



THE OFFICIAL

No rules at Croke Park p20

STUDENTS' UNION

AN FOCAL

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE STUDENTS UNION

University of Limerick



Letters : residents hit back p10

Protesting students threatened with arrest



BY ALAN OWENS

TUESDAY and Wednesday of Week 7 saw some interesting developments in the campaign against car parking charges in the University. Gardai were called in response to a protest against the increase in car park charges, and several students were threatened with arrest by Security Officers.

As previously reported by An Focal, the University decided over the summer to raise the charge of parking from two to three euro. The University has confirmed that this price hike was brought about to help pay for spiralling costs on the extensions to the campus, and the building of the new river crossing.

For several weeks now meetings and protests have taken place in the University on the topic of car park fees. It was decided that a petition should be collected and presented to the University. This was done on Thursday Week 5 and some two and half thousand signatures were collected. Subsequently, a protest was held involving a significant number of students.

This week, in the face of no



SU President St. John Ó Donnabhain being questioned by gardai
Photo : Sinéad Hickey

action whatsoever from the University on the matter, ULSU president St. John O'Donnabhain and Alannah Turner, Campaigns and Services Officer decided to take the protest to a new level.

This protest took the form of preventing the barrier from coming down and allowing people to exit the car park without paying the charge. Security was called to the scene, and they in turn notified Buildings and Estates. This department then informed the Gardaí, who arrived and informed the protestors that they were in breach of the Public Order Act. The Gardaí also took the name and details of Mr. Ó Donnabháin.

Mr. Ó Donnabháin told An Focal that 'We have been driven into this action by the point-blank refusal of the University

to listen to our concerns or proposals.' He added that 'Despite last year's sabbatical officers protesting, and ourselves, and collecting 2,500 signatures in protest at this price increase, the University continues to turn a deaf ear.'

He assured An Focal 'that the protest would continue until such time as the University decides to take some notice.' In fact, this line of protest continued the following evening, led by Alannah Turner.

Again the protesting students impeded the barrier from closing and allowed several cars to leave the car park. Within fifteen minutes Security arrived at the scene and ordered those present to leave. The Gardaí were called but did not arrive. The students, who had outlined to Security that

they were holding a peaceful protest, were threatened with arrest if they persisted in their actions.

Following this, at the ULSU AGM, the Union President again outlined that protests of this nature would continue until the University listens to their proposals.

3 / 4 Irish People Know a Suicide Victim

DARRAGH BOURKE

A new survey issued last week by the Irish Association of Suicidology (IAS) has shown that three out of four people in Ireland know a suicide victim.

According to the first major piece of research into public attitudes towards suicide, almost three out of four people in the Republic know someone who has taken their own life. The figure in the north is lower standing at 59%. When asked if people who commit suicide are selfish over 50% of people strongly disagreed. The poll also showed that many people have a good understanding of suicide yet feel that people should not be allowed to take their own lives. However there is a general feeling that people should be allowed to commit suicide if suffering from a life threatening disease or illness, with the majority taking the view that these people should be allowed to die with dignity. Three out of four people are in support of the decriminalisation of suicide.

According to the survey, suicide figures have risen dramatically in Ireland. In 1976 there were 183 suicides whereas

in 2000 there were 486 suicides. This amount has almost tripled in the past 25 years. In 2000 109 of these suicides were by people within the 15-24-age bracket. An Focal spoke to Dan Neville, Fine Gael TD for Limerick West, who is the head of the I.A.S. He said 'This is a very worrying figure as it hints to huge problems in the younger age bracket'. He added that the main causes of suicide within this bracket are social isolation, drug abuse, high speed driving, unexpected anger and signs of depression.

According to Declan Aherne, UL's Head of Counselling, the best thing you can do if you know someone who is suicidal is encourage them to get help. 'People feel that the might say the wrong thing or something inappropriate regarding this issue'.

For many years people have believed that there is a higher rate of suicide amongst students. Sinéad Hickey,

Students' Union Welfare Officer says 'This is nothing more than a myth. It is actually the other way around. Non-students have a higher suicide rate. It is also false that there are higher rates of suicide at exam times.'

Ross proves popular, roysh?

DEIRDRE O' SHAUGHNESSY

A talk by Ross O' Carroll-Kelly author Paul Howard in the Jean Monnet theatre on Wednesday Week 6 drew a large crowd. Mr Howard is currently touring to publicise his new book, *Should Have Got Off At Sydney Parade*, which is the sixth book in the Ross O' Carroll-Kelly series.

Mr Howard read extensively from the book to a

200-strong audience, which was left almost hysterical by the end of the reading. He proceeded to take questions about himself, the books and modern Ireland from interested audience members. Mr Howard related tales of Dublin's rugby schools, such as that of the fifth year student who parked his brand new car in the teachers' car park and flaunted his platinum credit card in the teacher's face. Mr Howard was clearly a

hit among audience members, some of whom had never read the books but were captivated by the reading and the theme of the Ross series. One first year student told An Focal that, although he'd never read the books, he intended to go out and buy them all the next day.

Should Have Got Off at Sydney Parade will be featured in the upcoming edition of *Review*, with two signed copies to give away.

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EDITORIAL



BY DEIRDRE O' SHAUGHNESSY

HAVING been sick for much of Week 7, it's a wonder that I've even got anything to write about this week! However, the time at home, reliving my student days (an oh-so distant six months ago now) was of huge benefit to my knowledge of both current affairs and, of course, of the ubiquitous daytime TV.

Those of us working office hours (or something like them) tend to forget that there is a whole other world of audio-visual entertainment out there, catered to and watched by the elderly, the unemployed, small children and, of course, students. Students will watch anything. It

may be sad, but it is true.

Many's the time in my college life I sat comatose in front of the TV, watching something chosen by male housemates - a fishing documentary, the all-famous 'curling', or even a programme on Monster Trucks. Equally, I have also sat through every variety of makeover and home improvement show.

This, er, 'rich cultural knowledge' is as much a part of college life as lectures. In fact, for a large proportion of people it probably plays more of a part than the academics. It is the stuff of conversation over all those cups of tea, of whiling away those long hours in between lectures, and may sometimes even come in useful on the academic side of things (Sociology of Media anybody?)

As Jack Downey asked in a past edition of this newspaper, do modern students get an education or do we merely learn a trade? An education is designed to produce a rounded, thinking individual who questions assumptions and makes her own judgement on life. A trade... well, a trade is to put food on the table.

Love it or hate it, daytime TV is a part of college life and, watched with a questioning eye and a healthy dose of cynicism, can probably be just as useful as some of the modules you study in college. Just what the doctor ordered!

Quotes of the fortnight

- 'Because shut up, that's why!' *Niamh O' Donovan, 2nd year Law and Euro, displaying a keen knowledge of the legal system.*
- 'It doesn't matter if you can't hear it, as long as the quality's good.' *One attendee at the urlSU meeting in Week 6 seems to miss the point of the whole podcasting idea.*
- 'Finally something you agree with!' *Deirdre O' Shaughnessy, ULSU PPO, to representatives of Mary Immaculate College Students' Union at a meeting of LASU, the Limerick Association of Students' Unions.*
- 'Things are much more organised this year - I have a memory! She's called Niamh!' *Auditor of DebU Oisín Collins on his secretary.*
- 'Thank God - a girl!' *ULSU PPO Deirdre O' Shaughnessy praises the Lord for providing her with some female companionship at the urlSU meeting in Week 6.*
- 'A naked man is the last thing I want to see when I log onto the ULSU Forum!' *One student complains of the rising spam level on the ULSU forum.*
- 'We can call it ULSU' *St. John trying to take over the world again (well Irish Universities)! He's referring to the lack of attendance by other Universities at FUSU.*

IN THE UNION THIS FORTNIGHT:

- " Car parking 'barrier' protest
- " Meeting of the Limerick Association of Students' Unions
- " An Focal (dah dah)
- " AGM
- " Cancellation of Forum of University Students' Unions
- " Photos chosen for LASU calendar
- " Ross O' Carroll-Kelly visit
- " Planning for Grants & Fees campaign
- " Anti-Racism in the Workplace Week
- " Meeting with the Medical Centre on morning-after pill issue

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From this edition onwards this list will only contain reporters who are classed as 'staff', that is, regular contributors. Other contributors will be credited within their articles.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Science Week 2006

UL presents

Superstrings

Musical Science Lecture

Wednesday 15th Nov

@ 2pm Jean Monnet - UL

Recital

@ 8pm Daghda Dance Space,
John's Square, Limerick

Booking advised

Enquiries: Tel 061 202642

Email Maeve.Gleeson@ul.ie

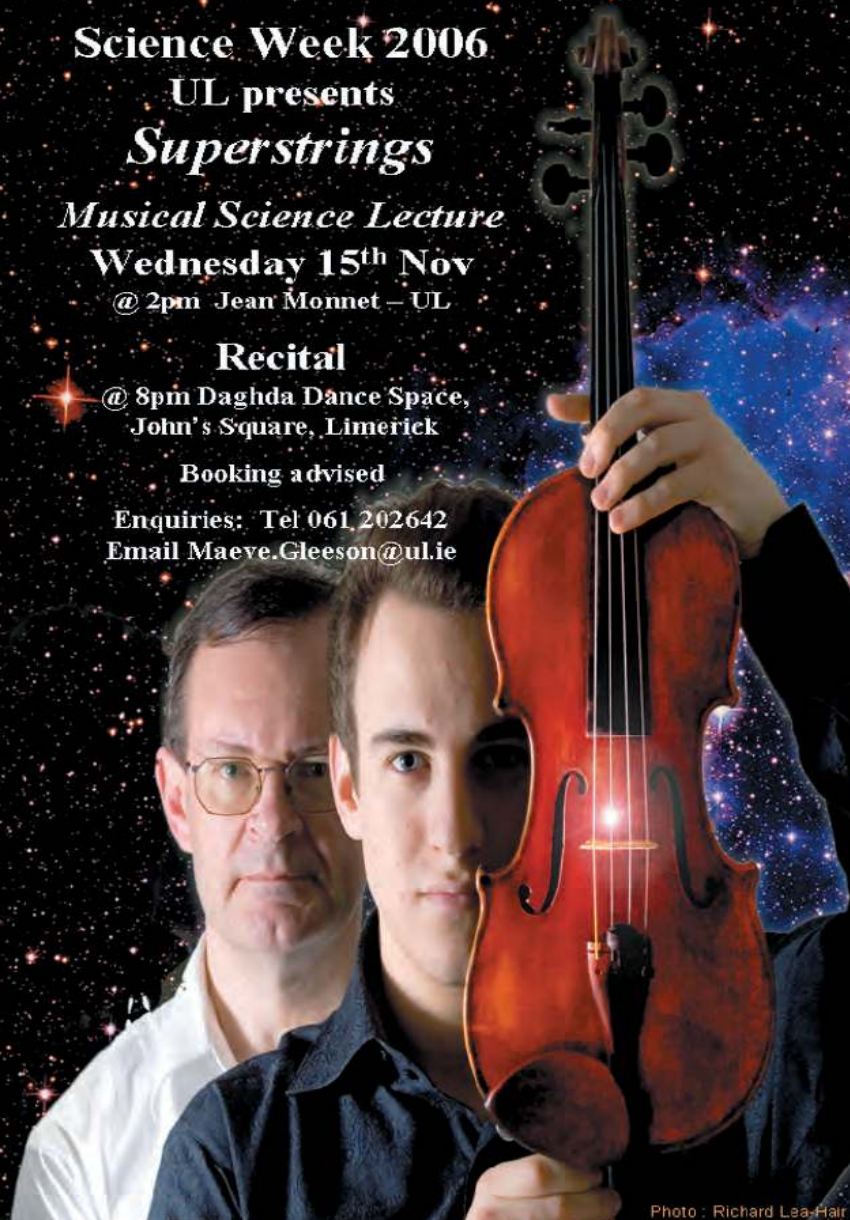


Photo: Richard Lea-Hair

Car Park Security Fears



BY ALAN OWENS

AS reported in the last edition of An Focal, there has been an increasing problem regarding the security of cars parked on the University campus. The problem has recently centred in the pay car park, with a spate of robberies and break-ins in recent weeks.

Several laptop computers were stolen from one car, and this incident was followed by eight cars being broken into in the pay car park. Gardai interviewed at the scene expressed concern at the lack of CCTV cameras in the car park. Concern was also expressed at the relatively

easy access allowed from the bottom corner of the car park, where there was a considerable gap in the fencing. Indeed all eight of the cars broken into on the day in question were parked in the vicinity of this gap in the fencing.

The cars in question all had a side window smashed in. Fortunately little of value was stolen from the cars in question. The Gardai believe that the criminals were after 'quick cash' and were more interested in handbags or wallets than car stereos or other valuable items. One UL student recovered her wallet after Gardai inspected the gap in the fence that had allowed access to the car park.

John McDonnell is the security operations manager for the University, and An Focal spoke with him to ascertain the situation since this spate of break-ins.

He assured An Focal that the gap in the fencing identified by Gardai as a major security risk had been

closed off, removing that access. Extra patrols have been put in place to monitor the situation, and as a result, the last few weeks has seen no further incidents take place in the pay car park. However, four minor incidents have taken place in other campus car parks since.

Mr McDonnell outlines 'We have a 24-hour security presence here in the University, and as a result of the recent break-ins have heightened our security patrols.' He acknowledges that it is difficult to securely monitor the whole campus area. 'We have closed off the access to the car park, but have not, and do not wish to fence in the whole campus. We prefer to keep the campus an open one, and monitor it sufficiently' he said.

He urges student, staff and visitors alike to be vigilant. 'With the volume of cars we have and students, it is extremely important for students to be extra cautious, not to leave valuables in their



Angry students present car parking petition to university authorities
Photo: Gráinne Crowley

cars, and to report anything suspicious immediately' he said.

What is really essential to this monitoring process is a CCTV system. Mr McDonnell hopes that this will be implemented 'on a phased basis before the end of the year'. 'It is at a tendering stage at the moment, but once implemented we will have a

dedicated control room to monitor the car parks 24 hours a day, recording all images digitally, not in a big brother type way, but one that will leave people secure in parking their cars on campus' he said.

Mr McDonnell and the Gardai believe this monitoring system is essential because known criminal elements are aware that at present there is

no CCTV system. 'Once this is implemented, the criminal community will know its here and that will have a positive knock-on effect' said Mr McDonnell.

