

AN FOCAL

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK STUDENTS' UNION

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



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New Sabbatical Officers Elected

This year's Sabbatical Elections were held on Wednesday of Week 8 and Thursday of Week 9. The new Education Officer, Mr Fintan Breen was elected unopposed and was therefore known from Week 7. At close of nominations on Thursday of Week seven, there was no candidate for Communications and Campaigns Officer. This meant that nominations had to be re-opened during Week 8 and a separate election held in Week 9.

The elections for President and Deputy President/Welfare Officer were held on Wednesday of Week 8. Polling began just after 10am in the Main Canteen, and for the first time, polling also took place in An Phluais (the Scholars Function Room), the Schroedinger Building and the CSIS Building. Voting was steady all day, and the polling stations closed at 6.30pm with a total poll of over 1,500. The count began at 7.30pm.

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

The first position to be counted was that of Deputy President/Welfare Officer. This position was contested by two candidates, Ms Caoilfhionn Dunne, 2nd year Law and European Studies, and Ms Rosey Healy, 4th Year History Politics and Social Studies.

The number of valid votes cast for this position was 1472, with 632 votes being cast for Ms Dunne. Ms Healy secured the position with 840 votes.

The other result from that evening was that of President. The candidates for this position

were Mr. Ian Egerton, a graduate of Information Technology, studying a postgraduate course in Interactive Media, Mr. Martin Gildea, 4th Year Business, and Mr. Timmy Hennessy, 4th year Public Administration. After the first count for this position, none of the candidates had reached the quota. The candidate with the highest number of first preference votes was just 57 votes short of the quota. As none of the candidates had reached the quota, the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes (Mr Gildea) was eliminated and his transfers were distributed among the other two candidates. After this process, Mr. Timmy Hennessy was deemed elected, with a total of 812 votes.

The following week's election, for CCO, was

contested between Ms Sandra Gannon, Technical Communications, Mr Alan Owens, European Studies, and Mr Eoin O'Reilly, Law and European Studies. Voting took place in the Main Canteen and in the Scholars Function Room. Once voting was completed, the count began. After the first count, none of the candidates had reached the quota, so the lowest polling candidate (Mr. Owens) was eliminated and his transfers distributed. Even with transfers distributed, neither of the remaining candidates reached the quota, so the candidate with the highest number of votes, Ms. Sandra Gannon, was deemed elected. Total poll was 732 votes. The new sabbatical officers will take up their positions on July 1st, after a crossover period of two weeks.

Sabbatical Election 2004

President	1st Count	2nd Count
Egerton, Ian	498	625
Gildea, Martin	329	
Hennessy, Timmy	716	821
Deputy President	1st Count	
Dunne, Caoilfhionn	632	
Healy, Rosey	840	
Education Officer		
Breen, Fintan	Elected Unopposed	
CCO	1st Count	2nd Count
Gannon, Sandra	275	364
Owens, Alan	211	
O'Reilly, Eoin	243	274

News

Library Opening Hours to be Extended



by Donal O'Driscoll

The extended opening hours for the Glucksman library are finally to come into fruition it seems. It was agreed earlier in the year that Library hours should be extended but this has not happened. The delay in the implementation of new opening hours for the library has occurred despite meeting with the approval and full support of the Library head, Mr. John Lancaster. The reason for the delay was down largely to human resources problems. In order to implement the deal, new staff would have to be recruited to facilitate extended opening hours. A file has been on the desk of Anna Doughan, the HRM of the library for some weeks, but no progress was made until very recently. However, after pressure from both Mr. Lancaster and ULSU Education officer, Madeline Molyneaux, the HR division have made assurances that the necessary recruitment is imminent. In a statement to 'An Focal', Mr. Lancaster had this to say. "The Library staff are keen for Library opening hours to be extended to meet the needs of the UL academic community and in particular the student body.

The current position is that this desirable

objective has met with the approval of the UL Executive and proposals for the employment of the additional staff needed to enable the extended opening hours to be put in place are with the Human Resources Division. I have been assured by the HR Division that the recruitment process is to commence very shortly."

Currently the Library opening hours are from 9.00am to 9.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00 am to 5.00pm Friday and until 12.45 pm on Saturdays. The new arrangement will see weekdays and Saturday hours lengthened and limited hours on Sunday. Under the current hours, the library is opened until 11 on weekdays during exam times, but this new set of hours will enable students to make use of the library for longer during the normal term time, which may well prove crucial for getting those projects in on time. This will come as welcome news to the student population who had begun to wonder if the opening hours would ever be extended.

While no date has been specified other than 'very shortly' it looks as if this plan will finally be getting off the ground. An Focal will endeavour to keep its readers informed of any further developments.

Afri Report Refuted by ECE and M&AE Departments

The lead article in the last edition of An Focal, about media interest in a recently published report which claimed links between third level research and the Arms Industry, came in for an unusual amount of comment, even going so far as to excite the attention of Kevin Myers in An Irishman's Diary, who accused An Focal of "shrieking indignantly".

The report, "Death from a Distance: The Ongoing Militarisation of Ireland" was produced by Afri (Action from Ireland), a non-governmental organisation which "works to promote justice, peace and human rights in Ireland and worldwide", with specific reference to the Arms Industry.

The first part of the report briefly outlines the alleged links between third-level institutions and research for the arms trade, and lists companies involved in the arms trade. The second part deals in detail with the "militarisation of Shannon Airport" and does not mention the University of Limerick at all.

With regard to the University of Limerick, Afri the chief problem Afri have as regards research is that research ostensibly intended for use in civilian situations can sometimes be transferred to military applications. As the report puts it "By their own admission technology developed by BAES (British Aerospace Systems) ostensibly for civilian purposes is also applied to its military projects."

The report mentions two instances of EU-funded research in the department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering which have links to companies which also have military departments, primarily British Aerospace, and Daimler Chrysler aerospace Airbus.

In a letter to Afri, published as an appendix to the report, Professor Mark Davies, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering stated that "all EU research programmes are explicitly barred from military research of any kind." He continued, "Our relationship with these companies is on projects to support their civil aviation programmes. Such programmes are vital for the improvement of the safety and efficiency of civil aircraft and are therefore, in my view, beyond criticism." In a separate statement to An Focal, Dr Trevor Young stated "The Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering is not involved in military research. The European Commission's "Framework" research programmes, which we have involved in for many years, support generic civil aircraft research. The main aim of Framework 6 in the aeronautics and space theme is to "exploit the potential of European research ... with a view to improving safety and environmental protection". Indeed, the

research projects that were picked out by Afri as examples of the link between military-industrial concerns and UL were directed at either safety or environmental concerns in aviation. The ALTTA project, for example, concerned drag reduction technologies for civil transport aircraft, a topic that has received considerable support by the Commission due to its potential to reduce atmospheric pollution. (A 10% reduction in aerodynamic drag applied to the Airbus 340 would reduce fuel burn by about 4 million litres per year, per aircraft, which would "save" the environment roughly 50 000 kg of noxious emissions.)"

The report also alleges that that the University of Limerick is a member of ACRnet, a body set up to encourage the transfer of methods, ideas and challenges in Aerospace Control between academic research groups and industrial companies, and which has as members several third-level institutions and companies with military departments. While ACRnet's website does not list the University of Limerick as a full member, one member of staff of the ECE department is listed as a new member. It is not clear what input, if any, UL has had in this network, as the website has not been updated since 2001. In a statement to An Focal, Dr. Elfed Lewis, head of the ECE Department said, "The Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering (ECE) is involved in a wide and diverse range of research activities spanning many subject areas in the general area of ECE. During the academic year 2002-03 the ECE department was successful in attracting research funding in excess of €5 Million, involving a large number of individual research projects (the details of which can be found in the University's Annual Report for that corresponding period). This year (2003-04) it is certain that this figure will be exceeded. The department's activities (including research) are well defined on its web pages located at www.ece.ul.ie. Much of the research conducted in the department is basic by its very nature and as such it is possible that work arising from this research may subsequently be used by some organisations for other purposes. Unfortunately, in such situations the department (or its members) have no control over this as it is the organisation concerned that often end up owning the work. The Afri report makes one brief reference to the ECE department which lacks detail. In the absence of detail it is not possible for me to make further comment on this reference, but will look into the issue."

See Also: Letters on page 21, Cartoon on p23

End-Of-Term Party a No-Go

In the Week before Kollege Week, members of the Student Body met with local residents and Gardai in order to discuss plans for a large-scale on-campus event to be held on May 7th.

This was to be an Access-All-Areas event, with one ticket giving the holder access to five different stages, in the Stables, Scholars, Scholars Function Room, Stables Courtyard and Scholars Courtyard. ULSU Ents had already been making enquiries about the availability of some of the bigger names planned at the festival.

At the meeting, it became clear that while the residents were glad to be consulted in the planning of such an event, they had grave concerns about behaviour immediately after such an event, specifically with regard to noise, broken glass, litter, vandalism and some intimidation.



One of the Many Last Straws of Kollege Week

The end result of that meeting was that a second meeting would be held on Monday of Week 8, after which a decision would be taken, based on the behaviour of students in the estates over the course of Kollege Week.

The atmosphere at the second meeting showed that the residents had no wish to see an on-campus event after Kollege Week, and the proposal to hold the event was withdrawn by ULSU ents.

Just so you know...

Under the University code of discipline you are required to give your ID card to any member of campus security when requested. Not doing so could see you in front of disciplinary Committee!

News

New ULSU Website Ready

by Sarah Ryan

After three years of staring the same website in the face, ULSU have finally decided that it's out with the old and in with the new. The new and improved ULSU website is due to be launched on Monday of Week 10 amid very little pomp and ceremony. While at the moment, the site looks like a better looking version of the old one, the system behind it means that it will be

updated with more regularity and ease, and will have much more interactive content, such as polls, message boards, a searchable accommodation finder and other features.

The site is the brainchild of Tomás Breen, 4th year Computer Systems, who devised the "behind the scenes" bits of the site as his Final Year Project and also made the front parts, visible to the

ordinary student, much prettier and easier to use. We here at An Focal think he deserves at least an A!

The majority of the main site is online already, and the searchable exam papers database is being made accessible as a matter of priority.

So farewell, blue and yellow award-winning website!

If you want to check out the new site, it's online at <http://www.ulsu.ul.ie>.

this wednesday & every wednesday

ulsu presents



SPANK!

launch night wed. feb 18th

A MASSIVE WEDNESDAY NIGHT PARTY @ TRINITY ROOMS
TWO ROOMS OF DANCEFLOOR ACTION
KEITH IN THE MAIN ROOM, TINA T IN THE QUARTER CLUB

free admission before midnight
 every wednesday €5 after

FREE BUSES FROM ALL OVER CASTLETROY & O'DWYER'S PUB. SEE MAP ON FLYER FOR DETAILS.

ULSU Shop Special Offers

Week 10/11

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



Check out ULSU Shop's Real Deals! Buy yourself lunch for just €1.98

Suggestion Box In Store! Help us be the best on campus

500ml Bottle of Coca Cola only 99c!
Cheapest on Campus

Large Sausage Baguette 99c ALL DAY

while stocks last
 Keep your eyes on An Focal for more special Offers in the next edition

News

Local and European Elections

Know Your Rights - Use Your Rights



Students living away from home need to know their rights and use their rights in the upcoming elections and referendum, says Citizens Information Phone Service, a national service that provides up to date information on all aspects of social and civil rights both within Ireland and throughout the EU.

On 11 June students and citizens generally will be asked to cast their vote three times. Once for the local elections, once for the European elections, and once for the referendum on the automatic right to citizenship of children of non-nationals.

If your name is not on the Electoral Register, you cannot vote, that's the law' says Judy Bamford, Manager with the Citizens Information Phone Service. The law states that students living away from home can be registered at either their home address or their student residential address. Callers to the Citizens Information Phone Service will be told that if they are likely to be unable to vote at their polling station on 11 June because of attendance at college, they can apply to be included on the Postal Voters List at their local Garda stations, public libraries, courthouses and local authority offices.

However, not everyone in the register is entitled to vote in every election. "International students are often confused about their rights when they call us", says Judy Bamford, Manager at the Citizens Information Phone Service. "Your right to vote in an election is determined by your citizenship."

"To vote in local elections no citizenship is required. And the entitlement to vote in the European elections is open to all EU citizens. You must be an Irish citizen to vote in the referendum," Ms. Bamford continued.

Furthermore, Citizens Information Phone Service informed us that the Electoral Register is assembled each year and published on 1 November and you had until the 25 November 2003 to make a correction or to have your name included. If you have missed this deadline, you must include your name in the Supplement to the Register before Monday 24 May. Application forms for this are available from Garda stations, public libraries, courthouses and local authority offices.

Citizens Information Phone Service went on to detail that in order to be eligible to be included in the Register, you must have been at least 18 years old on 15 February 2004 and you must have been resident in the state on 1 September 2003.

If you have a physical disability and wish to vote at your residence you may also be included on this list. Application forms are again available at your local Garda station, public library, post office

or from your local authority.

Local elections are held every 5 years to choose representatives for the 34 local authorities in the country. European elections are held every 5 years to determine the Irish members of the European Parliament

The Citizens Information Phone service is a national service, providing up to date information on all aspects of social and civil rights both within Ireland and throughout the EU. It is an independent body, resourced by Comhairle, the agency responsible for ensuring the provision of such rights to all people living in Ireland. Telephone callers can contact the Citizens Information Call Centre on lo-call 1890 777 121 (lines are open Mon to Fri 9am to 9pm). Alternatively, those seeking information can visit their local Citizens Information Centre - check in Golden Pages - or log on to www.oasis.ie

Your questions answered:

Q: I am a full time student living away from home. Can I register to vote at my student address?

A: Yes. In order to change your address details you will first need to check the register for the area of your home address. You can do this at the local Garda station, post office or library. If you are on this register you need to inform the registration authority and asked to be removed from the register for that address. You will then need to apply for registration at your present address using an RAF3 form - Change of Address Form, according to Citizens Information Phone Service.

Q: I have a physical disability and cannot get to my polling station on voting day. Can I vote from home?

A: Yes. People with a physical illness or disability who wish to vote from home may apply to be included on the postal voters' list. In order to qualify, you must be unable to go in person to the polling station to cast your vote. The illness or disability must be likely to last for the duration of the register, which is one year. You will need to fill in Form PV1 and return it to your local authority. If you have a physical disability and normally reside in a hospital, home or similar institution, you can apply to be included on the Special Voters List by filling out Form SV1. This will also entitle you to a postal vote, the Citizens Information Phone Service tells us.

Q: I am a non-national resident but do not have Irish citizenship. Can I vote on 11 June?

A: Callers to the Citizens Information Phone Service will be told that you will be entitled to vote in the local elections on 11 June. All you need for this is to be over 18, be resident in Ireland since 1 September 2003 and have your name on the register. If your name is on the register there will be an L after your name showing that you are entitled to vote only in local elections. It is also worth remembering that non-Irish citizens can stand for local government election and be elected as a local representative.

Get Help - Stop Smoking

SO you are sick of hanging outside the stables or scholars in the freezing cold hanging for dear life onto a cigarette? Would you prefer to be inside in the warm, non polluted air? Loads of people want you to quit and offer the following services.

- There is a support group starting at UL that will run every Wednesday at 1.15pm for 6 weeks. There is also one at the Mid West Regional Hospital on Wednesdays between 7-8. Information available from suwelfare@ul.ie or Elaine.kiely@ul.ie.

- The National Quitline is very good and gives information and support: 1 850 201 203. This resource is there for advice and encouragement of smokers. Support booklets, from the Health Promotion Department, are also available from the Students' Union.

- The Mid Western Health Board also have a local information line: 1 850 201 058, leave your information and somebody gets back to you within 24 hours.

- The "Easy way to stop smoking" book by Alan Carr has also been an invaluable support to people who have tried to give up. It is available from the Campus Bookshop for €12.

- The Pharmacy in UL offers advice and support to those who wish to give up smoking. Among the services they provide is advice on the most appropriate treatment to make the process as easy as possible for you.

- There are a thousand and one other resources available to you - call into ULSU Welfare Officer to find out more.

Life's a BICS

by Alan Higgins

On Wednesday the 7th of April, a motley crew of five Societies slaves made the trek to the bastion of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, Maynooth Co. Kildare. The purpose of this was what would become an epic journey-to the National Societies Awards, organised by the Board of Irish College Societies.

Let us quickly skim over the organisational disaster on part of UL Society Executive Members-it was down to a third party, that's all I'm saying. So, Peter Burrows and Alan Higgins, representing the Societies Executive, David Corley of Drama Soc and the "Classy Pigeons" of SVP, Theresa and Therese, arrived in NUI, Maynooth; a tad late, tired and disorientated.

The two societies up for awards began receiving the grilling from the "esteemed" judges from various colleges from around the country (except UL), and members of the Societies Exec became acquainted with the charms of Maynooth and a splendid accomadation-former seminarian cells.

Reports from our representatives were good, and we really thought SVP had a chance in the small colleges section in the Best Society Category. However we would be sorely disappointed at the prize giving, as Dave Corley said the award, "was clutched from their grasp."

Never to be discouraged the three fellas went out to a nightclub, which we discovered would be €15-"No way," was the general response-so we returned to cheer up the "classy pigeons," where secrets and stories were exchanged-Alan winning hands-down on the quality of his goss!!

We returned to Limerick, losing Dave on the way (two words: Linden Village), dejected and in need of sleep!!

Nevertheless, the opinions of the "delegates" to BICS about the organisation, Dave Corley speaking on the issue said, "Linden Village was the only affordable comfort to me on what was otherwise an esteem-destroying trip to Maynooth. Having missed the train, thanks in no small part to a certain taxi company having what appears to be a

policy of "10 minutes? That could mean anything!", we were forced to travel via Bus Eireann (Roll on the Clubs and Socs Private Jet! Every self-respecting, self-congratulating C&S Exec should have one....). After struggling out to Maynooth, our U.L. judges were told they were not needed, having wasted their time, and C&S money to get there. It subsequently emerged that, although Maynooth had set a deadline for all other colleges to have their nominations in by (the previous Friday at 5pm), Maynooth themselves only had their awards ceremony the night before the BICS awards. The parable "Practice What You Preach" instantly sprung to mind.

