individual candidate running for PSA President. Both candidates ran very strong campaigns and I would like to congratulate Sarah-Jane Hennelly on her record breaking success. I wish her the very best in her coming year. A special thank you goes out to Róisín Monaghan from the SU and Eugene Murnane from ITD who were instrumental in the online voting system which premiered this year.

Keep an eye out for our summer events, PSA Handover BBQ. It's always a huge success and this year will be no different. Hope to see you there! With exams looming, should any of you be looking to contact me, please do on [dan.comerford@ul.ie](mailto:dan.comerford@ul.ie), the website on [www.postgrads.ie](http://www.postgrads.ie) or find us on Facebook (PSAUL).

SU AND OUT IN UL  
PRESENT PETITION TO IBTS

Written by **Vivion Grisewood**, SU CSO

WEEK 10 saw your Students' Union and Out in UL present a petition to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service in protest against their policy of excluding men who have had oral or anal sex from giving blood.

Over 400 UL students signed the petition and this was presented to Aileen Brown from the IBTS. Your SU has an equality policy which stipulates that 'no-one should be unfairly discriminated against on the basis of gender, marital or family status, sexual orientation, religious belief, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community, or any other grounds to be determined at the discretion of the executive.'

Last year the issue was brought to the attention of Class Reps and it was contested the IBTS was discriminating against homosexual men by not allowing them or any man who has

had anal or oral sex from giving blood. ULSU, working with Out in UL presented the petition to Aileen Brown who said she would be passing on the petition to the senior medical consultant for an official response.

President of Out in UL, Niall Russell-Richardson said "[we] have been protesting the IBTS's policy for years. This year we, in conjunction with the ULSU, organised a petition, for which we got over 400 signatures against the policy, that's almost everyone who donated blood over the course of the blood drive."

He continued "we think, in this day and age, a policy with such obvious homophobic undertones should not be condoned by civilised society."

"We argue the transfusion service's reasons for not allowing the gay 'sub-group-' from giving blood are based not on fact, but on a bigoted

interpretation of flawed statistics."

"It was estimated at the end of 2009 that more than half of those suffering from HIV and AIDS were women. Why not stop this 'sub-group' from giving blood? Because the IBTS couldn't be seen to discriminate against women, but the queers are ok."

Out in UL has encouraged all those who can give blood to do so.

"It's a wonderfully generous to do. The IBTS need to learn that helping others is a sign of one's humanity, not of one's heterosexuality."



From left to right: SU CSO, Vivion Grisewood, IBTS Representative, Aileen Browne and SU President, Ruán Dillon McLoughlin. Image: Finn McDuffie

Student Speak

# STUDENT SPEAK



Intrepid reporter, Róisín Burke, was wandering the campus last week to gauge how far you'd go to be multi-millionaires.

## So folks, what would you do to win the lotto?

**Amy Gallaher, Paula Hanley, Jessica Dolan, Sadhbh Picilaidis**  
*"We'd walk into a business lecture, starters and score a hairy, pasty fat ginger on stage!"*



**Duncan Casey**  
*"I would say mass in swimwear."*



**Fionnuala Corbett**  
*"I would climb Mt Everest in a bikini. It's cold there right?!"*



**Philip Lavin & Eanna Mulvihill**  
*"We would get a full body wax together!"*



**Kevin Hosey**  
*"I'd DJ a gig naked."*



**Kevin Devite & Louise Philips**  
*"We would study naked for 24 hours!"*



**Eve O'Toole**  
*"I'd shift Brian Cowen."*



**Karl Breen**  
*"I'd eat a bath tub of Jello."*



**Dan Keighen**  
*"I'd run around Campus in lingerie."*



**Marc Maher**  
*"I would be a sex slave for Enda Kenny."*

## Sport

# BAD LUCK, DECEIT AND PLAIN STUPIDITY LEAVE 50% OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS BROKE

Written by **Mark Connolly**,  
Sports Editor

DISGUSTING, ridiculous and scandalous are often the adjectives that you hear bandied about in the moral spiel we're now accustomed to when footballer's wages are discussed. But it would seem that a lot of people are ignoring the financial turmoil players manage to find themselves in at the end of their careers in spite of the exorbitant salaries.

Be it down to bad luck, deceit or plain stupidity, 50% of footballers finish their careers ruined. Spanish midfielder Javi Fuego is a case of simply horrendous bad fortune. All four clubs that he has graced have gone into administration. Sporting Gijon were the first with him on their books to go under and it was their inability to pay any of their squad members for months that led the Spaniard to leave the club as well as his parents' house. His destination was Valencia where he signed for Levante, a club that he understood to have a reputation as a reliable paymaster. Regularity of payment rather than

appearances seemed to be Fuego's top priority but Levante couldn't manage either and only three months after signing the midfielder they were sunk in Anglo like financial difficulties and stopped paying. Indeed, Fuego, in an interview with Spanish daily El Pais, revealed that one of his team-mates, Felix DjaEttien, almost lost his house as a consequence.

The cursed midfielder then signed for Huelva based side Recreativo before trouble flared up there too after they were relegated. He then went to Rayo Vallecano where, unbelievably, he's enduring the same trauma for a record fourth time. He is now leading the player's protests against the club's board, which have included barricading themselves in the dressing room instead of attending training. But according to Hans Ships who has set up a financial advice company for footballers, Fuego's financial difficulties are not at all unique. Wilhelm Baumgarten, player

agent and a director in Ships' company attributed this to the work of cowboy financial advisers who deceive players. In an interview with Germany's Bild newspaper, he claimed "Some veteran player tells the younger ones about how great his financial advisor is and this guy ends up selling highly speculative investments in property, shares and hedge funds that the players don't need. In the end the player ends up with a wardrobe full of contracts that only serve to enrich the agent who sold them". Ailton and Marcelinho, two Brazilians who graced the Bundesliga are examples with both now apparently struggling to make ends meet back in their home country. Yet, their cases are attributed to just pure stupidity with Ailton's €100,000 a month clothes budget probably bringing him down.

# THE RULE BOOK IS BEING MADE UP AS WE GO ALONG

Written by **Robert McNamara**

GARY Neville was correct in his observation of the two game ban handed down to Wayne Rooney for swearing into the camera after he had completed his stunning hat-trick against West Ham. The former Manchester United captain stated that from now on the Football Association would have to ban every single player who was caught swearing on camera.

Like him or loathe him, Neville is never one to sit on the fence and pander to the football punditry etiquette that makes English football analysis so achingly mundane. He knows Rooney's fist pumping, vain bulging moment of madness was wrong, but he correctly deciphered that the punishment did not fit the crime.

The FA has set a ridiculous precedent. A two game ban must be the absolute minimum punishment for any offence involving a player uttering profanities on live television, despite questionable language being part of the game since the first bloated pig skin was kicked in anger over 130 years ago. Will they actually follow through with this? Absolutely not.

It was a publicity stunt by the English football authority, who will now incorrectly lay claim to saving the souls of thousands of children, who idolize Rooney, from running amok and embarking on a crime spree after being corrupted by the scouser's colourful words. The FA and the other governing bodies, UEFA and FIFA are at the very core of all that is rotten about the game. Along with wealthy owners, crooked agents and mercenary players, the people that run football are an intrinsic

part of the cancer that is eating away at the sport's credibility bit by bit. A refusal to listen to reason and bring in retrospective technology for important decisions in a game that becomes faster and faster, has led to the standards of refereeing falling below the level of utterly farcical. FIFA and UEFA can launch all the 'respect' campaigns they want but when Sepp Blatter refuses to respect the clubs that hold these organisations together, he is practicing an autocratic power he has no right to. Not a game passes by where controversy

does not play a part in some way, shape or form often caused by confusion regarding the rules. Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger both faced sanction when ridiculous decisions led to their team's demise in important games. The powers that be can wrong them all they want, but when they speak out and say what they think, they are punished. The rule book is being written as we go along and edited to suit the needs of the governing bodies.



# A GREAT SUMMER OF SPORTING SPECULATION

Written by **Eoin King**

STUDY time is here and the last edition of An Focal is out. So let's procrastinate even more and gaze into another promising summer of sport.

For those heading away on the J1 soon, it's hard not to get caught up in the playoff buzz that surrounds the NBA at the moment. If you happen to be bound for Chicago or Boston, you might get a look at the champions of 2011. The Bulls are back in the spotlight after a tremendous season. Derrick Rose is not the next Michael Jordan, but he has been the best player all season as he led Chicago to the best record in the East.

The Celtics are ageing yet they have tremendous experience at this stage. However, Kobe and the LA Lakers remain favourites as they try to capture a third title in a row.

Back home, Dublin's continual struggle against the September spotlight may end. The footballers were hugely impressive in their league campaign, setting up the final with Cork having punished every defence with a bombardment of goals.

Expect the All Ireland final to be a rematch, or at least a contest between one of these teams and Kerry. In these pages Dublin were predicted to wilt away come championship time. Cork, Kerry and Down all went to Croker for the 'Spring Series' and came away acknowledging that the Dubs are a

different beast.

And Croker is a different place when packed with sky blue on a sunny August afternoon.

In hurling, Kilkenny and Tipperary look for a route back to the Big Dance. Cork will soon be up against Tipp in Munster, with UL's own Pa Cronin looking to derail the reigning champions. Yet, it may be Galway who get to finally capitalise on the last two years of promise.

Cronin's midfield partner, David Burke, was a class act in the Fitzgibbon competition, and expect him to make noise as part of a Tribesmen package that could book its spot in September for the first time in six years.

There could be a potential European Championship for the soccer boys next year if Macedonia can be overcome in June. In golf, June and July will be concerned with the US and British Opens, respectively.

