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Aontas Na Mac Léinn

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Ollscoil Luimnigh

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UL involved in research to facilitate Arms Trade - Afrl

According to the Irish Examiner, a report published last week by Afrl, an Irish group that works to promote justice, peace and human rights has shown that UL is one of three Irish Universities that is increasingly involved in research sponsored by some of the world's largest arms companies.

Outlining the level of alleged academic involvement in defence-related research the report warns that: "Forging such close research links with many of Europe's leading arms companies will result in Irish expertise, skill and knowledge benefiting the military products of these companies."

UL is, however singled out for special criticism through the activities of the Department of Electronic and Computer engineering. Report author John Curran alleged the department

was part of a high-level research group involving the world's leading providers of military hardware. According to the Afrl report the Aerospace Research Control Network (ACRnet) of which Limerick is a member, is primarily concerned with weapons' development and manufacture.

A spokesperson for Afrl urged the government to action on the issue "we believe they should act so that at least the third level sector can be seen to be free of connections to the arms trade".

University College Cork and NUI Galway are also named as having extensive research interests which are either military related or are directly funded by arms companies.

"SU President Eoin Ó Broin, himself a holder of a degree in

Electronic Engineering, said that there are already enough "Weapons of Mass Destruction" and killing machines in the World, for the need to be developing any more. He went on to say that the ones who usually experience the effect of such weapons are for the most part poor people who live in mud huts and not those who develop or profit from them. As for the need for protection from an attack from outer space or intercontinental missiles, that's what Hollywood and strategic arms limitation treaties between countries are for."

The ECE Department were unfortunately unavailable for comment, but An Focal will endeavour to present their views on the report in full in the next edition of An Focal.

News

EU Chief, Romano Prodi, receives Honorary Doctorate

by Alan Higgins

On Friday the 2nd of April, the University of Limerick honoured the current President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, by conferring an Honorary Doctorate of Laws on him. Among those in attendance were representatives from the diplomatic corp, including the Italian Ambassador; the Oireachtas and government; members of the European Parliament, including the Parliament President, Pat Cox; and members of the Governing Authority and Faculty of the University. Welcomed by the University's Chancellor, Sean Donlon on behalf of the University Family, the Professor's academic, business and political achievements were acknowledged. He especially noted Prodi's support through the European Union in aiding the Irish Peace process. He also welcomed a former lecture of the University, Mr. Pat Cox, M.E.P, President of the European Parliament.

The Vice President-External, Dr. Noel Whelan, the author of Professor Prodi's citation outlined Romano Prodi's career as an academic, businessman, politician and international public servant and statesman. His many achievements in each field was recognised, including those that have occurred during his Presidency of the European Commission, which will end this coming June. To conclude, the citation predicted Prodi's legacy, of one that: "For many years to come, Europeans and persons operating in the wider global environment, will benefit from his idealism, his dedication, his commitment and his achievements."

On receiving his honorary doctorate from Dr. Rodger Downer, President of the University of Limerick, the Commission President addressed the guests present at the conferring. He said he was deeply honoured and touched for the distinction of receiving the honorary doctorate and the warm welcome he had received from the University. He reminisced that: "University life was close to my heart."

He continued, noting the importance of education and young people for the future of Europe and ensuring the innovation and competitiveness of the



Dr Romano Prodi

European economy. Professor Prodi noted in particular the role Ireland has played in highlighting this importance, from the times when Irish scholars travelled the European continent educating the peoples of Europe to the Ireland's investment in Education, which has contributed to Ireland being the one of the consistently best performers of the European Union. He said he would "bring an example to the accession states, that example is the Irish schools and Universities." He also noted the University of Limerick's undergraduate programmes and their incorporation of placement in industry.

Speaking on the European Constitution, "one of my dreams," Prodi was confident that the Irish Presidency could achieve the goal of concluding negotiations. He said that with enlargement there was a "need for a constitution for a new Europe," and he "desires to see the process through." Professor Prodi predicted that the way states interact in the future will be totally different," with the new constitution; and Ireland has a key role in achieving this."

Romano Prodi concluded his remarks by speaking of the Irish Peace Process and his strong feeling that peace can be achieved for the whole island.

With the conclusion of the ceremony, guests were invited for refreshments in the Atrium of the Foundation Building.

Developing Countries Awareness Day

Developing Countries Awareness Day at the University of Limerick Tuesday April 6th 2004

This Awareness Day is giving voluntary organizations an opportunity to speak with students and staff about the work they do to make our world a better place. We hope that the information will give you all some more insight into what the day is about and that you will all show up and lend your support to the people who make a difference to many areas of our own country and many others. Take some time out on the day to gain some knowledge about the different circumstances that face many people. Becoming more aware of the different situations will be the beginning of the support you can give, and you never

know what you might be able to do to make someone's world a better place!

The awareness day is run this year by Fr Koenraad Van Gucht, with the help of Marion Kinsella. This year he has had support in organizing the event from the Rev Patricia Hanna and Máire Brick. All your support for this day will be greatly appreciated by all involved. Give a little time to help others and see just how much of a difference it can make.

The following are some of the organizations you can expect to see on Tuesday April 6th 2004:

Doras Luimni, Viatores Christi, JVC, St. Patrick's Missionary Society, Bothar Third World Development, M.M. of M. Communications

Sabbatical Elections Week 8 No Candidate for CCO

Only two of the sabbatical positions in UL Students' Union will be contested in this coming Wednesday's elections. When nominations closed at 5pm on Thursday of Week 7, there were three candidates nominated for the position of President, two for Deputy President/Welfare Officer, one for Education Officer and no nominations for the position of Communications and Campaigns Officer.

Elections will take place on Wednesday of Week 8 (April 7th). Polling station will be in place in the Main B1 Canteen and in the Scholars Function Room (An Phluais) from 10am until 6.30pm. More polling station locations may be announced before Wednesday. Only registered students of UL can vote in the elections and they will be required to present a valid UL ID card in order to be able to vote. If you are not yet registered, you can do so at Student Services on Monday or Tuesday.

Hustings will take place on Tuesday 6th of April, from 12 to 2pm in the former smoking section of the Main Canteen. All candidates will be asked to make a short speech, and then the audience will be invited to put questions to candidates.

Candidates and their campaign teams will be manning stands in the Main Canteen on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, so that voters can question them on their plans and policies.

The turnout at last year's sabbatical elections was one of the highest ever, with over 3,000 students coming out to elect their officers and to vote in the Boathouse referendum. "It's great that it's election time again. Unfortunately not as many candidates as last year though all candidates presented have impressive credentials," said Eoin Ó Broin.

The presidential candidates are Ian Egerton, a graduate of IT, currently studying Interactive Media, Martin Gildea, a 4th year Business Studies

student and Timmy Hennessy, a 4th year Public Administration student.

The candidates for Deputy President/Welfare Officer are Caoilfhionn Dunne, second year Law and European Studies and Rosamund Healy, 4th year History, Politics and Social Studies.

As Fintan Breen, 4th year Computer Systems, was the only candidate for the position of Education Officer at close of nominations, he has been deemed elected by the Returning Officer.

Eoin Ó Broin, SU President commented "Congratulations to Fintan Breen who will make a great Education Officer. Fintan has been vocal at Class Reps over the last year and has a good grasp of the academic issues at hand. The Deans will have to watch out!"

Nominations for the Position of Communications and Campaigns Officer will re-open on Tuesday of Week 8 (April 6th) at 9am and close on Thursday April 8th at 5pm. The election will then take place on Thursday of Week 9. Mr Ó Broin said "I'm also looking forward to a second election in Week 9 for the position of CCO. Hopefully those who hesitated with throwing in their nomination forms will lose their inhibitions between now and next Thursday. Otherwise no An Focal next year. Imagine that!"

The current CCO, Sarah Ryan stated that she had no plans to run for the position for the coming year. "I really hope that somebody will take up the challenge. It is a challenge, there's no denying that, but it's a rewarding year as well, and there are plenty of people out there who would be well-suited to do the job. Just get those forms in!"

Forms will be available from Students' Union reception, and must be returned to Gemma Nolan, the Returning Officer.

For more information on election candidates, turn to pages 4 and 5.

Election Timetable 2004

Monday April 5th:

Campaigning begins

Tuesday April 6th:

Nominations for CCO Re-Open

Tuesday April 6th 12-2pm:

Hustings, Main Canteen.

Wednesday April 7th 10am-6.30pm:

Polling in An Phuais and Main Canteen

Thursday April 8th 5pm:

Nominations for CCO Close.

Thursday April 15th 10am - 6.30pm

Polling for CCO Election in Canteen

News

Smoking Ban Implemented on Campus Without a Hitch

On Monday 29th of March, the ban on smoking in the workplace was implemented across the country. As UL has long been a practically smoke-free campus, the implementation of a total smoking ban was merely the next step, and was accomplished with a minimum of difficulty. The only smoking areas in the main building were the "Iron Lung" sections of the Restaurant and Canteen. These have now been designated no smoking without any problems. The only places on campus where

smoking was permitted in all public areas were the on-campus clubs; the Sports Bar, the Stables and the Scholars. As Monday was the first day of Kollege Week, when the clubs are usually at their busiest, many predicted a baptism of fire, with smoking patrons unwilling to leave the warmth of the club to smoke outside.

After a week, however, things seem to be going smoothly, with the vast majority of members leaving the club when they wish to have a cigarette. There were a few incidents of customers attempting to

smoke in the toilets, but supervision ensured that they did not succeed. A very small number of members were asked to leave the club because they tried to light up on the premises.

In general, reaction to the ban was positive with one member commenting "As a smoker, I think it has definitely been effective, the clubs on campus seem cleaner and fresher because of it." The flipside of the ban was noted by another member who said "Everything's a lot less sociable and hour-long coffee breaks have

gone back to 15 minutes." A non-smoker said "I can't help feeling a little bit of sadistic pleasure when I see all the smokers huddled outside in the cold. It's payback time for years of smelly clothes and hair."

However, the warm weather of Kollege Week meant that people were more amenable to going outside. The acid test is yet to come as we face into a week of dismal weather.

this wednesday & every wednesday

ulsu presents



SPANK!

launch night wed. feb 18th

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

**free admission before midnight
every wednesday €5 after**

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

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Offers**

Week 8/9

Aontas Na Mac Léinn



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Was €1.50

NOW 75c

HALF PRICE

Box of Wedges

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

Elections

Presidential Candidates

Ian Egerton

Hi! My name is Ian Egerton or "Eggy" as I am affectionately known by my friends and I am an Interactive Media student from Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. This coming week I am running for ULSU President.

Why Vote For Me?

I intend to tackle a wide range of issues and fight for students rights across the board, no matter how small or large the issue may be.

Fees

The fees issue lingers on, and is still one of the single largest obstacles to overcome over the next year. The re-introduction of third level fees would be a disaster for many students who just could simply not afford to attend college if such an action were taken. We must make it clear that it is unacceptable for the present government to make education accessible only to those who can afford it. Registration fees increase year in year out and is a form of fee re-introduction by stealth. I will lobby government ministers to halt this increment and also to increase the bandwidth of the third level grants and increase the grant itself.

Library

Library opening hours has still not been dealt with by the University. The staff has agreed to the extra hours but the University has not produced the funding to facilitate this move. It must be made clear to the University that this is a service badly needed by students especially during exam time.

Nurses and Physiotherapists

I plan to contact the health boards and request that all student nurses and physiotherapy students get paid during all work experience. At the moment they are also expected to pay for uniforms and name badges which is completely unacceptable.

Student Teachers

I will also contact the Department of Education to introduce payment for student teachers during teaching practice. It is unfair to expect them to work without any payment of any kind and this must be stressed.

Equality

Wheelchair access is a must at all times not just during certain hours. Access to the Venus labs is impossible when the ground floor doors are locked in the evening time. This is completely unacceptable. Other equality issues will be tackled also.

Student Parents

The subsidised rent in Drumroe is essential for student parents to attend college and care for their children at the same time. It has become apparent that this is to end next year. This would be crippling to parents who are attending the University. Plassey Campus Centre must be made aware of this and must not be allowed to make this move. Crèche facilities need urgent improvement. €140 a week for crèche facilities is far too expensive for parents to pay for and needs to be tackled urgently.

'T' Grades

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I must reiterate the point that it is completely unfair that students who sit 'T' Grades in their final year are unable to graduate with the rest of their class.

Privatisation

The government plans to, in the near future, privatise third level education. If they are modelling this on the system in the US they need to rethink their strategy. In the US 30% of third level funding comes from Alumni, whereas in Ireland, as it stands only 1% of funding come from Alumni. Who will the extra funding have to come from? Answer: Students of course. I plan to oppose this, at least until a better plan is in place.

Safety

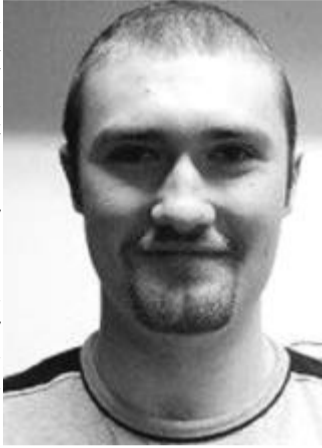
A number of safety issues have surfaced recently. Crossing the road at the Groody roundabout, the East Gate and The Hurlers is extremely dangerous for students. I will lobby Limerick County Council to place a pedestrian crossing at these locations.

Half Day

Hopefully we can implement a half day on Wednesdays and Fridays to relieve some of the pressure from students and staff alike. It would also facilitate Clubs and Societies to have outings and events on Wednesday afternoons.

These are just some issues, others include: ITD, Car Parking, Student Services, Medical Centre, Oppose Lectures after 6pm, Erasmus Students, Club Licences, Ents, etc.... If you have any questions or comments call up to the main canteen between Monday and Wednesday and I'll try to answer them.

So get out and vote for Eggy, I won't let you down!



Martin Gildea

YOUNG IRISH PERSON of the YEAR, 02/03 to Run for S.U. PRESIDENT!!!

Hello to all, young and old, my name is Martin Gildea. A Cork man by nature, although I attended secondary school in Rockwell College, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, I have never failed to lose touch with my roots. I am a 4th year Business Studies student undertaking a major in Economics and Finance and a minor in Quantitative Analysis for Business (don't ask!! I am passionate about G.A.A., always have been, Im also a huge rugby fan (com'on Munster)! I play a round of golf when I get a chance. From my appearance one would assume I am like any other regular college student, going about my daily business, partaking in outdoor activities, a trip to the library and how could I forget the few pints in the stables & scholars with the lads. However, although fit and healthy now, this was not the case on 1st September 2000, when three weeks before I was due to commence college in UL I was stunned to learn that I had developed a rare form of cancer. This turned my life upside down and to be honest times were very uncertain as I had no idea what they future would bring. I do believe that in deciding to start college as planned I possibly made the best decision of my life as this gave me something to take my mind off what I was going through. In November 2002 I was named the Rehab young Irish person of the year for my bravery, commitment, positive attitude and determination to over come my illness and pursue my education simultaneously.

Now that you know a little bit more about me, let me tell you why you should vote GILDEA No. 1 on Wednesday:

The current situation in the S.U. is not healthy with huge debts, making the upcoming year a particularly challenging task for whoever takes over as S.U. President. I am well aware of the situation yet this has not lowered my ambition. If the correct measures are implemented I believe the current situation can be resolved. My first task if elected will be to review the expenses of the past few years in order to determine where money is being lost, I will then put in place a plan to ensure that these debts are brought under control.

Safety on campus

oWill lobby for an increase in the number of security camera's in operation around campus car parks.

oI will promote the Nite-link, to ensure students get home safely at night. This service should also operate at weekends during exam time.

oTo ensure all lights are working at all times. Improvement of the lighting on main avenues, areas in which students are highly at risk.

oIf elected I will strive to make UL more user friendly for students with disabilities, to ensure that they have the same opportunities as everyone else in college.

Medical Centre

oEmergency cases should be dealt with as and when they occur. Students with genuine emergencies should be seen without an appointment.

oI want students to be more aware of their health and my aim is to run a series of one-day health awareness days throughout the year.

Second hand bookshop

Last year the S.U. announced that they were going to run a 2nd hand bookshop but to date this has been a disaster. The result of this was that O'Mahoney's stopped selling 2nd handbooks. I believe it is vital that UL students have access



to 2nd handbooks. This would help lower the cost of education.

Exams

o4th Years who have to repeat a module for whatever reason, cannot graduate with their class. If elected I will work to ensure that all 4th years are allowed to sit repeat or I grade exams in time to graduate with their class.

oAs a 4th year myself I feel it is unfair to ask students to sit two exams in the one day or to sit a number of exams on consecutive days. There is no reason why student services cannot provide an exam timetable, which ensures that all final year students have at least a day between exams.

Student Services

oThe main issue with the co-op office is the short opening hours, lack of information for students regarding co-op. Other problems are the shortness of notice students receive for interviews. An emailing service and notice board on the UL website should be introduced to inform students of interview details.

o I will fight hard to ensure that the library is opened for a longer period on Saturday evenings (especially close to exam times). I also want to ensure that the library remain open on Saturdays and Sundays during exam weeks.

I will ensure that the legislation in relation to the Universities Act is fully implemented. I promise to work with all university authorities to ensure that you receiver the best possible education here in UL. I am also aware that Engineering students are promised tables, yet they never receive them. This has been admitted by several of the lecturers yet nothing has been done about it. This causes major problems when it comes to exams, as students are not familiar with the tables and the formulae contained in them, the presentation etc.

With regard the alcohol policy the SU and Clubs & Societies have implemented their part of the bargain but the University have failed on their part. I feel it is important to put pressure on the University in this area.

The current website for the S.U. is putting it simply "out of date" and boring. I would particularly like to see the introduction of a discussion forum exclusive to UL students on it. This would be used by Clubs & Societies to post notices of upcoming events, allow students to advertise "houses for rent", "car for sale" etc. This I believe would help to reduce spam e-mails (that everyone hates!!).

I hope to see you all around campus, if you've any questions come along to hustings in the main canteen Tuesday WK 8 from 12- 2 or contact me on 087-2396958 or 0031844@student.ul.ie. Keep Smiling Martin

Timmy Hennessy

Timmy Hennessy for SU President!

Dia Dhuit mo Chairde! Hey my name is Timmy Hennessy and I'm a fourth year Public Admin Student. I will be running for Students Union President in next Wednesday's Student elections and I'm hoping for your Vote!

Why vote for Timmy?

I believe I am the candidate dedicated to improving the life of students in UL, from fun stuff like entertainment to the important stuff like providing cheaper services on campus and providing better value for our capitation fees!

Well here is an outline of what I hope to achieve on your behalf if I'm elected next year, I'll keep this short and sweet, highlighting the main issues that I would address,

·Work towards the appointment of a full time entertainments officer to organise entertainment events on campus on a more frequent basis.

·Provide a late evening non-alcohol café on campus for students.

·Return the Students Union shop to profitability (it has made a loss for 9 out of the last ten years!)

·Consolidate all aspects of the Students Union debt to ensure that the Union won't make any further losses.



·Make the Union more accessible to all students....

I will promote the use of the Union's valuable under-utilised services including the revival of an efficient and publicised part-time job placement service for students who are strapped for cash!

·Provide the cheapest and best value for money photocopying and printing service to UL students.

·For The Student Teachers of UL I intend to work hard for better consistency of Teaching Practice visits and grading. In

addition I will be campaigning for the implementation of, or at the very least an allowance, and hopefully proper payment for teaching practice.

·Ba mhaith liom tacaíocht a thabhairt don Ghaeilge sa choláiste.

·I'm non-party political and as such will be able to represent students best interests at all times.

I believe I can achieve all these objectives with your support. I will be going door to door in the next few day and I will answer any questions you may have.

So, remember, Vote Timmy Number 1!!