Anyway, to cut to the chase, SVP were ROBBED of the "Best Society - Category B" award. They were up against NUI Maynooth Drama Society. Having accomplished what they accomplished, the SVP were in with more than a fighting chance. Then when I saw what the NUI Maynooth Drama Society had achieved, it was set in my mind that SVP would certainly win. Especially considering Maynooth had rang the UL Drama Society 2 weeks prior to their production of "Little Shop of Horrors" to rent our plants from us. Given they had no band to pay, no venue to hire, and no transport logistics to consider, it would have been reasonable to expect them to devote some time to the construction of the star of their musical. What that showed was a complete lack of organisation on their part, and this was their showcase production!

To say I was disgusted is an understatement. I washed the disgust out of my mouth with 2 glasses of cheap red wine and the first trickle of Linden Village that had flowed down my throat since a field in north-west Clare in the January before my leaving Cert. The sweet taste of the cider and sweet memories it brought back helped to wash down the bitter taste I had left in my mouth."

Clearly there issues that have to be resolved regarding the relationship between UL Societies and BICS.

News

Meeting of
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
Every Thursday in room EO
019
At 6.30 p.m.

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

U-16 Women's Tag Rugby Blitz



Group photo: Left to right Back row: Rohan West (lecturer & IWRFU committee member), Nathan Briganti, Niamh Keane, Emma Stanley, Caroline Moran, Dave Hare, Ruth Allen, Denise Dunne
 Front row: Danielle Buckley, Roisin McNulty, Cliona Dowling and Claire Connolly.

by Claire Connolly

In order to promote and develop women's involvement in the sport of rugby, an U16 tag blitz was organised by a committee of 11 2nd year Sport and Exercise Science students from the University of Limerick. The Blitz was organised under the auspices of the IWRFU and took place on the 27th of March, which coincided with the women's Six Nations Ireland V Scotland at Thomond Park.

The next generation of women's rugby players showcased their talents at the 2nd Annual IWRFU U16 Tag Blitz, held at Shannon RFC, Limerick, ten teams from Munster and Leinster competed in a non-stop afternoon of tag rugby, which saw a terrific level of skill and commitment. Teams competing were from Carrigaline (Cork), Crescent Comp (Limerick), Navan, Passage West (Cork), Rockwell (Tipperary), Schull (Cork - 3 teams), St. Ann's (Tipperary) and Tralee. The teams were divided into two pools of five, with every team playing each other. The top two teams in each pool then went into semi-finals. Schull 1 were top of Pool A, with St. Anne's in second. In Pool B, Tralee came out on top with Crescent Comp the second qualifier. There was an extremely high level of rugby performed throughout the day by all teams.

Both semi's were very close games with Crescent edging Schull 1 by 5 tries to 4,

while Tralee got past St. Ann's 6 tries to 5. The final between Crescent and Tralee was another very closely fought match, with honours having to be shared 4-4 at the end of full time.

Huge thanks to the organising committee of Roisin McNulty, Denise Dunne, Danielle Buckley, Ruth Allen, Nathan Briganti, Niamh Keane, Dave Hare, Caroline Moran, Emma Stanley, Claire Connolly and Cliona Dowling. Also thanks to the referees Mark Connolly, Brian Carroll, Tony Hall, Rohan West and Dave Hare.

Many sincere thanks have to be extended to our sponsors who supported this event, their kindness was greatly appreciated, Superquinn, Celtic Lifting Ltd, Galway Bay Health Farm, Shannon RFC, Power Oil, Josie O'Shea Sports, OB Sports, Morrissey Butchers, Glitz Blitz, Kiely Electrical and Elverys Sports who sponsored player of the tournament. Our player of the tournament was Christine Gibbons of Crescent Comprehensive, IWRFU Committee Member, Rohan West, presented Christine with Player of the Tournament, she was also top try scorer of the day, Christine won a €40 gift voucher from Elverys and a rugby ball signed by the Irish Women's Team.

Overall the day was a huge success and hopefully this event shows women have a strong place in the sport of Rugby.



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
 OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

Applications are invited for masters and doctoral research degrees and associated funding opportunities in the following subject areas for the academic year 2004/5:

- History; Politics and Public Administration; Sociology
- Languages and Cultural Studies (Cultural Studies, English; French; Gaelige; German; Linguistics; Spanish; Teaching English as a Foreign Language; Technical Communication)
- Law (particularly, criminal justice; criminal law; and international commercial and economic law)

A limited number of scholarships, bursaries and fee waivers are available for research in any of these areas. Individual scholarships/bursaries are also available for projects on:

Law: The rule of law in EU Criminal Justices and Public Administration: Politics and Public Administration (Irish public policy and administration, European Union politics, International Relations, comparative politics). The scholarship is tied to some undergraduate teaching in Politics.

Women's Studies: Research in Women's Studies at UL spans the disciplinary areas of sociology, literature, history, cultural studies, and law. Our particular research strengths are in the areas of: gender, memory and narrative; women, migration, 'race', ethnicity and globalisation. PhD scholarships include fee remission and a stipend of €12,700 per annum for a period of three years.

Sociolinguistics of Irish: An MA/PhD scholarship, initially for one year, comprising a stipend €13,000 as well as fees and some research expenses. The scholarship is available in any area of the sociology of language or the linguistics of society, including language planning, attitudes, bilingualism, language change and shift, revitalization, and media language.

Full applications (including a completed application form, PhD research proposal and two academic references) should be submitted.

For further information and application forms contact:

Dr. Eugene O'Brien
 Assistant Dean, Research
 College of Humanities
 University of Limerick
 Ireland

Phone 061-202945. email Niamh.Lenahan@ul.ie

Closing date for receipt of scholarships and bursaries applications is 12th May 2004.

"Fun to Learn" Sports Day

by Claire Shanahan

The "Fun to Learn" programme, run by the UL Access Office encourages primary school children to stay in school by involving them in the sporting activities available on campus. The largest event in this programme is the "Fun to Learn" Sports Day.

Wednesday, week 8 saw 200 children from five Munster counties arrive in UL. For five fun filled hours they occupied most of the facilities available and, of course, the Sports Bar.

The day kicked off in the Sports Bar with a healthy breakfast. We would like to say a huge thank you to Tom and all the staff in the Sports Bar for being so supportive in terms of their time and sponsorship.

After a quick briefing, we all split into small groups and headed for our first port of call. Each individual sport was organised and run by the 4th year PE students. With the exception of a few tantrums, everything was kept under control, the children, on the other hand, were very well behaved!

Lunches were sponsored by Musgraves, Coca-Cola, Walkers and Golden Vale,

with a roll supplied by the good people in the arena. After lunch, it was back out for more activities, soccer, basketball or rounders, to name a few.

Fifteen minutes before the last game finished, the heavens opened and it poured. So, it was a return to base camp in the Arena where the children received certificates, thanks to Abbey Physiotherapy Clinic and "Fun to Learn" t-shirts. The winners of the art competition were announced; trophies and art boxes, sponsored by Smyth's Toys were presented. Then it was back to the buses and home.

The Access Office tries to provide opportunities to the underserved members of our community and I can only imagine that this was their motivation for entrusting the organisation of the day to 2nd year Sport Science Students. We would like to thank the PESS Dept. for all their help and Donal and Jennifer in the Access Office; we would have been lost without you! We really appreciated the chance to get involved in such a worthwhile project, and we hope we did the office proud.

Features and Opinion

Public Auction - FOR SALE - UL.

Introduction

Noel Dempsey has stated this year that he is in favour of the privatisation of the big Dublin Universities. 6 of the executive committees of Irelands 7 Universities, including UL's, have stated that they are in favour of a return of fees. NUI Galway have concluded that given the socio economic background of the majority of their students, fees would lead to a diminishing of student numbers attending Galway.

If Irish Universities are privatised each of them could dictate how much to charge for each course. They already do this with non-EU students who are charged anything from 5,000 to 10,000 per year to study in Ireland.

They would then get away from the whims of Ministers such as Dempsey who cut funding of the University sector by 10% this year.

Is privatisation the solution though? This article takes a critical look at privatisation & fees from an Irish viewpoint and examines a fairly brutal experience of such in Chile between 1973 and now.

Recently in the Dáil, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was asked why the government is proceeding to break up CIE and privatising some of bus services in Dublin even though Bus Atha Cliath is a

profitable company? Mr. Ahern replied that the trend all over the World was for privatisation and we were not going to be any different. Mr. Ahern was quite likely referring to the World Trade Organisation's General Agreement of Trade in Services or GATS which has set about eliminating all barriers to free trade in services. Under GATS any state subsidies of services i.e. free fees and maintenance grants in third level education would be outlawed as they would give an unfair advantage to the state colleges over private colleges. The EU negotiates on Irelands behalf at WTO talks. After the Nice Treaty Ireland no longer has a veto on legislation in relation to service provision. All over Europe, even in Countries with a long history of free education such as Germany user fees are returning. As such it does not seem likely that the Ireland can have any say in the matter though one would have thought that Mr. Ahern would have at least put up a fight. But then when this is the same Government that is happy to see a Motorway across the Hill of Tara it is hardly surprising. The question has to be asked: which class is the Government working on behalf of?

Privatisation of Irish Colleges

Recently Noel Dempsey allowed the primary teacher training website Hibernia to launch. (See: www.hibernia.ie) Hibernia is a private fee paying website which awards primary teaching qualifications after a series of online tutorials are completed. The students of St. Patrick's Teacher Training College in Drumcondra petitioned Minister Dempsey to put a stop to this given that it would devalue the quality of teaching in Ireland, that there were not enough primary school jobs to go around and because the privatisation of teacher training did not follow any known government policy. They were quite sceptical of how a one-year online degree could equal the 3 years they had spent in teacher training or the 18-month taught postgraduate courses in Primary Teaching. Noel Dempsey's initial answer to all this was to "Let the

market decide."

The impact of Hibernia on St. Pats was dramatic. The number of postgrads enrolled dropped from 180 to 80, which caused the College to lose 800,000. Due to this tutorial numbers increased. There were supposed to be 100 per class but this went up to 195. St. Pats students Union put pressure on the INTO to take a stance but the INTO didn't. Thus students of St. Pats picketed the offices of the INTO. This was an unheard of action - a Union's offices being picketed by another Union due to inaction. The INTO have since changed their stance and have asked the Minister for Hibernia's enrolment to be frozen. St. Pats students are now associate members of the INTO and are confident pressure from the teacher Unions should put a stop to Hibernia.

Chilean Students

In 1973 there were 8 Universities in Chile. All were governed by the people with input from arts, culture, business, politics & students on their governing authorities. As such the Universities responded to the needs of the community. After the coup General Pinochet introduced a number of reforms aimed at liberalisation of the University sector to make education a commodity and making it more responsive to the needs of the market. His first reform was to take the study of political science out of education and to concentrate on technology. He also sought to remove the teaching of subjects such as philosophy from all state high schools so that such matter would only be available in fee-paying private schools.

In the year 2,000 there were 60 Universities in Chile. 70% funded by

private sources and 30% funded by state. No regulation of what courses are on offer produces large numbers of graduates in sectors with no employment. The quality of education has diminished with deregulation. 80% of research takes place in 2 of the Universities and multinational corporations finance 70% of this. The only major developments are in Engineering while only 6% of government spending goes on Education, Arts & Science. Annual Fees have gone up to 1300 Euro where the average monthly wage is 300. No degrees are conferred on students until all loans & fees paid off. Teachers have lost pensions that were invested by private companies. A policy of divide and conquer among teachers has succeeded by paying some a lot more than others.

Chilean Workers

Agrarian reforms brought in under Salvador Allendae gave communal lands back to the Mapucha Indians but after the coup General Pinochet put this land up for auction. Exxon, Shell and some local rich bought the lot for a song. It was said to be like a banquet that the rich were paid to come to.

Big Copper Companies sell copper at a loss to sister companies in Brazil who in turn sell it on at the correct price for profit. The Copper Company then declares to the state that they have made a loss and can't pay tax.

There are 47 official registered mining companies. Of these only 2 pay tax. 1 of these 2 is a state company. This state company produces one third of all copper but pays 5 times more tax than private companies who produce the other two thirds. This system was set up under Pinochet's military regime and ensures that the military get 10% of tax from copper industry.

1,000,000 out of 6,000,000 are temporary workers. They work in fish processing, copper mines & fruit processing and often complain that they and their offspring have suffered health defects due to their exposure to chemicals & pesticides. 2,000,000 out of the 6,000,000 workers can't afford to have a pension. You need 457 PA to get

a pension of 127 PA but 70% of people earn 286 or less. Trade Unions have been outlawed in Chile.

Individual firms can have their own Unions who can co operate with other Unions on Medical benefit or holiday allowance issues but may not engage in collective bargaining. There are thus 16,000 Unions in Chile with an average membership of 30.

The Chilean economy is marketed as a model for the South American Continent due to average annual growth of 2.3%. However the reality for the workers of Chile is different. In 1972 before the Pinochet Coup 63% of revenues went on wages with 37% going on profit. In 2003 40% of revenues go on wages and 60% to profits. It has been said that the Chilean experience was directed by the school of economics in Chicago University. It was essentially a laboratory & test ground for free market policies espoused by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The argument is also made that developing countries are only going through the conditions workers in England and the USA went through 150 years ago.

However given the above one has to ask if things are going backwards or forwards?

WHAT TO DO: IRISH EDUCATION FORUM

It took 10 years of free second level education brought in by Donagh O'Malley for people to take full advantage of it. Ireland has only had 8 years of free education at third level. However students are sometimes accused of being selfish in that the only time they campaign for change is when it directly affects them i.e. fees & grants. This issue affects everyone and now may be the time for a broad coalition of parents, taxpayers, lecturers, teachers, secondary school students, unions and students to Unite. At a recent meeting of the Irish Education Forum which has been set up to promote funding, access &

democracy in education students were encouraged to:

- (i) Get Academics on board.
- (ii) Attend SIPTU Education Forum on May 22nd.
- (iii) Don't concentrate on fees as ultimately it is all about privatisation.
- (iv) Watch out for privatisation by the back door - on Campus Companies using University facilities. Privatisation of University security, tradesman, catering, accommodation & bookshops.
- (v) Make the point that cutbacks affect everyone.
- (vi) Watch out for who is funding associate & adjunct professors.

(vii) Watch the number of Temporary Teaching Assistants in colleges increasing.

(viii) Watch Public Private Partnerships in Universities, 5 secondary schools and Cork School of music built by Jarvis.

(ix) Get Student Union's to do stands at open days telling secondary students about free education.

(x) Support European Education Forum

To subscribe to the IRF send a blank email to:

irisheducationforum-subscribe@yahoo.com

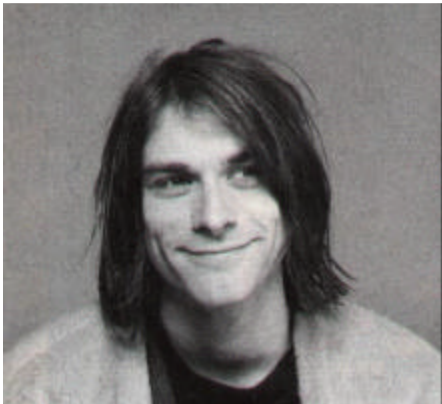
Is there any place in a modern Irish society for the study of astronomy, philosophy, archaeology, health & safety, humanities, art, music & drama?

Should workers and students ever cooperate in a Common struggle? Should campaigning on the issue of privatisation be broadened to cover provision of transport & health? Ultimately the quality of education and access to education determines the quality of the society we live in. What place then for access in a privatised education system? Time to act now!

Pop Goes the Century

Icons of Pop Culture from the 20th Century

Kurt Cobain



April 8, 1994: news reports permeate the globe conveying a message of unthinkable truth - Kurt Cobain, singer and guitarist with the band Nirvana, is dead. With these few words, an entire generation was plunged into grief and struggled to make sense of what happened. From the time they erupted onto the scene with the immortal album *Nevermind*, Nirvana had evolved into the biggest band on earth and Kurt, an adored yet reluctant icon, became the unofficial spokesperson for the 'Generation X'. His words were so honest, so haunting and so passionate that at times, it was unnerving. His music was addictive, inspiring and raw. He and his band resurrected pure fury and frustration, and delivered it with all the uninhibited beauty of genius. But behind the music, one distraught young man was battling demons inside him that he neither understood nor controlled and which would eventually lead him down a tragic path.

Kurt Donald Cobain was born on 20 February 1967 to Donald and Wendy Cobain in Aberdeen, Washington. He enjoyed a happy childhood until his parent's divorced in 1976. The split affected him profoundly and he later remarked that afterwards, he never felt loved or secure again. He became shy, withdrawn and increasingly difficult to deal with which contributed to his moving back and forth between his parent's and other relatives in following years. He discovered solace in art and many of his pieces reflected the internalised torment he suffered. He found himself engrossed in music, listening to The Beatles and The Monkees before later branching out to the likes of Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin, and on his fourteenth birthday, his uncle gave him an electric guitar.

Music became Kurt's sanctuary from the world. He felt alienated from those around him and had few close friends. He left school before graduation and passed from one menial job to another. Estranged from his parents, Kurt lived a somewhat nomadic lifestyle, crashing with friends and even spending some time on the streets. One of these friends, Krist Novoselic, expressed a desire to start a band. In 1986, Kurt managed to rent a house where he and Krist frequently held jamming sessions with

their friends, one particular group of which became something of a precursor to Nirvana.

In 1987, Kurt began dating Tracey Marander - the inspiring force behind 'About a Girl'. Tracey could see his fears and insecurities and vowed to love Kurt enough to compensate for them, but from the beginning, Kurt never felt that he deserved her. Immersed in domestic tranquillity the two moved to Olympia.

By the summer of 1987, the band was going strong. Still un-christened, they had played a handful of gigs under different names until Kurt came up with one last suggestion and Nirvana was born. They hit the scene in Seattle where the 'grunge' genre was steadily emerging and were soon picked up by Sub-Pop records.