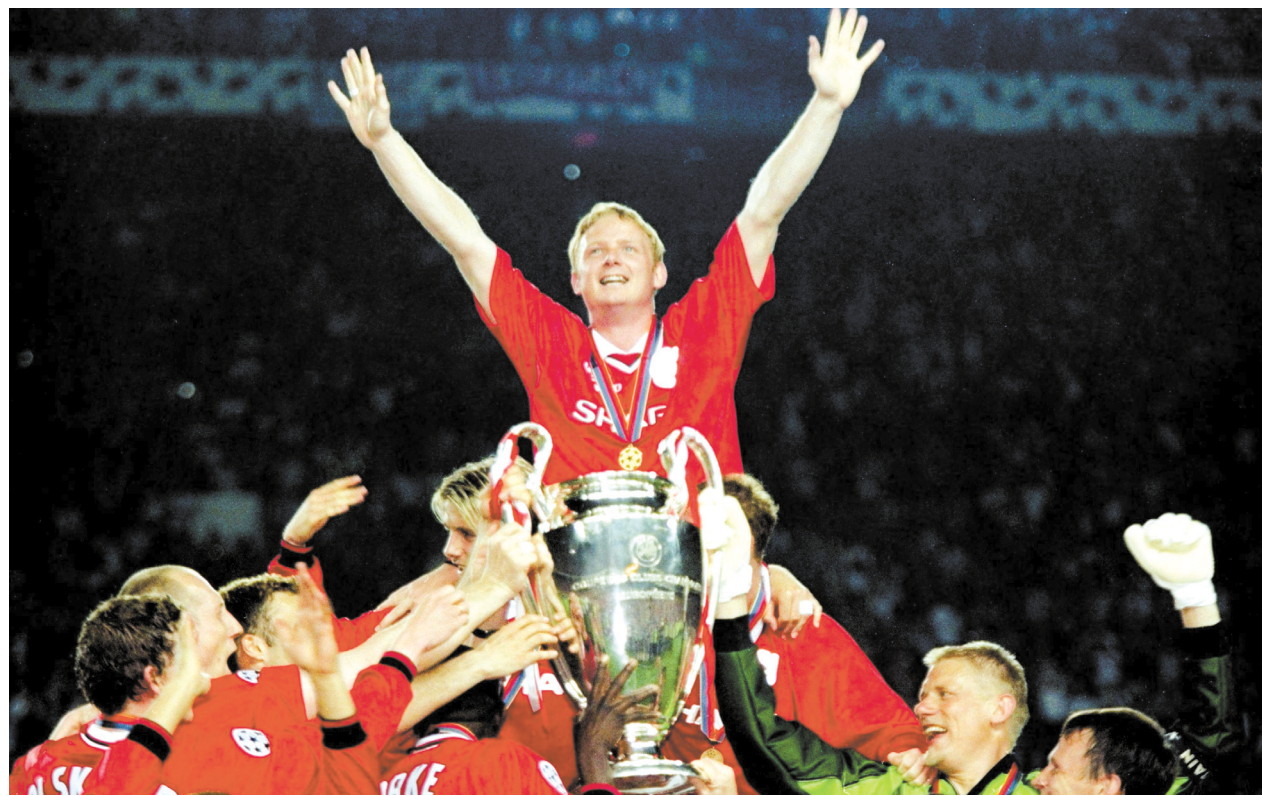
Can McIlroy pick himself up after his Masters meltdown? In tennis the question will centre on whether Federer will rage against the dying of the London light and illuminate Wimbledon once more? And are we even bothered how Andy Murray does, if a healthy Nadal, and Djokovic remain in contention.

The other big question come summer is who can capture the imagination the way Usain Bolt will in August.

He's a character in sport and it's almost impossible not to be impressed by him. The World Athletic Championships will pit the Jamaican against the USA's Tyson Gay. They could be the seconds to savour before another semester recommences.

## Sport

# FORGOTTEN FOOTBALLER, DAVID MAY



David May's revelry in the aftermath of the European success of 1999 characterized his role in the team.

Written by **Conor McGrath**

DAVID May's career has been something of a paradox as he remains probably the most well known forgotten footballer of the past 15 years. As a very minor part of Manchester United's rise and subsequent domination of English football, May represented the token weed that stood behind the playground bully as he meted out some visceral abuse to a lowly victim or in the case of United, popping out of his burrow to rejoice in the triumphalism.

May started his career off at a then promising Blackburn Rovers and after his third professional season, he audaciously petitioned for an increase from his £500 weekly wage to £4000. In the midst of his discontent, Fergie impulsively, it must be said, snapped him up as cover for the Bruce/Pallister axis.

He went on to make 118 appearances for the club over eight seasons during which the 'David May, superstar, he's got more medals than Shearer!' chant was heard. Despite being part of six successful campaigns, May only picked up two Premier League winners medals and was never once considered for an international cap.

His revelry in the aftermath of the European success of 1999 characterized his role in the team. He led the celebrations despite not playing a single minute of that season's European campaign which put paid to Glenn Hoddle's previous summation that "Europe brought the best out of him". From 1999-2003, May wholeheartedly languished in the reserves and became something of a mystery. Club members

refused to be drawn on his anonymity. After being shipped out to Burnley in 2003, May ended his playing days at Bacup Borough of the North West Counties Division in 2006. He then started a wine making business thanks to his undeserved Manchester United savings. He recently popped back into the spotlight to bemoan Man City's lack of success by holding a celebration for the infamous Stretford End banner being turned from 34 to 35 years. He was forced by Manchester authorities to cancel the event but come what May, we'll probably hear of him again when United triumph.

# SPORTS QUIZ

Written by **Mark Connolly**,  
Sports Editor

1. The last victorious Lions Tour was that in South Africa in 1997. Who was the tour captain and also who was the head coach on that tour?
2. 'El Madrigal' is the home stadium of which Spanish football team?
3. Who is the current manager of the Galway Senior Football team?
4. Who are the defending Copa de Libertadores champions?
5. For which Super 15 club does former Leinster star Rocky Elsom play?
6. What was the last county to win 3 All Ireland Senior Football Championships in a row?
7. Who is the defending 400 metre Olympic Champion who will not be present in London to defend his title after a positive drugs test that he attributed to the purchase of penis enlargement product ExtenZe?
8. What was the last team to win an All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship that was not won by Tipperary, Kilkenny or Cork? And in which year was it won?
9. What is the nationality of tennis star Fernando Gonzalez?
10. Who managed the Ivory Coast at the 2010 World Cup?

**ANSWERS**  
1. Martin Johnson and Ian McGeechan  
2. Villarreal  
3. Tomas O Flaharta  
4. Internacional  
5. ACT Brumbies  
6. Kerry (1984-1986)  
7. LeShawn Merritt  
8. Offaly, 2000  
9. Chilean  
10. Sven Goran Eriksson

# SOUTH AMERICAN FOOTBALL, IT'S A FUNNY OLD GAME: PART 2

Written by **Darren Mulryan**

Let An Focal introduce you to the crazy side of football from South America in this issue.

## COLOMBIA

AN injured owl that was kicked off the field by a player during a recent match between two Colombian football clubs died from shock.

The owl landed near the corner of the field on Sunday during a match in Barranquilla between home club Atletico Junior and Deportivo Pereira. Pereira defender Luis Moreno walked over and kicked the owl about three yards to get it off the field.

The sacred bird served as the mascot for Atletico Junior and the incident did not go down well with locals.

Humberto Mendoza, the director of the agency that oversees environmental issues in the town, said he was investigating possible sanctions against Moreno.

Mendoza said Moreno would have to pay the cost of treating the owl and be required to visit a local zoo to do volunteer work.

Fans at the match yelled "murderer, murderer" when Moreno kicked the bird, who was seen by supporters as a good-luck charm.

Moreno said after the match, "I was not trying to hurt the owl. I did it to see if it would fly".

Hooligans supporting Colombian top-flight club Cucuta Deportivo smuggled a dead gang member in a coffin into a match. The unfortunate individual had been shot by hitmen overnight on Sunday, but still made it to the match later that day at the 45,000 - capacity General Santander Stadium in Cucuta. According to police, the teenager had been targeted by gunmen while playing

in a friendly park kick-around in a poor district in the southern outskirts of Cucuta. One may wonder if the corpse needed a ticket to enter.

## BRAZIL

A recent match between São Paulo and Palmeiras amazingly went ahead after a huge tropical storm hit during the 10th round of the 2011 Paulista championship. The downpour struck just before the game, resulting in the inundation of stands and dugouts and a pitch looking like something that only English sides in the 1970s would be crazy enough to play on. The grass on the pitch was completely covered in places and seemed unplayable. But the game went ahead, and resulted in a mediocre 1-1 draw.

Greed has got the better of Brazil star Robinho, as he recently filed a lawsuit in São Paulo attempting to break his multi-million pound contract with

Nike. Robinho believes his deal with Nike expired last year, and alleges he was deliberately deceived by a clause that provided for automatic renewal. Nike says the clause, which ties Robinho down until 2014, was known to the player and point to contracts

signed in both English and Portuguese. The first case, which was fought in an Amsterdam courtroom, was won by the sportswear giant. The judge ruled the 27-year-old will be fined €300,000 each day that he fails to endorse Nike's products.



A coffin? In the crowd? At a match?

## Sport

# LEINSTER HOT FAVOURITES TO REGAIN HEINEKEN CROWN

Written by **Mark Connolly**,  
Sports Editor

THE Heineken Cup semi-finals will provide the opportunity for the UL campus community to slacken off from their studies this weekend with two mouth-watering contests in prospect. Saturday sees a serious clash of titans between the aristocrats of Toulouse and Leinster while Sunday's clash of Perpignan and Northampton will be a brutally physical affair to whet the appetite of the more sadistic viewer.

It is widely assumed however that Saturday's semi-final will produce the eventual champion and I strongly concur. Even after their surprise victory over Toulon, Perpignan remain

one-dimensional with a game based around a big scrum and the accurate boot of full back Jerome Porical. That is not enough to land Europe's pinnacle club competition nor has it even been enough for success in the Top 14 where, at the time of writing, they languish in eighth position. Northampton were unimpressive in their defeat of a poor Ulster side. Like their French opponents, they lack a cutting edge and posed few problems for the 'mini Cape Town' midfield. It's all well and good having finishers like Ben Foden and Chris Ashton but off first phase the incision must come from the inside

backs. If you deny them the chance to counter-attack by good kicking and chasing, Northampton can be made look ordinary.

In stark contrast, Toulouse are the real deal with an outstanding squad of players. It's very hard to pinpoint a weakness as David Skrela is a very solid out-half to complement a fearsome pack of forwards. Furthermore, in Medard, Heyman and Poitrenaud, they have outside backs with serious gas and good feet who will test any defence, much more so than the comparatively blunt Northampton. But they have stumbled their way to this stage. Their second

half quarter-final collapse and pool stage defeat both came against sides (Biarritz and Wasps respectively) who I don't rate very highly. This brings into question their consistency and ability to perform on the road ahead of the Aviva Stadium showdown.

In contrast, Leinster have had a faultless passage through which should inspire confidence in all their players. The eastern province have produced the tournament's most scintillating performances to date and with the exception of Luke Fitzgerald (who may not start) they seem devoid of any discernable weakness. I am, however,



under no illusions regarding the nature of the challenge. They are up against a great Toulouse team but home advantage and greater consistency give them the edge for me in what should be the mother and father of all classics. If they can come out of that, Northampton or Perpignan will be a walk in the park.

Heineken Cup prediction: Leinster

# MOURINHO WILL UPSET THE CATALAN OBSESSION ONCE MORE



Written by **Mark Connolly**,  
Sports Editor

THE Champions League takes centre stage again this week with Real Madrid taking on the mighty Barcelona in one of the most eagerly awaited semi-finals in the tournament's long history. It is eagerly awaited with good reason as both sides boast such a wealth of world class stars that, in reality, this is the Champions League and World Club final rolled into one, except over two legs. I believe it is a final that Real Madrid will win. There are serious flaws in the Barcelona defence that many inferior teams cannot expose on account of the possession deprivation that the Catalans subject their opponents to. Madrid also will lack possession but Jose Mourinho will have his side prepared for that which makes this such a dangerous tie for Los Cules. Ricardo Carvalho may lack the pace he once had but alongside Pepe, he forms a wily partnership that will have learned how to deal with Messi, Villa and Co. especially after so many battles already this month. Also, Mourinho, in much the same way he organised Inter last season, will employ a low defensive line to deny Barca's marksmen the space in behind that they thrive on. This means that the counter will be Real's chief attacking weapon and with the

pace of Ronaldo, Kaka and Di Maria allied to Xabi Alonso's accurate long range passing, they have all the tools to play that game. Furthermore, the Catalan's defence looked very shaky without the commanding figure of Carles Puyol against Shaktar. He'll be back tonight but without having played much football at all this year which will make staring down the Madrid front line all the more daunting a task.