Elections

Deputy President/ Welfare Officer

Caoilfhionn Dunne

Hey folks, Caoilfhionn (Keelin) Dunne is my name and I'm running for WELFARE OFFICER in this years elections. Hope ye all had a great Kollege Week and didn't over do at the super heroes night. Anyway I thought it best to get this article in so I could let you know a little about me and what I propose to do should you elect me for next year.



INTERNATIONAL, DISABLED and FULL/PART TIME.

In my eyes one of the most important things I'll be doing is being there for students should they feel they need to talk. I know the stresses of college can be hard to handle and then there are the stresses of life whatever they may be. I'll be there to offer a friendly, non-judgemental ear to talk to, whatever the problem. My job will be to make your life here at UL as easy and comfortable as possible (but that doesn't include doing your lab reports for ya!)

Well I think that's about all from me for the moment. You'll definitely see me around campus this week, so just come up to me and feel free to ask me whatever you want to know about what I've said here and anything you would like done that I might have left out. AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!

CHEERS
CAOILFHIONN DUNNE

I've been in the college two years now and I've gotten to know the running of things very well (what with all the time I spend in the clubs and socs office). I'm studying Law and Euro at the moment hoping to go on to study Human Rights Law in the future. I see running for welfare as a step towards that, looking out for and ensuring the rights and welfare of others.

Some of the things that I would be planning on campaigning for, and helping students with, as Welfare Officer would be:

- SEXUAL HEALTH
- MENTAL HEALTH
- AWARENESS (DRUG/ALCOHOL)
- BETTER MEDICAL FACILITIES
- CHILDCARE FOR STUDENT PARENTS
- COUNSELLING SERVICE (EXTENDING SERVICES & MORE INFO)
- SECURITY AND SAFETY
- WORKING WITH OTHERS TO CLEAR CURRENT DEBT
- CLUBS AND SOCS (DEVELOPMENT & PARTICIPATION)
- ACCOMMODATION ISSUES
- STUDENT FINANCES

Also I would be looking to ensure that all students are treated, as they deserve without discrimination irrelevant of if they are STUDENT PARENTS, MATURE STUDENTS ERASMUS, LGB,

Rosamund Healey

Hi Folks, Rosamund (Rosey) Healey here, and I'm just giving everyone a quick overview as to the reasons why I'd like to be the welfare officer for next year. I feel that welfare Officer is an important and often overlooked position in the union, which has the potential to and actually has impacted many students for the better of their collegiate experience. I think that the welfare officer will face a slightly different challenge next year, from the perspective that not only must they be able to perform the duties of the welfare officer, they also have to be very financially adept in order to help implement the framework that has been established to see the Union out it's current financial crisis, along with the other sabbaticals. Over the past four years, I've actively participated in many facets of ULSU life and find myself wanting to stay on and continue this. As a former rowing club captain (and current secretary, two years running), I had the opportunity to run one of the largest and asset filled clubs with success. From the angle of the actual job of welfare officer and what it entails, I believe that I have the ability to be sympathetic to many of the various cases and personal issues that I would have to deal with. Through my course work as a History, Sociology and Women's Studies student, I've had the opportunity to actually study many of the situations that people might find



themselves in and need help with. As the welfare officer, I would be like to hopefully liaise with the regional hospital in order to run an STI clinic on campus, as I feel that a lack of access to this service is a huge problem for many students. Additionally, I would like a review of the medical services to take place, as I still feel that the medical center does not adequately serve the student population of UL. Lastly, I would hope to encourage all students, no matter their gender, sexual orientation, or social situation to know that I am approachable and will deal with their problems with professionalism and regard for their situation. Vote for Rosey!

Education Officer

Hi, my name is Fintan Breen and I am the Education Officer Elect for 2004/2005.

For those of you that don't know me, I am a 4th year Computer Systems student from Limerick.

Over the past four years I've noticed that the academic procedures in this university are far from perfect. Hopefully most of you will never have a problem with your studies but if you do the Education Officer is the person to turn to.

As an active Class Rep I have represented my class for the past four years. I have been an active member of Class Representatives Council pushing student issues to the forefront of the university agenda. I have been elected as Chairperson of Class Reps Council and represented that body on the Students' Union Executive. I have also sat on the SU Education Committee and represented students on the College of Informatics and Electronics Faculty Board. During my term as Education Officer I plan to work on a number of issues. These come under three categories - Fair Education, Better Education and Equal Education.

FAIR
I will look for a solution to the SIGMA (SI Student Records System) problem. This year, over a hundred students from my class of 175 could not register. Checking exam results still takes too much time, and graduated classes cannot access their results online, like they used to with the old system SRAS. I will campaign for upgrades to the SIGMA records system and I will push for an abolition of fines until SIGMA is working satisfactorily for students.



I will also campaign for changes to the Exam Script Viewing procedures, to ensure departments have common and standard criteria for applying for Script Viewing. I will also ensure that all departments have the exam paper available when viewing your script.

BETTER
I will push for academic changes to ensure that modules cannot list books, which do not have adequate copies available in the Library.

Class Reps are something in which I believe strongly. As someone who has been a Class Rep for 4 years, my class and I know the advantages of having a strong class rep. I will work in conjunction with the Class Representative Development Officer to ensure that all class reps are trained to the fullest extent in order to carry out their duties. I will also provide a complete and reassuring back-up service to the class reps.

I will be available to support them in representing you. If we have a strong class rep system, then together we can tackle the issues.

A primary teacher and a secondary teacher must receive a diploma in education before commencing to teach. Why then can third level lecturers get away without any training? I will push for an introduction of a mandatory lecturer training programme and a mandatory module feedback programme to allow for increased student feedback.

EQUAL
Why should women be forced to wear caps at graduation? I believe that current legislation make it illegal to require different dress standards based on sex. The fact that historically the caps mean a "cap" on your education is insulting to women and cannot be tolerated.

I believe that two sections of society that are needed badly and are treated badly are teachers and nurses. Why should students of both of these categories be expected to work for free when the rest of us get paid for work placement? I will lobby for allowances for travel and food in order that these students can be treated equally in their education.

These are just some of the issues that I will campaign on - they cannot all be listed here because of space, but please feel free to check out my website at www.fintanbreen.info for more information. Finally, I need to thank a lot of people. Hilary, my wonderful girlfriend, who understood that I needed "our" time for campaigning. Gráinne (the best campaign manager in the world, ever) & Peter (I know

I am boring, thank you!) - thank you for being so great. Brian, Deirdre, Alan - the knowledge that you were behind me really helped. It's only two years away for you now! Cian for the wonderful photos and airbrushing, even if I think that was not needed! Bryan for the website. Mags and Ruth, not on campus any more, but not too far away. Maeve - we know you know things! I would like to thank all of those who proposed and nominated me. I would like to thank my FYP supervisor (is that all you are?) for understanding and for all the help in the past - you have influenced a lot more than you think! A big thank you to my class who elected me as a class rep in the first place - we have gone through a lot together, thanks for putting up with me! Thanks to my friends all over the place, you are great. I would also like to thank all those who have helped in any way they could but for legal reasons cannot be named here! You know who you are, and I thank you. Some of you may not have been my closest allies a year ago, but a year of work can change many things.

So, while I get back to finish my FYP, I will look forward to representing you, the students of UL next year. And remember: call in to me. To be your voice, I need your thoughts.

Thanking you

Yours etc

Fintan Breen

Features & Opinion

State of the University

We are often told that we have one of the best Universities in the country. People often point to our Co-operative Education, the University Arena and other facilities on campus to show that we have an edge on other Universities on the island.

However, though this may once have been true, the sad fact is that UL today is scoring a bum mark on a wide variety of fronts. Staff morale and belief in the University is at an all time low, student facilities are being starved of cash and the University itself seems unable to chart a direction for itself in an uncertain future. All over Ireland the Third Levels Education system is being reviewed and scrutinised like never before. Threats in the future include reduced student numbers, which will lead to less funding. There is also a movement towards making Universities more like businesses in their structure and dealings. Groups that are pushing this forward include IBEC, the OECD (which is conducting a review of the Education system) and the Department of Education itself. The Department's agenda is to make the education system more responsive to the needs of the economy, accessible by all and funded in the most efficient manner. These may mean the return of fees for students and the privatisation of some Universities and the curtailment of academic freedom in others. It is a time that UL needs to be at its strongest and be able to defend itself in a very competitive market.

The Department of Education "Your Education System" consultative meetings are conducting one of these reviews. The last meeting was held in the Castletroy Park in Week 4. Over 200 people from a wide variety of backgrounds from primary to adult education attended to get their point across, yet no senior management of the University thought it worth their while to show up to the meeting. Therefore even though the meeting was at the doorstep of the University, issues on Third Level were overlooked.

The University is also conducting a Partnership process at the moment in relation to its staff and students as part of the "Sustaining Progress" National Pay Agreement. It is the first time that the University has actively engaged its staff in the areas of service improvement and planning. The lack of engagement was clearly shown in the attitude of staff towards the University management at a recent partnership-training meeting which varied from suspicion to downright hostility. There is a feeling among staff that going the extra mile for the University has never borne fruit in the past and will not in the future. Despite some worthy schemes the feeling is that any innovation or enterprise by staff will be killed off by lack of funding or cynicism on the part of the University.

The University's strategic plan also seeks to position itself as "an internationally acclaimed centre for teaching, learning and scholarship" yet many do not see the moves from senior management to put this in place. The University claims that equal emphasis is given to research and teaching efforts, this is officially reflected

in criteria for promotions and recruitment of staff. However there is a feeling that if you don't do research, you are going nowhere fast, no matter how good a teacher you may be. This is sometimes reflected in the senior people in the University who just don't have any ability to teach that which they undoubtedly know extremely well.

From the student services point of view the situation is similar. One month ago UCD appointed a Vice-President for Student Affairs. The position of UL's lowly Director of Student Affairs, on the other hand, has been empty for the last year due to lack of funding. The Access, Disability and Counselling Services suffer from staffing problems due to lack of funding from the University. The University Crèche has a large waiting list of over a year in some cases, yet the University refuses to give additional funding to build an extension. The Medical Centre continues to be under funded and had its discretionary spending cut this year. The Student Records system seems to be a shambles yet there is no leadership from a coordinating person to sort out the problems. Thankfully the extended opening hours in the library seem to be going ahead, yet successive Students' Unions have been lobbying on this issue for over 10 years! How many millions have been spent on new buildings in the meantime?

None of this really impacted me when I was a student or even when I first became Welfare Officer. However over Christmas I read an article by a UL student who had travelled to Harvard University and compared the two systems. She pointed out that the team spirit and belief in the institution that pervades Harvard and pushes it forward is lacking in a college like UL. One example is the amount of hours that the staff work, up to 60/70 hours per week. "I saw proof of this when we returned late Saturday/early Sunday. The lights in laboratories and offices in Harvard Yard were aglow." She went on to say about the Irish situation "I can say that there is often grave dissatisfaction by students about the commitments of academic staff to imparting to them a love of their subject, and there is a general perception among many students that the academics are not interested in them. It is rare anywhere to find an academic member of staff after 5 pm, and never at the weekends".

Looking back it was the vision that I harboured of University when I came, of innovation, pride and enthusiasm, shared amongst everyone on the campus. This was not what I found in UL. The special pride and belief is not something that is encouraged or cultivated either among staff or students.

So maybe UL is not the greatest University in the country, but so many people, both staff and students really desire it to be. The potential exists within the different quality reviews and the Partnership Process for the University to take a good look at itself and see the many areas that need improvement. However this needs honesty and the ability abandon a parochial view and judge ourselves against the best Universities in the World.

Meeting of

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Every Thursday in room EO 019
At 6.30 p.m.

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

Sexual Health Awareness Campaign

The Sexual Health Working Group was set up under the aegis of Student Affairs, with Students Union and Health Staff representation, and with considerable funding support from the Mid Western Health Board Primary Care Unit, to help promote all matters pertaining to sexual health amongst the student population. The Group has put in places different structures to provide help in areas such as sexual awareness (safe sex), sexual preference, crisis pregnancy, and sexual assault. The different structures include campaigns, promotions and seminars to make people more aware of their sexual health and take more care of themselves, not only in college but also in their everyday lives.

Some of the issues or projects that the Sexual Health Working Group have already worked on include, World Aids Day Campaign in conjunctions with Out in U.L. and ULSU,

funding for the Sexual Health Clinics, Availability of Crisis Pregnancy Packs, Sexual Awareness Poster competition. Sexual Health Working Group plans for this year include, developing a Passport to Sexual Health for UL students going overseas and producing an information leaflet for students on the effects of sexual violence and outlining supports that exist both inside and outside the college in the event that any student has been the victim of sexual assault.

Should you wish to receive information on the work of UL's Sexual Health Working Group or if you are interested in discussing a project, campaign or plan you have to promote sexual health among college students you can contact Elaine Kiely, Student Affairs Officer at elaine.kiely@ul.ie for information and details of possible supports that may be available.



COMPETITION

Design a Web Page & Logo
illustrating
Sexual Health Issues that are
Relevant to UL Students

1ST PRIZE: €300

RUNNER UP PRIZES: €100, & 2x €50

**Closing Date is Friday April 16th
All Entries to CM 073**

Further Information from elaine.kiely@ul.ie

Pop Goes the Century:

Icons of Pop Culture from the 20th Century

Bill Hicks



A comic genius and revolutionary, Bill Hicks was a man who lived before his time. A confrontational man, Bill refused to compromise his material or beliefs despite ruthless censorship. Both preacher and comedian, his straightforward take on society fostered a connection with the audience that altered their observations of the world. Bill erupted on stage into rants about the true evils of life and used his gift of caustic wit to launch scathing attacks on these issues; but behind the humour was a cry for help in a world going increasingly mad. His rage merely mirrored his frustration with the hypocrisy of society - a rage that ensures the material of this "dark little poet" remains relevant.

"Children are smarter than any of us. Know how I know that? I don't know one child with a full time job and children"

William Melvin Hicks was born on 16 December 1961. His family settled in Houston, Texas where he befriended Dwight Slade. The boys formed a comedy duo and, ripping off Woody Allen gags, Bill performed his first stand-up gig at a Church talent show where the controversial material shocked the devout audience and indicated from the start, that he had little time for the moral confines of societal existence. The boys sent tapes off to agents and clubs and once managed to secure a slot on Jerry Lewis' telethon but were forbidden from attending. When The Comedy Workshop opened in 1978, Bill was regularly in attendance and occasionally

allowed to perform.

After graduation, Bill moved to L.A. and played Hollywood's Comedy Store alongside Jerry Seinfeld and Jay Leno. In 1982 he returned to Houston briefly before setting off on tour to eek out his influence on the underground circuit despite many of his gigs taking place in the south where his outspoken opinions often outraged his 'redneck' audiences.

"I have never seen two people on pot get in a fight because it is f**king impossible - 'Hey buddy!' 'Hey what!' 'Ummmmm...!' End of argument"

1983 saw Bill embrace drink and drugs. He became angry on stage, frequently engaging in heated debates with audience members - resulting (on separate occasions) in a broken leg and a man pulling a gun on him. Despite his maniacal rants Bill kept his finger on the pulse and remained spectacularly perceptive as he conditioned his audience to see things from new angles. Consuming a variety of substances including LSD, cocaine and ecstasy allowed Bill to broaden his horizons and expand his mind, and provided a wealth of material that he later drew upon for his shows.

He secured his first (of eleven) Letterman appearances in 1984 and immediately made an impression on the legendary host: "What I liked about Bill was, here was a guy that nobody knew, myself included, who had a swagger to his demeanour, both physical and emotional. And I just liked that. For no good reason, no justifiable reason, 'I'm cocky. Nobody knows me. Too bad.' You could almost see him turning his shoulder to the audience." Impressed by one of his tapes, Bill was also invited to appear on 'Dangerfield's Young Comedians Special.' Although his reputation grew, Hicks' shows were largely confined to small venues so Bill frequently performed up to three hundred gigs per year.

"You ever noticed how people who believe in Creationism look really un-evolved? You ever noticed that? Eyes real close together, eyebrow ridges, big furry hands and feet. 'I believe God created me in one day.' Yeah, looks like He rushed it!"



Following some wild shows and an increasingly notorious reputation, Bill ended his affair with drink and drugs, instead choosing cigarettes as his vice - "Can I smoke? Can I? Like a fiend I can!" This was the catalyst for some of his best comedy and the most productive period of his career. Rather than condemn drug use, Bill used his own experiences to enlighten his audience. He ridiculed the governments so-called 'War on Drugs' and many other aspects of American politics. He mocked the southern way of life, religion, and traditional attitudes. He used common, everyday examples to highlight the ridiculous nature of life and deconstructed the ideal of the 'American

Dream.'

His acidic and cynical observations won him rave reviews at the 1990 Just for Laughs festival and secured him a spot on the 'Stand Up America' tour. He toured extensively in Britain and Ireland where he was warmly welcomed. With increasingly sophisticated material (covering such high-profile events as the Gulf War and Waco siege) Bill was named Rolling Stone's 'Hot Stand Up Comic' of 1993, he had a number of successful albums and videos on the market, and was gigging relentlessly to capacity audiences. Life, it seemed, had never been better.

But while touring Australia in April, Bill experienced sharp pains in his left side and in June it was revealed that he had pancreatic cancer. Deciding to tell only his family, some close friends and his fiancée, Bill returned to work. He continued to tour ruthlessly, was incessantly writing and worked tirelessly to record two more albums. In October, he appeared on Letterman for the last time but was infuriated when his routine was cut from the final show. By December his health was clearly deteriorating and in New York on January 6th 1994, Bill Hicks played his last show. He moved to his parents house in Arkansas where he spent the time he had left trying to share with them the many influences in his life. He called his friends to say goodbye before he stopped speaking on February 14th. At 11.20 p.m. on Saturday 26th February, Bill Hicks died. At his memorial service his brother read aloud a piece Bill had written:

"I left in love, in laughter, and in truth, and wherever truth, love and laughter abide, I am there in spirit."

**On behalf of UL History Society,
Emma Stafford**

Why drunks are like Tyler Durden

If you have not seen the (utterly brilliant) film "Fight Club", you probably shouldn't read this yet - unless you want the ending of the film to be spoiled. Don't even read the next paragraph! (You can read the last one though).

In fight club, we meet Jack "at a very strange time in my life". He's just a normal businessman with a respectable apartment full of furniture and appliances that define him as a person. But near the beginning of the film his mind spawns an alter-ego - Tyler - with whom he talks, shares a house and fights. Tyler is much different than Jack. He's more extroverted, he's a better fighter, he has a set of crazy ideas that Jack could never think of and takes more risks than Jack. He's what Jack could have been if he hadn't been so materialistic.

But Tyler was not a good influence. Yes, he was funny. Yes he was clever. Yes, he was everything we dare not be - but Tyler was, ultimately, destructive. Tyler's legacy was vandalism, arson, disregard for human life and control. Near the end, Tyler grew more

and more powerful - both as a terrorist and as an inhabitant of Jack's body. "Had I been going to sleep earlier every night? Have I been sleeping later? Has Tyler been in charge longer and longer?"

So how does Tyler resemble a drunk? Well, think of a sober person as Jack. Perhaps you see what I'm getting at already. The ordinary, hard working Jacks of this world change dramatically once they have consumed a little too much alcohol. They become more like Tyler. "Tyler was a night person". Tyler was also more outgoing than Jack and (this is the important bit) he did crazy things. Things like asking Jack to hit him: "Surprise me". Things like assigning homework to fight club members, resulting in horrendous (but humorous) vandalism all over the city. Things like planting bombs under the TRW building and another credit card companies - crazy things that the sober Jack would never attempt himself.

Also, Jack couldn't remember anything he had done as Tyler unless he had actually seen Tyler doing it or had a record of it somehow

(Phone bills, photos, eyewitness reports). Seem familiar? When Jack eventually discovered his actions as Tyler he was horrified, and his first response was to turn himself in - the obvious way to end the madness. Later on, his only option was to shoot himself in the mouth, thereby ending Tyler's tyranny. Thankfully the madness of drinking too much alcohol is much easier for us to end than that.

