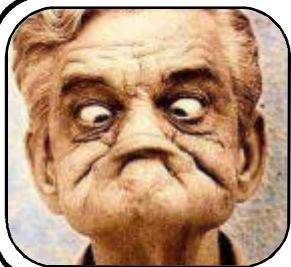


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Campaigners for the new boathouse on campus, see Page 12 inside

by Anthony Kirpatrick

On the eve of Minister for education Noel Dempsey's decision to re-install third-level tuition fees, the University of Limerick student population marched in protest from the Castletroy campus into the city centre. This was all in the hope that the Minister might alas make the right decision at the final time of asking, and abolish his 'make money quick' farce for our financially plummeting government.

It was two weeks ago. The scorching sun had made an unfamiliar appearance to the Munster region: a perfect day to proceed into the town with our fellow students, making our voices and opinions heard once again. Four thousand students were expected by the Students' Union for this protest: A student for every Euro we might be spending on our education in the autumn. Less than four hundred turned up.

As I stated beforehand, the sun was fully establishing itself for the afternoon. The students that had gathered prior to departure within the main courtyard appeared to be in a defiant mood ahead of the task at hand. Posters, banners, all were given out to add the necessary elements any respectable protest deserves. Even a group of drummers had made the gruelling journey down

the country from Leitrim to add some noise and flair to our mission. So answer me this, the people that did not show up on the day in question that is; how come people unaffiliated with our University from Leitrim can make the plausible effort of marching against the introduction of fees, and none of you could be utterly bothered doing so? Is it because your parents

are so wealthy that this situation does not affect you? Or was prevailing laziness on that particular day preventing you from moving a muscle and making a stand?

Well if I can state my opinion for the record, I must say both of the above reasons just about sums up the dismal turnout to the protest. As our

continued on backpage

Fighting Discrimination in UL

Week 7 saw the L.G.B. society (Lesbian. Gay. Bisexual) visible on campus, "out" even, for want of a better way of putting it. The week started with the society meeting deciding that the name itself, left people in the dark in relation to our existence on the campus. Yes there are gay, lesbian and bisexual students in UL, loads of us, but the abbreviated letters have left people lost in closet land, oblivious to the existing network built for such students on campus. So the change came, the L.G.B society has become "Out in UL", genius I hear you scream, well frankly YES.

So the society, now under new management has become pro-active and this was clear when all the lovely

boys (and some of them are really lovely) and girls (we love ye to of course) came out to fight the blatant discrimination of gay men's right to give blood. The day was Thursday 27th of March and as the sun was splitting the rocks (let us for ever remember that) we busily gathered names of students and explained to them all the reasons why this was a good petition to support. In little over 4 hours we gathered over 700 names of people opposed to the discriminatory legislation of the IBTS (Thanks very much!). This was not just people walking up signing and moving on to the Scholars or Stables. We faced the questions of a public who questioned our point of view, and were not afraid to take us on

continued on backpage

**Students' Union
Election Hustings**

**Monday Week 9,
FG042**

**1pm - 3pm
Hear the candidates,
decide for yourself**

President - Eoin Ó Broin

Hey All,

Hope you all had a great Kolledge Week and will look back on it with fond memories. There seemed to be plenty going on from techno to David Kitt to the Foam Party. Thanks to all the Crew and Dave O'Donovan who worked so hard to make the week a success. You are a credit to UL!

There was a great turnout to the launch of the Alcohol Policy in the White House last Wednesday. Myself and Dr. Downer spoke briefly to those assembled about the policy before declaring it officially launched. The launch was then covered in both local and national press. The areas of the policy we want progress on in order to satisfy the SU that the University are fulfilling their side of the bargain are commitments to theatre facilities on campus, to a late night café on campus, to the half day Wednesday afternoon, to an increase in funding from the University to the Students Unions and to help in acquiring alternative sources of sponsorship money for the clubs & societies. Since the launch I have met with both Roger Downer and John O'Connor (vice president administration) who looks after physical development and funding for the University on these issues and have been happy with their level of commitment. I will be giving a full report on this to Clubs & Societies Council next Tuesday.

On the same day as the launch the no fees demo was held. There was good chants, a good atmosphere helped by the samba band, good banners & posters but unfortunately not too many people. About 250 UL students marched all the way into town on this hot day. We were

expecting at least 1'000 so to say we were disappointed is an understatement. It had been advertised in the national press as the 4'000 student march - a student for every euro college will cost next year. If 1'000 students had walked the effect would have been made but people just didn't come out. Was it because the date was changed? Was it because we are campaigning against something that hasn't happened yet? These are questions that will have to be addressed before another such event is considered. Thanks to all who came out. At least everyone on O'Connell St. saw and heard us though the Limerick Leader didn't think much of the turnout.

Myself and Julie Kennedy (2nd year Business) attended the first meeting of the Campus Catering Committee last week. The Catering Committee oversees the Campbells Catering operations on campus which amounts to five outlets. There was one item on the agenda - price rises - so we added another 7: Schedule of Catering Committee Meetings, setting up a catering user Group, the status of student special meal, the cost of add ons (tomatoes sauce, mustard, brown sauce & butter), wages in Kilmurry shop, Campbells waste policy in relation to plastic bowls, cutlery and plastic glasses, access to food after hours and Nestlé products on campus. As to the price rises we got agreement to keep the price of the student special dinner at €2.90. All the other issues are in negotiations.

The Union General Meeting advertised for Thursday of week 7 was a literal non event in that it didn't take place due to their being insufficient numbers of class reps

present beforehand to ratify the agenda. We are going for a rerun of the UGM on Wednesday of Week 10. The UGM is your chance to have your say about Union affairs and your chance to have the Union address specific issues that haven't been given an airing at class reps. It is our chance to propose and get passed any constitutional changes we feel are necessary to make the Union run in a more efficient manner.

On the night in question a public meeting was held instead, with the first three items on the agenda; Boathouse Referendum, Alcohol Policy and the proposed anti war motion being presented. There was no discussion on the first two but the third produced a lively debate which lasted over an hour. The main thrust of the debate was whether the passing of the anti war motion would open a "pandoras box" of "political" issues that the Union could take on. One side of the argument saw no harm in this while the other said that addressing such issues would take away from the core work of the Union in providing essential services and representation for the students on matters that concern them, in effect "politisising" the union, and alienating large numbers of students that didn't agree. The debate on this issue continues and needs a lot more discussion before a stance is taken. It is usually best if major issues of contention that effect a large number of students on campus should go to referendum.

The management committees of both the Stables & Scholars are in the Circuit Court this Wednesday to attempt to revoke the decision of the district court not to renew the licences of both clubs. Myself and



Paddy Buckley will probably be taking the stand. I am happy at this point in time that both clubs have done what is necessary to implement the rules to the letter of the law. 10am in court next to city hall. All Welcome.

A public meeting on the 5 year Castletroy Local Area Plan will take place this Wednesday night April 9th at 7:30pm in Castletroy College. A draft plan will be prepared after the meeting and put on display in Annacotty Council buildings for 5 weeks. Anyone can make a written submission or observation on the draft plan and these will be taken into consideration by local area councillors. For more info. contact Kate Curran or Anna Coyne on 061 318477.

O yeah I am running for President of the SU again. If you are happy with my work and think I am the right person for the job give me your vote next Wednesday.

Slán,

Eoin

Welfare/Deputy President - Gráinne Heffron

Dia Dhiabh

Election time is here again and it's hard to believe that a year has gone already. It's an interesting and tough week made all the more so if your final year project is due the same week! So I wish all the candidates good campaigns and may the best men and women win.

A few of the candidates for Welfare have dropped in for a chat and have asked about various aspects of the job. What was the toughest part? Well aside from the personal cases which can be distressing and upsetting in my opinion the most difficult things about the year were the apathy of the students and the politics played out in the union itself. It seems that there is a very small group of students who care a lot and everyone else really doesn't give a damn. There appears to be no middle ground. The year has definitely made me more cynical I'm afraid. The apathy was certainly evident during the campaign last year but at the start of the autumn semester we had a successful fees protest march into city (success being 400 students from UL, which indicates the level of apathy we are working against) and I thought that things could change, we could change the students. I'm afraid I for one was wrong, as was evidenced by what I can only call the pathetic turn out of students who marched in week 7 for another fees protest and the wonderful turnout at Kolledge Week events last week. One resident put it to me after a night of

noise in the one of the estates that the sooner 'fees came back in the better' because it would mean students have less money to drink. One class rep said 'perhaps the students don't care about fees'. I put it to you that perhaps students just don't care.

I'm sorry if this appears to be completely negative and I am seen to be putting the election candidates off running for positions within the union for there are still students who need help be it single parents, students with disabilities, students in trouble with landlords, with the Gardai or with the university. I suppose if students who normally don't care, do know enough that they can turn to the students' union when they need to, it is something and perhaps by helping these students the good news will spread. So my advice for the candidates is to continue to try and organise protests. I for one had never been on a protest march until this year and have been on about 5 so far. I was talking to a Bangladeshi man at the weekend and he was asking me about the fees and why students don't care. In Bangladesh it seems students are always protesting. Perhaps the majority of us have it too good.

I just had to get some things off my chest. I have not turned anti-student and still continue to strive for those who are genuinely in need of my help and assistance it is just difficult and disheartening sometimes. So best of luck in the coming year election candidates and I wish you more luck in



rousing the students spirits that I had.

Gráinne

Education - Margaret Ryan

Hi everyone

I hope you've all enjoyed Kollege Weak 2003, which went off very well (or at least the bits I could see from my dungeon did). Congratulations to Dave and his team on a great effort. And now that the hoop-la of Kollege Weak is over, we're in the middle of election week, and all I have to say on that is make sure to get out and exercise your vote. All the candidates' "machines" will be in the canteen all week, so go up there, have a read of their manifestoes, and ask 'em a few questions. Make up your mind and vote, cause remember, if you don't vote, you don't get to complain.

So what have I been up to for the past two weeks? Well, the big thing was the UGM in week 7. I have never been so disillusioned in my life, and that's saying something. After all the work but in by Paddy publicising it, between posters, slide-shows and emails, we still couldn't get a quorum of class-reps to ratify the agenda, never mind a quorum of students for a valid meeting. I spend most of my life listening to how the SU never

puts in effort advertising these things, well, according to Paddy, 800 people collected their clubs ID cards off the back of that email, so why weren't these people at the meeting? The replay is in week 10, so get yourself down there.

It's week 9 now, so time for everyone to start studying for the finals - I know, with the fine weather you don't want to do anything like that, but tough - as my mother would say, "is it trying to fail the exams you are?" I'm fairly sure that you've all had enough stuff about how to study told to you over the years, but I'm going to give you the short version again anyway.


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



Eat properly - coke and snickers does not a balanced diet make.

The clubs are going to start looking for ID this week, so make sure to pick

up your card from the Students Union. If you haven't registered for membership yet, do it now at <http://www.ulsu.ul.ie/clubs/> and you should be able to get it in about three



Scholars CLUB

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FAX: 061330710
EMAIL: info@scholarsclub.ie
WEB: www.scholarsclub.ie

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

SCHOLARS CLUB
ENTERTAINMENTS WEEK 7

MON PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL


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

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

THURS "ESCAPADE"
LIVE IN THE MAIN BAR

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

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



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061-314483 / info@dolanspub.com / www.dolanspub.com

Education - Margaret Ryan

weeks.

canteen.

Margaret

I think that's about it at the moment. I'll just remind you again that it's probably a good idea to start reading a few course-related books, and to get out and vote on Wednesday between 10 and 6.30 in the main

Talk to you soon, and remember to call in if you have any questions about college,

Regards

Communications - Paddy Buckley

Hi everyone,

Hope everyone enjoyed Kollege Week. As usual, without the marquee, the buzz of previous years just wasn't there. Its unfortunate, but we're stuck with it for the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, fair play to Dave Donovan, all the Ents lads and everyone who played a part in organising the week.

We're going back into court on Wednesday to appeal the decision of the District Court not to grant a licence to the Stables and Scholars Club. A lot of work has been done by everyone involved since last February. In particular, the Club cards have been introduced, and a lot of the rules of the Clubs have been tightened up considerably. I'm hopeful that this time we'll get the right decision. There really isn't a whole lot more that we can do at this stage, we are to a degree always going to be at risk as long as we are forced to operate under a Law that was created in 1904.

Aside from that, most of the activity on campus for the next few days will be focussed on the elections and the boathouse referendum. To deal with the boathouse first, this referendum is the culmination of 6 years of hard work by innumerable people. The 4 clubs involved need the facilities that will be provided by the Boathouse, its as simple as that. Get the manifestos that will be available next week, and familiarise yourself with the arguments. I hope that like me you will come to believe that this is a worthwhile project that will contribute to the future of UL as a whole, and anything that improves the College also improves the worth of your degree. Everyone gains out of this project, so please come out and vote on Wednesday.

On to the Sabbatical Election themselves. After being at the thin end of the wedge for the last three years, two years with Mick Phelan, and running myself last year, I'm staying very firmly out of this one. I will say this much though, its important that you vote, and vote

wisely. The Students' Union looks after about 450,000 Euros every year, with 2/3 of that figure going to Clubs and Societies. This is not an incosequential figure. It's your money, and its administered to a large degree by the sabbatical officers. Not only that, but an elected representative of the Students Union makes on a daily basis all sorts of decisions that effect you, things like prices on campus, on academic rule changes, on timetabling, on the future direction of the University. That might sound a bit pretentious, but its not. The people that you elect to these positions carry influence in the college by virtue of their positions, and make decisions everyday that affect you directly.

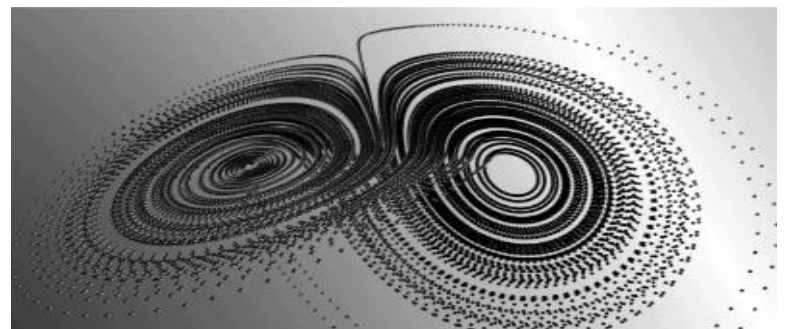
What I'm trying to say is that regardless of what many people think, these jobs are important. More to the point, they're paid for by you. The least you deserve is to make sure that you get the best person possible to represent you, for all the positions in the Union.

So this week, I strongly advise everyone to get out, meet the candidates and decide you trust the most to look after your money and your interests. You owe it to yourself.



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We're Not All Imperialist War Mongers

As the alliance of evil oil conglomerates continues its unjust war on Iraq, I feel it necessary to clarify something about American students studying here. While I can't speak for all of us, the majority I have spoken too are against this war. Most people who seize the opportunity to participate in a study abroad program are more worldly and culturally aware than the masses. I think that despite lacklustre, one-sided U.S. media coverage, the majority of us embarked on this semester praying for a peaceful end to this situation and aware of the underlying motives for war. I write this because so many Irish and international students I meet seem shocked that I am a dove and against American aggression. When I watch the news and see our bumbling leader using corny catchphrases while clearly lying to the world, it embarrasses me very deeply, especially when I realize that people I encounter think I wholeheartedly support this evil bastard. I guess my main point is that despite its slogans and self-endorsements of being a great Democracy, America is far from it. The peoples' voice is seldom heard. The top one percent of the country holds forty percent of the money, and thus all the power. When you meet an American try to remember this. We're not all institutionalised zombies that buy all the crap this elite aristocracy pays to have shoved down our throats every time we open a U.S. paper or turn on CNN. Most of us that are here came to experience new ideas and a new culture and we do not support this war.

Kevin Dulaney

Reflex-anti Americanism

And once again did I walk into the students union to grab one of the college newspaper "An Focal" but this time to read about the success of the anti war protest rather than the success of diverse UL sports clubs. Hmmmm. so the editor of "an Focal" and the student undermining the protest by holding up a poster "USA lets roll" is the same. obviously every student has the right to express his/her own opinion regarding diverse issues, but what picture does that leave us with when a member of the student union undermines the protest in this rather stupid manner.

After reading the paper, I had to come to the conclusion that it is no good to express a commonly shared opinion because "the peace protest has nothing done to solve the problem Saddam Hussein" and that killing is justified when its purpose is good enough -> "I believe this war is necessary, justified".

Various reasons where named for the ongoing war as well as for the peace protest, trying to defend either action or both of them as right & essential. And every one of them is right, taken from its individual point of view. But I want to remind you that it doesn't matter why we have a war. Fact is we have one and it's only a reflection of our society, its fears and hopes, power and defeats.

The role that America plays currently in the world politic seems not hold able as such. Do we really want one huge Power nation that "protects" us all & enforce its system everywhere else because it's believed to work. . Aren't we always preaching about respecting differences? Wouldn't it be time to move on and start a new politic, now that we are aware?

How many of you know the saying "Whatever we do to others, we do it to our self"? Doesn't that leave us with power, power to change, and responsibility? And how often did people mask powers struggles with the face of humanity. At the end of the day there is no right or wrong in such a sense. Just our own consciousness. God bless those who got rid of it.

