



An Focal

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World AIDS Day, Dec 1st, what have we learned?



Pop Goes the Century, Marilyn Monroe



C&S News
Find out what C&S have been getting up to, pgs 16-20

Another One Bites the Dust for USI

Aoife Breen

Yet another third level institution has decided to abandon the Union of Students in Ireland (USI). Mary Immaculate College (MIC) recently held a college referendum in which 613 students voted to leave the Union, compared with a mere 46 who wished to remain affiliated. Mary I now joins with UL, DCU, NUI Maynooth and CIT as the newest non-member. It has been ten years since UL held its own referendum that resulted in the University's withdrawal from USI and any referendum concerning possible re-affiliation has always failed. Fintan Breen, Education Officer of ULSU, feels that for the annual fee of EUR70,000 that the SU would have to pay, USI "does not offer value for money" to students.

Mary I's withdrawal comes about during a turbulent period amongst the members of

USI, with many reports circulating citing that other institutions are on the verge of pulling out. Colleges such as Marino, St. Patrick's and even UCC are all rumoured to be considering their membership. When confronted with these facts by An Focal, Ben Archibald, President of USI, dismissed them as "idle speculation" and there was "no indication" that any of the aforementioned institutions had any motives to leave USI.

However, one must question UCC's attack on the recent USI-led 10k charity walk and ultimate refusal to participate as a sign of dissatisfaction with the national organisation.

Mr. Archibald continued on to say that the "full case" was not presented to the students of Mary I and suggested that "untruths" were told. He maintained that MICSU had not presented a "fair or accurate" campaign in the college and had been decidedly unbalanced in their

"unadulterated hatred" of USI. He pursued his argument and mentioned that he believed "outside influences" held a part to play in the decision made by the entire student population of Mary I. When asked who he believed these "influences" were, Mr. Archibald bluntly responded that he had reason to deem the "ULSU executive" as having taken part in the campaign against USI in MIC. However, this assumption has been strongly denied by the sabbatical officers of ULSU who have acknowledged no part in the affair.

Mary Immaculate College's unanimous decision to leave USI brings to mind the growing dissatisfaction amongst national third level institutions with the organisation. Mr. Archibald finds claims that it does not truly represent the students of Ireland to be "amusing," and maintains that it is the individual student unions of each institution that

form the policies. He underlines the fact that any institution that is non-affiliated has "no representative voice" on a national level. But recent changes in USI saw an increase in the fee charged to students while there was a decrease in the number of officers. Mr. Archibald condones these adjustments as merely part of a "restructuring plan" of the USI.

Whether MIC's overwhelming result will trigger other institutions to consider their position within USI remains to be seen. What is clear, however, is that the Union of Students in Ireland will have to make adjustments in order



Mary Immaculate College, where students must now decide how to spend €10,000 traditionally spent on USI fees.

to ensure that further objections do not arise. Despite what Mr. Archibald told An Focal, students clearly are not entirely satisfied with the way it runs its business and changes are prerequisites before more institutions fall away.



UL President Roger Downer (centre) with members of the History Society at the launch of the new journal

President Launches UL History Journal

Emma Stafford

On Wednesday, 17 November, the University of Limerick History Society launched the fifth volume of their journal, History Studies. The event took place in the East Room of Plassey House and was attended by members of the History Department and many other distinguished guests. The journal was officially launched by the President of UL, Professor Roger Downer, whose support has been unwavering throughout the years that History Studies has been

in existence.

History Studies is unrivalled in Ireland as it is the only journal to be produced entirely by students. The editors this year, Declan Jackson, John Maguire and Jennifer Moore, are all PhD students in the History Department of UL. They each worked tirelessly to produce, what some will argue, is the best edition of the Journal to date. Articles included within its pages cover a diverse range of topics from the experience of British women in colonial outposts to the history of Irish seafood, and were

contributed by individuals from universities throughout Ireland and one from Université Laval, Québec, Canada which adds an international flavour.

The Journal is priced at €10 each and can be obtained by contacting the History Society at ulhistorysociety@hotmail.com

AIDS, a global epidemic

World AIDS Day, 2004

Aoife Breen

December 1st, 2004 is over but the fact remains that AIDS is a continuing and, unfortunately, growing problem. The United Nations' World AIDS Day took place last Wednesday - you may have noticed volunteers selling red ribbons on the campus in support of the campaign against AIDS. The 2004 UN Report on the global AIDS epidemic cites that since the first patient of AIDS was diagnosed in 1981, more than 20 million people have died from the disease, and despite advancements in medical technology, the universal crisis of HIV is not receding, but quite the opposite in fact. However, the most basic and most harsh fact about this disease is that there is no cure.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus, transmitted through bodily fluids, such as blood, semen or breast milk,

that, like all viruses, requires a host cell to survive. However, the host cells that it chooses are the cells that provide immunity against infections. After a period of time, the patient's immunity deteriorates until a stage when he/she is subject to many illnesses. It is at this stage that they are said to be suffering from AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). An AIDS sufferer does not die from the HIV virus itself, but from an opportunistic infection such as pneumonia, which takes advantage of a damaged immune system to attack and, ultimately, kill the patient.

In our world today there are almost 38 million people living with HIV/AIDS; almost half of adult sufferers are female and this increases again to 67% in Sub-Saharan Africa. It was figures like these that called for the focus of this year's World AIDS Day to be, "Women, girls, HIV and AIDS."

Despite all the myths that are out

there, HIV can only be transmitted in four different ways - sharing infected needles; transfusions or transplants involving infected blood products or organs; from an infected mother to her child in the womb or in breast milk but the most common route of transmission is by having unprotected sex with an infected partner.

If this global epidemic is to be combated widespread education and precaution is vital. World AIDS Day is an annual event that aims to inform people that although HIV/AIDS may not be in the news every day, it has not been defeated and it still exists in all parts of the world. In 2003, five million more people were diagnosed with having HIV - an increase on previous years. It is necessary for all people to cooperate if this universal problem is ever to be overcome.



A condom AIDS ribbon
www.worldaidsday.org

Student Enterprise Awards



The Student Awards 2004 were held in Carlow Institute of Technology on the 20th and 21st of April last. The awards are sponsored jointly by Enterprise Ireland, Ulster Bank and Invest Northern Ireland, and offer third-level students across Ireland the chance to compete for the coveted title of "College Entrepreneur of the Year" and win a share of the fabulous prize of €40,700. The competition had over 400 entries from colleges throughout Ireland, with the top five business ideas going through to the final. Mark Clendennen, who is now a third year manufacturing technology student, beat off stiff competition for a place in the final with his business idea. Mark runs a business involved in the manufacturing, importing, and distribution of go-karts and go-kart related products. Below is a photograph of the karts Mark currently manufactures.

After spotting a poster on the U.L. campus last February promoting the awards, Mark decided to enter the competition with his business

idea. To enter, Mark completed the necessary criteria, which involved completing a business plan, outlining the product, production, marketing and financing aspects of the proposed business. During Rag Week, Mark received a phone call from Enterprise Ireland informing him that he had reached the finals.

All finalists were required to set up a trade stand to showcase their proposed business idea and products. On the 20th of April, Mark travelled to Carlow for the finals. Together with other finalists, Mark presented his project to a panel of judges from leading academia and businesses, including some of Ireland's top entrepreneurs. The interview lasted approx 1 hour and the finalists were asked numerous questions about their proposed business. Later that evening, the student president of Carlow I.T. brought all the finalists on an all-expenses-paid night out, which was a great way for Mark to meet the other finalists. The Awards ceremony was held the following day in the Barrow Centre in Carlow Institute of Technology. Finalists had set up their trade stand in the Barrow Centre for public viewing. There was a lot of media presence and interviews with Sky News Ireland, TV3, RTE News and 2fm, provided much publicity for Mark's business idea, which subse-

quently led to trade sales. On the day finalists gave a ten-minute speech on their business concept. The day concluded with the presentation of the awards, with Mark receiving an award of €3,250 as runner-up prize.

In conclusion, Mark highly recommends any student with a business idea to enter the awards, as by reaching the finals, it gives a potential business idea much publicity and substantial amounts of money to help get the business off the ground. For more information on the awards contact college representative; Anne Flynn, Dept Management & Marketing (anne.flynn@ul.ie)

Mark sells plans for individuals who wish to have a gp-kart of their own, but don't have the budget to buy the finished product. The plans consist of parts lists, nut and bolts lists, and drawings with step-by-step instructions and diagrams, which aid a person with minimum engineering experience to build an off-road go-kart. A full colour parts catalogue is also supplied with the plans, and all parts are available from Mark. For more information about go-karts Mark manufactures or distributes you can contact him @ (086) 1960209 or alternatively e-mail: plans04@hotmail.com



Budget 2005

a positive one for students

Oonagh Reidy

The annual budget announced on Wednesday December 1st by Mr Brian Cowen T.D was met with a high level of anticipation given that it was his first in his new role as Minister for Finance. Described by many as a 'caring' and 'kind hearted', the 2005 budget encompasses a generous package of measures designed to help the least well off sections of our society. The new self-proclaimed 'Socialist' Fianna Fail party in with its coalition partners, the neo liberal Progressive Democrats declared their 'responsibility to ensure the benefits of economic performance benefit society as a whole'. This entirely new stance adopted by the government was reflected in the range of concessions announced on Budget Day. Social welfare entitlements were increased across the board, the standard rate tax band widened and levels of tax credits improved, releasing those on

the minimum wages from the burden of tax. These concessions will undoubtedly enable certain groups within our student population who are welfare dependant to avail of increased financial support whilst they undertake their studies. The minister also dedicated E900m towards the funding of support services for the disabled, providing much needed resources in a previously neglected sector. This will allow the significant number of disabled students within U.L to avail of improved services and facilities such as home support and personal assistance. This in turn, will provide will them with an improved quality of life and access to additional care and support. Although students as a group did not emerge overall as big winners from this year's Budget, some minor concessions were made. Tax relief on tuition fees was increased significantly to E5000, which will benefit an estimated 11,000 students nationwide. The minister also declined from increasing

excise duty on cigarettes and alcohol, reflecting the governments desire to keep inflation at bay and also the ministers personal wish to 'give them (smokers) a break!'. Admittedly, this is a welcome move from a government who levied severe hikes on these commodities in recent years, making them virtually unaffordable for the average citizen. Valued Added Tax (VAT) was also maintained at 21%, allowing the prices of everyday goods and services to remain constant for the coming year.

Overall the outlook for this year's budget was generally positive, reflecting a buoyant economy, whose growth is predicted to reach 5% next year and healthy public finances. However, although the strings on the public purse were loosened to accommodate the least well off within our society, one cannot help but suspect that the sudden image transformation pioneered by the government is part of a shrewd re election strategy, which they hope will pay dividends in 2006.



Liz Goold (1954-2004)

Liz Goold joined our English language teaching team at UL in 2002 and for almost three years travelled the road between Galway and Limerick on a very regular basis. From the moment she started lecturing in the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies her vivacious character and chatty nature was contagious to all who came in contact with her. Not only did she manage to pack in a lot of teaching during her two or three days a week at UL, she also became fully involved in many research activities, teaching and learning workshops, conferences, and was always first in line for any social occasion sharing many quiet and not so quiet evenings with friends and colleagues in LCS. In her short time here Liz even managed to revive her research interests and had been accepted to embark on postgraduate studies in the College of Humanities for which she planned to work with the refugee and asylum seeker communities to assist with their language learning needs in school contexts. Indeed her choice of research topic is strongly indicative of her very charitable nature which extended to working with many voluntary organisations in the Galway region and with the Barretstown Camp for sick children. Away from UL she very successfully juggled the needs of her four children, her love for travelling which brought her to foreign climes many times each year, and her daily exercise routine imposed on her by serious back problems in recent times. And all were conducted with the sort of energy and dedication that would put many of us to shame. She could never be accused of doing things by half or without style. I remember Liz's disappointment at having to sacrifice her little sports car earlier this year because of her back problems and her dismay that although the new one was good for her back, 'it did nothing for the image!' Liz was a kind, energetic, entertaining, and intelligent person and the shock and sadness her sudden death just a couple of short weeks ago will remain with us into the future. However, I am confident that the happy memories of a good colleague and a great friend will remain even longer. And it certainly was our privilege to have known her.

By request, donations in lieu of flowers to Barretstown Gang Camp.

Irish Trampoline Intervarsities 2004

Rising from the ashes of, what has to be said was a year to forget, UL Trampoline Club needed something to kick-start their ambitious recovery plan. What better way to get it started than to accept the challenge of organising an Intervarsity - just six weeks prior to the event.

We all knew that for this years varsity to make a lasting impression, we would have to hold it in the country's newest and most impressive sporting venue, the University Arena. With only one weekend free in November in the Arena's calendar, the date was set for us. This was it, the race was on.

After six gruelling weeks, the weekend of the competition finally arrived. With the new equipment, the bigger recruitment drive and inspiring enthusiasm of all involved, UL were not only able to enter the biggest delegation we have ever entered but also the biggest delegation of the whole competition.

Friday 12th November 2004 - Intervarsity Day 1

Warm ups went really well, as the level of excitement for the weekend was sky high. The running track had become a view-

ing gallery for the many gym members trying to catch a glimpse of this spectacular sport.

With over 160 people from nine universities registering that night, this was to be the biggest Intervarsity trampolining has ever seen. Role on Saturday's competition.

Saturday - Day 2

Bit by bit everyone arrived and by 11am the competition was in full swing. When in full swing it was an impressive sight, even the spectators from the underage basketball in the next courts were applauding the efforts of our competitors.

Our first success of the day came in the shape of first year member, Barry Walsh. Barry was placed 3rd in the Novice Men's section. This was one of the biggest sections of the day in which UL placed four of its members in the top ten, very encouraging for the years to come.

In the Novice Ladies section, the biggest section of the day, UL also placed two performers in the top ten, with Christine Adolph taking the highest place for UL. The Intermediate section

brought UL its second medal of the day. Ciara Peelo, last years Captain, performed solidly to secure her second place with one of the highest scores of the Ciara is our only veteran member left in the club having being part of the UL team that won Intervarsities in 2002. Intermediate boys also produced a brilliant result for Rob Mc Keown, competing in his first ever Intermediate competition.