First, we have to decide that we don't want our Tyler in control of our body while we watch, helpless, like Jack. Second, we have to exercise a wee bit of willpower when we're amongst friends. They love Tyler, but Tyler is ultimately destructive - to them, to us and to almost everyone and everything with which he comes in contact. Third, we can then start to develop a social behaviour all our own. We're in control, we're cracking the jokes - and Tyler doesn't steal our mornings as well as our nights. Eventually, we become more like Tyler except we decide where we're going.

This coming so soon after Kollege Week may



or may not be either wise or effective, but these are some things that I feel need to be said. Drink sensibly, as the ad says. And watch Fight Club! It's brilliant!

Features & Opinion

Campus Europae

by Anne Sheridan

By 2006, 'Erasmus' as we know it, could be but a distant memory, as UL prepares its new students for a year abroad in places such as Riga, Minsk



and Novi Sad. Anne Sheridan chronicles these new developments towards increased 'Europeanisation'. On Saturday 27th March Robert Carroll and I flew to Luxembourg, to act as the new University of Limerick representatives to Campus Europae (CE) Students Council. Campus Europae is a network of European universities who together are trying to Europeanize education and generate European graduates who will be, in the fullest sense, European citizens, rather than say Irish graduates or Italian graduates. The main premise of CE is that the individual universities maintain their particular identities while utilising cultural differences among the universities as valuable assets. It does not mean the establishment of uniform European university standards. The goal is an unhindered, free exchange among universities, which stay aware of their regional and national identities. Since 1999 the European University Foundation (EUF) has functioned as a parent organization for the associated universities constituting this foundation. The launch of CE in June 2001 has been made possible financially through the support of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Initiative Campus Europae. Students engaging in this exchange will get an introduction to the foreign language in their home university. This is followed by a 4-6 week intensive course at the guest university. Further language classes will follow so that during the second semester of the study year students will be able to follow lectures in the local language. On completion of the undergraduate course graduates will have increased marketability and will receive greater recognition for their studies abroad than those who took the traditional

'Erasmus' route. The following 14 universities are at present taking part in the Campus Europae project. However, CE resists claims that it is an elitist organisation and maintains that membership is open for additional universities, who are committed to the idea of building the 'European House'.

European Humanities University, Minsk, Belarus.

Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Spain.

University of Aveiro, Portugal.

University of Greifswald, Germany.

University of Hamburg, Germany.

University Henri Poincare, France.

University of Latvia, Latvia.

University of Liege, Belgium.

University of Limerick, Ireland.

University of Luxembourg.

University of Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro.

University of Trento, Italy.

University of Vienna, Austria.

Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

UL is currently committed to four of the eight pilot projects - physics, law, humanities and engineering; whereby they have agreed (somewhat informally) to both send and receive students. However, doubts have been raised regarding the number of outgoing students due to that bone of contention, the QCA. Minsk, Riga and Novi Sad on the other hand have much greater difficulties in committing fully to such a project, and have expressed that they would like to participate in the future or would only be sending students, if possible due to the vast differences in East and West living expenses. Having spent my Erasmus period in the Czech Republic I can certainly contend that the road less traveled is certainly well worth taking. If only such simple coercion would be sufficient enough to enthruse UL-ians to venture off to Belarus, where state politics still plays a major role in peoples everyday lives. Whatever the outcome of Belarus' political struggles, or the domestic difficulties of any of the universities, Campus Europae is going to happen, through the strength and determination of the Students' Council if nothing else. 2006 will see the dawning of a new age in European higher education, for the betterment of all Europeans, not just for the existing members of CE and certainly not just for UL. www.campus-europae.org

European Week in Brussels

Law Soc sends delegation to Brussels. Well to Louvain-la-Neuve, actually.

On Sunday 14th of March, two members of the Debating Union, James Gaffney and Judith Lynch, arrived in the purpose-built, windswept and fairly deserted university town of Louvain-la-Neuve to participate in that college's European Society's inaugural European Week. Thankfully the town was only empty because it was a Sunday, and it seems that all Belgian students go home for the weekend - it had livened up by Monday. However, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed we weren't, having attended the UL Debating Intervarsity party until some ungodly hour the night before.

The town itself is a surreal place - some people commented that it looked like something straight out of Star Wars. It's only twenty years old, full of modern architecture and built entirely over a three-story car park. The entire town centre is pedestrianised and is full of narrow streets, little squares and staircases. Its website states that no one remains indifferent to the new town, and I would have to agree with them.

About 90 participants took part in the week's activities, with people coming from as far as Turkey, Mexico, Burundi and Dublin to take part. Romania, Poland and Ireland (There were 8 others from TCD) were the best-represented nationalities there. It seemed as if most of those that partook in the week were either from the accession states or from the periphery of the EU, like ourselves. First thing on Monday morning we went on a trip to the European Parliament in Brussels, a chance in a lifetime to come face-to-face with those faceless Eurocrats we had heard so much about. We listened to a talk on the workings of the Parliament from a Belgian MEP, we were also addressed by a lobbyist about the work they do, and the final talk was by a 24-year-old Polish elected representative, who aired the Polish fears that when they join and restrictions on freedom of movement are lifted, the country will experience an exodus of its bright young educated workers. I thought it was interesting to hear about enlargement from the other side of the fence - it made a refreshing contrast with the Sun's scare mongering about the flood of benefit tourists only too ready to bleed our welfare system dry.

On Monday afternoon we went on a guided tour of Brussels. I must admit that it was more or less how I expected it to look - full of grey office blocks and important looking suited people walking around with important looking documents and wearing important looking expressions. That evening on returning to Louvain we attended a debate in a pub about The Bologna Process. As exhilarating as that sounds, the disco afterwards was probably better - accompanied as it was with plentiful quantities of what our hosts referred to as "good, very good, Berrshian beer." They kind of roll their 'l's like that you see.

On Tuesday morning some of the delegation dragged themselves out of be

for a European Table Quiz. The prize was more good Belgian beer and good Belgian chocolate. That afternoon it was down to the serious business of taking part in the model European Parliament.

On Monday night everyone had to choose which political group to be a part of and also which committee meeting they would attend. I attended the foreign policy and defence committee, where we had to debate a motion that the EU would condemn Israel for building the defence wall. To say it was a fiery affair would be a bit of an understatement. The committee had to decide what amendments it would make and then vote on them one by one - simple in theory I suppose. It was a really good insight into why everything in the political process takes so long to get done. On Wednesday morning we reported back to our political group the results reached in our committees the previous day and we decided what stance the party would take when the matter was discussed at the Plenary Session of the Louvain-la-Neuve European Parliament that afternoon. Again, this was a great experience in terms of experiencing the workings of a parliament from the inside. Without further ado, we retired to a public house for a bit of craic agus ceoil to celebrate Paddy's Day, and explain to confused Eastern Europeans the link between a Welshman that rid Ireland of snakes forever and our fondness for celebrating this very fact every year since.

On Thursday we went to Brussels again, this time for a talk on the historical development of the EU, given in the Commission. We had the whole afternoon free to buy chocolates and European Merchandise, because that's what tourists buy in Brussels apparently. Some people would have preferred, nay needed desperately, to have been in bed, but then we can't have it all our way now can we? That evening the organisers arranged an International Buffet. Everybody had to cook a dish from their own country and bring it to the hall where they could then go and sample all sorts of exotic culinary delights, ranging from Turkish Delight to Polish potatoes cooked in a slightly different way to Irish potatoes to Romanian 40% proof moonshine that came in a bottle with no label but was apparently 14 years old. Our Irish Coffees went down a treat.

I would definitely recommend participation in this week next year to anyone with an interest in the future of Europe, and if you would like to meet people from loads of different cultures. It is open to all students across Europe and beyond, and participation is free.

Anyone interested in participating in AEUL's European Week next year can from the Université of Louvain-la-Neuve's European Society's website, at <http://ael.agl.ucl.ac.be/frameset.html> or you can email the organisers at ael_ucl@yahoo.com.

View

DAWN OF THE DEAD



In this contemporary remake of George Romero's apocalyptic horror classic, Dawn of the Dead, an unexplained pestilence causes the dead to come back to life and feed off the flesh and blood of the living.

STORY

Ana (Sarah Polley), a hard-working nurse living in a picturesque Wisconsin suburb, wakes up early one morning to find a little blonde neighbourhood girl chomping on Ana's husband's jugular. She attempts to make a quick getaway, only to find her pruned-lawn universe in complete disarray: Houses are on fire, cars are careening out of control and people are literally running for their lives, and that's before the title art even appears. It turns out a mysterious plague is transforming people into zombies with an insatiable appetite for living human tissue. Now on the run, Ana joins up with other survivors, including tough cop Kenneth (Ving Rhames), good guy Michael (Jake Weber), street-smart Andre (Mekhi Phifer) and his very pregnant girlfriend Luda (Inna Korobkina), and decides the Crossroads Mall would be a good sanctuary. After convincing three security guards to let them into their safe haven, the group bands together to defend the mall against the growing army of zombies pawing at the glass doors. But while the mall, with its stores packed with food, clothing, TVs and radios, serves as an ideal refuge, the group realizes that no one is coming to rescue them and their only chance of survival is to plot their own escape. But their getaway is squelched when some of those still living barricaded inside the mall begin to show signs of infection, including the expectant Luda.

ACTING

Drawing a skilled cast to a horror film, a genre that's not often taken very seriously is always a good move because it gives it a certain credibility. Dawn of the Dead's line-up, which includes Polley, Rhames, Weber and Phifer, offer up likeable characters despite the lack of character development. As the bleeding-heart nurse, Polley is clearly the heroine here: Not only does she care for everyone's medical needs, but she is also the film's biggest risk taker, diving head-first into dangerous situations for the group's sake. Her character Ana is a nice balance to Rhames' badass cop Kenneth, whose decisions are grounded and never clouded by emotion. Other duelling characters include Weber's Michael, the group's strategic leader, and militant security guard CJ, played by Michael Kelly. The cast plays off each other nicely; it's just a shame that they are emotionally disconnected. For example, although Phifer is persuasive as the dotting father-to-be, it's difficult to sympathize with Andre's gut wrenching predicament with his pregnant zombie wife because their bond was never established. Look for actors from the original film in cameo appearances, including makeup artist Tom Savini (a biker in the original) as the sheriff; Scott Reiniger (Roger), as the general; and Ken Foree (Peter), as the televangelist.

DIRECTION

Dawn of the Dead marks Zack Snyder's directorial

debut, and what a project he chose, remaking a horror classic. Snyder, however, fittingly resurrects the undead created by Romero 24 years ago into much more menacing zombies for modern-day horror-savvy audiences: They are lightning-fast, have shark-like radar for human flesh and demonstrate pack mentality. Of course, the film's look is a lot slicker than its predecessor. Snyder was careful not to make the film too CGI-laden and instead relied on special effects makeup designer David Anderson (Men in Black) to make the zombies extremely gross, lifelike and menacing. But in focusing on creating this fear-provoking look, the film loses some of the subtle humour that distinguished the 1978 production from the average horror pic. Remember the scene in the original film that has the zombies robotically trying to walk up the down escalator? Romero had a way of laughing at the film's own absurdity without demeaning it; Snyder's humour here is less sophisticated and instead relies on screenwriter James Gunn's dialogue. But this modern Dawn of the Dead is still a thrilling movie-going experience with tons of scares to be had.

BOTTOM LINE

While the re-envisioned Dawn of the Dead is not as clever as director George Romero's 1978 cult hit, its suspenseful storytelling, bloodthirsty zombies and notable performances make it a decent horror pic nonetheless.

3 stars

GOTHIKA



In the first role taken after her Monster's Ball Oscar, Halle Berry stars as a psychiatrist who wakes up in a mind-f***ed state of affairs that is both supernatural and all too evilly human.

STORY

Halle Berry stars as Dr. Miranda Grey, a well liked and respected psychotherapist happily married to the beloved head of the psychiatric ward at an old, damp women's penitentiary (Charles S. Dutton). One stormy night, taking a detour on her drive home, she's involved in a terrifying encounter with a young girl that causes her car to go off the road, and the impact of the crash knocks Miranda out cold. She wakes up on the wrong side of a Plexiglas cell door in the same prison where she and her husband work, the prime suspect in her husband's gruesome murder. Confined alongside her former patients, for example the Satan-panicked Chloe (Penelope Cruz), and scrutinized by her once-flirtatious co-worker Dr. Graham (Robert Downey Jr.), Miranda becomes a Spirit World conduit when a violent force from the not-so-sweet afterlife uses her to communicate with the living. The good doctor tries desperately to prove her innocence and her sanity even as unseen forces, bizarre sightings and bad lines get in the way.

ACTING

You can practically see Berry's slight shoulders hunching under the weight of this oppressive, wet flapdoodle of a psycho-mystic mystery that has The Ring written all over it. Berry gets the baffled/terrified/uncontrollable prisoner thing right, gets to say "Shit!" a lot and gets lots of screen time to flesh out her character. Still looking good after years of hard living, Downey Jr. as Miranda's sceptical

doctor ably smarms his way in and out of scenes in which he says little but raises much doubt about his true motivations, just one of several intriguing concepts abandoned in the face of a progressively crap storyline and escalating "ah come on". Where it all just goes wrong (so, so wrong) is in Cruz's greasy, raving crack-bird, who shrieks lines like, "He opened me like a flower of paaaain!" while trying to convince Miranda the Devil rapes her nightly in her cell.

DIRECTION

Director Mathieu Kassovitz admirably sets the stage for a spooky thriller in the massive, turn-of-the-century St. Vincent-de-Paul Prison, an abandoned maximum-security facility near Montreal that serves as his women's prison. The setting is the only part of the film that holds any interest; it almost develops a life of its own, which is more than can be said of the characters. Though Kassovitz resorts to Horror 101 (flickering lights, suddenly appearing figures, things that go bump in the night), these elements inspire dread and trigger a jolt regardless. So if the setting is suitably hair-raising, the first few scenes effectively suck you in and the acting is passable, what's the problem? Screenwriter Sebastian Gutierrez's script, that's what. After an auspicious start, the film drowns in nonsense and plot holes the size of which rival Liam Lawlor's legal troubles until finally sinking like a stone with a truly pedestrian and ridiculous finale that unravels any interesting question raised in the two hours prior. This is topped off by a real howler of a denouement. "I don't believe in ghosts but they believe in me," says Miranda. Sorry, we don't believe a bit of Gothika.

BOTTOM LINE

This plane-crossing load of malarkey is not altogether awful until two-thirds in, the exact point when the music stops, you see the abysmal finale coming at you like a brick-loaded train, and you wish you'd rented The Ring instead.

MONSTER



Charlize Theron lets beauty takes a back seat, literally and figuratively, in this biopic about real-life, serial killing prostitute Aileen Wournos, and proves she's an excellent actress to boot.

STORY

Monster chronicles a year in the life of one Aileen Wournos, for whom the description "downtrodden" is an understatement to the 'nth degree. Wournos is infamous for being the first recognized female serial killer in recent U.S. history and was executed in 2002 for killing seven men between 1989 and 1990, in self-defence, according to her. Unwanted, unloved and largely abandoned by her family in her early teens, Wournos became a drifter, turning to prostitution along Florida's highways first for acceptance, then for sustenance. As this movie tells it, with a lifelong history of receiving only abuse and contempt at the hands of nearly every male with whom she came into contact, it's clear the smallest, little thing could push her already unstable mental state right over the edge. That little thing came in the form of one Selby Wall. The lesbian Wall comes on to Wournos at a bar one night with a few kind words: "You're so beautiful you must have men falling all over you," at which point you wonder what planet she's on. An awkwardly

Movie View

fumbling sex scene or two later and off they go on a bizarrely co-dependent road to ruin that takes them on the run, Wall from her conservative family, Wournos from the law, as she discovers after one particularly brutal encounter that killing men for their money is quicker, easier, safer and more profitable than screwing them for it.

ACTING

Much is being made about Charlize Theron's transformation into Wournos, and with good reason. To say she looks like a cross between Jon Voight and William H. Macy is being too hard, on those guys. With her baby blues turned into bottomless, brown pools; beautiful face into pocked, sagging jowls; white teeth into greyish tombstones; and flaxen hair into dishwater blonde '70s-era feathered crop, Theron so wholly transforms from bombshell Hollywood star to white-trash hooker. It isn't just Theron's looks that are Wournos from head to toe, however; it's as if Theron was channelling the killer, her performance (barring a few instances of exaggeration) is that eerie. On some level you're always conscious you're watching Charlize Theron, model-turned-actress, underneath all the makeup, and one wonders if the entire film would have worked better starring a complete unknown. But by the time the credits roll, even if you've never heard of or seen Wournos before, you'll feel like you knew her personally after watching Theron swagger, swear, fight and kill her way through the Sunshine State. In a weird, yet rewarding, casting choice, Christina Ricci effortlessly embraces her role as the lonely and innocent yet, but ultimately, whiny and manipulative Wall.

DIRECTION

This movie about a year in the life of a serial killer is an unredeeming look at the tragic end of a completely wasted life from the viewpoint of the person who wasted it. From the victimizing encounters Wournos has with almost every male she runs across to the

calculating machinations of her treacherous girlfriend, director Patty Jenkins practically screams, "Poor me!" for Wournos from the grave. Though the movie's title refers to the main character, it might as well apply to everyone else, as the killer comes off more sympathetic than most of her hapless victims. Opinions about cause and effect aside, the moviemaking itself is not up to par. Very little is given to explain Wournos' character other than a few flashback scenes that seem more cursory than anything and are punctuated with a distracting voiceover that tries to replace missing pieces of story, such as why Selby is so attracted to Aileen. For a movie in which the lesbian factor is so important, Jenkins ultimately lacks the courage to "go there," pulling back on the whole sex thing and spending far too much time on a weak love story that never really makes much sense.

BOTTOM LINE

Talk about getting ugly for Oscar, Charlize Theron does it both inside and out, turning in a powerful, certainly award-worthy performance that's just as mind-blowing as her make-under in a movie that, quite frankly, doesn't back it up.

3 ½ Stars

SCOOBY-DOO 2: MONSTERS UNLEASHED

Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed pretty much follows in its predecessor's footsteps, churning out the same over-the-top shenanigans. Here the Mystery, Inc. gang battles a horde of monsters brought to life by a masked mastermind.

STORY

Scooby and the gang at Mystery, Inc., Fred (Freddie Prinze Jr.), Daphne (Sarah Michelle Gellar), Velma




(Linda Cardellini) and Shaggy (Matthew Lillard), are at the top of their game and just about everyone in Coolsville loves them. Even the Coolsonian Museum is honouring them with an exhibit, a costumed display of Mystery, Inc.'s former foes, such as The Pterodactyl Ghost, The Black Knight Ghost and The 10,000 Volt Ghost. Yet, at the museum's gala opening, the team's stellar reputation is put in serious jeopardy when said monsters come alive, re-created by a masked villain who vows to bring Mystery, Inc. down. Under pressure from relentless reporter Heather Jasper-Howe (Alicia Silverstone), the gang launches an investigation into the monster outbreak, but as the mystery deepens, Mystery, Inc.'s members end up questioning their roles within the organization. Can macho leader Fred and image-conscious Daphne look past the superficial and find the identity of the Evil Masked Figure? Will brainy Velma let her feelings for Coolsonian Museum curator Patrick Wisely (Seth Green) blossom, even though he is a key suspect? And finally can Shaggy and Scooby stop cowering, and eating, long enough to prove they can be detectives? These are tough times for the gang, but they've got to pull it together so they can solve the mystery and save the day.

ACTING

Even though it seems a little ridiculous that Scooby-

The Scholars Club
University of Limerick
Tel: 061 330190
Fax: 061 330710
E-mail: info@scholarsclub.ie
Web: www.scholarsclub.ie



The Scholars Club

Week 8 ents.