They released *Bleach* in 1989. The album was cruder than later releases but showed some signs of brilliance. The lyrics were smart, clever and insightful. In his journal Kurt remarked: "My lyrics are a big pile of contradictions. They're split down the middle between very sincere opinions and feelings that I have, and sarcastic, hopeful, humorous rebuttals towards cliché, bohemian ideals that have been exhausted for years. I mean to be passionate and sincere, but I also like to have fun and act like a dork." The album was picked up by several stations and slowly Nirvana gained recognition.

Then, in September 1991, *Nevermind* was unleashed on an unsuspecting public. The album was packed with catchy melodies and addictive hooks, songs that seesawed between gentle verses and searing choruses. The lyrics were of greater depth and intensity while remaining elegant and simple and, simultaneously, containing strong elements of manic tension and unbridled hostility. Nirvana were suddenly thrust into the spotlight with the whole world watching.

Fame did not sit well on Cobain's shoulders. The constant media attention made him feel increasingly isolated from those he cared for and a busy schedule minimised his time with them. He hated the celebrity status, it embarrassed him - riding in expensive cars and staying in luxurious hotels insulted his humble nature and the lifestyle flew in the face of everything he believed in. In interviews he exuded the qualities of a tortured soul in turmoil, trying desperately to deal with resentment for himself, his past and the world he was raised in.

Courtney Love entered Kurt's life on 12 January 1990. Despite an instant attraction, Kurt was still seeing Tracey and didn't act on it; but once that ended, he and Courtney embarked on a lustful, turbulent and destructive romance. "A whirling dervish of emotion, all these extremes of fighting and loving each other at once" is how Cobain described



his subsequent marriage to Courtney. By the time they wed on 24 February 1992, Love was already pregnant with the cherished Frances Bean Cobain. Kurt craved the security of stable family life and despite his and Courtney's frequent rows and habitual drug use, there was clearly unadulterated love in the Cobain household. A caring, doting father and a loving, proud husband, Kurt was enthralled by the two women in his life. During his teens, Kurt had regularly used drugs but by the early 1990s his habit had escalated to include heroin. Kurt had begun to suffer crippling stomach pains that regularly left him unable to move. He consulted doctors to no avail while prescription pills made paltry efforts to numb the pain. Having endured agony for a number of years, Kurt turned to heroin. It smothered the pain sufficiently to allow Kurt to function and with Courtney by his side, the couple enjoyed a "pharmaceutically suited relationship". Although Love claims to have stopped using during her pregnancy, by mid-1993, Kurt was using heavily almost on a daily basis. Overdoses had become commonplace.



1993 also witnessed the birth of Nirvana's, *In Utero*. The album laid bare Kurt's soul and contains some of his most passionate work. Far more open than *Nevermind*, it exposes the agony inside through intensely sincere and focused lyrics. Although the record is riddled with images of birth, death, sexuality,

disease and addiction, a softer side is also apparent despite a heavy peppering of crunching riffs.

In November the band went to New York to record for the MTV 'Unplugged' series. Kurt was terrified before the show but the result of the stripped down set was astounding. His vocals were raw, intense and further electrified by the highly charged atmosphere. Nirvana had broken new ground.

Touring in Europe, Kurt was increasingly agitated, visibly depressed and his incessant drug use was putting a strain on his marriage. In Munich he cancelled some shows due to sickness and flew to Rome to be with Courtney. A few days later he was rushed to hospital, but this accidental overdose as it was called was really a suicide bid. Back in Seattle, friends and family confronted him with a tough love approach and urged him to seek help. He checked himself into a detox program in L.A. but fled after only a few days.

On 8 April 1994, his cold lifeless body was discovered on the floor of his greenhouse with a shotgun lying across his chest and a single gunshot wound to the head. Nearby they found his note.

Nobody saw them coming. From the shadows, Nirvana emerged as one of the most significant bands of the nineties and heralded a new direction in music. Perhaps symbolically, the album *Nevermind* knocked off the top of the charts belonged to the 'King of Pop', Michael Jackson. At the centre of this upheaval was Kurt - a sensitive, magnetic and charismatic young man who fostered connections with his fans through deeply personal music. Sometimes loud and fierce, sometimes gentle and weak, all emotions were covered in his work. Longing for love and security in his life, he found media attention to be hollow and fickle but the more he retreated from it, the more it carved his life apart and displayed him for all to see. Depression and a voracious appetite for drugs orchestrated his eventual tragic demise. Maybe it is better to burn out than to fade away, but Kurt's memory blazes on indefinitely.

On behalf of UL History Society
Emma Stafford

Latin American Week 2004

Welcome to another Latin American Week. This year's Latin American Week has Labour and Health Issues as its main theme. There will be two main speakers from South America. Mr Nilton Deza will speak about transnational mining companies and the effects of their activity in the surrounding communities. Miss Jackie Pando, a Peruvian-Irish doctor, will talk about her experience in the Peruvian Andes and with the Irish community in Limerick and Clonmel. Also artist Ninna Gay will present her photographic exhibition in the A1 corridor on Tuesday all day.

From Monday through Thursday you will

also have an opportunity to view some of the films and documentaries that are part of the Dublin Latin American Film festival this year. You can see the list on the programme attached. On Monday at 1 those first year students planning to take a Co-op placement in Latin America or anyone interested in getting to know a bit more about this beautiful continent, can come along to hear UL students who have been to Argentina, Venezuela, Cuba, etc. It is a very informal session and you can ask as many questions as you want. There will also be a Travel Guide prepared by former students for sale.

Thursday night is SALSA NIGHT. Come

along and have the best of times before you face exams. Relax and let your body go; either practice or learn those crazy steps. There will be spot prizes and you won't go hungry because the Sports Club is once again providing finger food. Get your tickets before they run out. They will be for sale at the canteen every lunch time next week. Also come and sign our petitions and get to know about ongoing campaigns.

Campbell's will also prepare Latin American dishes for Friday, and you can buy that unusual present you were looking for at the restaurant foyer. Come along and while you're enjoying your

lunch, the Tuna (Spanish singing group) will entertain you with their songs. To finish this year's Latin American Week, a group of Spanish students and a Mexican student have been rehearsing hard to present La Casa de Bernarda Alba to you all. We hope you enjoy your week and remember: ALL MONEYS COLLECTED WILL GO TO THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN LIMA PERU.

Thanks to all for your help and donations. We have opened a Bank Account at the Bank of Ireland on campus: Latin America Solidarity N- 10445257.

Nancy Serrano and the Hispanic Society

Latin American Week What's On

Monday, April 19th

13:00 Information Table: Canteen
Please come, buy your raffle and entertainment tickets; get your UL Travel Guide to Latin America and sign for our campaigns. All proceeds to charity.

13:00 Talk: 'Latin America UL Work Placement Experience'
Hear from those who have travelled to Argentina, Venezuela or other Latin American countries:
Venue: (C1-056 UL campus- Main Building)

21:00 Film/documentary: Tapados/Flooded (Argentina/2000/45 mins) Director: Luciano Zito (UL campus)
C1-063 (Charles Parsons Lecture Theatre)



(Admission Free)

Tuesday: April 20th

All Day Photographic Exhibition: Health and Labour issues in Latin America. Presented by NinnaGay.
A1 corridor and Language Notice Boards

13:00 Information Table: Canteen

13:00 Talk: Transnationals: the effects in the health of communities.
Nilton Deza, an academic, University of Cajamarca, Peru; Director of NGO Ecovida and community activist.
Venue: A10-65 UL campus- Main Building

19:00 Talk: Health is Wealth in Latin America?
Nilton Deza, a Peruvian academic will give an insight on the relationship between economic activities and health.
Venue: A10-65 UL campus- Main Building

21:30 Film/documentary: Vieques – Paradise Lost? (Puerto Rico/2003/14 mins) Director:
Venue: A10-65 UL campus- Main Building

Wednesday, April 21st

All Day Exhibition:
A1 corridor and Language Notice Boards

13:00 Information Table: Canteen

13:00 Film/documentary: Voces Pequeñas/Little Voices (Colombia/2003/19mins) Director: Eduardo Carillo. :
Venue: A10-54 UL campus- Main Building

19:30 Film/documentary: Globalisation and local food (Ireland/2004/30 mins.)

A10-65 UL campus- Main Building

Thursday, April 22nd

13:00 Information Table: Canteen
Last chance to get your tickets for the Salsa Party.

13:00 Film: Dublin, Cuba (Cuba/Argentina/US/2003/32 mins) Director: Marcos Meconi.
Venue: SR3008 Schroedinger Building UL campus

19:00 Talk: A doctor's experience in the Andes. Dr. Jackie Pando Kelly. A Peruvian doctor working in Ireland will give us an insight of her work in Chacas, Central Peruvian Andes.

Venue: A10-65 UL campus- Main Building

21:30 Salsa Party (finger food included)
We also have a surprise for you this night!



Tickets: Members of Hispanic Society € 4/
Non-Members € 6 (all proceeds to charity)
(ARENA SPORTS CLUB)

Friday, April 23rd

13:00 Main Restaurant: Latin American Menu and music with the UL Tuna group.
Restaurant Foyer: Chilean Wine and Peruvian Silver Jewellery Sale



Friday, April 23rd
11:00 - Restaurant - Latin American Day

Monday, April 26th

La Casa de Bernarda Alba. Play written by Federico García Lorca. (Presented by a group of Overseas students in UL).

Civil Unions Explained

Legal recognition of gay couples has become a hugely controversial issue worldwide in the past year, no more so than in the US. The issue is just beginning to be discussed here in Ireland. Here, Out in UL attempt to explain the complicated issue of civil unions and our arguments for the introduction of such unions in Ireland.

So what is a civil union?

A civil union is a legal partnership between two unmarried adults recognised by the state in respect of tax assessment, pension rights, inheritance rights, etc. They offer most, but not all, of the legal benefits of marriage to couples who do not wish or are not allowed to get married.

What's the difference between civil unions and marriage?

Civil unions are purely a legal issue, and have no religious connections. The rights and responsibilities afforded to married couples are not necessarily extended to civil union couples—it largely depends on government policy. In particular, adoption and immigration rights are usually dealt with separately, if at all. Unlike marriages, civil unions are not recognised outside of the state in which they're registered; a French or Swedish civil union, for example, does not have to be recognised by any other EU state, whereas a marriage would.

So what rights are we talking about?

The specific rights afforded to civil union couples depend on what the government of the day decide. The main areas in which married couples are treated favourably compared to unmarried couples are:

•Pensions: a spouse will inherit his/her partners' pension in the event of death of the partner. Unmarried couples are not entitled to any such benefit. With pension provision such a topical issue, this can prove to be a major cause of financial hardship for gay couples.

•Taxation: unmarried couples face a higher tax burden, as they cannot be assessed jointly.

•Inheritance: an unmarried partner does not automatically inherit his/her partners' estate. Even if a will has been made out, they are often faced with crippling inheritance tax, from which married couples are exempt. Wills can also be successfully challenged in court by blood relatives of the deceased; a gay man's cousin or brother would have more claim to his estate than his life partner.

•Immigration: A non-EU citizen has the right to live in Ireland if married to an Irish citizen. No such opportunity is afforded to gay partners.

•Medical/funeral rights: As gay people can't marry, the family of a dead gay man can legally bar his life partner from attending his funeral. A gay partner also has no say in life or death situations.

So this is just a gay rights issue?

Absolutely not. A growing number of heterosexual couples are choosing to remain outside the institution of marriage, and so are unrecognised by the state. Again, the purpose of civil

unions is open to debate; the civil union bill being introduced in the UK covers gay couples only. In France, any two single adults, not necessarily in a sexual relationship, can enter into civil unions. Two spinsters living together may wish to nominate each other for inheritance purposes, for example.

Is Ireland leading the way in this?

Au contraire! Not long ago, Ireland had some of the most progressive equality legislation in the world, but we are now woefully behind our neighbours. Denmark introduced civil unions in 1989; since then Norway, Iceland, Greenland, Sweden, Finland, France, Germany, Croatia and Hungary have followed suit. The UK is currently in the process of drawing up its civil union bill, which will cover Northern Ireland, and the new Socialist government in Spain has pledged to do likewise. In 2002, the Netherlands became the first country in the world to strike all references to gender in its marriage laws, thereby permitting gay marriage. Belgium followed suit last year, and most of Canada now has legal gay marriage. Iceland and Sweden are both due to abolish civil unions and legalise gay marriage later this year. Civil unions were introduced in Brazil last month, and in Tasmania last year. Taiwan is set to become the first Asian country to legalise gay marriage soon. Some Argentinean states, Australian districts and American cities also allow for domestic partnerships, which are a weaker form of civil unions and do not cover federal rights.

The issue is most controversial in the US, where right-wing conservatives are raging a holy war against gay rights activists. Hawaii, Vermont, California and New Jersey already have civil unions. In Massachusetts, gay marriage is to come into effect next month following a Supreme Court ruling. Cities in Oregon, California, New Mexico and New York already started issuing marriage licences to gay couples.

The Minister for Social Welfare recently announced that non-statutory social welfare benefits for unmarried couples will no longer be awarded to same-sex unions, but will continue to be awarded to opposite sex unmarried unions. Ireland also vetoed a proposed EU directive that would have required member states to recognise civil unions from other member states.

So why should Ireland introduce civil unions?

In short, Ireland is failing its gay citizens. As fully functioning, and tax paying, members of society, there is no reason to exclude gay couples from the protection and rights afforded to heterosexual couples. The state has a moral obligation to treat all its citizens equally, as outlined in our constitution. What we have now amounts to an apartheid system, whereby heterosexual couples are assumed more responsible and deserving than homosexuals. By refusing to recognise gay relationships, that state is implicitly



Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, the first same-sex couple to legally marry in the US. They were married on 13th February 2004, after 51 years together

assuming such relationships to be inferior to equivalent straight relationships.

Suicide and emigration rates are disproportionately high for Irish gay people; by recognising the existence of gay people as full and equal members of society, the state can go a long way at ending the marginalizing of gay people. Various models for recognising gay unions have been introduced worldwide, and nowhere have they had any adverse effect on society.

Where to from here?

Senator David Norris is to present his civil union bill before the Oireachtas next month. The Greens, Labour and Sinn Fein have all adopted legal recognition of gay couples as part of

their policy. The campaign received a major boost when the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Michael McDowell, voiced his support for civil unions, and indicated that there is widespread approval of the idea among the cabinet. The youth wing of his party has been very active in campaigning on the issue, and has launched a campaign in third level colleges to round up support. Senior Church of Ireland figures have also voiced their support for the moves. There can be no doubt that this is an idea whose time has come, and it is only a matter of time before Ireland joins the rest of the world.

Orientation Guides

Required for
Orientation Week
(20th –24th Sept)

€200
Payment

'Application Forms'

available by logging on to
www.ul.ie/studentaffairs/orientation/

All queries to be forwarded to: elaine.kiely@ul.ie

View

Sweeney Todd, The demon Barber of Fleet Street

By Kabosh Theatre Company
Belltable, April 22nd - 24th at 8pm.



Award-winning Kabosh return to Ireland following their recent success in London's West End, with a brand new adaptation of "Sweeney Todd, The demon Barber of Fleet Street". A physical, comic and thrilling tale of blood and lust set in a Victorian Theatre in 18th century London, TODD is a musical tale of a barber with more than a passing interest in the "cut-throat shave" and "short back and sides".

Following the hit success of the Broadway Version by Stephen Sondheim the Northern Irish Company have produced this new version of the 150 year old classic and embark on a 6 week Irish Tour which includes a visit to Limerick's Belltable April 22nd – 24th at 8pm.

Based on the old Penny Dreadful stories of the late 1830's it chronicles the tale of a barber whose customers disappear only to find themselves part of the local culinary dish – the traditional London Meat Pie.

Five actor-musicians including Irish Times/ESB Award nominated actor Sean Kearns play a host of 12 characters in this thrilling production. Accompanied by award winning composer and musical director Conor Mitchell (Arts Fellowship Award for UK Young Composer of the year) on Piano, the five actor musicians play a host of musical instruments live throughout the production – from clarinet to accordion and flute to trombone the talented bunch of weave in an out of an intimate Victorian setting and evoke the music hall songs and traditions of that day.

Directed by Karl Wallace Artistic Director of Kabosh, this production is Ireland's first professional musical in five years and a World Premiere of a new musical work. Sean Kearns, Alison Harding, Jon Trenchard, Christian Edwards and Diane O'Keeffe with set design by Lindbury Prize Award Nominees Diego Pitarch and Will Fricker. The evening promises to be a mixture of good old music hall style musical and salacious melodrama.

A revoltingly Gothic and chilling adaptation which is also extremely good fun!

Tickets €20 / €18 concession from Belltable Box Office @ 061 319 866.

Tadhg Stray Wandered In

by Fishamble Theatre Company
Belltable, April 28th – 30th @ 8.00pm



"Tadhg Stray Wandered In" tells the story of an impulsive young man trying to find love on the streets of Navan and Paris. It is performed by Eamon Owens who starred as Francie Brady in Neil Jordan's The Butcher Boy, in his stage debut. Owens has also appeared in Amongst Women, The General, Bachelor's Walk and more.

Tadhg Stray doesn't like when people laugh at him. He sometimes has a terrible temper. And he never knows when to leave a party. The story follows the adventures of Tadhg who leaves Navan after his Leaving Certificate exams in pursuit of a girl who has fled to Paris. It is about an impetuous young man who becomes increasingly disillusioned with

the world as he wanders around the streets of Paris in search of love.

Playwright Michael Collins is a very dynamic writer who was discovered through Fishamble's Playwright Development Initiative and has since had his work produced by Druid.

Fishamble was founded in 1988 under the name Pigsback, and has been committed to presenting new work since 1990, changing its name to Fishamble at the start of 1997. The name is inspired by Dublin's Fishamble Street, particularly its playhouse which - in 1784 - became the first Irish theatre to pursue a policy of producing solely new Irish work. "Tadhg Stray Wandered In" runs Wednesday 28th – Friday 30th April.



Week 10 Ents

Monday

Games Night with PS/2 and pool comps!