Katrin Kahler

Letter to the Editor

If I am correct in believing that you are responsible for the Editing, compilation and publishing of "An focal" I would like to start by critising most strongly the last edition of An Focal and conclude by praising most strongly your personal stance on the issue.

There are a number of issues I wish to refer to, firstly is the Article on the Anti-War rally by Aidan Hehir. I was appalled to see an article of this type in the News section of An Focal, and I feel that the editor should clarify in the next issue that this article is neither news nor anything based on solid fact. It is political opinion and typical anti-American/Globalistion hysteria. I challenge Mr Hehir to attempt to justify or support the scathing miss-truths and casting aspersions which riddle his ill-informed and opinionated article. Although there are a couple of lines of fact and news in the article, which would indicate why it was put in the news section of the paper, I cannot understand why this article is not in the Societies pages of the paper, where groups of concerned student would be free to express ill-founded opinions. It is beyond me how such an article could make it into the news section when it is quite clearly a statement of opinion.

As for our esteemed Students Union President, coming out clearly against the War! I am shocked and horrified. I did not attend the walk out, not necessarily because I am pro war but more because unlike some I have read and studied the situation in Iraq and I feel that maybe the Americans may not be all that wrong. I could attempt to justify this, but this is letter to the editor and I feel I do not need to justify my opinions, especially because and Mr Hehir and other quoted speakers seem to have forgone the need for fact. But back to Mr O Broin, why was the SU president supposedly representing me as a student of UL in the middle of a court yard expressing political opinions on my behalf. I did not ask him to express these opinions and neither did the 90% of students who did not show upto the rally. I am very surprised that a sabbatical

officer is allowed to express his own political agenda as a representative of us the students. YES MR PRESIDENT AND MS WELFARE OFFICER I WILL BE STUDYING THE SU CONSTITUTION VERY CAREFULLY IN THE NEXT NUMBER OF DAYS

I would furthermore suggest that if this rally had taken place outside of lecture hours the numbers would have been substantially reduced. Yes I must admit the temptation to take that ten minutes off my lecture and go and bask in the sunshine for ten minutes was almost too hard for even me to resist. I challenge you all, firstly hold a rally at 08.00 on a cold Wednesday morning and secondly if you wish to hold an anti-globalisation rally do so, but don't corrupt and present personal agendas in order to manipulate this war into an anti-America, anti-globalisation mob meeting.

Unfortunately in missing this rally, I missed out on two acts of defiance against hysteria and individuals driving their personal political beliefs. I applaud you Mr Buckley and I applaud you Mr O Flynn. I am disgusted at Ms Hartfolds opinions that you made a mockery of yourselves. Surely you simply represented a huge part of the Students of UL with your stance and I thank you sincerely for doing so. I hope the narrow mindedness and hysteria created by our friends in certain political parties may have been quelled for just one moment by your significant act.

I leave you all with one request, and it is aimed at every UL student. Please just for one moment sit down and read about the situation in Iraq, realise that it is easy to say "oh sure the Americans are just in there for oil" and realise that maybe there may be other reasons for this war.

Paul Ruddy

Letter to the Editor

I would like to protest against both Mr Buckley, and Mr o'Flynn calling me one of two things. But before hand, I would like to disagree with the idea that the failure of the UN in this situation was totally, and only the responsibility of the anti-war side. Personally I believe it to be the responsibility of both anti and pro war sides. Firstly, I oppose to be called in anyway anti-American. I have but the greatest respect for the American people. I believe in the ideologies that were founded and established by the fore founders of the American nation, that been equality, and acceptance. However one thing that I will protest against is the actions of both the Irish, English and American administration. I personally believe our actions to be simply immoral, and illegal within in the Middle East, by the charter of the United Nations, and the Irish constitution.

Secondly, I oppose to been called a simple puppet of the anti American supporters that exist within Europe, Australia and the far corners of the world. I ask both Mr. Buckley, and Mr. O' Flynn what do they call the millions of anti-war protesters in the United States of America. I find it very difficult to define these Americans as anti-Americans. So to both Mr. Buckley, and Mr. O'Flynn what are these American citizens, and could they define what they mean by anti-Americanism, a dislike for Europe, for American pie, for Bob Dylan, for Microsoft. I would find this this definition a great assistance.

I would now like to deal with the actual argument put forward by both Mr Buckley, and Mr O'Flynn. A politician's argument in essence, an argument that in reality did not deal with a single issue, but simple has bet around the bush. I hope to show that my protest against this war, is more than just a ' veneer of morality covering what amounts to little more than virulent Anti-Americanism' as both Mr' Buckley and Mr O'Flynn would have you believe. The reason for this is very simple; I am not in any way anti-American.

It is believed by many that the best solution for Iraq is war. Until recently, I might have agreed, the reality is that, war will only help to further cripple the Iraqi people. The reality is that at the moment the people of Iraq see us, the west, as the cause of there miseries. We are the cause of the 12-year sanctions. And yes, I will bemoan these sanctions, for simple reasons- simply, people are dining, 500,000, children. And I consider these facts, to be enough to ' bemoan' about. If Mr. Buckley, and Mr. O'Flynn don't, I don't know what they consider enough to bemoan about. I don't what to make this letter to long, so simply, I would like to put forward the point that a democracy forced upon a people, by the west, will neither be excepted, or be necessarily the right form of democracy for this region with, a history, a unique and separate culture to that of both America, Britain, and so on the reality is that it took Britain over 500 years to achieve democracy.

Back to the alternative, other than war, once again back to a very simple concept. Simply the end of intervention by the west upon Iraq. The fact is that one war; twelve years of sanctions have done nothing except to help to escalate the problems that exit's in Iraq. This war in my opinion is only gone to increases insecurity in the Middle East with the ever-growing threat of fundamentalism, and what not upon the west.

The argument that was put forward in the edition of An Focal of week seven of semester two by Mr. Buckley, and Mr. Flynn, I have found both offensive and unfounded. I would now like to call on a public retraction of one, and only one piece of your argument. Simply, I am not neither anti-American, or in any way brainwashed by anti Americans, as are many, and most of the anti-war people that protest against this war. However if I have in anyway failed to understand the points that have being put forward in your argument, I am but only happy to receive such corrections.

Thanking you, Richard Brennan

Disappointing Turnout at Anti-Fees March

by Mikey Stafford

The anti-fees march which took place on Wednesday of week 7 failed to attract a fraction of the 4,000 student marchers it planned and hoped for. Instead, an estimated crowd of 150 to 250 turned out for the event. Commenting on the dismal turnout, Students' Union President Eoin O Broin was scathing, "The turnout is miserable considering the day. People will want to cop on, it affects them and their families."

The Vice-President Grainne Heffernan informed me that the aim of the march was to attract media attention and achieve public focus for this very serious matter. It was also hoped to exert some pressure upon Minister for education Noel Dempsey. It is recognised that if implemented as planned, the reintroduction of fees may be a visionary move, however the fear is that the implementation will be less than exemplary. The vice-President drew my attention to the poor distribution of monetary funds which should have been made available after the 69% registration fee increase.

So with all these fears and concerns,

why was there such a poor turnout? Grainne Heffernan puts it down to apathy and complacency amongst the student body. Cllr Diarmuid Scully of Fine Gael, a former UL Students' Union President, highlighted the danger of such an attitude, he congratulated those who participated in the march and advised them to exert their power through the ballot box. He declared that the suggested reintroduction of fees was a tax on education and a tax on skill. Both Cllr Scully and Eoin O Broin advocated the increase of the grant to a "livable level" in their speeches outside Roches Stores on O'Connell Street.

The speeches, which took place after the march from, the Castletroy campus concentrated on the impact that the reintroduction of fees would have on the economic well being of Irish students. The Students' Union President claimed that the best-case scenario in the event of the reintroduction of fees was a student loans system. Countries such as Canada and Great Britain have seen the effect which student loans have on the finances of a graduating student, Eoin O Broin stated that if a similar system was introduced here Humanities students would be likely to have incurred a debt of anything



Students at the anti-fees march

up to E10,000 by the time they have completed 4th year. He illustrated that when we combine this with the regular living costs that are already present, you get a picture of how grave this situation might be. He went on to accuse Noel Dempsey of being "Off his rocker" if he thought this was best for Irish education.

The march itself, which preceded the speeches of Cllr Scully and the Students' Union President and vice-President, started in the Scholars courtyard and left the campus by the main gate. The marchers were

escorted by a Garda motorcycle which controlled traffic as the small stream of people joined the Dublin Road at the Curraghreen roundabout. The march was accompanied by the Sambo Eire percussionists and attracted a crowd of people as it made its way into the city before congregating in O'Connell Street. The Government appears determined to reintroduce third level fees; the poor turnout for last Wednesday's march suggests that the students of UL are as of yet not too worried by the prospect, maybe they should be.

UL Alcohol Policy Launched

by Ruth Bagnell

The Alcohol Policy is not something to be feared. Mr. Eoin O'Broin, ULSU President, told staff and students that the presence of alcohol in Irish culture would not be destroyed by this new policy. The initiative is a way of "changing the choices that people have." He stressed life would not change completely. This is just a way of putting "different opportunities" in front of students while earn their coveted degrees. To give an example of how the ULSU are promoting the policy Mr. O'Broin noted that this year, "Kollege Week is only being funded in part by the Alcohol Awareness Committee and not Budweiser and the likes." The policy should encourage students to choose alternatives and not spend some of their best years in a dark pub corner.

UL students filled the UL White House Wednesday of Week 7 to launch the Alcohol Policy. Students appear to be the main group in the college behind this initiative. All UL students and staff had been invited to meet with Dr. Rodger Downer, UL President. Members of a wide range of clubs and societies met and chatted with Dr. Rodger Downer about the policy and college life in general. Clubs and societies development officer Mr. Paul Lee shared his views on the Policy. "Clubs and societies have an

important part to play in offering a range of activities outside of the pub culture, so it is important that they are here to endorse it."

Students wearing different clubs and societies apparel discussed the pros and cons of the policy with Dr. Downer. An array of opinions on the Alcohol Policy was to be heard from students. UL Radio Society President, Mr. Peter Burrows was wholeheartedly in support of the Alcohol Policy. "Anything that will encourage students into clubs and societies that doesn't involve loss of faculties is a good idea. On the other hand, it would involve a significant gesture from the college to ensure its success." There was a lot of positive

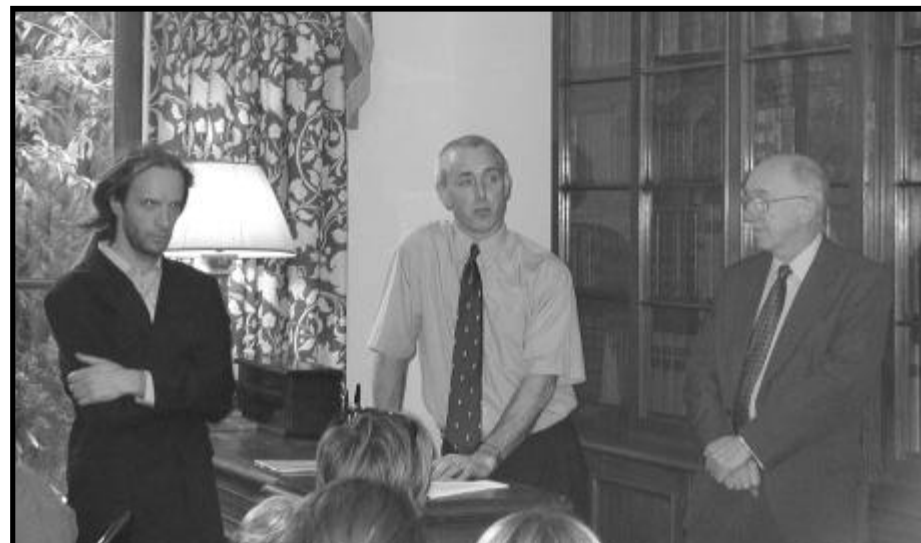
feedback from the students at the event. "It's nice to see that the University cares," commented student, Ms. Sarah Ryan. Pagan Society representatives showed their support for the policy in their own way.

UL Drama society feel that the provisions made within the policy for the scheduling of the Jonathon Swift theatre are unsatisfactory. The policy states that scheduling for the theatre will be reviewed for societies during term evenings. UL Drama Society President, Ms. Ella Daly declared that she was "upset with article 10, as it says nothing about putting more money into the Swift". UL Drama Society Vice President, Ms. Maeve

Eason felt that she didn't see anything new on the policy. She believed that everything contained within the policy had already been achieved by clubs and societies. "The fact that the majority of people here are student's shows that the University are not in support of this policy. It's the student's that are going to make this work and they don't seem to be getting support from faculty" complained an agitated Computer Society President.

UL President, Dr. Rodger Downer, was "very proud and delighted to see this" policy being implemented in the college. Alcohol negatively impacts people's lives, especially in the home. Lives can be destroyed by alcohol. Dr. Downer drew reference to a television advert shown in Australia. A mass murderer speaks of his killings over some years and then compares them to the acts of a person who drinks and drives. Drink drivers are no better than mass murderers is the message of the advert.

The Policy is there to persuade all of us to use alcohol wisely. Its aim is not to rid the college of alcohol altogether but to increase choices and alternatives. The Alcohol policy could mean longer café opening hours, increased funding for non-alcoholic events and much more.



Eoin O'Broin, Declan Aherne and Dr. Roger Downer

President - Bagnell, Ruth

RUTH BAGNELL here, running for ULSU President.

During my four years in UL, I have been heavily involved in the two main day-to-day decision making bodies of the Union - Class Reps Council and Clubs and Societies Council. In my four years as a class rep and my active involvement in five clubs and societies, I believe I have the necessary experience and skills to represent you as President.

The situation with the bars this year was a shambles. I will ensure implementation of a coherent plan regarding rules and regulations so that the bars can continue to operate without the threat of legal action.

I will liaise with Limerick City and County Councils to propose an integrated transport plan including lobbying for bus lanes along William St. and to and from the University.

Every student in the college uses computers and many have problems with them. To alleviate these problems, I will work to fully implement the ITD student-user group, actively seek the full implementation of course specific labs and lobby for increased training of computer lab assistants.

The library is another important

student resource, which needs improvement. I will continue the drive for plans to extend Library hours especially at weekends and exam time. Through the Library Student User Group, I will work on getting more relevant literature as well as looking at ways of improving usage of space and reducing noise.

It is unreasonable that final year repeat students cannot graduate with their class - I will fight to break this bureaucratic mechanism. By maintaining pressure on University Management I will ensure improvement in Students' Services including improvements to the SI records system so that you can actually register and get your results on time next year.

The University has often reneged on its commitments to Clubs and Societies. I will ensure the University is accountable for its promises regarding funding while lobbying for extra resources. Also, I will lobby the University to ensure a half day Wednesday for all courses (esp Labs and Tutorials) and investigate the usage of on-campus venues for Clubs and Socs.

Field Sport Clubs have difficulty getting access to the better pitches for their league matches. This is unacceptable and when elected, I will

work with these clubs to ensure that this and the security of the equipment and dressing rooms is dealt with satisfactorially.

I fully support the construction of the boathouse. I will work to ensure that, if so decided at the referendum, the boathouse is built in a timely and cost-efficient manner so that students can begin using this facility as soon as possible.

I am against any sort of fees, loans or increased registration. I will campaign to ensure that the government and our elected representatives know and understand our position. I also support calls for widening of the grant assessment bands.

The class reps system is a vital part of student representation in the college. They act as the primary student representation to the University, to our lecturers and to the SU. I will campaign to improve students' knowledge of class reps and what the system can do for them as well as encouraging full uptake of Class Reps Positions, by personally campaigning to encourage classes to elect a representative.

I will endeavour to bring the Union to the Students by immediately starting a constitutional review to ensure that



the Union structure is less bureaucratic, more workable and suited to the needs of current students - Students before politics

I will work for you, the students, using your mandate to represent your views. For more details, see my website, manifesto or ask me in person.
(www.Ruth4Prez.com)

Thanks for your time,

Always,

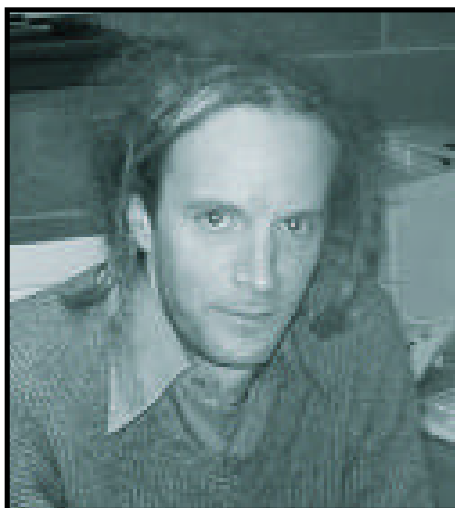
President - O'Broin, Eoin

Students of UL,

I write this piece asking you to re-elect me as Students' Union President of UL. It is not often that a Students Union President seeks a second term of office. I am the 28th UL SU President and of my predecessors only 3 did two terms. The circumstances surrounding their decisions to run again were significant. Colm Croffy ('90-'91-'92) wanted to ensure that the structure whereby the Students Union President and a General Manager were partners in running the Students Union came into being. Michael Phelan ('00-'01-'02) did so for a number of reasons but mostly to finish off the solid work he had done with Clubs & Societies, the professionalism of the accounts system, securing the minibus and extra funding from the University. The reasons I want to make it Eoin Ó Broin ('02-'03-'04) are to consolidate and finish off the projects & campaigns I have been involved in this year. I feel that at this stage I am close to closure on a number of these issues but need an extra few months to ensure success. I have established a working relationship with all parties involved that has taken months to build up. Now I want to finish the job. But enough of this talk. Below is a list of my achievements over the last nine months and it is on the basis of this you should decide whether I should be president for the forthcoming year.