Monday

Games Night
Speed Pool and P/S2 Tournaments

Tuesday

Battle of the Bands
Presents
"EMAF"
The Comedy Club is Back!! €2 with OL Id

Wednesday

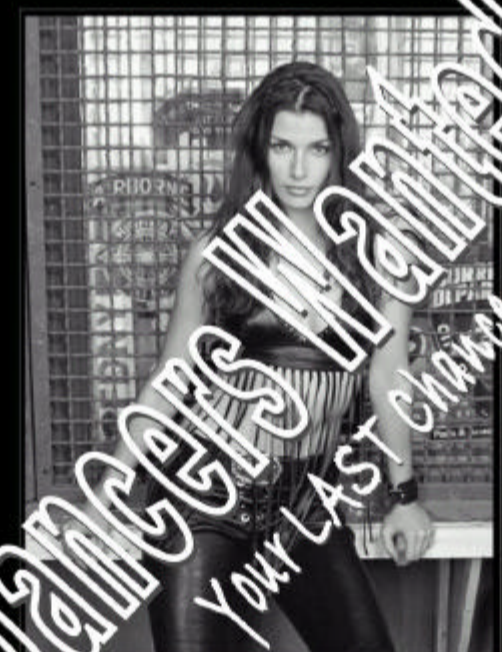
COYOTE UGLY
THE FINAL HEAT
Your LAST Chance to win €350

Thursday

Start the Easter off the right way -
DJ in the main Bar

The Management and Staff of *The Scholars*
would like to wish you all a Happy Easter!

COYOTE UGLY



Dangers Waiting

Your LAST chance

Wednesday

Week 8

Don't Miss It!

View

Doo 2's fleshed-out cartoon characters would try to dig deep to find answers within, the returning actors continue to have fun exploring their alter-Scooby-egos. Prinze's Fred has a funkier haircut this time (the original matted blonde 'do had to go) and isn't quite the braggart he once was. He is still unquestionably the "face" of the group, until he is made to look foolish by the ruthless Heather, played with relish by Silverstone, who shines in the bad-girl role. Gellar has definitely dropped Daphne's "damsel-in-distress" routine, getting all Buffy on the monsters, but is still worried that it's her looks, not her skills, that get her attention. Cardellini's Velma, on the other hand, gets a love interest, and even all dolled up at one point, but can't get rid of her inherent geekiness. It's Shaggy and Scooby who experience the biggest revelation, realizing they really are nothing but giant screw-ups. Lillard actually turns in some (and I can't believe I'm actually saying this) poignant moments as Shag grapples with his inequities. They all realize in the end, though, that for the good of Mystery, Inc., it's best to be true to yourself. Thank god!

DIRECTION

Director Raja Gosnell goes full throttle in his second Scooby effort, with more action and more elaborate, theme-park sets than the original. Even as the characters pause to reflect on their faults, these moments are thankfully short-lived before the gang is thrust into another wild chase or fight sequence, keeping the kiddies' minds occupied, and allowing the adult fans to laugh at all the monsters they remember from the TV show. One of the criticisms from the first Scooby-Doo was that it didn't provide enough "inside" jokes for the older enthusiasts (and face it, there are probably more of them than kids). But Scooby-Doo 2 harkens back to the good old days and even pokes fun at all those criminals whose evil plans and ghost disguises were foiled by the meddling quintet. They all gather at their own watering hole called the Faux Ghost, where they can throw darts at pictures of the Mystery, Inc. gang. Funny stuff. Overall, the sequel provides the same madcap fun the original did, without requiring the use of too much brainpower.

BOTTOM LINE

Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed is what it is, another action-packed, wacky and fairly authentic send-up of a very silly Saturday morning cartoon TV show.

3 stars

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

The Rock plays a bounty hunter who heads to Brazil to retrieve his boss's son. But before long, the two must team up in order to escape hidden traps and obstacles the jungle throws their way.

STORY

Beck (The Rock) is a "retrieval expert," someone who is paid to collect debts from deadbeats who don't pay up what they owe. Thanks in part to his physical prowess, he is great at what he does, but inside his hard-hitting physique is an aspiring chef: Beck occupies his time on stakeouts jotting down recipes and noting pertinent information about the characteristics of porcini mushrooms. He wants to get out of his present line of work and open a restaurant, but needs to (A) scrape together a lot of cash, (B) break his ties with a powerful mob boss and (C)

...well, there is no "C." Welcome to the Jungle faithfully follows The Final Mission Stratagem, the plot cliché in which the protagonist must perform "one last job" that will subsequently free him from his subjugator and allow him a crime-free existence. For Beck, this last task entails retrieving his boss's wiseass son Travis (Seann William Scott) from Brazil. But Travis isn't about to leave without a fight, especially since he's closing in on a prized artefact deep in heart of the jungle. Beck also has some competition, including Mariana (Rosario Dawson), a rebel leader posing as a downtrodden bartender, and Hatcher (Christopher Walken), a maniacal despot trying to control the region, who both need Travis to get to them the treasure.

ACTING

What makes Welcome to the Jungle more entertaining than other films of its genre are the wonderful performances by stars The Rock and Scott. The Rock, who made his feature acting debut in the limited role of the Scorpion King in the sequel The Mummy Returns, eventually received top billing in the trilogy's third instalment, The Scorpion King, but his performance was marred by the shoddy dialogue. Here, The Rock gets to flex his acting and comedic muscles as well as the anatomic ones. In fact, moviegoers may be surprised at The Rock's range; he is convincing in the dramatic scenes, the action sequences and in his comedic banter with his co-star, Scott. Perhaps his training as the trash-talking WWE star makes him such a charismatic presence on the screen. Looking fitter than ever, Scott, best known for his role as Stiffler in the American Pie movies, also churns out a truly funny performance here as Travis. The chemistry between the two stars is obvious and the humour works because neither of them is trying to be over-the-top funny. Welcome to the Jungle also includes good performances by Dawson and Walken, who brings a certain credibility to the film.

DIRECTION

Actor turned writer-director Peter Berg crafts a surprisingly entertaining actioner that delivers laugh after laugh. The adventure story, based on a screenplay by James Vanderbilt, is reminiscent of the Indiana Jones films minus the xenophobic, imperialist, and misogynistic elements. Sure, it's formulaic, but there are enough surprise twists and turns to keep it interesting. Vanderbilt's script, unlike the rash of buddy pics that inundated cinemas in the last year, doesn't stray into race territory; the banter between The Rock and Scott, for example, has more to do with their differences in muscle mass than typical cultural innuendos and misunderstandings. What's more, the two stars transform the scripted comedy into hilarious physical slapstick. In one scene, Travis and Beck unsuspectingly eat a poisonous fruit that temporarily paralyzes them, leaving the two to fend off advances from horny rain forest monkeys using menacing glares. Berg also does a fantastic job recreating this Brazilian jungle for the film, which was mostly shot on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, the Los Angeles Arboretum and soundstages in Van Nuys, Calif.

BOTTOM LINE

Director Peter Berg's Welcome to the Jungle is an unexpectedly entertaining, though at times over-the-top action comedy carried comfortably by Seann William Scott and The Rock, who reveals his classy transition from WWE star to a charming and charismatic big-screen action hero.

3 stars

ULartsoffice™

Spring Film
Season
Jean Monnet Theatre
Mondays, 6.30pm

Monday April 19

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



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

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

One of the film's many unbearably tender sequences sees him comforting an older boy whose father is suffering from cancer of the larynx; Lopez' open compassion is astonishing to behold. Elsewhere, he deals with a minor incident of bullying and tries desperately to talk an awkward uncommunicative student into engaging with her classmates.

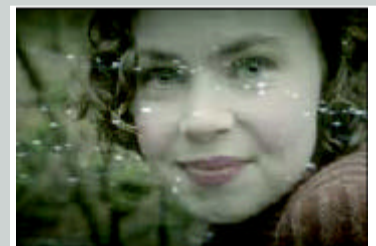
A lovely calm hangs over the enterprise. The boundless good will of Georges Lopez is reflected in the film's easy tone and elegant composition, which is announced right at the beginning as two tortoises plod their way across the empty classroom. I guess that image is also altering us to the inevitable progress of time.

And, of course, in a movie the contrast between the speed with which a year passes for an adult and the speed it passes for a child is heightened further. When Lopez says goodbye to his oldest pupils, it seems much too soon to the viewer, as indeed it must have been for the teacher.

He cries, but not nearly as much as at least one film critic did.
Donald Clarke - The Irish Times

Monday April 24

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



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

The fragmented world he evokes, baleful or radiant, slips in and out of focus, offering as much torment as consolation. The filming itself is as wilful; continual superimposition and soft focus; allusive, impressionistic and occasionally surreal. When Brady (played by Dermot Healy encounters an old friend from home (Stephen Rea), the camera becomes as drunken as the protagonists.

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

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

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

Kollege Weak View



Kollege Weak View



The Stables Club

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

www.stablesclub.com



YOUR WEEK 8 ENTERTAINMENT

- Mon** Music Society
'Open Mic'
 - Tues** Karaoke Night
Fleece First Prize and a shot at the Grand Final with a €300 Prize!
 - Wed** BAND: Free Beer
 - Thu** BAND: The Firm
- The Stables Club will remain closed for the easter break from thursday evening, and will reopen at 5pm on Monday**
- We would like take this opportunity to wish all our members and UL students a Happy & Peaceful Easter.**

YOUR WEEK 9 ENTERTAINMENT

- Mon** Music Society
'Open Mic'
- Tues** Karaoke Night
Fleece First Prize and a shot at the Grand Final with a €300 Prize!
- Wed** BAND: Emaf
- Thu** BAND: The Firm
- Fri** International & Postgrad Societies Night
DJ 'til late
- Fri** Open Sat & Sun for all matches
Food served all day Saturday

New Smoking Policy

The Stables Club is a **no smoking area since March 29th**, in line with the new ban on smoking in the workplace. We would ask that our members respect this ban, and its enforcement. Members who wish to smoke can still avail of club facilities in the outdoor covered courtyard.

Weekly Afternoon & Evening Specials

New at The Stables Club!

We are now offering a range of afternoon and evening specials here at The Stables Club. Drop in to try a snack from our delicious range!

Homecooked Panini with salad & crisps	€ 3.95
Chicken Twisters	€ 4.30
Saute Potatoes	€ 1.70
Chicken Wings with salad & blue cheese dip	€ 3.50
Spring Rolls with sweet & sour sauce	€ 3.50
Spicy Potato Wedges with choice of two dips & cheese	€ 3.50
Nachos & Cheese with jalapeno peppers, breadroll & can	€ 4
Chilli Potato Skins with salad (2 per portion)	€ 3.50
Pizza Slice with chips & glass of milk	€ 4

The Stables Club is a members only club. All visitors must be signed in.
t: 061 330139 f: 061 330176 e: info@stablesclub.com

Music View

The ColdSpoon Conspiracy Review

High Stool, Fri 26th March.

I sit and wait a while for this gig to begin by the stage of the stool. No one expects much from 10past7, the Kerry based band that comes on first at 10:15, but we're all wrong very wrong. This instrumental powered trio launch into a series of wielding musical twists in the path that leads to musical glory, as their guitarist leaps over the rail and plays on the floor. It's frenzied rock with a punk passion. Delving into their inspired songs the band are immersed, almost possessed while on-stage. They're not nervous and the humour of their drumming partner only adds to the crowd's liking of this band who drive the crowd to other realms.

Next up are large mound, a four piece with two guitars, bass, drums and vocals, which usually end in unison as the riff crazy guitar work attempts to pump energy into a half dazed crowd. Large Mound tonight are not at their best, their vocals seem a little off with their music and although they attempt to incorporate their sound into the High Stool atmosphere, it doesn't work and the crowd aren't supportive. The songs are short, not very well worked and miss the passion involved in creating them.

The headliners The Coldspoon Conspiracy are a Dublin based four piece, comprised of Pat Cannon/ Guitar, Vocals, Peter Lee/ Drums, Ronan Jackson/ Bass and Darren Craig/ Guitar. Formed in early 2000,

Conspiracy since then have played a host of gigs, with underground favourites, The Dudley Corporation, Redneck Manifesto, Giveamanakick, The Chalets and Waiting Room.

On-stage, the sound is tight; the band is well rehearsed and doesn't miss a beat. They are without a doubt underground pop, a band capable of making their name much bigger in Europe in the coming years. Their music evokes strange feelings though, one moment screaming screeching guitars and voices the next you look around and feel that the stage is an island of music, cut off from the crowd alone and solitary in its creative wisdom. There are Indie stylings of rock steeped in the art of quiet, with the melodic overtones being given extra volume by the additional guitar work of Darren Craig. The only true disappointment I had about this gig however, was the commonality in each song, the defined set style without musical exploration. Only once did the Conspiracy deviate from their norm, in a blues-rock piece in which Cannon used a harmonica to create a Gallagher feel, which was the highlight of this gig. This is a band who you either like or you don't there is no fine line here. Let's just hope the melodic blues they do so well aren't hidden from view behind the riff mania, taken the underground by force in recent times. **DO'G**

Rubyhorse Review

Rubyhorse are proving themselves to be the newest graduates from the Thrills School of Success managing to rack up more sales on foreign soil than they have here in the last seven years. This month sees the guys abandon their Boston hiding place in favour of a nationwide Irish tour to promote their new album "Goodbye to All That", which was released on this side of the water last Friday.

Rubyhorse were exiled from their native Cork to America way back in 1997 by an unreceptive Irish music industry when attempts to make big based in both Cork and later Dublin failed repeatedly. In Boston, however, they managed to get a six week residency in Irish bar "The Burren" and since then they have signed to record giant Island as well as landing three Boston Music Awards ("Best Live Band", "Best New Act" and "Best Male Vocalist") and packing out venues all over America on their frequent nationwide tours. Despite this, Rubyhorse have stayed pretty obscure over here and Dolan's wasn't exactly capacity on Saturday night. Not that that mattered when Rubyhorse's biggest fan in the world ever was having some kind of religious experience in front of the stage the minute lead singer Dave Farrell strolled out from backstage.

Taking most of the night's material from "Goodbye To All That" Rubyhorse proved they do have more than just one song and in fact are more than capable of writing quality music (they score extra cool points for seamlessly working the Fields of Athenry into the set). You can't fault their raw energy or enthusiasm but even songs like "Punch Drunk" and "Sparkle" can't hide the fact that Rubyhorse tend to fall into a bland power-ballad shaped hole which could be difficult to clamber out of if they are not careful. "Goodbye To all That" shows signs of maturity with songs like "Warning Bells" and "Long Time Coming" and they really don't spare



anything in their delivery-the crowd couldn't have been more animated. Dave Farrell has an excellent stage presence and the audience love his Jagger mincing and "Jesus-on-the-cross" shape-throwing around the stage not to mention his rapport with his fellow band mates, Decky Lucey (bass), Joe Philpott (guitar), Owen Fegan (keyboards) and Gordon Ashe (drums).

In a brief post-gig chat with Dave, he intimated the band's love of their Irish fans and a deep-rooted desire to heighten their profile in their home country. "we need more publicity like this" he enthused when An Focal was mentioned to him though I think for future reference he should confer with fellow band members to reach a general consensus before throwing out statements like that. Joe Philpott was hostile at the mention of local press and insisted that he would not "kiss my ass" however much it might have led to a favourable review! Very rock 'n' roll, though hardly clever considering the bands low profile over here.

Rubyhorse are a rising star stalled mid-way between astronomical success and the Boston bar scene. Next time you feel like flinging your hard earned cash you could do a lot worse than investing in "Good Bye To All That" or even better still a stage side seat at their next live gig.

JK

Benny Benassi plays Trinity Rooms

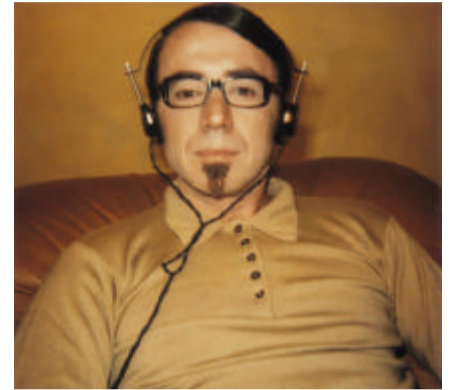
Trinity Rooms is pleased to present an Irish debut by the dj behind "Satisfaction", the biggest club hit of the last six months, Benny Benassi.

Benny Benassi was born in Milan on 13 July 1967 under the sign of Cancer. He is 35 but claims to look 25.

"Subliminal Spring Session Vol. VI" - Mixed by Benny Benassi will soon be in the record stores. This is the first time that the famous American compilation, soon to be released the world over, has been mixed by an Italian Dj. The Easter Sunday dj date at Trinity Rooms is the official Irish release party for the album and is part of a massive world tour. So this Easter Sunday when the eggs have been counted and eaten, Lenten abstinences put aside and Summer beckons, push on down to Trinity Rooms

for an Exclusive Subliminal Records Release Party with the floor filling, block rocking Benny Benassi.

Pre-Party in Red Room from 9pm with



Colm Kenefick (Jam-Cork)
Admission €12 with concession
Over 20's ROAR

Album Reviews

TASTY - KELIS
(ARISTA)

B'fhéidir gur aineolas ar mo pháirt atá do mo dhalladh chun na laige atá in ainm 's a bheith ag baint le saothar nua Kelis ach ní fheicim easpa tionchar na Neptunes ar chuid dá



hamhrán is fearr ar an albam Tasty, rud atá lochtaithe ag léirmheastóirí eile. Cé gur aoibhinn liomsa agus le formhór na mac léinn timpeall na tíre an draíocht a chuireadar ar Milkshake, níl dúil agam in Protect My Heart mar shampla, in ainneoin guth mealltach Pharell Williams air. B'fhearr liom i bhfad Trick Me agus Keep It Down lena rithim luascach láidir léirithe ag Dallas Austin, agus tugann André 3000 ó OutKast blas iontach sainiúil dá chuid féin chuig an sársaothar Millionaire. Ní dóigh liom gur gha do Kelis a bheith chomh dlúthcheangailte leis na Neptunes agus a cheapann daoine áirithe go gcaithfidh - cé go bhfuil fós deá-thionchar acu na saothair a chumann siad léi, léiríonn an t-albam seo go bhfuil réimsí ann go bhféadfadh sí seasamh iontu go socair gan a dtacaíocht ceolmhar.

Músclaíonn Kelis macnas spleodrach ar an albam seo, sin cinnte! Déannann sí tagairt san amhrán léirithe ag Rockwilder, In Public, do na hionaid phoiblí uile go bhfuil sí féin agus a céile gealltanais, Nas a chanann léi freisin, i ndiaidh leathair a bhuaileadh le chéile mar shampla. Is rithim na gnaoiúil boga a mheallann isteach sa cheol muid agus saibhreas gutha Kelis a choimeádann ann muid, tréith atá le fáil i bhformhór na n-amhrán ar Tasty. Oibríonn Flashback gnéasach, Attention luascach le Nas agus Raphael Saadig, Stick Up cumasach agus Marathon leochaileach mórán mar an gcéanna, ag sleamhnú isteach i rithim daingean, mealltach a ghabhann d'aird agus a spreagann thú chun damhsa ón dtaobh istigh. Agus dár ndóigh, tuigeann muid ar fad nach gnáth creathán bainne milis atá i gceist aici in Milkshake ar chor ar bith...