In the meantime signs recently erected in the pay car park advise users that their cars are parked at their own risk.

Students' Union campaigns for students' rights

ALANNAH TURNER

THE last two weeks have seen the Students' Union campaign on a number of current issues affecting the student body. The union took action against the 100% increase in the car parking charge. A large group of students gathered outside the union building on Thursday of week 5. They then proceeded to march to the front of Plassey house and present a petition of 2500 signatures strong. The University authorities failed to respond to the petition. The union took further action last week when it campaigned at the

entrance to the pay car park. It allowed drivers to exit the car park free of charge, thus reducing the University's income.

As well as campaigning against the increased cost in car parking the union also took steps this week to lobby government authorities to increase the grant and reduce the registration fee. Over the past 11 years the registration fee has increased 321%. The current €865 UL fee means students are paying over €3200 for a four year degree. The government registration fee stands at €800 with the extra €65 being added on as levies by the University. This year

saw the first year in which some University's fees topped €1000 noticeably in UCD.

The union does not believe the government is keeping its promise of free education but is introducing fees by the back door. Students' Union President, St. John Ó Donnabháin, is outraged at the steady increase and is calling on the government to take action. 'We demand that the government puts its money where its mouth is, and funds education fully and properly into the future, for the good of all the people of Ireland'.

The Limerick Association of Students' Unions (LASU) joined

forces to show students' anger at the increasing financial demands facing students attending college. LASU is informing all of its students about the rise in registration fees.

On Tuesday Week 8 the association plans to march to Limerick City hall to voice its members concerns about this steady increase in fees. It has contacted a number of local politicians who have given their support to the campaign. The Unions of Students in Ireland (USI) have also voiced their support of the campaign and have promised to send representatives to the march.

Unions to launch charity calendar

AN FOCAL REPORTER

THE Limerick Association of Students' Unions, which includes UL, LIT, Mary Immaculate College and Limerick School of Art and Design, is to launch a calendar in aid of the Limerick branch of the Red Ribbon project.

Photos have been submitted by students of each college for the project, while the calendar itself is being designed by final year Graphic Design students from LSAD. The calendar will be launched in the final week of November in the Trinity Rooms.

The project is being spearheaded by ULSU Publications and Publicity Officer Deirdre O'Shaughnessy, who believes

that the proportion of students in Limerick often goes unnoticed: 'It's a fact that Limerick is, proportionately, the largest student city in Ireland. Students' reputations throughout the city are not always what they should be and this calendar aims to show that students contribute a lot to Limerick life - giving the proceeds to the Red Ribbon project is just one example of the contribution college students can make to their adopted city.' The calendar's theme is 'Limerick - Ireland's largest student city'.

The calendar will be on sale in retail outlets throughout the city and is aimed at the city's residents, as well as students. It will be priced at €5 a copy, and the launch will be open to the public.

Saving the Leaning Tower



BY DEIRDRE O' SHAUGHNESSY

PROFESSOR John Burland, who famously rescued the Leaning Tower of Pisa from destruction, visited UL on Monday Week 7 to speak to staff and students about his endeavours to save the famous landmark. 'It really was like riding a bicycle by fax,' said Professor John Burland, who carried out the work over the phone from his base in

Imperial College, London. The event, organised by the College of Engineering, was well attended by an interested crowd.

According to Professor Burland, the tilting tower, which was originally constructed in stages between 1173 and 1350, has been tilting further to the south at the rate of roughly 1 millimetre per year. Computer models calculated that once it reached a tilt of 5.44 degrees the tower would topple, but it was still standing in 1990 with the tilt at 5.5 degrees. By this time the bell tower at the top was hanging a mere 4.5 metres above the ground!

Professor Burland, a wonderful orator, described how the tower

was moved back by 45 centimetres and now hangs steady, at least for the next 200 years!

Professor Burland has also been responsible for the design of many large ground engineering projects such as the underground car park at the Palace of Westminster and the foundations of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. He was London Underground's expert witness for the Parliamentary Select Committees on the Jubilee Line Extension and has advised on many geotechnical aspects of that project, including ensuring the stability of the Big Ben Clock Tower.

Enviro Soc joins 'Shell to Sea'

DEIRDRE O' SHAUGHNESSY

MEMBERS of the UL Environmental Society showed their solidarity with the people of Co Mayo in Week 5 by holding a protest at the Shell petrol station on the Tipperary Road.

Several dedicated members of the society, including SU President St. John Ó Donnabháin, spent several hours picketing the station despite the wet weather on Wednesday of Week 5. According to Mr Ó Donnabháin, the reception from the outlet's management was positive and there was no conflict.

Members of the society have previously travelled to Rosport where they joined local and national campaign teams to show their objec-

tions to Shell's plans to run a gas pipeline through the area. According to one protestor, the prevailing atmosphere in Rosport is one of tension, with neighbours and families divided on the issue. Some local residents are being employed by Shell on the building site, which has led to conflict. Reports of garda brutality at the protest are as yet unfounded.

The Shell pipeline has passed planning laws and been approved at every level up to Ministerial. However, protestors are holding out hopes that the plan will be amended if local objections are sufficiently strong.

Former ULSU President



Members of the UL Environmental Society at the Shell station on the Tipperary Road on Wednesday Week 5
Photo: St John Ó Donnabháin

Eoin O Broin is heavily involved in the Shell to Sea campaign, and has even shaved off his famous dreadlocks to gather sponsorship for the campaign.

AONTAS NA MAC LEINN
ULSU
Ollscoil Limerick

CALLING ALL SCIENCE STUDENTS!!

DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COLLEGE DAY?

DO YOU WANT TO REPRESENT YOUR YEAR IN THE HUMAN TABLE FOOTBALL COMPETITION?

DO YOU WANT TO TAKE PART IN THE WACKY 'BEAUTY' CONTEST?'

TALK TO YOUR CLASS REP TODAY!

ULSUENTS

ULSUENTS

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UL Fianna Fáil at 70ú Ard-Fheis



BY DEREK DALY

MEMBERS of UL Ógra Fianna Fáil attended the Party's 70ú Ard-Fheis at the Citywest Hotel, Saggart, on the 4th of November. It was a fervently anticipated event, with delegates interested in hearing from the senior members of the cabinet as well as other parliamentary party members and election candidates. The members of

UL's Con Colbert Cumann saw little of each other for most of the evening while getting to know many Fianna Fáil members from as far away as Belfast, Waterford, Donegal and Dún Laoghaire.

The event was attended by Irish ambassadors from 33 countries as well as the Taoiseach's son-in-law Nicky Byrne with his stunning wife Georgina Ahern. The Celtic Tenors provided excellent pre-speech entertainment with renditions of "Star of the County Down" and the classic "You Raise Me Up", as well as many more. More than 5,000 members of Fianna Fáil flocked from far and wide to attend this Ard-Fheis marking 80 years of Fianna Fáil.

Members of the cumann

discussed canvassing strategies with John Dennehy TD from Cork, GAA with Enterprise, Trade and Employment Minister Micheál Martin (which got quite heated) and a few members again impressed upon Education Minister, Mary Hanafin, the importance of the addition of a medical school to UL. The discussion went on until mid-morning with some members not making it to bed until after light on the cold November Sunday morning.

According to a speech made by Education Minister Mary Hanafin "What we need is a continuation of the Bertie era. For we all know exactly what the era of Enda would be like; the End-a the boom; the

End-a the peace process; the End-a low taxes, the End-a the road... Our focus will be on the future. We will continue to work with the Irish people, to listen to their needs, address their concerns and build a stronger, fairer Ireland."

Meetings are held every Monday at 6pm in the Students' Union. Next Monday there will be a debate with Denis O Donovan and others on the issues concerning the recently called referendum.

Derek Daly is a member of Ógra Fianna Fáil's UL Con Colbert Cumann.

urlSU to begin recording in Week 8

AN FOCAL REPORTER

A meeting of urlSU, the ULSU podcasting initiative, took place in An Phluis on Thursday of Week 6. The meeting, jointly chaired by ULSU Publications and Publicity Officer Deirdre O' Shaughnessy and urlSU Chair David O' Mahony, was attended by a small, but enthusiastic group which included representatives from the Debating Union and the Students' Union as well as staff members.

The meeting was held in order to attract interested parties to begin recording shows to be posted on the website, www.urlsu.net. This site will be linked to the ULSU website (www.ulsu.ul.ie), where there is already a forum set up to

discuss the project. The University IT Department has agreed to allow the committee to begin recording in its studio in the library until a more permanent solution can be found.

Suggested podcasts included news and sport as well as the usual music shows, which will showcase the best UL and indeed Limerick has to offer. For the time being only original, copyright-free music can be played, as the group have not yet acquired an online on-demand music licence from IMRO.

If you are interested in contributing to the podcasting initiative in any way, contact the urlSU committee by emailing urlsu12@gmail.com. See www.urlsu.net or www.ulsu.ul.ie for further information.

Sociology Dept Addresses Obesity and Depression

AN FOCAL REPORTER

THE Sociology Department at the University of Limerick is continuing to highlight the obesity debate with a research seminar concentrating on weight-related issues. This was followed by another, separate seminar on depression. The seminars brought together experts on these prominent social issues to discuss and debate ways of engaging discussion on the controversial issue of weight and obesity and of depression and questioned the science used in creating these perceptions.

Dr Lee Monaghan, Department of Sociology, UL, last week led the first seminar in the series entitled 'The Obesity Discourse and Physical Activity - Critical Understanding from a Qualitative Study of Men and Weight-Related Issues.'

'This seminar does not

claim physical activity is unimportant, though it does raise questions about its role as a medicine for the so-called 'disease' known as obesity. The anti-fat campaign is largely taken-for-granted, with obesity scientists, government and various organisations extolling the virtues of physical activity to burn calories, fight fat and get fit. Drawing from critical obesity studies and interviews with ordinary men, this seminar casts a different light on this issue. Contrary to the conventional view, critical contributors to the obesity debate have recently argued that the science behind the war on fat is highly uncertain and founded upon problematic assumptions about what actually determines health; hence, when ordinary people express scepticism about using physical activity to lose weight they should not necessarily be seen to be in need of correction' claimed Dr Monaghan.

The second Seminar focussed on depression and how the new spirit of capitalism in society is contributing to a contemporary proliferation of

this condition. This seminar was led by Anders Petersen, Visiting Researcher, UCC and took place in UL on November 8th.

Where is God?

Talk in C1-058

Wednesday 29th Nov (Week 10)

UL Christian Union
(Mondays 8PM Contemplative Centre)

www.skynet.ie/~cu cu@skynet.ie

ULSU ENTS

CALLING ALL I&E STUDENTS!!

DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COLLEGE DAY?

DO YOU WANT TO REPRESENT YOUR YEAR IN THE HUMAN TABLE FOOTBALL COMPETITION?

DO YOU WANT TO TAKE PART IN THE SOUNDEST STUDENT COMPETITION?

TALK TO YOUR CLASS REP TODAY!

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Offer up your life

CONAL WATTERSON

ON the first weekend of November, UL Christian Union members visited Kilkenny for an event called Irish Conference (ICON). This is an annual event where Christian students from all over the whole island of Ireland meet together for a national conference. The proceedings include main sessions with a main speaker as well as a band for praise and worship. This year's main speaker was Nigel Pollock, a preacher from Scotland, now living in New Zealand. As part of ICON there are seminars on various topics. This year's included "faith in a changing world" (science and religion, post-modernism, the rise of Islam) which this writer attended.

The theme for ICON 2006 was "offer up your life". This challenging theme focussed on one of the central points of Christianity, giving over one's life to Christ; that is, living for God. Nigel Pollock explored the implications of this, such as there being no place for the perhaps all-too-common splitting of a Christian's time; separating everyday life and "God time". The challenge set down by the speaker was that even if one is doing a mundane menial job (or just being a student!), one should have the right attitude. Whether Christian or not, there are plenty of occasions where one has to do work, plain and simple, where it is contrived to suggest that it is part of a higher purpose. The call is clear from scripture though, in such cases we should do our job well, and as an end in itself, not nec-

essarily a means to a holy end.

A talk on "Science and the Bible" was hosted by UL Christian Union in mid-October. Dr Peter Childs, a senior lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry here at UL, argued that there is no inherent conflict between the natural world and the Bible; rather sometimes between science and theology. This talk also looked at the strong role Christian thinking had in the origins of modern science (some of the most influential scientists have been, and are today, Christian). The first session of the "faith in a changing world" seminar very much followed on from this talk at UL. Dr Andrew Bowie, a senior lecturer in the School of Biochemistry and Immunology in Trinity College Dublin spoke for this session. Briefly presenting such a theme as a background to the session, he looked at the specific issue of the interpretation of Genesis 1-3 (Creation), and the well-known stance of some Christians on the issue of evolution. Dr Bowie also examined where the Theory of Evolution sits in the scientific viewpoint, and what emphasis Christian scientists place on it.

Christian Union meet Monday nights at 8PM in the Contemplative Centre. Our next mid-week talk, the topic "Where is God", will be on Wednesday 29th November in C1-058 at 8PM. This will examine how God can be in this world in the midst of such tremendous human suffering and evil, which is ongoing every day.

90% want easy access to morning-after pill

TRACY LYNCH

THE recent publication of the Irish Study of Sexual Health and Relationships has found that 90 percent of people surveyed believe that the emergency contraceptive pill (ECP) or 'morning after' pill, Levonelle, should be made available to buy over the counter without prescription. At the moment, Ireland is one of few remaining countries that still require a doctor's prescription to obtain ECP. According to figures from the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, about 29 per cent of women have taken the ECP at some point in their lives. Along with the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), the Crisis Pregnancy Agency believes that the prescription necessity results in many women having a problem obtaining ECP when needed, especially those from rural areas.

The IFPA, who run daily walk-in clinics for women in need of emergency contraception, have been opening their centres in Tallaght and Cathal Brugha Street in Dublin on Sundays in order to accommodate the demand for ECP. Every Sunday they reportedly deal with 15 to 25 women aged between 12 and 55. These centres are attracting women from all over Leinster every Sunday which highlights the access problem. The IFPA chief executive Niall Behan stated that "We've known for some time that there is a demand for an out-of-hours emergency contraception service, but we were taken aback when we opened our Dublin centres on Sundays."