Library Opening hours

ACTION: Numerous meetings with head of Library Mr. John Lancaster.



RESULT: Received guarantee that all day Saturday & Sunday opening hours are imminent.

Bus Lanes

ACTION: Made presentations to Limerick City & County Councils and to Bus Éireann.

RESULT: The County Council have agreed to provide Bus Lanes by 2004. ULSU have been included in Limerick City bus lanes implementation committee.

Half Day Wednesday

ACTION: Convinced University of need for half day Wednesday.

RESULT: University have set up task force to find classroom space to facilitate half day.

Objections to Licences of on Campus Clubs

ACTION: Hired top national legal expert on bar & retail law (Mr. Jim Woods) to advise clubs.

RESULT: Clear direction to clubs on

implementation of rules & fingers crossed for Wednesday.

Nitelink

ACTION: Lobbied University for funding for Nitelink for 2002/2003

RESULT: Secured €18'000 from University for this purpose.

Alcohol Policy

ULSU has received a commitment from University to provide a late night café, improved theatre facilities & increased student funding.

Academic Calendar

ACTION: Lobbied at Faculty Board Level for no change to academic calendar.

RESULT: University plans for exams before Christmas have been shelved.

Students Services

ACTION: Lobbied the Head of Student Services, the Head of Human Resources and Academic Council for improvements in the standard of services provided by the Students Services office.

RESULT: The situation has improved somewhat, but is far from satisfactory.

Health & Safety

ACTION: Lobbied Buildings Dept. for 24 hour filtered drinking water supply.

RESULT: Buildings have agreed to install. Location to be determined.

Clubs & Societies

ACTION: Helped Boathouse Campaign in dealings with University.

RESULT: If, and hopefully when, passed, Wednesdays Referendum will release funding for such.

Fees

ACTION: Was an organiser of two demonstrations in city centre against fees. Met Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Minister for Education Noel Dempsey, Minister for State at Dept. of Education Síle De Valera, and opposition spokespersons on education Olwyn Enright (Fine Gael) and Jan O'Sullivan (Labour). Organised a thousand letters to be sent from UL students to their local government backbenchers.

If you are impressed with my record you do think that I am the best person for the job for 2003 - 2004 then give me your number one vote next Wednesday.

By giving me the position for a further 12 months I promise to bring closure to as many of the above issues as possible. In addition to this I want to continue with my campaign slogan of last year "Put the Students back in the Union" by encouraging more use of the Students Union Building and by getting as many students as possible involved in the running of the Union through the Class Reps Council.

Sin a bhfuil. Vote for Me, I am still yer only man!

Slán,

Eoin

PS: I would like to congratulate all involved in the Pro - Boathouse Campaign. You have run a great campaign so far and I sincerely hope that the magic figure of 2'000 voting UL students is achieved. You deserve it!

Welfare/Deputy President - Aherne, Jennifer

Hi guys my name is Jennifer Aherne and I am one of the candidates running for Welfare Officer this week. Some of you might recognise my name from last semester when I ran for equality officer. Unfortunately I was just beaten to the post by Patrick McHugh, but this has only made me more determined and I am now back with vengeance.

For the last year I have been involved in many activities around the college. I am currently a class representative, I was actively involved in setting up U.L's equality committee and I am a member of the Welfare committee as well as being actively involved in the Spanish society. Being involved with so many groups has given me a deep insight into the varying needs of the students on campus. It has also allowed me to experience first hand some of the changes that are taking place in order to help U.L students have a more enjoyable college life.

Our present welfare officer, Grainne, has been working very hard this year and her path will be a hard one to follow, however I am the girl for the job. For me this is much more than a sabbatical position in the students union. It is a chance to make a difference, a chance for me to help you. If nominated I will be concentrating on many issues, such as equality on campus, the ongoing bus disputes, security on campus, crèche facilities and

library hours. Much more than this however I will be there TO LISTEN, TO HELP, and TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. It is only by listening to you the students, and by hearing the problems you are encountering, can I begin to help you to counteract such difficulties and endeavour to make a permanent change so that such problems will not be encountered again.

From Monday to Wednesday of week 9, all candidates will be vying for your attention and your vote. I will be available in the canteen everyday to answer your questions and to hopefully start to hear what you the students want. Hustings are on Monday between 1 and 3, if you want to publicly hear what I have to say come along and don't be afraid to ask questions. My manifesto will be available for you to read so you will know what I stand for, and you will see that I stand for the good of all U.L students. It is your duty to vote next week and I want you to vote for me, so come on up to the canteen, ask questions and don't be afraid to give me a piece of your mind because I am here TO LISTEN, TO HELP and TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Remember if you want to vote, VOTE JENNIFER AHERNE, WELFARE OFFICER, and you can be guaranteed that your needs will be met and that I will do my best to try and help solve the problems you are facing.



Welfare/Deputy President - Garrahy, David

When you really want to change things, really want to make a difference, you have to take a long-term view, look to the future and don't be afraid to be idealistic.

As I am due to leave this University in June I started to think back onto what UL I expected when I entered as a 1st year - a more open and accepting place where diversity and difference was welcomed.

I have to say that what I found was much different. I felt that there was less of a feeling of Community and people went around in groups of friends that were hard to break into. The University and SU did do their best to rectify this and tried with social events and in other ways to help us to find our place on this campus. However, the reason that I am running for Welfare Officer is that I don't think that I see that integration anymore. I feel that less and less people feel part of the Campus. This is especially so with the Campus Minorities such as Gay Lesbian and Bisexual students, Disabled students, Foreign Students, Mature students and those under particular strain such as lone parents.

Now, however, I think that it affects more and more students who just don't think that UL has a place for them. This is what Welfare is all about. If you don't have steady friends to fall back on or feel part of a greater Community then problems such as drop-outs, alcoholism and depression. Naturally these problems will occur no matter what and I will be as sympathetic, kind and caring as possible but I see my function as going out to make sure these problems do not happen in the first place. That's all well and good in theory you might say but how are you going to do it boyo?

Well I have many proposals that you will be able to read in my manifesto at my stand in the Canteen. The major ones are increasing the amount of events on the Campus where students can meet



each other. This can be done through funding of the ENTS, which does not at the moment receive any funding for gigs. It will also necessitate better relations with the local residents, an area I will work hard to improve. I also feel the development of alternative social venues around the University where people can meet and feel comfortable is a major priority, this can be in the University and the Students' Union - these badly need to be opened up.

Another area is the wonderful institutions that we have through Clubs and Societies. I believe that we have the best Clubs and Socs in the Country, people should be encouraged to join whether this be through merits from the University or otherwise,

the valuable work that individuals make to the University through them should be recognised. Societies can also be used very effectively to integrate people into the Campus. Examples of this are the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual society, the ESN and the Mature Students. I will help these societies as much as possible and will negotiate that they will have a special status as regards funding so they can continue their valuable work. Lastly, you can't have a community without any students!

I will fight, any way I can to halt the re-introduction of fees. Lastly, I have to introduce myself I guess, I am 4th year Law and Euro and have been involved in Student and Student Union politics for most of my time here. When you go to vote, ask yourself - What type of University do you want in 12 months??

Welfare/Deputy President - Staunton, Sarah

Hi! My name is Sarah Staunton and I'm in fourth year Public Administration. I'm running for election for Welfare Officer-Deputy President. My interest for this position for was ignited during my work on the campaign team for a former Welfare Officer-Deputy President and my year spent working very closely with this officer. This office has gone from strength to strength since I started in U.L. in 1999 and if elected I would hope make an equal and hopefully a greater contribution to the office. In recent years, the various Welfare Officers have had huge success in enhancing the college experience of countless numbers of students. The medical center has been renovated and extended, the night link service has been extended and a number of new welfare orientated clubs and societies, like the Rotaract Club and the Outreach society have been founded.



by which extra money can be raised should be explored.

Hopefully you now have an idea of what I'm about and I look forward to meeting you and answering any of your questions in the coming days. Thanks a million, Sarah

What I would hope to accomplish if elected

- Transmit a fortnightly e-newsletter to help raise awareness of welfare services and keep students up to date on what is going on. I would hope to make this a subscriber service so as not to bombard students with unwanted emails.

- Continue the work done by Grainne Heffron in trying to set up a health center student user group, like the library student user group, where students and health center personnel can meet informally to examine ways of improving services and health center conditions for all.

- To push for the post of Director of Student Affairs (which has been vacant for the past two years) to be filled

- The issue of student accommodation rights is one that is prominent every year. From talking to different students, it would seem that, despite the best efforts of the accommodation office and other officials, some landlords/ladies are not providing rent books etc as required by law. Students need to be made more aware of their rights as tenants.

- Also the issue of parent and child accommodation is a matter that needs to be addressed. Apartments have been allocated in Dromroe Village for the specific purpose of catering for student parents and their children. These apartments had been offered to student parents at a reduced fee but that is set to increase to the full fees from September. As everyone will know trying to finance college is difficult enough but if you are trying to support a child as well as you really do need all the help you can get, so I hope to get this decision reversed

- Creche facilities for student parents is another contentious issue, as places are limited and the bursary that parents can receive from the Financial Aid Fund does not cover the full costs of child care.

"

The Financial Aid Fund is another area where there is room for improvement. While it is accepted that this fund can only stretch so far, new means

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Education - Egerton, Ian

Hi, my name is Ian Egerton and I am a fourth year IT student. During the coming week I will be running for Vice President - Education officer in the Sabbatical Elections. This post was introduced three years ago when the Communications and Education post was split into two separate posts. It has proven to be a very effective move in highlighting the need for a more focused approach to education in the University. A number of steps forward have been achieved by this office in improving educational policy and resources. If elected I hope to enforce further implementation of these achievements and to gain further improvements within the scope of the education portfolio.

Whilst I have not been actively involved in the Students Union in past years I feel that I bring some new ideals to the table and hopefully a fresh perspective. As Education Officer I will continue on the good work done by Margaret Ryan, whilst trying to innovate new additions and improvements in education.

If elected I would hope to achieve the following:

- Push for the implementation of the additional library opening hours as negotiated by the present officers.

- Increase pressure on the Academic Council to allow students who through the repeat examination process have achieved an upgrade in their 'I' or deficient grades to graduate along with their entire class.

- To set aside time for students to come together and express their views in regard to any matter which they may be concerned about.

- Try to achieve consistency when it comes to exams, whether it is in regard to material or the exam timetables.

- Increase awareness of support and counseling service that are available in relation to exam stress etc...

- Monitor and improve ITD service in the college,



i.e.; Provide a much needed increase in profile storage space especially for final year students doing FYP's, have server space more readily available to students doing projects. To take on board, investigate, and hopefully implement suggestions made by students in this regard also.

Education - Molyneaux, Madeline

Hailing from the little backwater that the natives call Abbeyfeale, (rhymes with pale), Madeline Molyneaux has lived college life to the max since she first set foot on the sacred soil of the University of Limerick campus, 4 years ago. She is a hugely dynamic person with an infectious "joie de vivre" and her charming personality captures the attention of all around her. Since arriving in UL 4 years ago, Madeline has acted as a very efficient class representative for the Languages and Cultural Studies course. Her constant battle has achieved so much in so little time, especially pertaining to educational difficulties regarding course structure and outline, a much appreciated feat was a 4 week extension on the FYP!! She is also a member of the General Affairs and Finance committee in the Students' Union as well as being president of the Hispanic society.

Among Madelines many wonderful attributes are her fantastic leadership qualities, her enthusiasm and motivation for whatever project she has going on at the time. When this girl wants something done, it gets done, no two ways about it. Her organisational skills are out of this world, from her free tickets to the lodge, to the rounding up of troops for gigs in Dolans, supporters for soccer matches (me) to an altogether very important issue



for her, the issue of the reintroduction of fees. Madeline has phenomenal powers of persuasion, very good at convincing people that, it would be in their best interests to go to the lodge, go here, go there, and as for drumming up support for student demonstrations...Madeline is a very caring and true friend to all that know her, and there are few that don't!! She's the cheeriest schmeer I know.

Regarding the issues Madeline will be dealing

with; the major one of course is the fight against the reintroduction of fees. With the rising feelings of the current student population, this is a very important concern for her. She feels very strongly on this issue and has actively participated in demonstrations organised to display the sentiment of students, her strong views on this issue have led to her picture being splashed all over page 3 ;-)) of the Evening Echo. Madelines unselfishness regarding this matter demonstrates her caring nature regarding the effects of this potentially catastrophic decision, concerning the future students of Ireland.

Madeline is determined to see the current improvements in the Library continue to ensure that the students of UL get the facilities they deserve. Madeline also wants to see improved resources for the Language Resource Area, which is already under severe strain due to the influx of students from 10 new courses. Madeline is an ideal candidate for this post; she has a genuine interest in the concerns of the student body. She is always willing to stop, have a chat and a coffee, while at the same time remaining focussed on the matters in hand. Describing Madeline is a relatively easy task, cool, calm and collected.

BEAR WITH ME....

VOTE JEANNINE O'KANE No. 1
FOR
COMMUNICATIONS & CAMPAIGNS
OFFICER



CCO - Ryan, Sarah

Dia dhaoibh go léir. My name is Sarah Ryan and I'm running for the position of Communications and Campaigns officer (CCO) this year. I'm a fourth year Applied Languages student and have been known to wander around the campus while wearing bright pink trousers. If you want to find out why I should be CCO, read this article or pick up a copy of my manifesto in English or as Gaeilge at my stand in the canteen or from my campaign team. Better still, come find me and ask me yourself!

What's a CCO?

The CCO is the person responsible for An Focal, and any guidebooks or handbooks printed by the Students' Union. He or she is also responsible for letting students know what is happening in the Union and keeping them up-to-date through campaigns and information drives.

Why vote for me?

I believe that a CCO needs to be able to motivate people. This is vital in order to produce a quality student newspaper and to run effective campaigns. Most recently, I have proved myself able to do this by visualising and co-ordinating ODDfest which was held in Week Seven. This was a fun project involving societies in UL. It needed a dedicated team of volunteers to be successful, and successful it was! See the report on page 13

In spite of the pink pants, I also have a serious side. I have been actively involved in various clubs and societies throughout my time in UL, often at committee level. These include Radio Society, Lego Society, Music Society, An Cumann Spraoi,



Computer Society, Drama Society, the Folk Group, and TenForward. I believe that this experience is a very good grounding for the organisational and motivational skills needed to be a good CCO. It has also helped me realise how important Clubs and Societies are to the University and if elected, I intend to support them in every way I can.

Stuff I will do if elected

As CCO, I will concentrate on using the existing structures and making them more co-ordinated, more effective, more inclusive and, well, better!

I will run imaginative and comprehensive campaigns to let you know what is going in your

Union, the Students' Union. These campaigns will be to let you know about issues which affect you. I will work with teams of people who feel particularly strongly about each issue in order to make each campaign more effective.

If elected, I plan to put SU information points in place in every building on campus. This will involve a noticeboard at each point as well as a distribution point for An Focal. I will also strive to make An Focal available postally to people on Co-Op and especially to those on Teaching Practice. I want to make An Focal more accessible to readers by including more humorous articles and cartoons alongside the more serious content. I believe that this is more likely to encourage students to read An Focal, and to write for it.

The ULSU website is a vital tool for communicating information to students. I intend to update it regularly and comprehensively. Its importance to all students, but especially those students who are not on campus must not be under-utilised.

I'm afraid I have nowhere near enough space to go into all of my plans for the coming year. Pick up a copy of my manifesto for a look at some more ideas, or just ask me myself! Remember, it's Sarah Ryan for CCO!

Come out and vote on Wednesday and make your voice heard!

ULSU uses Stalinist tactics at UGM

by Manus Bree

Certain members of ULSU used Stalinist style tactics to stop anti-war motion being debated at SU UGM.

In advance of an anti-war motion being put to the SU UGM certain members of the SU did their utmost to block this motion and stem debate on campus. Firstly the Class Reps Council (legislative organ of the SU), whose role in this incidence is to formalise and pass the agenda for the following UGM, was not quorate and thus the UGM could not take place. It is interesting to note that the time and venue of this meeting were changed without all the relevant representatives being informed. Also last night's meeting was publicised to the same degree to previous SU AGM/EGMs, it was left up to members of certain societies and groups incl. Irish Peace Soc., Labour Youth, Green Party, SWP, Enviro Soc., Socialist Party and Mature Students Soc to inform the student body of meeting.

Although no UGM could officially take place, pressure from the individual students who were in attendance forced the Chair to hold an SU public debate instead, which created a visible unease with certain members of the SU executive.