Ag trácht ar mhilseacht, baineann boigéis mhealltach lena hamhránaíocht chomh maith, go háirithe in Suga Honey Iced Tea na Neptunes ina gcuireann canadh cailín óg le soineantacht an phíos, ach is saothar bríomhar lán le croí agus anam atá san albam thar aon rud eile. Ní féidir fuinneamh agus aibíocht a cuid oibre a shéanadh ná ní féidir diúltú do chumas Kelis mar cheoltóir inti féin agus í ag taiscéalaíocht le gnéithe éagsúla den chanadh a oireann di. Is iomaí am atá Tasty seinnte agam le cúpla lá anuas agus go dtí seo, níl laghdú dá laghad ag teacht ar mo mhian éisteacht lena hamhráin arís 's arís eile. Domsa go pearsanta, is deá-chomhartha de shárshaothar ceoil é sin. Déanaigí bhur gcinneadh féin faoi. **SNA**

IN THE ZONE - BRITNEY SPEARS
(JIVE RECORD COLLECTION)

Muna bhfuil tú go hiomlán gafa ag an amhrán Toxic go fóill, b'fhearr duit an t-albam seo a chéannacht agus andúil a thosú air láithreach! Níor thaitin éiginnteacht Britney Spears liom



riamh - ní raibh aon am agam don amhránaí a dhiúltaigh gur aon rud seachas cailín deas soineanta í ina cuid agallamh ach a chaith a mealltach ghnéasach i dtreo gach ceamara ar an stáitse nó ina cuid físeán - ach ní fhéadfainn a shéanadh gur theastaigh uaim dul ag damhsa gach uair a chuala mé a leithéid de I'm a Slave 4 U nó Oops!...I Did It Again.

Ach anois, is féidir liom mo chorp a ghríosadh lena ceol is déanaí gan mothú ciontach mar tá meas nua agam di leis an sár-albam seo. Creidim go bhfuil sí tar éis a fíorphearsantacht a fhorbairt agus a nochtaidh le hionracas iomlán sna hamhráin nua, a collaíocht á gabhadh chuici féin gan aon leithscéal a dhéanamh as ucht a bheith chomh mealltach, macnasach agus atá sí. Ceann de na saothar is collaí agus is fearr ar an albam ná Breathe on Me, léirithe ag Mark Taylor, agus Touch of my Hand ag plé leis an ábhar conspóideach d'fhéin truailliú.

Athraíonn aoibh an ábhair ruainne in Early Mornin', léirithe ag Moby, ach tá fós meirfean gnéasach le brath ann agus í ag trácht ar an maidin a leanann na hoícheanta fiáine sin. Dúirt sí féin go ndearna sí iarracht scríobh faoi ghnáth rudaí sa saol, costúil le dul amach lena cailínchaire istíofiche, agus más aon chomhartha é an oiread uair atá In The Zone seinnte agam san árasán le mo chailín féin sula ndeachamar amach, is léir gur éirigh léi an aoibh chuí a chruthú! Rinne sí Showdown agus Toxic so-mhealltach a scríobh le Cathy Dennis agus tá ardmholadh ag dul do thoradh a gcuid oibre - bíonn tú ar gairdeall chun dul ag damhsa nuair a chloiseann tú iad agus cinnte ní bhíonn a thuilleadh tinfidh uait chun do chromáin a chroitheadh i ndiaidh rithimí láidre Me Against the Music, I Got That (Boom Boom), Outrageous agus The Hook Up a chloisteáil sa bhreis orthu...

Moillíonn luas an cheoil beagán sna hamhráin Everytime agus Shadow ach fileann Britney ar bhuillí seasta agus ar fhréamhacha an phopcheoil sa saothar iontach soirbh, Brave New Girl. Ar an iomlán, tá a dhóthain mílse ar an albam chun a gnáth lucht leanúna a shásamh chomh maith le saoirse a thabhairt di féin chun taobh nua dá ceol a fhuascailt, ag ransú réimsí éagsúla stíleanna - agus ag teacht ar ór an cheoil. Más é seo luach a saothair, níl aon amhras orm go gcothóidh a foinsí nua ceoil í ar feadh i bhfad eile. **SNA**

Events View

Upcoming City Events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7TH

Dolan's - Tony Callanan (upstairs) *the ex Stocktons Wing singer launches his new CD 'legends & lovers'*

THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH

UCH - My Brother Johnny Cash - A tribute by Tommy Cash and the Cash Crew Band
Dolan's Iain Archer (upstairs) *Ex Snow Patrol. Debut Album "Flood The Tanks" Out Now*

FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH

UCH - Limerick Choral Union Present Brahms's Requiem

SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH

Dolan's - AMC Seminar *info for the DIY band with presentations from some heads. topics to include: Recording, Record Labels, Touring, Publishing, Promotion, Sound Engineering, Clubs..*

AMC & Dolans presents 'Vibe for Kurt' - the 10th anniversary featuring the music of Nirvana played by local bands Golf, Niall Quinn & the Pennywhores, Funbobby and more

Dolan's Jori Hulkkonen (live set)club & radio DJ & electronic musician from Finland

SUNDAY APRIL 11TH

Dolan's - AMC present French Toast (upstairs)featuring members of Fugazi & The Make Up

MONDAY APRIL 12TH

Dolans & AMC present Corsano & Flaherty Duo One half of the "Dream/Aktion Unit" with Thurston Moore and Jim O'Rourke (Sonic Youth)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 14TH

Dolan's - IMRO showcase featuring:Funbobby, 7even Words, The Names, Hatch 77, Roper
UCH - Limerick Musical Society presents Hot Mikado

THURSDAY APRIL 15TH

Dolan's - DOT COMedy Club with Dara O Briain - MC Karl Spain
UCH - Limerick Musical Society presents Hot Mikado

FRIDAY APRIL 16TH

UCH - Limerick Musical Society presents Hot Mikado
Belltable - Storytellers Theatre Company in association with Cork Opera House present Rashomon

SATURDAY APRIL 17TH

Dolan's - Ox (upstairs) - from Canada - "If you like John Bottomley, Neil Young's HARVEST, or Bob Dylan's JOHN WESLEY HARDING, , you'll love this guy."
Jerry Fish & The Mudbug Club
A vibrant mash of lounge lizard schmooze and mariachi passion

UCH - Limerick Musical Society presents Hot Mikado

Belltable - Storytellers Theatre Company in association with Cork Opera House present Rashomon

SUNDAY APRIL 18TH

Dolan's - The Casbah Club -their only Irish date outside Dublin Featuring :Bruce Watson (ex Big Country)Mark Brzezicki (ex Big Country)Bruce Foxtan (ex Stiff Little Fingers)JJ Gilmour (ex Big Country)Josh Philips (ex The Silencers)

UCH- The Masters of Shaolin Kung Fu present "SUNZI HERO"

Where's Ben?
He's Keeping it Real



Slumming it in the Hilton

After a crazy Kollege Week Ben's in need of some relaxation so he's in the Hilton. Pity it isn't Paris Hilton...

Nersth

Funny with a capital F!
Tommy Tiernan review

Keith Whelan

It's been well documented in the press the recent personal upheavals in Tiernan's life - the separation from his girlfriend and mother of his children, the drugs and an appearance in the Des and Mel show on daytime TV. He is now an institution in Irish comedy, selling out over 40 nights over a period of months in a Dublin venue. The rebel with a comic cause of Irish comedy came to UCH recently for some side-splitting and loud guffawing. This reviewer had seen Tiernan only last year in the same venue when the second half of his show went down like a lead balloon, spiralling into a black hole of comedy. Non-impressed. Could he re-invent himself and get back to the hysterics we know him best for?

The support act of Gerry Mallon set the standard, with an accomplished if never outstanding performance. He got the laughs in all the right places and showed that Buckfast should really indeed be a national institution! After enough slugging about the all the local towns and townspeople in the region and after an interval filled with expectance, the main man himself took to the stage with the aplomb of a prize fighter, ready to do battle with an audience, who being Irish in nature, though they could just be as funny as the entertainment!

With his usual jest for performance, Tiernan proceeded to describe that time every month when a woman has her Princess Monthly Time! The joke is a joke within joke as we all (us guys anyway!) could associate with what he meant. He showed us the facial expression we should all really pull when bored to death of the person talking in front of us. Tiernan's observational comedy is perfect, as he has unleashed the comic demon to feed on all the

thoughts we have but could never say in dealing with the daily tribulations of life.

His description of a Brazilian wax would even put a cringe on the faces of the girls from sex and the city! His description of Jesus spending 40 nights in the desert had to be seen to be believed and indeed would convert even the driest soul to a hearty laugh. He had them rolling in the aisles at this stage, with two ladies on opposite sides of the auditorium competing to see who had the loudest laugh! The implementation of the Cork accent in different scenarios certainly put any future shows in Cork in jeopardy! "How can we obey all the commandments in the bible, like the one of loving thy neighbour, when you could suffer from low-esteem and abuse your neighbour over the garden fence...f**k off! You could easily say!" My personal favourite anecdote of the night was who has indeed seen deer crossing the road, since we have so many signs on the road? Can you not hear the shrill of laughter from the county council employees in the forest as you stop your car on the insistence of your child to see the deer crossing?!

One of his final analogies was the division of classes in school, which we all know too well. Tommy Tiernan is back to form ladies and gentlemen. Take it not just from me. Take it from the American girl laughing her head off in the seat beside me. They give us warplanes in Shannon, we give them cynical Tiernan Irish humour back! Saddam would probably have loved if Tommy was Iraqi! Any man who can stand in front of a Limerick audience and call Cruises St, "Bruises St." could repel any infidel invader!

Tommy Tiernan returns to the Concert Hall on April 29th for one night only.

The Red Shoes...a collaboration



Roder relied on an experimental form of co-operation and synchronicity to complete this exhibition 'drama' in four parts.

- ... The first scene was "Totem" - wing, spirit, air
- ... The second scene was " Screen" - female, chevron, water
- ... The third scene was " House" - containment, body, earth
- ... The fourth scene was "Red Shoes" - passion, emotion, fire

The first meeting and the formation of "The Red Shoes" began on 22 September 2002 when the purpose of creating an



installation exhibition was put into place. It was important to all artists that the exhibition be viewed as a collaboration between professionals and

not as a "group exhibition". "We chose a common theme and format parameters for each scene in our drama, but thought it



interesting to experiment and rely on the 'magic of synchronicity' to complete the work. We kept what we were doing in complete secrecy from one-another until a set deadline. " says Josepha van den Anker

Van den Anker continues: "As the work progressed, what we found interesting, was how each of the scene 'elements' tended to blend into one. Siobhan McCooey, for example, not only produced her Totem (wing, spirit, air) but also incorporated the other 'scenes' into one whole statement. The exhibition on display at Belltable is a synopsis of this project."

The Red Shoes exhibition opens Tuesday April 6th at 6pm in Belltable. Admission is free. Gallery space open Monday - Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm.



Clubs and Societies

UL Envirosoc

Spring is a time for heart-warming images such as little lambs in luminous wind-sheeters and downy chicks squeaking their beaks off... But for Envirosoc, this time of year means much more than all that... For us, Spring is a time for Cleaning. That's right fellow students, because April is National Spring Clean Month!! And all you have to do to take part is to bend down and pick up some rubbish! Whether it's an empty bottle someone has selfishly discarded or a fiver the guy in front of you has just dropped...every little helps!! Envirosoc will be organising one or two group clean-ups in the areas we feel need it most. So if you fancy giving an hour of your time, keep an eye out for our posters, and feel free to come and give us a hand. You may have spotted us in Elm Park recently. Thanks to the residents who showed their support (morally, anyway) and hats off to the cleaner-uppers!!! For information on National Spring Clean Month: www.antisec.org

In other news today, we're all off to an organic farming workshop on Saturday April 3rd in Drumcollegher and we're planning a picnic for Wednesday of week 8, meeting at 12:15 outside old sports building, weather permitting. "Weekend in The Woods" takes place the first weekend in May and a few of us are hoping to take part in this. It's happening in Killaloe and activities include yurt-making, basket-making and wattle and daub crafting...definitely worth a visit! We meet Monday @ 7 in the Students' Union building. Tabhair Aire don Timpallacht!!

UL Basketball - Freshers Girls Tournament

After weeks of strenuous training, the fresher girls finally took to the court on February 28th. Unlike the lads we had a very short distance to travel and so had a "team bonding night" in Elm Park on Friday, February 27th, which was only a short trek from the arena. However lack of heating oil meant many players suffered from heat deprivation and near-hypothermia had disastrous effects on the team's performance in the opening quarter of the first game against U.C.D.

U.L.'s failure to perform resulted in many turnovers and a score of 12-4 in U.C.D.'s favour by the end of the first quarter. The girls soon began feeling the heat (provided by the arena) and this combined with some serious talking by Noreen and Maria resulted in heads being lifted and the girls began to improve with two consecutive three pointers from "the bird" and "the ghost". Super sub Gingerella soon moved to the top of the bench and when she graced the court with her presence her influence was immediately felt with the ball-handling skills of U.L. improving dramatically. Despite this a series of three point plays along with lack of "bosca amach" on our part extended the visitors' lead. A UL foul right on the buzzer gave U.C.D. 3 free throws.

U.L. started the second half well with scores from Tanya Pidgeon and Maria Moriarty but U.C.D. remained relentless in attack. U.C.D. scored more in the first half and only managed to outscore us by two points in the second half, but only for



Lyndsey Moriarty's superb free throw in the dying seconds it could have been more.

The girls took a well deserved break and psyched themselves up for a game against St. Pats. At seven the girls took to the floor again and after a scrappy start Niamh O'Meara eventually got the first score and began the ball rolling. Many more scores after well executed plays resulted in a half time score of 19-8. The second half witnessed a few defensive errors on our part but despite this U.L. ran out winners with a score of 39-29 and peace was restored among the camp.

This "great win" was a cause for celebration and as always the fresher girls managed to do this in style with a trip to Charlie Chaplins and The Market. Again bonding did occur but some players proved they were better scoring

off the court than on it. The night soon drew to a close and the team retired to THEIR beds in preparation for the semi-final against Tralee I.T. At 11 o'clock both teams took to the court and U.L. got off to a good start against a team that had five players and no coach. U.L. managed to go ahead in the opening minutes but superb shooting by Tralee's Emma Fitzgibbon quickly restored Tralee's lead and the half time score was 28-20 in Tralee's favour. U.L. again started the second half well with many "down town" shots from Maria Moriarty (now that's a first for a Kerry girl) but again Tralee fought back and never ceased to see a gap in U.L.'s defence. The final score was 58 - 39 and Tralee were deserved winners. Despite this humiliating defeat the girls held their heads high and marched on..... to the Sports Bar.

UL Young Fine Gael

I wish I could say that we at UL Young Fine Gael have been rushed off our feet, building villages in Africa and helping old ladies across the road in the last fortnight, so I will say it: we at UL Young Fine Gael have been rushed off our feet, building villages in Africa and helping old ladies across the road in the last fortnight. But it's a lie. We have been very under-utilised. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our trip to Dáil Éireann and our Women in Politics evening were both postponed until a later date. On the upside, we had a very beneficial meeting last Thursday, despite the misgivings of some dissenting members who think these meetings are a complete and utter waste of time. We entered a team in the 5 a side soccer tournament held by SVP and Ógra on the Monday of Rag Week, but a very unfortunate combination of bad refereeing, players not showing up, no kit, the wrong temperature and the fact that I wore my socks inside out, we ended up not winning either of our games. An FF fix? I'm not saying anything, but it was an FF fix. Only messing, Rory! On Wednesday night, we entertained our colleagues from UCC YFG, who, between you and me, aren't a patch on our brilliant branch, but we put up with them like one puts up with one's country cousins, you know you don't want to see them but you also know you have to. They enjoyed what Los Stablos and El Lodgeo had to offer and then we went on a bit of a tour of our members' houses, ending up in Barry's gaff at around half five and watching Countdown. The fact that as I'm writing this on Thursday afternoon and still wearing the same clothes that I wore last

night tells you all you need to know, I think. Next week is busy enough, as on Monday Simon Coveney TD, Fine Gael candidate for the European Parliament in the Ireland South constituency visits UL, and two days later, we will make a dangerous journey to the home of Murphy's Irish Stout, Roy Keane and the word 'langer' to visit the Lord Mayor of Cork, Colm Burke, a founder member of YFG, who is going to show us around. Only the UCC lads will be there again, but maybe, just maybe, if we put our fingers in our ears and go "lalalalalalalala" until they go away things might turn out alright.

Denis Hurley, Chief Spin Doctor (This document has in no way been sexed up), ULYFG

I rith seachtain na Gaeilge chuirtear cruinniú le chéile faoi topic: "Cén fáth nach bhfuil gaeilge ina theanga Oifigiúil na hAontais Eorpacha?" Tháinig an Dr. Seosamh Mac Muirí ón Aonad na gaeilge, agus labhair sé dúinn faoin gaeilge agus cultúr na gaeilge. Míle buiochas leat a Sheosamh. Tháinig Ricard Deasy freisin, agus bhí sé ag caint faoin gaeilge san aontais anois, mar bhí sé ag obair sa Eorap le fiche bliain anuas. Bhíomar an-sasta leis an cruinniú, agus míle buiochas do na beirt ('sea a Bharra beirt!!) cainteoirí, agus don Colm Murphy a rinne a lán obair chun an cruinniú a chur le chéile.

Beidh focail againn!!!!!!
Breandán Ó hÉamhaigh, Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

Irish Golf Intervarsities 2004

The University of Limerick Golf Club took on the best of collegiate golf over the 25th & 26th of March. It was a fantastic event and below is the diary of events - starting on the practice day (24th of March).

24th of March (Practice Day): Only five of us made it to the practice day with Adrian "Don Juan" Feane, Ted "Wild Thing" Vaughan, and Gary "Captain Courageous" Rainsford coming up that evening. The others, Cian "Sugarman" O'Brien, Ger "Yokes" Hogan, Tom "The Powerhose" Kennedy, Craig "The Wardrobe" Toomey and Darran "The Pimp" Faherty managing to play roughly 14 holes before light brought a premature end to the golf.

Later that evening we decided it was time to see what Carlow town had to offer so it was off to Scragg's Alley for a bit of Golf Team Bonding.

25th of March (Day1): Breakfast was not a great sight with Captain Courageous and The Pimp probably looking the worst of a generally bad lot. It was off to Carlow GC at around 8am with Gary being our first man out at 8:30am. There was no surprise that the majority of the other teams were as bad if not worse than us with the Captain of UCC probably embarrassing himself the most while teeing in front of a big crowd of overly tired golfers. We all seemed to get off to a decent start - Captain Courageous and Don Juan being the notable exceptions!! We had never really gone into this expecting to win with UCD, UCC, Queens and UU having extremely strong teams and after the end of a long day we had confirmed this expectation! It was back to the hotel at around 6pm to get ready for what would be a big night ahead! Intercollege bonding was a big feature of the night with NUI Galway being the focus of our efforts and The Wild Thing's supposed



21st birthday getting him roughly 50 birthday kisses thanks to the efforts of The Pimp and the rest of the lads.

26th of March (Final Day of Play): Many colleges had players missing for this eight person tournament due to the late end to the previous night's festivities. All the lads fought tooth and nail but the 27 holes on the final day took their toll in the final scores. Many congratulations go to UCD, who won the event by a slim margin from the University of Ulster, and Robert O'Siochain - the UCD captain who ran a great event. It was back to the hotel at around 5pm to wash up and make sure we looked our best for the Dinner and Prize-giving. We arrived back at Carlow GC for the dinner at around 7:30pm to savour the atmosphere and catch up on what scandal we missed from the previous night - the UL golf team's antics seemed still to be the focus of everybody's attention. By the end of dinner we had been convinced to take over the hosting of the event for next year and if we could stage as good an event as this year we would be more than happy.

Well, there it is - we came, we saw, we didn't conquer but we had one hell of a good time and we made sure anyone around also had as good if not a better time. With us hosting this event next year all the college golf teams, both male and female, should be in store for a fantastic event!!

Clubs and Societies

U.L. Tang Soo Do "The Flower of Youth"

The U.L. Tang Soo Do Club proudly presents "BATTERY", Limericks hottest new Rock band, performing live in the Scholars on Wednesday The 7th of April (Week 8). Admission is free so you won't want to miss this amazing band playing their first gig on Campus. There will also be a raffle on the night with some great prizes up for grabs.