UL took it highest number of medals in the Advanced section of the competition with Sophie Ivan-Clancy taking the gold medal in the Ladies event. Sophie has worked so hard this year and was UL's only representative at the last National Championships in March where she was awarded the bronze medal in the Intermediate section. This was Sophie's first ever Advanced competition. She matched this result the following week in the 2nd Irish Gymnastics Grand Prix Qualifier in Kildare where she scooped the gold medal in the Advanced event.

Sandra Daly also competing for UL performed beautifully in her first comeback competition to be placed second in the

Advanced section.

Next was the biggest surprise of the day. Will Reidy from UL competed in the Advanced Men's event where he was placed just 0.2 behind the winner. Will has also improved so much since September and well deserved this accolade. Both Sophie and Will are UL's hopefuls for future Elite competitions.


The showcase event, which is the Elite competition, was the last up of the day. In the men's sec-

tion alone there were three national squad members who competed in the 2003 World Trampoline Championships. This attracted the biggest audience of the day and was caught on film by the Arena. The hall was in silence and you could hear every breath the competitors took and rapturous applause when the routines were over. Yet again basketball spectators ignored what was happening on their courts

to witness this sport at its best. Simon Flannery and Aideen Mc Carthy both national squad members representing UL came out victorious with gold medals in men's and ladies events.

The team competition results were, newcomers to student trampolining, CIT, in third place, UL second place and first place with their B team taking the silver and their A team taking the gold.

President



Friends,
Christmas is now upon us and the heat is on for the exams! With only academic weeks left before Christmas I'm sure everyone is snowed under with work at the moment but make sure to take a break from the Study. Its important not to get too stressed over exams so take a break when you need to!

The Sofas for the common room have finally arrived and it should be up and running within next week. It will be open until 11 on week-nights. If you need some where to sit and chat or to have a break from study the common room will be the place to go.

The Ents committee has started to plan for Rag week and its looking good. They are hoping to bring some high profile artists this year to UL, we will have more on this in January.

Governing Authority and Academic council have met since the last time I wrote. A lot of interesting issues got discussed including the code of conduct. Aspects of this Code are finally going to be reviewed- something which is long overdue.


Well I'll leave it at that for now. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. If you are having any trouble or issues in college please call to my office and let me know.

Nollaig Shona!!

Slan

Tadgh-er

Welfare




Nollaig Shona Folks... I won't get to say this again in An Focal before Christmas so happy holidays to all that celebrate them at this time of year. I have to say that December is my favourite month and Christmas my favourite holiday, but I know that it is not a joyful time for everyone. In light of this, and the fact that there are many people depressed and alone on Christmas, I've focused on depression and suicide in the welfare feature article.

On a happier note, I'm organising a charity fashion show, which I hope will be well attended by the students of UL. On Wednesday, December 15th at 9:30 in the Trinity Rooms, I have convinced several bouncers and doormen from around town to (grudgingly but good-naturedly) hit the catwalk for charity. As well as this, a few Munster rugby lads have committed to make a special guest appearance, so it should be a great night for everyone. The charities that will benefit are Limerick Animal Welfare and Father Gerry Daly's Christmas Appeal and several local businesses have been more than generous with donating goods or organising clothing for the night, so don't be shy about it, get your ticket, show up and have some fun!

Best wishes to everyone over the Christmas holiday, I hope that Santa is good to everyone (even those who have been very naughty....)

-Rosey

Communications




Hi everyone,
Well, it's nearly Christmas and time for a well-deserved break. Last years class reps are getting their certs of recognition Wednesday at 5pm in the Wood room in Plassey House. This in mind, I'm setting up certs of recognition for writers in the new semester. This way, those interested in journalism can use it for their portfolio to show that they have taken an active role in journalism while at college. Gold, silver and bronze certs, that way the more you get involved, the more you're rewarded.

I want to conduct a survey after Christmas on the paper, what you like, what you don't and what can be changed to make it as good as it possibly can be. So, if you are seriously stressed and you're stopped and asked for you're input, please do give us three minutes of your time. Hopefully, it will pay dividends in the new semester. Also, I'm looking for sub editors for the different sections of the paper, something that will apply predominantly again to people that are interested in going into journalism. It's a fantastic opportunity to get exposure to all the different elements involved in creating a paper and one that interested people should capitalise on.

As always, I can't stress enough that anyone interested in writing for the paper call into the Union or send me an email. It can be very difficult to actually put pen to paper and send it in but if you're interested, don't let that stop you. I'm especially looking for lads to write sports articles, soccer, rugby, GAA whatever. It's one thing that is definitely lacking in the paper, so for all budding David Kelly's out there, don't just say it in the pub, say it to the whole of UL. You never know, you could soon have a massive following, and I'm not just talking about the lads. Merry Christmas.

Sandra

Education



Well hello everyone! Last week's issue launched the "get Fintan a girlfriend" campaign. Now that I know about this campaign, it makes it all the easier to manage! However, the amount of e-mails, letters and girls serenading my office has me slightly alarmed. The UL servers went down, the Internal Mail system has a backlog of 7 days and a small choir has taken up residence in the corridor outside my office. However, I haven't yet decided which lucky applicant shall get the priceless date (at or not at the cinema). Keep 'em coming ladies! :)

The bar and restaurant course participants have graduated! Congratulations to them. We will be running another course next semester - watch this space for more info!

I've attended talks on the Bologna Process and the OECD report on Third Level Education in Ireland. The budget has not lived up to expectations and has not guaranteed any more funding for universities. Tut tut Brian Cowen!

I also want to add my voice to the criticisms of last weeks Prime Time special "A Tale of Two Cities" which portrayed Limerick as nothing like the welcoming city that I know. This biased and grossly misleading piece did not do justice to the fine city that I proudly call home.

Finally, have a happy Christmas break. Enjoy it all and don't worry too much about exams. Do some study and you'll be fine. Good luck in the exams too! Go see your advisor who can help you out if you need any help.

G'luck!
Fintan

It's a load of rubbish!



Take in your bins! That's the message the local residents are sending to student residents this Christmas. Fed-up with wheelie bin races in the middle of the night, bins knocked over and rubbish strewn all over the street and estates, residents are urging students to take responsibility for their waste.

Always a controversial topic, residents in the area have suggested that students take in their bins in the afternoon after the bin has been collected. This ensures that other un-disciplined students,

that are out to cause trouble and litter the estates have no ammunition as bins have been taken inside. The problem is that students think it's all fun when they've had a couple of drinks but it's anything but fun for neighbours, residents and students alike, who are left to clean up the mess left behind in the morning. Another suggestion is to tie or chain the bins to the garage door etc if the bin cannot be brought through the house. This ensures that bins do not go for a walk in the middle of the night and never find their way home.

Bin Collection

Days:

Mr Binman

Castletroy area, separate from Golf Links Road

Collection Day: Thursday
7.30am - 5pm
Suggest put bins out in the morning or the night before

061-351127 / 069- 60588

Clean Ireland

Castletroy and Briarfield
Collection Day: Tuesday
Anytime during the day

Monaleen
Collection Day: Wednesday
Anytime during the day

2 Bins collected alternate weeks
Wk 12- Recycling wk
061-361800

Idodec Ireland

Bought by Mr Binman
Collection Day: Thursday Mr Binman day

Limerick Waste Collection

Monaleen & Castletroy
Collection Day: Tuesday
Anytime during the day

3 bins: Organic & recycling,
General Waste
Wk 12: Organic & recycling
Christmas Wk: General Waste 061-415998

If you're having litter problems with your neighbours try having a small chat with them. Informal of course, just have a word in their ear, tell them that it's not on and that they're to do something about it.

If they persist in making a mess, call the Limerick County Council's Environment Officer, who will call out of the house. Landlords are now obliged by law to keep their property tidy and ensure that tenants abide by the litter laws.



Coop: An Insight Into Brazilian Life

Alannah Turner

So, it's December already and my four months of working as an English teacher are coming to an end. It's hard to believe that my coop obligation is soon to be fulfilled. The day is rapidly approaching for me to leave this small town otherwise known as home and take-off to explore South America. I have already encountered some spectacular scenes in this great continent and with each expedition my hunger to see more grows stronger.

My most recent adventure took me to Florianopolis on the coast of Brazil. I have never come across a place that is a better resemblance paradise. Try to imagine being surrounded by lush green mountains while staring down at turquoise blue water lap-

ping the clean, white sand. I have often seen pictures of "paradises" and heard people talking about tropical holidays but I have never experienced in person the effects places like this have on people. It must have something to do with the gentle sound of the sea or the swaying of the tall bamboo sticks in the breeze that makes the people of Florianopolis so relaxed. Anybody I came across there didn't seem to work. They seem to spend their days relaxing on the beaches or waiting for the fishermen to return with the catch of the day. To be honest, I don't blame them. If I lived there I would not work if I could get away with it! It would be impossible to achieve anything at work when you are surrounded by the relaxed flow of life that is Florianopolis.

This relaxed way of life

has attracted people from all over the world, sucked them in and has refused to let them go! There was rarely a moment when I was in a room with just Brazilians. It can get very confusing when you are surrounded by a number of different languages but there are always ways and means of communicating! The countless people I encountered with different nationalities each took their turn promoting their country in the discussion of the best country in the world. I have to admit I took part in the argument and voiced my opinions very strongly about Ireland! Don't worry, you had a responsible representative! The Brazilians are extremely passionate about their country. Many discussions become heated before a Brazilian will admit to another country being better especially if that country is

Argentina.

The rivalry between Brazil and Argentina reminded me of the rivalry associated with the Irish and the English.

It is not as rooted in history but there are certainly strong feelings in particular from the Brazilian side.

Florianopolis got me hooked on Brazilian life and I would have stayed if I did not have to go back to work. I do know now that I am going to return to South America in the future and explore Brazil. But for now I'm just going to have to settle for travelling through Argentina and Chile! And



while I prepare myself for my departure I cannot help but feel a bit sentimental about the small town that has been my home for four months. I guess it's worth saying goodbye to when I have the fantastic life of a UL student to look forward to!

Class Reps go Paint-balling

DJ Collins

As I'm sure you're all well aware, your class reps work very hard for you the students of U.L. (honestly we do!!) As something of a team building exercise for us our C.C.O Sandra decided to organise an evening of paint-balling at Combat Zone, Shanagolden Co. Limerick. This was a chance for all class reps to get to know the people they would be working with for this coming college year as many Reps were not able to attend the training weekend held in Cork in October.

And so it was on Wednesday Wk8 your class reps met up at the stables arch at 1pm to board the bus to Combat Zone near Shanagolden. The bus journey was at best entertaining with Timmy receiving a number of beatings from the other sabbatical officers, especially by your Welfare Officer and Trinity Rooms bouncer Rosamund Healey! We arrived at Combat Zone around 2.20 where we were introduced to our khakis and facemasks. After helping each other to get into these full body suits we headed to "de-fog" our masks, apparently, this would stop the goggles from fogging up when we were in the "heat of battle".

Following the signing of the disclaimer we received our mandatory

safety talk and our numbers from no.1 to no 27. These numbers would correspond to our guns and were used if we required more paintballs during the game, they would determine which teams we were on, simply even and odd numbers. Each team was then assigned their team colours, orange and purple. Sandra (no.1) was the orange team leader and Timmy (no.2) was the purple team leader. As we formed a queue for our weapons, rivalries were already burning as slugging contests between orange and purple began, I knew this would be an easy game to win. Having received our weapons we were required to fire one or two tests shots before proceeding to the main battle arena. Satisfied our guns were in sound working order we entered the main battle arena (or woods as the case may be).

The first game was a "search and retrieve mission". A parachute of supplies had crash-landed into the forest and both teams were required to retrieve it. The first team to retrieve the fuel can beneath the parachute (yes there was an actual parachute) and bring it forward to the enemy base would win, sounds simple doesn't it. The game commenced and immediately both teams were pinned down with enemy fire. However through sheer will

and determination (yes I was and the orange team) the orange team persevered and Emma from Mechanical Eng captured the fuel can. Time ran out and the orange team were announced the convincing winners. All now had their first experience with paint balling and were hungry for more action.

The second game was named "fuel stockade" for fairly obvious reasons, the objective was to destroy the enemy's fuel stockade contained within their base. However if any one member of the opposite team was to get the barrel of his/her gun over the top of the base walls everyone inside the base was proclaimed dead. This was to be orange teams downfall. The game began by 60seconds of un-relinquished shooting (rumours that this was a designed paintball wasting rouse circulated) never the less we struggled on. Almost immediately the purple team had us pinned down their precise shooting and tactful manoeuvres, absent from game one, were putting a stop to our advances on all fronts, forcing us either to push on and be killed or retreat into the safety of the base walls. It was only a matter of time before the purple team made it to our base, sure enough it came when a purple warrior fought his way down the left flank and under heavy fire managed to get his gun over



the side of our walls. It was game over for orange team, the score now 1-1, the tournament was wide open again.

The third and fourth games were played on the same course only we swapped around after each game. The course had a large bunker at the top and a melee of small trenches set up before it, the attacking teams game was simple, assault the bunker and get to the flag pole behind it. The defenders game was equally as simple, stop the attackers. It was orange assaulting first and despite our best efforts and rousing war cries from Sandra we were only able to reach the foot of the bunker before time ran out. The score was 1-2 now to purple and we knew we would have to pull something special out of the bag if we were going to stop the purple juggernaut. The final game commenced

with high spirit and low ammo, however that something special we were hoping for never came, purple again doing the damage, stealth like moves devastating our left flank and although Con (Carlow) O'Rourke and myself had saw the perpetrator from our elevated tower position, we not a paintball between us to stop him. It was truly heart-breaking for both of us watching our flag being desecrated in such ways. However there it ended the final score 1-3 PURPLES!!

