

an Focal

University of Limerick
Students' Union
Newspaper

Inside:

2nd class honours
reduced
35 Trophy in D.C.U.
How to dance
End of term ents.



LUCKY 13 - THE LAST WORD

Trinity 4 Tuesday 16th June

an Focal



LUCKY 13 - THE LAST WORD

University of Limerick
Students' Union
Newspaper

an Fo

University of Limerick
Students' Union
Newspaper

Inside:

2nd class honours
reduced
35 Trophy in D.C.U.
How to dance
End of term ents.



LUCKY 13 - THE LAST WORD

Trinity 4 Tuesday 16th June

News

University Commits Itself To More Cash For Clubs and Societies

After negotiations with the University Authorities regarding the level of University financial support for Club and Society activities, the Students Union have received assurances that the current meagre funding provided by the University will be increased to bring us in line with other Universities of similar size.

The figures speak volumes for the poor treatment U.L.'s Clubs and Societies have been receiving from the Administration, despite the voluminous increases in Capitation funding that the Union allocates each year.

In the academic year 1988/89 the S.U. paid £28,000 to Clubs and Societies, '89/90 £38,000, 90/91 - £45,000, 91/92 - £65,000, while these payments increased in huge percentage terms the University paid directly to Clubs and Societies via Subvention amounts of £7,000, £8,000, £8,200 and £9,200 for each of the above years so while the Union dramatically increased it's input, the university didn't quite reciprocate the gesture.

Comparative figures from other Universities within this country prove U.L.'s position as the sick man of Clubs and Societies funding; U.C.C who have just under 7,000 students receive a total subvention from their college of £80,000 - their 40 Clubs receive £83,000 for their budgets in total and their 60 societies receive £67,000. U.C.G. with 6,300 students receive £50,000 subvention from their authorities and the

total budget figures work out at - £43,700 for 33 clubs and £32,300 for 40 societies. None of the above figures take into account staff or capital (i.e. equipment costs) which are financed under separate headings.

As if the comparative statistics are n't evidence enough, it is only when one realises that the monies allocated by the S.U. are only a tiny fraction of what it actually costs to run a Club or Society on the campus, take for example the two large Gaelic Clubs they both incur expenditure of about £13,000 each year. Soccer - with it's three competitions goes through about £5,500 annually, a club like the Outdoor Pursuits needs income of a minimum of £6,000 to get through it's activities, figures such as £5,000 for Taekwondo, £6,500 for Windsurfing are not uncommon.

The shortfall between what it costs to run the Club and what the S.U. allocates has to be made up by fundraising and out of individual members pockets; so each year it does cost quite a tidy sum for students to get involved in sports activities.

The commitment it is hoped will bring us on a relative par with the U.C.C/ U.C.G. figures over a three- four year period and should ensure that Clubs and Societies receive a net increase in their individual allocations next October.

AnFocal reporter.

Schuman Building Opened in Style

The Schuman building was officially opened by by minister for education Mr. Seamus Brennan T.D. on Friday 29th last.

The day's events included an open air reception followed by tours of the new building and indeed the rest of the campus for visitors. A performance of electro-acoustic music was held and Dagda Dance added their excellent performance of "May We Dance", which took in every corner on campus, to the day's long list of events.(see photo)

All were highly impressed with the massive outdoor laser light show organised by Ber Anglely and Billy Kirwin which even featured some of the music of our own Dave Gibbons (U.L. music society).The day was also seen as a U.L. birthday party as the college was officially twenty years old just a few weeks ago.

The classes of 1972 - 1974 were honoured at a special birthday reception in the White House on Friday evening.





Schuman Building Opened in Style

The Schuman building was officially opened by the minister for education Mr. Seamus Brennan T.D. on Friday 29th last. The day's events included an open air reception followed by tours of the new building and indeed the rest of the campus for visitors. A performance of electro-acoustic music was held and Dagda Dance added their excellent performance of "May We Dance", which took in every corner on campus. to the day's long list of events. (see photo)

All were highly impressed with the massive outdoor laser light show organised by Ber Angley and Billy Kirwin which even featured some of the music of our own Dave Gibbons (U.L. music society). The day was also seen as a U.L. birthday party as the college was officially twenty years old just a few weeks ago.

The classes of 1972 - 1974 were honoured at a special birthday reception in the White House on Friday evening.

Roses Blooming in U.L.



The delightful person of Janet Frawley was one of the contestants bidding for the honour to represent Limerick in this year's Rose of Tralee contest held, traditionally during the annual Festival of Kerry.

Janet, who is a first year European Studies student represented The Castle Oak's hotel.

The Limerick final was held in the Limerick Inn on Saturday night last, and at the time of going to print, the final result was unknown to An Focal.

BY J.J.

Sean Goes For Gold in Barcelona.

U.L. receptionist Sean O Grady is poised to take Barcelona by storm when he competes as part of the Irish twenty-two strong paralympic team in September of this year.

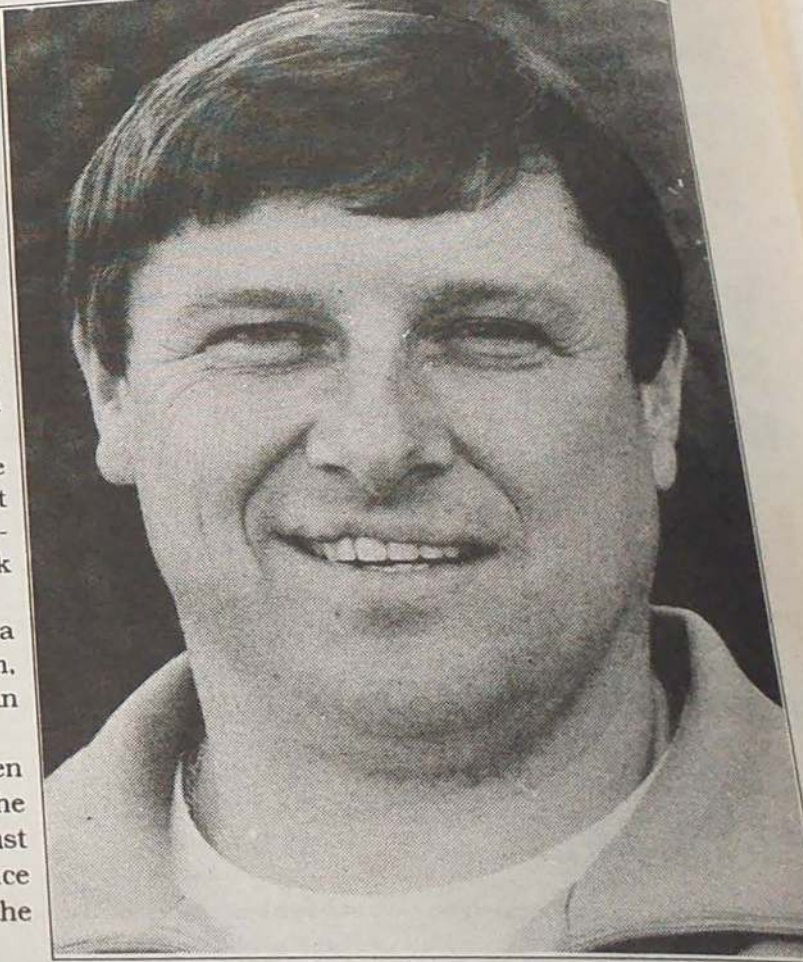
Sean, who has been confined to a wheelchair since 1978 will compete in the field events of shot-putt, javelin, and discus for which he has been training six nights a week for the past six months.

In 1988 he competed in the Seoul paralympics coming fifth and only centimetres short of a bronze medal in the shot-putt event. Two years later in Holland Sean came fourth in the world championships.

Just last weekend in Dublin he broke his own Irish record in the shot-putt event which he had previously set during the annual games for the disabled in Limerick last year.

As well as field events, Sean is also a member of the Irish wheelchair team, which he captained in the European championships in June of last year.

Sean divides his training between Bawnmore and U.L.. On campus he avails of track facilities and says he must thank Dave Maheedy for all the assistance he has given him with regard to the weights room.



page
4
Second Class
Honours
Threshold
Reduced For
Graduating
Classes
page
4

All opinions stated on this page are those of individual students and thus do not necessarily represent those of the Students' Union



The world according to you

Transition Farce

Dear Editor

Since Thomond joined with U.L. there has been an enormous amount of problems for students. Taking 2nd year Rural Science as an example; we sat through inorganic chemistry in term 1. It was about as relevant and as meaningful to us as Chinese is to a cat. But we soldiered on, our complaints fell on deaf ears.

We sat the exam, 70% of the class got an F, 20% a E and 10% a C. It's not that we're braindead, we tried to study it but sense could not be made of it. Of course the module wasn't really intended for us, it was for Industrial Chemists, who no doubt enjoyed every moment of that modules' existence.

Term 2 was fine, we had just 5 weeks in this place before we were released to enlighten some secondary school pupils for 5 weeks. Term 3 began and we found ourselves in the Jean Monnet for Maths, MA173. At first we thought we were in the wrong place when we saw some strange formulas and letters appearing, but we spotted the Wood and Metal chapees and all was well, or so we thought! We were given a tutorial sheet Week 1 and told it was based on the basics. Basics my bum!

Where were we supposed

Brien and Hugh O' Donnell. This was Week 7, they told us we could keep going to lectures and tutorials, extra tutorials & exam would be given next term.

This we thought was fair enough, but it had to be made official by the wonderful Maths Department. Week 9 - It is decided that we must sit the Maths exam in Week 11, as we had Maths before T.P. and this should have done us. But that Maths was optional, it consisted of about 4 lectures. Now if you had 5 schemes of work and a week of lesson plans to do (i.e. outlining all you will say, do and think for 5 weeks) would you do an optional module that wasn't examined? As it stands, we're expected to do the Maths exam, to prove what? Try comparing the Maths done last year by the present 3rd years, with what we're doing now I'm afraid the similarity is so small its invisible.

We're not the only year that have been messed around, but does anyone really give a damn?

Disadvantaged we fall.

2nd Year Rural Science

- A dying Species.

U.L. Arts?

Dear Editor

Mr John Hargaden in his letter to the last edition of An Focal seems to have totally missed the point. The issue outlined in my manifesto was not the amount of resources allocated to the Arts, rather the allocation of those resources. Our Arts Advisor should take note that students far outweigh faculty in this University and Arts events should therefore primarily target students.

Apart from a few periphery events, Arts Week this year consisted primarily of one event

"A Midsummer Nights Dream" (which was supposedly excellent - I didn't see it despite numerous attempts to get a ticket). This meant that the minimal amount of students participated in Arts Week and no open auditioning took place for roles. I myself produced a play for Arts Week last year on a budget of £100 while A Midsummer Nights Dream swallowed practically all Arts Week financial resources this year.

Where are the resources for students who wish to display their artistic talents? Where are the expensive posters and publicity for Drama Soc. & Music Soc. events?

Wake up John, you are Arts Advisor to a University of students. Don't underestimate our artistic appreciation and ability.

Linda O'Sullivan

The Presidential Candidate who lost.

PRO-CHOICE AND PRO-LIFE

Dear Editor,

a few words in response to James Hurleys letter in the last issue. Mr. Hurley states, "... it means that I am in favour of Irish Society's providing women who are unhappily pregnant with the choice of having the child and keeping it, or alternatively giving the child up for adoption. Should an unhappily pregnant woman consider both those options to be unsatisfactory, I would respect fully her right to travel...". This is a facile argument and opinion. The right to travel is not a broad based civil right available to all Irish women (pregnant or otherwise). It is a right dependent on the ability to afford such a luxury. A female chief executive may afford to travel for an abortion, but a woman from one of the many poorer areas of Ireland and indeed this city, may never have enough spare money to go to Dublin, let alone Liverpool. It is in this under-

Letters

Reply to Ents letter

Dear Editor,

In response to a letter by Frank Hanrahan re:

"Election campaigns v Ents Crew", in the last issue of An

Focal. I would like to point out some inaccuracies and set the record straight. In the letter he said that this is the second year that a full time crew has been employed, in fact the ents crew are not full time basis and it has as such

been like this for over nine years. Although formal training has only been in existence for two years, it is unfair to say that any crew were drinking, pulling cords on trains, or hitting people.

Any crew caught drinking, hitting people (other than in defence), or pulling cords on trains would have been fired.

The older crews worked very hard in the pioneering years of ents. The first crew consisted of only four people who had to do all the setting up as well as doors etc in the old exam hall for

we're... study it but sense could not be made of it. Of course the module wasn't really intended for us, it was for Industrial Chemists, who no doubt enjoyed every moment of that modules' existence.

Term 2 was fine, we had just 5 weeks in this place before we were released to enlighten some secondary school pupils for 5 weeks
Term 3 began and we found ourselves in the Jean Monnet for Maths, MA173. At first we thought we were in the wrong place when we saw some strange formulas and letters appearing, but we spotted the Wood and Metal chapees and all was well, or so we thought! We were given a tutorial sheet Week 1 and told it was based on the basics. Basics my bum!

Where were we supposed to have got the basics? Our dear Lord sure didn't come down and inspire us. We found that the others in the lecture (engineers, chemists etc) had done a pre-requisite to this module MA172, while we were on T.P. This was reported to the powers that be, we were told to carry on, extra tutorials were given, beginning Week 3 so that we could catch up. This involves 40 people, none of whom have Honours Maths to Leaving Cert. Things were very vague, we sought Billy's help, ended up in the White House, sent to meet John O'

...maths was optional, it consisted of about 4 lectures. Now if you had 5 schemes of work and a week of lesson plans to do (i.e. outlining all you will say, do and think for 5 weeks) would you do an optional module that wasn't examined? As it stands, we're expected to do the Maths exam, to prove what? Try comparing the Maths done last year by the present 3rd years, with what we're doing now I'm afraid the similarity is so small its invisible.

We're not the only year that have been messed around, but does anyone really give a damn?
Disadvantaged we fall.
2nd Year Rural Science
- A dying Species.

Editor's comment:

It is interesting that all the correspondence on the abortion issue has been by men. This is because all of the signed letters we received on this topic were written by men - and not because of any editorial policy on the part of an Focal.

We would welcome contributions from the women members of the campus community.

...all Arts Week financial resources this year.
Where are the resources for students who wish to display their artistic talents? Where are the expensive posters and publicity for Drama Soc. & Music Soc. events?
Wake up John, you are Arts Advisor to a University of students. dont underestimate our artistic appreciation and ability.
Linda O'Sullivan
The Presidential Candidate who lost.