Tang Soo Do is a Korean Martial Art form, which has been evolving since 37 AD. It is a combination of hand, foot and weaponry training along with essential self-defence techniques and flowing patterns. Their first elite castes of warriors were known as "the flower of youth" and this term can be used to describe the current members in the U.L. Tang Soo Do Club.

The Autumn Semester of 2003 saw the U.L. branch of this World Organisation come under new leadership with the succession of Master Anthony Daly, 3rd Dan Black-belt. It marks the beginning of a new era for us in the club and is a move forward for the organisation. Also we have elected a new committee dedicated to improving the club and maintaining the steady growth we have seen in both U.L. and the world. There is an upcoming competition in April and the U.L. Tang Soo Do Club will be sending some strong contenders for the top prizes.

For those interested in attending our class, it takes place every Tuesday night at 7:30p.m. in the Old Sports Building. Beginners and advanced levels catered for. So, for a fun (and legal) way of releasing any pent up aggression come along to our classes and bring your friends for an even more fun filled lesson.



U.L. KAYAK CLUB

On the 19th of March, armed with kayaks and paddles, ULKC set off on their annual trip to Sligo. After sorting out some usual trailer problems on Friday afternoon, all 41 of us hit the road. The 'UL Bus Club' provided entertainment throughout the long 4 hour bus journey. As soon as we arrived, we split up into our luxurious holiday homes. Those of us who were lucky enough to get the room with the double bed lived it up for the weekend with an ensuite room, a walk-in-wardrobe and a television!

We got up bright and early on Saturday morning and got ready for a day of paddling. We divided into two groups for the day - half of us went to The Ballina Wave for some freestyle kayaking while the others ran the Easkey river. After all the rainfall prior to the weekend, what was expected to be a river with Grade 2 drops, had become a river with Grade 3 drops. They portaged a large section of the

Kayak Club Trip to Sligo

river which was unrunnable they got back on the river and paddled a series of drops and wave trains. As Seona pointed out there was a lot of nice scenery on the river, ie funny shaped trees!

When we arrived back in Enniscrone on Saturday evening, using the usual ULKC recipe, we cooked up a feast of Spaghetti Bolognese...mmm! Then we all headed over to house number 3 (the party house). We stayed there until the early hours of the morning with some of us spending the night playing Twister. Ruth and Siobhan were in charge of spinning the wheel but secretly invented their own instructions resulting in some very awkward positions!! Yuri had had enough at this point and fell asleep on the Twister mat, still managing to keep all his limbs on the right colours!! Tony was up to his usual antics, stealing duvets. John Kelly was shocked to find an unwelcome guest asleep in his bed when he returned home. Another typical night of a ULKC weekend trip! On Sunday (Mothers' Day), Mammy Alexa dragged everyone in our house out of bed. We had breakfast, packed up and set off for what we thought was going to be a day of surf. We soon discovered that this wasn't possible

because all the surf was blown out. We had to think of a Plan B...The Tuam Hole. We headed towards home and stopped off at Tuam to see what the play-hole, that we have all heard so much about from Mike, was really like. We took a quick look at it and then without hesitation, threw on our gear and got on the river. Kieran, Homer and Ed took the alternative route onto the river by seal launching from the bridge. However I don't think Homer will be doing this again in a hurry because he landed a bit too flat and ended up cracking his boat - all caught on video by the bus driver!! Meanwhile Stevo was swimming down to the rest of us, out of his boat, before he even reached the hole and Ronan Barry, disappointed with the lack of surf over the weekend, decided to try going down the drop on his surf board! Everyone really had a great time here and I'm sure we will be paying plenty more visits to 'Mike's Hole'.

A feast in Supermac's finished off a brilliant weekend in Sligo. If you like the sound of what you've just read then why not try it out? Our pool sessions are on in the Arena Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights from 9:50 to 11:00.

'BATTERY'
 Live in the Scholars
 7th April (Wed Week 8)
 9.30pm
 Admission: Free!
 Raffle on the night, with
 great prizes!

UL Computer Society



On Friday 26th March UL Computer Society ran another set of talks in the Scholar's function room. We again got to learn more fascinating facts and figures about the UL network structure and OpenOffice's interpretation of the Word .doc format.

Unfortunately our first speaker Kevin Lyda of Doolin Technologies Ltd was unable to show due to unforeseen circumstances. However the HEAnet speakers were kind enough to give a second talk on Ipv6 which more than made up for this.

To start of the evening Colm MacCárthaigh and Dave Wilson gave us a presentation entitled "running the next Generation Internet". They are two of the Engineers who are running HEAnet and gave an outline of the services provided and the network infrastructure used for the HEAnet service. After some boasting about network size and having one of the largest FTP servers in the world they relinquished the floor to Caolán

McNamara who gave a presentation on OpenOffice.org's Microsoft Word {Im|Ex} port.

This was a very detailed view of how the OpenOffice team has approached reverse engineering the word document specification to allow it to be written by OpenOffice. At the end he showed some "Easter eggs" encoded into Openoffice for anyone interested.

Finger food was served and we got a chance to meet with the speakers and have a few drinks before finishing off and having a final talk presented by Dave Wilson on Ipv6 and its current application by HEAnet. Needless to say we were all convinced on the merits of the system and will be converting our systems very shortly :-).

After the talks most stayed and took the chance to speak in depth with the speakers. Opinions were shared and egos were bruised but apart from that most were satisfied by the end of the evening.

Overall it was another successful night and hopefully will become a regular even on the Computer Society calendar.

UL Windsurfing Club



Galway bay, Rusheen III
 Report by David Colbourne

Galway bay, Rusheen III - this time it was personal. And what a difference... five months makes, yes five months since our last trip, scarcely believable with all our club maintenance/preparations. Last Rusheen trip you just knew something was wrong when taking a wetsuit off was more difficult than when putting it on - regarding chilling cold numb fingers. This time however 'twas no bother, the weather was kind, the waves watery, and the wind picking up, just the way we like it. From the early morning mirror-like beginnings and the bay becoming aroused by our presence soon began to ripple.

The morning quickly began with a lesson in gybe, that's a turning manoeuvre not a foreign language, and we were all pretty



fluent in no time. Then to harnessing, quickly learning the ropes there too (pun intended). They say "perfect practice makes perfect", but then again it wouldn't be practice then would it? Hours of the watery craic followed and 'tis fair to say that a blast was had by all. For most, this was not a first time trip though for much of the newly acquired gear it was (thanks CIC fund!). First trip of the year, many more to come, and may they continue in similar fashion. Special thanks to Fiona & Mark for gear logistics, to Cathal of Rusheen for the tuition, and to madra maith 'Cara' for watching over us bayside - (high 5!). Slán go foill, ULWC.



Clubs and Societies

SVP

It has, as always, been a busy busy fortnight for The St. Vincent de Paul Society.

You might have seen a man with a big camera on his shoulder around campus recently and wondered what the hell was going on now! Basically, a film crew consisting of a cameraman and a sound technician from Finland followed us around for a week, hoping to produce a documentary on the society. They went out with the soup run, homework-club volunteers and also filmed the kids' recreational activities in the arena. They filmed the leg waxing and also one of our committee meetings. Interviews were held with Paul Lee and Timmy Hennessey. It was very strange and nerve-wracking because they were like our shadow for the week following us around and making us repeat full conversations if they had been of any interest.

Thursday week 6 we waxed different body parts of nine lads, with special guest SU President, Eoin O'Broin, also taking part. Eoin O'Broin, Kevin Dinan, Niall Riordan, Paudie Williams, Tiernan McNamara, Kevin Hegarty and John Glennon all got up on the stage supplied by The Drama Society and waxed parts of their legs including their inner thigh and even some toes (ouch!!!). Kevin McGuire ripped his top off and waxed his chest, nipples and all - it was excruciating just to watch. Billy Fitzgerald stuck it out and offered to wax his arms of all places. It was one of our more interesting events. We'd like to thank Ciara and Plush Beauticians sincerely for giving up their time and energy and donating the wax etc. Also Joe from The Scholars let us provisionally book An Phluais in case the weather turned so we'd also like to thank him for his never-ending support and friendliness towards the society.

The money from this event was solely raised by the lads who offered to get waxed so we'd like to extend our gratitude to them for giving their time and effort to the society.

Monday of Kollege Week a 5-a side soccer tournament was held in conjunction with Fianna Fáil in aid of the society organised by Rory Deegan of Ógra. This raised over €600 and was a fantastic success and lots of fun. A raffle was also held on the day with Sharon Kennedy winning a U.L. fleece, Diarmuid McNamara winning a €50 USIT voucher and Daniel Frawley won a bottle of wine. Thank you to all who helped with this event and took part on the day.

Wednesday of Kollege Week was more fundraising with our annual Bouncing Castle. This was great fun! For €2 a go it was the best value for money around for the fun people got out of it in five minutes. There were some amazing spectacles of Kung Fu, Gymnastics and just plain falling over. There were a few casualties like hard man Paddy Bennett who fell off the side and grazed his elbow but our hot nurse who was on stand by fixed it with a plaster and all was well again. Hope you get better soon Paddy. Again this was a really fun event, which helped raised over €100 for the society. We'd like to thank Dave-o Ents who organised the castle for us and everyone else who helped in any way.

With all this rampant fundraising you must wonder where it all goes. In the last few weeks a new Homework Club and Swimming project has been set up for children from the local Traveller Community. Our secondary school Homework Club project has also been running again plus we have been able to take the children from the primary school Homework Club swimming again. All this adds up so this is why there has been an increase in expenses recently.

So if you would like to join The St. Vincent de Paul Society or would like any information on any of our activities you can access our web-site at www.csn.ul.ie/~svp or e-mail us at svp@hotmail.com.

Kilkee, March 2003

With the weather beginning to improve, more and more diving is being done, and for the last few weekends, UL Sub Aqua Club have headed to Kilkee to explore some more of the dive sites on offer in West Clare.

A boat dive off Diamond Rocks saw the start to one cold but still excellent day's diving. This dive site consists of a number of small, narrow gullies at a range of different levels. Once the end of one gully was reached you just swam over into another. It was so intriguing - it was like a maze - and the amount of life it gave home to was astounding. At the end of one gully was a huge shoal of fish that shimmered in the light as they swam completely oblivious to our presence.

After a short break we headed for our second boat dive of the day. Initially the plan was to dive at a site at George's

In the past twelve months the sub-aqua club has grown tremendously, and with the recent qualification of two of our members as diving instructors more trainee scuba divers are getting qualified than ever before. This has also allowed the club to treble its membership in the last year. There are also plans for more of the club members to become full diving instructors, which will further increase the number of trainee divers the club can teach. Training takes place in the diving pit every week allowing members to practice the skills required for an open water dive. The club has endeavoured on a number of trips away over the last year to explore the underwater world.



Weekend and day trips are planned on a regular basis during the year, to various dive sites around Ireland such as Kilkee, Fanore, Clifden, and Baltimore. A recent trip to Fanore in north Clare, gave some members the unique opportunity to dive with a dolphin. Swimming alongside a dolphin at 20 metres in its own environment is a completely surreal experience that will never be forgotten.

A number of the club's members travelled further a field over the summer to the warmer waters of Dubrovnik in Croatia. Over the course of the week, some excellent diving was experienced. The dives ranged from shallow reef dives that were full of lobster to phenomenal 40m wreck diving which included sitting on WWII tractors!! The



UL Sub Aqua Club

Head, but as we were kitting up fishermen came and began laying lobster pots so we abandoned that plan and headed to Newfoundland Reef, commonly known as Newfee. This is a rock reef with a sandy bottom and the crevasses between the rocks are home to all types of life. The boat landed us directly on the reef, which was a part of Newfee I had never really explored. I always stayed on the kelp floor before, so it was really interesting to see how the seabed can change so dramatically in such a short distance.

A day trip last weekend saw a number of the club's divers discover Kilkee even further. The first dive was a boat dive off George's Head, which is at the mouth of Kilkee bay. The force of the Atlantic has shaped the terrain to give a number of saw-toothed ridges with a vertical face on the exposed side and a sloped back on the landward side. There are a number of canyons, cliff faces and a tunnel running

into the Head itself. It is the terrain, rather than flora in this exposed location, which is the real attraction of the area. Despite a bit of difficulty on the surface at the start, when a wave came from nowhere and sent John in washing machine like motion towards the cliff face, it was a superb dive with plenty to see, including a blue lobster.

The second dive that day was a shore dive, once again at Newfee. A big swell that was present for a few days prior to the dive meant that visibility was not as good as on previous dives at Newfee, but there was still an abundance of life down there and they even managed to spot a flat fish - plaice - there.

Even with all the diving that the club has done in the past few weeks in Kilkee, there are still plenty of dive sites there yet to be explored by the ULSAC divers, which means that the coming few months are going to be just as thrilling!

A Year in Review



highlight if the trip was on the island of Korcula where an excellent 30m night dive, which was teaming with life, was enjoyed. On the final morning, a cave dive was the order of the day, and we even brought home our very own video of the experience.

Following the huge success of last year's trip to the Red Sea, 13 members from the club are this year, once again, venturing for the warm Egyptian waters. The ULSAC divers will spend a week on a live-aboard on the Straits of Gubal exploring some of what are said to be the best dive sites in the world. These vary from wrecks to reefs to corals and have the most astounding marine life that would never be found in Irish waters. With three or four dives each day, a newly qualified diver

returns home from the trip as an expert. The trip also gives the chance to dive the SS Thistlegorm; a famous army supply ship that was dive bombed during World War II. It offers the unique opportunity to go back in time, and discover the cargo that lies within, a genuine underwater "World War II Museum". It is clear why this adventure is already set as an annual event for the club.

If you want to take up a new and exciting sport and discover the world that exists underwater, call down to the diving pit any Thursday from 5-7.30pm, visit <http://subaqua.csn.ul.ie> or contact Declan.Burke@ul.ie.

See you soon, UL Sub-Aqua Club.



UL Subaqua Club

invites you to

Try a Dive

Discover if Scuba Diving is for you!

Experience Weightlessness and Breathe for the First Time Underwater

Week 12

watch this space for more details nearer the time!

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

Clubs and Societies

Debating Union Intervarsity

UL Debating Union held the annual Limerick Intervarsity debating competition over the Friday and Saturday on the 20th and 21st of March.

The intervarsity is the highlight of the DebU's year, affording us the opportunity to host the top Irish and British debaters and show the other Irish universities that UL knows how to partay!

As our IV occurs at the end of the debating 'season', after the World championships, the atmosphere is more relaxed and friendly than IV's at other universities. After extensive networking with the other Irish university debaters at Worlds in Singapore this year we managed to persuade some of the top Irish debaters such as worlds finalists UCC Philosoph's Derek Lande, UCD L and H's Ciaran Lawlor and recent Irish Times winner Ian Keogh of DCU into participating.

With 28 teams from various debating and speaking societies in NUIG, UCC, UCD, TCD, DCU, the United States and Oxford the number was our highest ever and with the contacts made next years event promises to be even more well attended. After two rounds of intense, humorous and absorbing debate with motions such as 'This house would make Irish an official language of the EU' and 'This house would allow the pope to be elected by the laity' all were grateful of pizza kindly supplied by Dominos. The participants later retired to the Globe nightclub for some light entertainment provided by 'Dave the slave' and 'Naughty Nina'.

At other universities the fun is put on hold on the Friday night, as debaters get 'serious' about winning. UL DebU refuses to toe the traditional line however and we preoccupied everyone in the salubrious environs of the cigar bar whose relaxed atmosphere lead to many attempts at scoring with fellow debaters and general

bonding.

It was a great shock then that the next days rounds started on time at 10.30am after emergency rations of Lucozade and sausage butties in the stables. Again the motions brought out the best in the speakers as all engaged in strident debate over 'This house believes that Sinn Féin has no place in the south', 'This house believes that drugs have a place in sport' and 'This house believes that Ariel Sharon should be tried as a war criminal'.

With so many Worlds experienced speakers in the competition the standard of debate was astoundingly high but after the five rounds were concluded Sheelagh McGuinness of the NUIG Lit and Deb society was 'top of the tab' and best speaker with an average score of 81 points per round.

The Jean Monnet lecture theatre played host to the final and a full house was treated to a lively and spirited debate with the motion that 'This house would introduce positive discrimination for homosexuals in parliament'. In the final were NUIG Literary and Debating, UCC Philosophical, Oxford Union and UCD Literary and Historical.

After the final the debaters refreshed themselves with a disturbingly healthy fresh food buffet from the hands of our Jamie Oliver-esque auditor Michelle Ní Gabhoíid. And as food was masticated and drink imbibed the NUIG team of Sheelagh McGuinness and Sharon Dillon-Lyons were proclaimed victorious by DebU's own World championship deputy chief adjudicator Colm Flynn.

After a brief sojourn to the stables ex DebU legend and perennial UL legend, MC Keith Piggott, kept the debaters gesticulating madly and dancing even worse, leaving all with fond memories except for convenor Sarah Carew who realised she might well have to organise it again next year.

Ladies Rugby - 1 Week, 2 Cups

The title sums up the past week perfectly for the UL ladies rugby team, who won both the league final and the Intervarsities cup. Last Friday (week 6), the ladies made the trip down to Highfield in Cork to play CIT in the All Ireland League Final. By all accounts, this was initially a very close game, but the UL girls showed their class and skill, going on to record a very comprehensive victory in the end. The final score of 20-0 did not reflect the true intensity of the game. It took UL to get their first score from Dee O'Brien. This was followed by a beautiful try by Carol Dunning in the corner after a good lineout and quick hands through the backs.

The second half brought 2 more tries for UL, one from full-back Mairead Kelly and the other from back row Eilish Mc Nulty. CIT never really looked like scoring and they were kept at bay by some wonderful tackling and some great individual play.

The team had the weekend to recover before the Intervarsities in Galway on Wednesday of week 7 (Kollege week). UL had to complete 3 pool matches, beating NUIG, Carlow IT and the Guards comprehensively, before progressing to

the semi-final. Here we came up against a strong UCC side but despite the tiring legs UL rose to the occasion and pulled out a fine performance to progress to the final against a determined Trinity team. For the first time in the competition, UL conceded a try and left the half time score at 10-5 in favour of the opposition. UL brought on 2 subs, which brought fresh legs to the side, and it made all the difference. After regaining their composure UL put together some fine passages of play that resulted in 3 well-deserved tries. 3 of these were converted to leave the final score at 24-10.

UL ladies rugby have had a very successful and enjoyable year and we'd like to thank our coaches Sarah Belton and DJ Collins for all their hard work and dedication and driving up to reach our goals. Thanks also to the squad who always made a great effort to be at every training session even in the worst of conditions. We have a great squad to build on for future years. Unfortunately we'll be missing a couple of our beloved 4th years Caroline Mahon, Carol Dunning and Miriam Clegg. They'll be greatly missed but we'll struggle on without "Shoulders, Stunning and Mims"

UL Traditional Music Society

Last week saw the first of what is to be hopefully a yearly trip to Dunkineely in Co. Donegal. What brought us to Dunkineely? I hear you ask! Not is it home to our beloved chairman Aidan Dunkineely O'Donnell, it is also, according to Aidan, the oldest remains of a religious settlement! Now! So all the books are wrong Aidan?

Our road trip started on the Friday evening. The cavalcade of all three 7-seater cars departed U.L at half past two, an hour and a half past our dead line nonetheless!! We were not long making headway to the hilly county. We managed to arrive, after a few pit stops! Thanks to Damien Mc Geehan, who was extremely uneasy in the car, and was fairly certain he was going to have a "bit of a heavy aul weekend". Our hosts for the weekend were the very generous McIntyres pub who not only put us up for nothing but fed 15 brazen, hungry Irish musicians! They were not alone though. Some of us, namely the "delegation" stayed in the O'Donnell and Feeney manors.