The IFPA have been fighting the battle to

get the emergency pill available over the counter in pharmacies for some time now, with its main argument being that pharmacies can still be open with GPs are not, and also that the drug is safe. According to Dr. Alyia Rahim, IFPA medical director, "There are no risks with this pill. It can even be given to breast-feeding mothers. The only side effect is the possibility of nausea." She also believes that it should not be called the 'morning after' pill as you can take ECP up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. ECP is 80 to 90 percent safe if taken within 24 hours, 60 to 70 percent within 48 hours. "It works in three ways. First, it inhibits ovulation if it has not already occurred; two, it stops the sperm going up and fertilising the egg and, three, it causes shedding of the womb," she says.

Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe is the Crisis Pregnancy Agency's director of research and she believes that there is still a stereotype attached to going to get the emergency contraceptive pill. She argues that "women who go for it, know about it, know where to go for it and know that a risk has happened. They're doing the responsible thing. Our research shows they're just as likely to have used contraception but that the method has failed, and no more likely to have consumed alcohol", she says. "It's protective behaviour and it should be encouraged."

The Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) are currently opposed to making ECP available without prescription as they believe that it will result in an increase in sexual risk-taking, particularly among young women. This in turn will lead to an increase in sexually transmitted infections. The IMO are still taking this stance despite the Irish Study of Sexual Health and Relationships highlighting the fact that there has been an increase in use in the 25 countries where ECP has been made available over the counter, which cannot necessarily be seen as a bad thing. Dr. Martin Daly, chairman of the IMO's GP committee, suggests that women in Ireland will no longer view it as an emergency contraceptive and will substitute it for other forms of protection. He says, "Most of the country is covered by 24-hour GP services, which are far more available than out-of-hours pharmacies and a GP does not refuse to see someone if they are within the 72-hour time limit required to take the pill. If there was clear-cut advantage to making it available over the counter, I would consider it but so far there has been none."

After the publication of the study Health Minister Mary Harney added that she too was currently against making ECP available without prescription. "Clearly, it can only be done if it's medically safe to do so and until we get the advice of the regulatory body that has responsibility in this area, I wouldn't be in a position to make a decision," she says.

The producers of the ECP, Levonelle, are HE Glissman & Schering and in order for their product to be made available over the counter they must make an application to the Irish Medicines Board. However, there is currently a legislation banning evonorgestrel from being sold without prescription in Ireland and this is found in Levonelle. So, in order for ECP to be made more available nationwide the Department of Health will have to change this legislation, but judging by the Health Ministers previous statement, this does not appear to be happening anytime soon.

Ciorcal Cómhra



Tá Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge á eagrú ag Cumann Gaelach NGÓ, Ollscoil Luimnigh. Beidh comhrá ar siúl gach seachtain idir cairde le Gaeilge. **Tabhair leat do chúpla focal agus tabharfaidh muid cupán tae, briosaí agus comhlúadar duit** - bring your little bit of Irish and we'll provide the company, cuppas and biccies!

Cén lá? **Gach Céadaoin** Wednesdays
Cén t-am? **6 a chlog** 6 o'clock
Cén áit? **Tolglann na Gaeilge, Aontas na Mac Léinn** Irish Lounge, Students' Union

Tá fáilte roimh gach duine le suim sa Ghaeilge, is cuma cén leibhéal comhrá atá agat. Is bealach iontach é an ciorcal seo le bhur gcuid Ghaeilge a fheabhsú, go háirithe má tá staidéar á dhéanamh agaibh uirthi mar ábhar ollscoile. Beidh deis agat bualadh le daoine nua le Gaeilge agus cúpla cara nua a dhéanamh freisin!



DebU hold costume debate

ERICA MACKEY

THE Debating Union's weekly debate in the Jonathan Swift lecture hall was invaded with a ghoulish cast of characters Tuesday of week 6. The buzz in the lecture hall was for the UL Debating Union's Halloween Costume Debate. Speakers as well as the other members in attendance decked out in their Halloween best while participating in the debate. There was quite an array of costumed debaters from a striking impersonation of Charlie Chaplin, to a mad scientist and even a Camogie player. This fancy dress debate was well matched with the topic of the evening which was 'That This

House Believes That Looks Don't Matter.' There were three speakers on either side and each speaker gave five minute speeches. As usual, a discussion followed with the remaining yet equally decked out members of the society including a very amusing Bugs Bunny and a James Bond. It was an interesting and enthusiastic lead up before the Halloween Ball which many of The Debating Union's members attended following the debate.

The Halloween Costume Debate is only one of the many things the Debating Union has been up to lately. During the weekend of October 28th the Debating Union hosted some of the first round

debates of The Irish Times Debate here at the University. The bulk of the debates were held on Saturday October 28th and the first round was concluded on Sunday the 29th. Many members participated in the debates over the weekend for a chance to improve their speaking skills, get feedback from the judges and hope to move on to the next round. Many members of the UL Debating Union were able to get into the next round. These members include the team of Oisín Collins and Niamh Madigan as well as Emma Kerins and Seamus Ryan both of whom are moving on as individual speakers.



Members of DebU at the costume debate on Halloween night
Photo: Erica Mackey

ATTENTION

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Postgraduate News

Hi Everyone,

Time is flying. I meet more and more postgrads who are surprised that it's week 7 or 8 already. Yeah! Amazing. Some of you are busy with studying and some of you have not even started. I'd say it is high time... at least get notes from your classmates. But seriously, for those busy ones, who are attending lectures and doing their homework there are a few things that might help them to relax.

- You could join Clubs & Socs, they do plenty of interesting things: drama, poetry, sports etc.
- Those interested in windsurfing can go on a weekend trip to Castlegregory, organized by the UL Windsurfing Club, Kerry for the weekend of the 17th to 19th of November. The price is E40 per person and will include: instruction to beginners by qualified windsurfing instructors, rental of wetsuits, buoyancy aids, bootees and food, transport and accommodation. Interested? Get in touch with the club committee @: ulwc.committee@gmail.com.
- If you have tutorials you might be interested in workshops organized by Centre for Teaching & Learning. I find them very useful.
- There are also workshops run by Graduate School, they usually take place in the Castletroy Park Hotel and are meant to help young researchers in UL.
- If you are full of energy and have some free time, get engage in PSA activities and organize an event for other postgrads. AT the moment we are looking for people who can cook and would love to share their national heritage with others. If you are from abroad and would like to tell other students about your homeland drop by and we can talk about your ideas for the Multi - Cultural Day.
- Keep an eye out for posters and check your mail for further info. We will keep you informed.

Launch of new edition of 'History Studies'



BY ALAN OWENS

TUESDAY of week 7 saw the launch of the latest edition of UL's History Society Journal. It is the seventh edition of History Studies, and a large crowd was in attendance in the east wing of the White House for its launch.

The Journal is an ambitious project, undertaken by the History Department and the History Society. A Forum was held in conjunction with the launch featuring contributors from NUIG, Tomas Finn and Gerald Power, and UL's own Ken Bergin, Special Collections librarian.

Ruan O'Donnell, Head

of the history department, outlined that the Journal 'is about maximising the strength of the postgraduate population in UL'. He went on to say that 'a Journal of this quality is unique in Ireland.'

In attendance was President Emeritus Roger Downer. 'I have always believed there is more to University than sitting in a classroom, and firmly believe the key is outside interaction between students in order to develop personal skills' he said, in his address. Professor Downer believes that the large number of clubs and societies in UL is a great source of pride to the University and that 'the history society is one that has always operated at a consistently high level'.

The President Emeritus went on to outline how, while he had encouraged the initiative to launch such a journal he had not been convinced it would last, and was delighted to be

proved wrong. He added that 'the Journal is solidly achieving new heights every year and is a credit to all those involved both past and present.'

The editor of the Journal, John O'Callaghan outlined that 'the Journal is the sole postgraduate periodical in the country and has a burgeoning international reputation'.

The History Society also marked the occasion by presenting honorary life memberships to some of those present including Dr. Downer, Dr. Bernadette Whelan and Dr. John Logan.

Also launched on the evening was a book by Michael O'Aodha called 'Irish Travellers: Representations and Realities' and was launched by Dr. Maura Cronin. The book was praised by Dr. Cronin as a 'wonderful addition to traveller history and culture.'



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DO YOU WANT TO TAKE PART IN THE SOUNDEST STUDENT COMPETITION?

TALK TO YOUR CLASS REP TODAY!

ULSU ENTS



El Presidente

Education is a right, not a privilege!!!

WHEN I did my Leaving Cert in 2002, the Registration Fee for University was €396 - today it stands at more than double that, €800 per year. This stark fact blows the lid off any notion of 'free education' in this country - a standard 4 year degree in college costs €3,200 in Fees alone. This is far from free, and creates massive problems for those students whose parents are just above the income threshold (which is also set too low - more on that later...). It also slams shut the door to third-level education for many young people.

When the growth of the Registration Fee over the last few years is looked at, it quickly becomes clear that it is a creeping stealth tax on education. It is also an attempt to bring back Full Fees by the back-door, thinking that students won't notice - to take a longer term view, they've gone up 321% in 11 years. But this idea is well off the mark - we're very much aware, and we won't accept it!!!

This issue is really strongly connected to the issue of grant reform, and the amount of students who are excluded from college by an income threshold that is too low, and grants which aren't even nearly good enough to live on! A fairer Grants System should be a matter of priority for any government.

The real problem here is that the government won't put the necessary money into education to make it open and inclusive for all - this in a time with one of the biggest budget surpluses the country has ever seen!!! We're always hearing about investment in the 'knowledge economy', and how our educated workforce is the country's greatest asset - nice sound-bites which aren't being backed up with action to benefit students.

This is not good enough!!!

There will be a **protest into the City on Tuesday 14th November - meet at the Students Union 2pm** - to make these demands clear to all, and to fight for a full commitment that the government puts its money where its mouth is, and funds education fully and properly into the future, for the good of ALL the people of Ireland.

COME ALONG AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!!!

St. John Ó Donnabháin, President, UL Students Union



Letters to the editor

An Focal, UL Students' Union, UL, Castletroy, Limerick.
Phone 061 202363, Fax 061 213476, Email deirdre.oshaughnessy@ul.ie

An Focal will endeavour to accommodate all letters as far as legally possible. All parties have a right of reply to letters printed herein.

Clowry right about complainers

Madam,

I'm writing to voice my support for Niamh Clowry's article "Ireland - a moaning nation". Finally someone has said what has needed saying for quite some time.

I personally am sick of picking up the daily paper, and it telling me how terrible a country it is that we live in. If a foreigner were to pick up the Irish Independent on any given day, he would probably reckon that Ireland is a mixture of Tehran and Mogadishu. Too many of us retain this old Irish inferiority complex, whereby deep down we believe that anything done by fellow Irish people, or something definitively Irish (ex. our language) must be somehow backward.

We have become a nation of whingers, where not only does nothing seem to satisfy us, but we actually seek out misery. When something does go wrong we can stand up and say, "typical Irish, this would never happen in (insert country)".

We have produced more authors, poets than any other country per capita; we produce great entertainers (actors, musicians), sports stars, entrepreneurs, philanthropists and a determined, intelligent and hardworking population. We have a beautiful countryside and a rich heritage. Most countries celebrate their achievements, why are we so afraid to?

There is a reason why people want to come live in this country. We have amongst the highest average salaries in the world, and minimum wages are also amongst the highest, we have the lowest unemployment rates in the E.U. People can come here and make a living that would unheard in their home country. Immigration has (thankfully) been practically eradicated in Ireland. Poverty has taken on a whole new meaning over the last ten years, whereby the poor of today would be the envy of the poor of 10 years ago.

I think its time we threw off this colonial inferiority complex, stop whinging over petty matters, and realised that we live in one of the finest countries in the world, and we in this country have never had it so good. Sure we have problems, and these cannot be ignored, but these are insignificant when compared to most countries. So once again, I'd like to congratulate Niamh on this article, it's about time someone said it!

(P.S. I realise the irony of me complaining about Irish people who complain about Ireland!)

Cathal O' Riordan
Limerick

No place for Nazi symbols on campus

Madam,

At the beginning of this semester the wall at the front entrance was daubed with a Nazi slogan. As with any right thinking society there was an outcry and condemned unreservedly. But as I move around the campus an item on display has struck me as being out of place and somewhat hypocritical. Outside the fish tank is the award winning model of the Bismarck built by engineering students. Along with the Tirpitz and the Graf Spree, the Battleships were symbols the Nazi regime used in an attempt to project their assumed notions of might and racial superiority around the world. I know the argument that most of the combatants in WWII had ships like these, so why pick on the engineering students and the Bismarck will be raised. While it is commendable that the engineering students won the award I feel it is somewhat hypocritical to condemn the Nazi slogan and what it stands for, while allowing this symbol of Nazi military power to be displayed in the university.

I am not trying to deride or overly criticize the students who built this model, they deserve credit for the work they

undertook and their level of commitment to seeing it through, but more thought was required in their choice of model. As for the matter of the slogan, while 'the pen may be mightier than the sword' and the slogan has a much deeper connection with the genocide of the Nazis, any symbol of the Nazi regime in a written or physical form should have no place on this campus.

Regards,
N.Griffin, 4th year HPSS

Stan the man?

Madam,

On opening An Focal last week I was pleased to see the increased attention afforded to sporting matters in the paper. The main topic of debate on the back page concerned none other than Republic of Ireland manager Steve Staunton. While one article supported "Stan", I could just about see his reasoning in highlighting the "spirit" etc. shown in the Czech game, but being against Staunton's appointment to the job I was looking forward to the article highlighting the managers' inadequacies. But I was shocked at the attempt to label Staunton a disaster.

While Staunton's appointment could well be deemed disastrous, the attempt to highlight this was highly inaccurate. While I acknowledge that this was indeed an opinion piece and the writer obviously has some personal thoughts on the matter, the lack of perspective in evidence was appalling. I would just like to make a few observations on some of the points made; while I think it is fair to acknowledge that no one wishes to re-enter the Saipan debate, the argument put against a certain Roy Keane struck me as one from another ill informed GAA hack without any appreciation of the game. Personality clashes aside, to have the audacity to question Keane's ability on the pitch was laughable as a result of Keane dragging Ireland to that particular tournament. This "geriatric has-been with dodgy knees" has led United to nine major honours during his captaincy from 1998 to 2005, making him Manchester United's most successful skipper. So that is a pretty weak argument, or not even an argument in my view.