Tuesday

Battle of the Bands Presents

"EMAS"

Wednesday

The World Karaoke Championships
Your Chance to Represent Ireland in Finland

Thursday

COYOTE UGLY
The Final

Friday

"Open Decks"

Sunday

The Breakfast Club is Back!!
Chill out with comfy couches, candles and free newspapers,
Sunday 12-4

An Phluais is available Free of Charge for Class parties, Clubs and Socs events, 21st parties etc

COYOTE UGLY



Thursday Week 10

Hot Fudge - Review

The Truth will Out

On the 6th and 7th of April last the Jonathan Swift theatre played host to a Dramsoc production of the English playwright Caryl Churchill's one-act play Hot Fudge.

With a cast of ten the opening night's show was well attended and well-received - if the rapturous applause received by the actors at the end of the show was anything to go by. Directed by Sarah Mehlfield, the production ran for approximately forty minutes and threw up some interesting questions about the nature of society, love, family and friendship. "Life is a dream; the awakening kills us" we are told in programme and indeed the web of lies that the central characters of Ruby - heart-breakingly portrayed in a standout performance by Yvonne Gannon - and Colin (Patrick Keegan) spin about their affluent lifestyles are spectacularly unravelled in the play's final denouement. The twin themes of deception and self-delusion dominate the play - from Ruby's fraud-happy family in Scene I - Colin and Ruby's boasting about their successful lives in Scene II - Colin's flaky and pretentious friends Jerry (Marcel Klein), Grace (Heather Lobitz) and Hugh (Chris Peacock) in Scene III - to the arrival of Colin's brash ex-wife Lena (Judith Lynch) in the final

scene.

The play opens on Ruby's family enjoying a drink in a pub but it soon becomes clear that this gathering is a purely business affair when the intricate process of cheque fraud is revealed to be the main source of the group's income. Ruby plays the reluctant accomplice to all of this as she needs the money in order to keep up her charade of being the owner of her own exclusive travel agency. The sceptical Charlie, Ruby's brother-in-law, is wonderfully and wittily brought to life by An Focal's own Donal O'Driscoll while support is ably provided by Liana Leonard, Aoife Counihan and Charles Johnston as Charlie's wife, her daughter Sonia and boyfriend respectively.

Colin is also caught up in a charade of his own in order to impress Ruby - a charade which is cruelly shattered by the arrival of his trashy, loud-mouthed ex-wife Lena - a role Judith Lynch really sinks her teeth into as she brings the character memorably to life.

Yet, despite the fact that nothing is as it seems in this play - one thing is certain - the cast are an extremely talented and versatile group of actors who have brought an abstract and complex play competently to life.

GL

The Frames storm King John's Castle on May 3rd



This May Bank Holiday weekend don't bother going to the hassle of packing your bags and catching buses or trains home to the other side of the country, as Limerick City is the place to be! 'Riverfest' 2004 runs through the bank holiday weekend, and its closing act will possibly be the best the festival, and Limerick, has ever seen!

'The Frames' are one of Ireland's most successful bands, and following their recent victories at the Meteor Awards, the band will play the first ever show in Limerick's historic 800 year old King John's Castle. The band will conclude 2004's 'Riverfest' on Monday 3rd May, and will be supported by 'Mundy', who releases his third studio album in May, and also by Limerick's own 'Niall Quinn and The PennyWhores'. This will be 'The Frames' only gig before the summer festival circuit gets into gear, and the band are due to release their fifth album in September following the huge success of their last live album 'Set List'.

'The Frames' are no strangers to Limerick, and despite offers of Dublin and Cork they choose here because of the concert's unique setting and their affinity with the city. The band's manager, Claire Leadbetter, says "It's a great way to start the summer for us, we're in really looking forward to it, especially given our history Limerick". This will be the band's biggest show in the city to date following their sell-out



pre-Christmas dates at the UCH. The Castle's capacity caters for 2,550 fans, a far cry from the days when Glen and the boys would play to an audience of 150 in UL's Student Centre!!

And if you're going to the concert why not make a day of it with a barbecue kickin' off at 3pm in the Castle Lane Tavern beside King John's Castle. Also, the official Aftershow party takes place at Trinity Rooms with free admission for all ticket holders, where there will be a very special DJ set by one of the concert acts!!

Tickets are on sale priced €30 including booking fee from Ticketmaster. For further information on this spectacular, momentous gig go to www.eightball.ie or www.theframes.ie

TL

Upcomings

What's going on, down, in and up

MONDAY 19TH APRIL

Highstool - Sunshine Cab Co funk

TUESDAY 20TH APRIL

Highstool - Articulate *Mixed Bag*, performers welcome.

WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL

Dolan's - Albert Lee & Hogans Heroes one of the worlds greatest guitar players with a totally cooking band

Belltale - Johnny McEvoy one of the all-time greats

UCH - "You're a Star" Tour featuring Jean Elliott, Gary O'Malley, George Murphy, Final Four, Laura Brophy, runner up James Kilbane and of course the You're A Star winner Chris Doran

THURSDAY 22ND APRIL

Dolan's (upstairs) DOT COMedy Club with Ian Coppinger - MC Karl Spain

Dolan's Warehouse - Lucky Jim followed by Footwork Club: featuring Keith Disconauts

Belltale - Sweeney Todd, The demon Barber of Fleet Street By Kabosh Theatre Company

The Highstool - Alphastates & Supermodel Twins (presented by The AMC)

UCH - "You're a Star" Tour featuring Jean Elliott, Gary O'Malley, George Murphy, Final Four, Laura Brophy, runner up James Kilbane and of course the You're A Star winner Chris Doran

FRIDAY 23RD APRIL

Dolan's - Eric Bell a founding member of the first really huge Irish rock band, and and influence on generations of guitar players ever since, this is Eric's 1st Limerick gig since Thin Lizzy played Dromkeen Ballroom back in the late 70's

The Highstool - The Chapters style on stage (presented by Loud Music Ireland)

Belltale - Sweeney Todd, The demon Barber of Fleet Street By Kabosh Theatre Company

SATURDAY 24TH APRIL

Dolan's Warehouse - Inland Knights Their blend of jazz and funk, dynamic percussion and vocal hooks has been instrumental in catapulting the Inland Knights to international popularity. Their DJ sets are a fusion encompassing all styles of house, from Salsa- and Latin-tinged tracks to dub, disco, garage and four-to-the-floor tech house.

Dolan's (upstairs) - Muffin Men Frank Zappa tribute band

The Highstool - The Things & Mainline (presented by the AMC)

Belltale - Sweeney Todd, The demon Barber of Fleet Street By Kabosh Theatre Company

SUNDAY 25TH APRIL

Dolan's - Paddy Casey SOLD OUT

Highstool - The Makings blues, rock

MONDAY 26TH APRIL

Dolan's Warehouse - Paddy Casey

Highstool - Sunshine Cab Company funk

TUESDAY 27TH APRIL

Dolan's Warehouse - Paddy Casey

WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL

Dolan's Upstairs - The Cribs (upstairs) 3 brothers, Gary, Ryan and Ross

from Wakefield, described by BBC Radio 1 as 'Guitar Pop Perfection'. They are currently signed with Indie label Wichita and have been touring and recording constantly since last summer. Highlights for them have been, playing at the Leeds/Reading festival in August, then supporting The Libertines as well as Death Cab For Cutie on their UK tours.

They are currently playing across the UK on the NME Brat Pack tour. The Cribs self titled art-punk, debut album was released on March 8th and has quickly stepped into the Franz Ferdinand/Strokes guitar band category

Dolan's Warehouse - Cathal Hayden traditional Irish fiddle player with guests Mairtín O'Connor & Mícheál Ó'Domhnaill

Belltale - Tadhg Stray Wandered In by Fishamble Theatre Company

THURSDAY 29TH APRIL

Dolan's Upstairs - DotCOMEDY Club Paddy Courtney, Tara Flynn - MC Karl Spain

Belltale - Tadhg Stray Wandered In by Fishamble Theatre Company

UCH - Tommy Tiernan Following three sell-out shows in March, The dynamic performer returns to UCH with his hilarious show - Cracked. Cracked - said to be a mix of one-liners, offbeat observations and tall and sometimes even true tales. It develops themes that the comedian had been exploring on stage for a number of years now, but takes them to a different level. His sheer originality and overwhelming talent guarantees that there is no other performer quite like him. This skilled master of comedy will perform a typically uplifting and immensely enjoyable show, so don't miss it

FRIDAY 30TH APRIL

Belltale - Tadhg Stray Wandered In by Fishamble Theatre Company

Highstool - AMC Presents Jetplane Landing & Laminate (Featuring former members of Kerbdog & Wilt) & Sanzkrit

Dolan's Upstairs - Lo Jo from the Cafés of France to the Deserts of Mali...

After two releases and extensive worldwide tours, the French troubadour 'triban' Lo'Jo is garnering the attention of international audiences. Led by a man compared to a barefoot and be-hatted Serge Gainsbourg, and with a history colored by circus artists, actors, pyrotechnicians, street performers, painters, acrobats, festivals, and cabarets, the band has built an inimitable charisma

Dolan's Warehouse - Stipe REM tribute band

SATURDAY 1ST MAY

Dolan's Upstairs Seán Keane probably the finest singer of his generation' - Q Magazine

'Dolan's Warehouse - Alvin Purple Experience * their farewell gig * After over a decade of touring, Limerick's favourite rockers will hang up their glam rags for good. A limited Number of Commemorative DVDs will be available. Special Guests, Performers, Face Painters and some surprises will ensure that "The Experience" will go out with a bang

Limerick BoatClub - AMC presents Robert Blake & Bishops Love Sci-fi

SUNDAY 2ND MAY

Dolan's Warehouse - Kraven Limerick band launch their new CD

View

WANT TO SEE YOUR MATES IN THE PHOTOS PAGE? FANCY YOURSELF AS A PHOTOGRAPHER?
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judo club showing off in kollege week - don't try this at home folks!



noelle and dave (envirosoc picnic)



joe, the atm doesn't take ID cards!



voting took place in the scholars for the first time ever

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this is what voting looks like

View



adrian and adrienne (cute)



timmy and rosey, celebrating in the scholars



rachel and shane in the courtyard



brid and friends during college week



The Stables Club

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

www.stablesclub.com



YOUR WEEK 10 ENTERTAINMENT

- Mon** Music Society
'Open Mic'
- Tues** Karaoke Night - 3rd Last Night **Don't Miss Qualifying**
Fleece First Prize and a shot at the Grand
Final with a €300 Prize!
- Wed** BAND: Free Beer
- Thu** BAND: Lollygaggers
- Fri** Overseas & Postgrad Societies Party Night
DJ Aidan 'til late
- Wend** Open Sat & Sun Pool Table, food & matches

YOUR WEEK 11 ENTERTAINMENT

- Mon** Music Society
'Open Mic'
- Tues** Karaoke Night - 2nd Last Night **Don't Miss Qualifying**
Fleece First Prize and a shot at the Grand
Final with a €300 Prize!
- Wed** BAND: Transmitters
- Thu** BAND: Red Sea Pedestrians
- Fri** Postgrad Society Night
Party DJ 'til late
- Wend** Closed for Weekend

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Our entertainment programme has been revamped. Building on the success of our Open Mic sessions last year, we now hope to host some live entertainment in the Club.

More details next issue!

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Trad Session - All Welcome
- Tuesday**
The Greatest Music
- Wednesday**
Music Night
- Thursday**
Music Mix
- Friday**
Music Night
- Weekend**
Pool table available all week, and don't forget out excellent Sunday dinners!

Week 11 Entertainment

- Monday**
Trad Session - All Welcome
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Movie View

SHAUN OF THE DEAD



A self-styled "romzomcom", Shaun of the Dead is a very funny, occasionally gory comedy horror that's a treat for a) zombie movie buffs and b) fans of the TV series Spaced.

STORY

If you were a fan of the inventive and frequently hilarious Channel 4 sitcom Spaced, you'll pretty much know what to expect from Shaun of the Dead. Co-written by Spaced actor/writer Simon Pegg and director Edgar Wright, it also stars most of the cast as well as recycling a few of the gags from the 'zombie' episode. In addition, it has the absurdly good fortune to be coming out a mere two weeks behind its comedy namesake, Dawn of the Dead. As such, it delivers a steady stream of gags, great lines and several gory moments as well as making good on the romantic comedy side of things. Which is pretty much all you could ask of a romzomcom, really.

ACTING

Simon Pegg plays Shaun, a 29 year old slacker content to shuffle through his life like, well, a zombie. His days revolve around his dead-end job as the manager of an electronics store and spending an unhealthy amount of time in the local pub with his flatmate and best friend Ed (Nick Frost) and his girlfriend Liz (Kate Ashfield). However, when Liz decides she's had enough and ends the relationship, Shaun decides to take control of his life and win her back. First, however, there's the small matter of the invasion of the undead to contend with... The actors are excellent. Pegg, in particular, makes an extremely likeable 'everyman' lead and there's great comic support from Frost, as well as Dylan Moran and Lucy Davis (Dawn from The Office) as Liz's flatmates and Penelope Wilton and Bill Nighy (typecast as the undead for the second time in less than a year) as Shaun's parents.

DIRECTION

The gag quota is pleasingly high; with a guaranteed chuckle every couple of minutes or so. There are several hilarious lines, but Pegg and Wright are also careful to intersperse the laughs with plenty of zombie 'action' and the odd moment of gory horror. In addition, the plot is well-structured, though it drags a little towards the end and is much more comfortable during the comic set-pieces than the dramatic scenes. That said, the script itself is extremely clever and rewards close attention, as several lines, phrases and motifs are subtly repeated in the second half of the film, to amusing effect. Director Wright showed what he could do with almost no money but a lot of imagination in his first pic, the English Western spoof "Fistful of Fingers" (1994), made when he was age 20. Though "Shaun" is from Working Title's low-end subsidiary, WT², production values look like "Titanic" in comparison with "Fistful," with sharp, good-looking widescreen lensing by David M. Dunlap (graduating from

second-unit work on studio pictures), and occasionally flashy use of sound and visual effects. Finale, which plays like a spoof of "Assault on Precinct 13," is staged OK on a budget.

BOTTOM LINE

In short, Shaun of the Dead is the best British comedy for quite some time: it's intelligent, funny and sufficiently gory to keep horror buffs happy. Highly recommended. 4 stars

50 FIRST DATES



50 First Dates is a charming mixture of Groundhog Day and When Harry Met Sally, made all the more appealing by the effortless chemistry between leads Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore.

STORY

What if you had to make the girl of your dreams fall in love with you every single day? Henry Roth (Adam Sandler), a marine veterinarian working on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, finds himself in just such a predicament when he meets Lucy Whitmore (Drew Barrymore). She's beautiful, smart and funny, but she has one tiny problem: short-term memory loss caused by a head injury she suffered in a car accident a year ago. When she goes to sleep at night, all memory of the day's events are erased--including those involving Henry--and she wakes up the next morning thinking it's the same day of her accident. To make sure Lucy doesn't know she has this debilitating handicap, her caring father Marlin (Blake Clark), guilt-ridden because he was the one driving the car, and her brother Doug (Sean Astin) do everything in their power to keep up the charade, reliving the day of the wreck over and over with her as if the accident never happened. But Henry's growing affection for Lucy--and his determination to win her love day after day--throws a wrench in their plans. It's a good wrench, though, because Marlin ultimately realizes he has to let his daughter try to live the most fulfilling life she can--and Henry is just the guy to help her do it.

ACTING

Having displayed a natural affinity for each other in the hit The Wedding Singer, Sandler and Barrymore are at it again in 50 First Dates. Their romantic pairing, reminiscent of a Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan or Goldie Hawn/Chevy Chase, really clicks, and it's great fun to watch them frolic on the beautiful Hawaiian beaches where the film is set. Sandler plays his sweet, wisecracking, easygoing self (he's much more appealing on the big screen than he ever was on Saturday Night Live), while Barrymore has the tougher job portraying the memory-impaired Lucy, and no other comedic actress on the planet could be more convincing as someone who realizes she'll never remember anything but grabs the most out of life anyway, falling madly in love over and over again. Of course, Sandler also brings along some of his good buddies for the ride, including Rob Schneider, who does a hilarious turn as a native Hawaiian with many, many children, one blind eye and a kinship with sharks (he wants to write a book called Sharks Only Bite When You Tease Them). Astin does a 180-degree turn from his endearing Hobbit, Sam, as the steroid-ridden, lisp-prone weightlifter Doug, while Clark's grizzled charter boat captain,

who gives up his business to care for his daughter, gives the film some of its more touching moments.

DIRECTION

With Barrymore's Flower Films and Sandler's Happy Madison producing, 50 First Dates definitely has a one-big-happy-family feel to it. Director Peter Segal, who had a blast making Anger Management with Sandler, is obviously very comfortable with his stars; the scenes come off so effortlessly it seems all he had to do is the turn the camera on and let them do their stuff. Segal also makes the most of his lush tropical surroundings, but then, how could you go wrong shooting in Hawaii? Even if the film itself is a stinker (think The Big Bounce), at least it'll look good. Yet, for all the film's sweetness, 50 First Dates has some sour spots, including the gross-out bits (does anybody really need to see a walrus projectile-vomit?) and over-the-top characters (an androgynous aquarium assistant, for example). The film would have been just as enjoyable without all the typical Sandleresque attempts to take things one step further than they should go.

BOTTOM LINE

Even though it's populated with juvenile antics, 50 First Dates is still a great date movie, allowing the magnetic combo of Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler to once again turn on their particular comedic magic. 3 1/2 stars

CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS

A documentary capturing a portrait of what would seem on the surface to be an average middle-class American family, but the story told also happens to be about literally capturing the family, two members of which were arrested and charged with truly detestable crimes.

STORY

Arnold Friedman was a man of many contradictions. A devoted father of three, honoured schoolteacher, one-time mambo bandleader and, chillingly, admitted paedophile, Arnold lived a peaceful suburban life with his family, teaching computer classes out of his home, until the day postal inspectors caught him in a sting operation for sending and receiving child pornography. Once the story got out to the press, mass hysteria broke out in the community, especially among the parents whose children he had taught. An aggressive, and highly controversial, police investigation ensued, which led to accusations of molestation. Both Arnold and his 19 year-old son Jessie (David's brother) were then arrested and charged with leading a child abuse sex ring, the indictments against them numbering in the hundreds. Both plead guilty and were sentenced to long prison terms, Arnold eventually committing suicide in 1995 and Jessie serving 13 years.