The Friday night saw the best session Dunkineely had seen in a long time, some people had rode miles just to see it, fair play to Miles! The tunes carried on to the wee hours of the next day. Later on the next day, being Saturday, we thought since we went to the bother of renting three identical cars, we should do the touristy thing and go sight seeing the first port of call being The Mighty Damien Mc Geehan's house where Mary was waiting with, fair play, tea pot in hand. After that short visit we took the winding road less traveled across the Granny Mountains. We came across lots of strange and wonderful things, one of which being the water fall where I'm sure Peter Andre shot his video for mysterious Girl! We saw many's the fine Sheep, where Dave Delaney could not keep his shirt on, literally. After our decent from Granny (haha) our route took us to the highest sea cliffs in Western Europe, Sliabh



League, stopping on route in the pub owned by the world famous traditional music act Altan, Cul Adun. Our climb up Sliabh League, although tiring, was the perfect end to a perfect day in a perfect county for a perfect society, Ok you know what I mean!! In the words of our esteemed retired PRO, Mighty Mac "It was a Big Aul weekend for a Small Society"

Thanks

We wish to say a big thanks to our drivers for the weekend in question! So a big thanks to Imogen, Brian Speedy Gonzales holly Harte, and Connor Macgrath, cheers lads!

Up Coming events

Don't think we have finished our sight seeing tour of Ireland! We have merely dipped our toes in the sea that is Ireland. We plan to visit Mayo next no place is safe. More details in the next Edition of "An Focal"

Gan Airm Coming to a county near you!

More serious news

We might have to face the sad misfortune of pulling our weekly session in the sports bar because of poor attendance, thus we would be taking and losing the only Irish music session that is on campus! So please remember the sports bar every Monday night starting @ 9.30 pm, admission is free!

Slán,

Kieran Munnelly

university of limerick | traditional music society



Traditional Irish Music Session

Where? The UL Arena Sports Bar
When? Every Monday, 9.30pm



All Musicians Welcome
Admission is Free!

Clubs and Societies

Ógra Fianna Fáil

This month was a busy one for the con Colbert branch of Fianna Fáil, firstly we had an excursion to the European parliament in Brussels then we had the Ard Fheis not to mention the speakers and lively meetings we had this month. The visit to Brussels was an informative and enjoyable affair for all involved and the stories I was privy to confirmed that fact, the cumann registered record numbers for the visit, which went off without a hitch.

The Ard Fheis was an eye opening affair for this member at least, the AGM was attended by a diverse crowd from highly professional men and women to a man who I simply could not understand for love nor money, from young to old, Cork to Donegal and every other variation in between. The speeches whilst they could not compare to the elation connected to the win over England on the day were sharp and well spoken with Seamus Brennan the transport minister coming in

for a lot of praise for his work on the improvement of the transport network. Arguments and agreements sprawled the citywest hotel and the functions and afters were amusing to say the least.

The meetings this month were sprinkled with speakers which included an Order of Bethlehem 2000 award winner and the nephew of 1916 rebel Con Colbert, these speakers brought fresh debate on issues ordinarily not talked about. The speakers questioned our morals and drove us to never settle for 2nd best when it comes to standing up for the oppressed the belittled or the unrepresented.

Well the future for the Con Colbert Cumann this year is bright with Cathal Crowe our chairman going for election in June, a number of events including football tournaments quizzes and trips to everywhere and anywhere and an ambitious committee who are striving now for further growth in the 4 quarter of this year.

Outdoor Pursuits Club
UL Climbing Intervarsities 2004

I remember back in January when I was told that we the OPC would be hosting the National climbing Intervarsity here in Limerick, UL to be exact. From being at two other intervarsities before, Belfast and Dublin, I thought this wouldn't run too well with the size of our wall. But I was proven very wrong. A team of 5/6 headed by our slave driving president, Aoife Nagle, pulled off the best varsities so far (only a little bit biased). We had the most colleges representing themselves at ours, including UUI, DIT, ITT, DCU, UCC, and NUIG.

The whole weekend started off on Friday night, when all the Colleges arrived and were shown to their impressive quarters, Groody student village. After settling in, we escorted them to the Scholars where we had finger food as per arranged and of course a lot of craic mingling with the represented colleges. Before too long, we were herded onto a bus to bring all 50+ of us on a little mystery tour. It turned out to be to Eoin Fitzgerald's house, somewhere where past Corbally if my memory serves me correctly. The whole night was a blast even after enjoying Alwyn's cooking. Thanking you Alwyn!

With the introductions over, came the sleeping/recovery. Saturday arrived as expected after Friday and so the competition was to begin. At 11am all were to be signed up and score cards to be issued. To be fair I believe most contestants were pretty much on time but some of the host climbers weren't. Some arrived at 1pm others at two, some people were even finished climbing for the day by that stage! However, the day went without a hitch, and from the reactions of the competitors, they were very impressed by the challenging grades and the wall, which I had feared would be too small.

Saturday's climbing done, the night's festivities followed, where we would try getting the opposition to falter and climb poorly the next day. Again we started in the Scholars and enjoyed the atmosphere there before wandering into town to the Trinity Rooms, where again we had arranged a party. We all enjoyed a great night, with some



scoring (ye know who ye are you hooligans) and lots of revelling.

Again an early start to Sunday was required to get all 50+ out to Shannon to the impressive new climbing wall out there. After an amusing bus journey, we arrived in Shannon and disembarked the wonder bus driven by madman Eugene.

A room was set up for us to change our clothes and for the climbers to wait for their turn to climb (they weren't allowed to see how others climbed the route). Of course with all the tension they started playing rugby inside in the room. That was all fun and games until someone kicked it up and hit the light, smashing it to bits. With Coxy from UL up first for the men and Aoife for the ladies there was a big cheers from everyone. Everyone found the male route quite difficult and only one person got to the top. Stevo found it particularly hard with him being half dead and only went about two feet before he came off. At the end of the competition the winners were

Ladies A: Aoife Nagle UL

Male A: Kevin Marnane DIT

Overall university: 1ST University of Ulster Jordanstown

2nd University of Limerick

Beginner: Vincent O'Brien UUI

A special thanks to everyone who organised the event and also to our sponsors River Deep Mountain High

UL Pagan Society



Happy
Spring Equinox
Everyone!

Pagan society has been pretty busy this semester and is looking forward to another busy couple of weeks. On the 22nd of March, we celebrated the spring equinox on campus. We painted eggs and made floating lanterns to offer to the goddess of the Shannon, Sionna.

Our Treasurer's lantern, by the way, looked great, but toppled over and sank without a trace. Good job we aren't a superstitious lot or we would be worried about our budget. Our Presidents lantern, looked simple, floated fine then ran aground. The vice-presidents one just kept its head down. You couldn't call it floating either and quietly followed. A submersible floating lantern. Not really what we had intended, much like our vice-president. Our first year rep's looked bright and enthusiastic and sank like a stone when it touched water. There is something a little bit prophetic about all this.

Fun was still had by all. The spring equinox

is a celebration of spring and the fertility of the world that many pagans follow. It's also called Ostara and is one of the lesser or cross quarter festivals in Wicca. Chocolate eggs are happily consumed by many, in reminder of the gift of fertility of the earth.

We also continued having many a lively debate in the weekly meetings. The couple of agnostics in the group were arguing happily, for sanity against some of the more unusual beliefs of the group. We have chatted in recent weeks about, "paganism and alternative lifestyles", "reincarnation", "paganism and the Internet", "candle magick", "the nature of reality", and many other subjects that weren't the topic of the meeting but got talked about anyway.

We are looking forward to another trip to Lough Gur. Lough Gur is associated in legend with the Irish goddesses Áine & Fennel and we intend to travel there again around Beltane (May 1st). We are expecting to have as much fun as last time with hopefully less rain. We found the area beautiful, but rainy. I know I'm repeating myself about the rain, but it was very rainy.

New members with interesting ideas are always welcome. It's not necessary to consider yourself pagan, just have an interest in religion, folklore, history or the occult and feel like arguing over it. Paganism, by the way, does not convert people and accepts all paths as equal before the gods.

Tae Kwon-Do Master gives Seminar in UL

UL Cho's Tae Kwon-Do hosted a seminar by Master John Darcy, 6th degree black belt on February 28th for students ranging from beginners to black belts. It began with Master Darcy instructing on how to properly execute various punches emphasising the importance of using body torque and putting your bodyweight into the blow to generate more power than arm strength alone. This was followed by work on kicking techniques - practising correct chamber position and maximising speed and power. Next was drilling foot-work combinations and avoiding techniques as good avoiding ability is vital for sparring. This led into fighting techniques with a partner, firstly

practising how to counter attack after avoiding a strike and then performing a wide range of fighting techniques at close range. After that the training moved onto drilling axe-kicks and back spinning heel kicks using focus pads as targets. Finally there were traditional patterns.

The seminar ended with an exciting demonstration of Master Darcy's destruction skills when he broke through four boards with a back turning kick and also performed breaks using back spinning heel kick and ridge-hand techniques. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and informative seminar in which everyone learnt something to improve his or her training.

Master Darcy has been training in Tae Kwon-Do since the 1970s and is one of

the leading Masters of the Korean martial art of Tae Kwon-Do here in Ireland. UL Cho's Tae Kwon-Do has gone from strength to strength over the past number of years due to the dedication of its senior members and instructor Mr. Fox who has been teaching Tae Kwon-Do in UL for over 8 years; some students have been with Mr. Fox all that time training 2 to 3 nights a week.

The UL Cho's TaeKwon-Do students will have Master Darcy in UL again on the 9th May next when the students will be testing for their next belt level. Testing in UL Cho's Tae Kwon-Do club is no easy task as the students will be tested on all aspects of the martial art of Tae Kwon-Do and realistic self-defence techniques. Students will be tested on traditional



patterns, one step sparring, traditional techniques, free sparring, boxing, breaking of timber boards, self defence and condition and also on their mental and spiritual attitude in Tae Kwon-Do. Tae Kwon-Do trains both mind and body in physical, mental and spiritual areas to make it a true and meaningful martial art and not just focusing on physical aspects, which sports do in general.

L e t t e r s

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

Response to Letter

In reply to Rachael Holmes letter in the last edition of An Focal about a 15 year old girl being raped yes I am indeed shocked but there are many other things in the world to be shocked about. She probably doesn't read the paper often I have read about cases around Ireland of father's sexually abusing their daughters for years and destroying their lives which is much worse indeed. So are the murders of 200 commuters in Madrid . She then goes on to say that "these shocking incidents are happening every week in Ireland" and are "rampant around Limerick" . Is she implying that Limerick is a hotspot for rapes? Sure, I can admit being from Limerick city myself we've had a lot of murders but not as many rapes as I can see . I only ever heard of about 3 rapes either through the grapevine or the local media whereas it could be regarded nowadays if when we have no murders in the city for a few months period as a quiet one. In 2001 alone there were 18 murders .

She then then goes on about never going out on our own. This makes me laugh, especially in Castletroy as I feel there's not even a point to open a Garda station here where the money could be better spent elsewhere in Limerick as Castletroy is covered by Henry St. Gardai anyway. As far as I can see the only crime that occurs is when students come home drunk and mess around and act the bollox. This doesn't include rape as far as I can see in my 5 years in UL and 2 semesters on campus in Plassey and Kilmurray Villages which is what provoked Rachael to write her letter in the first place even though she does not mention where in Ireland where this rape occurred . As for walking around on her own my advice would be to put things in perspective .If you are on your own don't take any "shortcuts" down dark alleys at night. Go around the front to your house and if you see some people you don't like walk on the other side of the road to them . Sure I'm a bit of an expert on this living in O'Malley Park, Southill for 16 years! I'm sure any fella would be more worried then you as he could have his head kicked in walking into a dodgy crowd . It also a good idea not to get paralytic drunk as you may end up lying in a garden. Also it was reported in the Irish Independent about a few weeks ago that a female UL student going out with her friends in Cork was refused entry because the doorman deemed her too drunk . While her friends went into the club she went to the Gardai and made a false allegation that the doorman raped her . I forget her name but the doorman in question may press charges against her .

Yours sincerely,
Eamonn Shine

Response to Letter

The reason that I wrote the letter was to highlight the fact that rape and sexual assault are becoming more common in today's society. In response to your comment of "we've had a lot of murders but not as many rapes as I can see". The blatant truth of the matter is that many rape attacks are not reported to the Gardai and as a result are not covered in the media.

Horroric or tragic events that are covered by the media are covered because the victim came forward to tell their side of the story and also to see that justice is served. There are a lot of frightened people out there who have not been able to tell their heartbreaking account of things and as a result you will not see them reported on the news. This does not mean that they don't happen.

I wrote the letter because I found that no matter who I was talking to recently, the subject of rape, being attacked and generally being afraid cropped up into many conversations. I felt I had to have my say in an issue I feel strongly about. You discuss putting things into perspective and talk about not taking "shortcuts" through dark alleyways at night. It's not just in back alleys that rape can occur. Its not just at night and most definitely its not always due to someone being "paralytic drunk". One of the arguments in my letter is why should I feel frightened walking to the shop on my own. There is nothing more frightening than fear itself

In the world we live in today, no one can condone murder, hatred, terrorism, rape, violence etc. However I do feel you are attempting to trivialise rape and brush it off as one of those things that just happens. Bruises and black eyes heal, our bodies are capable of physically repairing themselves. The scar a rape victim is left with will never heal.

Rachael Holmes

An Bainisteoir

As imparted to Brendan Coffey

Sometimes An Bainisteoir feels like he just wasn't made for these times. This week An Bainisteoir expresses some views on Irish culture, having recently been released from prison and consequently noticed a few things.

Take a night out for example. It is the view of An Bainisteoir that spending good money on designer clothes and working hard for such money should be put to more appropriate uses that adding a Heinz endorsement to your best Ben Sherman shirt after the clubs have closed.

An Bainisteoir is certain that it is far easier to dance and more pertinently keep a firm footing in runners than shoes. Certainly it is far more comfortable to wear a pair of Nikes than to be hiking around in the Doc Marten boots. Then, why the fuck do night clubs insist on patrons wearing shoes on their premises?

It is An Bainisteoir's firm belief that a nightclub policy of allowing people to wear runners could be the solution to all the associated problems with late night drinking and nightclub scuffles.

At the start of an evening, especially around town, there's nothing worse than walking from pub to pub in your good shoes. It's uncomfortable and it's stressful because you're constantly worrying about not getting them dirty. You know how easily a row can start when someone just walks too close to your shoes and endangers the quality of the shine on your shoe. If the shine is blemished in even the smallest way, there is every reason to kick the shit out of that person who caused the staining of your shine-what's the point in maintaining the quality of the shine anymore? Over ten minutes good work wasted because of some idiot splashing a puddle over your shoe-that's the equivalent of the amount of time it takes to drink a pint. A bruising is the least one should expect in such a situation.

If runners were the common night time footwear, walking from pub to pub would be much more comfortable and you would probably go to more pubs as a result, making it beneficial for publicans also.

The stress of keeping shoes clean would be no more, because we always wear runners, and everybody realises they'll get dirty-so there's no social stigma attached.

Allowing runners in the nightclub would have far more benefits. The incidents of people falling over would be eliminated, as the following formula shows.

Alcohol + Dancing = Falling Over

Falling over = Footwear/Alcohol-runners would have footwear rating of 30, which would mean that number of units of alcohol could be consumed before you definitely fall over. The equivalent figure for shoes would be about 10.

Therefore, Footwear/Alcohol = Alcohol + Dancing, and multiplying across by alcohol we get;

Alcohol² + (Dancing)*(Alcohol) = Footwear

But, Runners = Alcohol², as much more alcohol can be consumed with runners on due to the increased comfort levels and standing upright capabilities.

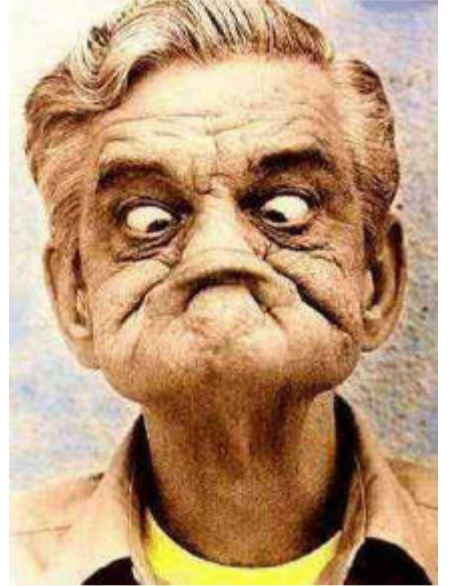
Consequently, Runners + (Dancing)*(Alcohol) = Footwear, and the footwear of choice is runners so: Runners -Runners = (Dancing)*(Alcohol)

Therefore we are left with just dancing and alcohol, which we all want, and falling over has been eliminated completely, and results in less people going to the bar to cure their usual problem of not being able to stand up. With that problem solved, how would runners stop fights from occurring?

Well, with more, less drunken males on the dance floor, due entirely to the provision of runners, there will be less chance of groups of girls forming on the dance floor, because less drunk males are capable of dancing idiotically and staying on their feet far longer than the normal drunken male. Therefore the usual female routine of "look at me I not only know all the words but I also know the dance" (even though they're sad fuckers for learning the Macarena in the first place) will be swamped by the male version of dealing a deck of cards on ice.

Cue the latest sappy number in the charts-most likely Westlife-the women get emotional and the men are capable of holding not only themselves but the female upright at the same time. Girl's ugly friends go to bar-good for club, but go home instead of fighting in the chipper. Lads that don't score but bow in respect of their colleague's achievements, but stay on the dance floor, because all the ugly birds are at the bar. Lads are therefore sober leaving and there is no big fight. Lad who scores sobers up during the slow numbers, and by the time the club is finished has realised the one he's scored with is a minger and has the good sense not to go home and shag her, thus preventing any unnecessary sexual diseases or pregnancy, so again society benefits.

Surely An Bainisteoir is right...



Your Letters

WE LOVE...**KOLLEGE WEEK**

NO LECTURES, GOOD WEATHER AND GETTIN' TO BED AT 7AM. CAN WE HAVE ANOTHER PLEASE?

FREE BUSESSES INTO CLUBS

WITH TAXIS THE PRICE OF A DRINK THIS HAS TO GO ON THE LIST DESPITE LOOKING LIKE THE VENGGA-BUS.

FINDING NEMO

ON REPEAT IN OUR DVD PLAYER, IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER, ESPECIALLY DORY "ARE YOU MY CONSCIENCE?"

THE GARDA CYCLE SQUAD

AROUND THE ESTATES AND CAMPUS FOR KOLLEGE WEEK, WE JUST CAN'T TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY IN THOSE LEGGINGS!

**WE HATE...****HOUSEMATE SEX NOISES**

THIN WALLS AND HEAVY BREATHING. *SHUDDER*

HOUSE INSPECTIONS

LAST DAY OF KOLLEGE WEEK AND THEY'RE HERE AT 10AM. THATS JUST EVIL.

MERKIN

BORED IN THE VENUS LABS? WASTE SOME TIME WITH THIS ON GOOGLE. NASTY.

NO LATE NIGHT PIZZA DELIVERIES

IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR A PIZZA AT 2AM WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE MUNCHIES?

DRUNKEN PHONE CALLS

EX'S, SCHOOLMATES, EVEN PARENTS. SUCH A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME...



COMPILED BY NERSH AND SARAH CAREW WITH HELP FROM 38 KV. TEXT UR SUGGESTIONS TO 087 2304506

Credit Where Credit is Due

News Writers:

Alan Higgins
Sarah Ryan
David Garrahy

Features

David Garrahy
Anne Sheridan
James Gaffney
Emma Stafford
Thanael McKarel
Valerie Gunning
Brendan Coffey
Donal O'Driscoll

View Writers

Jean Kent,
Niall Murphy
Denis O'Gorman
Keith Whelam
Sile Nic an Aili

Photographers

Michael Larsen

Editor

Sarah Ryan

CAMPUS NEWS*

(with Val)

Studying in "The Lodge" Quieter and More Peaceful than Library

Fourth year student Quentin O'Toole has moved his revision material down to popular nightspot 'The Lodge', complaining of "outrageous noise" and "intolerable distractions" at the University Library, the conventional revision location for many students.