As the debate began it became evident that they did not want the SU

to be used as a forum for democratic debate, stating that the SU should be apolitical and it should not take a position on any issues. As the speakers speaking against the war focused on the issue itself, SU members refused to debate the war and instead talked about the bad precedent of politicising the SU, making frequent reference to other students' bodies such as UCD SU. Some even claimed that this would open a Pandora's box and feared a flood of issues might be debated within the SU forum such as abortion and college fees. Another bone of contention with the Conservative elements was the claim that if the SU took a position on an issue it would be forcing their opinion on students, ignoring the fact that any referendum passed must have at least 67% support from the student electorate, hardly a minority opinion.

With ideology and anti-democratic tactics like this it is no wonder that UL is one of the most politically inactive colleges in the country. A college where we could only manage to get less than 150 people to attend Fees Demo this week, interestingly the same members of the ULSU mentioned above refused to attend this event. Considering involvement in politics and in the political system among young people in Ireland is the lowest in Europe it is highly important that students have as many opportunities and avenues open to them to debate issues, this is central

to the continued health of our democracy.

People in the past have fought against conservative elements like this, the right to vote and the right to be heard, we will continue to do so. A referendum on the matter will be brought before the student body in the coming weeks. They can't silence us anymore, we have them running scared.

The ULSU would like to take this opportunity to clarify some inaccuracies in this piece

1) *The time and place of the meeting was not changed. Individuals put out posters advertising the event as being on at a different venue and place. However the meeting had been advertised by official SU posters as taking place in FG042 from at least the preceding Monday.*

2) *Over 100 posters were sent out by the ULSU advertising the meeting. All class reps were telephoned asking them to attend. An email was sent around to the college. Over 800 people collected their Stables & Scholars Club ID cards on the back of this email, therefore at least some of these people had obviously received and read the email.*

3) *There was no pressure from individual students to hold the EGM. The SU exec and the chair decided to hold the debate despite the*

meeting being inquorum. To suggest that we had to be forced to do it is frankly ridiculous, as anyone who attended the meeting will attest.

4) *With regards to the referendum point, it was not being brought to a referendum, which would require 67% of 2000 people thereby giving it legitimacy, passing a motion at an UGM would only require 51% of 200, or 101 people.*

5) *The ULSU clearly stated at the meeting that we would be holding another UGM in week 10, with a view to getting a quorum EGM so the issue could be resolved.*

This response was written on behalf of the ULSU Executive.

The Boathouse Project: Bringing our clubs into the new Millennium

The Boathouse Project - Bringing our clubs into the new Millennium

For those of you who don't know, there will be a referendum in week 9 to decide the fate of the Boathouse Project - a project which was first envisioned about six years ago to cater for the needs of some of the fastest growing clubs within the college. It has been a long and weary campaign to get the project to this stage and we are now on the brink of achieving our goal. So, to give everybody the chance to understand what this project entails, here are some of the most commonly asked questions.

What is the Boathouse project?

The boathouse project is the planned development of suitable storage and training facilities on campus to cater for the needs of UL clubs. The project now involves four UL clubs - UL Rowing Club, UL Kayak Club, UL Sub-Aqua Club and the UL Mountain Bike, all of whom are without a permanent storage facility. This development has been in the pipeline for a number of years and has been backed strongly by the Students Union and their presidents over the last few years.

What is the background to the project and why do the clubs need it?

The clubs involved are some of the most active clubs within the University of Limerick with each of their memberships multiplying in recent years. The proposed project is not just an idealistic wish list of the clubs involved - it is a requirement. While these clubs have been building up their membership base, we are still hampered by the lack of adequate storage and training

facilities, which is stunting our potential for growth and success. The clubs involved have in the region of €250,000 in equipment, and as yet, none have a suitable storage facility. Indeed, the Rowing club have suffered about €20,000 worth of damage as a result of vandalism in the last two years. Every year, the club pays out €3,200 in rental costs just for storage of equipment. The kayak club currently store their equipment at the back of the old sports building where it suffers constant deterioration as a result of exposure to the elements and vandalism. The Mountain Bike club have similar problems with most of their equipment being stored in houses, from which some has been burgled. The Sub-aqua club store their equipment in a press in the old sports building which is a highly unsuitable area for storage of high-pressurised diving tanks.

In all the above cases, it can be seen that the clubs involved are operating from substandard facilities that are extremely costly in terms of the damage sustained to club assets. In fact, the University of Limerick is one of the only universities in Ireland that doesn't have a rowing boathouse. The lack of facilities has been apparent within the clubs involved for a number of years so every effort has been made to resolve the problems.

What methods of funding have been investigated?

Proposals have been submitted to the UL Foundation seeking financing for this project but in recent years, priority has been given to academic projects ahead of projects such as ours. However, the University authorities did allocate an area of land for potential development by the clubs involved in the submission. This site is located on the riverbank near the water treatment plant behind the university. This location is



An artists impression of the proposed boathouse

ideal for the clubs involved due to the proximity to the campus. This setting will allow the rowers who train on a daily basis easy and quick access to their equipment and a suitable waterway for intensive river training, reducing greatly the time involved in their regular training. The location will also serve to raise the profile of the clubs on campus. Indeed, this project has the potential to develop our student clubs into the top competitors in their sport in Ireland.

Having exhausted the possibility of direct University funding for the project, the focus was switched towards financing the building in a similar manner to that involved in the financing of the ULSU student centre. This will involve extending the current student levy, which is in place to finance the Student Centre by a number of years, up to a maximum of eight years.

Other methods of funding have also been investigated. It is felt that no funding would be forthcoming from the Higher Education Authority as this project is not an education-based project. However, an application for National Lottery funding will be made once the project has advanced to a stage where an application is possible which will probably be at the beginning of next year. Any extra funding acquired can be used to reduce the running time of the levy - i.e. the levy may cease after 7 years instead of 8. However, none of this will be possible if the referendum is not passed in week 9. It should also be noted that the clubs in question are heavily involved in fundraising, and while the money raised is significant (the rowing club raised €10,000 in corporate donations), the figures raised are not significant in terms of the scale of this project.

If you vote yes, you are voting to extend the current student levy to finance the costs of the boathouse up to a maximum of 8 years. The current student levy is due to finish in 2006/2007 so the boathouse levy would commence immediately after. The present student levy, which is paid at registration, is €50 per year and is consumer price index linked - there will be no other increases in what is currently paid i.e. it won't cost the student anything extra to what is already present. Effectively, most current students will have finished their time in UL by the time the proposed levy comes into effect.

How were the Boathouse costs estimated?

Before a referendum could be called, an estimate of the potential costs involved was required. To this end, the clubs involved prepared a detailed list of specifications for requirements within the boathouse. These specs were based on surveys performed on other university clubs; data received from the governing body of the sport, and projected growth of the student population within UL. This boathouse will be comprised of individual storage areas for each of the four clubs with communal training and meeting areas and some sport specific training areas such as a rowing tank to be used for safe close-quarter coaching of novice rowers. Having predicted future membership levels, estimates of the equipment required to cater for these numbers were performed. The boathouse spec is based on the future of these clubs and not on a short-term solution that would be inadequate for our needs in five years time. Based on the floor space estimated in these specs, a project management company prepared a schedule of



Damage to rowing equipment as a result of vandalism

What are we voting for?

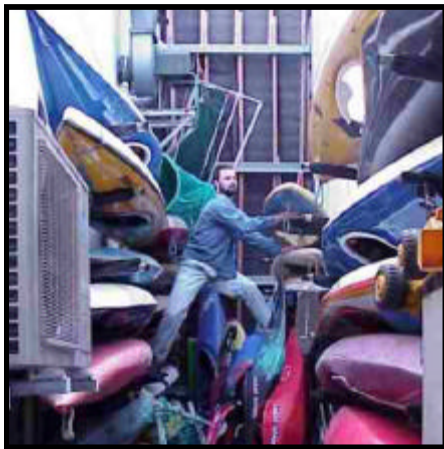
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accommodation to estimate the upper limit in costs for the project. This was estimated to be €4.1 million euro. It should be stressed that this is an estimate of the upper limit for the project; the actual costs will not be known until the building is fully designed, and may emerge to be lower than the estimate.

What happens if the referendum is passed?

If the referendum is passed, a design team will be assigned immediately to



Cramped Storage Facilities

develop concepts and detailed drawings of the boathouse. The design and application stage will take six to nine months to complete. If everything goes smoothly, the boathouse could be close to completion within two years. Representatives of the ULSU and the clubs involved will be working closely with the University in dealings with the Quantity Surveyor and design team employed on the project i.e. we will be the clients and will have final call on decisions made, and so will retain control over the project and how the money is spent. In addition, we have a commitment from the University that once the boathouse is built, they will cover the maintenance and running costs up to a certain limit. This limit will be put in place to discourage wasteful use of power and water and so make the building as economical and eco-friendly as possible. All these details will be put down in writing in a Memorandum of Agreement to be signed by the ULSU and the University authorities.

What are the wider benefits to the local and campus communities?

While the construction of the University Arena raised the standard of facilities available to most sportspeople to an elite level, some sports such as the clubs involved in this project have been left behind in terms of training and storage facilities. This project will redress the balance and give these clubs the opportunity to compete at a higher level through the availability of safe purpose built training facilities. In addition, in recent years, the issue of water safety has come to the fore in all water-based clubs. As yet, there are no specific emergency response facilities to cater for the safety of the members of these clubs so efforts must be made to help prevent more tragic accidents. The UL Sub-Aqua club have plans to purchase a rigid inflatable boat that can be used for both diving instruction and search and rescue. They also have links with Killaloe Search and Rescue and the hope for the future is that we will be able to launch our own search and rescue from the boathouse should an emergency arise. This will be especially important with the heightened use of the waterway in Plassey. The project has also

received the backing of the Irish Amateur Rowing Union and an Olympic coach. The Irish Olympic rowing squad regularly train at the NCTC and would greatly benefit from the availability of the proposed facility.

Why should you vote yes?

In the past, students have been asked to commit to projects that they knew they might not reap the benefit of. Two examples of this are the Student Centre and the University Arena, both of which were only built as the result of students taking the selfless act of voting yes in the referendum, fully knowing that the projects would not be completed for them to enjoy during their time in college. However, voting yes is a commitment to improving campus life for those to come and you now have the chance to be a part of it. The clubs involved have built up a large membership base without any suitable storage facilities to speak of, and now the time is right to allow the clubs and the future students of UL to get the facilities they deserve.

Oddfest Report

by Sarah Ryan

Ah ODDfest. The whatfest? The ODDfest! ODDness was where it was all at during week 7. UL's first ever ODDfest took place in the sunshine, amid many bemused glances, a lot of smiles and some small rounds of applause.

What's it all about anyway?

Four weeks ago, a couple of small societies got together and decided that it would be a good idea to run a couple of events in tandem, to make things easier publicity wise, and to create new intersociety friendships, and to make it all more of a laugh. Within a couple of weeks there were ten clubs and socs involved and more and more clamouring to be allowed to play too. The organisation side of things was a little chaotic, but we managed to hammer out a timetable, cobble together a few posters, and decided that we may as well go ahead with the whole thing now that we'd started. After meetings, misgiving and much pulling out of hair, coupled with printing disasters and computers going down all over the shop, Tuesday dawned and we went for it!

Tuesday

Things kicked off with a bounce on Tuesday afternoon with a bunny-hopping demonstration by the mountain bikers, which mightily impressed the sunseekers in the UL Courtyard. Those brave enough to venture upstairs to Room 5 in the SU were greeted by a table piled with LEGO enough to relive even the most distant childhood and the chance to vote on the History Society's International Man of History presentations. The candidates were Alexander the Great, George Walker Bush and Amelia Earhart. Tenforward also made their presence felt with a Smackdown competition with some kick-ass DVDs as prizes. The highlight of the day for me was the fantastic Apache helicopter some guy built from LEGO and was unable to part with. (if you are that guy, please contact legosoc@skynet.ie because they'd love to hear from you!)

Wednesday

Yet more crowds gathered in the Courtyard at lunchtime on Wednesday to watch some of the

Martial Arts clubs engage in a little friendly (!) sparring. Tae-Kwan-Do Club broke an inordinate number of blocks of wood with their hands and feet, Aikido Club made a non-violent impression by twisting each other up into strange shapes and knocking each other over, and the Kickboxing Club kicked, and, well, boxed a lot! Tae-Kwon-Do and Kickboxing then squared up to each other, but it all ended with lots of bowing and no fatalities. Meanwhile, the Environmental Society were out and about cleaning up the river on one of the sunniest days every, the lucky articles. Up in Room 5, the mayhem continued, with one of UL's newest societies, the Pagan Society, providing Tarot Reading, Palm Reading and Rune Casting all day for queues of curious punters. The Computer Society were geeking it up to the max with Jedi Knight 2 played on a LAN (that's lots of computers plugged into each other for any non-geeks). Thrilling Stuff. Legosoc and the History Society were both present all day, and the steady stream of people buying their tickets for Kollege Week only made things all the more mental. Wednesday night was once again the domain of the Geeks, with the Computer Society and Tenforward, the Film and Sci-Fi Society going head to head in a jointly organised table quiz. The Quizmaster was the consummate fanboy Jonathan Ryan and the heckling and interesting spot prizes (anyone for a half pound of sausages?) all made for a highly entertaining evening.

Thursday

Thursday dawned bright and rather less early than Wednesday (to us at any rate). A panic about the bouncy castle, which unfortunately had to be cancelled, led to a steel determination to soldier on. History, Legosoc, Tenforward and the Pagan Society continued their occupation of Room 5 of the SU, but this time, the queues for the Tarot Reading were out the door. In the courtyard Out in UL were raising awareness with their Fight Discrimination campaign. Over the course of the day they gathered over 700 signatures. Things continued in this vein for most of the afternoon, but were interrupted by loud music from the SU Courtyard. It was ODDfest Musical Chairs! Radiosoc were pumping out the tunes while some very brave people battled it out to the Birdie song,



Martial Arts action from OddFest

Star Trekkin, and Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini and pranced around of a load of chairs. It had to be seen to be believed and it was even better to have taken part. The evening festivities were courtesy of Drama Society. They presented their original play Possibilities, which was very well received at the Irish Student Drama Awards this year. It's fantastic and if you've missed it, you're a sucker. In the interval, History Society were very pleased to announce that Ms Amelia Earhart (aviator extraordinaire) was the winner of the International Man of History Competition. Which is funny. Kind of.

Then it was off to Soul Clinic in Dolan's, for the ODDball. I will draw a veil over proceedings at this point, but only because I had to leave early and no-one will tell me if anything interesting happened. Anyway, to sum up, it was all one middle-sized party, with major thanks to (in no particular order) Aikido Club, Pagan Soc, Ten Forward, Legosoc, the History Society, Mountain Biking Club, Tae-Kwan-Do, Radio Society, Gsoc, Kickboxing, Aero Soc, Drama Soc, EnviroSoc, Chess Club, Computer Society, St Vincent de Paul Society, Out in UL, Dayvoh, Eoin O' Broin, Paddy Buckley, Stan Blennerhasset and Paul Lee Here's to next year! If you are interested in joining any of the clubs and societies listed here, call into the Clubs and Societies office in the Students' Union Building.

Photos from Week 7 & 8



Lego Soc at OddFest, Week 7



Clubs & Socs Members at the launch of the alcohol policy, Week 7



Martial Arts Demonstration, Week 7



Musical Chairs in the Main Courtyard, Week 7



Lego Soc display, Week 7



The launch of the Alcohol Policy, Week 7



The Forum on Europe, Wednesday Week 7



The Anti Fee Protest, Week 9

Photos from Week 7 & 8



Enjoying the sunshine, Wednesday Week 8



The St Vincent de Paul Bouncy Castle, Week 8



The SU Courtyard, Week 8

The Stables Club

at The University of Limerick

www.stablesclub.com

Week 9

Monday

Music Soc - Open Mic

Tuesday

Karaoke

Wednesday

Battle of the Bands

See posters for bands

Thursday

Noel McLoughlin

Friday

Aidan DJ



Pool table Sat & Sun

Video Jukebox from 5pm weekdays

Week 10

Monday

Music Soc

Battle of the bands

See posters

Tuesday

Karaoke

Wednesday

BAND: Free Beer

Thursday

Streams of Whiskey

Friday

DJ Aidan



T (061) 330139 - E info@stablesclub.com

Arena Sports Club

The Arena Sports Club - THE Sports Venue

The Club features a Plasma Screen TV, and Big screen showing many sporting events. Our function room, equipped with Audio-Visual facilities is also available for group bookings. We have plenty of entertainment lined up for the year - check notice boards & posters for details.

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WE GUARANTEE SOMETHING TO SUIT ALL TASTES - CALL DOWN FOR A LOOK, YOU WON'T LEAVE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!