PRO-CHOICE AND PRO-LIFE

Dear Editor,
a few words in response to James Hurleys letter in the last issue. Mr. Hurley states, ".... it means that I am in favour of Irish Society's providing women who are unhappily pregnant with the choice of having the child and keeping it, or alternatively giving the child up for adoption. Should an unhappily pregnant woman consider both those options to be unsatisfactory, I would respect fully her right to travel..". This is a facile argument and opinion. The right to travel is not a broad based civil right available to all Irish women (pregnant or otherwisw). It is a right dependent on the ability to afford such a luxury. A female chief executive may afford to travel for an abortion, but a woman from one of the many poorer areas of Ireland and indeed this city, may never have enough spare money to go to Dublin, let alone Liverpool. It is in this under-privileged section of society that many unwanted pregnancies occur. Mr. Hurley's stance, instead of eliminating discrimination, massages the conscience by subtly discriminating on economic grounds rather than sexual grounds. It is mere substitution of one form of discrimination for another.

Secondly, refferring to his shockk that the S.U. wantonly refers women to abortion clinics. In England, all women undergoing the operation to terminate pregnancy MUST undergo counselling. This is provided by the clinic if it has not taken place beforehand. If it does not, the operation is illegal. I hope this eases your fears that all pro-life people and organisations desire "MAIL ORDER PREGNANCY TERMINATIONS"

Thirdly, he states, "....to be Pro-life is to be pro the right to say no to Maastricht.." A new form of lateral thinking perhaps?!?!?! Maastricht has nothing to do with abortion or any other morality issue. Stop seeing sin and satan where there is only politics.

Yours etc.
Neville Bourke.

...out some inaccuracies and set the record straight. In the letter he said that this is the second year that a full time crew has been employed, in fact the ents crew are not full time basis and it has as such been like this for over nine years. Although formal training has only been in existence for two years, it is unfair to say that any crew were drinking, pulling cords on trains, or hitting people. Any crew caught drinking, hitting people (other than in defence), or pulling cords on trains would have been fired. The older crews worked very hard in the pioneering years of ents. The first crew consisted of only four people who had to do all the setting up as well as doors etc in the old exam hall for embarassingly low money. It was their dedication and enthusiasm that helped push Ents forward from one gig every two weeks to one gig practically every night. We plan to increase the amount of training the crew get to make them even more professional. If anyone has any remarks or suggestions on the training of the Ents crew please let me know.

Regards,
Ber Angley,
Ents Co-ordinator.

Union Brief

Good Luck

Second Class Honours Threshold Reduced For Graduating Classes

The University's Academic Council has just agreed to lower the 2.2 honours degree level from a Q.C.A. position of 2.8 to 2.7 with a discretionary band of -0.1, with immediate effect.

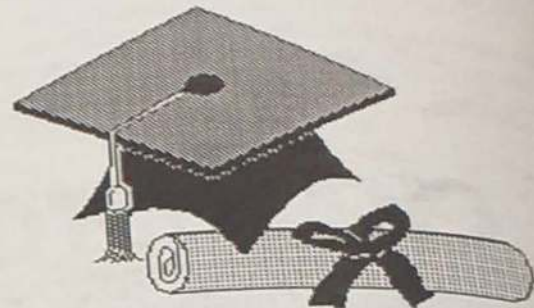
This will entitle all graduating students who receive a Q.C.A. award of 2.7 to automatically receive a second class honours degree.

More importantly it creates a real chance for those students who attain 2.6 to be eligible for a discretionary award, this will have the effect of students in some departments and colleges achieving a second class honours degree; if in the opinion of the external examiner the discretionary -0.1 should be applied.

The 2.2 honours threshold level reduction to 2.6 has long been a chestnut with the University authorities, with external examiners and national statistics adding their weight to the debate.

The nearest the S.U. came to winning the campaign came in the year of the granting of University status (1989) but the powers that be decided that it was not opportune to "lower the quality of the degrees" so soon, however as a result of constant lobbying some progress has at last been achieved on the issue.

Currently the situation according to the academic regulations reads - QCA of 2.8 with a discretionary band of -0.1, in practice this means that graduates have been able to get 2.2 honours at 2.7.



With every Faculty board in the University in support of the move apart from the College of Business, the authorities had to come up with a compromise solution that would not see the issue held up because of the intransigence of one college.

The compromise solution

of 2.7 with a discretionary band of -0.1 will probably be used by the Colleges of Education, Engineering and Science and Humanities and Arts but given the steadfast Business Department opposition, it's highly unlikely that the Business Dept. will award below 2.7.

Discipline Cases Prove Harsh Reality

A number of recent decisions of the Discipline Committee, have proven that once again that this is one of the few Committees to have real teeth on the campus.

The Committee heard a case relating to a serious incident of assault during Rag Week in the Rag Week Marquee. The incident was viewed so serious that the Stables Club Discipline Committee referred the case straight to the Registrar's Office.

The victim was struck in the face with an empty one litre glass stein by another student causing severe damage to teeth, gum and lip.

The accused was found guilty of serious assault and in accordance with the code of conduct ordered to pay the medical bills of the student and received a twelve month suspension from the university. It is understood that the student is appealing the decision.

It has been the first incident of serious assault in the

Trading Company Set Up

The Students Union has just received the final go ahead to begin company trading in the south side of the Shopping Mall from this coming academic year.

The company will provide a new general store, a new reprographics and secretarial unit and a U.S.I.T. travel bureau

The location is set for the three units beside the laundrette in the Mall - all to be fully operational by

The company has as its mission the provision of quality goods and services to the members of the Students Union and the campus community; as well pumping the surpluses generated from those activities into the non-contributory services of the Students Union.

Areas in the Union that will in the future benefit from additional income derived from the trading company would be - Clubs and Societies, Welfare, Information/Communication

Union

Good Luck

The students' union would like to thank all its members for their support during the year. We would especially like to thank the class reps, clubs & societies, Executive council, the ents crew, the Stables club, the Hurlers, the University & all others who contributed in any way.

Secondly we would like to thank the outgoing sebaticals
-Colm Croffy U.L.S.U.
President 1991&1992
-Donal Walde U.L.S.U.
Deputy President 1992
for their hard & dedicated work during their terms of office

Good luck to the incoming sebaticals
Diarmuid Scully & Enda Lonergan & returning
Transition / Services
Officer Billy Kirwan.

Finally we look forward to a new and exciting year in September and hope ye all have a wonderful summer.

Discipline Cases Prove Harsh Reality

A number of recent decisions of the Discipline Committee, have proven that once again that this is one of the few Committees to have real teeth on the campus.
The Committee heard a case relating to a serious incident of assault during Rag Week in the Rag Week Marquee. The incident was viewed so serious that the Stables Club Discipline Committee referred the case straight to the Registrar's Office.

The victim was struck in the face with an empty one litre glass stein by another student causing severe damage to teeth, gum and lip.

The accused was found guilty of serious assault and in accordance with the code of conduct ordered to pay the medical bills of the student and received a twelve month suspension from the university. It is understood that the student is appealing the decision.

It has been the first incident of serious assault in the Stables Club in about four years and was the only incident during the six day festivity of Rag Week. The last time an assault case of such serious nature came before the college authorities the accused was expelled.

A second case showed just how much strain students are under in the present system, involved a student's being head being hopped of a library seat ; because it was alledged; he would get up and give the seat to someone else.
The accused received a stiff fine to charity and a number of work hours to the Library.



We would like to congratulate Ms. Carmel Ryan (students' union) & Mr. Cristy Carey (U.L. plumbers union) on their recent marriage

Trading Comp

The Students Union has just received the final go ahead to begin company trading in the south side of the Shopping Mall from this coming acadmic year.

The company will provide a new general store, a new reprographics and secretarial unit and a U.S.I.T. travel bureau

The location is set for the three units beside the laundrette in the Mall - all to be fully operational by September 1992.

After months of planning and negotiating with the University's student facility development wing - Plassey Campus Centre; final approval for the company's three unit deal was granted at the last meeting of the PCC Board.

The Students Union will be launching it's own trading company for the purposes of providing professional commercial services on campus at the start of July.

The company limited by gaurantee and owned by the Students Union, will trade under the name of U.L.S.U. Services Ltd. and will be managed by senior Students Union staff.

The principle of comercial services being run by Students Unions through the vehicle of a charitable company is not a new one either in the Republic (Dublin Institue of Technol-ogy) or the U.K. (from Salford to Norwich) and has numerous financial and legal advantages.

The company has as it's mission the provision of quality goods and services to the members of the Students Union and the campus community; as well pumping the surpluses generated from those activities into the non-contributory services of the Students Union.

Areas in the Union that will in the future benefit from additional income derived from the trading company would be - Clubs and Societies, Welfare, Information/ Communication, Communal facilities, and more staff.

The company being owned by the Students Union will have a diverse Board of Directors; reflecting the need to have as much qualified people from relevant areas assisting the development as well as some University involvement.

The Board will comprise of three student directors (President, Transition and Services Officer and nominee of the ougoing executive) two senior staff of the Students Union, a nominee from Alumni Association with a backround in retail management, a nominee from the university administration and a nominee from the development company of the University P.C.C.

The directly elected President of the Students Union will be the Chairperson of the board and Administrative Officer of the Students Union will be the Managing Director of the company.

Discipline Cases Prove Harsh Reality

A number of recent decisions of the Discipline Committee, have proven that once again that this is one of the few Committees to have real teeth on the campus.

The Committee heard a case relating to a serious incident of assault during Rag Week in the Rag Week Marquee. The incident was viewed so serious that the Stables Club Discipline Committee referred the case straight to the Registrar's Office.

The victim was struck in the face with an empty one litre glass stein by another student causing severe damage to teeth, gum and lip.

The accused was found guilty of serious assault and in accordance with the code of conduct ordered to pay the medical bills of the student and received a twelve month suspension from the university. It is understood that the student is appealing the decision.

It has been the first incident of serious assault in the Stables Club in about four years and was the only incident during the six day festivity of Rag Week. The last time an assault case of such serious nature came before the college authorities the accused was expelled.

A second case showed just how much strain students are under in the present system, involved a student's being head being hopped of a library seat ; because it was alledged; he would get up and give the seat to someone else.

The accused received a stiff fine to charity and a number of work hours to the Library.



We would like to congratulate Ms. Carmel Ryan (students' union) & Mr. Cristy Carey (U.L. plumbers union) on their recent marriage

An Focal, An Fickle, An Fuck All!!

Question: What do S.U.N., Link Up, Heart of Gold, and Mercury have in common? Answer: They are all predecessors to An Focal. Over the past number of years there has almost always been some sort of U.L. Students Union publication in existence. This publication has varied in name and content. It has changed from an almost slanderous content to attempts at seriousness back to slander, and now, hopefully, back to some degree of seriousness. The attentive among us will have noticed that there have been twelve editions of An Focal over the past three terms. These editions have been issued on a regular basis and have as much as possible had a stable and standard content.

An Focal is a Student Union publication. It is part of the union network for the distribution of information to the students of U.L.. An Focal often carries key stories in it's news, letters, features and union brief sections. It is, however, more than just a union directive, or propaganda sheet. It is, or should I say, it is meant to be, the voice of the students of

U.L.. The opinion, letters and clubs, Vox-Pop and society sections are in particular geared at the everyday student, his/her feelings, views, and opinions.

Over the past year more than twenty five students have been involved in some shape or form with An Focal, it's writing, layout, and publication. Also over the last year this number has dwindled considerably, dwindled, in fact to the point where there are only in the region of four definite articles for each edition, dwindled to the point where An Focal is an all night task left to two or three people to type, design, paste up, and make a nine am deadline with The Limerick Leader for it's printing.

But for the reliable contributors of "Engineering and Science Speaks", "Simon Snodgrass", "From The Triangle" and recently "I mBeal an Phobail", the diligent work of those who work in the student union typing pool, and who supervise the union office by night, An Focal could well be a thing of the past as it could easily have taken it's place in the archives amongst it's afore mentioned predecessors long ago.

So what is An Focal's future to be? When the new year begins in September, will An Focal return in strength, with a new committed editorial team or, will it struggle on with the same dedicated few who are determined to keep it alive? If people do not come forward to help in September then An Focal will simply remain static and could possibly go into decline. There will be no new ideas or input and it will become the ceration of an elitist few, in a sense, "The Untouchables".

Writing for An Focal is not difficult, and all writers for the coming year will be formally trained in their chosen field be it news, opinion or feature writing. Higher participation in An Focal is vital to keep it at a reasonable standard, a standard acceptable to both you and I. I am writing this editorial at one am on Monday June eight, An Focal must be in The Limerick Leader office at nine am, we have yet to design and lay it out. Under today's date on the calender it aptly reads "one reason why so few recognise opportunity is because it is disguised as hard work". Read what will into that.

Editorial

An Focal

The Editors Kevin Brew, Maria Casey, and Billy Kirwan wish to thank

The anFocal Team

- Kevin Messere
- Fergal Gleeson
- Cathal Kelly
- James Hurley
- Roibeard Ó' Ceallaigh
- John Maguire
- John Bourke
- Rachel Coleman
- Finnola Bradley
- Justin Mc Carthy
- Donal Waide
- Colm Croffv

A Tribute

David Bourke

David Bourke entered college in 1989 in the Euro Studies Class specialising in Public Affairs in his second year. His untimely death came as a sad shock and he will be greatly missed and remembered with fondness by all his friends here. Dave, as he is known here, was born in Limerick and grew up in a very happy home in Highfield on the Ennis Road, where he was affectionately known as Bourkie. Dave is to be commended for the fact that he was one of the fortunate few to be able to lead a balanced life in College - working hard, playing hard for the U.L. Hurling Club and Crowley Cup Soccer team, and finding time at the end of it all to socialise. He also hurled with Na Piarasigh GAA Club. He played it at every level from



U 12 on and became one of the staunchest and most loyal members the club has ever known. He will be remembered as a fellow who never said much, but put his head down and did what was put up to him be it at academic life or on the sports field. Dave, won't be forgotten by those who loved him here in College and those who knew him and grew up with him in Limerick. All our thoughts are with his Mum, Dad, his sisters Sina, Karen, Aileen and all his relatives. May he rest in peace.

because it is disguised as hard work". Read what will into that.

- Justin Mc Carthy
- Donal Waide
- Colm Croffy

And all the Contributors and Helpers

- Malgs Fleming
- Jerry Russell
- Seamus Fogerty
- Andrew Gilligan
- Carmel Ryan
- Adrian Pilz
- mBád
- John Sweeney
- Ber Angley
- Alan Rafferty
- Paul Williams
- Carmel Ryan
- Michele O' Dwyer
- Brian O' Farrell
- John Brosnan
- Maura Adshead
- Vera Sweeney
- Clubs an Societies
- night time supervisors
- typing pool supervisors
- Anybody not mentioned

who should be, you know who you are, and so do we.