Why McCarthy was sacked to "appease the United faithful" puzzles me to say the least as I was under the impression that he was managing Ireland rather than Man United. Why laugh at the idea of two distinguished managers in Toshack and Venbles taking charge also escapes me. Their tactical nous could hardly be worse than McCarthy who didn't even recognise that Spain had only ten men in the second half in the World Cup. It's good to see that despite this new generation in Irish sport where we have finally decided to try and win rather than be valiant losers, some people have evidently held on to moral victories such as this one.

The lack of research is best highlighted by the comparison between Jan Koller and Brian Kennedy. To the best of my knowledge, and I may be corrected on this, but I do not think Kennedy has an international record of 47 goals in 74 internationals. I think this puts Jan into the "taken seriously" category on the international stage. But undoubtedly my favourite part of this piece of literary genius was yet to come. Commenting on the future of the game in Ireland reference was made to the Clare hurling team. Yes, the solution lies in a thorough examination of the success of Clare, lets get Loughnane in charge of the team altogether. I know this is a tough time of the year for all GAA fanatics, with no national league or championship, but whether it is necessary to start writing ill-informed opinion pieces on football is questionable. Fear not, the GAA will be back in town soon enough, and order will be restored and the real Irish people will go back to supporting their counties in a real man's game and denouncing the "foreign game" that is football.

Tommy Tuohy
4th Year Law and European Studies

Student parents face huge difficulties

Madam,

I have just picked up the current edition of An Focal to see your front-page article about a student parent who was refused accommodation in Brookfield Hall. I want to thank you for highlighting this issue because I believe it is a very serious problem. As a student parent I have found it extremely difficult to find suitable affordable (or any kind of) accommodation in the Castletroy area since I first moved here 3 years ago. I am currently living in campus accommodation that I would not be able to afford but for a 2-year scholarship that runs out at the end of next semester. I am dreading the prospect of trying to find somewhere to live for my four-year old son and myself next summer for the duration of my studies. Private rental accommodation for students without families may be relatively cheap and plentiful in this area, but the opposite is the case for students who have families.

My current accommodation is a godsend but it is not without its difficulties. Campus accommodation may be presented as 'student-parent friendly' but it is not really designed for families. For example, despite being told in September 2005 when I first moved into my campus apartment, that we could stay in our campus apartment during the summer, so long as I paid for it (my scholarship only covers the academic year even though I am a postgrad), I was told by the village manager a few months later (December/January) that we would have to move out for the summer because the village apartments had been block-booked for the summer months.

I spent much of May and June trying to find somewhere to live in Castletroy for the summer in order to continue my studies throughout the summer. It was quickly confirmed for me that I would be extremely stretched to afford a house or apartment (as well as crèche costs) during the summer months. At any rate, landlords who had full houses or apartments to rent (as opposed to individual rooms in student houses) were unwilling to rent them to someone who would be moving out again after 3 months, they were looking for longer-term tenants.

In the past I have kept accommodation costs manageable by renting a house together with friends, but no one I knew was in a position to share with me last summer. Landlords were immediately wary the minute a child was mentioned. No one wanted to hear of the idea of me trying to rent two rooms in a shared student house for my son and myself, despite the fact that we are both exemplary tenants and have references to prove it. They would not even consider putting this idea to the existing tenants, without whose consent I would not dream of moving a child in. In the end I was forced to move out of Limerick and to live in my parents house during the summer. This had the effect of seriously disrupting my studies and was a big setback.

Moving back into my campus accommodation presented more problems. The academic calendar does not coincide with the school calendar. I was told that my son and myself could move back onto campus on the 14th of September. However, my son was due to start in junior infants in a local primary school in Castletroy on the 1st of September. Throughout the summer I rang office after office trying to make arrangements so that we could move back in time for my son to start school. It was not until less than a fortnight before school started that we were finally told that we would be able to move in by September 1st. Initially I was told that we could move into an apartment in a different campus village from where we had previously lived for the first two weeks, but would then have to move out again two weeks later (on September 14th) and back into our original village! I refused to accept that offer and we were eventually allowed to move back into (and stay in) our campus apartment a couple of days before my son started school. When we moved in I was surprised to observe that there were several other residents in the village who had either been living there during the summer or had moved in early like myself. Yet I had been made to feel that we were being made an exception for, that ours were exceptional circumstances, and that we were presenting a great inconvenience - not by any one individual, but by the sheer hassle encountered in trying to arrange moving in early.

Were all those who had moved into campus before the start of the academic year treated similarly? How is it so difficult to allow students with school-going children to move into their accommodation in time for the start of the school year? Why should these students have to jump through hoops in order to secure such permission?

The issues related here need to be addressed by the campus authorities, but they can be easily remedied. The problems faced by student parents in the off-campus private rented sector, however, are a whole other question that requires serious and concerted attention. Student parents' fall between landlords' definitions of the kind of tenants they market their properties towards, i.e. either 'students' or 'professionals'. They don't fall

into the category 'students' because they can't just be put into one cheap room in a run-down house (minimum hassle for maximum profit); neither do they fall into the category 'professionals' because they are in full-time education rather than employment, they usually can't afford expensive, top-end-of-the-market properties, and they may be relying on rent supplement. They are considered automatically unsuitable for house sharing, and while this is rarely an ideal solution it can work well in certain situations if landlords were willing to consider it. As in the case you have highlighted, they are also perceived as being unsuitable tenants in mass apartment block developments (for which the developers have profited from tax-breaks by designating them 'student apartments'). Perhaps this is due to a perception that student parents would 'cause trouble' by complaining about the noise levels and late night revelling that are associated (however fairly or unfairly) with 'typical' students. Although, on the other hand, I know of one student parent whose teenage children were automatically, without evidence or investigation, and wrongly, accused of being the cause of anti-social behaviour in their apartment building. Whatever the prejudices informing it, this amounts to blatant discrimination.

Student parents face enough problems in third level education, in terms of finances, child-care, transport, time-management etc. It is well past time for more to be done to remove some of the enduring obstacles they encounter in trying to take up or remain in education.

Regards,
Siobhan Ni Chathain.

Students should 'grow up'

Madam,

I am writing to highlight the worsening student-resident relations existing in the Elm Park estate, Castletroy.

Burglary:

On the night of Monday the 30th of October a resident had inebriated students enter her home whilst her and her two young children slept. The students proceeded to pop the children's halloween balloons, and before running out the door laughing, stole a mobile phone.

The morning after the night before:

Anti-social behaviour was carried out on Thursday night, as usual, and on Friday the 3rd of November residents awoke to find their bins overturned and the streets covered in litter and glass. One resident, whose bin was tipped over on the main street had both his and his wife's cars vandalised. All the side mirrors were affected, one was completely removed, one pulled half way off and one turned in on itself. Other residents had to brush the glass to the side of the road to enable them to get their cars past.

Please find attached to this e-mail a document containing photographic evidence of the destruction that students wreak when passing through this estate from the Kilmurry Lodge/Hurlers Pub to the University and surrounding estates. It is this resident's opinion that things are getting worse and although I appreciate that only a small portion of the student population is at fault, behaviour needs to improve. Getting up for work with five hours sleep because there was a wild party a few doors down and fireworks were being released until the early hours is not nice, never mind having to then brush the road and pick up the litter. Please students, this is week 7 of the semester and surely you should have found your feet by now and grown up.

Catherine Elder



Destruction in Elm park photo: Catherine Elder



THIS week the throat is feeling more projective than reflective and perhaps somewhat phlegmy but let us not go there today my brothers and sisters. There are stirrings in the undergrowth, we sense a great disturbance in the force, I've had a funny feeling in my water, and things are most definitely afoot.

It seems we may about to kick off a period of organisational student activism, and just in time for the Christmas shopping season too. Basically, it looks like we're once again going to have a dalliance with the idea of re-affiliating with USI, and the PSA could be submerged back into the SU. Gulp, tasty.

It would seem that those who had suspicions about the various training weekends away have had their premonitions validated. Our union so long unsullied by the dirty hands of compromise has in the words of the Saw Doctors 'fallen for another'. Not since Enda and Pat looked across at each other over a table in Mullingar has an idea looked so good on the surface yet may produce so many problems in practice. El Presidente, who was once a leading light of the Cocanistas' referendum on campus, would seem the perfect man for the tasks of returning us Blaney-like back into the fold of the mother union. Yet, is he in fact the prime mover behind these developments or do we detect the inky prints of the other sabbats all over the plans for re-integration?

As a Union, we've got a limit of one referendum a year (bad for the circulation apparently, shockingly high in salt from all the crocodile tears that are shed over really, really important issues, you guys). So it would seem this is one time only deal. No doubt we will be wined and dined by USI, promised that it will be an equal partnership and should anything go wrong that all our concerns will be listened to, and shoulders offered for us to cry on. There may be succulent chocolates on the pillow too.

The main problem with any referendum campaign to re-attach ourselves to the bosom of Irish students is getting a big enough turnout to approve it. Unless of course, someone were to engineer a means to lower the level for a valid turnout yet again from, and perhaps a quorate AGM is just the place to do it. Makes that AGM kind of more intriguing doesn't it?

It is unclear at this point what USI membership would bring us, apart from a big bill at the end of each year. USIT is now a corporate plaything and not associated with USI in any way. USI appears to have less leverage with the minister and the department of education than the respective youth wings of whatever political party is in power at the time, or indeed the childminder of the minister.

Also, with the provision about groups with a vested financial interest in the result being barred from contributing or being active in the campaign does that mean that USI won't be able to campaign or even provide benefit in kind in the form of posters and literature. Could this spell some sleepless nights for Alan Higgins and his merry men of arbitration?

Speaking of mergers and assimilations, it would seem also that the PSA is about to fall into the clutches of unsavoury types. That would be us then. Heaven knows the PSA lacks the backup that the SU can rely on, most post grad students are not going to get a dose of the Union City blues and become hacks at this late stage. It is good to hear that some folks have joined the revolutionary council, Maja's first 100 days seems to have goaded or at least scared out of the woodwork willing or perhaps not so willing helpers. I wonder if she can keep El Pres in line and resist his Union's advances and offers of EightBall discounts.

What makes these issues more interesting is that they are the kind of thing that people use to make a name for themselves so that they can contest the sabbaticals, oh look it's the USI bloke or isn't that the anti PSA girl. It is kind of hard to see any referendum happening this semester but a full push post Christmas would us a fill of elections and ballot boxes right up until Bertie presses the button for the big one.

All kind of reminds me of that cartoon of the various fish eating each other. As for car parking, it appears that the college is operating a policy of divide and conquer with current clamping targeting those without the appropriate passes in the staff car parking areas. UL Prevails.

Mail us at thethroat@gmail.com with all your inside scoops.

STUDENT SPEAK :



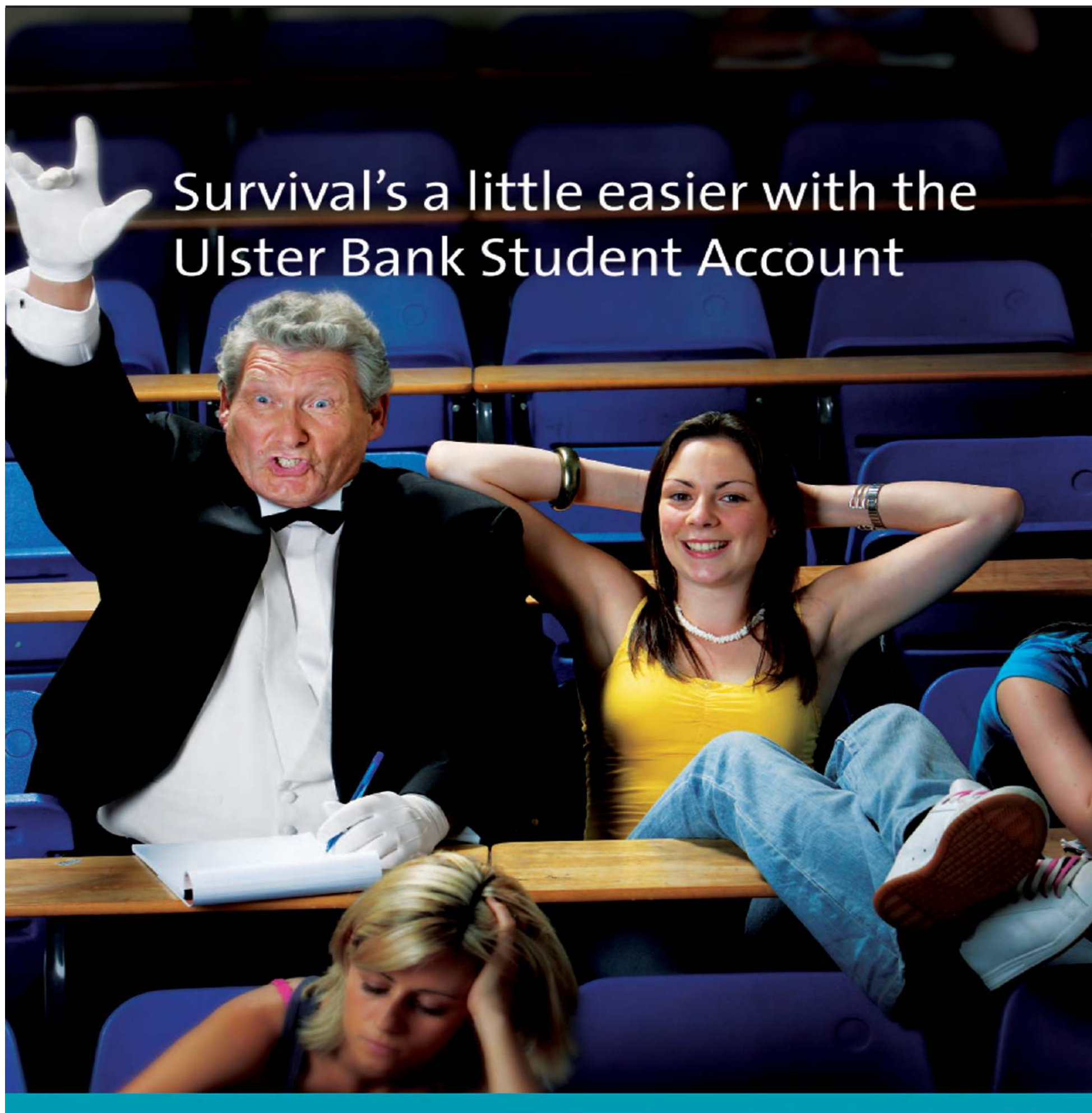
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An Ghaeilgeoir

A Cháirde Gaeil!