While I have no problem confessing awe at Barca's goal scoring statistics this year, I do have growing doubts about David Villa and his ability to lead the line. Zlatan Ibrahimovich's loss of form in the second half of last season was fundamental to their demise and something similar appears to be happening to Villa who, in spite of the wealth of chances lavished upon him, has failed to hit the net with regularity of late. He will have to do so in this semi-final.

Inter laid down the blueprint of how to beat FC Barcelona last year. The same mastermind is back to thwart the Catalans again but this time has even better tools to do the job. If you want the street party celebration of a lifetime, book flights to Madrid next week.

# DUBLIN: THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER FALSE DAWN

Written by **David Prendergast**

DUBLIN'S key weapon this year has been their ability to score goals. At the time of writing, they have struck fourteen in six outings, including three against All-Ireland champions

Cork. This romance with the onion bag has proved pivotal to their success as despite being top of the table, they have been surpassed in white flags by everyone but Armagh and Mayo.

Most impressive about Dublin's trail blazer through this campaign has been their capability of punching dagger wounds via alternative figures. Besides Bernard Brogan, seven other players have struck the jugular, including Diarmuid Connolly who has four goals to his name.

Nonetheless, while the League provides a great opportunity for managers to gel their team together and fine tune their tactics, form in spring is as helpful as Paul Galvin's fashion tips. Granted NFL champions of 2009 and 2010 went on to win the All-Ireland, Kerry and Cork respectively, but what of the beaten finalists?

In 2009 NFL runners-up Derry crashed out of the championship with two defeats in three outings. Last year Mayo exited with no scalp claimed after losses to Sligo and Longford.

And what of the current Provincial champions? Only Kerry reside in Division 1. Champions of Ulster and

Leinster, Tyrone and Meath, twirl through the mystique in Division 2, while Roscommon wallow in the lonely hearts section that is Division 4 (although romance has been found in the form of promotion).

There are many who feel that Dublin have exorcised their inability to close out tight games during this league. In the mines of Africa pressure makes diamonds but in Dublin it makes their footballers feet fluent in misfire. Closing out tight games in the League proves as useful as getting your wife down the aisle at the wedding rehearsal. It doesn't count until the real thing.

This year's Leinster championship sees the heavyweights pitted on the same side of the draw. Dublin faces the winners of Laois and Longford in their first outing. If they prevail they would await the winners of Meath and Kildare, provided that the Lily's beat Wicklow. This is Pat Gilroy's third year

at the helm so the pressure is really on for the St. Vincent's man to trade this 1995 car in for a 2011 and therein lays the problem. As sure as a gunshot can kill you, Dublin are destined to fall victim to their own hype.

If Dublin win the All-Ireland this year my disbelief will be equivalent of people's awe that Shane MacGowan has managed to stay alive for as long as he has. The writer Thomas Hardy wrote there is a condition worse than blindness and that is seeing something that isn't there. Let's hope its Dublin supporters and not me who suffer from it or I will be eating a very big slice of humble pie come September.



# AN FOCAL

Cracking Under Exam Pressure? An Focal's Got You Covered. Turn To Our Special Exam Pages For Hints And Tips. Pages 21, 22 & 23.

26th April 2011



Issue 14 FREE  
Volume XIX

## CAN ANYTHING STOP TEENAGERS DESTROYING CINEMA?

Written by **Leo Stiles**

TRADITIONALLY, April tends to be a cinematic non-event, with the awards-worthy and diverse films of early February becoming a distant memory and the mayhem of the summer blockbusters waiting in the wings to assault our senses in May. This is the month when the studios dump the films that they think no-one wants to see as they wait for the sunshine and the chance to make some big money from the summer crowds. Unfortunately, it seems that this year, summer has started a bit earlier than expected.

Last week two big and very different films opened, the kind of films that you would expect to see in June or July, with both boasting expensive and pervasive ad campaigns and appearing as if they had plots that were written on the back of a napkin. One of them, however, is lying through its advertising and after finding out which one was being honest, a more serious problem emerges

'Source Code', if you believed the marketing, is an action-packed rollercoaster of a film that Hollywood can churn out with its eyes closed. Except it's not. It's a rather old fashioned and surprisingly deep slice of science fiction and one that will delight anyone with a taste for the more cerebral side of the blockbuster. The film has far more in common with recent genre triumphs such as last year's 'Monsters' and director Duncan Jones's own debut 'Moon'. Yet 'Source Code' is unlikely to find the right audience in the cinema because the film was not marketed for the audience it needs to find. It has not been marketed to those that love a well-crafted story with actual character development and it

"This is the month when the studios dump the films that they think no-one wants to see as they wait for the sunshine and the chance to make some big money from the summer crowds."

most certainly not marketed to those of us that want to think our way through a film, rather than yawn through the boring talkie bits. Instead, the movie was marketed towards the single most important patron of cinemas, at least if you follow the studios logic – the teenage boy. In doing so, this decision damns the film to the obscurity it doesn't deserve. The most troubling aspect of how 'Source Code' has been marketed is that the lessons of last year clearly have not been learned. 'Inception' was the single bright light in a particularly vapid 2010 summer and while being every inch the big budget 'Event Movie' studios rely upon, the film was a rare case of brain first, brains second, and brawn a very distant third. At the time, 'Inception' was something of a revelation, with many film commentators declaring that this was the start of a new trend within the Hollywood system.

Some commentators posited that now audiences would be offered substance with their spectacle and that a film of mature themes and ambitious ideas did not mean poor box office. Sadly, old habits within

Hollywood die far harder than anyone thought.

If you require further proof that teenage hormones rules the box office, then you have to look no further than the other major studio release of the week: the fantasy action fairytale that is Zach Snyder's 'Sucker Punch'.

The film is what the director must imagine every male adolescent's wet dream to be if it were filtered through a video game and music video at the same time. Essentially 'Sucker Punch' involves buxom girls in fetish wear take part in arduously overlong action sequences that have all the subtlety that you might expect from the man that brought us the oh-so-macho Spartan epic 300.

The film is a dreary mess and despite its visuals and furiously directed action sequences, it utterly fails to connect with anything other than your eyes and by the time the credits finally roll, you may find yourself with either a headache thanks to its love for strobe lighting or being rudely awoken by the cinema staff as you snored on past the end of the film.

This type of film wouldn't be such a problem for cinemagoers if there were some decent alternatives but unless you live in Galway, Cork or Dublin, there isn't much hope that your local multiplex are subtitle-friendly or even independent film-friendly in any way. The current obsession with 3D films is also a problem and despite the likes of Werner Herzog embracing the format ('Cave of Forgotten Dreams'), 3D screens are still reserved for such dross like 'Yogi Bear', further reducing the amount of screens available to more diverse films.



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## Entertainment



# I'LL HUFF AND I'LL PUFF AND YOU WON'T MOVE OUT OF TOWN?

Written by **Brige Newman**

YOU'D think that if your village was being terrorised by a werewolf for at least two generations you'd have the common sense to move, wouldn't you? Well not the citizens of Daggerhorn, the fictional village in David Johnson's *Red Riding Hood*.

The medieval village has lived with the werewolf in relative peace for at least two decades, sacrificing their best livestock in exchange for mercy. But as the Blood Moon rises the werewolf begins attacking villagers, starting with a woodcutter's daughter, Lucy.

But this is not Lucy's story, rather her younger sister Valerie's. Sporting that easily recognisable Red Hood she embarks on what's supposed to be a terror filled week, where anyone could be the bloodthirsty canine. Instead, this "thriller" leaves an awful lot to be

desired, and I found myself rolling my eyes on more than one occasion.

Johnson, who has contributed to that all time classic 'Shawshank Redemption', has written a script that doesn't even sound remotely medieval. At one stage they even used rock music as the village celebrated what they thought was the wolf's demise. Catherine Hardwicke, the director who has worked on 'Twilight' and the 'Lords of Dogtown', didn't help. Choices like the dark setting, while supposedly lending a dramatic and

ethereal effect to the surroundings, only made it a painful cliché of what a horror/thriller is supposed to look like. The only upside to 'Red Riding Hood' were the performances from Shiloh Fernandez and Max Irons. As the two struggle to win Valerie's heart and stay alive, both young actors were able to bare their teeth and get right to the heart of the movie. Both being relatively new Max Irons will prove to be a force to be reckoned with, much like his father Jeremy Irons. However, I would have expected more from the veterans of

film Gary Oldman and Lucas Haas. Neither was very convincing as priests determined to kill the werewolf. Amanda Seyfried, who played Valerie had some very enlightened moments, but the majority of the performance was flat, as if she couldn't sink her teeth into the character.

At the end of the movie I wasn't scared, or intrigued. And if were being honest, I don't think the three little pigs would have been very scared either.

## A LIFE WITH NO LIMITS

Written by **Fionnuala Corbett**

THE purpose of 'Limitless' is to highlight the shocking extent of human greed and the lengths to which we will go to achieve brilliance. Well produced and with a suitably varied choice of actors, the end result is an entertaining hour and five minutes of cinema, but nothing to get too excited about.

Bradley Cooper of 'The Hangover' and 'The A-Team' fame stars as the protagonist Edward Morra. Morra begins the film as the clichéd struggling writer, desperately trying to compose a literary masterpiece for his publisher. In attempting to do so, his life falls apart; he lives in squalor and is dumped by his successful but long-suffering girlfriend. A seemingly innocuous encounter with his ex-wife's brother is the catalyst for Morra's transformation. The brother, a drug dealer played by Johnny Whitworth offers Edward NZT, a new drug which claims to allow users to access 100 percent of their brain's capacity. Morra struggles with the moral dilemma of whether or not to take the drug for all of five minutes, before

deciding to pop it while in an argument with his landlord's wife. Needless to say, the pill appears to work wonders. Morra suddenly transforms into a suave, smooth talker even managing to get his landlord's wife into bed.

Edward's ascent to the dizzying heights of NZT is a whirlwind mix of partying, women and financial schemes. But his descent into the nastier side effects of the pill occurs at just as much of a breakneck speed leading to horrible physical effects and Morra even being suspected of murder.

Both are adequately captured by director Neil Burger's cinematography. Scenes, times and places blur into each other at a dizzying pace, mimicking the effect NZT has on its user. It's a technique repeated regularly throughout the film and although effective, becomes monotonous.

The acting is consistently good throughout. Bradley Cooper is convincing both as the dishevelled, struggling Morra pre-NZT and the sophisticated and debonair Morra

"There is nothing overly special about Limitless but it succeeds in being an entertaining action film which should catapult Bradley Cooper into the folds of Hollywood."

post drug-taking. Robert De Niro gives an adequate but not spectacular performance of the mogul Carl Van Loon with whom Morra crosses paths. The part of Morra's ex-wife whose life has been destroyed by using NZT is well played by Anna Friel, although her American accent is questionable.