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WEEK 9

Monday

Premiership Night / The Greatest Music

Tuesday

The Best of Music

Wednesday

Open Mic - All Welcome

Thursday

Trad Session with the Folk Club

Friday

Music Night

The Arena Sports Club remains open at weekends

T: (061) 332760 | E: info@arenasportsclub.com

WEEK 10

Monday

Premiership Night / The Greatest Music

Tuesday

The Best of Music

Wednesday

Open Mic - All Welcome

Thursday

Trad Session with the Folk Club

Friday

Music Night

The Arena Sports Club remains open at weekends

F: (061) 330641 | W: www.arenasportsclub.com

YOUR WEEKLY NIGHT OUT- WEEK 9 & 10

Wednesday Nite @ Docs

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

Thursday Nite @ The MARKET

UL ARTS OFFICE SPRING FILM FESTIVAL

presents

MONDAY 07 April



50% Grey, Director : Ruairi Robinson

Pollock Director : Ed Harris

We begin in 1941, with Jackson Pollock having been declared "4F": unfit for military service ("Too neurotic," he chuckles uneasily to a buddy). He is an abstract artist in New York city, struggling in the conventional manner, getting roaring drunk and raving about jazz and how much he hates Picasso. A lesser movie might have shown Pollock getting life-affirmingly drunk all the time in bohemian bars and jabbering on about the life-force of music and art. But this shows a colder truth: Pollock is an alcoholic and depressive, and the morning after the night before he is grumpy, moody and silent. He spends his time being charmless and unforthcoming, between and during his periodic breakdowns. There is nothing cute or vulnerable about his pain and self-laceration, still less anything inspirational. Harris never makes him an attractive character. His salvation comes only when Krasner takes a romantic and artistic interest in him - a debt that he can never entirely bring himself to acknowledge or repay. She invites him round to look at her work and he says: "You're a damn good woman painter!" Krasner flinches at this unthinking but entirely artless condescension - as does the audience - but nothing is ever said out loud. Her stoic acceptance of his boorishness and his artistic superiority permanently colours their unhappy relationship. Success comes when Krasner badgers him into painting and schmoozing: he is taken up by the collector and patron Peggy Guggenheim, an excellent performance from Amy Madigan, looking oddly like Wallis Simpson, oozing hauteur, jaded gaiety and a desire to get his thrillingly primitive talents into bed. When Pollock tries to mount Peggy in her townhouse, for which he has painted a giant mural, he rushes it like an inexperienced teenager, ends up climaxing too soon and makes a humiliating and inglorious retreat. The test of a film about painting lies in us seeing the artist actually at work, and in fact Pollock did submit to precisely this sort of documentary film-making, acting out the thoughtful artist role for the camera, painting on to glass, etc. Harris is broadly convincing, progressing doggedly from conventional brushstrokes to the dynamic dripping and spattering. For many this will be, if not uphill work exactly, then a movie with a bit of a gradient... but its refusal to trundle out the cliches of the troubled-artist genre is refreshing. Ironically, for a film about abstracts, Pollock shows an overtly artistic sense in representing the real world; its untroubled, slow scenes revealing the artist's domestic existence in his place in the Hamptons could almost be shuffled and shown in any order. If there's any justice, the film should earn Harris a real place in the pecking order, higher than just a safe pair-of-hands character actor.

PITCH AND PUTT

Director : Donald Clarke

LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Director: Peter Jackson

Germany / 2001 / 179 mins

If you haven't heard of the Lord of the Rings, then welcome to Earth. By turns inspiring, comic, sad, lonely and joyful, this sweeping epic succeeds at a task many thought impossible, bringing the world of J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth to the celluloid screen. If you haven't seen it yet your in for a treat.

MONDAY 14 April



with all films followed by

THE DEBATING UNION WEEKLY DEBATE

WEEK 9 - THE CIARAN TRACY MEMORIAL DEBATING COMPETITION

Review of the Field

by Donal O'Driscoll

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

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

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

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



Mick Lally in "The Field"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Review of the National Symphony Orchestra

by Brendan Curran

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

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

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

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

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

plenty of banging from the percussion section.

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



Anissimov Alexander

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

Clubs & Societies Events: Week 9

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT/SUN
Games Society Role-Playing Games 7:45 - 12:30, EM019 7:00 EG006 Enviromental Soc Meeting, 7:00 Meeting Room 3 in the SU Debating Union Weekly Debate 8:00, Jean Monnet Archery Club Training 7-10 Old Sports Building Traditional Music Music Session Castletroy Park Hotel 9:30 Fianna Fail Meeting Room 4, 6:00 - 7:00 Outdoor Pursuits Climbing Wall Open 7-10, PESS Building	Games Society Role-Playing Games 7:30 - 12:30, EGO06 UL Kickboxing Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building Dance Club Salsa Dromroe Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 7:30 Advanced 7:30 - 8:30 Kayak Club Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool Outdoor Pursuits Climbing Wall Open 7-10, PESS Building	Games Society Role-Playing Games 19:00, EG006 including Apocalypse Kayak Club River Trip 2:00 The Store Judo Training PESS 6:00 - 7:30 Archery Club Training 7-10 Old Sports Building Enviromental Soc River Clean Up, Along UL 12 Noon Equestrian Club Beginners Day 3pm, East Gate Car Park St. Vincent De Paul Reflection on "New" Eire 7pm, SU Center Chess Club Meeting, Main Canteen 6-8pm Debating Union Maiden Speaker Comp C1 Corridor, 6pm	Karate Club 6:00 - 7:30 Training Gym in Old Sports Building Traditional Music Music Session Sports Bar 9:30 Dance Club Irish Dancing Dromroe Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 8:00 UL Kickboxing Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building Kayak Club Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool Games Society Role-Playing Games 7:00, EGO06 LAN Gaming 6:00, Outside SU Labour Youth Trade Union Stand Canteen, 12-2 Jan O Sullivan TD SU Building	Aeronautical Soc Ex RAF Pilot Lecture A1053 6pm Tennis Club Training/Practies All Levels Mountain Biking Sunday Cycle Start at PESS 11:00 Aeronautical Soc Vist to Queens, Saturday 11am Outdoor Pursuits Hillwalking - Knockmealdown Sunday 9am from Stables. Bus - 7 Euro	

Clubs & Societies Events: Week 10

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT/SUN
Games Society Role-Playing Games 7:45 - 12:30, EM019 7:00 EG006 Music Society Open Mic Stables, 9:30 Drama Society ISDA @ Trinity 5:30 Enviromental Soc Meeting, 7:00 Meeting Room 3 in the SU Debating Union Weekly Debate 8:00, Jean Monnet Archery Club Training 7-10 Old Sports Building Traditional Music Music Session Castletroy Park Hotel 9:30 Judo Training Arena 8:00-10:00 Fianna Fail Meeting Room 4, 6:00 - 7:00	Games Society Role-Playing Games 7:30 - 12:30, EGO06 UL Kickboxing Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building Dance Club Salsa Dromroe Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 7:30 Advanced 7:30 - 8:30 Tang Soo Do 7:30 - 9:00 Training Gym in Old Sports Building History Soc History of Iraq Display Main Canteen Athletics Club Training 6 - 7:30 Middle Distance 5:30 - 7:00 Sprinters at the Running Track Kayak Club Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool	Games Society Role-Playing Games 19:00, EG006 including Apocalypse Kayak Club River Trip 2:00 The Store Judo Training PESS 6:00 - 7:30 Drama Soc Drama Workshop 7:30 B1023 Ten Forward "I Went Down" 7:30 PSA Center Archery Club Training 7-10 Old Sports Building Kayak Club Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool Sailing Club Sailing 2pm, Foundation Building Chess Club Chess Playing 6-8, Main Canteen	Karate Club 6:00 - 7:30 Training Gym in Old Sports Building Traditional Music Music Session Sports Bar 9:30 History Soc History of Iraq Display Main Canteen Dance Club Irish Dancing Dromroe Village Hall Beginners 6:30 - 8:00 UL Kickboxing Training for beginners to advanced 9-10 Old Sports Building Kayak Club Pool Sessions 10-11, Arena Pool Games Society Role-Playing Games 7:00, EGO06 LAN Gaming 6:00, Outside SU Judo Training Arena 8:00-10:00	Softball Club Training Pitch 1, 2:00 History Society IHSA Conference UCC Outdoor Pursuits Weekend Trip to Wicklow Friday, 5 outside Stables	Tennis Club Training/Practies All Levels Saturday 11-12:30 Softball Club Training Pitch 1, 2:00 Athletics Club Training (Saturday) 12 - 2 at the Running Track Mountain Biking Sunday Cycle Start at PESS 11:00 Outdoor Pursuits Rockclimbing Burren, Co. Clare Sunday 9am from Stables. Bus - 7 Euro

Sub Aqua Club Report

by *Amanda Jane McGuinness*

From this time last year the club has come on by leaps and bounds. This time last year we had only 3 people qualified as Sport Divers but at the moment we have nine. Following an extensive training programme 4 of these divers now have an opportunity to become full instructors under the guidance of our training organisation headquarters in SCOTSAC. Once these people have qualified the club will be in a position to at least double its current membership from 20 to 40. At the beginning of February last a group of 11 divers from UL Sub-Aqua club (ULSAC) went on an expedition to the Red Sea for one week. Everybody agreed that it was superb to be able to dive for over an hour in 23 C of water 4 times a day as opposed to the rather chillier climate of Kilkee and Clifden .

While in the Red Sea we were privileged to dive surrounded by one of the most amazing mammals of the ocean, Dolphins. The day began as it did every other morning in the Red Sea by being woken at 6am by the lovely cabin crew to get ready for the

first dive of the day. That morning we were privileged to dive the 5000-ton Thistlegorm, which had set sail from England in 1941 to re-supply the Eighth Army, which was fighting against Rommel in North Africa . Unfortunately the Thistlegorm did not reach its final destination as it was dive-bombed by a Heinkel 111 on the morning of October 6th 1941 . While diving this fantastic ship wreck at 33 meters we were able to see the anti-aircraft gun still pointing skywards, as well as the railway locomotive which was sitting 100 meters off the port side, upright on the sand surrounded by unexploded phosphorus shells. Not to mention the wellington boots, land rovers, motorcycles and rifles.



Coral from the Red Sea

Having completed this spectacular dive we boarded our live-aboard ship for the week and headed off to a new dive location. After a lovely breakfast we had reached our dive destination and to my amazement the ocean was full of a family of 30-40 Dolphins who were all in the mood to play.

Not wishing to waste this maybe once in a lifetime chance to swim with wild Dolphins we all grabbed our masks and snorkels and hit the water. The feelings which overcame me while swimming with such magnificent mammals I still haven't been able to find the words to do the experience justice. The Dolphins would swim so close to you that you could nearly reach out and touch them, and when they knew you weren't looking they would brush past you so fast that you wouldn't realise that had happened until they were miles ahead of you.

I was one of the lucky divers who had ended up swimming miles away from the boat and encountered a baby dolphin with his mammy who was in a really playful mood. He was

swimming upright in the water making those weird noises that Dolphins make encouraging me to swim up close to him, and of course I would but as soon as I'd get close enough to touch him he'd swim off behind me and start call at me again. I swear to this day he was trying to play tag with me!

In the end his mum called him away and I headed back to the boat to get kitted up for diving, I was on such a high and I really didn't think my holiday could get any better. But sure enough while diving at 20 meters the baby and his mammy returned to play but this time he had brought along five other friends. I just lay under the water neutrally buoyant watching them swim around playing with each other. This was the side of the Dolphin that you never get to see on the surface, it was spectacular.

I would have to say that Diving in the Red Sea has got to be one of the best experiences of my life and if any of you ever get the chance to give scuba diving a go you'd be mad to refuse it!!

Sailing Club Intervarsity

by *Helena Walsh*

Finally after thousands of e-mails, hundreds of phone calls and numerous begging letter accompanied by many sleepless nights, the 2003 National Sailing Intervarsities is over and what a success it was. The 5-9th of March was the time and UL were the hosts, with everything going very well and despite the schizophrenic winds hundreds of races took place.

The event drew 22 teams from all over Ireland and for the first time ever included the British National Team and a team from Cardiff University. This added immensely to the standard of competition and the excitement of the event. 22 teams meant 132 competitors including first timers Tallagh IT and this year ULSC is proud to boast that they had 3 teams competing in the event, including the infamous UL Ladies (Hoes). This was the first time ULSC had so many teams and hopefully this will be the trend for the future.

The event started on the Wednesday night in the Sports bar where registration took place and everyone got settled in with a few drinks and got ready for what promised to be a great few days. Thursday morning saw the event officially open; this was coupled with the official launch of UL Sailing Club's new firefly dinghys. The week previous to the event the fireflies were collected from Liverpool by first year representative Conor Byrne, they were undoubtedly an invaluable asset to the event. Along

with ULSC's fireflies there was the old reliable! 420's, Trinity and UCD each brought their firefly dinghies as well.

Thursday saw the most racing of all of the weekend and some spectacular performances from the competitors. BUSA (the British National Team) came out of their group unbeaten, they along with Trinity 1 emerged as favourites for the national title. All three UL teams sailed very well with UL1 and The "Hoes" making it into the Gold Fleet. UL2, just missing a place in the Silver, were ranked top of the Bronze and were hot favourites to win it.

Thursday night was organised in town, to show everyone the Real Limerick. There was a band and a cocktail party in Nevada Smiths to keep everyone happy and then off to the market for lots of silly behaviour from all.

Sailing at 9 o'clock on Friday morning was not appealing to many, despite this we ventured out and were back in form, on the water in no time. Things moved a little slower on Friday because of unfavourable weather conditions and damage to boats but the target was reached and the real contenders for the title were obvious by end of racing on Friday.

The Beach Party in the Scholars Function room with kicking band "The Scream" was a great hit. I am sure many of you saw strange looking people wandering around campus in Hawaiian Shirts, Hula Skirts, Shorts and Flip-flops, yes they

were the sailors. If that wasn't bad enough we were off to the Lodge once the band were finished and surprisingly enough everybody fitted right in, in the lodge. It wasn't much fun, however, walking home in the rain, in shorts!!!

Saturday was the big day, with everything to be decided. All UL teams performed very well with UL2 just getting beaten by NIUG in the Bronze Fleet. Trinity 4 won the Silver Fleet and UL Hoes and UL1 battled it out with the others in the Gold Fleet. Unfortunately neither were successful despite a great performance by all. The Semi-finals were UDC1 V Trinity1 and BUSA V UCD2, with Trinity 1 and BUSA emerging into the final. A nail-biting final eventually ended with BUSA as victors, even though they too capsized with the testing weather conditions!



The prize giving took place at a Black Tie function at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Limerick, this was a brilliant night, giving everyone the chance to sport their little black numbers. DJ Keith Piggot and the Debating IV joined us at the afters and really added to the atmosphere. We all danced our little socks off until the

wee hours of the morning and some, more than others needed to be carried home early on Sunday morning....

A great weekend was had by all and reports from the other colleges have deemed it "the best intervarsities ever held", the success of this event was solely down to the hard work of the ULSC committee, especially Paul Ruddy Commodore, Richard Murphy, Oisín Fouere and Conor Byrne. Oh and of course the invaluable advice and assistance of Neasa O'Donnell and Paul Lee. Thanks guys.

Just one week after the Sailing Intervarsities Ball we had just about recovered and found ourselves, once again, all dolled up and on the bus, this time to the Clubs and Socs Ball. With the Sailing Club nominated in two categories; Club Person of the Year and Best Event (for the Westerns held in Oct 02) the sailing contingency was again out in force. Our Commodore Paul Ruddy did such a great job all year and was the deserving winner of the Club Person of the Year Award. He also surprised us by being awarded the Jason Hackett Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Clubs and Societies and to life in general in UL over the past five years. We are all very proud of Paul and his success, his dedication to the sailing club is unbelievable and I am not sure that we would be where we are today without him.

Rugby Club Report

by Caroline Mahon

University of Limerick 46 vs. Limerick Institute of Technology 7

On a beautiful crisp dry evening in Thomond Park, UL put on a powerful display of running and handling skills in retaining the O'Brien Trophy against neighbours LIT by 46-7. From the kick-off, UL stated their objective, and did not deviate from the running game for the entire match as they linked in a dazzling display of possession football which would have made even the French envious. In fact, someone was heard to remark that if Scotland had backs of such quality they would have given Ireland a much closer game in the recent international. The game was still young when the powerful UL pack won a ball in the left corner, and with mesmeric speed it found itself to Pip van Esbeck who touched down in the right corner. Shortly after, Ronan Likely finished off an identical move in the same corner. More tries followed before the break from Cathal Garvey and Alan O'Boyle, with Julian Leonard adding a convert to leave the score at 22-0. On the resumption, LIT raised their game, and a good drive resulted in a classic forwards try which was converted. This spurred UL on to even greater things, and with half backs Aidan Rees and Julian Leonard in outstanding form, aided by the strength and speed of Philip Treacy and Breffni O'Donnell in the centres, and the dangerous back three of Alan O'Boyle, Cathal Garvey and Ronan Likely, scores came from all areas of the field. Scrum half Aidan got through the tiniest gap to sprint in from the '22' for a converted try. Then Cathal Garvey and Alan O'Boyle got their second each in opposite corners, before Aidan Rees brought the curtain down with his final, converted try. In a powerful UL pack, the front row of Les Hogan, Frankie Leonard and Ronan Loughney did well against experienced ALL opponents. The second row of Ryan Hartigan and Declan O'Connell displayed their usual mastery of the



Frank Leonard Collecting the O'Brien Cup

lineout, while the back row of John Ed O'Connor, Pip van Esbeck and James O'Neill covered acres in attack and defence. Coach Matt

Porter had the luxury of being able to make quality replacements during the game, with players of the calibre of John O'Connor, Garrett Noonan, David Brosnan, Tommy Ryan and Eamon Quinn called into action. Of special note was the introduction of UL stalwart outhalf Tony Hall entering the fray with 15 to go. Tony, who will complete his PHD this year, is the sole survivor from the first ever Colours match six year ago. No sooner was he on the field; Tony was called into action to slot a couple of late conversions.