As we slogged back to the changing rooms orange team, tired and defeated were subjected to volleys of abuse from the victorious purples. Back at base, those with ammo remaining were allowed to let loose on the target range while the rest of us went back to change out of our damp muddy body suit

khakis. While drinking our complementary bottles of Tipperary water, we exchanged war wounds and in good humour discussed the days activities. Alan Molrooney was declared paintballer of the day, and deservedly so. We paid for our extra paintballs and boarded once again, our faithful bus.

The bus journey home was one of sadness for the orange and joy for the purple however both were obviously tired, as scenes of snoring were common. However the possibly of love was also seen with a certain member of the sabbats (Fintan) and a certain 1st year rep of C.R.C. were caught in intimate conversation, more may follow on this!! We arrived back at UL around 6.30 where we parted ways until the next CRC meeting the following Tuesday.

Far from the Simple Life

With all the talk lately of Hollywood's Hardman and the Hilton Heiress dating, I thought this would be a fitting title for all you students out there with the gossip gene.

Hi guys, my name's "Tyler" and my goal here is to send out an informative, serious message about problems that face PEOPLE with disabilities in their daily lives. Firstly, I feel it is only fair to tell you that I myself have a disability. Therefore, now you can see that I am writing first-hand about issues that face me on a regular basis. I am wheelchair bound undergraduate here at U.L. I am hoping to pursue a career in journalism after my final year exams. I have been wheelchair bound since birth as I was born with a rare defect that affected my spine. Basically I have a disc missing from the lower part of my spine, restricting my movement. I can stand for short periods of time but I cannot walk without the aid of crutches and callipers.

As said in the first paragraph, my main goal in writing this journal is to give an informative serious message to able-bodied people who, for one reason or another, do not give very much time to think about what life is like for a person with a disability. At this point I want to clarify that, I am not trying to blame anyone for

inability to be observant towards a person with a disability. And I'm certainly not trying to say that anyone should go out of his or her way to help a disabled person, simply that they should be more aware of some of the problems faced by a person with a disability

I feel the best way to help you the reader more aware of these issues is to give you some examples of the problems I've faced in the past.

1999 I went on to secondary school. This was where I was presented with my first setback as a person with a disability, more specifically, a person with a physical disability. As you can imagine I had the usual problems with access but this was being looked after, in what I felt at the time to be a very slow process.

When I started out in secondary school, not five years ago, I had what could only be called a dilemma on my hands. The school had improper facilities for a person with a disability. This was simply because in the 150 years the school had been around there was no one ever with a wheel chair there before.

Now although a lot of things were adhered to over the months before I was due to start at the school, it was infact the little things that caused much bother. For example, the schools science labs could only be reached by

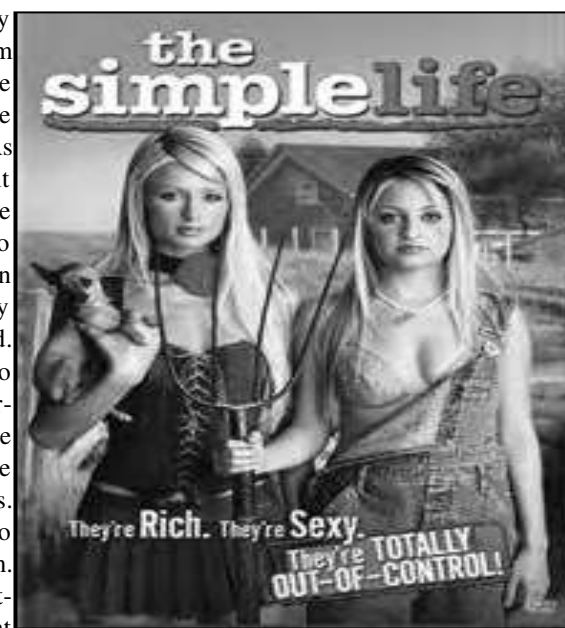
climbing a long narrow staircase. This was unsatisfactory, especially as science was a compulsory subject up to Junior Cert. Level. Therefore it may surprise some of you readers that the building of a science lab did not commence until mid way through my second year. I found this appalling, as my class did not have proper facilities to base our experiments for our exams, which were drawing ever closer.

And as if the pressure of the Junior Certificate wasn't enough, later in third year I had to contend with the proper authorities for the "RIGHT" to go on my school tour. Now as you can imagine, once I "fitted in" I no longer saw myself as an outcast because of my disability. That soon changed by September 2001, which was when we had our first scheduled meeting about the do's and don'ts of the trip. This was to be the case as, after the third meeting to discuss the tour, I was approached by the co-ordinator who subtly informed me that the odds were stacked against me leaving for Paris. And why you might ask? Simply because, due to lack of brain power, or maybe resource, a wheelchair bus which could carry 52 people could not be found. This was ridiculous at the time and even more so now that I have the resource at my disposal of getting the bus to college everyday. It may

not be able to carry 52 people but I'm sure one can be found in the Limerick region. As the weeks went on it seemed impossible that I would get to go to France even though I had my deposit paid. However, due to some quick intervention from a close contact, we were able to get a bus. Even if it had to come from Belgium. But that didn't matter anymore. All that

did matter was that I was treated no differently than any of my peers. All I ask is that people with disabilities be treated fairly and not be discriminated against! From that point on, everything went according to plan. We had doubts about using the wheelchair for the day at the ice-rink in Charleroi but with a little gentle persuasion, I was allowed time on the rink (and I'm happy to report that no one was seriously injured).

But luckily, a week after the incident I received a call from a person in the Disability Services and Career Support Service here in UL who assured me that I would be more comfortable in these surroundings. And I'm glad to say she



was right. I am very happy here and I love the atmosphere, the people here are very friendly and I can't find the words to describe how very helpful everyone in the Disability Services have been to me since I started here in October. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them sincerely for their assistance and I look forward to working with them over the next few years.

Thanks for reading my story thus far and I look forward to telling you more about my experiences again soon.

Au revoir,
"TYLER"

Reality TV, it's not reality at all!

Kate Nolan

Unless you've been living under a rock (or hiding in a hole in Tikrit in Saddam Hussein's case) for the past five years, you can't help but notice the influx of so-called reality TV shows on our screens. Undoubtedly, this whole reality TV craze began when Big Brother graced our screens for the first time five years ago. Now, I'll admit I watched it when it was an original, mildly entertaining (though not very intellectually challenging) programme. But Big Brother has slowly morphed into a place where the most shallow, self-obsessed and possibly stupidest people in all of Britain vie for the chance to win a gig presenting Saturday morning kid's TV on Channel 4.

The main objective behind these quasi TV shows is "reality" - uncut, unscripted, unedited. But how are MTV programmes like The Osbournes or Rich Girls in any way representative of reality? Over three-quarters of the world's population live in poverty yet we are supposed to believe that Ozzy Osbourne and his incredibly irritating family's life in a Beverly Hills mansion is normal.

But reality TV can't be all bad I hear you say, and this is true. In fact, Simon Cowell's career is now indebted to a certain type of reality show - Pop Idol, Popstars, X Factor... the list goes on and on. All joking aside, these programmes, apart from being totally crap, are downright manipulative. Naive, highly neurotic

sixteen year olds are put through the mill for our entertainment only to be publicly humiliated and told they're not good enough. And finally, the poor sap who actually "wins" the whole charade gets a chance at pop superstardom which lasts, at best, six to twelve months.

The newest development in a series of disturbing reality TV shows is The Swan. Controversy abounds regarding this extreme make-over programme. And so, for the sake of getting my facts correct, I actually sat down and watched it (TV3, Tuesday nights @ 8) - Oh, the things I do for this paper... After watching The Swan I think I can safely say reality TV has sunk to a new low (if that's possible). On this programme, fifteen

women, who, frankly, have some serious mental health issues, undergo intensive cosmetic surgery, physical training and a number of (badly needed) psychotherapy sessions to go forward to compete in a beauty pageant in order to be crowned 'The Swan'.

But lets not forget our own brand of reality TV shows. All credit to them, RTÉ has managed to produce some pretty appalling viewing. The most entertaining thing about RTÉ's last reality TV show, Cabin Fever, was when the ship ran aground. Of all the reality TV shows in the world (of which there are many) my personal favourite has to be I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here! This is where twelve Z-list celebs head out into the Australian jungle

to eat all manner of icky, creepy - crawly things in an effort to resurrect their non-existent careers all under the guise of raising money for charity.

By now, I think we've firmly established that reality TV is a load of rubbish, with absolutely no entertainment/educational value whatsoever. I'd like to think that after five years of non-stop reality TV the novelty has (finally) worn off and interest in them is beginning to dwindle. Apparently not. "Reality" shows are cheap and easy to produce, which means that most television stations can't be bothered to produce, or more likely pay for, decent programming. In spite of all the bitter complaints about its blatant superficiality, there is still a

huge interest in this new genre of television. We still find these TV programmes strangely addictive - why is that? Previously, I thought reality TV was nothing more than a fad, and if I ignored it long enough, it might just go away. But upon further reflection, I think our love of these Big Brother type programmes goes alot deeper than that - perhaps it's an ego thing. We watch the dregs of Irish society on shows like The Dinner Party and think: hey, however bad my life is, at least I'm not as messed up as them. Maybe reality TV does have some redeeming features after all... The choice is ultimately yours - to watch or not to watch, that is the question.

"Winter is the time for it..."

Rosey Healey

My friend said this to me one night last week when we were having a chat, as the darkness fell about 4pm and the rain and wind started lashing against the windows. We were talking about the weather (boringly enough) and how dark the winter gets. Our chat turned dark as well as we started talking about depression and suicide and a recent funeral she had been to. She said, "Winter is the time for it. That's what everyone says..."

Another friend once said to me that he had a great darkness inside of him, something that had been running through his family for years, something he didn't understand or could control, but that it took over his life sometimes. As winter overtook autumn, I started to think more and more about my friend and his darkness. How many other people are out there walking around with a heavy heart and a darkness inside, just like him?

I've never suffered from depression. I've been lonely, scared and depressed about things or events but it has never consumed me or made me feel hopeless. Over the years though, as I grow older, I've met more and more people that are consumed with despair and

depression. Some of them I have just known, some of them I have loved, and some of them, I have lost. I don't particularly understand depression; I think you have to have it to grasp the full implications of it. I asked a student to write about it for me, to share with all of you, so that I may better understand his experiences, and perhaps maybe even help others through his words. His words were honest, eloquent and helpful...

"Depression is something which eats away at you, it leaves you an empty shell it eats away at your sanity. Depression is silent, it isn't obvious. It is a very personal thing. It is something that damages relationships with family, and friends, and with your girl/boyfriend. Depression is still a taboo subject here in Ireland, and many people are afraid to admit to people that they are sick, as many see it as a sign of weakness. People think that depressed people are dangerous, that we are all suicidal, and that depressed people are in need of admission to psychiatric hospitals. This is NOT true. I will tell you about my experience of living with depression; I have been depressed for quite a while, a number of years actually, I was never in a constant state of depression, it was when

something went wrong that it would hit me, but every time it hit me it got worse...."

The student went onto to explain how depression started to alter his life, making him withdrawn from his family and friends, quitting activities that he loved and pretending that everything was ok but underneath feeling terrible, all the while refusing to acknowledge that anything was wrong with him. He says, "...it all came to a head last April when I got worse than I have ever been before, I was unable to face the world, staying at home all day, not going to lectures, I totally let myself go, gaining weight, not shaving not even bothering to shower in the mornings. I stopped going out with my friends... I could no longer put on the act and I became a shadow of my former self. I lost the motivation to do anything; I couldn't get enjoyment out of anything and felt totally empty inside. There was no future as far as I could see. I had no reason for being on the planet. I contemplated suicide on a daily basis, and attempted it once or twice.

The student went onto to tell how he eventually sought medical help and starting seeing a doctor and went on medication, "The doctor was brilliant, and she discussed

everything with me, how the tablets would affect my life, she told me to stop drinking as it would erode the effect of the tablets. I was afraid for a while that getting better would involve a change in my personality. I have had it for so long that it has become part of me. I realised after a while that the change wouldn't be as drastic as I originally thought. I have changed a small bit, but that is only my attitudes to different things. I am not a totally different person".

While the medication started to make an effect and a change for this student, it still did not mean that all was fine, "All was going well and I was beginning to feel really better until I had a setback in August which resulted in another suicide attempt. This was the first time my parents were aware of a suicide attempt, as I always managed to cop on before I went too far. This time I didn't, I was out to kill, I had been going through an awful time, being on a constant low, and eventually you get to the stage where you become depressed about being depressed!! This action of mine really had a big effect on my family, my parents still don't really talk about it to me. I was admitted to A&E this time, where I was nearly put in the

psychiatric unit!!! I was let out that night though, but was referred to a counsellor who I have to attend. I find it very good going to him, and I am beginning to find the root of the problem, childhood bullying."

After a difficult summer, this student seems happy to be back and has a positive outlook for the most part, "... I am happy to be where I am right now. As things stand I am on medication and receiving counselling. I do get depressed from time to time, but as time goes by there are more good days than bad. I now take life one day at a time, and when I get depressed, I now have the energy to force myself on".

At the end of the day, there are plenty of places to get help. This student highly recommended seeing student counselling, or seeking help from national support networks such as Aware (www.aware.ie) or the Samaritans (www.samaritans.ie) saying that, "talk to someone, you would be surprised how many others are feeling the same as you." Please feel free to call into the welfare office if you want to chat about finding help. Whether it is with regard to yourself, family or friends, there are people and places out there that can help out.

Like to Improve your Computing?

LIKE TO IMPROVE YOUR COMPUTING?

Have you lost confidence in your Computing ability?
Have you missed classes during semester and want to catch up?
Have your studies been interrupted?