ACTING

Capturing the Friedmans is certainly not your standard true crime tell-all. The film manages to tell the story from the Friedmans' point of view. The family, it turns out, were quite obsessive about documenting themselves. Home movies from their early years are seen throughout the film, and during the crisis David Friedman actually bought a video camera and recorded just about every family discussion and argument. We are put right in the middle of the action as the family disintegrates before our eyes from all the internal conflicts, the sons all immediately siding with their father and believing his innocence, their mother (his own wife of many years) not so sure. Yet, despite this intimate view of the family, the film remains even-handed in its telling of the story. What is most amazing about Capturing the Friedmans is that for every new twist the story takes, the deeper we dig into it the more complex and riveting it becomes.

DIRECTION

As an elusive/murky-truth documentary, it's never clear how deep or dark the secrets are.

To be fair, it's a fascinating film, although it could've just as easily aired on television. I don't blame director Jarecki for failing to make the movie particularly "cinematic," as documentary films are often at an unfair advantage to their more widely seen, sensationalized TV counterparts. But the film is, essentially, a lengthy news report, albeit an unusually probing and multifaceted one. The few stabs at cinema are poorly aimed. There are too many time-lapse shots of foliage, Long Island Railroad trains and traffic, including a long, ominous pan over what turns out to be... the Friedmans' street sign. All of the Long Island sightseeing borders on unintentional hilarity. What sets Jarecki's film apart, though, is the unprecedented access to the Friedmans' personal home movies, shown throughout the film. The videos themselves are somewhat unprecedented, in that David Friedman kept a disturbingly complete record of his family's disintegration. His video camera captured levels of tension, infighting, and general collapse that would be considered nightmarish for many families to talk about, let alone show in a motion picture. Thus we see the Friedmans on vacations and clowning around, as well as debating about potential prison sentences.

BOTTOM LINE

There's a certain kind of uneasiness that makes Capturing the Friedmans such a unique experience, even if the primary reactions it will provoke are variations on "hmm" and "wow." It escapes newsmagazine averageness through sheer attention to its subjects.

4 stars

THE GIRL NEXT DOOR



The Girl Next Door, about a good boy who gets mixed up with the wrong girl, is mildly entertaining if you don't mind watching a blatant rip-off of the much better Risky Business.

STORY

Let's compare. Like Risky's Joel (Tom Cruise), Girl Next Door's Matthew Kidman (Emile Hirsch) is a straight-arrow, overachieving high school senior who wants to get into an Ivy League school, and also like Joel, he has a horny best friend (Chris Marquette) who urges him to live a little first. In Risky Business, Joel falls for the lovely Lana (Rebecca DeMornay), a high-class call girl with a heart of gold, and watches his orderly world go haywire, especially when Guido (Joe Pantoliano) the killer pimp shows up, trying to drag Lana back and nearly ruining Joel's college plans. In Girl Next Door, the love interest is the beautiful Danielle (Elisha Cuthbert), a onetime porn star who moves in next door, captures Matt's heart, and rocks his orderly world--but instead of a killer pimp, Danielle's pursued by a killer porn producer named Kelly (Timothy Olyphant), who's trying to get her back in the biz. Kelly eventually threatens Matthew for interfering and gets the kid into big trouble, nearly blowing his college chances. In both movies, Joel and Matthew come up with an elaborate plan to make things right, and aided by their newfound girlfriends and the girls' "work" friends, the scheme not only gets

Movie View

them all off the hook but makes them a lot of money as well. See? Same-same, almost.

ACTING

It's not really the actors' fault they're stuck in a retreat. Hirsch, who was quite good in *The Emperor's Club*, a *Dead Poets Society* facsimile, is particularly appealing as Matthew. Although he's not as good at doing the wide-eyed-innocent thing as Cruise was, Hirsch deftly handles Matthew's burgeoning wild side with comic aplomb, especially in the scene where he accidentally takes ecstasy before attending a fancy dinner where he tries to win a scholarship. Cuthbert (TV's *24*), however, isn't nearly as effective as her co-star or her predecessor. Although the actress certainly looks the part of former porn star Danielle, Cuthbert doesn't have that sultry, sharp-as-a-tack sensibility DeMornay had in *Risky Business*. Danielle is more world-weary than anything else, and Cuthbert never convinces you that a porn star, even a reformed one, could ever give up her jaded outlook to be with an idealistic high schooler. In the supporting roles, Matthew's over-sexed best friend Eli, played by Marquette (Freddy vs. Jason), spouts some amusing quips that never reach the memorable level of the classic, "Sometimes, you gotta say 'What the f**k,'" from *Risky Business*, while Olyphant (*Dreamcatcher*) fares well as the menacingly charming Kelly, the only character in the film you refreshingly can't quite figure out.

DIRECTION

When *Risky Business* debuted in 1983, the film was an instant classic. It spoke to the male teens of its generation, and it made Tom Cruise a bona fide star. No one will ever forget that love scene on the train when Joel came of age with a call girl, nor will we forget that he innocently peddled prostitution to get out of a jam. The film was one of the first to portray on-screen teens in a whole new light. (Remember, John Hughes' teen angst melodramas like *Sixteen Candles* and *The Breakfast Club* came later). *Girl Next Door's* director Luke Greenfield (*The Animal*) is obviously a fan, patterning his film after the classic with the same beats, the same structure and even the same music. Certainly *Girl Next Door* brings the idea of a *Risky Business* to a new generation of male adolescents, who will no doubt drool over the whole porn aspect of it. But unfortunately, *Girl Next Door* lacks *Risky's* irreverent charm.

BOTTOM LINE

Risky Business doesn't need a remake, and even if it did, *The Girl Next Door* is an unoriginal attempt, despite its modern-day spin.
2 stars

HIDALGO



Can Viggo Mortensen carry a movie as well as his trusty steed Hidalgo carries him on a race across the desert? You betcha, partner.

STORY

A movie supposedly based on a true story and

definitely custom-made for horse lovers, Hidalgo ambles along at a leisurely pace, taking a full two hours and 20 minutes to tell the story of a man, Frank T. Hopkins (Viggo Mortensen); his horse, Hidalgo (T.J.); and their attempt to win the famed 3000-mile "Ocean of Fire" endurance race across the Arabian Desert in the 1890s. (I use the phrase "supposedly" true because although the filmmakers claim the story is meticulously researched, certain Arab groups claim no such race ever existed. Certainly Hopkins himself lived, but the rest is up for debate.) At any rate, Hopkins' reasons for entering the alleged race are many, but mainly he's running from himself. The son of a Native American woman and a white man, he's never been able to come to terms with his mixed heritage. Since the *Ocean of Fire* race has always been exclusively open only to a) men, b) Arabs and c) purebred Arabian horses, Hopkins' efforts to prove himself, and his horse, form the movie's underlying theme, which is typical Disney fare: It's not about who you are or where you came from; it's all about heart. Everybody, Ahhhh...

ACTING

With his standout turn as Aragorn in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Mortensen achieved instant icon status, but the big question everyone's asking about Hidalgo is whether or not he can carry a movie on his own. The answer is a resounding yes. When there's action to be had, Mortensen looks like a real pro. He's got the cowboy drawl down pat; shoots a Colt .45 with confidence; delivers sharp one-liners like a kinder, gentler Clint Eastwood; and has a great seat on a horse. Even when the movie gets a little slow, and it does, a 3000-mile desert race will do that to a movie, Mortensen's onscreen appeal saves the day. There is, of course, a supporting cast of characters who either help or hinder our hero in his quest: Sheikh Riyadh (Omar Sharif), who challenges Hopkins to enter the race but ultimately becomes his friend, and the Sheikh's daughter, Jazira (Zuleikha Robinson), a rider herself but prohibited from entering because she's a woman. Obstacles, of course, also abound: There's Lady Anne Davenport (Louise Lombard), who needs her mare to win the race so she can breed her with the Sheikh's Arabian stud, El Attal, the purest stud of the purest bloodline in the world. She equally wouldn't mind if Hopkins dropped out of the race, or into her bed.

DIRECTION

There's no question that director Joe Johnston's (*Jurassic Park III*) production of Hidalgo was a massive undertaking: Eight hundred horses, plus camels, vultures, falcons, rabbits, goats, dogs, donkeys, leopards and buffalo are featured in the film, along with a re-creation of a Wild West show, the massacre at Wounded Knee, a locust swarm and a desert sandstorm. The locations spanned the globe, from the Arabian Desert (shot in Morocco), to the sprawling ranch lands of the American West, to the New York City docks. All in all, it's a well put together visual display and, like its star, it feels authentic. The dialogue, from scribe John Fusco (*Young Guns I and II*, *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*) is engaging, if occasionally a little sappy; the relationships (especially between Hopkins and Hidalgo) are meaningful and well presented; and the action scenes are fast-paced and exciting. Trouble is, interspersed are somewhat long expanses of time during which too little actually happens, which makes the film seem longer than it needed to be.

BOTTOM LINE

Hidalgo is a good, if long, story about a man and his horse, and it's worth seeing even though its length may leave you a little saddle sore.

4 stars

Where's Ben?

The City of Love...



Ben's taken a short city break to Paris for the weekend. Last we heard he was lost in Montmartre looking for a red windmill...

Nersh

ULartsoffice™

Spring Film Season
Jean Monnet Theatre
Mondays, 6:30pm

Monday April 19

ETRE ET AVOIR (TO BE AND TO HAVE)
Director : Nicolas Philibert
France / 2002 / 104 mins



Watching this moving, funny, sincere documentary which details a year in the life of a rural French school, one is easily lulled into forgetting the contribution of the film-maker and directing one's praise solely towards the film's charming subjects.

The elegantly polo-necked Georges Lopez is the only teacher in the only class of a primary school in an Auvergne village. Lopez is forced to balance the differing needs of children aged from four to 10. On this evidence he succeeds brilliantly. M. Lopez has the listening skills of Dr.Phil, the talent for compromise of George Mitchell and the grace under pressure of Admiral Nelson.

A lovely calm hangs over the enterprise. The boundless good will of Georges Lopez is reflected in the film's easy tone and elegant composition, which is announced right at the beginning as two tortoises plod their way across the empty classroom. I guess that image is also altering us to the inevitable progress of time. And, of course, in a movie the contrast between the speed with which a year passes for an adult and the speed it passes for a child is heightened further. When Lopez says goodbye to his oldest pupils, it seems much too soon to the viewer, as indeed it must have been for the teacher.

He cries, but not nearly as much as at least one film critic did.

Donald Clarke - The Irish Times

Monday April 26

> I COULD READ THE SKY
Director : Nicola Bruce
UK/Ireland / 1999 / 86 mins



Nicola Bruce's *I Could Read the Sky* is based on Timothy O'Grady's book of the same name. It's a work which, with photographs by Steve Pyke, superbly evoked the mental state – anguish, fond memory, despair, disgust and the sweaty terrors of digs and pub life – of the Irish exile living off the building sites and decaying towards a lonely death. Stranded in his digs in Camden Town, J Brady (with Michael Collins, one of the many pseudonyms the men on "the buildings" used to keep a distance from authority) mutters to himself of past and wretched present.

Only gradually does a storyline emerge: a simple one of a lost homeland, slavish work, a crippling accident, love found in a pub and quenched one day when, walking towards him – "Her hand stalls in the air as if she's forgotten something" – she collapses and dies. Like everything else in Brady's life, it is too fragmentary an episode to linger over sentimentally for too long.

Instead of the battered leather suitcase, the Irish now bring their briefcases. Mobile phones and PC's, magic boxes of instant communication with homes. This to an extent at least, reduces the sweetest anguish of exile. Remembering in isolation. Brady reveals, in a list of some of the things he could do, how ill-equipped the emigrant was on arrival in London.

"I could thatch a roof. Knew the song to sing to a cow when milking. Cut turf. Work the swath turner, the float and the thresher. Read the sky. Remember poems." Peter Nolan, *The Guardian*.

Clubs and Societies

Want to be a Thousandaire? UL Rowing Club



On 4th May, UL Rowing Club brings the hugely popular "Want to be a Thousandaire" to the Kilmurray Lodge hotel in Castletroy. This show has attracted large audiences all over Ireland over the past two years and is fast becoming the most popular source of fund-raising for schools and clubs. Contestants are drawn from ticket sales and each contestant will play for 1000 Euro. The show is fully computerised with 50/50, Ask the Audience and a brilliant Phone a Friend which has to be seen to be believed. The questions and four possible answers and displayed on two 8ft x 6ft screens, one at each side of the stage. This incredibly successful show, which is provided Pallas Marketing Services Ltd., is being run by

UL Rowing Club to purchase some much needed equipment including a new Boat Trailer. When asked about the show, Captain of ULRC, Brian O'Connor, said "We have spoken to several schools and clubs who have run "Want to be a Thousandaire" around the country. This show is really hi-tech and offers a superb night's entertainment. Do not miss it". Tickets for "Want to be a Thousandaire" are available from any member of UL Rowing Club (see ulrowing.com for more details) or at the door on the night. The show starts at 8pm.

Pictured above are the crews of UL Rowing Club at a press evening to announce details of their upcoming fundraiser.

Outdoor pursuits Easter weekend

This was a particularly busy weekend with groups all over the shop

First off there was the group going to Fairhead

Liam Gathan wrote.

We stayed in my house in Dublin on Thursday night and we left at 7am on Friday morning and headed for Fairhead. The weather was crap all day but we went to "the head" anyway to see these enormous cliffs...

After a few refreshments on Friday night we were slow to get moving on Saturday morning but the rock needed to dry anyway so Jenny and myself did "the fence". This is regarded as the best VS in the country. 25metres and 11 bits of gear later and I was the happiest man in the country... fantastic... we then went for a few refreshments that night in Ballycastle. I would highly recommend Fairhead to anyone. Next day we got up and it was wet and so we decided to move down to fresher pastures, as the weather was bad for Monday as well so we headed down to Dublin. We stayed in friend's house's that night everyone finished watching climbing videos at 3 in the morning. Then Monday we got up at 8am and we headed for Glendalough absolutely great spot and you can get the bus from Dublin right out there so it is handy out...I did a 4 pitch route graded VS with Jenny again and then myself and Frank alternated leads on a HVS which was 3 pitches and Frank did the crux - unreal climbing.

Then there were the few in the burren

Tony wrote
"We rented a car for the weekend and off we went Martina, Aoife and myself. When we

arrived in the burren we were surprised to see climbers all over the place. We unpacked the gear and set up our first route. For Martina and I we didn't know how to set up the ropes and stuff you know all the stuff you put in to save you if you fall so it was a real learning experience. In the course of the day we got 6 routes done spitfire, route32, nutrocker, phoenix, lisdoonfarout and amharasach. Aoife then had to go home so we got some food and set up camp in the dark. We found a place with a few characters from Dublin France and South Africa. We sat around the fire and we had a singsong till 2 am. Monday morning we started late and climbed a few more routes named Bonnán buí, Genesis, skywalker and Jug city. A very enjoyable weekends climbing"

And finally the cavers in Fermanagh

Claire wrote
"Naomi, Katie and myself went it was a four day event in Boho, Co. Fermanagh. Colleges from Republic of Ireland Northern Ireland and a few from England attended. The Friday was a kind of an introduction and we went into Boho cave and back to the pub for a trad session.

The Saturday was spent cleaning a cave, 200 bags of rubbish was cleaned out of it. In the evening we went exploring other caves around Fermanagh finished off with a table quiz that night.

Sunday there was single rope technique racing in marble arch caves for the serious cavers and Monday was a day of lectures and talks on caving reminded me of college. I would like to thank DCU for holding a fab weekend and cant wait for next year

UL KICKBOXING

THE DVD VOL.1

Available to buy Wednesday April 28th around U.L. Campus

DVD LAUNCH NIGHT
Wednesday April 28 - 8pm Arena Sports Bar
After Party in Trinity Rooms 11pm
 with complimentary finger food at sports bar and free in b4 12 at the trinity rooms

Clubs and Societies

UL Judo Club



It's been a busy couple of months for the Judo Club since we last wrote an article for the paper. So what have we been up to? Well in mid-March we attended the Galway Open. As always, it was one of the more fun outings of the year and very successful to boot. The UL crowd all fought extremely well with Jeremy Tieppo, TJ Davitt and Stephen King all taking places on the podium. Were it not for possibly the worst refereeing decision in judo history Ian Sherlock would also have been taking gold. Rasmus Lilljegen was also a potential contender had an old shoulder injury not forced him to retire for the day. The team event didn't go quite so well as we drew the Lithuanian national team in the first round. The less said the better!

With the fighting out of the way it was time to celebrate and to introduce our Erasmus friends to the wonders of Buckfast! As usual, Michal Mravinac brought with him a hat, but not a normal hat as this hat had the mystical power of drawing every hot girl in a bar directly to whoever was wearing it. Some random guy on the street tried to buy it but it wasn't for sale! To the best of our knowledge we ended up in Cuba and the next morning was a painful occasion especially for Colm who had slept on the tiniest cushion on earth and had to be in Gort at 11am! He hasn't been seen since and we can all only hope he's still alive. Major thanks go to the Oranmore Health Farm for putting us up for the weekend and for providing us with an endless

supply of sausages and rashers.

Three weeks later the UL Judo Club put on a performance on the Lodge dance floor. We didn't just get rowdy and start hurling random people through the air though as this was a real demonstration. It was a six person demo and consisted of various forms of judo - from self defence and submission fighting to high impact throws. To cap things off we had an elimination tournament. The crowd in attendance got really into the tournament which culminated with TJ getting a hard fought win over Jeremy in the final. Thanks to the Lodge for providing us with the opportunity to showcase our talents while making ourselves a tidy profit. Also thanks to the Stables for providing free drinks to those who bought tickets off us.