On the LIT side, Donal O'Donovan did well at outhalf, Conor Fitzgerald had a huge game in very difficult circumstances, while Jamie Gogarty, Tommy Ellard, Ken Rennison and Mark Tuohy tried hard under tremendous pressure.

UL Team: Cathal Garvey, Ronan Likely, Breffni O'Donnell, Philip Treacy, Alan O'Boyle, Julian Leonard, Aidan Rees, Les Hogan, Frankie Leonard (capt), Ronan Loughney, Ryan Hartigan, Declan O'Connell, Philip van Esbeck, John Ed O'Connor, James O'Neill. Replacements: Garrett Noonan, John O'Connor, Tom Ryan, Eamon Quinn, David Brosnan, Rob Fennessy, Tony Hall, P J Ryder and Rob Tierney

UL Freshers V's WIT

UL Freshers went down fighting 24-17 against a useful Waterford IT team in a Freshers rugby fixture at UL on Wed March 12th. The home lads tackled themselves to a standstill on a pitch that did its best impersonation of a bog. However the defenses were breached on just enough occasions for the visitors to claim a well deserved victory in the first round of the O'Boyle Cup. Although it conceded size, speed and a certain degree of panache at set piece time, UL put in a typically spirited display and were looking good at half time trailing by just 10 to 12. Outstanding out half Ben Hale got the boys on the board in the eighth minute with a calmly slotted penalty. Seven minutes later UL looked to run the ball out of its own half but were thwarted when WIT's centre pounced on an intercept to scamper away for the first try of the game, which wasn't converted. It was bodies on the line stuff from then on for the local boys who struggled in lineouts and were just holding the scrum. Following a sustained period of attack WIT crashed over for their second five-pointer which was duly converted. However, UL responded bravely and right on half time were rewarded when scrum half Billy Fitzgerald -- who had a whale of a game -- broke through some tiring defense for a fine try, converted by Hale. UL started the second spell the way it finished the first with a brilliantly taken try to replacement centre Eimhim Burns

who slashed through out wide in a powerful run to the line. Unfortunately the influential Hale had to go off eight minutes later and rush to a lab. This proved the turning point in the game with the home lads missing Hale's educated boot and ability to break the first line of defense. Still, the Limerick lads continued to defend as if their lives depended on it and caused havoc around the fringes of the rucks and mauls to stay well and truly in the hunt. In the 70th minute WIT equalised when the ref somehow awarded a try under a mountain of muddy jerseys on the UL line. The unsuccessful conversion left the game teetering at 17-apiece. UL were looking good, at least for the draw, when cruelly penalised with four minutes on the clock when the ref judged legitimate rucking to be stomping.

The visitors kicked for the lineout, which they won, and drove to the line for the crucial match winner.

It was a disappointing result but a gutsy display by UL. Despite problems in the set pieces the whole forward pack played themselves to a standstill led by sterling work from

and cohesion of the home side took its toll on the rock hard pitch and the visitors conceded four tries during the second stanza. In true Limerick spirit the UL lads staged a brave fight back to cross three times themselves with great scoring efforts from inside centre Nathaniel Callaghan, wing Rob Tierney and outside centre Alan O'Boyle to lend respectability to the score. It was a always going to be a big ask but UL toughed it out, none more so than prop Dave O'Boyle who played on with a suspected broken finger. Wing forward Dave Hale who continued to never stop running on nasty blisters and last minute call-up Mike Reid. The Ennis club player was enjoying a fantastic game from the side of the scrum when he clashed heads when pulling off a ferocious tackle on a Cork player. With the wound above the eye gushing blood Reid was whisked off to hospital where he received 7 stitches from a reportedly very attentive Dutch female doctor. Reid, alongside pugnacious scrumhalf Billy Fitzgerald and captain courageous Tony Hall at outhalf were UL's best on the day.

Congrats to UL rugby players



UL Ladies in action

props John McAvenue and Billy MulCahy, hooker and captain Paul McCarthy and his replacement John Johnstone, second rowers Liam Crowley and Dave O'Shea and the dynamic loose forward trio of Keith Dinan, Podhric O'Connor and No. 8 Gary O'Driscoll. The halfback pairing of Billy Fitzgerald and Ben Hale was simply outstanding while winger Peter Slattery and fullback Gearoid Fitzgerald made the most of limited opportunities.

UL "Seniors" V's CIT

A UL freshers rugby side in the guise of a fully fledged senior team lost 38-22 to a vastly more experienced Cork IT outfit in an away College league fixture on the 26th of March. The urgent need to finish various pieces of term work before Rag Week and the heavy ALL commitments coming up rendered most senior players around the college unavailable for the match. UL had the bare 15, plus one sub on the bus to Cork. Still the lads put up a spirited display and trailed just 12-3 at the break. However, the bigger size, strength

Congratulations to UL players, John-Ed O'Connor (wing forward), Aidan Rees (scrumhalf and Capt.), Conor O'Bryne (wing forward), Eamon Quinn (second row) and Alan O'Boyle (inside centre) representing the Munster Colleges side in their 24-10 loss to Connacht Colleges in the final of the All-Ireland inter-colleges competition at the Railway Union ground in Dublin on Saturday, March 29.

UL Chicks on tour

Thirteen UL ladies will travel to France on the 3rd of April to take part in the International sevens colleges competition known as Ovalies. UL traveled to the Parisian region two years ago and unfortunately didn't have the funds for the trip last year. This year however, with the help of Analog Devices, the team will hopefully enjoy a fun and successful experience in France. Only one member of the group traveled two years ago but was unable to play due to injury so in reality it is a France debut for the whole crew. A France report will follow in the next edition.

Irish Peace Society - Volunteer Work in Ghana

by Ealaine Byrne

Thirteen members of the Peace Society will be travelling to Ghana in May/June under the excellent auspices of Amy Auer. They are participating in a work camp programme operated by www.volun.org, an indigenous NGO within Ghana where they will be partaking in a reforestation and AIDS awareness operation. The members have fundraised over €3,000 already.

Just to give an idea of what the Peace Society are fundraising for and what is involved, below is an account of a month I spent in Ghana in a similar programme with VOLU several months ago.

The Task.

Our mission, which twenty-five volunteers from across Europe, Japan, American and Canada, choose to accept, was to assist in building sanitation services for the village of Ayomah, Upper East Volta Region of Ghana. This consisted of two separate male and female facilities with eight cubicles in each. Our second task was to coordinate an AIDS awareness campaign within the village and local schools.

The Village.

We lived on the Ghanaian border with Togo. Seven hours driving from the capital Accra. About a thousand people lived in the village and outlying areas. Nobody owned any method of transport. If you wanted to get somewhere you stood on the side of the dirt road and hoped. This proved problematic as the month wore on when volunteers contracted malaria and worms among other things. There was no method of communication. No mobile network, no phones, no post, no Internet, no newspapers, no television, nothing. The commercial centre consisted of two separate tables on the side of the dirt road selling cashew nuts, bunches of bananas and maize. Down town was a room in two houses which sold fanta, coca cola and sprite minerals, star beer and abasentia. Two churches, three schools and that was it. This was my home for a month, sleeping on a floor under a mosquito net among the mud and cement houses with tiled, slated and wooden roofs, eating maize, rice in elaborate sauces made from spices, berries, plants with whole fish and whole goat, if we were lucky. Entertainment was dancing, playing drums, playing cards, reading, writing and talking.

The Bucket.

Tools and equipment were minimal. Two pickaxes, several spades and shovels, rope, ladders made from bamboo, one wheelbarrow (sometimes) the

work gloves we brought ourselves and of course the buckets. Every volunteer would develop an intense love/hate relationship with the buckets.

Where would we be without the buckets? The principle of gravity ensures that when it rains, rainwater accumulates and gathers in open pits. In waist deep water each morning, the buckets would scoop out the water. When the earth in the pits had been pick axed, it was shovelled into buckets and the bucket passing chains would transport the excess earth from the pit. A mantra 'Bucket' 'bucket' developed as those in the pit shouted and



The Irish Peace Society in Ghana

demanding the bucket chains to speed up.

Gravel for the foundation demanded small stones. These were collected in buckets from the side of the roads and in the backyards of dwellings. The mixing of cement necessitated water. This was transported from the pumps in buckets, which inevitably spilled because of water's insistence in moving when transported. Above all else this posed a challenge for us westerners, to carry the water on our heads in buckets without dropping most of it. The locals had a lot of fun watching our meagre efforts at this task. We were hopeless carrying water. Then there was the sand. How do you make the 5,000 cement blocks needed for the two pits? You need three vital ingredients. Cement mix, water and sand. Sand came from source, the riverbank.

Incidentally, the river was the natural border between Togo and Ghana. The river was two miles from the pit along a narrow, winding, path strewn with snakes, 'ant highways,' streams, branches and other obstacles in this farm of paddy fields, banana trees, maize fields, coco beans, coffee beans and numerous plants and spices. This ensured that the only way to transport the sand was in our buckets on our heads. This was when we got to know our buckets intensely. Two-mile cross-country trek with a bucket of sand on our head in the African sun puts a lot of things into perspective. For example, was a plastic bucket better to carry than a metal one? Was a wide brimmed bucket better than a small base, was holding the bucket in place easier with both hands or with different hands at intervals....

The Story of the Two Pits.

Upon arrival we were introduced to the pit. The dimensions of the pit were 15 meters long, two meters wide, one meter deep. We needed to dig another one and a half meters down to achieve ideal foundations. The task sounded simple enough, but nothing is ever as simple as it sounds.

Digging a pit in the rainy season had its advantages and disadvantages. With insufficient equipment, it made digging easier because it

softens up the soil. However the quality of the soil was very poor and as we got through the different layers, the side of the pit collapsed three times. Earlier when the pit was being dug, the soil was thrown up without recourse to buckets. Earth built up on the banks of the pit which placed extra pressure on the wall of the pit. So, not only had we to dig down, we also had to remove the excess soil from the collapsed wall and remove and taper the soil from the bank of the pit to prevent further collapses. It was utterly demoralising returning to the pit following the nights rain to see the collapsed walls.

Through co-operation with the local volunteers, the villagers, the international volunteers, the masons and the chiefs and elders of the village, through the effective use of the minimal resources on hand, determination and hard work, we achieved the what once seemed elusive, goal of a 2.7m deep pit. It was rewarding to take a photograph of the pit with its foundations firmly laid and two rows of cement blocks completed on the last day. Progress on the second pit was much faster because much of the digging had been completed before our arrival. Upon our departure the foundations and walls had been fully completed. It was hoped that within a week the roof would be finished and the facility to be operational thereafter. This was thanks largely to the extra resources promised by the local government following several visits by a delegation of the international volunteers.



The Irish Peace Society in Ghana

The AIDS Campaign.

Together with the cooperation of the chiefs, the elders and the volunteers, an AIDS campaign was developed. This involved an open meeting with all the villagers with a presentation on the causes, consequences and prevention of AIDS. There followed a questions and answers section and the distribution of condoms. A similar presentation was given within the local schools on a smaller basis without the distribution of condoms. It is hoped that through these discussions with the villagers and school children that a greater dissemination of information can be achieved through word of mouth. There is a lot of misinformation about AIDS and it is hoped that through open discussion this can be rectified. I have the distinctive memory of sitting outside the female classroom listening to their songs while looking out on to the green valley with the trees and hills. It was beautiful. Then I went inside the room and remembered that as it stands, statistically twenty-percent of these girls not yet teenagers, would die from AIDS.



The Pits the Irish Peace Society helped dig

Kayak Club trip to Enniscrone

by Aidan Holmes and Seona Dillon

On the Friday of Paddy's weekend members of UL Kayak Club met up at the back of the store in order to set off on another trip. In usual ULKC fashion there was a bit of a delay loading the gear but it wasn't long until we were settled into the long journey, which was made particularly longer with a detour through Castlebar. The blame for the detour was landed on an innocent passenger for some unknown reason! So Mick, Graeme and Dickie can you please explain honestly how you ended up in Castlebar? On arriving in Enniscrone at about 12 pm we quickly got ourselves set up for the days ahead.

Saturday morning started with Ian waking many members of the group up with a water gun. Not surprisingly, this was not appreciated and strong words were fired at him, to say the least of it. But at least it got the foot on the road and we headed off to nearby Lacken in the ever-going search for surf. We found some and quickly got in. With beginners you will find a few swims as they try to make the transition between river running and surf. Homer was not too pleased when Loraine gave his new boat its first swim! On the whole though they did very well with many holding on for rescue. We also had new members on this trip and they often required a little more coaxing to get going but in the end the charm of the kayak club won out and we also got them on the water. When the more experienced members got going things got interesting. Brian spinning on his head is still the winner here. The surf was nice and clean and had some great shoulders. It was great for trying new things on. Like John spinning 6 times on one wave very shortly after being shown how to spin. When all our energy was zapped by the sun and surf we headed back, where a top class meal was cooked



The Kayak Club at Enniscrone

in each of the houses.

That night there were some interesting dares, which led to some even more interesting pictures! As well as this the beach in Enniscrone was subjected to the sight of the male members of the ULKC running butt naked into the sea at the early hours of the night!

The next morning we were greeted with the hilarious sight of Don traipsing about in Homer's clothes! (many sizes too big!) After a fried breakfast we again headed for the surf. This time it was off to Easky which proved rewarding as we found big pounding waves which were about 4 foot from the back (double that to get the size of the face of the wave). The better paddlers were quickly on the water knowing that the best cure for what ails you is some cold salty water. Many people took their time getting into the water while some were ripping it up outside. There was only one problem: the waves were dumping. This of course meant some comical, accidental and yes sometimes extremely painful manoeuvres could be seen. Although the most valuable lesson of the day went to Felix who learned that listening is advised, he wasn't told that the surf was too big

outside for no reason (he swam). Many new flips and tricks were learned both by the beginners and the more advanced, The cutting and carving was something else, although if both people carve in different directions accidents will happen, as Homer and Edel found out! But as per usual it was when we got out of the boats that the fun really started. We all had great craic running about like lunatics in our gear and almost killing each other trying to knock each other into the water! As Homer found out when all 6'5 of Graeme came crashing on top of him!

The next morning, people were rudely woken up by the sound of the air horn Don slyly brought on the trip. No need to describe the reaction of the sleeping paddlers when Don arrived into their rooms that morning! After making sure that everything was spic and span we again set out for the surf, which was rather similar to that of the day before. Again it was back into our gear and on the water as this was the last chance for us to practise our new moves and manoeuvres. We had a good session with people still improving on the days before, none more so than the likes of Christy, Seona, Dickie, Siobhain and Loraine who were at the start rather timid but by the end couldn't be taken out of the water. We then packed everything up and headed back towards Limerick, leaving the sun, sea and surf behind us. This Paddy's weekend would certainly stick in our minds as one never to be forgotten.

If you have any interest in trying out kayaking you are welcome to come to the pool on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights between 10 and 11 and we will get you started. Also if you would like to read more about our adventures in Enniscrone you can do so at <http://kayak.csn.ul.ie>.

Kickboxing Report

by Deborah Donovan

A small group of UL Kickboxers travelled to Tralee at the weekend to compete in the WKA Irish Open. This was the first time this tournament was staged, and it coincided with the trials for the National Team, to compete in the WKA World Championships this year.

This years World Championships will be taking place in Killarney, Co. Kerry. The fact that the competition is being held in Ireland this year meant that there was an even higher demand than usual for team places. For the first time, the Team Trials were held in the south of the country, which saved the club instructors Debra Donovan and Tim Murphy from having to travel to Dublin.

The difficulty level in obtaining a place in the Ladies divisions was has increases significantly over the past few years. This was evident in both the size of the divisions and the overall standard of the competitors. Ms Donovan, who had won gold in the Irish Open earlier in the day, had to settle for third place in the trials. Three people from each weight are eligible to compete, so Ms Donovan will be representing Ireland on the National Team for the third consecutive year.

Mr Murphy obtained his place on the Team automatically by virtue of the gold medal that he won in last years World Championships that were held in Italy. He chose not to compete, instead helping the organisers by refereeing and judging for the day.

Katrine Kahler also competed in the Irish Open where she made her way to the final of the Ladies lightweight green to red belt section. Unfortunately she sprained her ankle quite badly in the final minute which was a sever disadvantage. Ms. Kahler eventually took second place after continuing to fight on and holding her opponent to a draw in regular time, only to lose in extra time. Ms. Kahler's sprained ankle meant that she did not perform to her usual high standard when she entered the trials for the WKA World Championships. She had to be content with fourth place which



UL Kickboxers

means that she was outside the top three for qualification.

The future certainly looks bright for UL Kickboxing considering how well a group of six beginner level men got on. Four men; Shane Cuddy, Tim Jones, Shane Coakley and Jason Prior, competed in the +70kg white to yellow division. All four proved to be great competitors on the day. Mr. Coakley and Mr. Prior showed great emerging talent but were knocked out in the first and second rounds. Tim Jones failed to make it into the final but went on to take the bronze in impressive manner. Shane Cuddy's opponent was a student of UCC, which immediately gave an extra edge to the final. The scores were even throughout the match but on the final bell Mr. Cuddy was a single point behind and had to settle for second place.