ICT Learning Centre

Don't be like Fran above, why not Drag-and-Drop yourself to the ICT Learning Centre and we can help you master those countless computer problems. The ICT (Information & Communication Technology) Learning Centre is a special initiative by the College of Informatics & Electronics funded by the HEA. The purpose of the centre is to support students' computing learning within the College through:

- Delivering the appropriate support to students in ICT related subjects
- Providing a dedicated

off the mark by Mark Parisi www.offthemark.com



area with supervised access to resources and help

• Researching the needs of students

The Manager of the centre, Janice O'Connell, is an honours graduate from the University of Limerick. She holds a primary degree in Applied Mathematics with Computing, and a Graduate Diploma in Computing. She also holds an honours M.Sc. in Computing Science awarded by the NCEA. After graduating Janice spent a number of years working

both nationally and internationally, as a Software Engineer in companies such as Irish Life, ESBI, System Dynamics and the NRMA. Griffith College Dublin was her most recent port of call where she worked as Computing Science Faculty Director before joining us here in UL.

Location CS1046
Contact Janice O'Connell
Phone: 202730
Email:
Janice.OConnell@ul.ie

Peace Soc & Trad Soc support the Limerick branch of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign

On Wednesday the 10th of November the Palestinian group Sabreen played a very successful concert as part of the Sionna Festival at the University Concert Hall. The Irish Peace Society, working with the Trad Society, organised a very successful evening in Dolan's on the Friday evening, where Palestinian music and Irish music came together. The evening was also supported by the Limerick branch of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign. At a very traumatic time for the Palestinians, it was fantastic that so many UL students came together to make sure that the Palestinian musicians had an enjoyable time in

Ireland. It was a magical night for everyone.

A special word of thanks has to go to Sorcha Keogan from the Peace Society and Dave Delaney for organising such a successful night at very short notice.



Dave Delaney, Trad Music Society

EXAMS???
WORRIES???
PRESSURE???

Your Advisor is the person to talk to. Call into them and discuss any anxieties you may have. Your advisor contact details are listed on SI, the student record system. If you have any problems getting your advisor details, contact Elaine Kiely (elaine.kiely@ul.ie) or call into CM045.

Bronze Bust Taken

Taken

Bronze bust of Dr Paul Quigley (1923 - 2003). Dr Paul Quigley was founding chairman of the Planning Board for the National Institute of Higher Education and the Governing Authority.

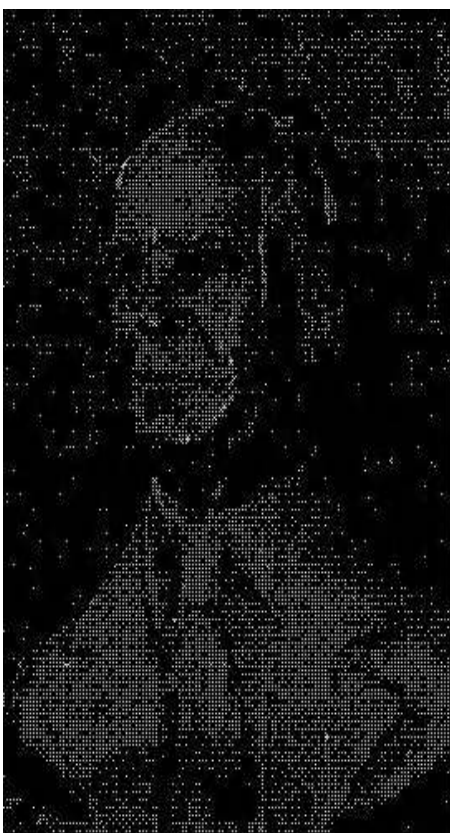
This sculpture of Dr Quigley is normally located outside, in the uadrangle, (essentially at the back of Jean Monet Theatre). It's a large bronze bust, as you can see, about 2' high. It has become rather green with age and weather.

It is now missing. This is an important artwork, culturally and historically. It's loss is a significant blow for the

University, widely acknowledged for its support of the arts.

Can you please contact the Buildings and Estates Department if you have any knowledge of its whereabouts. Your call is much appreciated and will be treated with complete confidence.

Telephone extension 202006



**NiteLink - Route A:
On the hour**

7pm 8pm 9pm 10pm 11pm

Start @ Stables Arch way
Stop 1: Dromroe
Stop 2: Thomond
Stop 3: Brookfield & associated Student accommodation centres
Stop 4: Milford Grange
Stop 5: Elm Park
End @ Stables Arch way
Your Union - Working for you



**NiteLink - Route B: On the
half hour**

7:30 8:30 9:30 10:30

Start @ Stables Arch way
Stop 1: Oaklawns
Stop 2: Lodge
Stop 3: All areas requested within Briarfield
Stop 4: Woodhaven (& associated areas)
Stop 5: University Court (Spar)
End @ Stables Archway
***Kilbane & Golf Links by request
Your Union - Working for you

Milford National School Environmental Flag Missing

Milford N.S. our campus neighbour have requested our assistance.

Their Environmental Green Flag and Flag Pole was stolen/borrowed on Thursday 2nd December. The flag and 3m bright green flag pole was taken in broad daylight, so someone must have seen it.

If you can offer any assistance please contact Mr. Tom Browne, Principal, 061 339123



ULSU Services Ltd.

Annual General Meeting

Monday 2.30pm
13/12/04

Rm 3, Students' Union



Dog Found

Black Labrador dog with collie characteristics found last week in the Castletroy area, blue collar, male, not neutered, can be claimed from Limerick Animal Welfare.

Class Rep Christmas Party

The CRC End of Semester Party will take place on Wednesday night Wk12. Meeting at the scholars archway at 7.20 and getting a bus into the Trinity Rooms. Finger food and merriment for all class reps. The models for the ULSU Fashion show, including Munster players, will also be there! Free entry to the Fashion Show (although Rosey suggests you might buy a raffle ticket, since it is for charity) and afterwards into the nightclub. A night not to be missed!

Charity fashion show! Wednesday from 9.30-11!
All proceeds to charity. Only €10 from SU reception.

Pop Goes the Century: Icons of Pop Culture from the 20th Century

Marilyn Monroe



"It was wonderful to be around her, she was simply overwhelming. She had so much promise. It seemed to me that she could really be a great kind of phenomenon, a terrific artist. She was endlessly fascinating, full of original observations...there wasn't a conventional bone in her body" - Arthur Miller.

Emma Stafford

On behalf of the History Society

Despite the forty years since her death, Marilyn Monroe remains one of the most widely recognised women in the world. The original 'blonde bombshell', she oozed sex appeal from every pore and refined her look with platinum blonde hair and a body to die for. Behind the pristine exterior, however, lay a fragile little girl who desperately sought the stable, loving family she lacked as a child. But the fickle world of Hollywood stardom did little to nurture its delicate superstar and as her search for happiness fell foul of one disaster after another, Marilyn was sucked into a world of depression and a reliance on drugs that would ultimately seal her fate.

Born Norma Jean Baker on 1 June 1926, her childhood was to shape her life forever. Her mother, Gladys, suffered mental illnesses and put Norma Jean into a foster home. She lived with her mother again for a time when she was seven, but Gladys' continued psychological problems saw her go to live in a home while Norma Jean went to live with a friend of her mothers, Grace McKee. When Grace and her husband moved to the East Coast, sixteen year old Norma Jean married her sweetheart, Jim Dougherty. A member of the Merchant Mariners, Dougherty was shipped overseas in 1944, so Norma Jean got a job in the Radio Plane Munitions factory in California, where she was spotted by a photographer who was trying to get pictures of women contributing to the war effort. Mesmerised by her beauty, he sent many other model-

ling jobs Norma Jean's way and within two years she had become a reputable model. With aspirations higher than a housewife, Norma Jean divorced Jim in 1946, just months before she signed her first contract with Twentieth Century Fox. She adopted her grandmother's surname and henceforth became known as Marilyn Monroe.

She took a number of bit parts in minor movies such as Scuda-Hoo! Scuda-Hay!, and Ladies of the Chorus but failed to make an impact. Controversially, she posed for a nude calendar shot in 1949 which eventually appeared in the original edition of Playboy in 1953, making Marilyn their first ever centrefold. Her film career was strengthened in 1950 when two more bit-



parts - in The Asphalt Jungle and All About Eve respectively - won her rave reviews. One critic enthused about "a forceful actress, a gifted new star, worthy of all that fantastic press agency. Her role here is not very big, but she makes it dominant". Such admiration did not go unnoticed and in 1952, Monroe won her first major role in Don't Bother to Knock.

That same year she met retired baseball star Joe DiMaggio. As their romance blossomed, her star

continued to shine. Marilyn lit up the screen in box office hits like Niagara, How to Marry a Millionaire, and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (in which she performed Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend - her most famous song) and consistently stole the show. With her hand and foot prints set in concrete along Hollywood Boulevard, and Photoplay magazines award for Best Actress of 1953, the roller-coaster ride of fame was preparing to launch into freefall.

After a two year relationship, Hollywood's Golden Couple were married on 14 January 1954. Joe was a conservative man who abhorred media attention and could not understand Marilyn's need to flaunt herself. Whilst on honeymoon in Japan, Marilyn agreed to perform for the American troops stationed in Korea. Later, she would remark "...standing in the snowfall facing these yelling soldiers, I felt for the first time in my life no fear of anything. I felt only happy". Further problems arose over Marilyn's most renowned image - her skirt blowing scene from The Seven Year Itch. By now the many pills that Marilyn relied on to get her through the day were having evident side-effects and she often had erratic mood-swings on set. Though there is no doubt that Joe loved Marilyn dearly, constant media intrusion coupled with Monroe's inner demons steered them into the divorce courts within nine months.

Infuriated by the shallow blonde roles that she was constantly steered into, Marilyn fled to New York in 1955, where she joined the Actors Studio. She abandoned the glamour of Hollywood and under the

tutelage of Lee Strasberg she worked tirelessly to improve and refine her trade. It all paid off in 1956 when she appeared in the acclaimed film Bus Stop and was lauded for her ability to play such a dramatic role. That same year, Monroe also married the playwright Arthur Miller, and soon after their wedding the couple left for London so that Marilyn could begin work on The Prince and the Showgirl with Lawrence Olivier.

By the time Marilyn came to make Some Like It Hot in 1959 (for which she won a Golden Globe), her personal problems had grown obvious to all. Her health fluctuated due to her drug dependency; she often came late to the set, if at all; and frequently did not know her lines. Her life was crumbling around her. Monroe's unquenchable desire for artistic credibility was matched only by a yearning for a family of her own, but she suffered a series of miscarriages which she perceived as payback for promiscuity earlier in life. She was also terrified that she would suffer a breakdown similar to her mother's and as she spiralled further out of control, the increased possibility of this becoming reality added further strain on her already fractured mental state.

Filming for The Misfits - a short story by Arthur Miller which included a part for his wife - began in mid-1960. By now the Millers were barely talking and Marilyn had pills regularly flown in from her doctors. Again her presence on set was sporadic, much to the annoyance of her co-stars. Shortly after filming ended, one of these, Clark Gable, died after suffering a serious heart attack. Marilyn felt the burden of

guilt as she remorsefully remarked: "I kept him waiting...kept him waiting for hours and hours on that picture".



The Millers separated in 1961 and soon after rumours flew of an affair between Monroe and President John F. Kennedy. Further fuel was added to the fire when Marilyn sang a breathless 'Happy Birthday Mr. President' at his birthday celebration in 1962. It was later reported that Monroe also embarked on an affair with Bobby Kennedy before her death. She began to work on a new film, Something's Got to Give, in 1962 but persistent absence from set and not knowing her lines engineered her dismissal by Fox.

Marilyn fell back into the arms of DiMaggio but just as the two seemed destined for marriage once more, tragedy struck. Marilyn Monroe's body was found in her bed early on 5 August 1962, the victim of a supposed accidental overdose (though conspiracy the-

ories dispute this). A distraught Joe organised her funeral to which no-one from Hollywood was invited as he believed "they had only hurt Marilyn". DiMaggio never recovered from the heartbreak of losing Marilyn and for over twenty years he had fresh flowers delivered weekly to her grave.

"Hollywood is a place where they'll pay you a thousand dollars for a kiss and fifty cents for your soul" - Marilyn Monroe.

Onscreen Marilyn Monroe was, in the words of TIME magazine, 'The only blonde that mattered'...sensual, sexy, alluring, captivating, and beautiful. To the outside world she seemed to have it all - a successful career, a plump bank account, and her pick of men. But behind the superstar illusion, the riches she really sought were much more mundane: a happy marriage and an affectionate family in which she could feel safe and loved unconditionally. Hollywood was fickle and shallow, but it was the only place where Marilyn knew that, when life became unbearable, her fans still fervently adored her...

"I knew I belonged to the public and to the world, not because I was talented or even beautiful, but because I had never belonged to anything or anyone else" - Marilyn Monroe.

The Plassey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous

Meet every Monday and Thursday

Time: 6:30 - 7:30pm

Venue: Main Building

Room EO019

PSA Soccer Final



Competition winners, Cathal Geary's team



Runners up, O' Dwyer is Dire team



Graduates of the Bar Skills Course held recently.