For all their help and dedication throughout An Focail's first year of publication.

Right of Reply

An Focail sees its role as a medium for the dissemination of information and opinion, which readers may require and enjoy.

Inevitably, in spite of our best efforts, we will make mistakes but we wish to ensure that we correct such mistakes as promptly and as fully as possible. We therefor offer readers who feel they have been unfairly treated in the An Focail a right of reply, subject to reasonable length and the laws constraining press freedom. We also undertake to publish corrections, on being informed of errors.

Locking up the 'insane'

Each year 2,500 people are involuntarily committed to psychiatric hospitals in Ireland. In recent years there has been an increase in the numbers who subsequently apply to the courts seeking redress for what they claim was wrongful committal. They have set up an organisation called Wrongfully Institutionalised People (WIP) to fight for stronger legal protection for people subjected to involuntary committal. *Cathal Kelly looks at the law surrounding those who find themselves committed to mental hospital against their will.*

The Mental Treatment Act 1945 is a large and complex piece of legislation. It has nearly 300 sections, and is broken into nineteen parts. Part XIV deals with the procedures under which a person may be committed to a mental hospital.

An application for a recommendation must be made to a doctor to have a person committed to a public mental hospital - when it is proposed to commit a person to a private mental hospital the signatures of two doctors is required.

The Act requires that before signing an order the doctor must 'visit and examine the person to whom the application relates'. The Act does not define what constitutes an examination, and the Courts have ruled that in these

cases "the law does not require a standard of precision such as might be appropriate to other aspects of medical practice". In effect this means that in many cases the need for a medical examination has been dispensed with altogether.

Both the medical profession and the courts have signalled that there are problems with this aspect of the law.

In January this year Dr Niall Griffin, Chairman of the National Committee of RMS's, Chief Psychiatrists and Clinical Directors, said "that it is a pity that the 1945 Act did not specify what an examination consisted of". He has been supported by other doctors who have said that changes of the current law are needed to cope with the cases which have come to light recently.

In a dissenting Supreme Court Judgement in 1982, Mr Justice Henchy found that a doctor employed by the North Western Health Board had acted with "a want of reasonable care" because, among other things, he had not examined the patient before signing a reception order.

In Britain, a certifying General Practitioner must have experience in psychiatry - this is not required by Irish law. British law also prohibits an estranged spouse from applying for a committal order against their husband or wife. Last week the Minister for Health, Dr John O'Connell, said that he plans to introduce legislation to prevent a spouse from applying to have their husband or wife committed if the couple have separated.

patient be discharged, either unconditionally or under supervision. The Board would also automatically review every six months the case of a patient detained for more than two years.

In what appears to be an about-face on the part of the minister, the Bill was defeated by the government. In the debate on the 1981 act Dr O'Connell said that "the provision of a review body is another safeguard for mental patients...The existence of such a body will ensure that people will not be detained for life in mental hospitals".

The proposal was essentially a copy of a British model enacted in 1959. A 1970 investigation on the operation of these Boards found that they were, "with varying degrees of success," protecting the rights of mental patients. However the report found that they needed to be vastly improved to more adequately protect the civil liberties of detained patients.

High Court Permission

A person seeking legal redress following involuntary detention is required to get the permission of the High Court before taking legal action against for wrongful detention. Many of the cases taken under this requirement have been unsuccessful: up until the December 1990, the courts interpreted the wording of the law to mean that a patient had to prove their case to a higher standard than for other civil cases.

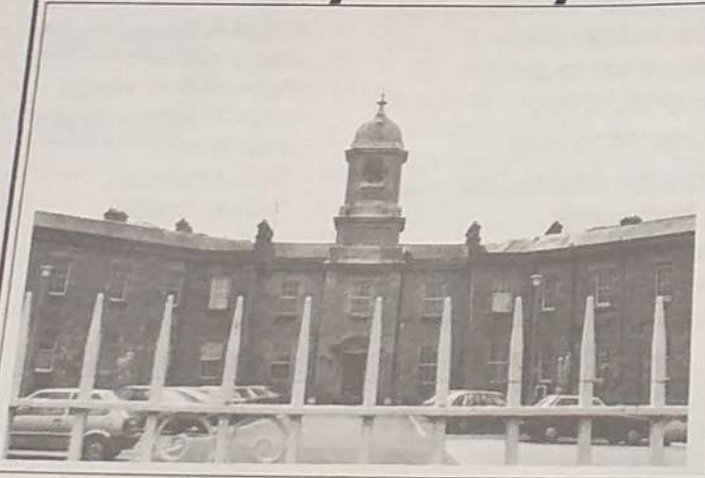
In June last year the High Court pointed to another difficulty with the

the new legislation protecting spouses, Dr O'Connell published a Green Paper on mental health. His publication presents an opportunity for debate on the entire philosophy behind the detention of people in psychiatric hospitals. The current law allows a person to be detained because they are of 'unsound mind'. The law does not specify what constitutes 'unsound mind', and does not even require that the person be a danger to either themselves or others. In the 1949 *Clarke* case, the Supreme Court found Clarke's committal to hospital lawful although the Garda requesting his committal stated that Clarke was not dangerous to others, and no case was made that he was being detained for his own protection.

The *Donaldson* case in the USA in 1975 found that there is no constitutional basis for confining somebody if they are not dangerous and can live safely without being detained. The report into the English Review Boards cited one case of an unnamed man who had been active in Labour politics for over forty years, including a period as a councillor. In his time in the British Labour movement he got to know a number of Labour Peers and members of Government. The hospital doctor wanted to detain him, although he was not considered dangerous. The doctor told the man's Review Board that claims to be on first name terms with Peers and members of HM's Government was evidence of hypomania and delusions of grandeur.

An American lawyer, Bruce Ennis, spent three years representing mental patients on behalf of the

Mary's Story



St. Joseph's Hospital, Mulgrave Street where Mary was taken under Garda escort in December 1988

Mary's Story



St. Joseph's Hospital, Mulgrave Street where Mary was taken under Garda escort in December 1988

Mary O. was married for thirteen years. She and her husband had four children. In 1987, and up to the end of 1988 'serious matrimonial differences' (as they were described in the High Court) arose between her and her husband. These 'differences' included an assault on her by her husband on 11th December 1988. The following day she and her father had a row. On the basis of information given to him by Mary's husband, her father kicked her out of his house, and told her not to return.

Thus, on the evening of the 12th December she found herself at the end of more than a year of marital problems that had culminated in assault by her husband and rejection by her own father. Two calls to the front door that evening were to bring more distress for Mary. The first was her husband. When she opened the door and saw him she became hysterical. She drove him from the door towards the road - process that took about a minute or so.

The second call to the front door that evening was a team consisting of two Gardai, a nurse and an ambulance driver. They took her to St Joseph's Hospital, on Mulgrave Street, here in Limerick. Mary was detained there for a few days. The Gardai took her to the hospital on the order of her husband's doctor - who was not her doctor. In the High Court it was accepted that the doctor never examined or interviewed Mary. His decision to sign the committal order was on the basis of what her husband and father told him, combined with what he saw when her husband called to the house on the evening of 12th December. He said he was aware of the marital problems, but despite that he called to examine Mary in the company of her husband.

Mary sought the permission of the High Court to take a case against her husband's doctor and against the Mid-Western Health Board, who run St Joseph's Hospital. Permission was refused.

employed by the North Western Health Board had acted with "a want of reasonable care" because, among other things, he had not examined the patient before signing a reception order.

In Britain, a certifying General Practitioner must have experience in psychiatry - this is not required by Irish law. British law also prohibits an estranged spouse from applying for a committal order against their husband or wife. Last week the Minister for Health, Dr John O'Connell, said that he plans to introduce legislation to prevent a spouse from applying to have their husband or wife committed if the couple have separated.

Review Boards

WIP's concerns extend beyond the procedures under which a person may be detained. An act passed by the Oireachtas in 1981 would have given greater rights of patients after detention, but it was never signed into law by the Minister for Health, because of the effective opposition of the medical profession. In April Nuala Fennell TD (Fine Gael, Dublin South) published a private members bill which re-introduced some of the provisions of the 1981 act. This bill would have established a Mental Health Review Board in each Health Board area. The most important feature of the Boards would be that a patient detained involuntarily (and also certain relatives) would have the right to apply to have their detention reviewed. The Review Board would have the power to direct that a pa-

of detained patients.

High Court Permission

A person seeking legal redress following involuntary detention is required to get the permission of the High Court before taking legal action against for wrongful detention. Many of the cases taken under this requirement have been unsuccessful: up until the December 1990, the courts interpreted the wording of the law to mean that a patient had to prove their case to a higher standard than for other civil cases.

In June last year the High Court pointed to another difficulty with the requirement to get permission. In his judgement in "Mary's case" (see box) Mr Justice Murphy found that she had established a sufficient case to justify her to take a case if evidence in her favour was to be considered by itself. However, he had also heard the evidence rebutting her case, and had made a decision on the facts of the full case, and not just her application for permission to take an action. Mr Justice Murphy said that it would be a "virtual absurdity" to decline to adjudicate on the case. He said that this would create a situation in which the same evidence would be presented a second time to the court, incurring further costs, with the difference being that on the second occasion the court would be deciding on the merits of both cases.

Green Paper

At the same time that he announced his intention to introduce

Labour politics for over forty years, including a period as a councillor. In his time in the British Labour movement he got to know a number of Labour Peers and members of Government. The hospital doctor wanted to detain him, although he was not considered dangerous. The doctor told the man's Review Board that claims to be on first name terms with Peers and members of HM's Government was evidence of hypomania and delusions of grandeur.

An American lawyer, Bruce Ennis, spent three years representing mental patients on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union. Cases he has dealt with include the right of patients to receive pay for work performed while detained in mental hospitals and the right to specified minimum standards of treatment. One of the cases Ennis took extended to mental patients the constitutional right to refuse medication on religious grounds. The patient in the case was a Christian Scientist, and if she had been in a general hospital instead of a mental hospital she would have had been allowed refuse medication.

Issues such as these are not covered by Irish law. The publication of the Green Paper on Mental Health was prompted by a campaign concerning the procedures under which a person can be committed to hospital. Many of those concerned with civil rights see the debate prompted by the Green Paper as an opportunity to look at the broader legal situation concerning those we regard as mad.

ENGINEERING & SCIENCE SPEAKS

By James Hurley 4th Elec Eng.

GIVE CLASS REPS AUTHORITY AND NOT JUST RESPONSIBILITY

In this the final edition of *An Focal*, it is surely an appropriate opportunity to reflect on the year that's been in it, some of the issues raised, and those raised by this column. It would be interesting, wouldn't it, to know just how much interest and/or thought the column generated in its maiden year. All columns are presented with some kind of slant, and this one admittedly has had a strong student bias. This I believe is a healthy and necessary aspect of the column for reasons I will briefly expound upon. Also this column has at different times been very strongly influenced by one student's experience (i.e. that of the author), so that in this the final article I will be associated with, I include the comments of 4th Year Electronics Class Rep, Sean Killeen, arising out of a brief interview I conducted with him, regarding principally the role of Class Rep in this University.

But with regard once again to the student bias of this column, I defend it as an entirely healthy and necessary one in a faculty where student opinion is seldom sought, more rarely still offered, and when it is offered, is so invariably ignored by the stifling and unrelenting autocracy of the UL educational and administrative system. Students are not challenged to think creatively or responsibly in terms of what they might contribute to University life, or life outside of the University for that matter. Any thinking that does exist centres strictly around the individual's private interests, dominated as they more often than not are by the ultimate narrow-minded goal of self-preservation and little else.

Why be creative when the path to success is so long-established and clearly defined? The following is the UL Safe Cross Code:

- (i) Go to lectures and take notes.
- (ii) Go to labs and write lab reports.
- (iii) Go to tutorials and acquire tutorial sheets.
- (iv) Get exam papers and acquire exam solutions.
- (v) Get a hold of a few books to fill in any gaps along the way (i.e. largely to make up for lecturing deficiencies).
- (vi) Limit all non-academic activity to a minimum.
- (vii) Learn everything by heart and sit exam.

Why be responsible, and for example demand higher lecturing standards, when one is only passing through? University of Limerick is in so many ways analogous to a London tube station. How many people passing through a London tube station demand cleaner loos? How many students passing through UL demand only the best lecturing standards? It would appear that lecturers and lecturing standards are as peripheral a concern to the average UL student as tube station toilets are to passengers of the London Underground.

And yet bad as the system may be at the best of times, when we the students refuse to take any degree of responsibility ourselves, the system serves our interests less still, the blame for which lies firmly with the apathetic and grumbling students amongst us. I fear that too often such students are in a considerable majority over those who do become responsibly involved.

Moving on however to the aforementioned interview with one student who did become responsibly involved. Presented below are the questions I put to Sean and his frank replies.

Sean, why did you become Class Rep?

Chiefly, over the number of hours we were faced with in studying seven modules when we returned from Coop. I believed that the number of hours exceeded that of the academic regulations. I felt that someone should represent quieter elements in the class who would have particular difficulty with the increased workload.

What have you done since becoming Class Rep?

The petition about the number of hours was unfortunately unsuccessful, although mandatory hours were slightly reduced for this year's 3rd Years. In 3rd year we organised a class party, barbecue, soccer matches, and even a picnic on the front lawn!

In 4th year there were a number of more sober academic issues such as a Student Based Lecture Assessment (SBLA) of a particular lecturer many had complained about. 70 forms were filled out, before the fear arose within the class that if we pressed ahead we'd get bad results. Thus the issue was abandoned.

I was also very involved (with others) in making a protest to MSF regarding their withholding of student grades earlier this year in their dispute with the University Authorities.

On a lighter side, we staged the annual Class Party, designed and printed Class T-shirts, organised Snooker and Squash events, and put together a Class Year-book soon to be made available. I say "we" because without a few key committed individuals who put a lot of time and effort in, these things would never have happened.

Is it a position of responsibility without authority and should there be Class Rep Reform?

Class members want a Class Rep to represent academic issues Student Union leaders want Class Reps to represent Union affairs.

Department heads want someone who will reduce the number of people who have effective contact with the system. As Class Rep however, you approach Faculty Heads purely with the status of an ordinary student. The result of all of this is that overall student effectiveness experiences no increase.

Do you think it was worthwhile?