There is nothing overly special about Limitless but it succeeds in being an entertaining action film which should catapult Bradley Cooper into the folds of Hollywood.

## HBO'S NEXT BIG THING

Written by **Michael Lawlor**

BOARDWALK Empire, HBO's latest show, deals many of the cards it has handled before: moral ambiguity, greed, excess and of course, the sympathetic side of the criminal.

Since the programme is the brainchild of 'Sopranos' Emmy-winning writer, Terence Winter, this comes as no surprise, nor is it the first time HBO has tackled an expensive period drama. Shows like David Milch's 'Deadwood' and Daniel Kauf's 'Carnivale' looked at American life before and at the beginning of the twentieth century and both were noted for their slow pace and cerebral content, both also having been cancelled before running their intended course, partly due to the sheer cost of filming their worlds. 'Boardwalk Empire' is not faced with this financial challenge, backed by such big names as Martin Scorsese and even Mark Wahlberg, as well as a protagonist played by acting veteran Steve Buscemi. But how well does Buscemi fill the shoes of lead character? After years of playing supporting roles, Buscemi seems to lack the presence

and gravitas of other HBO protagonists such as 'Sopranos' James Gandolfini and 'Deadwood's Ian McShane or, in the case of 'The Wire', does not have the supporting cast necessary to maintain interest. However, a stream of accolades tells a different story – a Golden Globe for Best Dramatic Series as well as one each for Buscemi and Kelly MacDonald, the show's main focus.

Having already been renewed for a second season, 'Boardwalk Empire' looks to be HBO's next big thing. But, is it merely infatuation with a world so perfectly rendered that has won fans and critics alike over?

Will there be a renewed unfriendliness to the period drama once the novelty has worn off, as the case has been before? Luckily for Boardwalk, it has the advantage of its glamour and winning content – if people love any one thing, without fail, it is gangsters, especially well-dressed ones.

## Lifestyle

## THE BEAR GRYLLS DIY DIET

Written by Adam Leahy

TIRED of those darned five star gourmet meals? Eating the same 12oz steak every day? Still carrying those extra few grams after the Christmas holidays and just can't find the will to actually do something like joining the gym? Whether you want to lose that perfectly normal excess baggage you've been looking at in the mirror, or simply save a few cents, the Bear Grylls DIY Diet\* is guaranteed to suit any lifestyle: man or woman, boy or girl, sane or insane.

Discovered by the man himself during his nine year trek in the You'resumfule desert in Egypt, the Bear Grylls DIY Diet isn't only for cave dwellers, it is becoming steadily more popular among the chic urbanites of Paris and London. So why shouldn't the health-conscious of UL jump on the DIY Diet bandwagon too? The time has come people.

The UL campus, spanning both its vast woodland and urbanised areas, is the ideal location to find all the natural and delicious snacks the DIY Diet recommends. Have you noticed those juicy ducks underneath the Living Bridge? Well, duck droppings are not only the best source of fibre, but great for the skin, not to mention that minty-

fresh kick to your breath! Don't like the empty calories in all that alcohol? The urine of a friend who has recently consumed alcohol has all of the same qualities and none of those guilty calories!

The wild mushrooms growing in the woods next to Kilmurry Village are also reputed for their feel-good qualities (though, as with any diet, too much of one foodstuff may have negative consequences). For the organic nuts, who love their fresh food; why not rip leeches from some OPC members returning from their next trip? All the detoxing qualities of the leech with freshness guaranteed.

Of course, the Bear Grylls DIY Diet isn't for everyone. For those of you comfortable enough with the way you look, why not actually enjoy your food and just dance the unwanted weight away at Trinity Rooms?

\*Note: DIY abbreviation, contrary to belief, stands for 'Dysentery Is Yours'



## A LENTEN PROMISE

Written by Roisin Burke

THE sacrificial lamb season has come and gone. Under the shallow glazing of religious dedication, Ireland endeavoured to overcome bad habits and ditch lifestyle imperfections. The usual ones are giving up sweets or alcohol. A detox in the name of religion. Is that really what God wants? Whatever your beliefs, a time to stop and reassess your everyday routines is generally a good thing. For me, instead of giving up bad nutrition I gave up bad thinking. For 30 days, I attempted to refrain from judgement and stereotyping. I decided to accept people as they are and hope for the best. The results were very surprising. I helped a boy and a horse cross the road. The horse was ruder than the boy. I helped a blind man get on the right bus, even though it would have been funnier to pick the wrong one. I helped a Polish drunk find his way home: it only required pointing in the right direction. Finally, I played scooters with some vagrant children and helped fix a bike. But what did I learn? I learned that life isn't always

easy and beyond the sheltered veneer that is the student existence with grants, loans, mothers and professors there are more important things than blagging a pass on your worst exam. I learned that peace of mind is just as valuable as freedom of speech and a flippant callous comment can cut deeper than any knife. It is sometimes difficult to think outside the safe student box to appreciate the lifestyles and opinions of others. Furthermore, it can be a rude awakening to acknowledge life won't always be this sweet.

This free thinking experiment re-awakened the first year wonderment we all initially had of the idealistic student existence. It softened the raucous edge that develops from overindulgent freedom and underdeveloped academic skills.

Finally, I found it refreshing and liberating to ditch preconceptions and take life as it comes. But most importantly I still got to eat sweets!

## BANOFFEE PIE

Written by Elizabeth Neylon

## Ingredients:

250g hobnob biscuits  
100g melted butter  
1 carton of fresh cream-whipped  
2 bananas, 1 Cadbury flake.

## For the caramel:

397g tin of condensed milk  
100g dark brown sugar  
100g butter

## Method:

Crush the biscuits finely and mix with the melted butter. Press this mixture firmly into a tart tin and leave to chill in the fridge while you make the caramel.

Place the dark brown sugar and the butter in a saucepan over a low heat and stir as they melt together. Add the condensed milk and bring the mixture to the boil stirring continuously. It will not take long for the mixture to thicken into caramel, pour this mixture over the biscuit base and leave to cool down completely before you put it in the fridge to cool for at least one hour. When you want to serve the pie just cut as many slices of the base as you need, place a layer of fresh sliced banana on top followed by a layer of whipped cream and a sprinkle of crumbled flake. This way the biscuit and toffee base can last for up to a week in the fridge.

## THE BEAUTY COLUMN

Written by Meghann Scully

SO this is it, the final hurdle before the finish line. The final An Focal and the final Beauty Column also means that exams are looming. For my final piece, I will discuss exam relievers. I hope this column will be of assistance for my fellow final year companions. To the other years, I hope you find this column an aid to your exam preparations.

Cod liver oil is an excellent source of nourishment for the brain. Leading up to the exams, feed your brain! 'Solgar' has advanced omega oil, a great source of essential fatty acids and oils. It contains Omega -3, -6 and -9 which alert your brain and help you study. 'Jan de Vries' also make a 'concentration essence' containing blackberry, cerato and peppermint to name but a few.

With slight alcohol content, these drops produce alertness and help with excess study. One of the most vital study aids is sleep. When your brain is fed daily with 'x + y', 'an tuisil ginideach' and so on it needs to be rested at night. Most of us have trouble winding down so camomile tea and lavender drops will help you fall into a deep sleep. The herbal infusion of camomile was used in the years gone by in Western herbalism to relax and unwind. Lavender drops aid sleep by relaxing the muscles. It can be added to a bath, drops on the pillow or even place lavender plants in a handkerchief.

The night before an exam, try to get a sufficient night's sleep. In the morning, eat a good breakfast such as porridge or

eggs and beans that contain protein to keep hunger at bay while in the exam hall. If you struggle with butterflies and nerves before exams, invest in a bottle of rescue remedy. The dilution mix of five flowers is known to comfort and calm. Simply place four drops into some water and let the butterflies fly away.

That's it from me, thanks An Focal for allowing me to gain some valuable writing experience over the past year. I hope a new Beauty columnist will take the reins and best of luck to the An Focal team in the future.

"If you struggle with butterflies and nerves before exams, invest in a bottle of rescue remedy. The dilution mix of five flowers is known to comfort and calm."



## Fashion

# VAMPIRE FASHION; FROM BUFFY TO TRUE BLOOD

"Of course, guys can just as easily join in on this look. Jeans, long sleeved tops in muted colours, and of course, perfectly flicked hair is essential."



Written by **Jenny Armstrong**

THOUGH most people agree they want to attack Kristen Stewart every time she opens her mouth, there's no denying the majority of people have experienced the odd guilty style crush on her hot *Twilight* outfits. Leather jackets, skinny jeans, and lots of warm colours contrast perfectly with porcelain skin and smoky eyes.

A loose fitting plaid shirt is a must, and preferably in natural low key shades. A second hand one from a family member would be best, but if you must conform to fake vintage, Topshop and the like

seem to have them in constant supply. Of course, it wouldn't be fair to give her or even her stylist credit for this sultry 'damsel in distress' yet 'I'm a tough cookie' look. It really started a

long time ago with everyone's favourite slayer. Buffy Summer's was rocking leather jackets, tough boots and messy (yet clearly styled) hair back when most of us were still hopping around in dungarees and Fruit of the Loom jumpers.

If you want the look to be taken seriously, don't forget the palest possible make up is a must, you can even use face paint if you're in an extremely blood thirsty mood. A light pink dust on the cheeks helps outline the look, while a rich plum shade of

lipstick will really cement the 'I've just been drinking blood' appearance. Be prepared to stock up on eyeliner. Black framing is another must, and this can be as messy as you wish. To emphasise the trend, be sure to throw around some brooding Robert-Pattinsonesque stares and glares throughout the day, and, if you're feeling brave, the odd desirable neck glance will only add to the authenticity. Of course guys can just as easily join in on this look. Jeans, long sleeved tops in muted colours, and of course, perfectly flicked hair

is essential. You might as well throw out the comfy tracksuit bottoms and hoodies because vampires hunt in style. As well as that, no matter how stormy or wet, no vampire worth his fangs would be caught dead in a rain coat. It's fitted leather jackets all the way. Or, you could simply do what the *True Blood* folks do and just be naked all the time. Fashion trend achieved, no shopping necessary.

# MARC BY MARC JACOBS

Written by **Emily Maree**

HE'S considered fashion royalty among his peers. He's best friends with Victoria Beckham, has had his designs worn by US First Lady Michelle Obama and has been on *Time Magazine's* list of the 100 most influential people in the world. This year, his second range, Marc by Marc Jacobs, is in its tenth year and is bringing out a capsule collection to mark a decade of breathing fresh air into the fashion industry. An award-winning graduate of the Parson School of Design in New York, Jacobs began his career in fashion at American Sportswear Label, Perry Ellis. In 1993, Jacobs brought out his infamous 'grungy' collection, taking his inspiration from New York's West Village, designing cartoon motif t-shirts, beanie hats and faded denim which led to his dismissal from the label. He then went on to work with Robert Duffy to begin designing his own products.