UL Trampolining at the recent intervarsity in UL



SVP Christmas Trip



Nurses Ball



An Focal Contributors

News: Oonagh Reidy	Features: Rosamund Healey	C&S: PRO's
Aoife Breen	DJ Collins	Editor: Sandra Gannon
Irish Peace	Emma Stafford	
Kate Nolan	Reviews: Benny Kupka	Copy Editor: Clair Madden
Trampoline Club	Keith Whelan	

LIMERICK'S BEST MUSIC VENUES

DOLAN'S

UPSTAIRS

WAREHOUSE

wed 15th	IAN BROWN doors 8pm tickets €35
thu 16th	VINYL/FISHGODEEP ** doors 8pm tickets €7
fri 17th	ASLAN doors 8pm tickets €17
sat 18th	HOTHOUSE FLOWERS doors 9pm tickets €15
thu 23rd	VINYL 100% local ** doors 10pm tickets €7
sun 26th	THE HITCHERS ** doors 9pm tickets €10
tues 28th	THE LOST STEPS ** doors 8pm tickets €10
wed 29th	BUFFALO SOULJAH doors 8pm tickets €12/10
fri 31st	BLOOD SUGAR & DJ's doors 9pm tickets €15

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ie (except **) **ticketmaster**

UPSTAIRS

wed 15th	DAVID MUNNELLY doors 8pm tickets €10
thu 16th	THE SWINGING LOVERS doors 9pm tickets €10
fri 17th	CARNIVAL SALOON doors 8pm tickets €10
wed 22nd	RACHEL LOSHAK doors 8pm tickets €8
sun 26th	VINYL/NU KILLA KRU doors 10pm tickets €7
mon 27th	COMEDY WITH KARL SPAIN doors 8pm tickets €12
thu 28th	LA BOUTIQUE doors 11.30pm tickets €10
wed 29th	EAMONN HEHIR & BAND doors 8pm tickets €10

COMING SOON TO DOLANS

WAREHOUSE

Sat Jan 1st : doors 9pm tix €12 advance / €15 on the door
Thurs Jan 6th:

BAGATELLE

THE WOLFE TONES



Sat Jan 8th : **KRAVEN** (all ages gig)
Sat Jan 29th: **HOMESPUN**

(dave rotheray/sam brown)

Monday Feb 7th: **THE ORDINARY BOYS**
Friday 4th March: **DECLAN O'ROURKE**



UPSTAIRS

Jan 7th : **ELEPHANT**
Friday Jan 14th: **ZRAZY** doors 8pm €10
Sat Jan 15: **KAI SEXTET**
Sat Jan 27th : **TRASH CAN SINATRA'S**
Feb 4th: **SPECIAL CONSENSUS**
Feb 18th : **LUKA BLOOM**



WAREHOUSE 4 ALPHONSUS STREET LIMERICK
UPSTAIRS 3/4 DOCK ROAD LIMERICK
BOOKINGS: 061 314 483 WWW.DOLANS.IE

POST GRAD (NON-COMPETITIVE, JUST FOR FUN)

TOURNAMENT RESULTS!!!

Team Name: Postgradinaikos (Cathal Geary's Team)
 The team, excuse me,,, "The legends"
Goalkeeper Eoin "Butter Fingers" Enright
Defenders Shane "The Shorts" Walsh
 Allan "No Messing!" Costine
Flying Winger. Eduardo "The Foreigner" Cano
Midfield Dynamo Cathal "Mr. Motivator" Geary
Strikers No set striker, they fly in for all of us, from all angles, a bit like the great French team of World cup 98 and Euro 2000...
 The feminine touch Brona "Poacher" Murphy
 Siobhan "Gaffer 2" Curtin
 Triona "Put em under pressure" Hourigan
Cheerleaders: Ronan Kelly
Team Mascot Siobhan's Hair, it's lovely....
Star Player: Lads it's a team

effort, we're all stars but if I had so single someone out it has to be "the Poacher" Murphy with a fine finish to put us on our way to the final.
Pathway to the Final: Cathal Geary's team 1-3 O'Dwyer is Dire
 The ref really took us from behind on this one as we had a man dismissed for a minor infringement. Unsporting behaviour from the opponents in the opening match but revenge is near as we meet again in the final.
 Cathal Gearys 5-3 WMDs
 The gauntlet is thrown down as the team begins to gel. 'Butter fingers' puts his body on the line. WMD's entranced by 'Gaffer 2's goldy locks take their eye off the ball.
 Cathal Gearys 12-5 Chicken Kiev
 The heat is turned up a notch as we break into full

stride. The goose was cooked early on with 'The Shorts' showcasing his silky skills.
 Cathal Gearys 4-3 Hopeless Causes
 Some clever footwork from 'The Foreigner' put us into an early 2-0 lead. Maurice 'Where's my Saddle' Collins just couldn't keep up.
 Cathal Gearys 7-0 Power Mgt
 They simply couldn't manage the awesome power that is Dr. 'No Messing!' with his accomplice 'The Shorts'.
 Cathal Gearys 5-2 Hopeless Causes
 A win for the girls. A dream start with the 'Poacher' latching onto a half volley at the far post, showing great composure on the ball. Biting at the heels of the opponents, Triona 'put em under pressure' Hourigan kept us in the driving seat. 'Gaffer 2' a.k.a Nurse Betty

was missing for this encounter helping Mike 'Gonzo Snoz' Flann formerly known as 'Iron Mike' to the Regional with a busted snout.

The team in second place was the 'O 'Dwyer is dire' team. Team members were as follows:
 Siobhan Jordan
 Dave Spellman
 Patrick Dundon
 Mike Flannery
 John Cleary
 Jason Clohessy

On behalf of the PSA I wanted to say a "big thank you" and well done to all the post grads that got involved. Well done to Cathal Geary's team, I hope you all enjoy the meal out.

PSA Soccer Semi-Final





The Stables Club

University of Limerick



Week 11

M Music Soc Open Mic

T Karaoke Night
Last Heat!

W Xmas Days Charity Nite
BAND: Free Beer
DJ Aidan - Doors 3pm - ID Essential

T Xmas Days Charity Nite
BAND: Free Beer
DJ Aidan - Doors 3pm - ID Essential

F Stables Party Night

Don't Forget: We have installed a new heater for the outdoor covered courtyard to fight off the winter chills! Try it out!

Week 12

M Music Soc Open Mic

T Karaoke Final
€300 First Prize
Starts 9pm Sharp

W BAND: Free Beer

T Postgrad Party Night

F DJ Aidan




Xmas Days

The Annual Christmas Charity Fundraiser organised by The Stables Club in aid of the poor of Limerick will take place this year on Dec 8th and 9th

NO persons will be admitted without their membership sticker shown on a valid UL ID Card


If you have not collected your sticker, collect it from Students' Union



Arena Sports Club

The Arena Sports Club offers you an excellent standard in service and comfort. We are situated adjacent to the University Arena and are open each day from 8.30am.

We have extensive meeting and function facilities with a dedicated meeting room available for bookings. Speak to Tom or Shane to book!



Breakfast Menu served 8.30am - 11.30am

Lunch Menu served 12pm - 3pm

Evening Menu served 4pm - 7pm

Tea & Coffee all day

If you are hosting a party or function, please contact Tom or Shane for details of special rates for students and university staff members.


We have a superb audio-visual entertainment system inhouse and show all major sporting events on our plasma and big screens.

Class Parties

Race Nights

Table Quizzes

Fundraisers



7'0" IN AID OF Limerick Animal Welfare & 7'0"
 6'6" Father Gerry Daly's Christmas Appeal 6'6"

6'0" 6'0"
 5'6" 5'6"



tickets €10
 from ulsu + trinity rooms
 all proceeds go to charity

TRINITY
 ROOMS

"Not tonight folks!"

The most secure fashion show ever

come see (and laugh!) at
 your favourite bouncers
 from around town as they
 hit the catwalk for charity!



+special guests

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15TH 9.30PM

ULSU Charity Bouncer Fashion Show

I see you baby, shakin' that ass (for charity...)

A ULSU Christmas Charity Fashion Show!!!

Listen up folks, the first ever UL fashion show for charity is rapidly approaching and hopefully all of you will get moving to the SU reception and get some tickets! The fashion show, to be held on Wednesday, 15th of December at 9:30pm in the Trinity Rooms will benefit two local charities, Limerick Animal Welfare and Father Gerry Daly's Christmas Appeal. Fashion-wise, there will be formal wear from Tony Connelly's, active wear from River Deep Mountain High and sportswear from all the various UL sports clubs. Featuring the casual menswear and the women's clothing will be items from Top Deck and Katie Janes, a fabulous new male and female clothing apparel shop, recently opened next to Superquinn in Castletroy Shopping Centre. Hair will be styled by the Directors Cut at Bellissimo and make-up will be done by Benefit in Brown Thomas.

In terms of eye candy (mostly for the ladies), a new twist on fashion models will be taking place, as fourteen bouncers

and doormen from all over town have agreed to make their way down the catwalk. While a bit reluctant at first, the lads all agreed to "make pr**cks" of themselves for a good cause- these two very worthy charities. As well as this, several Munster rugby lads have agreed to make a special appearance and "track suit strip tease" had entering into a few conversations regarding their role in the fashion show (please no flash cameras during the performance).

Aside from the modelling, a raffle will be held with a bunch of cool prizes, including a year long membership to the University Arena and a gourmet food basket, containing items from Thorntons, Cocoa Bean Artisan Chocolate, Connemara Fisheries (for a side of some gorgeous salmon) and a few choice bottles of champagne. At the end of the day, tickets are just €10 (and that's including the niteclub for the night), the money is going some really valuable causes and it's going to be a fabulous night out, so don't miss it!



COLM Q: BODY ELECTRIC

Benny Kupka interviews the man best know as Mundy's guitarist about his new album

Body Electric

Benny Kupka

A soulful album from an incredibly soulful guitarist.

Body Electric is the second studio album released by "Q", the artist also known as Colm Quearney. He's currently playing guitar for Mundy and has toured with bands like Jerry Fish and the Mudbug Club and Lir on a regular basis. This album brings together sounds like the good old fashioned Beatles with The Flaming Lips and, more temporarily international guitarists like John Mayer. With a crooning voice not unlike to that of Ryan Adams, this is an album that once you give the songs a listen, it will inhabit the mysteriously dark reaches of your CD player for quite some time. The catchy, well polished

songs on this album sound like a mix between all-out pop and, of course soulful, classic country-rock. It's a welcome release for fans of the contemporary music scene in Ireland who've gradually grown tired and desensitised to the steady flow of singer/songwriters flooding the airwaves. This is in contrast to the norm, an innovative album that deserves much more publicity than it's been getting. I was lucky enough to catch "Q" away from his busy schedule of touring and recording to ask a few questions as per usual:

Benny: What are your main influences as an artist?

"Q": There have been many influences the first would have been Jimi Hendrix, Rory Gallagher, SLF, The Cure, The Jam,

The Who etc. recently there would be - Fela Kuti, Thelonus Monk, The Buzzcocks, Bob Dylan still, Brian Eno and lots of old reggae.

Benny: What got you interested in music?

"Q": My father is a musician and music was always around us growing up. In other words I didn't really have a choice it was compulsory in a way.

Benny: What's your favourite film or TV moment?

"Q": The old Guinness ad from about ten years ago when that crazy dude danced around, brilliant music!!

Benny: What CDs have you got in your CD Player right now?

"Q": 'Here Come the Warm Jets' by Brian Eno, Best of Sharon Shannon and "Ghosts" by Mark Geary.

Benny: What's your favourite drink on a night out?

"Q": Seven-up with a Kilkenny head.

Benny: What's your favourite song of all time?

"Q": Marino Waltz by The Dubliners

Benny: What's the weirdest thing that's ever happened you on stage?

"Q": Bob Malone, the bass player with Lir, split me open while on stage on tour in America - too much jumping around, I like to think it was an accident...

Benny: Where's the coolest place you've ever done a



Colm Q

gig?

"Q": I think Vicar Street is a great venue. I once played on a river in Germany near Lake Constance - sounds really cool but it was crap.

Benny: If I were to ask you to recommend a band to the readers, who would it be and

why?

"Q": Stellarband and you can check them out at www.stellarband.com cause they're ace!!

Benny: What would you eventually like to have written on your tombstone?

"Q": "How's she cuttin'?"

More of a 'Snapshot', Lucas revisit

On behalf of Music Soc

For those who missed it, Galway group Lucas launched Limericks newest and most intimate venue, The Sallyport, with a premier performance on Tuesday 26th October. Lucas have played a number of gigs in Limerick including support to Rachel Loshak last April. Their recent chart topping single 'Snapshot' entered straight in at 34, and they have enjoyed on-stage company with everyone from Spiritualised to Mundy to Damien Rice. Accompanying them on the night was the ever-amazing Sabrina Dinan, and this was an ideal opening act for the venue. Well don't fret, because they are coming back. To mark the last of the sofa sessions for 2004, they play Tuesday the 14th, with doors at 8.30, tkts only €5, or for the very cunning €2 with special fliers. Contact Graham on 086 8653892.

And now the biopic:

Lucas are:

Alan Gray: Voices, whispers and screams

Howard Evans: High end six string

Paddy Flynn: Low end 4 string and whispers

Ray Butler: Pots, pans and percussion's

Lucas have headlined in such Dublin Venues as Whelans, Temple Bar Music Centre & The Isaac Butt regularly and have played in Vicar Street. In

Galway they play regularly in The Roisin Dubh.

In New York they have played at the Bitter End which has been host to Bob Dylan, Neill Young and many more, they have also played in Arlene's Grocery which is run by the previous owner of Sin-e.

Lucas have supported The Frames, Aslan, Stand, Gramophone and Pugwash amongst others.

Lucas emerged as winners of the Hotpress ignition band competition and recorded with the fanning sessions for nighttime 2FM.

After receiving critical acclaim from Hotpress for their live performance, Lucas recorded their debut single "Little Devil" with the launch party being held at Temple Bar Music Centre.

They are currently working on releasing their album

REVIEWS

"Lucas' songs are melodic & meandering with enough unexpected twists to maintain interest, and an ultra confident singer boasting a voice like Vedders, but with the high notes. The band were very tight although risked alienating their audience by going through the motions with an air of "were just too good for this". Still, Lucas are extremely fucking good so perhaps the arrogance is justified".

- Fiona Reid (Hotpress Magazine)

"Vaguely reminiscent of per-

haps Red Hot Chilli Peppers or even Pearl Jam in places, IrishUnsigned went to see Lucas live at Mono, then at TBMC in Dublin before the release [of Little Devil] and they were certainly worth seeing. Unfortunately, like any CD, Single or EP, the live sound simply could not be captured on disc. However, this is still a single worth getting. 'Little Devil' is the better of the three tracks but the slower "Take a While" and "Vanished" (which includes producer Pete Holiday on Organs) are certainly worth more than one listen. Lead singer Alan Gray has a voice that will get him noticed. Their songs, live, will also get them noticed. Their CD, clean and well produced, may well get them airplay... nothing wrong with having a real California feel on radio - might just help the Summer along. Having astounded the hangers-on at the late-running (1.30 am finish!) HotPress Ignition showcase, at a recent TBMC gig - and winning it into the bargain, Lucas look good for a long stay in Irish music.- Deirdre (IrishUnsigned.com)



Oasis of the Zombies



Film Review by Cecil Clampus (not affiliated with campus security)

This fortnight on The Motion Picture Society's ban-list: Oasis of the Zombie. Rating: 7 thumbs up! (out of 7).