BHUEL, táimid an-gnóthach an tseachtain seo, agus beidh cúpla imeacht ar siúl anois idir seo agus an Nollaig! I seachtain 6 bhí cruinniú againn faoi Stádas na Gaeilge san Aontas Eorpach. Tá an Ghaeilge chun a bheith ina theanga oifigeach oibre ar an 1ú Éanair 2007. Ach I rith an tsamhradh, s'fhoilsigh Lá tuairisc ón bparlament ag rá nach choir an Ghaeilge a chur I bhfeidhm go hiomlán agus chun stádas níos lú a thabhairt di. Táimid ag tacú le feachtas chun bhrú a chur ar an bparlamaint an Ghaeilge a chur I bhfeidhm go hiomlán. Freisin tá an t-aire tar éis na dréachtrialacháin faoi Acht na Teangacha Oifigiúla a foilsíú le déanaí. De réir na Dréachtrialacháin níl an duailgeas chéanna ar an húdarais éagsúla fógraí dhátheangach a chur I bhfeidhm go hiomlán. So..... Tá feachtas eile ar siúl!!!!

Ó taobh na himeachtaí de, táimid ag eagrú céilí faoi láthair a bheidh ar siúl ar an 16ú Nollaig, sin Déardaoin Seachtain 8. Beidh sé ar siúl ins an Phluais, agus beidh théama leis!!! Le aoi speisialta!

Beidhmuid ag buaileadh an Bóthar freisin chun dul go Dolans le haghaidh gig Kíla. Beidh sé ar siúl ar an 25ú Samhain agus chosnaíonn na Ticéadaí €19. Má tá go leir suim geobhaimid bus. Beidh an Cumann Gaelach ó Coláiste Mhuire gan Smal ann freisin, so geallaim oíche den scoth!



Breandán Ó hÉamhaigh

Ar an 17ú tá turas Gaeltachta eagraithe ag rannphartaigh an Scéim Chónaithe i gCill Mhuire. Beidh muid ag taisteal go Gaillimh ar an Aoine agus ar aghaidh go Árann ar an Sathairn. Beidh craic iontach ann!!! Má déanann sibh teagmháil le breandan.oheamhaigh@ul.ie cuirfidh mé do sonraí síos don turas.

Beidh turas eile ar siúl ar an 8ú Nollaig. Beidhmuid ag dul go Baile Átha Cliath!!! Beidh Gleo na Nollaig ar siúl sa Village, agus craic iontach I gClub an Chonradh! Beidh an-chuid daoine ann ó choláistí BÁC agus geallaim go mbeidh craic iontach! Bhíos ag gleo na Samhna agus bhí oíche den scoth ann!! Tá gleo eagraithe ag Oifig na Gaeilge DIT. Beidh an turas seo mar Cóisir na Nollaig is againne. Má tá suim agat dean teagmháil linn ag ancumanngaelach@gmail.com.

Tá Ciorcle Comhrá tosaithe I dTolglann na Gaeilge anois agus bíonn sé ar siúl gach Céadaoin ag a 6 a chlog. Bíonn craic briosaí agus go nádúrtha, Gaeilge!!!

Buail isteach ar Tolglann na Gaeilge aon uair is miain libh! Is áit iontach é do scíth a ligeadh agus abhairt le do chairde.

Bhuel, cheapaim gurb é sin gach rud, má tá aon rud dearmaidthe agam..... Beidh póstéirí thart fán áit!!!!

Meas Mhór!

Breandán Ó hÉamhaigh

Ag úsáid an Ghaeilge in Ollscoil Luimnigh

BREANDÁN Ó HÉAMHAIGH

MAR chuid d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 tá dualgas ar an Ollscoil scéim Teanga a chur le chéile le aidhmeanna agus spriocanna ó thaobh úsáid na Gaeilge agus seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge ar an gcampus. Soiléiríonn an tAcht na Cearta Teanga atá ag gach duine sa tír seo maidir leis an nGaeilge. Tá dualgas ar an Ollscoil seirbhísí a chur ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge. Is féidir leat breathnú ar an scéim ar an suíomh idirlíon www.ul.ie ar suíomh Aonad na Gaeilge www.ul.ie/aonadnaaeilge. Chomh maith le sin rinne an Aontas cinneadh chun ghlacadh leis an Acht agus cuir siad scéim beag le chéile chun seirbhísí breise a chur ar fáil trí Ghaeilge. Is féidir leat Bunreacht an Aontais a fháil trí Ghaeilge, agus na polasaithe go léir freisin. Chomh maith le sin, tá cúpla duine ar fhoireann

an Aontais tar éis ranganna Gaeilge a thogaint chun a bheith ábalta labhairt leis an bpobal i nGaeilge. Agus dar ndóidh tá Tolglann na Gaeilge san Aontas freisin. Is féidir leat do chuid gnó a dhéanamh leis an Ollscoil trí mheán na Gaeilge, beidh foirmeacha 7rl ar fáil. Má bhíonn aon ceisteanna faoi úsáid na gaeilge san Ollscoil ná bíodh leisce oraibh teagmháil a dhéanamh le Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge, Deirdre Ní Loingsigh in Aonad na Gaeilge ar 061-213463 nó tríd an ríomhphost chuig Deirdre.niloingsigh@ul.ie. Nó is féidir leat teagmháil a dhéanamh liomsa trí breandan.oheamhaigh@ul.ie nó 061-202324

Tá an t-eolas iomlán i dTolglann na Gaeilge i leith do chearta teanga ar an Cairt Cearta Teanga atá foilsithe ag an gCoimisiún Teanga i rith an tsamhradh. Is féidir leat teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an gCumann Gaelach ag ancumanngaelach@gmail.com

Serious Fun at Barrettstown

DEIRDRE FINNERTY

AFTER returning to UL for the new semester, surviving endless queues at student services, reacquainting myself with the drunken minions of the Lodge, enduring droves of squabbling secondary school students at the Open Days, and the general cranium bursting pressure of fourth year, I decided that I needed to get away. And what better place to go than to a castle.

Barrettstown Castle at Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare transforms itself for most of the year into a fun-packed activity camp for seriously ill children. Set up by Paul Newman and his generous donation of 4million, Barrettstown Gang Camp welcomes children from over 22 countries and their policy of therapeutic recreation has helped many children advance to another stage. After completing an interview in last March, I was called to be a Volunteer Cara for the family camp from October 20 -22nd.

With over 13 families from the four corners of Ireland, close to 25 Volunteer Caras, a guest appearance by the Dublin Gospel Choir, activity leaders and fulltime staff, we made some serious noise and had some serious fun! The theme of the weekend was the X Factor with various acts with varying talents providing mealtime entertainment. The action packed days comprised a series of activities from nine am. to the wee small hours of the morning. Face-painting, climbing ropes, canoeing, storytelling, drama, arts and crafts, horse riding, and general silliness were the order of the day and it

was clear that both sick and recovering children found this medicine a whole lot easier to swallow! Perhaps one of the highlights of the weekend was the children's party on Saturday night in which I got to raid the dress up box and dance around in a good witch costume.

Cancer now affects one in three people but like most people I had never really thought about it until it affected my family. The weekend had a particular resonance for me as I am fully aware of the devastating effects that cancer treatment can have and the psychological impact it can leave on parents and children alike. Perhaps one of the biggest lessons that I learned over the weekend is the difference positive attitudes can make to the families of sick children. The program culminated with a slideshow of snapshots taken of the weekend and despite fleeting twinges of sadness, the general mood was one of optimism and hope. Barrettstown is an emotional place, but it's also a very happy one.

Barrettstown's motto is that every so often a sick child just needs to be a child. Sick bodies may tire but a smile never wears out. I wouldn't have believed before I saw if for myself but this castle can work magic. Barrettstown Gang Camp is testament to the strength and courage of the human spirit.

For general information about the camp or donations to Barrettstown, please contact the fundraising team at 045 864115 or visit www.barrettstown.org.

Homework with Alan Higgins, ULSU Education Officer

The Importance of Being Earnest-Asking for Feedback

LEARNING is as much more than the retention of information, it should be about developing yourself and identifying your strengths and overcoming your weaknesses. During the season of mid-terms and assignments, now is a good opportunity to gauge your performance to date-its time to ask for feedback.

There are a number of benefits to feedback; most important they provide an important learning tool both in regards to the subject material and the development of your learning skills in general. Feedback is just as essential to those who have done well as those who haven't achieved what they hoped. It is important to realise that it is just as important to identify where your strengths lie as where weaknesses are so that you can build on those techniques and abandon others. Specific to the course material, feedback allows you to engage with the lecturer to find out how you are doing and also to make preparations for the end of semester assessments.

There are a number of method and types of feedback you can get and you need to know what to do with all of it. First off, always see feedback as a positive activity, if you are getting negative or positive feedback and don't understand-ask for clarifications. Don't take offence, the lecturer is trying to help and be constructive. When receiving feedback, it is not the time for you to hold back as you want to maximise your learning experience and a lecturer or tutor is providing that information on a plate, so ask questions. Finally, its no point getting feedback and doing nothing with it-make sure you see how you can apply any feedback you get to the work, be it for that module or your study in general.

If you want to know where you went right or wrong in your assignments and develop your learning experience, regardless of whether it is offered or not-it is important to be earnest and ask for feedback.

Ireland's Secret Passion for Racism

NIAMH COLEMAN

ARE you racist? Do you turn your nose up at people who have a different skin colour than you? Are you of the belief that Ireland would be a better country if there were only Irish inhabitants and none from any other nationality? Have you heard yourself complain that the Polish have come over and taken all the student suited jobs? Do you complain about the travelling community?

Last week, November 6th to November 12th, was Anti-Racist Workplace Week 2006. The univESRItY's students and employees alike were asked to undertake a survey to source how racism is dealt with on campus and to discover if UL is truly the diverse and multi-cultured, institute we expect it to be (the results were not available at time of print). We tend to be idealists in our own right and never expect ourselves to exercise such a futile and immature emotion as racism. But here in this country racism is a deep and underlying problem which has not been tackled with by the correct manner or with enough importance. It's time we faced up to this hindrance that is keeping us firmly in the medieval age. We are so anxious as a nation to brag about the advances of our physical appearances with our novel architecture, our much improved infrastructure, our well educated labour force but in terms of our approach to those who are non nationals within our country we are just about as progressive as the next Hicksville.

Racism against non-nationals in Ireland is a relatively new concept. Prior to the first initial roar of the Celtic Tiger in the mid-90 our jaundiced eye was cast upon the travelling community. They were subjected to the main brunt of our dislike. Once the economy started to accelerate and become the success that it is today, Ireland became an attractive destination for asylum seekers. Combine this with the accession of 10 new member

states into the EU in May of 2005 which increased the free movement of labour and thus in turn amplified the level of migrants from the poorer countries of Eastern Europe. This reached unprecedented echelons. The figures as to how many immigrants who have decided to make Ireland to be their new home is conflicting until the Census results of 2006 will be made public next year but it is believed that since 2000 alone, over 500,000 have come to our shores to set up house of which a figure nearing 200,000 are Polish. With the current population of Ireland standing at 4,015,676 (according to unofficial sources), people who's background is not primarily Irish are making up a larger percentile of our population as the years pass. But regardless of this line of reasoning people still feel that those who originate from a country besides Ireland are somehow inferior to those who have the Irish brogue, the red hair and freckles. This inferiority complex is being instilled through the generations of Irish and is resulting in a xenophobia that is inexcusable in this day of age.

Many people are of the view that racism was bred through the colonisation of many of the world's countries which were wealthy in natural resources. The people of such countries were captured, imprisoned and then sold and exploited for their labour. It was people of colour who were enslaved and forced to work on plantations. The main perpetrators of this were the British Empire who built a realm for themselves on the backs of other peoples' hard work. Indeed other countries played their part in this including the Iberian Peninsula and the New World now known as America. It was during this period of globalisation that the oppressive term was born. With the legal abolition of slavery and the trade of slaves, educating the 'poor black children' saw the evolution of racism and morph into an ideology for missionary types from the developed countries

at the time. The Catholic Church undertook a major role in this and they somehow tried to justify their form of what was blatantly undermining certain sectors of the world by pushing upon others their way of life, religion and beliefs as 'doing good'. We can all remember putting our 50 pence pieces into the box for the poor black children when the priest would visit us in the classroom. Instead of the restoration, cultivation and development of varied communities' culture, all they were trying to achieve was to twist people into our way of living. This form of oppression, whilst just as serious as all the rest, was very clever in the way it disguised itself as somehow doing some good in the world.

However, today's form of racism which is contained within Ireland has a nastier structure and takes a more personal approach with more tourists every year being targeted and humiliated by acts of brutality of the streets of our capital. People seem to have lost all respect for each other and have no problem roaring abuse at each other in the most cowardice of fashions. But if I were to ask you how many of you perceive yourself as racist, very few would give negative feedback pertaining to oneself. We all think that we are lovely girls and boys who would never willingly offend anyone in even the slightest of manner. The clever people in the ESRI decided to ask those who are specifically the object of racism how they are treated in this country and the results are a disappointment to all of us who call ourselves Irish. The conclusion of their report, which was made public on Tuesday 7th of November, states that although 'Ireland has relatively robust legislative provisions around racism and discrimination. Measures such as the Equality Act 2004, the Equal Status Act 2000 and the Employment Act 1998' the study found that 'racism and discrimination is relatively high among Black Africans'. The CSO in their Quarterly National Household

Survey in Quarter 4 of 2004 found that 'discrimination on the grounds of racism/ethnic origin was higher than all other grounds for discrimination in Ireland'. According to the ESRI latest results 16% of people have been turned away from a job because of their ethnic background, 25% said they had been subjected to insults and harassment at their work place, 14% have been turned away from pubs, clubs and restaurants. 35% have been on the wrong side of threats and insults on the streets and public transport and 10% have been faced with violent attacks because they are in some way different from us. These are only some of the figures of the comprehensive 43 question survey that was conducted among people of

many different nations including Nigeria, Somalia, Poland and Romania to name but a few.