Sometimes I felt like I was working in a void. There was nonetheless personal satisfaction in bringing organisation where hitherto there had been none. Also I would say that the Student Union Training Weekend was very good this year.

Any advice for anyone thinking of taking up a Class Rep position in an Engineering class?

In a class as large as Electronics there should probably be four Class Reps. As Class Rep you have to be prepared to put yourself out for things you may only have a limited interest in. Be approachable and delegate responsibility.

Features

Personally, I believe Sean attempted and achieved a great deal more than many of his predecessors. Students should realise how taking responsibility upon oneself can produce results. On the other hand, the effectiveness of even the most responsible and committed of Class Reps is severely limited by the lack of authority afforded to him or her by the system.

ests less stui, the blame for which lies firmly with the apathetic and grumbling students amongst us. I fear that too often such students are in a considerable majority over those who do become responsibly involved.

PLASSEYDERATA

Go noisily amid peace and think what fun that could be in the library.

As far as possible be on good terms with all bar staff. Tell lies blatantly but convincingly. Never listen to others especially the dull and ignorant, they have only boring stories. Avoid quiet and passive persons they too can bore.

If you compare yourself to others, you will come out on top, for always there will be lesser persons than yourself. After all your achievements go on the raz.

Keep an interest in companions' careers, however humble, one day they might be good for a fiver. Exercise caution in your business affairs for the world is full of persons just like you. And let this caution open your eyes to the lack of virtues that exist. Many persons strive for excellence, and they will most certainly piss you off. Be yourself. Especially never fake orgasms. Be cynical about

love, for no romance is enchanting enough to replace a roll in the perennial grass.

Take life easy and never surrender the things of youth. Drink the world of spirits to shield you of misfortune. Do not distress yourself with parental ambitions, for many fears are not those of your own.

Go beyond wholesome disciplines, fulfill all childhood dreams, too soon will time expire and you will have a semi, two kids and a mortgage. You are a child of the university, and as good as the kid next door was, he did not get here!

Do not pity Ed. but be happy for him, whatever you conceive him to be. And whatever labours you endure in order to remain here in the quiet confusion of your head, keep on good terms with the cops.

Therefore live your life like one long party. Life with all its shame, drudgery and broken dreams is worth sleeping off. Yet, be daring, strive to win.

The Baker.

only advice for anyone thinking of taking up a Class Rep position in an Engineering class?

In a class as large as Electronics there should probably be four Class Reps. As Class Rep you have to be prepared to put yourself out for things you may only have a limited interest in. Be approachable and delegate responsibility.

the other hand, the effectiveness of even the most responsible and committed of Class Reps is severely limited by the lack of authority afforded to him or her by the system.

A Thrills & Swoon Romance -

by Prunella Scumworthy.

"A Sparkling tale of Romance between a resplendent piece of manhood and a sultry maiden"

The campus buzzed with activity, a myriad of colours dotting the lawn beside a glittering fountain. A fizzy spray launched itself all over the tanned body of the gorgeous man in the dazzling lab coat, his calculator and pristine pocket protector twinkling under the glare of the golden ball of the sun.

His scarlet flares flapped gracefully around his hush-puppies. His medallion, nesting in a vertisble forest of chest hair, glinted from beneath his fitted orange tank top. His side burns grazed his jaw bone. How masculine, she cooed.

His tartan socks caught her eye - she hummed a catchy Daniel O'Donnell hit tune to herself. She had always found herself humming when she was attracted to a man such as he.

Now, how was she going to strike up a conversation with this intriguing stranger? she decided to take the plunge. Deftly patting her new hairdo, she tucked her shirt collars into the waistband of her kilt. Her white knee socks were



immaculate - virginal, as were her new pink platforms. "Could you take a look at my statistics?" she simpered, batting her eyelashes (an inexpensive investment), as she handed him her maths project. "No", he said, "Unfortunately my bifocals are being mended in the opticians". His rich, throaty brogue fair made her bacon and cabbage somerault in her stomach. "Oh Lordy, I'm sorry for bothering you", "There's no harm in asking

"he grinned, revealing bright teeth (all four of them). She pulled a much handled card from her knicker elastic, nestling snugly at her knee. "Here is a novena for the speedy return of your spectacles" she offered, a crimson glow lightening her cheeks, not unlike the glow emitted from a nuclear power plant after a severe leak.

She was so close to him now, she could smell the faint aroma of onion and carbolic soap, she melted. Those damned oestrogen attacks again.....

"Nice day" he ventured. "To be sure", she replied, and well she should know, for the heat of the sun, and sudden upsurge in hormonal activity, had struck her vest to her back. And so they chatted, as the sun sank like a ball of burning sodium beyond the horizon.

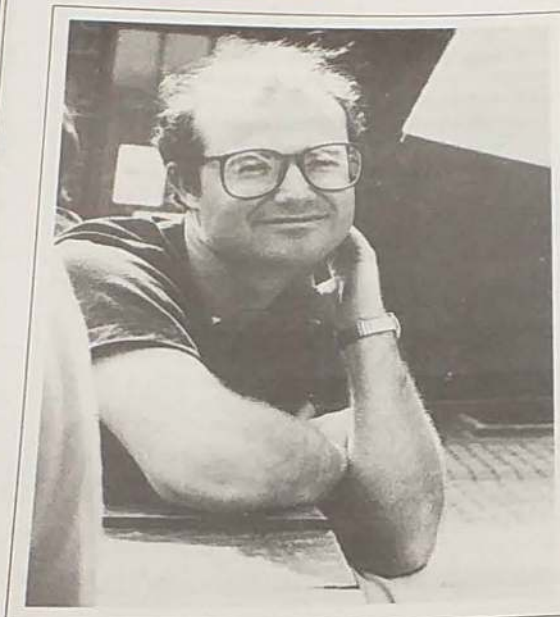
That night, their flowering relationship reached a shuddering, cataclysmic climax as they sat panting, side by side, their contented faces lit by the solitary flicker of the opac terminal, she knew the burning ache in her heart (or maybe her bowl?) was no more.

Fin.

Features



IMPRESSIONS OF A



"A typical technocrats college in the midst of a cultural desert." Padraig Crimmin (B.A.) 4th Business



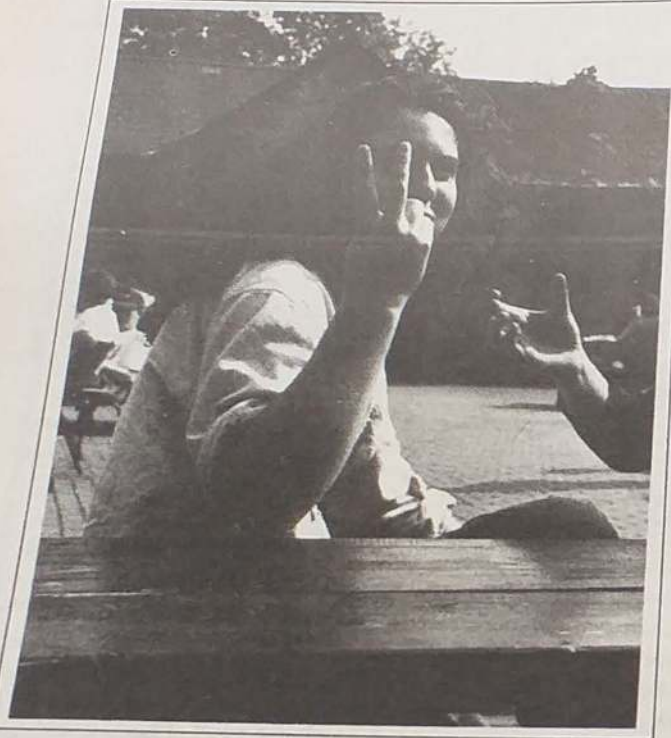
"A four year love affair with life" Siobhain McKenna 4th Euro "
"Fun, Frolics and friends." Valerie McGrath 4th Euro
"Siezing every secong of fun." Anne Marie Sheridan 4th Euro



"We should export all the nerds to Mary I. and import all the new arts people, (mainly girls!)" Ber Anglely 11th Year Ents Co-Ordinator



"We should export all the nerds to Mary I. and import all the new arts people, (mainly girls!)" Ber Angley 11th Year Ents Co-Ordinator



"They should sell flagons in the shop"
Maeve Hoey 1st Business



Systems - can't live with them can't live without them !!

Oh dear 4 years down and only ever 1 contribution made to any newspaper or compilation, and that once ever effort unused. So why not try again, last ditch last minute ?

Maybe somebody may have noticed how we have a system in this college. This University. A three 11 week - with exams (supposedly) at the end of each term system. Flip it, can be a hard system, and looks like it's going to be changed now for another system ! Always a system. From when we're born and before to our funeral and rotting there are systems. Some people tend to get fed up with them. Some people try to change them. O.K. but without some sort of system where are we ? It appears we, in so far as we are human

beings need systems to satisfy our craving for making sense out of our lives, or giving a sense, a meaning to them.

People whose conversation twists and turns with no apparent direction annoy many other people. People who do not accept or adhere to the rules and regulations or conventions of the wider society in which they exist often experience discrimination.

What would seem to be the main thing, without rambling on, is, to the brain which would seem to control the hand which seems to control the pen from which the ink flows to form recognisable patterns which then form sense making units to those trained in their use in these particular combinations . All our experience is human. Well doggone. A genius. A

genius at work ? Well , no, just if, and I'm not claiming right or wrong (for I'm not satisfied these exist at all) even though they might I'm just not aware of it, lets not say the Arts are abstract and Maths are concrete. Maths are only logical and concrete (or abstract) to the extent that can be perceived by humans we may be finding what from our perspective look like patterns where from other viewpoints no patterns exist. Our logic may be other beings insanity. Or maybe not. Our systems may be other systems chaos. Our chaos may be a system. Or maybe not. What's the point of all this ? Well why should there be a point ?

Yours sincerely and forever till I change our mind

Émetal (4th European)



"Too academic, great social life." Lisa Fields 1st Euro

Stables Club News

Well here we are, at last Stables Club News column for the year. We hope that it has been useful to some of you over the past 9 months.

Stables Club Ents.

Week 10 - Thursday - Shantytown

Friday - Peter O'Malley

Week 11 - Thursday - Willy Brown

Friday - Boombabies

Saturday - Kevin Sullivan

Thank - You

The Stables Club Management Committee would like to thank all

our customers for their suggestions, support and good cheer throughout the year. We'd like to wish everyone sitting exams the very best of luck and also to all those heading off for the summer (for co-op or summer work). A special mention has to go to all the 4th years leaving student life to face the big, bad "real" world - we wish them well.

Stolen Property.

Because this is the last Stables Club News for the year, this is also the last request for people to return Stables Club property to the Club before you leave. No

punitive action will be taken against people returning stolen property to either the S.U. or the Stables Club. PLEASE give a little it would help a lot!

Last but not definitely not least we'd like to say good-bye to the outgoing S.U. President Colm Croffey (who will be back on campus in January and the Deputy-President Donal Waide (who swears that he's going to go and stay gone) - thank you both for all of your invaluable help and support over the past year.

GO N-ÉIRI AN BOTHAR
LIBH GO LEIR!



"Loved every minute of it except week 11, made great friends." Rita Birmingham 4th Business

Arts

DECADENT JUNE HIGHLIGHTS AT THE BELLTABLE

The aptly named Naked Theatre Company will present the first June highlight at the Belltable when they open on Monday June 8th with their superbly reviewed production of *DECADENCE* by Steven Berkoff. The show will run for six nights until Saturday 13th and has been described as "wicked...shocking...outrageous". You have been warned!

The inimitable Anna Manahan and Frank Kelly take to the stage from the 15th to 20th June in a new adaptation of Eric Crosse's *THE TAILOR AND ANSTY*. The play was written in 1942, chronicles the lives of a storytelling tailor and his wife who lived all their lives in Garrynapeaka, Gougane Barra. It was instantly banned by both Church and State!

The newly formed

Madonna - the unauthorised biography

by Christopher Andersen.
reviewed by John Maguire.

Christopher Andersen's book begins where it should, with the prodigal, the violent and the gross; Madonna's wedding to Sean Penn. Her wedding was different to other people's. It was totally secret. Even the caterers weren't told. The whole "operation" was backed up by 250 armed personell and a guard, stood at the gate with a .375 Magnum, stopping reporters. The whole affair smack's of Madonna's career to date, lavish, rich and leaving the casual viewer with the feeling of just escaping Caligua's feast. At his nuptials, when a helicopter hovered overhead, the groom ran down to the beach and wrote FUCK OFF in 20 foot letters in the sand. The couple exchanged vows on the edge of a cliff. "Prophetically", says the author. He's not the type of guy to let a symbol give him the slip.

The unblushing bride was born in 1958. Her real name is Madonna, as was her mother's who died when Madonna was quite young. Her family was quite affluent, and not the blue-collar type that Madonna has created. Andersen makes Madonna's early years seem like those of St. Teresa of Avilla, in that he asserts that Madonna wanted to be a nun, and her catholic upbringing was stifling and bizzare. "Crucifixes are sexy...there's a naked man on them." If Madonna went to a wake would she find the corpse sexy as well?

There is very little point in trying to write about Madonna's life in the conventional manner, but Andersen does anyway. One thing everyone does know about the woman is that she has created herself. She is an invention, albeit an iconic invention. Madonna's mother died when she was five, so the author goes into the hum-drum of how the little girl "didn't want to lose" her father when he married again. A memorable line from her film, "Truth or Dare" is when our heroine explains how she often crawled into bed with her father and "fall asleep just after he fucked me". Cue inane giggle, "Just Kidding".

The pages dealing with Madonna's childhood are much more interesting than what follows, which is not usually the case with biography. In the latter part of the book, Madonna's considerable achievement becomes a litany of figures and a dreary procession of dates and places and people ad nauseum. Madonna herself does not add to this, with her thoughts on her mother's death, "It was then I said, o.k. I don't need anybody. I can stand on my own and be my own person and not belong to anybody." Each line of this drivel sounds like a line from a song-title, it sounds like some hideous thumping chart-topper.

We can safely cut therefore, from young Madonna to considerably older and wiser Madonna. I have skipped much of the book in doing this, but this reviewer can't find it in him to divulge Madonna losing her virginity, becoming a star, marriage, countless lovers et cetera et cetera. We pick up the trail after Madonna has "done" New York, become successful (thanks to Jellybean Benitez) and become the greatest star in the galaxy. You know the score yourself. Some of the readers may remember her in a pink wig on Top of the Pops circa 1983. Andersen himself isn't much of a writer, and his subject matter isn't as interesting as she would originally appear. He continually describes Madonna as beautiful, when it is apparent that she is the plain Jane's revenge, a plastic Barbie doll of success, with about as much realism as acid-head Arnie on a poor day. She has become an idol for aspirant successful women of the 80's and 90's, yet this itself is misconceived. Fair play to the woman, she is great at what she does, but there is still a lot of niggling doubts in my mind having read this book. That which is make-believe is rarely as good as that which is genuine, and let's face it Madonna is as phoney as a very phoney thing indeed.