Before long, he had won an award from the prestigious CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America), the fashion industries highest tribute, winning it for new talent. He was the youngest designer to ever win an award from the CFDA. In 1989, Jacobs and Duffy created the women wear unit for Tristan Russo and in 1992 the CFDA awarded Jacobs for a second time,

with Designer of the Year. In 1997, Marc Jacobs created his first menswear collection as well as landing the job of 'Creative Director' at Louis Vuitton, where he has stayed ever since, despite launching his own ready-to-wear lines, Marc Jacobs, and the less expensive Marc by Marc Jacobs, now in its tenth year. He has quadrupled his brand with these two collections and has opened 160 stores over 19 countries, ever since opening his first one in New York. Marc Jacobs has been at the forefront of the fashion industry for the last ten years and his collections are never short of controversy, whether it's for his own design ranges or his work at Louis Vuitton. Most recently, Jacobs and Vuitton were at the centre of a media storm during New York Fashion Week when Kate Moss strutted down the catwalk, lighting a cigarette as she walked, almost causing an international incident with the stunt that will make him the most talked about designer of the A/W 2011 season. Ten years on, Marc Jacobs hasn't lost his touch, and Marc by Marc Jacobs is home to some of the most exquisite garments ever made and at a more affordable price than a lot of designer ranges out there. Watch this space, because the best of Marc Jacobs is yet to come!



Award-winning: Marc Jacobs

An illustration of a man in a dark suit and hat falling into the sea. He is reaching up with both hands towards a red and white lifebuoy that is suspended by a yellow rope. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds, and the sea is a darker blue with white-capped waves.

# Drowning in exam Stress?

Don't Panic.

Your Union  
is here  
to help  
you.

Turn  
over  
for  
hints & tips.  
or  
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## Exam Special

# ESSENTIAL STUDY TIPS

ARE you lost? Do you feel completely overwhelmed by the sheer amount of work that is expected of you with such little time left? Don't worry. You're the same as a lot of people and there is absolutely nothing to be gained from getting worked up about it or losing hope.

Put away your phone, log off Facebook, and stop wandering around the house or the library aimlessly! Here are some tips to help you pick yourself up and get going again. Grab a hot cup of something nice and read these pointers. Once you're finished, you should feel much better and hopefully, you'll be back on track!

## Plan

Take some time to plan your study using a timetable. If you think that you can do four hours on the first day, aim to do three on your timetable. That way if you do four, you've gotten more done than you expected and if you just manage three, you're not disappointed that you weren't able to hit your target. It also gives a good idea of what a realistic and reasonable goal is for you.

## Start small

If you find the amount of study that you have to do overwhelming, then start at the very beginning. There's no sense trying to learn the most complicated elements without knowing the basics.

## Eat regularly and healthily

It can be really tempting to eat take-aways and microwavable meals when you're studying because you don't have the time to cook good food, but often the quickest food is often the worst for you and consequently your brain. Start planning early.

If you've a bit of time this week cook a couple of meals and freeze them. Most things freeze and it's just as easy to microwave a home-cooked meal as it is to microwave a shop bought one. As well as that, if you live in a house/apartment with a couple of people, take turns cooking dinner. Things like omelettes and pasta bakes with loads of vegetables are really good foods to keep you going during exams and they're very easy and quick to make.

## Study in groups

If you and a group of your friends want an easy and relatively fun way of studying, then study together. You can pick up loads of tips and information from each other. However, be warned that if your friends aren't as dedicated as you, group study can be a distraction rather than a help.

## Take regular breaks

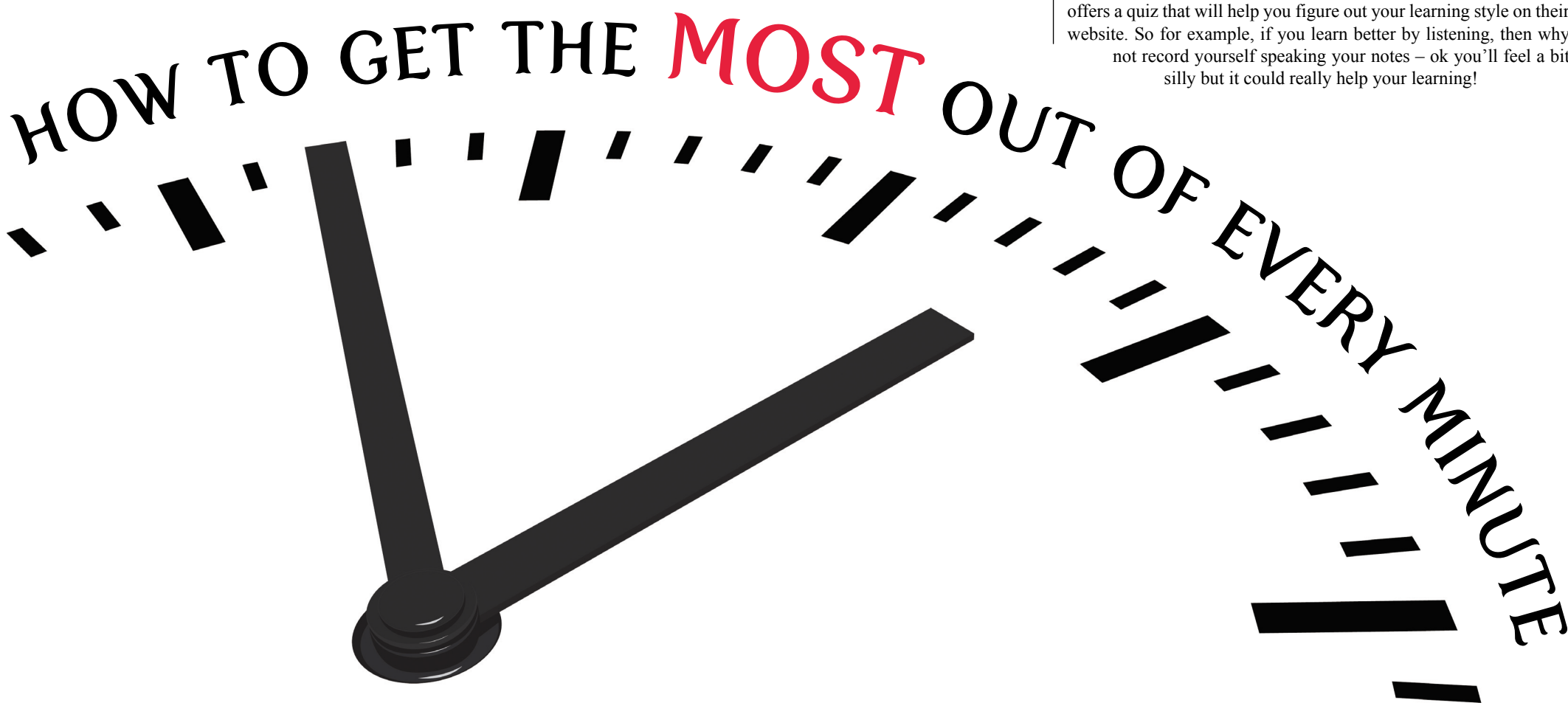
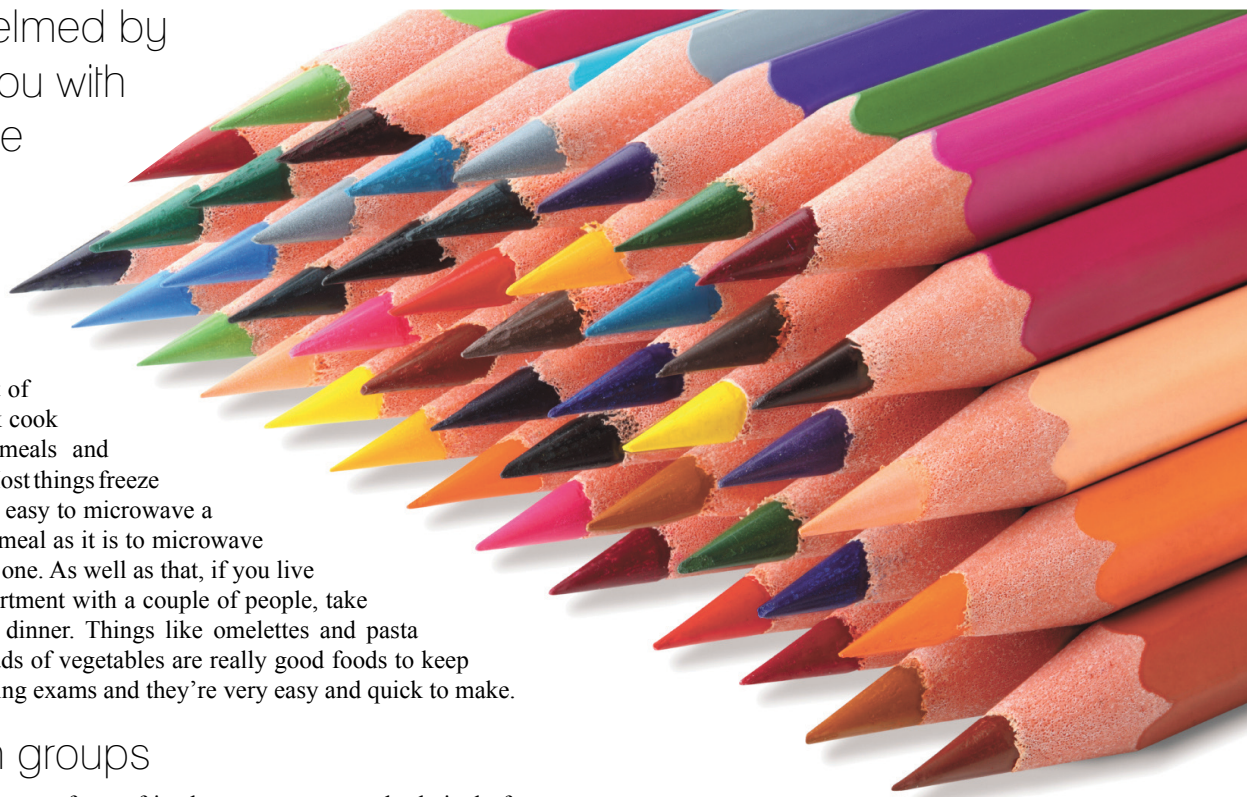
It's really important to take regular breaks during study. The human brain can only take in so much, so if you've had that feeling that "nothing is going in", now you know why. Breaks that include brisk walks, a short jog, or any form of exercise are the best as they increase blood flow and alertness. So if nothing is going in, go out!

## Treat yourself

Studying is all about motivation and a great way to motivate yourself is to reward yourself. If you do well, meet a target, complete a difficult section, then reward yourself with something – an hour off, a drink or two, whatever you enjoy.

## Identify your learning style

Identifying whether you study better by listening, reading or kinesthetics (moving, touching, writing and doing) can really aid your study. There's no point trying to force yourself to learn in a way that doesn't suit you. The Centre for Teaching and Learning offers a quiz that will help you figure out your learning style on their website. So for example, if you learn better by listening, then why not record yourself speaking your notes – ok you'll feel a bit silly but it could really help your learning!