It will be with interest that I shall read the results of the forthcoming survey but I hold my bated breath for the time being. In a UnivESRItY atmosphere where free spirits and open mindedness are endorsed it's hard to believe that one of our students would resort to tagging the chessboard with 'Arbeit Macht Frei' without any consideration for the International students on campus. I sometimes cannot believe my eyes when I see peoples comments on the ULSU forum agreeing with the tag and trying to almost equate our lifestyle here within UL with that of the unfortunate souls who's lives

where lost and destroyed in the Nazi concentration camps.

It's hard to acknowledge our faults. It's difficult for anyone of us to put our hands up and admit that we were wrong. It's time that this country grew up for once and for all and accepted that we need to work from the grass roots and educate the children of Ireland that it is okay for us all to be different. We will never totally eradicate it; we are taking steps to eliminate as much of it as possible, but for the time being it remains Ireland's secret passion. As the advertisement for a certain brand of bread states 'it's a matter of pride'.

Niamh Coleman is the ULSU Equality Officer and can be contacted through the SU.

AONTAS NA MAC LEINN
ULSU
Office of Learning Support

NiteLink Bus

In association with

SUPERQUINN
&
Courtyard Student Village, Brookfield Hall Student Village
Thomond Village, Kilmurry Village
Dromroe Village, Cappavilla Village, Plassey Village

Route A: On the hour
7:00 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00

Start @ Stables Arch way
Stop 1: Dromroe Village
Stop 2: Thomond Village
Stop 3: Cappavilla Village
Stop 4: Plassey Village
Stop 5: College Court
Stop 6: Courtyard Student Village
Stop 7: Brookfield Student Village
End @ Stables Arch way

Route B: On the half hour***
7:30 8:30 9:30 10:30

Start @ Stables Arch way
Stop 1: Kilmurry Village
Stop 2: Elm Park
Stop 3: Oak Lawns
Stop 4: Kilmurry Lodge
Stop 5: Superquinn
Stop 6: Briarfield
Stop 7: Courtyard/Brookfield Roundabout
End @ Stables Archway

***Milford Grange On Request

Route C:
11:30 Only
All Route A & B Stops on Request
Please note: Route C is a drop-off-only route

UL Bus Service - Trick or Treat?

DANIEL SULLIVAN

ON All Hallows eve, October 31st all Limerick City bus services were suspended across the entire city because of a number of localised attacks on buses. This has been widely reported both in the local media and online at <http://thelimerick.blogspot.com/>. It is alleged that 'one bus had seven windows busted, while another had five broken. Two other buses had three windows broken' (source: thelimerick blog).

Such attacks on a vital public service are to be condemned. And it should be hoped that the morons responsible will be apprehended and dealt with accordingly. What has not been addressed at anyone was the complete lack of notification for those dependent on the service. Many people were left stranded across the city and in particular at UL. They were

left entirely unsure whether the bus service was just late or the usual partial no show. As one contributor noted "if you don't see a bus for an hour or so you can't tell if its because they have been cancelled, or there is a strike, or its just the usual standard of service." Which brought the response of "but if you see 3 buses arriving at the same time after one hour waiting for one then you know it's the standard service" This would appear to indicate that people are disinclined to believe anything that Bus Eireann say.

Since the cancellation Bus Eireann has claimed that the service was suspended in order to ensure the safety of their drivers and that a full service would be available the following day. There was no mention of the needs of their customers on Hallowe'en evening. Additionally, there were reports that the total cost of damage to the buses comes to the sum of €30,000, which you have to admit sounds like

a lot for a dozen or so broken windows. It is more likely that the €30,000 figure includes the cost of lost revenue to Bus Eireann for the complete shutdown of services.

The service was changed last Christmas from 3 buses per hour to 4 buses per hour; however extra buses were not sourced by Bus Eireann for this increase in the schedule. Instead the alterations to the timetable were made possible by some areas of the city losing some services and the acceptance by Bus Eireann of the fact that some of the advertised services will simply never turn up. For example, the post lunch services at 2.15, 2.30 appear not to exist many days. It would seem that a frequent and reliable bus service would be one vital component to explore if we are to tackle the car parking situation on campus. Neither the university nor the bus company seem interested in supporting the provision of such a service.



A Bus Éireann bus pulling in at the UL stop
Photo: Alannah Turner

It is worth drawing Bus Eireann's attention to the difference between a suspension and a cancellation. A suspension is something that will doesn't take place now but will take place later. It would be interesting to

know at what later date the various buses scheduled for post 19.00 on October 31st will run. These services were simply cancelled without notice. It appears the company was unable or unwilling to find someone to travel the bus

routes and put up some notices on the bus stops.

As many people will know at this point, the bus timetable is such a piece for fiction that some are considering submitting it for a Booker prize.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

With ULSU Welfare Officer Sinéad Hickey

Its coming up to Christmas (sorry for saying the dreaded word so early) so here is your rights under the **Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act 1980**.

Under this Act, anything you buy from a retailer must be:

- of merchantable quality
- fit for its normal purpose, and reasonably durable
- as described, whether the description is part of the advertising or wrapping, on a label, or something said by the salesperson.

When you buy goods from a retailer, you make a contract with him. He agrees to provide certain goods to you for a certain price. If your purchase turns out to be faulty, the retailer, not the manufacturer, is responsible to you and must sort out your complaint. You are entitled to a refund, a replacement or a repair.

You do not have to take a credit note if your complaint is covered by the Sale of Goods Act. You can insist on a refund, a replacement or a repair.

If you have a genuine complaint about faulty goods, you can ignore shop notices such as 'No Refunds' or 'No Exchanges'. Such notices cannot take away any of your statutory rights under the Sale of Goods Act.

You have no rights under the Sale of Goods Act if you simply change your mind about wanting the goods. You also have no rights if faults are due to misuse of the product after purchase, or if faults should have been obvious or were pointed out at the time of purchase.

The person who purchased the goods holds the rights under the Act. If you receive the goods as a gift, you have no contract with the retailer and don't have the same rights. In practice, most retailers will oblige the user of the goods but this is a gesture of goodwill, not a legal requirement.

Your rights under the Act also apply to goods purchased at **sale prices**. They must be of merchantable quality, fit for their particular purpose and as described. If goods are being sold as seconds or shop-soiled, however, you cannot expect the same standard.

Wellbeing

With Sinéad Hickey - ULSU Welfare Officer

ULSU Safety Advise

Never walk home alone. Always arrange to walk home with a friend or a group. If you have no choice but to walk alone, always send a housemate a text (use your free online texts!) to let them know where you are and what time you expect to be home.

Take the NiteLink! I can't emphasise this enough! The NiteLink bus is a FREE service provided by the Students' Union. The bus leaves the arch near The Paddocks restaurant and services all estates from 7-11.30pm. The timetable is available on the SU Website, from the Students' Union, on notice boards and in An Focal - there's no excuse not to take it!

Avoid dark areas. Now it get dark really early so don't take short cuts. Keep to the main UL pathways that are well lit.

Carry only the cash and valuables that you require

On nights out, either in Castletroy or in town always stay with your friends. Don't get separated and make sure if you are walking home from the Lodge don't walk home alone. If you know someone walking home alone, don't take no for an answer and walk with them, its too dangerous.

If you think you are being followed, go to the nearest place where there are people, even a private house and ring the Gardaí.

If you are assaulted, help is available to you 24 hours a day. In any case involving sexual attack, you may feel dirty, but you should NOT wash, change your clothes or clean up the immediate vicinity until after you have talked to the Garda, you may unwittingly destroy essential evidence. Many crimes of rape, sexual attack are not reported and most rapists will continue their assaults until caught.

If an issue arises...

Report all incidents to me in the SU building, email sinead.hickey@ul.ie or 061-202519, 086-8214565

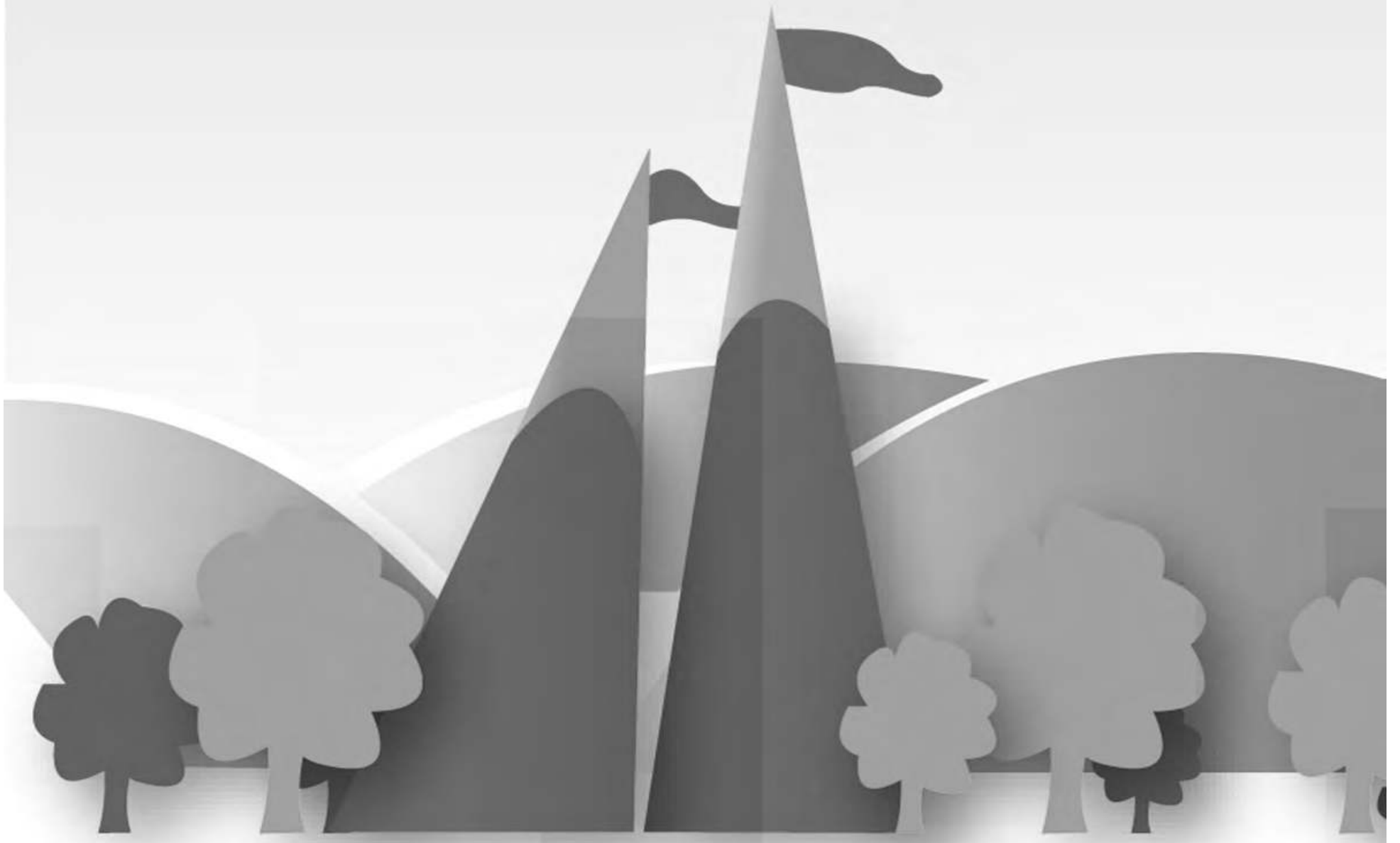
Contact Campus Security - These are the guys that drive around in the red and white vans. In the event of an emergency or an incident, call the emergency line on 213333. Campus security have a new office in the SU building.

Numbers to remembers:

Emergency - 999 or 112
Garda Station (Henry St.) 061-212400
Garda Station (Roxboro) 061-419555

For all the info you need on Ents. & Events,
Union News, An Focal Interactive, as well as
Jobs & Accomodation listings...
...log on to the redesigned
Students' Union website:

www.
ulsu.ul.ie



Campus Sport

Hockey IV 'extraordinary'

ELLEN BEHAN

THE Hockey Intervarsities have come and gone for another college year and as usual an extraordinary week was experienced by all that were involved. This year however it was an extra special occasion for the UL ladies team as the University were the proud hosts of this great competition. 18 teams, 288 hockey players descended on the college to battle it out for overall glory of their respective cups. All this took place from the 31st of October to the 2nd of November (week 6).

The UL ladies team flew

the flag on behalf of the University. They had a fantastic week where they showed outstanding skill, dedication, composure, team spirit and of course, love of the game. Undoubtedly the ladies did the college proud.

UL made it into the semi-finals in which they faced the winners of Group A, UCD and of course this left Trinity and UCC to battle it out in the other semi. UL's semi-final was scheduled for 9am in UL early Thursday morning; however, the low temperatures of Wednesday night had left its mark on the astro-turf as parts of it still remained frozen over. By 9.30 though, the

pitch had been attended to and the game could begin.

The UL girls started very strong and took control of the game as they pressurised the UCD defence in their half for the first 15 minutes. Regrettably UCD managed to retain a narrow victory over the UL girls. UCD were relieved when the final whistle blew as they knew UL had played exceptionally well and they were lucky to finish as winners.

The final saw UCD facing the winners of the other semi, UCC. Previously when these teams had met early Tuesday morning the game had ended with a score of 2-2, so a tough close encounter was expected and the spectators were not disappointed. UCD jumped ahead early in the first half but all could see that the Cork girls were not ready to give up. Nevertheless

UCD shocked UCC with a late goal and the score was 2-2 when the final whistle blew. In the end, UCC kept their composure and became the victorious winners of the Intervarsities 2006.

The UL team was: Ruth Fahy, Niki Sterritt, Carol Hickey, Ellen Behan, Sharon Carey, Ciara Howard, Claire Mulcahy, Katie Horner, Jane Quinlivan, Jen O Loughlin, Aisling McKeon, Jessica Kelliher, Emma O Connell, Sinead McMahon, Aoife Kenny and Jean Quin. Team coach was Deirdre Ni Chronin, fitness coach was Noreen O'Connell and team manager was Feenagh Smith.

The team has extended its congratulations to Sharon Carey, Niki Sterritt, Claire Mulcahy and Aisling McKeon who made the Irish University squad.