Our next event was somewhat of a tradition involving Wednesday of Kollege Week and more specifically a mud pit. For the fourth year in succession the Stables saw a battle take place between TJ and his arch-nemesis Eoin Darcy with the final score 2-1 in TJ's favour. The match started off with a bang as Darcy was spun high overhead from the outside of the pit to the inside. Things swung back and forward for a while with several hard-hitting moves (see photo). Darcy got the advantage and looked to have things won with a dive off the stage but getting too cocky he tried another stage dive and instead got thrown from the stage into the pit. TJ finished him off with a somersaulting leg-drop from the outside to bring to an end the 4 year rivalry. Judo at its finest!

The Club trains in the Old Sports Building at the following Times:

Monday: 8:15 - 10:00pm

Wednesday: 6:15 - 8:00pm

Beginners and experienced grapplers are always welcome.

UL rugby come close in 13-try All-Ireland final thriller

The UL men's rugby team narrowly failed in their bid to bridge a nine-year gap and win the All-Ireland Colleges' Division One title. It was a thrilling game played at the Railway Union RFC grounds yesterday afternoon in a sun-drenched South Dublin. Such was the intensity and pace of the play throughout, a number of neutral supporters commented afterwards that the game was like a Super 12 encounter. The final score was 43-32 in favour of Athlone. UL crossed for six tries in all. In addition to a blistering hat-trick from superb second centre Ronan Likely, second-row Pat Quinn, back-row Jim Healy and open-side winger Darragh Nicholas crossed for five-pointers.

UL started the game poorly, and took a long time to get their patterns/play going, and this was exacerbated by a few questionable decisions early in the match, which went against the team. Particularly, for Athlone's second try, their out-half seemed to throw the ball forward in contact, and a supporting player gathered and crossed the line. However, this was deemed a score. With just ten minutes gone, Athlone had raced into a 17-0 lead. However, UL provided the perfect riposte with two well-worked team tries in the space of five minutes, both stylishly finished by Ronan Likely. As in recent games, any number of UL players could be selected as the outstanding performers for their side. However, if one were to select an outstanding UL player from the final, hooker Tom Ryan's performance was something special to behold. He covered acres of ground in defence and repeatedly took the ball forward against a colossal Athlone tight-five. He was also immense in his loose play, and created UL's first score with a well-timed pass into space for second centre Ronan Likely to scythe through the cover to touch down near the posts. Other UL players to shine in the game were winger Ian Dowling and back-row Conor O'Beirne, who has been UL's player of the season.

UL finished the game very much in the ascendancy but unfortunately did not

have sufficient time to close the gap. Athlone have now won four consecutive All-Ireland finals. Before Christmas, UL recorded a first defeat in four years for Athlone IT in this competition. Unfortunately, yesterday, from a UL perspective, the early exchanges went against the Limerick side, which proved crucial to the final result. This ends the competitive part of the club's season; the men's and ladies' teams now look forward to the Kinsale Sevens in May. Overall, it has been a successful season for the club. In addition to the men's and fresher' sides making the final stages in their respective leagues, the ladies team won their sixth consecutive intervarsity competition and retained their All-Ireland title. The club would like to thank particularly UL Sports Administrator Neasa O'Donnell and Paul Lee, ULSU for their support throughout the season.

UL (v Athlone): 1 Mark Adams (Garryowen), 2 Tom Ryan (UL Bohs, (vc)), 3 DJ Collins (Kanturk), 4 Pat Quinn (Shannon), 5 Cian Duggan (Shannon), 6 Jim Healy (UL Bohs), 7 Conor O'Beirne (UL Bohs), 8 Stephen Roycroft (Garryowen), 9 Billy Fitzgerald (UL Bohs), 10 Julian Leonard (UL Bohs), 11 Ian Dowling (Shannon), 12 Alan O'Boyle (UL Bohs), 13 Ronan Likely (UL Bohs), 14 Darragh Nicholas (UL Bohs), 15 Tony Hall (Shannon, (c))

Squad (all played): Owen O'Connell (Old Crescent), Dave Gallagher (Garryowen), Paul O'Connor (Greystones), Liam Crowley (Bandon), Gary O'Driscoll (UL Bohs), Eamonn Shinnors-Kennedy (Richmond), Damian Daly (Shannon), Mark McGrath (Shannon), Shane O'Brien (Cashel), Philip Treacy (UL Bohs), Paul McCarthy (UL), Tiernan McNamara (UL)

Selected but unavailable: Niall Yelverton (Shannon, injured); James O'Neill, Ryan Hartigan (UL Bohs, club commitments)

Coaches: Mike Reid, D.J. Collins, Tony Hall

UL Computer Society - Brookfield LAN Party



On the 3rd April the UL computer society in association with the Games Society and Brookfield Hall Student Village ran a computer gaming LAN in Brookfield Village.

After the usual technical delays (cars, games and pizza) the LAN was in full swing. With a turnout of about 10

Skynet

UL Computer Society Network

players we were in good shape to have some intense and sometimes chaotic matches. Counterstrike, Command and Conquer: Generals and Quake 3 were the main games being played, with some spectacular skills being demonstrated. Finally crunch time came when prizes had to be allocated. Quake 3 was picked as the deciding game and preliminaries were run off. From this we were left with four players, Cheez, Uberpixie, Sith and Molc, for the finals. Molc played Uberpixie in the Semi Finals and won 25 - 21. Then it was the battle of the titans with Sith's and Cheez taking each other

on in a one-on-one rail gun fury match ending up with a final score of 24 - 25 to Cheez.

Two more games were left to play to decide the final scores. For 1st and 2nd Molc played Cheez and for 3rd and 4th Sith played Uberpixie. In the end Uberpixie triumphed over Sith 24 - 22 to grab 3rd place after a long grueling battle that ended due to time constraints.

The match for 1st and 2nd was a much closer affair with some great skills shown by both competitors. In the end it came down to a shotgun battle with Cheez getting the vital show to win 25 -

24. To celebrate Cheez did his now trademark streak around the village.

So the final scores were:

1st - Cheez (Mark Shaw)

€70 Voucher to PC World

2nd - Molc (Colm Quinn)

€50 Voucher to PC World

3rd - Uberpixie (Keith Nolan)

€30 Voucher to PC World

4th - Sith (Daniel Nagle)

We wish to sincerely thank Brookfield Student Village for provided both the facilities and prizes for this event. Without their help none of this would be possible.

Hopefully this will be the first of many LANS that Comp Soc and Game Soc run in the future.

Clubs and Societies

UL Laughing Soc,
Laugh Anyone?

UL Laughing Soc...probably the best society in limerick to be set up by an Offaly man in the month of march this year! We are a newly formed comedy society who believe that there are two kinds of people in this world, those who laugh and those who are being laughed at...we need both in the laughing soc! No obligations for the society, just come and laugh(or be laughed at) All gigs are cheaper than a pint(€2) and you get top quality entertainment for cheap i.e. our last gig John Caplis, Colum McDonnell and Eoin Kelly made everyone laugh in week 8! Next Gig is in week 11 with John Caplis stepping in at MC with a top of the range comedian headlining! It takes place in An Phluais (scholars function room)! Don't miss out and be there. Time of gig yet to be sorted! Any queries email me at ullaughingsoc@yahoo.co.uk UL Laughing soc, 'Where bums are treated like Kings'

UL Environmental Society



Hey boys & girls. So who are we, what have we been up to & what will we be up to, here we go. We're the UL Environmental Society for those that don't know of us. We deal with environmental & social issues, the sky's the limit really, everyone's welcome to join so if you're interested in anything, have an opinion, or would like to find out more come to our meeting on Monday (today) @ 7.30pm in Students' Union room 2.

Some ongoing campaigns on campus include GATS, Nestlé & Coca Cola. We're getting ready for May Day in Dublin on May 1st, it promises to be a weekend full of craic, interaction & awareness. Have a look at www.indymedia.ie for more details on that. There's also the Weekend in the Woods the same weekend...Then there's Bush coming over to say hi on June 25th. Hope ye'll help give him & his buddies a warm welcome in Shannon!! (check indymedia out again for more info). Not to forget of course the fabulous Ecotopia (see www.ecotopia2005.org) in August, which is being held in Holland this year. We've also a guest speaker coming to UL soon, talking about globalisation so watch out for the posters. This Wednesday (21st April) we're having a relaxing picnic down by the river! Meet us @ 12pm outside the Old Sport's

Building. We had a great turnout for the picnic two weeks ago, come along this week, eat your lunch outdoors for a change & take a look at the spectacular scenery down there by the Shannon, bring musical instruments if you like.

Over the last fortnight, we've also watched an excellent video on Nestlé from Baby Milk Action in England, very interesting. 10 of us went down to Dromcollegher on Saturday last to take part in an organic farming course for the day, at the college. It was fantastic, we learned loads & definitely recommend it to anyone. Before I head off just two things. Firstly, best of luck to Delia who has gone to Luxembourg on co-op. Delia's been active in Enviro Soc for a long time, has been a shining star for everyone & we'll miss her loads. We

await your return Delly!

Secondly can I just say to all an Focal readers to consider getting out there & becoming active in clubs & societies. You don't know what you're missing out on, there's such an amazing choice, something to suit everyone! If not, then set up your own club or society! Call into the C&S office in the SU or check out the www.ulsu.ie. Joining the Enviro Soc has changed my life as well as given me amazing friends. The rewards of being involved in a club or society are lifelong. See yes at the meeting this evening! Cheers.

Slán go fóill,

Denise

"The most revolutionary thing you can do is always proclaim loudly what is happening" Rosa Luxembourg

Out in UL get out of UL!

On a sunny Thursday long, long ago five members of the committee set off from the main gate of the college and headed toward Manchester. In our infinite wisdom we decided that travelling overland would be fun and really add to the trip... how wrong we were! The bus to Dublin was noted to have hard seats (by the ever observant Dave) and the boat was full of drunken rugby and hockey teams (no complaints noted by any members). We finally arrived in Manchester at about 4am Saturday morning. And after wandering aimlessly around the city for a few hours we found our hostel, which was cheap and cheerful and cheap! We slept for a few hours and then we were let loose on Canal Street J In case some of you are wondering what Canal Street is - it's the street in the middle of a big gay district of Manchester. And after the joys that are the scene in Limerick we were kinda happy to say the least.

We'd been in contact with UMIST, Man U, Man Met and Huddersfield well before we got there so we had our hosts set up to show us around. Unfortunately Man Met and Huddersfield were kinda strapped for cash so they couldn't make it out. But major thanks to Man U and UMIST especially for showing us the hot spots on a Saturday night. They were a very together and welcoming LGB soc and must be admired for keeping the society running on an annual budget of £150!

We started off in Manto's - a quiet enough bar but the perfect place for us to get to know and discuss LGB issues with the boys from UMIST. Soon after Man U joined us but had to make a quick exit

due to work commitments. We spent the evening making our way through the queer quarter as they like to call it until the end of the evening arrived and it was off to bed for a good nights sleep before our sightseeing the following day.

During our day of sightseeing (and trying not to shop) we got to see the guts of Manchester city centre the lovely architecture, the shops, Chinatown, the shops ...and did I forget to mention the shops!!!

One of the most interesting things we did see was the garden and statue of hope. The statue was erected in remembrance of those who have passed away due to AIDS/HIV. The garden contains a memorial to Turing, the man who invented the enigma code-breaking machine during WW2, who was also gay.

That night was a lot quieter than the previous as we had an early train to catch. The journey home I must say was a hell of a lot more pleasant (boat full of rugby and hockey players...our lovely treasurer puts up with so much (she was the only woman on the trip. But she's still hogging all the titles so I don't really care)

We arrived safely back in Dublin Port (why the hell is it so far out of the way? And even more to the point why the **** does the bus cost the same as the GDP of a small African country!) Anyway that's Manchester or at least what I can remember of it.

Derrick Howard - Communications Officer, Travel Writer (screw you Caoilfhionn)

**Out inUL. - Out is not the end;
it's only the beginning.**

UL Young Fine Gael



A case of same old, same old for ULYFG in the past fortnight, no rest for the wicked political animals. We kicked off Monday of the week after Rag Week (or Week 8, if you so prefer to call it) with a visit from Simon Coveney, Fine Gael candidate in the Ireland South constituency in the European elections. Simon, as tall a six-foot stick, was very interesting as he spoke about the role of an MEP. He told us he was really pumped up about the campaign and excited about the prospect of canvassing around Munster (minus Clare) in the coming weeks. The meeting was well attended and some light beverages were enjoyed in The Stables afterwards. On Wednesday, we made a trip down to Cork, boy, to meet the Lord Mayor of the City, Colm Burke MCC. Colm, who is like a millipede that is missing 998 legs, was genial and let us go wild in his drinks cabinet (well, we didn't literally go wild IN his drinks cabinet, as it obviously couldn't fit us all. Obviously!). Afterwards, we met up yet again with Simey and his two lovely assistants, Rachel Dalton and Breffni Clack, who will be the brains behind his campaign, for a drink in the renowned Cork watering-hole Scott's, which, shall we say, is not the cheapest joint that you can buy a drink in. None of us had met either of the two ladies before that night, we were like a bunch of pied wagtails that had also never met. Some of you may be familiar with Breffni's voice from

listening to 'Late Night Love' of a Friday night on Today FM a few years back. Some of you may not be familiar, but that's okay too. After that it was home to our mummies to scoff down our Easter eggs, but because at UL we have probably the shortest Easter holidays in the world ever! we were back on Tuesday night of Week 9 for a meeting on the theme of 'Women in Politics' with Madeleine Taylor-Quinn, Fine Gael candidate in the Ireland West constituency for the European Parliament. She provided us with some funny anecdotes about her experiences as woman trying to make it in a man's game (joke) and was more than happy to answer whatever awkward questions some of us may have had. Once again, we headed to The Stables afterwards, but honestly, we're not alcoholics. This weekend, Simon Coveney (quelle surprise!) is visiting Limerick on his campaign trail and the following weekend is the highlight of the Fine Gael man's year, yes it's the Ard Fheis in Citywest. Anyone interested in going should contact a committee member. These two seminal events are bisected like an angle is bisected this Wednesday with our table quiz, which will be held in the Sports Bar at 8.30pm. Great prizes and an enjoyable evening are guaranteed or else you get your money back.*

Denis Hurley, Director of Bullshit, ULYFG

*No you don't, you just like it or lump it actually.

Clubs and Societies

Kayak Club prepare for trip to the Alps



U.L. KAYAK CLUB

With just under two months to go, ULKC paddlers are busy preparing and training for their long-awaited trip to France. This will be the 4th club trip to the Alps and it keeps getting bigger and better every year with 31 paddlers heading off to France this summer. We have already had two evening sessions of training in the river Shannon. The first session was spent practicing our strokes and techniques, with some rescue scenarios thrown in as well. The cold and windy weather lead to some reluctance in getting on the water for the second session, but we warmed up first by doing some rope work on dry land. After about a half an hour our rope-throwing seemed to be under control so we hit the water. However some dodgy rescues on the water showed us that maybe we do need to spend more time improving our skills!! Just when I thought I'd finally got the hang of ferry-gliding, I found out about reverse ferry-gliding! Something else to keep me busy. We spent the evening practising this technique as well as carrying out boat rescues and doing some defensive swimming. We all had no choice but to swim and get wet...brrrrrr! At this stage the darkness was getting the better of us so we got off the water and jumped into the warm showers. Some of us still didn't have enough and headed straight to the pool session for some more kayaking. Hopefully all this training will come in handy in the wild waters of the Alps!

Over the past fortnight while most of us were working hard in college, 7 paddlers were in Corsica for two weeks of thrilling white-water kayaking. Colm, Jimmy, Graeme, Quincy and the 3 Micks all got a taste of true Corsican paddling! Mick Fallon described the rivers as being "tight, technical and tough on gear"!! On the first day they ran the Tavignano with a 60-foot ascent out of a grade 4 gorge. Day Two was the Middle Vecchio, and this was far more challenging than Day 1. The first swim came after one hour as Mick was sucked back into a hole with a big re-circulating eddy feeding the hole. It all sounds pretty terrifying to me!! Next they ran the Restonica and had a very enjoyable run with the sun beaming through a tree-lined gorge. On Day 4 they took a well deserved break as the Puionelle Cascade (a 65-foot fall) was unrunnable. Lots of

drops and a big 10m fall made it an epic adventure on the Risenese, a grade 5/6 river and the Travo was like an amphitheatre with 6m, 5m and 7m falls together! With 5 cameras on the trip, I'm sure we will be seeing and hearing a lot more about their breath-taking kayaking adventures!

Well done to Ross, who is part of the Men's Irish Team for the European Freestyle Championships in Spain. He is part of a team of 5 who will compete in Sort in Spain from the 22nd to the 27th of June. We all wish him the very best of luck!

What better way to spend a weekend than surfing in the Atlantic Ocean? Whenever the waves are big enough, there is always a group of UL kayakers who jump at the opportunity to head off to Spanish Point, Lahinch or Dougmore for some exhilarating kayak-surfing. Just a few weeks ago, a group of us spent the day catching waves in Dougmore. It was this day when I discovered the adrenaline rush that surfing a big wave can give you. After surfing a few small waves I decided to head out further with Kieran. It was then I caught my biggest wave ever! I looked back and saw the wave coming towards me. Beginning to panic, all I could hear was about three voices screaming "paddle, paddle, paddle!" So I paddled like I've never paddled before and soon I was riding the wave. The adrenaline rush soon kicked in, but panic took over again as soon as I discovered I was heading straight for Felix and probably wouldn't be able to steer my boat away on time to avoid him. Whoops!!.....Luckily, I didn't end up killing him because I lost my balance and my boat capsized just before I got to him. Not realising that there was someone there waiting to give me a T-rescue, silly me pulled the deck straight away and got out of my boat. Kieran tried giving me an X-rescue where I managed to get back in my boat but didn't manage to get the spray deck back on in time. That meant that another massive wave came and filled my boat with water. Whoops again!! So as a result, the next 20 minutes were spent trying to drag my boat all the way back in to shore!

Another event to look forward to in the calendar of ULKC is the National Canoe Polo League. This is its second year running and this year we have two teams entering. We won it last year in Division 2 and are hoping to do well again this year. It will take place in the Arena on Saturday 24th April from 13.00-23.00 and Sunday 25th from 08.00-15.00. So why not call down and give us some support?