Two UL students competed in the -70kg white to yellow division John Mullane and George Healy. They were seeded apart at the beginning of the competition and both won all their matches to proceed onto the final. It goes into the record book as the first all UL final. It made for an interesting match with both fighters being aware of each other's style of sparring. Mr. Mullane put up a great battle but was eventually beaten by George Healy. Mr. Healy

demonstrated great technique and showed great flair throughout the match.

There is an immense wealth of talent in the UL Kickboxing Club and the club instructors could see many of the present students go forward and become very talented martial artists in their own right if they continue in their training.

UL Kickboxing is hoping to send a team from the collage to Germany at the end of June with the Irish Collages team. There will be a Table Quiz with a twist held in the Arena Sports Club on Wednesday 9th April (Week 9). The twist is that all the questions will be based on the hugely successful TV cartoon "The Simpson's!" There are prizes on offer and a great night to be had by all. Come along on Wednesday of Week 9.

If you would be interested in training in Kickboxing just go to the Gym in the PESS Building (Old Sports Building) every Tuesday and Thursday between 9pm and 10pm.

Judo Club Report

by TJ Davitt

Feeling extremely confident after the success of the Intervarsity championships and the All-Irelands the Judo club made their way to Galway for the Galway Open. The Galway Open is a truly international affair and this year contained a rather large Spanish contingent one of which was extremely hairy!

The first match of the day featured our very own Ger Kelly as he made short work of his first opponent (about six seconds). This was the first of many incredible displays by Ger as he forced his way to third place in the youths under 73 kg divisions.

Ian Sherlock put up some very impressive performances on the day but was eventually forced to retire for the day due to a fluid build up in his foot. Colm Ward was also unlucky on the day. His first ever competitive judo match saw him come up against Commonwealth medal winner Chris Donnelly. Colm showed great determination but in the end was outclassed by one of the best the country has to offer.

With very little competition in the division TJ Davitt eased his way to gold in the Youths under 90kg division.



UL Judo Club competing at the Galway Open

Eilish McNulty kept up her remarkable form with several highly impressive victories en-route to victory in the under 63kg womens division. It was more of the same in the womens open as Eilish defeated many larger opponents to claim yet another gold for the club.

The most heavily contested event of the day was the mens Middle Kyu with well in excess of 40 fighters. UL had two representatives in the event. Bio-Medical engineer Martin Kinsella pulled off some incredible moves and after some great hard fought victories was terribly unlucky to lose in the third/fourth place play off.

Comp Sys Student T.J. Davitt proved that not all computer students were ponces winning six matches in quick succession, many via submission to

advance to the finals of the Middle Kyu to face the highly regarded Ronan O'Siochru of UCC. The final was extremely intense with TJ coming from behind to win the match with only twenty seconds remaining. Shortly after the tournament the Club received word that they had been nominated for two awards at the

The awards themselves were a grand affair with everyone done up to the last. We kept up our tradition of getting free dinners by once again claiming that our friend Jack had only left his chair for a second and wanted the chicken. It was a night of mixed fortunes as far as the awards went. TJ was unlucky not to win the award for club person of the year. However the club amidst strong opposition from kickboxing and chess was named as the best new or improved club of the year. To say the least the entire committee were overjoyed at winning the award and there was no way that the smiles could be removed from their faces for the duration of the night.

To top of the night Roisin McNulty won a bottle of wine in the raffle which just contributed a little bit more to our merry behaviour. Yet another successful and fun time for the U.L. Judo Club!

More Info?

Training Times are as follows

Monday	8:00-1000 in the Arena
Wednesday	6:00-7:30 in the old sports building
Thursday	9:00-1000 in the Arena

or visit www.csn.ul.ie/~judo

annual Clubs and Socs Ball. One for the best new or improved club of the year and TJ had been nominated for club person of the year.

History Society Report

by Alan Higgins

The History Society are very proud of themselves, in the space of two weeks we've been able to pull off two very successful events, those being the International Person of History during Oddfest and the History of Iraq, including a Hunt for Weapons of Mass Destruction in Kolloge Week.

During Week 7 after weeks of preparation the History Society along with various other societies and clubs (I'm sure they are motioned elsewhere in this publication) took over Room 5 of the Students' Union. The History Society was proud to play host to the UL International Person of History. The nominations were Alexander the Great, George W. Bush and Amelia Earhart. After a quite heated election, the results were close, however one victor was clear and; Amelia Earhart was announced UL International Person of History for 2003 at the interval of Drama Society's Production of "Possibilities." So encouraged by the success of the event, we are sure that Ms. Earhart will not be the last UL International Person of History. The History Society would like to thank everyone who took part and the fellow societies and clubs involved, especially Drama Society for allowing us to announce the winner during their brilliant production. We also especially like to thank Sarah Ryan of Lego Society and Queen of Odd!

Kolloge Week was hectic, rather than relaxing for members as we put final touches to and presented



Amelia Earhart

the History of Iraq. In the time that is in it we thought it appropriate to tell the whole story of the nation which is the world's focus. From the Cradle of Civilisation to begin the centre of the sphere of operations it has had a colourful and; at times troubled History. To coincide with this we raised money for the Irish Red Cross and their Humanitarian effort for Iraq. We did this through the selling of a booklet, outlining a History of Iraq, as compiled by members of Society. I, on behalf of the Society would like to thank: Kevin Cashman, Michael Larsen, John Hickey, Donal O'Driscoll and Patrick Kennedy, for their time in helping compile

this information. We also held a Hunt for weapons of Mass Destruction on Tuesday, were €25 per hour was on offer by just solving a clue and returning to our display in the Main Canteen within an hour with a codeword.

Three out of Five of the €25 were claimed: Grainne Daly of 1st Year Com Sys (who donated her prize to the Red Cross), Catrina Noonan of 4th Year Business with French and Claire Campbell in 4th Year Com Sys. The unclaimed prizes will be going to the Irish Red Cross. In total the Society raised €170 for the Irish Red Cross and hope it will help to alleviate some of the suffering of the people of Iraq.

We word like to thank Radio Society for helping us display the Clues; the Buildings department; the ladies of the Department of Languages Office; those working in the SU print room, especially Ashling and the Staff of the Main Canteen, for there help in our endeavour.

Future events include a few intersocs' , a trip to Dublin for a IHSA EGM and an other Bunratty feast to finish off the Year.

Game Soc LAN Party

"Be The Lord Hokey batman! - Its another G~Soc LAN party"

Never a truer word spoken by the stereotypical, moronic Chief O'Hara, of the 60's batman fame. G~Soc capped off its major Events of Semester 2 with Its second LAN party, a smaller Event that the previous 60 Person Event We ran last semester, but Great fun none the less.

For those who don't know, a LAN party is where several PC, or laptops are connected together and user for the sole purpose of playing Computer games against real people, as opposed the artificial stupidity of the Computer.

We ran this LAN Party, dubbed Fragnet II from about 5pm Friday evening, until 7pm Sunday evening, stopping only to buy yet another bottle of coke from the vending machines, or to finally collapse from

the exhaustion of playing WW2 shooter Battlefield 1942 for 15 hours straight.

Aside from the extensive games of Battlefield 1942, we also ran a Quake 3 tournament, with players facing off one by one until only one man remained. Well to be honest two men remained; the runner up (or looser as we like to refer to them) was Boro (Andrew Donovan), who got a portable memory stick for his awesome ability to stop his opponents' missiles with his face. The winner picked up a digital camera for the intimidating display of vicious slaughter he had put on.

The second competition was a 4-man team League in Counter-strike, the winning team, named Team "ethnic diseased monkey", consisting of Boro again, along with Uberpixie (Keith Nolan), Devil monkey (John Drohan) and Herr Cron (yours true-



Its comfortable, I swear!

ly). The four winners, who always played as terrorists, picked up a Bad-taste bear for their teamwork, and ability to shoot the counter-terrorist team in the face with a shotgun

The event finally finished on Sunday where the last hardcore games reluctantly left, and the organisers trudged home before they started

mistaking every car they saw for a panzer tank and trying to call in an artillery strike... In unrelated news G~Soc is now budgeting for Panzer tank, and some mounted artillery...

We'd like to thank foremost our sponsors, intouch computers, Especially John and Frank, who also attended the LAN, and introduced us to the delights of Command and conquer: generals, to Paul Lee, Stan, and the rest of buildings and security who let us have the SU all weekend and to everyone who attended. Respect.

And we'll be running more LAN parties next semester, anyone who wants to get in on the Fun just contact LAN@GSOC.NET or look at our website WWW.GSOC.NET

The Lord of cheese
Minister of war and propaganda
UL G~Soc

Gan Ainn Wins New Society of the Year

by Patrick McHugh

[Not a bad accomplishment for a soc created only last semester! Gan Ainn, UL's Traditional Irish Music Society, was formed last semester in conjunction with the start of a new and related B.A. program at the IWMC, which also began last autumn. This new society seems to have hit the ground running in a big way. They've not only travelled extensively throughout Co. Cork for sessions, UCC's Tradfest, Eigse Diarmuid ó Súilleabháin in Coolea, and attended an Intervarsities weekend and guest performance concert at NUI Galway, they've also managed to sort out two local weekly sessions: Monday nights at the Castletroy Park Hotel and Thursday nights at the Sports Arena Bar, both starting around 9:30pm. Keep in mind this list only covers their

activities from last semester, and wait until you see what they have in store for you this spring!

Gan Ainn dares you to keep up with their calendar for this month, starting off on Wednesday, 9th April with a day of singing, appropriately titled 'Lá na hamhráin.' This event will feature numerous talented singers, with a special guest performance to be announced. Lá na hamhráin is put together in conjunction with Spraoi, UL's Irish Language Society, and will be held as a lunchtime concert in the PAC (Foundation Building). The fun doesn't stop here though, because at the weekend you can come join Gan Ainn for a weekend of traditional music through the UL Intervarsities Weekend, 11th -13th April.

Wondering what to do with yourself the following weekend? Never fear, just hop on a bus with Gan Ainn and

head for the World Irish Dancing Championships in Killarney for the weekend. The Worlds - the 'Olympics' of Irish Dance - are sure to impress, and you can even come along to cheer on Gan Ainn's own Patrick McHugh as he competes for the title, or just come for the celebration after. Either way it's sure to be an unforgettable weekend. Later in the month Gan Ainn will be joining the Drama Society in hosting the much anticipated 'No Talent Night'. Keep your eyes open for details on time and location. Come and share with others the talent you're convinced you don't have! Or something like it...

As for the month of May, keep your bank holiday weekend open because Gan Ainn plans to attend Co. Limerick's best, the 'Fleadh by the Feale,' held in Abbeyfeale from 2nd - 5th May. The Saturday of that

weekend plan on attending music workshops for the day (past workshops have included fiddle, flute, tin-whistle, accordion, banjo, concertina and guitar). By the end of May Gan Ainn will be heading to Ennis for the Fleadh Nua. Contact them for more details (see below).

In the mean time, see what events you can make this month. Check out the Lá na hamhráin this week, or stop by the sessions at the Castletroy Park Hotel and the Sports Arena Bar any time. If you want more up-to-date information on up-coming events, feel free to contact Gan Ainn's chairperson Aidan O'Donnell by mobile (086-1051116) or Secretary Tadhg Maher by mobile (087-7751010) or e-mail: ganainmul@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Its never too late - The International Society

by Ailis Daly

"What kind of a f***in CV do you call this?????" my brother roared at me. "You've been in University for the past two and a half years and you haven't even bothered to join a proper Club or Society?????" he continued. "You're f***in useless!!!"

Ok, let me explain the history of this rather harrowing conversation I had with my one and only sibling. My brother Seosamh, also know as, the "Prodigal Son", a twenty five going on forty five year old, text book prodigy was giving advice to me on my "not very presentable to any company apart from one involved in fast-food or perhaps if I was lucky

Campbell's Catering" curriculum vitae.

His CV on the other hand rivalled a presidential candidates application. He has more letters after his name than the alphabet, and more importantly he had either established, chaired, run sole-

handily or been actively involved in every club and society in his former University (pardon me, Universities). In contrast I had signed up for almost twenty clubs and societies, and had actively participated in none whatsoever. (On reflection now, what a waste of cash!!).

"What the hell are you going to tell an interviewer when he/she asks you what you did in college, and NO "drink" is not the right answer!????", he barked on. It was there and then that I vowed for the sake of my future career that I would join a Club or Society before my days in college



Erasmus Student Network

Its never too late - The International Society

were just a hazy, drunken memory. Yeah, right my future had nothing to do with it, I just wanted to see the look on big brovaz's face if he saw me do something productive with my life. He'd rip and I'd love every minute of it! Wahahahahah (evil laugh)

And so it was, at the beginning of week 1, semester 2 in my third year in the University of Limerick I began hunting for an appropriate club or soc! Well first things first I had to rule out any club that involved sport, which is most of them. I have a very strict eating regime, and exercise of any kind could ruin my chances of gaining the world record for 'largest female belly'. All of the societies sounded good, apart from the Lego soc. I had a bad experience with a Lego particle when I was 4, and I feared a traumatic flashback if I attended the meeting. I flicked through the Student Union website, and there I saw it. The opportunity to join a society, which organises an annual FOOD FAIR...score! The

Erasmus Student Network, had grabbed my attention....and my appetite and with an enthusiastic grin, and a craving for international cuisine, I made my way down to the first meeting.

The committee seemed lovely, and thankfully my first impressions of them have remained strong. In fact at this stage I have to categorise all of them as 'legends'. (Anyone who knows me will be aware that I do not refer to the term 'legend' unless the person really is brilliant). That first night they invited me to be on the Committee (up yours Seosamh!), and after a few weeks decided I would be suitable as their new Treasurer. I graciously accepted the role. It's a wicked job, and indeed looks nice on the auld CV/application form.

Since, I joined the ESN soc, I have been having by far one of the best semesters in college. I have met more people in UL in the past 7 weeks, than I did in two and a half

years, and no, I was not by any means a hermit. We have a party every Wednesday night in the Scholars function room, and every week has been fantastic. The members are all here to have the semester of their lives, and because of this there is no chance of holding them back. They really understand the Irish word "craic", and make the most of it. We organise weekend trips for our member as well, for example we bring them to Galway, Belfast, the Arann Islands. This is an amazing opportunity for them to see the country, quite inexpensively. It has been a fantastic way for me to see Ireland also. I am traditionally a more "in-door" girl, the only countryside I like to see is when I'm on the bus travelling from Tralee up to college, but through the ESN I have actually gotten off my lard ass and started to experience some of what our gorgeous country has to offer. I will admit that there is some unnecessary clean air getting into my lungs, more than I would normally feel

comfortable with, but I'm adapting to it. I have also established so many contacts worldwide that I can easily plan a holiday ANYWHERE and not have to worry about finding accommodation.

Overall it has really been worth my while getting involved even at this late stage of my stint in UL. I cannot recommend highly enough anybody else joining something, especially the Erasmus Student Network.

As for my brother, he has refused to comment so far on my new found active involvement, he is patiently waiting for boredom to come creeping in and for my lack of interest to reappear. Sorry, boy but the way things are going at the moment, I can't see it happening. If anybody is interested in joining the ESN society, please come to our meetings on Thursdays at 6pm in the Jonathon Swift.

Environmental Society

by St. John O Donovan

Hey all, hope everything's flying and everyone had an excellent Rag Week. UL Environmental Society has, as usual, been busy of late, doing our best to make this world a better place, and have a bit of craic while doing it! I better be careful, I'm getting so sentimental I could just kiss myself (or is that kick!?)



Enviro Soc at the river cleanup

Last week was a very busy one for us all, as our River-Bank Clean Up took place. The beginning of the week was taken up with organisation, but when the day dawned, it was all worth it. We decided to do a clean up because, while the riverside walk in Castletroy is a picturesque area, it had been spoiled by thoughtless people throwing their rubbish around the place. Enviro Soc had done clean ups in previous years and we thought this was a tradition well worth resurrecting. Wednesday the 26th was a beautiful day (someone up there must like us!), and when we met at Kilmurry Village Reception, about 60 people turned out, including students of Castletroy Community College, Milford National School and

of course, UL.

As we progressed down the riverbank, we were joined by about 10-12 more people who thought (rightly!) that this was a great idea! All the rubbish collected was separated between recyclables and non-recyclables and we recycled everything we could, while disposing of the rest of the rubbish carefully. An enjoyable and productive day was had by all, while a beautiful area has been somewhat resurrected, to be available as a lovely natural amenity to all.

When that was finished, we flew swiftly into town to join the Anti-Fees march. Despite the fact that it was relatively poorly attended, a positive atmosphere pervaded the group, doubtless helped by the brilliant band from Leitrim. As we all know, free education is a right, not a privilege, and Minister Dempsey is just seeking to place a massive tax on students and their families. Perhaps he should consider reforming the grants scheme before he goes about providing 'better access' to college by crippling students. Just a thought!

And if you thought that was enough for one day, we weren't finished yet! A talk by Jack O' Sullivan took place on the evening of the same day in UL. Mr. O' Sullivan is head of Zero Waste Ireland, a group that seeks to do just that: stop us producing waste, through the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle method. He has also helped numerous people around the country in legal battles against landfills and incinerators. A lively debate ensued after the talk, helped by some Environmental Science students who attempted to take the argument apart. Far be it from me to be a cynic, but could this have something to do with the fact that jobs are available to Environmental Science students in Waste Disposal (if you could call it that)?