I'm not usually a fan of Zombie flicks, but this one demanded my attention. Nazi Zombies? A Middle Eastern setting? A Eurociné production? I couldn't resist...

So I put

the disc in, (yes - someone painstakingly transferred it to DVD) and the first thing that struck me was the authentic Arabian Soundtrack - played with a wah-wah organ. It actually distracted me from the fact that the whole film is dubbed (excellently, for a eurociné film) from the original...European.

Oasis of the Zombies is what you'd get if I made a film - it has everything I love. And I'm sure the second half is equally as good as the part I watched. Hold on - there's someone at the door, I'll finish the review in a sec. It's as good as done anyway.

This is Leonard Calloway writing

now. I've just killed Cecil Clampus with a jaggedy edged DVD from his Police Academy box set. I then proceeded to flush the set down his huge toilet. It was a vicious struggle but I came out on top, you'll all be relieved to hear. I felt I owed the students of UL a favour - Those films he reviews are pure crap and he keeps saying they're great! It's almost like some sort of joke, except I don't get it. And neither does anyone else. I was simply going to criticise him at first, but I've decided it would be better for all if I simply shut him up forever. In conclusion, I think Bridget Jones' Diary is a great film.

Postgraduate Page

Postgrad News

Post grad Christmas party and other upcoming events:

Just to remind you all that the post grad Christmas party will kick off in the PSA centre Thursday December 16th, @ 7pm. There will be live music from a six-piece reggae-funk band. I have heard some demo tapes and I can honestly say they are brilliant and that I know the night will be crazy. There will be a mulled wine and finger food reception all in the PSA centre for all post grads and mature students. There will be a tiny cover charge at the door with all proceeds collected going to Bóthar. So please come out have a laugh and show your support for such a worthy charity. (Most of you will know Bóthar as an Irish charity that helps some of the poorest people in the World by giving them the gift of a life saving animal. These animals

become a source of food an income. Bóthar gives a range of animals including Camels, Dairy Cows, Dairy Goats, Rabbits, Chicken, and Bees). It is going to be all very festive, should be a right laugh so if you are on campus please swing by. The band are wicked. More info on that will be available closer to the date.

In addition to that I wanted to wish the die-hard teams left in the post grad soccer tournament the very best for the final on Friday the 9th of December. Due to the success of the soccer tournament we will be organizing a pool tournament for semester two. I hope that as post grads will participate as possible.

Also I have had some requests from a few post grads interested in a poker evening, feed back on that would be greatly appreciated.

Post Grad Computer Labs

Dear Sorcha,

I know they say never post a letter on the day that it is written but I am furious so I am going to continue writing this email and forward it to you as soon as it is done, as its contents need to be aired. I have been sitting in the post grad computer room level 1, block A. This facility is supposed to be swipe card access only and yet people continue to knock at the door until someone eventually has to break from their work to answer it. It boils my blood as I find the constant knocking a real distraction; working on a thesis is hard enough without the continuous noise and disturbance. Furthermore, I would like to point out that the individuals knocking are obviously not post grads if they have to knock in order to enter so why do students continue to get up and answer the door.

This email is a plea to post grads inside the lab to stop answering the bloody door please as I find the whole affair irritating, distracting and down right inconsiderate to those of us trying to work. I know that I am not alone in this infuriating situation as I have seen numerous eyes roll upwards at every knock and the heavy sighs of, please pee off and stop your knocking.

Secondly Sorcha, I appeal to you as our rep to do something about the situation, for example have serious ID checks to stop those who are not entitled using the facility causing unfair waiting queues and noise or have a postgrad log on system only. Either way please do something.

Regards,

A seriously cheesed off post grads trying to write a thesis.

Post grad Charity Table Quiz:

On Thursday 25th of Wk nine over 70 post grads braved the miserable elements to come out and participated in a PSA multi media table quiz. The nights events kicked off at 9.30 pm with a full house of fifteen tables of masterminds. This was a quiz with a difference as all the questions were multimedia based - so there were more pictures and audio than a U2 video!

The event was wholly charitable with all proceeds (411euro) going to a very worthy organization, Dove House. Dove House was created to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities lead full, and happy lives. Each person connected with Dove House experiences a lifestyle with personal dignity and the opportunity to grow to the very limit of their capacity.

Thus, a big huge thank you to all the post grads that made it out to participate and to show your support. An additional "thank you" to USIT travel, the Arena Sports Bar and the PSA for sponsoring the prizes. Also, thanks to Tom and all the staff up in the Sports Bar who pulled a blinder, I would recommend the Sports Bar facility to any club or society. Finally, a big huge thank you to Derek O Keeffe and the three lads (I apologies profusely guys that I cannot mention you in person as I terrible with remembering names, but you know who you are), thank you so much for organizing such a fun quiz.

Sexual Health not a Priority in UL

Gillian McCarthy

Although the UL Health Centre provides many a wonderful service for its students, there are growing concerns among the female population on campus regarding the provision (or non-provision) of Smear tests or STI screening. The Smear test, or

Cervical smear, or Pap smear, is a screen-

ing test, which allows doctors to predict those women who are likely to develop cancer of the neck of the womb (carcinoma of the cervix) in time to prevent it developing.

Cancer of the neck of the womb is a common cancer affecting women. It causes significant deaths each year. The Department of Health recommends that women between the ages

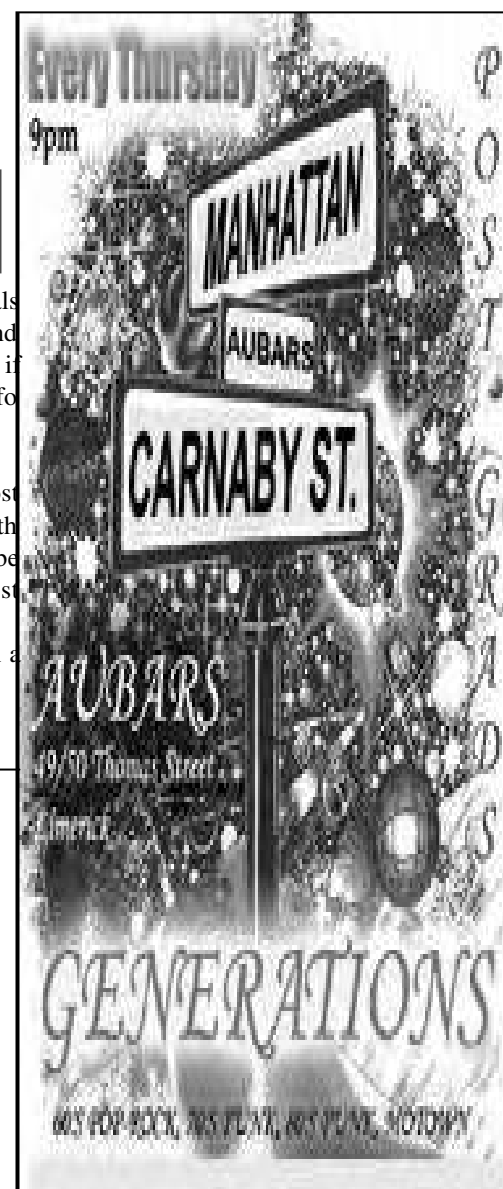
of 20- 64 have routine cervical smears every 3-5 years.

UCC, NUI and DCU, for example, all provide this service to their students, as well as providing STI (sexually transmitted infections) screens on-campus, at no charge. Here at UL, due to 'funding' issues the service can not be provided, although the staff at the Centre have the capacity to do so.

Smear tests were provided last year, and the funding came from the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, but the money hasn't come this year. It appears that the issue of the sexual health of its student population is not very high on the priority list for the University authorities, and is not included in the brief of the Health Centre. The Centre is regarded more as an 'Advisory' centre,

and has no full-time GP.

Young people today are increasingly concerned, and rightly so, about their sexual health and well-being. STIs are on the increase, as are cancers. The students at UL are as entitled to having these services provided to them as students attending other Universities around the country.



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UL Waterpolo Club

Firstly I will fill you in on the Table Quiz, which, as promised, was the most

mazing and fantastic table quiz. The club owe the success of the night to Sandra Byrne (Chairperson and Quizmaster), Sarah O'Reilly (Treasurer and Scorekeeper), Rob Lowth (Fundraising and Prize-finding Extraordinaire) and Colin Mc Namara (Our Music Maestro). Money

raised from the Table Quiz amounted to €520, so a big thank you to all who took part on the night! With another quiz planned for semester 2, we hope to see some new and old teams battle it out for the coveted title of "UL Waterpolo Quiz Champions!" A big THANK YOU to our generous sponsors: HMV, Tubes Surf Shop, The Sports Bar, O'Mahony's, Champion Sports, Empire Music, Gleeson's and UL Waterpolo Club

itself. We owe the turnout for the quiz to these sponsors and hope to have continued support from these enterprises in the future. Thanks to the tables that sponsored the "Concern 24 hour fasters" too! So far, the club has collected nearly €600 for Concern, again, a big thank you to Sarah and Sandra for getting everyone involved.

As regards the Waterpolo Leagues, congratulations to the Women's team who

picked up full points from the National Aquatics Centre on Sunday, 5th December and also took part in a "fun" game with St. Vincent's. Best of luck to the men's team who journey to Cork City to take on UCC, on Saturday 11th. As usual training is at 10pm Mondays, 9pm Wednesdays at the Arena, all new members welcome.

UL Labour Soc

UL Labour now has a working executive. We had a very successful discussion on Monday 29th November on the topic of Education & Disadvantage with Jan O'Sullivan TD and Labour spokesperson for Education. Attendance was good and Jan was very impressed with UL Labour and our efforts so far. A big issue was the Leaving Cert and the CAO points system with many

people urging Jan to change the system when Labour return to government! We are planning ahead for next semester with a number of ideas for events including a possible visit by Michael D. Higgins TD. We will also run a stall at the start of semester 2 to attract more members. It is important that we get as many as possible involved to secure the future of the Society.

We also plan to join in with national Labour

Youth campaigns including "Kill the Bill" which is a campaign to stop the Criminal Justice Bill. If you want more information on campaigns or want to get involved contact us at ullabour@hotmail.com and checkout the LY website www.labouryouth.ie/oncampus

Happy Christmas & New Year to everyone and see you in Semester 2!

UL Athletics (ULAC)

Fall at Final Hurdle

There was a changing of the guard this weekend as UL failed to win either Indoor Intervarsity Athletics trophy for the first time in almost a decade. It was UCD who shaded the men's competition by less than six points, relegating UL men to second place 87.5pts to 82pts. The women's competition saw a resplendent University of Ulster ladies team take the title by 20 points, with UL earning a very credible second place.

However despite the disappointment it was, in many ways, one of UL's greatest team performances of recent years. Of course the irony was not lost on the team that it was former UL stalwart Kevin Burke, so influential to UL Athletics

over the last five years that played a massive role in UCD sneaking the men's trophy. The ex-UL decathlete, doing a Masters in UCD and sporting their blue and gold in this Championship, picked up no fewer than 30 points. This individual total was more than all but three Universities could manage in total in the men's competition. Given a similar contribution to ULAC in previous years, it is a testament to ULAC's strength in depth that they maintained such a high points tally even after such a loss.

The in depth strength of both men's and women's teams was reflected in both relay teams taking the gold medal comfortably. The ladies performed consistently well across the sprints and jumps, also with some fine middle distance

performances. The men's team reflected these strengths but also showed a similar weakness in the throwing events, falling some 19 points behind UCD between the shot-putt and the weight-for-distance.

However, with the days soon to get longer and the far more appealing prospect of Dublin in the spring rather than Nenagh in December, ULAC face into the outdoor season now. The elite weights room is up and running so Tuesdays and Fridays, once again will have hassle-free lifting and bounds sessions. The brand-spanking new track is ready to receive plenty of collapsing; heaving bodies post-speed-endurance on Mondays and Saturdays. And, of course, Wednesday nights and circuits is still going ahead for toning and fitness. 6pm one and all,

UL Ladies Football

Congratulations to Angela Walsh, Aine Gilmore, and Valerie Mulcahy who were recently nominated for All Stars. The girls did their clubs, counties, and college proud at the All Star banquet, held in the Citywest in Dublin on 20th November. Congratulations especially to Valerie who won her first All Star, and Cork's first in a number of years. This is a great achievement for her, and one which is well deserved after a fantastic season.

Our freshers finally got to take part in the Fresher Blitz, held in LIT on Friday 3rd December. Eighteen freshers took part in the blitz, so there were two teams representing UL. UL(1) were placed in a group with Queens, St.

Mary's and Maynooth. They had absolutely no difficulty in this group, and had three easy victories, to set them up for a place in the cup semi-final against UCC. UL(2) were placed in a group with WIT, UCD(1), and NUIG(2). The girls fought hard, and after losing to WIT, regained themselves to beat UCD and NUIG. This meant that they were to face Mary I in the shield semi final.

Both teams represented themselves well, with UL(1) recording a victory over UCC, and booking a place in the final against UCC; and UL(2) just losing out on a place in the shield final, with a narrow defeat to Mary I. UL(1) faced their most difficult opponents yet, and with tiredness setting in, it seemed like a very difficult

task. However, after a close first half, the girls battled hard, and deservedly won the game with a thirteen point margin. UL(1):4-7, UCC: 2-0.

The girls would like to thank trainers Angela Walsh and Gillian Joyce {UL(1)}, and Rachel Nolan and Aileen O'Loughlin {UL(2)} who have been training the girls since the start of the year. Also thanks to John Collins, UL(1): Brid Stack (c), Aoife Hennessy, Paula Dunne, Michelle Glynn, Norita Kelly, Laura Walsh, Kacey O'Driscoll, Louise Brett, Noreen Fealy. UL(2): Aine Kinsella (c), Mary Grogan, Sorcha Furlong, Sinead Egan, Niamh Keane, Valerie Hourigan, Lorraine Whelan, Evelyn McAulliffe, Pamela Maher.