UL's Aoife Kenny showing skill and composure



UL's Jen O' Loughlin heading for the goal

UL Bohs Still On Top

TOMÁS MCCARTHY


FAIR play to UL Bohs who have maintained their good form to remain top of the AIB All Ireland League. With a win over Clontarf and a bonus point loss to Lansdowne Bohs head into the break a point ahead at the top of the table.

On the 29th October Bohs faced Clontarf at Thomond Park. Despite the strength of Clontarf's pack Bohs scrapped a 10-3 win. Fly-half Ben Martin was once again in fine form. On 4th November Bohs travelled to the capital to play Lansdowne. The home side got off to the

perfect start leading 15-0 after 20 mins. Bohs stormed back though when Martin McPhail cut through the defence for a try. This was McPhail's sixth try of the season which Martin converted. Tom Luke added another try in the 67th minute to earn a bonus point. Lansdowne defence held firm to record a 15-14 victory.

Despite this defeat and the ending of a ten match unbeaten run Bohs can still feel confident. With players such as Martin McPhail in flying form Bohs are in for a good season. There is now a break for internationals so the next game is in early December against Cork Con.

UL SHOTOKAN



KARATE CLUB

TRAINING EVERY

TUES 6.15 - 8.00 PM

&

THUR 8.15 - 10.00 PM

PESS BUILDING GYM

No Rules, No Future

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

AFTER the disgraceful scenes in Croke Park at the Second Test of the International Rules the time has come to scrap the series.

Of primary concern here is the safety of the Irish players. The fact of the matter is that it just wasn't safe to be out there last Sunday. Players made reckless and brutal challenges and that was outside of the scraping that took place. Graham Geraghty was swung head first to the ground by an Aussie and was left unconscious. Benny Coulter running hard for a ball was elbowed in the face. Shane Ryan was complaining of spasms in his back and Tadhg Kennelly was also badly injured. The Irish are not blameless here either with Aidan O'Mahony and Ryan challenging unnecessarily with the boot. Is it really worth all of this punishment? The Irish players have to go to work in the morning, the Aussies don't. We can count ourselves fortunate that all of our big stars came through unscathed.

Also the series is of no benefit if the Aussies bring this thuggish attitude. It was clear from the outset that all they wanted was a fight. From the very first minute Irish players were intimidated, wrestled to the ground, punched and pulled. They

wanted to distract the Irish and they got their way. Nothing has changed from last year. The Aussies acted in brutal, violent manner that does not benefit the game. They use their physical strength to bully the Irish. Is it any wonder the Irish reacted. Their behaviour can not be accepted in any game. Why should we continue to play ball with these thugs?

The game has now gone out of control due to a lack of rules as well. On numerous occasions red cards should have been brandished but no the easy option was taken. Players showed absolutely no respect towards the officials. The Aussies know the punishments are minimal so they do whatever they please. Hence all hell breaks loose as on Sunday. When discipline goes everything must go.

You might say I am bitter because Ireland got thumped but this is not the case. Australia were much the better side and have some fine players like Big Barry Hall. The fact that we lost is not why the series is in danger though. I can live with the Aussies winning just not in that manner. Teams should win with style, with skill and play the game in the proper spirit. Unfortunately though this time violence is king. It's time now for Nicky Brennan and the GAA to say no more. The series is now a dead duck and does no good



No rules at Croke Park last Sunday

for anyone anymore. We don't want any more of disgusting, disgraceful behaviour on the field of play. Let's scrap it for once and for all for the players, for the supporters for everyone.

You know you are a GAA Shaper (Part 2) when ...

1. You complain that the backs never play good ball to you (you are always a forward because they score (backs get no glory), probably wing or corner (because you can pick up a handy score there and also wave to the crowd)) and if the selectors knew anything (which they don't) they would make you captain.
2. You insist on making yourself available for 2 championship matches on the same day
3. You threaten to quit the team cause the manager won't pick your brother
4. You wear your jersey over your togs and spend ages neatly fixing your socks before the game
5. You make your own speech in the dressing room after the captain and mentors have made their speeches
6. You leave in two soft goals...one dropped out of your hand....and you complain of a shoulder injury when trying to puck out the next couple of balls.
7. You wear white boots, white socks a white helmet with a white club jersey.
8. You walk to the dressing room at half time, while everyone else ran ,take off your helmet and start fixing up your hair before you reach the sideline.
9. You have something written on the bos of your hurley and showing in the team photograph before the game.
10. When once a game, you get shouldered straight in the face and are flattened, by a player who just ran forty yards to get ya.



University Arena
AIRÉANA NA hOLLSCOILE

Sporting question of the edition

Who am I?

- 1) I hold the long course World Record for the 100m freestyle (2 lengths of the Arena's pool!) with a time of 47.84 seconds
- 2) I won 6 gold medals at the 1999 European Championships and a gold medal in the 100m freestyle at the Athens Olympics in 2004
- 3) My father is the Team Doctor at PSV Eindhoven Football Club
- 4) I was born on March 14, 1978 in Maastricht
- 5) I have trained at UL's National 50m Swimming Pool as part of the Netherland's Olympic Team, on two training camps

Answer: Pieter Van Den Hoogenband



www.universityarena.com

Barcelona-Chelsea: it wasn't THAT bad

LIAM TOGHER

THERE was much hype surrounding the Champions League clash between Barcelona and Chelsea on Halloween night in the Nou Camp. The champions of the two biggest leagues in the world met for the sixth time in less than 20 months and two weeks after Chelsea emerged 1-0 winners at Stamford Bridge. Every time these teams have clashed in the last two years, there has been controversy at some point. Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho is regarded as the primary instigator of any off-field drama that arises and he set the ball rolling by calling Barcelona striker Eidur Gudjohnsen a diver. Sure

enough, the match itself was an ill-tempered affair with plenty for the pundits to gripe about. Sadly, there was too much griping after what was actually a highly entertaining match.

A number of people I've spoken to since the game were disgusted at the amount of gamesmanship we were subjected to by the apparently world-class players on view. The chief offender was Didier Drogba, who showed his best and worst traits in the 2-2 draw. He angered the majority of viewers with his histrionics and excessive simulation, but his last-minute equaliser showed us that he is a lot more than a despicable cheat. He has totally outplayed Andriy Shevchenko this season, and

the Ukrainian is irresistible when he gets in the mood.

All four goals came about through moments of brilliance. Firstly, Deco made a great run and finished sweetly for his early strike. Frank Lampard, minutes after I questioned his form, came up with a goal that not even he thought he could score. Ronaldinho demonstrated his pre-World Cup form to supply Gudjohnsen with his finish and I already mentioned Drogba's superb injury-time leveller. Unfortunately, the match was tainted by childish behaviour and stupid tackling from some players and the Italian referee struggled to keep things under control.

As the match ended and the ads were on, I thought to

myself that it was an enthralling game of football from two of the best teams in the world. Then John Giles and Eamon Dunphy, the long streaks of misery, started ranting about Mourinho behaving like a clown when he understandably fell to his knees in celebration at Drogba's equaliser. They continued whingeing about the poor behaviour of players rather than acknowledging the game's many highlights, so I had enough and switched off the telly. Oh, where are the *Après Match* boys when you need them? Now those lads can analyse football properly and with a good laugh to boot.

THE PREMIERSHIP

Kevin Corcoran

SIR DAVID BECKHAM?

IT has recently caught my attention that David Beckham could possibly be in line to receive a knighthood from the Queen come January. Now the first thought that springs to mind is the fact that he hasn't really done anything for his country so what the hell is going on?



This guy is unquestionably a highly talented footballer at times but with all due respect to her majesty, she hasn't half let her standards drop. Just think of legends such as Bob Paisley, Gary Lineker and Alan Shearer all of whom have contributed more to the success of English football than Beckham and have never received this honour. The standard has been falling for a while now, even Clive Woodward ended up at Windsor for winning the World Egg chasing championships. So Lizzy, if you're reading as surely you are, stop buying into the gossip columns and get yourself a history book. Of course maybe you just want to entice David to your lonely castle, you broody mare you. And who knows you might get lucky; I mean his standards aren't much higher than yours.

THANK GOD, IT'S SAN MARINO

TOMORROW Night's victory over San Marino looks set to keep Steve Staunton in a job until after Christmas at least and that is probably the best thing for the team at present, depressingly. The next four games should all be very winnable and if we can bag those twelve points, then who knows, we might even finish fourth. Optimistic I know but let's just get behind the team

and erase 2006 from the memories. Being honest, a third place finish seems in reality the best outcome which this group of players can achieve. I mean they're shite at the best of times. On that bombshell, come on Ireland.



NEWS ROUND-UP

NOW it has occurred to me that this Premiership column as yet hasn't got much about the Premiership in it, so here's a reminder of what has been happening.

Two Premiership players were struck by coins at games recently, reigniting the debate of whether or not fans should be allowed to throw stuff at players they dislike, or something along those lines.

Also the angry side of Arsene Wenger appeared again although his attack on Alan Pardew was thwarted by some of those 'nice guys' who insist on ruining everyone's fun. I bet Pardew was relieved though, that he avoided the brutal force that is Wenger's left hook.

And of course Sir Alex Ferguson or 'the second coming' as I like to call him celebrated his twentieth anniversary at the theatre of dreams. However in the midst of this significant occasion, he forgot his wife's birthday again. Anyway here's a picture of the great man with the European cup just to show how great he is.



Ultimate Frisbee training times:

5:30 - 7:30 Wednesday
7:30 - 9:30 Thursday
2:30 - 4:30 Sunday



AGM
Week 8
ULSU Room 3

Magic Numbers

TOMÁS MCCARTHY

- 52 The distance in metres of Ronan O'Gara's last minute penalty against Leicester.
- 0 The number of goals scored by FC Copenhagen in the Champions League before they played Man United
- 99 The number of games it took Rafa Benitez to realise that maybe it is better to field an unchanged team.
- 30 The gap in points between Australia and Ireland in the International Rules. Are we that bad?
- 13 The gap between Celtic and Rangers in the SPL. Another cakewalk for the Celts.
- 1 The lead UL Bohs have at the top of the AIB All Ireland League.
- 93 The year that United garnered 28 points in their first 11 games a feat matched by the class of 2006.

Sporting Quotes of the Edition

- **"Places like this are the soul of English football. The crowd is magnificent, saying '**** off Mourinho' and so on.**

Mourinho revels in the abuse he received from Blades fans at Bramall Lane.

- **"I put on a video of one of his recent fights and it made my eyes water, there were so many low blows. I want a big family so I was straight on the phone to sort out some insurance for my meat and two veg!"**

Super featherweight Kevin Mitchell before his Commonwealth title fight with Ghana's George Ashie. Mitchell won the contest on points, with everything intact.

- **"He's going to be what?! Oh for God's sake. Sir David Beckham? You're having a laugh. He's just a good footballer with a famous bird."**

Ian Holloway reacts to the news that Beckham is being tipped for a knighthood in his column for BBC Sport.

- **"Throwing teacups is old school. Even Sir Alex would tell you it's old school!"**

New Macclesfield manager Paul Ince intends to take the softly softly approach.

- **"If that wasn't a goal, my auntie's my uncle!"**

Chris Kamara on Henri Camara's 'goal' that never stood in the Fulham v Wigan game.

- **"The 2,000 away fans will be unhappy; in fact half of them have gone, there's only 500 left."**

Chris Waddle's maths needs some work when talking about the Man City fans.

- **"He likes to get right up your backside and make you turn the other way."**

Paul Merson on Khalid Bouhlarouz's worrying defending techniques during Chelsea-Barcelona.

- **"I ate home-made pumpkin and prawn soup and it had some disastrous effects. I'll never eat prawns again."**

Fulham's Moritz Volz has a bit of tummy trouble. Whatever happened to the good old days of a fry-up before the match?

Chants of the fortnight

- **"Who ate all the prawns?"**

The Fulham fans to Moritz Volz at the Villa game. It inspired him to score!

- **"Steve Gerrard, Gerrard, He kisses the badge on his chest, Then puts in a transfer request, Steve Gerrard, Gerrard."**

The chant from triumphant Manchester United fans in their 2-0 victory over Liverpool

- **"Come in a taxi, you must have come in a taxi!"**

Stockport fans chant to Torquay counterparts

- **"You're not hungry, you're not hungry, you're not hungry anymore!"**

MK Dons fans to Jermain Defoe

Celebrating a mind-boggling 20 years managing Glazer United

Sports Editor, Patrick Mannix looks back at some classic Fergie spraffs over the last two decades

- "Big? It isn't big. It's magnificent! I've seen some whoppers in my time, but Dion's is something else" - Ferg's verdict on Dion Dublin's lunchbox, according to the then Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson, in 1994.
- I f*****g told youse not to ask that John. You know the rules here" - introducing John Motson to the hairdryer after Motty asked why Roy Keane had slugged Jan Fjortoft in 1995.
- If he was an inch taller he'd be the best centre-half in Britain. His father is 6ft 2in - I'd check the milkman" - appraising Gary Neville's parentage in 1996
- He's a bully, a f*****g big-time Charlie" - an impromptu paeon to his former midfield stalwart Paul Ince in 1998.
- When an Italian says it's pasta I check under the sauce to make sure" - the old charmer limbers up for a visit to Milan in 1999.
- "I'm no' f*****g talking to you. Veron's a great f***ing player. Youse are all f***ing idiots" - building bridges with the press after criticism of Juan Veron in 2002
- Just f*****g patch him up" - Fergie's reputed instruction to the United physio after lamping a stray boot into David Beckham's face in 2003.
- Real Madrid - they have a nice draw, they must have picked it themselves. The Spanish or Italian teams don't play each other, how do you think they work that out? They don't want us in the final, that's for sure, but I'm not listening" - after the Rowdies drew Real in Big Cup quarter-final in 2003. They lost.
- "Could I have two bullets?" - when asked 'If you had one bullet and Victoria Beckham and Arsene Wenger were in the room, what would you do?' in 2004.
- "My greatest challenge was knocking Liverpool right off their f*****n' perch, and you can print that" - responding to Alan Hansen's suggestion that regaining the title in 2002-03 would be his greatest challenge

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SPORT



Training Tue & Thurs
7pm Beginners
8pm Intermediate

Everybody welcome,
Come give it a go!!