Aideen Byrne

ULSAC members investigated by Scottish vice



"Two members of UL's Sub-Aqua club are currently being investigated by the Scottish authorities. Points of interest are abuse and harassment."

This news reached us recently and, as a responsible and honest club, we feel it is better to come clear. In January, two of our members flew over to Edinburgh for training purposes. Both individuals, D.B. from Co. Galway and P.v.d.V. from The Netherlands had expressed their ambition to become diving instructors for which both a theoretical and practical course needed to be completed. As we are the only international branch of the Scottish Sub-Aqua Club (SSAC), such training is normally done in Scotland. Of course we should have known better. D.B. has shown signs of perversity at many an occasion and the fact that P.v.d.V. is a Dutch national, is rather ominous as well. (A thorough check taught us that there exists no word for 'morals' in Dutch.) It was only a matter of 'when' and not 'if' something was to happen.

Detailed questioning of witnesses has revealed that both suspects managed to show orderly behaviour during the first day of the course. This day focused on the theoretical side of being an instructor. Topics included - amongst others - safety, demonstrating diving skills, detection and correction of faults, leadership, authority and abuse. This is probably where things went wrong. During the course it was pointed out that authority is a possible cause of abuse.

After all you are supposed to do what the instructor tells you to do...

On Sunday D.B. and P.v.d.V. were assessed on their practical skills. The weather forecast, predicting snow or sleet, wasn't very positive. Our members were nevertheless extremely eager to get wet. Both suspects were required to perform a training dive with trainees who happened to be female. P.v.d.V. had an extremely long briefing with his trainee. Why he asked for telephone numbers is still a mystery. D.B. decided to take another approach. Rather than going for a briefing at the shore he summoned his protégé into the ice-cold water and subjected her to training drills never performed before.

Regional instructors and coaches from SSAC were present to assess D.B. and P.v.d.V. on their instructor skills. Although the Scottish assessors were highly surprised by the methods used, both suspects managed to obtain the highly desired instructor qualification. A standard procedure in Scotland is to subject diving instructors to an abuse and harassment screening. The Scottish vice squad is therefore currently investigating P.v.d.V. and D.B. We hope that this investigation will only take into account allegations within the Scottish borders. How could we withhold the fact that P.v.d.V. has been known to ask female trainees to "take your kit off under water. I will first show you how to do it properly.."? And D.B. allegedly is extremely fond of demonstrating extensive mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Can we regard this to be normal even though the victim's gender doesn't seem to be of much concern to D.B.?

We are very curious to hear about the outcome. As we preach "innocent until proven else-wise" both D.B. and P.v.d.V. are still active. If you feel you're up to all the challenges we have to offer, check out our website on <http://subaqua.csn.ul.ie> or drop by during our weekly pool session on Thursdays, 5-7pm in the diving pit.

**University of Limerick
Sub Aqua Club**

invites you to

'Try a Dive'

Discover if Scuba Diving is for you!

Experience Weightlessness and
Breathe for the First Time Underwater

**Wednesday May 5th
from 12:00 hrs**

to secure your place please contact:
Kieran Healy: Kieran.Healy@ul.ie

PLACES LIMITED
offered on first come first served basis, so be quick!

Clubs and Societies

St Vincent de Paul Society



The last fortnight has seen The SVP beginning to wind down for the year. All of our activities are still up and running smoothly but our fundraising is almost over, that is except for our Annual Raffle tickets, which are available from any SVP member, or you can enquire on the web site. The top prizes include. A mobile phone courtesy of 02, €100 worth of Penney's vouchers, Xtra-Vision vouchers, Lunch voucher for The Castletroy Park Hotel, Haribo Sweet Hamper and lots lots more. Tickets will be €2 so look out for them...its all for a great cause and the prizes are pretty great too.

We like to send out our gratitude to the Softball Club who, from fundraising events during Rag Week donated €50 to the society. We'd especially like to thank the president of The Softball Club Mr. John Leonard and all who were involved. The donation will be going straight to our after school swimming programme.

Teresa Murphy (President) and Marie-Therese Horgan (PRO) travelled to Maynooth for The BICS (Board of Irish College Societies) Awards on the 7th of April. The Society was put through for nominations for Best Society, Best Society Person and Best Event. We had to give presentations in an interview setting. It was a long day as we left the UL Campus at 7 that morning and didn't arrive in Maynooth until 2 (have to add that it was Alan Higgins who made us miss the train...therefore making us later). After the interviews we were shown to our rooms and gave a walk around the town. At 7 that evening we had dinner with all the other nominated colleges and societies. Disappointingly we didn't receive any awards but we still had a fantastic and interesting night with the other UL students - Dave Corley (Drama Soc), Alan Higgins and Peter Burrows (Clubs and Soc's Exec's). After breakfast the next morning - well Alan was the only one to actually get up for breakfast - we headed back to Dublin and had a stroll around the city before getting the bus back to Luimneach. It was a great couple of days and we'd like to thank Dave, Alan and Peter for their fantastic company and also The Students Union for organising it for us.

Also we'd like to send big congratulations out to Timmy Hennessey Vice-President and founder of The St. Vincent de Paul Society who was elected Students Union President during the elections. Well done Timmy we all wish you the best of luck with it. No better man for the job!!

For more information on any of our events or activities check out our web site www.csn.ul.ie/~svp at or e-mail us at svp_hotmail.com

University of Limerick Golf Club

With things settling down after the antics of the Golf Team at the Intervarsities in Carlow, the Golf Club has been busy over the last two weeks sorting out the much awaited Club Championship, the UL Student Matchplay Tournament and also the Inaugural UL Golf Classic. Preparations for the future are also underway with the new Committee being put forward for selection to ensure continuity for next Semester and beyond. The Club Championship will take place at the fabulous Doonbeg Golf Club on the 28th of April with many of our best and brightest competing for the title of Club Champion of the year. Many thanks go to Doonbeg's Head Professional, Brian Shaw, for allowing us to stage our first ever Club Championship at such a fantastic venue! The Student Matchplay Tournament will also begin soon with matches being played over the next few weeks and the Final being played at one of Ireland's top courses - venue to be announced! We have had an excellent level of interest in the Matchplay tournament with many students putting their name forward to become the UL

Matchplay Champion - from freshers to some 'ill-advised' final year students, rookies to advanced players and beyond! With regard to the Committee for next season, many people have stated their interest in helping out with the general running of the club which now has nearly 100 members from a narrow base of a couple of fanatical golfers that founded the Golf Club in May of 2003. Positions that need to be filled include PRO, Treasurer, Liaison Officers and more!

Much work has also been undertaken in putting together the Inaugural University of Limerick Golf Classic that will take place in August of this year. This is a huge step forward for the Golf Club as it shows our commitment to the long term stability of the club as a whole. The venue for the Classic will be the awesome Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort which is widely regarded as one of the South West region's, if not Ireland's, top parkland courses. We as the Golf Club are very much looking forward to it and are putting in a great deal of groundwork to ensure its success. Many thanks to Paul Lee and Neasa



O'Donnell for their help and assistance in bringing our idea to life - it is greatly appreciated! With many things coming to a close with the end of the Semester nearing every day, plans for the Golf Club 'Academic Farewell Party' are also in the pipeline with us attempting to find a date suitable for all - we will keep you posted on this!!

As always if anyone is interested in joining the University of Limerick Golf Club you can drop us a line at ulgolfclub@eircom.net or 087-9735922. All are welcome from beginners to the next Tiger Woods and Beyond!!

Windsurfing Club - Castlegregory 2004

By our Atlantic correspondent Fiona Concannon

The preparation

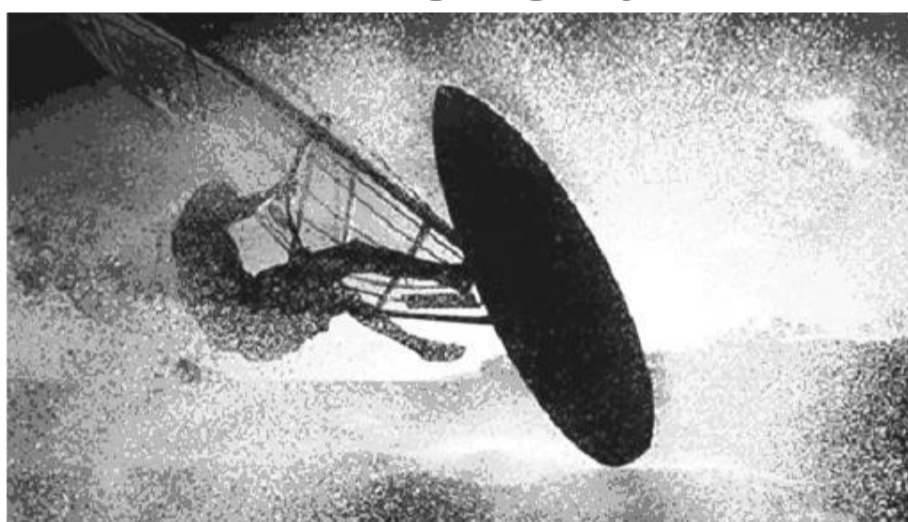
Finally, that time of year again... when the kingdom of Kerry beckons... and the UL Windsurfing Club answer the call. The promise of long sandy beaches and three days of solid windsurfing is enough to tempt even the biggest land-lover. Several strange sightings of club members were noted for a few days previously about campus, staring skyward at the fluffy clouds above and praying for the wind gods to blow.

After much preparation, and a long drive to Galway for a trailer, the group were on track for an epic weekend. It took over two hours to load up the cars with as much gear as they could carry and after the hard work the fourteen eager windsurfers soon began to make the journey south-west to Kerry. The wind was howling, and the waves in Scraggan were rolling in from the Maharee Islands in a northerly direction.

Handling the conditions

But luckily some of the club really got to grips with these hellish conditions. Jamie and Bobby have from the start shown why they are the hardcore Hayes, battling it out with the waves on Friday evening, with barely a second thought for their safety. Both had only recently graduated from the beginner's course, but they didn't hesitate to get out into a wild and windy sea to ply their trade. Indeed, Jamie was soon spotted on a techno and advanced sail before the weekend was out.

Not a beginner was left in the club after Saturday as everyone progressed enormously in their ability to sail across the bay in the heavy swell. The club stayed in the water from 10am in the morning, till late that evening and Dave, Jamie and Bobby were having so much fun, that they didn't even come off the water for lunch! I haven't seen such enthusiastic determination since the days when we were young and wouldn't come



in for dinner. Marion also gave it her all and progressed to the bigger sails in the afternoon.

Eoin, Fergal and Clare were blasting on about the technos, getting into the harness lines, and trying a few gybes. Triona was showing us how it is done on a 4.4m sail, illustrating some mean feats of balance up hauling in rolling two foot waves. Whilst, zipping past on his newly acquired gear was Dave C., making the most of the good weather conditions.

However, the freestyle was another matter. Muscles and Ursula cheekily flew past us on their tiny boards, giving a bit of a shock to most of the other sailors who were struggling just getting around. Ursula was also putting on a show from the start and landed the first heli-tack the club had ever seen. Muscles sailed backwards faster than I could sail forwards and both were generous in advice on how we could improve.

The Spillane's Aftermath

Glowing, sun-kissed faces made their way along the fairy-road that night to Spillanes, for some grub and liquid to wash the day's glories down. No torches were necessary as my nose was burned so bright by the sun that Rudolph would have been proud. The Irish Windsurfing Association (IWA) 's winners were also resting their weary bones after a day of

slalom racing around hell's gates. We barely noticed the competition - so intent had we been on our own windsurfing - but it was fun nonetheless to see a community of like-minded lunatics.

The Calm after the Storm

After a good night dreaming about mast-high waves and on-shore wind, Ursula and Siobhan rose at 5.30am for a morning surf, leaving me with the soft bed. The next day was calm, so a long walk was in order and a well deserved lounge on the grass, before we loaded all the gear back onto the cars and headed back to Killaloe. Thanks to everyone on the trip who made it such craic and contributed their blood, sweat and tears to get all the gear down and back in one piece. May the wind be always at yer back. Here's to more sessions on the water in Killaloe! The season isn't over for us by a long shot.

Letters Page

Something getting your goat? Someone rained on your parade? Something about the last issue of An Focal that you cannot let pass without comment? Trying to be funny to impress your friends? Never fear! An Focal's Letters Page is here. Vent your spleen here on whatever topic you like. Just e-mail your letters to sucommunication@ul.ie

Sabbatical Elections

A Chara,

Firstly apologies for not printing my name but I would rather some people did not know I was writing this.

Following four years and four elections at our wonderful institution, I have grown more and more agitated with the election process. In the four years the same issues have been raised and never actually dealt with, i.e. the library, a late night alternative venue, improved transport etc. and nothing is ever done on these issues. The library is a bigger sham now than at any other time, its over run with Leaving Certs, yet this is never addressed by candidates, nor is the size of the library. Every other institution in Ireland puts our library to shame, yet ours is the newest one in the country. There is no policing as to who enters and noise levels are off the scale.

Issues like this and the ones which always rear their head at election time never seem to get addressed and I feel it is because the way a president is chosen here leaves a lot to be desired, leaving us not with the most qualified candidate but with the best publicised. The election system itself is not flawed but the way students are persuaded to vote is the problem.

This year the candidate who won was not the one with the best manifesto (a one page 20 line recycling of past failed campaign promises does not make a one candidate stand out from his opponents one page of more original recycled promises) but the one with the most money to fund his campaign.

Master Powers(Hennessy, O hAongusa-decide will you!!) seemed to spend a fortune on his campaign dwarfing the other candidates and pulling publicity stunts like a bouncing castle and giving out hundreds of chocolates. Two things about this stick with me:

1. Why was Master Hennessy allowed put the bouncy castle on SU property, was permission sought and granted by the union and does this not give the impression that this candidate was the Union's choice? I'm a union member and didn't appreciate it.
2. All week all I heard was how Timmmaaaaaay had founded the SVP society here and worked tirelessly for charity. In this case, how can he, with clear conscience, pour a fortune into his campaign, providing a bouncy castle and free chocolates to 20 year old plush students while the kids of Moyross and Southill were no doubt enjoying their Easter holidays playing around in burnt out cars?

The problem here does not just lie with our president elect but also with the way the candidates are presented to students, surely more than 3 quick days of blitz "who has the flashiest" poster campaigns would be better.

Perhaps the candidates could be presented to the revellers in the stables on one of the days in rag week or interviewed in An Focal, rather than reproducing dated promises and attending the poorly advertised hustings!!!

I heard many voters talking amongst themselves saying they knew nothing about the candidates and were voting for such and such because "his were the only posters I saw" or "he gave me chocolates". Maybe this just stems back to the apathy that is rife in UL though I think for something this important a bigger effort should be made to educate students so that the BEST candidate is chosen and not the BEST funded.

Name with Editor

Afri, Arms and An Focal

Dear Ms Ryan,

I am writing to complain that such a poorly researched and poorly produced article was placed on the front page of our college newspaper. The article is complete "copy and paste" journalism and bar a badly inserted quote from Eoin Ó Broin was plagiarised almost verbatim from Michael O'Farrell's article in the Irish Examiner. Is such plagiarism acceptable for the "official newspaper of University of Limerick Student's Union"?

Also as a research student within the ECE department I feel that your article has done much to tarnish the reputation of the department. How credible is Afri's information? I do not see this discussed in the article. I would also be interested to know if the person who wrote the article actually read the report in question "Death from a Distance: The Ongoing Militarisation of Ireland" which was launched at a conference in Maynooth on Friday April 2nd. Do you know if a copy of this report is freely available either in hard copy or electronic format? I would be most interested to read it. If you go to Afri's website you will find they provide a list of Irish companies apparently "involved in the Arms Trade".

<http://www.afri.buz.org/ireland-arms-trade.htm>. Among this list you will find Analog Devices BV and Schaffner Intepro Systems LTD, two companies with links to the college in terms of co-op, research, donations and graduate hiring. The website provides weak and somewhat dubious reasons as to why these companies are "involved in the Arms Trade". Is it fair to infer then that the college is in some way "involved with the Arms Trade" because it has links with these companies? Slippery-slope arguments like this are more suited to tabloids than to a college newspaper.

The plagiarised paragraphs and poor punctuation also suggest that this was a rushed and hastily prepared article. Perhaps if better judgement had been shown the article would have been held off until the next issue of An Focal when a more balanced, better researched, more informative and hopefully less plagiarised article could have produced? I find that this article severely damages the credibility of the college newspaper. As your tenure as CCO ends I would hope that you would attempt to rectify this situation and produce work of a higher standard than Edition 11 in forthcoming issues.

Regards,

Martin Power

Editor's comment:

An Focal admits that the article was rather rushed. But as it was merely reporting on an article in the Examiner, it stands to reason that a lot of the article would be quoted material. As was promised at the end of the report, this edition carries a more in-depth story on page 2, with comments from relevant staff in the University.

As regards the Afri report, "Death from a Distance", a copy of the report can be ordered from the website, at a cost of €5. ULSU has two copies of the report in question, which students are more than welcome to examine if they don't wish to buy their own.

Whether you're a 4th year, postgrad or just leaving for the summer,
An Focal Presents:

10 things to do before leaving college

1) Go for a walk by the Shannon
Behind the PESS, turn right and keep going
past Kilmurry till you hit the castle...

2) Have a BBQ

Summer's on the way so get out the coals!

3) Score a housemate

You've always wanted to. Plus there's the
whole summer to pretend it didn't happen.

4) Go into the Contemplative Center
20 mins off? Relax and chillout. GO.

5) Buy a disposable camera

You're not going to remember half of this...

6) Call into your neighbours

Go downstairs/next door and say hi (a
good substitute if number 3 isn't an option)

7) Have sex somewhere in college

For the adventurous ones among us

8) Don't swim in the fountains

ahem

9) Go for dinner with your house

Even Pizza will do, get some wine and
make a night out of it.

10) Ask her out

Just do it, there's not long left...

Back Inside

WE LOVE...