STUDENTS "DEEPLY CONCERNED" OVER CONTENTED HAPPY-GO-LUCKY HOUSEMATE

Valerie Gunning

Three students have voiced concerns over their apparently "completely secure and carefree" housemate. The student in question, Seán Healy, is showing signs of peacefulness, satisfaction and joy, a situation his friends find very worrying.

"Something is wrong, real wrong," announced housemate Michelle Keating. "Seán spends his whole week out of his room, taking about everything except his problems and using all his spare time constructively and healthily. I just wish he'd drown his sorrows in a violent and senseless drinking sesh once in a while."

"Anyone that happy needs help," declared fellow housemate Peter Doyle. "He came in the other night and spent an hour doing nothing but chatting and laughing with us. I was

glancing at Michelle the whole time and I could tell she was thinking the same thing I was: 'what do we do?'"

"We don't have a notion what to do," admitted fourth housemate, Aisling Sheehan. "I mean, sure we're concerned, sure we can recognise the symptoms, but how can you talk to someone like that? How do you even start to get through to them? It has to come from inside Seán. Once someone has decided to be that way then it's only them themselves that can get them out. We're going to be here for him as much as we can, but in the end it's him that has to take a dose of reality." The concerned housemates have pointed to regular sleeping patterns and high lecture attendance as evidence of Mr. Healy's condition. "It's like he's in a different world," observed Miss Sheehan, "I mean we have a

lot of work to do this semester. Anyone else would be stressed about it, but he's just taking it all in his stride. Someone like that, I mean you start to get the feeling he's beyond the help of medicine."

"It's just plain wrong," declared Miss Keating. "Nobody should be that happy, we all need a healthy amount of paranoia, stress, angst and incurable depression too." University authorities have warned students to be vigilant and take extra notice of the health and well being of their housemates and friends. "Spotting the symptoms early can be invaluable in treating the condition," advised a SU health spokesperson. "If you have any suspicions whatsoever that someone you know is happier than normal, tell someone straight away. It is a disease after all." "I'm grand," laughed Mr. Healy.

You are warmly invited to attend a series of simple...

Talks on The Bible

Based on the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ



These are being held in...

'The Village Hall'
Plassey Student Village

Castletroy
Each Sunday 7pm-8pm

Free & Everyone Welcome!

Contact 087-9458472

**UL Vikings
American Football**



On Sunday fortnight last, the UL Vikings AFC had our first outing against the Cork Admirals. Unfortunately, the result was not the one we were looking for. The match started well with the Vikings defense taking the field and Barry Carmody intercepting the ball on the first drive. This put our offence on the field, being cheered on by the newly formed cheerleading squad, however, Corks powerful defense stopped our boys reaching the end zone. Our defense took the field again and proved dominant as we intercepted the ball once again, this time rookie Bill Parkinson coming up with the pick. Our offence took up arms again but narrowly failed, this gave cork the ball and they soon scored on a run from the halfback. The next time

Cork took the field they scored again this time with a pass. This brought the game to half time with the score 14-0. The second half started well for our offence, driving the whole way down the field only to be stopped short. Our defense once again took the field and this time rookie Glen Carr intercepted the ball. Our offence were stopped on the ensuing drive and Cork managed to get into the end zone again with a short two yard run. The game finished 21-0 at the whistle. An encouraging

start to the long season ahead considering it was the first game for a lot of rookies. Special mention to Steve our QB, Eric and Glen on offence, and Liam Hayes, Padraig Coleman and Bill Parkinson on defense, who all gave good performances. Also thanks are extended to the cheerleaders who did a great job on the day, and all who turned up to show their support! Contact the Vikings on 087 9237910, or ul_vikings@hotmail.com



UL Young Fine Gael

Another full week on the Young Fine Gael calendar has now passed, and we are recharging the batteries for the run up to Christmas. Jimmy Deenihan, Fine Gael spokesman for the Arts, Sport and Tourism came to UL last week and gave a very interesting talk. At the moment UL YFG are eagerly planning the annual sleepout in aid of the homeless. This initiative, which has since

been adopted nationally by Young Fine Gael, originated in UL. Last year we raised 5,500 euro, and hope to raise a similar, if not greater amount this year. Last years chairman of UL YFG, Barry Walsh, has been made policy director of Young Fine Gael's new National Executive. We would like to congratulate Barry on this achievement, and wish him all the best in his new position. While we can enjoy a brief break at the moment, the momentum is building for the Christmas Party and the sleep-out. For

all existing members, keep an eye on your e-mail accounts for information regarding upcoming meetings, and in particular the sleep-out. The Munster Regional Council are holding a meeting on the 11th of December followed by the Tipperary Young Fine Gael Christmas Party in Hayes Hotel Thurles, all are welcome to attend. Anyone who is interested in participating in the sleep-out is of course more than welcome to attend, as always any new members are always welcome.

UL Archery Club

UL Archery Club continued their good form at the NUI Maynooth Intervarsity, with Anthony Ferguson and Juet Ming taking 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Beginners section, and Daniel Walsh

taking 3rd in the Advanced section. Not only did we have a strong showing in the individual competition, but we took 2nd in the team event as well, being narrowly beaten to first by a strong showing from DIT. The

results really show what is possible if you turn up to training - two member of the team Ming and Anthony only started shooting at the start of this semester, and they are already turning into strong archers.

UL Windsurfing Club

The last few weeks have seen an exciting development for the UL Windsurfing Club; weekly day trips to Rusheen Bay in Galway during the winter. To facilitate this, we have been able to rent container space from Rusheen Bay Windsurfing to store club gear in Rusheen. This eliminates the need to transport gear, so all you need to do is

travel. Rusheen Bay is a great windsurfing location. The bay itself a very sheltered saltwater inlet and is open to the sea through a very narrow opening at the eastern side of the bay. It is quite shallow so if you happen to fall in, you can often be up and going again very quickly. Also the water is generally quite flat, great if you are trying to perfect your technique. The day trips to

Rusheen have been going on since November. So far, there has been a great session on the water every week. It seems that everyone has some maneuver they want to perfect, be it carve gybe or waterstart, and between some tuition and having a great place to practice, these trips are a great chance to progress. There are always some fun maneuvers to try out.

UL Womens Rugby

U.L. Vs. ITT On a very wet and windy Thursday afternoon UL took to the field for the second match of the season against Tralee. Conditions were poor underfoot but both teams were resolved to make the best of a bad situation. A combination of cold hands and a slippery ball lead to errors throughout the game, but once again the class of the UL team overcame all obstacles. Fine tries from Deirdre O'Brien from both open play and a lineout gave UL the edge, and put ITT on the defensive. The dynamic running of scrumhalf Rachel Tucker from the base of the scrum gave UL plenty of forward momentum, and intelligent play

from all concerned lead to some great scores.

The final score was UL 76-ITT 0. With hindsight we can forgive a certain someone for dropping the ball on the try line with no defender in sight! Well done to all involved, see you at training on Wednesday.

International Update: Last Sunday the Irish Senior Women's team got their season underway with a game against a touring Japanese side. The combined provinces side (featuring UL's Deirdre O'Brien, Laura Guest and Emma Stanley) had played the Japanese the previous Wednesday, defeating them 29-5. The full international took place in Donnybrook, another first for women's rugby. This proved to be a good move for the Irish team as

they put in a great performance, running out winners on a score of 55-0. UL was well represented with no fewer than four current UL students (Sarah Jane Belton, Fiona Coghlan, Rachel Tucker and Emma Stanley) and another four former UL students lining out for Ireland. Many of these players only took up rugby when they started college, and we would like to recognise the effort put in by the players themselves and their coaches, to congratulate them on their success, and wish them all the best in the future.

UL Irish Peace

The Peace Society had a very busy couple of weeks. Last Thursday we had our first table quiz of the year in aid of Bothar. Bothar have been sending Irish and specialised livestock to communities all over the world for almost a decade now and we are proud to support them. Table 6, 'In the Lead' won by the closest of margins and generously donated their winnings to Bothar. We also ran a raffle to name the ani-

mal which we will eventually purchase from the money raised. Genny Brosnan won the honour and named the Peace Soc animal 'Moovis'. Well done to 'In the Lead' and Genny. We'd also like to thank The Sports Bar and USIT for helping with prizes. The Homework Club is running swimmingly and a very big thank you to all the volunteers, especially the MA in ELT class. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Marie at 9837825@student.ul.ie

Another archer of note is Lasse Ostermann, who also started shooting this semester - he qualified for Advanced at the last intervarsity, and managed to place himself in the middle of the Advanced table this time around - not bad for someone who hadn't picked up a bow before week 1 of this semester! In the individ-

ual league table, Ewan Oughton and Daniel Walsh of UL hold 1st and 2nd respectively, and UL holds second in the team league table. If all goes according to plan UL can repeat the glory of 2002 and take the individual league title and the team title in the same year. So, in conclusion, UL Archery is improving in leaps and

Thanks to the staff and volunteers who helped with our bag packing in Dunnes Stores, Sarsfield St., on Friday and Saturday which was also in aid of the Homework club for immigrant children. We'll be finishing the year with some fundraising outside of the Augustine Church and around town on December 17th - so if you see us, please give us your support by donating some money for a good cause.

bounds, bringing archers to very high levels - but we always welcome new archers; why not turn up to a training session and see what all the fuss is about? No previous experience required, and we provide all the gear. Training is on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-10pm, Old Sports Building.

UL Outdoor Pursuits Club

The Knockmealdowns Sunday of Week 9 saw the OPC going to the Knockmealdowns in Co. Tipperary. We left the Stables arch early and got down in no time. We had a 9km hike planned and made our arrangements to meet the bus driver at the finish. We set off with one of the leaders a little worse for wear and took it at a handy pace. It was a beautiful day and the views were spectacular. That is until we got to the top of peak number two and were battered with a freezing wind. Have you

ever tried to talk with a numb face? The results are quite amusing. Regardless of Mother Nature's best efforts to blow us off the hills, we trudged on and managed to summit six peaks before heading to the rendezvous point with the bus driver. It was a shame he had no sense of direction and had no idea where he was. He found it funny. Thirteen tired and cold hikers found it slightly less funny. So we headed on up the road to the nearest village, another 5km to meet the driver. Another fun OPC day out was had by all which was certainly better than watching Sunday afternoon television.



Just to warn you in due time, get the weekend of Week 12 off work because the OPC's legendary Christmas trip is on

Motion Picture Soc

The Motion Picture Society will not be showing any more films this semester. We'll be in touch at the beginning of next semester.

Meanwhile, all the best with your exams! mopic@skynet.ie www.skynet.ie/~mopic (coming soon)

UL Rowing

Christmas come but once a year and with it the Annual UL Rowing Club dinner. This year it took place at the fine water front restaurant Milanos on a Saturday night. At the end of the meal Captain Cian Egan gave a

speech on the success of the club this year and we toasted to success in the new year. At this point on behalf of all involved on the UL Rowing club committee, I would like to wish all our members, supporters and sponsors a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

UL Life Society

Thursday (Week 9) the UL Life Soc had its inaugural talk entitled "Respecting both mother and child: compassionate approaches to crisis pregnancy". Eilis Mulrou was the guest speaker and made all the way down from Galway. Eilis addressed the topic by explaining why it is so important for university students to get involved in this issue and she also pointed out that abortion is not only an issue for women. She then moved on to suggest positive and compassionate approaches to crisis pregnancies. For example, she emphasised the importance of providing family and social support to pregnant women in crisis, as they often feel they are on their own. Eilis also proposed practical initiatives to support them, such as ensuring that the crèche in colleges is more available and affordable; collaboration with the student counsellors and the

welfare officer, for example, providing them with extensive information on all options available to them. Eilis concluded by saying that, although a pregnant woman may have decided to have an abortion, it is always advisable to get counselling beforehand on the positive options available, as women sometimes have tremendous regrets after an abortion. Often, she said, by just hearing the heart-beating sound of the foetus in their womb, during counselling, some women completely change their mind and they decide to have their child. The attendees to the meeting asked her lots of questions afterwards. Most of them registered in the Life Soc, but we still need many more members to be officially recognised as a UL society. Therefore, if you think you would like to register, just drop us an email at Rafael.Guzmán@ul.ie

UL Soccer Club

Colleges League Report

Colaiste Stiofain Naofa 1 UL 0

UL's bid to become CFAI premier league champions effectively ended in Cork two weeks ago when they were beaten by a Colaiste Stiofain Naofa side that have now sealed a three in a row in this competition. CSN are the Cork City Academy side who have a 100% record in this league and are yet to concede a goal. Their players are full time footballers that study for their coaching badges in

the morning and train in the afternoons. However it took an outstanding Ray Lally free kick from just outside the box to separate the sides. Considering that this Cork team had essentially given UL the run around at the start of the season when strolling to a 4-0 win in the Eircom U21 league, the fact that this game was tight throughout shows that UL have made real progress in the last few weeks. This augurs well for the cup competitions that are to come after Christmas. Chances were at a premium throughout a game where the tackling was tough and

space was always hard to come by. UL's best chance came mid way through the second half when it looked like Tom Cooper would capitalise on a goalkeeping mistake but Cork centre half Shane Guthrie, who was immense throughout made a tremendous last ditch tackle to prevent an equaliser. Best for UL on the day were Paul Danaher who on his senior debut for the college got through an amount of work, centre halves Liam O'Flynn and Joe Normoyle were also in commanding form. For more details on upcoming fixtures, results and tables in the CFAI league check out Aertel P.232 or

log onto <http://www.cfai.ie/leagues.html>. For more information on training times and game reports the new UL website is now up and running. Check out www.ulsoccer.com for more details.

UL 4-4-2 Spicer, Allen, O'Flynn, Normoyle, Danaher, Murphy, Enright, Fitzsimons, O'Reilly, Cooper, Holland. Subs Finucane, MacMillan, Byrd, Along, Doyle, Tuohy

Ogra Sinn Fein

The society has taken off well this semester with new members joining every week. A recent poll and

questionnaire undertaken by the cumann has shown a broad base of support for Sinn Fein in UL, so if you are one of those people

interested then come along to the meetings every Thursday night at six o'clock, meeting up outside the C-0 corridor, opposite

the library. All new members welcome.

Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP)

Hi all, Our AGM was held on Tuesday Week 10 where a full committee election took place. Frank Fogarty was elected President with Claire Shanahan becoming his partner in crime as Vice-President. The new ministers are as follows: Cliona O'Brien (Secretary), Christopher Comiskey (Treasurer), Cara O'Riordan (Homework Club), Helen Feeney (Swimming), Sarah Tyther (Soup Run) and Catriona McGrattan (Fundraising) with Ciara

Buckley (Prison Visits) re-elected. To help make the transfer as smooth as possible, the old committee will sit in on meetings between now and Christmas. We still have openings for PRO and Minister for Paired Reading. If you are already a volunteer and would like to help run the society, please talk to anyone on the committee. On behalf of the old committee I would like to welcome the new committee members to their posts and wish them the very best of luck. We are confident that they will do a great job running the society and building on our success

to date. A new homework club has started on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4-6 in the Students' Union. Our annual Carol Singing is on Thursday of Wk12 at 5pm in the Crescent Shopping Centre. All are welcome - no talent required! This event will help to fund our activities for next semester. Anyone interested in any of these activities please email us - svp_ul@hotmail.com The SVP Christmas party will take place Wednesday of Wk12 - we want to see ALL members there as fun is guaranteed! Also watch out

for the new and improved SVP website which will be launched before Christmas. Niall, the outgoing Vice President, has promised a really interesting site that will cover ALL aspects of the society. Finally, SVP would like to take this opportunity to wish all its members, sponsors and supporters a very happy, holy and safe Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year refreshed and ready for what is promising to be fun and an eventful second semester.

UL Photo Soc

It's been a busy few weeks for the photo soc. Last week's trip to the Burren was a great success with members even taking some photos along the way.

We've also been taking lots of photos for our charity calendar and putting the finishing touches to it in time for its launch on Monday 13th December in the Stables. There'll be a few surprises and plenty of freebies, all in aid of the very deserving Irish Guide Dogs.

Tying in with the purchase of the society's first digital camera, a digital photography course was held in the Training Room in the Library on Wednesday 1st December. These courses are open to everyone, so let us know if you're interested.

Remember to contact us if you need evidence of any club or society event. <http://photosoc.csn.ul.ie> photo@skynet.ie

UL Badminton

website on:
www.badminton@csn.ul.ie

A great weekend was had by all at this year's interclub tournament in Gormanston, Co.Meath. 27 members of the UL squad took part in the competition and the club put forward three teams. Despite an early start Saturday morning (6am) and a late night Saturday night, each of the teams performed well over the weekend. The Division 2 team got second place, as did the Division 5 team and the Division 6 team finished fourth. Overall, it was an enjoyable and memorable weekend. To check out photos of the weekend and to view some video clips of matches, check out the club's

LEAGUE UPDATE

On November 29th, the UL grade six team continued their impressive league form with a 7-0 victory over Effin in the Arena, making it two victories out of two for the division six team. The match started with Dave Ronan winning his singles match in straight sets. Claire Concannon followed suit with an impressive 2-0 victory in the ladies singles. Ray Egan and James English, notched up our third point of the night with a victory in the men's doubles. Cairtriona Ennis and Mary Carmody, continued on from last week with

another dominating performance in the ladies doubles with a straight sets victory.

UL went into the mixed leading 4-0. Rachel Dolan, making her league debut for UL, and James English scored a victory in their mixed doubles match. Claire Concannon and Ray Egan had a straight sets victory in their match and Mary Carmody and Dave Ronan finished off the night in style to win their match, also in straight sets. Thanks to Effin for a sporting match and thanks to all the team for playing so well after such a long weekend in Gormanstown.

Computer Society

Any member of the society who has logged onto their Skynet account recently will have seen that workshops are about to start. Anyone interested in either learning or teaching (indoctrination would also be acceptable) should email workshop@skynet.ie with details of their chosen subject. Something which deserves more attention than it's getting at the moment, is UNIX

system administration. The admin team plan on rebuilding a large part of the Skynet infrastructure soon, and this would be a good time for new people who are interested to get involved and learn the ropes. If there are any other topics that people are interested in or projects they would like to attempt (e.g. web, simple game, or chat servers), get in touch and we should be able to accommodate you.

UL Debating Union

As the Debating Unions events draw to a close at the end of the first semester, lets take a look back on what happened in the past few weeks. The Abandon Your Principles event took place in the Scholars Bar in Week 9. This was a bit of a laugh which primarily took place to raise money in aid of Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children. We'd like to thank everyone who took part and helped out, including the Scholars for the loan of the stage. We held a "friendly" debate with LIT in Wk 10. The motion of the debate being, This House would legalise Prostitution. Four of our brave debaters made their way to Moylish and

argued passionately and (sometimes graphically) against the argument. Needless to say our four brave men found it difficult to argue wholeheartedly for this particular position and the all female LIT team scraped the victory. We have invited them back for a rematch in February. Also, a few competitions are underway. Congratulations to all those who competed in the first round of the Irish Times competition in Kings Inn and UCC last week. We would also like to say fair play to the UL teams who took part in the UCC Philosoph Intersociety competition last weekend. We're sure a fun time was had by all!

UL Drama Society

As usual, things are all go for the Drama Society. The cast for a new exciting play 'Fallen Angel' have just been recruited, auditions were held on Wednesday 1st of December. Also, that night the Drama Soc's night out kicked off in the Stables with a live band "Battery" and was a great night for all those drama kings and queens! However, the main topic on everyone's lips this

fortnight is the musical, Godspell. Auditions were successfully held last Wednesday fortnight and were held again this Thursday just gone for those budding John Travoltas and Olivia Newton Johns out there! Rehearsals for the musical hope to be underway before Christmas under the capable and experienced direction of Mary I's Therese Maher. This promises to be a fun and exciting show, well worth getting involved in.

UL Softball

It was that time of year to hold a fundraiser for the Softball Club and this time we decided to host a 45 drive on the 18th of November in the Scholar's function room. The majority of people were new to the game, so we decided to hold a quick learning session an

hour before the drive took place to teach people the game. This proved successful, as the newly taught card players appeared to do the best in the competition. The drive ended up in a tie and a tie-breaker was held between four contestants one of whom was Aisling Kelly who had just been intro-

UL Hockey

UL Hockey is hanging in there, thanks to Buy and Sell who have come to our rescue which has enabled us to pay our MLHU affiliation fees. On the hockey front UL Seniors played a great game against Harlequins and held them to a draw up to the final whistle when they were awarded a short corner. The short corner broke down and they were awarded another one which resulted in them getting a penalty stroke which they converted leaving a result of 1 nil.

Last week end they played UCC in the Div1/Div2 Combined Cup and again they gave a very good display winning four 4-0. Karen Kelly, Elaine Hall got a goal each and Eimear Cregan got two. Eimear and our keeper Alison Lappin are representing UL at the Senior InterPros in Dublin next weekend and we wish them well.

Our Juniors have had a one all draw with Bandon and a 2-0 win over Belvedere last week end while our Minors crashed to Cobh in Middleton College last weekend on a score of 3-1. On another note, the hockey club is delighted to see some movement on the ASTRO pitch.

UL Hurling

As the semester nearly finishes UL Hurling want to give a reminder to everyone that our massive raffle is on Thursday night Week 12 in the Stables and many prizes are on offer. On the night one of the leading figures in the club will do the FULL MONTY to raise much needed funds. So if you want to see the Ardrahan Giant in his birthday suit be sure to come and join in the fun! Unfortunately, both the seniors and intermediates are out of the latter league stages while both freshers' teams are in contention in their respective competitions.

UL Celtic Supporters Club

There seems to be a common misconception as to what the Celtic Supporters Club does. It is not as some people on campus seem to think, a glorified drinking club. The last year has seen the Club run many events for its 200+ members. In the second semester of last year members were taken away on many trips including 52 people travelling to Glasgow for the game against Hibernian, which our 'hooped' heroes won, as well as the game against Livingston, which Celtic won and to Larsson's farewell match, plus to many European games. We attended numerous provincial meetings of the Association of Irish Celtic Supporters Clubs, a body which our

club is affiliated to and represents over 100 Celtic supporters clubs throughout the 32 counties. We also had members attend the annual AICSC dinner in City West during the summer holidays, when a former Celtic player, John Collins, was a guest speaker at our table. Over the past five years this event has raised many thousands of euros for charities in both the north and south of Ireland.

So far this semester we have ran a trip to the Rangers games, Barcelona V Celtic game, the AC Milan and the Donetsk game where our supporters got to meet the Celtic players including captain Jackie McNamara. There was also a stadium tour done where we got shown all the memorabilia and trophy's 'the hoops' have

won down through the years. A few of our members also went to the first old firm derby of the year which we get tickets for courtesy of our season books. This year we are planning three main trips with possible smaller trips in between. If you are interested in joining our club or heading over to Glasgow please e-mail ulcsc@eircom.net or check our website which is <http://www.geocities.com/ulceltic/>.

So as you can see the Celtic supporters club is far from a glorified drinking club and plays an important part in the social life of many people while they are on campus here in UL. The future's bright, the future's green and white.

Hail! Hail!
UL Bhoys

UL Golf Club

The UL Golf Club will be in action again over the next few weeks in the Bus Eireann Irish College Golf League where we will meet the formidable Trinity College team. Having lost our first two games, coming up against two superb lineups in the form of Queens and NUI Galway, we really need to grab a victory in our last home match in the group held at the beautiful Dromoland Castle GC. Although the team has shown flashes of brilliance over the campaign, so far, it is very disappointing to have zero points out of two outings.

Dromoland Castle

will also be the venue in mid-March when we host the Irish Golf Intersocieties 2005. This is a fantastic honour and team places are up for grabs - so keep practising, playing and posting good scores. Much of the Intersocieties team from last year are still in UL so if you want to know just how great an experience this tournament just ask Gary Rainsford, Ted Vaughan (Captain 2004/5), Cian O'Brien, Craig Toomey or Adrian Feane.

Our range nights will continue every second Wednesday at 7pm in Limerick County GC (Ballyneety) Driving Range until the Christmas break.

For those who are interested - the next range night will be the 15th of December. We also hope to have a Christmas outing coupled with a night out before the end of the semester - we will keep you posted on this. We would like to thank some people for support during the semester so far: Dave Foley and the staff of Dromoland Castle GC, Oliver J. Ryan (team selector and tactician) and the Committee of Adrian Feane, Tom Kennedy, Cian O'Brien, Ted Vaughan, Gary Rainsford and Niall Gleeson who continue the work towards taking the club forward.

UL Sailing

UL Sailing Club have done exceptionally better at away events this year than ever before. UL's first team came second at the IUSA (Irish University Sailing Association) Southern championships, hosted by UCC in Schull, West Cork. Unfortunately, they were beaten by the Royal College of Surgeons in the finals of the gold fleet, which were a tense affair with both teams deserving to win. The celebrations/consolations made up for any conflicts that occurred on the water. The ITRA (Irish Team Racing Association) Munster Championships were run in Cosshaven, Co. Cork last weekend and went UL's way, coming home with a first and fourth tucked under their belts. In terms of beginner's sailing this year, ULSC have hosted two beginner's weekends in conjunction with ULAC excluding the beginning of term craziness of the Colleenmore (Island off Co.



Mayo) beginner's weekend. These weekends have gone very successfully with many beginners being certified by the Irish Sailing Association (ISA) with level 1 and level 2 sailing capabilities. ULSC will be hosting a powerboat course in con-

junction with ULAC in the near future. Thank you to all who participated in ULSC events this year and I hope the same support continues into the New Year. For details of any courses or events log on to: <http://sailing.skynet.ie>

UL Sub Aqua Club

Much to our expectations, this semester has yet again been a busy one for all involved in the UL Sub Aqua Club. Many new enthusiastic members quickly signed up for Scotsac membership in order to partake in the Sport Diver training course. Perhaps it can be said that the high level of membership uptake was a direct result of the try a dive in Wk five, which offered a unique chance to experience the joys of scuba first hand without the obligation of joining Scotsac.

Now, in Wk 12, training is well underway and people are finally getting those blank log books



filled up. Next semester will see the club returning to Kilkee with new members making their debut dives when the weather is more favourable. Also, next semester will see the highlight of the diving year for some members as they head to the Red Sea at Easter.

More information on this next semester.

In the meantime, we wish two of our more experience divers the best of luck as they brave the cold waters of the North Sea this weekend.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to everyone's return in January. Lets not forget -best of luck to all the undergrads in the exams.

Lectures and training continue as always each Thursday at 5pm in P1001. More information regarding the club and membership is available at <http://subaqua.csn.ul.ie>.



UL Kayak Club

UL Athletics Club

A trip to Wicklow and to kick off another semester of kayaking, the club will be going to Wales for a week just before semester 2 begins. You can sign up for both these trips at the pool sessions or by using the trip sign-up link on the website. <http://kayak.csn.ul.ie> Best of luck to all of you in the exams and enjoy the Christmas holidays. Watch this space for more reports on the epic adventures of ULKC next semester.

was left in us, we hopped on the bus. The plan for the day was for everyone to run the Upper Carragh. Mike took another group for the level three exams while the rest of us paddled on down the river. The fearless freshers showed how much they had improved running the second last rapid over and over again. The fun never stops: ULKC have yet to conquer both Wicklow and Wales. To round off the first semester we are going to spend the weekend of Week 12 river-

running in Wicklow and to kick off another semester of kayaking, the club will be going to Wales for a week just before semester 2 begins. You can sign up for both these trips at the pool sessions or by using the trip sign-up link on the website. <http://kayak.csn.ul.ie> Best of luck to all of you in the exams and enjoy the Christmas holidays. Watch this space for more reports on the epic adventures of ULKC next semester.



7'0" IN AID OF Limerick Animal Welfare & **7'0"**
6'6" Father Gerry Daly's Christmas Appeal **6'6"**
6'0"
5'6"

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