One interesting aspect to this book is Andersen's comparison of Madonna and Michael Jackson. Both are obviously multi-million selling stars, but Madonna (Andersen would have us believe) always wanted to be black, and Jackson apparently wants to be beige. They both deal in sex, Madonna **giving the image** (and those words are important) of the whored-out tart, while Michael gives us a child-like innocence of sex and sexuality. Jackson deals in Love, Madonna doesn't. "If I could be a symbol.....it would be Marilyn Monroe.....she became an adjective." No, I don't know what she mean's either. However, Madonna is not an easy target for good writing, but she is a commentary on something. God knows what, but the lady is a commentary on something. Christopher Andersen doesn't know either.

Having said all that, I did enjoy the book. There's something macabre about investigating a person's life. It's like those tours of Hollywood graves. There's a lot in this book for everyone, fan or nay, like the fact that between 1987 and 1991, Madonna had 100 lovers or that she has bought the grave plot beside Marilyn Monroes so that their dust can intermingle for eternity. You know the kind of guff I'm talking about. What this book does not tell us is why Madonna is so phenomenally successful.

This book does continue however the list of book's you must read over the summer. Not quite Joyce, but rather the joyce of a new generation.

END OF TERM ENTERTAINMENT

The inimitable Anna Manahan and Frank Kelly take to the stage from the 15th to 20th June in a new adaptation of Eric Crosse's **THE TAILOR AND ANSTY**. The play was written in 1942, chronicles the lives of a storytelling tailor and his wife who lived all their lives in Garrynapeaka, Gougane Barra. It was instantly banned by both Church and State!

The newly formed Pigsback Theatre Company present **THE TENDER TRAP** from 22nd to 27th June. The scene - Somewhere between Hollywood and Monaco 1956 - he's rich and gorgeous, he's a prince - she's sexy, she's charming, she's a petrol pump attendant. Everything's set for a fairy tale wedding.....! According to the Irish Times, the show is "Totally unstuffy and achingly funny...Really something rather special."

The Belltable has also launched a wonderful special members offer. For the small sum of £15 you can become a member of the Belltable for 1992. The membership runs until December 31st 1992. If you bear in mind the members offers for the three shows outlined above are worth £30 alone, you'll agree that the membership represents excellent value. Members offers in 1991 amounted to a saving of a princely saving of £324!

Kidding".

The pages dealing with Madonna's childhood are much more interesting than what follows, which is not usually the case with biography. In the latter part of the book, Madonna's considerable achievement becomes a litany of figures and a dreary procession of dates and places and people ad nauseum. Madonna herself does not add to this, with her thoughts on her mother's death, "It was then I said, o.k. I don't need anybody. I can stand on my own and be my own person and not belong to anybody." Each line of this drivel sounds like a line from a song-title, it sounds like some hideous thumping chart-topper.

Having said all that, macabre about investigating a person's life. It's like those tours of Hollywood graves. There's a lot in this book for everyone, fan or nay, like the fact that between 1987 and 1991, Madonna had 100 lovers or that she has bought the grave plot beside Marilyn Monroes so that their dust can intermingle for eternity. You know the kind of guff I'm talking about. What this book does not tell us is why Madonna is so phenomenally successful.

This book does continue however the list of books you must read over the summer. Not quite Joyce, but rather the joyce of a new generation.

END OF TERM ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY NIGHT

The end of term festivities kick off with a disco in Costelloes. On the Thursday night

admittance on the door will be £2.50, £2 as you get on the bus. Buses from the Stables at 11.15 p.m. and from the Hurlers at 11.45 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT

On the Friday night as is traditional we have the annual end of term Bar - B - Q. This year's event happens a little nearer home at the Two Mile Inn.

The line up will be two discos, one in the large main area, where next to the DJ.'s Box, the bar will be selling from 12 to 1 a.m. cocktails (Black Russians etc.) for only £2 each. Meanwhile in the Kitty's area of the venue the bar there will be offering a Budwiser promotion, see posters for exact details which will also run from 12 to 1 a.m.

The Bar - B - Q itself will happen in the enclosed open air space at the back of the venue which is a newly set up area. There will be a live band "Celtic Ais" who some of you

might remember playing in the Canteen during the Multi Cultural Food Fair. They play a blend of Trad, Rock and Ceili. Some of An Cumann Gaelach will be available to try and help you with those difficult steps (no that does not mean they will carry you home after your fill of those cheap cocktails)

The food on offer (it's all part of your ticket price) will be better than most year's

(burgers and hotdogs) it will consist of lamb and beef kebabs, served with mushrooms, peppers, onions and salad (your food token will be attached to your

ticket). If you want additional food it will cost you a £1, the Bar - B - Q 'ed food will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. and will be served in the open air space. In the event of bad weather the band and food will operate from the Function Room (3rd area) adjacent to the Courtyard. Tickets are £4 (first 100) £5 the rest.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Unfortunately we are hit by the lack of availability of venues (most venues are in regular use on Saturday

nights by the venues themselves). However we will have 3 discos in operation on Saturday night. The first one being in the Glentworth Hotel, the second in the Function Room of the Two Mile Inn & the third in 'Hoggies' in Fibbers. These gigs will be by advance ticket only, so to be sure of entry on to the bus and also to get in and be there by 12.30 p.m.

It is vital that you get tickets as last year many 4th year's were left outside the venue because they had no tickets. However if we do get an overflow we will try and make a provision with another venue.

Tickets for Saturday nights gigs will be £4. Buses 11 p.m. Stables, 11.30 Hurlers.

SUNDAY NIGHT

The Sunday night it's the Business Ball, check with 3rd and 4th Business Class Rep's.

MONDAY NIGHT

On the Monday night (Week 12) the S.U. Ents and Softball Club

team up to bring you a disco in Costello's, this will be ideal for those going on Co -Op or finishing up this year. Adm will be £2.50 with the bus leaving the Stables at 11p.m.

End of Term Tickets

Tickets for all the end of term gigs (and remember to ensure entry buy a ticket in advance) go on sale Tuesday of exam week (also Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) from 11.30am to 1pm. and 2.30pm to 5pm.. Tickets will only be on sale from the Ents desk in the canteen.

Bar-B-Q Buses

Buses will leave the Stables at 10pm., Hurlers and Spaight's at 11.30pm. and will be going back to Castletroy with the first leaving at 1.40am, the second at 2.30am. apx. (the gig will end at 2.45am.)

STAURDAY BUSES

9.00PM Sharp- Hogys - Fibbers
10.15pm Sharp- Two mile
11.20pm Sharp- Glentworth

Class Parties

This year more class parties took place than ever before, especial second term when often there were as many as three a night (we probably over did it). Smaller classes were not to be left out with classes like 1st Production Management, having very regular parties including Bowling and sessions in the Olde Tom. 1st Business and Humanities had well attended parties which meant that party money stretched as far as 3rd term. The BusinessClass were able to offer it's class a subsidised film

(The Commitments) which resulted in 300 going. They were also able to offer a subsidised trip to Galway with a disco which they shared with 1st Humanities (even if 1st Humanities outnumbered them) and if that was not enough they were also able to subsidise the recent Summer Gig and the Killaloe Piss Up which was great for those who attended. 1st Humanities had 2 parties and one in Bunnratty with Business.

1st Computer Systems joined with 2nd Computers to have 2 great parties at Hanratty's and had also a very successful trip to Galway. 3rd Humanities had 2 parties, both very successful and still have a few hundred in the bank for future events. 3rd Business had a few parties but last week's was by all accounts the most successful and one of the best ideas with lots of subsidised drink and a Bar - B - Que. 4th Business had a few parties the most successful must have been the ABBA disco, which raised much needed funds for their year book. One of the best theme party's was the recent one by 4th Humanities in Costello's.

The funds raised went a long way to offset some of the costs for their year book. Overall the class parties seemed much better than last years with alot of unthanked work put in by the class and party rep's. The 1st year Class Reps did a great job with the 1st Humanities, Business and Production Management class reps deserving good praise. My thanks to all the reps. It was great working with you.

Ber.

Ents Booking Note for Clubs and Societies

To be sure of anight for fundraising (the Tuesday disco at cheers) for the next academic year 1st 2nd and 3rd terms please get a letter A.S.A.P. to Ber Angley. Please include the term you want, the night, and state if it is general fundraising or a special event. Make sure to date the letter. I have already received letters from ladies rugby, environmental society, computer/student info system, volleyball club, campus T.V. and basketball club.

The Tuesday night discos in Cheers are now well established, and as seen this term, weeks seven and eight were full houses.

Ents.

Ents. questionnaire for 1992/93

please return to Ber / Billy / students' union

Name _____

Class _____ Year _____

Name 5 acts you would like to see at U.L. gigs.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

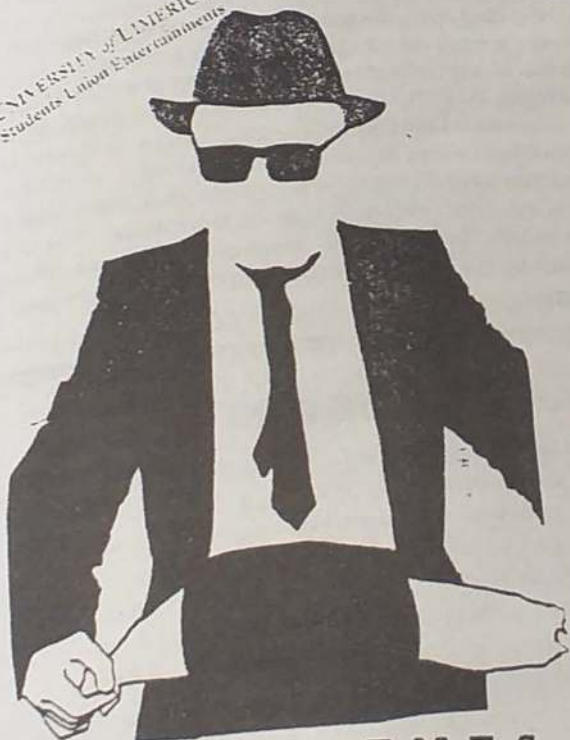
Name your three favourite venues.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Three films you would like to see.

University of Limerick Students Union Ents

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
Students Union Entertainments



TERM 3 ENTS.

END OF TERM

Thursday

Disco Costelloes Adm.
£2.50 at door, £2 getting on bus.

Friday

The Annual End of Term Bar-B-Q-Two Mile Inn, all areas included-Open-air courtyard (extra venue if bad weather) From 12 to 1am cocktails £2 Also Budweiser promotion 2 discos and "Celtic Airs" Tickets (incl. good Bar-B-Q food) £4 / £5

Saturday

Gig "A" Disco Glentworth £4
Gig "B" Disco function room Two Mile Inn £4
Gig "C" Disco Hoggies club @ Fibbers £4

Monday Wk12

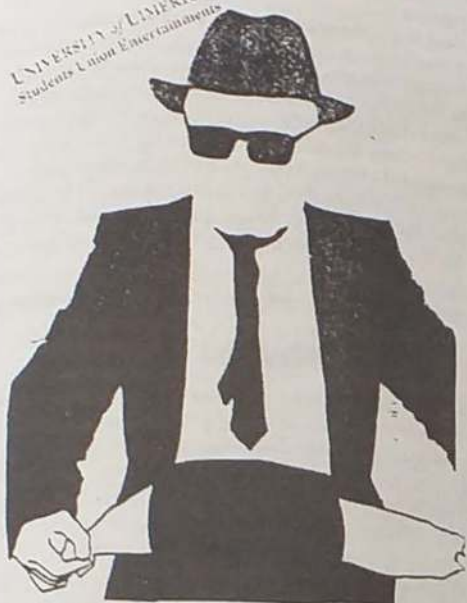
Softball club Costelloes Adm. £2.50.

See write up for ticket and

Ber.

University of Limerick Students Union Ents

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
Students Union Entertainment



TERM 3 ENTS.

Some Plans For Term 1.

Already there are some special events planned for the next term they will include. The Soccer Colleenwood Cup, happening in U.L. about 200 soccer players will be here for about four weeks, also planned is a sporting exchange with Cardiff University up to 80 students expected, and the 35 trophy should be happening in the first term (D.C.U. v U.L.). So next term will be a time for visiting students. We should also have the use of (by then) the re-opened Arthurs Warehouse which by looking at the plans look quite impressive. And again should prove popular, also a possibility will

be the Parkway may, will also be re-opening. This will mean we will have a variety of venues in use next term, so you should not be sick of going to the same place every week. Also it is envisaged there will be greater links with our now accouted College Mary Immaculate with 150 new Art's starting there next September.

**Thanks to ye
all of you for
an entertain-
ing year
Ber, Billy &
Ents crew**

END OF TERM

Thursday
Disco Costelloes Adm.
£2.50 at door, £2 getting on bus.

Friday
The Annual End of Term Bar-B-Q Two Mile Inn, all areas included-Open-air courtyard (extra venue if bad weather) From 12 to 1am cocktails £2 Also Budweiser promotion 2 discos and "Celtic Airs" Tickets (incl. good Bar-B-Q food) £4 /£5

Saturday
Gig "A" Disco Glentworth £4

Gig "B" Disco function room Two Mile Inn £4
Gig "C" Disco Hoggles club @ Fibbers £4

Monday Wk12
Softball club Costelloes Adm. £2.50.

See write up for ticket and bus details.

Summer Ents and Sport

Last summer was quite busy with foreign students, conferences, etc, and there were a number of U.L. students around as well. This summer like last year we will be showing free films, Tuesday nights starting at 7.30pm (2 films) in the Student Centre. Also planned will be a number of free discos in the Stables. The films will begin Tuesday week 13. There will be free tea and coffee served, and you can bring friends.

Contact Ber for updated info: 061/333644 ext2368.

Ents. questionnaire for 1992/93

please return to Ber / Billy / students' union

Name _____

Class _____ Year _____

Name 5 acts you would like to see at U.L. gigs.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Name your three favourite venues.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Three films you would like to see.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Do you think we should continue with the Tuesday night live gigs in the Stables (new "happening" acts).