LIBRARY STALKING

SPOT SOMEONE YOU LIKE? LEAVE A NOTE ON THEIR DESK WHEN THEY GO FOR A BREAK THEN SIT BACK AND WATCH THEIR REACTION! (PHONE NUMBER OPTIONAL)

ROY KEANE

ALL IS FORGIVEN, WE KNOW IT WAS THE OTHER FELLA. NOW, LET'S CONCENTRATE ON GERMANY.

WWW.BADGERBADGERBADGER.COM

YOU NEED SPEAKERS FOR THIS ONE! SNAKE! J.G.

MARTY

WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE A LEGEND. WE'D BE LOST WITHOUT STRANGERESEARCH!



WE HATE...

POST BAN B.O.

IF ITS A CHOICE BETWEEN SMOKE AND THE STINK IN CLUBS WE'LL HAVE THE SMOKE BACK THANKS.

"AS SPONSERED BY" ADDS

SMARTIES (THE SIMPSONS), CADBURYS HEROS (WILL & GRACE), 4 STAR PIZZA (CORRIE) THEY'RE ALL SHIT.

APRIL WEATHER

LOOKS GREAT IN THE MORNING AND THEN WE GET PISSED ON IN THE AFTERNOON. SHOWERS MY ASS.

BOUNCERS

YOU LET ME IN ON WEDNESDAY SO WHATS DIFFERENT ON SATURDAY?

RECYCLING LAUNDRY

THE LONGER THEY'RE IN THE BASKET THE CLEANER THEY BECOME. OR SO WE'RE TOLD...



COMPILED BY NERSH AND SARAH CAREW WITH HELP FROM 38 KV. TEXT UR SUGGESTIONS TO 086 8641193

CAMPUS NEWS*
(with Val)

Canvassers Cruelly Avoided Lonely Student

Eager hopefuls in the running for SU positions were required to exercise extreme caution in avoiding a so-called "oddball" resident in Dromroe Village. Social outcast, Catherine McGrath, was known to keep unwary canvassers talking for up to two hours and refusing to let them leave, despite their protestations that they "seriously had to get going." One candidate victim revealed that he "should have guessed this would be a difficult one when she offered to make me a cup of coffee as soon as I walked in." He went on to describe the motive as a "fiendishly clever trap." On confirming he

that she "would indeed" like a cup of coffee, Miss McGrath filled what can only be described as a "veritable jug" thus maximising the time taken to consume the beverage.

Once word spread of Miss McGrath's rambling and prolonged interactions with election candidates, many chose to avoid canvassing Dromroe Village completely. "It may cost me a vote but I've got a life to get on with," claimed one contender. Miss McGrath, in fact, failed to vote in the student elections revealing to 'An Focal' that she "couldn't have been bothered."

Amazing Easter Weekend Remains Undiscussed

The amazing Easter long-weekend of first year Paul Keane remains largely undiscussed well over a week later. Despite his best efforts, all attempts to introduce the subject into conversation have met with utter failure.

"I had a savage weekend!" wailed Mr. Keane to 'An Focal'. "I came back desperate to tell all the lads about my outdoor pursuits, the old flame I met up with, the photography competition I won, and the TG4 programme I appeared in, but we never seem to get around to it. I was hoping to impress with how full and vibrant my life is!"

Topics discussed in place of Mr Keane's amazing Easter weekend included potential increases in the price of pints, the shrinking size of Mars bars and the family holiday of close friend John Fox. "I could have screamed!" recalls Mr. Keane. "We spent ages picking through the bones of John's really dull and predictable holiday. All the guys were asking him questions about the weather and how his Nan's arthritis was. Just when I expected the conversation to turn to my own Easter

activities, someone looked at their watch and they all left! Cruel fate, why do you mock me?"

Mr. Keane believes that the repression of his hugely entertaining and self-esteem-boosting anecdotes is proving detrimental to his health. "I've had all my stories burning inside me for so long, I think it's starting to affect my work", he admitted candidly. "I mean it just goes to show the gap between all that life is and all that we'd hoped it would be. On the bus back to college after the weekend I imagined surfing a holiday-story-fuelled wave of cheerfulness, but alas, it wasn't to be. I'm thinking of writing everything down and burying it, just doing something to exorcise these demons." Mr. Keane is also considering publishing his Easter memoirs through a cleverly disguised "Please help I lost my shoe in the 'The Lodge' last night!" general email to the student populace.

When initially asked how his weekend was, Mr Keane simply replied "grand" with a conciseness that he now claims to regret wholeheartedly. "I was off my guard", he explained.

New ULSU President Promises to continue in
"Grand Tradition" of Predecessors

The brand spanking new SU President for the coming academic year, Jimmy Fennessy, has pledged to look for inspiration from the past occupants of the position. Speaking after the announcement of his victory Mr. Fennessy committed himself to a year of "anonymity, low-profile campaigns and masterly inactivity."

Describing himself as being "fairly indifferent" to winning the election and becoming UL's next student leader, Mr. Fennessy was quick to praise his predecessors. "It's a moderate privilege", he said, "to follow in the footsteps of past Presidents like 'yer man with the hair' and that guy who came before him, you know, what's his name again?" "If I can come anywhere near close to their impressive years of low-profile underachieving then I will be a relaxed and untroubled man", he added.

In order to fulfil this goal Mr. Fennessy has unveiled his electrifying proposals. "They basically all fit in with my main aim of no student in the University knowing who I am", he explained. "One may think this isn't that ambitious but that's part of the

point - I don't really want to do any work." A main element to Mr. Fennessy's strategy will be carrying out what he calls "a really, really behind the scenes role". He also added that if lacking on the strategies front he can "just hide in my office by my computer and move my mouse around to look busy."

One possible predicament looming for Mr. Fennessy in his quest for supreme inactivity is posed by the substantial red tape found in ULSU. "There are tonnes of those bloody meetings", he despaired, "I know they don't do any real work but even pseudo-effort is more than I'm aiming for." In order to try and overcome this obstacle Mr. Fennessy aims to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors by "turning up late, leaving early or even not being ars*d showing up at all."

"In a way it's not going to be easy," added Mr. Fennessy "The previous lads, 'what's his name' and 'thingy', have all set pretty high standards but I'm sure that if I try hard enough then I can be just as useless. Everything in ULSU is there to help me be ineffective and low-profile after all."

***All a load of b*ll*cks really.**

Credit Where Credit is Due

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Back Inside

College of Inhumanities



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SHE THINKS MY TRACTOR'S SEXY

Your Stars

Aries
A fresh start this week. €20 lands in front of you. Please, use some of it to buy deodorant! You're really a nice person, but chatting people up in a club won't work unless you smell good. Especially not now that BO no longer has a curtain of smoke to hide behind.

Taurus
A freak accident with a unicycle, a can of paint and an old edition of An Focal leaves hobbling for most of the fortnight. Never mind, at least you're getting some attention (even if it is just people telling you to stop complaining.)

Gemini
It's all coming out in the open now, and nothing will even be the same. Be true to yourself and you will probably lose all of your friends, but at least you'll have integrity. Or something.

Cancer
This fortnight, deadlines are looming, and panic is beginning to set in. Don't miss the West Wing though. It will change your life. In fact, don't miss Gilmore Girls or Paradise Hotel or Coronation Street either.

Leo
Your friends are pissed off at you for being bossy again. Tell them that if they were ever right, you might consider listening to them. They're all saps anyway. At least the year's nearly over. Get a job in a summer camp and you can boss to your heart's delight. And next year, there will be a whole new crop of first years to be friends with.

Virgo
Your analytical mind and compassionate nature are starting to make themselves felt, as everyone in your class is begging notes from you. Whatever their sob story, tell them to bugger off! Especially if your class is marked on a curve. Survival of the fittest and all that crap.

Libra
Oh, Libra, when will you learn. If two of your friends are fighting, you HAVE to pick a side. Otherwise they'll just decide that you don't care enough about either of them to make a decision, and gang up on you. Some of the strongest friendships in the world have been created at a poor Libran's expense.

Scorpio
Your fortnight will pass by like it's short and sweet. Like this horoscope.

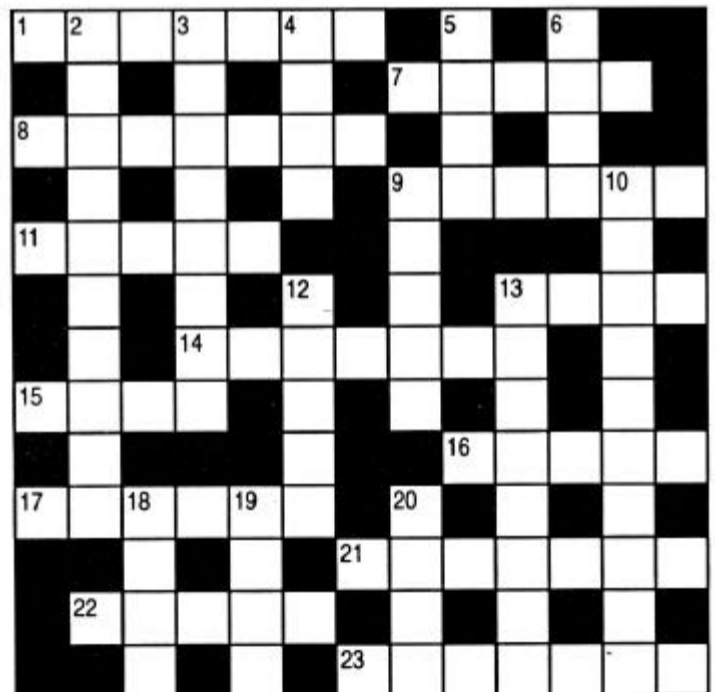
Sagittarius
Over the next fortnight you'll be making plans for the summer. Think big! Go for it!

Capricorn
If you try doing anything even a little bit dodgy this fortnight, you'll get caught. Don't bother.

Aquarius
You're torn between living in the past and moving on. Let me make this easy for you... Life Doesn't Go Backwards!

Pisces
Dancing on tables can be fun, but your tutorial is neither the time nor the place. And everyone will laugh when you fall over

An Focal Crossword #11



ACROSS

- 1. Gravel used as a bed for roads (7)
- 7. Of tender years (5)
- 8. Bitterness (7)
- 9. Stew in a closed vessel (6)
- 11. Young female horse (5)
- 13. In a high degree (4)
- 14. Prisoner (7)
- 15. Hind part of the body (4)
- 16. Dame — Ashcroft (5)
- 17. Deteriorate (6)
- 21. Newspaper (7)
- 22. Impact of explosion (5)
- 23. Material used as floor-covering (7)

DOWN

- 2. Door surround (10)
- 3. "She" smiles on some gamblers! (4,4)
- 4. Drunkards (4)
- 5. Yobbo (4)
- 6. Not in favour of (4)
- 9. Easy computer language (5)
- 10. Iron out bends (10)
- 12. Egg-and- — race (5)
- 13. Forcible (8)
- 18. Skilful (4)
- 19. At first (4)
- 20. "Ali — and the Forty Thieves" (4)

SCRIBBLE BOX

Sabbatical Reports

PRESIDENT - EOIN

A Chairde,

All hail Timmy and Rosey and Fintan and Sandra. 1 from a Society, 1 from a Club and 2 from Class Reps Council. A fair spread! Kudos to all candidates for contesting. It is a brave move to put oneself forward for a student sabbatical position and all candidates had something to contribute. In the aftermath of the campaigns the question has been raised as regards the role of consumable items so this is something



the ULSU Constitutional Review Committee are examining. To be ratified the new constitution needs to be passed by General Meeting. Thus we will be aiming to have a 200 plus student gathering some evening soon to do just this!

The long awaited AGM of ULSU Services Ltd. took place last Thursday. Motions were passed to state that all members of ULSU could attend all general meetings of the company and that ownership was vested in ULSU Class Reps Council. The company, which is effectively the two SU shops, will be run by a board of 17 directors made up of the SU exec and 5 nominees of Class Reps Council two of whom are external people who have experience in retail. Issues regarding the shop at the moment are to find the best strategy to cope with the summer lull in terms of staffing and opening hours and the need to expand the shop space as it is too small for the amount of people who want to use it.

Student Union budgets are being completed and will be presented to Class Reps Council of Week 12. These will specify how the Union will spend capitation and other income streams next year allowing for the deficit the Union will undoubtedly face. All welcome to attend.

I am having difficulty securing funding for the Union building to have an energy audit performed on it though reading the previous paragraph it is not hard to see why. This is one of the best ways I see the SU doing something about its impact on the planet. Climate Change is directly linked to energy use. It will have to be found eventually as legislation is on the way that all public buildings will need an energy cert.

Our post Kollege Week meeting with local residents brought us to the conclusion that with a lack of on campus entertainment between 4pm & 10pm or after 12pm there doesn't seem to be much need to leave the estates at all. The din that this causes leads to frustration on the part of local residents with regard to litter, noise and street iománocht. It seems to be an intractable situation. Local residents object to on campus club extensions due to continued noise & litter throughout the year which leads to a scaled down Kollege Week which leads to more parties in the housing estates during Kollege Week and thus even more noise, litters and football in the estates.

Slán go fóill,
Eoin

DEPUTY/WELFARE - DAVID



Sometimes we need to take a hard look at ourselves. To take a hard look at what we do and how we do it and see where changes need to be made. Society is doing this at the moment in relation to youth drinking and it is something the students of UL need to look at also.

There is nothing wrong with indulging (sometimes over indulging) in alcohol if you are mature enough to deal with it and know what it is doing to your body. However some people don't have the ability to do this. I have been dealing with complaints from students and residents in relation to students invading their privacy through intimidation, noise, litter and vandalism, carried out by people who are drunk.

People who may be nice and decent when they are sober turn into horrible people at night. This shows an inability to deal with alcohol but even worse a disregard for their fellow student or neighbour. Why do people need to do this, is it to make themselves feel more powerful or to make them look well in front of their friends?

Whatever it is, it impacts all of us. The reason we have Kollege Week in town is because the residents wouldn't even talk to us about any events on campus. The same with an event we were planning in Summer - that is to be postponed because of complaints of behaviour over Kollege Week. Students also got a very bad name on the radio last week as a litany of complaints were repeated on Live 95fm about student behaviour around Castletroy.

Most students don't get involved in this and indeed are probably affected by the behaviour just as much. But we put up with it because it's students and that is how they behave. I for one don't want to be a student if intimidation and violence is part of the job description.

It's time to say no to this. If you see any of this behaviour either contact Security, Gardaí or the Students' Union. People say it's always been this way, but that doesn't make it right.

EDUCATION - MADELINE

Hello all,

Well it's been a mad 2 weeks especially with the 2 days off!!! I never thought I'd complain about having time off and indeed I'm not really it was great but time flies because of it!!

To continue my story of the Elm Park Dutch mould drinker. After slyly placing his empty can in my cleaning path in Elm Park, and following my remark regarding him in the last An Focal, this stranger called in to me in my office. Now I didn't recognise him and he wanted my help with an education issue. It was only on leaving, when he thanked me for being so environmentally conscious in Elm Park, that it clicked. Did he apologise, did he heck!!! Instead as he left my office the cheeky monkey left his coke can beside my open door, smiled and said practise will only help me improve my cleaning skills. To my darling litterbug I say that revenge will be mine and this battle is far from over!!! On to other issues, I attended Engineering Faculty Board and the Student Teacher Forum, which were all productive. Must tell you all that most of the exam papers are on the public folders. All the ECE papers are here in the Union at reception available for you to photocopy at will.

Student nurses in UCD walked out in protest about many issues affecting them especially in regard to money issues. Food for thought for all you nurses out there.

The Library opening hours is still proving to be a contentious issue. All systems are in place within the Library. It seems that the delay now lies in Human Resources. Human Resources are responsible for the recruitment of staff. Obviously for longer opening hours we need more staff. However HR have had this paperwork for weeks, for too long. So questions have to be answered and people held responsible for denying the students of UL extra time in the library to prepare for projects, FYP's and exams. I'll keep you updated and no I'm not bitter ;-)

Best of luck with the FYP's, the study and the partying. Stay safe out there and beware of all the break-ins and thieving that's been going on in the estates and around campus. **Report** anything you see or anything that happen here in the Union please.

On that note take it easy schmeers

Behave

Madeline



COMMS & CAMPAIGNS - SARAH



Hey everyone, and welcome to the second last 350-word spiel I'll ever have to force myself to write.

What's been going on? Well, for one, there have been a lot of elections. Well done to Timmy, Rosey, Fintan, and especially Sandra, who has the dubious honour of doing my job next year. I've no doubt she'll do a fantastic one either. Hard luck to Ian, Martin, Caoilfhionn, Alan and Eoin. You all did really well too, and I've no doubt that some of you will be back to contest elections in the future.

I'd also like to say Thanks to the staff of the CSIS, Schroedinger and the Scholars for allowing the SU hold voting there. Apart from the Schroedinger, it was hugely successful to have multiple locations for voting.

The last edition of An Focal went down a treat. Even Kevin Myers claims to have read it. (An Irishman's Diary, Irish Times, 09/04/04) I hope he reads this one too!

Other than helping the returning officer with elections and working on the constitutional review with the rest of the executive, I have mostly been excited about the forthcoming ULSU website. It's there! It's shiny! I hope you like it. There is a handy poll for you to vent your spleen if you don't, or you can just email me! All credit to Tomás, it's great!

Over the next week or so, other features like the message board, accommodation finder and book search will go live too, so stay tuned!

The next, and most probably last, meeting of the Communications Group will be taking place in my office on Wednesday of Week 10 at 6pm. An Focal has been shrinking of late, so please come along if you're interested, there's only one issue left, so noone will complain about stuff you write! Gig and theatre reviewers are desperately needed! Another good reason to come along, especially if you're around next year is to meet Sandra, the incoming CCO, and maybe even hear her plans for An Focal, if she's willing to disclose them.

Over the next couple of weeks I'm going to be getting my last ever edition of An Focal together *sniff*, helping the rest of Constitutional Review Committee to finish out the small details and organising a UGM so that you all can let us know what you think, and so that ULSU can finally have a constitution that isn't all over the place. That's the plan anyway. I'll need 200 studenty bums to put on seats though, and that's where YOU come in. I'll keep you posted!!

Oh, and that photos of me is part of a naked SU calender we'll be selling at the UGM. Not.

Transmission Ends