At the weekend some members of Enviro Soc went to marches around the country, in Dublin and in Shannon. Dublin was extremely enjoyable, with a turnout of somewhere between 20-30,000 people. By all accounts, the Shannon march wasn't quite as harmonious. The protesters were

denied access to the terminal by a massive Garda operation that saw 300ish police to 100-150 protesters. Heavy-handed behaviour was also the order of the day in Dublin during the week, with TD Joe Higgins one of many manhandled by over-zealous Gardaí.

This week was a lot quieter (did I hear something about a 'Rag Week', or something like that!), but at the same time we didn't totally stop. The Forum on Europe visited the college and generated some interesting debate over where we go from here, in relation to the European Union. A question regarding the democratic deficits of the EU and policing of directives (specifically environmental) 'as Gaeilge' threw the panel, and the questioning in general was incisive and interesting.



More Enviro Soc Members

Also, I was out in Shannon last night, Wednesday-Thursday the 2nd and 3rd, plane spotting. It was a hugely interesting experience, and one which will hopefully be repeated in the weeks ahead, with maybe a few more members! More on that elsewhere in this fine publication. To wrap up, we've still got all the usual things going on with a few more for the weeks ahead including a trip to Faslane and Sellafield (possibly), bins and signs for the river side, recycling initiatives and loads more! Contact us at envirosoc@skynet.ie and look out for posters around campus, and keep fighting the good fight!

Fianna Fail 3, Fine Gael 0

by Cathal Crowe

Showdown: - On Tuesday of rag week the boys and girls of UL Ógra Fianna Fáil took on our Fine Gael counterparts in an 11-a-side football match on the astroturf. Our pre-match preparations were highly clinical and organised. Selecting a team would be no problem - our membership boasts a number of top class footballers. Following an early morning training session on Tuesday we were feeling confident that we could beat the Blueshirts.

Fine Gael had emotionally dubbed the game as the "Grudge Match of the Century". We in Fianna Fáil don't hold grudges - as a party we keep our heads up and look to the future, not the past. This positive attitude was evident in our match performance:

The match got underway shortly after 4pm. In the opening seconds the referee's attention was drawn to the fact that Fianna Fáil had fielded an extra player. As captain I want to state that this was a complete mistake, on hindsight however I think this player should have been allowed to play (So

as to reflect the majority we hold over Fine Gael in Dáil Éireann!!) Both parties had large numbers of supporters on the side line. After a very close first ten minutes Fine Gael took the lead from the penalty spot. Half time score: 1-0 Fine Gael.

At halftime the Fianna Fáil team remained on the field and were joined in a huddle by their substitute players and supporters. Not much had to be said, we knew the score line was against: "Get back out there and give it your best!" yelled Rory Deegan - and the best they did give:

Not long after the restart Fianna Fáil drew level when a bending kick from the left wing glided over the F.G. keeper's head and into the top corner. 1-1, but we were hungry for a win - the Soldiers of Destiny soldiered on!..

8 Minutes into the second half Fianna Fáil were awarded a penalty. Star forward Wesley Daly stepped forward, aimed low, kicked and SCORED! 2-1. Cheers erupted from the sidelines - members of the Fine Gael support began to leave: Could their Blueshirt heroes let them down??!

The last 3 minutes of the second half saw out-right Fianna Fáil dominance. With less than a minute of ordinary time left Damian Daly rounded a number of F.G. defenders and shot low from inside the box. GOAL! 3-1 Fianna Fáil! The final whistle couldn't have come sooner for Enda-Kenny-Kids, they were facing annihilation. A pre-match pact was made that the hair of the losing team would dyed. To a large degree it was honoured - the Fine Gaelers stooped to have their locks dyed green by the victorious Fianna Fáil team! Oh victory does taste sweet.

This Monday the Fianna Fáil Super 11 will take a much deserved break in Brussels. We will fly out from Shannon and spend 3 whole days visiting the European Parliament, the European Commission and NATO Headquarters. On Monday of Week 10, Minister of State Ms. Síle DeValera will come to speak on The History of Fianna Fáil and Women in Politics.

It's onward and upward for Fianna Fáil - Ar aghaidh linn!!!

Latin American Week What's On

Monday, April 7th

- 13:00 Information Table: Canteen**
Please come, buy your raffle, table quiz 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 Experience'**
Hear from those who have travelled Chile and Argentina: Madelaine, Síle, Orla and Sínead.
-CG054
- 21:00 Film: Central do Brasil (Central Station 1998)**
directed by Walter Salles - his most recent film is City of God.
Hosted by
ULartsoffice™

Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre-Main Building



(Admission Free)

Tuesday: April 8th

- All Day Exhibition: The Rights of Indigenous and Afro-Latin American people**
A1 corridor and Language Notice Boards
- 13:00 Information Table: Canteen**
- 13:00 Talk: The Indigenous Maya of Guatemala - Justice for Genocide'**
Maria Barry (Trocaire)
Venue: CI-059
- 20:00 Talk: Venezuela's 2002 Coup: Magical Realism?**
Watch one of the best Documentaries produced by RTE and take part in the discussion of this event.
Panel: Louise Kingston and Dr Martin Mullins (Political Scientists), Jaime Parra (Anthropologist), Eustorgio Serrano (Sociologist)
Venue: A1-054

Wednesday, April 9th

- All Day Exhibition: The Rights of Indigenous and Afro-Latin American people**
A1 corridor and Language Notice Boards
- 13:00 Information Table: Canteen**
- 13:00 Talk: Cuba in a Globalised Latin America.**
José Prieto (visiting speaker from Cuba)
Venue: CI-059
- 19:30 Table Quiz - Scholars Function Room**
**Amazing Prizes **

Thursday, April 10th

- 13:00 Information Table: Canteen**
Last chance to get your tickets.
- 13:00 Talk: 'Latin America UL Experience'**
Hear from those who have travelled Venezuela, Cuba and Argentina: Anna, Sién, Séan and Kevin
Venue: CI-061
- 20:00 Comedian Peter Searles presents: "Bolivia and Beyond" Hosted by ULartsoffice™**
Venue: Scholars Function Room
First forty will get a glass of sangría (Sorry! No chicha this time)
We also have a surprise for you this night!
Tickets: 4 euro (all proceeds to charity)



Friday, April 11th

- 13:00 Restaurant: Latin American Menu and music.**
Restaurant Foyer: Chilean Wine and



UL Christian Union

We all know Antoine de Caunes, the affable, frivolous, frolicsome presenter of Eurotrash. A few years back, notre ami Antoine was heading up a catchy ad campaign that left its mark on the mid 1990's: "Get a life... get a Minicall!". And how right he was, on one count at least.

While Minicalls have gone south to join Rubix cubes, Delorean sportscars, Breo and Sega Saturns, Antoinies saving grace was that he highlighted a major problem in the world today - so many people just don't have a LIFE!!!

Antoine realised that in this world we have dead people walking around. Are you one of them? Unfortunately Antoine was mistaken on how we can get Life. Minicalls aren't it (so your Nokia is safe for now)!! In order to have Life we need to know whom Life is. Only One was able to say that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Do you know what direction your life is going, what your about? Are you sick of the falseness of our society? Do you have Life??? If not you'll be glad to know He's freely available (unlike Anoinies' Minicalls which as far as I can tell will set you back €85 if you can lay your hands on one) to those who want to accept Him.

Get a Life... get Jesus!!

For more info contact the Christian Union at ulcu@hotmail.com. UL Christian Union meets every Monday night, 8pm in A1052 (opposite the Fishtank). Come along and learn more about the only One who said "My purpose is to give life in all its fullness." John 10:10



An Bainisteoir

An Bainisteoir was delighted to see so many politicians eager to debate the war on Iraq last week. The fact that so many TD's turned up meant that there was a strict one-in, one-out rule in place at the Dáil bar. Some of the more liberal sorts like Enda Kenny complained that it was easier to get a pint at Witness. The debate itself proved quite lively and very informative for an Bainisteoir who found out that the Ceann Comhairle was not on loan from the Natural History Museum next door on Kildare Street, as he was called on, on more than one occasion to keep order on the proceedings. His first port of call was to call order when the House erupted in a chorus of laughter when Fianna Fáil stated its continued commitment to neutrality-we all know Brian Cowen wants us to participate in a liberation of the Biffos-while Caoimhghín 'unpronounceable' Ó'Caoláin had tears streaming down the cheeks of everyone when he suggested that all players in the war should put their weapons of mass destruction beyond use! Even Michael D. Higgins took time out from lamenting in his Ashley Peacock styled voice (the squeaky butcher from Eastenders for all you manic depressive Eastender fans) to raise a smile at that suggestion from the Sinn Féin TD.

It was a major sporting weekend just recently, with both the national soccer and rugby teams in action in crucial games. Brian Kerr made a good start as manager, with victory over Georgia, courtesy of a late winner from Gary Doherty, but An Bainisteoir was perplexed as to the existence of a country called Georgia, and so in an effort to educate the UL student population, An Bainisteoir did a little research. Georgia is a former Soviet State, more than likely has a radioactive population and well that's all An Bainisteoir was bothered to find out as the country had no potential workers for An Bainisteoir's construction company. Still though, one of the Junior C lads who helped in the research spotted a bottle of 60% vodka selling for three euro in an off-licence in the capital Tblisi, and arrangements have been made for a training camp in the city ahead of the Championship, which An Bainisteoir can inform supporters that the first game is against Garda Superintendent's club on the weekend after the May Bank Holiday weekend. Supporters will note that the game was originally pencilled in for the Bank Holiday weekend, but the opposition had to postpone as all their first team would be doing too much overtime that weekend to be available for a football game. An Bainisteoir has heard a rumour that the postponement is a cover for the fact that many of the Garda side have failed to get themselves under the new weight restrictions, and that the players desperately need another week to get under the twenty-stone limit. However, it is only a rumour, and An Bainisteoir would like to play down the overweight talk, so as not to see any of the lads get complacent.

The other major sporting action of the weekend was Ireland's tilt at the Grand Slam against England at Grand Slam. In the end, it was quite a disappointing result for the Irish, who failed to re-write the record books, with a rather drab performance. Nevertheless, there were records being set elsewhere, and in the studio George Hook was once again breaking a few of his own. The first being for the amount of pressure he managed to exert on his shirt collar before it snapped. Official statistics recorded a time of twenty-five minutes and thirty seconds, before a new shirt had to be introduced to support Hook's mammoth double-chin. Next up was the number of times Hook's facial expression resembled that of a bulldog chewing a wasp, which was officially recorded at seventeen times, beating the previous record of fifteen (when watching David Humphries get man of the match against Italy). Regular viewers of RTE's rugby coverage will also notice that Tom McGurk has been wearing glasses of late. This is so, as to avoid any of Hook's saliva bombs from landing in his eyes. (Popey, if you're reading get a pair too).

Michael O'Leary was spotted by An Bainisteoir in Trim recently, although An Bainisteoir thought the Ryanair man was out on a big date, as he was wearing a suit for the first time ever. However, it turned out Mick had an appointment with Judge John Brophy in the District Court, but it still didn't explain why Mick was wearing a suit-I mean it's not as if he has any respect for authority. An Bainisteoir queried as to the availability of Mick's cabs for a trip to Dublin, but An Bainisteoir pulled out of the two euro offer, when discovered that no seat would be guaranteed and not even hand luggage would be allowed in the car. Mick did inform An Bainisteoir about the outcome of his court appearance, and having faced charges of dangerous driving, Mick was landed with a fine of nearly €1300, as well as an endorsement on his licence. Paying it shouldn't be a problem for the Mullingar mogul with all the spare cash lying around the Ryanair offices from their tax retention scheme. Nevertheless a vital lesson was learned by Mick, who agreed not to drive in such a dangerous manner in future-he'll just get the taxi-driver to do it for him instead!

Your Stars

by Mystic Meg

Aries: (March 21—April 19)

Your new pheromone-based scent will make you irresistible to women, who will devour you, bones, hair, and all.

Taurus: (April. 20—May 20)

Your fascination with monkeys is so well-known that it makes the selection of an unbiased jury nearly impossible.

Gemini: (May 21—June 21)

Your money problems will worsen this week when the other prisoners start trading you for fewer cigarettes than usual.

Cancer: (June 22—July 22)

If you think happy endings are superficial and unrealistic, you should be pleased with the way it all wraps up next Thursday.

Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)

You'll be at the center of a gay-rights battle this week when you try to claim partnership benefits from both your lesbian and heterosexual marriages.

Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)

The name "The Stripper Murderer" looms large in your future. Apparently, you'll either murder some strippers or be murdered by one.

Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)

You'll continue to encounter long silences after uttering your trademark catchphrase, "Who had sex with a chicken in here?"

Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)

Next week will feature family scandal, almost a dozen murders, a drowned girlfriend, and lots of manic depression, yet it's not in any way based on Hamlet.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)

You will once again have to deal with obvious fabrications, emotionally manipulative arguments, and outright insanity, but it means so much to your mom when you take her to church.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)

You have always rejected the doctrine of reincarnation as superstitious nonsense, which comes as a great relief to Hindu couples expecting children early next month.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)

Your small town will ban all dancing after witnessing your ungainly attempts at that "Ketchup Song" dance.

Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)

It seems the danger is over for now, but something tells you that you haven't seen the last of that dastardly villain.

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Fighting Discrimination in UL

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over the issue. We're glad to say that we had a couple of discussions with people who did question us, and after answering questions over the treatment of blood after donation, they were willing to sign the petition. Of course we had people coming up to us asking "Well aren't gay men a more risky source of blood?" Well, not if the blood is screened as the IBTS says on their website.

"After donation, your blood will be tested for many viral microbiological markers including HIV Hepatitis C and Syphilis. Then it can be used either as whole blood for one patient, or after separation into components,

to help several patients".

So our question is simple "If the blood is screened then what is the problem?" Why is it only gay men that are excluded?

Below is what the IBTS website has to say on the matter: "Never give blood if: You are a male who has had sex with another male. You have ever used a needle to take drugs of any kind. You or your partner is HIV positive. You have had jaundice after the age of 13 years or if you contracted jaundice under the age of 13 years which was caused by Hepatitis B or C".

The proposed destinations of these names are varied. First up is the minister for health. We are trying to show what the real facts of AIDS are; contrary to popular opinion it is not just a gay disease! The second person is the minister for equality and law reform, asking why Irish Blood Transfusion Service's blatant disregard for a potential source of blood during a time when there is a shortage of blood donors. The petition will also be circulated to the local TDs in Limerick and of course the IBTS.

We are only looking for an answer to what we believe is a simple question. If the blood, that we as a college

donate is screened properly for any of the diseases mentioned on the IBTS website, why are we as a minority excluded from giving blood. Is there some medical reason why gay men's blood is more likely to slip through the tests of the IBTS, as opposed to other people's blood?

On a more positive and upbeat note you can look forward to seeing more editions of the "Out in UL" gay guide. And if any other clubs or societies want to come on board and avail of this endless supply of energy and innovative approaches to promotion on campus, contact "Out in UL". Always recruiting especially if your fit or cute.

Disappointing Turnout at Fees Protest

continued from frontpage

march took us towards the green area towards the front of the library, approximately two to three hundred people were lying about on the grass. More could be seen gathered outside the Foundation Building. Not even a desperate ploy from both the ULSU President Eoin O' Broin, and Welfare Officer Grainne Heffron, could entice anybody from their relaxation period so as to join an extremely worthy cause.

As for the other nine thousand or so students, perhaps mummy and daddy pay their third-level bills for them. So not to worry, they have a suitable excuse for not showing up: Caviar shop was always a busy establishment on a fine Wednesday

afternoon I'm told.

Regardless of our somewhat mediocre sizing, the group eventually made it's way, slowly but surely onto the road, and into Limerick city-centre. Consuming the entire inbound route surprisingly enough did not appear to upset and bother any of the unfortunate motorists waiting in traffic behind our protest. Instead, all cars, trucks, and motorcycles sounded their horn and cheered in both admiration and support for the effort we were making.

The Gardai were of course in attendance along the way, all of whom I spoke to were in sincere support for doing what we were. They

did not support us enough to wear our anti-fees jester hat though!!

Also along the way, I managed to speak to ULSU Welfare officer Grainne Heffron. Ms. Heffron was extremely disappointed at the low attendance on the day, and quite simply wondered if any students cared about issues such as this anymore.

And that is a very valid point: Do you care? I myself have only been attending the University of Limerick since September, but already I have received the impression that issues such as the one in question, when they arise, are often left for others to undertake. This is an unfair attitude to contain, especially when our

representatives in the Students' Union work so effortlessly for our needs. Some minor piece of appreciation for their work in organising events like the anti-fees march wouldn't go amiss. As the protest came to a conclusion by entering the city-centre, the number of students still in attendance virtually ceased to exist. A poor end to a rather disappointing afternoon really. But, it all builds towards applying pressure on Minister Noel Dempsey, and his re-introduction of third-level fees.

For more information on the fight against the re-introduction of third-level fees, visit www.fightfees.com

MARKET

**Thursday
March 27.**



**Dean Taylor
as..**



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A i i G .