Twenty Years of Hairdryers and Flying Boots

Sports Editor Patrick Mannix looks back at Alex Ferguson's 20 years at Manchester United

Nineteen years without a title, a new manager and a first managerial defeat to a lowly Oxford side, a club in crisis? Sounds like Aston Villa, Preston or Wimbledon, but in fact it is a new look Man United with a staunch, chewing gum Scotsman at its helm. That 2-0 defeat at Oxford was the first step on a road which led to 24 major trophies. Living up to Sir Matt Busby had proved impossible for every one of his successors and on November 6th, 1986, United were joint 19th in the 22-team old First Division with three wins and 13 points from 13 games. There was little financial support in those days and Liverpool looked down on United from the summit of English football, a sight which Ferguson later saw as 'his greatest challenge to knock Liverpool of their f***ing perch'. But as Ferguson struggled in those early days - he finished in the top four once in his first five years- he was busy creating the conditions to kick the stool from under the Anfield leg and bring them onto the same level as United. In 1988 after a 3-3 draw at Anfield in which Paul McGrath starred, Ferguson began the campaign. He now knew that 'This is Anfield' and understood where his team had come, 'I can now understand why a lot of managers have to leave here choking on their own sick- the provocation and intimidation the referee is under are incredible, to win here is a miracle'.

Most new bosses allow a period to evaluate their new surroundings. Not the fiery Scotsman. After a 2-0 defeat to Oxford he assembled his squad the next week and read the riot act about drinking. He ended the open access the press enjoyed at the Cliff training ground during the Atkinson era. Rules were laid down regarding dress code, diet and punctuality. New training methods were introduced, the youth system was overhauled and United's

scouting network was completely revamped. Fergie meant business and the man dubbed 'The Hairdryer' for his unique ability to strike fear with a blast of his infamous temper had to use all his managerial characteristics to make United a stronghold of English soccer again. The two most famous recipients of the hairdryer treatment were David 'golden balls' Beckham and Roy 'F***king MUTV' Keane. Both of these players bust-ups with Ferguson were well publicised, however I want to focus on the first man to face the chop. You're probably thinking Mr. 'Oh Ah himself' McGrath but no it was in fact the bus driver. At Big Ron Atkinson's invitation, David Sutton had been a regular member of United's away day entourage, both in the dressing room and the dugout- but little did he know he was about to become the first victim of Fergie's famous 'hairdryer' temper.

At half-time, with United struggling on the Manor's Alpine slope, Ferguson prowled down the tunnel running over his debut pep-talk to an under-achieving team... and he was gob smacked when Sutton followed him into the changing room. Fergie's humour, corroded by the trespass of an uninvited guest, dissolved further still when he discovered Sutton was a Manchester City fan. Many other players and bus drivers have fallen out with Fergie and paid the price down the years, yet therein lies another aspect of the Scot's managerial capacity- the ability to take tough decisions and have the courage to see them through.

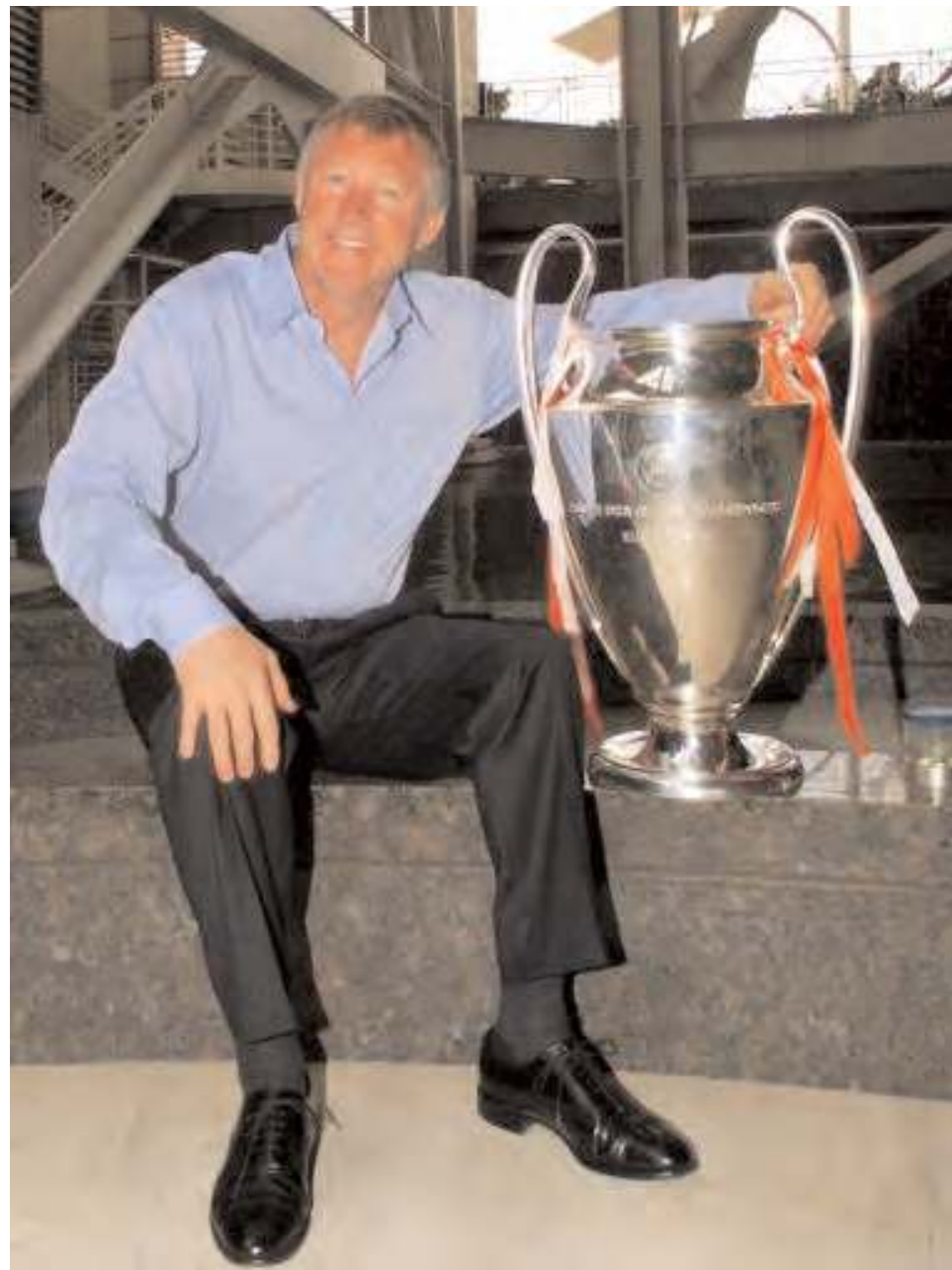
There are five main events during his managerial career which showed the stern Scotsman's hand:

The first big clean out: When United slumped to 11th in his second full season in charge, Ferguson started a

shake-up. In March, to supporter's dismay, he sold another fiery Scotsman, Gordon Strachan. Then, in 48 hours in July, Norman Whiteside and Paul McGrath were transferred. Fergie committed to tightening the drinking tap at United could never fully expunge it until the two leading practitioners were sold. Both were extremely talented players and McGrath found a new vein of form at Villa Park but their replacements proved more than up to the job: Gary Pallister and Paul Ince.

The Revamp in the Summer of 98: The World Cup had just finished and France were world champions however the adventurous Scotsman invested however in a Dutchman who had a cumbersome World Cup. Then Fergie faced further ridicule when he decided to invest £12.6 million on the one and only Dwight Yorke. The Trinidad and Tobago player proved his worth to Villa, but could he prove to be the catalyst for a United side looking to win back the Premiership from Arsenal. There was also internal opposition to the purchase as Ferguson's assistant, Brian Kidd wanted to buy John Hartson instead and was supported initially by Martin Edwards. Kidd was soon off to manage Blackburn and Yorke and Stam turned out to be the best striker and the best defender in Europe as United swept to the Treble.

Fergie boots Beckham to Real Madrid: The golden boy of English soccer and one of their own. They said he'd never do it. He did and did it in style at that. They had a relationship described as 'like father and son' but by the end of 02-03, after a series of spats Ferguson 'accidentally' kicked a boot in Beckham's face in the Old Trafford dressing room. Originally a deal was sealed with Barcelona but he was eventually sold to Madrid for £25m. Supporters and commentators alike questioned the decision and the effect it would have on the team both competitively and



Alex Ferguson

financially but fresh from regaining the title, unfazed he turned to Cristiano 'Oh oh spaghetti' Ronaldo.

MUTV sign Keane's faith: They said he would never do it, part two. He did. Keane was the mainstay and captain of possibly the greatest ever United team and drove them to an unforgettable treble in 1999. However every relationship has two sides. Unfortunately for Roy, Fergie and Man U. neither saw this. Following earlier bust ups, which included slaughtering team-mates in an interview on MUTV before turning his ire on Carlos Queiroz when asked to apologise, he had to go. A mistake? United have yet to replace the midfield general.

Ruud heads for the Real life: They said....yeah we know, part three. Fans were anxious of goings on in the depths of the theatre of dreams. Their prized asset who had scored a phenomenal 150 goals in 219 appearances was leaving. His replacement, Michael Who? With Louis Saha in potent form and Van Nistelrooy's departure apparently giving 'Shrek' Rooney, 'Spaghetti' Ronaldo and 'Specsavers' Scholes more scope in attack, United's overall goal count has risen. The league table suggests the cunning Scotsman may have pulled off another masterstroke however if either Rooney or Saha should get injured this may prove to be a disaster.

Bob Paisley in this writer's view is the greatest

manager in English soccer. His three European cups, league and cup success set the benchmark for Ferguson and the likes to follow. There are arguments for Bill Shankly, Sir Matt Busby, Brian Clough and Stein even Wenger but it is impossible to know whether any of them can be gauged in the modern era where Fergie's ability to renew both himself and the biggest of football clubs amid the constant pressures of the game. Chelsea may currently have the money, Arsenal may currently play in a more flamboyant manner and Liverpool may currently have more league titles and European Cups but it is the Red Devils, thanks to Ferguson, who boast the best mixture of all three.



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Week 8

Monday Week 8

Irish Bands Live @ The Stables

Free Gig (Band on stage at 9.30pm)
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Fred

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Just back from their US tour Cork's finest return to UL. Get ready for an onslaught of Corkonians with great music. If your from Cork bet there (cos they're from Cork) if your not from Cork be there anyway cos the music is great.



Wednesday Week 8

Midweeker presents the Best of Irish Comedy Reuben

The new face of Irish comedy, he has supported Tommy Tiernan, Dara O Briain, Des Bishop, Ardal O Hanlon, Colin Murphy - all the big names in Irish comedy. He's a bit different in that he doesn't actually talk, it's like watching a live cartoon... it's just difficult to explain... but just give it a try and we guarantee you won't be disappointed.

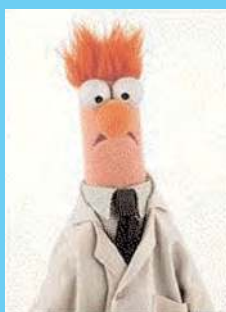


Check him out at
<http://web.mac.com/justmystuff/iWeb/limerick/Movie.htm>
or
www.Comedywithoutwords.com

Follow that with

Feckin Fivers at Trinity Rooms presents The Mad Scientists Ball

special prizes for those in lab coats & goggles
test tubes galore.....
Tickets 5 euro from Students' Union



Week 9

Monday Week 9

Irish Bands Live @ The Stables

Free Gig (Band on stage at 9.30pm)

The Alphastates

In 2005 no one was as hot as the Alphastates. Their album Made of Sand was the Irish release of the year. At Oxegen they played to 6000 people in the rising tent and were stars of the show. They shared stages with Throwing Muses, Sinéad O Connor, Cat Power, The Frames, The Beta Band and Lali Puna. Their music was in demand for both TV and Film productions, including Irish drama series The Big Bow Wow, and in Ireland's national television RTE's sport advertising campaign. They were selected by RTE to perform on the programme Other Voices Songs From a Room, alongside Steve Earle, the Mark Lanegan Band (Queens of the Stone age) and many others. They were also selected from thousands of other bands to have a video made by the prestigious New York Film School of their pulsating single Addicted. Their second album will be f***ing amazing, probably.

They've had a quiet 2006 but are ready to start conquering the world all over again. Courtesy of their phenomenal live performances they have built up a strong fanbase around the country and they're on the road again. Catch them at the Stables on Monday Week 9.

Wednesday Week 9

Midweeker presents the Best of Irish Comedy

8pm Jean Monet Theatre
Tickets 7 euro from Students Union.

Karl Spain

Karl Spain is one of Ireland's best 'young' (ask him what age he is) comedians. In his short career he has already achieved an awful lot. He burst on the scene in 2000 by winning a newcomer competition on R.T.E. and has since maintained a high standard. In 2003 he was thrilled to be chosen as one of the Irish acts at the Montreal 'Just for Laughs' festival which was recently repeated on R.T.E. 2.



In 2004 he performed at festivals around the world including Australia, Kilkenny and his well received solo debut at the Edinburgh festival 'Spain, Ireland and Beyond'.

T.V credits include *The Late Late Show* & *The Liffey Laughs* for RTE as well as the *BBC New Comedy Awards* in 2002. And also if you look closely at the audience the time his brother Gary was on *Where in the World* you can see Karl, he has a beard and is smiling.

He is however best known for his starring role in his own TV show *Karl Spain wants a woman*. He found that woman and she is apparently still putting up with him. The show can definitely be termed a success in that 1. He found a woman (don't all sigh at once ladies) and 2. The whole country now knows Karl Spain (intimately!)

As well as all the numerous comedy awards Karl was also a league winner with Summerville Rovers Under-10s. Plus he won a couple of "buachaill na seachtaine"s in primary school including two in third class.

"Destined to go far, see him now while you can". The Star
"Had the audience eating out of the palm of his hand" - Metro
"Karl is a very good boy" - Maths teacher (first year)

Follow that with

Feckin Fivers at the Trinity Rooms presents Porn Star Night

Tickets 5 Euro from Students' Union

...Coming Soon...

Wednesday Week 10

Midweeker presents Luka Bloom

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Week 11 Christmas Daze

Thursday Week 12

The Christmas Ball - stay tuned for details