HAVE you ever had the best of intentions when it comes to study but haven't quite managed to deliver? Or worse, haven't even come close to hitting your targets? Have you ever thought about why? Well I have, partly because I'm boring and partly because it's my job. Essentially, maximising every minute is about looking at the when, the how and the what.

Written by **Aoife Finnerty**,  
SU Education Officer

## When?

When is the best time to study? Well, I don't believe that 8:32am is more conducive to effective study than 2:54pm but I do believe that there is

a 'best time to study' for each person. That time is whatever time when you feel alert, awake, healthy and rested. It's the time when you're physically and mentally ready so that could be three in the morning or 11 at night. I get far more done in the morning than I do in the afternoon or evening, that's why I set aside my mornings to do all my most difficult work.

## How?

How should you study? The best way to study is the way that compliments your learning style in the best way. Have you ever wondered why it can take you two hours to learn something but only 20 minutes when someone explains something for you? It could be because you learn better by listening, than you

do by reading. Figure out the way that you take information the best and use it to your advantage: you wouldn't believe the time and effort you can save!

## What?

What should you study? Unfortunately, only you (hopefully) and your lecturer can answer that.



# Exam Special

# DON'T PANIC, WE'RE HERE TO HELP

An Focal has compiled some information you should have going into an exam. This information will help you to avoid the many pitfalls associated with exams. Don't panic, your Students' Union is here to give you a helping hand. So, if you need further information, advice or just a chat, please use us! That's what we're here for. For exam and education queries, simply email your Students' Union Education Officer, Aoife, at [sueducation@ul.ie](mailto:sueducation@ul.ie) or check out her Facebook page or her boards.ie thread, where she logs in each weekday to answer your questions.

Best of luck from your Students' Union!

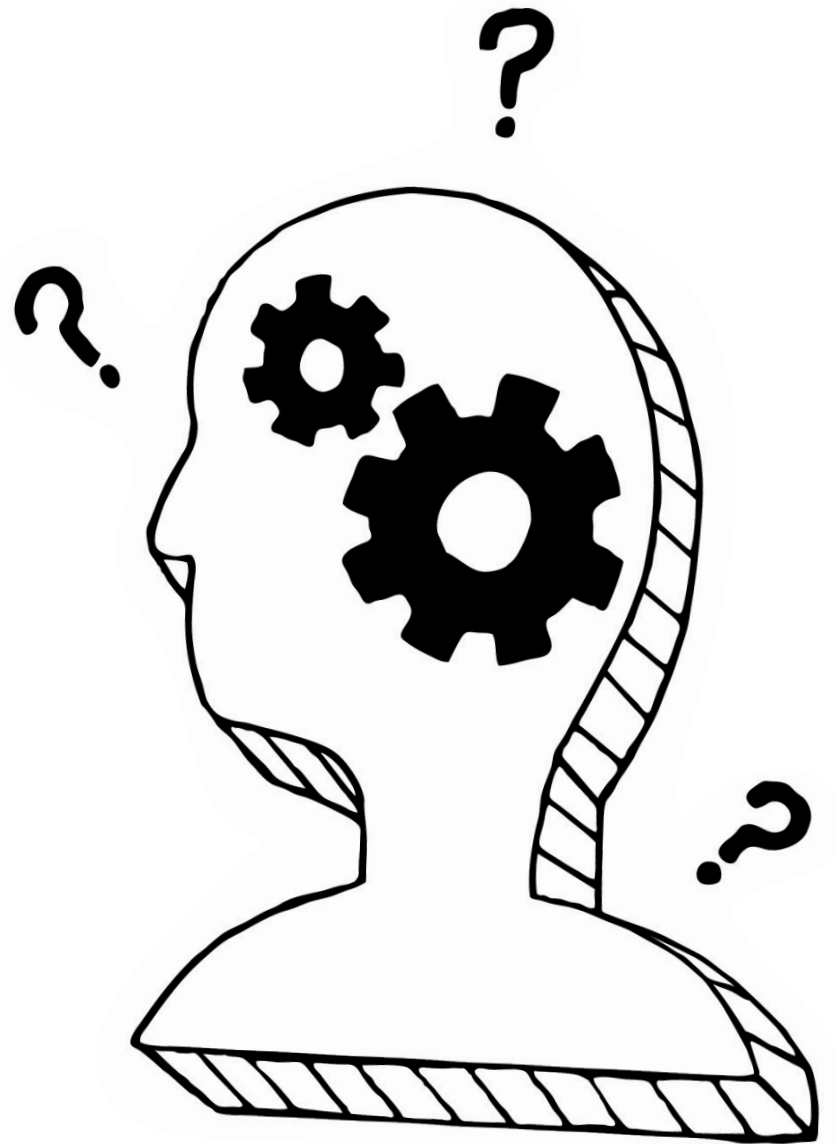
# DON'T FAIL BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW

- The University is very strict when it comes to what's called authorised and unauthorised material.
- Essentially, authorised material is anything that you are permitted to have during an exam. For example, authorised materials would be the exam script and rough work paper, which are given by the invigilators and clean stationary. It could include non-programmable calculators (if necessary) and anything else the lecturer has cited as necessary for the exam, including dictionaries, reference texts, books, etc.
- There cannot be any writing on authorised materials, unless expressly permitted by the lecturer.
- Students are not permitted to write anywhere other than on the exam scripts, rough work paper or the question paper.
- Unauthorised material could include notes of any kind, writing material that has not provided by the invigilators (even if there is no writing on it), writing or markings

on any part of the body or clothing, electronic devices including mobile phones and any extra material that has not been expressly permitted by the lecturer.

So to avoid being accused of a breach in regulations, which could amount to cheating - WELD:

- Wash your hands of any marks or writing
- Ensure that your calculator and other materials are compliant with regulations
- Leave your phone off in your bag or by your desk
- Don't have anything on your desk that hasn't been expressly permitted by your lecturer or the invigilators



# EXAM DAY-ESSAYS

Why planning ahead will help you stay on track

ARE you one of these people who launches full force into an essay without planning anything? Do you see planning as a waste of 10 minutes that could be spent writing frantically? Have you realised yet that if you plan, you won't have to write so frantically or at the very least your frantic writings will make sense?

No? Yes? Read on.

## Time

Planning your time in answering essay questions is extremely important. To state the obvious, the idea is to divide up your time according to your marks so you don't end up minimising your marks. No matter how great you think your paper is, if you've only done two questions and left the third, you've eliminated the possibility of getting 33% of the marks in the paper. Remember even if you get top marks in both completed questions, that only leaves you with 66% in the paper.

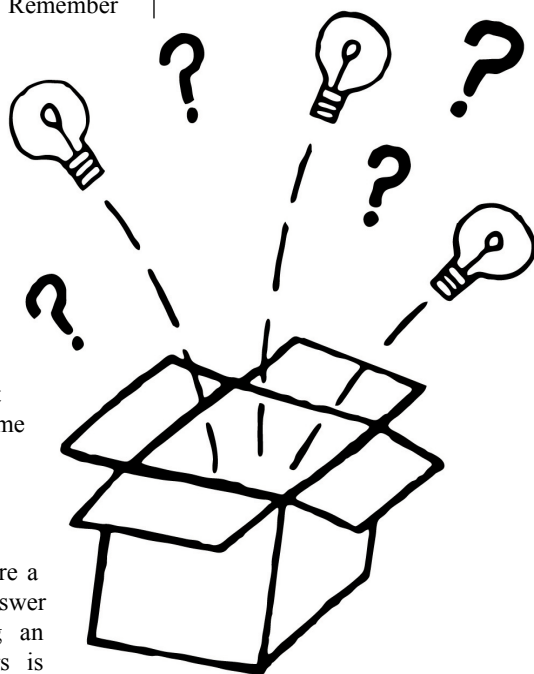
## Read

Read through the whole paper. Become familiar with the questions you are being asked and remember that two questions on the same topic can differ greatly.

## Plan

It's a good idea to prepare a plan of how you will answer any question. Preparing an outline of your answers is

important for many reasons: it can help you to stay on track and remember important details and it can be counted towards your marks in the event that you don't get your question completed.



## Travel

# CHALLENGING AND REWARDING: WORK AT THE LIMERICK LEARNING HUB



"I have been volunteering in the Northside Learning Hub here in Limerick for the past three months."

Co-Op in Limerick has its advantages, including proximity to all things familiar. Image: Finn McDuffie

Written by **Alana Walsh**

IT seems like only yesterday I was starting Co-op and writing about what I hoped to gain from the experience. To briefly recap, I have been volunteering in the Northside Learning Hub here in Limerick for the past three months. The time has flown; I cannot believe I have only two months left on placement! Back in January, I was in awe of the amount and variety of projects available for children from the local area and schools. Now I am delighted to be able to say I have participated and helped to facilitate such projects.

In my time at the Learning Hub, I have learned so much about working with children. The other volunteers and I often joke when supervising or working with large groups about being experts in "crowd control" but, in all seriousness, it is a skill we have developed. When working with big classes or groups you have to be able to hold your own and command attention when necessary. I previously had underestimated quite how much you need eyes in the back of your head when in a position of responsibility involving children. Thankfully, we have had nothing disastrous happen on our watch and I

feel assured that working with children is something I am competent in doing.

I have been fortunate enough to be involved in so many fun things in my time here, two of my highlights being a drumming workshop and a film workshop. Also, photography has always been an interest of mine and I have put this into practice countless times taking photos of different projects and events such as the St. Patrick's Day parade. I am currently involved in Teaching English as a Foreign Language as one of my projects and I now know for definite that I would like to pursue TEFL training in the future. It is great to walk away from Co-op with ideas of things that I would like to further my knowledge in.

Working in the Learning Hub has been a challenging and rewarding experience. I have had my good days and my bad days but I have gained skills and friends for life and while I am finishing Co-op at the end of May, I hope that will not be the end of my time in the Learning Hub and that I will be back to volunteer again.

## STUDY ABROAD IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Written by **Jason Kennedy**

AFTER more than 100 days, my time in Newfoundland is drawing to a close. At the time I write this, I have little over two weeks to go before I start

my 24 hour journey home. It has been a very interesting term in Memorial University, Newfoundland, with more highs and lows than you'd get in a

typical term in UL. Starting off was incredibly rough. My flight from New York to Newfoundland was cancelled, Continental Airlines lost my bags and I was hauled into interrogation because border patrol was suspicious of me for whatever reason. It was clear from the start that it was going to be an interesting semester. If I had to pick one thing that absolutely defined my time in St John's, it has to be the weather. The snow was one of the reasons I came here. I loved snow and after years of going through green Christmases, I thought that this

year was going to be different. I can tell you, the novelty wears off very fast when you're up to your knees in flour-fine snow and listening to snow ploughs going all night. Nevertheless, it's all part of what makes Newfoundland so special. The scenes of snow-peaked mountains around Pippy Park and Signal Hill, which is one of the few places on land where one can see where the Titanic sunk, defines the St John's landscape and is truly beautiful.