Friends say Mr O'Toole, has been spending his evenings studying in 'The Lodge'. Unperturbed by the pounding beats and cheesy pop tunes, Mr O'Toole has declared himself "very satisfied" with the new arrangement: "Compared with the library, this place is an oasis of peace and quiet," he said, nodding his head to an Ace of Base classic.

Problems began for the business student as an increasing amount of students have turned to the library as a revision venue. "It was complete bedlam," complained an obviously upset Mr O'Toole, "There were masses of students all over the place, chatting socialising, and making phone calls. I just couldn't concentrate."

"The Lodge is much better," he went on to say, "Okay, Robbie Williams isn't my favourite artist but there's hardly anyone about down here. They're all up at the library having the time of their lives. A few of my friends tried to persuade me to come up to the library to let my hair down but I'm much happier here. I've got work to do - why would I want to go to the library?"

'The Lodge's manager was "bemused" by Mr O'Toole's decision: "We've never had anyone in here to study before," he admitted, "Though if that's what he wants to do then that's fine with me. As long as it doesn't catch on - this is a top notch nightclub after all."

Mr O'Toole is now looking forward to closing the 3.5 QCA that has been on the cards for so long: "I'm getting through masses of work and I'm feeling confident for the first exam. It's nice to have a bit of time and space to think things through."

Election Candidates Declare**"A Vote for Me is a Vote for Me"**

In a radical departure from electioneering convention, this year's candidates for SU President have issued a joint statement to the effect that a vote for them is a vote for "bolstering our CVs, and electing us into a job where we can get paid reasonable money for doing jack sh*t for a year". The candidates went on to describe their move as "a refreshingly honest and admirably self-deprecating gesture".

"In the past, candidate's campaigns have been built around false promises which are never acted upon, and on empty phrases like 'a vote for me is a vote for you'," commented one candidate, who for legal reasons must remain anonymous. "By admitting upfront that we're only interested in our own careers, we are bringing about a revolution at the very core of ULSU."

Despite candidates' claims to the contrary, the new approach is unlikely to cause a stir among students. "Basically, everyone knows they're only doing it for their own personal gain. Admitting to that isn't going to make them less irritating," said second year student, Mildred Plodd.

In a separate development, one candidate has raised eyebrows by publishing the name and address of his parents on his promotional flyers. "It's so students can check with my mum whether I've always been a good little boy. I believe accountability is important to the position of SU President, and I think by publishing my parent's address, phone number, work phone number, fax and mobile numbers I have made a positive step in this direction," he explained.

Student Talks B*ll*cks in Tutorial

A group of students were left baffled on Monday afternoon when a second-year made a series of apparently meaningless comments during a history tutorial.

"I'd finished my presentation," explained HPSS student Caroline Burke, "and the tutor had opened the floor to questions, when this guy in the corner who'd been sitting with his head resting on the table interrupted my friend Andrew and started some rambling speech. I listened for a while, but I quickly realised he was talking complete bollocks."

"It just made no sense whatever," confirmed classmate Frances Molloy. "There were a number of points that Caroline's presentation highlighted, but this guy was talking in really vague generalisations, as if he hadn't read anything at all. He was wearing a baseball cap indoors, so to be honest I don't know if he was 'all there', so to

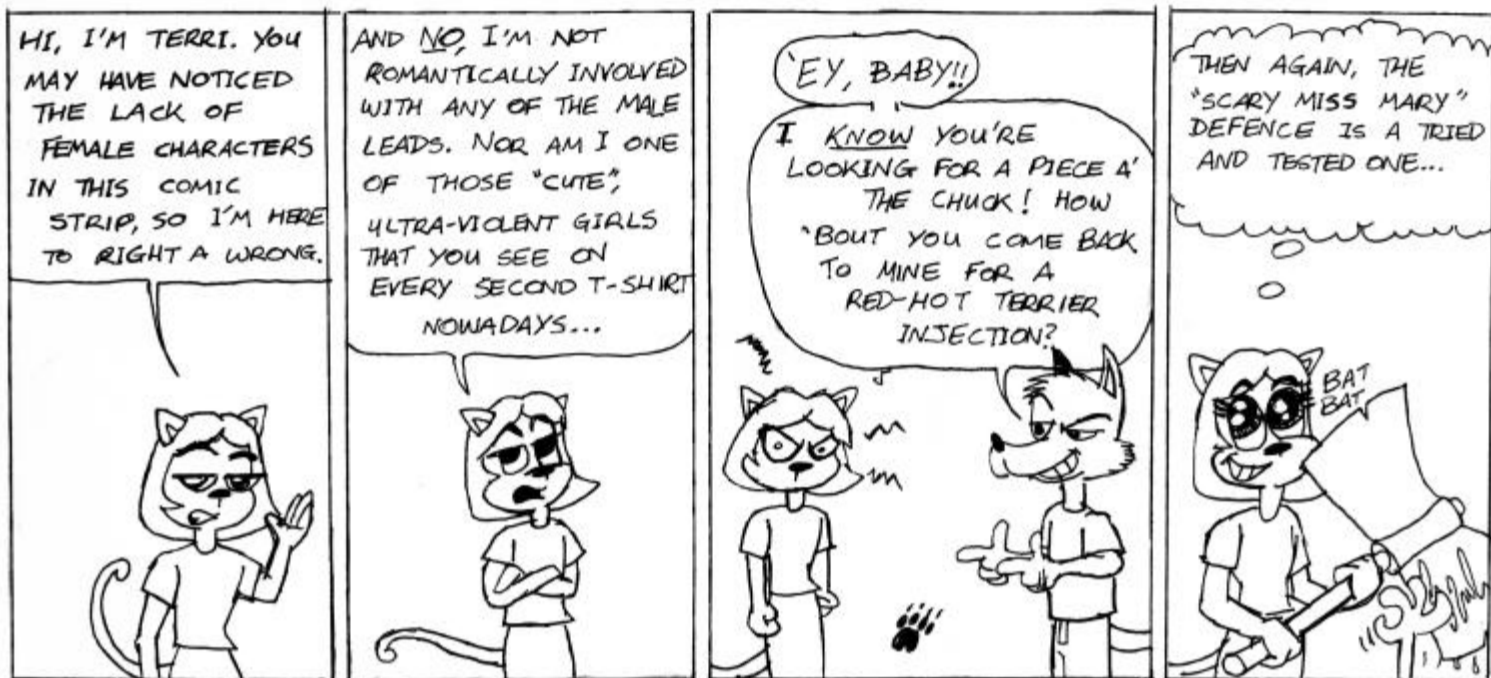
speak. And after a few minutes he became quite aggressive and started comparing Napoleon to Margaret Thatcher. It was really odd, and we all felt quite uneasy."

The man in the baseball cap was later identified as homegrown Limerick-man, Roderick Roddy. "I don't see what all the fuss is about," Mr Roddy told 'An Focal. "I'd got well ratarsed [drunk] the night before, but I was feeling OK and I knew what I was talking about. I think maybe some people can't cope with others having their own opinions." Dr Benjamin Whelan of the History Department was unavailable for comment last night, though his wife told 'An Focal' that he was "ill in bed" and "did not want to be disturbed".

***Did your mother never tell you that sarcasm is the lowest form of wit?!**

Back Inside

College of Inhumanities



© COPYRIGHT 2004 SACK FENNELL. MAMA GET A HAMMER, THERE'S A FLY ON PAPA'S HEAD.

Interview with Limerick's Favourite Pornstar

The word legend has become such a cliché in the world we live in. However, the term legend is the only apt description for the person under the spotlight today, Lenny Longhorn, a true legend of Limerick Pornography.



Born in Bruff in 1953, he is the third eldest of a family of six boys and loyal son to Larry and Lilly Longhorn. "My parents were always very supportive of me, of all my brothers in fact. From my eldest brother James to Tony, the ballerina, right down to Danny, the master carpet salesman. We were always oddballs, in that situation, the parents attitude is essential, they can either let you rot or fully encourage you in your chosen path." Slurping a carton of Ribena, the bejewelled, tracksuit clad superstar with a perm is a vision of confidence and coolness.

When asked what possessed him to pursue such an unorthodox vocation, Lenny is completely focused and unapologetic. "most people are naturally ambitious. Kids playing rugby in the park may dream of being the next Brian O' Driscoll or Paul O' Connell, my ambition was to be a pornstar!"

In the Early seventies, Lenny, as many Irish people did at that time, emigrated to England. "I went away to England in 1972 with my older brother Labhrás. We both got work in the building trade over there, however England had a liberating effect on me. I was 'having relations' as they say, with a different woman every night of the week. In London, you didn't have to worry about pious parents, forming action groups to run you out of town for your 'demonic behaviour'. One night I was with this one and she turned out to be one of the major stars on the English porn scene, she spoke to some producer friends of hers and soon I was set on my way to cult status."

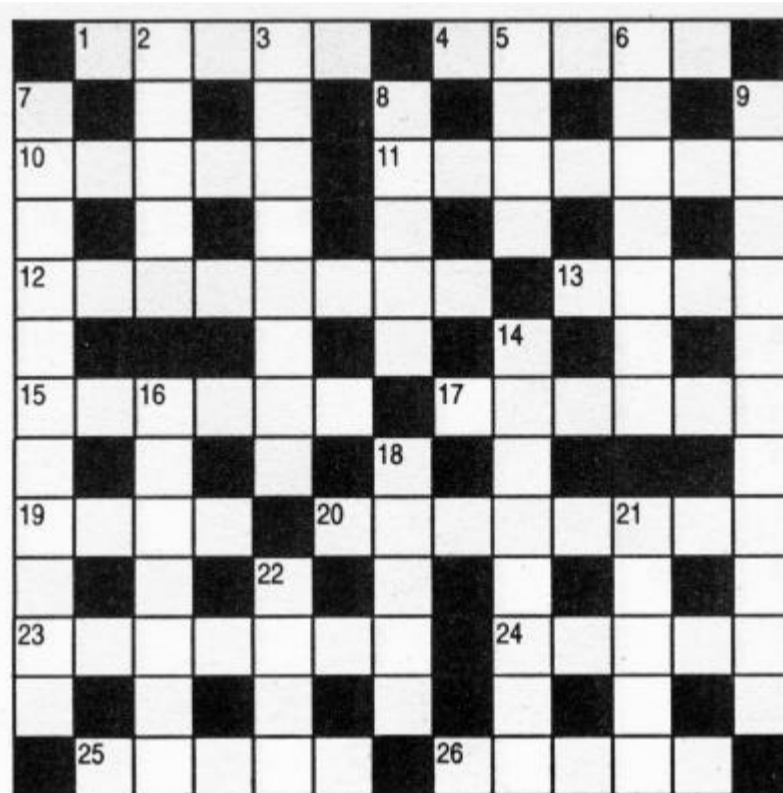
After a matter of months he became the biggest pornstar in Britain, unable to walk down the street without being recognised. "I think it was 'The Fridge Inspector' that gave me my big break. Basically I come around to inspect a woman's fridge, and ended up inspecting a lot more." Lenny starred in other epics

such as Lenny does London and 'The Milkman Cometh' before resolving to come back to Ireland and shake up the establishment. "I was sick of the piety of the place, so I came back in 1976 and decided to try and bring porn to the people of Ireland." It took a few years, but eventually in 1980, 'The Only Snake in Ireland' was released. While failing to get past the censors, the resourceful Mr Longhorn succeeded in beating the system. "I knew a few good lads in the Chippers all around Limerick and succeeded in smuggling thousands of copies into them. People got more than snack-boxes when they went into the chipper in those days."

It wasn't long before Lenny's prowess was beginning to be noticed in his homeland, and particularly in his native Limerick. "I suppose it was a novelty for people having one of their own up their on the blue movie screen. "He's rough, tough and banging in Bruff" was a catchphrase I used at that stage, quite a lot."

Lenny has hung up his thongs for good and is now working as a bin-man. "I loved my years in the porn industry, but it's no job for a fifty year old. I'm happy enough collecting the bins. I still see some of my videos in people's rubbish", confessed Lenny. On the future, he has no particular plans, but is rumoured to be interested in running for Limerick County Council. We certainly look forward to future developments from the 'legend'.

An Focal Crossword #10



ACROSS

- 1. Useful (5)
- 4. — of India (5)
- 10. Of bees (5)
- 11. Irritation (7)
- 12. Deathless (8)
- 13. Not a cheque! (4)
- 15. Flee (3,3)
- 17. Small French bar (6)
- 19. Canvas shelter (4)
- 20. Put off the tracks (8)
- 23. Oppressive (7)
- 24. Pine gum (5)
- 25. Serpent (5)
- 26. Encompassed, surrounded (5)

DOWN

- 2. Established principle (5)
- 3. Hair problem (8)
- 5. Slab of bread (4)
- 6. Thing that may change (7)
- 7. Marking scales on a measure (11)
- 8. Huge body of water (5)
- 9. Covering up (11)
- 14. Have a different opinion (8)
- 16. Chinese cotton cloth (7)
- 18. E.g. from Cardiff (5)
- 21. Fine cotton thread (5)
- 22. Flesh of pig (4)

SCRIBBLE BOX

Sabbatical Reports

PRESIDENT - EOIN

Yo!

It's over for another year. Hope it was good for you. Three days and three nights of comedy, craic and carry on. Thanks to all the ticket sellers, Ents KREW, Ents Manager Mr. Dave O' Donovan, the Bucket Collectors, Clean-Up Crew and everyone who did something novel for Kollege week. Well worth it! My involvement was house visits, organising clean ups, flying houses, conducting radio interviews, getting gunged and promoting the "enjoy don't destroy!" message. Did it get through? We will know tonight when a public meeting of Guards, local residents & students takes place to discuss the possibility of a late night event on campus in May. If you have something to say on the matter come along at 6:30pm. A good humoured affair nonetheless! Anyone for the last few RAGMAGS call into Union reception!



Reports in the national press on Friday stated that UL was involved in research for the Arms Trade. We will know soon enough what the true story is. I hope we are not, given that no one likes having bombs dropped on their houses. As a graduate of the E.C.E. Dept. with a degree in Elec. Eng I sincerely hope that none of the researchers there have decided to put profit before people - literally! Technology itself is neutral - neither positive or negative. However how it is used is certainly not neutral.

Had a visit from Galway Energy Agency last Friday (there is no Limerick Energy Agency) about having an energy audit of the SU Building. This would involve an assessment of energy use followed by recommendations on how to reduce energy use including options on the introduction of sustainable energy generating technologies to supply the required energy.

Interview of Architectural Firms for Boathouse project will take place on April 22nd. 6 firms have been called. The chosen firm will then help select project structural engineers, mechanical & electrical engineers & quantity surveyors to enable the design team to be assembled.

The AGM of ULSU Services Ltd. is on track for next Wednesday April 14th. On the agenda will be the election of a new Board of Directors, presentation of accounts for June 2002 to June 2003 and discussion on a strategy for the business going forward. All welcome!

Make sure to cast your vote this Wednesday to decide who should be writing this column next year! The S.U. Presidential Elections in LIT last week came down to a margin of 17 votes so never underestimate the power of one vote or for that matter seventeen;-)

Slán go fóil,
Eoin

DEPUTY/WELFARE - DAVID



It has been quite a week to endure, not only was it our Kollege Week but Ireland also succeeded in getting rid of smoking in the workplace. The immediate result of this is the ability to see all the way across the nightclub at 2am and not having to wash your clothes half as often. However if you are suffering from not being able to have your beloved cigarette and a drink together in the one place, there in information inside the paper on help available for those that want to quit.

Kollege Week is also finished. We haven't added up how much has been raised for charity yet but I reckon it can be declared a success, well done to all involved. But one or two things to remember, drink is a drug and a very dangerous one. Don't be afraid to seek help if you think that you might be getting too dependent on it or that it is altering your moods significantly. Also please remember that a good night doesn't always have to mean getting totally sloshed, if you drink in moderation not only do you enjoy yourself but you remember it the next day!

In relation to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service and their ban on gay men donating blood, it was agreed by Class Reps Council last Tuesday week to allow the IBTS on campus. They also, however expressed their concern at the issue and mandated ourselves to continue communicating with the IBTS on the issue. Hopefully I will have more news on this before I leave office.

Speaking of which, I want to wish Caoilfhionn Dunne and Rosamund Healy all the best in their election campaign and the vote on Wednesday. I hope that they will enjoy the campaign and that Welfare issues will be raised and debated over the week. Lastly I would urge you all to vote. It is being made super easy this year so no excuses. Your vote counts, it is heard and it will make the Union stronger.

suwelfare@ul.ie

EDUCATION - MADELINE

Hello all,

Hope the heads are all grand after Kollege week and I mean that!!! No matter what you were up to I think everyone suffered, some from being in bed early and having to listen to others party and some from partying!!!



We had great craic altogether on Friday, by we I mean the 4 sabbats, Brian and Alan, (thanks you guys). The craic we had was in Elm Park and Milford Grange picking up the rubbish, all you deadly students' had left behind you, after the week's festivities. The cheekiest of all was this young lad in Elm Park who decided to drop his can of Dutch Mould right in front of me so I'd have to pick it up. Now I didn't loose it surprisingly cos cheek like that normally means I let rip. But I refrained and instead smiled sweetly and picked up his can. But if he'd looked me in the eye, he may have frozen!!!

Ok first up on the list is that anyone worried about studying there are study skills running weekly. Check out posters around campus or indeed give me a shout and I'll fill you in on the details!!!

Exam papers have become to me what MICHAEL Myers is to Jamie Lee Curtis, a serious pain who won't go away. All Administrators in your relevant office have the exam papers. If not call in and I'm sure to have a hard copy in the office.

n ARC (Academic Regulations Comm.) we have written a Student Charter if any of ye wish to look at it feel free to call in. It's basically a 'gentleman's agreement' between the students' and the University regarding our behaviour and theirs.

If you're having any problem with the SIGMA system in Student Services call in and vent your anger on me as opposed to your classmates.

Ok have a few things to tell ye Sabbatical elections are on this week. It's important that you get out there and vote. These schmeers have been brave enough to take up the baton and run the next lap of this everlasting marathon ;-). We have three candidates for President, 2 for Welfare and young Fintan Breen has been elected as Education Officer already!!! No he's not psychic but was the only candidate for the job so sincere congratulations to my successor.

On that note take it easy schmeers

Behave
Madeline

sueducation@ul.ie

COMMS & CAMPAIGNS - SARAH



Hi Everyone!

It has, as usual, been a bit of a mad couple of weeks. Kollege Week was great (from what I could see) and the fact that the Ents Crew refused to throw me into the mud pit gives me an inordinate amount of satisfaction (and the feeling that I am more important than Eoin).

As if I didn't get enough all-nighters doing An Focal, I decided to do my bit for the Raising and Giving side of things by putting together a Rag Mag, full of jokes and general bullsh1t.

This sold really well, and so far has raised over €450 for the Rape Crisis Centre and Adapt House. There are still a few copies available in the Students' Union reception, so round up your spare change and do your bit! (and if you lost your copy last week, buy another one!)

On the Website front, progress IS being made, and I solemnly swear that there WILL be a new ULSU website by the time the next An Focal comes out. And it will be shiny and interactive! And you will love it!

The final thing I have to say is to ask anyone who might be interested in running for the position of CCO, please call in and talk to me. The job is a challenging juggling act, but getting it right can be hugely rewarding (I've heard). If you can motivate people, come up with good ideas to catch people's attention, meet deadlines, and know what an apostrophe is for, then think it over. You could be sitting in my chair, swivelling like a mad thing come July.

Nominations open on Tuesday and close on Thursday of Week 8, and the elections, should there be a need for them, will take place on Thursday of Week 9. Don't be afraid of running an election campaign either. It's the first test of your campaigning mettle. Go for it, and like I said, come and have a chat to me, or drop me a mail at sucommunication@ul.ie

End Transmission