Yes

No

Should we link more with CoAct Colleges.

Yes

No

Would you like to see more theatre

Yes

No

Comedy Yes

No

Suggest any new idea's or special events you would like to see happening

The Snodgrass Foundation.

Snodgrassoholics will have noticed I didn't field an article for last weeks An focal. It was a cause of national mourning indeed as an An Focal without Snodgrass is like an Irish Rugby team without Rob Saunders. Well not quite. Seeing as we are in the final weeks of the academic year I could talk about exams but their too depressing for this joyous little column so I'll avoid them. I could also delve into great depth on my plans for the Summer but I'll avoid that also as I plan to fill many articles next term with the misadventures of this particular innocent abroad. No, it being the end of my first year in University it seems like a good time to give my impressions of campus life.

As a young fellow my preconceptions of University life were more or less culled from the early parts of "Chariots of Fire". I could just picture myself strolling Trinity's leafy courtyard with a tattered old latin grammar book tucked under my oxters. I would be studying some wonderfully impractical course like Philosophy, Classic Civilisation or Archaeology perhaps. The kind of thing you'd survive with about two hours study a week. And at night I'd search out some quiet little studentbar in my tweed coat and slowly sip the night away. (No I do not hold a student pub in my coat pocket).

Reality of course is rather different. We live in a Q.C.A. ridden society where even those who have done well are constantly looking over their shoulder in worry. Over achievers clutter the library day and night and it's always the people on 3.5 who worry most. To those people I say University days are days you should remember fondly, its not the end of the world if your Q.C.A. drops by .2. I mean FAS have some very interesting courses these dsays (supressing a snigger). Many of my best friends are in apprenticeships (laughing uncontolably) No it's hopeless I can't defend those guys any longer.

Did you join a Club or Society this term? If not you should be ashamed of yourself. Say one Our Father and three Hail Mary's and promise to join one next term.

Still on the schedule of how campus life might be improved something really must be done about the Schumann reading rooms for cramming. I believe in energy conservation and hence I beleve all this journeying uncalled for. Its a damned waste of time not to mention the fortune it costs in shoe leather. That's why I'm starting my latest and most ambitious campaign yet -

The CSSS (Campaign for a Space Shuttle to Schumann). I've seen " Battlestar Galactica " and in that they always had little shuttles to take them to the peripheral spaceships of the fleet. None of your moonwalking there I can tell you. Quiet frankly if the Galactica can have it then U.L. should have one too.

I talked to Ed Walsh about its possible introduction. He described it as an " intersting concept " and that he would " look into it ". If the financing aspect of this project is causing him angst he need have no worry as I am willing to make a contribution to get the ball rolling. A figure of 30 pence is being muted at the moment which seems more than generous in these recessionary times.

A starfleet of course, will also be required to fly the shuttle from the foundation to Schumann and back. no previous aeronautical experience required in fact it will be frowned upon. Applicants should assemble in the Stables Courtyard on Friday Week 11 at 1. An inverted goldfish bowl should be worn on you head (preferably empty).

If you dont think the starfleet life is for you perhaps you might consider a small contribution to the Simon Snodgrass Foundation which is an umbrella group for all manner of worthy causes. Apart from the CSSS these include the CRBL (details are in previous article) the CICHSCE (Campaign for the Introduction of Compulsory Hebrew Studies for College Entry). The CSPSJ (Campaign to Send Pork to Starving Jews in Russia) among others. All money contributed to the foundation will be quickly spent helping those who help themselves. Accounts are audited annually by the reputable accounting firm Snodgrass and Snodgrass.

Students Interests in the Hands of the President, Dr. Walsh.

Trathnóna Aoine, seachtain a hocht, chonaiceamar ar fad Jack Daly don uair deirnach ag ócáid poiblí mar Chathaoirleach ar an Ollscoil. Ní fios go fóill ar a bhéas tofa mar Chathaoirleach ina áit. Seo ceist an tabhactach mar cé a bhéas in ann muidne, na mic léinn a chosaint ó Ed.

Chuir Ed tús leis an NIHE i Luimnigh. Tá sár-obair deanta aige ó thaobh forbairt na hOllscoile de, agus tá clú agus cáil air da bharr ar fud an domhain.

Ach cad atá ag teastáil uaidh? An oideachais is fearr triú leibhéal sa tír, ní dóigh liom é. Measaím go bhfuil níos mo suím aige ina "ego" féin. Ní fheictear timpeall na hOllscoile é ar chor ar bith. O thaobh oideachais, rinne sé an iarrachtaí agus fós tá an chorás "semesterisation" á choinneáil aige in aghaidh tuil na mic léinn agus an Comhairle Acadúil. Níl a fhios agam nó ag einne eile cad a dheanfaidh an

choiste atá i gceannas ar sin faoi lathair.

Ní raibh morán suím ag Ed i gcas mhúintir Thuamhumhan. Chaith se an chuid is mó doibh isteach ar chúrsa matamática nach raibh feilúineach dhoibh beag ná mór.

Maidir leis an "Co-Op Office" bheinn in ann leab-

I mBéal an Phobail

hair a scríobh mar gheall orthu. Ach is feidir a rá nach bhfuil morán "Excellence" agus "Relevance" ag baint le na postanna a fuair na mic léinn on Colaiste Gnó agus on Colaiste Ailíonna i Euro Disney.

Le gach blian a bhí mé anseo tháinig meadú ar an airgead iontrala. Níl an lucht ar an Ollscoil i mbliana ach anuraidh, arú anuraidh agus blianta eile,

chuadar suas. Iocann na mic léinn anseo níos mó ná aon colaiste triú leibhéal sa tír agus cén fath? Ní bhfuairamar aon leithscéal nó tuairisc ón "White House" agus déarfainn nach gélóisfimis an shirinne ó Ed Walsh go deo mar gheall ar an "Money Racket" atá ar siúl anseo.

Cad mar gheall ar an dteanga fhéin, an Ghaeilge. Níl Ed sásta le polaisaithe oifigiúil an Stát a glacadh ach faigheann sé leath nó níos mó don airgead ón Stár chun an Ollscoil a

rith. Chuirim an cheist arís, an institiúid oideachais é seo nó "propaganda machine"?

Tá an-chuid déanta ag Ed, an-job go deo. Ach, an bhfuilimid sásta go ndearna sé na h-iarrachtaí seo ar ár son nó ar a shon féin.

An Spailpín Fánach.

P.S. Go n-éirí le gach einne ins na scrúdaithe agus go mbéimid af fad arís anseo Meán Fomhair seo chugainn.

Farewell U.L.

Amid the maddening silence of the reading rooms, among the air so thick that is hard to imagine sound actually penetrating it, yet every cough and creaky door hinge can sound worse than a disco floor remembered from the earlier part of the term, thoughts can wander to a fear greater than the obvious exams, the fear of never seeing the friends who blissfully graced the best years of your life again. This only refers to Trinity exams. People graduate, get jobs, grow old and die. This fact of life often makes the third term exams an even worse prospect than other exams. It is really tragic that after all the joy, tears of laughter and unforgettable moments that it all ends with a quick handshake or hug while racing to grab a book before the library closes. I am always disappointed at the way that so many students leave the campus the moment they finish their final exam. Especially if they finish their exams a day or so before I do. I cannot say goodbye to them properly. Everything is such pandemonium in Week 11. The mind is so selfishly pre-occupied with the burden of academic responsibility at its forefront that it has no time for the nostalgic sadness which may linger for life if one cannot give a proper farewell to a good friend. But there is that psychological vibe which by now we all have grown akin to: - the feeling that all friends are transitory. Would we even recognise some of our primary school class now? do we even care? What makes this author shudder is the draconian thought is that he will not give a damn about my currently closest University friends in ten years from now. So the feeling often occurs to me why even bother say goodbye to them. Why waste falling into childish sentiment for a couple of seconds on someone I shall not see again. Isn't it a form of necrophilia? I dissent from this opinion. We must treasure the past, as on the pyramid of time the past is that broad base of experience we gained from the freedom of University life. As we walk through life, although we get higher, the freedom becomes narrower and narrower. The human brain has two functions, firstly it operates our functions and secondly it stores our memories. This author has heard the harrowing accounts of people who suffered from the trauma of amnesia. It is not a glamorous condition unlike the way the movies portrays it to be. It is a horrifying experience to find yourself with no memory of who you are or where you came from. Those passing friends are a symbol of our past, of what the best years of our lives were like. In years to come, as memories of places fade, the reacquaintance of old friends, each with their tattered memories combining to help re-visualise these glory days, shall be a pleasure of nostalgia that we are all too young to yet understand. Give grand farewells to these people, they personify who you are now. They are your heritage.

Brian O' Farrell

THE PRO-CHOICE CASE: A CRITIQUE

It has been argued that abortion is not new, that it is a practice as old as history itself. This may be true but what is so disturbing about abortion today is the scale of the phenomenon. Never before have so many abortions been recorded worldwide (an estimated 55 million per annum). And this in an age which boasts technological advances which have permitted doctors to study and treat the unborn child in ways never possible before. It is indeed a cruel irony that this same technology serves as an instrument of such widespread destruction in the hands of the abortionist.

Until recently, Ireland stood alone among the nations of the western world in defending, in its constitution and in its laws, the right to life of the unborn child from the moment of conception. It has, however, been subject to considerable pressure both from within and from outside to conform to the norm. This pressure has intensified in the aftermath of the Supreme Court ruling in the "Attorney General vs X" case which has effectively legalised abortion in certain circumstances.

Ireland is once again at a crossroads and she must choose. In this article I propose to examine, critically, the principal arguments put forward to justify her taking the road which leads to legalised abortion.

1. To save the life of the mother

It is often argued that, in certain circumstances, abortion is required to save the life of the mother. In this context it is important to distinguish between direct and indirect abortion.

Indirect abortion refers to medical or surgical procedures required to treat the mother which may lead to the death of the child. It should be noted that, in Ireland, medical procedures which fall into this category have always been permitted and that no treatment is denied the mother on the grounds that she is pregnant.

In contrast, the principal aim of direct abortion is the deliberate destruction of the unborn child. The question is, then, whether or not direct abortion is ever necessary to save the life of the mother. In a recent statement, four of the Ireland's leading professors of gynaecology and obstetrics categorically stated that there is "no medical circumstances justifying direct abortion, that is, no circumstances in which the life of the mother may only be saved by directly terminating the life of her unborn child."

2. A woman's right to choose

It is contended that whether or not you are personally in favour of abortion you have no right to impose your views on anyone else. Women have the right to choose, and any attempt to restrict their options is an unacceptable infringement of this right.

The pro-choice stance ultimately finds its roots in philosophical subjectivism and moral relativism. In plain English, it is based on the denial of the existence of moral absolutes. Thus, what is wrong for you may not necessarily be wrong for somebody else. And consequently, to legislate against it, is to impose your view on others. From this perspective it is easy to see how elements of the pro-choice lobby insist that they are also pro-life. They are against abortion but in favour of allowing other people have it if they so wish.

At first sight this would seem to be a plausible argument and has convinced not a few people who find difficulty reconciling their pro-life feelings with the

sympathy they feel for a woman with a crisis pregnancy, especially when she is a victim of rape.

Yet, philosophically, the argument is based on a less than solid foundation and this becomes evident upon closer examination. For if there are no moral absolutes on what basis is their strong condemnation of rape. If the pro-choice argument is applied *mutatis mutandis* to rape then it follows that it too should be legalised. But the fact of the matter is that there ARE moral absolutes. Rape IS wrong. Incest IS wrong. Sexual harassment IS wrong. And the killing of an innocent human being IS wrong. It is not good enough to stand back and say "Personally I think it's wrong but if you believe it is alright then go ahead." Society has not only the right but the duty to defend the rights of its members. This it does through the enforcement of its laws which are particularly important where the weak, the powerless and the vulnerable are concerned. In this sense laws against abortion are justified on the same grounds as laws against rape.

Secondly the pro-choice argument fails to address what should be the central argument in any abortion debate - abortion itself. By over-emphasising the mother's plight, the principal victim of abortion - the unborn child - is forgotten. In this way, the pro-choice lobby consistently refuses to acknowledge the right to life of the unborn child. For how else could one defend the right of a woman to choose to kill that child? From this perspective it is clear that one cannot be both pro-choice and pro-life.

Finally, when looked at objectively, the pro-choice argument is logically flawed in that it assumes that it seeks to prove. It is illogical to attempt to justify abortion on the grounds that women have a right to choose it. A mother has as much right to choose to kill her unborn child as she has to kill any human being.

3. 4000 women travel to Britain each year.

It is argued that by maintaining our ban on abortion we are simply sweeping the problem under the carpet. In one respect this is true. The prohibition of abortion does not solve the problem of crisis pregnancies. Indeed it was never thought that it would. Yet it is clear that both the Irish government and Irish society have been found sorely wanting in their efforts to tackle the problem.

Yet it is deceitful to suggest that Ireland is unique in this regard. On the contrary, the incidence of rape and crisis pregnancies is considerably higher amongst our European neighbours. This is not intended as a salve for our collective conscience but rather as a clear indication that legalising abortion is not the solution to this problem.

4. "The unborn child isn't really human"

Surely this can be the only rational argument in favour of abortion as it is the only one which attempts to address the central issue, i.e. the humanity of the unborn child. But it is not sufficient to simply state it as a matter of opinion or belief. The onus of proof is on those who favour abortion and they must prove their assertion beyond all reasonable doubt. The truth of the matter is, however, that they cannot, as the bulk of medical and scientific evidence weighs heavily in favour of the humanity of the unborn child.

5. "A woman has rights over her body"

Nobody denies that women have rights over their bodies. But the unborn child is not part of a woman's body. It is a unique human being, genetically, physiologically and organically distinct from the mother. Human life begins at

Opinion

conception and from that moment onwards the mother is carrying another human being. To deny this is to deny the evidence of modern genetics and embryology.

In conclusion, it would seem that the pro-choice lobby have little to offer by way of cogent arguments in favour of legalising abortion. This goes some of the way towards explaining why they have been more obscurantist than open in their approach to the current abortion debate. The fact is that direct abortion on any grounds flies in the face of right reason. As long as there are people free to exercise this reason there will be opposition to this barbarous practice.

Conor O' Donoghue,
Post-graduate, Electronics Dept.

Question: Is abortion murder?