Of course, I can't forget the lovely people that I met here. These people

really showed me what it's like to live in a different culture. They showed me the initiation ritual for people coming to Newfoundland as well as being just as funny and kind as my friends back home. The people will probably be what I miss most about St John's.

One of the most important things my study abroad taught me, is how good I have it back home. I was surprised by how much I missed my friends and family. I am very much looking forward to my first pint of Bulmers in UL with my buddies. UL Abu!

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## C&amp;S

# THE OUTDOOR PURSUITS CLUB, THERE'S NOTHING BUT CRAIC AND LOVE

Written by **Iona Koria and Katherine Davis, OPC PRO**

LAST weekend, the Outdoor Pursuits Club embarked on their final epic trip of the year. Leaving for Ballinskelligs last Friday afternoon, our beloved driver Pat, with his usual kind words of wisdom, ferried us off for another weekend of adventure.

The OPC has a big international presence among its members. Over the course of the year, the OPC becomes more and more like a family to those away from home. Club members will agree, the people you meet through the OPC are surely ones you'll keep in contact with for years to come. So for the people going on this last trip, it could be seen as one last hurrah before the year came to a close. Arriving at the hostel late on Friday night, even those who had never met before felt

right at home within the group. After a good night of socialising, everyone headed off to bed in preparation for an early hike the next morning. Saturday began with a hike through the hills of Ballinskelligs, Waterville and Caherdaniel. The highlight of the day was a stop at the beach and walking through the low tide back to the bus, which of course included a short swim in the freezing water. As an Erasmus or Study Abroad student, the Outdoor Pursuits Club can and has given incomparable experiences in Ireland. The club has not only given the opportunities to see the beauty of the country, but also the chance to meet a great group of friends who can shape your time spent abroad.



"The OPC has a big international presence among its members. Over the course of the year, the OPC becomes more and more like a family to those away from home."



## A REMARKABLE YEAR FOR ULLR

Written by **Kelly Dwyer**

UL Ladies Rugby have had another remarkable season retaining their League and Varsity title. UL have won 12 Varsities since the competition began 13 years ago. They were also crowned 7's champions in October. ULLR now hold every trophy available in Division One Colleges women's rugby.

The club now has more teams than ever before, including a Freshers' and Seniors' 7s team. But it wasn't all serious competition; there were the med nights, table quizzes, Christmas parties, cinema nights and much more. The League final was held on 25 March in Trinity College. UL's team this year was fresh-face with a total of 10 new players on the 22. They got the chance to step up to the mark due to many familiar faces unavailable to play due to injury, illness or Co-op. The reigning champions made hard work of the game with uncharacteristic errors throughout, but their experience and great defending ensured victory. The final score was UL 7- UCC 5. Laura O'Mahony was the

try-scorer in the second half with Ailish Toner converting. Many of the freshers shone, including Oonagh O'Brien, Aoife Bennett and Emma Wilson. The experience of some old faces including Sarah Jane Cody, Mary Rose Flanagan, Laura O'Mahony and Captain Fiona Reidy showed throughout and spurred the team onto success over their arch-rivals. The Varsities were held in Carlow IT on 31 March and 1 April. The event was undoubtedly the highlight of the year. UL had a strong first day at the varsities last Thursday beating NUIG 35-10 in the first game before beating UCC 12-0. Ashling Hutchings was the star of the show on the first day, scoring six tries in two games with

her trademark display of deadly pace. Sarah Jane Cody, Bronagh O'Donovan and Laura O'Mahony also scored with Ailish Toner kicking the conversions and penalties. In the final, the UL forwards dominated UCC at scrums and lineouts which set up the pacy backline. UL ran riot in the first half with tries from Cody, Claire Keohane and Hutchings. Toner converted one and also scored a penalty. UCC failed to score in the first half but the wind was a major factor. UCC piled on the pressure in the second half scoring three tries but UL held out to win once again with the final score of 20-15. What a remarkable end to a fantastic season for UL Ladies Rugby who still have one more 7's competition to compete in during week 13. Also an awards night is planned to cap off a year which brought the team closer than ever before.

## DEBATING UNION CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Written by **Darragh Roche, Deputy Editor**

THE Debating Union (Deb U) has had the most successful year since the beginning of the last decade. The University's oldest society has had competitive success throughout the country and abroad and has hosted large events with some of the most high-profile personalities in Ireland.

Last semester, Deb U and Law Soc hosted presidential hopeful, Senator David Norris at a gay rights debate that filled the Jonathan Swift theatre and was centrepiece of Deb U Auditor Mairead de Faoite's tenure. The society also hosted then Minister for the Environment, Éamon Ó Cuív, which was covered in the Irish Times.

In October, two new members, Niamh Ward and Elaine Kennedy, reached the final of the UCD Novice IV and in December, third years David Hartery and Stephen Egan, reached the semi-final of the UCC IV, an international competition which hosts 80 teams.

Mr Hartery and Mr Egan also reached the semi-final of the Irish Mace, while Mr Egan spoke as an individual in the semi-final of the Irish Times, both prestigious national competitions.

Mr Egan and Mr Hartery continued their success by reaching the quarter-final and then semi-final of the Trinity College IV in January. This competition is the biggest in Ireland. At February's Irish National Law Debates in Galway, Mr Egan reached the semi-final as part of a UL/TCD team and Mr Hartery as part of a UL/DCU team. In March, Mr Hartery won the Glasgow University Union Ancients competition as part of a UL/UCD team. Mr Hartery was the

"The University's oldest society has had competitive success throughout the country and abroad and has hosted large events with some of the most high-profile personalities in Ireland."

also best speaker at the IV. Later that month, two UL first years, Michelle Coyle and Lorna Bogue, reached the semi-finals of Irish National Maidens in UCD, finishing fourth and eleventh respectively. UL's IV took place in March with UL alumnus and Deb U honorary life member Maurice Cotter winning best speaker in the final as part of an NUI Galway/UCC team.

Deb U Auditor Kieran Murphy presented former Taoiseach Dr Garret Fitzgerald with the Auditors' Medal this semester to a packed John Holland theatre and the society's AGM saw the creation of the new position of Archivist, charged with recording the society's history.

Three teams and two judges will attend the European Universities' Debating Championships in Galway this August and it is hoped that at least one team will attend the World Championships in the Philippines later this year.

# FROM MISSISSIPPI TO CASTLEGREGORY: ONE AMERICAN'S JOURNEY WITH WINDSURFING

Written by **Taylor Burley**

WHEN I came to UL in September, I was surprised by how many clubs and societies were available for students to participate in. I decided to try out a little bit of everything and then choose which one I liked best. It wasn't until the second semester that I found a club I absolutely love, doing something I never expected I would do.

I signed up for the first windsurfing trip of the semester on a whim, excited about the opportunity to windsurf yet fearing the freezing Atlantic water. How was a sunshine-loving girl from Mississippi supposed to deal with that kind of cold? Would my lips turn icy-blue or my fingers freeze off? Were they just going to put me out in the water and say, "Go ahead! Teach yourself to windsurf!"? Needless to say, I was a little intimidated. When we got to the hostel in Castlegregory, Co. Kerry on Friday night, I was feeling much better about my decision to go on the trip. Even though most of the windsurfers already knew each other, everyone was extremely friendly and welcoming.

The next morning we made our way to the beach and put on wetsuits. Jamie Knox, the windsurfing instructor, patiently gave beginner lessons in the morning. We practiced our technique

on land before going into the icy water in the afternoon: the true test of courage. With Jamie's instructions blasting out over the megaphone, I tried to remember everything I had learned that morning: stand upright, feet in an 'L-7' position, arms straight...all while trying to keep my balance on my not-so steady board and deal with the fact that my hands had gone completely numb with cold. Once in the water, it took me a few wobbly attempts to stand up and make my way across the bay, but once I managed to stay upright I felt a huge sense of accomplishment.

Between the great craic and the friends I made that weekend, I've found myself anxiously awaiting each trip. I can honestly say that the club I joined on a whim turned out to be one of the best experiences I've had since coming to Ireland.



## RECORD RESULT FOR UL NINJAS



Some members of the club on Plassey Lawn in Week 12, in a money-raising event for Haiti. Image: Finn McDuffie

Written by **Patrick Moran**

UL's Ultimate Frisbee Club made further progress towards their goal of an Open Intervarsity title on the first weekend of April. They bettered last year's standing by one place, finishing fifth. They were faced with a very difficult group on Saturday made up of Trinity, DCU and UCC2. And so it was a slow start for UL. Despite showing glimpses of great play, they failed to be consistent all day and were beaten 10-4 and 11-4 by TCD and DCU respectively. They also struggled against UCC2, just clinching it 8-7. This left them third in the group and facing a crossover match against relative newcomers, NUI Maynooth. NUIM impressed considering their inexperienced squad,

but UL's fitness and depth of squad won it for them, 12-7. A quarter final against another top four seed, UCD, was waiting for UL on Sunday morning. UL clearly relished the challenge though and played fantastically, taking an early lead against the odds. UCD caught up gradually and both teams traded points for long periods of the game. Unfortunately UL let the intensity drop briefly, letting UCD pull away. UL couldn't make up lost ground and the game finished 11-8.

Now that a top-four spot was out of reach, the Ninjas were determined to finish fifth. To do this, they first had to beat Queen's University Belfast, then DIT. Queen's proved a very difficult

team to contain until again, the depth of UL's squad out-ran them. It finished 8-4. In the fifth and sixth place play off, UL hit top form once again. They were magnificent in defence and soon had a stranglehold on the game which DIT couldn't break. UL won the game 12-4. Their first year players were particularly impressive all weekend, with Niall McCarney awarded A-Game. This combined with the fact that they lose no core squad members next year means that hopes are high that they can break that top four for the first time next April.

## FASHION SOC ROUNDUP

Written by **Seán Carroll,**  
Fashion Soc PRO

AS the 2010/2011 academic year closes, UL's newest society is looking back on the previous semester with pride and making new exciting plans for the coming academic year. Having started only as idea from Tina Nsubuga, now President of the society, back in early September last year, Fashion Soc has come on in leaps and bounds. Tina realised that UL was missing a society that catered to her passion for fashion; she decided to take the initiative and set up UL's Fashion Society.

We were officially recognised as a society at the start of this semester and with help from ULSU Clubs and Socs we began to organise our launch event, a fashion show. This event was arranged for 24 February, in the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel. From our members and also through our Facebook page, people were selected to model in the show. We wanted the proceeds from the night to go to charity, and chose the Symptomatic Limerick Breast Cancer Unit.

With the venue organised, clothes shops all over Limerick City were asked to loan clothes for the models to wear. Make-up and hair for models were done by Brown Thomas and Chocolat. Without these clothes, shops, hair and make-up the night wouldn't have been such a success. 350 tickets were

sold and when the night arrived they had sold out. With a full crowd in attendance, MC Richard Lynch, from ilovelimerick.com, created a fantastic atmosphere. Along with the models, Dance UL gave an awe inspiring performance. The night was a runaway success, and the Fashion Society really saw all of its hard work come to fruition. This is only the beginning for Fashion Soc. Already work has begun on planning next Semester's fashion show. This will be bigger and better than the previous semester's show. Also we are proud to announce that, in association with the Hilary Thompson Modelling Agency, the Fashion Society are going to be running the UL model search next semester. A lot of people have dreams of modelling stardom and this competition will help the winner realise their potential. They will win a contract with the Hilary Thompson agency and will also win a professional fashion photo-shoot which will be featured in a magazine. More details are to be announced over the coming months, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for details. The Fashion Society wishes everyone a fantastic summer and cannot wait to see everyone again next year.

# SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL ONE WALL HANDBALL TOURNAMENT IN UL

Written by **John Hurley**,  
Handball club PRO

THE annual One Wall handball tournament took place on 1 and 2 of April in the University with games played on two courts in the PESS building and the nearby alley in Bohermore.

Over 70 competitors competed in the hugely successful competition as spectators were treated to a range of highly competitive and entertaining matches over the two days as honours went to DIT and AIT.

Shane Heraty from DIT claimed the coveted Men's A trophy on Saturday evening in a thrilling end to the tournament. He combined power with pinpoint accuracy to defeat UL graduate Ollie Cassidy in the final of the premier division. At the end of a highly enjoyable yet tense twenty minute game Heraty led by an ace, defeating Cassidy 17-16.

It was a well deserved title for the young DIT player who displayed promising form throughout the weekend. UL's Padraig O'Carroll won the A plate in an entertaining final against last year's A runner-up John Casey (UCC).

The B final pitted Nevan McCartin from NUIG, defeated B finalist last year, against Peter Flanagan from Kells in Meath. Flanagan pressured

McCartin with quick returns and eventually won comfortably against the valiant but fatigued McCartin. Stephen Frawley from Bohermore and Stephen O'Dwyer contested the C final with the younger O'Dwyer defeating the local Frawley. UL's Robert O'Hara took the honours in the C Plate against Murtagh Condron of NUIG. The women's competition was played in a round robin format with Aoife McCarthy from AIT taking the trophy as she remained undefeated over the weekend. UL's Deirdre Donohoe claimed second place as she fell to only one defeat, against the eventual champion in a closely fought contest.

The Handball Club would like to express our gratitude to the Stables, Roadbridge, Bohermore Handball Club and all those who made the tournament an enjoyable time for all. We look forward to a bright future next year.



Men's A winner Shane Heraty (DIT) receiving his trophy from Laura-Anne Furlong, chairperson of the handball club.

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY BIDS FAREWELL FOR SUMMER

Written by **David Studer**

UL INTERNATIONAL Society has had an extremely active year on campus with membership figures hitting the five hundred mark. But it's the end of the year and that means some of our membership will be heading home.

Between our weekly events of Mentor Dinners, Book Club, Sports Club, Friday Night Parties and Access Study Club, our trips to Cork, Clare, Glendalough, the Aran Islands, Dublin (for St Patrick's Day) and our International Week culminating in the Food Fair and inaugural International Ball, it has certainly been a hectic year. This year will be one to remember for everyone

involved with UL International Society. At the Clubs and Societies Ball we were nominated for four awards, picking up three: Best Society Individual for society president Kieran Phipps, Best Society Event for International Week, Best Society. Kieran also picked up the prestigious Mike Sadlier award. Given that the C&S Awards are voted for by our peers, this was a most humbling and proud night for everyone involved in the society. The planning has already begun for next year, with none of our committee willing to rest on our laurels after our recent successes. As of writing we are preparing for the BICS Awards.

Hopefully we will be able to continue the recent vein of good form from UL Clubs and Socs over the past few years. It just remains for me to wish all those committee members who are now finished in UL best of luck. As well as this a big thank you must go to our Erasmus Rep., Tobias Martinsson and our two Study Abroad Reps, Rachel Barbera and Lea Britt, for giving up their time to join us on the committee for the semester. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the society for next year, just pop us an email to ulinternationalsociety@gmail.com.

## KAYAKERS HIT SLIGO AND STORM FREESTYLE COMPETITION

Written by **Mark Barrett**,  
ULKC PRO

ON 11 March the UL Kayak Club packed up their gear and hit the road for Sligo.

The annual surf trip proved to be just as exciting this time around. Not only did the Freshers get their second taste of kayak surfing but some of our more experienced paddlers sat their level four assessment.

Preparations for the annual Alps trip are well underway and having these qualifications will certainly come in handy when paddling down the extreme white-water of Italy.

Congratulations to Michael Shaw, Conor Bredin and Dave O' Sullivan who all competed in a freestyle event last week. Well done to Dave and Conor who came second and third in senior men's and also to Mike who placed first in senior men's sport.

The event took place in Gowar on the wave feature beside King John's Castle. It was great training for the club members who competed and a big achievement for doing as well as they did.

Alps training on-going on the Castleconnell River and parts of the glens. Rope work sessions on-going too. See Facebook page and message boards for further details.

## NEW SWIMMING CLUB LAUNCHED IN UL

A NEW Swimming Club has been launched. The club was founded by Edward Lacey in Week Three of this Semester. It has been extremely successful since its establishment and the committee is dedicated to making the club an outstanding success. The club called SCUL was set up to meet the huge demand for a competitive swimming club within UL.

The club will aim to develop competitive swimmers to the best of their ability and also to compete with other third-level institutions.

We hope to have a fully functional SC by next September, with a complete team of highly competitive swimmers and a Swim Ireland approved trainer. We have aspirations to have a minimum of eight hours worth of training sessions a weekend are well on the steps to achieving it.

The club is open to any new members. If anyone is interested they can contact us and of course hop in the pool for a training session. Information is also provided on our blog: <http://ulswimmingclub.blogspot.com>. We hope that the club become's a huge success in the coming months and years, and that it develops into one of the top third-level clubs in the country.



## Equality Week

# SU CONDUCTS EQUALITY SURVEY

Written by **Niall Curry**,  
Equality Officer

EQUALITY WEEK 2011 was a huge success. This year, Equality Week truly became a University occasion. Without students and help and input from our clubs and societies, it could not have been as successful as it was.

Because it was Week 12 of Semester 2, I decided to restrict loudness and give the week greater gravitas. My main aims were to survey as large a group of students as possible and determine how accessible UL truly is. Initially, SU CSO, Vivion Grisewood, and I completed a documented experiment on campus accessibility for wheelchair users, which was sponsored by

Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) Limerick. This will form part of a report to be issued later in the year. Another element of the report is a survey which was taken throughout the week.

I wanted to address each issue in order to deduce which areas seem most in need of attention and improvement. The finished report can be used as a case to the university bodies to turn their attention to areas that are

in need of improvement. Mental health is the area most in need of attention and improvement of services. I hadn't thought this would be the area which was felt to be the most lacking. It seems a significant minority feels uncomfortable making use of mental health services and even discussing mental health or publicly acknowledging problems carries a stigma.

This insight helps us know

what to change. The survey results can be used to inform the University of our ideas and form a basis for change. An electronic version of this survey will be submitted to students using UL's survey monkey before being submitted to the equality and diversity committee and UL President, Professor Don Barry.

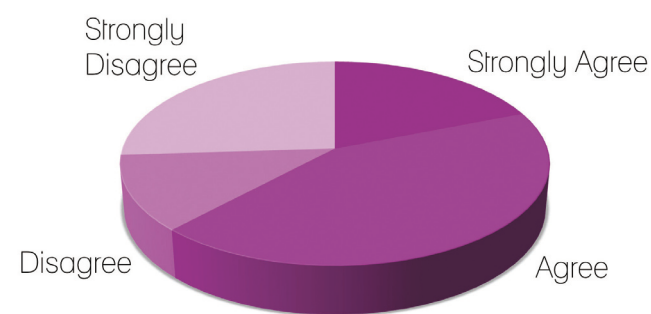
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the clubs and societies whose help made

this week a success. Drama's taboo play and puppet show were exhilarating and hopefully, a new tradition for Equality Week. DebU's debate left me more intrigued than I was before and as Darragh Roche said, it was "the biggest turnout for an Equality Week debate in years".

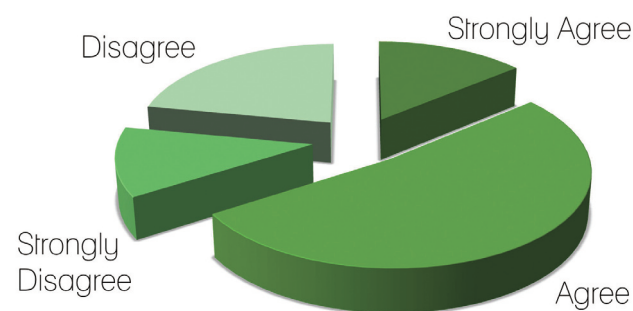
I would also like to thank my Equality Working Group for conceiving and nurturing many of the ideas and the

IWA Limerick for use of their wheelchairs and all those who helped out throughout the week. I'd like to thank Derek Daly for helping me throughout the last year and Vivion Grisewood for helping me run the week.

"I feel comfortable using the counselling service on campus"



"There is no stigma attached to mental illness by the UL demographic"



## DISABILITIES IN UL

Written by **Vivion Grisewood**,  
Campaigns and Services Officer

AS part of Equality Week 2011, I decided to test wheelchair friendliness of our vast campus. It can be a daunting place for students and my eyes were opened when I tried to negotiate campus in a wheelchair.

I started at 10am. My first gauntlet was getting to the SU from the Lonsdale car park. Even a minuscule little hill can cause hindrance. I nearly fell off the wheelchair twice in the first two minutes.

I wanted to test the disabled toilets in the SU. Were they actually large enough for reasonably easy use?

It turned out, both toilets were too small. It was impossible to close the door because the sanitary bin was in the way. Such a small thing can cause distress to someone in a wheelchair.

To find out about the services available to disabled students, I met with UL's Disabilities Officer, Brenda Shinners-Kennedy. There are over 360 students registered with the disability office. Brenda believes many more are unregistered.

She explained the huge social problem associated with the disabled, especially with

incoming first years. Integration is a big issue. I asked her if she thinks the SU does enough for disabled students.

She believes the answer is no and there should be a link between the Union, students and the disabilities office. Students with disabilities need a voice. That way, the disabilities office can be sure what they are doing is right.

I was very impressed at the range of services offered by the disabilities office and to hear how well they look after students. UL is lucky to have such a good assistive technology. We are the leading University in Ireland in this regard.

Brenda and her office work with the University to make life as easy as possible for students. Services include getting a scribe to take notes, arranging extra time for exams, getting a loan of a computer or books from the library and making assistive technology available to those

who need it. To facilitate this there are a number of staff employed including three technical officers, a learning tutor, an administrator, a co-op student and a part time person working in disability services.

A big issue is the stigma attached to the disabilities service. But the word disability covers such a wide range of issues, including dyslexia, for instance, which often first presents itself when students come to college.

Disabilities services are located on the bottom floor of the Library building and can be contacted by email on [disabilityservices@ul.ie](mailto:disabilityservices@ul.ie)

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