In this line of thinking I refer to an article in the last edition of "An Focal", excellently written by a Mr. John Baird, 1st European Studies. It defined murder as I would see it as, "The premeditated taking of a human life". I do not think even the most radical of the "Prochoicers" would argue that abortion is not premeditated, so I arrive at the same conclusion as Mr. Baird, that the main issue at hand is whether the unborn foetus is a "Human Life" or not. If the foetus is proved to be a "Human Life", the abortion, the termination of a pregnancy, the removal of the foetus from the womb, the killing of the foetus, (excuse the word killing, it has yet to be proved accurate), is unarguably and undeniably murder.

Real Question: So lets prove it!
Well is the foetus "human"? Surely this is obvious to anyone. Unless one enters the undesirable world of beastiality, the "humanness" of the foetus is unquestionable. Hence, the sixty four million dollar questionis, "Does the foetus possess life? (Note that I am purposefully using the word foetus and avoiding the

term "Unborn Child", to be as rational and unemotive as possible). Anyone who has done the inter cert science course (now gone forever) may recall that in the depts of the biology section there was a very apt and interesting definition. It was called "The definition of life". Let us look at some of the characteristics an "item" must have before it is termed alive.

movement: Any mother who has felt a child kick from inside her womb will testify that the foetus can move.

Reproduction: At a very early age the foetus develops it's reproductive organs, although admittedly these do not become active for many years to come.

Nutrition, Respiration, Excretion: All of these are performed through the body of the mother. Does this mean that the foetus is part of the mother's body? No! the umbilical cord and the body of the mother merely act as a passage way for the nutritional and respiratory needs of the foetus. Their circulatory, digestive and respiratory systems are totally separate. Hence, I would conclude, as would any

rational person, that the foetus is alive. As all these processes begin with the explosion of infirmation which takes place at the instart of conception, it is logical to deduce that "life begins at that instart.

So: Having established this fact it is "proved" that abortion, no matter what pseudonym one might use for it, involves "The premeditated taking of a human life" and, is therefore murder. therefore to condemn murder and to condone abortion is a contradiction in terms. No person be it male or female has the right to have an abortion.

Whoo Boy!

Admittedely that is a sweeping statement. Are there instances where murder is allowable or excuseable or necessary? Yes there are. I am no lawyer, and I have never studied law but as far as I am aware, a person can lawfully take another human life in self defence or in defence of another person. That is, murder is "allowable" when there is a real and substantial threat to one's own life or to the life of another. Murder s

not permissible when "the quality of life" of someone is under threat. Should abortion be allowed in similar circumstances? Of course it should! If a "qualified" person believes that there is a realistic threat to the "life" of the mother then abortion must be permissible. However it must be confined to this restriction.

But...

What about the poor mother who is stuck with an unwanted pregnancy...? She must be given help. If she feels she will be unable to cope with a baby, ther are thousands of childless couples who would love to bring up her baby in a loving and caring way. Through fostering or adoption we must make this option more realistic and appealing to women in this situation.

Because Paragraph:

Contraceptives! Where are they?

On the shelves in chemist shops, thats where! Ireland has a high rate of abortions because there are a lot of unwanted pregnancies because contraceptives are not as widely available

as they should be. The fact that the Netherlands has a low abortion rate is not because of the fact tha abortion is legal, it is because of the fact that contraceptives are accessible. Our own students union has been providing information on abortion clinics in England for years, at the risk of criminal charges. Why then is it only this year that they are providing condom vending machines. It is not exactly inviting to have to ask for these things over the counter.

I would conclude that I am not "Pro-Choice" because to be "Pro-Choice" is to believe that any woman has the right to choose to have an abortion. This, as I have proven, means that any woman has the right to commit murder. Hence, to be "Pro-Choice" is to be "Pro-Death", no matter what the poster says. Having said that I do respect the right of anybody who reads this to disagree with me, but I would challenge you to dispute my argument. If you find that you can, please show me my error, but if you can't, you might reconsider what you trivity believe is right.

Ger Allen 3rd Electronic Engineering

Education

Education

Donal Waide, D.P./ Education and Welfare Officer

So, it's the last An Focal of the Year and, mind you, of the term. And what comes at the end of term but those horrible things called exams. Yes, reader, it's at times like Week 10 when we say to each other, "If only I did this effing essay when he gave it to us" and "Next term, I'm starting study in Week 2"

But, let's face reality here. Once a Week 10 study merchant, always a Week 10 study merchant. The only people we are fooling is ourselves. Some of us always feel that the night before is the best time to study. But, this term is where this study merchant always has the advantage. The third term is always for the dossers. They get grades equal to the ones who have lived in the library all year round. The theory behind this is very simple.

Third term or trinity term as some prefer to call it is the term of events. This is because of the weather we normally experience in these months of April, May and June.

In the beginning, there was nothing and the Students Union' said, "Let there be a rag week", and there was a rag week. The Students' Union liked it and continued the idea, incorporating marquees and the like for the global warming eventualities. But the God intervened and said, "What with the Common Agricultural Policy and the likelihood that Maastricht will go the wrong way for the farmers there better be some sun for them to make a few bob on the cereal and grass side" And there was sun, and God saw two advantages from this, both the farmers and the students, so he kept on the idea, despite efforts to thwart this from the rival CFC gang.

And so the students lay out in the sun, attempting to make themselves bronze gods and goddesses but only succeeding in becoming lobster kings and prawn queens. The only happiness coming to the makers of Cocoa Butter and other pain relievers. The lecturers said "it is too hot, lets lecture outside" and it happened. The dossers saw it was good and they encouraged the idea. As a result the notes lessened and the nights before increased as the students chose to stay in the sun rather than the library and the dossers rejoiced. And here we are in Week 10, you reading this while trying to do anything other than study. How many times have you sat on the Throne today? Is there any bogroll left? I can hear you now, "The bastard's right." Q.E.D. my theory is proven. In a term where people know they are advancing another year or else graduating the attitude is to relax and take it easy. Isn't everyone else doing it?

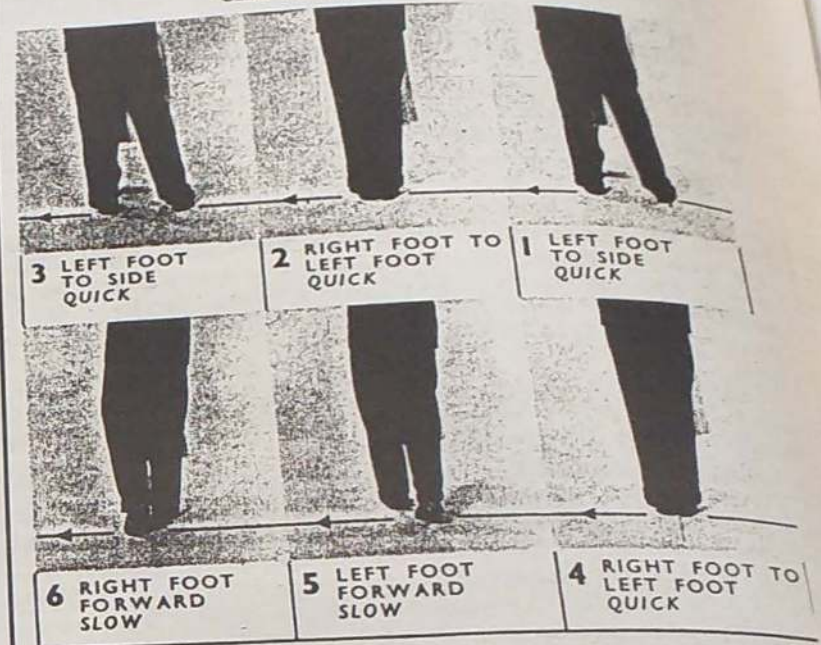
But then the exams. How many questions are there? How many must I do? Where is the exam on? Oh shit, not another nine o'clock start. Please let this week be over. What I wouldn't do for a pint now? Just leave me lie in ten more minutes. Am I sure I can name those ten areas? Have I got a spare biro?

Just some of the many questions that we face ourselves with throughout Week 11. Then there are the other questions which occur at the end of the week..... What's your mans name, he's gorgeous? Do you think she'll notice I've fourteen pints in me? What's your name again?(morning after question) Have you got a condom, cause I don't think shes on the P-I-L-L? Where are you going for the summer?

So to try and put a serious line on this, I'm going to quote a couple of poets whose past come-on lines may be of assistance when waylaying young ones after that A.N. Other laxative of an exam.

"I did not notice until you walked away that you had a perfect ass. Forgive me for not falling in love with your face or your conversation." Please come back to my bedroom. I was sitting there alone thinking of you when I made a pass at myself." And so it goes on. The

HOW TO DANCE THE NEW -end of term welfare



BASIC "TWO STEP FORWARD"

"Two Step, Side Step"

Syd Perkin and Edna Duffield, television dance stars and West Europe dancing champions, demonstrate especially for **ILLUSTRATED** the basic steps of two of the movements in Britain's newest dance - the "Two Step Side Step," which has just arrived from America. Beginners or accomplished dancers can dance the new steps easily to fox trot, blues, tango or rumba rhythms. The dance has twelve movements, each consisting of only six steps, always danced to the rhythm one quick, two quick, three quick, four quick, five slow, six slow. In these pictures the couple are moving from right to left, as numbers and arrows show. The man's steps only are described. The girl's steps are the exact opposite. Beginners need learn only one movement to take the floor.

What's your mans name, he's gorgeous? Do you think she'll notice I've fourteen pints in me? What's your name again?(morning after question) Have you got a condom, cause I don't think shes on the P-I-L-L? Where are you going for the summer?

So to try and put a serious line on this, I'm going to quote a couple of poets whose past come-on lines may be of assistance when waylaying young ones after that A.N. Other laxative of an exam.

"I did not notice until you walked away that you had a perfect ass. Forgive me for not falling in love with your face or your conversation." "Please come back to

my bedroom. I was sitting there alone thinking of you when I made a pass at myself." And so it goes on. The wondering of where ones person will be for the long summer. The jobs are very scarce out there as Co-Op will tell you. Not too many toilet jobs left in Germany nor camping couriers needed in Botswana (so you can improve your russian). The other colleges all have the advantage of two weeks unemployment on the continent already while we are still sharpening our pencils for the drawing projects. With the advent of semesterisation, we too can go to Europe the same time as the rest and have an equal chance of getting that much needed job in the sewage works. What students will do for money sometimes amazes me. But then haven't we all done it. Slogging twenty hours a day for six days a week just to get the necessary money for the piss-up in Orientation week. So to sum it all up, it's been a enjoyable experience writing for An Focal. The last few words of wisdom I must impart on to you are words I'd like you to adhere to;

EXAMS: Turn up on time with the right material and please don't cog. Nothing is worth a twelve month holiday.

WELFARE: When leaving your house, look after your landlord's belongings as if they were your own.

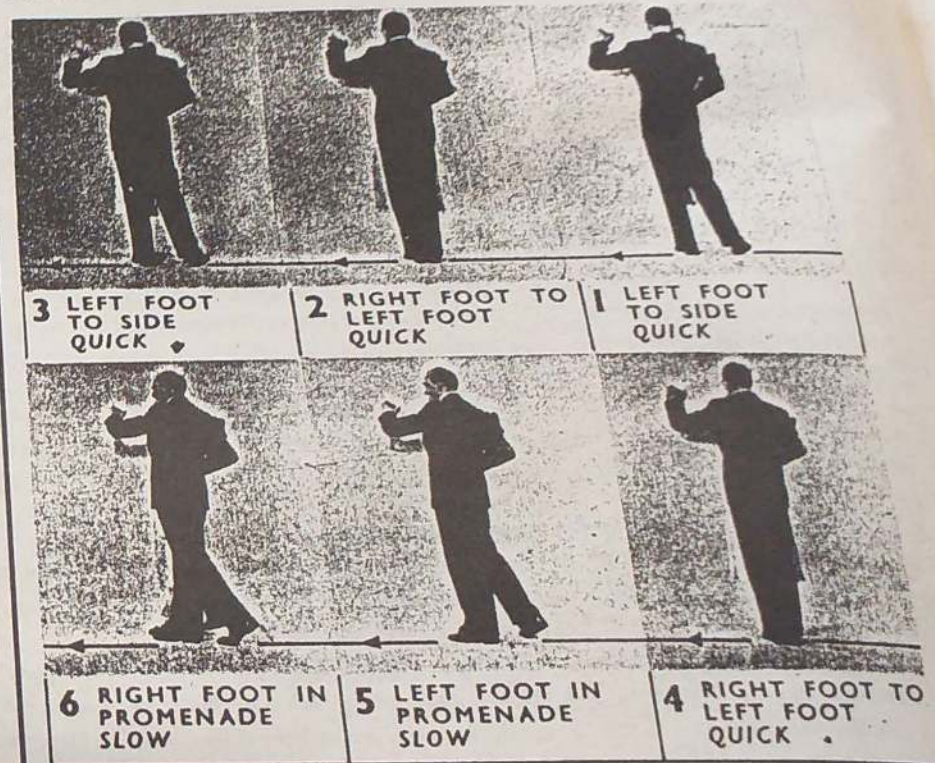
END-OF-EXAMS: Have respect for other peoples property. It isn't one bit funny to cause vandalism and if caught, we'll be very slow to stand up for you.

And, on a final note. Whatever you do, enjoy yourself this summer.

WK 11 - Exams, Study, Work
WK 12 → Summer, ☺, ☺, ☺,
☺, £, Travel.....



movements. Always danced to the rhythm one quick, two quick, three quick, four quick, five slow, six slow. In these pictures the couple are moving from right to left, as numbers and arrows show. The man's steps only are described. The girl's steps are the exact opposite. Beginners need learn only one movement to take the floor.



"PROMENADE TWO STEP"

Good-Luck!!



The 35 Trophy is an annual challenge between the University of Limerick and Dublin City University in which we play each other in all the sports in which we can field teams. This years 35 (so called because on the day there are a total of 35 points to be claimed from the various sports) was hosted by DCU and saw 4 bus loads of UL students travelling to Glasnevin to participate in 18 events. UL entered the challenge not having won in two year with hopes of regaining the Trophy already dimmed by the absence of most of the Ladies soccer Team (who were playing in the Munster G.A.A. final the following day and could not risk injury) and a depleted Basketball Squad (the teams still in Holland for an international tournament) events in which we were hoping to score victories.

Upon arrival in Glasnevin teams were greeted by their opposite numbers and



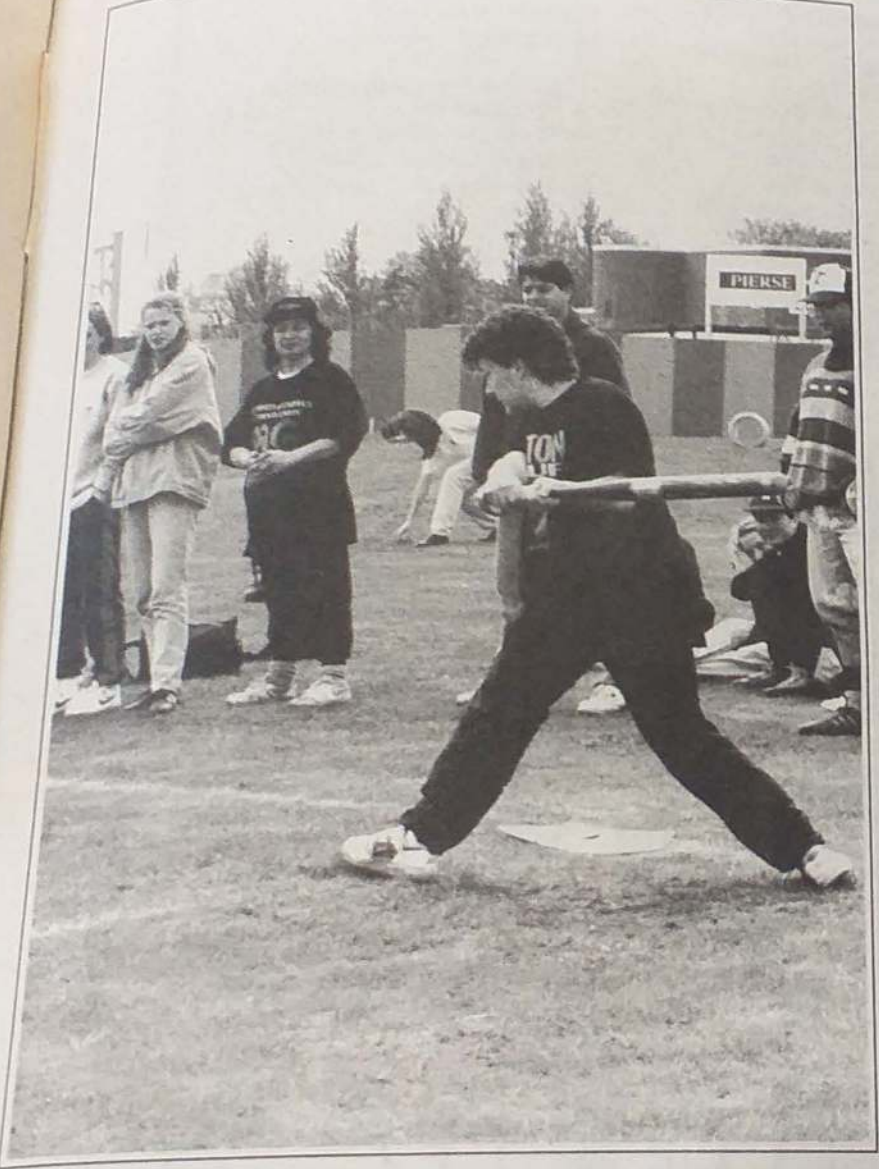
taken to the bar where they were furnished with soup and a roll. Food eaten the games began, with players from all sporting disciplines helping to make up the UL teams which were short in numbers. Brian Swords the Irish University soccer star who had not score all year turn on the style at wing forward for the GAA football team taking some fine scores. The female half of the volleyball team turned up for there match in studs after leaving the Ladies soccer match at half time, their places in the soccer team were filled by member of the Basketball squad who jogged from Drumcondra to Glasnevin after winning their basketball match to secure a 1-nil victory for UL. With only three events (volleyball, golf and canoe polo) left to be decided the

competition was delocked at fourteen and half points each, at this stage things were not looking all for UL the golf team had already been beaten by DCU early in the year and the kayak club never defeated DCU. The first of the result in was that of the volleyball match, UL had

35 Trophy

match to secure a
 With only three events (volleyball, golf
 and canoe polo) left to be decided the

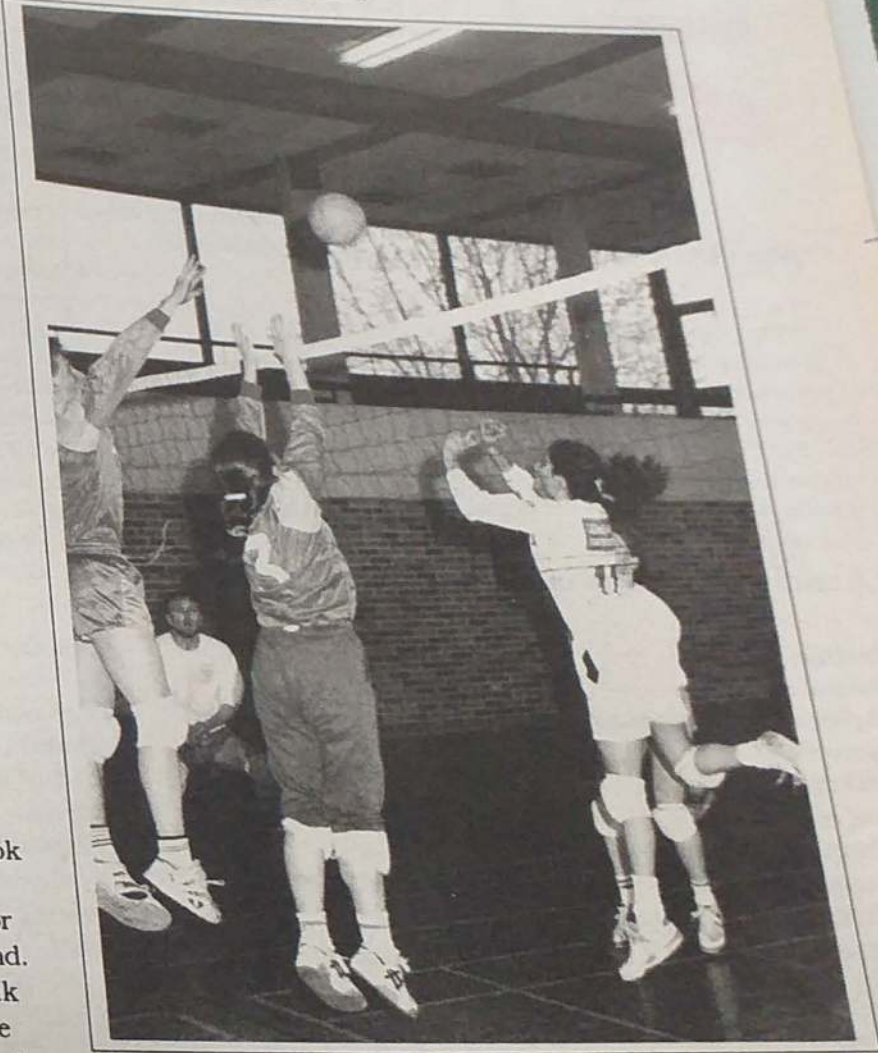
competition was delocked at fourteen and half points each, at this stage things were not looking well for UL the golf team had already been beaten by DCU early in the year and the kayak club had never defeated DCU. The first of the result in was that of the volleyball match, UL had beaten DCU by 3 set to 2, all that was required now was to win one of the two outstanding events. Half an hour later the most outstanding and definitely most amazing result arrived UL had won the canoe polo 6-0. It was later discover when the drunken member of the golf team



staggered in from Portmar-noc that the golfing points had also been secured given UL in the end a convincing winning margin of twenty and a half point to fourteen and a half points.

The festivities began in the DCU campus bar with UL team captain being presented with a memento of the occasion by the DCU sports officers John Kerrane who then presented the 35 Trophy to Sally Rawat (representing Thomond) and William O' Brien (representing UL). What followed cannot be remembered.

We would like to that John Kerrane and all the member of the DCU teams for there hospitality and look forward to meeting them inOctober (The new date for the 35) on our home ground. We would also like to thank the following people for the boundless energy and effort they put into organising the event, Jancinta Duffy, Catherine Dolan, Ber Angley and our tireless co-op Vera and Mairead.



Well done to all the Clubs & Societies for a good year

Noticeboard

T - Shirts - Sweat Shirts.

There are still a few **Rag Week** t-shirts available for sale in the S.U. Shop together with **University of Limerick** shirts

Prices as follows :

Rag Week Short Sleeve

White £5.50

Long Sleeve White & Black

£7.50

Univ. of Limerick White

Short Sleeve £5.50

Red, White, Red & Blue Long

Sleeve £7.00

White & Green Sweat Shirts

£14.50

Lockers

Please empty your lockers before for the Summer because your rental is for the academic year **only** and that ends June 20th.

During the Summer **all** lockers are cut open and emptied by the college authorities and all contents dumped.

So, you have been warned

S.U. SHOP WEEK 11

Open from 8.30 a.m. until

6.30 p.m. each day

Remember to stock up on **Pencils**, Pens, Erasers, Rulers, Tippex, Calculator, Study

Good luck in the final

Bus Appeal

At all end of term gigs we appeal to everyone to keep calm and not to crush. Ents will ensure you get to the venue and back. They very seldomly leave people stranded. It is a very difficult job and they would appreciate your assistance to ensure the safety of everyone.

2nd HAND BOOKS

We would appreciate if all those who left books to be sold in the S.U. Shop would collect them before the end of term. We will be relocating the shop during the Summer and we will not be held responsible for books not collected by the end of term.



Postgraduate Courses

- * International Marketing (for non business graduates)
- * Diploma in Journalism & Media Studies.
- * Incorporated Law Society Final Exam - Part 1 (entrants to Blackall Place)
- * Diploma in Public Relations 1 year full time.

Newman College, 82 Merion Square, D.2.

Tel. (01)766792 Fax. (01)761798.

U.L. Expedition

Across

1. Neat type of fir? (6)
5. Make into two or more parts. (6)
10. Traditional saying in common use. (7)
11. Entails being prominent of notable. (7)

Down

2. Shield from danger. (7)
3. Not new. (4)
4. Preserve a dead body. (6)
5. Posted to the tyrant. (6)

U.L. annual Games For The Disabled

**Sat. 4th and Sun.
5th July
Complete Paralympic Team will be there.**

Note from Carmel in S.U.

Firstly

Many thanks to all for your best wishes to Christopher and myself during our recent wedding. We had a great day and a wonderful honeymoon in Tunisia.

Secondly

Many thanks also to the two Co - Op students who kept the place going during my absence. They are two wonderful people (which I'm sure most of you will agree) I would like to take this opportunity of wishing them both the best of luck in the future. I enjoyed working with them and I'll miss them very much.

Thirdly

I wish to say adios to all Overseas students who are leaving and wish them health and happiness always.

Finally

I would like to wish Donal Waide and Colm Croffy best wishes for their future careers.

We've had a good year together (two in Colm's case) and it's been a pleasure.

Regards
Carmel

Notice

because your rental is for the academic year only and that ends June 20th.

During the Summer all lockers are cut open and emptied by the college authorities and all contents dumped.

So, you have been warned

.....

S.U. SHOP WEEK 11

Open from 8.30 a.m. until 6.30 p.m. each day

Remember to stock up on Pencils, Pens, Erasers, Rulers, Tippex, Calculator, Study

Good luck in the final furlong from all in the S.U. office.

Are you looking for a co-op placement?

The Union is looking to appoint students for the 6 month placements. If you enjoy working with students and have a particular interest in clubs, societies or publications please apply in the Union or through the Co-op Office.

The Union is currently appointing **THREE** students for the 6 month placements. If you enjoy working with students and have a particular interest in clubs, societies or publications please apply in the Union or through the Co-op Office.

A summary of the current duties includes:

Position A

General office duties-
telephones, messages, exam papers, mail
Assisting in the compilation of accounts
Working with Clubs
Assisting specific Union and Clubs projects as and when they arise

Position b

General office duties-
telephones, messages, exam papers, mail
Working with Societies
Assisting in the compilation of accounts
Selling and collection of advertising
Assisting specific Union and Societies projects as and when they arise

Position C

An Focal and publications administration
Administration of the Student Information System
Compilation of the SU Handbook
Assisting specific Union and Clubs/Socs projects as and when they arise

The new demands on the financial administration with business starting in the mall, together with the development of advertising for An Focal and the administration of the SIS are key new areas which we are looking to address as well.

To Apply contact the Students' Union office or the Coop Office

- * International Marketing (for non business graduates)
- * Diploma in Journalism & Media Studies.
- * Incorporated Law Society Final Exam - Part 1 (entrants to Blackall Place)
- * Diploma in Public Relations 1 year full time.

Newman College, 82 Merion Square, D.2.
Tel. (01)766792 Fax. (01)761798.

leaving and wish them health and happiness always.

Finally I would like to wish Donal Waide and Colm Croffy best wishes for their future careers.

We've had a good year together (two in Colm's case) and it's been a pleasure.

Regards
Carmel

U.L. Expedition to Africa

December 11th -
January 3rd 1992

Includes

- climb of Kilmanjaro
- wild life safari
- beach holiday at coral beach & Indian ocean
- 3 day in cairo

For further information contact Billy Kirwan students union

Across

1. Neat type of fir? (6)
5. Make into two or more parts. (6)
10. Traditional saying in common use. (7)
11. Entails being prominent of notable. (7)
12. Kneel over the vegetable. (4)
13. This grease is hard work. (5)
15. Yield or give up. (4)
17. The small rug is lustreless. (3)
19. Make illegal. (6)
21. Sets AE up and makes fun of. (6)
22. Enunciation. (7)
23. Small basket for fruit. (6)
25. That which may harm. (6)
28. Catch or tooth on a wheel. (6)
30. Crude, outfish person. (4)
31. Kind, sort. (5)
32. Strike with an open hand. (4)
35. Feed ICI with a building. (7)
36. arranges troops in abattle position. (7)
37. Israeli coinage. (6)
38. Type of tax on goods. (6)

Down

2. Shield from danger. (7)
3. Not new. (4)
4. Preserve a dead body. (6)
5. Posted to the tyrant. (6)
6. The world is said by some to be one of tears. (4)
7. Makes less shallow. (7)
8. Al, polo makes you a god. (6)
9. Strain, tension. (6)
14. No, I stab at the fortification. (7)
16. Underworld. (5)
18. Incurring or inflicting punishment. (5)
20. Intellect, ingenuity, humour. (3)
21. If one is on it, one is on one's own. (3)
23. Young hen. (6)
24. Feed, nurture. (7)
26. Structure for hanging criminals. (7)
27. Peace, composure. (6)
28. Edible grain for breakfast. (6)
29. Dug Reg up because of grievance. (6)
33. Ice or floor for skating. (4)
34. Long narrative poem of heroic deeds. (4)

